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For additional information and a list of committees and roundtables, see the Mississippi Library Association's Web site at http://www.misslib.org/.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Catherine A. Nathan

Did you know that "Wake Up and Read!" was the theme of the first National Library Week? That was 1958. Wake up and read? I wonder which ad firm was behind that sleeper slogan?

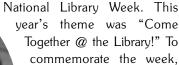
I do know that in the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions, and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less,

the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizen's organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life."

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. Beginning in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the ALA and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.

All these many years later, we are still buying TVs, but they are mostly high definition color sets now. We are also buying computers, MP3 players, and digital cameras - and we are still buying books. Increasing leisure time? I think not. But we are all still concerned about improving our incomes and our health, and we still rely on our libraries for the information necessary to help us make informed decisions.

In this issue there is a section covering how Mississippi libraries celebrated



commemorate the week, libraries across Mississippi gave out bookmarks and displayed special posters that contained photographs of many of Mississippi libraries' open doors.

Preschoolers enjoyed story hour at their local public library, tenth grade students used their high school library,

senior citizens learned how to use e-mail at their community college library, and mothers and fathers came in to get cards for their kids for the first time - all during National Library Week. Some came in through our many open doors to take a look at the new books available for checkout, to read a favorite magazine, to enjoy a display, to ask about joining a local book club, to use the computer, or to simply drop by and say "thank you" to the staff members who work at their local school, public, special, or academic library.

Libraries represent an American value like no other. They are the cornerstones of the communities they serve. Mississippi's libraries are a legacy to each succeeding generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. Libraries help celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available a wide range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners who are informed, literate, educated and culturally enriched. Walter Cronkite said it best: "Whatever the cost of libraries, it is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

National Library Week will be observed once again April 13-19, 2008, with the theme, "Join the circle of knowledge @ your library." Imagine - fifty years of National Library Week! ■

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The cover of the summer issue of *Mississippi Libraries* is an untitled black-and-white photograph by Cheryl Martin. Martin is an employee in the Communicative Disorders Department at the University of Mississippi. Photography has always been a passion to Martin and since starting at UM, she has enrolled in photography classes. Martin lives in Batesville, Mississippi with her husband and two children.



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.

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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.

Working Outside of Our Libraries: Stories about Collaboration

Elizabeth Stephan Editor, Mississippi Libraries Business Reference Librarian J. D. Williams Library The University of Mississippi

Librarians collaborate – we have to. When budgets are tight, when staffing runs low, we often have to rely on each other. But other times it's simply because we can. We can reach out, oftentimes outside of our normal circle, to those we know we can assist. Whether it is trying to improve literacy rates or teach computer skills to two very different groups, we do it. It's part of the job.

The topic of this issue is collaboration. It's a broad topic but one that we all have to do at some time. I chose this topic after meeting Mantra Henderson, Assistant Director of the James Herbert White Library at Mississippi Valley State University, at a SOLINET workshop at Mississippi State University last September. I don't remember the exact context, but Henderson was describing an outreach program they had done at Mississippi Valley State University that involved the Boys and Girls Club of Itta Bena and the Golden Age Retirement Home of Greenwood. MVSU, like most of us, was facing a shrinking budget and growing user needs. To combat this, the university submitted - and was awarded - a forty thousand dollar grant proposal with the United Negro College Fund Special Programs/National Library of Medicine-Historically Black College and Universities Access Project (UNCFSP/ NLM-HBCU Access Project). The funds from this proposal were used to purchase ten new computers, a laptop, and a printer for the James Herbert White Library at MVSU. In addition to the computers for the library, the grant funded a laptop and a year's worth of Internet access for the retirement home and five computers for the Boys and Girls Club. In her article, "Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration: How Three Different Groups Came Together," Mantra explains how all of the groups and organizations involved worked together and how the library staff provided these two unique user groups with access to e-mail, medical information, and, in one case, eHarmony.com.

In addition to Mantra's article, Victoria Penny, Early Childhood Services Coordinator at First Regional Library, describes how the library along with the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, the Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University, and the MSU Extension Service developed an Early Childhood Resource Center. The center, housed in the First Regional Library in Hernando, provides child care providers, teachers, and families with young children with early learning materials and training necessary to prepare children to read and learn before they enter school. The program has been a success. In her article, "Establishing an Early Childhood Resource Center @ First Regional Library," Penny describes how the program came together, how it has grown to include more than they imagined, and what are some of their plans for the future.

Also in this issue is a summary of different activities various libraries planned for National Library Week in April. As Catherine Nathan noted in the President's Column, Mississippi's libraries are "the cornerstones of the communities they serve." The activities many libraries planned for NLW prove it.

You will also find some preliminary information for the Mississippi Library Association's Annual Conference in this issue. This theme of this year's conference is "Discover the World, Close to Home" and it will be held in Vicksburg October 24-26. Hotel reservation information and guest speakers are listed.

At the very back of this issue you will notice an ad for a new editor for *Mississippi Libraries*. This is my last year as editor. I have two more issues left and, while it has been fun, it is time to turn the editorial reigns over to someone new. Those interested should submit a letter of application, resume, and references to MLA secretary Mary Julia Anderson.

The fall issue will focus on grant writing. It's something many of us do, yet it is something many of us don't know about. Have any hints or tips? What have your experiences been when applying for a grant? The winter issue will focus on academic libraries. Submissions can be sent to me at estephan@olemiss.edu.



Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration: How Three Different Groups Came Together

Dr. Annie M. Payton Director James Herbert White Library Mississippi Valley State University

Mantra Henderson Assistant Director James Herbert White Library Mississippi State Valley State University



Forthcoming James H. White Library.

Abstract

An academic library, a nursing/retirement home center and a Boys and Girls Club: What do these three entities have in common? Nothing, you say? Think again.

With increasing demand for an electronic classroom, the James Herbert White Library had to explore financial avenues to obtain one. What do you do when your operating budget is flat and you need thousands of dollars to build an electronic classroom? You do what libraries and librarians all over the country have managed to do for years. To rephrase an old adage, you get blood from a turnip. That is just what the James Herbert White Library did. Utilizing the power of collaboration, the James Herbert White Library was able to add space for a small computer laboratory with a seating capacity of twenty to serve as its electronic classroom for library instruction.

Introduction

Librarians have long been advocates of

change. Recently, emerging trends in technology and shrinking budgets have caused libraries and librarians to re-examine their mission statements as well as the way they deliver services to users. The once common garden-variety type of services no longer satisfies the needs of today's library users. Librarians are now taking on an almost assembly-line mentality where the question is often: "Can we get that in electronic format?" Be that as it may, libraries and librarians have become masters at embracing change with enthusiasm and fortitude. In our experience, a significant cause of change for libraries and librarians over the last five years has been shrinking finances. However, librarians have once again risen to the challenge and have found exciting, creative ways to rise above the deficit in their budgets and still meet the demands of their users. One of the ways that libraries have engaged in the shoring up of depleted funds is through collaborative initiatives. Librarians have discovered that collaboration is a valuable method for adding much needed capital and shared resources to a shrinking budget. When libraries can share resources, the expectation is one of reduced costs and positive outcomes for all that share in the collaborative effort. With this very concept of shared resources and shared responsibilities in mind, Mississippi Valley State University's James Herbert White Library entered into a collaborative partnership with two community partners in Leflore County. In selecting our partners, the primary impetus was to assist and empower the senior adult and youth members of Leflore County in becoming more knowledgeable of health related issues, as well as revenue sharing.

