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Friends of Georgia Libraries News, Notes

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By the time the job fair opened its doors, the parking lot was full, and traffic was backed up to the I-75 exit, about one mile east of the Trade Center. The number of job seekers visiting the library booth far exceeded anticipated numbers, and more pathfinders and maps to the library had to be delivered by staff to the library booth.

One comment that was repeated time and again was from job seekers who stated that they started their careers when they didn't need a college degree and worked their way up in their industry. They are finding that their skills are not in great demand in today's economy.

Although DOL didn't intend for this event to become a multistate expo, DOL Commissioner Michael Thurmond was gratified that so many people hadn't given up hope in finding a new job or new career. Thurmond said DOL held the job fair in Dalton because the area is one of the hardest hit by the recession in Georgia. The Dalton metro area lost nearly 6,000 jobs in the 12-month period ending October 2009.

The Dalton-Whitfield Public Library is working with the Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce in encouraging job seekers to register for the Georgia Work Ready assessment. Fogarty is a member of the Chamber's work force development committee. "We want to be a part of the committee taking action to help our residents find jobs. We knew that, for many, the public library is their only access to computers for job searching. Hearing it firsthand from job seekers at the job fair was very sobering. People thanking us for 'being there' was very gratifying," he said. ►►

Friends of Georgia Libraries news, notes

The Friends of Georgia Libraries (FOGL) spring membership meeting and workshop will be held at the Coweta County Central Library in Newnan on Friday, April 23. "We are preparing an excellent program," said Bede Mitchell, FOGL president. "It will feature Lynne Bradley from ALA's Washington Office and author Amanda Gable, as well as the award presentation to our 'Best Friend of 2009.'"

The FOGL board of directors has also voted to present an additional award — the first 'FOGL Fabulous Friends Award' — at the meeting. This award will be presented to an organization that has achieved exemplary success in supporting its local library. The award includes a plaque, as well as \$150 for the organization and a free registration to the membership meeting. ►►



Librarian Ken Kozel (right) just returned from the American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference in Boston. He was chosen as an ALA 2010 Emerging Leader. One hundred librarians from around the country were picked to participate in the program. Kozel's group will create a wiki and podcast for the International Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums and will serve on the D.C. Committee. Kozel will attend the ALA annual conference June in Washington, D.C. to present the group's project. Kozel graduated from the Valdosta State University MLIS Program in August 2009. He is currently head of the Randolph County Public Library in Cuthbert, part of the Kinchafoonee Regional Library System.

Resource sharing group nets 100 members

LYRASIS announced that LYRA, the new resource sharing group created in November to serve the entire LYRASIS area, including the New England, Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, has reached the 100-participant mark.

LYRA, an opt-in group open to all LYRASIS members, represents a major increase in free lending opportunities for members and now covers more than 22 states. Members of the group agree to borrow and lend returnable items (books and other resources) to other LYRA members for free.

"The excitement around LYRA and its rapid growth reflects the eagerness of LYRASIS members to collaborate with each other on a larger scale than ever before, across geographic boundaries and among very diverse libraries and cultural heritage institutions," said Russell Palmer, LYRASIS educational services librarian/LYRA coordinator.

LYRASIS members interested in participating in LYRA may contact LYRASIS Member Support at 800-999-8558 or e-mail membersupport@lyrasis.org. ►►