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From the President

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From the PRESIDENT

Summer greetings to all of you. I hope that all of you are having a great summer experience. If you are in a public library, then you are knee deep in children and teens who are participating in the Vacation Reading Program “One world, many stories.” If you are in public school, you are halfway through your summer vacation—enjoy! Academics are thinking about fall courses as they finish summer sessions. For librarians of all types, summer is full of work. Do you remember when, as a kid, summer meant freedom to run and play, sleep late, and read books? Ah! The memories!

Public library directors received a letter from Martha R. Reichrath, Ph.D., Deputy State Superintendent, Ga. Department of Education, about the “summer slide,” and it is not the slide at the park or water park. It is the loss of skills by children during the summer. She wrote,

“Research has shown that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from losing ground. When choosing the six, the parent and student need to be sure that the selected books are just right -- not too hard and not too easy.”

The related website is www.doe.k12.ga.us/lexile.aspx. Many

public libraries will be adding this information to their websites for their patrons.

The GOLD/GALILEO Conference regularly held in Athens at the beginning of August was to be cancelled due to reduced funding. However, never fear, librarians to the rescue! This conference will now be combined with GA COMO, which will be in Athens. COMO XXIII, “Georgia’s 5G Network: GAIT, GALILEO, GLA, GLMA, & GOLD” October 5-7, 2011, will be held at the Athens Classic Center.

Wednesday preconference activities will include GALILEO training and many other opportunities for learning. Our second annual Wednesday movie night features *Storm Center* starring Bette Davis and Brian Keith. (A small-town librarian is branded as a Communist by local politicians when she refuses to withdraw a controversial book from the library’s shelves.)

Two of the speakers will be Eric Litwin and James Dean. Their presentation will be on interactive literacy and music. It will also include the “story” behind *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* and include how Eric and James became New York Times’ bestselling authors. They will also be performing. James

Dean, illustrator for the Pete the Cat books, will be painting during the presentation. Their new Pete the Cat book is due out very soon.

The technology speaker will be Cliff Landis from Georgia State University Library. Cliff is our librarian who keeps us up to date with all that’s new and exciting with library gadgets and gizmos.

His COMO topic will be “Shifting Sands: How Small Changes in Policy, Culture and Technology are Determining the Future of Libraries.” Librarians are battling with shrinking budgets, hustling to keep up with emerging technologies, and dealing with policies and laws that threaten to marginalize our role in providing access to all users. Discover how changes in national and international policy, the growth of the free culture movement, and the rapid evolution of technology are having big impacts on libraries, and what you can do to help turn the tide.

Cliff’s website is very interesting with lots of food for thought: clifflandis.net

Have a fun-filled summer and we will see you at COMO.

— Carolyn Fuller
President
Georgia Library Association