



Freedom to Read Foundation

FREE PEOPLE READ FREELY®



GORDON M. CONABLE CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Advancing Intellectual Freedom Through Mentorship and Opportunity

How can we ensure that new librarians make a solid start in the field? Each year, the Freedom to Read Foundation awards up to two Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarships to help library science students or librarians new to the profession attend the Freedom to Read Foundation annual meeting and the ALA Annual Conference.

Each scholarship includes conference registration, transportation, housing, and a stipend for meals and other expenses, providing recipients with access to intellectual freedom meetings and events, professional development opportunities, and mentorship.

Past Conable Scholars, Today's Leaders

The Conable Scholarship makes a difference for both individual librarians and the profession as a whole, as demonstrated by past scholarship recipients' choice of vocation and the value of their work in support of libraries and intellectual freedom. Almost two dozen students and librarians have benefited from the scholarship, including:



Katie Chamberlain Kritikos

Shortly after her time as a Conable Scholar, Katie was elected as a FTRF board trustee. She now teaches Library and Information Science graduate courses at the University of Illinois iSchool and was appointed to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Assembly of the American Library Association for the 2022–2024 term. She has served as a guest editor for the *Journal of Information Ethics*, overseeing special issues on social justice and the right to be forgotten.



Amanda Sand

When Amanda applied for a Conable Scholarship, she was grappling with a literal book burning in her town. Amanda has been on nearly every ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table committee, chaired several, and served as IFRT Chair. She has been Iowa's ALA Chapter Councilor, a member of the Iowa Library Association Executive Board, and Chair of the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee, providing direct support to library professionals facing censorship. She has also chaired the ILA Governmental Affairs Committee, mobilizing members for legislative advocacy, and serves on an FTRF committee.



Pamela Verfaillie

A 2023 Conable Scholar, Pamela is the library associate at Valdez High School in Valdez, Alaska. She is past-president of the Alaska Association of School Librarians and recently earned her MLIS online through the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Since attending the ALA Annual Conference, Pam has been very involved with intellectual freedom in Alaska and has stayed connected with colleagues at FTRF and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, alerting both to challenges taking place throughout her state.

Who was Gordon M. Conable?

Gordon Conable was a California librarian and intellectual freedom champion who served several terms as president of the Freedom to Read Foundation. His unexpected death in 2005 inspired his wife and the FTRF board to create the Conable Fund, which provides funding for the Conable Scholarship.

Gordon served as director of the Monroe County (Michigan) Library System from 1988 to 1998. During his tenure, he withstood an intense controversy over Madonna's book *Sex*. Prior to Monroe County, Gordon was associate director of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library in Washington. For his defense of intellectual freedom, Conable was a recipient of the Freedom to Read Foundation Roll of Honor Award and the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award. He was the first librarian recognized as Michigan's Public Administrator of the Year (1994).

Help Us Expand the Conable Fund

The Conable Fund is almost depleted. New donations to the fund would not only continue the scholarship, but also help FTRF expand its impact. Last year, FTRF had 70 applicants for the scholarship — imagine the benefits of bringing even more students and early-career librarians to conference for mentorship and professional development. **With your help, we can grow intellectual freedom leadership in the profession.**

In this time of heightened challenges, we need support to defend intellectual freedom in libraries. Scan the code or visit bit.ly/ConableDonate to support mentorship and opportunity for librarians.



DONATE TODAY

Donations made to the Freedom to Read Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 organization, are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult a tax attorney for more information. You can also donate with a check payable to Freedom to Read Foundation. Please put "Conable Fund" in the memo section of your check and mail to Freedom to Read Foundation, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300 Chicago, IL 60601. For inquiries about other ways to donate, please call (312) 280-4221 or email to ftrf@ftrf.org.

The Freedom to Read Foundation is a non-profit legal and educational organization. FTRF protects and defends the First Amendment to the Constitution and supports the right of libraries to collect — and individuals to access — information.

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