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Columbus Area Library Association Celebrates 25 Years

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Columbus Area Library Association celebrates 25 years

This year the Columbus Area Library Association (CALA) will celebrate 25 years of supporting Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley area libraries. But CALA is not the first library association to exist in Columbus. In the late 1800s, there were two library associations: the Columbus Public Library Association and the Columbus Library and Musical Association. These two organizations, led by some of Columbus' finest citizens, worked to improve library services for area residents. In 1890, the two organizations merged to form the first Columbus Public Library board.



see the need for and fund the new Terry branch building. She has been instrumental in keeping the Terry Library a vibrant and important part of the community serving patron needs. Bunn has been honored for her volunteer work with Girls Inc. In April 2000, she was selected Community Asset Builder by the Pastoral Institute and the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. In 2003, she was honored among 26 other librarians as New York Times Librarian of the Year. The first LIBRA Award was given to Mildred Terry, long time director of the Mildred Terry Library and for whom the library is named. As CALA celebrates its 25th anniversary, the award is going to another outstanding Mildred Terry Library director.

Library Recognition Award

The association's first activity was presenting the Library Recognition Award, or the "LIBRA." CALA created the LIBRA to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to libraries in the Chattahoochee Valley area. It serves as a "Library Supporter or Librarian Hall of Fame" — a way to acknowledge the people who have had the most impact on libraries, reading and literacy in our community. In the past, the award has been presented to many professional librarians and media specialists and to literacy and library volunteers.



Floyd (left) and Curry

The 2010 winner of the LIBRA is Silvia Bunn. Bunn has been branch manager of the Mildred L. Terry Library since 1999. Since Bunn became branch manager of the Mildred Terry Library, circulation has increased 150 percent. Bunn was instrumental in helping the community

CALA Scholarship

To further celebrate the 25th anniversary of CALA, a scholarship has been established in the amount of \$250. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to students currently working toward a master's degree in library science. Information on the scholarship can be found online at <http://library.colstate.edu/cala/>.

Special CALA Proclamation

CALA President Sherrie Floyd presented a special proclamation to Esther Curry in April for her long-term support of libraries in Columbus. Curry is well into her 90s, and she is still actively supporting literacy in the community. She established one of the first libraries in an apartment complex for senior citizens.

The library named in her honor received a federal grant and is currently undergoing a renovation. ►►

GALILEO enjoys happy 15th birthday

On Sept. 21, GALILEO celebrated 15 years of constant service to Georgians and Georgia's Libraries, serving reliable, credible and valuable information resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More than 2000 institutions participate in GALILEO's collection of core library resources, providing the best possible stewardship of precious state dollars through collaborative purchasing power. GALILEO is a core resource for the state's libraries, which are working harder than ever to serve their communities and to help small businesses, job seekers and students thrive. As part of its virtual celebration, GALILEO sponsored the GALILEO Life Contest and encouraged supporters to make a video, poster, Powerpoint presentation or fan showing the importance and uses of GALILEO in schools and libraries. Submissions are on display in the GALILEO scrapbook at <http://scrapbook.galileo.usg.edu>. ►►

