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Georgia Southern News and Notes

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Georgia Southern news and notes

In late October, Henderson Library's Associate Dean Ann Hamilton served as a citizen ambassador on behalf of libraries as part of a People to People trip to South Africa.

Head of Information Services Jocelyn Poole interviewed Bongwiwe Nkabinde, now public library manager in Johannesburg, South Africa, in the September 2009 issue of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*. Nkabinde recounted her struggles as a black librarian under apartheid.

Collection Development & Assessment Librarian Jonathan Harwell delivered a paper on the ethnohistory of Quakers in Savannah and Statesboro at the Southern Anthropological Society's annual meeting in Savannah in late February and will do a presentation on "OARS: Toward Automating the Ongoing Subscription Review" at the Acquisitions Institute at Timberline Lodge, Portland, Ore., in May.

Recent collections coming into Special Collections for boxing and inventorying have been those of late Georgia Southern personnel. The papers of history professors Frank Saunders (expert on Georgia history) and David Ward (expert on Alabama history) are now in process, and the papers of Kirbylene Stephens, for decades the secretary to the president, have been completed. ►►

Kennesaw State news and notes

The Center for Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University in partnership with the Paulding County Library and Chattahoochee Technical College hosted The Big Read during March. We worked with the library and with other community groups to encourage a love for education and reading in the region. KSU is one of 269 nonprofits nationwide participating in The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the

The Library

by Terra Elan McVoy

New York loneliness in my mouth
like a pungent cheese to savor —
the sun slanting
on the empty floor.
No one waiting for me to meet
them,
no one will be waiting
for me to come home —

I remember
three little girls,
three canvas bags,
their seams pulled tight,
heavy with books.

And this —
Mike Bailey and his
dark denim jacket.
Three hours of Dungeons and
Dragons
I neither follow
nor enjoy.
Emerging into the sunlight,
still it is a surprise
— this afternoon will not end
in kissing.

And, always —
the long mural of indigo and violet
unfurling the length
of the children's room —
an expanse my small hand moved
over,
languid and satisfied,
like that of a woman
dangling her fingers
to trail in the water
from the edge of a boat, rowed
by someone she loves.

It does not take long:
59th Street subway,
fast walk a few blocks,
and then the anonymity of
fluorescent stacks
becomes a familiar, deep pool
in which I am fully submerged.
I am only
a hand, lifting,
choosing,
not this one but that —
finding and then not finding,
and finding something else.

For hours I am
lost.
Found.
Dissolved.

Nowhere else has solitude ever
been so pleasing
— so soothing and luxurious.
Nowhere else grants this comfort-
ing power
to enter,
pause,
and disappear. ►►

Decatur-based author Terra Elan McVoy composed this poem in honor of the new Tucker-Reid H. Cofer branch of the DeKalb County Library. She read it to the crowd at the opening ceremony for the branch on Jan. 25. McVoy's latest book is Pure.