

August 2017

Student Associations: News and Events

USM School of Library and Information Science

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Student Associations News
LISSA Update, Spring/Summer 2017

Charlotte Mona Roi, President
Brittany Tibbett, Vice-President
Keisha Coulter, Secretary
Tammy White, Webmaster
Dr. Cindy Yu, Faculty Advisor



Charlotte Mona Roi
ALA Conference, Chicago

I was asked to participate in the Student to Staff program at the annual ALA Conference in Chicago this year. It was my first conference so I had no expectations, no ideas about what I would gain from attending. I went because it seemed like the right thing to do. While there were ample speakers and round-tables about things that were so specific to my interests like Anthropological Librarianship and Author Censorship what I walked away from was more than what any of those seminars could give: introspection and friendship.

While, regrettably, it seemed that my required hours at the Press Table coincided with quite a few of the seminars and book signings I would have liked to have attended, like *Lemony Snicket*, I could not have planned one I did attend any better. I experienced one of those rare moments that the universe just opens and illuminates direction.

On happenstance, I went to an author's signing of whom I was only peripherally familiar. The graphic novel was *The Shape of Ideas* by Grant Snider.

In the span of a 30-minute talk, I found inspiration. Snider talked about how we all have this desire to create inside of us; how by day he's a dentist and by night, a cartoonist. The thought of taking a risk and leaping ahead with shaping and creating something divorced from my academic goals is what I needed to hear. I needed to remember what Mr. Larson, my middle school English teacher used to say, "Be afraid. All writers have fear, and sometimes they fail; you will too but keep writing." I needed to remember to be afraid. It is a lesson long forgotten.

The point, or goal, of attending the conference may have been with the intention of representing Southern Miss and networking, but what I ultimately gained was more than what I could have expected. I made connections. I solidified a connection with myself and connections with others. I met some incredible women. I worked with a woman with such strong, fierce motivation and a love of books that it was almost palpable sitting two feet from her. I met a journalist who spent time telling me stories about her world travels - where her career took her, where she went in the world. She shared tea with me and asked about my journey.

Perhaps sharing is mostly what librarianship is; it is not shopping for the latest gadgets or sitting quietly in the background, it is about talking and interacting and sharing. It is a profession-based community development. While I sat behind the desk waiting to print out press badges, that's exactly what I got to do; in the middle of this metropolis, a small community emerged and then dissipated within a week now only existing within the invisible wires of the Internet.

- Charlotte Mona Roi, LISSA President

LISSA broadcasts its meetings via Adobe Connect and meeting dates are announced via the SLIS listserv. You are invited to join our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/southernmisslissa

**Southern Miss Student Archivists (SMSA)
Spring/Summer 2017**

Stephanie (Stevie) Evans Thomas, President
Jonathan Puckett, Vice-President
Carlie Burkett, Secretary and Webmaster
Dr. Matthew Griffis, Faculty Advisor



SMSA membership is free and open to all students, alumni, faculty, and staff of the university who have an interest in archives and special collections. And of course, everyone is welcome to “like” our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Southern-Miss-Student-Archivists-SMSA-203760579638985/>.

SMSA sponsored a Digi-Day at the USM McCain Library & Archives Digitization Laboratory, Saturday, April 29th. The major event for the student groups LISSA and SMSA in spring 2017 was the 50th annual Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, where students organized a display and manned a hospitality table on the second floor of the Thad Cochran Center.



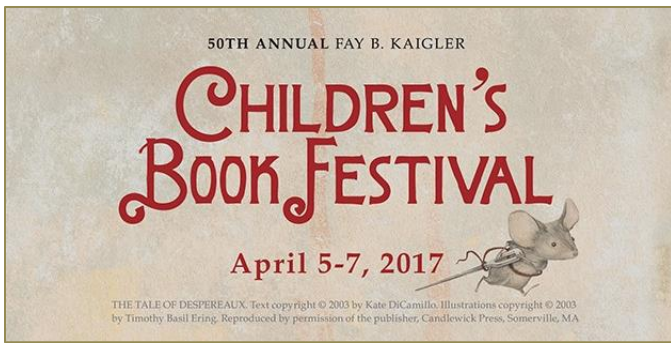
**Council on Community Literacy and Reading
Dr. Catharine Bomhold, Director**

**Spring/Summer Activities
Read Across America Day, March 2, 2017**

This year the CCLR visited Hawkins Elementary School, where 400 new books were distributed to each child, pre-k – 5th grade, and volunteers read to them. The Cat in the Hat also stopped by in each classroom. A great time was had by all, and a few children were spotted reading in the wild!



