

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES



A Quarterly Publication of the
Mississippi Library Association
©2015

ISSN 0194-388X

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On the cover: "Book on the Hook" by Elizabeth Brooke Little, Florence High School. It was created for a library showcase of artwork. This demonstrates how reading is for everyone.

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President's Page



Onward and upward is the current direction of the Mississippi Library Association with a variety of innovative ideas being implemented in 2015.

The year started with a letter of support from the President on behalf of the MLA Executive Board to Susan Cassagne, Executive Director of MLC, stating the necessity of providing internet access in rural areas across the state with the installation of fiber in all public libraries. This measure is ongoing in the 2016 legislative budget year and academic, school, special and public librarians are urged to contact their local state legislators.

Membership in the Mississippi Library Association is at a peak with 609 members to date. MLA will host a membership table at the USM Children's Book Festival being held April 6- 8, 2016 to reach the over 400 teachers and librarian attendees. The implementation of the ALA/MLA Joint Student membership has been a success with many students taking advantage of the \$38.00 a year fee.

Online voting was approved the board in March and thanks to Jennifer Nabzdyk, implemented to save time and money for future elections.

A new Pinterest page was developed by Antoinette Giamalva allowing members to share ideas such as National Library Week, Teen Tech Week, 2016 Summer Reading,

Library Card Sign-Up Month, etc.

The annual conference was held in Natchez with the theme "Stronger Together" and featuring keynote speaker Josh Hanagarne, General Session Speaker Todd Bol from Little Free Libraries, as well as many Mississippi librarians conducting workshops. A special thank you to Vice-President Molly McManus and her conference team for a job well done.

Also new for 2015 was the first Mississippi Book Festival at the state capitol attended by a large number of MLA members; a new editor, Tina Harry, was appointed by the board for Mississippi Libraries; a successful National Library Legislative Day was held in Washington; MLA was represented at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Chicago and the ALA Conference in San Francisco; and new promotional materials were purchased by the board with the MLA logo.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment of the MLA Executive Board was to approve a revised 96 page MLA Handbook which involved input from Section, Committee, and Roundtable Chairs as well as numerous edits and reviews by board members.

It has been my honor to serve as the 2015 Mississippi Library Association President and I look forward to continuing to serve as the Past President on the Executive Board and also Chair of the Fiscal Management Committee for 2016.

Best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year,

Patsy C. Brewer

Anne H. Augustus: Her Life, Her Books

Paul Pruitt Jr.

Collection Development &
Special Collections Librarian
The University of Alabama

Over the past year, during visits to an antique shop in Columbus, I came across a number of books signed with the bold, legible signature of Anne H. Augustus. Most of them dated back a hundred years or more; some clearly had been gifts, some passed down through her family, and some school books. Looking over the collection spread over a single shelf, I was struck by the fact that Anne Augustus must have had catholic tastes and a good deal of diverse knowledge. I placed her, mentally, among that first generation in which college educations were available to women—a Mississippi version, so to speak, of Dorothy L. Sayers' character Harriet Vane. I wondered if Augustus had graduated from the "W"; I thought it likely that she had been an interesting person. Two or three at a time, I started acquiring her books. Then I began to investigate her life, in libraries and online. In what follows, I'm trying to make sense of how Augustus' life fit together, with special attention to books—the ones she definitely owned and those she probably owned.

PART I: ANNE H. AUGUSTUS (1880-1976), AN INCOMPLETE BIOGRAPHY

Anne Heard Augustus was born on September 28, 1880 in Noxubee County Mississippi, at her "ancestral home" near Macon.¹ The county was



Anne H. Augustus

part of the plantation-rich "prairie belt," where African Americans outnumbered white people—in Noxubee by a ratio of roughly five to one. Her family had long been prominent; in 1834 her grandfather George Baldwin Augustus had been one of Noxubee's first judges; he had subsequently served four terms as state senator. Her father, William Baldwin Augustus (1840-1901), was born in Alabama; but he too, was a public figure in Mississippi. An ardent secessionist, he had served as a private soldier in the 41st Mississippi Regiment. After Reconstruction ended in Mississippi, he was elected to the legislature; in 1878 he was appointed as one of the first trustees of the Agricultural and Mechanical School (the ancestor of Mississippi State University).²

W.B. Augustus married three times. After the death of his second wife in 1872, he married Kate Hooper Brantley (1842-1912), a relation of Alabama humorist Johnson Jones Hooper.³ W.B. and Kate would have six children, of whom Anne was the third.⁴ The years of Anne's childhood were prosperous ones for the family; W.B. Augustus was appointed in 1884 as one of the first members of the state Railroad Commission at a salary of \$2,500 per annum, a large sum for the time.⁵ There is no reason to doubt that Anne grew up in Macon with her siblings—closest perhaps to her sisters Kate Brantley Augustus (1881-1977) and Gertrude Augustus (1883-1942).⁶ Together they navigated all of the rites of passage common to small town children in the post-Reconstruction south. These would have included playing games with children her age, some of whom quite likely were African American; going

River (Jackson: R.H. Henry & Co., 1891), 544-547, for Noxubee County information and for the dates of office holding for George B. and W.B. Augustus. For W.B. Augustus' secessionism, see draft of resolution by W.B. Augustus concerning secession (photocopy), in W.B. Augustus Papers, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries; for his Civil War service, see www.ancientfaces.com.

³ See William Stanley Hoole, *Alias Simon Suggs: The Life and Times of Johnson Jones Hooper* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1952), xxii, 39, 198 n. 43, n. 44; and see below.

⁴ This information can be found under entries for William Baldwin Augustus and Kate Hooper Brantley Augustus on Ancestry.com.

⁵ Dunbar Rowland, *Mississippi: Comprising Sketches of Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form* (Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907), II: 500; and *Biennial Reports of the Departments and Benevolent Institutions of the State of Mississippi for the Years 1884-1885* (Jackson: J.L. Power, 1886), 95.

⁶ For Kate B. Augustus, see her obituary, *Macon Beacon*, December 22, 1977, For Gertrude Augustus, see entry under Gertrude Augustus on Ancestry.com.

¹ Anne Augustus' obituary, *Macon Beacon*, July 8, 1976 [p. 1, col. 8].

² See Robert Lowry and William H. McCardle, *A History of Mississippi, from the Discovery of the Great*

to school⁷ and to church with white children alone; a good deal of time spent reading; and also time devoted to studying family history, her neighbors, or observing nature and the seasons. Her childhood home, Macon would be the place to which she returned.

In 1901 “Annie” Augustus graduated with a bachelor’s degree from the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College (I.I. & C.) in Columbus, where she enjoyed her coursework in English grammar and literature, rhetoric, mathematics, Latin, and history.⁸ Inspired by professors and friends, she embarked upon a career as a schoolteacher, a soldier in the great Progressive-era drive to educate the South. But to be a civilizer, often, is also to fight against the odds—what Eudora Welty meant when she told an interviewer that “teachers like those are all over the South—dedicated, and losing their battles, but not losing them every time.”⁹ Anne Augustus spent one year as “Mistress of a country school” in Noxubee County, three years teaching high school in Macon, and another year as a high school teacher at West Point, Mississippi. Thereafter she was “teacher of the campus school” at the University of Mississippi, most

likely a laboratory school run in coordination with the university’s teacher-training program. Having taken this job, she pursued studies toward a master’s degree in English with an additional concentration in mathematics. She served one year as “Reader in the English Department” and taught three summers of “normal work” at the university as an instructor of English grammar, rhetoric and literature. After some time spent completing her thesis, she received her M.A. in 1910.¹⁰

Augustus’ thesis, “Wordsworth and Bryant, A Comparative Study,” shows that she was fascinated with nature poetry. Her thesis was full of approving references to nature as teacher, to the forms of nature-worship found in the works of her two poets, and to the serenity to be found in natural scenes.¹¹ Anyone looking for further insight into Augustus’ sensibility should note her light-hearted compression of Wordsworth’s “The Tables Turned,” which included the lines “Up! Up! My friend, and quit your books;/ Why all this toil and trouble?” and “Books! ‘Tis a dull and endless strife:/ Come hear the woodland linnet.”¹² She revealed her values as a teacher when she praised Wordsworth for his optimism, for showing his readers “the type of manhood” that can “‘turn . . . necessity,’ however miserable it may

be, ‘into glorious gain.’”¹³

In 1912, after two years of inquiring after the position, Augustus began her professorial career as an instructor at Mississippi Normal College in Hattiesburg.¹⁴ Working from a curriculum that she helped to design, she taught basic English courses, in addition to courses titled “Exposition and Argumentation,” “The English Sentence,” “Southern Authors,” “Plays of Shakespeare,” “Advanced Grammar,” “Nineteenth Century Poetry,” and “Studies in Tennyson.”¹⁵ During her Normal College years, she had every reason to add professional titles to her childhood and college books. She made use of several works of grammar, including Brooks’ *English Composition*, Kimball’s *Structure of the English Sentence*, and Meiklejohn’s *The English Language: Its Grammar, History, and Literature*. Otherwise she probably collected works of literature, especially poetry. In addition to volumes by Wordsworth and Bryant, she owned volumes of Tennyson’s verse, as well as such anthologies as Walter C. Bronson’s *English Poems: The Nineteenth Century*, and at least one collection of Shakespeare’s plays. Nor was Augustus likely to neglect Southern literature; her teaching text was Payne’s *Southern Literary Readings*.¹⁶

7 In 1888-1889, when Anne Augustus was in her grammar school years, Macon supported a ten-grade, ten-month public school for whites; there, Prof. W.F. Moncrieff presided over the education of 120 boys and 140 girls. See Edward Mayes, *History of Education in Mississippi* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899), 288. It is also possible that Anne was privately tutored.

