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## Presentation of Gale Grants

SELA was pleased once again to be able to award \$500 grants to promising librarians who demonstrated in their applications outstanding levels of professional development early in their career. This program is underwritten and made possible through the generosity of The Gale Group. This year Ed McBride, Vice President of Academic, Public and ARL Library Sales, was present at the breakfast to make awards to the following eight librarians:

**Susan Benning**, branch manager, Reidsville Public Library, Reidsville, N.C. Susan received her MLIS from the University of North Carolina Greensboro in December, 2001. In her application for the GALE grant, she said that completing her MLIS was a lifelong goal put on hold earlier by family commitments.

**Erica G. Fields**, adult services librarian, Forsyth County Public Library, Kernersville, NC. Erica received her MLS from Louisiana State University in 1999. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1996 from Louisiana State University. Erica has been a member of the Southeastern Library Association for two years and serves on the Rothrock Award Committee.

**Jill Elaine Grogg**, instructional services librarian, Mississippi State University. Jill received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1994 and a Master of Arts in English from the University of Mississippi in 1998. She received her MSIS from the University of Tennessee in 2001. Before becoming a librarian she was a newspaper staff reporter, a community desk editor and an adjunct instructor at a community college.

**Sarah J. Hammill**, reference librarian, Florida International University. Jill received her MLS from Indiana University in 2001. In 1992 Sarah received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Psychology at the State University of New York, Oswego. Before receiving her Master in Library Science, Sarah was a web page editor, reference assistant and an associate instructor at Indiana University.

**Meg Meiman**, instructional services librarian, University of Southern Mississippi, received her Bachelor's degree in 1992 from Birmingham-Southern College and her MLIS from University of Alabama, 2001. She has a Master of Arts in English from Florida State University and has finished her coursework toward a doctorate in English from the University of Alabama. As an English instructor, she received commendations for excellence in teaching 1997-1998 and 1999-2001.

**Karen Minton**, virtual library development specialist, Galileo, Georgia's Virtual Library. Karen received her MLIS from the University of Alabama in 2001. In 1977 Karen received a Bachelor in Arts in Journalism and Religion from Tift College and in 1991 a Master in Fine Arts in creative writing from Wren Wilson College. Before working in libraries, she worked for public television in Fairbanks, Alaska and served in the United States Air Force.

**David Salinero**, reference/government documents librarian, Delta State University. David received his MLIS from LSU in 1998. In May 1997 David received a BA in history from Our Lady of Holy Cross College. As an undergraduate, he worked as a student assistant in the college library.

**Charles "Wil" Williford Weston**, engineering librarian, University of New Orleans. Wil received his MLIS from LSU in 1999. In 1991, Wil received a Bachelor of Arts in English (Creative Writing Program) from Louisiana State University and in 1995 a Bachelor of Science in Geography from Louisiana State University. Wil has been active in national and local library organizations and viewed the SELA conference as an opportunity to foster new contacts and ties with regional librarians and libraries.

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