

The PACKET

Newsletter of the Mississippi Library Commission

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LIBRARY SERVICES FRONT-AND-CENTER AT ANNUAL CAPITOL EXHIBIT

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MLC NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

CALENDAR

A variety of services offered by the Library Commission and six public libraries were on display at the annual Capitol Exhibit held February 28th in the rotunda. Libraries offer a virtual smorgasbord of services to customers at every age level. Many of those services were exhibited for legislators, staff and visitors.

Waynesboro/Wayne County Library's display gave a brief description of a variety of services including e-WIN and the Empty Vessel Wireless Internet Cafe.



The Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System highlighted an Introduction to Computers 101 program. A program designed to assist the more mature user in understanding the Internet, the library's catalogs, search engines, and Microsoft programs.

The Early Childhood Resource Center was the focus for **First Regional Library**. Pictured is Victoria Penny explaining the resource center and some of the recent activities.



Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library System revealed their John H. Williams Negative Scan Project, which is the digitization of old photographs and negatives of buildings, people, and activities of the area.



Using the theme, *See What's Going on @ Your Library*, **Jackson-Hinds Library System** highlighted various programs and activities currently being held at the library.



Natchez-Amite-Wilkinson Library System's exhibit emphasized their Teen Zone, a special room in the library set aside just for teens. In addition to reading, Teen Zone includes gaming, programming, comfortable seating, and food.

"Ms. **MAGNOLIA**," First Regional Library System Director Catherine Nathan, spent the day reminding legislators about **MAGNOLIA**.



Learn-A-Test was the primary focus of the **Library Commission's** exhibit. Legislators, Capitol pages, staff, and visitors stopped to inquire about the online database and how to access it.

In the afternoon, the Library Commission extended its exhibit to include the following agency services and programs: Patent & Trademark Depository Library, Blind & Physically Handicapped Library Services, Summer Library Program and the Center for the Book.

Overall, the 2011 State Capitol exhibit day was a success! Legislators, Capitol staff, pages, and visitors were reintroduced to public libraries and today's services which are much more than just books!



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Notes . . . from the desk of the Executive Director



Spring 2011

What a wonderful time we had at the State Capitol week at the Library Commission's annual Capitol Exhibit. The day was particular special with six (6) public library systems showcasing services provided to their local communities.

First Regional Library (Hernando)

Words on Wheels - Provides early childhood learning opportunities through the delivery of children's programs and services across a five-county area in a repurposed bookmobile.

Jackson/Hinds Library System

User's Choice - Eight branches offer a wide variety of programs and services to Hinds County residents.

Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library (Brookhaven)

Remembering People and Places - Digitization of thousands of old photographic negatives of community.

Natchez-Adams-Wilkinson Library Service

Teen Room - A space dedicated to "growing" library users through gaming, reading, and networking.

Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System (McComb)

Computers 101 - A program to familiarize people with email and other technologies.

Waynesboro/Wayne Co. Public Library System

E-Government - Bringing government services to people in rural Mississippi through partnerships with other organizations and agencies.

The exhibits highlighted the fact that libraries are about communities, not books or bytes of information. The perception of a library as a musty old place, full of dusty old books, and cranky librarians always "shushing" you is SO OUT-OF-DATE. Today's libraries are bright, vibrant, and oftentimes loud places. Yes, libraries still have books, but in a variety of formats from paperbacks, to standard print, to large print, to audiobooks, to downloadable books. But, libraries also offer online test preparation, online job search assistance, programs for children and adults, early childhood learning opportunities, and public use computers with high-speed internet. Some check out e-book readers; have web pages, blogs, RSS feeds, FaceBook pages; provide Skype for military families; and offer public computer classes. Depending on where you are, you can even find fishing poles, cake mold pans, or pieces of art for check out, not to mention MP3 players, DVDs, etc.!

Today's libraries address local needs with services as diverse as their communities. Check out your library, you will be amazed! I guarantee it is not the library of your childhood!

