



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

Volume 69, No. 3

Fall 2005

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

SENT TO THE MLA LISTSERVE:

Due to the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina for many Mississippi libraries, the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association has made the difficult decision to cancel our annual conference, which had been scheduled for next month in Vicksburg. We sincerely hope to reschedule the Conference for a later date, but cannot begin to think about possible dates while so many of our fellow librarians and staff have lost homes, and possibly their employment.

Much hard work had gone into this conference and we were looking forward to a delightful visit in Vicksburg. We appreciate the efforts of the conference committees and all those who worked to plan programs and events.

Quoting Catherine Nathan, Vice-President/President-elect, "The theme I chose for this year's convention was 'Libraries Build Community.' Once our conference is re-scheduled – at some point in the future – perhaps we should change that to read "Libraries Help Re-Build Community." These words hold so much truth. It will be our responsibility to help each other as we rebuild our libraries, our communities and our lives."

We will be establishing a library disaster relief fund and have already received many offers of assistance from across the country. More information will be available in the coming days and weeks. Unfortunately, there is still too much uncertainty and we are not yet at a point where we can begin to plan the recovery process.

We will let you know if and when our MLA conference is rescheduled and sincerely hope that you will be able to attend.

We will grieve for our losses, but we must use this opportunity to grow and to work together to rebuild our libraries and

communities throughout our state.



Susan Cassagne

RESPONSES FROM OTHER STATES:

We have been receiving reports in our media about the devastation throughout Mississippi and Louisiana. I wish I could do something for all of you, but I guess it is the tyranny of distance at work again. But, rest assured you are in my thoughts and prayers. I sincerely hope your community is able to recover from what must be an absolute nightmare. *Regards, Leonie Edwards, Systems Administrator, SWAP Library Network, Walkerville Library, Gilberton, Australia.*

Susan, I received a forwarded message from you about the Mississippi Library Assn conference cancellation. I am in Kansas at an academic library. We periodically get extra children's books as gifts because we are the home of the William Allen White Children's Book Award in the state. I was wondering if there is any kind of movement towards collecting books for the libraries that have been devastated by the hurricane. I know that it is really early and people are thinking of homes and basic stuff and not libraries, but I would be interested if anything like this is started. I wasn't sure if the MLA would spearhead anything like this or not. *Terri Summey, Head of Distance and Access Services, Emporia State University Libraries and Archives, Emporia, KS.*

The employees of the Charleston County Public Library system and the Friends of the Library would like to find a library system in Mississippi we can "adopt" and help with their recovery efforts. Obviously, we don't want to send items that aren't needed or would be in the way, so we want to coordinate with someone in the area to ensure we are helping, not hindering. We'd like your guidance to help identify a library system

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A Quarterly Publication of the
Mississippi Library Association
©2005

ISSN 0194-388X

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This month's cover is *Two Small, Red Pears* by Charlie Buckley. Graduating from The University of Mississippi with honors, Buckley received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in painting in May 2004. Buckley was also a Taylor Medal recipient. His work has been featured in group shows and competitions around the state and region, and his solo exhibitions include "Paradigm Shift" and "On Being Married." Buckley can be reached at jcbuckle01@hotmail.com.

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

Mississippi Libraries is a publication of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). The articles, reports, and features herein represent the viewpoints of their respective authors and are not necessarily the official opinions of the Association.

Subscription Rates: \$16.00 per year (\$4.00 per issue); \$24.00 per year outside of the U.S.; free to MLA members. Back issues are available from University Microfilms International.

Advertising Rates: Rates are available upon request from the Advertising Editor.

Advertising Deadlines: Spring: February 10; Summer: May 10; Fall: August 10; Winter: November 10

Submissions: Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic format in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format. Documents can be sent as an attachment via e-mail or on a CD-ROM or a 3 1/4 inch disk via surface mail.

Deadlines for submission: Spring: February 2; Summer: May 2; Fall: August 2; Winter: November 2.

In order to assure the widest possible audience for the work published in *Mississippi Libraries*, that work is added in electronic form to the Mississippi Library Association Web site and, by contractual agreement, to one or more EBSCO Publishing databases. *Mississippi Libraries* is also indexed in *Library Literature and Information Sciences Abstracts*.

Dues must be paid by March 1 in order to receive the Spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

Update on Katrina and the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference

Normally in this issue we would feature information on the Mississippi Library Association's annual conference; unfortunately, this year is different.

The annual MLA conference, scheduled for October 2005, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Below is a note from Catherine Nathan, Vice President President-elect of the Mississippi Library Association.

Dear MLA Members:

The theme I chose for this year's convention was "Libraries Build Community." Once our conference is re-scheduled – and it will be re-scheduled for some point in the future – perhaps we should change that theme to read: "Libraries Help Re-Build Community."

The devastation in the state of Mississippi has been vast and quite overwhelming. No fewer than twelve of our libraries on the coast have been damaged beyond use or have been wiped off the face of the earth due to hurricane Katrina.

We will all look to the future with hope and resolve. Our convention will return – and we will let you know as soon as possible about those details.

Catherine Nathan
Vice-President/President-elect
Mississippi Library Association
in charge of the Vicksburg Convention

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

(continued from page 57)

in Mississippi that has employees displaced and has community needs. The idea is to collect money that can be sent directly to aid library staff members. Since we don't know the individual needs, we would rely on that library system having a mechanism to locate employees, identify their needs and get them the money. Our Friends of the Library also has boxed books that have been prepared for our upcoming book sale. The books are already in "Pods" that can be transported. The boxes of books can be sent to shelters to provide displaced residents with some means of escape and recreation. But, before sending anything, we'd need a contact and location to make sure they are going to locations where this type of item is needed. Obviously, the key is to find ways to help you without adding to the burden you already have. If you don't think these

ideas will work and have other needs, let us know that, too. Charleston residents understand the devastation of a hurricane and the multitude of needs that occur as you move from the immediate disaster through recovery and rebuilding. We absolutely don't want to add more to the burden that Mississippi is already facing. You've got a lot of people on your side ... just let us know how we can help. *Jamie Thomas, Public Relations Manager, Charleston County Public Library, SC.*

I am a librarian here in Edinburg, Virginia. However back in the early 80's my husband and I lived in Natchez and I worked in your library for two years. I have wonderful memories of the library and of the area. It breaks my husband's and my heart when we see scenes of places we visited and enjoyed in such trouble. Is there anything I or our library can do for the readers in Mississippi and Louisiana? *Yours truly, Linda C. Wooten, Programs and Activities Director, Shenandoah County Library, Edinburg, VA.*

Karen Ronald, Director, Trumbull Library in CT called, wanting to adopt a library in Mississippi. She said they are a community of 34,000 and would like to adopt a community of about the same size.

Susan, I read your message about canceling your annual conference which I know is grievous for you, among the continual grief that you all feel. Our library staff (Johnson County Library) is considering the idea of adopting a library and focusing our efforts on one project. We want to establish relationships and hope to make a difference. We are one of the major public libraries in the Kansas City metropolitan area. I plan to propose this project to my fellow metro KC directors to see if they would also be interested in a focused project. In conversations I had yesterday, our staff thought we should focus on Mississippi which has been somewhat slighted in the news coverage. Please place my name on whatever list you are compiling and let me know when

and if there is some sort of library recovery effort of which we can be part. *Mona Carmack, County Librarian, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, KS.*

Have been notified that the 2005 conference has been cancelled. Please take our registration fee as a donation to the Katrina relief fund for Mississippi libraries. I have already e-mailed Sharman regarding donation of Blackstone titles when the libraries are rebuilt and begin to reopen, as well as any other assistance we may render. My husband, Joe Forsee, has already made arrangements to donate books from his regional library (Northwest Georgia Regional Library System). Please let me know should there be anything else we can do to help the Mississippi libraries at this time. *Sincerely, Carmen Forsee, Blackstone Audio, Inc. Southern States Library Sales Manager.*

These are but a few of the many messages I have received. I have responded to them all and expressed my appreciation to each one. The outpouring of offers to help, good wishes and prayers has been wonderful.

THE MESSAGE I SENT TO AMERICAN LIBRARIES:

The Mississippi Library Commission, in conjunction with the Mississippi Library Association and Friends of Mississippi Libraries, will be establishing a Mississippi Libraries' Disaster Relief Fund. Details will be posted on the MLC web site at <http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us> and on the MLA web site at <http://www.misslib.org>.

Thank you to all who have emailed or called during this national crisis. The devastation throughout the State of Mississippi is so severe that evaluation of our needs will be a lengthy process. Again, thank you all for your care and concern.

We can be thankful, that in this devastating tragedy, our fellow librarians are offering to help *Libraries Re-Build Community.*

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on the inside back cover.



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Libraries and Literacy in Mississippi

Elizabeth Stephan

Assistant Editor, *Mississippi Libraries*

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The University of Mississippi

This issue was put together before Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf coast on August 29, 2005. Because of loss of power in Hattiesburg, the Fall issue of *Mississippi Libraries* was printed and mailed late. As noted, MLA's annual conference scheduled for October has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

As Catherine Nathan reported, no fewer than twelve libraries have been damaged beyond use or have been wiped from existence. We're a strong community, and our libraries will be rebuilt. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by Katrina.

