

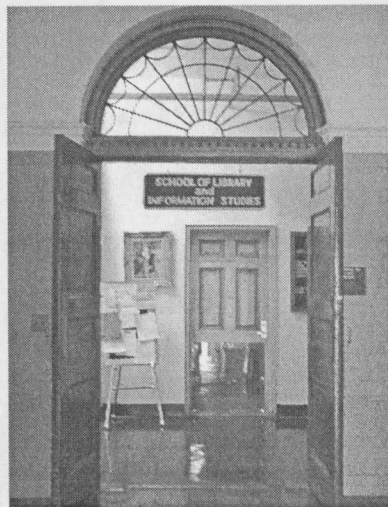
CAUSLIS
CLOSING 2005
MALA ACTIONS



News and Activities

May 16, 2005 - The Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies confers degrees upon its last class of students. The school closes at the end of May, 2005.

The school is inviting all school alumni, supporters and friends to attend a special informational meeting at ALA. The meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26, 5:30 to 7:30 at the Le Meridien Salon III. Information will be provided on closing activities and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on ways to preserve the school's legacy.



April 14, 2005 - MALA held its Spring Meeting at DeVry University. The topic was distance learning with an emphasis on earning an MLS degree via distance learning. See details of the meeting at [Spring 2005 Meeting minutes](#) .

January 14, 2005 - MALA sends a [note of thanks](#) to Carol Brey-Casiano for her efforts on behalf of ALA to request some open dialogue with Clark Atlanta University's board of trustees regarding the closing of the School of Library and Information Studies.

December 6, 2004 - At the MALA Winter Meeting and Holiday Party, new officers Nancy Bryant and Kate Stirk were elected. A rousing discussion of our annual scholarship essay ensued. Select members were recognized for their efforts and years of service. And some tasty calories were had. See [2004 Winter Meeting](#).



October 15, 2004 - The Clark Atlanta University board of trustees, once again, refuses to meet with a representative of ALA about the closure of the SLIS. Carol Brey-Casiano was not allowed to meet with the CAU board, and issued a [statement](#) of disappointment, and resolve. An ad-hoc rally followed the board's decision. In the 10/14/04 Atlanta Journal Constitution editorial page, Ms. Brey-Casiano and former CAU SLIS Dean Arthur Gunn described in some detail the incongruities and the sadness of the CAU board's decision.

October 14, 2004 - A town hall meeting about the future of the Clark Atlanta University's School of Library and Information Science was held at the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library. ALA president Carol Brey-Casiano, Clark Atlanta faculty, SLIS students, alumni, and other supporters attended. MALA representative Gayle Christian delivered our words of continued support for the CAU library school and library education in North Georgia.

October 13 - 15, 2004 - Athens, GA hosted the annual COMO conference of Georgia librarians, media specialists and instructional technologists. MALA members were among the presenters. The annual Hubbard scholarship auction, this year in honor of Charles Beard, had its best effort yet. Details of the programming, etc, are at <http://www.library.gsu.edu/gla/events/como/2004/>.

September 28, 2004 - MALA's Fall Meeting at the Health Sciences Library of Emory University. Programming presented by Carolyn Brown, reference librarian of the Health Sciences Library, and Karen Wagner, health sciences subject librarian at Georgia State University. Health Sciences Library Director Sandra Franklin gave a tour of the library and discussed the library's current status regarding online vs. print journals. See [2004 Fall Meeting Notes](#).

September 27, 2004 - A [Town Hall Meeting](#) with American Library Association (ALA)

President Carol Brey-Casiano is announced. This meeting, about the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) Library School closing, is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 14th, at 6:30pm at the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the University Center - Clark Atlanta University's campus library.

September 27, 2004 - ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano and CAU alumnus Akilah Nosakhere are interviewed on the Tavis Smiley show about the closing of the CAU Library School. Streaming audio of the segment is available at the [Tavis Smiley Show - Sept 27, 2004](#).

September 9, 2004 - American Library Association President Carol Brey-Casiano urges Clark Atlanta University to reconsider their decision to close the School of Library and Information Studies. The [ALA Press Release](#), and the [ALA Homepage](#).

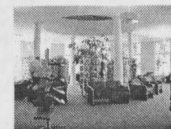
September 8, 2004 - Students and alumni rallied on the steps of Trevor Arnett Hall in support of the Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies. See [CAU Rally](#).



September 10 through 18, 2004 - [The Atlanta Book Festival](#)

July 27, 2004 - MALA President Dr. Rick Wright joins other Georgia librarians in speaking at a Town Meeting on the Future of Library Education in Georgia.

- [MALA Statement of Position Presented by President Rick Wright](#)
 - [Town Meeting on Future of Library Education in Georgia -- Meeting Notes](#)
-



July 15, 2004 - The Summer MALA Meeting -- [The Graphic Novel](#)

May, 2004 - Atlanta Librarians make the largest ever contribution to ALA's LeRoy C. Merritt

Humanitarian Fund. The fund provides support for librarians who have experienced workplace discrimination. More details at <http://www.ala.org/ala/pr2004/may2004/LargestdonationtoMerritt.htm> .

