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On the cover: *Pearl Necklace* by Amy Poe, Staff Development/Statistics Coordinator, First Regional Library System.

I created this necklace from a mix of peach and gray pearls with pink swarovski crystals. The photograph was taken by my sister, Angie O'Reilly.

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

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President's Page

Summertime is here and summer reading programs have been in full swing since June. The Mississippi public libraries offer a fantastic slate of programs for children. Programs have ranged from story times to crafts, magic shows to animal encounters, movie showings and lip sync battles. Just to name a few!

There is a lot going on outside of summer reading as well. While school librarians may be technically off work for the summer, I imagine many of them have already begun to prepare for the upcoming fall semester. Academic librarians are working to finish all their summer projects before students come back to campus. Many of our special librarians also run summer programs such as book clubs, author events, and field trips.

Your MLA Executive Board, sections, and committees have also been working hard for the association throughout the spring and into the summer. Here are some highlights:

The Board voted to endorse the ALA "[Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation](#)" at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference. The Board is also working toward establishing a formal travel policy for executive board travel.

Ashley Dees, SELA Councilor, reported that the SELA/South Carolina Joint Conference will be held in Greenville, SC from October 31-November 2, 2018. The deadline for conference proposals has passed but it is not too late to [register](#) to attend this fall!

Susan Bryant, School Library



Section Chair, has been working to get their bylaws updated. The bylaws were submitted to the Executive Board and approved at the May 2018 meeting and will be added to the MLA Handbook. Thank you to Susan and her section for their hard work in getting these updated!

The Special Libraries Section, Black Caucus Roundtable, Young People's Services Roundtable, and New Member Roundtable are all working on conference planning for special luncheon speakers and other programming ideas. If you are joining us for conference, please make plans to attend!

Blair Booker and the nominating committee recruited some excellent nominations for MLA office. The election committee, chaired by Jennifer Smith, held elections electronically with a great response from our membership. The nominees will be approved at the Executive Board Meeting in July and an announcement will go out soon after.

The MLA Legislative Committee Chair Meredith Wickham, MLA Administrator Paula Bass, along with the Mississippi Library

Commission, prepared our delegation for the American Library Association's annual National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 7-8, 2018. Mississippi librarians joined hundreds of other librarians and library supporters in the capitol to garner support for federal funding for our nation's libraries.

Outreach Committee chair, Philip Carter, and Mississippi Library Commission representatives, Ethel Dunn and Susan Liles, participated in the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Annual Convention and

the Mississippi Municipal League Conference. As ambassadors for MLA they shared words of thanks for supporting Mississippi public libraries and answered questions about MLA. Visibility at these two events is very important to public libraries. We are happy that this is our second year to be able to attend!

Perhaps the busiest one of all is Vice-President Sarah Chrisler-Ruskey who has been hard at work on conference preparations along with the conference committee chairs. Plans are shaping up for another wonderful conference. This year we

will be at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian, MS, on October 16-19, 2018. We are excited to be in Meridian and hope that many of you are able to join us. The annual conference is a great time for Mississippi libraries to share all the wonderful things that they have going on. It is also a time for networking with colleagues, visiting with vendors, and learning more about how you can become involved with MLA!

I hope everyone has a fantastic rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you all in October!

Discovering Black History Month as Library Outreach

Kristin Rogers

Electronic Resources & Discovery Librarian

Amy Gibson

*Research & Instruction Librarian
University of Mississippi Libraries*

The University of Mississippi (UM) Libraries is committed to providing resources for our researchers in African American Studies, including library databases that support and enhance our unique archival collections. Part of this emphasis includes large, complex primary source subscription databases. How to promote and address the amount and complexity of materials now available online can be daunting for librarians. Brainstorming about ways to present complex, primary source subscriptions databases, we decided to reach out to our community using vendors. Since

librarians are information professions, why use a vendor? First, vendors have unique expertise, being immersed in single product. Second, academic libraries spend much of their budgets on premium resources and we want to get the most out of our vendor relationships. The basic premise of the event was to provide individual and group training to our users about how to navigate primary document databases and to increase awareness of resources that can expand student and faculty research. Planning, promoting, and executing the event went smoothly. Our evaluation shows that there were nine people overall attended. Our take-aways are related to location, weather, methods of promotion, give-aways, vendor relations, and library collaboration. Our biggest take away was that an event can be a

success despite low turnout.

PLANNING THE EVENT

Librarians Amy Gibson and Kristin Rogers came together to plan this event by bringing their knowledge and expertise to the table. Kristin Rogers is an Electronic Resources & Discovery Librarian who works in Technical Services, and Amy Gibson is the African American Studies liaison and works in Public Services. At the time of the event, UM Libraries owned ten individual databases. We plan to increase our African American online primary source collections, so this project was important for future promotion ideas.

Once we chose to make use of our vendor relationship, we decided to draw attention to our resources during Black History Month. This event became "Discovering Black

History through UM Libraries Databases” and brought two vendors to campus to participate in our program.

The next step was to invite vendors to attend. This was where our teamwork paid off. As part of her work with electronic resources, Kristin has regular contact with vendors. An email was sent in November 2017 inviting representatives from ProQuest, Accessible Archives, & Readex/Newsbank. As part of our planning timeline, the email asked for a response by the end of December; none of the vendors responded by the deadline. Follow-up emails were sent, adding additional contacts. After trying Kristin’s additional contacts, ProQuest agreed to attend while Accessible Archives and Readex/Newsbank both sent their regrets. Once we purchased the Fannie Lou Hamer and James Meredith primary source databases, Gale vendors also agreed to attend. Once we secured the vendors we began finalizing event details and began promotion.

PROMOTING THE EVENT

As part of the event promoting, we made use of our IdeaLab—a new library service similar to a makers space that houses a large format printer, 3D printer, VR and other educational technology. We decided to offer a door prize, something using our 3D printer to get higher attendance and to help promote the IdeaLab at the same time. A 3D print of Martin Luther King, Jr. was requested—the *Stone of Hope* from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. The print was so detailed that the words “Out of the Mountain of Despair, a Stone



Tweet from UMLibraries advertising the event using a photograph of Fannie Lou Hamer.

of Hope” were legible. The IdeaLab also helped keep expenses down by providing the printing for our large-scale posters.

The day was divided into two sessions: one drop-in session near the entrance from 10am - 2pm and a second session billed as a workshop in the classroom from 4pm - 6pm. We wanted to be available for students and faculty during multiple time during the day so users could find time in their schedule to attend. Both events were open, without registration and offered one-on-one assistance. We thought the variety of locations and timing

would appeal to different users even though they both offered individual services from both the vendors and librarians.

Large, printed posters were placed at both library entrances. Announcements of the event were posted on the library homepage, in the campus daily news email, and the library Twitter and Facebook accounts. Flyers and bookmarks were placed at both entrances and the reference desk and distributed to the relative departments on campus. We made it clear in the promotional materials that no sign-up was required and the events were drop-in. On the

day of the event a larger poster was put up near the fair area to further announce the event.