As I prepared for this issue of *Mississippi Libraries* I kept thinking about Barack Obama's speech at ALA's annual conference in Chicago. Obama touched on a lot of issues, including literacy and its place in our "knowledge economy," and libraries' role in ensuring we have a literate population. "...[L]iteracy is the most basic currency of the knowledge economy that we're living in today," Obama said. Reading is a "gateway skill" – it is the skill that makes all learning possible.

The senator is correct. In order to get a job, sign a lease, or buy a house, one needs to be able to read. If one wants to read to their children, read a recipe, or send an email, one needs to be able to read. We are educators. Regardless of what type of library we work in, one thing we have to do is to make sure our users have the tools they need to become part of the knowledge economy. It is no secret that literacy in Mississippi is a serious issue. As mentioned in Greg Johnson's article in this month's issue, one in three Mississippians "can read a little but not enough." As librarians we're working to turn these numbers around and in this

issue of *Mississippi Libraries* we wanted to look at what some of our libraries are doing to combat illiteracy in both children and adults.

In his article, *Cleveland Depot Library – A Mississippi Success Story*, Greg Johnson describes how the Cleveland Depot Library, the home of the Bolivar County Literacy Council, is the only library in the Mississippi devoted solely to literacy and continuing education. The Library offers literacy programs to all age levels from children to the elderly. In addition to literacy programs, the Library offers adult education, including preparation for the GED, English as a Second Language classes, and computer literacy programs. Over the years the Bolivar County Literacy Council has found unique ways to promote literacy awareness, including an Archie comic book and by holding community events in the library.

Also in the Bolivar County is Delta State University. When most people think of literacy programs they think of public libraries, but in her article, *Bookworms Born at Delta State University Library*, Frieda Quon describes a literacy program developed and held on the DSU campus. The Instructional Resources Center at Delta State paired with the DSU education department to developed Born to Read, a literacy program for babies and toddlers up to the age of three. The program has been a hit with parents and caregivers.

Literacy education for preschoolers is an area other libraries are moving towards. In her article, *Project CHILD Partners with Day Care Centers in Columbus*, Laura Simpson describes how the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library used a grant received through the Center for the Book to deliver books to local day care centers. By delivering books based on each day care center's current theme, the library is able to offer books and reading to supplement the day care center's planned programs. The Columbus-Lowndes Library has long been active in pre-school literacy by offering their Wee Baby Storytime, but Project

CHILD allows them to reach children whose parents aren't able to bring them to the library during the daytime.

Children's books are not just for children. In her article *Tunica Motherread/Fatheread: A True Partnership for Literacy in Tunica County*, Victoria Penny discusses a program where parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and teachers read a children's book while a facilitator from the Tunica County Literacy Council encourages the adults to discuss the book. In another part of the library their children are being introduced to the same books. By introducing adults to children's books and encouraging them to read and discuss the books, the Tunica Literacy Council and the Robert C. Irwin Library try to make reading fun for both the children and the adults.

These articles tie into something else Senator Obama said during his speech: "Libraries have a special role to play in our knowledge economy. Your institutions have been and should be a place where parents and children come to read together and learn together." I couldn't have said it better myself.

WINTER ISSUE

The theme for the Winter issue is library accessibility. Have you or your library done anything to promote the accessibility of your library to those with disabilities? Any suggestions on how other libraries can do the same? Please submit any articles or article ideas to Elizabeth Stephan at estephan@olemiss.edu.

We are planning the themes for next year's issues of *Mississippi Libraries*. We are currently discussing ideas involving school libraries, technology issues and others. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Elizabeth Stephan at estephan@olemiss.edu.

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Cleveland Depot Library – A Mississippi Success Story

Greg Johnson

Blues Curator

Archives and Special Collections

J. D. Williams Library

The University of Mississippi

ABSTRACT

Since 1986 the Bolivar County Literacy Council (BCLC) has worked to alleviate the low literacy rates in Bolivar County. Four years later a literacy coordinator was hired and in 1994, the BCLC moved into the refurbished Cleveland Train Depot as part of the Cleveland Depot Library. Working as the only library in Mississippi solely devoted to literacy and within ten years, through a series of innovative strategies, the Bolivar County Literacy Council had become Mississippi's largest literacy program within a single county. Today, the Council resides in an almost 6,000 square foot building, complete with three computer learning laboratories and three instructional classrooms.

"Mississippi: Literate at Last" proclaims the title of a 1990 article in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Fifteen years later, the state which fostered writers such as Richard Wright, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, and John Grisham still struggles to bring all its citizens up to functionally literate levels. Although reliable statistics on adult literacy haven't been measured in the state since the 1990s, the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) indicates that somewhere around 30% of Mississippians function at Level 1 literacy levels (Tyre, 30). According to the National Institute for Literacy, this level designation means that one in three Mississippians "can read a little but not well enough to fill out an application, read a food label, or read a simple story to a child" (<http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/faqs.html>). In today's economy, where manufacturing jobs erode and service positions requiring computer skills are more in demand, a functionally literate population is essential.

Despite being the home to Delta State University, Bolivar County, located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, has one of the lowest adult literacy rates in the state. The 1996 Portland State University "Synthetic Estimates of Literacy" report shows that 41% of people over the age of sixteen in Bolivar County are at a Level 1 literacy level. In addition, 79% of county residents in this age bracket function below a Level 2 literacy rating (Level 5 is the strongest level of literacy). Rather than bemoan this fact, Bolivar is one Mississippi county that is tackling its literacy problems head on. The Bolivar County Literacy Council (BCLC) was founded in 1986 to address the low literacy rates in Bolivar County. At this time, with the exception of a single librarian, all work was conducted by volunteers. Four years later, a literacy coordinator was hired, but the bulk of the work still relied on a volunteer force. The BCLC found a permanent home in 1994, when the City of Cleveland, Mississippi, and the Bolivar County Library System converted the historic Cleveland Train Depot into the Cleveland Depot Library, the only library in Mississippi solely dedicated to improving reading, writing, and other skills necessary for functional literacy in a modern society. Within ten years, through a series of innovative strategies, the Bolivar County Literacy Council had become Mississippi's largest literacy program within a single county. Today, the Council resides in an almost 6,000 square foot building, complete with three computer learning laboratories and three instructional classrooms.



Cleveland Depot Library. Photo by Audrey Pearson.

According to Bolivar County Library System director and Literacy Council Chairman Ronnie Wise, the Literacy Council could only effectively reach about 100 people per year when the program first began. Today, that number has increased to almost 2,500. This is largely due to a series of grants from the Delta Regional Authority and other agencies allowing for the physical expansion of the Cleveland Depot Library, growth of literacy materials, and hiring of excellent staff. There are now 23 staff members at the Depot Library. Positions include an office manager/secretary, a K-12 Services Program Coordinator, an Adult Services Coordinator, four classroom instructors, fifteen after-school tutors, and an overall Literacy Council Coordinator.

Taking a holistic view of literacy, the Bolivar County Literacy Council offers a wide variety of programs geared toward all age levels, from children to senior adults. Literacy programs are designed not only to enhance reading and writing proficiencies, but to make citizens functionally literate in a computer/information-based society.

Preventing adult illiteracy is one of the best methods toward ultimately ending this societal problem. To this end, the Literacy Council has taken great strides to help ensure that people born in Bolivar County will have reading materials from day one. In fact, the BCLC even encourages expectant mothers to read to their babies during the third trimester. Bolivar Medical Center staff now present young mothers with literacy packets aimed to support regular reading to young children. The Council's "Read to Succeed" program places volunteers in Cleveland's Head Start program, where they read to the children. This program also donates books twice a year to Head Start programs in Mound Bayou, Rosedale, Shaw, and other towns within Bolivar County. Encouraging a zest for reading and education at an early age is the ultimate goal of these children's literacy programs.

An after-school tutoring program gives school children valuable assistance with their homework as a corollary to the education they receive in school. There is now one tutor for every four students in this program, allowing for much individualized attention. BCLC staff and volunteers receive many comments from parents on how well their children now function in school as a result of this more in-depth tutoring.

In addition to teaching native English speakers how to read and write, the Bolivar County Literacy Council offers ELL (English for Language Learners) courses to young students whose primary language is not English and ESL (English as a Second Language) courses for adults wanting to learn English. Contrary to common assumption, those enrolled in these courses aren't all native speakers of Spanish, though this is the dominant language group. The last ESL class offered by the Literacy Council had no native Spanish speakers; there were four students from China/Hong Kong, two from Turkey, and one student from Israel. These ELL/ESL courses help these students to more fully participate in English-speaking classrooms or in American life in general.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Computer literacy courses play a big role in the Bolivar County Literacy Council's mission. Various computer training courses are taught to children, adults, and senior adults. These courses teach a variety of computer or technology-based skills, such as operating standard office productivity software, learning to type, navigating the Internet, utilizing e-mail, and scanning documents. Courses also show parents how to instruct their children in the use of computers, in order to benefit their schoolwork.

The Council's senior adult computer classes have been highly successful, and are serving as an archetype for similar programs throughout the southeastern United States. Many adults who enroll in these programs have a strong desire to learn how to send and receive e-mail from their grandchildren. Others are most

interested in using the Internet to gain information, especially for genealogy research. Still others simply want to gain word processing skills so they can create recipe cards. As much of Bolivar County is rural, many people even use their new-found Web skills for online shopping.

