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Georgia Library Association Groups Put On PracticeCon

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Cover Page Footnote

Many thanks to Kelly Williams, Mack Freeman, Stephen Sherman, Sheila Devaney, Gina Viarruel, and Kate Fisher for help with putting on PracticeCon.

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

Georgia Library Association Groups Sponsor PracticeCon

On September 17, 2021, the Georgia Library Association's New Members Round Table (NMRT) partnered with the Special Libraries and Information Services Division and the Middle Georgia Emerging Librarians (MGEL) to put on PracticeCon. Developed by NMRT Secretary Kelly Williams, PracticeCon was a mini convention designed for library workers who wanted to gain more presentation experience. Participants were offered the option of presenting on any library-related topic. If they did not want to present, they could also participate by serving as audience members offering feedback on presentations.

Due to his extensive experience with public speaking and presenting, Mack Freeman, Head of Public Services at Georgia Tech, was chosen as the keynote speaker. During his presentation, Freeman covered many tips for presenting, including making your message clear throughout the presentation. He advised, "Get to the point early and often. Don't waste your vital introduction time when your audience is at its freshest with logistics and pre-prepared biographies."

Following the keynote, there were two presentations. Sarah Rodgers, chair of the NMRT, presented on Fuzzy Friends Friday, a social media initiative at her institution that involved posting pictures of professors' pets,



Graphic created by Kate Fisher

and Kate Fisher, MGEL cochair, did a presentation titled "Libraries Against Harassment and Assault," describing what harassment is and how libraries can develop preventative plans to address it. After each talk, audience members offered different pieces of advice to the presenters. One suggested slowing down, while another pointed out the benefits of using body language to help convey one's message.

In the end, it was agreed that the event was very helpful to both viewers and presenters. The hope is that the 2021 PracticeCon will become a regular event.

Sarah Rodgers is a library associate at Oglethorpe University and the chair of the GLA New Members Roundtable