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MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

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Cover image: The 2013 cohort of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute and the MLLI logo. Photograph and logo courtesy Jennifer Walker.

Editor's Note

With the annual Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in lovely, historic Vicksburg all but upon us, this Fall 2014 issue of *Mississippi Libraries* comes to you in the same spirit of celebrating the scholarship and innovation of our state's librarians and library staff.

As such, I'm pleased to offer an issue focused on the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute, also known as MLLI. But this is no MLLI Vanilli; rather, the Institute is a fertile breeding ground for new and interesting ideas among our state's librarians and an important step toward interstate professional development and collaboration.

Since its inception in 2011, the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute has seen two cohorts of librarians pass through its often rigorous programming. No one who works with an MLLI participant in their home institution can fail to see that the program is as rigorous and demanding as it is innovative; from the weekend retreats to the intricate projects requiring conference calls and time spent outside of work, it is a steep commitment that must jockey for time and resources in our already tight schedules and perennially underfunded and oft moth-filled wallets.

At the University of Mississippi in Oxford, my home institution, we are just now beginning to see the first fruits of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute cohorts. Our Outreach Librarian, Melissa Dennis, and Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Judy Greenwood, were both part of the 2013 cohort

and collaborated on a project about making advanced technology available for checkout from the J.D. Williams Library here on campus.

Ultimately, this project took the form of attempting to acquire digital tablet devices and to load them with useful ebooks and software before sending them out into the world. While it might sound easy to simply buy a handful of iPad Minis and slap them behind the main circulation desk, it was in fact a monumental and trailblazing effort for the University Libraries.



Alex Watson
Editor, Mississippi Libraries

We had never checked out any item more complex than a pair of headphones or a UDB drive, both of which are passive and easy to wipe down after use. But the valuable and complex iPad Minis required a whole new workflow and set of procedures: time and technology to restore them to their default state after use, integrating them into the library's Millennium cataloging system which (despite its name) was conceived when iPads only appeared in the hands of Captain

Picard, and working out policies upon policies upon policies to not only set the framework for tablets to be checked out, but also to lay the foundation for future technologies to follow the same trail they blazed.

As of this writing, the iPad Minis have been available for less than a month at the University of Mississippi, but demand for them has already exploded skyward. The Interlibrary Loan office, their temporary home, hasn't been able to keep them on the shelf; so many people stop by to ask after the tablets that they had to make a sign to hang out front to let patrons know if they could walk out with an iPad or if a hold request was in their near future.

All in all, Melissa and Judy's project has been a smashing success, and has spurred intense discussion about other technology that the library could possibly acquire and check out to interested patrons, many of whom could never afford such items on their own. Could a library 3D printer or a library set of Google Glass be far behind? I hope so!

We have MLLI to thank for Melissa and Judy's project, and in this issue you'll have the pleasure of reading about other projects currently underway as well as an overview of the MLLI program itself and a list of the first two cohorts to pass through it. Yes, the future seems bright for Mississippi libraries...and don't forget that there will be future MLLI cohorts for anyone who's interested!

Mississippi Library Leadership Institute: An Overview

Jennifer Wann Walker

*Director of Development Services
Mississippi Library Commission*

In 2011, the Mississippi Library Commission set out to create a leadership institute to develop the next generation of library leaders in Mississippi. The Mississippi Library Leadership Institute (MLLI) was envisioned as a transformative learning experience that would equip already excellent librarians with the skills necessary to be excellent leaders in their libraries and communities. Designed for MLS degreed librarians with less than fifteen years of professional library experience, the Institute focuses on developing participants' 21st century skills in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, communication, and leadership and responsibility.

The Institute is funded with a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Funding was secured to accommodate two cohorts of participants. The Institute consists of four training sessions, each lasting 2.5 days, over the course of one year. Participants were selected in a competitive application process.

Over the course of the program, all participants are required to develop and implement a project in partnership with a local non-profit, educational, or other governmental organization. Projects must innovate library services and benefit the community and the partner

organization. Participants receive a \$1000 stipend to implement their project. In addition to the project requirement, participants must also participate in group work between each session, and undergo a rigorous process of self evaluation and development.

The Institute emphasizes experiences that build strong relationships with community partners and involve a very high level of intensity and risk-taking. Participation in the Institute is a demanding professional experience that requires a significant commitment of time and energy; however, it is also extremely rewarding and fun. Participants emerge from the program poised to position their libraries and communities for success in an increasingly complex, information-centric world.

For more information about the Institute, visit mlc.lib.ms.us/ServicesToLibraries/mlli.html or contact Project Director Jennifer Wann at jwalker@mlc.lib.ms.us or 601-432-4068.

2013 Participants:

Blair Booker, Holmes Community College, Ridgeland, Miss.

Jennifer Brannock, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Brandon Cain, Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, Kosciusko, Miss.

Phillip Carter, Bolivar County Library System, Cleveland, Miss.

Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County, Clarksdale, Miss.

Sarah Dauterive, East Mississippi Community College, Scooba, Miss.

Melissa Dennis, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

Lacy Ellinwood, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.

Judy Greenwood, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

Jessica Herr, The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, & Forrest County, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Sylvia Leggette, Cardozo Middle School, Jackson, Miss.

Molly McManus, Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.

Ally Mellon, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.

Maggie Moran, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Miss.

Jennifer Nabzdyk, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.

Carol Phares, Pearl River County Library System, Picayune, Miss.

Victoria Penny, First Regional Library System, Hernando, Miss.

- Chameka Robinson, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Miss.
- Randy Smith, Jackson-George Regional Library System, Gautier, Miss.
- Jenniffer Stephenson, Greenwood-Leflore Library System, Greenwood, Miss.
- Erin Busbea Stringer, Columbus-Lowndes Library System, Columbus, Miss.
- Mara Villa, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Brandon, Miss.
- Ally Watkins, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Pearl, Miss.
- Heather Weeden, Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, Clinton, Miss.
- Jeanette Whisenton, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Miss.
- Ryda Worthy, South Mississippi Regional Library System, Columbia, Miss.
-
- 2014 Participants:
- Ashley Biggs, Central Mississippi Regional Library System, Flowood, Miss.
- JoAnn Blue, Carnegie Public Library of Clarksdale & Coahoma County, Clarksdale, Miss.
- Jamie Elston, Jackson-George Regional Library System, Moss Point, Miss.
- Antoinette Giamalva, Delta State University, Cleveland, Miss.
- Crystal Giles, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Miss.
- Joshua Haidet, East Mississippi Regional Library, Quitman, Miss.
- Shivon Rockward Hess, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.
- Lisa Justis, East Mississippi Community College, Mayhew, Miss.
- Sarah Mangrum, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Miss.
- Erica McCaleb, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Miss.
- Lindsey Miller, Columbus-Lowndes County Library System, Columbus, Miss.
- Darlene Morgan, Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System, McComb, Miss.
- Jennifer Parker, Magee High School, Magee, Miss.
- Jesse Pool, First Regional Library System, Horn Lake, Miss.
- Hillary Richardson, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss.
- Elizabeth Simmons, Puckett Attendance Center, Puckett, Miss.
- Violene Williams, Coahoma Community College, Clarksdale, Miss.
- Jamie Wilson, Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss.

