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Georgia Library Association - 2021 GLA Scholarship Winners

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

Georgia Library Association 2021 GLA Scholarship Winners

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Committee is excited to announce the 2021 recipients of the Hubbard and Beard scholarships.

The Hubbard Scholarship

Vidhya Jagannathan is this year's C.S. Hubbard Scholarship winner. Vidhya is a senior library assistant at the North Cobb Regional Library, a branch of the

Cobb County Public Library System. Since 2019, she has been the Creative Space (makerspace) coordinator at the branch. Vidhya is in a newly created position at her branch which focuses

on programming that incorporates STEAM learning at all levels. In addition to her four years of experience in Cobb County libraries, Vidhya was previously a library assistant at the DeKalb County Public Library System and a substitute teacher.

Vidhya believes strongly in outreach and partnering with community organizations to provide quality programming and services. Vidhya has received grants to support initiatives that match her passions and benefit her community, including the American Library



Association's (ALA) Libraries Ready to Code program to support her work in teaching digital skills and a grant from the Atlanta Food Well Alliance to fund a community garden. She is an advocate for women's participation in STEM fields. To support that advocacy, Vidhya recently started a chapter of Girls Who Code (GWC) at her branch. In addition to her library work, Vidhya is an active community volunteer, gardener, and home chef.

Vidhya's educational background includes a BS in chemistry from the University of Madras and a post-baccalaureate teacher's prep certificate in early childhood education from Western Governors University. Vidhya is pursuing her MLIS at Florida State University. She hopes to become the first makerspace librarian in the Cobb County Library System.

Vidhya is honored to receive the Hubbard Scholarship and said that she is "very thankful that a cohort of my peers deemed me worthy. To be recognized gives me the much-needed confidence to pursue an MLIS and pioneer as a makerspace librarian in my system. I believe that libraries are for everyone, and public libraries have to provide equitable access to resources and services with minimal barriers."

The Beard Scholarship

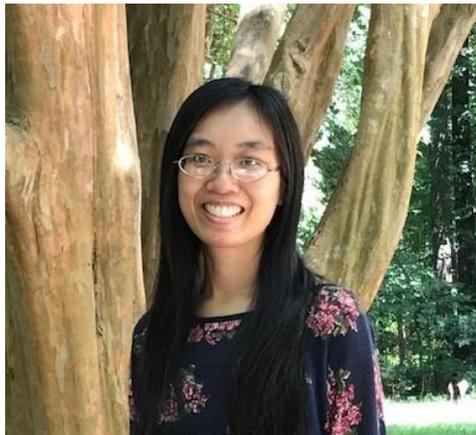
Jillian Speck is this year's Charles Beard Scholarship recipient. Jillian has worked in a range of library types: academic, public, and school. She is currently working at the Clayton County Public Library Headquarters and has a part-time position at Clayton State University Library. She was also the media specialist for a private high school in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Jillian is pursuing her MSI at Florida State University. Jillian holds a BA in history from

Agnes Scott College where she worked in her first library job as a research assistant. She is interested in pursuing a career in academic libraries, preferably managing electronic resources.

Throughout her seven years working in libraries, Jillian has sought a variety of experiences and has worked with a variety of patron populations from creating virtual programs and videos to engage adult learners during the COVID-19 Pandemic to developing LibGuides for college students.

Jillian wrote, “receiving the Beard Scholarship is a huge honor for me. Paying for college has



been a significant point of worry for me, and this scholarship lets me focus more on my studies than on my financial concerns. I've applied for the GLA Scholarships for three years and to receive one means that my perseverance paid off and the work and time put into it was worth it. I'm incredibly grateful to be a recipient and motivated to keep learning about librarianship.”

Complete information about the scholarships, including application information and how to donate to the scholarship fund, is available on [GLA's website](#).