8 *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College, 1901-1902*, 3 (for professors in the named subjects and other subjects), 9. The I. I. & C. was the ancestor school of the Mississippi University for Women.

9 Linda Kuehl, interviewer, “Eudora Welty and the Art of Fiction No. 47,” in *Paris Review* (Fall 1972) [Issue No. 55; <http://www.theparisreview.org/back-issues/55>].

10 Anne H. Augustus to T.P. Scott, August 30, 1910, March 15, 1912, M276 (T.P. Scott Papers), University of Southern Mississippi Digital Collections (<http://digilib.usm.edu/cdm/ref/collection/arc/id/684> and <http://digilib.usm.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/arc/id/689/rec/1>). Anne Augustus’ obituary (*supra* n. 1) says that her master’s degree was in English and mathematics.

11 Anne H. Augustus, “Wordsworth and Bryant, A Comparative Study” (M.A. Thesis, University of Mississippi, 1910), 1-2, 5-6, 7, 12, 16, 28, 30, 37.

12 *Ibid.*, 28. Augustus has left out several lines. For the text of the poem, see Mark Van Doren, editor, *William Wordsworth, Selected Poetry* (New York: Modern Library, 1950), 82-83.

13 Augustus, “Wordsworth and Bryant,” 48, 49-50; for the poem on which these passages are based, see Van Doren, *William Wordsworth, Selected Poetry*, “Character of the Happy Warrior,” 530-532.

14 *Supra* n. 10. The Normal College was the ancestor school of the University of Southern Mississippi. See also Chester M. Morgan and Martha Dunagin Saunders, *Treasured Past, Golden Future: The Centennial History of the University of Southern Mississippi* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2010), 20.

15 *Catalogue of the Mississippi Normal College, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Announcement 1913-1914* (Meridian: Dement Printing Company, 1913), 4, 6, 36-39.

16 The titles mentioned are course requirements

After five years in Hattiesburg, Augustus worked for a year at the Central High School of Memphis before landing as Professor of Latin and Associate in English at the West Tennessee Normal School.¹⁷ There her courses required her to make use of Caesar's *Gallic Wars*, Pliny the Younger's *Letters*, and editions of Virgil and Cicero.¹⁸ Always versatile, having shifted the focus of her career, she threw herself into her work. Consider the W.T.N.S. Latin Club's May 1924 performance of a two-part play, billed as "Odysseus and [the] Kiss of Aphrodite." Augustus wrote and directed the "Odysseus" half of this toga-clad piece, which was a "dramatization of Tennyson's 'Lotos Eaters' and 'Ulysses,' and adaptations of Homer's *Odyssey*."¹⁹ Her scholarly work included an 1926 address before the Tennessee Philological Society.²⁰

After teaching in Memphis for ten years, Augustus taught in Kentucky as head of the Department of

Languages at Murray State Teachers College. She resigned in 1932²¹ at the trough of the Great Depression and dropped out of (professional) sight. Her family papers include a 1938 letter to Augustus from the Mississippi-born teacher and I.I. & C. graduate Blanche Colton Williams.²² This letter was addressed to her in Macon, where for many years Augustus would live with her younger sister Kate Brantley Augustus, longtime (1918-1954) Noxubee County Chancery Clerk.²³ Each sister would die at age 96—Anne in 1976, Kate in 1977.

During this long twilight, Augustus' interests turned toward studies of southern history and literature. She began to gather family books (her Aunt Mary's copy of *Don Quixote*, for example) as well as documents pertaining to the life of her family's connection, the "Southwestern humorist" Johnson Jones Hooper, author of the picaresque *Adventures of Captain Simon Suggs*. These she generously shared (by 1951) with University of Alabama librarian William S. Hoole.²⁴ Otherwise, she took part in Macon's cultural life—for instance, in the activities of the Dancing Rabbit chapter of the DAR.²⁵

Augustus lived in Macon for long enough to become a local institution, the sort of well-connected spinster one encounters in novels or movies.

21 *The Shield*, [Yearbook, Murray State Teachers College], 1931, 19; Minutes, Board of Regents, Murray State Teachers College, 155 (May 24, 1932); Macon *Beacon*, July 8, 1976.

22 Blanche Colton Williams to Anne H. Augustus, August 1, 1938, in W.B. Augustus Papers. Augustus owned a copy of Williams' *A Christmas Book from the Department of English, Hunter College of the City of New York* (Brooklyn: Comet Press, 1937).

23 *Supra* n. 6.

24 Hoole, *Alias Simon Suggs*, xxii, 196 n. 25, 197 n. 32.

25 *Supra*, n. 1.

Though she had accustomed herself to other worlds—to academe, to a regional metropolis—there was no reason why she shouldn't go home again. She illustrated that point, with only a hint of the outsider looking in, in an obituary she composed in 1960. Her subject, she said, had been possessed of beauty, charm, and grace; had introduced into her home the "glories of flower culture"; had kept up an active schedule in the local gardening club and in the "Noxubee United Daughters of the Confederacy." Yet the lady's chief concern, wrote Augustus, was that of service to her family. She had led a "sheltered" life—and Augustus notes (without apparent irony) that "most women would call this estate blessed"—yet her domestic sacrifices were what constituted "her lasting monument."²⁶

PART II: ANNE AUGUSTUS' BOOKS: SPACE AND NEGATIVE SPACE

Augustus' lasting legacy was not her private library, however substantial. At times her shelves had housed books and documents garnered from the lawyers, politicians, and matriarchs to whom she was related, as well as a personal collection of books read for preparation or pleasure—including novels, poetry, histories, and English and Latin grammars. Stored nearby were titles collected by Kate B. Augustus, who as a young woman had read romantic novels and works of philosophy.

Over the decades after the sisters' deaths, it is not certain what

and can be found at *supra* n. 15, 37-39. Some likely editions are Stratton D. Brooks, *English Composition*, 2 vols. (New York: American Book Company, 1911-1912); Lillian Gertrude Kimball, *The Structure of the English Sentence* (New York: Cincinnati American Book Co., 1900); J.M.D. Meiklejohn, *The English Language: Its Grammar, History, and Literature*, American ed., rev. (Boston: D.C. Heath & Co., 1906); Walter C. Bronson, *English Poems: The Nineteenth Century* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1907); and Leonidas Warren Payne, *Southern Literary Readings* (Chicago: Rand, McNally & Company, 1913).

17 *Desoto*, 1922 [Yearbook, West Tennessee State Normal School], 17; by 1922, Augustus had placed "Graduate Student, University of Wisconsin," undated, on her resume. The West Tennessee State Normal School is the ancestor school of the University of Memphis.

18 See, for example, the courses and readings listed in *Bulletin: West Tennessee State Normal School, Memphis, Tennessee, Summer Quarter 1922* (Memphis [?]: State Board of Education, 1922), 28.

19 *Desoto*, 1924, 76.

20 "Philological Delegates Open First Session of Meet Today," in *The Sou'wester* [student newspaper, Southwestern at Memphis], February 26, 1926 [p. 3]. The newspaper does not give the topic of her presentation.

26 This text is available at <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/s/h/a/Dwight-A-Sharp-TX/BOOK-0001/0007-0003.html>.

happened to their books. Both obituaries mention three nieces, and it seems likely that the collection passed into the hands of one or more of these. That was nearly forty years ago, time for the secondary owners to grow old, for the books to lose their sentimental value. I was able to salvage ten books, fragments that are worthy of study for several reasons.

First, these books are physical objects illustrative of the aesthetics of book culture at the turn of the last century. Their inscriptions and marginalia seem to indicate several categories of use: as (1) beautiful gifts; (2) relics of family history; (3) practical tools; or (4) escape reading. Since most of the books contain many pages of advertisements, they allow modern readers insight into the American book trade of the period.²⁷ The fact that the dates of publication are mostly from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries may indicate that the books were later saved because they were old, and therefore heirlooms; or that the Augustus sisters' collecting habits changed with the onset of such events as the Great War or the Great Depression.