To better equip all citizens with literacy skills, the BCLC offers fundamental computer instruction to inmates at the Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility. The BCLC also donates literacy materials to the Mississippi Department of Corrections at Parchman, in an effort to help inmates through their self-guided GED program.

There are also offerings for people with more advanced literacy levels. The Council's "Learn-a-Test" program offers standardized test preparation software for those needing to practice for the GRE, ACT, SAT or various professional exams. The Career and Learning Information Center at the Depot offers extra computer training for county teachers and instructors. Workshops on various topics from money management to parenting are often held at the Depot Library, as a means of community enrichment.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

One of the innovative tactics taken by Bolivar County Library Director Ronnie Wise was to commission a comic book to help fight illiteracy. In 1992, Wise contacted Archie Comics, proposing the idea of a comic book devoted to literacy issues in Mississippi. Two years later, 100,000 freely distributable copies of *Archie and His Friends Help Raise Literacy Awareness in Mississippi* was printed for the Bolivar County Literacy Council with



Bolivar County Libraries Director Ronnie Wise commissioned this Archie comic book to aid in Mississippi's fight against illiteracy. Printed in March 1994.

funds provided by various Mississippi library systems, universities, businesses, and organizations. [See *Mississippi Libraries* 59:1 (1995): 10-11].

To bring more community awareness to literacy problems in the area and the services it provides, the BCLC has sponsored open house events, replete with refreshments and music. For the 2004 Cleveland OctoberFest, the Cleveland Depot Library brought in local bluesmen Cadillac John Nolden and Bill Abel to perform. This helped bring outside attention to the Depot and its many literacy programs.



(l-r) Bluesmen "Cadillac" John Nolden and Bill Abel perform at the Cleveland Depot Library for OctoberFest (8 October 2004). Photo by Audrey Pearson.

SUCCESS STORIES

With the Bolivar County Literacy Council now helping almost 2,500 people each year, there are many stories of success that keep the staff energized and excited about trying new approaches. One of the most recent success stories has been the Literacy Council's first GED (General Educational Development) graduation ceremony. On July 8th, 2005, Lisa Torres and Jennifer Williams received their GED certificates in an official graduation ceremony held at Delta State University. Bolivar County Literacy Council Coordinator Audrey Pearson says "The formal graduation ceremony was a great experience for the GED graduates." The Literacy Council wanted to reward the students with more than just a certificate. Their hard work deserves serious recognition. Graduate Lisa Torres

now plans to attend a community college – an opportunity she would not have had before she applied herself with the help of the Literacy Council. Stories such as this one bring great meaning to Literacy Council staff. “I live for this,” states Audrey Pearson, “This is the reason for my job.”



(l-r) Renee Lamastus, GED instructor; Thishya Perera, GED Program Coordinator; Jennifer Williams; Lisa Torres; and Audrey Pearson, Bolivar County Literacy Council Literacy Coordinator (8 July 2005). Photo by Mark Williams.

A number of adults learning to read for the first time speak of the shame and fear they have had to deal with most of their lives. One woman in her fifties who just recently learned basic reading and

writing skills always had to plan ahead each day to compensate for not knowing how to read or write. She often had to avoid certain situations or people and make up excuses. Now, many adults speak of being able to read their mail and properly fill out forms.

CHALLENGES

As much success as the Cleveland Depot Library has achieved it still faces a number of challenges. Despite several large one-time grants in the past, the Literacy Council's budget doesn't adequately cover the needs of Bolivar County. Because of this, Pearson states, “Everyone here has to give 110%.” The rewards of such hard work definitely seem worth the effort when a child's eyes light up when they tell of reading their first book or an adult is able to fill out a job application on her own.

For smaller literacy councils or counties wishing to start up a literacy program, strong leadership and community support are essential. “Committed, caring, creative leadership is absolutely key,” states Audrey Pearson, adding, “Constant resource development and strong community partnerships are vital to the sustainability of a literacy council.” A “one-

size fits all” model will not work for every community. According to Pearson, “Program development and refinement must be dynamic so that they serve the needs of the community.”

Through strong vision, determination, and community support, the Cleveland Depot Library has become a beacon of hope to the citizens of Bolivar County. Other literacy councils throughout the state are likewise providing much needed services in their regions. To locate the literacy council or program nearest you, contact your local library or search America's Literacy Directory at <http://www.literacydirectory.org/> or call them at 1-800-228-8813. To improve literacy in your community, try volunteering your services at your local literacy council or help to start one.

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Bookworms Born at Delta State University Library

Frieda S. Quon

*Instructional Resources Center Librarian
Delta State University*

ABSTRACT

Born to Read, a literacy program for babies and toddlers up to age three was introduced at Delta State University during the fall and spring semesters of the 2004-2005 school year. The program promotes literacy and the love of language by introducing books to children from the time they are born. It spotlights for parents and caregivers the value and necessity of singing, speaking, and reading to babies and toddlers. The pleasure of sharing books is a gift that will enhance every child's learning experience. Students from the College of Education at DSU provided the programs each week.

Researchers agree children are more likely to become good readers if they start school with the ability to comprehend and express themselves with a wide range of words, if they can name the letters of the alphabet, and if they develop an appreciation of books and stories through literary experiences. The American Library Association states in their Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library program that "Children learn literacy skills at birth. Many parents and other caregivers, though, need to be taught the importance of early literacy and how to develop critical pre-reading skills so that every child enters school ready to learn to read." [<http://www.pla.org/earlyliteracy.htm>]

Reading to children is the single most important thing that a parent can do to contribute to healthy brain development. The early child experiences a phenomenal growth in language. By the age of five a child achieves most of his speaking vocabulary. Early experiences with language contribute to healthy brain development and form the foundation for learning to read when a child enters school. Parents are indeed a child's first and most important teachers.

The American Library Association defines emergent literacy as what children know about reading before they actually read. [<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/borntoread/bornread.htm>] ALA also states that researchers agree that children are more likely to become good readers if they start with three sets of accomplishments:

- **Oral language skills and phonological awareness:** Children are able to comprehend and to express themselves with a wide range of words. They are able to distinguish the sounds as well as the meanings of words.
- **Print awareness and letter knowledge:** Children have learned that the black and white marks on a page represent spoken words. They are able to name the letters of the alphabet.
- **Motivation to learn and appreciation for literary forms:** Children have been exposed to wide variety of literary experiences and learn to love books and stories.

At the Instructional Resources Center (IRC), a department in the Roberts-LaForge Library at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, community parents expressed an interest in having a special book program for babies and toddlers up to age three years. The local public library, the Robinson-Carpenter Library, had a successful story hour for children age three and older, so the need for a program for younger children was evident. Because the IRC always stresses the value of books and reading, developing a baby and toddler oriented literacy program seemed logical. All the necessary components were there – interested parents, students and faculty, location, and someone to oversee the program. What needed to be worked out were the logistics: who, when, where, and how, etc.

There was adequate space at the IRC to host the program. Since one goal of

the IRC is to provide resources and materials needed for developing student teaching units, we were able to work with students majoring in education and early childhood to provide the weekly programs. Because the sessions met in the University Library, the IRC became the organizational point. During the planning sessions, I met with education faculty members who designated students who were willing to volunteer. The program gave student teachers valuable experience and it also gave faculty members the opportunity to evaluate the interaction of their students in a realistic setting. Publicity was generated through campus publications, area newspapers, flyers, the library website, word of mouth, and television.



Student teachers reading a book to a group of three year olds. Photo by Frieda Quon.

"Born to Read: How to Nurture a Baby's Love of Learning" was modeled after a national project administered by the American Library Association's Association for Library Service to Children. Their goal was to help parents raise children with healthy bodies and minds. They partnered with health care providers to reach out to new parents and help them raise children who were born to read. This three year project was funded by a grant from the Prudential Foundation in 1995. Five flagship libraries were selected as national demonstration sites and each was awarded \$30,000 to implement their winning program proposal; one of the sites was the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center.

Information from these five libraries helped us develop guidelines for our program. [<http://archive.ala.org/alsc/born.html>]

Our program on early literacy skills correlated with other parenting and mentoring programs (Healthy Community Program and Even Start) that were being carried out on the Delta State University campus. Our goals emphasized the importance of communicating with the child from day one, reading to them even before birth, and giving them a foundation to build a lifelong love of reading and learning. We also wanted to increase public awareness of the value of sharing books, repeating nursery rhymes, singing songs, and reading stories to young children.

The weekly programs required considerable planning. We tried a variety of formats before settling on what would work for us. I researched on the Internet and found information on other lapsit programs. I requested titles from Interlibrary Loan, and even contacted the children's librarians in Memphis and New Orleans about their programs and gained valuable tips from their experience. DSU students, faculty, and I designed the programs. Our Library Assistant, a graphic design major, created our Born to Read logo that was used on materials, including posters, flyers, and parking hang tags. She also created the graphics for our weekly handouts.

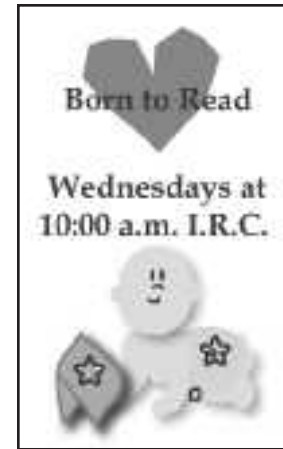


Student teachers read to the babies, one and two year olds and parents/caregivers. The younger children have to be separated because they have a shorter attention span. Photo by Freida Quon.