Fostering a Collaborative Relationship: The University of Southern Mississippi and Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County

Jennifer Brannock

*Curator of Rare Books
And Mississippiana*

University of Southern Mississippi

Jessica Herr

*Manager
Pascagoula Public Library*

In 2013, Jennifer Brannock and Jessica Herr participated in the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute, a leadership growth program sponsored by the Mississippi Library Commission thanks to a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. As part of this program, participants applied for a grant to fund a project that responded to needs in their libraries. Being in the same town, Brannock and Herr determined that they would create a partnership between The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County and Special Collections at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Libraries are encouraged to collaborate, but many groups find that limits on time and funding make the projects difficult to create. The University of Southern Mississippi Special Collections and the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County are located in Hattiesburg, but don't have the opportunity to come together for events as often as they could. With this project, Brannock and Herr proposed to create a program offering events to the Hattiesburg community which highlights collections and services at both institutions.

EVENTS

To best promote collections while providing services and information to the public, the librarians decided to hold a series of films, book talks, lectures, and collection highlights at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries (USM) and the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. "Happenings in Hattiesburg Libraries," which occurred between fall 2013 and spring 2014, consisted of six events with three events at the public library and the remaining at USM.

The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County's first two activities were partnerships with The University of Southern Mississippi's War & Society Roundtable sponsored by the Department of History. Two showings of the documentary *The Ghost Army* accompanied the book talk and discussion of *Ghosts Soldiers: The Forgotten Epic*

Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission by Hampton Sides. These events were well-attended and engaged attendees from the community as well as the university.

The next sponsored activity was a partnership with The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby. Retired Master Sergeant Glen L. Husted spoke about an assortment of military artifacts in the museum including gold star mother medals, the gold stars placed in windows during the war, letters to mothers telling of their son's deaths, and pictures of mothers going to Europe to see where their sons were buried. This was a fascinating experience to not only learn more about military artifacts, but it served as another way to collaborate with a local cultural heritage institute.

The University of Southern

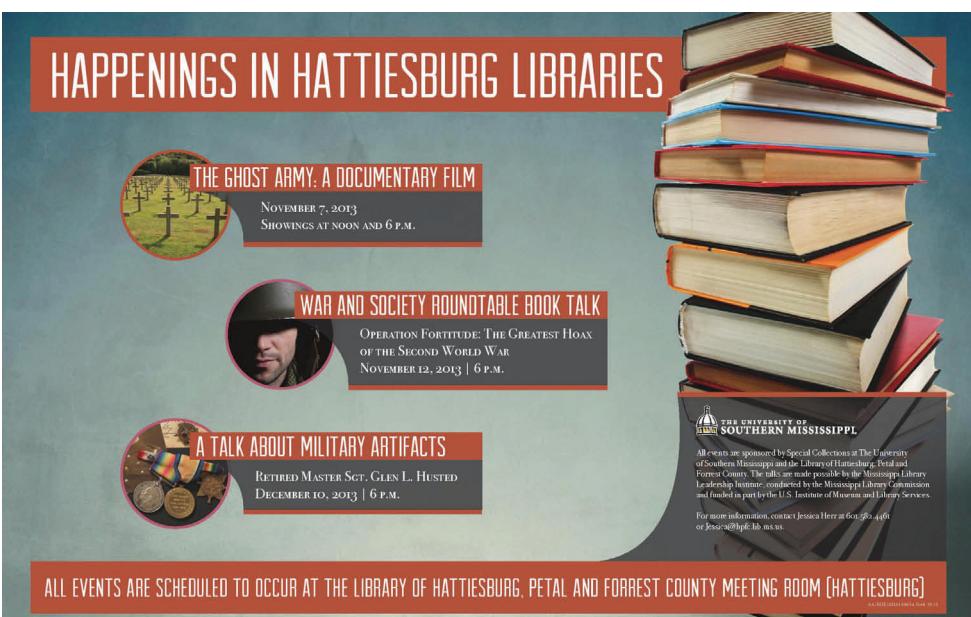


Image 1 – Poster for the events held at the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County



Image 2 – Poster for the events held at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries

Mississippi Libraries facilitated three lectures in spring 2014 highlighting various collecting areas found in Special Collections. Steve Haller, Curator of Archives & Historical Manuscripts, spoke about the timber industry collections in Historical Manuscripts. This covered materials relating to lumber companies, railroad lines used by the timber industry, and the Tatum Family Business Records that focus on the businesses of a prominent Hattiesburg family. Many railroad enthusiasts were in the audience and actively contributed to the discussion.

Ellen Ruffin, Curator of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, gave an entertaining talk about the many treasures in the de Grummond Collection. Focusing on the history of the collection and materials from award winning books, the audience was treated to an array of photographs, sketches, manuscript drafts, and other items that added to the value of the talk.

Jennifer Brannock, Curator

of Rare Books and Mississippiana, presented on the civil rights collections in Special Collections. With the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer in 2014, Brannock's talk featured diaries from civil rights volunteers, photographs from the Freedom Summer project, correspondence and documentation from segregationist groups, and books about the movement.

PROMOTION

One of the strengths of the collaborative efforts between the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County and Special Collections at USM was the ability to centralize all promotional efforts with events publicized by USM and by the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. These publicity efforts were extensive to reach the broadest group of people. Using print and media methods, Brannock and Herr spoke about the events on WDAM Monday and created press releases for local newspaper coverage. Adopting new technologies,

pushes went out on Facebook, Twitter, and various mailing lists including those for the Dale Center for War and Society, the Society of Mississippi Archivists, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, a group that hosts activities for those over 50. To complement these activities, the libraries created posters and pushcards to distribute around campus, the libraries, and the community.

The posters and pushcards maintained a consistent theme to link all events. To further unify the activities, Brannock and Herr branded the events as "Happenings in Hattiesburg Libraries." The posters for the events maintained a theme from the fall to the spring with some minor changes to the colors but maintaining a common design. (Image 1, Image 2)

As an additional approach to reaching out, Brannock and Herr wanted to create some takeaways.

