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MALA Members Meet, Tour GSU's Library Renovations

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leadership across the state. Attendees must hold a master of library science, a master of science in library science or a master of library and information science degree; be currently employed in a public library in Georgia; and have at least two years of professional experience.

"We had an extremely strong and diverse group of applicants," said David Singleton, deputy state librarian. "I am very impressed by the qualifications and very encouraged by the leadership potential of the 20 selected candidates. I believe that PINNACLE can become a national model for training the next generation of library leaders."

The institute begins with a one-week retreat in November and will include eight monthly two-day sessions, culminating at the fall 2008 convention of the Georgia Council of Media Organizations. Session topics will include situational leadership, time management, analytical and creative problem solving, financial management and performance measures, human resource management and administrative law, managing conflict and group dynamics, ethics, power, best practices, process improvement, project coaching, media relations, leadership in a political environment and effective presentations.

Ten mentors, including all five members of PINNACLE's steering committee, have volunteered to serve, and each will be assigned to work with two class members. The steering committee includes Singleton; Lyn Hopper, assistant state librarian for library development; Julie Walker, assistant state librarian for technology support services and strategic initiatives; Kathryn Ames, director of ARLS; and Greg Heid, director of the Newton County Library System. Joining them as mentors will be Stella Cone, director of GLASS; Susan Cooley, director of the Sara Hightower Regional Library in Rome; Dusty Gres, director of the Ochopee Regional Library in Vidalia; Lois Roberts, director of the Statesboro Regional Library; and Claudya Muller, director of CVRL. "Together, our exceptional group of mentors has more than 200 years of experience in the library profession," said Singleton, "and each brings nationally recognized leadership and management skills to share with our first PINNACLE class."

The PINNACLE steering committee worked with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), a public service and outreach unit of the University of Georgia, to design the curriculum, and CVIOG will lead the training sessions. ►►

MALA members meet, tour GSU's library renovations

The Metro-Atlanta Library Association (MALA) officers for 2007 are Steven Vincent of Southern Polytechnic State Univ., president; Gardner Neely of Georgia State University (GSU), vice president for programming; Florence Tang of Mercer-Atlanta, vice president for membership; Nancy Bryant of the Centers for Disease Control, secretary; and Irene McMorland, treasurer.

MALA's spring meeting was held May 14 at the GSU Library, where MALA members and friends met in a new, computer-equipped classroom in the newly constructed "Learning Commons" (formerly called the reference and circulation section) of the library.

Attendees heard about the recent GSU library construction, which had cost approximately \$20 million, from librarians Tim Daniels, Learning Commons coordinator, and Sarah Steiner, one of the Learning Commons librarians. They also saw the new booths in an area that will eventually have a coffee shop. MALA members were shown the reference support desk and round tables, each of which has three computers and comfortable seating that encourage group work. They also toured the children's section, 1st floor (which serves the GSU School of Education), and on the 2nd floor, the reference collection, including many English-as-a-Second-Language materials, and the information systems and technology desk, where students and faculty receive help with various wireless and computer problems. Attendees appreciated the insights they got by seeing the library and by hearing the friendly explanations from Tim and Sarah.

— **Louise S. White**
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Ames



Cone



Cooley



Gres



Heid



Hopper



Muller



Roberts



Singleton



Walker