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Georgia Library Association - Paraprofessional Division Grants

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

Georgia Library Association Paraprofessional Division Grants

The Paraprofessional Division of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) provides grants to full-time library paraprofessionals to facilitate their attendance at the COMO conference. Each winner also receives an awards plaque and a free one-year paraprofessional membership in the Georgia Library Association. This year, five paraprofessionals were chosen for the grants, including Moira Blackflower, Amy Hicks, Jo Fortner, Ashawna Green, and Virginia Van Orsdale.

Moira Blackflower is a library assistant at the Newton Campus Library of Georgia State University's Perimeter College. In addition to



circulation duties, Moira also provides reference assistance. Coming from a public library background, she had to learn Library of Congress call numbers and make the transition to working in an academic setting with a

different ILS System and new procedures. That was not a problem for Moira. She quickly and efficiently grasps new concepts. She even enjoys shelf reading and shelving books in order to learn more about the collection and takes the initiative to find additional ways to enhance library services. She enjoys helping people and

interacts well with students, faculty, and staff. Her innate sense of curiosity, love of learning, empathy, sense of humor, enthusiasm, and passion for libraries and librarianship are impressive.

Amy Hicks is the branch manager for the Walnut Grove Library. Her philosophy is a library is so much more than a job or a room full of books, it is her home. The library allows her and countless others to



delve into the world of fiction and travels and to lands and worlds unknown without leaving the comfort of our living rooms. With passions that range from summer reading to crafting, Amy is invaluable to the success of the Walnut Grove Library. Her library has, despite many economic disadvantages, continued to serve as a cornerstone institution for the community. She has steered her staff in the direction of assisting patrons to meet their needs as well as making their visit to the library a pleasant experience. Her dedication, passion, accomplishments, and willingness to learn and take on the challenges of managing and growing the library make her a great leader.

Jo Fortner is a library assistant at Savannah State University's Asa H. Gordon Library. She has long loved libraries and works hard to help

provide excellent service and resources to the students, faculty, and staff her library serves. In



her assigned role, Jo supports several facets of the library's operations. She assists in the acquisitions process, participates in catalog enhancement projects, and works at the circulation desk when coverage is needed. The attention to detail with

which she completes tasks in the Technical Services Department shows the strength of her work ethic. She is a diligent worker and displays her passion for librarianship in her daily work. The proficiency she brings to the varied responsibilities of her job leaves no doubt that she will make a great librarian in the future.

Ashawna Green is the youth services specialist for the Clarkesville-Habersham Library. She loves seeing the kids light up and go crazy picking out their first set of ten, twenty, or fifty books. She promotes



using, growing, and loving the library. She enjoys helping people of all ages and has an energy and passion for helping others learn new things. She has consistently shown a positive attitude and enthusiasm for library work. She cares deeply about the library and strives for excellence. She works diligently to provide a high quality children's program and summer reading program. Her work and creativity are impressive. It is clear that she genuinely cares about the library's young patrons and their families and enjoys sharing her love of libraries with them.

Virginia (Ginny) Van Orsdale was the assistant branch manager for the Morrow Branch of the Clayton County Library System. She encouraged and promoted team input in her branch. She liked to work with her team members to find solutions and new ways of doing things so that everyone has the opportunity to be proud of



what was accomplished. She was a model for excellence in customer services. She is an attentive listener and creates a sense of partnership with her patrons to find the needed answers or solve problems. As a result, patrons leave the library not only with an appreciation of her skill but also with a positive appreciation of the library as a whole. Ginny has extensive expertise in the areas of management, computer resources, and technical knowledge. With so many outstanding qualities, the Porter Memorial Branch Library of the Newton County Library System is now lucky enough to have her as their branch manager.