Sharman Bridges Smith

DUVALL DECKER ARCHITECTS RECEIVES "DESIGN FOR DECADES" RECOGNITION

The Mississippi Library Commission, located at 3881 Eastwood Drive in Jackson, Mississippi, was recently selected as an example of design excellence in civic buildings worldwide in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Design for Decades



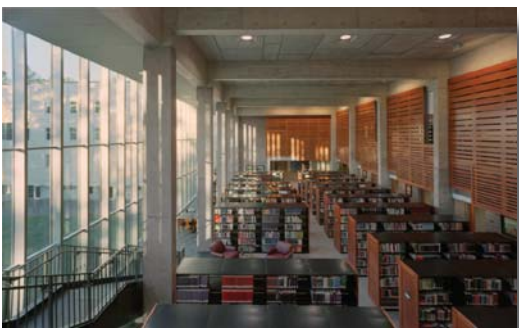
right side view

exhibition. The state agency building was featured in exhibits on Architect and Eco-Structure websites as one of ten best examples of design excellence in civic buildings. The building, designed by Duvall Decker Architects/Burris-Wagnon Architects, a Jackson, MS based joint venture, was completed in 2005.

According to *Architect*, a magazine of the American Institute of Architects, "Civic buildings should be places where citizens feel safe and welcomed, where they can grow and learn, and where they can strengthen their community ties. Designed by AIA members and featured in its Design for Decades initiative, the design projects featured...highlight the intersection of city government, community interaction, and public education—demonstrating the lasting value of design."

The Design for Decades exhibition was open to all AIA member projects from every facet of the architectural design arena. The exhibition's goal was to feature the best examples of design excellence from around the world by AIA members.

As a project selected for the Design for the Decades exhibit, the Library Commission Headquarters will also be considered for exhibition at venues such as the new ground floor gallery of the AIA Headquarters, the 2011 AIA Convention and other locations suggested by AIA chapters from around the country.



Second Floor Reading Room

Photos courtesy of Timothy Hursley

LIBRARY COMMISSION OFFERS CERTIFICATION REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

In Spring 2011, the Mississippi Library Commission will offer Registration Assistance Awards to library support staff applying for certification in the American Library Association's Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program.

The program provides library employees the opportunity to achieve recognition for experience, to enhance library service, and to increase skills and knowledge in areas such as foundations of librarianship, technology, and communication.

Eligibility information and the application form for the Registration Assistance Awards are available on the Mississippi Library Commission website at www.mlc.lib.ms.us. The application submission deadline is Monday, May 2, 2011. Support staff from all types of libraries are invited to apply.

Recipients will be selected by random drawing on Friday, May 6, 2011. The award consists of \$175 or one-half of the LSSC registration/application fees which will be applied, as a credit, upon completion of registration. Recipients are responsible for the remainder of registration fees.

"LSSC offers library staff the opportunity to continue to hone their skills in order to better serve Mississippi library users. The Library Commission sees LSSC as an extension of the state's commitment to "growing our own librarians," stated Mississippi Library Commission Executive Director Sharman B. Smith.

The Assistance Award applicants must have a high school degree or equivalent and have worked the equivalent of one year (1820 hours) as a library staff member or volunteer within the last five years.

Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) provides a path to recognition and awareness of the critical role that library support staff play in the delivery of quality library service. To achieve certification, support staff must achieve six of ten competency sets either through development of an online portfolio or taking approved courses. The competency sets are: Foundation of Library Service; Technology; Communication and Teamwork; Access Services, Adult Readers' Advisory Services; Cataloging and Classification; Collection Management; Reference and Information Services; Supervision and Management; and Youth Services.

The LSSC Program is funded by a grant to the American Library Association from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services, and is managed by the ALA-Allied Professional Association.

Detailed information is available at www.ala-apa.org/lssc or by contacting Barbara Price at 601-432-4498 or bprice@mlc.lib.ms.us.

LIBRARIANSHIP 201 HOLDS FINAL SESSION; FUTURE UNCERTAIN

The Librarianship 201 Institute, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ridgeland, completed the third year of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant received by the Library Commission from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Participants included library system staff from across the state selected through a competitive process and for the first time, interns from the University of Southern Mississippi Library School.

