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University Libraries

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Tell us about your background in libraries.

I first worked in the Renfrewshire Public Library System in Scotland where I worked as a temporary Special Projects Librarian performing inventory in branch libraries and then indexing 19th-century local newspapers. (Three young librarians alone in an old disused council building which was freezing – we wore gloves with the tips cut off so that we could still turn the pages -very Dickensian.)

My first permanent job was as a branch librarian in an underprivileged area of Dundee. I later went back to Renfrewshire and worked as a high school librarian before moving to the United States. I first worked in academic libraries as a cataloger and part-time computer operator at Old Dominion University Libraries in Norfolk, Va., where I eventually became head of Cataloging then head of Bibliographic Services. Subsequently, I moved to the University of California, Irvine, where I was the Associate University Librarian for Information Technology and Technical Services.

Describe your vision for Southern Miss Libraries.

I envision Southern Miss Libraries as the dynamic, intellectual heart of the campus. Our stated purpose is to support the teaching, learning and research mission of Southern Miss and my vision is that we do that in the most simple, elegant way. We must have constant dialogue with faculty and students regarding their needs and preferences. Then, we must, as far as possible, build our resources and mold our methods of delivery to meet those needs in the most accessible way. We must support them by providing the best academic and technical resources we can for their use while eliminating obstacles or requiring esoteric knowledge of libraries to navigate to what they need. We must show the students that they have a real support system in the library staff, whose goal is to support the student in identifying and using the best academic resource for their needs.

We will continue to focus on providing electronic resources as these serve all our faculty and staff on our multiple campuses and distance education sites. I hope the playing field will be leveled for all our students by our providing adequate computing and instructional support in the use of our academic resources. Our local communities should be invited and engaged for events and exhibits. Ultimately, I will work towards the libraries being viewed as a great place to study and learn.

What should more people know about Southern Miss Libraries?

The Libraries are here to support faculty and students – we want to hear from you and we will be responsive. Of course, compliments and constructive criticism are preferred! Also the libraries are open to the entire community. We are part of our communities and I want to develop more of a town and gown atmosphere both here and at the coast by welcoming our community to our facilities and events.
What is the number one challenge facing libraries today?

The biggest challenge is probably keeping up with ubiquitous and rapidly evolving technologies which we must implement quickly to remain useful and attractive to our users. It is also a challenge to be able to judge which technologies must be adopted and which may just be passing fads or gimmicks that will not bring us any lasting benefit. Of course, the underlying challenge here is funding. Bringing evolving technology and electronic library resources to our users is critical but also very expensive and it does not come as a one time cost.

What do you think of Hattiesburg and Southern Miss so far?

I am impressed by the Hattiesburg warmth – and not just the temperature! Everyone that I have met in town and on campus has been very friendly and helpful. And coming from Orange County, Calif., I am amazed and thrilled that everything is only 10 minutes away!

Do you have any favorite books? What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I don’t have any favorite books per se - I read an eclectic array of books. Most of my reading for pleasure is done when I travel, and I frequently travel to Scotland and like to pick up the latest Scottish best sellers. My guilty pleasure is reading gritty crime novels – and Scotland has some good crime authors such as Ian Rankin and Denise Mina. I also like Iain Banks and Alexander McCall Smith, whose detective writing is much gentler of course.

My two favorite activities in California were hiking and salsa dancing but I suspect I may have to find other activities in Hattiesburg.

ANN BRANTON ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF MLA

Ann Branton, Head of Bibliographic Services at Southern Miss Libraries, has been elected vice president/president-elect of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). A graduate of the University of North Texas, Ms. Branton has served Southern Miss Libraries for 18 years. She will become vice president of the association following the 2008 annual conference in October 2008, and will assume the presidency in December 2009 for a one-year term.

Ms. Branton’s first responsibility as vice president/president-elect will be to organize the association’s 2009 annual conference, which will be held in October 2009 at the Southern Miss Thad Cochran Center. The theme of the conference is “Eco-Friendly Libraries: Green for a Century,” to mark the centennial celebration of MLA, which was founded in 1909. Conference attendees will enjoy the festivities and programs on sustainability in libraries.

Ms. Branton is only the second library faculty to be elected as the vice president/president-elect of MLA, following Sherry Laughlin, Associate University Librarian for Library Service, who served in this office in 1992-93.

VIDEO PODCASTS AT SOUTHERN MISS LIBRARIES

Southern Miss Libraries has a new, fun way to learn about the facilities and services offered at Cook Library and at the Gulf Coast Library. Students, faculty and staff can now take a virtual tour of the library by watching video podcasts available on the Southern Miss Libraries homepage.

