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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 Director



Welcome to the Spring/Summer issue of *SLIS Connecting*. It has been a busy time here in SLIS. The faculty recently began to realign and update the curriculum based on student and alumni feedback and the

new ALA Core Competencies of Librarianship (<https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/corecompetences>), which were adopted in January 2023. Over 170 alumni and 140 current graduate students participated in the survey. They provided feedback on the usefulness of core courses and electives, technologies being used in the field, and general comments for improvement. SLIS appreciates that so many students and alumni took the time to provide this important feedback. Over the next several semesters, the new competencies and the feedback will be incorporated into the program and curriculum.



After a long, successful tenure as the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival Coordinator, Karen Rowell moved into a position at the USM Foundation. After three years of virtual festivals, over 300

attendees gathered together in April 2023 for the in-person festival featuring Southern Miss Medallion winner Gene Luen Yang—Karen definitely left SLIS on a high note, and although she has moved across campus, she continues to serve on the Festival Steering Committee.

In May 2023, Dr. Mary Osborne joined the School's administrative team and stepped into her new role as the Book Festival Coordinator. Mary earned her Ph.D. in English in 2020 from the University of Southern Mississippi, where her dissertation focused on children's literature, disability studies, and identity. Her most recent professional experience is as an editor and writer. SLIS is confident that Mary will excel in her new role.

Dr. Catharine Bomhold celebrated 20 years with the School. A new faculty member was hired to join SLIS in the Fall, and the Spring semester brought many exciting events for students including a Careers in Technical Services Lunch & Learn, the joint SLIS Student Symposium Flash Poster Session with the University of Alabama, and a Monday Mentoring Mixer to pair students and mentors (led by Southern Miss Archivist Jennifer Brannock).



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Lunch & Learn on Zoom
THURS JANUARY 26 12PM-1:30PM CST
601-454-9120

with moderator, **Clare Simpson**, Catalog Librarian, The University of Southern Mississippi

SLIS STUDENTS! Are you interested in having a MENTOR?
...to serve as a sounding board?
...to review your cover letter?
...to serve as a resource?
...to teach you about a type of library?

Sign up here (link below):
Monday Mentor Mixer
(March 27th 4-6:45pm CST)
You will meet librarians from all over and mingle with future mentors!

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SLIS STUDENT SYMPOSIUM FLASH POSTER SESSION 2023 WINNERS

Research Category: Rachel Brown
Creative Category: Robin Watson

OUT OF THE ARCHIVES: BRINGING LOCAL ARCHIVAL SOURCES INTO THE CLASSROOM

Congratulations!

This edition of *SLIS Connecting* features research from the previous summer and fall students on LGBTQ grassroots archives, the New Orleans' redlight district Storyville, the National Gallery of Art, Tana Hoban, and a social media assessment.

Be sure to like SLIS on Facebook and Instagram. Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228. Visit <https://www.usm.edu/slis> for additional information about the SLIS degree programs.