The books are a rich source of information on the inner life of their collector, Anne H. Augustus. Little of the biographical information above came directly from her books; but it is clear to anyone with access to them that Augustus' books *reflect* and explain the incidents and concerns of her life. They offer an authentic pathway to her inner life. Now this notion of a person's library as a type of autobiographical document is not a new one. In



my professional home, the Bounds Law Library, distinguished scholars have made use of the reconstructed library of Justice Hugo L. Black of the United States Supreme Court.²⁸ Anything may be saved, Crusoe-like,

from the flotsam of famous lives—but seldom from the wreckage left by more ordinary folk, however interesting. Perhaps the point is that, in these fading days of the book, we should do what we can to keep such collections together.

²⁷ In the bibliography below, bracketed page numbers are typically pages of advertisements.

²⁸ See especially Roger K. Newman, *Hugo L. Black, a Biography* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1994), 445-456, and *passim*.

TEN BOOKS ONCE OWNED BY ANNE HEARD AUGUSTUS AND HER RELATIVES, IN ORDER BY DATE OF PUBLICATION

Note: There are references below to three bookplates: Bookplate 1: Coat of Arms, with "Ex Libris Augustus." Bookplate 2: Torch-bearer in classical garb. Printed "Ex Libris," with space for signature. Bookplate 3: Seated woman (goddess?) in classical garb, holding lamp, before kneeling man who offers a box. Printed "Ex Libris," with space for signature.

1. William Morris. *The Earthly Paradise, a Poem*. From 3rd London ed. Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1868. 17.8 cm. x 12.3 cm. Pp. [6], 430, [14]. Bookplate 1. Signed on half-title page: "Anne Augustus." Volume 1 of 2. Probably a book that came to Anne Augustus through her family, possibly read by her when she was a child. A writer and designer, Morris was a mainstay of England's "arts and crafts" movement. *The Earthly Paradise* contains retellings of classical myths as well as poems set in an unspecified heroic time. For themes of women's nobility and power; note "Psyche and Cupid," "The Love of Alcestis" and "The Lady of the Land."

2. Joseph Deharbe, S.J. *A Full Catechism of the Catholic Religion*. Rev. John Fander, trans. New York: The Catholic Publication Society Co., 1881. 17.5 cm. x 12 cm. Pp. vi, 327, [1]. Back free end-sheet cut. Bookplate 1. Inscriptions, front free end-sheet: "Mary Mildred Brantley (Mrs. Johnson J. Hooper)"; and "M.M. Hooper from Mrs. Biscoe." Page 271 turned down; this page deals with the impact of sins upon one's holy communion. This volume

is the only one of this collection that is traceable to Augustus' Hooper connections.

3. James, McPherson, trans. *The Poems of Ossian*. Edinburgh: A. & C. Black, 1885. 16 cm. x 10.7 cm. [Duodecimo.] Pp. viii, 294. Bookplate 1. Signed on half-title page: "Anne H. Augustus, December 20, 1903." And "from Mrs. A.E. Heard." Purported renditions of a Celtic bard, *Ossian* (first appearing in 1760) was a great literary hoax. Wordsworth was much affected by these poems; a Wordsworth quote appears on this volume's title page.

4. Mrs. Arthur J. Barnes. *Complete Caligraph Instructor: Or How to Become Expert in Typewriting*. St. Louis: Arthur J. Barnes, Publisher, 1890. 27 cm. x 20 cm. Pp. xiv, 160, [2]. This battered volume boasts multiple signatures on front and back paste-down sheets and title page. Most are of "Gertrude B. Augustus"; one of "Kate B. Augustus"; two of "Olive Jones, I. I. & C., Columbus, Miss"; one, partially written over, of Anne W. Heard, I.I. & C., September 28, 1895." A narrow strip of tape on the back cover is signed "Gertrude Augustus." There are various markings and notes, including one on the left margin of the last (unnumbered) page of the book: "Annie, don't forget Sunday afternoon May 24, '96." Based on the date, this Annie is most likely Anne W. Heard. Pinned with a straight-pin to p. 48 is a practice form for solicitation of employment (in purple typescript), headed "Columbus Mississippi, May 1, 1901" and "Messrs. Bond and Baker, Publishers and Book-dealers. Boston, Massachusetts."

5. Sara E. Husted Lockwood. *Lessons in English, Adapted to the Study*

of American Classics: A Text-Book for High Schools and Academies. Boston: Ginn & Company, 1892. 19 cm. x 13 cm. Pp. xix, 403, [8; advertisements, numbered 14-20], [1]. Front free end sheet(s) torn out. Back free end-sheet cut but intact. Numerous signatures of "George B. Augustus, Macon, Mississippi," some dated 1893. On front pastedown end sheet is a large drawing of a running horse pulling a two-wheeled sulky or cart, driven by a man wearing a tall hat. On the rear pastedown sheet is a large drawing of a bird snapping at an insect; see also p. 266. On p. 267 are a small crossed-out drawing and the words "Mr. Roozter" at the head of the page. The volume contains many marks and notes, some of which may be in Anne Augustus' hand. Note (pp. 380-388) the biography of William Cullen Bryant, containing a reference (p. 384) to Bryant's 1849 visit with Wordsworth. Augustus may have held on to this volume for its family associations or as an example of a well-conceived textbook.

6. Edward S. Ellis. *1000 Mythological Characters Briefly Explained, Adapted to Private Schools, High Schools and Academies*. [Orig. copyright 1895.] New York: Hinds & Noble, Publishers, 1899. 16.8 cm. x 13 cm. Pp. 146, [20]. Photograph, statue of Diana, inset on cover. Bookplate 2. Signed on bookplate, "Anne H. Augustus." Same signature on rear pastedown. Introduction discusses aspects of philological criticism (pp. 7 ff.). Some markings; see p.47 for a joke dependent upon a Latin pun.

7. William M. Thackeray. *The Yellowplush Papers*. Philadelphia: Henry Altamus Company, c. 1899.

15.8 cm. x 11 cm. Pp. 226, [36]. Cornflower blue cover, with inset photograph of a bridge over a stream, woods in background. Bookplate 1. Included at end are copious advertisements for various series, including Altemus' illustrated "Vademecum" titles. It seems clear (see below) that Anne and Kate Augustus favored these inexpensive (40¢), brightly colored volumes. Written in an exaggerated cockney dialect, *Yellowplush* features characters that are little more than confidence men—not unlike Simon Suggs.

8. Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué. *Undine*. Philadelphia: Henry Altemus Company, c. 1899. 16.8 cm. x 11.2 cm. Pp. 174, [16]. Cover is white with a floral design. Colored frontispiece. Signed on front free end sheet, "Kate B. Augustus, May 4 '05." Home-made dust jacket of brown paper cleverly stitched together with thread; torn along spine. On front of

dust jacket is written, "UNDINE—a beautiful idyl—a delicate piece of romantic fancy." First published in 1811 in German, *Undine* was a fairy tale in which a water sprite seeks a human love.

9. Sir Edwin Arnold. *The Light of Asia*. Philadelphia: Henry Altemus Company, n.d. [Original published as early as 1850.] 15.8 cm. x 11 cm. Pp. 239, [34]. Sky-blue cover with floral designs. Black and white frontispiece and illustrations. Signed on front paste-down sheet, "Kate B. Augustus." This work presents Buddhist doctrine in the form of English poetry.

10. Charles H. Chaffin. *How to Study Pictures, By Means of a Series of Comparisons of Paintings and Painters . . .* New York: The Century Company, 1912. 21.8 cm. x 15.5 cm. Pp. xv, 513. Bookplate 3. Signed on bookplate, "Anne H. Augustus." Same signature on back paste-down

end sheet. Gilded top edge. Augustus marked passages in the introduction (p. xiv), including the author's statement that he was not seeking "to suggest that one [painter] is more admirable than another; but to stimulate interest and the faculty of observation." At the top of p. 3 Augustus' annotation confuses Shelley and Keats. On the bottom of p. 3, Augustus copied, with some omissions portions of two stanzas of Wordsworth's 1819 poem "Peter Bell." See p. 385 for markings indicating an interest in Victorian painter-poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The volume has laid-in newspaper and magazine clippings, all of artistic subjects. Someone has used this volume until the text block is almost detached from the binding.

*Dedicated to the memory of R.R.P.
and to teacher-scholars like her.*

Hancock County Library Unveils Card Campaign For Students

Mary M. Perkins

*Public Affairs/Development Officer
Hancock County Library System*

The Hancock County Library System embarked on a library card campaign to ensure that all students in Hancock County obtain valid library cards by the end of the 2015 school year.

"Why do we think a library card is so important in a child's education?" asked Courtney Thomas, Hancock County Library System Executive Director. "We, as educators and theorists of reading, know that children learn to read by reading, and a free



Students were treated to a special story hour.

library card gives them access to literally thousands of books.”

“The more children read, the more likely they will develop positive attitudes toward reading,” said Dr. Rebecca Ladner, Superintendent of the Bay-Waveland School District. “Furthermore, if parents utilize the resources their public library offers, it will further support the education of our students, today and tomorrow.”

