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## Student Associations and Upcoming Events

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## Student Associations News

### LIS Student Association (LISSA)

#### Officers for 2013-14

President – Emilie Aplin

Vice President – Colleen Smith

Secretary/Webmaster – Jennifer Crawley

Faculty Advisors – Dr. Xinyu Yu, Dr. Matthew Griffis

Dr. Matthew Griffis, who recently joined the SLIS faculty from the University of West Ontario, is serving with Dr. Xinyu Yu as LISSA faculty advisor. LISSA is anticipating a book drive service project this fall.

Looking back on the year of 2012-2013, LISSA continued its tradition of serving LIS students and the community. LISSA's Facebook page is an active forum for all the LIS students. A new LISSA T-shirt was designed and dozens sold at the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in Natchez and Children's Book Festival. Ginger Rogers from Plainville, Indiana was selected for the Student-to-Staff program at ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

LISSA's book drive was well received in the university. In December 2012, LISSA collected and donated 280 picture books to the USM Children's Center for Communication & Development. The Center's director and former USM President Aubrey Lucas sent letters to commend LISSA's impact on young children's lives at the center.

LISSA officers assisted the Children's Book Festival and met with students and alumni who attended the festival. LISSA's book donation was featured in Southern Miss Now (<http://www.usm.edu/news/>) and the Children's Center for Communication & Development's Web page.

LISSA is an American Library Association student group and assists the annual Children's Book Festival and Miss. Library Association Annual Conference. <https://www.facebook.com/southernmisslissa>

## REPORT: ALA/LISSA Student-to-Staff Program

By Ginger Rogers, Director, Owen County Public Library, Spencer, IN



The highlight of 2013 for me, so far, was attending the ALA conference in Chicago. I was amazed that I was chosen to receive an ALA scholarship to represent USM at ALA (I know its clichéd, and not completely true, but I was telling everyone “I can’t believe this, I never win anything!”). Then, besides the opportunity to attend ALA and visit Chicago, the icing on the cake was the opportunity to work for the ALA conference staff. My job in the Student-to-Staff program was reporting for *ALA Cognotes*. It was my dream job. I was given assignments to cover two presentations per day during the 6-day conference, but we were also encouraged to write about any other presentations we attended.

The conference was held primarily at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center. I've never been to any conference of this magnitude, with multiple presentations taking place at any given time on nearly every library-related topic. There were presentations by authors, as well as book-signings; presentations on technology in a hundred different forms; presentations on bookmobiles, library buildings, library furnishings, library insurance, library fund-raising, library programming, adult literacy, early childhood literacy, library marketing, and the future of libraries just to name a few topics. I was glad for the *Cognotes* assignments because choosing on my own was hard work! Some librarians had more focus if they were exclusively children's librarians or academic librarians, but I wished there were three of me, because I wanted to take back all the information that applied to our library that I could.

It was a nearly overwhelming experience. I don't even know how to describe the crowd, or the number of exhibits, the buzz of excitement when the exhibit hall opened each day, the hero worship taking place as attendees joined lines that snaked through the exhibit hall to get an autograph from one of the many authors who attended, and the impressiveness that the City of Chicago surrendered a small fleet of buses to shuttle attendees back and forth from the conference hall to the hotels, or just as impressive and convenient, the fact that the U. S. Postal service set up a post office inside the exhibit hall and was available for us to ship home boxes of books and other materials that were bought or given away. The articles I wrote on the events that I attended are available online (<http://ala13.ala.org/cognotes>).

#### Opening Session:

*Think like a Freak* author and economist, Steven Levitt encourages out-of-the-box thinking. He celebrates the fact that Internet Web sites, e-mail, blogs, social media, etc. give people a chance to communicate and work together on problems despite the distance between them. He advocates that people need a place to think and innovative tools with which to solve problems. Libraries, he asserts, can provide both.

#### Bookmobile Parade:

Since our library just bought a bookmobile last year, I was excited about the opportunity to view award-winning bookmobiles, look at the physical equipment and various kinds of technology that can be implemented, to hear about the various ways they are being used, what they have to offer, their programs, and future plans.

#### Reading Program Presentation:

I also attended a display of materials from various libraries' award-winning reading programs. Many of these were summer reading programs. I brought back lots of materials from this presentation to look at more carefully and to share with the staff for ideas for future programs at our library.