One of the many benefits of participating in Black History Month was that the library was able to advertise as part of the campus-wide events calendar and promotions. We began planning in October 2017 for February 2018, giving us ample time to determine the basics: title, date, databases to feature and which vendors to invite. An online form for Black History Month from the UM Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement was easy to fill out, making it stress-free to participate in their marketing.

EXECUTING THE EVENT

On the day of the event, the Idea-Lab students assisted in setting up three tables and high stools in the main lobby of the library for the drop-in database fair. There was a table for Gale and ProQuest. A third

American Studies Liaison, for Readex/Newbank. Each table had a poster indicating the vendor and database name, a laptop with Wi-Fi access, promotional materials from the vendors, water, and candy. The area chosen for the event was offset from the main entrance to the right of the main staircase. We hoped this would be close enough to students to get their attention while not impeding foot traffic.

About four people came by the daytime drop-in event. There was one specific community attendee who was there the entire four hours; each of our vendors and the African American Studies Liaison took turns working with the community attendee on a public access computer. The attendee was specifically interested in finding any information about her father, a Mississippi Civil Rights leader. The ProQuest representative helped her find an article from 1957 about her father in the *Chicago Defender*. She found an

article that not only gave information about a rally her father attended but had a picture as well. The family was unaware that this article and picture existed and she was excited to have this picture of her father. After the event, in a correspondence from the ProQuest representative noted that this user experience alone was worth the trip; we have seen the user at additional library events since the vendor fair.

For the late afternoon one-on-one session held in one of the libraries classrooms, Gale provided veggie and dessert trays. We had five people attend. Each vendor was given time to get on the classroom computer and demonstrate their databases to the group. Two undergraduates, two graduate students, and a community member attended the classroom session. We promoted the event as a drop in workshop. The undergraduates did not stay long but the graduate students had questions related to their own research. The vendors took turns demonstrating unique features about each database. The librarians walked around to help attendees with their searches. The vendors were open to help the students better navigate and answer the questions about individual research queries. During this event we gave away the door prize, a 3D printed MLK Jr. Statue.

EVALUATION

Overall the event went well. We spent four hours during the daytime at the tables at the drop-in database fair in the lobby. Most people who stopped by stayed an average of five to ten minutes and had a positive experience. The vendors had a great time and are willing to return for



Johanna Baker, Amy Gibson, and Kristin Rogers setting up for the drop-in session.
Photography by Cecelia Parks

events in the future of the same nature. There were not a large number of people walking up to the tables, though many people passed by. We spent two hours in the classroom where we had five users who attended the one-on-one session later in the afternoon.

It is difficult to get usability studies on pop up library event participation because we focus on library users and not walk through traffic.

We learned a number of lessons and had some takeaways:

1. Place tables closer to the doorway so people walking through have no choice but to see what you are doing.

The tables were away from the main walk through. Although we were trying to appear very open and available, it was easy for those coming in the doorway to ignore us or just not notice us at all.

2. Weather can affect attendance to events.

We saw a lot of people walking through the library that day. It was raining pretty hard and a lot of people used the library as a walk through to get to the other side without having to walk around. These students were so focused on getting upstairs and out the door again that they were not paying attention to what was going on.

3. Numbers aren't everything.

This event was not heavily attended, but those who did attend got a lot of individualized attention. This event helped two graduate students with research projects and the community member gather information about her family. After the event, in a correspondence from the ProQuest representative, she noted that this user experience alone was worth



*Johanna Baker helping community member look for information on her family.
Photograph by Kristin Rogers*

the trip. This community member has become an active user of library services. Our community member's positive experience of find information about her family out of the vast resources the library provides was gratifying.

4. Have better giveaway's to entice people to come to the fair part of the event.

This includes both food and actual giveaways. We advertised a door prize for the one-on-one sessions but not for the fair. An additional door prize may have attracted more people. Also, food attracts students! We had candy, but nothing substantial that might have enticed a prospective attendee to skip lunch.

5. Send emails to affiliated departments earlier and not just take bookmarks/flyers.

We took bookmarks and flyers to the affiliated departments a couple days before the event. Sending an email to faculty before the event may encourage them to include attending into their class.

6. Good vendor relationships are invaluable.

A last-minute change from the vendor was stressful. ProQuest was unable to send our account representative leaving us to wonder if anyone from ProQuest would attend. Kristin has fostered a relationship with our ProQuest team and was able to reach out to our customer service manager who ultimately put Kristin in contact with our regions Senior Sales Director. The Senior Sales Director was able to quickly contact someone who lives close and schedule them to attend within 24 hours. This change in representation worked out well, as the person they sent shared interests with the users and was very engaged with their topics.

7. People who didn't attend were interested and several asked after the event, indicating their interest in the topic, with some interested in one-on-one consultations.

Because there was so much for promotion for the event, the library was able to get the word out about our primary source databases and educated users about subject librarian one-on-one library services. There were a number of people who were not able to attend due to other events on campus. We did receive some communication from people who wanted to attend but had a conflict. These are additional numbers we reached through setting up consultations for research help.

8. Benefits of co-collaboration between library departments.

This event brought together Kristin's vendor relations and knowledge of the back end of the databases and Amy's knowledge with working with users to offer a comprehensive

individual databases allowed for a unique experience for our users. Being immersed in just a couple databases can lead to a high level of understanding of the content. The ProQuest representatives' specialty was in the subject indexing of historical newspapers, giving a better understanding to users what search terms are best based on the vendor's expertise. The Gale representative was able to guide the attendees and librarians through a new database to grasp a better understanding of what information is available. We are encouraged by the outcome of the event and look forward to building off our success.

How has Madison County Library System Influenced their Patrons?

The Importance of My Library Stories

Braley Reed

*Asst. System Admin / PIO / Webmaster
Madison County Library System*

The Madison County Library System started in April collecting feedback from our patrons by asking them to submit their “My Library Story” online or via the Branch Managers at one of our five branches. It is an amazing experience to hear the impact of our library system from the perspective of our patrons. Each patron gives crucial insight into programming, services, and customer satisfaction needed to improve our services, adapting them specifically for the needs of our community. By being involved, patrons feel their voice matters, which revolutionizes the future at MCLS and shows that

a library is more to people than a building.

A library gives people opportunities, a safe place to be themselves, hope for future endeavors, knowledge, community, friendships, and more. We see from our patrons’ point of view that they need libraries just as if they need air. Libraries are not a dying breed, with all the new technologies the world has to offer, but more a growing evolution where two worlds collide bringing education and community together. Joshua White, a Ridgeland patrons says, “The programs are a great stress reliever and the conversations held have brought a sense of community to the other regular program goers. The library’s programs have helped

me create friendships that have become awesome connections outside the library.”

“As a 21st Century library, we see ourselves as the community living room where everyone is welcome to share information and ideas, to create and inspire collaboration and learning, and to connect with each other,” said Tonja Johnson, MCLS Director. Madison County Library is bringing big city resources like that of Washington, DC to the small communities in Madison County even on a substantially lower budget. Libraries are not a requirement but they are a necessity. We are fortunate in Madison County to have libraries in each city: Ridgeland, Madison, Canton, Camden & Flora.