Image 3 – Pushcard (front) for events held at the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County

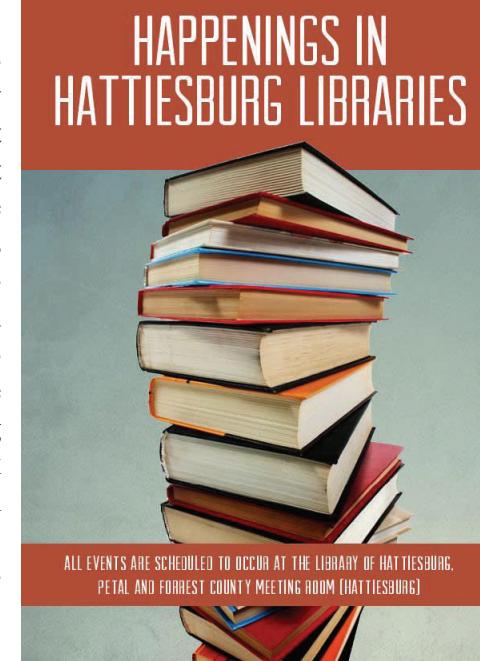
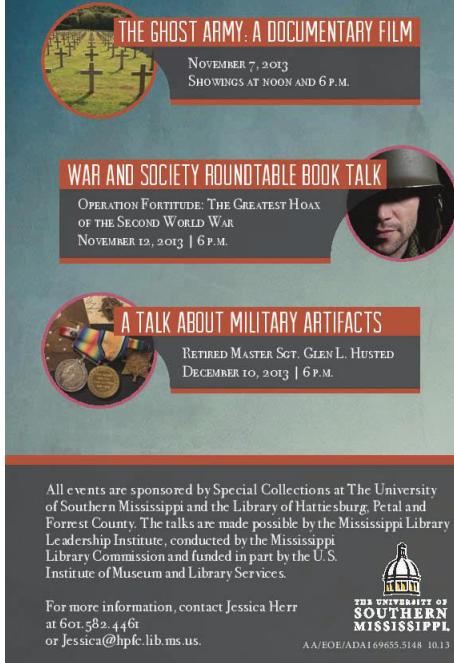


Image 4 – Pushcard (back) for events held at the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County



University Communications at The University of Southern Mississippi suggested the creation of pushcards which are postcard-sized cards containing all information about the events. To continue the marketing theme, the pushcards matched the corresponding posters. (Image 3, Image 4) These cards were found in public places where students, faculty, community members, and patrons could grab one to learn about upcoming talks.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI CULTURAL HERITAGE COLLABORATIVE

With the success of the lectures and films, Brannock and Herr wanted to do more to bring the libraries and cultural heritage institutes in Hattiesburg together to form a collaborative unit. The first meeting of the South Mississippi Cultural Heritage Collaborative welcomed representa-

tives from area public libraries, community college libraries, university libraries, Hattiesburg museums and organizations, and genealogy groups to discuss ways in which the institutions can collaborate to help each other succeed. Sharing volunteer opportunities, collaborating on grants, resource sharing, and joint publicity efforts were some of the ideas that came out of the meeting. Members of the Collaborative are currently working on possible projects that incorporate representation from numerous groups.

IMPACT

All events were well-received by the Hattiesburg community and illustrate the possibilities of successful partnerships between the public and university libraries. Some of the comments from the public about the events include:

"I enjoy these lectures in this series. Sorry I can't al-

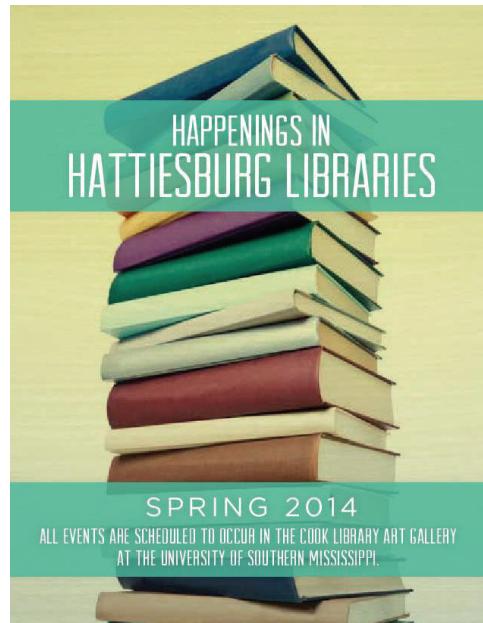
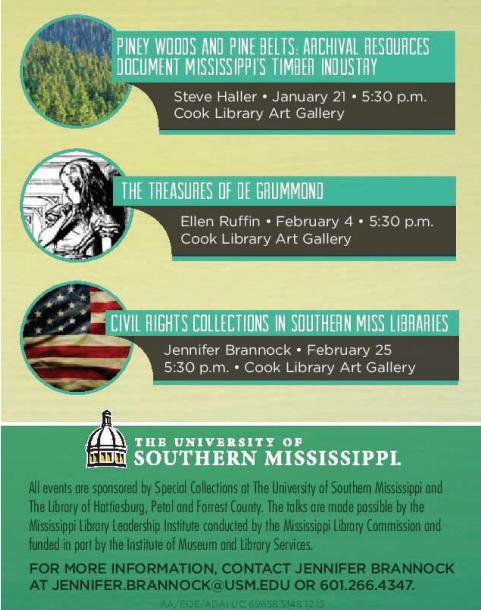


Image 5 – Pushcard (front) for the events held at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries

Image 6 – Pushcard (back) for the events held at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries



All events are sponsored by Special Collections at The University of Southern Mississippi and the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forrest County. The talks are made possible by the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute conducted by the Mississippi Library Commission and funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JENNIFER BRANNOCK AT JENNIFER.BRANNOCK@USM.EDU OR 601.266.4347.

JAA/EDF/ADAN UC 0908.5148 12/13

ways come. Topics are very interesting and timely to this area."

"Great lecture!!"

"I loved seeing all of the sources."

"Enjoyed it very much."

"Keep up the lectures."

The collaboration was so successful that The University of Southern Mississippi Special Collections and the Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County coordinated efforts to host and promote events in fall 2014 associated with the National Endowment for the Humanities and Gilder Lehrman Institute Created Equal grant received by the libraries in an effort to bring attention to equal rights for African Americans.

The success of the "Happenings in Hattiesburg Librar-

ies” events illustrate how public and university libraries can work together to promote library collections, services, and use. With a nudge from the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute, two libraries in Hattiesburg created a remarkable and lasting partnership.

Saving Our History: East Mississippi Community College's Oral History Program

Sarah Dauterive

Librarian

*East Mississippi Community
College*

INTRODUCTION

In early 2013 I was accepted into the inaugural Mississippi Library Leadership Institute, a program designed to develop the next generation of library leaders in Mississippi. As part of this program we were given \$1,000 to spend at our home libraries. The rules for this grant were that we had to offer a new, sustainable service, and do this with a partner from our community we are currently not working with. It was very clear to me early on what my project needed to be: an oral history program. This need had been obvious to me since I had begun working at East Mississippi Community College 18 months earlier.