Background

In July 2004, the director of Mississippi Valley State University's James Herbert White Library submitted a grant proposal

for forty thousand dollars to the United Negro College Fund Special Programs/ National Library of Medicine - Historically Black College and Universities Access Project (UNCFSP/NLM-HBCU Access Project). The United Negro College Fund Special Programs, in conjunction with the National Library of Medicine, provides Internet access to an extensive database of healthcare information to the public through the NLM-HBCU Access Project. The funding from this grant enabled Mississippi Valley State University's James Herbert White Library staff to plan, implement and evaluate a program that increased the awareness and utilization of the National Library of Medicine's online health and medical resources. This project was a collaborative effort of the James H. White Library, the Golden Age Retirement Center of Greenwood, Miss., and the Boys and Girls Club of Itta Bena. The goal was to provide a broad baseline research group and to provide them with access to the National Library of Medicine healthcare databases. Age appropriate activities were developed for Golden Age Retirement Center and Boys and Girls Club participants. The funds from this grant were used to purchase ten computers, a laptop and a printer for the electronic classroom of the James H. White Library; two computers with Internet access for an entire year, a laptop and a printer for the Golden Age



From right to left: Dr. Annie M. Payton, Mantra Henderson and two staff members of the Golden Age Retirement Center. Photo by Ed Hill.

Retirement Center; and five computers with Internet access and a printer for the Boys and Girls Club of Itta Bena.

Collaboration - Golden Age Retirement Center

Now that you are aware of the background of the project that brought us all together, you may be wondering how it worked. We will begin with the residents of the Golden Age Retirement Center. The director of this facility, along with his social work staff, identified fifty-four functional residents that were to participate in this project. James H. White Library staff set up the two computers, laptop, and printer supplied by the grant, and provided training for the National Library of Medicine databases. We first had to train the staff members in a one-day workshop held at the James H. White Library. Once the staff was fully trained, we were then able to go to the retirement center to begin working with the residents. A member of the James H. White Library staff traveled weekly to the retirement center to hold sessions with the residents. These sessions were preplanned activities centered on the National Library of Medicine databases. Imagine trying to teach a seventy-year-old who has never been exposed to technology of any kind – let's just say that fun was had by all. Although taxing, the residents at the retirement center learned how to utilize the National Library of Medicine databases and set up e-mail accounts to keep their family and friends abreast of their medical conditions. So much fun was had that one resident wanted us to teach him how to log on to eHarmony.com.

Collaboration - Boys & Girls Club of Itta Bena

The Boys & Girls Club of Itta Bena, with an enrollment of two hundred and seventy four, is housed on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University. This

facility provides after school enrichment and character building activities as well as full-day programs for students during the summer. It was anticipated that one hundred and fifty of those third through eighth graders who currently attend the center would participate in the project. Like all children, the students of the Boys & Girls Club were excited to have an opportunity to learn how to use the Internet and e-mail. As with the retirement center, the director and staff of this entity were trained first. A member of the library staff held weekly sessions in the library for the students. These preplanned activities also centered on the National Library of Medicine databases. However, one limitation for this group was discovered when we tried to establish email accounts for them: one has to be eighteen years of age to establish a Yahoo e-mail account. As with any good librarian, we had a backup plan. We decided to create a group e-mail account for the entire club using the director as the account holder. The participants were then able to e-mail their parents, friends, and relatives information they had discovered while using the National Library of Medicine databases. Near the completion of the project, the participants were also able to create storyboards about health related issues using information that they had discovered while using the databases. These storyboards were then used to participate in a poster contest. The participants were awarded first, second and third place prizes.

Conclusion

By the end of the project, only fifteen of the functional residents of the Golden Age Retirement Center and eighteen Boys & Girls Club students were participating in the project. Although the numbers may seem small, they still cannot detract from the added benefits received by all that participated in this collaborative initiative. The

benefits in technology afforded to our two community partners alone were well worth the hard work and effort it took to accomplish this grant. The added benefit of being able to establish a much needed space in the James H. White Library to teach bibliographic instruction goes to show the power of collaboration. As you will note, collaborative initiatives are a very productive method of shoring up depleted coffers. They also produce an added incentive of being able to partner with outside entities, such as the Golden Age Retirement Center and the Boys & Girls Club of Itta Bena, as a way of providing outreach services to a library's community.

Libraries and librarians have learned during the years how to meet the great demands of library users with sometimes dismal funding. Collaborative initiatives and consortia are methods utilized by some to bridge the gap between library needs and library funding. Insufficient budgets and constant changes in technology will continue to play a key role in the future of libraries. It is up to us, the librarians, to become masters at manipulating funds and technological changes in order to utilize them for the good of the librarianship profession as well as the library user. Such a need may give cause for us to create unique and innovative methods of increasing funding, but one certainty is that we can never give up the good fight of fighting for our fair share of funding, whether it is on a university, city, county, or state level. ■



Establishing an Early Childhood Resource Center @ First Regional Library

Victoria Penny Early Childhood Services Coordinator First Regional Library

Abstract

In 2006 the First Regional Library, along with the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, the Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University, and the MSU Extension Service developed an Early Childhood Resource Center. The center works with childcare providers in a collaborative statewide initiative to increase the quality of education in child care for children five years old and younger. Their Early Childhood Resource Center serves families and professionals with resources and workshops.

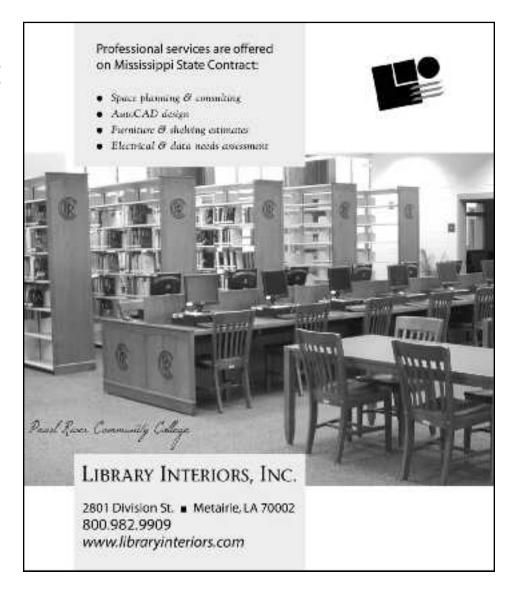
Introduction

Over the past few years, the First Regional Library system has actively sought out and taken every possible opportunity to increase the quality of our service and outreach to young children before they are old enough to enter school or visit the library on their own. This has been done in several ways, including initiating a "Born to Read" project which distributes book bags to newborns and their mothers in every county we serve, adding toddler storytime programs at many branches, increasing the number of puppet shows performed by our First Regional Library Puppet Players, both in library branches and at other locations, and offering family literacy programs designed for parents of young children, such as Motheread/Fatheread in Tunica. A Library Services and Technology Act Grant (LSTA) we received for two years also provided a new service called "Words on Wheels" or WOW, a traveling storytime program in Panola and Tunica counties. WOW took stories and library resources to child care centers, including family home day care

providers. Another very popular service to the early childhood education community has been the addition of "Storytime Kits" to our library system's collection. By applying for several different grants, we have created approximately seventy-five kits, which are large boxes consisting of books and other materials on themes frequently used by teachers of preschool children. Topics include farm animals, insects,

community helpers, learning letters, healthy habits, and many more. Our goal in implementing all of these various grants and projects is to help the caregivers and parents of young children set the stage for lifelong learning and library use.

In the fall of 2005, local funders and state policymakers in the early childhood field approached First Regional Library Director Catherine Nathan. They present-



ed an idea for a partnership to locate a Child Care Resource and Referral Center serving the Northwest Mississippi area at the First Regional Library Headquarters in Hernando. She eagerly agreed to not only house the center in the library building, but to sign on as a full partner in the project. Nathan has long been interested in and vocal about public library services to very young children, so she was most excited about this opportunity to enter a whole new realm of taking the library to where the needs of our patrons are. She believed then, and still does, that this project is a unique way for the public library to provide more intentional support for young children's learning and growth.

On January 4, 2006, press conferences were held in libraries around our region announcing the establishment of the Early Childhood Resource Center in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, the Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University, and the MSU Extension Service. Start-up funding for the center came from the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, the Assisi Foundation of Memphis, the Day Foundation, and a Dollar General Early Literacy Grant. The initiative received attention from local papers, including the Commercial Appeal, and a feature on WMC-TV Memphis' Action News.