Attendance at each twenty to thirty minute program averaged about twenty-five to thirty children each week and could best be described as organized chaos. The IRC is located in an enclosed area of the library so noise could be


somewhat contained. Before the program started, we played lively children's music. Baskets of board, cloth, and plastic books were on the floor for children and the parents to share. Each program had a similar format: an introductory song "The More We Get Together," a finger play or nursery rhyme, a book for the week, and then we closed with "If You Are Happy and You Know It." At the beginning of each program we started with all the children together for the song and a finger play/nursery rhyme, but in order to share books we grouped the babies and those up to two years in one corner and gathered the three year olds in a separate area. We encouraged the parents and caregivers to join in with the activities – in order to be successful, parents/caregivers and children needed to participate. We provided handouts on how to share

books with babies, recommended activities, and suggested age appropriate titles. At the end of each week we evaluated the programs and modified accordingly.





The Born-to-Read Hang Tag was made for participants so they could park on the DSU campus. The top of the hang tag is featured at the top.

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Project CHILD Partners with Day Care Centers in Columbus

Laura Simpson

Information Services Librarian
The University of Southern Mississippi

ABSTRACT

In 2005, the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library was one of twelve libraries to receive a grant from the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress as part of the "Reading Powers the Mind" project. The Columbus-Lowndes Library was already sponsoring a popular storytime: *Wee Baby Storytime*, but only those who could bring their children to the library were able to participate. The Project for the Book grant allowed the library to start Project CHILD where they would deliver books to local day care centers. Pairing with the Early Literacy program at Mississippi University for Women, Project CHILD delivers books to local day care centers based on their current themes. Project CHILD has proven to be popular with the day care centers, the children and their parents.

For some public libraries in Mississippi, a little grant money goes a long way.

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library was one of twelve public libraries in the US recently selected to receive a \$3,000 grant from the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress as part of the 2005-2006 "Reading Powers the Mind" project. The project is funded by a contribution made by the Viburnum Foundation to the Center for the Book. The Viburnum Foundation helps fund family literacy projects for libraries in rural communities located in Mississippi and twelve other states. Due to recent cutbacks in funding, one public library in each selected state now receives the grant every year.

The Center for the Book's "Reading Powers the Mind" program helps support library-based family literacy programs that work in partnership with other community organizations (such as local colleges, churches, correctional services, schools, etc.). The relatively small amount of grant

money (\$3000) allows libraries to overcome the intimidation factor sometimes involved in applying for a grant by starting small. Community partners in the grant can lend their own expertise and take some of the burden off library staff members.

The Viburnum Foundation grants have supported a wide range of projects over the past decade. "Family literacy" refers to an effort that spans more than one generation, but the programs themselves are as diverse as the communities they serve. For example, past projects in other states have offered an adult literacy program as a counterpart to an existing children's program. Others have made contact with immigrant parents by first offering events for their children. The Elizabeth Jones Library in Grenada, Mississippi's 2004 recipient, worked with local correctional facilities to encourage incarcerated mothers to read to their children during visits. In Columbus, Project CHILD is reaching out to children, parents, and teachers at local day care centers with the help of education students at Mississippi University for Women.

IN COLUMBUS: THE BEGINNINGS OF PROJECT CHILD

Back in 1997, Brenda Pritchett read an article in *Newsweek* that caught her attention. The article reported that in a 1970's experiment, a kitten's eye was sewn shut and the same procedure was repeated on an adult cat. When both cats' eyes were opened again several months later, the kitten was blind in that eye...but the adult cat could still see. The kitten was physiologically normal and its sight was unaffected, but its brain was no longer able to recognize and process visual signals due to sensory deprivation in the first months of life.

Pritchett, then a children's librarian and already a passionate advocate for early literacy, was inspired by the notion of a critical "window" in early cognitive development. She had also read that

infants with "chatty mothers" have a far better vocabulary later on than those whose mothers don't talk to them much during infancy. With all this in mind, she pioneered an innovative "Wee Baby Storytime" at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library for children 6 months up to 2 years old.

Over the years, the "Wee Baby Storytime" has become tremendously popular, with around 34 families currently participating. Pritchett still leads these sessions, while present children's librarian Edwina ("Mother Goose") Williams works with older preschoolers.



Brenda Pritchett, librarian at Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, shares a board book story with *Wee Storytime* participants. Photo by Christy Burks.

Infants sit in their mothers' laps during storytime, although the children older than 15 months like to move around. It's not so much about the books, and it never has been. Pritchett says they try to accomplish "approximately 20 things" during a typical half-hour storytime – such as nursery rhymes or a "sing loud, sing soft" activity. Librarians use simple musical instruments such as shakers and maracas to accompany activities that teach children about sound and rhythm. Toddlers are enthusiastic about being allowed to choose their own instruments out of a box. When reading out loud, Pritchett focuses on engaging the child and will often use the illustrations as a basis for dialogue or a jumping-off point for a simplified story line.



Wyatt, a young toddler, focuses on a feather during Wee Baby Storytime. Photo by Christy Burks.

"Wee Baby Storytime" was a hit, but the audience is still limited to the lucky few whose parents can bring them to the library during the day. Then Pritchett got the idea of reaching out to local day care centers. Margaret Murray at the Mississippi Library Commission alerted Pritchett to grant possibilities available through the Center for the Book, and Project CHILD was born.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library decided that most of the money from the grant project would go toward the purchase of children's materials to support the new book delivery service. Originally, nine day care centers participated in the project. Participating centers were selected based on need and on their responses to a survey sent out by the library. This number is now down to five because some of the smaller centers have since combined.



Preschoolers at Infant's World Day Care are fascinated by books given to them by First Book, a partner of Project CHILD. Photo by Brenda Pritchett.

The centers inform the library about the theme of their current curriculum unit. Topics might range from holidays, to learning about the five senses, to anything

that broadens the children's experience of the world, such as learning about animals or getting a haircut or going to the zoo. Librarians at Columbus-Lowndes select appropriate books and then deliver ten books to each participating center, twice a month.

This first stage of the grant program (book delivery) took a break during the summer 2005 and will resume with the start of the new school year. Day care staff say the children love receiving books, and they appreciate the fact that the library staff are making the delivery runs. Several day care teachers say they have also started visiting the public library on their own time to browse for more children's material.



Mitzi Younger, retired teacher and project volunteer, introduces a story to preschoolers at United Christian Baptist Church Daycare Center. Photo by Brenda Pritchett.

Many preschool teachers already realize the importance of reading to young children. "Whenever they're in transition from one activity to another, wherever you get a spare moment" in addition to planned reading times, says Kantrina Johnson, who works at Kidz-R-Us in East Columbus where there are about 65 children. Johnson is already starting to read chapter books to her four-year-olds, who like the *Junie B. Jones* series. Their favorite picture book at the moment, she says, is *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. According to Johnson, "You can tell who gets read to at home and who doesn't." Her center sponsors small incentive programs with prizes which encourage the children to spend time reading at home. Project CHILD hopes to

provide all participating day care teachers with access to information about early literacy, and to promote the importance of reading to children as early as infancy.

Mississippi University for Women is also a partner in Project CHILD. MUW's participation is a great example of how library/community partnerships often fulfill a mutual need. Because MUW offers a degree program in early literacy, participation in the project will allow students to fulfill practicum requirements by reading to children at day care centers and talking with teachers about how to model good reading behavior. Day care teachers are required to complete 12-15 in-service hours per year, and it will be convenient for them to have free training available right in Columbus. Monica Riley, a professor of early childhood education at MUW, is heading the university side of the project. Her students are participating in three Project CHILD workshops planned for this fall.



Toddlers participate in a rhythm activity where the teacher changes the position of playing the sticks to teach eye and hand coordination. Photo by Christy Burks.

The first workshop in September, which is aimed at parents, will be conducted at the center their child attends. The initial workshop focuses on the importance of reading to children at home and discusses the best methods of reading aloud to children. Johnson expects that turnout for the parents' workshop will be fairly high. The parents' workshop will meet once in the evening for about an hour, and librarians plan to bring in a snack or light dinner as an added incentive. The second workshop is for day care teachers and will be held in

October at one center. The third workshop, planned for later in the fall, will be conducted at the public library one evening so parents, teachers, and children will have the opportunity to visit.

Newsletters and other materials will keep the parents connected throughout the duration of the project. A series of "Celebrity Readers," including the mayor and local television personalities, will also be visiting the centers to read to kids. Dr. Riley's students have prepared bright, hand-decorated canvas tote bags for "Celebrity Readers" to use when visiting day care centers.

THE D.C. WORKSHOP

Brenda Pritchett and two community partners, Monica Riley and Mitzi Younger, attended a "Reading Powers the Mind" workshop at the Center for the Book in Washington, D.C., held August 3-5, 2005. The workshop was designed for those planning and implementing the family literacy projects sponsored by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

Over two action-packed days, approximately 60 workshop participants were able to share what they have done with their respective grants and to offer feedback and advice about working with the many diverse groups involved in "Reading Powers the Mind." Pritchett was part of a panel discussion about family literacy partnerships for young children during the first day of the workshop. Pritchett, Younger, and Riley were also able to learn about projects underway in other communities and to talk with other grant recipients about their experience.

