

2018

Student Associations: News and Events

The University of Southern Mississippi

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/slisconnecting>

 Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Collection Development and Management Commons](#), [Information Literacy Commons](#), [Scholarly Communication Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

The University of Southern Mississippi (2018) "Student Associations: News and Events," *SLIS Connecting*: Vol. 7 : Iss. 2 , Article 4.
DOI: 10.18785/slis.0702.04
Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/slisconnecting/vol7/iss2/4>

This Column is brought to you for free and open access by The Aquila Digital Community. It has been accepted for inclusion in SLIS Connecting by an authorized editor of The Aquila Digital Community. For more information, please contact Joshua.Cromwell@usm.edu.

LIS Student Associations News
LISSA Update, Fall/Winter 2018/19

Julie Gore, President
Leah Peters, Vice-President
Ashley Marshall, Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs. Jessica Whipple, Faculty Advisor

LISSA members assisted in the exhibit table at the ALA Mid-Winter 2019 Annual Conference, January 25-29, Seattle, and the Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference, Meridian, October 16-19.

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

2018 Southeast Science Bootcamp for Librarians



August 1-3 was the 2018 Science Bootcamp for Librarians hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The purpose of this conference was to bring together scientists and

librarians to share their insight, latest research, and gain a cooperative understanding across both professions.

You may be wondering how the world of science has anything to do with librarians, right? I did too! Librarians can serve numerous roles in academic institutions throughout all fields of study. There are STEM research librarians, health science librarians and other sci-tech librarians with unique roles. The guest speakers covered topics of marine biology, scientific articles, national health concerns, and maker spaces.

Dr. Moshe Pritsker highlighted a major issue within the world of Biomedical Science: only 10-30% of published scientific articles are successfully reproduced. He went over ways to overcome this problem, such as recording the entire experiment process, and how librarians can contribute to the process of making it available to the public and decrease the amount of money wasted on research that cannot be reproduced.

Aimee Gogan covered national health concerns and how librarians can contribute to this type of information literacy. She showed us a number of graphic novels pertaining to diabetes, HIV, and mental health issues that will help readers of all ages better understand modern diseases. Librarians can enhance their collection development acquisitions with this type of literature not only to raise awareness but to overcome the associative stigma of sharing personal experiences with the disease.

-- LISSA Member Elaine Walker

Southern Miss Student Archivists (SMSA)
Spring/Summer 2018

Jonathan Puckett, President
Rachel McMullen, Vice-President
Miranda Loper, Secretary
Emma Semrau, Webmaster
Dr. Cindy Yu, Faculty Advisor



In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Southern Miss Student Archivists (SMSA) expanded in terms of membership and community outreach. Through a flyer campaign on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses with help from member Ashlee Parker, the SMSA gained thirty members.

Likewise, SMSA developed a logo with the assistance of Julie Gore, president of LISSA. The group organized

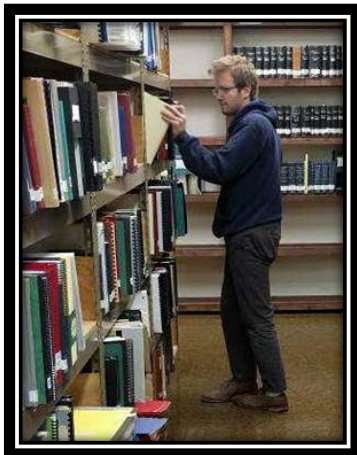
a speaking event on October 2, 2018, in collaboration with the South Mississippi Genealogical and Historical Society in downtown Hattiesburg, where Billy and **Miranda Loper** (pictured), Emma Semrau, and Jonathan Puckett spoke on the importance of archival institutions as repositories and their experiences in the field.



In addition, SMSA became associated with the Jones County Genealogical and Historical Society in Laurel, where Jonathan Puckett was invited to speak.

Thus, SMSA has seen an increase in membership as well as more involvement at a local level with historical societies and small archival institutions.

- Jonathan Puckett,
SMSA President



“Treading Water”:

Advice for Finding Your Niche in the LIS Field

by SMSA Member Lauren Robinson

Entering “the field” after graduating from a library, archival, or special collections program can seem both exciting and terrifying. Hurray! - No more research papers or weekly assignments to fill our “free time.” But for some, entering the field can feel like jumping in the deep of the swimming pool for the first time after taking swimming lessons. It is exhilarating yet terrifying all at the same time. I’ve seen both and experienced both first-hand.