When I started I was asked to set up an archive for EMCC. We had very little: yearbooks, catalogs, newspapers, and programs that had been thrown together in various paper boxes over the years by various librarians. In the 18 months that I had been working at EMCC, we had numerous requests for information regarding EMCC and Scooba history. Most of these had to be turned away because we just did not have that information. A few others were directed to elderly local citizens or the Kemper County Historical Association in hopes that someone was available to speak with them. (The KCHA does not keep regular hours. Instead there are

multiple phone numbers on the door with instructions for anyone wanting to tour the small museum to call and see if someone can let them in.)

With almost all local history locked inside the minds of our elderly citizens (and the best source of information, Mrs. Thelma McConnell, being 94 at the time), the access and preservation issues are obvious. In addition, anything that had been written down was likely to be about neighboring DeKalb, not Scooba or EMCC. So my purpose was clear: record the stories of EMCC and Scooba, especially those belonging to the oldest of our locals.

METHODS

Once my project proposal was written and approved, I got to work deciding who I needed to interview. I developed my priority list in conjunction with KCHA and Nick Clark, EMCC Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs. The priority list contained names of people that had important information about the history of EMCC and/or Scooba that was at the greatest risk of being lost due to old age or illness.

While I was compiling this list, I was also getting some other necessary things done. First, I was buying my equipment. I made the decision to buy a video camera rather than a recorder because I felt the video component would add a richness to the histories that does not come with audio alone. (More on the consequences of that deci-

sion later!) Additionally, I purchased a new computer. The computer I needed to do this project was definitely out of my price range, so EMCC generously provided me with the money to purchase that.

All other equipment (camera, microphone, DVDs, and some other small things) was paid for with the grant money. Second, I worked on the policies and paperwork required for an oral history interview. Finally, I developed some questions to ask. I made a large list of general questions I would ask of everyone, but decided to lay out specific questions I would ask each interviewee once I knew more about them and their story.

RESULTS

Once all of this was completed, it was time to start contacting people. My first interview, Dick McSpadden, was actually not on my priority list, but he was in town for his EMCC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Since he lives in Georgia, I jumped at the chance to interview him. Mr. McSpadden worked as a student coach under Bull Sullivan, EMCC's legendary football coach, and led the EMCC baseball team to and won back to back state championships, so he was a perfect candidate for an interview.

We have completed quite a few interviews in the past year, including Mrs. Thelma McConnell, who everyone has dubbed the "unofficial Scooba historian." Mrs. Thelma, now 96, has a wealth of

information stored in her memories and the filing cabinet in her living room. Her significant contributions to our preservation efforts led us to name our archive the Thelma Briggs McConnell Archive and Special Collections in her honor.

The process has not been without bumps in the road. As mentioned above, there have been consequences for using video. The set-up is much more complex than a simple audio recording device and without a lot of experience using video cameras there is a lot more room for error. All of this was anticipated though, and I felt that the extra time learning the equipment and setting up was worth the effort. What I did not anticipate, however, is the anxiety people feel about being on camera that they do not feel about an audio only recording device! More than one person that I spoke to about interviewing was very interested until I mentioned the camera. There have been a couple of interviews that I have missed out on because of my decision to use a video camera. As disappointing as that is, I still really love the ability to put a face with the voice and would choose a video camera again.

Despite some struggles to get people on camera, I found that people are genuinely excited to tell their story. People that will never end up with an interview in our library, either because they think they have nothing interesting to tell or because they are terrified of the camera, still end up teaching me something new about this place. Multiple times since starting this project, people have dropped by campus with no reason other than to tell me their story. I routinely hear statements like, "You know, I

thought you might like to hear this interesting story about Scooba..." I can now tell you about our connection with the NFL, Jackie Robinson, and a world champion turkey caller! Our library has become the center of history for Scooba, giving the library a great relationship with our alumni that we have never had before.

CONCLUSION

As awesome as it has been to have so many people entrust me with their stories, there have been significant tangible benefits as well. We have had several small but incredibly helpful monetary donations as a result of our efforts. Additionally, we have had new donations of items to the archive. Finally, the new computer EMCC generously purchased for me was much more powerful than anything we have had before. With it we have been able to start new projects for the library, so we are offering even more services than before.

The next steps in the project are to complete more interviews and work on ways to get them online, even if only partially. The EMCC Libraries currently have a YouTube Channel which we are using to put videos online, but I have also recently had Omeka site set up for us. An upcoming project is to figure out how to best use Omeka for our archive, which includes the oral histories. They will have some presence in Omeka, even if it is only a copy of the transcripts for the videos.

This project had multiple purposes. The first purpose was to give my patrons a great new service or product. Second, this project was intended to grow my leadership skills. This project required me to

organize and instruct people to achieve a common goal. This felt like a daunting task at times, especially when I was telling various EMCC Vice-Presidents and even the President himself what to do! Despite this project having my name on it, there were many that helped make it a success and deserve to be mentioned. Thanks to Alice Pierotti and Neil Guilbeau for answering my questions and providing advice on starting an oral history project for the first time. Thanks to Derek Cody for helping me pick out the best equipment for my budget. Thanks to Angie Balius for building an interview set out of archival supplies and helping me get great interviews. And of course, thanks to those who have let me interview them! Your memories are entirely personal and your own, so thanks for sharing with me.

News Briefs

Tina Harry

*Catalog & Assistant Automation Librarian and Associate Professor
University of Mississippi*

FREEDOM SUMMER 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT USM LIBRARIES

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries' Special Collections has been actively supporting "Freedom Summer" 50th anniversary activities: an exhibit in the Cook Library lobby running June 8 through September 12; a digital exhibit "loop" on Eaglevision in the Thad Cochran Center during the June 19-21 Freedom Summer 1964-2014 Conference at USM; a panel on archival resources at the same Conference; fulfilling numerous requests from internal and external researchers for information about Freedom Summer collections and copies of related photographs preserved at USM; and greatly expanding the number of related images online (e.g., over 800 images from the collections of negatives taken by nationally acclaimed photographer Herbert Randall in 1964 now online at digilib.usm.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/randall).

USM also provided a description of its collections development interests and procedures that was accepted to be among nine institutions nationally listed under "Preserving Our History, What to do With Your Freedom Movement Papers" posted for public access on the Civil Rights Movement Veterans website at crmvet.org/docs/docs_kit1.pdf and the SNCC Legacy Project website at sncclegacyproject.org/pdf/docs_kit1.pdf.

For additional information, please contact Steve Haller, Curator of Historical Manuscripts and Archives at Stephen.Haller@usm.edu.