Only \$2 will buy a book for a child; \$80 will sponsor a book walk with 2 deconstructed books. If you would like to help, send a check made out to USM SLIS to:
CCLR/ Dr. Catharine Bomhold
118 College Drive, #5146
The University of Southern Miss
Hattiesburg, MS 39406



50th Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival

This April the Fay B. Kaigler celebrated its 50th Festival with a bang! Record attendance and lots of special extras made for a memorable year.



Kate DiCamillo with Hattiesburg 4th Graders

The USM Council on Community Literacy and Reading hosted the special Community Book Read for area 4th graders with Southern Miss 2017 Medallion winner Kate DiCamillo.

The Kaigler Children's Book Festival purchased over 1,100 copies of *Tale of Despereaux* for the students and Kate gave a special presentation in Bennett Auditorium to more than 500 Hattiesburg School District students during her visit. She also donated her honorarium to a local animal charity, Angels on Paws.

Kate DiCamillo has been writing books since her twenties, the first of which you may know—*Because of Winn-Dixie* (2000), which won a Newberry Honor and was made into a feature film. *The Tale of Despereaux* (2003) won a Newberry Medal and was also adapted into a movie, and many of her other works have received similar honors.

DiCaillo was named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature for 2014-2015, was a National Book Award finalist in 2001, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Winner in 2006, has twelve New York Times best-selling titles, and her books have been translated into thirty-nine languages.

The banner year also gave SLIS a chance to showcase one of our own. SLIS Faculty member Dr. Matthew Griffis contributed a great deal to the festivities. Griffis curated two historical exhibits, "The Children's Book Festival, A Retrospective in Artifacts" and "The History of the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion," both of which were available for viewing throughout the Festival.

Dr. Griffis also gave a retrospective presentation "Fifty and Counting: A Brief History of the Festival," which took place during a special 50th celebration dinner that included a video retrospective with anniversary wishes from past speakers and interviews with some of the Festival's former organizers.



**Dr. Matthew Griffis Presenting
"Fifty and Counting: A Brief History of the Festival"**

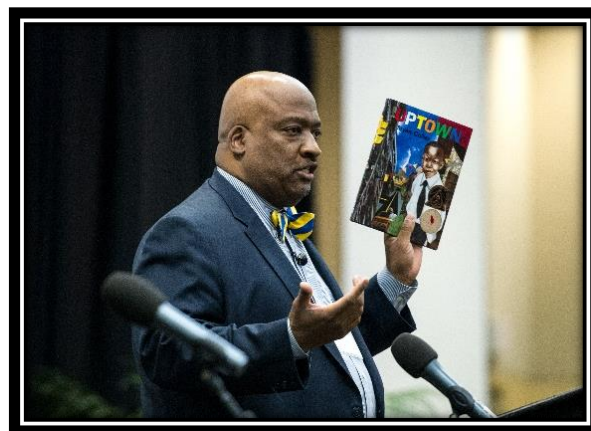


2008 Medallion winner **Pat Mora** returned to the Festival as the 2017 Coleen Salley Storytelling recipient.

The storytelling session took place over

lunch on Wednesday, where all registered attendees received complimentary boxed lunches and a copy of the new *Epossomundas* reissue including the audio download of Coleen reading the story. For more information on Coleen Salley, please visit the newly updated website: <http://coleensalley.com/index.htm>.

Other famed children's literature authors and illustrators that presented at this year's festival and give talks about their work and perspectives on the field included Kwame Alexander (*The Crossover*); Louise Borden (*The Journey That Saved Curious George*); Bryan Collier (*Uptown*); Pete Hautman (*Godless*); Wendell Minor (*If You Were a Penguin*); Pat Mora (*Gracias/Thanks*); Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (*Shiloh*); and Andrea Davis Pinkney (*The Red Pencil*).



