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https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol45/iss2/40
From the President  by Betty Paulk  ➤  2

My Own Private Library  by Angela Thornton  ➤  4

A discussion with Charlene Hunt and Rich Meyer by Laura Burtle  ➤  5

Two major strategies for facilitating increased interlibrary loan patron satisfaction by Michelle Smith  ➤  9

A timeline of important events in Georgia public library history by Elaine Hardy  ➤  12

GLA slate of officers for 2009  ➤  19

In the News  ➤  21

Off the Shelf Book reviews by Georgia librarians  ➤  27

With 75 years of combined service to libraries, Rich Meyer, dean and director of libraries at the Georgia Tech Library & Information Center, and Charlene Hurt, dean of libraries at Georgia State University, will retire this summer. Read more about them on page 5. (Photo by Carolyn Richardson, Georgia State University)
By 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
Front row, from left: Laura Burtle, Susan Cooley and Julie Walker.

Visit the Georgia Library Association on the Web!
gla.georgialibraries.org
A peek inside the personal library of a librarian

by Angela Thornton

If I ever open a bookstore, it will be nothing but escapist literature – cozy mysteries in quaint little villages; romance novels that make you giddy with anticipation; and, most especially, any and all fantasy novels. The more wizards, trolls, vampires and elves the better, I say.

However, for this article, I wanted to cover something different. We’re all familiar with the powerhouse authors in the genres listed above. These authors are fabulous and they’re successful, but I’m not getting paid a commission by them, so I don’t feel obligated to tout their talents in this publication. The ground I want to cover here, and a newly developed interest of mine, is multicultural children’s literature.

Now, before you turn the page, thinking this is a minilecture — just wait! I don’t want to use this space to preach to the choir about purchasing and promoting multicultural literature in our libraries. We all know the societal challenges we face in developing collections and the skimpy budgets for purchasing materials. What a drag it would be to hash that out here! Instead, I want to share some great books that might get overlooked in the charging rush to get the latest installments to Eragon and the Twilight series — quiet books with powerful stories that are worth the read but don’t always get the hype they deserve.

My interest in multicultural literature sparks from an MLIS graduate class. I was afraid the class would be on the boring side — I absolutely hated slogging through required readings in college. It turns out I was pleasantly surprised! I found many engrossing and highly entertaining books, titles I would not have previously looked at twice for my personal reading. Also, there were the great plot elements of fantasy books: a hero’s journey against adversity, the sense of a greater meaning or higher purpose in the quest of finding one’s true self, battling the villains of political tyranny or social rejection. The first one that comes to mind is The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. It’s laugh-out-loud funny and heartbreakingly tragic at the same time. Another great book is Chanda’s Secrets by Allan Stratton. This one deals with AIDS in Africa, but Chanda’s resilience from her surrounding tragedy is amazing.

There’s a sequel out now, Chanda’s Wars, which I’m reading next. American Born Chinese by Gene Yang and Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi are both autobiographical accounts told in the format of a graphic novel.

Jabberwocky is a fabulous picture book retelling by Christopher Myers of the Lewis Carroll poem — very hip and urban. Bebe Goes Shopping by Susan Middleton Elya is adorable, and Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan is an award-winner I had previously ignored.

I’ve got an ingrained habit now of searching out multicultural stories when browsing the shelves at a bookstore, despite my overly full basket of escapist choices. I read them, I love them, and many of them go right on my bookshelf next to The Hobbit or Gone With the Wind.

Angela Thornton is manager of the Flint River Regional Library’s Jackson-Butts County Public Library.
The directors of two of the four research universities in the University System of Georgia are retiring. Charlene Hurt, dean of libraries at Georgia State University, and Rich Meyer, dean and director of libraries at the Georgia Tech Library & Information Center, are retiring this summer. Charlene has been a librarian for 34 years and a library director for more than 30. Rich has been a librarian for 41 years and a director since 1991, having spent many years as an associate director. I met with the retiring directors to learn their thoughts on the past and future of academic libraries.

I started by asking them what have been the most significant changes in libraries and librarianship during their tenures. Rich said that “the shift to digital has been profoundly impactful on libraries. Nothing else comes close to that in terms of the change in processes imposed.” He pointed out that “in the old days, libraries came into existence because there was an economic gain from sharing, and that’s totally gone in the digital environment. In effect, there is a reversal since sharing doesn’t really mean anything in terms of buying digital collections.” It does, however, in terms of institutional repositories, and he predicted a dramatic shift in terms of the university library agenda toward stronger outreach to faculty and stronger engagement with projects like institutional repositories.

Charlene agreed that the move to a digital environment has been a very significant change, starting with OCLC and the online catalog and then online searching. She also sees the movement from solo learning to collaborative learning as having had a big impact on libraries, leading to a radically different view of the function of the library building and changing relationships with the academic community. She noted that collaborative work has put a lot of pressure on the library as there are few places on campus for group work to take place, perhaps especially on urban campuses. “The change certainly got rid of the quiet library,” she noted, “and coffee-empty library as well!” added Rich.

I asked what career accomplishments make each of them most proud.

Charlene looked back over her career, starting with bringing in OCLC and online searching at Washburn University. “Every directorship I’ve had I’ve had the opportunity to do a building, and that’s been a lot of fun.” The Washburn project was a new building that completely changed the library, which didn’t have a reference desk when she started. “They figured someone could come find a reference librarian if they needed one.” At George Mason, she began to get more interested in the library’s role in the teaching process. There she led the building of the Johnson Center, and she was the “founding mother” of VIVA, Virginia’s virtual library.

In 1989 she co-authored an article on the back page of the Chronicle of Higher Education proposing a scholarly information system using the new digital technologies, impressively foreshadowing future developments. “I was very proud of that.”

At Georgia State, she is pleased with implementing a liaison librarian system, seeing librarians become more engaged in teaching and learning, the Library Transformation (a large-scale renovation) and the growth of the collection, particularly in scholarly areas in the humanities. Finally, she takes pride in hiring and promoting outstanding librarians and library staff.

Rich said that winning the ACRL award for Excellence in Academic Libraries in 2007 has to top the list. “What's
most important about that is that it emerged because of a very robust collaboration and cross-sectional engagement by the librarians, OIT folks and the Teaching and Learning Center that allowed us to make advances that precipitated the award. But it was that collaboration and that joint collegial effort that really made it possible.”

Next I asked Charlene and Rich for their favorite library-related memory. Rich recalled having the opportunity to meet interesting, famous people, like the day at Indiana State Larry Bird walked in and gave Rich his papers from a project he’d worked on. “We subsequently crossed paths frequently as the coach at Indiana State lived across the street from us, and we shared post-game social gatherings on many occasions with Larry and the team. It is fun to have that kind of interaction.”

Rich has found that the library has been a very effective place to have interactions with some nationally and internationally important individuals. One day during his visit to donate his papers to the library at Clemson, Strom Thurmond came up to him to get help buttoning his collar button, which had popped loose. “Here is a guy who is one of the most well-known guys in Washington, and he’s asking me for a little bit of help — that was fun.” At Trinity College, he met the prime minister of Israel, heads of state and senators. “It’s amazing the folks you have a chance to meet.” Rich noted that an interesting aspect of being a library director is the potential for interacting in a social environment with a lot of really interesting people.

Charlene fondly recalled the day the Student Government Association voted for a student fee to fund the Library Transformation project. “I tear up about it all these years later. They had a very formal hearing with testimony, then they voted — sometimes you think people don’t much care about libraries, and that was great. I really love GSU students!”

Asked what legacy each of them hopes to leave their library or university, Charlene said that she hopes she leaves both the library and the university a library that is fully engaged in the academic process. More and more, the way to do that is by being engaged in the teaching and learning process and focusing on the learning and research goals librarians help their patrons achieve, rather than on the tools with which they do that. “I also think that the fact that this space has become a central academic space, visible from the city, is a real contribution to the university — a place where academic community can happen.”

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Rich stated that “the most important thing to me is that I’m leaving behind a library that supports students more effectively than it did when I joined Georgia Tech.” The library’s door count has doubled since he came to Georgia Tech 10 years ago. “Involvement of students with the library administration has become much more engaged and formalized. They appointed a group of leadership successors to work with us. We’re the only unit on campus with that kind of engagement from students.”

On the question of what the future holds for libraries and librarians, Rich quickly replied “Surprises! Think about various technological things that have occurred, like the laser for example. Or look at how much impact photocopying has had on libraries, and that technology just came out of the blue. Lasers are like that too; they have a profound impact on all kinds of media technologies, switches, you name it.”

Charlene thinks all librarians know the answer to this — enormous change, enormous opportunity and tough challenges. “I don’t think there’s a librarian who doesn’t know that.” She also revisited the challenges to the model of buying one book for many people. “The model is disappearing. I think what is going on with publishing and copyright threatens the way we do business and ultimately threatens publishers even more. The potential for change is enormous. If publishers succeed in limiting what our students can read, they are threatening the ability of the United States to be intellectually competitive.” She went on to say that she truly believes that challenges to access to scholarly communication threaten learning, research and the creation of new knowledge. “People who only have access to limited information, based on what they can afford, cannot help this world meet the challenges we face.”

Rich added that it is the premise underlying copyright — to protect the creator from being undercut by people stealing the creation — that encourages people to be creative, and the challenge to the library model undermines that. “Part of what’s happened in copyright law in the last few years has been a negative attempt to give more and more support to a crumbling infrastructure.”

Looking to the future, Rich said that “librarians are going to have to become much more engaged with faculty, in faculty offices and research areas, and that will take a lot more librarians.” Charlene added that we’re telling graduate and undergraduate students to do interdisciplinary research, and faculty typically only know how to do research in one area and can’t give good advice to their students. So librarians will have to get engaged across the spectrum. Rich noted that Tech is mandating interdisciplinary work and even locating departments that could collaborate in the same building, but there is still resistance. “That’s too bad since the intersection of research areas is where really interesting things emerge.”