*Submitted by
Steve Haller
Curator of Historical Manuscripts and Archives
The University of Southern Mississippi*

DPLA REPRESENTATIVES FOR MISSISSIPPI

Susan Ivey, Michael Paulmeno, and Jennifer Nabzyk have been selected to be Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Representatives for Mississippi. They were three of one-hundred individuals selected from a pool of applications coming from all fifty states and five internationals countries. As DPLA reps, the three will organize activities that promote DPLA. DPLA is a platform that brings together the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world online (<http://dp.la>).

Ivey is the Digital Initiatives Librarian at the University of Mississippi; Nabzyk is the Digital Services Consultant at the Mississippi Library Commission; and, Paulmeno is an Electronic Services Librarian at Delta State University.

*Submitted by
Jennifer Nabzyk
Digital Services Consultant
Mississippi Library Commission*

ENCOUNTER AT FAY B. KAGLER CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

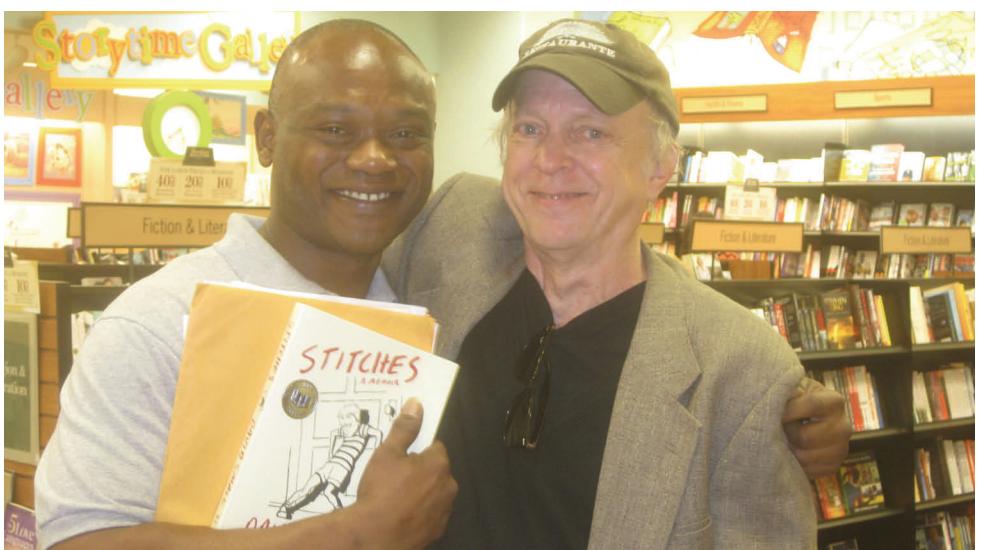
Two men met and admired each others work at the Fay B. Kagler Children's Book Festival in April at the University of

Southern Mississippi. A Hattiesburg Public School employee and local artist, Terry Evans met David Small, a Caldecott Medal winner.

After opening the envelope of various illustrations, David Small's eyes lit up. He wanted to meet the artist. Anyone looking at Terry Evans sketches knows that he has a special gift. His drawings come alive with his natural talent and imagination. Librarians and teachers stood nearby waiting to get autographed copies of books when the two men met. One librarian asked what was the new artist name? Many felt sure Terry Evans would be illustrating books in the near future because of David Small's enthusiasm regarding his sketches. David Small gave Terry Evans some words of encouragement, a tool for inking his art and a copy of his new book *Stitches*, an autobiography.

David Small is a talented and prolific artist. He has illustrated many books including the Caldecott Medal winner *So You Want to Be President?*, Caldecott Honor book *One Cool Friend*, *Reading Rainbow's Imogene's Antlers*, Caldecott Honor book *The Gardener*, *The Library*, and *When Dinosaurs Came with Everything*. He has illustrated more than 40 books and his book *Imogene's Antlers* has sold over one million copies.

Two questions remain. How many books written or illustrated by David Small



Terry Evans meets David Small at the F. B. Kagler Children's Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Photograph by Linda Owens.*

have you read and how many books will be illustrated by Terry Evans in the future? Check out David Small's website at <http://davidsmallbooks.com/> for lesson plans and more information about his books and his wife, Sarah Stewart's books. They are an awesome team and share books with big ideas through their writing and art. Then go by Hattiesburg schools at Grace Christian Elementary and encourage Terry Evans to keep drawing his delightful illustrations.

*Submitted by
Linda Owens
Media Specialist
Grace Christian Library*

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' DIGITAL COLLECTIONS HOSTS DIGI DAY

Ten students from the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at The University of Southern Mississippi recently participated in Digi Day, an opportunity for students in SLIS to obtain service hours and digitization experience while assisting the digital lab with existing projects. Elizabeth La Beaud, manager of the University Libraries' digital lab, and Emilie Aplin, president of the Library and Information Science Student Association (LISSA), organized the event.

The students were divided into two groups, five in the morning session and five in the afternoon session, and received one hour of training and three hours of scan time. At the end of the day, 203 pages from the H. A. and Margret Rey papers, which are part of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, were digitized.

The Reys, known for their creation of Curious George, are among the earliest contributors to the de Grummond Collection. The Rey papers are historic and valuable pieces of the University Libraries' Special Collections, and their use in this project covered interests in both archival and special collections material, as well as children's literature.

Faculty from SLIS were asked to recommend students to participate in Digi Day, and students volunteered based on their interests in digital and archival collections. Dr. Matthew Griffis, faculty advisor for LISSA, assisted with the event.

"It was gratifying to see students so enthusiastic and eager to learn about the digital aspects of archival science," Griffis said. "It was also exciting for me, as a faculty observer and participant, to work with documents of such historical and literary importance. I look forward to more Digi Days."

The idea for Digi Day arose from discussions regarding the students' need for service hours, and the ongoing digitization projects in the digital collections. According to La Beaud, "To my knowledge, Southern Miss is the first institution to organize an event of this kind. Others have expressed interest in student digitization projects of their own, and we now have a successful framework that we will be able to share with these institutions." La Beaud is expected to present the Digi Day concept at several upcoming conferences.

The Digital Collections is part the University Libraries' Special Collections and is located in McCain Library. The purpose of the digital lab is to digitize physical materials housed in McCain Library and Archives in order to increase access to and preserve scholarly content. For more information about Special Collections, visit <http://www.lib.usm.edu/spcol>.

*Submitted by
Dawn Smith
Assistant to the Dean for Publicity and Outreach
University of Southern Mississippi
Libraries*

MID-MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM HONORS WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The System Trustees and Staff of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System (MMRLS) held a reception Sunday, August 10, 2014 at the Attala County Library honoring eleven inductees into the newly founded Wall of Fame. Present and past staff and trustees who have made a significant contribution to local and state public librarianship were honored at this event.

