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From the President

JoEllen Ostendorf

Troup-Harris Regional Library System, jostendorf@thclibrary.net

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From the PRESIDENT

All of the folks involved with COMO have been hard at work over the past few months developing the October conference, and we have an outstanding line-up starting with a number of pre-conferences and moving on to our First General Session speaker, Deborah Wiles, author of *Love, Ruby Lavender, Freedom Summer, and Each Little Bird That Sings*. Ms. Wiles has won an impressive list of awards, including a Coretta Scott King/Steptoe Award, the Ezra Jack Keats Award, and the Simon Wiesenthal Award. She was also a 2005 National Book Award Finalist.

Leslie Fisher, our Second General Session speaker, was one of Apple's first employees assigned to study Internet growth and implementation. She became knowledgeable on Web design, server implementation, and Internet resources. After becoming "road kill" on Apple's road to recovery, she formed Fisher Technologies. Fisher Technologies Inc. is now a nationally celebrated operation, providing web design, consulting, training, and presentation services to school districts and companies.

Our Third General Session speaker, Frank Winstead, is passionate about education. After an impressive 31-year career in public education in Georgia, Mr. Winstead retired in 1994 to devote full time to speaking and writing. His philosophy is that teaching is much more than what goes on in the classroom but includes the dozens of casual encounters, however brief, that occur during the day between a teacher and student and which may have more impact on a person's behavior than what is said while formally instructing a class.

The Academic Library Luncheon will feature June Hall McCash, author of *Jekyll Island from Pre-Colonial Days through the Civil War*; attendees at the Public Library Luncheon will be entertained by Harry O'Donoghue, host of the Green Isle program on National Public Radio. And

please plan to attend our GLA annual banquet where we recognize our peers for their contributions to our organization and to building successful libraries in Georgia.

Most impressive of all are the variety of programs and expertise that our colleagues bring to the conference. Representing a wide-range of subjects and expertise, programs run the gamut from implementing technologies, library construction, new serials standards, library security, blogs, and library law. There is something to appeal to everyone.

2007 marks my 31st year as a professional librarian. It was also the first time I realized as I met with the COMO Program Committee and read through the proposals that I didn't have a clue as to what some of the proposals were discussing! I am close enough to retirement that I didn't find this development disheartening but instead a reaffirmation that our profession continues to grow to encompass new technologies and ideas. The manner in which we provide information may have changed but the need for librarians to assist users in navigating these new waters remains as important as it was 10 years ago, when the Internet first became widely accessible, and even 20 and 30 years ago, when libraries installed the first OPACs.

I hope to see you on Jekyll Island from October 17-19 as we share our unique experiences, meet old friends, and make new ones. I also hope you make time to enjoy the beauty and history of Jekyll Island (without cutting any sessions, of course). Registration will soon be available on the GLA (gla.georgialibraries.org) and COMO (www.georgiacomo.org) Web sites. ►►

— **JoEllen Ostendorf**
President
Georgia Library Association