

October 2010

## From the President

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### Recommended Citation

Stanley, Carol (2010) "From the President," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 47 : Iss. 4 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol47/iss4/1>

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## From the PRESIDENT

My final GLQ greetings to my favorite GLA members! I sure hope everyone had fun at COMO XXII in Athens. There was a great turnout for our first "Library Movie Night" to kick off the conference. "The Hollywood Librarian" entertained 100 COMO attendees, many of whom stayed for the silly but inspiring "Party Girl." Who couldn't be thrilled when the lead character shouted "I want to study library science!"? Do you remember the first time you shouted that? Thanks to my creative COMO program partner, Pat Carterette of GPLS, for her support and enthusiasm. There was also a terrific turnout of first-time attendees and COMO officers for a Dutch treat dinner before the movie.

Thursday began with time to visit our vendors in the exhibit hall. Gordon Baker, exhibitors chair, did another wonderful job organizing this event. The opening keynote address given by Michael "Libraryman" Porter inspired us to think in the broad terms of "libraries = content + communities." Attendees at our joint GLA Academic and Public Divisions Luncheon enjoyed the delightful and hilarious Georgia author Joshilyn Jackson, who told us she considers her books not as her babies but as her boyfriends – and as "exes" when she sends them to the publisher. Thursday evening welcomed almost 40 Georgia authors for us to meet and greet, buy their books and have those books autographed. Thanks to Diana Very for organizing this opportunity to bring authors and librarians together.

Our brief GLA business meeting successfully clarified language in our constitution and bylaws. A fierce Battledecks competition opened the awards banquet. Emily Almond, Alan Harkness and Merryll Penson demonstrated their gift for gab, accompanying previously unseen PowerPoint slides on the topic "Georgia Libraries: The New Normal." Sarah Steiner and Tessa Minchew coordinated this event fabulously. Emily was crowned – with a tiara – as our first Battledecks winner, decided by esteemed judges Michael Porter, Roberta Stevens and Dr. Lamar Veatch.

We were pleased to have the president of the American Library Association, Roberta Stevens, speak about the challenges ahead for our profession. Our award winners and paraprofessional grant recipients were honored, as was Laura Burtle, GLA's webmaster from 1998-2010. She recently passed the torch to Tessa Minchew. Laura was instrumental in updating our logo, library spotlights, blog, historical content and in adding our PayPal option to join and renew online or donate to our GLA scholar-

ship funds. The induction of our new officers for 2011 by ALA Chapter Councilor Ann Hamilton is always a special ceremony as Ann confers to them the real meaning of their responsibilities. Incoming President Carolyn Fuller was presented with a gavel – and a tiara, of course.

Friday's closing session with Tim Daniels, Buffy Hamilton and Cliff Landis had us walking on clouds about the possibilities that lie before us. The Book Cart Drill Team competition with the Bookettes of the Sequoyah Regional Library System and Cart Blanche of the Cobb County School District was also a highlight. The conference held another successful raffle, raising more than \$3,000 for the Beard and Hubbard scholarships. Our scholarship committee chair, Barbara Petersohn, and volunteers pulled it off again! You have all made my year as GLA president a very memorable one. Thank you! ▶▶

— **Carol Stanley** (*Lady COMO*)  
President (Until January!)  
Georgia Library Association

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