Carterette loses battle with cancer
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In January, Georgia libraries suffered the loss of Patricia (Pat) Carterette. Pat, a librarian at Georgia Public Library Service, was a consistently friendly, energetic, and inspirational force in the state and for the field at large. She was heavily involved with both the Georgia and American Library Associations, and she showed a high level of dedication to friends and colleagues alike. As Carol Stanley said, “if you knew Pat, then Pat was your friend.”

The outpouring of support for Pat in the short months following her diagnosis with cancer was truly inspirational. The national support campaign “Wear Purple for Pat,” wherein Pat’s friends were encouraged to wear purple as a show of support, drew photos and comments from hundreds of library employees. Stories about Pat, images of gifts she’d hand-made for friends and family, and well wishes for her health all appeared daily on a Facebook page—Updates on Pat—created especially for her.

Her friend Nancy Levin says, “She was energetic, loving and kindhearted. For her, life was always an adventure with no bad endings.” She was known as a community builder, a creative force, and a reliable friend and coworker. According to Buffy Hamilton of Creekview High School, “one of Pat’s many gifts was seeing the talent in people and then doing everything she could to nurture and support people’s talents for the good of the library community. I will always cherish her zest, her passion, her altruism, and her energy.”

Pat’s impact on the field of librarianship and on the world in general has been truly profound, and she will be deeply missed.

North Georgia Technical news, notes

During the month of February, North Georgia Technical College’s Clarkesville Campus hosted an exhibit titled The Tuskegee Airmen: the Segregated Skies of World War II, as part of their Black History Month observance.

The exhibit consisted of ten panels that told the story of the group of all-African-American World War II pilots and support staff, through word and image. The exhibit was developed by Kennesaw State University’s Museum of History and Holocaust Education and the Museum Studies class. NGTC Clarkesville’s former and current librarians, Caroline Frick and Christina Teasley, were instrumental in bringing the exhibit to the College. In addition to students, faculty and staff, people traveled from as far as Moncks Corner, S.C., to visit the exhibit; members of local senior centers, school groups, boy scouts, and a Georgia Civil Air Patrol unit also attended.

In the 1940s America’s first African-American military pilots were trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. What began as an experiment became known as the Tuskegee Experience, and the participants as the Tuskegee Airmen. A Grand Opening of the exhibit was held Sunday, February 13, to a standing room only audience. NGTC President Steve Dougherty opened and closed the honorary program, which also featured the Habersham Central High School’s Air Force JROTC Color Guard and an NGTC student who performed the National Anthem.

For more information about the Tuskegee Airmen, visit www.tuskegeeairmen.org. To host the free traveling exhibit contact Kennesaw State University’s Museum: http://www.kennesaw.edu/historymuseum/exhibit.shtml.

Valdosta State news and notes

George R. Gaumond, University Librarian and Dean of the Master of Library and Information Science Program at Valdosta State University, retired December 31, 2010.

Dr. Gaumond began his career as a reference librarian at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington after receiving his M.S. in Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was college librarian at Shepherd College, now Shepherd University, and received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Gaumond has held leadership positions in national, regional, and state library organizations. He was a member of the original committee that established GALILEO, Georgia’s virtual library. He was also instrumental in starting the M.L.I.S. Program at Valdosta State University, the first new LIS program in many years.

Howard S. Carrier has joined the faculty of Valdosta State University Odum Library, Valdosta, Ga., as an Assistant Professor of Library Science and Reference Librarian. Howard received his M.S.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009. He also has a L.L.M. from the University of Leicester (United Kingdom).