#### Author, Ann Patchett:

Ann Patchett, author and Nashville book store owner gave an inspirational presentation advocating providing effective readers' advisory for our patrons.

Leading by example, she is an ardent reader and has been known to snatch books out of her customer's hands, substituting something she feels sure they'll enjoy more! Matching books with readers is her specialty; her love affair with books is evident. I left her presentation with a long list of "must-reads".

Oliver Stone & Peter Kuznick (Really! Oliver Stone!): Stone and Kuznick have recently finished work on a documentary about American history that rarely gets taught in schools at least below the high school level. Their distress that the American public knows so little of our own history, or that the public only knows the watered-down version of historical events led to heavy research on the subject involving many hundreds of volumes borrowed from libraries (Kuznick joked that he still had stacks of books waiting to be returned to his local library). There were so many details that could not be covered in the 10-part documentary (although, they assured the crowd there was far more information packed into their film than the average documentary), that they decided they needed to write a book with documentation. The result is *The Untold History of the United States*, an 800+ page volume of history from dropping the atomic bomb on Japan through the Cold War and the fall of Communism.

ALA 2013 conference handouts are available online; <http://ala13.ala.org/sessions/handouts>

I'm so thankful for the opportunity to attend the convention. I feel that it was important as a library director just to have that experience. I made new connections with other librarians and strengthened connections with librarians in my home state. I brought back ideas and information that we are considering, implementing, and working into future plans in our library.

I came back home ready to take as many staff members as I can to the Indiana Library Federation Conference coming up next month. I know it will be a conference on a far smaller scale, but I hope it will capture some of the same educational and inspirational spirit I experienced in Chicago. Thank you so much for the opportunity to go to Chicago. I hope it won't by any means be my last ALA conference.

## Southern Miss Student Archivists (SMSA)

### Officers for 2013-14

President: – Cole Smith

Vice President – Rob Richards

Media/Public Relations Coordinator – Callie Wiygul

Co-Chairs, Educational Outreach Committee – tool

Faculty Advisor – Dr. Teresa S. Welsh

SMSA students had a busy, productive spring and summer. President Cole Smith coordinated with Learning Enhancement Center videographers and de Grummond Children's Literature Curator Ellen Ruffin and Archivist Jennifer Brannock to produce a series of videos to be used in online courses related to archives and to children's literature. The videos are available on the LEC YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usmlec/videos>

In April, Cole Smith, Callie Wiygul, Tristin Triplett, and Phillip Carter attended the Society of Mississippi Archivists Conference at Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi. USM Archivist Jennifer Brannock and Cole co-presented "Shooting the Messenger: Creating Videos to Enhance Online Distance Education."

Callie Wiygul, Cole Smith, and Sarah Himel attended the Society of American Archivists Conference in New Orleans, August 14-16, where they worked as recruiters at the SLIS booth. Cole presented a poster at the conference as did SLIS alum Erin Wimmer; another USM alum Shugana Williams participated in the Congressional Papers Roundtable.

Congratulations to three SMSA members who completed national archival internships this summer: Kate Brunelle interned at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.; Callie Wiygul interned at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, Washington, D.C.; and Lili DeBarbieri interned at the National Park Service Cultural Center, Tuscon, AZ.

If would like to join or support the Southern Miss Student Archivists, email [teresa.welsh@usm.edu](mailto:teresa.welsh@usm.edu) and/or "Like" SMSA on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Southern-Miss-Student-Archivists-Association/203760579638985>

## Archival Digitization Workshop

By Cole Smith



On April 17<sup>th</sup> *Tips, Tricks, and Solutions for Archival Digitization* workshop was held at Delta State University led by Blues Curator Greg Johnson and Digital Initiatives Librarian Kathryn Michaelis from the University of Mississippi.

Going into the workshop I assumed I was tech-savvy enough that I already had a fairly good comprehension on the subject matter but that turned out not to be the case. Being a grad student and never really working in a digital archival environment, I had not realized how many considerations there are on how to present the material, to store the material, and the choices between outsourcing and doing work in-house. We also learned about standards for saving and displaying information, from general file size and type to which type should be used in different formats and how to effectively standardize metadata.