My Library Story

Phillip Volland

*Retired Librarian
Madison, MS*

I began volunteering at the Madison branch soon after moving to Mississippi four years ago. Before that, I’d worked in two public library systems in the Washington, DC metro area. They were both large and wealthy, and each served many thousands of patrons. I expected things to be very different here but found that the Madison library offered the services of big city systems with a small-town warmth and community focus.

There are books, of course - on

the shelf, on CD or cassette tape, and on the Library’s website for digital download. There are magazines and computers and printers and copiers and fax machines. There are reading and craft groups, seasonal programs, film screenings, programs for adults, for children, and for special needs groups. In short, I found everything I thought a good public library should offer. Yet as good as these services are, they probably wouldn’t account for the smiles I see on the faces of patrons as they come through the door and are greeted by the staff. Sometimes it seems to me everybody in Madison has a friend at this library. That’s because our

Madison Library thinks big but acts like a neighbor. Everything it does - the materials it buys (books in all their formats, DVDs, databases, computers, etc.) and the programs it offers - is done with a knowledge of the Madison community acquired over many years of listening and serving. The public libraries we have today are one of the greatest legacies of American democracy. In my view they are one of the last, few places that bring our communities together. This is the spirit I see at work at the Madison Library.

But as Joni Mitchell famously warned: “You don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.” There is no

law that requires communities to have a library. Many in Mississippi do not. We in Madison County are fortunate to have mayors, county supervisors and - so far - state legislators who understand and support the work of our public libraries. When the financial crisis of 2008 hit, officials across the country decided they had many priorities more important to them than libraries, and so branches were

closed, hours reduced and staff and programs eliminated. As a librarian at that time, I saw this firsthand. I discovered then that even in good times, public libraries tend to get the smallest slice of the budgetary pie.

We are so accustomed to having libraries that we assume they'll always be there for us or our children and their children. But we have to remind ourselves that we library users are the "public" in "public

library" and have a role in insuring its well-being. Fortunately, nothing could be easier. The way I see it every library patron is also a library advocate. Everyone who checks out or downloads a book, uses a computer or attends a program is making a statement of support that says "I care about this!"

What more needs to be said? Y'all come!

News Briefs

Carol Green

Serials Librarian

University of Southern Mississippi

ONE BOOK ONE PASS 2018 COMMUNITY READING PROGRAM BOOK SELECTED

What if everyone in Pass Christian read the same book and then joined together to talk about it? That is the idea behind One Book, One Pass. The 2018 selection is *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* by Jack E. Davis. Over the next 6 months, the community is encouraged to read the book and engage in book discussions, panel discussions, documentary screenings and other programs that will culminate in the Author Presentation by Jack E. Davis on Wednesday, October 17th at 7pm at the Randolph Center in Pass Christian (315 Clark Avenue).

The Gulf was the winner of the 2017 Kirkus Award for non-fiction. This book is a sweeping environmental history of the Gulf of Mexico that presents an engaging, truly relevant new study of the Gulf as a powerful agent in the American story, one that has become "lost in

the pages of American history."

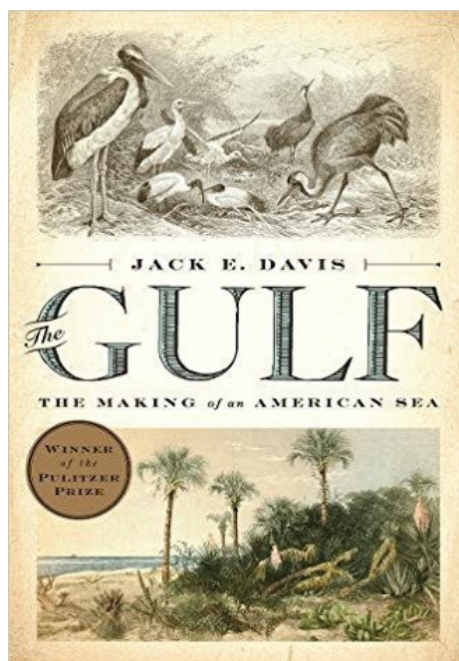
Jack E. Davis is also the author of the award-winning *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*. An environmental historian, he is a professor of History and Sustainability Studies at the University of Florida. Professor Davis grew up on the Gulf coast and now lives in Florida and New Hampshire.

If you have not already read

the book, copies are available for check out at the Pass Christian Library or for purchase at Pass Christian Books. Please call the library (228-452-4596) or email pass-christianlibrary@gmail.com if you have any questions or need further information.

POINT OF CONTACT: Wendy Allard 228-452-4596; w.allard@harrison.lib.ms.us

*Submitted by
Wendy Allard
Head Librarian
Pass Christian Public Library*



MS DIGITAL LIBRARY FEATURES SINGING RIVER LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The Singing River Genealogy-Local History Library is now featured as an official partner of the Mississippi Digital Library at the University of Southern Mississippi.

MDL has an extensive digital collection of state and local historic collections which now include the local history collection that is being digitized at the Singing River library,

a branch of the Jackson-George Regional Library in Pascagoula, MS.

The SRGLHL has been working on digitizing many collections since 2006. With the help of MDL, the library has several collections available on-line - both on the MDL website and a new Singing River Digital Archive at Singing River. For more information on MDL partners, visit <http://www.msdl.org/about/partners/jsg>.

SRGLHL branch manager, Amanda Brooks, said, "The Jackson County Historical Society started by digitizing the family history files using a Xerox coping machine. Since then it has been an on and off project until November 2016. Over the past year we have been implementing new technology and procedures to bring this project truly to life. December 7, 2017 was our launch date for the Singing River Digital Archive."

Over the last few years, various volunteers and groups, the Library system IT staff and interns, have given hundreds of man-hours to get the collections up and online. So far, SRGLHL has four collections that are fully digitized and made available at <http://glh.jgrls.org>.

Future plans include creating more digital exhibits to help further engage local communities with a hope of helping teachers with local history resources.

"We don't just want to be a repository of information, we want people actually be able to use these materials when they need them, said Ms. Brooks.

To access these materials, there are no log-ins required and patrons do not have to be in the library to access the information. All services are free at home, or on the road.

For more information contact:

Amanda Brooks, archivist and manager

Singing River Genealogy-Local History Library - (228)769-3078

<http://www.jgrls.org/services/genealogy.html>

*Submitted by
Rex Bridges
PR & Marketing Manager
Jackson-George Regional Library*



GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY (GCRL) SCIENCE CAFÉ

On April 24, over 50 people attended the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) Science Café held at the Ocean Springs Municipal Library (OSML). This very special Science Café was a partnership between Gunter Library, the research library at GCRL, and OSML. The Friday Fiber Arts class at OSML, led by Maryanne Anthony, a library assistant at Gunter Library, worked for six months to create a series of coral reef seascapes, which are on display at the public library. Gunter Library head Joyce Shaw proposed the idea to Anthony and OSML branch manager Yvonne Parton in October 2017. The fiber artists had complete creative control over the scope of the project. Shaw arranged for Krista Ross, an educator in Mobile, AL who participated in NOAA Down Under Out Yonder (DUOY), a program for K-12 Educators, to present at the April GCRL Science Café. Ross spoke about her experience diving, learning to identify fish and coral, and exploring the beauty of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS). The FGBNMS is one of the few places where deep-water coral live in the



*Display at the GCRL Science Café.
Photograph by Joyce Shaw*

Gulf of Mexico. Prior to the Science Café, the fiber artists were honored and recognized at a reception with food and other refreshments provided by the Friends of the Ocean Springs Library and a local business, Coffee Fusion. The GCRL Science Café, a program of Gunter Library, is in its 7th year of providing informal education for the local community.

