

Georgia Libraries Conference 2017
Columbus, Georgia
October 4-6, 2017
Emily Rogers

At GLC 2017, I served on a panel for a discussion of tenure and promotion convened by Jennifer Townes of Georgia College and State University as the second part of the Academic Libraries Division session on Thursday, October 5. Other presenters on the panel included Fred Smith of Georgia Southern University, Andrea Stanfield of the University of West Georgia, and Linda Golion-Lui of Kennesaw State University. The first half of the session featured presentations from the selected top two entrants in the GLA-ALD Academic Paper Competition.

I attended the following additional sessions at this year's conference:

Finding Your Instructional Voice

Presenters: John Upchurch and Kimberly Westbrooks, Jacksonville State University

This session looked at principles of improvisation and vocal performance and how they can be applied to teaching in library settings. The presenters demonstrated several short tools for loosening up, exploring new ideas, and listening carefully. Important messages for librarians in teaching settings include that it's more important to be authentic than to be funny in the classroom and that teachers should take care of their voices.

Half-Sessions:

Serendipity in the Life of a Librarian

Presenter: Rebecca Ziegler, Georgia Southern University

The presenter gave a well-written exploration of the importance of chance, curiosity, openness, and serendipity in librarianship.

Create, Seize, Inhabit: Opportunities for Academic Librarians Beyond the Job Description

Presenters: Catherine Bowers and Guy Frost, Valdosta State University

The presenters gave results of a pilot survey that asked librarians in faculty and staff positions about opportunities for professional and personal development outside of the customary job descriptions. This interesting project gave a fuller sense of the widely varied job responsibilities that librarians undertake.

Keynote Address by R. David Lankes

Dr. Lankes, of the University of South Carolina, gave an inspiring social justice message on the changing nature of librarianship and asked the important question, “Is access the same as impact?” He foresees the future of librarianship as focusing less on merely providing access and more on addressing the multiple needs of users.

Event Ideas for the Library: From Collaborative Planning and Promotion to Execution

Presenters: Christopher Bishop and Jalesia Horton, Agnes Scott College

The presenters offered ideas for planning and carrying out events to help promote the library. They advised keeping plans consistent with the goals of the library, including staff and student stakeholders in planning, and seeking input from administrators. They suggested tying events to seasons (“Blind Date with a Book,” “Super Bowl of Comedy”) and to awareness campaigns (Black History Month, Banned Books Week). It was clear that they had ample budget for planning big events such as a Harry Potter Murder Mystery.

Come on Down; the Water Is Fine: Teaching Library Skills in Belize

Presenter: Deborah Davis, Valdosta State University

Part travelogue, part recruitment session, this entertaining presentation featured information about teaching library professionals in Belize through the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation (COBEC). Topics included travel, funding, and planning.

Helping Entrepreneurs: Getting the Most Out of Government Information

Presenter: Patricia Kenly, Georgia Tech

This valuable presentation showcased government information resources to help entrepreneurs evaluate potential customers and develop small business resources.

In addition, I had the following service commitments:

Government Information Interest Group (GIIG) Meeting

I attended the annual GIIG meeting, where we discussed having an ongoing column about government information in the *Georgia Library Quarterly* and elected new officers for the coming year.

GLA Scholarship Raffle

As a member of the GLA Scholarship Committee, I volunteered at the Raffle Booth for two hours on Friday morning. I also assisted with the Raffle on Friday afternoon.