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GLA installs new officers, honors state’s best

The Georgia Library Association installed officers and announced award winners and grant recipients at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) 2008 annual conference, held in Athens in October.

Leading the organization in 2009 will be President Jim Cooper. Cooper is director of West Georgia Regional Library in Carrollton, a position he has held for more than 20 years. Serving as first vice president/ president-elect will be Carol Stanley, branch librarian and cataloger at Athens Technical College in Elbert County.

Other officers include Second Vice President Bill Richards, a professor of library science at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville; Secretary Jeff Heck, who is automation librarian at the Reese Library of Augusta State University; and Treasurer Ray Calvert, director of learning resources at Coastal Georgia Community College in Brunswick. ALA chapter counselor for this year is Ann Hamilton, associate dean of the library and associate university librarian at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

Outgoing GLA President Betty Paulk and Lorene Flanders, chair of the GLA Awards Committee, announced the following award recipients: Robert E. Fox Jr., associate director of the Georgia Tech Library, received the Nix-Jones Award for making substantial contributions to the library profession, such as stimulation of library development, leadership in library programs, unusual and imaginative services or outstanding support of Georgia’s libraries.
Lori Lester, government documents librarian at Georgia Southern University, received the McJenkin-Rheay Award, given to a young librarian who has made outstanding contributions to GLA.

Phillip E. Williams, director of library services support at Georgia State University, was the first recipient of the new GLA Support Services Award.

Karen Manning, who works with digital initiatives for the Georgia Tech Library, received the Nora Symmers Paraprofessional Award, which recognizes an individual’s contribution to GLA and the Paraprofessional Division through their efforts to promote and support the Paraprofessional Division and to encourage paraprofessional participation in GLA.

Manning also introduced the GLA Paraprofessional Division’s grant winners for 2008. They include Myguail Chappel, a library branch supervisor for the DeKalb County Public Library System; Debra Marino, manager for the Harris County Public Library and Williams Memorial Library service outlet; Deborah Moorman, library manager of the Irwin County Library in Ocilla; Stephanie Morris, who works in the Reserves Unit of the Circulation Department of the Georgia Tech Library; and Susan Varner, a media paraprofessional at Gray Elementary School.

Elizabeth Bagley (center), chair of the scholarship committee, presents Christopher Warren (left) and Erika Farr with plaques honoring their scholarship awards. Warren, a library associate from Gwinnett County Public Library, is winner of the 2008 Charles Beard Scholarship. Farr, who leads the Digital Programs Team at Emory University’s Robert W. Woodruff Library, is the 2008 Hubbard Scholarship recipient.

Outgoing President Betty Paulk passes her gavel to incoming President Jim Cooper.

The Georgia Library Association Awards Committee, chaired by Lorene Flanders (right), presented honorary memberships to Katherine B. Gallo (left), who retired from the Georgia Perimeter College Library in 2008, and to Sara E. “Betsy” Griffies (center), who retired in 2007 from the University of West Georgia Libraries. Honorary memberships are reserved for retired GLA members who have contributed significantly to the association by holding office or rendering outstanding service.