Rich and Charlene agreed that recruiting librarians for some positions, especially middle- and upper-management level and technology positions, will continue to be a very big challenge. Charlene also noted a big concern for how we can restructure our organizational staffing to give people meaningful and satisfying work.

Asked about plans for their retirements, Rich noted that he hears the question pretty frequently and doesn’t have a completely clear answer. “I’ve got a list of different things that I’m exploring.” He’s been asked by colleagues at several campuses if he’d be available to help with some projects, to which he’s said yes. Retiring to Greenville, S.C., he will be close by both Furman and Clemson and hopes to help them if possible. He would also like to consult on what he’s learned at Tech about working at technology-focused institutions. He’s hoping especially to help with a project in the Middle East and with a Southern consortium of private liberal arts institutions with which he’s worked before.

“I’m looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren and with my wife. My wife and I both have been wanting to take up golf again and get serious about it, and that can take up a lot of time!”

Charlene, who will remain in Atlanta for the time being, hopes to do consulting for libraries, and she especially enjoys consulting in the areas of library building and library organizations. “I feel like I have a world of infinite possibilities out there, and I don’t feel in any horrible rush to make decisions. I’m interested in the educational system as a whole, but in short term, I think I’ll get involved in politics. I’ve been mostly keeping my mouth shut for a lot of years, and now I can speak my piece. I don’t know where or about what, but I think I’m going to enjoy that freedom.”
Witness how dynamic Georgia libraries are using creative collaborations, emerging technologies and highly adaptive communication styles, tools and trends to meet the multi-faceted needs of information seekers. Join us as we celebrate the unifying power of this approach — and commitment to put users first!

Keynote Session: Cliff Landis / “The Evolving Library: Taking Action and Getting Results” Learn the practical steps to make your library evolve into the library your users have dreamed of!

• ONE FOCUS Sessions: Crafting the User-Centered Library / Online History and Culture Updates: The Civil Rights Digital Library, the Digital Library of Georgia and Georgia HomePLACE / Simple Web Site Redesign • ONE VOICE Sessions: Blogging for the Evolving Library...and the World! / Collaborating with Faculty to Combat Plagiarism Through the Use of Information Literacy Sessions and Innovative Research Projects / What’s New and What’s Next? You Tell GALILEO • ONE QUEST Sessions: The GALILEO Knowledge Repository Project / Georgia Health-Go Local: Your Link to Health Services in the Peach State / Let Your Audience Hear You: Creating an Instructional Podcast

UGA Center for Continuing Education
Conference Center & Hotel, Athens

Friday, August 1
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
This paper will examine two major strategies currently in use that appear to have improved patron satisfaction in the Interlibrary Loan Unit at Kennesaw State University in the Atlanta metro area in northwest Georgia.

Strategies implemented by other libraries that have improved customer satisfaction and established effective interlibrary lending systems will also be examined. These strategies will include the research strategies of Tom Ruthven and Susan Magnay from the article “Top Performing Interlending Operations: Results of the Australian Benchmarking Study.” The strategies described by Lynne Porat in “Automation of Interlibrary Loan Services: Effects on the Patron and the Library” will also be explained.

First, I think it is important to provide the reader with a brief definition of how I am defining patron satisfaction in this paper. The final section of this paper will include a brief discussion of what the implications are for further study and implementation of strategies examined.

I will examine some of the strategies and findings in the research of Ruthven and Magnay. “The three key objectives of the study were to: 1) identify the characteristics of high-performing ILL/document delivery operations, 2) be an instrument for raising awareness and changing ILL/DD practices, and 3) provide a standard set of data to assist libraries to benchmark their operations.”

The findings in this study of the use of certain strategies helped to facilitate interlibrary loan patron satisfaction as well as improve the overall effectiveness of operation of the interlibrary loan services in Australian universities.

In the research of Lynne Porat, the findings on the use of selected strategies also were found to facilitate patron satisfaction. The study was conducted at the University of Haifa, Israel, which is a major teaching and research university. “The main objective of this study was to examine the process and development of automation and the extent to which it improved customer services in the Interlibrary Loan Unit at the University of Haifa Library.”

The following factors were examined to “determine whether the process of automation had been beneficial to the patrons and improved the quality of service as follows: timeliness of service, fill rate, quality and completeness of the material received, interaction with interlibrary loan staff, ease of ordering and remote ordering, price of the services, convenience.”

Before describing the two major strategies used in interlibrary loan, I will define customer satisfaction. Dube and Menon refer to the research of Olivier and Richins to state the prevailing paradigm in customer satisfaction literature as “affective responses to one’s perception of the series of attributes that compose a product or service performance.” Other related studies on customer satisfaction include the research of Ellen Bosman and Carol Rusnick in “Creating the User-Friendly Library by Evaluating Patron Perception of Signage.” In this research, it was shown that signage can contribute to a “user-friendly environment.”

The remainder of the paper will include a discussion of the two major strategies implemented in the Interlibrary Loan Unit at Kennesaw State University that appear to have facilitated patron satisfaction. The two major strategies consist of the following: 1) educating interlibrary loan patrons to increase timeliness of materials received and realistic expectations of services, e.g.,
standardized patron inclusion and (2) the use of automation and technology to increase interlibrary loan staff’s requesting effectiveness and timeliness to achieve patron satisfaction. Educating interlibrary loan patrons includes the bibliographic instruction provided by librarians at the Horace W. Sturgis Library, the reference interview, the interlibrary loan interview and interlibrary loan interview cross-training at the point of pick-up of interlibrary loan materials. Informal educational methods used by interlibrary loan include an interlibrary loan wiki, an internal campus social networking tool developed by Ms. Amy Thompson, coordinator, interlibrary loan.

Be clear that the point of educating patrons about interlibrary loan services is to create awareness and empower patrons. Educating patrons helps them become more effective in submitting accurate citations and become more realistic in their expectations.

The education of patrons in any context may then include such strategies as: “troubleshooting handouts” for receiving the best results when using interlibrary loan, during bibliographic instruction or during the reference interview; PDF documents on the interlibrary loan Web site interface that give a brief description of the concept and purpose of interlibrary loan; and a collaboration of borrowing items between libraries in different cities, states and countries through postal services. Patron inclusion into interlibrary loan procedures such as the aforementioned educates patrons about the process of interlibrary loan and can significantly limit the handling of requests by staff and increase the turn-around rate. Cross-training staff at the “point of material pick-up” to conduct interlibrary loan interviews and/or to track the status of a patron’s request can help patrons leave with the assurance of the receipt of materials instead of frustration that his/her materials have not yet arrived.

Patron satisfaction may also be facilitated through a second major strategy. Increased fill rates may be achieved through citation verification, checking OCLC, borrowing request notes and so forth. However, according to Porat, the improvement of timeliness of service is the primary method of improving the quality of service to interlibrary loan patrons. An automated office with staff trained to prioritize requests beyond
the date and time of submission meets the second and third methods of improving the services to interlibrary loan patrons. These include requests with citations first, requests and citations in OCLC second. Items that do not meet these criteria should be prioritized to the specifications of the department. For example, the Horace W. Sturgis Library Interlibrary Loan Department created custom queues in ILLiad entitled “the extensive searching queue” and “awaiting holdings verification queue.” When requests are checked in these queues, they are sent to “haves,” “cancelled” or back to “awaiting requesting processing.” Please note that these processes are completed the day of request submission. This process is most effective when all queues are checked hourly. The ultimate objective of customized priority requests is to send a request the day it arrives and fill it from the first library on the lending string. This process has helped increase the office fill rate as well as timeliness.

According to the interlibrary loan best practices scholarship of Ruthven and Magnay, ILL patron satisfaction can be increased through many other value-added methods; automated interlibrary loan software can track requests and support electronic delivery and copyright clearance.11

In summary, further extensions of this research might include a replication of the studies conducted by Ruthven, Magnay and Porat, using a survey instrument to collect patron satisfaction of users of all sectors of interlibrary loan to determine customer satisfaction and effectiveness of the operations of interlibrary loan. The benchmarking studies for “Top Performing Interlending Operations” by Ruthven and Magnay have proven that service and accurate citations are proven methods of increasing patron satisfaction. Two major strategies that Kennesaw State University uses effectively to increase timeliness and the accuracy of its requests are patron inclusion in the interlibrary loan process through patron education and prioritizing borrowing requests beyond date and time.

Michelle Smith is assistant coordinator for interlibrary loan at the Horace W. Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University.

Notes:

2. Ibid., 79.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid., 110.
8. Ibid., 81.
10. Ibid.

Bibliography:


The Georgia Public Library Service and Georgia’s Public Libraries: A timeline of important events in Georgia public library history by Elaine Hardy

At the end of January 2008, Peggy Chambliss and I were asked by a policy analyst with the House of Representatives Research Office for a detailed history of the Georgia Public Library Service, including when libraries were first established in the state and a chronology of major events in public library history in Georgia. The analyst needed the information within a week. We discovered that the brief histories we had were woefully out of date, spread across numerous publications and often in a fragile physical state. Given these problems, we decided, rather than send disparate reports and papers to the research office, that it would be best to expand an existing timeline on library planning created by graduate student Leann Boyd into a more comprehensive one with some narrative text. The resulting document is a compilation of the historical data on Georgia’s public libraries as well as a history of the Georgia Public Library Service from its inception in 1897. It stretches from the first known subscription library created in Savannah in 1809; encompasses the first free public library in Georgia, the Mary Willis Free Library in Washington; and ends with our current status of almost 390 service outlets for public library service in the state.

