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Georgia Library Association - Academic Library Division

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Georgia Library Association
Academic Library Division

Election Results

In September 2020, elections for the Academic Library Division (ALD) executive committee members were held. Catherine Manci from Georgia Tech was elected as the 2021 vice-chair/chair-elect and will also serve as the 2021 Research Paper Award committee chair. Kristina Lang from Georgia State University was elected as secretary. These new members will join the incoming chair, Linh Uong from the University of North Georgia, as the ALD 2021 officers.

A new Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Council Representative was also elected during this year’s election cycle. Lamonica Sanford has been elected to serve as the Georgia ACRL Representative for a three-year term. Ms. Sanford previously served as the ALD secretary in 2020. Congratulations to Ms. Sanford! ALD would also like to thank out-going ACRL Council Representative Sofia Slutskaya for her dedication and stewardship to the Academic Library Division over the past three years.

Thank you to those who agreed to run this year, and congratulations to the winners.

Academic Research Paper Contest

Alex Thomerson is the 2020 recipient of the Georgia Library Association (GLA) ALD Research Paper Award for “Academic Library Space and Technology Concerns: A Content Analysis by Discipline.” Alex Thomerson works for the DeKalb County Public Library at the Brookhaven Branch, where he helps patrons with circulation, reference, and reader’s advisory service. He is also actively involved in the

Friends of the Brookhaven Library local book sale. During his career, Alex has also worked in youth services, interlibrary loan, and genealogy and local historical research.

Alex said that “it is an honor to be recognized by the GLA Academic Library Division for my paper ‘Academic Library Space and Technology Concerns: A Content Analysis by Discipline.’ I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the ALD officers for this award. As I reviewed the literature of this important subject, I became aware of understudied areas that offered promising insight into user space behavior in academic libraries.”

Lauren Jones is this year’s runner-up for her paper “Post-Traditional Student Satisfaction with the User Services Provided by Dacus Library.” Lauren is a reference assistant at Winthrop University. She has worked part-time for Dacus Library at Winthrop since 2015 where she started out as a student assistant in content
services and later began working for the circulation department. She is passionate about improving the academic library experience for international, ESL, and post-traditional students.

Congratulations to both Alex and Lauren on their winning papers!

**ALD 2020 Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the Georgia Library Conference moving to a virtual platform for 2020, the Academic Library Division meeting was held via Zoom on October 6, 2020.

The meeting kicked off with the keynote speaker, Dr. Shaundra Walker, interim library director at Georgia College and the 2020 DEMCO/ALA Black Caucus Award Winner for Excellence in Librarianship. The topic of her keynote presentation was “The Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Librarians of Color: A Counterstory.”

The ALD business meeting took place shortly after the keynote speaker. During the meeting, the Executive Committee provided a recap of the 2019–2020 year, introduced the new Executive Committee members, and announced the research award winners.

**ACRL Virtual Webinar Series**

This year ALD hosted two virtual webinar viewings. ALD was lucky to host the first event in February at physical viewing locations but had to go 100% virtual for the second one in May.

In February, ALD hosted the webinar Copyright and Course Reserves: Electronic and Media Reserves. The webinar explored ways in which academic libraries can lawfully connect faculty and students with access to books, book chapters, articles, and film through electronic and media reserve services. A few host sites organized additional activities or invited copyright experts to answer webinar-related questions.

ALD would like to thank the host sites Georgia College, Georgia State University (Decatur Campus), Georgia Southern Armstrong Lane Library, Frank & Laura Lewis Library, LaGrange College, University of Georgia (UGA) Law Library, UGA Libraries, and Valdosta State University Odum Library for their hospitality.

In May, the ALD hosted the ACRL webinar Developing your Leadership Potential: Effective Practices and Innovative Ideas. Highlighted topics covered during the webinar included:

- How to develop an awareness of sustainable core leadership development strategies.
- Learning how to identify strengths and opportunities for leadership development.
- Practical strategies to foster leadership skill development.
- Challenges new leaders face, and strategies to better support those leaders.
- John Kotter’s Eight-Stage Process of Creating Major Change, and how to apply those stages to bring about change in academic libraries.

One hundred fourteen academic librarians registered to participate in the discussions held on two different dates. Participants were able to share their own leadership experience or
questions and concerns about library management issues. As one participant stated in the follow up survey, “it is very helpful to see that I have other colleagues experiencing the same issues and concerns across the state and the country.”

ALD would like to especially thank Ashley Hoffman (Kennesaw State University) and Mary Ann Cullen (Georgia State University) for hosting the live virtual sessions.