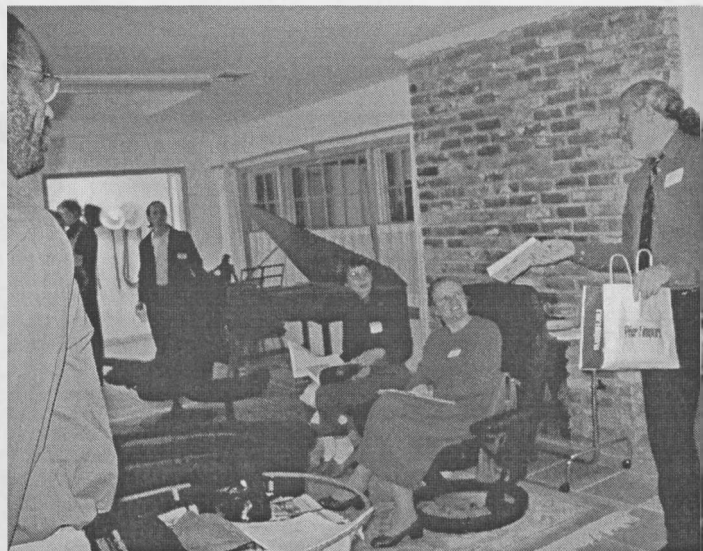
April, 2004 - MALA lent support to the Clark Atlanta University's School of Library and Information Studies in its efforts to avoid closure as recommended by the board of Trustees. MALA officers sent a letter to the Clark Atlanta University trustees urging them to reconsider their decision to recommend closure of the school. See [Letter to CAU Board of Trustees](#) .

March 30, 2004 - The Spring 2004 MALA Meeting at the Ponce del Leon Ave. Branch of the AFPL included a conversation with the late Charles Beard about continuing education for Georgia librarians, and presentations by Dr. Stephen Koplan of Georgia Perimeter College-Dunwoody and Dr. Ismail Abdullahi. See [Spring 2004 Meeting Minutes](#) .

February, 2004 - [Georgia Senate Bill 231](#), written to mandate changes to the Atlanta Fulton County Public Library management reporting structure and to the Board of Trustees, may come up for a vote in the full Georgia legislature during this 2004 session.

January, 2004 - It is noted that Dr. Anita O'Neal is now the Interim Dean at the Clark Atlanta University School of Library Studies. Dr. Art Gunn has moved on.

December, 2003 - As usual, the **December Meeting & Holiday Party** was a festive affair. The MALA Officers lineup for 2004 exhibited stability. Elections were held, and Steven Vincent (Southern Polytechnic State University) was elected treasurer. Gayle Christian will take the vice-president - Membership position. Rick Wright and Tim Wojcik agreed to serve in their respective positions for another year.



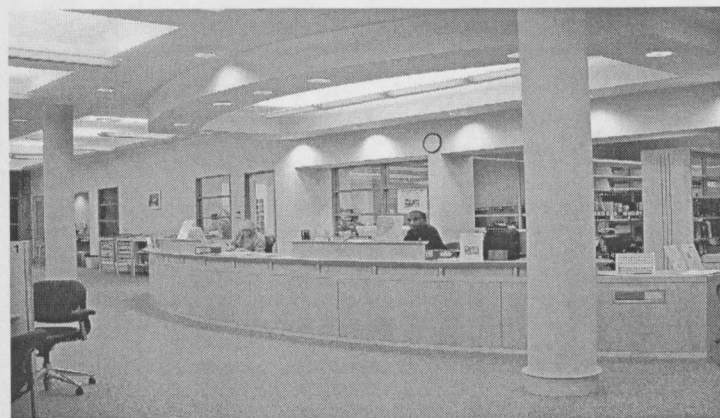
The refreshments were many, and very good. A drawing was held for members who joined or renewed for 2004. Members won several interesting prizes. The 2003 MALA Directory was distributed to members who attended.

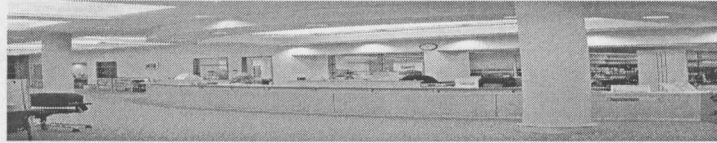
November 11, 2003 - MALA met at the Library/Instruction Support Center facility of The **Georgia Perimeter College Dunwoody** Campus. Instruction Librarian Peter Bursi coordinated the tour and organized the logistics of the meeting. The new building is two and one half floors. Care was taken in the design to allow for expansion. The library has the two full floors, and the instruction support center occupies the top one half floor. Library staff were involved in many design decisions for the new building. Our tour was punctuated with many comments describing the staff debate which resulted in a particular design decision. For example, the reference shelves are lower to enable an unobstructed view across the room to the large windows. In a word, the design is "open".

