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News - Gwinnett County Public Library

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People, Libraries
and Agencies

IN THE NEWS

Gwinnett County Public Library

Award-winning author Samuel G. Freedman to visit Gwinnett

On March 25 at 2 p.m. at the Georgia Gwinnett College Campus, Georgia Gwinnett College's



Department of Student Involvement and the Student Center, in partnership with Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) system, present Samuel G. Freedman, an award-winning New York Times bestselling author, Columbia University professor, and New York Times columnist.

Freedman will discuss his books *Breaking the Line: The Season in Black College Football that Transformed the Game and Changed the Course of Civil Rights*, National Book Award finalist *Small Victories*, Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Inheritance*, *How Three families and America Moved from Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond*, as well as his other books.

Freedman is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. He writes the column, "On Religion," for the New York Times and has contributed to several other publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, and *USA Today*.

His newest book, *Breaking the Line*, shares the story of the historic battle for the 1967 black college football championship. In *Breaking the Line*, Freedman writes about two African-American coaches, Eddie Robinson of

Grambling State University and Jake Gaither of Florida A&M University, and two African-American quarterbacks, James Harris and Ken Riley. These four individuals helped integrate the South's segregated colleges and redefined the roles of NFL quarterback, head coach, and franchise general manager.

The event, free and open to the public, will be held in the LVIS Room in the Student Center at Georgia Gwinnett College. Ample free parking is available at Housing 3000 Building on Lonnie Havel Boulevard in Lawrenceville, Ga.

For more information about this event, contact us at getinvolved@ggc.edu or call the Gwinnett County Public Library at 770-978-5154. Details can also be found on the library's website, www.gwinnettpl.org. Follow GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+ to learn more about library events and services.

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At a special called meeting on Friday, December 13, the library board of trustees appointed Charles Pace executive

director of the Gwinnett County Public Library. Pace has been executive director of the twenty-branch St. Louis County library system in St. Louis, MO since 2006. His past experience includes



directing the Fargo, ND library system and managing branch libraries in Houston and Chicago. He holds a master's degree in library science from the University of North Texas. *Library Journal* named him a "Mover and Shaker" in 2006.

In St. Louis, he maintained budget surpluses throughout the recession, led a successful campaign to fund capital improvements, increased circulation and library use, and partnered with more than one hundred community groups to help support the library system, which was named a "Top Workplace in St. Louis" by the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

"The board and staff are excited that Charles Pace will lead the Gwinnett County public library system," said Dick Goodman, chairman of the library board. "Coming from a library that is slightly larger than ours, serving a population similar in size to that of Gwinnett, he has the level and kind of financial, operational, and managerial experience the board feels is necessary to effectively manage our own dynamic library system."

He pointed to Pace's record of building community partnerships as one of the reasons the board selected him for the job. "We look forward to working with Charles to create stronger connections between the library and its patrons in the numerous and diverse communities the library serves and to guide the Gwinnett County public library to become a showcase of the 21st century library," said Goodman.

Gwinnett's library system receives county and state funding as well as self-generated funds. In addition, since 2001, SPLOST sales tax programs have provided more than twenty million dollars for new branch construction, renovations, upgrades and relocations. The library's trustees are appointed by county commissioners.

The system owns more than one million books, magazines, e-books and media items and provides public access to 250 online databases at each of its fifteen branches. Last year, almost

290,000 cardholders checked out 6.7 million items with 21 percent handled by self-service. Staff answered more than 81,000 questions to the AskGCPL phone and email service and 4,880 volunteers donated 37,000 hours of service.

For more information about the Gwinnett County library system, visit their website at www.gwinnettpl.org.

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The New Year brought a new Integrated Library System for Gwinnett County Public Library. With the new Polaris System, customers can now enjoy enhanced features in the library's online catalog, including the ability to save their reading history. Customers will continue to use

their same library cards and will still have many of the same features they enjoyed in the old system, such as online renewals, fee payments, and hold placement.

The dynamic interface better showcases the library's collection, connecting customers with items they want and helping them better discover new selections.



New features of GCPL's Polaris System include:

- **Did you mean?** This spell check feature offers suggestions for possible matches to your search.
- **Autofill Options.** Like Google, Polaris will offer autofill suggestions based on what you have initially typed.
- **Improved Relevancy Ranking.** Popular items will regularly appear at or near the top of the list of your search, even in a general keyword search.
- **Reading History.** One of customers' most requested features, Polaris will be able to retain users' reading history.

Customers can activate the feature if they wish to retain their history.

- **Faceted Searching.** Like Amazon, Polaris will offer customers the option to narrow their search results through facets on the left side of the screen.

Visit lib.gwinnettpl.org/polaris for more details regarding this change. To learn more about the library, cards, and services, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org, call 770-978-5154, text 770-450-5305, or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+