*Submitted by
Joyce Shaw
Head Librarian
Gunter Library, GCRL*



STUDENT CURATOR PROGRAM AT SOUTHERN MISS

Special Collections at Southern Miss hosted an exhibit opening on April 19 from 4-5 in McCain Library room 305 to highlight the exhibits curated by three Southern Miss students. Special Collections leads a program where students curate mini-exhibits featuring materials from the library. Students learn how to select items for display, install the materials, write label and exhibit text, and publicize the exhibit. This year's exhibits feature the work of an English PhD student, an English undergraduate, and a library science graduate student.

Land Pirates and Lawlessness in 19th Century Mississippi, curated by English PhD student (and Spring 2018 graduate) Todd Gray, revisits criminal activity in Mississippi from the early 1800s to mid-century. During this period, parts of Mississippi were considered the frontier. The Mississippi River, Natchez Trace, and south Mississippi served as the backdrops for the criminal exploits of such infamous highwaymen as the Harpe brothers, Samuel Mason, John A. Murrell, and James Copeland. The exhibit features novels, illustrations, and historical accounts of this raucous period in Mississippi.

Putting the "Able" in Disabled: Representation of Disabilities in Children's Literature, curated by undergraduate English major Sara Ditsworth, explores the depiction of mental and physical disabilities in children's literature. The exhibit shows the everyday lives of those with disabilities through photographs and books celebrating

diversity and inclusivity.

Elevating the Ignoble: The Southern Cookbook as a Medium for Cultural Expression and Identity, curated by School of Library & Information Science graduate student Rachel McMullen, looks at stereotypes of the American South in relation to culinary traditions. Many of the stereotypes that are directed at the South's culinary habits have helped lead a concerted effort to recapture Southern identity as it is harshly defined by curious spectators and concoct a new image by serving up seductive, distinctly Southern cuisine. The cookbooks included in this exhibit do just that by both embracing and celebrating the misconceptions that plague the Deep South to redefine its eccentricities as endearing attributes worthy of the highest level of commemoration: a place at the table.

These exhibits will be on display on the third floor of McCain Library & Archives until February 2019. If you have any questions about the

program or the exhibits on display, contact Jennifer Brannock at Jennifer.Brannock@usm.edu or 601.266.4347.

*Submitted by Jennifer Brannock
Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana
Special Collections, University Libraries
The University of Southern Mississippi*



*Left to right – Rachel McMullen, Todd Gray,
Sara Ditsworth
Photograph by Jennifer Brannock*

People in the News

Carol Green

*Serials Librarian
University of Southern Mississippi*

Stephen Parks, State Law Library, has been selected by the American Association of Law Libraries for its 2018 Emerging Leader Award. The Emerging Leader Award recognizes members in the first ten years of their career who have already made significant contributions to the Association and the profession and have demonstrated the potential

for leadership and continuing service. Parks will accept the award at the Association's Annual Meeting in Baltimore this July.



Dr. Deborah Lee has been named associate dean of public services at the Mississippi State University (MSU) Libraries. Most recently, Lee was professor and coordinator of graduate student services for the MSU Libraries and also served as co-director of the Mississippi State

University Quality Enhancement Plan. Prior to that, she served as coordinator of library instruction and associate director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at MSU. Lee has a Ph.D. and M.S. in Business Administration from Mississippi State University and a M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on teaching and learning issues related to higher education.



Kristin Causey comes to First Regional Library from Columbia County Library in Evans, Georgia.



She has worked in public libraries for seven years and received her Master's in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama. She started with FRL on May 1, 2018 and is busy getting to know the staff and her community.



Kathryn New joined the faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi Libraries on May 14, 2018,



as Assistant Professor/Arts and Humanities Librarian. Kathryn earned her MLIS degree from Florida State University in April 2016. She also has a BA in history from Mississippi State University. Kathryn most recently worked as Teen Services Librarian at the New Orleans Public Library.



Carla Carlson joined the Special Collections staff at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) as Assistant Curator, Historical Manuscripts at the beginning of the year.



Carla's background is in cataloguing, have spent 22 years in USM Technical Services. She first joined the Cook Library staff as a student worker, assisting researchers at the reference desk in Public Services.

Carla was awarded the position

after a national search. After working with all types of materials and patrons for nearly 29 years, Carla was looking for a new challenge that combined her favorite aspects of working for University Libraries. "I found that in Special Collections," she remarked, "where I can help researchers from all over the country explore our vast primary resources." Her former experience in cataloguing and space-planning is also proving beneficial as Special Collections begins its implementation of ArchivesSpace and management of an off-site facility. As a long-time residence of Hattiesburg, she also brings with her a wealth of community knowledge.

Carla first came to USM as an art student, obtaining her BFA in Drawing & Painting in 1995. In her life away from work, she enjoys home improvement projects and is an avid painter.



Richard Greene, Executive Director of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library



System retired on June 30, 2018 after 42 years of outstanding and dedicated service. Richard began his career with the Library System in 1976. Prior to becoming Executive Director of MMRLS, he served 2 years as Executive Director of the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System.

Richard obtained his Bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester New York and his Master's Degree in Library Science from Syracuse University in Syracuse New York and advanced

business courses at Mississippi State University.

Richard is a Past President, Vice President and Legislative Chairman of the Mississippi Library Association. He received the Association's prestigious Peggy May State Service Award in 2000.

Richard successfully led the statewide efforts to have the Mississippi Legislature fund 100% statewide health insurance for all public library employees.

Active in his community, Richard received the 1986 Outstanding Citizen Award and the 1986 Golden Shovel Award from the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce. He is a Past President and Vice President of the Kosciusko Lions Club. He served several years as Staff-Parish Chairman of the Kosciusko First United Methodist Church.

During the 42 years of Richard's administration, all 13 system libraries have built new buildings or added additions to their buildings, installed public access internet computers, installed an automated circulation system, gained access to over 3.2 million books through the Mississippi Library Partnership, provided Wi-Fi service, and participated in ongoing staff training and development.



Josh Haidet is the incoming Executive Director of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library



System. Prior to coming to MMRLS, he served the last 6 years as Executive Director of the East Mississippi Regional Library System.

Josh received his Bachelor's

Degree from The Ohio State University where he majored in Political Science and Classical Humanities. He received his Master's Degree in Library and Informational Science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Josh is a member of the Mississippi

Library Association and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries. He has served as a committee member for Clarke County Mississippi's Excel by 5 program and the Quitman School District's "One District, One Book" program. He is also Past President and member of the Clarke

County Lion's Club.