On February 1, 2006, staff moved into the Early Childhood Resource Center space inside the First Regional Library headquarters. Beginning in March, and without slowing down since, numerous state-approved workshop trainings have been held at various locations throughout our library's service area. From March 2006 to April 2007, the Early Childhood Resource Center has presented fifty-seven training sessions with 1,597 child care providers and teachers attending. Topics for workshops include early literacy activities, children's literature, optimal learning environments, curriculum and thematic units, and various topics using the Early Learning Guidelines from the Mississippi Department of Education.

In the past year, we made on-site visits to some thirty of the child care centers we

serve to work directly alongside teachers. During these visits, resource materials, books, puppets, toys, age-appropriate learning activities, and even health information such as proper hand washing procedures were shared. Also in the first year, over 300 visitors came in to use the resources in our center, and more than 2,360 items were checked out.

Objective & Background

The primary objective of the Early Childhood Resource Center at the First Regional Library is to serve child care providers, teachers, and families with young children with early learning materials and training necessary to prepare children to read and learn successfully when they enter school.

Every week, nearly twelve million children under age five are in some type of child care setting. The children of working mothers spend an average of thirty-six hours each week in child care. Very simply, child care has become part of the daily routine for millions of American families. Quality child care is an economic and human resource issue as well as an educational one - parents must work and they want a safe and secure place as well as a loving environment to send their children. The quality of child care is important because the health and safety of children are at stake and ninety percent of brain development occurs between birth and age five, which makes this time a critical period for child development (www.naccrra.org).

In First Regional Library's five-county service area there are over 130 licensed child care providers (including Head Start centers and private preschools). In DeSoto County alone, there are sixty centers, with new ones opening almost every week. We feel that the library not only should, but must, reach out to this important segment of our population. Many child care centers in our area have made a habit of bringing groups of children to library programs, and branch children's librarians had already been visiting their local preschools and Head Starts whenever possible. In the past, individual teachers and child care centers frequently contacted the library

with requests for staff development training on reading to children and other pertinent topics. However, there had previously been no staff or department dedicated solely to Early Childhood concerns. With the new Early Childhood Resource Center, our library system is able to reach out to residents who may never have considered using the public library in quite this way before.

The Early Childhood Resource Center is part of Mississippi's state network of Child Care Resource & Referral Centers (http://www.earlychildhood.msstate.edu/ r&r/index.htm). The Resource & Referral (R& R) Project is a partnership between Mississippi State University's Early Childhood Institute and MSU Extension Service. Currently there are five locations that provide Resource & Referral services in Mississippi – in the northeast, NEMCC-Booneville and ICC-Tupelo; in east central Mississippi, EMCC-Mayhew; and on the Gulf Coast, MSGCCC-Gulfport and First Regional Library. First Regional Library's center is the only public library involved in the project at this time; the other sites are located at community colleges.

As a result of the R& R project, our center is contributing information to a national database of child care centers and using this database to refer parents to local child care centers in our area (http://www.childcareaware.org). We are also maintaining a database of training workshops and the names of child care providers who attend each session. This is part of a statewide effort to provide consistent professional development for early childhood educators and a quality rating scale for child care centers.

Benefits & Challenges of Intentional Collaboration

We have had a great deal of interest on the part of parents, caregivers, teachers and the general public. Sessions held at local libraries and child care centers have been well-received. There has been a great deal of positive feedback and requests for even more information and activities. The challenges include serving the growing number of families and child care centers in our rapidly increasing population. Two staff members are working very hard to meet the needs and requests of our patrons! But, thanks in no small part to assistance from funders and hard work on the part of many other library staff members, the Early Childhood Resource Center is fully operational and very busy serving child care providers, teachers, families, and young children. In the first year, we have actually been able to achieve more than we had ever hoped.

Our work has been taking us places the library has not been before. We aren't just encouraging young children to sit quietly and read, but to get up and play. Relationships with our funders have enabled us to become involved in local initiatives relating to early childhood obesity prevention. The Get a Life! Health Initiative is being spearheaded by the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi (see http:// www.cfnm.org/getalife.htm). Part of our work with them has included planning trainings relating to physical activity and good nutrition for child care providers around the state. We have hosted several physical fitness workshops as part of the SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids!) Early Childhood program. Now, we check out physical education equipment (not just books and puppets) to centers that attend the training and attempt to provide them with the support that they need to help young children have healthy minds and bodies.

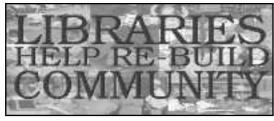
In partnership with MSU Extension Service staff, we also held Families, Food, & Fun programs from November through March. These family-friendly sessions taught health and nutrition information to children, families, and teachers at Head Start Centers and libraries, and over two hundred families participated. Funding for Families, Food, & Fun came from General Mills Foundation's Champions for Healthy Kids.

Another benefit of the project has been the ability to reach more child care centers and preschools than ever before with the importance of early education and literacy. We are taking part in a statewide project using the PBS show Between the Lions in preschool classrooms, which has a strong focus on early literacy. We have already made visits to nine classes as part of this project to provide resources, books, and support to those teachers.

The work of the Early Childhood Resource Center has spilled over into other aspects of library programming as well. This past year, our library system also saw a tremendous increase in participation in the Summer Library Program by children who spend their summers at child care centers. During 2006, fifty-five centers participated. From these centers alone, 3,215 children and 344 adults signed up for the summer program.

We have collaborated with many organizations we were already working with before this grant, but the type of work we are doing with the Early Childhood Resource Center has made it possible to develop even closer relationships with these groups. We are participating in research projects with the Early Childhood Institute at MSU, training and programming with the MSU Extension Service, early childhood healthy eating and physical movement initiatives with the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi and local Community Health Councils, planning and advising with ICS Head Start and Northwest Community College's Department of Child Development Technology, Tunica County Literacy Council for family literacy, along with local groups such as Friends of the Library, Rotary Clubs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Christian Weekday Education Network, and individual child care centers in our communities.

One of the greatest benefits of the project to date has been our library system's participation in statewide efforts to bring about systemic change in early care and education in Mississippi. We have received



a great deal of training, information, and networking, as well as being involved in meetings to plan for future work with young children and their caregivers. We feel so fortunate that a public library is able to play a part in this statewide collaborative process.

The Work Continues

The most important outcome of the establishment of the Early Childhood Resource Center at First Regional Library has been the chance to broaden as well as deepen our services to children up to five years old as well as their parents and caregivers. The lessons we have learned in beginning this project are to be as flexible as possible and seek to serve the actual, not merely perceived, needs of our community. We will continue to network and work with many others in our communities and state to provide the best quality training and resources for families and caregivers.

In 2007 and beyond, the Early Childhood Resource Center will continue to take part in the same types of activities as before, while planning strategically to incorporate intentional early childhood services into our library's overall vision for the future. We will continue to be trained in and develop new topics for child caregiver workshops in the effort to create statewide consistency for professional development. We plan to continue our involvement in nutrition and fitness initiatives and preschool literacy projects. We hope to continue to devote library funding to the project, as well as seek additional funding sources wherever possible.

The importance of child development and early childhood educational experiences cannot be emphasized enough. All of our children deserve quality child care and access to learning resources. Our

experience so far shows that, with administrative support, staff participation, and community input, the local public library can truly come to the table as an active player and stakeholder in the efforts to enhance the care and education of our youngest children.

National Library Week in Mississippi

As MLA president Catherine Nathan mentioned in her column, the theme for this year's National Library Week was "Come Together @ the Library." The MLA National Library Week committee, chaired by Alice Shands, designed and distributed posters and bookmarks. Several libraries submitted events at their libraries. Thank you to everyone who submitted events and pictures.

MLA Highlights from National Library Week

 Posters and bookmarks featuring the doors of many Mississippi libraries were designed and distributed.

