


2015

SLIS Director's Update

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SLIS Update
Teresa Welsh, Ph.D., Professor and Director

Welcome to this special historical issue of *SLIS Connecting* to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first class to earn a MS in Library Science. A slide show of historic images, "History of Library Science @ Southern Miss" is available online: <http://www.slideshare.net/drtwelsh/>

Dr. Griffis had a wonderful presentation on the history of library science at USM at the recent Mississippi Library Association Conference and this issue of *SLIS Connecting* includes a reprint of an article he authored that was published in *Mississippi Libraries* (2015), "Library Science Education at Southern Miss: A History of Survival and Growth."

News in Fall 2015:

- SLIS and the Children's Book Festival co-sponsored the Children's Tent at the Mississippi Book Festival in Jackson, August 21-22, as well as a panel on illustrated books moderated by SLIS alum and de Grummond curator Ellen Ruffin
- Council on Community Literacy and Reading, founded and directed by Dr. Catharine Bomhold, distributes hundreds of children's books to free little libraries and various community spaces in the area and sponsors outreach events that promote literacy and reading.
- More flexible admission requirements: GRE or Miller Analogies scores; test scores may be waived for those with graduate degrees
- Dr. Elizabeth Haynes LIS Endowed Scholarship created to honor retired SLIS Director Dr. Haynes. To contribute to the scholarship, fund #2199, contact www.usmfoundation.com/. For a donation in honor of or memory of someone, the Foundation will send the honoree or family a nice card and the donor a thank-you note.

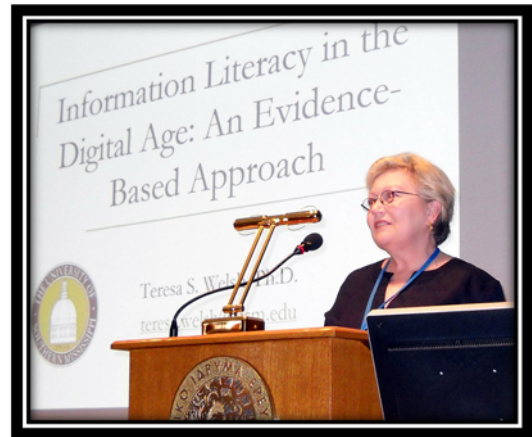
Coming in 2016:

- New online MLIS/Instructional Technology MS degree – first USM dual online master's degree
- Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival April 6-8 with Medallion winner Jacqueline Woodson and other noted authors and illustrators. 2016 will be the 50th anniversary of de

Grummond Children's Literature Collection, founded by SLIS faculty member Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond as an educational resource for her students.

- Revisions in the MLIS with Licensure degree (awaiting final approval): students will take LIS 589: School Library Practicum instead of LIS 511. Five electives include LIS 508: School Libraries, LIS 516: Technology in the School Library, LIS 607: School Library and the Curriculum, and choice of two: LIS 517: Children's Lit or LIS 518: YA Lit or LIS 590: Library Instruction.

Enjoy this issue of *SLIS Connecting*!



Dr. Teresa Welsh earned MLIS and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee. Her interests include bibliometric research, historic and archival studies, information literacy, visualization of information and spatial analysis. She joined the faculty of the USM School of Library and Information Science in 2003, was promoted to Full Professor in 2014 and SLIS Director in 2015.

Issue cover images:

Top (left): Dr. Anna Roberts and 3 library science students, 1952 (courtesy McCain Special Collections, USM Libraries); (right) Cook Library Reference Room, 1980s.

Bottom (left): Dr. Antonio Rodriguez-Buckingham, 1990; student on computer in Cook Library (courtesy USM Communications, University Archives).



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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COLLECTION

Each year, more than 400 teachers and librarians from across the nation come to the University of Southern Mississippi to hear major speakers and participate in concurrent sessions and workshops as authors, illustrators, and experts in the field share their knowledge and experience. Registration information can be found at: <https://www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival/registration-rates-0>.