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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

GLA honors state's best at COMO Conference

There were four award recipients and one lifetime honorary membership granted at the 2009 Georgia Library Association Conference of Media Organizations Awards Banquet in Columbus.

Georgia Library Quarterly Editor and Director of the Sara Hightower Regional Library System Susan Sexton-Cooley was the recipient of the Bob Richardson Award for her dedicated service as a member of the GLA Executive Board and editor of *GLQ*. She was not in attendance, but Bob Fox and Gordon Baker accepted the award on her behalf and read her acceptance speech. The nominee of this award must be a GLA member who has made a significant contribution to the organization through their time and effort.

Randall Cravey received the Library Support Services Award, established in 2008. Cravey was nominated by Chris Huff for his dedication and service to libraries for more than 30 years. He was instrumental in transitioning Georgia libraries to GALILEO Inter-Connected Libraries integrated library system. This service qualified Cravey for this relatively new GLA award, designed to recognize someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries.



Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris and Mountain Regional Library System Director Donna Howell

Right: Camilla Alire, president of the American Library Association, addresses the crowd at the GLA awards banquet. Far right: Bill Nelson receives his certificate granting lifetime honorary membership in the Georgia Library Association from awards committee chair Lori Lester.



Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris received the Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award for his role in a major library expansion, despite major funding cuts by the Union County Board of Education midway through the project. The financial support Paris was able to secure topped off a long history of library support. The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award is designed to honor someone not employed in a library who has made outstanding contributions to libraries, and Commissioner Paris has definitely succeeded in this area within his public library system in Union County.

Columbus native Michelle Jones received the McJenkin-Rheay Award for outstanding service to GLA by a librarian new to the field. This award is given to a young librarian who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association. The nominee must be a graduate of an American Library Association library school or an NCATE-approved master's program in media education and must have completed their degree within the last 10 years, must be currently employed in a Georgia library and have been employed in a Georgia library for at least three years, and must currently be a member and have been a member of the Georgia Library Association for at least three years. Jones, nominated by her library director, Callie McGinnis, has proved herself worthy of this award in her work on the Interlibrary Loan Interest Group and through various contributions to her library.

Dr. William N. "Bill" Nelson, director of Reese Library at Augusta State University, received a certificate granting lifetime honorary membership in the Georgia Library Association effective upon his retirement.

The awards committee consisted of Chair Lori Lester, Cathy Jeffrey, Lisa Smith, Fred Smith, Brian Kooy, Joan Osborne, Kellie Justice, Susan Lamothe, Shirley Paramore, Karen Manning and Teresa Rhodes. ▶▶



Randall Cravey (left) and Michelle Jones (right) receive their awards from Lester (center).



GLA's President Emeritus Jim Cooper (left) with ALA President Camilla Alire

Off the SHELF

"Off the Shelf," our book review section, will return in the next issue. 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. For submission information, please contact:

Brijin Boddy, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, bboddy@cvrls.net

Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org

See previous Off the Shelf reviews at http://gla.georgialibraries.org/glgq_bookreviews.htm