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## From the President

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## *From the* PRESIDENT

Can you believe that we already have finished the first quarter of 2009? Time does seem to move quickly when we are busy, and GLA certainly has been filled with a lot of activity this year!

Our annual Georgia Library Day was Feb. 26 at the Capitol, and as usual, we had great attendance at this event. Almost 300 library advocates met to discuss issues involving Georgia libraries before visiting the "Gold Dome," where they visited with legislators and voiced their concerns. School libraries, public libraries, and academic libraries continue to see annual use increases of well over 10 percent, and during times of economic recession, the role of libraries in the lives of our citizens is more important than ever. And although the use of computers as a library service is more important as an information tool, the demand for books continues to increase as well.

Many thanks for Chris Huff, systems librarian at Ingram Library at the University of West Georgia and chairman of the Legislative Committee of GLA, for coordinating this year's Library Day. In recognition of the importance of libraries to our economy, Chris distributed fortune cookies to all attendees and all legislators that included the message, "***Libraries Bring Good Fortune to All Georgians.***" What an important message to convey to our elected officials!

One noteworthy area of activity within GLA this year has been a new group called the Atlanta Emerging Librarians, operating as a part of the New Members Round Table.

This group consists of library and information students and new graduates, and their meetings have attracted up to 75 participants.

On Jan. 15, these enthusiastic members hosted an informal meeting at Manuel's Tavern, where they were able to meet with a variety of local library administrators. I was privileged to participate in this occasion, and I must say that I learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to Shelly Rogers, current chair of NMRT; Sarah Steiner, previous NMRT chair; and all of the members of the Atlanta Emerging Librarians for their dynamic leadership in our profession!

Finally, as president of Georgia Library Association in 2009, I also serve as chairman of this year's COMO Steering Committee. We are looking forward to this year's COMO XXI Conference, to be held Oct. 7-9 in Columbus. This year's theme is COMO XXI: Connect, Collaborate, Communicate. Every GLA member has expertise that is of interest to other librarians, and I want to ask each of you to submit a program proposal when the "call for proposals" is issued soon. We need your help to make this COMO Conference the very best ever!

We're off to a great start in 2009. Thanks to all of you for being actively involved in Georgia Library Association! ►►

— **James C. Cooper**  
*President*  
*Georgia Library Association*