- Braille bookmarks were designed: they say "Mississippi Libraries Welcome You" in print and Braille and the Braille alphabet is included on the reverse side.
- Over fifty radio stations around the state were mailed CDs of the Gentry High School cheerleaders cheering for Mississippi libraries.
- Press releases promoting MLA and National Library Week were sent to newspapers around the state

Central Mississippi Regional Library System

On Tuesday, April 17, Brandon, Missis-

sippi author Joe Lee visited G. Chastaine Flynt Memorial Library. Joe Lee founded Dogwood Press and has self-published three of his own books - Dead Air, On the Record and Judgment Day. Lee's short stories are available on Amazon Shorts. He has a multi-media background that includes many years as a TV weatherman and a classic rock disc jockey. Lee is a graduate of Mississippi State University and lives in Brandon, Mississippi, with his fam-

Lee helped us celebrate National Library Week as he introduced his newest book, *Judgment Day.* The book is a tale of extortion and high school football and spotlights a highly diverse group of people who are all at crossroads in their lives. The book is set in a fictional Mississippi town

where everybody knows everybody else's business. The whirlwind of events brings the characters together on a cold winter night and links them forever—not only in tragedy, but in triumph of the human spirit. Lee gave us fascinating information about publishing in general. He is a terrific speaker, and his books are exciting thrillers and real page-turners. Flowood library considers it an honor when Joe Lee visits and speaks.



Seated front: Brittani Terry; Standing back row: Author Joe Lee, Carol Smith, Chairman of the Central Mississippi Regional Library System Board of Directors, and Rose Slay, Flowood Reference Staff Member. Photo by Jan Neal.

Another special performance was, Oh, Mr. Faulkner Do You Write? Internationally acclaimed Mississippi playwright John Maxwell wrote and performed this oneman drama on the life of William Faulkner. Maxwell brings Faulkner to life with superb dialog and powerful acting. This outstanding performance is tailor-made for presentation in library settings. (All that is needed for the set is a chair and a small table.) Faulkner's character and the words he speaks will linger in memory long after the play is over. The drama seemed to inspire many to borrow Faulkner's biographies and to reread stories and books his character discusses in the play. The Flowood library meeting room was overflowing with excited patrons who were thrilled to be able to attend this performance free of charge. The play was sponsored by grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the



Poster for the 2007 National Library Week.

Friends of the Flowood Library in celebration of National Library Week. For more information contact Jan Neal, manager of the Flowood Library, 601-919-1911 or Mr. John Maxwell 3525 Hawthorn Dr., Jackson, MS 39216/E-mail: maxwell @netdoor.com.



Picture of stage set for the play, Oh, Mr. Faulkner Do You Write? Photo by Jan Neal.



A Flowood customer during intermission purchases a \$1.00 dollar ticket for the Friends the Library spring raffle. The winner of the raffle won over \$1,700 worth of merchandise from area businesses. Proceeds benefit the Flowood Library. Photo by Jan Neal.

Eula Dees Memorial Library, Northeast Mississippi Community College

The Eula Dees Memorial Library produced a brochure outlining both historic and recent accomplishments. Pictures of the library from old college annuals were used to celebrate the history of the library. Some highlights include:

- 1948: Library begins on the second floor of the Administration Building
- 1949: Opens for student use with

- 2,500 volumes on the shelves. Ruth Martin is the Librarian.
- 1950: Collection grows to 4,000 volumes. Mary Gammon becomes Librarian
- 1963: Dedication of the new building named in memory of Miss Eula Dees, longtime trustee of the college. The collection consists of 9,300 volumes of books and several hundred volumes of periodicals.
- 1977: The collection grows to 20,000 books and 160 periodicals.
- 1989: Computerized library system is installed.
- 1993: A renovation of the library is completed.
- 2006: New paint, carpet, countertops and lobby furniture is added.
- 2007: Library has 54 student computers connected to the Internet, wireless connectivity for laptops, online databases, thousands of electronic books in addition to 46,000+ regular books, 280 periodicals and thousands of audio visual materials.

Hinds County Community College

National Library Week festivities were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by



Sherman Lee Dillon and the Dillionaires (Anna and Andrew) at Hinds Community College's McLendon Library. Photo by Wade E. Thornhill.

students, faculty, and staff. Sherman Lee Dillion and the Dillionaires got Monday morning rolling at the Raymond Campus with an hour of folk and bluegrass music as well as a brief history of the banjo. It was the most singin' and clappin' this library has ever seen. Also on Monday, Dr. Cooper and The Jubilee Singers entertained the Utica Campus. Other highlights included Hinds Community College instructor Beverly Fatherree performing her dramatic monologue "Flannery O'Connor: In Her Own Words," the Utica Jewels book review, and a jazz performance. All locations had socials and give-a-ways. Hinds also incorporated a series of subject-specific professional development courses taught by librarians throughout the week.

Mitchell Elementary in Columbus, Mississippi

To encourage our students to continue reading over the summer, Mitchell Elementary had a Scholastic Book Fair. It had a beach theme to help get students motivated.

Robert C. Irwin Library, Tunica, Mississippi

Four major events occurred during National Library Week at the Robert C. Irwin Library in Tunica.

- Children's Arts and Crafts After School Program on Monday, April 16
- Award of the first Ashley Adams Essay
 Award on Tuesday, April 17
 - This award was established by author Ashley Adams from Massachusetts who uses the library computers when he's in Tunica on business. Early this year, he left a note stating that he was very impressed by the friendly staff in the library and the use of the computers by school children for school projects. He wanted to establish an annual essay contest to be judged by him, entitled: "What the Robert C. Irwin

- Library Means to Me." He awarded a \$100 check to Michael Reed who wrote the winning essay.
- President of the Board of Supervisors for Tunica County, Cedric Burnette, presented the award and also matched the funds for the award.
- The Memphis Botanic Garden presented a program on New Annuals and Perennials for the Southern Garden for the Brown Bag Luncheon on Wednesday, April 18. A genealogy workshop was presented on the afternoon of Thursday April 19.



Michael Reed, first winner of the Ashley Adams Essay Award, awarded by author Ashley Adams at the Robert C. Irwin Library.

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library

The Waynesboro-Wayne County Library in Waynesboro and the Puppets Art Theatre put on two performances of the puppet show "A Carnival of Animals" for approximately 400 second graders in Wayne County.

The library also had a visit from students at Clara Elementary School. Each student received a commemorative National Library Week bag as part of their visit.



The Puppet Arts Theatre performed "A Carnival of Animals" at the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library. Photo by Patsy Brewer.



Clara Elementary School students with their National Library week bags at the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library. Photo by Patsy Brewer.

Roberts-LaForge Library, Delta State University

The Instructional Resources Center (IRC), Roberts-LaForge Library, Delta State University (DSU) sponsored two events:



Mr. Watermelon Head and Paula Popcorn entertain children for National Library Week at the Delta State University Library, Instructional Resources Center. Photo by Frieda Quon.

Pre-school children and infants and toddlers in the Born to Read program celebrated National Library Week with a show by Mr. Watermelon Head and Paula Popcorn, popular local entertainers with a unique presentation featuring various musical instruments, songs and creative storytelling.

In addition, the IRC arranged an Ezra Jack Keats read aloud at the Cleveland CrossTie Arts and Jazz Festival. DSU student teachers read Keats books; to carry out the theme of Jennie's Hat, children received creative hats fashioned from newspapers; then each child was given free books from the First Book–Mississippi Delta program. This event was a collaborative effort with the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and the Bolivar County Literacy Council.



The student teacher is Jillian Glenn, Junior Education student from D'Iberville, MS. Photo by Frieda Quon.



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2007

"DISCOVER THE WORLD, CLOSE TO HOME"

October 24-26, 2007 Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg

Some of the scheduled speakers and events:

Keynote Speaker - Pauline LaRooy, National Library of New Zealand

Robert St. John – Chef/Author/Restaurateur

Grant Writing Workshop - Dr. Bettye Ward Fletcher, Professional Associates, Inc.

Check the conference Web site for regular updates: http://www.misslib.org/

Conference Hotel Information

Horizon Casino Hotel - Vicksburg, MS

Hotel Reservations:

Phone:

- 1. Call 601-636-3423
- 2. Mention the Conference Booking Code MSL 102207
- 3. Room rate \$59.95

Online:

- 1. Access the Web site at http://www.horizonvicksburg.com/index.html
- 2. Select Reservations from the left menu
- 3. Choose dates of attendance
- 4. Select Room Type (\$59.95)
- 5. Enter Personal/Payment information AND Mississippi Library Association –MSL 102207 in the Comments Section
- 6. Complete reservation process

PLEASE don't forget to use the Conference Booking Code so we meet our room commitment.

