2021

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 2021 issue – my last one as SLIS Director before retirement this summer.

**Director with Graduate Assistants
James, Phillip, Sarah, Bailey, and Hannah**

My colleague **Dr. Stacy Creel** has been named the SLIS Interim Director while a national search is conducted for the next Director. New full-time faculty joining SLIS this fall include Assistant Professor Dr. Laura Clark Hunt and Teaching Professor Dr. Sarah Mangrum, along with visiting faculty Dr. Tony Lewis.

I am honored to announce my promotion to USM Professor Emeritus of Library and Information Science and the creation of two USM Foundation Funds:

- **Dr. Teresa Welsh LIS Scholarship Endowment**
- **Dr. Teresa Welsh Children's Book Festival Lecture Endowment**

The Lecture Endowment is to sponsor a noted scholar at the annual book festival to present a keynote address related to the history of children's literature or another scholarly topic related to children's or young adult literature. If you would like to contribute to either of these funds in honor or memory of someone, go to <http://usmfoundation.com/tw>

Cover photo by Gerardo Santos

The **2021 Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival** was virtual due to COVID-19. The USM Kaigler endowment funded the conference at no cost to the attendees; more than 1500 registered for the festival from every state in the union and 73 other countries. Speakers included:

- **Elizabeth Ellis**, Colleen Sally Storytelling Lecture
- **Meg Medina**, Ezra Jack Keats Lecture
- **Ezra Jack Keats Award 35th Anniversary**
- **Sharon M. Draper**, de Grummond Lecture
- **Mitali Perkins**, Storytelling PJ Party
- **Dan Santat**, Keynote Speaker
- **Andrea Davis Pinkney**, USM Medallion Winner

The conference's success was due to Coordinator Karen Rowell, moderators Ms. Ellen Ruffin and Dr. Stacy Creel, technical support from Ms. Ashley Marshall and Dr. Sarah Mangrum, as well as support from Dean Trent Gould, Provost Steven Moser, and President Rodney Bennett.

Kaigler Children's 2020 and 2021 Book Festival presentations are freely available online at the Southern Miss Aquila Digital Repository <https://aquila.usm.edu/bookfest/2021/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

cordially invites you to an

Open House Reception

honoring past directors

Dr. Jay Norton
Dr. Elizabeth Haynes

and Retiring Director

Dr. Teresa Welsh
and welcoming Interim Director

Dr. Stacy Creel

Tuesday, July 13
2-4 p.m.
Fritzche-Gibbs Hall
Hattiesburg Campus

Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to Karen Rowell
at karen.rowell@usm.edu by Friday, July 9.

Photos by Patrick Regan

For information about the MLIS, LIS, or
certificate programs, see our website at
www.usm.edu/slisl