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## From the GAs: Congratulations, Publications, Presentations

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## From the GAs

The graduate assistants in SLIS assist in many capacities. Including but not limited to outreach, office work, recruitment, teaching, research, data collection, transcribing, course preparation, and social media creation.



*Back row (left to right): Patrick Regan, Phillip Snyder, Sarah Williams; front row (left to right): Hannah Gantt, Dottie Higgs*

“My favorite part of being a GA is working with my coworker Dottie on the children’s book festival giveaways. I create the themes for the giveaways and help Dottie organize the books.” – **Hannah Gantt**

“My favorite part of being a GA is the opportunity to be a Teaching Assistant. I am able to teach Information Literacy to undergraduate students alongside the course instructor, giving me valuable teaching experience.” – **Phillip Snyder**

“My favorite part of being a GA is using my creativity to contribute to social media posts and giveaways. I help monitor the social media accounts for both the SLIS page and the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival across Facebook, Instagram, and our newly created TikTok. I love working on these projects because I know the experience with this technology will help me later in my career in librarianship.” – **Dottie Higgs**

“My favorite parts of being a GA include gaining some experience for future career opportunities and working with the community overall. While I have

worked in a library before, this job will give me greater insight into what to look forward to in the future. On top of that, the community adds to this experience by making each day enjoyable.” – **Patrick Regan**

“My favorite part of being a GA is being able to network and make professional connections. This has allowed me to help on some great projects such as research, festival set-up, and more” – **Sarah L. Williams**

## Congratulations SLIS Students

**Russell Brandon** (MLIS) is Data Services Librarian - Fant Memorial Library - Columbus, MS.



**Myra Breland** (MLIS) is Cultural Resources Specialist-Tech, Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, MS.

**Cynthia Matthews** (MLIS) is Assistant Director, Stones River Regional Library, Murfreesboro, TN.

**Grace Neeley** (MLIS) is Metadata Intern for Law Library of Congress, Remote Internship.

**Jennifer Ottinger** (MLIS, ASC, YSL) is Special Collection Librarian, Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX.

**Stephanie “Brianna” Williams** (MLIS) is Library Manager, Purvis Public Library with the Lamar County Library System, Purvis, MS.

## Congratulations SLIS Alums

**Kathy Barco** (MLIS, 1997) presented "Literacy Doodads – Not just Letter Magnets on the Fridge Anymore!" at the 2022 Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference, Denver, CO.

**Kathy Barco** (MLIS, 1997) presented "Let’s Play Banned Books Week Jeopardy and Charades" at the 2022 Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, USM, Online.

**Kathy Barco** (MLIS, 1997) presented "Let's Play Banned Books Week Jeopardy and Charades" at the 2022 Texas Library Association Conference, Fort Worth, TX

**Molly Brough Antoine** (MLIS, 2014) is Library Manager, Baptist Health Sciences University, Memphis, TN.

**Bailey Simone Conn** (MLIS, Youth Services Certificate, 2021) is Children's Librarian, Beaumont Public Libraries, Beaumont, TX.

**Stephanie Griffin** (MLIS, 2021), is Branch Manager, Scott County Public Library, Gate City, VA.

**Josh Henry** (MLIS, 2008) is Teacher/Librarian, YK Pao School, Shanghai, China.

**Nicole Hercules-Provence** (MLIS, 2017) is Youth Services Librarian, DeKalb County Public Library, Atlanta, GA.

**Kristen Hillman** (MLIS, 2019) is Branch Manager, Ridgeland Public Library, Ridgeland, MS.

**Laura Hinman** (MLIS, 2018) is Library Director, Midland University Luther Library, Fremont, NE.

**Kathleen Lehigh** (MLIS, 2018) is Content Access Specialist for Accessible Books & Media, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, TN.

**Amanda Lewis** (MLIS, 2017) is Administrative Coordinator, Louisiana Tech University Department of Health Informatics & Information Management, Ruston, LA.

**Kelly McAllister** (MLIS, MA Anthropology, 2004) is Associate Dean of Libraries, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.

**Kevin McDuffie** (MLIS, 2020) is Children's Librarian, Central Branch Library, Baton Rouge, LA.

**Veronica Palenski** (MLIS Archival Certificate, 2020) is Adult Services Librarian, Floyd County Library, New Albany, IN.

**James Stephen Parks** (MLIS, 2013), State Librarian for Mississippi & USM Adjunct Professor, appointed

to GPO Task Force on a Digital Federal Depository Library Program, Washington, D.C.