Commenting about the design of the building, Pete Bursi noted: "...about our design of the building, one thing that came up was a comfortable and spacious workroom. We were able to work with the architects in designing a space that met our needs in that area. On a related note, we arranged the offices near the service points. In other words, my office is near the library instruction lab since I am the Instruction Librarian. Also, we were able to test out different furniture choices, ... we asked for and received a very spacious, welcoming, and well-lit library."

During our visit, Dr. Stephen Koplan described the Dunwoody Campus Library's work in developing a library instruction program. The Library & Information Science Technology (LIST) program is designed to have two tracks - a degree track that will, when approved by the Board of Regents, lead to an Associate of Applied Science degree, and a Certificate in Library and Information Science track. The program will provide professional development opportunities for paraprofessionals currently working in libraries or information centers as well as opportunities for beginning study for those students interested in pursuing further degrees and in Library & Information Science. For more information about the LIST program, go to <http://www.gpc.edu/~dunlib/LIST/>, or contact Stephen Koplan at skoplan@gpc.edu.

Thanks to Pete, Stephen, Lora Mirza, Amy Moore, library director Dr. Joseph Barnes and everyone else that helped us with a very informative tour and meeting.





Circulation Desk at the Georgia Perimeter College Dunwoody Library

October 17 2003 - The Board of Trustees of Clark Atlanta University recommended the closing of the School of Library and Information Studies. A short AJC article on the decision: <http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/1003/17clark.html> .

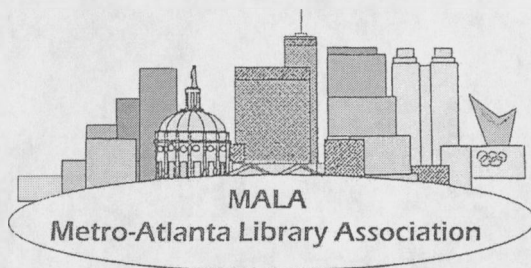
September 29, 2003 - MALA lent support to the **Clark Atlanta University School of Library Studies** by attending a meeting and rally of support. President Rick Wright took the podium to add his words of support for Clark Atlanta University's SLIS, and MALA's concern for a continued library school presence in the Atlanta area. Clark Atlanta SLIS also received visitors from 10 library schools in the southeastern US who came to show support. Drs. Wallace Koehler and George Gaumont, from Valdosta State University's School of Library and Information Science attended both the day meeting and the evening meeting/rally. The Clark Atlanta SLIS website is http://www.cau.edu/acad_prog/library_info_stu/lib_main.html .

July 17, 2003 - MALA had a lively meeting at the new **Georgia Archives**. Pamela Coleman took the group on a tour of our new state of the art facility. One point became very clear: the materials are well attended when in use and well cared for when in storage. Archives employees pull all materials for the patron and maintain strict control while the patron uses the records. While in storage, the records are kept in an optimum environment of 65 degrees Fahrenheit and 35% humidity. The new Archive opened its doors on May 6, 2003.

The Georgia Archive has a Lunch & Learn Lecture series. The GA Archives website is <http://www.georgiaarchives.org/> .

After the tour, our group went to the cafeteria/grill at Clayton State for refreshments and time to catch up with each other.

[Back to the MALA Homepage](#)



To: Carol Brey-Casiano

President, American Library Association

From: Metro Atlanta Library Association

January 14, 2005

Dear Ms. Brey-Casiano:

As ALA meets during Midwinter, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Metro Atlanta Library Association (MALA) for your efforts to keep MLS education alive and well in North Georgia. We appreciate your recent visit to Atlanta on behalf of library education.

People from every inhabited continent continue to arrive in the metro Atlanta area seeking the prize of our opportunity and lifestyle. These people have education and socializing needs that our library community is charged to serve. Educating librarians is a vital link in accomplishing this socializing integration.

And yet, metro Atlanta faces the loss of its only ALA accredited MLS program. The combined efforts of local, state, and national library associations haven't persuaded Clark Atlanta University to rethink the decision to end their MLS program. Yes, that's their business. Clark Atlanta University is a private institution. They are operating under significant pressure to reduce operating expenses. The MLS program was not the only program that Clark Atlanta University is ending to, as stated, cut costs. This note isn't intended to re-open that debate.

The officers of MALA thank you for your organization's time and energy in attempting to keep an MLS program alive and well in our geography. We applaud your recognition of the sad loss of a Clark Atlanta MLS program devoted to preserving African American and African-centric bibliographic instruction. Clark Atlanta's MLS program was a magnet for MLS students of color from the USA and many other countries. And, we want to express profound disappointment with the Clark Atlanta University board of trustees who would not meet with you last October. Most Atlantans have a better sense of hospitality.