Originally from Alliance, Ohio, Josh has recently relocated to Kosciusko from Quitman, Mississippi and is looking forward to being active in the local community.

SLIS Notes

Teresa S. Welsh

Professor and Director

Chris Cunningham

Assistant Professor

*School of Library and Information Science
The University of Southern Mississippi*

Greetings, dear scholars. Technology is an increasingly important component of LIS education and the ability to create or maintain user-friendly, dynamic library websites is a valued skill. A course on website design and evaluation, such as LIS 458/558 taught by Dr. Chris Cunningham, is one of the most useful classes a librarian or archivist could take. Learning the basics of HTML gives one creative power to tweak websites generated from online applications or to create a website from scratch.

WEBSITE CONTENT EVALUATION

Before one begins to design or re-design a website, it is useful to first evaluate the content and design of other similar websites to determine what works well and what does not. One useful website evaluation tool is *The CRAAP Test* developed by librarians at Cal State Chico, available at http://www.csuchico.edu/lins/handouts/eval_websites.

[pdf](#). The basic five CRAAP criteria are: Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose.

Another simpler, practical web evaluation criteria scheme is CARS:

1. **Currency** – is there a date created or updated, a current address, phone number, email?
2. **Authority** – is the author/creator of the webpage named and do they have expertise?
3. **Reliability** – is the domain .edu, .gov, or .mil (considered most reliable), .net or .org (depends on purpose), or .com (considered least reliable). Is content objective/unbiased/accurate?
4. **Scope** – is the information complete? Is it basic or advanced? Who is the intended audience?

It is frustrating for users if a website lacks a date, so that one is unsure how current or old the information is, or if it lacks basic contact information: a physical address, phone number and email, one is unsure where it is geographically or how to contact the organization. For libraries, it is vital to include opening and closing times.

WEBSITE PLANNING AND CREATION

Good Web design is grounded in

the basics of design, adherence to standards, and an understanding of user needs. Good design conveys information in such a manner that the user can find it quickly. Some important concepts in website creation are content and design, thoughtful planning/storyboarding, accessibility/ADA compliance, and usability testing.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

Content is paramount - content is the *most important thing* – it keeps your patrons happy and makes them want to come back so plan for great, useful content on library programs, services, and resources. Suggestions of useful information on library pages include a home page with a clear image of the library (or a panel of images), library name, address, phone, e-mail, opening and closing times; manager/director photo, name, and email; shortcut icons to most popular resources (social media, OPAC), site map and menu of links to main webpages (left vertical menu or top horizontal), each with dropdown list of subpages:

- "About Us" page with address, directions, and interactive map of the library location

- link to library history page with historic images

- link to employee directory with images, names, positions, email addresses
- “Resources” page with a layout or floorplan of the interior to indicate restrooms, circulation/check-out area, reference desk, reading or study areas, computer lab, and other designated areas, and labels to indicate stack areas such as fiction, non-fiction, etc.
 - link to OPAC (online public access catalog)
 - link to other e-sources such as e-books, e-zines, lib-guides, homework help
- “Programs and Services” listed by patron group (or links to sub-pages) such as children’s reading programs, teen programs, adult reading clubs, services/programs for autistic youth, and services/programs for seniors.
- “Site Map” page laying out the order and structure of your website. These are important for search engine optimization, allowing for greater integration into most general search engines, thus allowing users to find your page more efficiently when they use general search engines.

For inspiration and examples of library website content and design, see:

- Top 10 Academic Websites by the Cloudy Librarian <https://emilysingley.wordpress.com/2011/07/24/top-10-academic-library-websites/>
- 5 Things Every School Library Website Should Have by Library-girl.net <http://www.librarygirl.net/2011/08/5-things-every-school-library-website.html>
- Top 10 Public Library

Websites by the Cloudy Librarian <https://emilysingley.wordpress.com/2011/08/04/top-10-public-library-websites/>

THOUGHTFUL PLANNING / STORYBOARDING

Content is closely intertwined with design and organization – if patrons cannot locate or navigate the site easily, they cannot access content. Think about what information your patrons want and need then sketch out a story-board:

- Draw boxes for webpages, and arrows between them to indicate links. Roughly sketch in where the images and text might go.
- Use a grid, if needed, to divide pages into thirds vertically and horizontally to help achieve balance and proportion in the placement of text and images.
- Draw sub-pages with some consistency in design – and with a link on each subpage back to the home page.
- Develop a sense of proportion and spacing among items on the site; strive for simplicity and a balance of text, images, and white space.
- One tool is to use index cards to physically lay out your website design and look at the flow of information.

ACCESSIBILITY/ADA COMPLIANCE

To comply with The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, websites must follow federal guidelines (see *Website Accessibility Toolkit*, http://www.ada.gov/pccatoolkit/ch5_toolkit.pdf)

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) state that websites should be:

- Perceivable
 - Add a text equivalent to every image (alt tags).
 - Post documents in a text-based format, such as HTML or RTF, in addition to PDF.
 - Avoid dictating colors and font settings (so low-vision users can adjust settings); the most easily-read color is the default black type on white background.
 - Include audio descriptions and captions to videos.
- Operable
 - Include “skip navigation” link at the top of webpages that allows screen readers to skip directly to webpage content.
 - Minimize blinking or flashing features; if they must be included, allow them to be paused or stopped.
 - Use titles, context, and other heading structures to help users navigate complex pages.
- Understandable
 - Keep navigation consistent across the website.
 - Include ample instruction in website areas that require user input (like contact forms) (<http://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG20/quickref/>).

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) maintains a list of web accessibility evaluations tools available online at <https://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/>.

USABILITY TESTING

Usability is defined by Jakob Nielsen as a “quality attribute that assesses how easy user interfaces are to use” as defined by five components:

1. Learnability, how easy it is for users to accomplish basic online tasks the first time
2. Efficiency, how quickly users can perform online tasks
3. Memorability, how quickly users reestablish proficiency after a period of not using it
4. Errors, how many users make, how severe, and how easily recovered
5. User satisfaction with using the webpage design (<http://www.nngroup.com/articles/usability-101-introduction-to-usability/>).

The simplest way to test usability of library websites is to recruit random patrons and ask them to find a list of informational items using the library's website. These tasks could include finding contact information, opening hours, information on specific programs or services, location of a book or books, and journal articles. The patron could be asked to fill out a form for these tasks and/or could be discretely observed to note how long and how many clicks were needed to locate each item (<http://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/Usability-Testing-for-Library-Web-Sites-An-Example.pdf>).

Another type of usability testing is an online link validator application that checks for dead links or accessibility such as those listed at <http://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/>.

SLIS WEBSITE

SLIS is in the process of updating our website at <http://www.usm.edu/slis> to conform to ALA-accreditation standards and to comply with a

request from the University to simplify the menu categories in anticipation of moving to a new template such as on the Southern Miss homepage at <https://home.usm.edu/>.

