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## From the GAs, Congratulations, Publications, and Presentations

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## From the GAs:

### GAs at Mississippi Library Association Conference

By Callie Wiygul

The MLA Conference in Natchez, October 23-26, 2012, marked my first foray into the imperceptible world of librarianship conferences. As a novice in this field, I relished the opportunity to attend and was eager to establish contacts with professionals and students within our field. My conference duties as an assistant to the professors and staff from the School of Library and Information Science varied, and each day was filled with bustle and conversation as I moved from one task to the next.

Along with Michelle Finerty, my fellow graduate assistant, our primary duty was to greet people and provide information to interested parties at the SLIS booth in the convention hall. This is where I met many of the excellent librarians from around the state and discussed many topics with them, from young adult literature to the British Studies program. In addition to meeting many wonderful people, I jumped at the opportunity to attend a few conference sessions, namely "Talk Dirty to Me" presented by Dr. Stacy Creel, and "Best of the Best: Free Reference Web Sites of 2012" presented by Dr. Catharine Bomhold.

During the course of that week, I met many new professionals from various parts of the state, all with quite diverse backgrounds and specialties, and engaged in conversations that were both insightful and helpful in furthering my knowledge of opportunities within our field. Certainly, I would make haste of any opportunity to attend professional conferences in the future. I look forward to the next MLA Conference this year and hope to see many of you again.

<http://library.msstate.edu/mlaconf/program.php>

## SLIS News:

### Ph.D. Student:

Andrea Moreau (MLIS 2006) is currently in the Ph.D. Instructional Technology program at USM.



GA and LIS 201 Instructor Michelle Finerty  
SLIS Booth at MLA 2012

## Congratulations:

MLIS student and GA Preston Salisbury is a member of the Graduate Student Senate and is a co-editor of [Synergy](#), a graduate student journal.

At Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in Natchez in October, Jaclyn Lewis was awarded the Peggy May Scholarship; Roberta Fotter, the Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship; and Kelly Bennett, the Anna M. Roberts Award. Beta Phi Mu Chapter President Mara Villa (MLIS 2009) presented Jennifer Nabzdyk with the 2012 Beta Phi Mu Award. [www.mlc.lib.ms.us/pdf/octnovdec2012online.pdf](http://www.mlc.lib.ms.us/pdf/octnovdec2012online.pdf)

Yellowstone Baptist College Library, Billings, Montana, under Director and MLIS student Jeannie Ferriss, is a community partner for Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys. Eileen Wright, Reference Librarian/Archivist at Montana State University Billings Libraries, is the director of the project, funded by an NEA/ALA grant to MSU Billings Library with programs planned for both libraries and a shared collection of books and films on Islam.

Tiffany Paige, JD (MLIS 2010) was selected as a Visiting Professor for the 2013 Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP) Conference at MVSU and as 1 of 10 participants for the Mississippi College Service-Learning Scholars' Program.

Jennifer Wann Walker (MLIS 2006), Director of Developmental Services Bureau at the Mississippi Library Commission will attend the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Peer-Learning Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in April.

Corey Vinson (MLIS 2009) is now Reference Librarian at Oxford Public Library, Oxford, MS.

Melody Pittman Dale (MLIS 11) is now Assistant Prof/Serials Cataloger at Miss. State Univ. Libraries.

Ellen Ruffin, Curator of [de Grummond Children's Literature Collection](#), was elected to the prestigious Laura Ingalls Wilder Committee of the Association for Library Services for Children (ALSC).

### Recent Presentations

Dr. Brenton Stewart, "On Free Labor: An Exploratory Investigation into the Motivations behind African American Contributions to Wikipedia," presented at the National Association of African American Studies Conference, Feb. 11-16, Baton Rouge, La.

Shane Hand (MLIS/History 2011) was invited lecturer on Civil Rights and the history of public libraries and children's librarianship in the South in early 1900s for a National Literacy Action Week (NLAW) Webinar sponsored by Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education (SCALE), UNC Chapel Hill.

### Recent Articles

Linda Ginn (MLIS 2003), "Map and Geographical Imagery in Editorial Cartoons," [The Primary Source](#) 31(2), Winter 2012.

Peter Klubek (MLIS 2011), "A Database Comparison of ERIC and Google Scholar," [Mississippi Libraries](#) 75(3): 66-69, Winter 2012.

Teresa S. Welsh & Stacy Creel, "Free Technology and Web 2.0 Tools for Your Library," *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship* 25(1), Spring 2013.