MALA is confident that MLS education such as Clark Atlanta's will return to North Georgia. We trust that ALA will remain committed in partnership with us to bring the highest quality MLS education to North Georgia.

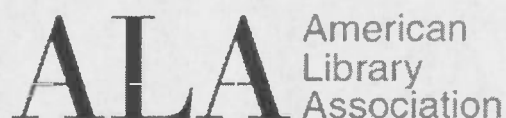
Best wishes to you in 2005,

● Tim Wojcik, president of the Metro Atlanta Library Association

cc: Walter D. Broadnax

Juanita P. Baranco

[MALA Homepage](#)



Contact: Larra Clark
Media Relations Manager
312-280-5043
lclark@ala.org

For Immediate Release
October 15, 2004

American Library Association statement regarding Clark Atlanta University board's refusal to hear appeal

(ATLANTA) The following statement has been issued by American Library Association (ALA) President Carol Brey-Casiano on the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) board of trustees' refusal to hear her appeal on behalf of CAU's School of Library and Information Studies.

"I am very disappointed the board of trustees did not respond to our request to be on its agenda to hear our case and discuss alternatives to closing the only accredited library studies program in the state of Georgia. As an academic accrediting body, the American Library Association's voice should at least be acknowledged when one of only 54 library programs in the country is threatened.

"Multiple letters from the ALA and other concerned library agencies have gone unanswered, and we still do not know why the state's only accredited library program is being cut. While the board justifies cutting the school to close a deficit, its library program receives a larger proportion of funding from non-university sources than most SLIS programs of its size and is not a financial drain on the university.

"At a time when library use is up nationwide and one in four librarians will reach retirement age before 2009, it is critical that we increase access to a library education, not reduce it. We must also increase the diversity of our profession. To be their best, our libraries and profession must reflect both the communities we serve and the larger global community. In recognition of this fact, more funding is being made available nationwide to support librarian recruitment - and particularly of minority candidates.

"Enrollment in CAU SLIS is up 29 percent, and the school has nearly 100 percent placement rates. There must be a way to ensure library education continues in Georgia, and we would like to meet and discuss these options. If the administration and board won't hear us, how can we be sure every avenue has

been exhausted? Librarians will not be silent."

Town Hall Meeting

With ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano

**Topic: Clark Atlanta University's Planned
Closing of the School of Library and Information
Studies**

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2004

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Robert W. Woodruff Library

111 James P. Brawley Dr

Atlanta, GA 30314

Virginia Lacy Jones Hall

Directions: <http://www.auctr.edu/main/directions.html>

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

For more information, contact Akilah
Nosakhere at akilah@auctr.edu, or
404-978-2057.

KEEP CAU SLIS OPEN!!!

This webpage placed upon the request of MALA member Dr. Ismail Abdullahi.

*ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano Urges Clark Atlanta University to
Keep School of Library and Information Studies Open*

September 9th, 2004 -- CHICAGO – The following statement has been issued by American Library Association (ALA) President Carol Brey-Casiano on the closing of Clark Atlanta University's School of Library and Information Studies.

"Clark Atlanta University (CAU) decided in October 2003 to close its School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the end of the 2004–2005 academic year. The CAU Board of Trustees says it must cut this and other programs if the university is to survive a \$7.5 million deficit. The ALA has voiced its concern to the chair of the CAU trustees and has pointed out that the CAU SLIS program receives a larger proportion of funding from non-university sources than most SLIS programs of its size.

"The CAU SLIS program has a long and illustrious history. The school opened with 25 students in 1941; its primary intent was to prepare African American librarians, but it has always encouraged and enrolled students from all nations and all ethnic backgrounds. Its first dean was Eliza Atkins Gleason, the first African American to earn a PhD in Library Science.

"About 100 students were enrolled in the CAU SLIS last year, a 29 percent increase over the previous year.

"The CAU SLIS program is the only one in Georgia that is accredited by the ALA and is one of only two such programs in historically black universities. To drop this program for financial reasons seems to make little budgetary sense, and it would be a false economy in other, more important ways as well.

The ALA, like Clark Atlanta, believes in the rich heritage that historically black universities bring to our country. The ALA is also committed to promoting diversity in the library profession and the free and informed flow of information to all segments of our society. The Association believes that it is essential that children and families have the benefit of working with African-American librarians, and the continuation of the Clark Atlanta SLIS would further that reality. African-American librarians graduating from this program also serve as role models both for those who are in their formative years and for colleagues in the profession.

"The trustees also seem overly concerned about the conditional accreditation the SLIS received in the last review, as carrying out the recommendations and requirements of the accreditation process should not represent an undue budgetary burden.

“CAU President Walter Broadnax told the Associated Press last year “what’s on the table is saving this university.” What is also “on the table” is maintaining the Clark Atlanta SLIS mission, which is “to continue its more than fifty year history of educating library and information professionals who are culturally diverse and able to serve successfully in libraries and information centers throughout the world.

