Spotlights: Faculty, Alumna, and Courses

Stacy Creel, Ph.D.
University of Southern Mississippi, Stacy.Creel@usm.edu

Spotlight – Faculty

Dr. Jeff Hirschy joined the School of Library and Information Science faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi this fall as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Hirschy graduated from Huntington University with a BA in History in 2010, a MA in History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2013, a MLIS from the University of Alabama in 2016, and a Ph.D. in Communications and Information Science from the University of Alabama in August 2020. His dissertation is titled *Civil Rights Collecting Institutions and the Facilitation of Community Engagement in the American South*. He has strong research interests in the history of the American South, archives, community archives, social justice, public memory, public history, and community interaction with memory institutions.

Dr. Hirschy is active in community memory programs and community archives in Birmingham, Alabama and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the Society of American Archivists, the National Council on Public History, and The Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).

He is teaching courses such as LIS 511: Collection Development and archival courses LIS 647: Introduction to Archival Organization and LIS 649: Preservation of Archival Materials, in addition to serving as an advisor for the archival certificate and LIS 648: Archival Practicum.

Spotlight – Alum

Michelle Finerty Finley started her library career working for SLIS as a graduate assistant in 2011. She remembers her graduate assistant days fondly and the relationships she formed along the way. Although she works in academic libraries, some of her favorite courses were Children's and Young Adult Literature taught by Dr. Stacy Creel, Dr. Catharine Bomhold, and Dr. Elizabeth Haynes. Michelle enjoyed those course offerings so much that she was one of the first students to graduate with the Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature in 2013.

Upon completion of her degree, Michelle began working as a reference librarian at Mississippi College. Michelle served as the subject specialist for the School of Science and Mathematics and became the Coordinator of Reference Services in 2016. After working for five years at Mississippi College, Michelle chose to live abroad for two years with her husband while continuing to adjunct. Two places she enjoyed living the most were Iceland and Qatar. Upon returning stateside in December 2019, Michelle was appointed the Head of Circulation and Assistant Librarian at The University of West Florida. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Administration and Leadership Studies at UWF and enjoys researching human resources and government funding in libraries. Michelle also enjoys teaching interview skills to students and colleagues and has

presented at conferences at the state and national level on interview techniques. Michelle also enjoys renovating her house and spending time with her husband Bradley and their tuxedo cat Gus.

Spotlight—Courses
Asynchronous electives

Although the required courses and most electives meet in online virtual classrooms, SLIS offers a few asynchronous elective options.

LIS 492 H002 / LIS 692 H001 (offered fall, spring)
Special Topic - Library Marketing and PR

"What is marketing, and how do you define the concept as it relates to libraries? The business world defines marketing as 'the process of planning and executing conception, pricing, promotion, and distribution of ideas, goods, and services to create exchanges that satisfy individual and organizational objectives'" (Bennett, 1995).

Marketing and promoting the library is an essential skill that librarians need in today's competitive market. This three credit-hour course, offered at both the undergraduate and graduate-levels, uses online self-guided webinars to give students an understanding of how to use data in marketing, PR and marketing through social media, effective marketing, and more. Readings on current marketing trends and techniques are included for discussion. Students create digital artifacts including memes, flyers, PR announcements, and videos.

LIS 691 H001 (offered fall, spring, summer)

Research in Library Science – Genealogy Research

This independent study course may be taken for one credit hour or three credit hours. For one credit hour, students work on a family tree, their own or someone else's; for three credit hours, students work on a family tree and complete a research paper on the genealogy resources in a local library.

In addition to these asynchronous courses, students have the option to take a 3-credit hour special problems course (LIS 492/692) to complete a paper or project approved by their advisor.

SLIS Values
The School of Library and Information Science is committed to:

- *Student-centered learning:* We are committed to cultivating an active, student-centered learning community.
- *Diversity and Inclusion:* We recognize and value the diversity of modern society and support inclusiveness in learning.
- *Intellectual freedom:* We embrace the ideals of intellectual and academic freedom and strive to nurture an open, respectful learning environment for the free exchange of ideas.
- *Service:* Because we believe it is a core of the profession, we support service at all levels and encourage ongoing professional development as a means of enhancing skills and knowledge.
- *Community:* We believe in creating, fostering, and participating in learning and research communities that span borders on state, national, and international levels.
- *Research:* We believe research is an essential part of scholarship, not just for creation of new knowledge but for support of teaching and learning and sharing of new knowledge with multiple communities of interest.

For information on being a part of SLIS and taking these classes, visit us at usm.edu/slis