Georgia’s public libraries have a rich history that illustrates the evolving commitment of Georgia’s leaders and citizenry to free access to information across the state. Georgia libraries have developed from small collections, sometimes in people’s homes, to the diverse collections of media, including the virtual library GALILEO, we have access to today. One strong theme throughout the history of public libraries in Georgia is that we have accomplished much with little funding. While the Georgia State Library Commission was established in 1897, monies for expenses and services were not allocated until 1919. Yet, work to improve and create library service throughout the state progressed with the support of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta.

We hope the following timeline is the beginning of recording the diligent work that Georgia’s libraries and librarians have done to improve the lives of Georgians.

Timeline compiled by the staff of Georgia Public Library Service’s Library Development & Reference Support: J. Elaine Hardy, library services manager, and Peggy Chambliss, library services specialist

1809 Savannah Library Society opens a subscription library where members of the society pay a fee for use of the library. The fees collected go toward the operation and maintenance of the library.

1837 Georgia State Library is established by the General Assembly from the Georgia Supreme Court collection.

1847 Savannah Library Society merges with the Georgia Historical Society.

1848 Young Men’s Library Association of Augusta opens a subscription library.

1867 Young Men’s Library Association of Atlanta opens a subscription library.
1874
Macon Public Library opens a subscription library.

1876
Valdosta Library Association opens a subscription library.

1878
Americus Library Association opens a subscription library.

1882
Brooks (County) Library Association opens a subscription library.

1889
Mary Willis Free Library, Washington, opens. The first free public library in Georgia; endowed by Dr. Francis T. Willis and named for his only daughter.

1893-1917
Andrew Carnegie, through his library program, donates funds to build free public library buildings across the United States. Georgia cities were also recipients of these grants. Carnegie libraries were built in many Georgia cities during this time, including Atlanta, Albany, Columbus, Dublin, Montezuma, Moultrie, Newnan, Pelham, Savannah, Cordele, Americus, Dawson and Fitzgerald.

1893
Andrew Carnegie offers $100,000 for the construction of a public library building in Atlanta, contingent on the city providing a location and annual support money.

Clarke Library Association, Marietta, opens a subscription library.

1897
Georgia Library Club (later the Georgia Library Association) forms. Their objectives are to start a school to train professional librarians, state funding of public libraries and a special commission to “oversee the library interests of the state” (Georgia Library Association 2003).

1899
City Council of Atlanta appropriates $5,000 for the maintenance of the Carnegie Library. The Young Men’s Library Association agrees to merge with the library and donate their book collection to it.

Seaboard Air Line Railroad traveling library program is established under the organization of Mrs. Eugene Head.

Brunswick Library opens a subscription library.

1900
Price Free Library, Macon, opens. First free library in Macon, the Price Library is established expressly for the poor by S.B. Price and Bridges Smith, both mayors of the city.

1901
Municipal Library Law is enacted. Any city can appropriate money to establish and sustain free public libraries. The law also provides for the establishment of municipal library boards to govern the city library (O.C.G.A. §20-5-20).

1902
Carnegie Library of Atlanta opens, providing free public library service to the citizens of the city of Atlanta. First Carnegie library built in the state.

1903
Savannah Public Library opens with the collection of the Georgia Historical Society as its nucleus. Mary Munford Memorial Library, Cartersville, opens a free public library. Founded and endowed by Mrs. L.S. Munford in memory of her daughter, it is an outgrowth of the Cherokee Club and uses no publicly appropriated monies.

1905
Southern Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta, opens with a grant from the Carnegie Library Program.

1906
Carnegie Library Program donates funds to Atlanta for branch library buildings.

Free Public Library for Negroes, Savannah, opens with a combination of city monies and subscription fees.

1907
Nine free public libraries are operating in Georgia: Price Free Library of Macon, Savannah Public Library, Mary Willis Library of Washington, Mary Munford Memorial Library of Cartersville and Carnegie libraries in Albany, Atlanta, Cordele, Dublin and Newnan. A number of free traveling libraries also operate in the state. They include the Seaboard Air Line Railroad library,
Mobile libraries operated by the Atlanta Woman's Club and traveling libraries operated by the Newton County Board of Education for their school libraries.

Darien Free Reading Room opens.

1919
General Assembly appropriates first annual funds for the Georgia Library Commission ($6,000).

1920
The Georgia Library Commission moves to offices in the Capitol, hires a professional librarian, purchases books and begins lending to all libraries in Georgia.

1922
Southeastern Library Association forms. Their goals are to adopt standards of and objectives for library service tailored to the needs of the region. Formation of regional libraries is identified as the means to provide library service to the poor, rural areas of the South.

1924-1925
The commission conducts a Vacation Reading Club for rural children from the first grade through high school.

1924
Carnegie Library of Atlanta is accredited by ALA.

1925
Southern Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta, is transferred to Emory University.

Library Commission becomes the circulation center for supplying the blind readers of the state with reading matter. Books are furnished by the Georgia Association for Workers for the Blind, as the commission has no funds for books of this kind.

1930
The University of Wisconsin holds a Rural Library Extension Institute. Georgia's field librarians attend.

1931-1935
Recognizing the need for trained librarians, Carnegie, working through the American Library Association, funds professional librarians to work as field agents. Miss Tommie Dora Barker was the first Southern regional field agent.

1933-1934
The first relief agency to provide employment during the Great Depression, the Civil Works Administration (along with the Georgia Emergency Relief Administration) creates jobs in public and school libraries in Georgia. Library programs are strengthened as a result.

1935
County Library Law enacted. County governments are permitted to appropriate funds to establish and sustain free county public libraries. The legislation also allows counties to contract for library service between existing libraries and unserved areas within the county or with adjoining counties. The push for the bill is organized by the Parent Teacher Organization. It passes both houses of the General Assembly unanimously. Fulton County is the first in the state to act under the law, the county commissioners making an initial appropriation of $5,000 to the Carnegie Library of Atlanta beginning July 1, 1935. Free library service is available to residents of Fulton County from the headquarters building in Atlanta and all branches.

Georgia Library Association, following recommendations from ALA, establishes objectives for library development in the state.

1936-1943
The Works Progress Administration (later the Works Projects Administration), or WPA, begins library demonstration projects as part of its relief efforts. The projects' goals are to organize and run free public libraries in communities with little or no library service. During the program years, WPA funds establish bookmobile service, build library buildings, buy books and pay librarian and staff salaries across Georgia. The WPA also assists in the formation of the first regional library systems in Georgia. The Athens Regional and Cherokee Regional libraries are created under the demonstration library program. The WPA expends $1.3 million to libraries in Georgia before it ends in 1943. Free public library service was begun in 107 Georgia counties. Population without free library service dropped from 71 percent to 36 percent during the program years. The Library Commission worked closely with the WPA to facilitate and maintain their demonstration projects across the state.

1937
State law for the certification for librarians is enacted requiring the certification of librarians in state-operated libraries (except school and law libraries) and libraries serving more than 5,000.

1938
First bookmobile service is inaugurated in Thomas County as a WPA demonstration project.

1940
Athens Regional Library, the first WPA demonstration regional library in Georgia, is organized.

1941
School of Library Service at Atlanta University opens.
1943
WPA ends - WPA support of libraries in rural areas across the South creates a citizenry unwilling to give up even the limited library service they received through the demonstration projects. With the ending of the program, people turn to local authorities to provide monies to continue support of public libraries in Georgia. Local funding, while increased, is not enough for all public libraries to function. Fifty-two libraries in 21 counties close. Other libraries curtail hours and services. Statesboro Regional Library becomes the third regional library system in Georgia.

Acting under calls from the Georgia Library Association and the Citizen’s Library Committee (an informal organization made up of trustees and friends of libraries across Georgia), the General Assembly eliminates the Library Commission, transferring its services and functions to the state Department of Education’s Division of Textbooks and Libraries. It is renamed the Library Extension Service. School of Library Service at Atlanta University becomes first library school for African-Americans accredited by ALA.

1944-1946
Eight additional regional libraries form. Ten regional libraries now provide service to 23 counties.

1944
General Assembly appropriates $100,000 for library service as part of the Department of Education’s budget. First grant of special funds for state aid for the development of rural public library service in Georgia. Acquiring state aid for public libraries was a primary objective of the State Library Commission/Library Extension Service for 20 years. Several libraries closed following the loss of WPA support are able to reopen with state funding (Wheatcroft 1944).

1945-1946
General Assembly appropriates additional monies for library service. With this funding, local allotments are encouraged to increase. Matching local funds are not required to receive county allotments (which are based on the number of teachers in a county). An additional allotment of $2,000 is given to regional libraries of two or more counties with a regional governing board and a professional librarian as director. Requirements for state aid include an effective program of library service to rural areas, libraries under the control of a legally constituted board and library directors certified by the State Board. Also, local funds have to provide sufficient support, and state funds are not made available if the local budget decreased.

1945
State of Georgia Constitution is revised. Provision is made for taxation by counties for public libraries. Six regional libraries serve 14 counties, and 41 additional counties give countywide library service.

1947
Georgia Citizen’s Library Committee adopts the slogan “Books in Reach of Every Georgian.”
Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey conducted by the Southeastern Library Association.
State aid to libraries equals .30 per capita (national standard is $1.00 per capita).

1948
Twenty-eight bookmobiles are providing service in 25 counties.

1949
Minimum Foundation Program for Education (MFPE) is enacted by the General Assembly. Includes provisions for funds for public libraries and payment of state salary for one public librarian per county.

1951
MFPE funding appropriates $500,000 for public library materials, salaries and travel.

1956
Library Services Act (LSA). First federal funding for libraries is signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Appropriation is for five years and is limited to library service to rural areas. LSA provides monetary aid to the Library Extension Service’s objectives and plans. Staff, materials and bookmobiles are added.

1957
Survey of Georgia Public Library Service to Negroes.

1958
Through either a county or regional library, 158 counties have free public library service.

1961
Library Services Act is renewed for another five years.

1964
LSA is amended to Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). LSCA includes two titles: Title I provides money for both rural and metropolitan areas and Title II provides funds for construction. LSA provides funds to build 49 public libraries.