For the second year in a row, the Institute took place during a snowstorm in Mississippi.

A slight change in the format this year contributed to an even more successful week. On Monday, Joan Frye Williams opened with “Information is Not Enough” with a look at library trends and the future of library services. Tuesday, Ed Klee provided a full day of exercises and information on “Organizational Relationships,” including conflict resolution, supervision and communication. “Library Ethics and Law,” presented by Mary Minow was Wednesday’s topic and Russell Palmer followed on Thursday with, “Technology” and covered many new technologies from the end-user viewpoint. Friday’s topic, “Leadership,” was presented by Cal Shepard and Jennifer Wann Walker.

One of the participants stated, “Librarianship 201 Institute was an invaluable experience in learning about the profession by networking with nationwide experts and librarians from across the state.”

Since this is the last year of the grant, MLC is looking to make changes in the Librarianship 201 Institute. A survey of all the 201 participants of the last three years will be conducted and an advisory committee will be convened to refine and develop the program.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES DESIGNATED AS TEMPORARY RELOCATION FACILITIES

The American Library Association (ALA) said efforts by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) resulted in a change to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) policy that has designated libraries as temporary relocation facilities during major disasters and emergencies under the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

Section 403 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to provide federal assistance to meet immediate threats to life and property resulting from a major disaster. According to the provision, the act allows for the provision of temporary facilities for schools and other essential community services, when it is related to saving lives and protecting and preserving property or public health and safety.

“In times of disaster, libraries strive to ensure the public has access to the resources and services they need, but prior to this policy change libraries were not specifically included in the list of eligible public facilities,” Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, said.

Sheketoff went on to say, “Senator Reed recognized what a tremendous oversight this was and has worked with us to make sure the correction was made. We thank him for his diligence to ensure the public will continue to find the critical resources they need in times of an emergency at their local library.”

FEMA’s list of eligible public facilities now includes facilities for police, fire protection/emergency services, medical care, education, libraries, utilities and other essential community services.

“This is a common-sense change that I have been calling for since Hurricane Katrina,” Reed said.

“It will help libraries in need relocate so they can keep serving the public in the wake of a flood or other emergency. Libraries are vital information hubs, and in the aftermath of a disaster, libraries take on an even greater community role, providing free and easy access to technology and essential information.”

Reed also authored the Museum and Library Services Act of 2010, which President Obama recently signed into law, authorizing nearly \$300 million in federal assistance to museums and libraries nationwide.

Special to The PACKET from the American Library Association.

PUCKETT RETIRES

Over 85 guests and staff attended a retirement reception in honor of Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services (BPHLS) Division Director Rahye Puckett. After 32 years of state service, 16 at MLC, Puckett retired at the end of January.



During a short program, well wishers thanked and complimented her. Mike Duke, chair of the Blind & Physically Handicapped Advisory Committee began his comments with when he first met Puckett, the new BPHLS director. He concluded his comments with this statement, "She made the BPHLS personal, as I did. It's been my library since I was eight years old," Duke said.



Reverend Sam Gleese of the National Federation of the Blind of Mississippi presented Puckett with a plaque for her work with blind and physically handicapped library services.



Library Commission/BPHLS Circulation Services Director Jerry Roberts read a letter from Frank Kurt Cylke, director of the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Library. The following is an excerpt from his letter, ". . . You have provided leadership, vision, and support for your library and for the broader network. During capable tenure the National Library Service



for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has launched the transition to digital books and players, our biggest initiative in eighty years. Thank you for your cooperation in this major endeavor!"

PENNY AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS BECHTEL FELLOWSHIP



The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) has awarded one of two 2011 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowships to Victoria Penny, First Regional Library Early Childhood Services Coordinator.

The Bechtel Fellowship is designed to allow qualified children's librarians to spend a month or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, a part of the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The Baldwin Library contains a special collection of 85,000 volumes of children's literature published mostly before 1950. The fellowship is endowed in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin and provides a \$4,000 stipend.