Special Collections Librarian Jennifer Brannock guides viewers to locations within each library and talks about the services offered to library users. The videos may be viewed from a personal computer or downloaded to a video iPod for a quick library tour on the go. The podcasts are available on the library’s Web site at www.lib.usm.edu/about_us/library-videos-and-podcasts.html.
**Herstory**

*Herstory* (HQ1101.H47) is a comprehensive microfilm collection of materials produced by and about the women's movement. The efforts that ultimately saw women in such positions as prime minister, Supreme Court justice and combat soldier are thoroughly documented here.

This set was assembled from the International Women's History (Periodical) Archive at the Women's History Research Center, which was originally housed in the Women's History Library at Berkeley, Calif. This compilation includes 821 newsletters, journals and newspapers on women's issues produced by civic, professional, religious and political groups. Most of the material dates from the crucial years 1968-74, with some titles dating as far back as 1956.

**Great Courses**

The *Great Courses* series offers fascinating lectures by outstanding university professors on a wide range of topics, including art, music, religion, history, philosophy and science. The *Great Courses* Series are primarily on CD, although some items are on DVD. Each course comes with a guidebook. In ANNA, use “Great Courses” in a “Title Keyword” Search to access over 200 items! The Teaching Company brings engaging professors into your home or car through courses on CD or DVD. Since 1990, great teachers from the Ivy League, Stanford, Georgetown and other leading colleges and universities have crafted 200 courses for lifelong learners. They provide the adventure of learning without the homework or exams almost anywhere and at any time you like: while commuting, jogging, or gardening. The video version of a course contains images such as charts, graphs, illustrations and physical experiments.

**ebrary Academic Complete**

*ebrary Academic Complete*, a collection of over 37,000 electronic books covering a wide range of subject areas, is now available from Southern Miss Libraries. *ebrary*’s electronic books from leading academic and professional publishers may be accessed from any Internet-connected PC. The *ebrary* e-books can be located through ANNA, the library’s online catalog. ANNA will give you details about the books and links to the online versions. *ebrary Academic Complete* is also available through the Databases list on the library’s Web site.

In order to read the electronic books, you need an *ebrary* Reader installed on your personal computer. If you are using library computers on campus, the special *ebrary* Reader software should already be installed. If you are accessing *ebrary* off campus, you will need to install the reader from the *ebrary* site, www.ebrary.com/corp/techReader.jsp. The *ebrary* Web site also has a HELP section that includes user guides, online training materials and FAQs.

**Westlaw Campus Research**

Southern Miss Libraries’ newest online legal search service, *Westlaw Campus Research*, provides an array of interconnected primary and analytical law databases. Through these databases, the researcher is connected to full-text information contained in a variety of law-related sources such as journals and law reviews, legal encyclopedias, law cases, statutes, and administrative materials. In addition, links are available to legal guides that provide overviews of such areas as business and commercial law, environmental law, health care law and several others.

**RefWorks**

*RefWorks* is a Web-based citation manager that allows you to compile, edit and format bibliographies by importing references or citations from online databases or by entering them manually into your personal RefWorks citation database. You can then insert the references into your finished paper or research in the citation style of your choice, such as APA, MLA or Turabian.

Southern Miss Libraries’ license provides RefWorks access to all current students, faculty and staff of the university. First-time users need to create a RefWorks account with a personal log-in and password. For instructions on creating your RefWorks account, go to the Southern Miss Libraries’ Web site, www.lib.usm.edu, click on Services and then click on RefWorks.
Special Collections recently launched a new interface for the Southern Miss Libraries’ Digital Collections. The new Web site features digital collections that represent a wide variety of materials held in McCain Library and Archives.

A selection of books and manuscript materials from the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection can be found in two digital collections: the de Grummond Children’s Literature Digital Collection and the H.A. and Margret Rey Digital Collection.

The de Grummond Children’s Literature Digital Collection contains a variety of illustrations, proofs, documents, and other materials from the library’s collections of noteworthy children’s book authors and publishers. Exciting new additions include Aesop Unveiled, a rare volume of Aesop’s fables published in 1731, and the diary of Amelia Siedler, a 10 year-old girl who documented her family’s 1896 journey from Iowa to Arkansas in a covered wagon.

The Rey Digital Collection features illustrations of Curious George, as well as drawings, correspondence, proofs and other materials from a variety of other books published by the Reys. It also includes images of over 100 pieces of pottery made by Margret Rey.

