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Georgia Library Association - 2018 GLA Awards

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

Georgia Library Association 2018 GLA Awards

Each year, the Georgia Library Association (GLA) recognizes exemplary library service and advocacy in Georgia through a variety of awards. Fred Smith, GLA President, presented the awards to the recipients at the All Conference Awards Ceremony on October 4, 2018 held at the Georgia Libraries Conference in Columbus, Georgia.

Bob Richardson Award

The Bob Richardson Award is given to someone who has made significant contributions to the organization through time and effort. This award is not limited to professional librarians or even to library employees.

Sofia Slutskaya, metadata strategist for the Georgia Tech Library, is this year's Bob Richardson award recipient. Slutskaya, a



longtime GLA member, has served on many committees, including the Academic Library Division, where she served as both chair and vice-chair; and is currently both the ACRL representative for GLA and the GLA's webmaster.

These volunteer commitments require many hours of collaborative and individual work, which Slutskaya has given with genial and efficient professionalism. Her long history of service with GLA in these positions alone

qualifies her for this award. The members of the Website Redesign Committee stated that "we want to particularly applaud Sofia for her role as chair of this group and leader of the immense project to redesign the GLA website in 2017."

McJenkin-Rheay Award

This award is given each year to a librarian early in his or her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association.

Ariel Turner, director of technical services for the Kennesaw State University Library System, is this year's McJenkin-Rheay Award recipient. Turner has shown a strong dedication to the



Georgia Library Association from the beginning of her career. In 2013, Turner co-chaired the Atlanta Emerging Librarians group; in 2014 she chaired the Public Relations Committee; in 2015 she served as secretary for GLA and served on the Executive Board; in 2016

she served as secretary for the Academic Library Division; in 2018 she served as one of three moderators for the Carterette Series Webinars. According to her nomination letter "Ariel consistently goes above and beyond what is expected of her, always with a smile and a great attitude."

Nix-Jones Award

The Nix-Jones Award winner must be a practicing librarian in Georgia who has made substantial contributions to the library profession, such as stimulation of library development, leadership in library programs, unusual and imaginative services, or outstanding support of Georgia's libraries.



Yadira Payne, director for the Woodworth Consolidated Library, is this year's Nix-Jones Award recipient. According to her letter of nomination, Payne "is a

creative and conscientious employee, a huge asset to our division, and is deserving of this award and recognition." Payne goes above and beyond to help others, strives to keep the library in the forefront of the Fort Gordon community, and has remodeled the public area of the library to "create a welcoming, modern, community centered area."

Honorary Membership

Honorary memberships go to retired members of the Georgia Library Association who have contributed significantly to the association by holding office or rendering outstanding service to sections, committees, roundtables, etc.

Meryll Penson, former executive director of GALILEO, is this year's Honorary Membership recipient. As executive director of GALILEO, Penson shepherded its growth and transformation into the virtual library of Georgia. From serving on the founding committee that drafted the original vision of GALILEO, to using her negotiation expertise to ensure all Georgians have equitable access to

licensed content, to providing Open Educational Resources through Affordable Learning Georgia—Penson never ceased advocating for GALILEO institutions and residents of Georgia.



Library Support Services Award

The Library Support Services Award is given each year to recognize someone employed in a library support profession who has furthered library development or who has made outstanding contributions to Georgia libraries as part of his or her job or business. The award winner could be a vendor employee, an employee of an office or department that supports library services, or an employee of an individual institution.

Mike White, business systems analyst II for Library Services with the Board of Regents, is



this year's Library Support Services Award recipient. The technical support and customer service that White provides across the state is exemplary. White goes above and beyond to ensure that the problem is

solved, whatever it might be. Carol Stanley, director of library services for Athens Technical College, said that "he gives you understandable answers to your questions and with humor."

Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

This award is for someone (not employed in a library) that has made outstanding contributions to libraries.

Ellen Petree, schools and community relations specialist for the Barrow County School System, is this year's Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award recipient. In 2015, she had a vision to



promote early literacy development in the youngest Barrow County residents in targeted populations. She recruited partners and the Barrow Book Partnership (BBP) was born.

The BBP is a unique, dual approach community partnership formed to promote and encourage early literacy in Barrow County's children from newborn to age five. Since inception, the BBP has distributed over 15,000 free, age-appropriate books to local children and their families, and has registered or updated almost 800 library cards. Ellen has been the driving force behind raising funds to extend and enhance the program.

Beth McIntyre, director of the Piedmont Regional Library System, stated that "she is a fierce champion of literacy and libraries and a warrior for our missions of open access to information and services."

GLA Team Award

This award honors a team that has excelled in the past

year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities, undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support of a Georgia library. Any group of two or more people, working in a Georgia library (or enrolled in an MLIS program and affiliated with a Georgia library), of whom all are current GLA members, is eligible.

The Kennesaw State University Graduate Library, which consists of Cheryl Stiles, Crystal Renfro, Elisabeth Shields, Aajay Murphy, Barbara Wood, April Schweikhard, Olga Koz, Jennifer Carter, Heather Hankins, Jennifer Sarra, and Estefany Palacio, is this year's GLA Team Award recipient. In 2016, the Graduate Library hosted their first conference, "Transforming Libraries for Graduate Students." Due to the resounding success of the conference, a second conference was planned in 2018. The success of the conference also led to the formation of an ACRL interest group, Academic Library Services for Graduate Students; the formation of a GradLib listserv; and a book for ACRL on services for graduate students.

The creation of this conference and the resulting community of support for library services for graduate students is not only significant and beneficial for Georgia libraries,



KSU Graduate Library Team

but has made a substantial impact nationally. Thanks to the efforts of this team, libraries throughout Georgia and across the nation are making strides to improve services for their graduate and professional students.

Congratulations to this year's GLA award winners!

For more information on GLA Awards, visit:
<https://gla.georgialibraries.org/committees/awards-committee/>