SEE YOU IN VICKSBURG!

News Briefs



New Orleans Learning Resources Center. Photo by leanna Graves

William Carey University Opens **New Library Branch**

William Carey University (WCU) opened a third branch library in April to serve the needs of the students of the WCU School of Nursing which is located on the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The new library has \$25,000 worth of new nursing books, as well as a computer lab that students can use to access the university's extensive array of health science databases. The nursing program in New Orleans is part of the university's commitment to provide nurses to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region to help the residents of these areas recover from Katrina. With the opening of this library, on the first anniversary of the reopening of the Gulfport library, William Carey nursing students have two state-ofthe-art facilities to use for their studies. William Carey University will soon announce plans to build a permanent new library for students on a completely new campus north of I-10. The two new libraries, as well as the one located on the main campus in Hattiesburg, are full members of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and have access to the DOCLINE Interlibrary Loan network which provides a full range of health science journals to faculty and students. Director of Libraries Patricia Furr commented on the library's opening, "We are proud to play a part in providing skilled nurses to these two areas so devastated by Katrina. We believe that these two state-ofthe-art facilities will continue to provide the information resources necessary to train the nursing personnel needed for both the Coast and the New Orleans areas."

Center for Teaching and Learning in Mitchell Library Opens

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) celebrated its grand opening in its new location this past March. Located at 2205 on the second floor of the Mitchell Library, the Center is a joint project of the MSU Libraries, Information Technology Services and the Provost's Office. The center's mission is to foster a university culture that values quality teaching and

engaged learning. In support of this mission, the CTL provides workshops, seminars, and brown bag luncheons dedicated to a wide range of technological and pedagogical issues. This past semester, the center provided sessions on developing a teaching philosophy and a teaching portfolio, building learning communities, and strategies for designing a course syllabus. The CTL also administers the WebCT course management system for the campus. Dr. Deborah Lee, Professor and Coordinator of Library Instructional Services, serves as the Associate Director of the Center. Dr. Matt Raven, Director of User Services, is the Director of the Center.

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MegaResource School Librarian Workshop attendees network and explore resources for their libraries. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

MegaResource School Librarian Workshop

The seventh MegaResource School Librarian Workshop was held February 23, 2007, at the Mississippi State University Libraries. With fifty-five school library media specialists attending from around the state, this year's workshop focused on the concept of information power and literacy for the K-12 classroom. Keynote speakers for the morning session were Frances Coleman, Dean of the MSU Libraries and Dr. Deborah Lee, MegaResource Program Coordinator and Associate Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at MSU. Dean Coleman discussed the vital link library media specialists play in the education of their students. Dr. Lee discussed the use of technology by the netgen students in today's classroom. The afternoon keynote session examined MPB Express and was presented by Darrell Lee from Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB). A number of concurrent sessions were also sponsored, offering introductions to everything from MAGNOLIA databases and the software program Microsoft Publisher, to Google, and even



Ragtime pianist Jeff Barnhart entertains during the inaugural Charles Templeton Ragtime Music Festival at MSU. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

Facebook! In addition to the concurrent session, four poster sessions helped attendees use government documents in their classroom, examine Mississippi's rural history through CHARM, make music with the MSU ragtime collection and explore MAGNOLIA resources in the classroom. Overall, it was an information packed day! The next MegaResource School Librarian Workshop will be held in February 2008. For more information about the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop series, please contact Dr. Deborah Lee at 662-325-0810 or dlee@library.msstate. edu.

Inaugural Ragtime Music Festival a Smash Hit

March 23-25, 2007, music was in the air on the Mississippi State University (MSU) campus as pianists from across the country (and beyond!) assembled for the inaugural Charles Templeton Ragtime Music Festival.

The Festival, held in MSU's Mitchell Memorial Library and McComas Hall, welcomed guests from around the country and from the Starkville area as the music, the composers, and the spirit of ragtime music was lauded. Performers included the New Queen of Ragtime, Canadian pianist Mimi Blais; bandleader and showman extraordinaire Jeff Barnhart; boogie woogie specialist from England, Neville Dickie; co-artistic director of Sedalia, Missouri's Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, Sue Keller; and daughter of ragtime great Trebor Tichenor, pianist Virginia Tichenor. David Jasen, musicologist and author from New York, served as master of ceremonies and Festival Advisor.

With seminars, mini-concerts, and tours of the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum led by Jasen, plus amazing concerts with the artists each evening, the first Charles Templeton Ragtime Music Festival was a smash hit.

"Having performers of this caliber here for our inaugural festival was simply thrilling," said Stephen Cunetto, MSU Libraries' Coordinator of Systems and one of four coordinators of the festival. "Their artistry, their enthusiasm, and their knowl-

edge of the ragtime genre brought exactly what we wanted to the event, and that was for attendees to learn and to fall in love, as we have, with this incredible music."

Along with Friends of the Libraries president Chip Templeton, Dean of Libraries Frances Coleman, and Director of University Relations Maridith Geuder, Cunetto coordinated the weekend with numerous Starkville and MSU volunteers and with the help and guidance of musicologist David Jasen.

Comments from many of the ragtime followers from around the country that attended raved about the quality of the entertainment, the extraordinary venues, the hospitality and the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum. According to Jasen, "The Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum contains the most complete collection of Victor Talking Machines from the beginning in 1897 to 1930. The concept of having artifacts illustrate the 'business of music in the United States' is unique and is not only important for serious students of popular music, but for history buffs, sociologists and everybody interested in knowing how music influenced this country during the entire 20th century and continuing into the 21st."

"Through the Templeton Collection of instruments, sheet music and recordings," he continued, "the mission of the festival is not only to inspire future performers and bring notoriety to...but also to expose and share this extraordinary collection with music lovers, historians, researchers and scholars," said Coleman.

Plans are already being made for next year's Charles Templeton Music Festival, and it promises to bring even more excitement to the campus.

"We're all so excited by the success of this year's festival," said Templeton, "and we hope people will be marking their calendars for next year's."

For more information on the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum at Mitchell Memorial Library and to see photographs from the 2007 Festival, please visit http://library.msstate.edu/templeton or call 662-325-6634. ■

About Books

Bailey, Tom. *Cotton Song*. New York: Shaye Archeart Books, 2006. 319 pp. \$25.00 (hardback)

Bailey's second novel takes readers into the Mississippi Delta town of Ruleton (Hushpuckashaw County) during the summer of 1944. News has spread about the lynching of Letitia Johnson, a black caretaker for a prominent family-the Tisdales. Letitia has been accused of drowning the family's infant daughter and was arrested for the murder. A vigilante mob, however, took the law into their own hands by dragging Letitia from her cell and hanging her. Before Letitia was arrested, she instructed her twelve year old daughter. Sally, to hide in the brush for safety. The county's welfare agent, Baby Allen, is on assignment to retrieve Sally from her home and to place her in foster care. Even though Baby is going through personal trials due to an unfaithful husband and an unexpected pregnancy, she still fights to protect the welfare of Sally, even when threatened by the Klan.

Jake Lemaster, a one-time football legend at the University of Mississippi, is now the second in command at Parchman Prison – a position given to him by his father, Boss Chief. Jake is suddenly caught up in the recent events by joining Baby Allen in protecting Sally and trying to uncover the truth behind the drowning of the infant Tisdale.

Bailey brilliantly describes each character in the novel and sets the scene of the Mississippi Delta during the World War II era. The book is filled with revenge, envy, power, and injustice which make it a pageturner for adult readers. *Cotton Song* is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Shugana Campbell

Curator of Visual Collections University of Mississippi



Barr, Nevada. *Deep South.* New York: Berkley Books, 2000. 367 pp. \$7.99 (paperback)

Anna Pigeon is a National Park Ranger in law enforcement on her way to a new position as GS-11 district ranger position in the Port Gibson district. She drove straight through from Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, 22 hours, pulling a U-Haul with all her possessions and with her drooling black lab Taco, and her yowling cat Piedmont in a cat carrier, all on the front seat of her Rambler. Her new Park Service house is in the Rocky Springs Campground, north of Port Gibson. It's spring. The roads are lined with red clover. feathery mimosa, and crabapple, and Bradford pear are blooming. Anna is a stranger in Mississippi, in a new job where she was not wanted and with two uncooperative rangers to manage. A string of mysteries ensues involving a host of characters including prom-goers, Civil War Confederate soldier re-enactors, alligators and her beloved furry friends.

