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Georgia Library Association - New Members Round Table

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

Georgia Library Association New Members Round Table

New Members Round Table Division (NMRT) 2019 Year-End Review

As 2020 begins, it is time to recap and reflect upon the work of the 2019 New Members Round Table (NMRT) and its subgroups, the Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL) and the Coastal Georgia Library Collaborative (CGLC).

The New Members Round Table is a division of the Georgia Library Association (GLA). This division strives to support new GLA members and new librarians, create mentorship opportunities, facilitate professional

growth, offer avenues for collaboration between new and veteran library workers, and promote involvement and a sense of responsibility for the development of the library profession. The New Members Round Table is open to Georgia Library Association members who have served in the profession or state for fewer than five years, are currently enrolled in library school, or have an interest in working with newcomers to the profession. The 2019 NMRT officers consisted of a chair, Holly Hampton; vice-chair/chair elect, Autumn Johnson; secretary, Mary Block; and programming coordinator, Brittani Sterling.

The New Members Round Table also consists of two affiliated sub-groups: the Atlanta Emerging Librarians and the Coastal Georgia Library

Collaborative. These sub-groups host meetups in various areas of the state to provide opportunities for MLIS students, new graduates, new and experienced librarians, and those interested in the library profession to attend networking events and professional development presentations.

Meetups

In order to fulfill the objective of providing members of the library profession with a

common meeting ground for connecting with one another and the Georgia library community as a whole, NMRT has continued to support its subgroups, AEL and CGLC as they held a number of amazing events in 2019.



AEL Crosland Tower Library Tour

In 2019, the AEL Planning Committee consisted of Sarah Rodgers, Michelle Lee, Beth Smedley, Justin Ellis, and Marcie Helms. The AEL Planning Committee successfully planned and held a number of events in the Atlanta area in 2019. AEL held their annual Mingle with the Admins event in January to kick off the year. They then proceeded to host a Meet and Greet, a tour of the Crosland Tower Library at the Georgia Institute of Technology, an Oglethorpe University Museum of Art Tour, a meetup in the park, and a Sip 'N Serve. The AEL Planning Committee also planned their annual Mingle with the Admins event for 2020 and worked on transitioning their duties to the 2020 AEL co-chairs.

In 2019, the CGLC Planning Committee consisted of Nikki Cannon-Rech, Jennifer Taylor-Pack, Sarah Zeigler, and Autumn Johnson. CGLC held a number of amazing events for those in the Savannah area in 2019. They kicked off the year with a meet up at the Gullah Geechee Exhibit in Hinesville. Throughout the remainder of the year, they held two mix and mingles and a collaborative event with the Society of Georgia Archivists. They also worked on transitioning their duties to the 2020 CGLC co-chairs.



CGLC "Maps, Surveys, and Plans, OH MY!" at the City of Savannah Municipal Archives

Georgia Libraries Conference Buddy Program

In 2019, NMRT continued to offer the Georgia Libraries Conference (GLC) Buddy Program, first implemented by NMRT in 2017. This program provides an opportunity for new(ish) GLA members and conference-goers to meet experienced Georgia Libraries Conference attendees in an effort to share experiences, gain valuable real-world knowledge, and enhance the conference experience. This program has been specifically for mentorship related to the conference itself. This is so that those who are not familiar with the Georgia Libraries Conference have an opportunity to learn how best to navigate the conference and learn what some of the traditions and best networking opportunities are during the conference, just to name a few of the many takeaways of this program. Buddies (the mentee and mentor) are encouraged to meet and mingle at their own pace in a variety of ways, including attending a session together, grabbing a bite to eat at the NMRT & Interest

Group Meeting and Social, walking the vendor floor, or going for a lunch or coffee break. The

buddies are connected prior to the conference and are welcome to begin getting to know each other and plan their time together prior to the conference date.

In order to recruit the buddies, NMRT put out a call and asked interested parties to complete a Google Form. NMRT asked a number of

questions to help match the buddies such as what day(s) they plan to attend the conference, what type of library they work for, what superpower they would most like to have, and what they hope to gain from the NMRT GLC Buddy Program. When matched, the buddies were contacted via email and made aware of their "matching qualities" to help them start up a conversation and get to know each other before they met at the conference. NMRT had 12 participants this year: 6 mentees and 6 mentors, and NMRT hopes to see this number grow as this program continues to evolve and improve.

NMRT Georgia Libraries Conference Scholarship

Every year, NMRT provides a scholarship for at least one presenter covering the cost of a full-conference registration to attend the Georgia Libraries Conference. In order to do this, NMRT puts out a call for presentation proposals with a due date of approximately one month before the GLA GLC presentation proposal due date. NMRT typically looks for presentations that contribute to the conference experience for

new GLA members or new librarians. In 2019, the guidelines for this presentation included providing a 45-minute session, with 10 minutes for questions and answers, focusing on a topic that would be of benefit to new and prospective librarians or new attendees of the Georgia Libraries Conference, encouraging members to further their knowledge of the library profession and/or the Georgia Library Association. NMRT received a number of superb submissions, and in the end, the NMRT officers selected two presentations to put a scholarship toward: "Hiring Managers Tell All! What Job Seekers Really Want to Know," presented by Mary Ann Cullen, Ashley Dupuy, and Elizabeth Dill and "More than Just Updating Your Nametag: Transitioning from Library Staff to Faculty," presented by Rosemary Humphrey, LaTiffany Davis, Michelle Lee, Natalie Logue, Chris Morris, and Emily Williams.



