

GAIT Connection

Volume 11, Issue 3

Spring 2006

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- New Officers Begin - January 1, 2006
- ALA - Midwinter Jan 20-25, 2006 San Antonio
- Georgia Library Day - January 24, 2006
- GAIT Board Meeting January 28, 2006
- School Library Media Month, April 2006
- National Library Week April 10-16, 05
- Georgia Student Media Festival - State Festival - Atlanta May 5, 2006
- ALA Annual Meeting June 24-27, 2006 New Orleans

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Baker & Buddy Receive Skelton & Bell Awards at COMO XVII

The annual GAIT Breakfast saw the presentation of GAIT's two highest awards to two individuals who exemplify professionalism and the very foundations of the GAIT organization.

Dr. Juanita Warren Buddy was presented the Walter S. Bell Award for her devoted service to K-12 education and to GAIT. Dr. Buddy is an Instructional Coordinator in the Department of Educational Media of the DeKalb (GA) County School System. She earned her MLS degree at the University of Illinois and her specialist and doctorate degrees at Georgia State University. She has been employed as an elementary school teacher, school library media specialist, curriculum specialist, reference librarian in an academic library, and adjunct professor in the graduate Library Media Technology Program at Georgia State University. In 2001, Juanita was the recipient of the Goen-Sloan Scholarship Award awarded by GAIT. For the past several years, she has enjoyed her work as the membership contact person for GAIT.



The Juanita Skelton Award was presented to Dr. Gordon Baker. Leadership Development Chair, Ginny Harrell stated that Dr. Baker had made significant contributions to the field of instructional technology not only on the K-12 level but also in the higher education arena. She cited his creative ability in moving the *GAIT Connection* from a paper based publication to the web-based version that it is today. Dr. Baker is currently serving as Interim Director of Library Services at the Clayton State University Library. He is retired from the Henry County School System where he served as media specialist and Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Media Services. Gordon was the 1995 GAIT President and is also the recipient of the Walter S. Bell Award.

President's Message

By John Brooks



With my year as GAIT President winding down, I keep thinking of all the wonderful people I have met, my travels to GAIT board meetings, and planning ways to improve GAIT for all media professionals. Our membership is growing and will continue as long as we are advocates for media professionals and libraries in the State of Georgia. Below are some of the areas of involvement that I am most proud of.

COMO Conference keeps getting better and better. It was a chance to meet old friends, attend workshops, and talk to vendors about new materials. From the feedback I received, most people thought the convention center in Columbus was located in an area that was easy to navigate and near good

hotels. The feedback on the program was impressive. Next year promises to be even better. We look forward to moving COMO to September and returning to Athens.

GAIT is instrumental in supporting the Georgia Student Media Festival. I hope we continue to be involved, expand our efforts and encourage student participation.

Library Day keeps getting better. We need to keep our state government officials informed about the important impact of libraries and technology on student learning.

In conclusion, I want to say to those members who are hesitant to run for office, you will be surprised at how much

satisfaction you get out of it. Before becoming GAIT President, I was concerned about the responsibility, time commitment, contributions to media, and being a strong advocate for the profession. If libraries and instructional technology are important to you, become involved and make a difference. Tom Beggs becomes GAIT President in January and I am sure he will continue leading us in exciting directions.



Scenes from the GAIT Board Meeting



GOEN-SLOAN SCHOLARSHIP Presented at COMO

The Goen-Sloan Scholarship is named for two leaders of the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology. The late Marsha Goen was a media specialist in the Cobb County Schools for many years. She held many positions in GAIT including President. Mary Jean Sloan worked as a media specialist in Florida and Georgia, more specifically Cobb County, for more than 30 years. Mary Jean served as GAIT's Director of Membership for more than 15 years. Mary Jean's leadership during her years as Director of Membership helped GAIT survive during the lean years.

The Leadership Development Committee has been chaired this year by GAIT Immediate Past President, Ginny Harrell.

Lauri English is the media specialist at Mary Persons High School in Forsyth. This is her seventh year in this position. Prior to being media specialist, she was a French teacher at the same school for eight years. She has also taught media production, journalism, economics and humanities.

Lauri holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a minor in French from Georgia Southwestern State University. She obtained her Master of Education in Instructional Technology from Georgia College and State University. She is currently enrolled in the Instructional Technology Specialist in Education program at Valdosta State University.

Professionally, she holds membership in GAIT, the Georgia Library Media Association, and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.



How do you apply for the GOEN-SLOAN Scholarship?

The scholarship is awarded annually.

Applicant must be a member of GAIT prior to application deadline.

Applicant must be pursuing graduate studies in a media-related area and provide proof of acceptance to program.

Applicant must supply information about: career goals, experience in the field or in professional organizations.

A resume must be attached.

Deadline is September 15, 2006. Website: <http://www.gait-inc.org/awards.htm>

Our 2006 Elected Officers

The following individuals were elected by the GAIT membership. Ballots were mailed to each member and were due back to no later than November 24, 2005. Thanks to all who voted. Special thanks to these dedicated individuals who agreed to serve GAIT and our profession.



President – Elect: Lea Ann Kelley

Lea Ann Kelley taught middle school math/algebra for 14 years. She is currently the Media Specialist at Tara Elementary in Clayton County. She has been a Media Specialist for 7 years. She is very active in the Clayton County Media Association and has served on the COMO planning committee.



Treasurer: Ann Grantham

Ann Grantham has served as treasurer of GAIT for ten years. She worked in Clayton County and Henry County as media specialist at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. After two years of retirement, she has returned to work as media services coordinator for Bibb County Public Schools.



Don't forget the Georgia Primary is Tuesday, July 18, 2006. Your vote does count!

BOARD-AT-LARGE

Valerie Ayer



Valerie Ayer is the librarian for the Professional Library of the DeKalb County School System (DCSS). Her library work experiences include reference librarian at Georgia State University, branch manager for the DeKalb County Public Library, and school library media specialist at Shadow Rock Elementary, DeKalb County Schools. In her current position, she has developed a Web site that provides 24/7 access to electronic resources to DCSS educators. Valerie is the 2004 recipient of the GAIT Scholarship Award.



Elizabeth Bennett

Elizabeth Bennett is Professor of Media & Instructional Technology at the University of West Georgia. She enjoys working with new technologies and exploring ways they can be integrated into K-12 and post-secondary traditional and virtual classrooms and media centers. Prior to coming to West Georgia in 1995, she worked at the Georgia DOE in the Division of Instructional Media and Technology.



Chris Stadler

Chris Stadler currently works as a corporate technical trainer in Columbus, Georgia. His undergrad degree is in Computer Science and he is currently finishing his M.S. in Instructional Technology at Columbus State University. Chris enjoys teaching people about technology and is interested in adult education and instructional design. In addition to being a GAIT member, he is also a member of AECT, ASTD, and STC.

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September 20-22, 2006
The Classic Center
Athens, GA

Join GAIT TODAY!

We're on the web!
<http://www.gait-inc.org>



COMO XVII Scenes