“The Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies has contributed significantly to the development and improvement of African American school libraries in the South and to the enrichment and diversity of our national culture. The ALA feels that closure of this program would have a negative impact on future services to an increasingly diverse society. The Association strongly urges the Clark Atlanta trustees to keep the university’s SLIS open so that it can continue to serve our profession, our communities, and the world.”

Contact: Larra Clark, ALA Media Relations Manager , 312-280-5043, llark@ala.org

CAU Students and Alumni Rally

September 9, 2004 - Despite the lingering remnants of Hurricane Frances, students and alumni of the Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies rallied in support of their beleaguered school. Several supporters wore signs voicing support for the Library School. Fact sheet handouts were distributed to passers-by.



The handouts stressed several important points. One issue is the confusion about SLIS revenue. SLIS maintains that, taking all sources of revenue together, the Library School provides a net revenue contribution to the University. The other point is the prospect of continued external support for the SLIS, including possible participation in the Mellon-funded Oberlin Project and ongoing scholarship support from the Gates Foundation. Continued support from the Georgia State Legislature is also expected if the school remains open.

If the CAU board of trustees does not reconsider its decision to close the school, the last semester for the CAU SLIS will be Spring, 2005.

[MALA Homepage](#)

The Metro Atlanta Library Association (MALA) Statement at the Town Hall Meeting on the Future of Library Education in Georgia, held on July 27th, 2004

I stand before you today representing the Metro-Atlanta Library Association (MALA). We like to think of ourselves as "user friendly," "practical," and the local librarian's dream for networking. We see ourselves as partners in continued library education through facilitating our own instructional meetings and sponsoring the Clark Atlanta /MALA Scholarship fund.

Georgia has benefited from having a fully accredited library school located right in Atlanta's front yard. It is no exaggeration to say that without the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), our profession in the area would not be as strongly represented by native Georgians; native Georgians who grew up here and have a vested interest in the profession and the community.

It is with great passion that I speak in support for CAU to declare the need for a continued library school presence in our city. For years CAU has met the needs of the library profession and now we continue to voice our support for the School, its faculty and administration.

That said we equally support the efforts of Valdosta State University to develop its Library School and gain accreditation. We would like to see both institutions thrive and succeed in their academic goals. If the CAU SLIS is closed, we believe it in the best interest of the metro-Atlanta area for Valdosta State University to seek out a location closer than its current Macon campus for library school classes. This will help insure that our profession continues to have a strong locally based recruitment.

Thank you,

Dr. Rick L. Wright, President
Metro-Atlanta Library Association

[MALA Homepage](#)

Meeting Notes

The Future of Library Education in Georgia

Town Hall Meeting – July 27, 2004

Auburn Avenue Research Library of the Atlanta Fulton County Public Library

- Dr. Ismail Abdullahi welcomed attendees and announced speakers from the various participating organizations. Then, Dr. Abdullahi gave a detailed chronology of events surrounding the Clark Atlanta University's (CAU) board of trustees decision to phase out the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS). This chronology includes several attempts by library professionals to communicate with the CAU board of trustees.

On September 29, 2003, the CAU board of trustees refused to meet with several deans of library schools from the southeastern United States. The deans traveled to meet together in Atlanta specifically to meet with the board and voice support for the CAU SLIS. No one from the CAU board of trustees thought it fit to meet with them.

On July 15, 2004, American Library Association (ALA) councillor Kathleen Bethel traveled from Chicago to personally deliver a letter from ALA to the CAU board of trustees requesting a reconsideration of the SLIS phase out. Ms. Bethel and Dr. Abdullahi were unable to deliver the letter because the location of this board meeting was not made available to them.

Locally, the Metro Atlanta Library Association (MALA) wrote a letter to the CAU board of trustees urging them to reconsider the SLIS phase out. MALA received no reply acknowledgement of their letter.

- Dr. Wallace Koehler described efforts by the Valdosta State University (VSU) Master of Library & Information Science Program (MLIS) to link with CAU's SLIS for the common good of Georgia library education and the particular benefit of each school's library school program. These efforts by VSU to engage CAU in a collaborative effort brought no result. Dr. Koehler also described the process that VSU is following in their ALA accreditation effort for their three year old library school program.

- Dr. George Gaumond expressed a concern that quite a few librarians in Georgia will be retiring in the next several years. A stable library school environment in Georgia is essential to continue to backfill the vacancies. Dr. Gaumond reminded the audience that the Georgia Library Association (GLA) can provide some political leverage in support of library schools in Georgia.

- Dr. Rick Wright read a letter of support from the Metro Atlanta Library Association (MALA) for a continued library school presence in metro Atlanta. Dr. Wright noted MALA's support for CAU and its SLIS as well as VSU and its library school program. The MALA letter also suggested that VSU hold some classes in metro Atlanta rather than Macon, GA. The text of this letter is available at <http://www.matlib.org/MALA-StatementJuly272004.htm>.