In partnership with the school districts, this membership campaign placed a library card into the hands of children across Hancock County in an effort to nurture a love for reading, ignite a habit of life-long learning, and educate children about the free access to books and learning available at their local Hancock County library branch.

The campaign began at the Waveland Public Library, with Waveland Elementary School students touring the library, learning what resources were available to them at their local library, and were given a behind-the-scenes look at how the library system processes items.

Travel to the libraries by First Student buses has been cosponsored by the Leo Seal Family Foundation, the Library Foundation of Hancock County and the First Student Bus Company.

More than 600 students registered for library cards, and the fourth grade class at North Bay Elementary had 100% participation in the campaign. They received a picture of their class on a library read poster, a pizza party and a free dress day at school.



The Fourth Grade Class at North Bay Elementary had 100% participation in the Kids Library Card Campaign, and their picture was placed on a READ poster in the library.



Students were told about the resources available at the library through the Reference Department.

USM Libraries to Host 2nd Annual Institutional Repository Day

Dawn Smith

*Assistant to the Dean for
Publicity and Outreach
The University of Southern
Mississippi Libraries*

University Libraries at Southern Miss will host Institutional Repository (IR) Day on April 28 and 29. IR Day will feature speakers, panel discussions, and workshops that will address topics ranging from the basics of IRs to new ideas for longtime IR managers. The presentations will also include speakers who use a variety of different IR platforms, thus allowing attendees to compare the different options that are available to them.

"Institutional repositories are a powerful tool that allow a university to take the research and scholarship produced at the institution and present it before a global audience. Works that were once confined to a bookshelf or disk can now be accessed around the world, and IRs have played a tremendous role in making this possible. IR Day is a great opportunity for us to teach others about the value of IRs to their campuses by highlighting several of the success stories we've experienced with our own repository, Aquila. We were honored to welcome Marilyn Billings, one of the nation's preeminent librarians in the field of scholarly communication, to Southern Miss as our keynote speaker last year, and we are excited about building on that momentum this year as Rick Anderson from the University of Utah, another preeminent voice

in scholarly communication, joins us as this year's keynote speaker," said Josh Cromwell, University Libraries' Scholarly Institutional Repository Coordinator.

Rick Anderson, Associate Dean for Scholarly Resources and Collections at the University of Utah, will serve as the keynote speaker. Anderson earned his B.S. and M.L.I.S. degrees at Brigham Young University. In 2014, his book *Buying and Contracting for Resources and Services: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians* was published by Neal-Schuman. Anderson was identified by *Library Journal* as a "Mover & Shaker" – one of the "50 people shaping the future of libraries" in 2005. He was elected president of the North American Serials Interest Group in 2008 and named an ARL Research Library Leadership Fellow for 2009-10. In 2013 he received the HARRASSOWITZ Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award and was invited to give the Gould Distinguished Lecture on Technology and the Quality of Life at the University of Utah. In 2015 Anderson was elected President of the Society for Scholarly Publishing and is a popular speaker on subjects related to the future of scholarly communication and research libraries.

IR Day's schedule of events will include a meet and greet with poster presentations at the host hotel on Thursday evening. Fridays' schedule will begin with the keynote address followed by a panel discussion. Following lunch, provided by

University Libraries, participants will be able to attend three different concurrent sessions. University Libraries is accepting proposals for the concurrent sessions as well as the Thursday evening poster presentations. The deadline for submission was December 15, and more information can be found at <http://www.lib.usm.edu/irday/proposals>.



Aquila, Southern Miss' Institutional Repository, is an open access digital repository containing scholarly works created by the University's faculty, staff and students. Aquila also hosts digital journals and newsletters published by the University, as well as information and resources from events hosted by the University. The majority of submissions to Aquila have open access availability and are indexed, making them highly discoverable through internet search engines, such as Google, thereby extending the University's scholarly output to a wider audience.

For more information or to register for IR Day, visit <http://www.lib.usm.edu/irday>.

Camp ABC

A Preschool Literacy Program at the Jackson Hinds Library System

Charlotte Moman

*Assistant Director of Public Services
Jackson Hinds Library System*

The origins of Camp ABC grew out of our concern to help preschool children be better prepared to enter school, as well as to help ensure that future third graders meet the standards of the Literacy Promotion Act, which mandates that all third grade children read on grade level in order to pass to the fourth grade. Our library system is located in an area where many children begin school without the necessary elements that are important to their success. In the Jackson Public School system, students face a 60% graduation rate from high school, and we believed that instruction based in the public library system could greatly benefit preschool children.

One of our children's staff members had a teaching background which included experience in how to teach preschool phonics. After learning more about the program, we believed that this approach could offer a significant advantage both in teaching children how to sound out words and also in giving them a better foundation for writing and spelling success. In addition to the instruction, we incorporate many fun activities based on phonics to help them stay excited and interested in the instruction.

Here are some of the basics we

cover: pronouncing the letters from A-Z along with their sounds, counting the numbers from 1-100, and learning the days of the week and the months of the year.

Our curriculum includes an individual book focused on each letter of the alphabet. This approach is consistent with preschool skills such as identifying objects, listening to a story and answering the simple questions. The sequence of letters that we teach is as follows: C,O,G,A,D,S,L,I,T,F,E,H,U. All the activity for these letters require easy motor skills. The alphabet letter C is taught first as it can be the base for recognizing so many other letters and numbers.

During the middle of the six-week session, the technique of blending letters together is introduced. This technique involves saying the sound of the letter we are teaching and not the name. Only the hard sounds of letters are introduced at this stage. C is kh, G is gh, E is eh, U is uh, I is ee'. To read a word, we teach the children to pronounce each letter's sound and then join each of these sounds together as they occur in the word.

The vowels a, e, i, o, u are introduced with their sounds. Since all five have similar sounds, great care is used in this part of the instruction. We teach each child that no word in the English language can exist

without at least one of these vowel letters. This seems to make the children curious, and we ask them to dig in the books which they have at home to see if they can discover any word without a vowel. Prepositions: is, in, on, up, down, under are introduced, as well as the word, "the" as an article.

It is key to the success of this program that reading and writing always go together. Each day we have writing sessions following the Palmer's handwriting guide. We guide each child in the correct way of holding a pencil and writing each letter. This is crucial instruction, as this is the age where we can easily make this instruction into a habit or break any bad habits which a child may have learned on their own. It takes great patience to be consistent with the rules and apply them in a positive way.

Our writing rules include:

- Always write letters from the top to bottom line.

- Uppercase letters must start from the top line, and lowercase letters always start from the middle dotted line. There are a few special lower case letters which begin from top line.

- It is very important for each child to touch the lines as they begin to write the letters.

If the instructor is patient, in the course of about six weeks' time



using 2-3 lessons per week, the four and five year old students will master the material. These simple rules play a very important role in each child's chances of success in school. By starting your own Camp ABC at your library, you will soon find that you can help many children begin school with the tools that they need to progress rapidly to reading

success. By teaching phonics, children soon learn to sound out words on their own, which gives them a true advantage as they begin to rapidly master a larger vocabulary.

For more information about Camp ABC or to visit Camp ABC instructional session, please feel free to contact Charlotte Moman, Assistant Director of Public Services,

Jackson Hinds Library System. She can be reached by email at cmoman@jhlibrary.org

Going Fiber

One Mississippi Public Library's Experience in Using a Consultant to Leverage E-Rate Funding

Patty Furr

Executive Director

Jackson Hinds Library System

The Jackson Hinds Library System provides library and information services to a 245,000-person service area in the City of Jackson and Hinds County, Mississippi. We operate eight big city urban libraries and seven rural county branches. This variety of locations and sizes has always made providing reliable, high-speed Internet services to our customers a difficult challenge. Providing the highest quality of Internet service has been one of our highest priorities, but on our own, we did not have the expertise to design and deploy a state-of-the-art fiber optic network, and up until recently no money was available through the E-Rate program to make the equipment purchases we needed to build the network. Due to our recent use of a consultant, our library system was able to leverage our E-Rate funding to take advantage of the new Category Two E-Rate funding to build the network that our customers have needed at a price that

we can afford. This article details some of the process that we used to provide an all fiber optic network to all 15 of our library branches.

We currently operate a network of 375 public access and staff computers. Our 241 public access computers provided an astonishing 331,000 individual Internet sessions for our customers last year. Demand at all of our libraries for Internet access is high. We run all of our public access computers on the Envisionware reservation system, and there is often a wait to use a public computer, particularly in the rural branches. Demand for services is particularly high in the late afternoon and early evening. The public access computers provide a critical link for our patrons, many of whom do not own a computer or have subscription Internet service in their homes. Contrary to some belief, our customers are not just using the Internet for checking their Facebook accounts. A recent survey of computer users revealed that 58.22% of them use our computers for employment searching and online job

applications. Another 53.2% report that our computers are their only access to email communication, and another 23.2% use our computers to take online classes. While 35.2% do use computers for checking Facebook or other social media sites, most of our customers are using them to improve their economic position by seeking jobs, going to school and completing school assignments online.