Mississippi was the only state to have congressional support staff in attendance at the workshop. An assistant from Roger Wicker's (R-Mississippi) office stopped by to greet workshop participants.

The Columbus-Lowndes Public Library has received previous grants from the Viburnum Foundation and librarians have attended other regional workshops, but this is their first trip to the Library of Congress.

AFTER THE GRANT PROGRAM ENDS

Project CHILD has laid the foundation for some lasting partnerships between the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library and the neighboring community. As a result of the librarians' efforts, publishers such as Scholastic will donate books to supplement the existing children's collections after the grant period has expired. The First Book program, which promotes book ownership, will target local day care centers and provide children with books of their own to take home.

MUW students will continue to volunteer at local day care centers, and storytimes will be offered as usual at the public library.

What's next for Columbus and Lowndes County? Pritchett hopes to apply for a new grant, this time to bring laptops into the day care centers. This fall she will be leading a workshop about early childhood literacy based on her experiences at the library.

"For me, it's all about the children," she says.

BOOKWORMS

(continued from page 66)

From these sessions, we learned that the children enjoyed the music, loved repetition, and got involved with the finger play activities. The whole process was a learning experience for everyone involved: the parents/caregivers and children, DSU student teachers and faculty, and all of the IRC staff. Parking is always an issue on a college campus, so we worked with campus security and designed a special parking permit (Born to Read Hang Tag) which allowed patrons to park at the library at the time of the program. At the initial program, we had two local television stations and several area newspapers that featured our early literacy program, including interviews with parents and participants. Because of that publicity we received calls from out of town parties requesting information about our program and even inquiries about what grant we received and how we got our funding. The purpose of this program was important to everyone involved and it required a lot of work and cooperation resulting in a worthwhile project that was achieved without any special funding.

We received positive feedback from the parents and caregivers who attended. Their children looked forward to coming to the programs, interacting with books, learning nursery rhymes and finger plays, and singing songs. We offered Born to Read during both the fall and spring semesters of the 2004-2005 school year, and we are hopeful we will be able to have it again this fall semester.

Tunica Motherread/Fatheread: A True Partnership for Literacy in Tunica County

Victoria Penny
Youth Services Coordinator
First Regional Library

ABSTRACT

For the last three years, the Tunica County Literacy Council, Inc. and the Robert C. Irwin Public Library have joined together to promote the nationally recognized Motherread/Fatheread literacy program. Parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents read and discuss stories while their children are introduced to the same stories. During the last few years there have been issues, but overall response and participation in Motherread/Fatheread has been a success.

Motherread/Fatheread is a collaboration between the Tunica County Literacy Council, Inc. and the Robert C. Irwin Public Library in Tunica, one of the branches of the First Regional Library system. Motherread/Fatheread is a nationally recognized program which uses well-loved children's books to give parents skills to share stories with their children and to approach literacy in a fun way. The program's objective is

to develop a learning environment where students improve their literacy skills as they also enjoy reading and discussing themes in children's books and other literature. Participants invest time and effort in their own skill development, with support from other adults, with an aim toward improving their relationships with their children. (<http://www.motherread.org>)

In the summer of 2002, two staff members from the Tunica Literacy Council and one staff member from the First Regional Library attended Motherread/Fatheread training in Memphis. Facilitator training was sponsored by Motherread/Fatheread Tennessee, a project of

Humanities Tennessee. Following the training session, they discussed ways to incorporate this exciting new program into their existing services to adult learners and families with children in Tunica.

Three years (and many challenges) later, Tunica Motherread/Fatheread facilitators are pleased with the outcomes seen so far. A total of seven sessions have been held at the library. Sessions are eight to 12 weeks long, and the weekly classes meet for two and a half hours each time. Total attendance during the three years of the program has been 1,894, including: 473 parents/adult participants, 942 children, 258 volunteers/helpers, 16 visitors, and 205 facilitators.



Tunica Motherread/Fatheread participants enjoy a puppet show based on the book *Flossie and the Fox*, narrated by Betty Jo H. Dulaney, Tunica County Literacy Council Director and Motherread Facilitator. Photo by Millee Wrenn.

Twenty-eight parents have successfully completed and "graduated" from the Tunica Motherread/Fatheread program. Obstacles along the way have included transportation, job conflicts, school holidays, weather, illness, and apathy. Some of these issues have caused low attendance and morale in some classes, but the response and results of the program have been overwhelmingly positive among parents and children who attend. Comments from parents and evidence of changes in behaviors and attitudes toward learning and literacy are incredible sources of encouragement to the facilitators.

Each Monday night for 12 weeks, the Tunica Library hosts the Tunica Motherread/Fatheread program. Adult participants (including parents, parents-to-be, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and teachers) read, discuss, and respond to a children's book with the guidance of facilitators from the Tunica County Literacy Council. Children attend along with their caregivers, and, in another area of the library, are introduced to the same stories the adults are discussing. They take part in related activities, songs, games, and art projects with library staff. A meal is provided for all, and each family takes a copy of the book home to share during the week.

Research has shown time and again that literacy is the most important indicator of future educational success as well as the basis for lifelong learning and growth. Through the implementation of the Motherread/Fatheread program in Tunica County, the Literacy Council and First Regional Library together hope to make an impact on the literacy skills of people in Tunica County. Literacy levels in Tunica County are among the lowest in the state of Mississippi. According to the 1998 report published by the National Institute for Literacy entitled *The State*



A young Tunica Motherread/Fatheread participant takes a swing at a piñata during a fiesta following the sharing of the story *Uncle Nacho's Hat/El Sombrero del Tío Nacho*, one of several bilingual Spanish/English books used in the Motherread curriculum. Photo by Victoria Penny.

of *Literacy in America*, 94% of the 5,433 people age 16 and older were functioning at not greater than Level 2, and 50% functioned at Level 1, the lowest measurable literacy level.

Tunica Motherread/Fatheread would not be possible without the ongoing help of other partnering community organizations in Tunica County – Even Start, Tunica County Schools, Catholic Social Services, Homemakers’ Club, Rotary Club, Tunica United Methodist Church, Epiphany Episcopal Church, and several other local churches. These groups and several local businesses provide financial assistance, meals for the participants, transportation, and other donations to use as incentives for adults and children. The success of the program depends heavily on involvement from all sectors of the community.

We are currently the only Motherread/Fatheread site operating in northwest Mississippi and have received several visits from Motherread National Office staff, including a talk presented by Donna Foster, Motherread trainer and Mississippi res-



Children take part in a Storysharing session during Motherread/Fatheread at the R.C. Irwin Library in Tunica, while their parents and adult caregivers participate in learning exercises using the same children’s book. Photo by Victoria Penny.

ident. We are very pleased with the support and attention our program has received in the community and around the state.

At the start of the twelve-week session, adult Motherread/Fatheread participants set goals for themselves. In addition to reading more to their children, goals might include obtaining a high school diploma or a GED, improving reading/comprehension, or gaining employment. Participants also keep a reading log of personal reading throughout the week. They create a portfolio of the reflective writings and other assignments they complete during the course of the program. A final evaluation form is completed by each participant at the end of the session. A certificate and a book of their choice are among the rewards for those who finish the program.

Results from goal-setting, midpoint reflections, and evaluation forms provide strong evidence that classes benefit parents in supporting them as reading role models for their children and for their own development as effective parents.

Results from reading assessments and evaluations completed by students suggest that classes can have a positive impact on reading competency and parents’ motivation to apply these skills at home with their children.

Motherread/Fatheread is for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles – anyone who cares about improving their own literacy skills and those of children they love. For more research as well as information regarding training for and implementation of the Motherread/Fatheread program, visit <http://www.motherread.org>.

COMMENTS FROM TUNICA MOTHERREAD/FATHEREAD PARTICIPANTS

- “(Being) around people made me more confident.”
- “It made me more confident and gave me a self-esteem beyond my wildest dreams – I get so much from a story and the life lessons that they teach.”
- “Every expression and comment is welcome.”
- “Wherever I find myself, if I’m around books, I pick up a book and begin to read unconsciously.”
- “I catch myself finding things to read and using some of the methods we used in class.”
- “I notice a change in my speech, my vocabulary has increased, I have a whole new way of looking at things.”
- “It makes me feel better about my reading.”
- “Motherread/Fatheread takes you beyond reading, it takes you into the heart of real life issues or situations.”
- “Because change has come into my life, my children will have a brighter future.”
- “Before I started here I didn’t read to my children that much.”
- “I am spending more time now reading with my child.”
- “I love to read and act out the story to my kids.”
- “My children’s grades improve and they are both honor students, and I know Motherread did it.”
- “It was such a rewarding experience, and I would love for my friends to be introduced to it.”

News Briefs

E-JOURNAL CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP HELD AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



NASIG workshop speakers at Mississippi State University: David Lindahl, Oliver Pesch, Jill Emery, and Rick Anderson. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

For a fifth year, Mississippi State University hosted an e-journal continuing education workshop devoted to exploring the role and management of electronic journals in libraries.

