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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

**B**y the time you are reading this issue of *GLQ*, the COMO committee will be finalizing the conference program.

COMO 2.0 is Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 15-17, in Athens. The American Library Association president, Jim Rettig, university librarian at the University of Richmond, accepted GLA's invitation to attend COMO. He began his career as a reference librarian and points out on his Web site (<http://jimrettig.org>) that he will always be a reference librarian at heart. Jim will present a concurrent session on the nature and future of reference services and will be the speaker at the GLA Awards Banquet on Thursday night.

Sharon Draper, Carmen Agra Deedy and Vicki Davis are the general session speakers.

Sharon Draper is a National Teacher of the Year recipient, a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Literary Award and a New York Times best-selling author. Her books include *November Blues*, *Tears of a Tiger*, *We Beat the Street* and *Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs* series.

Carmen Agra Deedy, an award-winning author and storyteller, is a regular contributor on NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Latino USA." Her stories are enjoyed by adults and children. In April the American Association of School Librarians named Carmen Deedy the national spokesperson for the 2008 School Library Media Month. Two of her popular books are *The Library Dragon* and *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*.

Vicki Davis has been recognized by the Boston Globe and *Wired News* for her work with wikis. In her teaching, she uses a wiki-centered classroom structure and other Web 2.0 tools to improve student performance.

Luncheon speakers, concurrent session programs and other events will soon be listed on the COMO Web site, <http://www.georgiacomo.org>.

At the April board meeting, the GLA Executive Board approved a new interest group, Assessment. A request for a new interest group must come from the membership through a petition to the Interest Group Council. The petition is accompanied by a statement of purpose for the interest group, the criteria for membership and signatures of charter members. More information on this interest group can be found on the GLA Web site, <http://gla.georgialibraries.org>. The Assessment Interest Group wiki provides a channel to exchange ideas and information through monthly discussion topics.

While you are looking at the GLA Web site, check out what is happening within the New Members Round Table, one of the divisions of GLA. NMRT is sponsoring meetings every two to three months to provide a time for distance-ed LIS students and new graduates to meet and hear presentations. The NMRT Emerging Librarians listserv, <http://groups.google.com/group/atlanta-emerging-librarians>, and the soon-to-be-developed wiki-based resource center provide additional opportunities for dialogue.

Have a wonderful summer and be sure to include COMO in your fall professional development plans. ►►

— **Betty D. Paulk**  
*President*  
*Georgia Library Association*