Demand for bandwidth at all 15 libraries has always been strong, but with the advent of laptop programs for high school students, demand has significantly increased. After 3:00 PM, the number of tablets, laptops and smart phones being used by students in our libraries adds significantly to our bandwidth demand, and our current service often lags behind or slows. Students who are given laptops in 9th grade depend on the library for the bandwidth to access and complete homework assignments. Unfortunately the Internet service providers that we had used for years were not able to give our patrons the kind of bandwidth

and reliability that we believe is so important to the student's success. We knew that we needed to make a change, but by ourselves, we could not have planned or envisioned the network to meet this new demand.

Our existing Internet services for the past many years have been split between two different companies. Eleven of our libraries, which include our urban branches, were receiving service from one of the well-known consumer ISP companies that also operates our local cable television service. Our monthly cost for the 11 city libraries was an affordable \$1768.05/month, but the service we were receiving was very unsatisfactory. The capacity per branch that we were offered on the current ISP was advertised as ideal for a small business with three computers, and despite many requests, we were not offered any other kind of commercial service as a business customer. This is despite the fact that many of our libraries have 25-30 computers sharing that one connection and well over 50 computers at our downtown headquarters location. We also had no dedicated bandwidth at all with this ISP. While the company told us that bandwidth could go as high as 100 mbps, it could also vary and drop to 2 mbps with no warning. This resulted in very poor service, particularly in the late afternoon when the service could drop or slow down to a crawl right in the middle of our busiest demand. As for service requests, an average of one or two branches per month would have their service fail completely, and often the normal Internet service was often not restored for 12-18 hours. This was particularly frustrating.

The other four libraries, which were the most isolated branches, were on the state network AT&T system. They each had copper T-1 lines subscribed through the state library network. The service for these libraries with 6-8 public access computers each was \$2609.4 a month or \$652.35 a library for 1.54 Mbps service. Many times in the afternoon the service slows to an absolute crawl, and the results were not much better than DSL for most users. Online job applications timed out over and over for customers, and they were forced to retype the same information into a form time after time. As you can imagine, this has caused enormous frustration, especially since our libraries are often the only location in a small community where a public computer is available. We did explore an upgrade option on the state network. If we had decided to put all fifteen libraries on the state MPLS network with fiber service, the cost would have been \$19,245 per month for 10 Mbps per month service. Even with the E-Rate reimbursement, the costs for our library system would have been very high, and the 10 Mbps service was not the improvement in speed and bandwidth that we felt we needed to have.

At the same time that we were evaluating our current Internet services, some personnel changes, including a much-deserved retirement for our former E-Rate librarian and the departure of our IT supervisor, left us without a single employee experienced in handling the E-Rate funding. We had no one to file the annual E-Rate applications. We had roughly 2-3 weeks to find someone with the knowledge and ability to

submit our applications for continuing our normal services. We reached out to one consultant, but our 15 branch application was more than his time schedule would allow. Thankfully, through asking around to several telecom contacts we had, we were able to locate the Rodabough Education Group, a highly experienced husband and wife team with over 40 years combined experience in the telecommunications industry and over 25 years combined experience in E-Rate submission for schools. For what we believed to be a very reasonable cost of about 3% of our E-Rate award, they were not only willing to submit our complex E-Rate applications, but also to help us completely rethink our network. This was a very important part of the services that we needed, but without the changes in personnel, we might never have thought of employing a consultant to help us design a new network and seek the E-Rate funds to pay for it. The Rodaboughs not only helped us design a completely new, state-of-the-art fiber optic network using both Category One and Category Two E-Rate funds, they helped us walk through the entire process, and made the experience stress-free for our library staff. Interestingly, many of our preconceptions about Internet service in small towns turned out to be totally untrue. We had always believed that we had to split the four small county libraries off on AT&T because we did not believe that any other company would provide service to these rural areas. Our consultants told us that the telecom companies will buy service from each other, if needed, and that we should seek one unified 15 branch network and include

the rural areas in the system quote. Thus, our new network design started with deciding to bid out all 15 libraries and let the telecom companies decide how to provide the Internet service to the most remote branches.

Our consultants also strongly encouraged us to request Category Two funding to purchase new switches, routers, wireless access points and a much-needed state-of-the-art leased VOIP phone service using category 1 funding. It is not possible due to space restraints in this article to discuss the recent changes in the USAC (Universal Services Administrative Company) E-Rate funding that now make it possible for libraries to purchase switches, routers and wireless access points and the fiber optic cabling to connect their computers to the network. (More information can be found at the USAC introductory page at <http://www.usac.org/sl/>.) Suffice it to say, that the recent USAC changes are now providing vital money for schools and libraries to purchase this equipment for the first time in many years under the Category Two program. Our consultants urged us to apply for the equipment funds while it was available this year. We eventually found out that 100% of all equipment requests under Category Two were funded by USAC this year, and if we had not applied, we would not have received the benefit of the Category Two funding to buy the new equipment we needed to have a state-of-the-art fiber optic network. Another big bonus for our system was that E-Rate category 2 funds will not only pay for the equipment, but will also pay for installation, configuration and ongoing management of

the equipment. Our system does not have a network engineer and having help to pay for those high dollar engineer hours was a tremendous help for our system. Without the consultants, we would have never thought to request these additional category 2 services, and it dropped the cost of building the network significantly.

What services did the consultants actually provide? 1) They envisioned a completely different, genuinely high-speed fiber optic network that would offer our patrons the kind of speed and reliability that we had always dreamed of providing to them; 2)They created complex RFPs (requests for proposals) for all of the various components of the funding which included the traditional Internet services, installation of fiber optic cabling into the communications closets, the Category 6 copper cabling inside the building to all 375 of our public and staff computers, and the detailed specifications for all new equipment including switches, routers, wireless access points and the specifications for the Hosted VOIP phone service that we wanted; (E-Rate funding cannot be used for the purchase of VOIP phone systems, but it will allow funding for a Hosted VoIP Service); 3) Once we released the RFP, the consultants conducted the two-day long tour of all 15 libraries that was required for any vendor who was going to bid on any of the services; 4) They answered all technical questions for each vendor who decided to bid; 5) They guided us through legally advertising the bids both to newspapers and on the state bid website; 6) They helped us answer all vendor questions which we posted to our website, and they were present for

the bid openings from six different companies and the recording of the bids; 7) They analyzed the bids to make sure that the companies were meeting all of the specifications of the RFP; 8) After the winners were chosen, they worked with each of the different companies to coordinate the Category One installations of fiber into each library building. 9) Even after the bids were resolved, the consultants continued with us answering questions from USAC about the complex Category Two E-Rate applications that we submitted. Interestingly, only a few items were disallowed by USAC from our original application, and these were some relatively unimportant maintenance contracts which would have covered some of the equipment that was being proposed.

What did we receive for our efforts to completely redesign our online services using a consultant? The library is currently upgrading all libraries to 1 Gbps Wide Area Network with 200 Mbps dedicated assured bandwidth delivered to Welty Library (HQ) over a newly created Wide Area Network (WAN). The system has the ability to upgrade the WAN connections to 10Gbps and upgrade the Internet pipe to 1Gbps. Basically the Jackson Hinds Library System received 100 times the connectivity and 20 times the dedicated Internet access for approximately half the cost of the new state MPLS network. We do not expect to need more than the 200Mbps this year, but we like the flexibility that the provider can provide to upgrade the service within 1 week of the notification if we do want to upgrade. We also received internal copper cat 6 cabling for

all 15 branch libraries with all new switches and routers to connect the LAN and all new wireless access points. We expect to have the capacity to handle all of the after-school laptop traffic, as well as the demand for ever-increasing services at all of our locations in the future. We were informed on December 3rd, 2015 that our Category Two applications had been moved to the status of "final review" and that the commitment for the Category Two services would be released with the next wave of funding. Needless to say, we were thrilled to hear that almost all of the requests we submitted would be funded, thanks to the hard work and expertise of our consultant team. The fiber optic cabling has already been installed at each of our 15 libraries, and we anticipate completing the installation of the cabling in each building to each computer and putting the entire system online by the end of March.

Once the fiber network is installed, we anticipate installing our new leased VOIP phone system to connect our branches shortly thereafter. Currently, we are paying \$2993/month for voice services for the 15 locations plus an additional \$170/month for long distance. Most of the phone systems in the 15 libraries were antiquated and barely limping along. The equipment to replace a phone was so antiquated that we had to buy them on eBay. The new CSpire hosted VOIP service will cost \$3059.64/month which is approximately what we are currently paying for our very outdated AT&T system. We are leasing each desk handset at a cost of between \$1.00 and \$4.00 per handset per month. Most of our long distance calls will

be free, and we will have 4 digit dialing to all of our branches. We will retain some landlines for our security system, fire alarms and fax machines, as calls from these systems must have a dedicated landline to work properly.