- Allison Evatt noted the Special Library Association's (SLA) policy of not making statements of support. However, she spoke for herself in expressing support for library school education in Georgia.

After these introductory statements of position, Dr. Abdullahi gave a short review of library school education at CAU, noting Atlanta University and the Hampton Institute as the schools from which

CAU SLIS came. The floor was then opened to participants from the audience.

Members of the CAU SLIS faculty in attendance included: acting Dean Dr. Anita O'Neal, Dr. Fazle Kabir, and Dr. Ismail Abdullahi.

Members of the VSU MLIS faculty in attendance included: Director Dr. Wallace Koehler, Dr. George Gaumond and Dr. Elaine Yontz.

Dr. Fazle Kabir noted that CAU president Dr. Walter Broadnax gave verbal assurances that the CAU SLIS will be supported. Dr. Kabir spoke of the questionable methods used to determine the revenue vs. cost issue of the CAU SLIS. He indicated that Dr. Broadnax would "revisit" the issue of the SLIS closure. He urged alumni to organize – "make your voices heard".

Responding to questioning, Dr. Koehler described how VSU offered to collaborate with CAU including cross-listing courses, offering to "teach out" any CAU student who doesn't complete their MLS before the phase out, and offers to consider CAU SLIS professors to teach VSU classes. He noted that it is time to develop a formal proposal to "continue the legacy" of CAU SLIS in a partnership with VSU, whereby the CAU SLIS valuable history and resources would continue to benefit library education in Georgia.

Carolyn Garnes, ALA councillor, noted the resolution (ALA CD #35) passed by ALA in support of the CAU SLIS at the 2004 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Ms. Garnes also noted that a subsequent three page letter was drafted and delivered via mail to the CAU board of trustees. This is the letter that Kathleen Bethel was not enabled to present in person on July 15th.

Several CAU SLIS students in attendance expressed concern about the school's continued ability to administer to their needs. Currently, the CAU SLIS has only four persons serving as professors/instructors. The contract for the school's technology and library automation instructor wasn't renewed. The students described their efforts to lobby the president on an informal basis.

Dr. Abdullahi noted that ALA's intervention in favor of CAU SLIS is the first time that ALA has taken this action. He also noted that the \$500,000 that the state of Georgia gives to CAU for the SLIS blurs the line between private education and public funding. It was noted that this funding was reduced to \$475,000 in the 2004 budget.

A CAU SLIS student asked about accreditation. Dr. Koehler described in some detail where in that process the VSU library school program is. VSU's library school is currently in their third year of pre-candidate status toward ALA accreditation. Per the new ALA accreditation process, three years of pre-candidate status is followed by two years of candidate status. Then, the ALA review team comes to the school for a site visit and review, after which ALA decides on accreditation. Given this timetable, VSU's program is still over two years away from accreditation.

Dr. Koehler noted that a student who earns an MLS from VSU within one year of VSU's accreditation by ALA will have their degree considered fully ALA accredited. Students who earn a VSU MLS degree more than one year before VSU ALA accreditation will be eligible for a Georgia "Board of Regents Equivalency" which satisfies only in-state requirements. For this reason, many VSU library school students are delaying completion of their MLS until they know that their VSU degree will be accepted as ALA accredited outside of Georgia.

It was noted that CAU's accreditation with ALA ends in 2005.

It was noted that over 60 Georgia SLIS students now earn their degree through the benefit of a "common market" among library schools in the southeastern United States.

This arrangement entitles residents of the state of Georgia to pay in-state tuition for SLIS courses at any school within this common market.

Jane Robbins, dean of the Florida State University library school, reminded the audience that efforts to strengthen both CAU and VSU might result in delay or loss of accreditation for both. She urged that Georgians consider focusing on one program or the other, not both.

Lamar Veatch, state of Georgia librarian, offered to voice concerns to the Georgia Board of Regents.

Elaine Hughes, Georgia State University librarian and Atlanta University MLS graduate expressed disappointment that the CAU SLIS phase out was assumed. She urged CAU alumni to organize and not give up the fight. There was discussion of rallying support and establishing some strategies in the effort to save the CAU SLIS. In addition to primary stakeholders and the library community, the press and the Georgia legislature were mentioned as targets for a "save CAU SLIS" campaign.

The relationship between the Black Caucus of the Georgia state legislature and the \$475,000 in state funding to CAU for its SLIS was noted.

Dr. Abdullahi suggested that a motion be made to give the CAU board of trustees until October 2004 before holding further town meetings or other creative actions. It was the general sense by all the speakers that Georgia library professionals need to make some contingency plans given the likelihood that CAU will phase out the SLIS. Before a vote was taken, security personnel from the Auburn library advised participants that the library was closing for the day. The meeting then adjourned.

Dr. Ismail Abdullahi is a professor with the CAU SLIS. He is also an ALA councilor, and a member of MALA and SLA.

Dr. George Gaumond is the Valdosta State University librarian. He is also the president of GLA.

