

October 2009

## VSU Students Honored at ALA Conference

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(2009) "VSU Students Honored at ALA Conference," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 4 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol46/iss4/10>

This News is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

## Knight, Kunnupas win GLA scholarships

The GLA Scholarship Committee has announced the 2009 winners of the Beard and Hubbard scholarships — two awards given annually by GLA to provide financial assistance for students pursuing a Master’s degree in library science.

This year’s C.S. Hubbard Scholarship winner is Amber Knight, who completed a B.A. in theatre from LaGrange College and will be starting the LIS program at Valdosta State University in the fall. Throughout high school, Knight volunteered her summers off to work as a page for the Hall County Public Library System and later worked for that library system in Youth Services Programming.



*Knight*

She is presently employed full time at the Bartow County Library System as a Youth Services Assistant. She is praised by previous and current supervisors for her abilities in planning and conducting programming for children and teens. Her professional goal she says is to “shape in my own small way, the public library systems’ future” and she aspires to someday be head of a children’s department in a public library.

Tiia Kunnupas, currently a student in the LIS program at Valdosta, is this year’s Charles Beard Scholarship winner. Kunnupas has a B. S. in Marketing from New York University, an M.Ed. from University of West Georgia, and is presently employed full time in the library at Atlanta Technical College. She previously worked as a media specialist for Cobb County Schools and was a national semifinalist in the International Reading Association’s Presidential Award for Reading and Technology in 2008.



*Kunnupas*

On completing her library degree, Tiia would like to work in public libraries creating and implementing programs that encourage moms and their children to read together.

Complete information about the scholarships offered by GLA, including application information, is available through the GLA website at <http://gla.georgialibraries.org/scholarship.htm>. The 2010 deadline for applications is May 21st. Congratulations to our 2009 scholarship winners! ▶▶



*Above left: Award winners Kozel, Michelle Demeter, Fran Perros and Donna Scheeder with FAFLRT Awards Committee Co-Chairs Shirly Loo and Maria Plsa. Above right: Kozel accepts his award from Plsa.*

## VSU students honored at ALA Conference

Three students from the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) Program at Valdosta State University (VSU) were honored at the American Library Association (ALA) 2009 Conference in Chicago.

Kenneth M. Kozel received the Adelaide Del Frate Conference Sponsorship Award from the Federal & Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT). This award helps to defray the expense of attending the ALA Annual Conference for a student in an ALA-accredited Masters Program who has expressed an interest in some aspect of Federal librarianship. Kozel, who currently works at Pitts Library, Andrew College, in Cuthbert, Georgia, received his MLIS degree in August 2009. He has been accepted for an internship in the Office of eDiplomacy in the Bureau of Information Resource Management of the U.S. Department of State and plans to pursue a career as a Federal librarian.

Mary L. Miller is VSU’s first participant in the ALA Student-to-Staff Program. Each year 40 library students are chosen to assist ALA staff during ALA Annual Conference. In exchange for working about four hours a day, these students receive free conference registration, housing, and a per diem for meals. During free time, they may attend programs and other conference activities. Miller worked in the ALA Store and attended sessions related to current cataloging and metadata standards. Currently employed as Cataloger for the Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia, Miller plans to utilize her expertise in instructional design as a teacher of cataloging and metadata.



*Miller*

Jennifer Yontz-Orlando is VSU’s first Spectrum Scholar. Spectrum is ALA’s national diversity and recruitment effort to address under-representation of critically needed ethnic

librarians within the profession. The scholarship combines financial support with leadership development.

Yontz-Orlando's activities in Chicago included attending the Spectrum Leadership Institute, an intensive three-day preconference designed specifically for the scholars.

Throughout their scholarship year and beyond, the Spectrum Scholars are provided with opportunities to network with other scholarship recipients and library leaders via electronic discussion lists and other professional development tools.

Yontz-Orlando, who is bilingual and has a background in business, is interested in library management and in outreach to Spanish-speaking patrons. ►►



Yontz-Orlando

## Bush grant will fund 45 scholarships

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded Georgia Public Library Service a 2009 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant for \$680,327. According to Lyn Hopper, assistant state librarian for library development, the money will be used to fund the GPLS "Librarians Build Communities" program, which will provide the scholarships needed to prepare 45 students to be public librarians and provide them with expertise in community building.

"This grant will help GPLS strengthen community support for public libraries in Georgia, address Georgia's shortage of librarians and provide a model for other states," Hopper said.

She explained that GPLS will collaborate with the Valdosta State University (VSU) Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program. Each qualifying student will receive a full in-state tuition scholarship to the program, which requires 39 semester hours for graduation.

The first students are expected to enter the program in the fall 2010 semester and complete their course work within the three-year grant period. Subsequent groups will begin studies in spring and fall semesters of 2011. Students will be required to maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in order to receive continued funding.

VSU is prepared to offer curriculum content to meet the program's instructional needs by recruiting part-time

faculty with expertise in public libraries and community building. GPLS will assist the effort by offering an advanced public library seminar with a focus on community building during years two and three of the grant period. "GPLS will also compile pre- and post-assessment information geared toward measuring changes in community-building attitudes, knowledge and skills as a result of the program," Hopper said.

Applications will be reviewed and participants selected by a committee that will include representatives from GPLS, VSU and the Georgia public library community. Students will be selected based on potential for successful graduate study, interest in public library community building, and commitment to work in a Georgia public library for at least three years following graduation.

The total project budget is \$844,647, with \$164,320 in matching funds coming from GPLS and VSU. Approximately 77 percent of the grant funds will be for direct student support.

Since its inception in 2002, the IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program has funded the education and training of 3,220 master's students; 186 doctoral students; 1,256 preprofessionals; and 26,206 continuing education students across the country.

The program also supports grants for research related to library education and library staffing needs, curriculum development and continuing education and training. ►►

## Georgia library news now on Twitter

GPLS now has a Twitter account, Georgialibs, that will give Internet users a new way to keep up with library events and news. The short, 140-character "tweets" from Georgialibs are readable by all devices — such as personal computers, mobile phones and personal digital assistants — that have Internet connections.

"The GPLS Twitter feed will be a useful communications tool for getting brief reminders about upcoming library events, conferences and workshops and also for linking to online public library news items from across the state," said Darin Givens, webmaster for GPLS. "Anyone with a Twitter account can follow Georgialibs and receive updates."

To get the latest news about public libraries in the state, visit [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and enter "Georgialibs" in the search field. Georgialibs can also be followed on the GPLS news page at [www.georgialibraries.org/news](http://www.georgialibraries.org/news). ►►