This new template has a large central panel for images and horizontal categories, each with a drop-down menu. While still a work in progress, the new, simplified categories and sub-categories are:

- About
 - Mission, Values Goals
 - Policies
 - Faculty, Staff
 - Advisory Board
 - LIS Students
- Achievements
 - Student Award Winners
 - Student Publications, Presentations
 - Student Internships
 - Distinguished Alumni
- Assessment/Accreditation
 - ALA Accreditation Documents
 - Program Assessment, SLOs
 - Enrollment, Retention, MLIS Degrees Awarded
- Academics
 - LIS Bachelor of Science Degree, LIS Minor
 - Master of Library and Information Science
 - Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections
 - Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature
 - Courses
 - Course Schedules
 - Graduate Course Descriptions
 - Undergrad Course Descriptions

- Admissions
 - Graduate Admissions
 - Undergrad Admissions
 - Tuition, Financial Aid
 - SLIS Scholarships
 - External LIS Scholarships
 - Internship Opportunities
 - Frequently Asked Questions
- e-Publications
 - SLIS Connecting e-journal
 - Podcasts
 - Children's Book Festival Programs
 - PR Materials
 - YouTube Channel
 - Contact Us
 - Mailing Address, Physical Address, phone, email, Facebook, Twitter

Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or teresa.welsh@usm.edu

Visit <http://www.usm.edu/slis> for additional information, email slis@usm.edu or call 601.266.4228.

SLIS NEEDS YOU!

Distinguished SLIS graduates – you can help us prepare for ALA accreditation by sending us your professional title, workplace, and preferred email address for our alum listserv. The ALA Committee on Accreditation wants to know where our graduates are working and their professional title and accomplishments. Additionally, we may seek input from both graduates and those who hire our graduates via online survey or focus group request sent through MLA and SLIS listservs.

MegaResource School Librarian Workshop

Karen Davidson

Coordinator of Serials

Mississippi State University Libraries

Mississippi State University Libraries held the MegaResource School Librarian Workshop on February 16, 2018. This was the 18th year Mississippi State University Libraries has held this workshop for school librarians around the State. The workshop is one day with concurrent sessions throughout the day. Programming is targeted to K-12 school librarians with practical information about school libraries. Each year attendance reaches the maximum number, with a number of people on the waiting list. This year there were 90 attendees, which included four from community colleges. There were at least 21 people on the waiting list. The day began with a welcome from Karen Davidson, Chair of the MegaResource Committee, Francis Coleman, Dean of Libraries, and a special welcome by Dr. Judy Bonner, Provost and Executive Vice President. The morning was divided into 2 concurrent session time slots with 5 concurrent sessions in each. Concurrent session I included these programs: *Diverse Literature in the Elementary School Library*, which explored the need for diversity in the literature and examples of where to find diverse literature and how to evaluate the collection; *Evolving Libraries* discussed the changing landscape of libraries and how to meet the needs of our students; *MAGNOLIA K-6 Databases: Why Google...when you can MAGNOLIA*, which explored the basics of MAGNOLIA and how

to incorporate it into assignments and lesson plans; and *Digital Promotion Tools*, in which participants were guided through the use of free digital tools to promote library usage and resources. Each time slot included a chance for attendees to experience Mississippi State University Libraries' Virtual Reality Lab. Attendees were shown how their school could use Mixed and Virtual Reality to bring learning to life. This was one of the highlights of the workshop. There were 49 people who attended this session throughout the day. Concurrent Session II included the following programs: *Introduction to Finding Digital Primary Sources*, which showed attendees ways to locate digital primary sources for Mississippi history and the Civil War; *Makerspace: Letting Genius Shine*, which explored the challenges and successes of one school librarian who started a Makerspace at her school. This was a very popular session, as school librarians were very interested in the Makerspace concept; *MAGNOLIA Database from A-Z*, which provided a hands-on guide to the resources available through MAGNOLIA; *Student Choice and YA/Classic Novel Pairings*, which provided attendees with information on how to encourage students to fall in love with books, and explored several Young Adult selections that paired well with the classics.

Lunch was a working lunch with roundtable discussions on the following topics: *Genrefying Your Library*; *What's your Why (how we can become empowered, or better empowered)*; *Best Practices that Work in*

your Library; *Grant Writing or Available Grants for School Librarians*; *Team Teaching or Collaborative Lesson Plans that Rock*; *How to Use Formative and Summative Assessments in the Library*; *Developing a Budget*; *How Can Librarians Encourage Middle and High School Students to Visit the Library*; and *Ideas and Solutions to Engage or Meet the Needs of Special Populations*. Each table had a note card to write three highlights of the discussion. These note cards were digitized and a handout was created for attendees.

There were two concurrent sessions in the afternoon with a final session targeted to all attendees. Concurrent session 3 included these programs: *MDE Library Audit and Librarian Evaluation*, which instructed attendees on how to use the School Librarian Evaluation to gauge how well their school library will meet the requirements of the School Library Audit; *Quick and Dirty Book Repair*, which showed attendees some tips and tricks on how to do cost effective book repair; *Discovering Open Educational Resources in Support of K-12 Instruction and Learning*, which focused on where to find quality open content and how to evaluate the quality; Concurrent session 4 included: *1 Hour to Learn Everything You Need to Know About eBooks*, which explored eBook purchasing models, how to provide access, and classroom and curriculum ideas; *The Library that Grants Built*, which provided step-by-step instruction on how to apply for a simple online grant and talked about one librarian's experience equipping a library with a zero-dollar budget;

and *Teaching Students How to Manage Their Online Presence*, a hands-on session which taught attendees how to equip their students with the tools to protect their privacy and build credibility for their unique, personal brand.

The workshop concluded with a final session that introduced attendees to the new American Association of School Librarians National Library Standards. There was a chance for attendees to ask specific questions and a handout giving them a link to documentation on the standards.

A print survey was provided with 43 responses. The survey consisted of five questions: 1) Did this workshop provide you with useful new ideas?, 2) Which session(s) were the most valuable?, 3) How would you improve this workshop?, 4) Which session(s) were the least valuable?, and 5) What topics would you like to see in future workshops? All respondents indicated the workshop provided useful and new ideas. Since we have concurrent sessions,

not everyone can go to all that they would like, which is always one of the negatives. Some of the comments included: "Workshop was very informative, packed with knowledge," "I always learn something new and useful at Mega," "I learned so much today. I loved the lunchtime discussions!" "Each session gave me great ideas to take back with me." "My favorite was diverse literature. It challenged me to look at books through a non-biased point of view," "they all were- I learned useful tools and ideas to use for all 3 levels of my school ranges."

Each year the committee looks at the comments about future topics to plan the next year's workshop. We try and get a variety of topics useful to all grade levels. Sometimes there is a topic that is not as popular as others, and we take into consideration this for the next year's planning. This workshop also offers the opportunity for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The committee has tried different activities during lunch, including a variety of

speakers (such as a Mississippi author), MDE update, and a 3-D printer demonstration. Attendees did not seem to like a speaker during lunch; they wanted time to network. This was the first time roundtable topics were provided, and attendees were allowed to choose which topic they wanted to discuss. Comments were very positive and attendees seemed to enjoy the networking. Also in the past the workshop was kicked off by having a keynote speaker and the committee has learned that attendees would rather have more sessions than a keynote speaker.

