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Georgia Library Association - 2015 GLA Awards

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association 2015 GLA Awards

On October 8, 2015 the Georgia Library Association (GLA) formally recognized librarians and community members throughout the state at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) conference. GLA gratefully acknowledges the efforts of all the following recipients.

Bob Richardson Memorial Award

The Bob Richardson Memorial Award is given to recognize those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association. This year, GLA recognized Linda Jones for her work on the GLA Scholarship Committee. Since 2012, she has volunteered annually to organize the raffle donations from vendors, the committee, and generous GLA members. Each year before COMO, she coordinates soliciting efforts from across the state, a mammoth task involving many hours of detail-oriented work. At COMO, she volunteers setting up the scholarship tables



Linda Jones (center) with past, present, and future Scholarship Committee chairs, Mack Freeman, Kimberly Boyd, Ashley Dupuy, and Linda Cooks

and selling tickets. Even during the raffle itself, her efforts are essential in handling winners and making the event run smoothly. As of last year, she was directly involved in raising over ten thousand dollars for GLA scholarships. All the chairs and vice-chairs of the Scholarship Committee from the last several years supported her nomination. She is essential to the committee's activities throughout the year. For her dedication and fortitude, GLA formally recognizes Linda Jones' great service.

Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award recognizes someone not employed by a library who nevertheless has made outstanding contributions to libraries. This year, GLA recognized Margie Young on behalf of the Brunswick-Glynn County Library System. Margie has been a member of the Friends of the Library organization there for many years,



including serving over seven years as a member of their board of trustees. She chairs their Book Store Committee and has contributed to many library fundraisers over the years. Since she took over their book store, it has grown from having four volunteers to almost thirty in just a year. She contributes to many of the library's services and events. Whether it's cooking meals for a family literacy event, preparing packets for a summer reading program, or even helping out with mulch and plants for the library's

landscaping, Margie's always willing to help out. When the library's budget was cut, she spoke at different community organizations, wrote letters to the newspaper, and contacted her state representatives, speaking out wherever there were people to listen. For her energy, enthusiasm, outreach, and advocacy, GLA grants this award to Margie Young.

McJenkin-Rheay Award

The McJenkin-Rheay Award recognizes a librarian early in his or her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia



Library Association. Kimberly Boyd has been a member of GLA since 2009, serving as co-chair of the Atlanta Emerging Librarians group, and chair of the New Members Round Table and

the Scholarship Committee. She has also served on the GLA Nominating Committee and the Professional and Continuing Education Interest Group. She's the ACRL representative for the Academic Library Division and a member of the planning committee for the nationally-recognized Carterette Webinar Series. She is an intelligent and strong leader with a great ability to listen and collaborate. GLA thanks Kimberly for all her labors and formally recognizes them with this award.

Nix-Jones Award

The Nix-Jones award is given to a librarian for his or her service and contributions to Georgia librarianship. This year, GLA recognized the contributions of Roni Tewksbury. Roni is the director of the West Georgia Regional Library System. In her role there, Roni has been a great advocate and leader. Most recently, she lobbied

for and secured three million dollars for a new building for the Villa Rica Public Library. She was also instrumental in the beautiful remodeling of the Hiram, Lithia Springs,



Whitesburg, and Franklin branches. Inside of her libraries, she has re-emphasized staff training and development and many internal initiatives to improve employee satisfaction. Outside of her libraries, she is a constant advocate for her system and all Georgia public libraries, pushing ever harder for more funding, resources, and opportunities. Under her guidance, the West Georgia Regional Library System has become the pilot site for the Every Child Ready to Read in Georgia program and a test site for the new PINES Acquisition Module. Depending on the month, her seventeen branches hold anywhere between 250 and 500 different programs, making each library a vital and active place in their community. For more than thirty years, her passion and wisdom has made her an invaluable asset to the region and to the state. For all her determination, dedication, and inspiration, GLA recognizes all her contributions to Georgia libraries.

GLA Team Award

The GLA Team Award is given to honor a team of librarians that have collaborated in the past year to produce an excellent program, service, or support of Georgia libraries. This year, the GLA Team Award goes to the Voyager Consolidation Team at Kennesaw State University. Headed by Jin Xio Guo, the rest of the team consisted of Sandra Barclay, Hyun Chu Kim, Ariel Turner, Jay Nicolletta, Li Chen, Lesley Brown, Jennifer Young, and Yongli Ma. In November 2013, the Board of Regents announced that Kennesaw State University and

Southern Polytechnic State University would be merged in the largest consolidation at that time in the state. Part of the efforts of this consolidation was the need for the consolidation of the catalog and integrated library systems for both universities. This team of nine collaborated extensively with each other and off-site contributors like GALILEO, Ex Libris, and even KSU's registrar and ITS staff. It took a

herculean effort and literally thousands of hours to merge and clean up over 800,000 titles and 80,000 patron records. There was no chance for mess-ups and no time for delays. Even during the great snow storms of 2014, they were on the phone with each other and working constantly. For their commitment and great cooperation, GLA recognizes all nine members of the Kennesaw State University Voyager Consolidation Team.



Ariel Turner, Sandra Barclay, Hyun Chu Kim, Jennifer Young, Lesley Brown, Jin Xio Guo, Li Chen, and Yongli Ma (not pictured: Jay Nicolletta)