1965
The Georgia Citizen’s Library Committee officially becomes the Georgia Library Trustees Association and a section of the Georgia Library Association.

1966
Two additional titles added to LSCA: Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation, Title IV-A State Institutional Library Service and Title IV-B State Library Service to the Physically Handicapped.

1967
Thirty-five regional libraries serve 129 counties with countywide library service in all of Georgia’s 159 counties.
1969
Georgia Library Information Network (GLIN) is founded. Located at the Library Extension Service offices, GLIN coordinated interlibrary loans between public, academic and special libraries.

1970-1971
Library Extension Service is expanded within the state Department of Education to the Division of Public Library Services (DPLS). The division continues its original directive from 1897 to give counsel, advice and aid on establishing and administration of libraries to existing libraries and to those communities wishing to establish them. Additional functions added over the years include: supervising all public libraries; encouraging and assisting cooperative library service inside and outside Georgia; gathering and compiling public library statistics; developing statewide plans concerning libraries of all kinds; supervising state and federally funded programs; facilitating programs for continuing education for librarians and staff; supplying expertise in the form of consultants to public libraries; supplementing regional and county library service by providing reference, bibliographic and interlibrary loan services; and encouraging the network model to facilitate the provision of library service and resources to all citizens (Brown and Rawles 1975, 9).

1971
*Handbook on Constitutions, By-Laws, and Contracts for Georgia Public Libraries* is published.

1973
Georgia Library for the Blind is established.

Cessation of federal construction funds under LSCA. The General Assembly provides funding for library construction in the state.

1974
Adequate Program for Education in Georgia (APEG) is passed by the General Assembly, replacing the Minimum Foundation Program for Education Act.

1975
General Assembly appropriates funds to implement APEG.

Georgia has 36 regional library systems providing library service to 147 counties and 11 single-county public libraries.

Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, released by Southeastern Library Association, provides an assessment of libraries in the Southeast in the 1970s.

Georgia Library Survey is completed, delineating library resources, services and funding.

The General Assembly provides funds for Talking Book Centers, subregional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped.

The Georgia Council of Public Libraries is organized.

DPLS becomes a member of Solinet (Southeastern Library Network) and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center).

1976
Materials grants for public libraries increase from .16 per capita to not less than .35 per capita under APEG.

1977
Governor’s Conference on Georgia Library and Information Services, a state preconference for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

1979
White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

1980
Adoption of standardized statistical measures and definitions for collection of library statistics in Georgia (Tope and Forsee 1989).

1981
First Library Legislative Day is held under Georgia Council of Public Libraries sponsorship to facilitate contact between library supporters and their legislative representatives.

1982
The General Assembly revises state formulas for aid to public libraries and Talking Book Centers. The revision of the formulas is the result of consultation between DPLS, public library directors and the State Board of Education.

1984
Revision of library law accomplished. Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 20 of the OCGA is clarified on questions of creation of trustee boards, whether library boards could hold property, how a county system moves from one regional library system to another and on whether an individual is required to return books borrowed. The revisions also allow for the establishment of a public library as a tax-exempt entity.

1985
Georgia Intellectual Freedom Manual is first drafted at the Georgia Library Association Biennial Preconference.

Federal LSCA Title II funds for library construction are reauthorized.

1986
LSCA funds and local matching funds are used to open a portable library kiosk in a MARTA station. This kiosk is the first of its kind in a rapid transit station in the United States.

1988
Georgia OnLine Database (GOLD) is developed to facilitate the interlibrary loan process in Georgia among member libraries. GOLD goes online with a database of over 6 million holdings. First GOLD membership conference is held.

Emory University Division of Library and Information Science issues its final Master of Library Science degree.

1989
GLIN membership is closed to new members on July 1, 1989.
1995
Georgia Library Larning Online (GALILEO), a virtual library of electronic information resources for the citizens of Georgia, goes online. DPLS is downsized as part of the Department of Education’s reorganization. Approximately half of all the positions in the division are eliminated.

1996
Amendments to the state education laws by the General Assembly transfer the Division of Public Library Services to the Department of Technical and Adult Education, designating it the Office of Public Library Service (OPLS). Responsibilities of OPLS include administering federal and state grant funds, coordinating cooperative library activities, providing training, coordinating children’s summer programs, promoting family literacy, supporting technology and coordinating and promoting resource sharing among all types of libraries.

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), part of the Museum and Library Services Act, replaces LSAC. LSTA funding emphasizes technology and infrastructure while retaining focus on underserved areas for library service. Funding under LSTA is extended to all types of libraries. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which oversees LSTA funding, is created by the act.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 expands Universal Service to the Internet and provides discounts to public libraries and public and private schools for telecommunications and Internet-related technology.

1997
Gates Library Foundation is created to “bring computers and Internet access to public libraries in low-income communities in the United States and Canada” (Gates Foundation 2008).

GOLD Advisory Committee and GALILEO Users Group join to become GOLD/GALILEO Users Group Advisory Committee.

1998
A telecommunication network for high-speed access for all public libraries is established. The required annual statistical report for libraries is automated.

First Children’s Services Annual Conference is held.

1999
DPLS, in consultation with libraries across the state, creates PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), a library automation and lending network for public libraries in Georgia. The first phase consists of 96 service outlets across 26 systems. Access to GALILEO becomes available on all public library computers.

Gates Library Foundation awards Georgia’s public libraries $7 million in equipment, software and training.

Glascock County opens a public library facility for the first time. All 159 counties in the state now have a building housing a public library.

2000
The A Plus Education Reform Act makes OPLS a unit of the Board of Regents (O.C.G.A. § 20-5-2).

Georgia libraries begin purchasing and installing equipment and software purchased with Gates Foundation monies.

Standards for Georgia public libraries are adopted.

2001
Office of Public Library Service is renamed the Georgia Public Library Service.

State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is renamed Georgia Library for Accessible Services (GLASS).

GOLD/GALILEO Users Group join to become GOLD/GALILEO Users Group Advisory Committee.

17

2003
GOLD Advisory Committee and GALILEO Users Group join to become GOLD/GALILEO Users Group Advisory Committee.

2004
PINES Evergreen Project begins. GPLS initiates developing open source software for an integrated library computer system for its PINES network libraries.

2005
Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies graduates final class.

2006
PINES libraries debut the Evergreen software, revolutionizing library automation by using open source software to run circulation, cataloging and the public library catalog in an integrated library system designed expressly for PINES policies and needs. Prior to this debut, PINES contracted with vendor-developed software.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant (PACHUG) program awards Georgia public libraries $1.499 million.

Regents Public Library Advisory Committee is formed.

Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) is established.

The board of Clark Atlanta University decides to close School of Library and Information Studies, the only ALA-accredited library school in Georgia at the time.

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assisting in the mission of achieving equality, opportunity and security for the blind.

2007

GPLS wins Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration for the development and release of the Evergreen open source library automation system.

GPLS inaugurates PINNACLE, the Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education, to ensure the future of high-quality library leadership across the state.

Valdosta State University Master of Library and Information Science program is accredited by ALA.

2008

Georgia currently has 61 library systems serving all 159 counties with 387 service outlets and 20 bookmobiles. There are 33 regional library systems providing library service to 133 counties. There are 26 single-county library systems. Forty-eight library systems with 275 service outlets are part of the PINES network, providing a borderless library for Georgians with a free PINES library card.

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GLA announces slate of nominees for 2009 officers

Below and opposite is the 2009 slate of nominees for Georgia Library Association officers.

First Vice President/President-Elect

Theresa Preuit

Theresa Preuit is the associate director for Public Services & Collections at Mercer University’s Jack Tarver Library. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Judson College in Marion, Ala., and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Preuit provides leadership for the delivery of learning-center-focused library public services through collaborative goal setting, planning and assessing. She supervises 14 staff members, directs policies and procedures to conform to overall library goals and objectives and provides continuing education activities and staff development through active encouragement and mentoring. She also oversees public use of Innovative Millennium system to ensure appropriate adoption and implementation of system features by public service staff. In addition, she oversees monographic collection development efforts, including compiling reports and documents related to collection growth, use and assessment; directs activities of subject librarian program; evaluates gifts; and monitors fund allocations, as well as participating in overall management of the library.

Carol Stanley

Carol Stanley is branch librarian/cataloger at Athens Technical College in Elbert. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business management from North Carolina State University and received her M.L.S. degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Stanley catalogs and oversees processing of library materials for four campuses; provides reference services to individuals on the Elbert County Campus; and coordinates library services for the three branch libraries, including collection development and processing of interlibrary loans. She also teaches library instruction classes. She recently served as interim library director from September 1996 through May 1997. As a member of the Georgia Library Association, she has served in many capacities, including: Academic Library Division papers chair, 2008; treasurer, 2005-2007; Records Committee, 2004; Technical Services Interest Group vice chair, 2004; Nominating Committee chair, 2003; 2nd vice president/membership, 2001-2002; Membership Committee, 2000-2002; and Academic Division Nominating Committee, 2000.

Second Vice President

Louise L. Lowe

Louise L. Lowe is circulation librarian/public services at Mercer University’s Monroe F. Swilley Jr. Library in Atlanta. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and an M.S. in information science from the University of North Texas in Denton. Lowe manages circulation activity and acts as a liaison to undergraduate and English Language Institute students. She establishes annual and long-range departmental goals and objectives and explores, evaluates, plans and implements new services and technologies. She has almost two decades of library experience.