Nevada Barr has a thorough understanding of the park service and its employees. She has developed a plot with twists and turns, and is a master of suspense. Her characters are believable. *Deep South* is great read for mystery readers and Mississippi lovers. *Hunting Season* follows with the same characters and a continuation of the story.

Anne Parsons Radojcsics

Friends of MS Libraries, Inc., Board Member Membership VP & NE Regional Rep



Haines, Carolyn. Fever Moon. New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2007. 294 pp. \$23.95 (hardback).

Best known for cozy mysteries set in the Mississippi Delta, Carolyn Haines

experiments with a different type of fiction set in Louisiana. The location of the story is New Iberia, during World War II, and features a community plagued by superstition, tradition and the impact of war.

Fever Moon paints a picture that is similar to the one portrayed by James Lee Burke in his contemporary Dave Robichaux mystery series. Both Haines and Burke explore the gritty side of humanity through the interaction of their books' characters. Haines' main character. Deputy Sheriff Raymond Thibodeaux, is a flawed hero. He was wounded in the war and has returned home a changed man who continues to battle his own demons while trying to maintain order in the Parish. Thibodeaux attempts to understand how to "fit in" with his home town after living his glory days as the town's high-school football hero destined for greatness.

The book begins with Raymond Thibodeaux being summoned to the edge of a creek where he discovers Adele Hebert, a Cajun woman who lives in the swamp with her family, covered in blood. Legends swirl around Adele when the local citizens hear about Henri's murder and believe that Adele has become the *loup-garou*, a Cajun shape-shifter that traditionally takes the shape of a wolf and preys on animals and humans. Superstition is strong in this community and contributes to the dark atmosphere of the book as it moves to its terrifying conclusion.

Haines beautifully depicts the fear and uncertainty of the residents of Iberia Parish in this novel that explores the dark side of the South. *Fever Moon* is highly recommended for public libraries in Mississippi and for academic libraries which have Mississippiana or regional Louisiana collections.

Jennifer A. Smith

Assistant Director
Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library



North, Darden. *Points of Origin*. Jackson, MS: Ponder House Press, 2006. 337, [3] pages. \$24.95 (hardback)

Arson, murder, blackmail...just a few of the events that occur in the small town of Larkspur, Mississippi. A native of Jackson, author Darden North, quickly dispels the myth that small towns are boring and lack entertainment. Several characters from North's debut novel, *House Call*, return to bring chaos to the lives of those in Larkspur.

Sheridan Foxworth III is the heir to the Foxworth fortune, due to the untimely death of his parents. Sher lives in the shadow of his father, Sheridan Foxworth II, who was a successful cosmetic surgeon until the Ridleys entered his life and tore the entire Foxworth family apart.

After several unsuccessful attempts to gain admission to medical school, Sher takes time to find himself. It is during his time off and due to a daring rescue that his life changes. He finds the girl of his dreams, the local librarian, and with her

"help" finds himself on the local fire department. The knowledge he gains and the people he meets as a firefighter will serve as allies in his quest for revenge on the person who destroyed his family.

Through Sher's experiences, many interesting characters of Larkspur are unveiled. Perhaps the most interesting character is Cordell Pixler, the local lawyer who is always looking for the next big ticket lawsuit. Many lives are connected and devastated because of him and their revenge is the common denominator of this suspense novel.

Readers of Mary Higgins Clark will appreciate *Points of Origin*, as it is full of suspense and laced with humor which keeps readers engaged. Highly recommended for public libraries.

Crystal Giles

Technical Services Librarian R.C. Pugh Library, Northwest MS Community College



Cresswell, Stephen. Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi After Reconstruction, 1877-1917. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi for the Mississippi Historical Society, 2006. [283 pp.] \$45.00 (hardcover)

Stephen Cresswell tackles the topic of social change in Mississippi following Reconstruction with directness and compassion. Cresswell displays a deep interest in this period in American history and particularly in how it unfolded in the Deep South. A professor of history at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Cresswell has authored two other books on history in Mississippi and the South.

Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race is a factual account of Mississippi during a period of change and adjustment towards industrialization throughout the nation. This book outlines Mississippi's social and economic structure before and after 1865, a system based totally on agriculture. It then moves to examine in detail the history of Mississippi's agriculture economy, its

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system of labor control, race issues, and politics during the years 1877-1917. This is accomplished with a thorough understanding and descriptions of the major factors driving Mississippi's move from an agrarian society to an industrial system. Cresswell articulates how this move was effected by and how it affected Mississippi's agrarian system. Included in his details are facts on the make-up of the local labor force, ongoing race issues, and even the geography of the state itself.

For example, the chapter on industrialization categorizes Mississippi's attempt to industrialize by offering statistics that clearly support Cresswell's accounts. By 1880 the state had 69 percent more manufacturing facilities then it had in 1850. Yet most were small gristmills, one person blacksmith shops or neighborhood sawmills. Nationwide, manufacturing facilities had increased 105 percent for the same period. The growth of manufacturing in Mississippi was significantly behind the rest of the nation. Cresswell takes us through this phase of development and delineates the geographic, social and cultural reasons for Mississippi's sparse manufacturing development.

Cresswell's research and analysis reveals that this is "the history of a state that underwent wrenching changes in the four decades after 1877. Yet the state was clearly a place where great continuities were the

rule. The citizen of 1917 lived life very much like the citizen of forty years earlier."

Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi after Reconstruction, 1877-1917 is well researched, factual and written for a broad audience. This title is highly recommended for academic and public libraries and also for secondary school libraries with advanced history curriculum.

Elizabeth M. Doolittle

Public Services Librarian University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Park



Smith, Bruce Lee. Soul Storm, Finding God amidst Disaster, Reflections from a Katrina Survivor (with music CD). Gretna, LA; Pelican Publishing Co., 2006. 207 pp. \$22.99 (hardback and CD edition).

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11). This is the theme reiterated throughout *Soul Storm*. Smith uses the backdrop of Hurricane Katrina and its horrible aftermath to expound on the scope of universal human suffering. Troubles, large and small, come to us all. The resulting feelings of stress, grief, fear and depression beg the questions: Why did this happen? Does God care? Is God speaking

to us through events such as Katrina or are we merely caught in random calamities?

Smith does not attempt to answer the unanswerable. Why God allows pain and suffering to the just and the unjust has been asked since the days of Job. What Smith does do is lead the reader back to God for the strength to endure and the openness to learn from the storms of life, even those of our own making. Smith asserts that in the midst of unspeakable tragedy, all is not lost. God can bring "beauty from ashes."

No stranger to tragedy himself, Smith utilizes his own personal narratives, as well as those of other survivors, the Bible, and insights from historical and literary figures as varied as John Donne and Martin Luther King, to offer answers to the questions we all ask. A CD of narration from Katrina survivors and inspirational music entitled "After the Storm" is included with the book.

Some readers my find that *Soul Storm* inspires and gives hope of restoration and the strength to rebuild.

This book is recommended for public libraries. Secondary school and academic libraries might consider it beneficial if they collect inspirational literature.

Gail Bracey

Assistant Director
Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System ■

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People in the News

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) is pleased to announce that **Paula Webb**, serials/interlibrary loan librarian at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., is the recipient of the 2007 First Step Award-A Wiley Professional Development Grant presented by the ALCTS Serials Section.

The award will be presented on Sunday, June 24, 2007, at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony during the 2007 American Library Association (ALA) meeting in Washington, DC.

Webb began her current position in 2003 and has since demonstrated her commitment to serials work and continued professional development through her scholarship - including an article in College and Research Libraries News and a forthcoming article in College and Undergraduate Libraries - as well as participation in state and national professional groups and membership in associations. Webb expressed a desire to broaden her horizons through participation in the ALA at the national level, where she can network with other colleagues who work with serials. Webb graduated from Judson College with a bachelor's in English. She earned her master's in library science from the University of Alabama in 2002.