To recap the awards for our Category One funding (Internet, circuits, VoIP and cellular service), we received a 90% reimbursement rate based on our free lunch program. Our overall total funding is \$210,109.17 before reimbursement and our total library yearly cost after E-Rate reimbursement is \$21,010.92. For this cost we have a state-of-the-art fiber optic network that connects all 15 of our libraries and gives us the reliability, speed and bandwidth that our customers need, new Hosted VoIP phone service with all the new features and functionality, and cellular phone service.

For our Category Two expenses, the cost of all the equipment and services for all 15 libraries is \$308,352.10 before the E-Rate reimbursement. At the 85% reimbursement rate from USAC, the cost of having all new switches, routers, wireless access points and fiber optic cabling inside and outside of our buildings will cost us \$46,252.81, which is a one-time investment for this year only. This amount covers the current number of computer drops in each building plus an additional 10-15% in reserve computer drops for expansion in the future.

Now that we have been through the process of using a consultant for leveraging E-Rate funding, I would strongly recommend it to other public library systems. Few librarians, even those with an IT background,

have the technical knowledge to plan a network of this complexity, draft the RFP documents for bidding, answer the questions of the vendors and act as the expert answering requests for information from USAC. Using a consultant made it very easy for us to have just the right amount of technology to run our library system efficiently without spending money that was not necessary. The cost of hiring the consultant was well worth the money that we invested into the venture, and the consultants have been training my staff to handle the future E-Rate applications when they are not needed any longer. No one can predict how long the Category Two equipment money will be available for libraries and schools through USAC. I believe that every public library that needs this equipment should strive to apply for the fiber optic cabling, switches, routers and wireless access points that they need while the funding is still available, and public libraries that need the speed and bandwidth of a state-of-the-art fiber optic network should consider employing a consultant to plan a new network and successfully guide the applications through the USAC process from the preparations of the RFPs to the awarding of the funding and installation of the equipment. While we had to hire a consultant due to key staff retiring and leaving, we feel that the decision to do so was one of the best decisions we could have made, and we strongly recommend these services to others.

For more information, please feel free to contact Patty Furr, Executive Director, Jackson Hinds Library System at pfurr@jhlibrary.org or by phone at 601-968-5825.

People In The News

Sarah Mangrum

*Access Services Librarian /
Assistant Clinical Professor
University of Southern Mississippi*



Nan Crosby (pictured left) retired as the Branch Manager of the Ridgeland Public Library with the Madison County Library System in October 2015. She has worked with the library for 25 years and has enjoyed her time as the branch manager. She plans on still being an active patron and volunteer for libraries.



Greg Johnson, co-author of *100 Books Every Blues Fan Should Own* (Rowman & Littlefield 2014), received the Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research in the category of Best Historical Research in Blues, Gospel, Rhythm & Blues from the ARSC.



Antoinette Giamalva is the new Branch Manager for the Ridgeland Public Library with the Madison County Library System. She received her MLIS from University of Southern Mississippi in 2013 and has worked previously for the Flowood Public Library as a Children's Supervisor Assistant and Reference Librarian. She has also worked at the



Delta State University Library as a Reference Librarian and an Access Services Librarian. She has presented at various conferences and has had various articles published. She is looking forward to this next stage in her life.



Dr. Sheila Morgan, Instructional Technologist, joined the Millsaps College Library staff in October. Sheila has a Ph. D. in instructional technology from the University of Alabama, and bachelor's and master's degrees from MSU. She manages Course Connect (the Moodle-based LMS), supports faculty instructional technology needs, and provides reference and library instruction services.



Julia M. Rholes, Dean of Libraries at the University of Mississippi, is retiring at the end of December after twelve years of service to the University. She can be credited with the creation of a Library Annex for the storage of archival materials and lesser used collections. This helped free up space to transform the library to better meet the needs of the students and faculty. She led several renovation projects, including the

creation of several commons spaces, and a crowdfunding initiative that built StudioOne, a one stop video recording and editing studio. The addition of comfortable seating and a coffee shop created a welcoming environment for the students. Rholes also oversaw the growth of critical research collections and the digitization of many archival and accountability collections. Angela Barlow Brown, director of development for special projects at UM, said, "I love her passion for serving the students. She wants only the best for them that she can provide as a dean and as a library team member." The University of Mississippi is thankful for her dedication to the library and we wish her the best in retirement.



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of **Mr. Billy Beal**, who served on the MLA Executive Board in the position of ALA Councilor.

The Meridian Community College held a memorial service for Vice-President Billy Beal on

Thursday, December 10 in the McCain Theater. Mr. Beal's visitation was at Berry & Gardner Funeral Home on Sunday evening December 13. The funeral service was December 14 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Meridian.

A native of Meridian, Beal held an A.B. from Loyola University of Chicago and an M.S. in library science from Simmons College in Boston. After his academic studies at Simmons, he returned to Meridian where he became circulation librarian at MCC. During his tenure at the College, he served as Self Study Title III director, acquisitions

librarian, ACE/HEMI coordinator, computer-assisted instruction supervisor and head librarian, as well as chairman of the Student Appeals Committee.

He has been the recipient of the John Johnson, Lamplighter and Employee of the Month awards as well as installed into the Talon Club, which salutes MCC employees who have served the College for 30-plus years.

Off campus, Beal was a trustee for the Mississippi Heritage Trust, was president of the Lauderdale County Mental Health Association and was a commissioner on the Historic

Meridian Commission. Additionally, Beal was a member of the American Library Association, and the Mississippi Library Association. Beal also served as organist at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

A founding member for the Meridian Council for the Arts, Beal was a former board member of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. He was also a board member of the Meridian Historic Foundation, which became the Grand Opera House, now known as the Mississippi State University Riley Center.

News Briefs

Sarah Mangrum

Access Services Librarian /

Assistant Clinical Professor

University of Southern Mississippi

DOCUMENTARY CASTS AN "EYE" ON MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

The Mississippi State University Libraries sponsored a screening of the new documentary "Bill Minor: Eyes on Mississippi," which sheds light on the historic career of veteran journalist Bill Minor, on Tuesday, October 27 at 2 p.m. in the John Grisham Room in Mitchell Memorial Library.

The one-hour film covers key moments in Civil Rights history from Minor's first-hand perspective. Minor was the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* Mississippi correspondent throughout the Civil Rights era. He contributed frequently to *The New York Times*, *Newsweek* and other national outlets and covered controversial issues of racial inequality in an era when most Southern journalists would

not touch them. Minor worked for the *Times-Picayune* from 1947 until 1976, when the newspaper closed its Mississippi office. He then purchased a weekly newspaper, *The Capitol Reporter*, where he continued investigative reporting that sometimes cost him advertising dollars and threatened his personal safety.

Minor's newspaper proved unprofitable, and he had to shut it down after six years. However, he continued writing his "Eyes On Mississippi" column. At 93, Minor still covers the state politics and other topics of interest, and his syndicated political column appears in a number of Mississippi newspapers.

Appearing in the film are Justice Department attorney John Doar, *New York Times* civil rights journalist Claude Sitton, Myrlie Evers, Jackson physician Robert Smith, former Gov. William Winter, *Times-Picayune* editor Jim Amoss and Pulitzer Prize winner Hank Klibanoff. The

film features photos and news footage from 15 U.S. Archives.

Director and Producer Ellen Ann Fentress, with Lida Gibson as film editor and co-writer, finished "Eyes on Mississippi" after five years of production. Support for the production came from the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and private donors who admire Minor's work.

According to Fred Smith, MSU Libraries Rare Book Coordinator "Bill Minor has been covering Mississippi politics since the death of Theodore Bilbo. His coverage of politics and the Civil Rights era was often viewed as controversial, but it was always fair and accurate. Bill Minor's exceptional collection of papers and artifacts are an important part of the extensive and nationally significant journalism collection housed in Special Collections in Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University."

Bill Minor as well as director, producer Ellen Ann Fentress attended the screening and were a part of the program.

*Submitted by
Angela Patton
Library Associate
Mississippi State University Libraries*

—◆—
COMMUNITY FORUM: “A SHAKY TRUCE”: CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES IN STARKVILLE, MS, 1960-1980”

On Thursday, October 29th, representatives from the MSU History Department and the MSU Libraries hosted a community forum on the history of Starkville’s civil rights movement at the Hilton Garden Inn of Starkville, MS. The forum was a culmination of the work produced from the Starkville Civil Rights project, which began as a partnership in the summer of 2014. This event was funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The forum debuted a new digital history website (<http://starkvillecivilrights.msstate.edu>) on Starkville’s civil rights movement that includes a searchable collection of oral history interviews with local Starkville participants, archival documents from the Mississippi State University Libraries and other collections, and classroom resources developed with Mississippi teachers in mind. Hillary Richardson, MSU Libraries Humanities Librarian, welcomed the audience and introduced and Dr. Stuart Rockoff of the Mississippi

Humanities Council; Nickoal Eichmann, MSU Libraries History Librarian, gave a preview of the website and highlighted its unique features, and Dr. Judith Ridner, Associate Professor of History, presented on some of the themes from the oral histories themselves.

