

Summer 2011

SELA News

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The Southeastern Librarian

Volume 59, Number 2 Summer 2011

SELA NEWS:

SELA Summer Conference

A SELA Summer Conference will be held August 12-13 at the Mervyn H. Sterne Library at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. This conference is a planning meeting for all SELA sections, roundtables and committees as well as a planning meeting for the 2012 joint conference in Georgia. Two keynote speakers will be present at the meeting. Dr. Louis A. Pitschmann, University of Alabama Dean Libraries, will discuss the future of libraries and librarianship. Internationally acclaimed author Patricia Sparkle will present a program on mysteries and mystery writing. For further information, go to the SELA website at <http://selaonline.org/> or contact Michael Seigler at mseigler@ci.smyrna.ga.us. The registration deadline is August 5, 2011.

A Message from the President



Now is the time for SELA to make its presence felt in the library community. From natural disasters to a struggling economy libraries and librarians are facing unprecedented challenges. The only thing that will get us through is cooperation.

With a few remarkable exceptions, libraries have been underfunded for

decades. When public revenues began to decline, one of the first targets for budget reductions were libraries. Public libraries were closed, hours reduced, and staff laid off. School librarians and media specialists were replaced with volunteers and paraprofessional staff. Academic library budgets were cut drastically with causing irrevocable damage to their collections.

Reductions were justified on the theory that libraries provided nonessential services or the mistaken belief that “everything is available on the Internet anyway”. This is being done at a time when demand for library services is at its highest. Public and academic librarians are helping people search for jobs, fill-out applications and resumes, and apply for financial assistance. Media specialists have essential roles in programming, supporting the curriculum, and in many schools working as IT coordinator.

There are three ways SELA can help librarians now:

- First, a lot of librarians are looking for jobs, because of the economy. Unfortunately, there is no single job listing source for the Southeast. SELA can immediately help by providing free job listings for every library in our region and links to state library jobsites on our webpage. This would make SELA’s website the first stop for a librarian’s job search, help libraries find good candidates and raise awareness of SELA in the library community.
- Second, many librarians take continuing education classes for certification or to improve their

professional skills. Often the classes they need are provided online for little or no cost, i.e. the classes presented by the Georgia Library Association. We can post these to SELA’s listserv, so that our members know everything that’s available region-wide. (Knowledge is valuable.)

- Third, American Mensa has a program called Project Inkslinger, which was established to provide materials to libraries that suffer a disaster. They have literally provided thousands of books to libraries around the country. Their biggest problems have been identifying libraries that needed their help and determining what materials the libraries want. They would like SELA to help them. SELA should be able to do this, because our presence in each state will know will enable us to indentify libraries that suffered a disaster and the individuals that need to be contacted.

All of this depends on your help. Working together, we can help make this happen without being unduly burdensome. Take the first step today. Go to the SELA webpage (<http://selaonline.org/>) and sign up for the listserv.

I hope to see you all in Birmingham, where we can discuss this in more detail.

SELA Mentoring Program

The SELA Membership and Mentoring Committee is looking for individuals who are interested in participating in the SELA Mentoring Program. Go to

<http://selaonline.org/membership/mentoring.htm> to sign up as a mentor or mentee.

The SELA Mentoring Program was developed to assist librarians, library paraprofessionals and library science students with their library careers.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee for the SELA Mentoring Program, please contact Hal Mendelsohn, hal@ucf.edu, Chair of the SELA Membership and Mentoring Committee.

STATE NEWS

GEORGIA

Georgia Southwestern State University

The James Earl Carter Library on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University has had eventful Fall and Spring Semesters. Ru Story-Huffman, the Library's Reference Librarian and Government Information Coordinator, received the Teacher of the Year Award at Georgia Southwestern State University's December 2010 graduation ceremony. Gretchen Smith, the Library's Collection Development Librarian, recently achieved tenure status. The Library also presented its first James Earl Carter Library Honors Award at the GSW Honors Convocation to Britton Weese, a Freshman Honors Program student, for her Library 1101, Foundations of Information Literacy course program.



Ru Story-Huffman, Teacher of the Year Award Winner



Dean Vera Weisskopf presents student Britton Weese the James Earl Carter Library Award.

The Library, in collaboration with GSW's Hurricane Otaku Club, presented "Transformers: The Movie" as part of the Library's Events @ The Library Program. The Library has also undergone various enhancements, such as wireless internet access and a new snack lounge for patron use.

Ingram Library, University of West Georgia