The 2014 Charter Class of inductees included the late Ms. Mary E. Love, Retired Director of the Mississippi Library Commission, 1968 - 1976; Mr. Richard Greene, MMRLS Executive Director, 1976 - present; Ms. Linda Milner, Retired MMRLS Assistant Director and Attala County Librarian, 1974 - 2012; Mr. Charles "Tex" Ritter, Retired System Trustee and Attala County Trustee, 1987 - 2012; the late Ms. Laura Bowie, Retired Holmes County Trustee, 1978 - 1998; the late Ms. Ruth Ray Dinstel, Retired MMRLS Youth Services Coordinator and West Librarian, 1987 - 1991; the late Ms. Bonnie Freeny, Retired Carthage Librarian and Leake County Trustee, 1966 - 1985; the late Ms. Vickie "Tiny" Mears, Retired Duck Hill Librarian and Montgomery County Trustee, 1978 - 2004; Mr. William L. Fluker, System Trustee and Montgomery County Trustee, 1990 - present; the late Ms. Doris Suber, Retired Winston County Librarian, 1957 - 1983; and Ms. Doris Ward, Retired System Trustee and



Picture by: Pam Chadick, Acquisitions Coordinator, Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System. MMRLS Wall of Fame honorees in the attached picture from left to right are: Charles "Tex" Ritter, Doris E. Ward, William L. Fluker, Linda S. Milner and Richard O. Greene.

Winston County Trustee, 1978 - 2010.

Guests were welcomed by Mr. Richard Greene, MMRLS Executive Director and Mrs. Susan Cassagne, Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission. Mrs. Terry Jones, System Trustee, led the induction ceremony with biographical information on each inductee. Following the ceremony, inductees as well as family, friends and library staff shared memories of the honorees.

Submitted by:

Lisa M. Ramage

Branch Services Coordinator

Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System

NHPRC AWARDS PUBLICATION GRANT TO ULYSSES S. GRANT ASSOCIATION

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) awarded a grant of \$43,490 to the Ulysses S. Grant Association for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Established by Congress in 1934, NHPRC is the grant-making affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The NHPRC helps non-Federal institutions preserve and make broadly accessible other records of historical value through grants to archival institutions, manuscript repositories, and publications in multiple formats.

This grant will allow the Association to continue its work on the publication of Vols. I and II of the Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant: an annotated scholarly edition in print and a complete digital edition, which will show the various drafts of the Memoirs, from first to final. The digital edition will be published with free online access.

Grant's Memoirs, published in 1885 by Mark Twain's own publishing house Charles L. Webster and Co., have been touted as the greatest work of nineteenth-century non-fiction literature. The best-selling Memoirs received critical praise in their day and still remain a model for contemporary presidents when they write their own presidential memoirs. President Clinton kept a copy of Grant's Memoirs on a bookshelf near his oval office desk.

The scholarly edition will be of tremendous value to historians and those who wish to understand more completely Grant's military career, mainly in the

Mexican-American and Civil War. The annotations will have meticulous research and solid scholarship behind them.

Revealed in the drafting stages are the personal struggles Grant faced while writing his Memoirs, particularly his battle with throat cancer. Having been diagnosed with the illness shortly after beginning the Memoirs, Grant dealt with losing his voice and periods of intense physical pain and weakness. On July 16, 1885, Grant wrote to his doctor regarding the Memoirs that "There is nothing more that I should do to it now, and therefore I am not more ready to go than at this moment." He passed away only a few days later on July 23, 1885.

The Grant Association's goals for the Memoirs are to complete drafting and verification of the annotations for Vols. I and II and to send out both volumes for peer review by the end of the 2014-15 fiscal year. Groundwork on the digital version will continue alongside the work on the print edition.

The Grant Association greatly appreciates the continued financial support of the NHPRC so it may continue to grow the scholarship on Ulysses S. Grant and his family.

Grant Association Executive Director John F. Marszalek said, "Over the years of the Grant Association's editorial work on the 32 volumes of the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, the NHPRC's financial support has been crucial. Its continuing support this coming year will help ensure the first scholarly edition of the Grant Memoirs, an American classic."

Submitted by

Angela M. Patton

Library Associate

Mississippi State University Libraries

People in the News

Tina Harry

*Catalog & Assistant Automation Librarian and Associate Professor
University of Mississippi*

Deb Sample, Branch Librarian of Adcock Library, retired after 25 years of service to Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, MS. This culminated a career that got its roots in her high school library where she worked as a library aid. Before coming to Holmes, she worked as librarian at Woodland Hills Baptist Academy in Jackson, acquisitions librarian at Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus and reference librarian at Ricks Memorial Library in Yazoo City for a total of 30 years in service to Mississippi libraries.



Sample, an Ocean Springs native, holds an associate's degree from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. She received a bachelor's degree in library science from Mississippi State College for Women and a master's degree in library science from the University of Mississippi. She holds memberships in the Mississippi Library Association and the Alpha Beta Alpha Fraternity and is past District chairman with the Mississippi Private School Association. She was also named Lamp-lighter at Holmes Community College. She plans to spend retirement researching

her genealogy, cultivating new hobbies, and traveling to visit friends and relatives. She has a grown son, Michael Sample, and three grandchildren.

complete the coursework and receive her master's degree in December 2015.



Courtney Thomas was named the Hancock County Library System's (HCLS) new Executive Director by the HCLS Board of Trustees. Thomas had been serving as Interim Executive Director since February 1, 2013.

She began her career when she was a high school junior, working as a shelver at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library. She then went on to college and came back to the same library as a Reference Assistant. She worked at NASA Space Center and Hancock Medical Center, until returning to the library system in June, 2010, as Personnel/Grants Officer.

"The library seems to be in my destiny," said Thomas, who is also a native of Hancock County. "I love the library and the services it provides the citizens of Hancock County and surrounding communities. The team here is awesome and I am proud to be able to assist in moving them and the library system forward." Thomas holds Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and is currently enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of Southern Mississippi.

"We are pleased to have Courtney fill the Executive Director position," said Dolly Lundberg, HCLS Board of Trustees Chairman. "She has done an excellent job as Interim Executive Director, and we know she will continue to perform well as Executive Director."

She was also recently named the sole recipient of the Public Librarian Scholarship by the Mississippi Library Commission. The scholarship is part of the Library Services and Technology Act grant program administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant, in the amount of \$10,000, covers the tuition costs associated with Thomas' enrollment in the Master's Degree in Library Science program at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is scheduled to

"In any library, it is always so important to employ staff members who have their MLIS degrees," Thomas said. "However, the cost of graduate school is quite steep, so receiving this scholarship will definitely be a great help to me. I am excited about receiving this grant to complete my education in library and information services."

Anne Lipscomb Webster retired from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on April 30 after serving the Mississippi public for thirty-seven years in the reference services section. Webster began work with MDAH in 1977, becoming head librarian in 1980 and working that position until 1990 when the Division was reorganized. Returning to manage the reference services unit exclusively, Webster (nee Lipscomb) and former co-worker, Kathleen Hutchison, co-authored, "Tracing Your Mississippi Ancestors," in 1994.