Author Bryan Collier



The close of the 50th Festival was marked by a reception at Oddfellows Gallery celebrating the **Wendell Minor's** America exhibit presented by the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection and organized by the

Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA.



de Grummond Children's Literature Collection Curator Ellen Ruffin with Ezra Jack Keats Book honoree and winners Stacey McAnulty, Jeri Watts and Micha Archer, and Dr. Deborah Pope, Executive Director, Ezra Jack Keats Foundation



Karen Rowell,
Children's Book Festival Coordinator

A Stately Celebration:

The 2017 Mississippi Book Festival welcomes over eight-thousand, including the Librarian of Congress by Karen Rowell, SLIS Coordinator, Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival

For lovers of books, August 19th was a day to remember. The Mississippi Book Festival, an annual event in Jackson, attracted over eight-thousand this year. In addition to the usual presentations and panels by southern authors, editors, and illustrators, this year's Festival offered outdoor activities for all ages, children to seniors, as well as appearances and readings from noted authors and other celebrities.



Mississippi Book Festival, Jackson

The day-long event takes place each year in the historic State Capitol Building—a fitting location given that one of this year's speakers was Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden. Dr. Hayden is the first professional librarian in over sixty years to hold the title, the first woman, and first African American. SLIS alumnus Stephen Parks, State Law Librarian, hosted a meet-and-greet with Dr. Hayden in the Mississippi State Law Library on the afternoon of the 18th.



S. Parks, K. Rowell, Dr. Hayden, Judge Kitchens

Dr. Hayden visited the Mississippi Library Commission and was present for the 2017 Festival's kick-off event, the unveiling of the updated Mississippi Literary Map, with state Governor Phil Bryant in attendance.



Governor Phil Bryant and Dr. Carla Hayden Unveiling Mississippi Literary Map*

The year's bill also featured Jackson native Angie Thomas, whose debut novel *The Hate U Give* was published in February and is already in its sixteenth printing. Eric Rohmann and Candace Fleming, who recently collaborated on *Giant Squid* and *Bulldozer Helps Out*, visited local schools and also presented the Kidnote session on Saturday morning. Their presentation involved on-the-spot contributions from its young attendees, incorporating their suggestions into Rohmann's art and Fleming's story. The result—a hilarious tale of a chatty cheetah in a top hat, whose pet bird joins him on a shopping trip to Antarctica—was a highlight among this year's children's events.



Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann, The Kidnote Session

The authors also read from their book *Bulldozer Helps Out*, capping the session with a fun question-and-answer. The Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival provided sunglasses to attendees who could name their favorite Rohmann and Fleming book.



Fleming & Rohmann Reading *Bulldozer Helps Out*

Rohmann and Fleming, who were Kaigler Festival keynotes in 2013, also joined SLIS's Karen Rowell for a podcast, in which they discussed how their picture book *Giant Squid* emphasizes the creature's strange, mysterious beauty. They also discussed the effects of a book's design on its readers, for example how an imaginative title page can build suspense and pull the reader into the story. No stranger to out-of-the-box design, Rohmann's first book, *Cinder Eyed Cats*, was published with illustrated boards wrapped in a clear, plastic sleeve. Only the sleeve featured the book's title, which appeared to float over the cover's colorful images.



Fleming & Rohmann Making a Podcast

Fleming and Rohmann also shared with Rowell details of a possible future collaboration about honeybees. Promoting the book, they agreed, may end up as fun as creating it: Rohmann promises to wear a full bee costume, and Fleming will accompany him dressed as a bee keeper. Rowell, who coordinates the SLIS's annual Kaigler Book Festival, will announce the release of the completed podcast on social media. www.facebook.com/SouthernMissCBF/

The Kaigler Book Festival was pleased to support other Mississippi Book Festival events, particularly those that promoted reading to children. Its "Faulkner-level" sponsorship helped support the Kidnote session with Rohmann and Fleming as well as the Imagination Playground, Wheel of Wonder, Bookmaking, and Snowflake Fun sessions. Other events related to youth literacy included a reading of Keats's *The Snowy Day* by Deborah Bryant (First Lady of the State) as well as panel sessions featuring Kimberly Willis Holt, Linda Williams Jackson, Augusta Scattergood, and Corabel Shofner.



