Student Associations and Upcoming Events

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LISSA (Library & Information Science Student Association) played an active role in several events during the fall 2013. In October, as part of the ALA Student-to-Staff Program, LISSA sponsored an essay contest open to all SLIS students with the winner receiving travel funds to attend the 2014 ALA annual meeting. Requirements included an active ALA student membership and a brief essay on the role professional associations will play in librarianship during the 21st century. Callie Wiygul was selected as the winner and will attend the ALA annual meeting in Las Vegas in June. Way to go, Callie!

Each semester, LISSA members participate in a service project. This fall, LISSA officers created an online wish list for donations to the Give a Child a New Book program, an annual book drive sponsored by Friends of University Libraries and the Favre 4 Hope Foundation in conjunction with the Salvation Army. In previous years, the program focused on donations from Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast.

Embracing the online environment of SLIS, LISSA’s contribution of an Amazon wish list allowed donations to be sent from anywhere in the world, greatly increasing the number of potential donors. The online wish list is a partnership LISSA would like to continue each year to encourage participation on a larger scale.

The April LISSA meeting was broadcast live via Blackboard Collaborate. In the future, a Blackboard link to access upcoming meetings will be sent out on the SLIS listserv in advance so all interested SLIS students may participate in meetings remotely.

During the spring 2014 semester, LISSA members are working with Dr. Stacy Creel on her Zoo Books Box Project. Per Dr. Creel, the goal is “to incorporate books and reading into the zoo experience and to expose children to information about the zoo animals, conservation, and ecology.” SLIS volunteers are contributing by locating age appropriate print and online resources about zoo animals for inclusion in the boxes. SLIS students may also participate by donating books. Questions regarding this project should be directed to Dr. Creel.

In April, LISSA members volunteered during the annual Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, April 9-11. Volunteers assisted speakers, distributed evaluations, collected attendance stats, and staffed a SLIS table. LISSA t-shirts were available to purchase, and students and alums in attendance stopped by to say hello. LISSA also maintains an active Facebook page, which features upcoming events and posts of interest to SLIS students.

https://www.facebook.com/southernmisslissa
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 –
Phillip Carter, Janine Whitecotton
Faculty Advisor – Dr. Teresa S. Welsh

Southern Miss Student Archivists News

As part of her archival practicum, Marie Schroeter curated an exhibit in the Cook Library of pop-up books from the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection. http://www.lib.usm.edu/degrummond/


Sarah Clay was awarded a summer internship at the Newseum in Washington, DC. A Newseum intern works with a 35,000 piece historic print news collection at their support center in Laurel, Maryland. http://newseum.org

Archival Practicum at McCain Library and Archives by Rob Richards

One of the greatest opportunities offered within the School of Library and Information Science is the Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections, which requires an archival practicum.

The archival practicum course allows the student to enter the world of archives and special collections at a basic entry level position and work with professionals in the field to get a real life feel of what archives and collections have to offer.

Out of various opportunities in the Hattiesburg area, I decided to conduct my archival practicum at the McCain Library and Archives at the University of Southern Mississippi. Starting in early January and continuing throughout this semester, I have learned an enormous amount from the highly experienced and capable staff at McCain. From the foundations of knowledge discussed in the various archival classes, I soon found myself putting archival theory to practical use working with several collections such as the RG2 collection, which featured various photos from 1998, the Ogletree Collection, and now the Intercollegiate Athletics Group Collection. It has been and will continue to be a rich and rewarding experience that could be your experience as well.

An archival practicum, LIS 648, requires 150 hours of work in an archive or special collection. http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w146169/648syllabus.htm
Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival 2014

More than 400 librarians, teachers, faculty, and students attended the USM Children’s Book Festival, Apr. 9-11, in Hattiesburg to see an outstanding slate of authors and illustrators including M.T. Anderson, Kathi Appelt, Mary Hamilton, Karen Nelson Hoyle, Leda Schubert, David Small and Sarah Stewart, and attend a variety of breakout sessions and workshops. https://www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival/.

Christopher Paul Curtis (right) was awarded the 2014 Southern Miss Medallion by USM President Dr. Rodney Bennett.

After graduating from high school in Flint, Michigan, Christopher Paul Curtis attended college at nights while working on a Buick assembly line. After working for 18 years, he took a year off work to write his first book, The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 (1995), which won several awards. His second book, Bud, Not Buddy (1999), was the first book to win both the Newbery Medal and The Coretta Scott King Author Award. His latest book is The Mighty Miss Malone (2012).

The Book Festival is sponsored by the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection and the USM School of Library and Information Science. The Ezra Jack Keats Lecture and Book Awards are sponsored by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

Coffee and cookie breaks on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons were sponsored by LISSA and SMSA student groups.

Upcoming Events

Elizabeth La Beaud, editor of The Primary Source, is seeking articles/essays on collections related to the Civil Rights Movement and Mississippi Freedom Summer. http://www.msarchivists.org/publications

Louisiana/Southern Mississippi (LaSoMi) Special Libraries Association meeting, Wednesday, May 7, 10am, Gulf Coast Research Library, Ocean Springs. http://www.usm.edu/gcrL/.


British Studies 2014, June 26 – July 27

The British Studies Program is headquartered in King's College Dorm in London near Waterloo Station, a short walk from Westminster, Trafalgar Square, and the theater district. Students earn 6 hours of college credit with guest lectures by British experts on-site in historic libraries, archives, and museums. See the British Studies link at: http://www.usm.edu/slis.

An extra treat for students this summer is “Comics Unmasked” British Library exhibit of mainstream and underground comics such as those by Neil Gaiman, Alan Moore, Grant Morrison, and Posy Simmonds. http://www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/
Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library is hosting the traveling exhibition, *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and the March on Washington, 1963*, March 24th - May 1st, presented by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and NEH. The exhibition will travel to over 50 venues across the nation and **Southern Miss Gulf Coast is the only site the exhibit will visit in Mississippi.** The exhibit is free and open to the public at the USM Gulf Park Campus, Long Beach.

*President Lyndon B. Johnson Signs the Civil Rights Act, July 2, 1964*

*Image Credit: Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum*