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Georgia Library Association - 2019 GLA Scholarship Winners

Stephanie Miranda
miranda_sr@mercer.edu

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

Georgia Library Association
2019 GLA Scholarship Winners

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2019 winners of the Hubbard and Beard 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

Belinda "Bel" Outwater is this year's C. S. Hubbard Scholarship winner. Bel is the manager of the Auburn Public Library in Auburn, Georgia, a position she has held for the last four years. She started out as a bookseller with Borders out of college, rising through the ranks to store manager and leading several different locations around Atlanta. When Borders closed in 2011,

she began volunteering at her local library and the manager kept offering her part-time jobs, eventually persuading her to say yes. Bel is currently pursuing her MLIS degree at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and is part of the 2019 Library Freedom Institute Cohort. She serves as secretary for the Friends of Georgia Libraries and as a member of several local organizations in her community. She has a BA in religion from Brewton-Parker College and lives in Bethlehem, Georgia with her husband and rotten dog.

Bel wrote, "I am honored to receive this scholarship because in addition to the very welcome financial support, it serves as a vote of confidence from my peers. It says to me, 'you have been found worthy to be one of us—you are part of the future of libraries in Georgia,' and that is an unbelievably high honor, as the quality of librarianship here is extraordinary. After graduation, it will be my pleasure to continue to serve the patrons of Auburn and the state of Georgia, giving back to GLA and adding my contributions to our collective."

The Beard Scholarship

This year's Charles Beard Scholarship winner is Sarah Rodgers. Sarah Rodgers is a library assistant at Oglethorpe University. She is also currently in her third semester at Valdosta State University and is working toward the completion of her MLIS with a management concentration. She received her BA in English with a minor in communications in 2018 at Oglethorpe. During her time there, she also wrote an honor's thesis titled *Hamilton and the American Promise*. Sarah started out as a student worker at Oglethorpe's library and discovered that she had a passion for the library field. Her favorite parts of her job are interacting with the patrons, who usually have a

wide variety of requests, and helping her fellow library staff accomplish their goals. She is also excited about the various projects that she has

taken on, including developing new library spaces, organizing the book sale, and creating promotional materials. Outside of the library, she loves to write, go on adventures, and watch a ridiculous amount of cooking shows.

Sarah said: "I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. With the rising costs of higher education, I knew that I would have to make some sacrifices if I wanted to obtain my MLIS. Winning the Beard Scholarship has not only confirmed that I am on the right path, but it has also made it a more accessible one to follow."

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 the 2019 GLA scholarship winners!