

2016

SLIS Director's Update

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SLIS Update

Teresa S. Welsh, Ph.D., Professor and Director

Welcome to *SLIS Connecting* and the special topic issue on youth services. Spring and summer 2016 was an exciting and eventful time:

- The spring 2016 Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival had record attendance – more than 500 librarians, teachers, scholars, and students attended or participated.
www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival
- Sixteen wonderful scholars from across the U.S. participated in the 2016 British Studies LIS class.
- Martha Attridge Bufton, University of Alberta, Edmonton, won the IFLA LIS Student Paper Award for her 2015 USM British Studies paper, "Tell More Stories: Information Seeking, Literacy, and the Design of a Culturally Responsive Instruction Program for First-Year Aboriginal Students." Martha presented the paper at the annual IFLA World Library and Information Congress.
- SLIS alum and young adult writer Ash Parsons, author of *Still Waters* (2015), was awarded the PEN/Phyllis Naylor Working Writer \$5,000 Fellowship to complete *A Chemical Distance*.
- Four SLIS alums participated in the 8th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries (QQML) International Conference at the University of London Senate House. Erin Doerner, Mary Dugan, and Kayla Warner presented their British Studies paper and Janine Whitecotton Smith presented her master's research paper.
- Dr. Creel was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and Dr. Griffis was awarded a major IMLS research grant to research segregated Carnegie libraries. SLIS faculty and students continue to be productive and a list of their scholarly activities is included in this issue's "From the GA's" column.

New in Fall 2016:

We are delighted to welcome a new faculty member, Dr. Chris Cunningham, who earned a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Cunningham was awarded the 2015 ASIS&T ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award for

Governmental Structures, Social Inclusion, and the Digital Divide: A Discourse on the Affinity between the Effects of Freedom and Access to Online Information Resources.

Revisions in the MLIS degree with school library licensure emphasis were approved. Students may take LIS 589: School Library Practicum, instead of LIS 511: Collection Development. Five school licensure courses include LIS 508: School Libraries, LIS 516: Technology in the School Library, and LIS 607: School Library and the Curriculum, as well as their choice of two: LIS 517: Children's Lit, LIS 518: YA Lit or LIS 590: Library Instruction.

Thank you for your contributions to the Dr. Elizabeth Haynes LIS Endowed Scholarship (fund #2199). 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.
www.usmfoundation.com/

Enjoy this special 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.