Dr. Wallace Koehler is the Valdosta State University associate director and associate professor with the Masters in Library and Information Science program.

Dr. Rick Wright is an Atlanta Fulton County Public Library instruction librarian. He is also the president of MALA.

Notes compiled by Tim Wojcik in collaboration with several attendees.

Related websites:

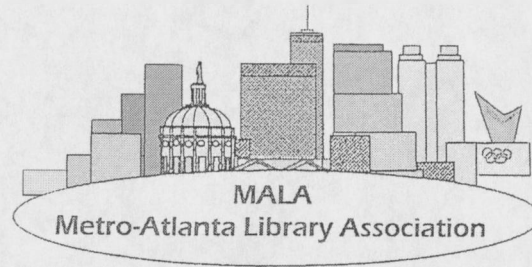
[Clark Atlanta University's School of Library and Information Studies](#)

[Valdosta State University's Master of Library and Information Science Program](#)

[American Library Association - Accreditation Status: Categories of Accreditation](#)

[Southern Regional Education Board \(SREB\) Academic Common Market](#)

[MALA Homepage](#)



April 22, 2004

The Board of Trustees of Clark Atlanta University

Via Ms. Juanita P. Baranco, Chair, Dr. Elridge W. McMillan, Vice-Chair, and Dr. Delores P. Aldridge, Secretary

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

The Metro Atlanta Library Association (MALA) wishes to add its voice of concern about the future of the School of Library and Information Studies. We join the American Library Association, the Coalition of Metro Atlanta Concerned Citizens, and others in asking for a reconsideration of the proposed closing of the Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies.

The Clark Atlanta University School of Library and Information Studies retains three unique qualities: that it is the only American Library Association accredited library school in Georgia, that it furthers a library studies curriculum focused on African American information resources, and that it provides Clark Atlanta University with the most diverse student and alumni body from among all the schools in the university.

Clark Atlanta's School of Library and Information Studies provides more librarians and information specialists with African American information resource credentials than any other library school in the country. Our library school graduates are found throughout the United States and beyond.

The state, national, and international library communities rely on Clark Atlanta's Library School to manage this responsibility. MALA urges the board of trustees to hasten towards a full review of the facts about the continued viability of the Library School. We believe that the facts argue for a commitment to renew the excellence of a proud and longstanding Atlanta tradition, library science education with a unique African American focus at Clark Atlanta University.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Rick L. Wright, president

Tim Wojcik, vice president, programming

Gayle Christian, vice president, membership

● Steven Vincent, treasurer

Louise White, historian

cc: Dr. Walter Broadnax, president, Clark Atlanta University

[MALA Homepage](#)

MALA Meeting 3/30/04 Minutes

Location: Ponce de Leon Branch, Atlanta Fulton Public Library

6:30pm

The meeting featured three speakers: Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, Dr. Stephen Koplán, and Charles Beard.

Dr. Ismail Abdullahi, professor with the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), provided an update on the potential closing of the Clark Atlanta University SLIS. Dr. Stephen Koplán, professor with Georgia Perimeter College - Dunwoody, reported on efforts by Georgia Perimeter - Dunwoody Campus, to set up a degree/certificate program (LIST) for library paraprofessionals. The main program was presented by Charles Beard, Head Librarian, State University of West Georgia on the subject *Continuing Education Requirements and The Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians*.

Dr. Abdullahi summarized issues behind the decision to close the Clark Atlanta University (CAU) School of Library and Information Studies in 2005 is as follows:

Dr. Walter Broadnax became President of CAU in 2002 after Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr. retired. For the past years, CAU was experiencing financial difficulties. After his arrival, Dr. Broadnax hired the Stillwater Consultant Group to analyze the university's financial problems and develop a strategy of financial recovery. The Stillwater recommended cost reduction strategies for financial recovery of CAU. Following the still water report, the university setup an implementation committee that did not include SLIS faculty. The implementation committee recommended the closure of five academic programs that includes SLIS. This recommendation of the closing of SLIS was presented to the University Academic Council on August 18, 2003 and the council rejected the recommendation by fifteen members voting no, one in favor and one abstention .

Despite the rejection of the recommendation to close SLIS by the University Academic Council, President Broadnax presented the recommendation of the implementation Committee to the Board of Trustees on October 17, 2003 as a package to phase out the five programs. Recently, SLIS faculty and Alumni has challenged the financial data presented by the implementation Committee to the Board of Trustees did not include the state grant/contract of 475,000 for 2003.

Valdosta State University offered alternative cooperative solutions including absorbing some expenses and adding CAU tenured faculty to their SLIS program. However, CAU administration refused the offers and would not meet with representatives from Valdosta State University (VSU). One concern of CAU involves loss of the state monies. The CAU SLIS people developed a report giving the complete figures and it was sent to the Trustees with an appeal to reconsider the decision. It is expected that the appeal will be considered when the CAU board of trustees next meets to consider the SLIS. [NOTE: This board of trustees meeting has since been postponed until mid-July].