Cosponsored by the North American Serials Interest Group, Mississippi State University Libraries, and EBSCO Subscription Services, the workshop, titled "The E-Files: Investigating E-Journal Tools and Trends," was held at Mitchell Memorial Library on July 8. In attendance were a total of ninety-one information professionals from six states in the southeast.

Keynote speaker Rick Anderson, Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada, got the workshop off to a lively start with a presentation addressing the larger, theoretical questions related to the management of e-journals. Subsequent presentations by Jill Emery, Director of the Electronic Resources Program at the University of Houston, Oliver Pesch, Chief Strategist of E-Resources at EBSCO Information Services, and David Lindahl, Director of Digital Library Initiatives at the University of Rochester, all brought to light specific topics that promise to shape the future of e-journals.

Based on the positive evaluations submitted by the attendees, this year's workshop can be deemed a success. All of the attendees left the workshop with an enhanced understanding of how to solve the mysteries that continue to surround the role and management of e-journals in libraries.

SUNFLOWER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM LAUNCHES ARCHIVES EFFORT

A longtime hope for many Sunflower County residents took its first step toward fruition last July when the Sunflower County Library System held an open house to announce the establishment of its Sunflower Collection, a local history archives.

The Emily Johnson Auditorium was converted into an archives that houses the current genealogical collection and which will be expanded to include a wide variety of local documents, music, photographs and other documents related to Sunflower County, its people, and its culture.

Alice Shands, Director of the Sunflower County Library System, said the archives represents a great deal of planning and discussion during the past year.

"A lot of work by many people has gone into making this a reality," Shands said. "The genealogical collection has been moved to a more secure environment and a librarian has been assigned to this area to be available to assist customers with their searches. We will soon be collecting local family histories and items pertinent to our past."

CO-LIN-NATCHEZ LIBRARY CASHES IN ON THE COFFEE CAFÉ CRAZE!



Open Book Café at the Willie Mae Dunn Library. Photo by Nancy J. McLemore.

The Open Book Café was created in the summer of 2004 as a way to update the image of the Willie Mae Dunn Library and to draw more diverse patrons into the library.

Nancy McLemore, director, thought she could borrow from Barnes and Noble and Borders to add a certain something to the library, making it warmer, more inviting and attractive.

As the Natchez location is a commuter campus with a high enrollment of non-traditional students, it is a challenge to entice students to spend significant time in the library engaged in study, research, and reading. The Café may have gone a long way to accomplishing this goal.

Set-up was not too difficult; the biggest investment was in planning time. A reading area was easily converted into the Café. Funds for the initial start-up had to come from the library budget, but after almost a year of operation the Café is paying for itself and making money! The library staff is looking forward to a new year with even greater success.

LIBRARY WINS SIGNED COPY OF HARRY POTTER BOOK

Artesia Public Library, one of three branches of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, won Mississippi's signed copy of *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* from Scholastic. Only one library from each state was selected from the over 8000 entries nationwide.

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RECEIVES CONTINUED ACCREDITATION

The School of Library and Information Science at The University of Southern Mississippi has received continued accreditation from the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation, with the next visit planned for 2012. The School is one of 61 programs at 56 institutions in North America that is accredited by the American Library Association and the only such program in the state of Mississippi. Accreditation requires the school to comply with specific standards governing the curriculum, administration, faculty activities, physical facilities and services to students as established by the national professional organization. The continuing accreditation

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People in the News

Patty Furr began her new job as the Director of Libraries and Learning Resources at William Carey College in Hattiesburg on August 1, 2005. She was previously employed as the Coordinator of Technical and Automation Services at the Hancock County Library System in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

Margaret Murray (right), Senior Library Consultant for the Mississippi Library Commission, presents a certificate of recognition to Elizabeth Cranwell, who retired after 25 years as Director of the Northeast Regional Library.



On June 30th, **Elizabeth Cranwell** retired from her position as Director of the Northeast Regional Library in Corinth, a position she had held for the past 25 years. The Corinth Library hosted a reception on June 23, 2005, that was attended by more than 100 guests from across the region served by the library system.

Originally from Florence, Alabama, Cranwell attended Stephens College in Missouri and received her MLS from Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to her move to Corinth, she was a cataloger at the Memphis Public Library for six and a half years, and during that time she became head of the cataloging department. She began her association with the Northeast Regional Library in 1977 as head of technical services and became Director in 1980.



William McMullin, newly appointed Director of the Northeast Regional Library System, reviews the reference collection at the Headquarters library in Corinth.

William McMullin, a New Orleans native who has been with the Northeast

Regional Library system for 30 years, assumed the position of Director of the Northeast Regional Library on July 1, 2005. McMullin received his M.L.S. from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and has worked at the Northeast Regional Library since 1975.

Benjamin E. Petersen was hired as the new Director of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library on May 1st. He succeeds Chebie Bateman, who retired Dec. 31,



Benjamin E. Petersen

2004, after 43 years as Director. Petersen was hired as the Archives and Manuscript Librarian in September 2004 and was named Interim Director by the Board of Trustees effective January 1, 2005. He earned a B.A. in History from the University of North Alabama in 2000 and a joint M.L.I.S. and M.A. in Public History from the University of South Carolina in 2004. He is a member of Mississippi Library Association, the Society of American Archivists, and is on the Board of Directors for the Society of Mississippi Archivists.



William Ryan Roy

as a student library assistant, an experience that he says changed his life. Now a cum laude graduate of Millsaps College, Roy works fulltime as the Circulation Supervisor at the Millsaps College Library and takes graduate library science courses part-time. Roy writes of his career choice, "I truly enjoy helping people with their information needs and am committed to reinforcing the image of the librarian as the friendly, willing, and able guide to all information resources."

One coworker stated her belief that Roy's exceptional work at the Circulation

Desk was the reason the Library won the 2004 Harrylyn G. Sallis Quality Service Award. Another colleague says that Roy is very public service oriented, has excellent attention to detail, and does a wonderful job managing the fifteen students he supervises. Millsaps College Librarian Tom Henderson comments, "I am certain that MLA and the state of Mississippi will benefit from an investment in Ryan's education as he is the kind of person who will become involved professionally and serve MLA in the future."

"I was absolutely thrilled to receive the news that I had been chosen for the 2005 Peggy May Scholarship," says Roy. "I am extremely honored to be the recipient of this scholarship."

USM SLIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The School of Library and Information Science at The University of Southern Mississippi recognizes the following achievements:

Elizabeth Haynes, professor, co-authored with Joanna Fountain a book entitled *Unlocking the Mysteries of Cataloging: A Workbook of Examples*, published by Libraries Unlimited in May, 2005. She also recently received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Jennifer Wann, current Master's student, received the ALA Marshall Cavendish scholarship, which was established with donations from the Marshall Cavendish Corporation, Tarrytown, N.Y., publishers of illustrated reference books for libraries. The scholarship is among the ALA general awards for academic excellence, leadership, and evidence of commitment to a career in librarianship. Wann has also received the Mississippi Library Association Peggy May 2004 Scholarship and a Library and Information Science Student Association Scholarship to attend the ALA Annual Conference, June 2005.

Savannah Walker, a current library science graduate assistant, received the ALA Student-to-Staff Program award, which paid for her attendance and partici-

pation in the June 2005 Annual Conference.

Heather Weeden received the Beta Phi Mu Scholarship for 2005 as well as a Library and Information Science Student Association Scholarship to attend the ALA Annual Conference in June 2005.

Ashley McLendon also received a Library and Information Science Student Association Scholarship to attend the ALA Annual Conference in June 2005. Ms McLendon represented the School of Library and Information Science at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists held in New Orleans August 14-21, 2005.

Ryan Johnson has been hired as the Head of Head of Information, Outreach, and Delivery Services at the University of Mississippi libraries. Johnson will direct both Reference and Interlibrary Loan departments. Johnson has most recently held the position of Head of Humanities and Social Science Public Services and Architecture Library at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. He received his BA in History from Georgia Southern University, an M.A. in History from Villanova and an M.L.S. from St John's University. He has been very active in the American Association for History and Computing, where he has served as President. He also serves as the Co-editor for the *Journal of the Association for History and Computing*.

Chatham Ewing will be joining Archives and Special Collection at the University of Mississippi libraries as the Special Collections Digital Initiatives Librarian. He is coming from Washington University in St. Louis where he was the Curator of Modern Literature/ Manuscripts. Lewis has significant experience with digital projects, serving on such projects as the New York Public Library's History of the Performing Arts Finding Aids Project. Lewis received his B.A. in English Literature from The Johns Hopkins University, and his M.A. in English Literature from Georgetown University. He received his M.L.S. from Rutgers and is currently working on his Ph.D. in English Literature at

the University of Missouri.

Nadine Phillips is the new Electronic Reference Librarian at the Hancock County Library System, according to Prima Plauché, HCLS Director. Her duties include providing one-on-one reference and information services, planning, coordinating and implementing electronic reference services, and training as a back-up in Horizon System Administration. Nadine holds a 2004 M.L.S. from the Southern Mississippi University as well as a B.S. in Anthropology and an M.A. in Philosophy. She has varied experience in reference, technical services, circulation, serials, digitization, as well as Web site maintenance.

Irmgard "Irm" Wolfe, a retired collection development specialist at the University of Southern Mississippi, died Monday, May 30, at Forrest General Hospital. She was 63.