The forum also featured a panel of historians and project participants who discussed Starkville’s movement and its importance in Mississippi and the nation. Panelists included Dr. Michael Vinson Williams, Dean of Social Sciences at Tougaloo College; Dr. Stephanie Rolph of Millsaps College; Dr. Shirley Hanshaw of Mississippi State University, who was interviewed for the project; Mr. Chris Taylor, President of the Oktibbeha County chapter of the NAACP, who was also interviewed for the project; and Mr. Nick Timmerman of Mississippi State University, project staff member and moderator of the panel.

Following the program, audience members had the chance to interact with the Starkville Civil Rights Website and to record their own brief memories of Starkville’s civil rights movement for future inclusion in the site. Recording equipment for the forum was purchased through an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant made available through the Mississippi Library Commission as a part of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute. The forum was made possible by a

grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The representatives from the MSU History department and Libraries are still actively interviewing those who may remember or have participated in Civil Rights struggles in and around Starkville, MS. If you would like to be interviewed, or if you would like to refer someone else who might be interested in participating in an interview, please email starkvillecivilrights@lists.ms-state.edu or call (662) 325-2838.



Photo by: Megan Bean, Mississippi State University

*Submitted by
Hillary Richardson
Assistant Professor, Humanities Librarian,
Honors College Librarian, Service-Learning Librarian
Mississippi State University Libraries*



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2015 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/Meeting-Minutes-2015>

2015 MLA Annual Conference Wrap Up

Molly McManus

Systems Librarian

*U.S. Army Engineer Research and
Development Center*

The 2015 Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference with the theme “Stronger Together” was held October 20-23rd at the Natchez Convention Center. The conference this year focused on ways in which libraries of all types can work together towards a shared goal and provided development and networking opportunities for us to become stronger as professionals.

There were 388 librarians and library staff participants and 45 individuals registered as vendors – for a total of 433 in attendance. There were 86 school librarians in attendance this year. This number is double the number in attendance last year. Many thanks go to the Mississippi Department of Education and our School library section for helping us increase our school librarian participation. We processed 87 continuing education credits.

The conference included approximately seventy programs, workshops, and events, and sixteen peer-reviewed poster sessions were presented, making it a well-rounded conference. Twenty-seven vendors participated in the exhibit hall and we received financial support from Platinum Sponsors: EBSCO, Sirsi-Dynix and Boopsie; Gold Sponsors: Library Interiors, Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc, and Friends of Columbus Lowndes Public Library; Silver Sponsors: Friends of the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library, Taylor and Francis Group and Cartwright Estate Liquidation, Inc.

We appreciate their continued support of MLA. The MLA conference is partially funded by the federal Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Mississippi Library Commission for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We would not have been able to bring in the nationally recognized speakers that were featured in 2015 without this funding.

We are happy to report that MLA Silent Auction donations were in the amount of \$1697.00 and that money will be split between the Virginia Brocks-Shedd and Peggy May Scholarships. MLA Presidential Bash made \$826.00 which will also be split between the two scholarships.

The conference featured an app provided by Boopsie for Libraries and a new ‘schedule at a glance’ to help attendees navigate the packed schedule. A bus was provided for travel from the conference hotels.

Evaluations of the conference were sent in electronically and results from 126 people that responded will help us plan future conferences.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

The conference kicked off with a Pre-Conference featuring Tameka Tobias Smith from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Ms. Smith presented a program on serving library patrons that may be in distress

and 71 people were in attendance.

There were some issues beyond the control of our vendor and our Dutch Treat Dinner and Evening Tour of Natchez did not unfold exactly as we had planned. Those attending the Tuesday evening events were contacted and given credits for part of their participation fees.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Wednesday is the traditional start of conference and this year Wednesday was packed with programming. Southern Miss SLIS hosted its annual Alumni breakfast with 44 in attendance. The School Library section had two well-received programs by Tiffany Whitehead, school librarian at Central Middle in Baton Rouge. The ACRL featured speaker was Jaena Alabi who spoke about the benefits of diversity in academic libraries. Our first General Session



began with an MLA business meeting and featured a well-attended program by Josh Hanagarne, author of *The World's Strongest Librarian*. The annual "Afternoon with Authors" featured Matthew Guinn and Jamie Kornegay.

This year we were honored to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Library Science Master's Program at The University of Southern Mississippi. There were over 100 in attendance at a special reception hosted by USM-SLIS on Wednesday afternoon.

The President's Reception and Scholarship Bash was held at Magnolia Hall. Due to some circumstances beyond the control of our vendor, this event was not exactly as planned and credits were given to attendees. The event was in a beautiful home and we were able to raise over \$800 for the scholarship.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Thursday began with Breakfast with author Patricia Neely-Dorsay, sponsored by the Public Library Section. The Trustee Section hosted a Library Trustee Academy featuring Donna McDonald is the Director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System who is the past president of United for Libraries. The Black Caucus invited author and motivational speaker Tommie Mabry for their luncheon. The Young People's Services Roundtable (YPSRT) hosted a luncheon and panel discussion with youth librarians Judy Card, Venetia Oglesby and Mary Seratt.

We were lucky to have two General Sessions on Thursday. Todd Bol, creator and executive director of Little Free Library, was sponsored by the Special Libraries Section. Michelle Frisque, Chief, Technology Content and Innovation from

the Chicago Public Library spoke about CP's Internet to Go program which provides Wi-Fi hotspots for checkout.

The Mississippi Authors Awards on Thursday evening honored three Mississippi authors. Recognized for a youth non-fiction work was Carolyn J. Brown for her second biography, *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*, published in November 2014. John Hailman was the non-fiction winner for his book *Midnight to Guntown*. The fiction winner was Carey Richard for *The Poppy Field Diary*, which was accepted by his wife while he was out of the country.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

The MLA Awards Brunch marked the traditional end of this conference. A number of awards were presented to worthy MLA members.



Award Winners



Best Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event (2 awards)

University of Southern Mississippi Libraries - Jennifer Brannock & Special Collections

University of Southern Mississippi Libraries - Elena Azadbakht & Jennifer Brannock

Best Coordinated Effort of Several Libraries to Publicize Library Services Around a Single Theme or Event

Hattiesburg Public Library & University of Southern Mississippi Libraries - Jennifer Brannock and Sean Farrell
Accepted by Jennifer Brannock and Pamela Pridgen

Best Year-Round Effort by an Individual Library to Publicize Library Services in General

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library - Member of the First Regional Library System. Accepted by Corey Vinson

Mississippi Library Champion Award

Ed Ward - M.R. Davis Public Library Volunteer, First Regional Library System
Nominated and accepted by Caroline Barnett

Best Year Round Coordinated Effort by a Group of Libraries to Publicize Library Services in General

First Regional Library System
Accepted by David Brown

Peggy May Award

Sarah Mangrum - Cook Library, The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries. Nominated by Emilie Aplin

Mary Julia Anderson

Martha Lawson - Rosedale & Gunnison Public Libraries, Bolivar County Library System. Nominated by Jennifer Wann, Tamara Blackwell, Sharon Williamson, & Rebecca Lewis

An award accepted by Bethany Carlisle

Best Newsletter Submitted by a Library Group (Not Pictured)

Laurel-Jones County Library System
Accepted by Mary Louise Breland



Awards presented by Ellen Ruffin

Photographs by Antoinette Giamalva

Book Reviews

Michele Frasier-Robinson

Librarian for
Education & Psychology
University of Southern Mississippi

Beck, Allisa L.

Images of America: Long Beach
Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing,
2015. 128 pp. \$21.99 (paperback)

Regularly devastated by hurricanes, especially Katrina, Long Beach is a town founded on fertile ground and plentiful fishing that has persisted and thrived in spite of such hardships. This softcover book tells the history of this remarkable gulf community through the grouping of over 200 vintage photographs, many published for the first time, and accompanying descriptive notes into eight topic headings important to the area: Early Settlers; The Beach; Education; Gulf Park College for Women; Agriculture and Business; Churches; Hurricanes; and Leisure and Everyday Life. As you progress through the book you learn that Long Beach was once known as the "Radish Capital of America" because of their Long Beach Long Reds and known as well for the bounty of fruit and other vegetables harvested from their orchards and truck farming – until the Depression put an end to the industry. After that, the area turned to tourism and the cultivation of summer residents to sustain the economy.

