

2016

SLIS Director's Update

USM School of Library and Information Science

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Recommended Citation

USM School of Library and Information Science (2016) "SLIS Director's Update," *SLIS Connecting*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.

DOI: 10.18785/slis.0502.01

Available at: <http://aquila.usm.edu/slisconnecting/vol5/iss2/2>

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SLIS Update

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

Welcome to the fall/winter issue of *SLIS Connecting*. Fall semester 2016 has been an eventful one:

- SLIS celebrated the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival with a gala reception at the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference in Vicksburg on Wednesday evening, October 19th. For more information on this event and on the upcoming book festival, see the article in this issue by Karen Rowell.
- Dr. Griffis presented on the history of the book festival and Dr. Bomhold on collection development for school libraries (with additional materials contributed by Dr. Creel).
- I was happy to present a SLIS update at the Alumni Breakfast; seek feedback from students, alums, and supporters at the Focus Group session, and present on why and how to get started in the MLIS program, which was uploaded to SlideShare:
www.slideshare.net/drtwelsh/interested-in-an-online-alaaccredited-mlis-degree

New in Fall 2016:

In addition to a new faculty member, Dr. Chris Cunningham, we are happy to welcome a new adjunct, Ms. Jenniffer Stephenson, who is teaching a course on public libraries. Jenniffer is Director of the Greenwood-Leflore Public Library System and serves as an officer in the Mississippi Library Association and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

Coming in Spring 2017:

SLIS is in the process of hiring an Instructor to begin in spring 2017 for teaching and advising in the growing undergraduate program. The Undergrad Advisor, Mr. Edmand Pace, has been instrumental in growing this program from a small number to almost 100 students with LIS major or minor. The Bachelor of Science degree in LIS is all online now and includes students from across the U.S. just as in the MLIS program.

British Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections study-abroad course is accepting applications for 2017. The program will be based in London at the University of Westminster Marylebone Hall during June 2017. Undergrad or graduate students may earn 6 credit hours. More information, including a course syllabus with tentative schedule, is available at www.usm.edu/library-information-science/british-studies

Thank you for your support of SLIS and 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/

Here's to a wonderful holiday and a great new year!



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.