

**BCALA News Release  
For Immediate Release  
February 14, 2010**

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### **BCALA Smiley Student Award announced**

The Award provides an expense paid trip to the 7th National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) for an applicant determined to reflect the goals and ideas of ancestors who support higher education and training for students. Dedication to the enhancement of minority participation in the field of Library Science will be facilitated by student participation in this award program. Two (2) students will be reimbursed expenses to attend the 7th NCAAL in Birmingham, Alabama from August 4-8, 2010 (see [www.bcala.org](http://www.bcala.org)). The committee consists of Gladys Smiley Bell, chair, Dorothy Burnett, Ph.D. and Karma Ga-Raines.

During the midwinter meeting in Washington, DC in 2001, Past BCALA President Gladys Smiley Bell proposed to the executive board to establish The Smiley Student Award in honor of her parents, Ghainous W. Jr. and Margaret E. Smiley. Both parents were educator's who mentored their children and their children's friends on the importance of getting an education at every chance. For a long time Gladys wanted to support Library Science students of Color to attend professional library conferences. When she was a library student, while she belonged to ALA, she didn't know about BCALA. BCALA has established itself with its national conferences. Gladys has stipulated that the award provide support up to \$1,000 per NCAAL and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC).

This opportunity will challenge each of us to encourage and be more aware of student members of BCALA. Each nominee must be a student member of BCALA and enrolled in an ALA accredited graduate Library School graduate program. The successful applicant must agree to submit the following to the Chair of the Smiley Student Fund:

- A letter of no more than 1,000 words describing his or her career goals in Library Science, the impact that the award and subsequent BCALA conference attendance will have on those career goals. Letters of recommendation will be accepted (not required) from BCALA members or Library School Faculty;
- Register for NCAAL and submit a copy of the registration confirmation letter;
- No later than 3 weeks after the closing of the 7th NCAAL, submit a written summary (no more than 1,500 words) of their personal experience at the conference for publication in the BCALA newsletter issue following the conference.

Deadline: All application materials must be received (or postmarked) by Friday, April 30, 2010. Recipient(s) of the award will be informed within four weeks of the deadline, in order to begin making travel arrangements. Evaluation will consider student's potential for positive contributions to their career field of Library Science and NCAAL impact. Application materials may be submitted electronically (preferred and as a MS Word attachment) to Gladys Smiley Bell at [gbell@kent.edu](mailto:gbell@kent.edu) or via mail Gladys Smiley Bell, Chair BCALA, Smiley Student Award, P.O. Box 254, Hampton, VA 23669.