Penny chose "Rediscovering Child's Sense of Wonder: Depictions of Nature and Outdoor Play in Historical Children's Literature" as her topic of study. Penny's work will investigate illustrations from 19th and 20th century American children's literature to determine the manner in which this reflects notions of childhood development at the time.

"I have always had a personal love for and intellectual interest in nature and the outdoors. On a professional level, I have recently become much more interested in the importance of outdoor play and green time to children's development," Penny said.

ALSC, a division of the American Library Association, is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. With a network of more than 4,200 children's and youth librarians, literature experts, publishers and educational faculty, ALSC is committed to creating a better future for children through libraries.

Special to The PACKET from the American Library Association.

CLARKSDALE SCHOOL LIBRARY WINS ANNUAL GREAT BOOKS GIVEAWAY

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), named Oakhurst Middle School, in Clarksdale, Miss., as the winner of its annual Great Books Giveaway. The library will receive more than \$20,000 in books, audio books and other materials from items publishers and producers donated to YALSA in 2010. Due to the volume of donations, YALSA was able to name two runners-up: Colleton County High School in Walterboro, S.C. took second place, and Fletcher (Okla.) Public Schools took third place. The estimated value of the entire collection is more than \$40,000.

Oakhurst Middle School serves younger teens in a community where 37 percent live beneath the poverty level and the unemployment rate is 14 percent. The majority of its student body reads at least two levels below grade level; 65 percent of its nonfiction collection has a shelf age of more than 15 years. In her application, Oakhurst librarian Judith Gist noted that calling her students “reluctant readers is an understatement,” citing the aged collection as a major hindrance.

“Words can’t express the joy, the excitement and gratitude we feel for receiving this wonderful gift,” said Gist. “This enables us to completely revitalize our small library. It would take us more than six years to be able to acquire such a collection – it’s an ongoing struggle to get young teens motivated to read, and even more difficult with materials that are out of date. Receiving such a large influx of contemporary books is a wonderful blessing.”

The application form and information for next year’s Great Books Giveaway are available on the YALSA website, www.ala.org/yalsa/awards&grants. Applications must be received in the YALSA office by Dec. 1, 2011.

For more than 50 years, YALSA has been the world leader in selecting books, videos and audio books for teens.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY MARKS OPENING OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



Central Mississippi

Regional Library System (CMRLS) recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony announcing the opening of the

library system’s administrative headquarters. Representative John L. Moore, the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, Chancery Clerk, CMRLS Board members, Acorn, and an eager crowd of well wishers were on hand to witness the ribbon cutting and signifying the official opening of the facility.

CMRLS Administrative Headquarters began in 1986 in the back room of the old Pearl Public Library on Hwy 80 West. Headquarters staff worked there until 1998, when they moved to 100 Office Park Drive in Brandon. This was roomier, but was soon outgrown. Staff had little room for projects, deliveries, or computer equipment. Rankin County Board of Supervisors arranged the renovation of the Rankin County Health Department for CMRLS Headquarters.

HUMANITIES COUNCIL HONORS CULVER, M. R. DYE LIBRARY



At the 2011

Humanities Awards dinner in Jackson, the Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC) awarded the MHC Humanities Partner Award to P.

Carson Culver and the M. R. Dye Library in Horn Lake. Highlighting Culver’s efforts was the organization of the seven-week MHC Luciérnagas Hispanic Family Reading series this past fall. The Luciérnagas goal is to encourage increased reading in either English or Spanish among Hispanic families with children 6-10 years old.

The program has an enrollment of 24 families and over 100 participants each week.

“It’s part of our population that needs to be served,” said First Regional Library Public Relations Specialist David Brown, “and Carson has done a great job getting them involved in the library. It’s been great for everybody.”

MLC HOLDS ANNUAL STAFF RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Each year the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) staff gathers in the agency's meeting room to recognize those with longevity and to welcome new staff members. Staff Recognition also includes an update on the agency's budget.