In keeping with Arcadia Publishing's practice of employing local authors to capture the history and charm of a given area, *Long Beach* is authored by Long Beach resident Allisa L. Beck, a Pascagoula native

and alumna of both the University of South Alabama and the University of Southern Mississippi. While interviewing local residents and compiling their photographs, Beck created an archive for the Long Beach Historical Society, which will receive a portion of the profits from the sale of the book.

Arcadia Publishing's stated mission is to create high-quality historical publications in small local niches that are available to the general public and it succeeds admirably with this volume. The book, like other volumes in the series, is not a comprehensive history of Long Beach, nor is it meant to be, but rather it is a scrapbook that captures the essence and changes that have taken place there over a period of time. As generations pass and personal memories fade, the importance of preserving – and publishing – photographs as important links to and records of the past is imperative. Indeed, the press release from Arcadia Publishing notes the importance of some of the photographs included in this volume as they are the only remaining record of sites that were destroyed by hurricanes.

Images of America: Long Beach is a delightful and informative look at bygone days, places, and people. I would recommend this book for all public libraries and the general public, especially those with an interest in local history.

Tamara D. Blackwell
Reference Services
Bolivar County Library System

Boggan, Lottie Brent

Streams of Mercy: A Seasoned Southern Broad's Musings & Meditations on God, Dogs and Pooperscoopering—in other words, Life
Queen's Hill Press, 2012. 190 pp.

Adopting a rescue dog named June Cleaver changed Lottie Brent Boggan's life. In *Streams of Mercy*, Boggan recounts moments she and husband Willard have shared with "The Cleave." As rescue animals so often do, June Cleaver nudged her way into the Boggans' household and changed things forever. Pedicures and beauty parlor appointments are replaced by trips to the pharmacy for dog medicine, shopping lists dominated by dog-related items, and early morning walks. Those who consider their dogs to be members of the family will find it perfectly natural that Boggan has provided a voice, and converses with, June Cleaver.

The time spent walking with June Cleaver proves ripe for reflection and meditation. Intermixed with tales of adventure and mishap, Boggan reflects on life, relatives, and religion. She shares photos from her past to accompany her nostalgic musings. These walks also provide Boggan with time to flesh out ideas for an adventure with "The Cleave": a long-distance walk that spans multiple states. Boggan finds her stride as a writer in these moments. It is especially touching to read about time spent with family long ago. Her voice takes on a scheming, determined tone when describing plans for her adventure with June Cleaver. There is a certain balance

between the occasionally melancholy stories from the past and the energetic, strong-willed approach to the prospect of something out of the ordinary to break the monotony of the daily neighborhood walks.

Lottie Brent Boggan is a Mississippi author from the Jackson area. Her other titles include *Redemption Ridge*, *Come Up Churning and Keep Your Buckets High*, and *Mad Dogs & Moonshine: Other Stories with a Taste of the South* (with Judy H. Tucker). She also contributed to *Fireflies in Fruit Jars: More Stories with a Taste of the South*. Her memoir, *Streams of Mercy*, may be of interest to those whose lives have been changed by a rescue animal; however, anyone who has longed for something a bit different from the everyday grind—and made it a reality—can find enjoyment in this book.

Emilie Aplin
Evening Supervisor
Joseph Anderson Cook Library
University of Southern Mississippi



Cole, Bobby

The Rented Mule

Seattle, WA: Thomas & Mercer,
2014. 502 pp. \$14.95 (Paperback)

The Rented Mule is set in and around Montgomery, Alabama, and follows Cooper Dixon who is in the throes of your average middle-age crisis. His seemingly vapid wife neglects him, his business partner wants to sell their advertising agency and he is lusting after a receptive young graphic designer. Unfortunately for Cooper, circumstances take a turn for the worse when his wife is kidnapped and he is framed for the crime. Told in alternating

viewpoints, *The Rented Mule* is your standard race against the clock thriller as Cooper fights to find out who masterminded his wife's kidnapping and to clear his name.

Unfortunately, Bobby Cole's unrefined writing style does little to engage readers. The writing is clunky and fails to generate interest in any of the shallowly written characters that populate the book. The characters are the most exasperating element of this story. Bobby Cole's characters are clichés that have had personality quirks tacked onto them in an attempt to make them interesting, and it does not work. The dialog and attempts at recreating a regional Southern dialect are poorly executed and grate upon the reader; with the elderly African American housekeeper's vernacular particularly disagreeable. There is little nuance to the story as the author explicitly describes every character and their intentions instead of letting their actions influence the story organically. The overall effect of clumsy writing, clichéd characters, and trite dialog dampens the story's already overstretched plot. At 502 pages long, the plot is overextended and the first half of the book fails to build suspense. The ending, which rapidly escalates the action, fails to offer a satisfying conclusion to a confusing and frustrating read.

I would only recommend this book to public libraries with a large demand for locally written or Southern set fiction.

Erica McCaleb
Reader's Advisor
Mississippi Library Commission - Talking
Book Services



McMullan, Margaret

Aftermath Lounge

Calypso Editions, 2015. 143 pp.
\$16.99 (paperback)

Margaret McMullan has written a collection of short stories that illustrate life around Hurricane Katrina. A few of the stories are set before, but most are set after the hurricane and evoke a strong will to survive. It starts with one strand connecting the stories and finishes by weaving a full web.

The stories artfully portray the effects that Katrina had on all people in its path and there is a central theme built around an older couple, Paul and Mary Zimmer, their daughter, Diane and her son, Teddy. Ms. McMullan shares glimpses of their lives before the storm, living on the beach in Pass Christian. The life after the storm stories are poignant and bring to life the reality of insurance companies and re-building efforts. The stories of Catch, the Zimmer's yard man, add another dimension to the web and the one about Catch's ex-wife, Norma, bring it full circle. It seems that every person living on the coast knows someone who died, someone who moved away, and someone who stayed to rebuild.

Margaret McMullan is the author of six award winning titles including *Sources of Light* and *How I Found the Strong*. She currently holds the Melvin Peterson Endowed Chair in Literature and Writing at the University of Evansville in Indiana and is a two time Mississippi Library Association Author Award winner.

This book is meant for an adult audience and is highly recommended for academic and public libraries.

Marty Coleman
Assistant Professor
Mississippi State University



Meek, Edwin E.

RIOT: Witness to Anger and Change
Oxford, MS: Yoknapatawpha Press,
2015. 147 pp. \$35.95 (hardback).

Edwin E. Meek's book *RIOT: Witness to Anger and Change* chronicles an episode of upheaval and tense race relations in 1960s Mississippi. This book contains 120 black and white photographs from Edwin E. Meek, who was formerly a student at The University of Mississippi and a photographer for University Public Relations. The photographs were taken while he was a student and focus on September 30, 1962, the day James Meredith was the first student of color to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Racial tensions were so high that a battalion of United States Marshals were sent by President John F. Kennedy to protect Meredith as he arrived on campus to enroll. Masses of students and onlookers showed up to watch or to express their displeasure at Ole Miss integrating. The mass of people began to get violent and marshals, who had showed up in riot gear with tear gas guns, helmets, and some with pistols, attempted to restore order. Several people were killed and over one hundred were injured or wounded. The school and the people wanted to cling to their

longstanding practice of segregation, but the tides were changing in the country and apparently in Mississippi. After several unsuccessful attempts, James Meredith was finally enrolled at The University of Mississippi. He went on to graduate in 1963.

This is a good informational book that gives a great visual documentation of James Meredith's enrollment, and the integration of The University of Mississippi. This book would make for a good addition to any library collecting information on Mississippi history or the American Civil Rights Movement.

Jennifer R. Culley
Acquisitions Librarian
The University of Southern Mississippi



Taylor-Perry, Janet

Heartless

Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, 2014. 224 pp. \$11.39 (paperback)

Laurel native Janet Taylor-Perry's *Heartless* is the second book in *The Raiford Chronicles* series, it is set in a small Louisiana town and takes place seventeen years after *Lucky Thirteen* (the first book in the series). It continues the story of Police Chief Ray Reynolds and his family. The author places the story in the year 2022. For me, stating the date, 2022 made me look for evidence that the story occurred at that

time. However, I found very little evidence to support a future world. Had the author simply stated that it was "seventeen years later," I would have accepted the setting as written.

Heartless is a fast paced mystery with a sweet romance, a few supernatural elements, and some religious overtones. The author's portrayal of the characters makes them appealing to the reader, and the story line is engaging. In the author's first book, *Lucky Thirteen*, the dialogue seemed stilted and the pacing was uneven. With *Heartless*, however, the dialogue flowed more easily and the pacing was unobtrusive, as good writing should be.

I know that you should never judge a book by its cover but if I had picked this book up in a bookstore I would have hastily put it back down. I found the cover to be too graphic and disturbing. This book deserves a better cover that better represents the story and does not send perspective readers fleeing in disgust.

I found *Heartless* to be a fun read, and I look forward to reading the next book in *The Raiford Chronicles* series, *Broken*. This is recommended for an adult readership and all public libraries.

Sheryl Stump
Cataloger/Professor
Delta State University