A native of Munich, Germany, Wolfe attended the University of Munich, where she studied history and English. She received master's degrees in foreign languages and an M.L.S from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she also did graduate study in anthropology, with an emphasis in the field of historical archaeology. She was an avid lover of music, art history and sailing.

In addition to her duties as collection development specialist, Wolfe served as supervisor of the University Libraries' preservation laboratory, which she founded. "The faculty and staff of the University Libraries are deeply saddened by the loss of Irm," said University Librarian Kay Wall. "Her compassion for and commitment to others led to many selfless and unsung acts of service. All who knew her will miss her dearly."

Wolfe was a panel member for Mississippi's Old Capitol Museum, serving as a preservation consultant. She also served as editor for *The Primary Source*, a semi-annual publication of The Society of Mississippi Archivists, and was a member of the Mississippi Archaeological Association and the Society of Historical Archaeology.

NEWS BRIEFS

(continued from page 72)

and full seven years between visits releases the School from a "continuing but conditional" status granted in 2002. The new status is the best possible state for the program and indicates that all the concerns of the previous visit have been addressed to the satisfaction of the accrediting committee. Dr. J. Norton, the director of the school, notes, "This does not mean that we can rest on our laurels. Rather, we must continue to strive to be the best and to seek continuous improvement. The university administration, the library community, our students, graduates and friends have been very supportive, which allowed us to regain our position and momentum. They are to be congratulated."

— ❖ —

NACO TRAINING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES



David Saah leads the NACO training session at the University of Mississippi Libraries. Photo by Daisy Cheng.

David Saah, Cooperative Cataloging Program Specialist at the Library of Congress, provided a Name Authority Cooperative Program (NACO) training session for Technical Services faculty and staff at the University of Mississippi Libraries on August 8-12, 2005. NACO is the name authority component of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC). Through this program, participants contribute authority records for names, uniform titles and series to the national authority file. Participants agree to follow a common set of standards and guidelines when creating or changing authority records in order to maintain the integrity of a large a shared authority file.

About Books

Dehmer, Dot-t. *The Best Part*. Jackson, MS: Soulcatchers Press, 2004. [illustrated] \$14.95 (paperback).

Mississippi author Dot-t Dehmer, has written a simple yet elegant book for the very young who have to face the reality of death. Dehmer's book, *The Best Part*, is appropriately named, as it explores such things as oysters, the sky, and many other beautiful objects that children find appealing. *The Best Part* offers a great deal to readers through child-like ideas expressed in both text and color illustrations. This book explores the evolution of all things, including people. Additionally it explains how after one has left the earth, we still remain, through memories – “the best part.”

The text is simple, but has a strong message. The illustrations are so vibrant one can nearly feel the energy from the page.

This book is recommended for public libraries in Mississippi and is an excellent book for children up to four dealing with death.

Alicia Jenkins

Reference Librarian
Mississippi Library Commission



Remson, Billie. *A Mississippi Summer on Bluebird Hill: A True Story About our Little Farm in the Hills of Southern Mississippi*. Tarentum, PA: Hot Chocolate Books, 2005. [iii, 52 pp. illustrated] \$12.95 (paperback).

A Mississippi Summer on Bluebird Hill continues the true-life story of Mama B (Billie Remson), Papa Doc (Marcel Remson), their dog Bo, and the other beloved animals living on a small farm in the hills of south central Mississippi. In this third book in the Bluebird Hill series, readers learn more about animal behavior and the season-to-season activities on the Remson's farm. The story centers on what to do about a growing turtle population, the purchase of cows at a livestock auction, and the birth of a calf. The

author vividly describes how things change, life goes on, and every season brings its own specific chores. Readers who want to know what living on a farm is like, or want to remember the simple pleasures of hard work and rural living will be magically satisfied. The story is weaved around interesting facts about farm life, nature, and the outdoors to create a charming and delightful glimpse into the author's world – summertime adventure on Bluebird Hill:

It is late June “with the hot summer sun smiling down and the large, sweet smelling magnolia flowers showing off their big, show-off blooms” [p. 1], and Mama B is picking blueberries in the orchard – “she eats more than she puts in the bucket” [p. 1-2]. Papa Doc has spent most of the morning mowing. This has become a full-time chore. And, the fishing pond is being threatened by a growing turtle population. Mama B and Papa Doc discuss how they will solve these problems as they anxiously await the arrival of their grandsons, Alex and Austin. After the boys arrive, the adventure begins. They go fishing in the pond with Papa Doc, but first they must prepare turtle bait to trap and relocate the turtles.

In addition to the story, the author lists a recipe for “Hay Stacks” – butterscotch morsels, chow mein noodles, and salted peanuts.

Billie Remson was raised on a farm in Collins Mississippi. Other books in the Bluebird Hill Series include: *A Mississippi Spring on Bluebird Hill* and *A Mississippi Winter on Bluebird Hill*. Artist, Kym Garaway (Hattiesburg native and watercolorist) is the illustrator. Her drawings provide a special touch and help make Remson's story spring to life. This book is recommended for Mississippiana collections in school and public libraries, grades K through 6.

Alisa S. St. Amant

Oak Grove Branch Manager
Lamar County Library System



Carrier, Jim. *A Traveler's Guide to the*

Civil Rights Movement. Orlando: Harcourt, 2004. [vx, 384 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index.] \$14.00 (paper)

Journalist Jim Carrier makes a valuable contribution to the literature of heritage tourism with this impressive guidebook to landmarks of the African-American Civil Rights struggle in the South. By taking a long view of the civil rights movement, Carrier includes sites and stories that examine race relations as far back as the 17th century, rather than just the twenty or so years after World War II, most commonly associated with the movement.

Carrier devotes individual chapters to Washington, D.C., each of the southern Atlantic states, Alabama, and Mississippi. Other states are compressed into two chapters. He opens each chapter with a brief Civil Rights history of the featured state, followed by city-by-city descriptions of noteworthy people and events associated with each place's Civil Rights movement. Carrier punctuates the text with 18 short pieces examining various topics in the movement, such as military integration, the Freedom Riders, and the roles of women and athletes. These essays help tie together stories from individual states into a broader regional narrative.

Carrier demonstrates how some major cities like Atlanta and Montgomery have actively embraced their Civil Rights histories with copious public memorials and tourism geared to African-American interests. He gives detailed descriptions of marked sites in these cities complete with street maps and contact information. Conversely, small towns like Bogalusa, Louisiana; Rosewood, Florida; and Indianola, Mississippi have made no effort at all to memorialize their pasts. Lacking any physical landmarks to direct his readers to, Carrier still relates the stories of these places in the hope that they may physically mark significant sites eventually. He also notes that, with the exception of Jackson, marked venues tend to be small and widely scattered across Mississippi, possibly because the state relied on ordinary local people to do the work of

social justice and never attracted any of the movement's celebrities.

The book's only drawback is its selectivity. Carrier acknowledges the difficulty of deciding just what is and is not a Civil Rights story and never claims his work to be encyclopedic in nature. Nonetheless, his failure to establish any criteria for including sites gives the book a noticeably inconsistent quality. For instance, Carrier seems to rapidly lose interest once he crosses the Mississippi River. Louisiana arguably gets its due, but he spotlights only two sites in the whole state of Arkansas, both in Little Rock. By comparison, Hattiesburg alone is mentioned in three places. Most surprisingly, Carrier neglects the entire state of Texas, at least a third of which is geographically southern and no stranger to the racial tensions prevalent in the rest of the South. Even in its non-southern extremities, Texas witnessed noteworthy Civil Rights-related events like the Brownsville raid of 1906 that led to the largest summary dismissals in the history of the U.S. Army or the all-black men's basketball team at El Paso's Texas Western College (now UTEP) that beat lily-white Kentucky for the national championship in 1966.

All in all, *A Traveler's Guide to the Civil Rights Movement* is a novel work for recounting the history of the African-American search for equality through an exploration of its physical landmarks. It is recommended for public and academic libraries.

Hans Rasmussen

Catalog Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi



Hamill, Thomas. *Escape in Iraq*. Maryland: Stoeger Publishing Company, 2004. 286 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover).

Injured, captured by the enemy, and held hostage under mounting tensions in a war-torn country, Thomas Hamill heroically escaped to freedom and safety. Dramatic situations of this nature make an ideal scenario for today's movies; however, this experience was very real for Hamill, an American civilian of Noxubee County, Mississippi.

While commanding a truck convoy delivering fuel to the United States armed forces in Iraq on Good Friday, April 8, 2004, Hamill's convoy came under attack near the Baghdad International Airport. In an attempt to help his team escape the ambush, he was wounded and captured while five of his associates were killed. The attack became national news when video of Hamill, along with his captors, was released by Australian reporters.

Escape in Iraq reveals the amazing 24-day ordeal of Hamill's captivity where his only chance of survival depended on the strength of his faith and character. While fear for his safety became high priority in and around his home community, Hamill relied strongly on his faith in God to give him the calm and clear thinking needed in the days ahead. This book includes Hamill's own account of this time, as well as the trials endured by his family.

Coauthor Paul T. Brown, an acclaimed Mississippi writer and photographer, expertly portrays Tommie and Kellie Hamill's voices as their stories unfold. A well-written labor of love, *Escape in Iraq* appeals to the senses of patriotism and family alike, in this story of strength, courage, and faith on the part of one man who would not give up or give in.