Webster has served in various capacities in the Special Libraries Section of MLA, and the Mississippi Historical Society; she also has taught the enrichment classes at Millsaps College, and is on the speaker's bureau of the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries is pleased to welcome two new

tenure-track faculty members to the Cook Library Reference Services Department.



Elena Azadbakht joined Southern Miss Libraries in May 2014 as an Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian for Health Sciences. Azadbakht graduated from the University of Michigan with a master of science degree in information with a specialization in library and information services. Before coming to Southern Miss, she worked at the Taubman Health Sciences Library at the University of Michigan.



Michele Frasier-Robinson joined Southern Miss Libraries in July 2014 as an Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian for Education and Psychology. Frasier-Robinson earned a master of library and information science degree from Louisiana State University. Before coming to Southern Miss, she was the library director at the University Center of Southern Oklahoma.

Savannah L. Kelly has recently joined the University of Mississippi Libraries in the position of Education Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor. Savannah received her MLIS in 2006 from USM and is delighted to return to her home state after living on the California coast for six years.

Holmes Community College Libraries welcomes two new Assistant Librarians, Jennifer A. Smith and Angie Balias.

Jennifer A. Smith comes to the Ridgeland Campus, Adcock Library, from Warren County-Vicksburg Public Library where she served as Assistant Director for 12 years. Smith earned her Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1997 and has worked in Mississippi public libraries ever since. Smith has served the Mississippi Library Association in many capacities over the years; Treasurer from 2003-05, Vice-President/President Elect in 2010, President in 2011, and Past President in 2012. She has also served as chair of various committees. Smith was awarded the MLA Past-President's Award in 2001 and a Resolution of Commendation for Outstanding Service to the Mississippi Library Association National Library Week Committee in 2003.

Smith is very active in her church. At Safe Harbor Family Church, she is a Craft Group member and a Shepherd's Task Force member. She also volunteers often around the Jackson area for groups such as Habitat for Humanity, Stewpot, Grace House and Good Samaritan. Her personal interests include reading, cooking, quilting, hiking, traveling and trying new restaurants around the Jackson metro area. Smith loves her home in Pearl, MS, and is the proud mom of two Catahoula mixed breed dogs, Hannah and Oakley.

Angie Balias is the new Assistant Librarian at McMorrough Library, Goodman Campus. Balias brings to Holmes varied experiences working in academic libraries. She has worked at MS Gulf Coast Community College, the University of Southern Mississippi and she spent two years working on archival digitization projects at the University of Alabama W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library and the Bounds Law Library. Her interests in librarianship are focused on emerging technologies and digital media. Balias considers herself an outreach and instruction librarian. Before earning her Masters of Li-

brary and Information Studies from the University of Alabama, Balias focused on media production and worked in broadcast news at WLOX-TV in Biloxi and WGNO-TV in New Orleans. She holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi. Following her work in broadcasting, she became a producer/director at University of Alabama's Center for Communication and Education Technology.

Angie has a terrier mix named Trixie Louise who will be 15 in October.

After 12 years of faithful service, **Nell Branch** has retired as Head Librarian of McMorrough Library on the Goodman campus of Holmes Community College.



Branch, a lifelong resident of Mississippi, graduated Holmes Junior College with an Associate of Arts and went on to complete a B.S. in elementary education from Delta State University. Branch went to work teaching school in Ocean Springs, MS, for four years. Following that she served as a social worker in central Mississippi for four years. Branch then returned to school and completed a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi State University. Before coming to work at Holmes, Branch did graduate work in Library and Information Science through the University of Southern Mississippi.

Branch began her career at Holmes as Assistant Librarian. Branch was also the cataloger for the library system along with her many other duties. In a few short years, she was promoted to the Head Librarian position but still managed to juggle cataloging duties for the whole system along with the day-to-day running of McMorrough library. Branch was instrumental in bringing displays of student artwork into the library as well as author receptions and Homecoming events. The library staff of Holmes Community College thanks her for her years of service to

Holmes and the community of Goodman, MS, and wishes her well in retirement.

Branch keeps busy and enjoys reading and photography. Her photography work has been featured on the cover of Mississippi Libraries. She has a grown son, Jay.

Preston Salisbury is the new Reference Librarian at the McLendon Library at Hinds Community College. He obtained his MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in May 2014, where he was a Graduate Assistant and served on the Graduate Student Senate and as an instructor for LIS 201: Introduction to Information Literacy. He will specialize in bibliographic instruction and serials.

Kristin Finch is joining Hinds Community College as the new Reference/Archives Librarian. She comes to Hinds after serving as Branch Manager of the Purvis Public Library in the Lamar County Library System. Since graduating from Southern Miss's School of Library and Information Science, she has also served as Librarian at Virginia College in Biloxi, and as Site Archivist for a grant project at Mississippi Public Broadcasting.



Murray, Julie. *Mississippi*. Minneapolis, MN: ABDO Publishing Company. 2013. 23 pp. \$27.07 (hardback)

Mississippi by Julie Murray is a children's book that is part of the Big Buddy Books series of informative books about the United States. Its intended audience is grade one (or age six) and up. The format and layout of the book lends to its educational value. In addition to a timeline of important historical events, the book begins with an explanation of Mississippi's geographical context in relation to the United States. Murray then introduces the largest cities in Mississippi, with various full color photographs and text boxes containing fun fact information. A brief, yet informative, historical framework, is provided next to introduce Mississippi's history. Murray is careful to present the information in a concise format with illustrations and a timeline to make it more appealing. Children will learn facts about the Civil Rights Movement, as well as Hurricane Katrina's impact on the state. Murray continues to elucidate facts about the state, including economic, sports, and pop culture facts as they relate to Mississippi. Full color, full-page photographs of Gulfport's beaches, the Pearl River and famous Mississippians, such as Elvis Presley and Oprah Winfrey, will surely appeal to elementary-age school children. Interestingly, Murray has included a Tour Book section, which mentions many of the fun places to go and things to do in Mississippi. Children may especially enjoy this section, as it allows them to "plan" adventures while learning dynamic facts about the state. The book concludes with a Fast Facts section, covering important information such as the state flower, tree and bird; an Important Words section, featuring terms such as the American Civil War and hurricane; and an Index.

Murray's purpose for writing the book is clearly to educate elementary-age children about Mississippi. *Mississippi* would be an excellent fit in any public library or elementary school library in the state. While brief – only thirty-two pages in length – it is engaging, graphically appealing and exceedingly educational.

Callie Wiygul
SLIS Student
The University of Southern Mississippi

Newman, Rich. *Devil in the Delta: A Ghost Hunter's Most Terrifying Case... To Date.* Llewellyn Publications, 2014. 240 pp. \$14.99 (paperback)

Devil in the Delta by Rich Newman is an interesting book about a ghost hunter's journey into finding the truth about the paranormal. The book is written from Newman's point of view and in a first person narrative to give the readers a deeper connection to the author. Newman offers plenty of personal information to gain the reader's trust in believing that he has seen everything he is describing in his ghost hunting case.