John Wiley & Sons sponsors this \$1,500 grant which offers librarians new to the serials field an opportunity to broaden their perspective by attending an ALA Annual Conference and by encouraging professional growth through participation in ALCTS Serials Section activities.

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) is the national association for information providers who work in collections and technical services. Areas of concentration of ALCTS members include acquisition, cataloging, collection development, preservation, and archiving

of all library materials in all formats as well as serial collection management. ALCTS is a division of the American Library Association.



Dr. Deborah Lee, Coordinator of Library Instructional Services at the Mississippi State University Libraries and Associate Director of the university's Center for Teaching and Learning, has been invited to serve as a Fellow at the 2007 Frye Leadership Institute. Entrance into the program is both prestigious and highly competitive.

The Frye Leadership Institute provides an intensive two-week residential program held in early June for faculty, librarians, and university information technology professionals who aspire to more significant leadership roles. The program, which focuses on creative leadership and the qualities needed to confront strategic changes in higher education, includes both the residential program and a yearlong practicum where participants explore some of the issues raised in the institute within the context of their home institution.

Through presentations by recognized leaders in higher education and society, seminars, and group projects, the institute offers participants the opportunity to explore and analyze the leadership challenges stemming from the changing higher education environment. The program will pay special attention to the implications of the growing power of information technology to transform the means of research, teaching, and scholarly communication.

In recognizing Lee's achievement, MSU Libraries' Dean of Libraries, Frances Coleman said, "It's an honor for Deborah to be selected competitively from among a

pool of talented nominees. I know Deborah will represent the MSU Libraries and the university well as she explores the challenges of higher education in the 21st century."

Sponsored by the Council of Library and Information Resources (CLIR), EDU-CAUSE, the Woodruff Foundation, and the program's host site, Emory University, the institute accepts about forty fellows from a pool of hundreds of applicants. For more information about the fellowships and the institute, visit the Frye Leadership Institute's Web site at http://www.fryeinstitute.org/.



Alisa St. Amant started April 16 as the new Head Librarian of the M.R. Dye Public Library in Horn Lake. The Hattiesburg native received her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi



Alisa St. Amant

and has a wide range of library experience during her sixteen years in the profession. Prior to joining First Regional, Alisa was at the Oak Grove branch of the Lamar County Library. She has relocated to DeSoto County with her two teenage sons and looks forward to serving the people of Horn Lake.



Jeff Slagell has been elected to the North American Serials Interest Group's (NASIG) Executive Board as a Member-at-Large for a two year term. He will represent the general membership, perform special assignments as requested by the president, and serve as a liaison to several

committees. He also serves as Vice President/President-elect of the Mississippi Library Association and acts as Director of Library Services at Delta State University.



Paul Eddy has been selected the new Deputy Director of the Hancock County Library System (HCLS), according to David Woodburn, HCLS Executive Director. Eddy holds a Bachelor of



Paul Eddy

Science degree in Education/Educational Technology from the University of Oklahoma and a MLS from Texas Woman's University. He has more than fifteen years of experience in management, supervision, reference, collection development, cataloging, and budgeting. His knowledge also includes library programming. Prior to coming to HCLS, Eddy served as a Librarian/Services Consultant Sirsi/Dynix, a company that delivers library automation software and services for libraries. The HCLS catalog is provided by Sirsi/Dynix. He then worked as an Information Technology Librarian and in the Technical Services Department, both at the Rowlett Public Library in Rowlett, Texas. "We are very pleased to have Paul join our team," said Woodburn. "We know he will be a real asset to the Hancock County Library System and the services we provide the community."

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Applications are now being accepted for the exciting and challenging position of Editor for the quarterly publication, *Mississippi Libraries*. The award-winning publication, published by the Mississippi Library Association, has had a long line of excellent editors MLA seeks an enthusiastic and energetic person to follow in their footsteps.

The new editor will be responsible for the issue of *ML* for a three year period beginning with Spring 2008 and ending Winter 2010. A stipend is awarded to the editor and he/she is able to choose his/her own editorial staff.

Qualifications: experience in writing and editing; excellent organizational skills and the ability to meet deadlines; excellent time-management skills in coordinating multiple projects/tasks at the same time; ability to delegate responsibility; ability to plan for and anticipate future areas of professional interest and develop new ideas; ability to be tactful and work well with others; excellent skills in computer software applications and proofreading skills. Experience in page layout/design preferred.

Please send letter of application, resume and two work-related references by September 1, 2007 to:

Mary Julia Anderson
MLA Executive Secretary
PO Box 13687
Jackson, MS 39236-3687 ■

MLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2007 2:06 P.M.

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by President Catherine Nathan at 2:06 after roll was called by Otha Keys, MLA Secretary. The following individuals were in attendance:

Catherine Nathan, President Jeff Slagell, Vice President/President-elect Susan Cassagne, Past President Otha Keys, Secretary and MS Author Awards Co-Chair Judy Hilkert, ACRL Section Secretary Marsha Case, Public Library Section Chair and Awards Committee Chair Carol Green, Treasurer Mary Julia Anderson, Executive Secretary Margaret Bell, Black Caucus Molly Signs McManus, Parliamentarian Jennifer A. Smith, Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair for Vicksburg Convention Randy Sherard, Trustee Section Chair Lynn Shurden, Fiscal Management Committee Chair Deb Mitchell, Legislative Committee Co-Chair and Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair

Minutes from the last meeting were read. Motions were entertained to accept minutes of Susan Cassagne's last meeting as president as well as Catherine Nathan's first meeting as the new president. All minutes were approved and permission was given to have Molly McManus post them on the MLA Web site.

Tracy Carr, Special Libraries Section Chair

Pamela Pridgen, MLC Board of Commissioners

Benjamin Petersen, Archives and History

Committee Chair

Representative

- Carol Green reported that she did not have a treasurer's report at this time. She has been trying to clear up budget items from the conference. Carol stated that sections, committees, or caucus chairs could e-mail her to ask for financial information.
- Catherine Nathan asked that the Board entertain her motion to change the price of the Legislative Day Event from \$27.50 to \$28.00. Susan Cassagne seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously to increase the cost for next year.

- Jeff Slagell gave a conference report and update. The conference will be October 24-27. 2007 in Vicksburg, at the Vicksburg Convention Center, with the 23rd being a possible pre-conference date. A site visit occurred on January 24, 2007, during which time conference details and MLA needs were discussed with the convention center staff. A contract is pending. The hotel arrangements are not yet finalized. Several hotels have been visited and amenities, prices, comp ratios, room block sizes, etc. are being reviewed. The keynote speaker will be announced at a later date as well. The theme will be "Mississippi Libraries: Discover the World, Close to Home." Also, Jeff announced that on February 19, 2007 he will be speaking at a MAGNOLIA in-service program for school librarians at Hind's Community College Vicksburg Campus, at which he will focus on MLA and conference plans, as well. Program proposal forms will be distributed in the next few weeks.
- Susan Cassagne had no report, but stated she was glad to be in her position as Past President.
- Mary Julia Anderson reported that there were 171 members of MLA as of this morning. Renewal letters will be mailed out next week. She announced that ballots to elect new association officers will go out April 1. Jeff asked Mary Julia where MLA stood in terms of membership; she stated we are over what we had last year at this time.
- **Tracy Carr** reported that the Vice Chair of the Special Libraries Section would be Jane Phillips from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.
- Marsha Case reported for the Public Library Section and stated that their tentative MLA speaker will be Robert St. John. She also re-stated the names of the incoming officers for 2007 for those who missed it at the last meeting. They are as follows: Marsha Case, Chair; Madonna May, Vice Chair; Victoria Penny, Secretary.
- Randy Sherard did not have a report to give at this time.
- Judy Hilkert gave a report for ACRL which listed the new officers: Jane Stauble, Chair; Mary Beth Grimes, Vice Chair; Judy Hilkert, Secretary.

