

11-1-2012

## From the President

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### Recommended Citation

Bagley, Elizabeth Leslie (2012) "From the President," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 49 : Iss. 4 , Article 4.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol49/iss4/4>

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## From the PRESIDENT

I am writing my last column having just enjoyed another marvelous Decatur Book Festival. If you're in the Atlanta area any Labor Day weekend, I urge you to visit it and/or volunteer. Such a treat: two and a half days of listening to the country's most talented authors in all genres — for free!

COMO is about one month away! It has taught me a new appreciation for all the behind-the-scenes details attendant to hosting a state or regional conference. Thank you to all the people who have helped or will assist with COMO 2012 — and to all the volunteers who pulled together previous COMOs. My wish is that all of you coming to Macon this October 3-5 will be energized by programs from colleagues across the Southeast. The inaugural Poster Sessions have been organized by Diana Very. We'll have live blogging for the first time this year, courtesy of Tessa Minchew and her recruits. The pre-conferences, concurrent sessions and keynotes will showcase why we are part of "a world where libraries are central to lifelong discovery," as

ALA's Maureen Sullivan said in this month's *American Libraries*. Note if you're seeking technical inspiration before or after the conference, some of our Georgia colleagues (Robin Fay, Sarah Steiner!) have contributed to the newest [TECH SET®](#).

Remember to pack adhesive mailing labels or a rubber stamp to make filling out tickets simple at the GLA Scholarship Raffle Booth. Along with the usual themed baskets, art work and assorted other goodies, the committee behind that effort expects to have gift certificates that could be mailed, so you will not have to be present at the Friday drawing to win those (a nod to SELA attendees who may be flying to Georgia). If you or your library are able to contribute a donation for the raffle, please bring it to the booth in the Centreplex Lobby on the Wednesday afternoon of COMO.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting John Stephens, one of this year's GLA scholarship awardees, when I represented GLA on a panel asked to speak

to a new cohort of University of North Texas library school students. Five of us with some experience in the profession spoke about ways to become involved with various professional organizations and the importance of doing so. A common thread of our remarks was "seize on an opportunity" and "make it happen." If you have not seen them, check out Meredith Farkas' [column](#), [blog](#) or [wiki](#) encouraging new librarians "to let go of whatever keeps them from taking professional risks." Not-so-new librarians might heed that advice, too.

It has been a learning experience to serve as your president. Thank you for the chance.



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