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2023 Georgia Library Association Scholarship Recipients

Cover Page Footnote

Sarah Rodgers-Miller is Chair of the Scholarship Committee and a Law Librarian for Outreach and Programming at Emory University School of Law.

2023 Georgia Library Association Scholarship Recipients

The Georgia Library Association (GLA) Scholarship Committee is excited to announce the 2023 recipients of the Hubbard and Beard scholarships.

The Hubbard Scholarship



Niké Shimobi-Obijuru

Niké Shimobi-Obijuru is this year's C. S. Hubbard Scholarship winner. Niké currently works as the circulation services coordinator for the Athens Regional Library System and has just begun studying for an MLIS at Valdosta State University.

After graduating from Spelman College with a BA in English, Niké first began working in libraries as a part-time circulation assistant in September of 2019. In under two years, she was hired for her current position as the head of the circulation department. Having fallen in love with the field during this time, Niké chose to pursue librarianship as a full-fledged career.

As a member of her library's leadership team, Niké works hard to ensure that policies continue to be applied equitably so that all patrons retain access to the services and resources the library provides. She writes:

Though libraries have historically sought to remain politically neutral, their very purpose necessitates engagement. They are meant to be environments which support learning and nurture personal development, and the resources and services that they provide are invaluable to many members of the

community, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Too often neutrality equals compliance even in regard to unfair practices, and bringing recognition to this topic is one of my career aspirations.

In gaining her MLIS, Niké plans to strengthen her existing skills and increase her knowledge in the hopes of one day becoming a library administrator and affecting change on a larger scale. She states:

Receiving the Hubbard scholarship is an incredible honor, and thanks in large part to this financial assistance, I will be able to complete my MLIS program almost entirely debt free! This will give me more freedom and ease to pursue my career aspirations, which include one day joining library administration. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the GLA has provided me and will be proud to join their ranks as an officially certified librarian upon my graduation.

The Beard Scholarship

Cole Hale is this year's Beard Scholarship award winner. He is a historian of Sixties youth culture with an emphasis on the hippie community in Atlanta. He earned his BS in history education from Kennesaw State University, his MA in



Cole Hale

history from Georgia State University, and was an Institute of Museum and Library Services Fellow

at Drexel University. He has presented his research at conferences across the United States, and he has been published in various academic media outlets. Cole Hale currently works as a library associate in the Georgia Room at Switzer Library in Cobb County, while attending Louisiana State University to receive his MLIS. Cole writes:

Upon completion of my degree, I will continue helping patrons with their research needs, while taking the Georgia Room into the exciting new direction that I have already started by offering more preservation efforts, digitization services, and community archival projects, with the intent to make the department more universal and relevant to

everyone in our community...This scholarship will allow me to continue educating and better preparing myself as libraries expand beyond a physical space, and into an increasingly digital age where technology and outreach are central.

Complete information about the scholarships, including application information and how to donate to the scholarship fund, is available on [GLA's website](#). The next application cycle will begin in March 2024.

Sarah Rodgers is the 2023 chair of the GLA Scholarship Committee