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Georgia Library Association - 2019 GLA Awards

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

Georgia Library Association 2019 GLA Awards

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 winners of the GLA Awards.

Bob Richardson Award

This year's Bob Richardson Memorial Award winner is Ashley Dupuy. The Bob Richardson Memorial Award is awarded to those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association. Ashley has served GLA for over 10 years, consistently in leadership roles, and has dedicated herself to improving the organization. Among some of her biggest accomplishments within the organization are creating a system to provide marketing support to interest groups, divisions, and units; creating new policies designed to guide organizational communications; and creating a system to better manage and leverage volunteers.



McJenkin-Rheay Award

This year's McJenkin-Rheay Award winner is Eli Arnold. The McJenkin-Rheay Award is given to recognize a librarian early in his/her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association. Eli's contributions to GLA include serving as the associate editor of the Georgia Library Quarterly from 2015–2018; serving as conference program chair for the annual conference in 2014; serving as co-chair of exhibits for the conference from 2015–2016; and serving as treasurer of GLA from 2016–2018.



Nix-Jones Award

This year's Nix-Jones Award winner is John Lassiter. The Nix-Jones Award is given to a practicing librarian for distinguished service to Georgia librarianship. It recognizes substantial

contributions to the library profession, such as: stimulation of library development, leadership in library programs, unusual and imaginative services, and outstanding support of Georgia's libraries. John Lassiter is the director of library services at Georgia Northwestern Technical College and has served as the library chair for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). John was instrumental in coordinating the migration of the 22 library systems in TCSG to Alma and has been a key participant in two additional TCSG initiatives, TechShare and OpenAthens.



Library Support Services Award

This year's Library Support Services Award winner is Ken Henslee. 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. Henslee, GALILEO support analyst, provides excellent customer service and support that is critically important to members of GALILEO. He has played a crucial role in getting GALILEO members through the transition to OpenAthens in a timely fashion with few issues along the way.

Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

This year's Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award winner is Michael Thurmond. The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award is given each year to recognize someone not employed in or by a library who has made outstanding contributions to libraries. Thurmond is the DeKalb County CEO and has instituted specific initiatives that directly affect the DeKalb County Public Library system and their ability to serve their community. One such initiative worked to

restore 111 service hours to the library system in 2017. Thurmond recognized the importance of night and weekend access to library branches and made sure that the budget included those hours.



Dekalb County Public Library Director Allison Weissinger, Michael Thurmond, and Dekalb Trustee Sara Fountain

GLA Honorary Membership

This year's Honorary Membership winner is Dr. Gordon Baker. Honorary Memberships are given to retired members of the Georgia Library Association who have contributed significantly to the work of the association over a period of years. Dr. Baker has worked tirelessly for many years on behalf of the GLA. Some of his contributions include serving as the GLA treasurer; and the vice president and president

of GLA. Dr. Baker has also been heavily involved in conference planning for years.



The award recipients were recognized at the All Conference Reception during the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) held on October 4, 2019, in Macon, Georgia.

Congratulations to GLA's 2019 award winners!