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SLIS Director's Report

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SLIS Director's Report

By Stacy L. Creel, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Interim Director



Welcome to the Fall/Winter issue of SLIS Connecting. Since Dr. Welsh's retirement in August of 2021, it has been a busy and exciting fall and start of the spring semesters with the return to in-person activities on campus and continued growth and productivity in SLIS. Two new full-time faculty joined us at the start of the fall semester—Dr. Sarah Mangrum (current faculty spotlight) and Dr. Laura Hunt Clark (faculty spotlight in vol. 10, issue 1). Both bring enthusiasm along with practical library and teaching experience into the SLIS corps of instruction.

In addition to teaching classes, faculty have been busy researching, presenting, and continuing their growth in numerous areas. Dr. Clark Hunt and Dr. Steele joined Dr. Mangrum and Ms. Marshall in their pursuit of ACUE credentialing. During this three-semester commitment these faculty receive intense training on quality instruction using evidence-based, equity practices to increase learning and engagement. Faculty have presented at multiple virtual conferences and meetings including the Mississippi Library Association's Annual Conference 2021. Details can be found in the Congratulations article of this issue. New faculty were not the only new addition, the curriculum saw some new additions, too.

A new class was officially added to the books—LIS 559: Library Public Relations and Marketing. This new class focuses on print and social media/virtual marketing. Examples of student projects can be found in the Winter 2021 issue of Mississippi Libraries: <http://www.misslib.org/resources/Documents/MLarchive/ML2021Winter.pdf>. In taking the advice that is

being given to students, SLIS has stepped up its virtual presence—be sure to check out our more active (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernMissSLIS>) Facebook page and our new TikTok & Instagram accounts @southernmissslis. A special shout-out goes to GA Dottie Higgs for all her social media work.



Both Graduate Certificates saw an increase in their electives and changes to the required classes. Details are available on the SLIS webpage.

A star-studded Virtual 2022 Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival takes place on April 6-8, 2022 with

- Brian Selznick (medallion winner)
- Jen Bryant
- Nic Stone and Angie Thomas
- Lesa Cline-Ransome and James Ransome
- Raúl the Third
- Eric L. Tribunella
- Donna Washington

There will be a reduced registration rate of \$100 and up to 5.3 CEUs will be offered to Mississippi educators. Registered virtual participants will have access to live sessions and recordings. Visit the website at www.usm.edu/childrens-book-festival.