**Leah Rials** (MLIS, 2014) is Librarian, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hattiesburg, MS.

**D. W. Saur** (MLIS, ASC, 2014) published *Dark Days* (1646630491) and *Just Friends* (B09MR95TKF). Saur's books have also received the following nominations and awards: 2021 Readers' Favorite Book Awards: *Dark Days*-Honorable Mention; 2021 American Fiction Awards: *Dark Days*-Finalist; 2021 Feathered Quill Book Awards: *Dark Days*-Finalist; 2020 Royal Dragonfly Book Award: *Dark Days*; 2020 Purple Dragonfly Book Award: *Metal Like Me*-honorable mention; and 2020 Story Monsters Approved Award: *Metal Like Me*.

**Emma Semrau** (MLIS, 2021) is Information Services Librarian, Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County, Hattiesburg, MS.

**James Skinner** (MLIS, 2021) is Research Services Fellow, USM Gulf Coast Library, Long Beach, MS. Research Services fellowships are grant-funded positions generously supported by the Jimmy A. Payne Foundation and provide opportunities for recent graduates of the Southern Miss MLIS program to supplement their academic knowledge with real-world experience.

**Heather Smith** (MLIS, 2021) is Library Director Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, Louisiana

**Angela Chambliss Stewart** (MLIS, 2017) is Director, Jackson-George Regional Library System, Pascagoula, MS.

**Miranda Vaughn** (MLIS, Archival Certificate, 2020) is Photography Archivist, Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, MS.



**Chuping (Meg) Wang** (MLIS, 2020) is Electronic Resources Cataloger, Mississippi State University Libraries, Starkville, MS.

**Tonja Whitaker** (BS, 2016) is the Media Specialist K-12, Manatee Elementary School, Bradenton, FL.

**Megan Jane Eure Wilson** (MLIS, 2020) is Outreach Librarian, Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County, Hattiesburg, MS.

### Student Presentations/Publications

**Rori Holford** (MLIS & ASC) presented “Memory and Disruption of the Race Discrimination System in African American Cemeteries” at the 2021 UA-USM Archival Studies Research Forum sponsored by the University of Alabama and University of Southern Mississippi Archival Studies Programs, Online.

**Robette Zepeda McLellan** & Jennifer Elaine Steele (January, 2022) Working Together: A Bibliometric Study of Secondary School Education, Special Collections, and Archives, *Journal of Archival Organization*, Taylor & Francis.  
DOI: 10.1080/15332748.2021.1992206

### SLIS Faculty Publications

**Dr. Laura K. Clark Hunt**, Dr. Kennon Deal, Scott Pierce, Dr. Andrew McIntosh, Dr. Janet L. Kopusko & Dr. Vanessa Lane, e-Textbook (2021) *Research as Inquiry: A Discipline Specific Approach to Information Literacy*. Hattiesburg: USM Aquila.  
<https://aquila.usm.edu/textbooks/4>

**Stacy Creel**. (2021). *SLIS Notes* (4th ed., vol. 84, pp. 68-70). Mississippi Library Association.  
<http://www.misslib.org/resources/Documents/MLarchive/ML2021Winter.pdf>

**Stacy Creel & Teresa Welsh** (2021). Soft Skills in Library Job Advertisements and LIS Curriculum. *Mississippi Libraries*, 84(3), 34-41.  
<http://www.misslib.org/publications>

Robette Zepeda McLellan & **Jennifer Elaine Steele** (January, 2022) Working Together: A Bibliometric Study of Secondary School Education, Special Collections, and Archives, *Journal of Archival Organization*, Taylor & Francis.  
DOI: 10.1080/15332748.2021.1992206

### SLIS Faculty Presentations

Dr. **Xinyu Mills** (October 14, 2021) “The expansion of digital services in Mississippi public libraries” Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference. Online.

Dr. **Stacy Creel** at (October 14, 2021). "Are You Ready for the Job Market?," Mississippi Library Association Annual Conference, Online.

Dr. **Stacy Creel** as Invited Panelist for Open Access Week, "The Local View: Promoting Open Access at The University of Southern Mississippi," Southern Miss Libraries, Online. (October 19, 2021).

The University of Southern Mississippi, Faculty Research Day—November 12, 2021



(Top Left) Dr. **Tony Lewis**: “Human Interest Amid Tragedy: Content Analysis of Disaster News Photographs from Digital Archives.”

(Top Right) Dr. **Jeff Hirschy**: “The Power of Public Memory: Lynching Memorials and the Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Public Memory in Duluth, Minnesota and Chattanooga, Tennessee.”

(Bottom Left) Dr. **Jennifer Steele**: “Supporting Online Courses: The Impact of COVID 19 on Academic Librarians and Online Education.”

(Bottom Right) Dr. **Laura Clark Hunt**: “Discipline Specific Information Literacy.”