- The School Section Chair was not present. However. Catherine asked about the changes to MAGNOLIA and wanted to know how school librarians felt about the new version. As a school librarian, I, Otha Keys, gave my views and the views that I had heard from other school librarians. Personally. I really miss SIRS, but understand the cost constraints and Stephen Cunetto gave me insight into which other programs I could use in place of it (e.g., History Reference Center) and it has worked out well. Several school librarians have stated that they wish the Gale Literary Series was still in use. I shared with them the information Steve gave me. The Literary Resource Center is a great replacement, I think, for the Gale Series.
- Margaret Bell from the Black Caucus stated that they had met this morning and talked about the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship among other things. Their officers are as follows: Margaret Bell, Chair; Jackie Quinn, Vice Chair; Pat Rodgers, Secretary; Mantra Anderson, Treasurer. They have three possible speakers in mind for their luncheon at the upcoming conference. They are: Travis Hunter, author and founder of the Hearts of Men Foundation; Unita Blackwell, first African American female mayor in the state; and Robert Little, author, motivational speaker, and founder of DreamPower Literacy Project. They are continuing to work on the program, as well as donations to the scholarship fund.
- Ben Petersen gave the report from the Archives and History Committee. He had looked at MLA's archival materials which are presently housed at the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library and gave the board a report as to their current status. Catherine Nathan publicly thanked **Deb Mitchell**. Director of the Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library for housing this important historical information. Ben suggested that these materials be moved to a more prominent home, perhaps at an academic institution. Ben will draft a letter, to be signed by both he and Catherine, the intent of which will be to begin the process of establishing a dialogue with USM as well as the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson to see if they might be interested. Ben announced that his committee and the Conservation Committee (chaired by **David Juergens**) will be working together this

- Otha Keys presented the MS Author Awards Committee report from Carol Phares, Co-Chair, who could not be at today's meeting. The nominations are coming in and there is a link on the Web site for submissions. The nominations will close on Feb. 28, 2007. The committee has 19 members, which are quite a few more than last year, so that duties and assignments can be distributed more fairly. Also, the end of the year report was submitted for the record. This report contained a list of winners for last year and the winners from 2005 who were invited to the awards ceremony, as well.
- Marsha Case from the Awards Committee reported briefly talked about the various awards: Public Relations Award, Outstanding Achievement Award, Peggy May Award, Mary Julia Anderson Award, etc. She recommended that we come up with a plaque for the Mary Julia Anderson Award instead of just giving out a certificate. The motion was moved and seconded that we get a plaque for next year's winner and give one to Mary Julia Anderson.
- Catherine reported that she had talked to Prima Plauche, Membership Committee Chair, and that Prima stated that she would have her committee's work going soon.
- Nominating Committee sent a report stating that the officers were given to the Election Committee and the formal election would be held in March. The officer candidates are as follows:

VP Candidates – Annie Peyton & Jan Willis Secretary Candidates – Judy Card & Julia Rholes Treasurer – Dee Horn & Amanda Powers ALA Counselor – Billy Beal & Sherry Laughlin SELA Counselor – Adrienne McPhaul & Deborah Lee

Catherine also reported that **Melissa Wright**, Chair of Information Literacy Committee, is gathering her committee together to meet.

- Lynn Shurden, of the Fiscal Management Committee, had no report to give but announced that Jennifer Smith has offered to give her some assistance.
- **Deb Mitchell** of the Legislative Committee stated that invitations to the Legislative Reception

- were mailed in January and reminders were also taken to the capital on yesterday (Monday, February 5, 2007). She was not sure about the number of legislators that are coming, but they are set up for 300 people. Wed., May 2, 2007 is National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. She reported that several members of the committee will be going up on May 1, 2007. Usually there are about 12 people who go. The legislative goals for next year were read out and approved.
- Catherine Nathan has asked Alice Shands to lead a task force that will look into economic development, as we all strive to increase public awareness about the impact of Mississippi's libraries on the economic development of the state.
- Susan Cassgane, Chair of Long Range Planning, stated there was a member of each section and committee on this panel which totals 19 and she was planning to meet with them soon.
- Catherine Nathan announced that Alice Shands is the chair of the National Library Week (NLW) committee and that plans for NLW are being made. Catherine stated that National Library Week affects all of us academic, special, school, and public libraries and that it brings positive national focus to libraries for a week.
- Molly Signs McManus, Co-Chair of the Web Page Committee and Parliamentarian, gave a report on the new association Web site. She gave a special thanks to Tina Harry, her Co-Chair, and Steven Turner at USM who helped out a lot with the project. We all agreed that the Web page looks great and that the committee did an excellent job.
- Other reports Mary Julia announced MLA will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2009. Catherine will develop a task force to look into how we might celebrate this special occasion. Mary Julia brought to the board's attention that she had received a phone call from a publishing company who wanted to publish a book about the history of MLA and we would receive 20-30% of the revenue after publishing costs were met. Mary Julia told the person that she would bring this matter before the executive committee for a decision. There was no motion made to pursue this project.

The following committee chairs were not available and did not send reports:

- Dr. Jay Norton By Laws and Organizational Review
- Kay Behm Internal Audit
- Richard Green Insurance
- Jan Willis Handbook
- David Brown Publicity
- June Schmidt Scholarship
- Elizabeth Stephens Publication and editor, Mississippi Libraries
- Stewart Carpenter Copyright
- Carolyn Head Intellectual Freedom
- Kathy Buntin Continuing Education
- Alice Shands National Library Week
- Old business none
- New business Natchez was recommended to be the 2008 conference site. The Mississippi Gulf Coast was brought up as a possible site but concerns were raised as to whether or not the coast would be ready by then. Jeff moved that Natchez be the site of the 2008 conference. Susan Cassagne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of having Natchez be the site for the 2008 MLA Conference. Jeff also suggested that we begin to plan further ahead for our conference sites and that we could e-mail him future conference site recommendations.
- Announcements The date of the next meeting of the MLA Executive Board will be Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Otha Keys, Secretary ■



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership Year January-December 2007

☐ New Memb	ership [☐ Renewal
Name		
Mailing address		
Figure 35		
City	State	Zip
Position		
Library		
Home Phone		
Business Phone		
Fax		
E-mail		
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\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$25 per year	\$
\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$35 per year	\$
\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$45 per year	\$
\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$50 per year	\$
\$50,000 to \$59,999	\$55 per year	\$
\$60,000 or above	\$60 per year	\$
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Full or Part-time	\$10 per year	\$
Retired Trustee	\$15 per year \$15 per year	\$
Friend of Library	\$15 per year	\$
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Vendor	\$40 per year	\$
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B. SECTIONS Enter "FREE" for one section membership (Enter \$6.00 for Additional Sections)	
Academic (ACRL) \$ Public	
School	\$ \$
Special	\$
Trustee	\$
B. SECTIONS SUBTOTAL	\$
C. ROUNDTABLES Join one or more roundtables for opportunities is growth \$3.00 EACH.	in professional
ANRT	\$
(Automation and Networking)	
BLACK CAUCUS	\$ \$
ECTRT	\$
(Educational Communication and Tech) GODORT	\$
(Government Documents)	Φ
LIRT	\$
(Library Instruction) NMRT	\$
(New Members)	Ψ
SCRT	\$
(Special Collections)	
TSRT	\$
(Technical Services) 2YCRT	\$
(2 Year College) YPSRT	\$
(Young People's Services)	Φ
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)	\$
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Account Number	
Expiration Date	
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Mississippi Libraries and for annual election of officers. I supply its membership list to professional organizations or li ☐ Check the box if you do not want your name included.	MLA may at times

(Revised 12/06)

Must-Have Titles for Mississippi Libraries



Historic Churches of Mississippi

By Sharry Past
Essay and captions by
Richard J. Cauthen
A photographic tribute to
Mississippi's religious architecture dating from the 1820s through the 1920s; includes historical and architectural background information for the churches featured
540 hardback

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By Kerth A. Basi A comprehensive guide to the translations and tribal origins of five hundred intriguing Mississippi designations \$50 unjacketed hardback, \$18 paperback



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