Bill Richards

Bill Richards is a professor of library science at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. He holds both a B.A. and an M.A. degree from Georgia State University as well as an M.Ln. degree from Emory University. He provides leadership in the development of the library’s collections to support the curriculum by coordinating the review and selection of library materials, including the selection, evaluation and distribution of gift materials and the evaluation and weeding of the library’s collections. He has been a member of GLA since 1984.
Secretary

Jeff Heck

Jeff Heck is automation librarian at the Reese Library of Augusta State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and an M.S.L.I.S. degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He is responsible for all computer-related activities for the ASU library. Heck first joined GLA in 1995. He is a current member of the GLQ Editorial Board and serves as GLA's Handbook chair. He also served as the organization's parliamentarian from 2006-2007.

Jennifer Link Jones

Jennifer Link Jones is training & assessment librarian at the Georgia State University Library. She earned her M.L.I.S. and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She coordinates staff development and training opportunities for library faculty and staff, including the creation of original classes and training materials for face-to-face and online classes; develops training plans for various library positions and groups; and coordinates assessment activities.

ALA Chapter Councilor

Ann Hamilton

Ann Hamilton is associate dean of the library and associate university librarian at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. She earned a D.A.S.L. degree and an M.L.S. in librarianship from Emory University, holds a certificate in archives administration from the Georgia Department of Archives and History and has a master's degree in history from Mississippi State University in Starkville and a bachelor's degree in mathematics and history from the University of Montevallo (Ala.). She is responsible for all library operations in the absence of the dean of the library and has served as university librarian since September 1992. She currently serves as project coordinator for the $27.5 million+ expansion and renovation of the Zach S. Henderson Library.

Carrie C. Zeiger

Carrie C. Zeiger is director of the Tifton-based Coastal Plain Regional Library System. She holds an M.L.S. degree from Emory University and an M.P.A. from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. As director of a multicounty rural public library system in South Georgia, she leads and manages the provision of library service to the public, drawing all five counties together to effect good communication in order to provide the most efficient and effective library resources for all their communities. Zeiger was previously director of the Newnan-Coweta Public Library, a position she held for 17 years. She served on the Georgia Children's Services Advisory Council from March 2006-April 2008 and has been a GLA member for 15 years and an ALA member for 22 years.

Georgia Council of Media Organizations 2008 Convention

Presented by
Georgia Association for Instructional Technology
Georgia Library Association
Georgia Library Media Association

October 15-17
The Classic Center
Athens, Georgia

For information, exhibition and registration materials, visit www.georgiacomo.org!
New directors named at four Georgia public library systems

Worth and Catoosa counties have each become a single-county public library system. Worth was previously part of the DeSoto Trail Regional Library, while Catoosa was part of the Northwest Georgia Regional Library.

Leigh Wiley has been named director of the new Worth County Library System, which will be based at the Margaret Jones Library in Sylvester.

Diana Tope, who retired as director of the LaFayette-based Cherokee Regional Library in 2007, has agreed to serve as interim director of the new Catoosa County Library in Ringgold.

In other systems around the state, Susan White has been named director of the Canton-based Sequoyah Regional Library, which serves Cherokee, Gilmer and Pickens counties. White, who was previously assistant director, replaces Nick Fogarty, who retired in May.

Jeff Tomlinson has been named director of the Madison-based Uncle Remus Regional Library, which serves Greene, Hancock, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam and Walton counties. Previously assistant director, Tomlinson succeeds Steve Schaefer, who retired in June.

SOLIS wins Valdosta State outstanding student service award

The Student Organization of Library and Information Science (SOLIS) at Valdosta State University recently won a Student Organization Award for “Outstanding Service to Members.” The award recognized the organization’s commitment to encouraging the “scholastic and leadership potential of organization members at Valdosta State University.” SOLIS President Christopher Baker and Faculty Adviser Elaine Yontz were presented with the award at VSU’s annual Student Organization Awards Banquet held on April 2.

To be eligible for an award, student organizations at VSU must be nominated through an application supported by at least one letter of recommendation from a member. The application turned in on behalf of SOLIS detailed, among other things, its mission to “foster the development of the student toward his/her eventual professional role with its concomitant rights, responsibilities and ideals.” The application also made mention that SOLIS was recently named an official Student Chapter of the American Library Association; with this achievement further supporting the overall mission of the organization. As well, SOLIS had the honor of receiving two letters of recommendation from its members. One first-year student and new SOLIS member wrote that the organization’s “encouragement and interaction have turned into a very powerful force in [her] satisfaction with the [MLIS] program.”
GLA announces 2008 scholarship winners

Christopher Warren, library associate from Gwinnett County Public Library, has been named this year’s winner for the Charles Beard Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance toward completing a master’s degree in library science for candidates who show strong potential to inspire and motivate their peers in the library profession. In addition to reference and circulation duties, Christopher leads a book club for young adults and is coordinating the summer reading program for teens this year. He also uses social networking as further outreach to the younger generation. Christopher says he “fell back into libraries and soon fell in love with them. Working with teens — whether in person through a book discussion or virtually through a blog has been so rewarding.” In addition to work with young adults, he plays a role in professional development and technology planning.

The 2008 Hubbard Scholarship goes to Erika Farr. Erika leads the Digital Programs Team at Emory University’s Robert W. Woodruff Library, where she develops and contributes to a range of digital initiatives. She earned her Ph.D. in English literature from Emory University. She began working in digital libraries and digital scholarship as a graduate student assistant for the Emory Women Writers Resource Project in 1998. Erika was initially drawn to electronically publishing texts by and about early modern women. This has grown into a deep interest in textual technologies, digital publishing and technological impacts on humanities research.

VSU’s McGhee wins Josey Scholarship

Valdosta State University M.L.I.S. student Myron McGhee recently received the E.J. Josey Scholarship from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. The award is an unrestricted scholarship given to outstanding African-American library students who are currently enrolled or accepted by an ALA-accredited graduate school program. The competition for the award is nationwide, and only two Josey scholarships are awarded annually. McGhee holds a Master of Divinity from Emory University and is circulation specialist at Emory’s Pitts Theology Library. Myron states that he hopes to “continue working at Emory and pursue opportunities to synthesize interests in genealogy, photography, music and library science.”

Mercer University library news and notes

Mercer University’s Jack Tarver Library showcased undergraduate student research and artwork during National Library Week 2008. For the second year, Tarver Library collaborated with coordinators of the Mercer University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Forty-seven undergraduate researchers presented 35 posters at this year’s symposium. Student researchers represented the College of Liberal Arts, including the departments of Christianity, biology and sociology, and the School of Engineering. The library exhibited the posters the week of April 21 and honored the student researchers at a reception four days later.

The annual All-Student Art Show featured painting, drawing, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Student participants included art majors as well as those majoring in other disciplines. Andrew Shuping, interlibrary loan & circulation services librarian, served as the judge. A reception on April 25 recognized all participants and awarded the first-, second- and third-place winners of each media, as well as Best of Show.

Ott joins library faculty at Clayton State

Katherine Ott has joined the library faculty at Clayton State University as head of access and information services. She previously was employed at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Students enjoy the many works of art on view at the Mercer library.
Georgia Southern news and notes


Another Information Services librarian, Joan Ellen Broome, was one of the lecturers at the third International Symposium on Environment at the National Technical University of Athens, Greece. Broome spoke of the topic was "Information Literacy for Teachers: Is Reform Necessary and How To Establish a Successful Model Program." Based on an extensive review of the literature for the teaching of Information Literacy K-12 in 16 Southern Regional Education Board states, as well as interviews with program coordinators at selected institutions, their program reported on best practices and innovative actions for teaching this subject, identifying special training for teachers as well as examples of partnerships created between the teacher education curriculum and the academic library. They delivered the same presentation June 30 at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

West Georgia’s Ingram news and notes

Jan Ruskell, professor and reference librarian at the University of West Georgia’s Ingram Library, retired June 30, 2008. Ruskell began her career at West Georgia in 1970 after completing the M.L.S. at George Peabody College. She earned an M.A. in English and an Ed.S. in curriculum and supervision at West Georgia. She served as photo editor on *From A & M to State University: A History of the State University of West Georgia*, published in 1998 and as editor on *At Home in Carrollton 1827-1994*, published in 1995. A longtime member of GLA, Ms. Ruskell served on the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Hubbard Scholarship Committee.

Chris Huff, assistant professor and systems librarian, was honored as Ingram Library's Centennial faculty member for 2007-08. Huff attended the 2008 Peabody Professional Institute on Academic Library Leadership with support from the Centennial grant.

Katie Mitchell, a graduate of the University of Georgia who holds a B.A. in psychology, and Kathleen Holcomb, a graduate of the University of West Georgia who also holds a B.A. in psychology, have joined the circulation department of Ingram Library.

Ingram Library opened the panel exhibit “Speaker Tom Murphy: Steady Leadership in Changing Times” at the Neva Lomason Library in May. Dr. Tracy Stallings, former member of the Georgia House of Representatives and former mayor of Carrollton, spoke at the opening. Georgia House Speaker Glenn Richardson spoke at the exhibit opening at the Dallas Branch of the Paulding County Public Library in June. The exhibit, funded by a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council, will travel to each county in the West Georgia Regional Library System before returning to the university.

The university received an $8 million FY 2009 appropriation from the Georgia General Assembly to renovate Ingram Library, a project that will incorporate the installation of the State Capitol office of the late Speaker Murphy, who died in December 2007. The university’s Center for Public History and Murphy Center for Public Service will join Georgia’s Political Heritage Program as offices within the library renovation project.

Ingram Library’s Penelope Melson Society hosted “An Evening of Poetry and Jazz” in April in celebration of National Poetry Month and Jazz Appreciation Month. Members of the UWG Jazz Ensemble entertained society members prior to readings by faculty and students whose work was published in the 2008 *Eclectic Art and Literary Magazine of West Georgia*. Art published in the *Eclectic* was displayed in the library lobby during the evening. The Society was organized in 2008 in honor of the library’s centennial.
Danowski Poetry Library debuts at Emory

The first major exhibition of items from Emory University’s Raymond Danowski Poetry Library debuted this spring in the Schatten Gallery of the university’s Woodruff Library.