### LIS Student Author Liliana DeBarbieri



Lili DeBarbieri is a 3<sup>rd</sup> semester MLIS student and a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society at USM. She earned a BA in Environmental Studies & Education from Prescott College and works as a librarian in Tucson, AZ. Lili is very active in Arizona's library community, serving as new Chair of Arizona Library Association's International Interest Group, incoming Co-chair of Horner Fellowship Committee, on Grand Canyon Reader Award Selection Committee, and Arizona-New Mexico Book Awards.

Lili authored [A Guide to Southern Arizona's Historic Farms and Ranches: Rustic Southwest Retreats](#) (2012), a highly praised, best-selling travel narrative and guide to the area's best in agricultural tourism. She has presented at historical societies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and libraries on topics related to travel, the heritage of the Southwest and book publishing and she has been interviewed on TV and radio.

An accomplished freelance writer, Lili's articles and photography have been featured in print and online publications such as *Lighthouse Magazine*, *Alabama Living* and *Terrain*. She is currently at work on *Location Filming in Arizona: From Stagecoach to Star Wars, the Screen Legacy of the Grand Canyon State* (History Press, early next year). She hopes to use her archival training at USM to further contribute to preserving the heritage of her home state.

## Other Publications

Dr. Xinyu Yu authored “Exploring Visual Perception and Children’s Picture Books” in *Library & Information Science Research*, 34(4), 292-299, 2012.

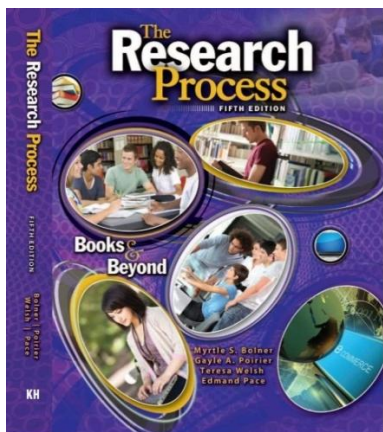
- Dr. Yu’s article discusses visual perception levels and impact of factors involved in children’s interpreting images of picture books. Thirty-one 3-to-5 year old children were briefly interviewed for images of picture books; younger children’s perception levels differed from older children.

Dr. Stacy Creel contributed a chapter, “Service Learning and Mentoring in the Preparation of LIS Students: One Method of Keeping Current,” to *Continuing Education for Librarians: Essays on Career Improvement through Classes, Workshops, Conferences, and More*, C. Smallwood, K. Harrod, & V. Gubnitskaia, eds. (pp. 156-63), McFarland, 2013.

- Acting as mentors for LIS students and partnering on service learning projects can keep practitioners abreast of issues, technology, and trends. Service learning and mentoring are great methods for bridging the gap between what is taught and skills knowledge, and competences needed in 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries *and* provide valuable service to the community and to libraries. In addition to traditional methods, mentoring and service learning are two free methods of staying current that are often overlooked.

A new 5<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Research Process: Books and Beyond* by Myrtle Bolner, Gayle A. Poirier, Teresa S. Welsh, and J. Edmand Pace is in press (Kendall Hunt).

- *The Research Process* is geared toward teaching information literacy to college undergrads. Text includes examples & exercises on how to locate, evaluate, and use information sources effectively.



## Other News

Dr. Stacy Creel was selected as the winner of the Exemplary Online Course Award presented by the Learning Enhancement Center for LEC Connects 2013. She received this honor for LIS 501: Reference and Information Sources and will be presented a plaque and monetary award. Dr. Creel the advisor for the new Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature: <http://www.usm.edu/library-information-science/graduate-certificate-youth-services-and-literature>

Dr. Teresa Welsh, who serves on the QQML Advisory Committee and International Scientific Committee, will chair sessions on bibliometric research and LIS graduate student research at [QQML13](#), June 4-7 in Rome, Italy. She is an Associate Editor of [QQML: An International Journal of Library and Information Science](#) and a contributing member of the writing team for the 2013 *Mississippi School Library Media Guide*

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*SLIS Connecting* is published biannually in February and September. If you have any student or alum news about a new position, publication, presentation, grant, or award, please send to [Stacy.Creel@usm.edu](mailto:Stacy.Creel@usm.edu) or [Teresa.Welsh@usm.edu](mailto:Teresa.Welsh@usm.edu)