Today I’m a part-time public library clerk and a part-time digital archivist for a historical society. Meanwhile, I am still finishing my studies at USM. Like so many of my peers, I knew I wanted to work in the LIS field ever since my childhood. I remember loving summer reading programs and school book clubs and going on road trips with my friends and classmates to local history sites. I remember wanting to be that friendly librarian that would always seem to know the right book to recommend, or the staff member giving the public tours at the local historical sites. I wanted to learn my local history first-hand by seeing the sites and working with primary collections. I also wanted to be the person enabling the public to learn something about their history. Now I feel like I am in two positions that allow me to do just that. It’s been a long journey to get here with several bumps along the way, but it’s always seemed worthwhile to me.

Throughout my undergraduate and graduate academic career, the questions that have stayed in my mind were ‘what area of ‘the field’ interests me?’ and ‘what area do I want to specialize in?’

When I graduated high school, I wanted to be a librarian, but I did not understand the variety of specialization areas that existed within the LIS field, and I did not know how to pursue a career in that blurred field area where library and archival work overlaps with museum studies and public history. I still cannot say I know a “best method” for finding a career in that gray-area either.

For me, my career path has been a series of trials and errors shadowing and working in different departments until I found my niche in archival work. I did not know that I would end up juggling two very distinctly different jobs and did not think I would end up loving both equally as I do. Through my journey, I’ve learned policy writing and project set-up skills that have helped immensely with my work. At the same time, I get to work on creative library displays, delve into primary research projects with visitors, and still help library patrons find their next casual read.

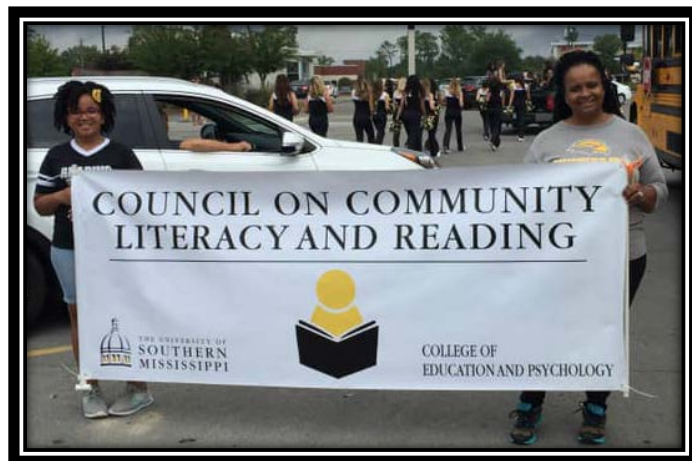
Here’s my advice to anyone in an LIS program who is not sure about their future career path – it is ok to not have all the answers. Take time to feel things out.

Start by finding something you like and explore it. If you love it, great - keep pursuing it. If not, then don't be afraid to branch out and try something different. Switching gears might feel scary - like jumping in the deep end - but the struggle might be worth it in the long-run. You won't know until you try.

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

The goal of the CCLR is to provide books and literacy opportunities to our community. The Council was formed in 2015 with a mission to provide books for children to own, and to educate parents on the importance of reading out loud to young children.

To this end, we look for opportunities where we can talk to parents and caregivers about the benefits of reading aloud to children, provide literacy activities for children, and give them new high-quality books to take home. Since 2015, we have given away more than 10,000 new books to children in South Central Mississippi.



Homecoming Parade, October 2018

USM Homecoming Parade: CCLR had a float in the USM Homecoming parade. Instead of throws, the CCLR handed out 600 new books to children along the parade route.

Little Free Libraries and The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County: CCLR is the steward for three Little Free Libraries in downtown Hattiesburg.

More than 600 children's and young adult books were distributed throughout Hattiesburg through donations to the Little Free Libraries as well as to the Hattiesburg Public Library.

Hattiesburg Public Schools PreK Fall Round-Up: We talked to parents about the importance of reading to children at a young age, had activities and prizes for children and gave away 50 new books.

Book distributions: The CCLR provides books for those in need and when disaster strikes. We were able to give 400 books to schools and libraries in the Houston area after flooding.

CCLR participated in a Christmas present drive for children at Hawkins Elementary in Hattiesburg and were able to provide 70 books to children in need.

We also provided over 100 books to children of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians through a partnership with Dr. Jennifer Lemacks of the USM School of Nutrition.

Only \$1 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