This year's gathering included a guest speaker, Murray Harber, Wellness Coordinator for WebMD/Motivating Mississippi Program. Harber's presentation addressed the importance of completing the Health Quotient prior to going to the doctor and the importance of taking advantage of the wellness exam. "Take advantage of your preventive exam. Complete the Health Quotient before you go to the doctor; go now and get it done," he stressed. A brief question and answer session followed.



The Staff Recognition program concluded with the awarding of certificates to "veteran" employees first. Martha Wright topped this year's list with 34 years followed by Glenda Tilson with 33 years and Gloria J. Washington rounded out the top three with 28 years. Rahye Puckett retired after 16 years at MLC. Curtis Sene Chatman and Vivian Sanderford were recognized for 15 years of service and Mark Skaggs completed his fifth year.



Pictured are staff recognized at MLC's Annual Staff Recognition program, left to right: Rahye Puckett, Martha Wright, Gloria J. Washington, Sharman B. Smith, Mark Skaggs, and Glenda Tilson. Not pictured: Curtis Sene Chatman and Vivian Sanderford.

LIGHT, GLASS ARTISTS KICKS-OFF ANNUAL ART SERIES

The Mississippi Library Commission kicked off its 2011 series of art exhibits with husband and wife artists, Roy Adkins and Jerri Sherer. The show consisted of more than 58 pieces of photography, mixed medium, and glass aperture.

Forty-five guests and friends enjoyed a lively evening of art, "improvisational" music by Strange Pilgrim, along with food and drink during an opening reception held at the Library Commission.



While guests signed in and toured the exhibit, compliments could be heard as they made their way through the gallery and viewed the artists' works. "I just love the colors the glass art gives off under the light of the display cases. It glitters and gives the look of a lovely iridescent rainbow," stated a guest.

Adkins' *Contra*, a mixed media piece, and his limited edition giclee print called *Rocky Springs* attracted much attention and made for great conversations.

Adkins and Sherer's works remained on display at the Library Commission throughout the month of February. Visit both artists online at www.LightandGlass.net



Gail & Lee McCarty opened their two-month mixed media exhibit Tuesday, March 1, 2011. An opening reception will be held Thursday, April 7, from 5-7 p.m., at the Library Commission. The exhibit and the reception are free and open to the public.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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MLC NEWS

The Mississippi Library Commission welcomes two new staff members:.



Jennifer Peacock
Fiscal Services Director



Veronica Dunning
Administrative Assistant

Best Wishes . . .

The Library Commission extends best wishes to the following staff members who recently left the agency: Charlene Develle, Treasure Stover, Amy Clark, and Rahye Puckett.

Mississippi Library Commission
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The PACKET

CALENDAR

MARCH 2011

ARTISTS – GAIL & LEE MCCARTY

- 2-4 CREATING FUTURES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE – BILOXI
- 3 PRATT-SMOOT OPEN HOUSE
- 8 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) TUPELO
- 9 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) BATESVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS MEETING
- 10 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (TEEN) CLINTON
MLA LEGISLATIVE “Pie” DAY
- 22 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) CLEVELAND
- 23 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) KOSCIUSKO
- 29 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) PASS
CHRISTIAN
- 30 SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) LAUREL
SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WORKSHOP (CHILDREN) MLC

APRIL 2011

ARTISTS – GAIL & LEE MCCARTY

- TBA TRUSTEE TRAINING WORKSHOP – LOCATION TBA
- 10-16 NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
- 21-22 Workshops – Making Effective Presentations – Jackson
- 25 CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY – AGENCY CLOSED

MAY 2011

ARTISTS – MISS. STATE HOSPITAL; DONNA DAVIS

- 4 TOWN MEETING – LIBRARY SECURITY – COLUMBUS
- 5 TOWN MEETING – LIBRARY SECURITY – HERNANDO
- 18 TOWN MEETINGS – LIBRARY SECURITY – HATTIESBURG
- 19 TOWN MEETINGS – LIBRARY SECURITY – JACKSON
- 24 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
- 30 MEMORIAL DAY – AGENCY CLOSED

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