2020

SLIS Director's Report

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Recommended Citation

Welsh, Teresa S. Ph.D. (2020) "SLIS Director's Report," *SLIS Connecting*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

DOI: 10.18785/slis.0902.01

Available at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/slisconnecting/vol9/iss2/1>

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

Welcome, scholars, to the fall/winter 2020 issue!

Director with Graduate Assistants
Sarah, Megan, and Phillip (image by Bailey Conn)

The **Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival** was canceled in April due to COVID-19, and a virtual festival held November 16-20. The USM Kaigler endowment funded the conference at no cost to the attendees; 966 registered for the festival from across the U.S., Canada, Egypt, India, and the U.K.; 541 registered for virtual workshops for CEU credit. Speakers included:

- **Michael Fry**, Colleen Sally Storytelling Lecture
- **Randy Testa**, Ezra Jack Keats Lecture
- **Ezra Jack Keats Award 35th Anniversary Panel**
- **Emma Walton Hamilton**, de Grummond Lecture
- **Jason Reynolds**
- **Laurie Halse Anderson**
- **Rita Williams-Garcia**, USM Medallion Winner

The conference's success was due in large part to Coordinator Karen Rowell, moderators Ms. Ellen Ruffin and Dr. Stacy Creel, with technical support from Ms. Ashley Marshall and Dr. Sarah Mangrum.

Several SLIS faculty participated in the **Mississippi Library Association Virtual Conference**, October 13-16, 2020.

- **Dr. Jeff Hirschy** presented "Historical Distance and The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum: The Role of Historical Distance Plays at Civil Rights Memory Institutions," October 14.
- **Dr. Stacy Creel** presented "ePrograms: An Online Gathering of Resources," October 14.
- **Prof. Stephen Parks** presented "Mississippi and the 19th Amendment," October 14.
- **Ms. Karen Rowell** presented "Friends of the Kaigler Book Festival," October 13.
- **Dr. Teresa Welsh** presented "What's New in LIS Education at Southern Miss?" and moderated the LIS Education Focus Group, October 15.

SLIS had record enrollment this fall with 114 LIS undergrads and 267 graduate students.

For information on the LIS degree, MLIS degree, archival certificate, or youth services certificate, all online, see www.usm.edu/sliss

Cover photo by Gerardo Santos

VIRTUAL 2020

FAY B. KAIGLER CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 16**

MICHAEL FRY

Coleen Salley Storytelling Lecture

RANDY TESTA

Ezra Jack Keats Lecture

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 17**

**EZRA JACK KEATS AWARD
35TH ANNIVERSARY PANEL**

"Children's Book Creation: Passion,
Craft, Commitment"

EMMA WALTON HAMILTON

deGrummond Lecture

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 18**

JASON REYNOLDS

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 19**

LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 20**

RITA WILLIAMS-GARCIA

Southern Miss Medallion Winner

Jason Reynolds

The **2020 Kaigler Children's Book Festival** presentations are freely available online at the University of Southern Mississippi Aquila Digital Repository
<https://aquila.usm.edu/bookfest/2020/>

SLIS Faculty/Staff Holiday Luncheon

Season's Greetings from SLIS Faculty and Staff