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Georgia Library Association - 2017 GLA Scholarship Winners

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

Georgia Library Association 2017 GLA Scholarship Winners

The GLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2017 winners of the Beard and Hubbard scholarships. These two awards are given annually by GLA to provide financial assistance for students pursuing a master's degree in library science.

The Hubbard Scholarship

This year's C.S. Hubbard Scholarship winner is Amanda Roper. She is the resource sharing and library communications specialist at Brenau University. Amanda has a BA in English Literature from Brenau and has worked for the library for thirteen years. She is a member of the Georgia Library Association Marketing and Branding committee and is the vice-chair of the Paraprofessional Division. Amanda is a student at Valdosta State University's MLIS program and is focusing on library communications and information literacy instruction. She currently lives in Gainesville, Georgia with her husband and three children. Amanda enjoys reading, blogging about books, consuming mass quantities of coffee, and finds there is no greater pleasure than writing with a nice pen in a notebook.

Amanda wrote: "After graduating with my MLIS, I plan on continuing to serve college communities in academic libraries by pursuing a career that involves reference, instruction,

library communications, and student outreach and engagement. I plan to focus on critical library pedagogy to empower students to seek, critically assess, and contextualize information. I'd also love to continue to advocate for social justice and equity in library collections, services, and programs. I'm excited to work with my library colleagues to bring the libraries to the people by encouraging accessibility, quelling library anxiety, and meeting patrons at the intersections of their life experiences."



Amanda Roper, Hubbard Scholarship Winner

The Beard Scholarship

Heather Smith is this year's Charles Beard Scholarship winner. Originally from Murray County, Georgia, she currently lives in Hall County. Heather received a Bachelor of the Arts in English from the University of Georgia in 2014, and began her first library job for Gwinnett County Public Library System immediately following her graduation.

As a library associate, Heather has had the opportunity to offer customer service and to experience the many facets of public librarianship. Heather has

been on many system teams and has helped lead many system initiatives, including leading new hire training, developing a new employee evaluation system, and implementing a new service model without service desks. Currently pursuing her MLIS online from Valdosta State University, Heather is eager to continue expanding her knowledge of library services both through her degree and through her professional experiences.

Heather wrote: “One of my favorite things about working in a public library is the ever-changing nature of the job. Technological advances and changes in customer services are never-ending, but a focus on community also ensures that libraries will be constantly adapting their resources to fit their users’ needs. I am passionate about providing patrons with services that are relevant to them, and I feel strongly about catering to the specific needs of library communities. I am thankful and honored to be the recipient of the Beard Scholarship, and I look forward to continuing to

push myself to learn and grow as a library professional.”

Complete information regarding the scholarships offered by GLA, including application information, is available on the GLA website at:

<http://gla.georgialibraries.org/resources/scholarships/>

Congratulations to our 2017 scholarship winners!