Greg and Kathryn were very engaging teachers and explained things in a very comprehensible manner. They were very enthused about the subject and also surprisingly young, which was reassuring for someone who will soon enter the job market.

I enjoy working with technology and would like to incorporate that into whatever position I may end up in after graduation. The workshop gave me a good basis for how to effectively digitize material, the how's and why's of setting up a digital archive, and how to maintain data integrity. These tips would help any institution, from a small local library, to a large and well-funded archive.

## Archival Internship at the Smithsonian

By Callie Wiygul

While closing in on the completion of my first year in the Master of Library and Information Science program at USM, I decided that a summer archival internship would provide the necessary experience and perspective for me to excel in the field. I chose to apply for a number of archival internships to increase my chances of receiving an offer. After weeks of submitting application packages and waiting for responses, I was selected for an archival internship at the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art (AAA) in Washington, D.C. This internship served as both an internship and a practicum, which is required in pursuant with the graduate certificate in archives and special collections.

For eight weeks last summer, I was the Graduate Legacy Finding Aid Encoded Archival Description (EAD) Conversion Intern at AAA. I was charged with a Smithsonian-wide archival project to convert legacy archival finding aids to the EAD format using Archivists' Toolkit software and database. Participating units included the National Air and Space Museum Archives, Archives Center at the National Museum of American History, Freer Sackler Gallery Archives, and AAA. However, this was so much greater than a practicum; the experience facilitated a huge leap of professional progression.

During my tenure at the AAA, I learned how to encode a finding aid from scratch; became accustomed to working with Archivists' Toolkit, an open-source software program utilized extensively in digital archival projects; assisted my supervisor in Smithsonian-wide training sessions using Archivists' Toolkit and another open-source software program, Steady; and was chosen to lead a presentation about Steady to the entire AAA Processing Department staff.

At the end of the eight weeks, I converted twelve large legacy finding aids (some with container lists above 200 boxes, literally thousands of items) into the EAD format. Accordingly, I was exposed to the intricacies associated with archival descriptive standards and engaged in conversations about the evolution of best practices.

Naturally, the Smithsonian Institution and the greater Washington D.C. area provided many opportunities for networking, and the contacts I made have already proven to be fruitful for my post-graduate career. In addition to brown bag luncheon sessions in which AAA professionals apprise interns on their career trajectories, we had myriad opportunities for professional development.

Information sessions, open houses, private tours (of the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court) and volunteer opportunities were in abundance. Above all else, I was *challenged* - wonderfully and continually challenged in a collegial and professional environment. Many AAA interns go on to work for AAA during their careers, which is exactly why I advise students to APPLY for internships. Even if you think you do not have shot, just APPLY. The experience is worth it.

For information on internship opportunities with AAA, go to:

<http://www.aaa.si.edu/aboutus/opportunities>



## Upcoming Events

Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) 2013 Conference, Hilton Doubletree, Omaha, NE, September 25-28.

Mississippi Library Association (MLA) 2013 Annual Conference, Imperial Palace Hotel, October 16-18.

Association for Information Science and Technology 2013 Conference (ASIST), Le Centre Sheraton, Montreal, Canada, November 1-5.

American Association of School Librarians (AASL) 2013 Conference, Hartford, CT, November 14-17.

American Library Association Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January 24-28, 2014.

## British Studies, June 27 – July 28, 2013

Teresa S. Welsh, Ph.D.

The British Studies LIS course, taught in London and Edinburgh during the month of July, was a wonderful, enriching experience. This past summer, seventeen LIS graduate students from nine universities across the country earned six graduate credit hours.

The class featured lectures by British librarians, archivists, and curators on-site in historic libraries, archives, museums, and special collections. New sites visited this year include the Museum of London Archaeology Archive (<http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/>), the University of Edinburgh New Library and Rare Books Collection, and the Beatrix Potter Collections at Blythe House.



British Studies 2013 LIS Students, Bodleian Library  
University of Oxford, UK



Museum of London Archaeology Archive (2013)

To view the 2013 British Studies blog with photo album and links to student blogs, visit:

<http://usmbritishstudies13.blogspot.co.uk/>

For information about British Studies 2014, send an email to [teresa.welsh@usm.edu](mailto:teresa.welsh@usm.edu)