The book, *Devil in the Delta*, is set in both the present and the past. We gain an insider point of view on the author's childhood and his personal beliefs before the readers get to dive into his encounter at the Martin home. In doing so, he helps us understand how his team of investigators work and become a trusted source on the paranormal.

After getting through the introduction and the tedious backstory on the author and his personal views, readers are drawn into his account of his adventure in the Mississippi Delta. Newman makes sure explain step-by-step how he performed the investigation of the Martin house so that the readers understand his process fully.

Fans of the paranormal genre will love this autobiographical account of a real investigation. Newman dove deep into the history of the haunted house trying to debunk occurrences before calling it something paranormal. Readers who enjoy this book will also enjoy Newman's other writings, *Ghost hunting for beginners: Everything you need to know to get started* and *The ghost hunter's field guide: Over 1000 haunted places you can experience*. This book would be appropriate for libraries who collect materials about the paranormal or anything Mississippi related.

Antoinette Giamalva
Access Services Librarian
Delta State University

Purdon, Carl. *Binders*. Lexington, Kentucky: Carl Purdon, 2014. \$14.99 (paperback)

Binders is Pontotoc County, Mississippi, native Carl Purdon's third novel. Set in Mississippi, it is the story of Dale Criss who, after serving 25 years for killing his high school sweetheart, has just been released from Parchman Prison and is now returning home. No one in his hometown is happy about his return and most think he should never have been released; when a former police officer is murdered, it seems to confirm everyone's suspicions.

The novel opens with a prologue depicting the final hours of Dale's trial in a seemingly corrupt courtroom with an arrogant sheriff and a gun-toting judge, combined with an inexperienced court-appointed lawyer and a gallery that's clearly out for Dale's blood. The scene resonates with the reader, leaving the distinct impression that Dale did not receive a fair and impartial trial. The reader's sympathies are tested from the beginning, though, by Dale's recklessly irresponsible choices and behavior – indeed, at times he appears to be his own worst enemy.

Thrown into the mix are two lawmen with very different attitudes towards law enforcement and how it should be implemented, and who are constantly butting heads to see who will prevail. Trap Malone is a by-the-book kind of man that believes there's only one line to follow and it should never be crossed. Challenging Trap's authority is Chief Deputy Carson Webster, a remnant of the former sheriff's administration who preferred his old bosses' style of justice and is a constant irritant to Trap. While Carson's adamant desire to put Dale back behind bars at any cost tests Trap's resolve, it is his wife's betrayal, however, that has him questioning everything he believes in.

This well written book has a fast-paced plot that will appeal to contemporary fiction readers who enjoy action and suspense. While the book does have violent content, the violent scenes are short and the worst takes place "off-page." Carl Purdon's exciting book is suitable for most adult audiences and is recommended for all public libraries.

Tamara D. Blackwell
Reference Services
Bolivar County Library System

Purdon, Carl. *Norton Road*. Createspace, 2013. 332 pp. \$14.99 (paperback)

Oscar ‘Pap’ Jones is at war. Armed with a small red toolbox and flashlight, Pap leads a campaign of mechanical sabotage and mischief against the “noisy, dirty, sawdust-belching invasion of his privacy” next door, Khane Manufacturing. For two years Pap has conducted nighttime raids against Davis Khane, trying to put the furniture factory out of business. His raids soon cause the owner Davis Khane to retaliate and enlist the help of former deputy sheriff, and aspiring sheriff candidate, Bodie Craig.

Pap’s war with Khane, which includes the unfortunate skunk and microwave incident, comes to an abrupt end when he is accused of murder and hauled off to jail. In order to survive he must destroy Bodie, whose passion for money, power, and a woman he can’t have has quickly turned into deadly obsession.

Norton Road is a multiple viewpoint novel that successfully transitions between the three main characters: Oscar ‘Pap’ Jones, Sheriff Sam Gant, and sheriff candidate Bodie Craig. Through these transitions the reader is able to see the story from all sides, making the characters much more than one dimensional. Pardon gives a clear picture of Pap’s hatred for the factory, Sheriff Gant’s life outside of the small-town police department, and how Bodie Craig’s many passions become one giant twisted obsession. The reader really gets to know the characters; wanting to not only know where they will end up, but also rooting for them along the way.

While *Norton Road* does not contain strong adult language, it does contain mature themes and is not suitable for young children. The novel will, however, appeal to Mississippians who have lived in similar places as well as anyone who is a fan of contemporary murder mystery fiction. Public libraries, especially those interested in collecting works written by Mississippi-born authors, should consider *Norton Road* when purchasing for their collection.

Heather Pohl

*Acquisitions and Adult Services Librarian
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library*

Putnam, Richelle. *Lauderdale County Mississippi: A Brief History*. Charleston: The History Press, 2011. 158 pp. \$19.99 (paperback).

In *Lauderdale County Mississippi*, author Richelle Putnam shares the rich history of the Mississippi county where she makes her home. From the early days in the 1830's to present day, Putnam profiles the people who transformed Lauderdale County into the vibrant community it is today. She includes men and women of all ethnic backgrounds who are leaders in education, religion, agriculture, business, and entertainment. She also includes how events (i.e., Civil War, Civil Rights Movement) changed the community. Putnam enhances the text with over fifty black-and-white photographs including ones from her own photo collection.

The *Appendix* is a list of “Notable Lauderdale County Natives.” Among the notables listed are James Chaney (1964 civil rights martyr), brothers Fred and Al Key (aviators who set a 1935 world flight endurance record), Jimmie Rodgers (“Father of Country Music”), David Ruffin (lead singer of The Temptations), Sela Ward (actress), and E.F. Young (founder of E.F. Young Jr. Manufacturing Company). In 1930, Velma Young, E.F. Young’s wife, founded the first ethnic beauty salon in Meridian.

Besides being an author and local historian, Richelle Putnam’s other talents include being a Mississippi Arts Commission Roster and Teaching Artist, a Mississippi Humanities Council speaker, and a popular entertainer who sings and plays her guitar at festivals and special events. She is also a freelance and staff writer who contributes to magazines and newspapers, and is the recipient of many writing awards. Other books she has written are *Legendary Locals of Meridian* (co-authored with June Davidson in 2013) and *The Inspiring Life of Eudora Welty* (2014). Her website is www.richelleputnam.net.

Lauderdale County Mississippi should prove to be popular with academic and public library users interested in Mississippi history and genealogy. It can also be a useful addition to a library’s collection of Mississippi county histories.

Lila Jefferson
Acquisitions Librarian
University of Louisiana at Monroe