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Georgia Library Spotlight - Gould Memorial Library, College of Coastal Georgia

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Gould Memorial Library College of Coastal Georgia

In 2009, the College of Coastal Georgia became the state's newest four-year facility. Under the dynamic leadership of President Valerie Hepburn, the campus seemed to blossom overnight with new buildings, including a student dormitory, nursing center, education center, and a campus center complete with a cafeteria and movie theater.

Nowhere was the change more dramatic than in the Gould Library. Although it had always been well used and highly regarded, the new dean, Debbie Holmes, concentrated on making the library more visible not only on campus but also within the coastal community. Library staff began working with the Multicultural Committee, the International Association and the Gay Straight Alliance to bring in speakers such as the Latina poet Judith Cofer; Emory Professor Nathan McCall, author of *Makes Me Want to Holler*; Gay Rights speakers Zachary Wahls and Erin Davies; environmentalist writer Janisse Ray, author of *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*; American Indian Chris Eyre, director of the film *Smoke Signals*; and Bruce Broder, director of the jazz documentary, *Chops*. The library also co-sponsored several foreign film series that included movies such as *Pans Labyrinth*, *Let the Right One In*, *Caramel*, *Joyeux Noel*, *Kinky Boots*,



Saving Grace, *City of God*, and *Beyond Silence*. These programs were open to both students and the community and attendance was excellent.

The library partnered with the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society to bring attention to Banned Books Week. Students were

encouraged to read *The Kite Runner*, a book that has been greatly challenged, and there were discussions held around campus as well as film showings. The week culminated in a Censored Book Read-a-Thon, a day-long program in which faculty, staff, and students selected and

continuously read passages from books that had been censored at some point in time.

The library participated in the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War through a grant project that brought in several historians. They included John Inscoe, editor of *The Civil War in Georgia: A New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion*, and Stephen Berry, author of *House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a Family Divided by War*. These lectures were open to the public and attendance was outstanding.

In November 2012, the library, along with the Brunswick News, the Jekyll Island Authority, and the Golden Isles Convention and Visitors Bureau, co-hosted the Georgia Literary Festival on Jekyll Island. Sponsored yearly in different Georgia locales by the Georgia Center for the

Book, this weekend-long festival featured dinners with authors, tours of Eugene O'Neill's home on Sea Island, a one-woman show honoring the actress and author Fanny Kemble, and tours of Eugenia Price's South. Over thirty-three authors presented programs including cookbook writers, such as Hugh Acheson and Nathalie Dupree, thriller writer Steve Berry, and poet Judson Mitcham. The biggest coup,

however, was the keynote speaker, Natasha Trethewey. Already a Pulitzer Prize winner, Trethewey was named the U.S. Poet Laureate in June 2012 and reappointed for a second year in June 2013.

To learn more about Gould Library, please visit <http://www.ccg.edu/Library/>.