Materials from the historical manuscript collections in McCain Library and Archives can be found in two digital collections: the Historical Manuscripts Digital Collection and Historical Photographs and Illustrations Digital Collection. A selection of finding aids for manuscript collections relating to civil rights is currently available in the Southern Miss Libraries Finding Aids Digital Collection.

The Historical Manuscripts Digital Collection includes textual documents, such as letters, diaries and reports. Many of the items focus on civil rights in Mississippi, although an increasing number of items relate to other aspects of Southern and Mississippi history. New additions to this collection include 81 Civil War letters from the Granville and Mary Caroline Belcher Letters Collection. These letters illustrate the discomforts of life as a soldier on the front and the difficulties faced by the families waiting at home.

The Historical Photographs and Illustrations Digital Collection includes a growing selection of photos, drawings and illustrations. Many of the photos were taken in Mississippi during the civil rights era, but a growing number depict people and scenes in Hattiesburg, other parts of Mississippi and the South.

The University Archives Digital Collection contains a large selection of photographs and memorabilia documenting the history of The University of Southern Mississippi. This collection includes numerous photos of campus scenes and events from the 1910s-2000. Expect new items to be added regularly as the University continues to prepare for its upcoming Centennial Celebration in 2010.

The Editorial Cartoon Digital Collection contains over 1,000 cartoons representing more than 50 cartoonists in the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC). Most of the cartoons date from the 1960s and 1970s, and they document American social and political attitudes on topics such as the Civil Rights movement, Watergate, the Vietnam War, government bureaucracy, taxes and political corruption.

Almost 300 interview transcripts documenting the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi are available in the Oral History Digital Collection. The interviews were conducted by the Southern Miss Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage, and the physical transcripts are held in McCain Library and Archives.

Items from the Southern Miss Libraries’ Digital Collections are also part of the Mississippi Digital Library, which is the state’s first effort to develop a lasting cooperative digital library program. The recently updated Web site for the Mississippi Digital Library provides online access to a growing number of the state’s unique cultural heritage materials.

The Mississippi Digital Library was established in 2003, and originally focused on the Civil Rights era in Mississippi. During this initial project, a wide selection of letters, diaries, photographs, state and organizational records, and oral histories were digitized from Delta State University, Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, the University of Mississippi and The University of Southern Mississippi.

The ultimate aim of the Mississippi Digital Library is to provide access to primary source materials from museums, archives, libraries and other cultural heritage institutions throughout the state, covering a wide range of subject areas. It is slowly growing to include other institutions, as well as materials documenting other aspects of Mississippi history and culture. Recent additions include materials from Beauvoir, First Regional Library in northern Mississippi and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.


To learn more about The University of Southern Mississippi Digital Collections and the Mississippi Digital Library, please contact Laura Capell at laura.capell@usm.edu or 601.266.6493.
NEW WEB SITE FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

—— PEGGY PRICE, HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Southern Miss Libraries’ Special Collections has a new Web site at www.lib.usm.edu/spcol. The new site offers a comprehensive front page with the most common research activities available in one click. Search manuscript collections, guides and indexes with the search box tool, click to digital images from the Digital Collections link or the highlighted Collections list, and find books and periodicals by going to the Library Catalog. Web Links provides quick access to useful places like the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the official state of Mississippi homepage. Online forms for consultations, class instruction and reference questions are also available on the front page. Current exhibitions, along with the latest Item of the Month, are showcased here, with more detailed information on the Exhibits & Events page. A Research & Instruction page provides forms and guidelines for using special materials. Navigate to all Special Collections enterprises, including University Archives, Historical Manuscripts and the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection, from our new virtual home.

GUNTER LIBRARY HAS A NEW LOOK

—— JOYCE M. SHAW, HEAD LIBRARIAN, GUNTER LIBRARY

In July 2008, Gunter Library at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory took on a brand new look with the installation of new soft seating, display shelving for periodicals, computer tables, task chairs, office chairs and a circulation desk. Purchased with a Rotary International Zones 29 and 30 Hurricane Katrina Recovery donation, these new furnishings join 12 filing cabinets, lobby furniture, a photocopy machine and other smaller pieces of office equipment that were acquired as part of a $35,000 recovery grant received after Hurricane Katrina flooded the library with 13-15 inches of marsh water. Two large library tables have also replaced the reading area table that was salvaged following the hurricane and are scheduled for delivery by the beginning of the fall semester.

A centerpiece in the soft seating area is a card catalog that found new life as a coffee table. The heavy wooden cabinet was made mobile by adding four caster wheels. The 33.5” by 19” top is perfect as a work surface for a 750-piece puzzle that became a popular relaxation activity for students during the Summer Field Program held at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. The table has two pull-out surfaces suitable for sorting puzzle pieces or placing a laptop computer.