Presenters of "More than Just Updating Your Nametag: Transitioning from Library Staff to Faculty." Left to Right: Natalie Logue, LaTiffany Davis, Chris Morris, Emily Williams, Michelle Lee, and Rosemary Humphrey

By attending "Hiring Managers Tell All! What Job Seekers Really Want to Know," attendees had the opportunity to learn valuable tips and tricks to improve their job hunting process as hiring managers from public and academic libraries spoke to what they look for in applicants as well as what they prefer not to see. Attendees were provided with helpful information and handouts that they could immediately apply to their applications, resumes/CVs, interview, and the overall application and interview process. They also spoke to what an applicant should look for

during the interview from the employer to help them determine if the organization is the right fit for them. The presentation left attendees with a wealth of information regarding how to move forward as they apply and interview for various positions in the library profession.

Attendees of "More than Just Updating Your Nametag: Transitioning from Library Staff to

Faculty," had the opportunity to hear the diverse experiences of the panel as they reflected on their transition from staff to faculty, and in some cases, moving from a position of a peer to a supervisor. The panel presenters provided helpful advice for those who are currently experiencing or will experience this transition, and provided some insight for those

who have watched others experience this as well. The session was reassuring and valuable for many who have been or who plan to be obtaining an MLIS or moving into a supervisory role.

In addition to sponsoring both presentations that NMRT selected to receive scholarships, NMRT also chose to sponsor an additional presentation: "Membership as a Game Changer in Your Professional Career," presented by Lamonica Sanford and Shaundra Walker. Attendees learned how involvement in state, regional, national, and international professional library associations can have a positive impact on their career no matter the level. The presenters provided an overview of a

number of professional associations, including the Georgia Library Association, the committees within the associations, and the benefits associated with being a member. This presentation was very insightful for those who are looking to get the most out of their membership from any library association they may be a part of.

NMRT would like to thank all of the 2019 sponsored presenters for providing such valuable content to the Georgia Libraries Conference and New Members Round Table members!

NMRT & Interest Group Meeting & Social

NMRT worked with the 2019 Interest Group Council to host a meeting and networking event on the Thursday night of the Georgia Libraries Conference at the Ocmulgee Brewpub in Macon, Georgia. Any and all conference goers were invited to this event, and about 47 people were in attendance. They spent the evening networking, socializing, learning about NMRT and the Interest Group Council, playing games, and enjoying the catered food. At this event, the Interest Group chairs elected the 2020 Interest Group Council vice chair/chair elect, the NMRT chair announced the 2020 NMRT officers, and many of the NMRT Conference Buddies used this as an opportunity to get to know one another. It was an eventful night and NMRT looks forward to hosting this meet-up again next year.

2020 NMRT Officers

As 2020 begins, the 2019 NMRT officers hand over their responsibilities to those elected to serve as the NMRT officers in 2020. NMRT would like to take a moment to welcome and congratulate the incoming 2020 NMRT officers:

Chair: Autumn Johnson, Georgia Southern University



2020 NMRT Officers Left to Right: Kelly Williams (Secretary), Autumn Jonson (Chair), Sarah Rodgers (Vice-Chair, Chair Elect)

Vice-Chair, Chair Elect: Sarah Rodgers, Oglethorpe University

Secretary: Kelly Williams, Gwinnett County Public Library

The 2019 NMRT officers would like to say thank you for allowing them to serve as your NMRT officers for 2019. NMRT hopes you enjoyed all that NMRT and the subgroups, AEL and CGLC, had to offer and look forward to your continued participation and support in 2020!

For More Information...

If you are interested in learning more about NMRT, please visit the NMRT webpage (<https://gla.georgialibraries.org/divisions/new-members-round-table/>) and join the NMRT Division by checking the box next to New Members Round Table on your GLA profile page

<https://gla.georgialibraries.org/> so you can receive NMRT emails.

If you are interested in learning more about the Atlanta Emerging Librarians or the Coastal Georgia Library Collaborative, please visit their website and follow them on social media:

AEL Website: <https://gla.georgialibraries.org/divisions/new-members-round-table/atlanta-emerging-librarians/>

AEL Facebook: AtlantaEmergingLibrarians

AEL Twitter & Instagram: @ATLEmergingLib

CGLC Website: <https://gla.georgialibraries.org/divisions/new-members-round-table/coastal-georgia-library-collaborative/>

CGLC Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram:
@GLACoastal

CGLC Blog: <https://glacoastal.wordpress.com/>