Each year we learn something different and try to accommodate as many suggestions as we can. The MegaResource School Librarian Workshop is a valuable resource for school librarians in the State and Mississippi State University Libraries will continue to reach as many school librarians as we can, giving them new ideas and resources to reach their students.



To join MLA, or to renew your membership:

<http://misslib.org/membership>

2018 MLA Executive Board Minutes:

<http://misslib.org/page-1860500>

Ezra Jack Keats Book Award Recipients Recognized at Children's Book Festival

Dawn Smith

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

The Keats Book Award, presented on April 12 during the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, recognizes promising new authors and illustrators in children's literature and is awarded by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

In 2012, the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection began administering the Award with the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation at the Children's Book Festival.

The winning new writer and new illustrator each received \$3,000, triple the amount awarded in previous years, and a bronze medallion and were announced at the 2018 Book Festival's Keats Awards luncheon on April 12. They include:

The 2018 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award winner for New Writer is Derrick Barnes, for *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, illustrated by Gordon C. James and published by Agate Bolden/Denene Millner Books.

The 2018 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award winner for New Illustrator is Evan Turk, for *Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters*, written by Michael Mahin and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

In addition, the 2018 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award honor winners include:

New Writer Honors:

Rachael Cole, for *City Moon*

(illustrated by Blanca Gómez, published by Schwartz & Wade)

Jessixa Bagley, for *Laundry Day* (illustrated by Jessixa Bagley, published by Roaring Brook Press)

Elaine Magliaro, for *Things To Do* (illustrated by Catia Chien, published by Chronicle Books)

New Illustrator Honors:

Gordon C. James, for *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* (written by Derrick Barnes, published by Agate Bolden/Denene Millner Books)

Bianca Diaz, for *The One Day House* (written by Julia Durango, published by Charlesbridge)

E.B. Goodale, for *Windows* (written by Julia Denos, published by Candlewick Press)

New Writer Honor & New Illustrator Honor:

Bao Phi (writer) and Thi Bui (illustrator), for *A Different Pond* (published by Capstone Young Readers)

"Through their excellent work, these writers and artists capture the joy in the small moments we all share, and show the spirit of the children of our country and hope they give us for the future," said Dr. Deborah Pope, executive director of the Ezra Jacks Keats Foundation.

Dav Pilkey, whose award-winning and best-selling series *Captain Underpants* and *Dog Man*, received the Southern Miss Medallion, the top award given annually at the festival.

While in Hattiesburg, Pilkey spoke to over 1,500 area school-children and generously waived his



Dav Pilkey receives The University of Southern Mississippi Medallion from University President, Dr. Rodney Bennett.

speaking fee in order to provide copies of his latest book in his *Dog Man* series, while also giving out gift certificates for the kids to purchase more of their favorite reading material. He also shared with them the story of his path to becoming one of the most successful writers and illustrators of children's books, and encouraged his audience to make reading an important part of their lives.

The Festival included many other prominent children's literature authors and artists, who presented about their work to the over 500 attendees at the event that also featured workshops, exhibitors and vendors. A private showing of the *Captain Underpants* movie was also held during the Festival, with Pilkey giving a special introduction for the movie.

**ABOUT THE EZRA JACK KEATS
FOUNDATION**

Founded by the late Caldecott award-winning children's book author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats,

the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation fosters children's love of reading and creative expression by supporting arts and literacy programs in public schools and libraries; cultivating new writers and illustrators of exceptional picture books that reflect the experience of childhood in our diverse culture; and protecting and promoting the work of Keats, whose book *The Snowy Day* broke the color barrier in children's publishing.

Recently, *The Snowy Day* was adapted by Amazon as a holiday special, which earned two Daytime Emmys®, including Outstanding Preschool Children's Animated Program; and is the theme of a set of Forever stamps issued by the United States Postal Service. To learn more about the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, visit <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org>. Keats. Imagination. Diversity.

ABOUT THE DE GRUMMOND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection at The University of Southern Mississippi is one of North America's leading research centers in the field of children's literature. The Collection holds the original manuscripts and illustrations of more than 1,300 authors and illustrators, as well as 180,000+ mostly American and British published books dating back to 1530. Since 1985, the de Grummond Collection has been the home of the Ezra Jack Keats Archive, which includes manuscripts, typescripts, sketches, dummies, illustrations and proofs for Ezra Jack Keats' books. For more about the de Grummond, visit <http://www.degrummond.org>.



Keats Winners: From left: Gordon C. James (New Illustrator Honor for Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut); E.B. Goodale (New Illustrator Honor for Windows); Bianca D'az (New Illustrator Honor for The One Day House); Evan Turk (Book Award, New Illustrator for Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters); Derrick Barnes (Book Award, New Writer for Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut); Elaine Magliaro (New Writer Honor for Things to Do); and Jessica Bagley (New Writer Honor for Laundry Day). Not pictured: Rachael Cole (New Writer Honor for City Moon); Bao Phi (New Writer Honor for A Different Pond); and Thi Bui (New Illustrator Honor for A Different Pond).



Dav Pilkey spoke to 1,500 school students at a special event during the Children's Book Festival.

Photographs by Kelly Dunn of the Southern Miss Image Center.

Book Reviews

Michele Frasier-Robinson

Librarian for
Education & Psychology
University of Southern Mississippi

Brown, Carolyn J.

The Artist's Sketch: A Biography of Painter Kate Freeman Clark.

Jackson, Mississippi: The University Press of Mississippi, 2017. 204 p. \$35 (cloth).

Carolyn J. Brown's previous books include *A Daring Life: A Biography of Eudora Welty* (2012), and *Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker* (2014). With this strongly researched work she joins Cynthia Grant Tucker (*Kate Freeman Clark: A Painter Rediscovered*, 1981) and Patti Carr Black (*Art in Mississippi 1720-1980*, 1998) to form a select group of authors who have documented Kate Freeman Clark's life. Brown portrays Clark from her early childhood aspirations to be an author, to her social and romantic ambitions (p. 17), to the realization that painting was the driving force in her life.

To pursue her art Clark joined the Art Students League in New York and studied *plein air* painting with William Merritt Chase "...the most celebrated art master in America..." (p. 30) at the Shinnecock summer school in Rhode Island. Clark exhibited in many prestigious exhibitions (p. 114) under the name Freeman Clark, but in 1924 she gave up her career, returned to Holly Springs and became involved in the city's social groups and organizations.

Why was this? Brown gives us

several plausible reasons. Clark was never able to sell her work because of her mother's opposition to women artists who exhibited and sold their work. The art world was changing dramatically and the new artists represented in the Armory Show in 1913 replaced William Merritt Chase and his peers as the great geniuses of their day. There was a series of deaths, Chase in October 1916, Kate's grandmother in March, 1919 and her mother in August 1922 and with the deaths of her family and mentor she may had no interest in maintaining a career in art. Clark returned to Freeman Place in 1924, and lived a life fully immersed in the local organizations and events of Holly Springs. Following her death over 1,000 of her works were left to the citizens of Holly Springs, as well as the money to open an art museum in her name. In 1963 the Kate Freeman Clark Art Gallery was opened. (p. 159)

Many color illustrations of Clark's work demonstrate her progress as a painter, and others, like those from the Marshall County Historical Museum (p.173-176) allow us glimpses into her private life. Carolyn Brown includes a previously unpublished essay by Clark (p. 45-56), which will be of interest to scholars of William Merritt Chase as well as Clark. Notes, bibliography and an index finish this satisfying book.

