2019

SLIS Director's Report

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SLIS Director's Report
Teresa S. Welsh, Ph.D., Professor and Director

Welcome, scholars,
to the spring/
summer 2019 issue
of *SLIS Connecting*!

In spring, the big
event was the **52nd
Annual Fay B. Kaigler
Children's Book
Festival** with USM
Medallion winner

Tamora Pierce, Brian Floca, who did an author's talk
at Lillie Burney STEAM Academy, and other keynotes
Sophie Blackall, Margarita Engle, William Joyce, Erin
Entrada Kelly, Bweela Steptoe, and Javaka Steptoe.

To highlight and commemorate the festival, SLIS
created an exhibit in Cook
Library Gallery, "History of
the School of Library and
Information Science & Art of
the Fay B. Kaigler Children's
Book Festival. A reception
for the ALA External Review
Panel was held in the gallery
in February and the spring
graduation reception was
held there in May. (Handout
design by SLIS GA Julie Gore)

The big news this summer was ALA Accreditation:

- **SLIS awarded continuous ALA Accreditation until 2026!** The last step in the ALA-accreditation process was an interview by the ALA Committee on Accreditation of Director Welsh and Adrienne Patterson at the American Library Association Annual Conference, June 22nd.
- **American Library Association Annual Conference** (www.ala.org), June 20-25, Washington, D.C. featured a SLIS/Kaigler Children's Book Festival/University Libraries shared exhibit table as well as a reception for SLIS students, alumni, and supporters at Busboys and Poets, June 23.

- **Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries** (qqml.org), May 28 – June 1, European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy. The Director and several alumni presented research at this international conference.
- **British Studies LIS Class: British Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections**, June 1 – 30. The Director and GA Ashley Marshall led a class of 15 graduate students from USM and six other universities from across the U.S. and Canada. We were fortunate to have some visiting VIPs from Southern Miss (President Rodney Bennett, Provost Steve Moser, VPs Dr. Gordon Cannon, Dr. Daniel Norton, and Chad Driscoll, as well as Dr. Dave Davies, Director of British Studies) join us on our visit to the National Art Library @V&A Museum (cover image), June 13th. View the class blog <https://usmbritishstudies19.blogspot.com/>
- SLIS Director authors "SLIS Notes" column in the online refereed journal *Mississippi Libraries*, published quarterly by the Mississippi Library Association <http://misslib.org/publications>

In summer, a big move for SLIS from Cook Library to the first floor of historic Fritzsche Gibbs Hall (FGH), strategically located on the USM campus between Cook Library and McCain Library. FGH, built in 1929, was designated a Mississippi Landmark in 2016 by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

See the next pages for a gallery of highlights from spring/summer events.

Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, April 4, 2019

Keynote Brian Floca at STEAM Academy Book Talk, CBF Book Signing

Dr. Deborah Pope and 2019 Ezra Jack Keats Award Winners

Spring Graduation Reception, Cook Library Gallery, May 9, 2019

Scenes from QQML, Florence, Italy, May 28 – June 1

**British Studies GA Ashley Marshall (top left) and British Studies LIS Class of 2019
King's Cross Station, London**

British Studies LIS Class, British Museum Archives, Round Reading Room

Scenes from SLIS Reception, ALA Annual Conference
Washington, D.C., Busboys & Poets, June 23