This book is recommended for all Mississippi libraries, for both its historical value and its deep human conviction.

Donna P. Fite

Purvis Branch Manager
Lamar County Library System



Phillips, Thomas Hal. *Red Midnight*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2002. 306 pp. \$28.00 (hardback).

Red Midnight is a novel by native Mississippi author, Thomas Hal Phillips, set in the rustic hill country of northeastern Mississippi during the 1940s and 1950s. The book is a first-person account of the life of 20-year old Marcus Oday, from his childhood to his return home from prison. Marcus recounts a series of catastrophic events he experienced as a teenage boy, including the

loss of his mother and father, a terrible tragedy in which he killed his friend's father, and his subsequent five years in prison for manslaughter.

The story explores two of Marcus' most personal relationships. Marcus was the son of a French-born mother and a father from Mississippi. His father was not only a parent, but also a close friend and idol to Marcus. He and his mother traveled to Paris when he was 10-years old to take care of his ailing grandfather, but Marcus missed his father a great deal while living there with his mother. Four years later, his mother died and Marcus decided to go back to Mississippi to live with his father. They enjoyed their short time together before his father's untimely death in a sawmill accident. Soon after his father's death, Marcus was provoked, and murdered his best friend's father when he callously disrespected his father's new grave by driving a logging wagon over it. After Marcus was convicted and imprisoned, he transferred his love for his father to an older prisoner, Mims, who bore some resemblance to his father. Mims shielded Marcus during his five turbulent years in prison and the bond between them grew in brotherhood and friendship.

The second relationship is the friendship between Marcus and his best friend Obie, whose father Marcus killed. Obie and Marcus had been childhood friends before Marcus moved to Paris, and again after he returned to Mississippi; but after Obie's father was killed, the friendship between the two boys ended. Initially, Marcus did not express remorse to anyone, including the judge in court. However, after his return from prison, Marcus reconciled with Obie and asked for his forgiveness.

Phillips' novel is a convincing account of a boy describing how he became a mature and strong man by struggling with traumatic events in his life. The story is easy to follow and Phillips keeps readers in suspense with his ability to foreshadow impending events. This book is highly recommended for Mississippi public libraries.

Miao Jin

Catalog Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi

MLA Executive Board Minutes

MARCH 18, 2005

Board members attending:

Susan Cassagne, *President*
Catherine Nathan, *Vice President/President Elect*
Carol Green, *Treasurer*
Linda Milner, *Secretary*

Others in attendance:

Mary Julia Anderson, *MLA Executive Secretary*
Jennifer Smith, *Public Libraries Chair*
Clara Joorfetz, *Special Libraries Chair*
Randy Sherard, *Trustee Chair*
Diane Willard, *School Libraries Chair*
Robert Lipscomb, *ALA Councilor*

President Cassagne called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The agenda was presented and a quorum was declared.

REPORT FROM MLC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sharman Smith gave a legislative report in the absence of Legislative Chair, Frances Coleman. She reported on Legislative House Bill 1648. There are two versions of the MLC Appropriations Bill and both are line item budgets. The House version holds MLC budget at FY 2005 level in which MLC would lose four positions. The Senate version would cut \$ 450,000 in the MLC Budget. The irony of this is that the budget is cut in special funds and LSTA funds. Ms. Smith expressed the seriousness of these possible budget cuts to MLC and encouraged everyone to contact their Legislators about library needs.

At the Federal Level, the President's budget recommends library cuts but actually recommends an LSTA increase.

Ms. Smith announced ALA Legislative Days will be May 3rd and 4th, 2005 in Washington, DC. There will be 10 attendees from Mississippi.

Ms. Smith announced there will be four Town Meetings this year. They will be held on May 11th in Tupelo, May 12th in Indianola, May 17th in Brookhaven, and May 19th in Waynesboro.

On June 3rd a workshop will be held in Jackson on Technology Trends. Don Pearson, Editor of Government Technology, and a senior fellow with the Center for Digital Government will be speaking.

Catherine Nathan asked Ms. Smith about E-Rate and was advised that E-Rate looks stable.

OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

President, Susan Cassagne asked officers if they had received December 10, 2004 minutes. Catherine Nathan moved that the reading of the outgoing board and incoming board minutes of December 10, 2004 and the minutes of the February 15, 2005 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Treasurer – Treasurer Green submitted a

report clearing 2004 grant items. Catherine Nathan moved to accept Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

B. President – No report given.

C. Vice President – Catherine Nathan reported that she toured the Convention Conference Facility in Vicksburg. Catherine presented a flyer that David Brown, MLA Publicity Chair, had designed. The flyer promotes the First General Session of Annual Conference of MLA to be held October 25th-28th, 2005 in Vicksburg, MS. Hopefully, this publicity will be published in the next issue of ML. The intent is to spur interest about the programs at MLA. The keynote speaker will be Sarah Ann Long, former President of ALA. A fund raising event is being planned for MLA.

D. Past-President – No report given.

E. ALA Councilor – Robert Lipscomb reported that ALA Mid-Winter Meeting in Boston was well attended. He reported on changes in the ALA Policy Manual that were suggested at the 2004 annual meeting last summer. The changes that were adopted relate to core values, ethics, policy statements, etc. Mr. Lipscomb received a letter from ALA encouraging feedback on where ALA should focus its energies. As part of the activities, ALA would like to continue to have leaders attend chapter conferences on a yearly basis to provide an update on ALA activities to ensure that they are meeting the needs of librarians, libraries, and state and regional associations as they work toward goals and visions for the next five years.

F. ML Co-Editor – No report given.

SECTION REPORTS

A. ACRL – President, Susan Cassagne gave ACRL report for Janet Breeden, Chair. ACRL will meet in March to plan the program for the MLA Conference.

B. Public Libraries – Jennifer Smith, Chair, stated she has invited the Trustee Section to join the Public Libraries Section for the meeting at the Conference.

C. School Libraries – Diane Willard gave report for Bettie Cox, Vice Chair. Diane Williams, Storyteller, will be doing two sessions at MLA Conference. Linda Williams, from AASL will also be attending.

D. Special Libraries – Clara Joorfetz, Chair, reported that Frank Voller, Circuit Court Judge for the Ninth District, will be the speaker for the Special Libraries Section at the MLA Conference.

E. Trustees – Randy Sherard, Chair, encouraged everyone to invite their local Trustees to attend the MLA Conference.

ROUNDTABLE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President, Susan Cassagne presented the following reports:

A. Technical Services – The report given for Bob Wolverton, Chair, stated there would be a program on May 13th on Book Repair, Electronic Acquisitions, and Outsourcing to improve your Library Technical Services.

B. Election – The report given for Paul McCarver, Chair, stated that the Election Committee would be meeting soon.

C. Membership – The report given for Daisy Cheng and Otha Keys, Co-Chairs, stated the membership application to the Legacy Club has been revised several times to reflect clarification that dues can be payable in increments of a minimum of \$ 200 until the total is paid in full. Susan stated she had received a brochure from the Membership Co-Chairs to encourage people in the library community to join MLA. Presently, MLA has 489 members.

D. Scholarship – Susan stated John Batson sent an e-mail to MLA members urging them to recommend nominations for the Peggy May Scholarship Award.

REPORT FROM THE USM SLIS DIRECTOR

President, Susan Cassagne reported she received an e-mail from Dr. Norton, USM SLIS Director, relating to the ALA Accreditation visit. The results of the review will not be known until June.

OLD BUSINESS

Catherine Nation recommended that Tunica, MS be the MLA 2006 Conference site. Clara Joorfetz made the motion to accept this recommendation. Jennifer Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President, Susan Cassagne reported that the Web-Page Chair is in the process of posting the Section and Roundtable Members' List on the MLA website.

NEW BUSINESS

MLA Chairs, Frances Coleman and Deb Mitchell, will serve as the representatives to the ALA Legislative Network.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The date of the next MLA Board Meeting will be May 6, 2005 at 10:00 am in the Board Room at MLC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business by the Board, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn. The Board adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Milner, *Secretary*

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Position _____

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One of the primary forms of communication between MLA and its members is the MLA listserv. As a member of the MLA listserv you will receive important announcements from MLA via email and be able to discuss library related issues with your peers. If you are not already a member, can we add your email address to the MLA listserv?

Sign me up! I decline

A. MEMBERSHIP TYPES

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SCRT \$ _____

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TSRT \$ _____

(Technical Services)

2YCRT \$ _____

(2 Year College)

YPSRT \$ _____

(Young People's Services)

C. ROUNDTABLES SUBTOTAL \$ _____

D. SCHOLARSHIPS

Donation to Peggy May Scholarship \$ _____

Donation to Virgia Brock-Shedd Scholarship \$ _____

D. SCHOLARSHIP SUBTOTAL \$ _____

GRAND MLA TOTAL

(DUES GRAND TOTAL (A + B + C) AND SCHOLARSHIP D) \$ _____

___ Check enclosed (Make payable to Mississippi Library Association and mail to MLA, P.O. Box 20448, Jackson MS 39289-1448). All dues include subscription to **Mississippi Libraries**.

___ Please charge my MLA dues to my:

VISA MasterCard

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Dues must be paid by **March 1** in order to receive the Spring issue of **Mississippi Libraries** and for annual election of officers. MLA may at times supply its membership list to professional organizations or library vendors.

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