“Democratic Vistas: Exploring The Raymond Danowski Poetry Library” took its name from a volume of Walt Whitman’s essays, said curator Kevin Young. More importantly, Whitman served as both the literal start of this show and the symbolic beginning of the Danowski Library, a collection of 75,000 volumes of rare and modern poetry.

“This exhibition highlighted the democratic qualities of the collection,” said Young, who is Emory’s Atticus Haygood Professor of Creative Writing and English. “Like the Danowski Poetry Library itself, the exhibition focused not on one particular school or kind of poetry but rather provided a sense of the whole of poetry.”

Central to the exhibition, which concluded in May, was a first edition of Whitman’s “Leaves of Grass,” arguably the first modern book of poetry, printed by its author and published on July 4, 1855.

“The Schatten Gallery seemed to come alive with the beautiful covers, book design, poetry broadsides and poetic innovations that line the cases and the walls of the show,” said Young. “‘Democratic Vistas’ revealed the relevance of poetry to the events of the century, from Auden’s writing ‘1 September 1939’ at the start of World War II to the poem being revived in the wake of Sept. 11.”

Other highlights of the exhibition included one of 11 known copies of William Carlos Williams’ first book, Poems (1909), which was never reprinted; a first edition of T. S. Eliot’s “Prufrock and Other Observations” (1917), inscribed to his close friend Emily Hale; limited editions by Langston Hughes, with corrections in his own hand; and Anne Sexton’s personal, heavily annotated copy of Sylvia Plath’s “Ariel” (1965).

If you missed the show, a full-color, 160-page catalog of the show, featuring more than 150 color illustrations and 100 additional items, is available from the Schatten Gallery (libjhk@emory.edu or 404-727-0136).

Maggio receives CPLA designation

Dr. Teri Maggio, director of the Assumption Parish Library, Napoleonville, La., and formerly with the Southwest Georgia Regional Library, has recently received designation as a Certified Public Library Administrator.

Spout Springs library opens in Hall County

The Hall County Library System held the grand opening ceremony for its newest library, the Spout Springs branch, on May 24 in Flowery Branch. More than 1,500 community members attended the festivities, which featured an appearance by Clifford the Big Red Dog, storytimes, craft activities, free food and drinks, a used book sale, an inflatable moonwalk, face painting and more.

The day culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle. Also making remarks were Rep. James Mills, Hall County Commission Chairman Tom Oliver and Commissioner Deborah Mack. During his remarks, Chairman Oliver stated: “So many times we open new jails and we open new correctional facilities. Isn’t it nice to open a library?”

At 22,600 square feet, the Spout Springs branch is the second largest facility in Hall County. Its special features include a screened porch, a dedicated storytime room and space for a future coffee shop.
Athens-Clarke County news and notes

The Athens-Clarke County Library is one of 35 libraries in the nation to be awarded “The American Dream Begins @ Your Library” grant. Sponsored by the American Library Association and Dollar General Store, the grant focuses on providing literacy services to new immigrants.

The Athens project will be to develop an online training manual to be used by instructors in the Athens community who teach English as a Second Language and who work with the after-school tutorial program at the Pinewoods Branch Library. Miguel Vicente was awarded WebJunction’s Diversity Fair Scholarship to attend the ALA annual conference in Anaheim. The all-expenses-paid scholarship enabled Miguel to conduct a “poster talk” session about the project. WebJunction also featured the Pinewoods project in its monthly webinar series on June 10.

Coweta County news and notes

The Coweta Public Library’s new central facility has introduced “Health-Style,” a consumer initiative to share in the launch of Georgia Health – Go Local, a federally funded initiative to link users of MedlinePlus, the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) premier consumer health Web site, to health services, health care providers or institutions, support groups, advocacy organizations, etc. in the county or ZIP code of their choice.

“‘Health-Style’ is a healthy-living initiative presented by the library in partnership with local health care providers, fitness centers, restaurants, pharmacies and supermarkets,” said Barbara Osborne-Harris, system library director. “It is designed to create increased awareness of the partners’ interests in serving the consumer health needs of our community. The program provides a broad range of health and medical information through books, Internet resources, brochures, topical displays, workshops and seminars. Health-Style table talk workshops with professional health care providers provide a neutral forum to highlight and discuss national and local health issues. The goal of this partnership is to impart knowledge and encourage and support consumers in gaining greater control over their own health.”

Georgia Health – Go Local is a collaborative project of Georgia’s four medical school libraries: Emory University, Medical College of Georgia, Mercer University School of Medicine and Morehouse School of Medicine, with funding support from the National Library of Medicine (National Institutes of Health), National Network of Libraries of Medicine-Southeastern/Atlantic Region and the Georgia Public Library Service.

The Coweta County Public Library System, located 35 miles southwest of Atlanta, is a network of four library facilities within Coweta County serving a population of approximately 125,121 residents. The library facilities are geographically placed to offer residents a primary service area within seven miles of their homes. CPL cardholders have access to the total holdings of the library system through an interlibrary loan book reserve and exchange program.

Chestatee Regional news and notes

The Dawsonville-based Chestatee Regional Library System has unveiled its new mascot.

Booker the Dog made his first public appearance at the June 19 meeting of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners. Branch Manager Stacey Leonhardt donned the costume and greeted the board with hugs all around. Youth Services Specialist Tracy Walker told a short story promoting the Vacation Reading Program at Dawson County Library and shared all of the programs for children and teens offered at the library this summer.

Booker now greets the kids after each summer program. “You can see them looking for him as they leave the room, anxiously awaiting their hug,” says Leonhardt. Booker will also make more public appearances outside the library throughout the year as a means to promote library services to the community.

Fayette County news and notes

On July 26, the Fayette County Library will inaugurate “Fayette on the Page” — a “One Book, One Community” program in which everyone in Fayette County is encouraged to read the same book and talk about it. This year’s featured book is Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom. The spotlight event of the program will be Patrice Dickey’s
“Lessons from Tuesdays With Morrie,” which will follow a free picnic on the library lawn, beginning at 1 p.m.

Dickey is an award-winning Atlanta author and motivational speaker who created “Get the Life You Love” at Emory University in 1999 and whose internationally acclaimed book Back to the Garden: Getting From Shadow to Joy has won multiple inspirational awards including those from Writers Digest and Best Books USA.

For more information, call the Fayette County Public Library at 770-461-8841.

On May 20, the Heard County Chamber of Commerce and the city of Ephesus held a groundbreaking ceremony at the new Ephesus Public Library site. The new library will be located just behind Ephesus Elementary School.

Mayor Denney Rogers, Ephesus City Council members and Jim Cooper, director of West Georgia Regional Library, were among the many residents who turned out for the event. More than 200 students from Ephesus Elementary School also attended, prompting the mayor to state that this was the largest crowd he had ever seen for a groundbreaking in Heard County.

The Ephesus Public Library will be part of the West Georgia Regional Library System. It will allow residents to check out and return books to any PINES library in the state. The new 6,100-square-foot library will have several computer stations with high-speed Internet and a meeting room that will be available to the public.

Atlanta-Fulton hosts children’s festival

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System’s Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American History and Culture presented the Ashley Bryan Children’s Literary Festival April 25 and 26.

The Ashley Bryan Children’s Literary Festival celebrated Bryan’s contribution to children’s literature with interactive and educational programs and events that introduced children of all ages to culturally relevant art, literature and poetry. The conference was attended by teachers, librarians and parents and many children.

The 2008 featured authors and illustrators were Bryan Collier, Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Sessions and events included “Purpose and Promise,” facilitated by Illustrator Bryan Collier; “Engaging Young Adult Readers,” facilitated by author Sharon Flake; “Conversation With Three Friends: Poetry, Pictures and Passion: Ashley Bryan” by Eloise Greenfield and Jan Spivey Gilchrist; and “Picture Books and Pancakes” by LaDoris Bias-Davis and Ernestine Brown.

The event was sponsored by the Friends of Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia.

Sequoyah Regional wins Excalibur Award

Each year, the Technology Association of Georgia, or TAG, offers the prestigious Excalibur Award to companies that have shown outstanding innovation and creativity in using technology to gain a competitive edge. This award is granted to four companies each year, one each in small, medium, large and creative categories. This year, the award in the “small business” category went to the Sequoyah Regional Library System for the use of RFID tags at the Woodstock and Rose Creek public libraries. More than 300 people attended the award ceremony, which was held in Atlanta.

“This automated check-out system frees up library staff to work with patrons in other areas — like answering reference questions, helping with book lookups or any one of a hundred other ways,” said Library Director Susan White. “This system helps us help more patrons with things that they can’t do on their own.”
The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

Sarah McGhee, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chestatee Regional Library System, smcghee@chestateelibrary.org
Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org
Teresa Pacheco, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Northeast Georgia Health System, tere711@comcast.net

See more Off the Shelf reviews at http://gla.georgialibraries.org/glq_bookreviews.htm

NON-FICTION


Bob Dart, the author of Downhome: Dispatches from Dixie, covered the South for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution before moving to the Washington, D.C., bureau of Cox Newspapers as a national correspondent. For four decades, he covered some of America’s biggest stories, including the Vietnam War, the invasion of Iraq and the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy in New York City. However, his favorite stories have always come from the back roads and colorful characters of his native South. In Downhome, Dart has collected 50 of these stories, which paint a cultural portrait of 30 years in the South. Dart writes of sometimes funny, sometimes bizarre and sometimes dramatic people, places and events. He talks with survivors of Hurricane Katrina and tells us about interesting people, such as Georgia-born artist David Driskell, Junior Samples (television star of “Hee Haw”) and Brownie Wise, creator of the Tupperware party. Dart takes the reader on visits to a North Carolina sanctuary for neurotic, injured and neglected birds; to a very small Virginia town memorializing the 21 young men it lost during the D-Day invasion of France; to South of the Border, a faux-Mexican tourist complex in South Carolina; and to several Georgia cities, including Warrenton, Jesup and Brunswick. The author looks at unique events such as the World Invitational Half-rubber Tournament in Savannah and an all-night gospel sing in Waycross as well as horrific ones such as the shootings at Virginia Tech and West Virginia’s Sago Mine disaster. This compilation of fascinating and always entertaining stories of the South is recommended for academic and public libraries.