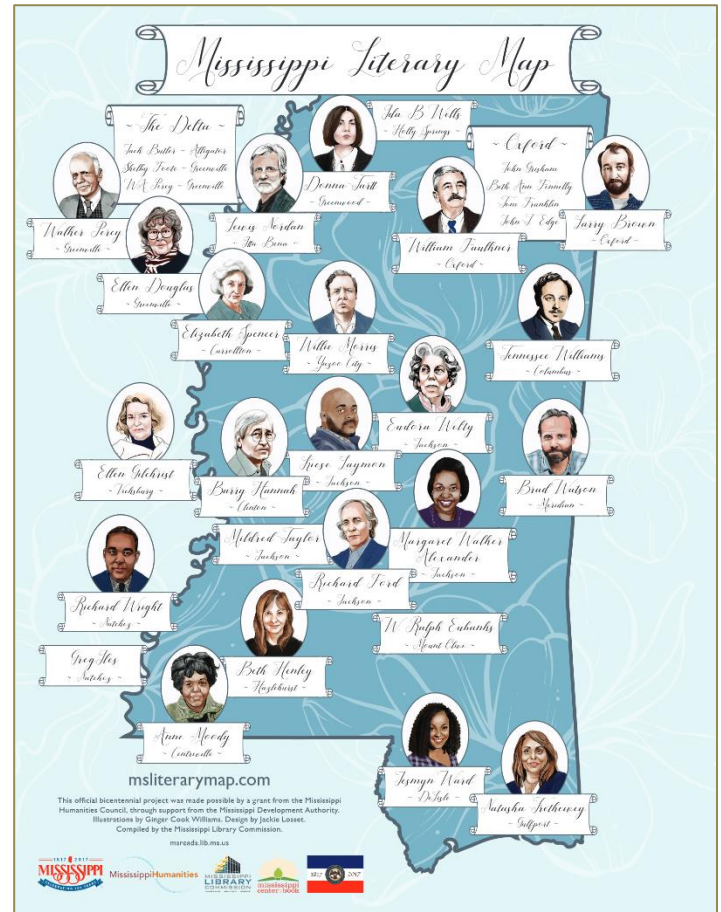
Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant Reading *The Snowy Day*

Overall, the Mississippi Book Festival of 2017 was a wonderful success. Each year brings more fun and more memories, and the Festival's organizers can expect even higher attendance next year.

The School of Library and Information Science and The Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival would like to give special thanks to: the Phil Hardin Foundation for co-sponsoring several sessions; Holly Lange and Jere Nash for the incredible behind-the-scenes work for year’s Mississippi Book Festival; the Mississippi Book Festival’s many other, generous sponsors and supporters; the state of Mississippi for providing the Capitol Building free of charge; the Galloway Church for opening its doors to the Festival; and to the Festival’s many volunteers, who not only provided “feet on the ground” but also helped Festival newcomers find their way around and guests feel welcome.

Well done to all involved!

*Download and print your own copy of the **Mississippi Literary Map** at:
<http://msreads.lib.ms.us/mlitemap/>



Karen Rowell presenting a ‘Welcome Back’ cake to Rohmann and Fleming



Ezra Jack Keats Exhibit by USM de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection

MISSISSIPPI BOOK FESTIVAL
A Literary Lawn Party August 19, 2017!
 MISSISSIPPI STATE CAPITOL | 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. | FREE ADMISSION

KIDNOTE
 GALLOWAY SANCTUARY 9:30 am

Kick-off a morning of kid-friendly fun with a beloved children’s author and award-winning illustrator. A special hour for kids of all ages to let their minds soar!

CANDACE FLEMING
 author of over 30 books for children
Bulldozer Helps Out

ERIC ROHMANN
 Caldecott medalist winner
Bulldozer Helps Out

PRESENTED BY
 Phil Hardin Foundation and Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival

MSBOOKFESTIVAL.COM