The book is recommended for any public library, especially those with a Mississippi Art and Artists collection, college and university libraries, and art museums.

Sheila A. Cork

Librarian

New Orleans Museum of Art.



Cushman, Susan.

Cherry Bomb: A Novel.

Brandon, MS: Dogwood Press, 2017. 256 pp. \$24.95 (hardcover)

Mary Catherine Henry (nicknamed Mare) is twelve years old when her drug dependent mother abandons her as they flee to escape her father's religious cult as well as his sexual and physical abuse. Mare ends up in foster care where her "Uncle Miles" abuses her when he is drunk. During these difficult times, Mare learns to express herself through the art of graffiti and decides to target the organizations that have hurt her the most, including Family and Children's Services and the Catholic Church. She eventually runs away to Macon, Georgia where she meets Anne Louise (Lou), a freelance photographer for *Rolling Stone* magazine. They develop a friendship and Lou begins to take care of Mare.

Mare's story is paralleled by that of Elaine de Kooning, an artist who returns to the South to take a job at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She is looking for an escape from her life in New York with an unfaithful husband and a past she cannot escape. Mare and Elaine meet when Mare accepts a scholarship to the school and enrolls in Professor de Kooning's class. The two share the same interests in art and the same dysfunctional past. Later they learn they have a much

deeper connection. Mare discovers this connection when she decides to go to North Carolina for a workshop on painting Catholic icons, especially Saint Mary of Egypt who Mare feels a strong connection to.

Cushman's story is one of redemption and hope without the sappiness and unrealistic characters. Readers will enjoy how the two parallel stories are intertwined and connected at the end. This book would be a great addition to public libraries as well as high school libraries, because female teens will be able to identify with Mare and her need to be seen and heard throughout the story.

Audrey Beach
Reference Librarian
Mississippi Delta Community College



Gussow, Adam.

Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition.

Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. 416 pp. \$29.95 (paperback)

This is the book for those who love the blues and want to know everything about the genre from its inception to the present day. It is the first full length study of the devil and the blues. Many already know about "the crossroads" in Clarksdale, Mississippi and the now famous story of blues guitarist Robert Johnson selling his soul to the devil. But there is a vast history of this type of folklore and *Beyond the Crossroads* examines both blues song lyrics and blues culture to successfully illuminate the history of this Southern mythology.

Gussow states in the beginning of his book that it is an exploration of the role of the devil within the

blues tradition. Who this devil-figure represents changes depending on the era and the songwriter. For example, Southern slaves had no manner by which to unload their dissatisfaction and hopelessness without dire repercussions. Blues music enabled them to sing about "the bad ol' devil." Slave owners assumed they were singing about that horrible devil of temptation, but unbeknownst to the slave owners, the devil represented the slave owners themselves.

Blues music eventually became a target for the African-American clergy who condemned the "devil's music" at every turn. Many blues musicians were raised in deeply religious homes and despite the ongoing message from the church, they still found their way to the music. The tension between African-American Christianity and the "devil's music" increased as the blues gained popularity within the African-American community, especially among the younger generation. Blues music became a symbol of African-American freedom and soon juke joints were all the rage. Juke joints provided a physical place for blues fans to convene and dance in solidarity. The sin of frequenting the juke joints on Saturday night became Sunday morning fodder for many African-American preachers.

The last chapter, entitled "Selling it at the Crossroads: The Lives and Legacies of Robert Johnson," explores in great detail the origin of the Robert Johnson (1911-1938) myth and the invention of his "crossroads dilemma." Gussow examines Johnson's perpetuation of the legend and the facts surrounding the musician's climb to popularity. The fascination

with Clarksdale and its popularity as a tourist attraction owe everything to Robert Johnson.

The appendix contains a detailed list of all the songs mentioned throughout the book, including the names of the performers, record labels, and the year of release. Readers may also access a video of the author discussing his book at <https://vimeo.com/235656790>. The story of the blues and its place in Southern culture is incredibly interesting. *Beyond the Crossroads* will both educate and entertain the reader, creating a sense of wonder at the foundations of the genre and its modern-day popularity. I encourage anyone who is remotely interested in blues music and the Robert Johnson fable to read this book. It is recommended for academic and public libraries.

Shellie Zeigler
Talking Book Services Director
Mississippi Library Commission



Shawhan, Dorothy.

Fannye Cook: Mississippi's Pioneering Conservationist.

Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2017. 144 pp. \$20 (hardcover)

Fannye Cook is a splendid book! To say that Fannye Cook was ahead of her time would be an understatement of epic proportion. A note on the book jacket from Brad Young, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation, touches on the importance of her work: "The people and wildlife of this state owe a debt of gratitude to Cook that can never be repaid. Chief among a litany of groundbreaking papers, books

and achievements, this trailblazing conservationist was instrumental in the creation of the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission (now called the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks) and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.”

Born Frances Addine Cook in Crystal Springs in 1889, Fannye was born well before the time when women were allowed to serve on juries, or were eligible to vote. She graduated from what is now the Mississippi University for Women in 1911. It was a time when women in science were few and women in wildlife science were fewer still. Rather than allowing the prevailing mindset to deter her, Fannye’s resolve was bolstered by those who doubted her. She empowered herself through education and became a pioneer among scientists, conservationists and women alike. This book treats the reader to a well-constructed history of Cook’s life, education and many accomplishments in both text and photographs, detailing her life from childhood to retirement.

Cook’s drive and progressive spirit were fueled by her intense passion for the natural world and the desire to preserve Mississippi’s natural heritage. She is responsible for launching an extensive grassroots effort to implement game laws and protect the state’s environment. Moreover, she began traveling the state at her own expense in 1926, speaking at county fairs, schools, clubs, and to county boards of supervisors on the status of wildlife populations and the need for management. Fannye eventually collected a diverse group of supporters from across the state and the state legislature created the

Mississippi Game and Fish Commission. Shortly thereafter, she founded the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in 1933 and served as its director until her retirement in 1957.

Throughout her life Fannye followed her heartfelt love for nature and formed close relationships with other kindred conservation spirits. One such notable alliance that lasted a lifetime was with Aldo Leopold. He was a renowned conservationist, forester, and wildlife ecologist, and is known as the father of wildlife conservation in this country. Both he and Fannye were concerned about human-nature relationships and the speed and impact of industrialization on the natural world. This concern is still mirrored by the author and editors who endeavored to tell her story. Their ultimate goal is that her life story serve as an inspiration to those who aspire to conserve our natural world. This book has left me in awe of Fannye Cook’s determination and beyond grateful for her tireless work. It is recommended for public and academic libraries.

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