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Library News

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2021

## May 2021 Library News

University Libraries

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MAY 2021

# Library News

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AT SOUTHERN MISS

## University Libraries Spring User Survey



Although the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected how we operate in University Libraries, our faculty and staff continued to strive to deliver the best possible level of service to our University community. As we begin to move toward normal operations, we would like to hear from you.

Please take a moment to complete the [spring user survey](#) so we can continue to serve our students, faculty and staff at the highest level.

The survey will be available through May 7. We appreciate your feedback.

## Gulf Coast Library's Brandon Schmid to Present at Infinity Space Center Reopening



Brandon Schmid, access services financial coordinator at the Gulf Coast Library, has been invited to present at the Infinity Science Center's reopening event on May 28.

Schmid's presentation, *Concepts of Artificial Intelligence*, will explore creating artificial intelligence (AI) through supervised, unsupervised, and regression methods, and will also examine what our digital presence could be evolving into and how that could affect society.

Schmid's interest in AI stems from the growth of our digital interaction during the pandemic. He says, "Although AI dates back to the 1950s with the invention of the first computer games, it is not yet sophisticated enough for self-awareness, but research efforts are working to make it equal to human intelligence."

Following a presentation to the University's Association of Office Professionals meeting in April, Schmid was invited by Steven Cruthirds, Infinity Science Museum educator, to present at the opening.

Schmid has been with University Libraries since August of 2019. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Logistics, Trade, and Transportation at Southern Miss.

# Spotlight on...

## Justin Easterday

Education and Human Sciences Librarian  
Gulf Coast Library



**Where are you from?** Denver, Colorado

**Favorite part of your job?** Helping others find the perfect article, book, or archived item.

**Which talent would you most like to have?** Flying first person view drones. I just started this hobby, so eventually I will be more talented and not flying into walls.

**Most prized possession?**  
My grandpa's pocketknife

**Something most don't know about you?** I am left-handed and outside of work I have a sarcastic sense of humor and brew hard cider

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Since I am still getting used to living on the Gulf Coast, it would be shrimp.

**Something you hate but wish you loved?** This is not at the love level, but rubber bands. They should be helpful, but in the archive world they damage items.

**Something you wish you could do really well?** Carpentry and be able to build DIY projects, such as a cherry wood bookshelf.

## SHOUTOUT to... University Libraries' Faculty

### April Conference Presentations

#### Hali Black

The Association of College and Research Libraries Conference  
April 13-16, 2021  
On-demand Session and Virtual Poster  
*The Library as a Partner for Transfer Student Success: Supporting Students in Transition*

#### Jennifer Brannock

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival  
April 14, 2021  
Discussion of *A de Grummond Primer: Highlights of the Children's Literature Collection*  
Panel Discussion

Digital Lagniappe Digital Humanities Conference at Southern Miss  
April 16, 2021

Society of Mississippi Archivists Annual Conference  
April 16, 2021  
*Keeping Archives on the Front Burner through Social Media*  
Co-presented with SLIS grad student Jen Ottinger

#### Ellen Ruffin

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival  
April 14, 2021  
Panel Discussion  
Discussion of *A de Grummond Primer: Highlights of the Children's Literature Collection*

**Tisha Zelner and Joyce Shaw,  
Moderated by Jamie Stanfield**  
Southeastern Library Association  
New Members Round Table  
April 16, 2021

## Mangrum, Stanfield and Thomas Awarded Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant



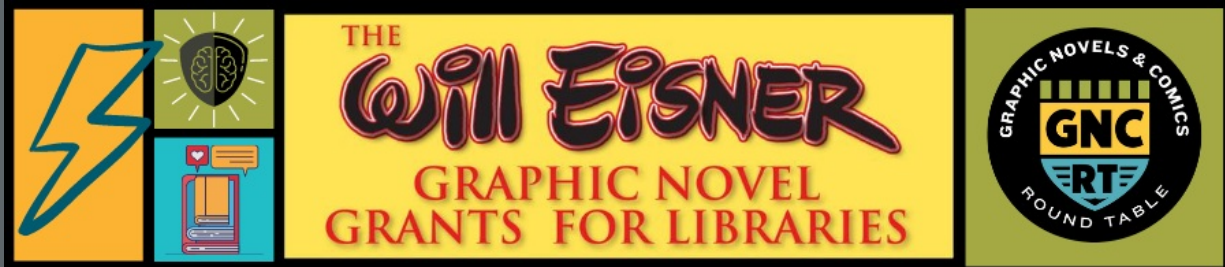
Dr. Sarah Mangrum, access services and assessment librarian, Jamie Stanfield, science nursing and health librarian, and Dr. James Thomas, assistant professor in the School of Education, received the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant from the American Library Association (ALA).



The Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant provides support to a library for the initiation of a graphic novel service, program or initiative and will encourage public awareness on the rise and importance of graphic literature, sequential art, and comics as a literary medium. The objective of the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries is to facilitate library-generated programs and services that will promote graphic novels to library patrons and to the local community.



The grant is an award of \$4,000 to support initiatives that align with the objective of the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries. In addition, from the book publishers and the Eisner Foundation, the winning libraries will receive a graphic novel collection of Will Eisner's work and biographies about Will Eisner\* (comprising approximately 75 books), and a selection of the winning titles from the current year's Will Eisner Awards\* at Comic-Con International (comprising approximately 100 books).



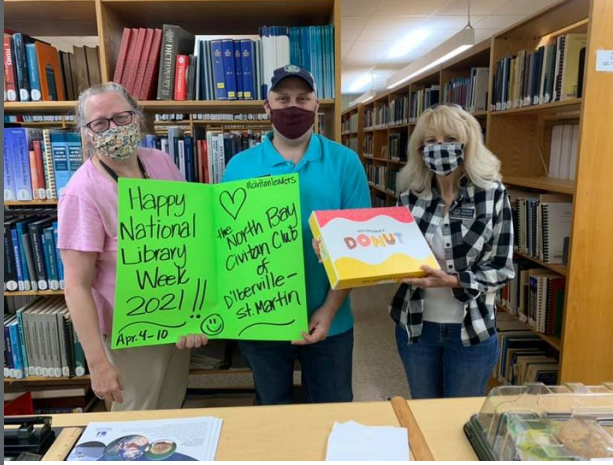
## Student Curated Exhibits on Display



University Libraries' Special Collections is currently displaying exhibits curated by three Southern Miss students. This year's exhibits feature the work of two English graduate students and a graduate student in library and information science.

Special Collections' student curator program provides students the opportunity to curate one-case exhibits featuring materials from the collections. The exhibits will be on display on the third floor of McCain Library and Archives in room 305 through March 2022.

## Gunter Library Celebrates National Library and Graduate Student Appreciation Weeks



North Bay Civitan Club President Keith Wilson and Club member Debbie Wilson visited Gunter Library on Thursday, April 8, to celebrate National Library Week. Keith and Debbie brought a dozen donuts for library staff and patrons.

Over the last year Gunter Library has partnered with the North Bay Civitans to collect food for local food pantries at Thanksgiving, to collect teddy bears for law enforcement, and to decorate holiday cards for veterans at the Biloxi VA Medical Center.

On Wednesday, April 7, as part of Graduate Student Appreciation Week, Gunter Library partnered with the Division of Coastal Sciences to hold an ice cream social on the Field Studies Building porch. Nearly 20 students and faculty attended.

Letter from Esphyr Slobodkina with a note by Margaret Wise Brown  
(December 16, 1940)

# Special Collections

## ITEM OF THE MONTH



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE LATEST ITEM OF THE MONTH](#)