

ABOUT

AWARDS

MOUG DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2016 MOUG Distinguished Service Award

Neil Hughes

PRESS RELEASE

MOUG ANNOUNCES 2016 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

The Executive Board of the Music OCLC Users Group (MOUG) is honored to name Neil Hughes (University of Georgia) as the thirteenth recipient of MOUG's Distinguished Service Award. This award was established to recognize and honor those who have made significant professional contributions to music users of OCLC. The MOUG Executive Board selects recipients based on nominations received from the membership. The award was presented to Neil at the MOUG Business Meeting in Cincinnati, March 2, 2016.

Neil's contributions to MOUG are both extensive and varied. To begin with, Neil has served on the MOUG Board on two different occasions, once as Continuing Education Coordinator, and then as Chair. If one surveys Neil's accomplishments as Chair, it will be readily apparent that MOUG finds itself in such strong standing in large part to efforts Neil championed and drove during that time. During his first year as Chair in 2006, Neil appointed a task force to investigate MOUG's potential for becoming a tax-exempt, charitable, educational organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code. In 2012, 501 (c)(3) status was finally granted, thanks to the long-term efforts of Neil and others. That same year, Neil proposed that MOUG separate the annual meeting budgets from the operating budgets to "help MOUG members, putting the organization on a more secure long-term financial footing by using a planning tool that will give us a clearer picture of where all of our money is going, and why" (MOUG Newsletter, December 2006), which the Board approved that summer. Everyone in MOUG, especially all subsequent Treasurers, can attest to the fact that this has been spectacularly successful in helping secure the consistently solid financial footing we find ourselves in year after year. In tandem with this, under Neil's leadership the Board sought to increase the term of the Treasurer from two to three years, leading to the eventual passage of the bylaws amendment to create the current Treasurer-Elect/Treasurer/Past-Treasurer position, which took place during

Neil's second term as Chair. These actions, which display Neil's financial wisdom, inspired us to appoint him to serve as the Chair of MOUG's recent Financial Planning Work Group, charged to examine MOUG's current financial standing and future prospects. The group's incredibly polished and thoughtful 2014 report has provided a solid blueprint for MOUG's future financial success. The current First 100K Capital Campaign represents a notable outgrowth of the FPWG's efforts.

In addition to Neil's storied service to MOUG in official capacities, he has had extensive and pivotal contributions to both music cataloging and the larger profession. Any subscriber to MOUG-L, as well as MLA-L, will be quite familiar with Neil's prodigious output. Readers of those lists will also attest to the incredible thoroughness and care that goes into each and every post Neil sends out. Neil also excels at calling everyone's attention to trends and developments in the profession that he feels require closer examination, such as changes to discovery services, cataloging codes, and other matters that surround the environment in which we perform our work. Neil has been a long-standing participant of the NMP funnel, and has served on the MLA Board, several MLA-CMC subcommittees, and also as Chair of MLA's Southeast Chapter (SEMLA).

And finally, something that permeates Neil's interactions with others in the profession, whether through official or informal channels, is his incredible eloquence, sharp intellect, and of course, his cultivated, witty sense of humor. We can all recall laughing out loud while reading a list post or personal correspondence penned by Neil. This wit and intelligence has facilitated Neil's ability to lead and effect change. Neil also radiates incredible charm, warmth, and graciousness, being very quick to render thanks and give credit where credit is due. And since we are all music librarians, this letter would not be complete without highlighting the fact that Neil is also an accomplished violist. In fact, Neil had a career as an orchestral musician before becoming a music librarian.