New Home page for Special Collections

New seating area in Gunter Library
The popular afternoon lecture series returns this fall with engaging talks on Mississippi-related topics. Southern Miss alumnus and local radio personality Ben Willoughby discussed the life and career of his mother, Mamie Willoughby, also known as Rose Budd Stevens on October 1. Mrs. Willoughby wrote homespun newspaper columns for almost 50 years and received awards for her writing from the National Press Women’s Association, National Federation of Press Women and Progressive Farmer Magazine. She authored several books, including From Rose Bud’s Kitchen and Sweetly Be! The McCain Library and Archives houses the Rose Budd Stevens Papers. For more information on the collection, visit www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/archives/m199.htm.

Dr. Chester “Bo” Morgan presents a talk on October 29 on race relations between the world wars, with a particular focus on the beginnings of the great migration. “The emigration of African-Americans out of Mississippi in the 1930s was particularly devastating to the Piney Woods,” says Dr. Morgan, professor of history at Delta State University. “The overdrawn popular image of Delta sharecroppers abandoning plows in the field to catch the train to Chicago has obscured the more significant flow of sawmill workers and other urban migrants.” Southern transplants in Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland and other urban areas created rich cultural centers in their new homes but not without disturbing the delicate racial balance with sometimes violent results. Dr. Morgan serves as chair of the History Department at Delta State. He is currently working on a new history of The University of Southern Mississippi that builds on his Dearly Bought, Deeply Treasured: the University of Southern Mississippi, 1912-1987,” published in 1987.

Camp Shelby, located just south of Hattiesburg, was originally a training ground for World War I soldiers. The long history of the facility and its occupants contributes to the story of the Pine Belt region in significant ways. Members of the Women’s Army Corps, the highly decorated Japanese-American 442 Regional Combat Team, and prisoners of war from the German Africa Corps all found themselves in southern Mississippi because of Camp Shelby. Mr. Chad Daniels, director of the camp’s Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, discusses the role of the training site in the history of the region and how the museum documents the state’s contributions to the military through its artifacts, archives, exhibits and programs. Mr. Daniels speaks on November 19.

Speaker Series presentations take place on Wednesday afternoons at 3 p.m. except for Dr. Morgan’s talk which starts at 3:30. Talks last about an hour and are open to the public.

**CHILDREN’S BOOK PREVIEW**

It’s that time of year again! The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection is pleased to announce its annual Children’s Book Preview. This year’s event will be held in the de Grummond exhibit room on the second floor of Cook Library on Sunday, November 2 from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Monday, November 3 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday’s events will include storytelling and other children’s activities in the Curriculum Materials Center on the first floor of Cook Library. Come by and browse through the hundreds of new children’s and young adult books that will be on display from publishers throughout the U.S. and Canada, and enjoy the festive music and clever decorations. With such a wide representation of subjects, genres, reading levels and formats, you are certain to find the perfect book for the perfect child. Don’t forget to bring your camera for pictures with Curious George!

Visitors will receive a book list with publication and ordering information to peruse at their own convenience, and internet access will be provided for those who wish to place their orders on-site.

Come and join us for a unique Southern Miss tradition, and Happy Holidays!

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**ELLEN RUFFIN, CURATOR OF THE DE GRUMMOND CHILDREN’S LITERATURE COLLECTION**
Now is the time to mark your calendars for the 42nd annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, to be held April 1-3, 2009, at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Thad Cochran Center. This year we honor our 42nd medallion recipient, Judy Blume. She will be giving the keynote speech Thursday afternoon, April 2, 2009. This looks to be an exciting year with major speakers including Ashley Bryan, Janet Spivey Gilchrist, Eloise Greenfield, John Green, Yuyi Morales and Arthur Yorinks. The Keats Lecture will be given by Pat Scales, current President of the Association for Library Service to Children, a unit of the American Library Association. For more information about the festival, contact Karen Rowell at 601.266.4510 or the School of Library and Information Science at 601.266.4228.
Cook Library has expanded services to meet the needs of Document Delivery patrons. Materials can be picked up Monday through Friday after 5 p.m. and on the weekend at the Circulation Desk. Just bring your Southern Miss ID to the Document Delivery office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or to the Circulation Desk in the evening or on the weekend and we’ll supply you with your item.

Your gift to the Southern Miss Libraries helps us provide quality library services and resources for our students and faculty. For more information about how you can support the Southern Miss Libraries, contact the University Foundation at 601.266.5602 or Dean Carole Kiehl at 601.266.4241.