— Reviewed by Christine Zuger
Georgia College & State University


Georgia’s cemeteries are sometimes thought of as old, rarely visited places where stately magnolia trees provide shade for the generations who have come before. But to one observant visitor, the Oakland Cemetery provides a treasure trove of tragic history and enduring romance. Cathy Kaemmerlen has used her gift of storytelling just as a weaver would use her loom to weave together the rich textures of Atlanta’s Southern history. In her book The Historic Oakland Cemetery of Atlanta: Speaking Stones, Kaemmerlen tells that from 1850 to 1884 almost everyone who died in Atlanta was buried in the Atlanta Cemetery, renamed the Oakland Cemetery in 1872. This Victorian garden cemetery was

By the early 1940s, Byron Herbert Reece, then in his 20s, was already a published writer of columns, poems, prose and numerous book reviews. During this same time, he also worked on his family’s farm, taught at a local school, was invited to speak at a poetry forum and won a newspaper poetry contest. By the time he took his own life in 1958, Reece had taught at UCLA, Emory University and Young Harris College; his work had appeared in numerous publications; he had written two novels, had published four books of poetry and had won a Guggenheim Fellowship twice. All of these facts can be gleaned from the letters found in Faithfully Yours. But these letters reveal much more than basic facts about his life and works. As the editors say in the introduction, “Nowhere does Reece reveal his intense personality more compellingly than in his letters.” Faithfully Yours does not contain a complete set of Reece’s letters. But the letters included paint a vivid picture of the last 18 years of his life. The majority of the letters were written to several close friends he had met as a student at Young Harris College, but the most letters sent to a single person were to a young writer he never met. As could be expected, many letters discuss literary topics, such as the progress of his work, books he had read recently, opinions about his own works and those of others and writing advice. But, throughout his letters, Reece also reveals his feelings about teaching, classical music, politics, farming, nature and more. Faithfully Yours seems to be the only existing print collection of his letters and is especially recommended for libraries that maintain a collection of Georgia author materials. If adding this book to your collection, be sure to have some of Byron Herbert Reece’s works available, because his letters are likely to create interest in the works he mentions.

— Reviewed by Ronda Sanders
Hall County Library System


After settling down in Spartanburg, S.C., author John Lane traced an old, chipped plate on a topological map to draw an arbitrary radius around his home and set out to explore his neighborhood. Traveling on foot, by kayak, bicycle and car, Lane navigates the rich history, ecological diversity and social constructs of this Southern city. With a voice that resonates with love for the natural history of the area, he reconstructs the geography from ancient history through the 21st century, providing readers with a clear vision of the effect that humans have had on the landscape through the centuries. Alternating between wistful reveries on the original native inhabitants of the land and his personal protectiveness of the remaining wildness, Lane vividly describes the terrain. While Lane’s focus is on natural history, the strength of his observations lies in his personal struggle to come to terms with the many dichotomies present within his neighborhood — between the Southern locals and new transplants, blue-collar workers and country club members, environmentalists and developers. Exploring the complicated intersections of class, economics, biology and sustainability, Lane merges the personal, the present and the past in a way that creates a rich sense of history of place – all within a short radius of his home in one small part of the world. Circling Home is recommended for any collection with a focus on Southern history, anthropology and natural history.

— Reviewed by Kate Farley
Lane Library, Armstrong Atlantic State University

Robert Storter wrote Crackers in the Glade: Life and Times in the Old Everglades at the age of 91. His descriptions of the beautiful wonders of sea life are just as I remember them from growing up in Coden, Ala. This book reminded me of my dad, Leophas, who often scribbled on everything in sight to recall his experiences of fishing, storms and horseback riding. Storter describes coastal life as one filled with sand flies, ferryboats and mosquitoes. Folks burned rags to keep these “swamp angels” away, and rattlesnakes swam in the channel. Fathers allowed their young sons to be involved in working activities such as steering a boat, going on a mail route, riding a horse or going fishing. Late at night, the singing of “Amazing Grace” or another hymn could be heard as these were baptized, praying people. Every family had a sailboat. Weathering frequent “squalls” was often pure excitement, but Storter also talks about the awful destruction of tremendous hurricanes. School classes at the time were quite small; classes were made up mostly of family and the children of teachers. Shoes were worn only occasionally — to church — but not to school. School lunches consisted of great northern beans and biscuits, bananas and mayonnaise sandwiches every day. Storter’s view can best be summed up in his own words: “We are like little mangrove twigs and are drifting somewhere to find a lodging place. Let’s hope we will not stop on the mudflat or drift out to sea but will find the rock, and there we will be rooted to stay.” Crackers in the Glade: Life and Times in the Old Everglades is highly recommended to anyone interested in family oral history, traditions, rural coastal living, fishing, photography and art.

— Reviewed by Regina W. Cannon
UGA Griffin Research Facility Library


Down to the Waterline is a comprehensive review of Florida’s water boundary ownership issues from the early days of statehood (1845) to the present. It includes extensive research of legislation, legal and municipal hearings, land records, first-person accounts and innumerable historical events that have shaped the ongoing controversy. Warner, a lifelong Floridian, brings more than 20 years of experience to compiling, analyzing and interpreting the information collected in this book. The author’s quest to understand the struggle to preserve private ownership rights while preserving public access and maintenance of navigable bodies of water began in 1989 as a research project for her Ph.D. from Emory University, after hearing an NPR report on the channelizing of, and subsequent work to restore, the Kissimmee River. Several chapters are devoted to the Kissimmee debacle and the slow, painful lessons sometimes learned from overmanipulating nature. Runoff pollutants from the work on the Kissimmee contaminated agricultural acreage, while poisonous gases produced by organic decomposition in the oxygen-depleted water proved lethal to river inhabitants. In Waterline, Warner also discusses the definition of the “ordinary high water line (OHWL).” For hundreds of years, the OHWL was accepted as a line discernable “without scientific exploration” and was considered a protected property of the state, preserved for the use of all. Now it is a battle line, requiring frequent examination by both legal and technological means. Woven within the narrative of the struggle to clearly understand and define the OHWL are important ecological lessons. Warner’s reflections on the plight of indigenous wildlife, for example, misguided attempts to remove the alligator from the endangered species list, are particularly poignant and not easily dismissed. Down to the Waterline provides globally applicable perspectives of interest to ecologists, students in environmental studies at all levels and the general public.

— Reviewed by Lori Critz
Georgia Institute of Technology


This is a quirky but engaging book. The connection between the flourishing iron trade in Alabama and cooking was, at first, lost on this reviewer. The answer goes like this: The iron industry emerged in the Birmingham area beginning in the late 19th century, built upon the proximity of ore, coal, railroads and entrepreneurs. In the late 1920s, a magazine was launched to bring technical developments to the widespread foundry trade. Pig Iron Rough Notes (from the adage, “rough as pig iron”) informed, educated and promoted. In 1939, editor Russell Hunt added “soft” journalism about iron trade people, their communities, their hobbies. And recipes. Pig iron,
Hunt explained, figured in the food industry from farm implements to cast-iron skillets. Hunt’s readers were the source of most recipes. The opener is bean hole beans, a ritualistic preparation of baked beans in an underground fire pit. And the closer is your traditional fried green tomatoes accompanied by cornbread Southern-style. Hunt was a gregarious fellow, happiest when he was marketing iron and enjoying the hospitality of his clients. A day spent with Gus Tindall of Chattanooga gave us Tennessee Squirrel Stew (12 of the critters required), best enjoyed “under some giant oak or beech tree.” Most of the recipes remain doable across the years, even to the clumsy-in-the-kitchen types. Each carries a chatty narrative echoing Hunt’s on-the-road research. Karen R. Utz of the Sloss Furnace National Historic Landmark in Birmingham wrote an introduction that sets Hunt’s magazine in the historical context of the industry. It’s not clear who edited the selections, and we wished for more specific citations for individual segments, extracted from decades of issues. As it is, things just run together. That aside, we’re getting ready to whip up some hobo stew (serves 10 hoboes and probably twice as many librarians) (p. 22) or maybe a spicy, one-dish meal, Jambalaya (p. 38.) Yummy.

— Reviewed by Dr. Wally Eberhard
University of Georgia (Emeritus)

When Elvis Meets the Dalai Lama

Murray Silver, the author of Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis, has now written an autobiography. A recollection of his varied career, the book spans his time as a teenage concert promoter in Atlanta in the 1960s through his job as tour manager for a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in the 1990s. Early chapters detail his years writing Great Balls of Fire and the development of that book into a movie. Silver reminisces about his work with Myra Lewis on the book, meetings with Jerry Lee Lewis and the torturous experience of the movie production. Not a fan of the resulting film, Silver provides numerous explanations for what went wrong in the movie adaptation. Other projects never came to fruition, including a book about the early days of professional wrestling, one on the porn industry and a book written with the assistance of Dr. George Nichopoulos, Elvis Presley’s physician, about what really caused the King’s death. During his work on the Presley project, Silver reports receiving death threats that drove him into hiding.