CAU SLIS needs much support from the librarian and academic communities: MALA, GLA, SLA, etc. If the Trustees don't approve the appeal, CAU SLIS will be phased out of existence. If that should occur, Valdosta will need support to convince legislators to transfer funds and additional support to the VSU SLIS.

Efforts to support CAU SLIS would include a meeting cosponsored by groups such as library management, alums, MALA, and GLA to meet at CAU to plan and provide feedback to the Trustees. Further ways to show support for CAU SLIS in its upcoming appeal including a physical show of support for a professional library education presence in Atlanta. We will get a list of the Board members to communicate our concern to them as soon as possible, and then look to hold a meeting. (Note: This letter was sent on 4/22/04. See

<http://www.matlib.org/lettercaustrustees.htm>.)

MOTION: Tim Wojcik moved and Steven Vincent seconded: MALA supports the continuation of ALA approved library science education in the metro Atlanta area.

The motion carried.

Dr. Stephen M. Koplan, Curriculum Director of the proposed Library & Science Technology (LIST) program for Georgia Perimeter College, gave a brief overview of its content and expectations along with a status report of its approval by the Board of Regents. The LIST program will be a two-year course of study for library paraprofessionals (support staff) that will consist of two tracks: A degree track leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree (which requires participants to take courses in the general college curriculum in addition to specialized library-specific courses) and a certificate track. The latter is designed for those already working in libraries who have the equivalent of an associate's degree or higher; participants would only need to take library-specific courses. An internship is required of both tracks.

Similar programs are in place throughout the country (45 in all) with the majority located in California. Because of Georgia's large size, distance-learning coursework is expected to be implemented at some point. Pending Board of Regents' approval, the first classes should begin in the spring of 2005.

Charles Beard from West Georgia State University was the featured speaker for the main program on the topic of: *Continuing Education Requirements and The Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians*. He has been serving on the State Board since 1991.

[NOTE: The following 2 paragraphs are from the Board website: <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/librarians/>

The Board was set up for the purpose of ensuring that librarians who work for any public library serving a population of 5,000 or more and every library operated by the state or its authority shall have certain minimum education qualifications. In order to carry out this charge, the Board has the authority to adopt rules which establish standards for licensure. The act also provides for public funds to be withheld from any library which fails to comply with the registration requirements of this act. There are approximately 961 current licensees.

The Board is comprised of six members, five of whom are appointed by the Governor, and serve for terms of five years. Of the appointed members, three are certified librarians, one is a trustee of a public library, and one is a member from the public at large. The sixth member is the director of public library services of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Board meets four times per year.

The Librarian Certification levels (from <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/librarians/licensure.htm>) are:

grade 2-undergrad plus 12 semester hrs. in a planned program of Library science

grade 5b - masters from ALA accredited library schools;

grade 5d - foreign credentials equivalent to an ALA accredited program; A service is hired to evaluate foreign degrees

grade 6 - 6yr degree in Library Science

grade 7 - Doctorate in Library Science

This State of Georgia re-certification program meets the concern of training library workers for the future with the continuing education requirement for re-certification. Librarians must report having completed 10 hours of acceptable continuing education during the previous 2 years as a condition for license renewal. This training may be offered by professional associations, a course or program at a college or school, government agency training programs, or employer staff training if verified by management.

Entities which can be used for training include: professional associations, educational institutions, bibliographic utilities (e.g. SOLINET), or board- approved programs. Any programs or courses should relate to library issues.

Re-certification by the State of Georgia is \$100, renewable every two years. The Re-certification notice is sent in April and renewal paperwork and payment from the librarian are due back to the Board by June 30th.

The librarian must maintain records for 4 years to keep track of the training in case of an audit.

The GLA website has the links, copy of form for C.E. credit, and details on the certification at: <http://www.library.gsu.edu/gla/certification.htm>.

The statement of "Continuing Education Requirements" may also be viewed at: http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/librarians/cont_ed.pdf

Mr. Beard emphasized that continuing education credits were available from a variety of sources. It is imperative that the librarian make the distinction between attending a passive program, which does not earn continuing education credit, and a program of instruction which does qualify for credit. Charles assured MALA that, as long as it provided instruction, its programming could qualify for state of Georgia re-accreditation credit.

Other Business:

An interim MALA website has been set up and is being actively updated for some months now. Since the website is on a personal webpage (Tim Wojcik's Bellsouth.net page), work will begin to obtain an independent website address. Tim Wojcik will price the cost of hosting the permanent MALA website.

Removal of the very old GeoCities MALA website is being pursued.

(Note: As of 5/30/04, the new MALA website is <http://www.matllib.org>, served by iPowerWeb.)

Treasurer's Report

Reminder that the next MALA meeting will be instructional and will qualify for State of Georgia librarian re-certification credit hours.

The refreshments were marvelous.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm.