

Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries
Annual Dinner and Business Meeting
April 20, 2011

Date, Time, and Place of Meeting: April 20, 2011 at 6:30 pm, at Lester's Restaurant, Orange Beach, AL

Program: Nadine Cohen of the University of Georgia spoke about collaboration with school librarians in a K-16 information literacy program in Georgia. After her presentation, Lori Northrup presented her with a gift.

Sue O. Medina Significant Contribution Award:

The Medina Award was presented, in absentia, to Glenn Anderson of Auburn University (retired).

I would like to nominate Glenn Anderson of the Auburn University Libraries as this year's recipient of the Sue O. Medina Award for Significant Contributions. Mr. Anderson, who retired in September 2010, enjoyed a lengthy 32-year career at Auburn University and I think his contributions, especially those made during his last 12 years at Auburn (1998-2010) while serving as Assistant Dean for Collection Development are particularly worthy of recognition. He continues working now on a part-time basis.

I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Anderson as a colleague at the R.B.D. Library at Auburn University since my arrival in 1992. At that point, Glenn Anderson was ably serving as the Head of the Humanities Reference Department. In 1998, this library underwent major organizational changes ("restructuring") under the new Auburn University Libraries Dean, Dr. Stella Bentley. What had been four separate reference departments were consolidated into one, the physical layout of the collections was radically changed and this involved the shifting of over 2,600,000 volumes over the Summer of 2001. Among the many organizational changes implemented was the creation of a new position, that of Assistant Dean for Collection Development. Interested applicants for this position were encouraged to step forward and undergo an intensive interview process. Glenn Anderson was the successful applicant and assumed his new responsibilities in 1998.

Over the next 12 years Mr. Anderson made truly major contributions to the Auburn University Libraries as he dealt with an increasingly complex world of electronic acquisitions and an unstable financial climate that included the devastating impact of the recession of 2008-2009 (and which still affects everyone not directly connected to Wall Street). In the process he steered the Auburn University Libraries through a period in which ever-increasing demands were made on the institution while funding either remained flat or actually declined both in real terms and in relative terms. Despite the enormous stresses of the job, Glenn Anderson always remained diplomatic and pleasant and maintained his sense of humor. On top of this, he had to cope with the onset of illness and eventual death of his wife from cancer. Somehow he did this with grace and for most of the time never let on to the rest of us the terrible personal burden he was bearing.

The complexity of Mr. Anderson's job was also increased by the fact that a space crisis for housing the physical collections was looming. Despite the major shift to electronic resources in recent years, the physical collections of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library have kept growing. Unfortunately, thanks to

the cramped fiscal climate, there are no plans for expansion of the physical plant. Adding to the space crisis, is the establishment and then four-fold physical expansion of the Media and Digital Resources Lab. Mr. Anderson has had to implement some difficult decisions including the removal of many materials to the Closed Stacks (basement) storage area and the weeding and discard of many items from the Government Documents collection. I believe plans are underway to identify and implement eventual remote storage options as well.

The challenges described above are not unique to Auburn University but I feel Glenn Anderson deserves special recognition for his extremely competent management of a virtual tsunami of major problems and decisions he has dealt with over the past dozen years. He has successfully steered the Auburn University Libraries through a bewildering period of major change and has managed literally millions of dollars in the process to position this institution well for the Twenty-First Century. In addition to dealing with truly major change, Glenn Anderson still remains very accessible and responsive even to minor, small-scale requests.

How he manages to keep his sanity and yet exercise genuine leadership on such a big scale is beyond me. Perhaps his sense of humor is part of the answer. Over the years I have known him, I have never seen Mr. Anderson visibly angry and quite often I have enjoyed his witty observations and comments as he has dealt with the tremendous challenges and sometimes the absurdities that come his way. An example that comes to mind is from his days as Head of the Humanities Reference Department. In providing a written response to a library patron who had objected to the fact that the Ralph Brown Draughon Library had a book about erotic art on the shelf, Glenn Anderson first addressed the legitimacy of having such a book in an academic library collection. Then he noted that the title words "erotic art" were prominently displayed on the cover and that this should have provided a fair warning to anyone who might find this topic to be offensive. Then he politely asked why the patron had opened up the volume if he or she found had the topic to be offense in the first place.

Please consider Glenn Anderson for the 2011 presentation of the Sue O. Medina Award for Significant Contributions.

Sincerely,

Tim Dodge

Reference Librarian and

History and Political Science Subject Specialist

Presentation of Certificates: Charlcie Vann presented the members of the Executive Board with certificates of appreciation. Lori Northrup presented Charlcie Vann with a certificate of appreciation.

Election Results/Installation of New Officers:

President	Lori Northrup, Samford University
Vice-President/President Elect	Jennifer Long, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Past President	Charlcie Pettway Vann, Jacksonville State University
Secretary	Ellen Wilson, University of South Alabama
Treasurer	Debra West, Troy University
Member-at-Large	Yingqi Tang, Jacksonville State University
Legislative Liaison	Eric Kidwell, Huntingdon College
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Wheeler, University of South Alabama
Webmaster	Jason Battles, University of Alabama

Business Meeting

Lori Northrup called the meeting to order at 8:22 pm.

Officer Reports:

Past-President: Rickey Best had no report.

President: Charlcie Vann had no report.

President-Elect/Vice President: Lori Northrup thanked the members of the dinner committee for their assistance in planning the event.

Treasurer:

The account balance as of January 31, 2010 was \$5278.09. Since that date deposits totaling \$405 have been made and 40 cents in interest has accrued. No disbursements have been made. The account balance as of March 31, 2011 was \$5683.49.

Muriel K. Wells
AACRL Treasurer

Secretary: Ellen Wilson had no report.

Legislative Liaison: Eric Kidwell reported that there is still a little time left to apply for the AACRL Legislative Day stipends.

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Wheeler requested that the membership send news items for inclusion in the newsletter.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen K. Wilson, AACRL Secretary