These varied tales are interspersed with memories of his teenage years and his father’s law career, sidetracks that tend to confuse the timeline and the reader. The final, and most interesting, part of Silver’s autobiography deals with his introduction to Buddhism as well as his involvement with Tibetan monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery. He recounts the years he assisted the monks by selling Tibetan rugs, driving a truck for The Mystical Arts of Tibet exhibit and managing the U.S. tour of Sacred Music, Sacred Dance, which shares the Tibetan Buddhist culture through chant and dance. The book concludes with the author’s return to his native Savannah and some reflections on his life. Included throughout the book are several of the author’s personal photographs. Optional purchase for a public library.

— Reviewed by Gretchen M. Smith
Georgia Southwestern State University


The Body in Flannery O’Connor’s Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice by Donald E. Hardy is a meticulously researched work that combines the study of Flannery O’Connor’s fiction with statistical analysis and linguistics. Hardy’s approach to the literary analysis of O’Connor’s thematic representation of the relationship between man’s physical and spiritual aspects includes using computer concordancing software to determine the frequency of words and phrases in O’Connor’s work that refer to the physical body. Through detailed analysis of this data, along with attention to the grammatical category of the middle voice as described in the study of linguistics, Hardy conducts a “close examination of the interactions of grammatical voice and the body at both the macrolevel and the microlevel of the narrative.” Hardy's central discussion deals with the way in which specific body parts as represented in O’Connor's fiction contain the spiritual within the physical. Hardy’s opinions are supported by examples from the source material, and his microanalysis of the workings of O’Connor’s sentences reveals a deep understanding of the way in which the author communicates incarnationl themes at the most fundamental level. The Body in Flannery O’Connor’s Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice delves beyond O’Connor's work to include a varied account of different linguistic theories used to examine narrative techniques. Although the author states that his book “is written with a general educated audience in
mind,” the highly technical presentation of ideas demands a specialized vocabulary and a somewhat rarefied openness to applying statistics to the study of literature. This book would be a good addition to academic libraries where linguistics is a primary focus. It would also be appropriate for inclusion in collections with an emphasis on Georgia studies or Southern literature.

— Reviewed by Leslie R. G. Bullington
Augusta, Georgia


In 1974, following a divorce and the death of her father, Sudye Cauthen moved herself and her 9-year-old son to a cabin on Waters Pond, near her childhood home in Alachua in the interior of northern Florida. Eventually, at the urging of her mother, she moved all the way back to Alachua, prompting a re-examination of her childhood. Disheartened by the changes in her hometown, Cauthen subsequently spent years driving back roads, sometimes at random, sometimes deliberately, seeking the people and places she had known. The author filled in gaps in her understanding of her own family history as well as the history of the region and its people. The result, Southern Comforts, is a combination of memoir, interviews, natural history and folklore. These individual elements combine to form a snapshot of a time when tobacco was king, and people both shaped the land and were shaped by it. Pair this with Janisse Ray’s Ecology of a Cracker Childhood for a portrait of southern Georgia and northern Florida before Disney and interstate highways forever altered the identity of the region. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries.

— Reviewed by Kathy Pillatzki
Henry County Public Library System

FICTION


Most of us have never woken up and found a woman living in our closet, but this does happen to Josey, the main character of Allen’s engrossing second novel. As surprising and unusual as this event is, Josey has an even more challenging concern: serving as a personal assistant to her elderly mother. Given her willful and unpleasant behavior as a child, Josey feels obligated to be at her mother’s constant beck and call, and her mother happily accepts Josey’s feelings of obligation. Interspersed with her daughterly duties, Josey goes on a sandwich run for the woman in the closet, Della Lee, and meets Chloe, who has her own unique situation. Books literally appear to Chloe: They follow her, turn up when she most needs them. Josey and Chloe bond over their respective love troubles: Josey is in love with the enigmatic mailman, and Chloe is on the verge of a breakup with her lawyer boyfriend due to his cheating on her one night after a particularly difficult case. The mailman and the lawyer are best friends, a fact that further complicates matters yet also ties them together even more closely. In the small ski town of Bald Slope, N.C., everyone knows everybody else. Josey’s father was the founder of the town, resulting in most of the residents knowing her from the time of her birth, witnessing her disagreeable behavior as a child and seemingly unwilling to forget any of it. This relationship between Josey and the town illustrates a disadvantage of small-town life. Throughout the course of the novel, Allen deftly employs magical realism, adding an element of mystery and beauty to the compulsively readable story. Recommended for public libraries and academic libraries with a contemporary fiction section.

— Reviewed by Carol Malcolm
Riverside Military Academy


Carleen Brice’s first novel is a heartwarming story about redemption, forgiveness and finding that going back home again can be less bitter when it is followed by something sweet. Shay Dixon is a graduate student who is on the verge of a nervous breakdown and broke. Taking the advice of blues singer Nina Simone, her spiritual adviser, Shay goes back home to a mother whom she had written off. Nona, Shay’s mother, was once an alcoholic who left Shay alone a lot and when around was either drunk or hungover. However, after Shay returns home, she meets the new Nona who loves to garden, has a 5-year-old daughter and a new lease on life. This novel takes a look at the relationship between a mother and daughter who have a past that needs forgiveness in order to heal and move on. The novel addresses many issues in a way that will be engaging and endearing to the reader. Brice’s storytelling will have the reader crying one minute and laughing the...
next. The journey of Shay and Nona is a lighthearted read that will allow the reader to see the importance of facing and embracing our past hurts in order to enjoy what life has in store for us. This book will appeal to women of all ages, races and economic classes. This book of fiction also supplies the reader with a small treat: Nona’s Orange Mint Tea and Orange Mint and Honey Butter Cookie recipes.

— Reviewed by Katrina Cooks
Augusta Technical College Library

JUVENILE


Red and green lights at Christmas time — what’s so strange about that? Well, if you’re a flamingo living in the bright, hot sands of Miami, it’s all new to you. In this charming story, author Nancy Day’s character, Flamingo, sets out to answer the question, “What is Christmas?” The reader journeys along with Flamingo as he searches for Christmas in a line of children waiting to see Santa, in busy holiday shopping traffic, and in an expensive department store. It isn’t until Flamingo stumbles upon a live Nativity play that he truly begins to understand the meaning of Christmas. Day’s humorous take on the frustrations of the season through the eyes of her feathered protagonist is a joy and provides a nice juxtaposition to the poignancy of the Nativity scene ending the story. Illustrator Fiona Robinson uses interesting techniques, such as transferring pencil drawings via carbon, which she fills in with oil paints. The illustrations reflect the bright, whimsical atmosphere of Miami at Christmas time and are perfect for Flamingo’s adventures. In the Nativity scene, Donkey comments that, “Maybe a flamingo is exactly what we need in our Nativity play.” Donkey has the right idea. Recommended for most children’s collections.

— Reviewed by Tracy Walker
Dawson County Public Library

The Adventures of Short Stubbly Brownbeard by Alan J. Levine

Get ready to set sail for adventure! Atlanta author Alan J. Levine has written an exciting book that combines science fiction and pirate adventure. Short Stubbly Brownbeard is the lesser-known cousin of Blackbeard the Pirate. Brownbeard begins life as an accountant, but a late-night sword fight with an angry group of numbers prompts him to become a pirate. He locates a ship, the For Sale, and gathers a crew consisting of a Sand Witch, a Troll, a Sock Gremlin and a talking cat. Brownbeard and his dysfunctional crew head to the galaxy of Sa’Laam, where they plan to rob the wealthy emperor. They meet some unusual characters along the way and uncover a terrible secret behind the vast wealth of Sa’Laam. Brownbeard and his crew must search within themselves for the courage to fight for what is right, even if it means a fight to the death. Although the story itself is wildly fantastical, there are many parallels to the real world. This book would be enjoyed by anyone who reads science fiction and would be right at home in either a high school media center or a public library.

— Reviewed by Andrea Thigpen
Wacona Elementary School

The Sorta Sisters by Adrian Fogelin

Mica Delano lives onboard the Martina with her father, Dr. Robin Michael Delano, an alcoholic marine biologist who is so wrapped up in his work he rarely notices his daughter. Anna Casey lives in Tallahassee, Fla., with her foster mother, Miss Johnette, a high school biology teacher. Though the girls have never met, they have a lot in common. Both girls have moved many times and have difficulty making friends. They are both very intelligent and have a love of science. Both long to have a real friend and be a part of the crowd. At the beginning of the book, Anna receives a letter from Mica by way of Ben Floyd, who met Mica while visiting his Aunt Emma in Key West. Aunt Emma runs the marina where the Martina is currently docked and serves as somewhat of a surrogate mother to Mica. While Ben is visiting in Key West, he realizes that Mica reminds him of Anna and tells her all about the girl back home. Mica thinks that Anna sounds like her kindred spirit and decides they need to become friends. She writes the letter to Anna and includes a janthina shell as a gift. The girls begin to exchange letters and scientific specimens and develop a great bond. Since neither has siblings, they agree they should be sorta sisters. Through letters, they share their hopes, fears, struggles and insecurities and hope to one day meet. This book is highly recommended for middle school girls and Fogelin fans. The characters are real, and readers will be drawn in by the vivid descriptions of the Florida scenery.

— Reviewed by Nikki Terrell
Lowndes Middle School Media Center
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Carol Simpson
Author, consultant, editor on issues of ethics, copyright, school library management

Dr. Carol Simpson joined the University of North Texas, School of Library and Information Sciences faculty in August 1998 after serving in the public schools for 25 years as a high school teacher, school librarian, district library director, and library technology director. In May of 2008, she received her JD degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, where she is Associate Case Note/Comment Editor for the SMU Science and Technology Law Review.

Her research interests include copyright law - especially as it applies to public schools – and school library management, plus ethical issues such as censorship of library materials. In addition, applications of instructional technology are a secondary research interest. She has served on several committees of the American Library Association including the Copyright Subcommittee of the Office for Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee. For the Texas Library Association she served as the Councillor of the Media and Related Technologies Round Table, and on the Lawyers for Libraries task force.

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