

The PACKET

Newsletter of the Mississippi Library Commission

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COMMISSION HOSTS NATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION FORUM

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CALENDAR

The annual National Continuing Education Forum for state libraries was held in Mississippi, for the first time. The Library Commission hosted the three-day event, August 29-31, at the King Edward Hotel in downtown Jackson. Thirty-six of fifty State Library Continuing Education Coordinators attended, including representatives from as far away as Alaska.

The Continuing Education Forum was launched in 1994 by the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA). The Forum provides a venue for state library agencies to come together to discuss skills development training plans, trends, methods, presenters, and requirements.

Following this year's theme, "Honoring the Past-Looking to the Future in Libraries," participants discussed possible future library roles and functions, related skills needed by library staff and methods for acquiring such skills. Each Coordinator from each state summarized continuing education activities and projects in their respective state. The "50 States-50 Webinars" project, in which each state develops a webinar on a specific training topic and then shares with all other states, was discussed along with how to determine topics, hosting site for the webinars, a time line, and possible funding.

"This year's Forum is looking towards the future and what we can do to help library staff in our various states and library communities develop their skills in order to better serve their patrons and help with the delivery of library services," said Shirley Biladeau, Library Continuing Education Consultant, Idaho Commission for Libraries.



Biladeau

A panel looked at libraries of the future and what they might look like as community centers, technology centers, continuing education centers and collections and service. "One key point is we will always have libraries, but they may not look like what they look like now," she stated.

According to Biladeau, "Rewire, not Retire" is a phrase librarians often hear while assisting patrons coming into the library to learn new skills. "This is where the library becomes, for them, a point of continuing education. Where people who are losing their jobs go to learn how to use computers; they are rewiring themselves. They are not going to sit back and retire if they are not old enough or if they are they have lots of energy to contribute to the community." she added.

Dr. Beth Paskoff, Dean, School of Library and Information Science, Louisiana State University, addressed "Skills for Librarians of the Future-What is Needed?"



Dr. Paskoff

In addition to numerous work sessions, participants were treated to a reception at the Library Commission and toured the Eudora Welty House and gardens.

The Forum maintains a wiki (<http://ceforum.pbwiki.com>) for information sharing and collection. Each state files an annual state report on continuing education, which is available on the wiki.



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Notes . . . from the desk of the Executive Director



September 2011

Over the Labor Day holiday, I heard someone say, "Summer is over, time to get back to work" implying summer is a time of rest!

For libraries, summers are anything but restful.

Libraries offer summer reading programs for children, teens and adults. Through numerous library activities, the reading skills of thousands of five-to-twelve year olds are maintained over the school break. At Mississippi public libraries during the summer, children read more than one half million books, attend hundreds of story hours, take part in puppet shows, make crafts, and learn about snakes from "The Snake Man" among hundreds of other programs designed to make learning fun.

For those individuals looking for work, there is no summer vacation. Individuals wishing to improve their job skills or find a job continue to flock to the library for help and to use library computers.

Libraries assist traditional summer school students with fast-paced, need-it-now assignments. With distance education, classes go on 7-24-365 creating constant demand on library computers regardless of time of year.

Planning for many summer vacations begins at the library. Those lucky enough to be traveling look to the library for audiobooks, eBooks, and traditional books to while away the windshield time and the hours relaxing.

All of this to say, libraries are busy, exciting places during any season or time of the year, constantly adapting to meet the constantly changing needs of their communities.

Sharman Bridges Smith

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS NAMED

The Mississippi Library Commission recently announced Sherry Anderson, Humphreys County Library System; Melissa Holekamp, Lee-Itawamba County Library System; and James D. Pinkard, Jr., Lamar County Library System as the 2011 Public Librarian Scholarship Awards recipients. The Public Librarian Scholarship Program is open to individuals who have worked in a Mississippi public library for at least one year and have been accepted into an ALA-accredited masters library program. Successful applicants must sign a contract agreeing to work in a Mississippi public library for two years following graduation.

Sherry Anderson currently serves as Interim Director of the Humphreys County Library System. "I believe that with the education I will receive from the University of Southern Mississippi, coupled with my genuine interest in the people of our community, along with my enthusiasm for reading will give me the tools I need to develop into an outstanding library director," stated Anderson.



Anderson



Holekamp

Melissa Holekamp is the Interim Director of the Lee-Itawamba County Library System. "Though my background in counseling has proven useful in my career as a librarian, there are gaps in my knowledge of library science. I have made a commitment to myself, my staff, and my employer to acquire my master's degree in library and information service."

Rounding out this year's scholarship recipients is James D. Pinkard, Jr., Technical Services Associate for the Lamar County Library System. "...I believe I would be a valuable addition to the ranks of professional librarians. Both my studies and my time with Lamar County have developed my interest in public librarianship and the mission to provide materials and services to everyone, particularly the underserved populations. It is my hope that with the generous support of MLC, the foundation provided by an MLIS degree from the University of Southern Mississippi will prepare me for the challenges involved in carrying out that mission."



Pinkard

For additional information on the Public Librarian Scholarship Program, contact Jennifer Wann Walker, 601.432.4068 or jwalker@mlc.lib.ms.us.

ADULT SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Summer Library Program (SLP) is generally synonymous with children and youth. This year's SLP added a new dimension, adults.

Twenty public library systems took part in this year's adult SLP. In addition to announcing public libraries were offering an adult SLP with a unified theme, "Novel Destinations," the Library Commission held a programming workshop and added incentives. Nine Mississippi casinos donated ten prizes ranging from \$100 to \$400.

Winners of the statewide prizes are:

- Tracy Englert, The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal & Forrest County -
Imperial Palace, Biloxi-Weekend stay in a luxurious standard room; dinner for two at tien restaurant; \$100.00 Senses Spa & Salon gift certificate
- Amy Dahl, Jackson-George Regional Library System-
Imperial Palace-Biloxi-Weekend stay in a luxurious standard room; dinner for two at tien restaurant
- Nena Seiler, First Regional Library System -
Bally's Casino, Tunica (Robinsonville)-One-night hotel stay for two
- Scarlet Gassord, South Miss. Reg. Library System -
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Biloxi-Dinner for two at Vibe
- Beth Jenkins, Sunflower County Library System -
Isle Capri Casino-Hotel, Biloxi's-Two-night stay & two free buffets
- Barbara Harper, Yazoo Library Association -
Diamond Jack's Casino, Vicksburg-One-night stay and two dinner buffets
- Sylvia Epperly, Lee-Itawamba Co. Library System -
Resort's Casino, Tunica-One-night stay for two guests
- Jessie McCarty, East Mississippi Reg. Library System -
Riverwalk Casino Hotel, Vicksburg-Two guests, one-night stay, \$40 certificate at Rocky's and \$10 GoPlay certificate
- Nanette Murphree, Hancock County Library System -
Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Tunica (Robinsonville)-Two-night stay & dinner for two at The Great Buffet
- Sue Weiger, Columbus-Lowndes Library System -
Silver Dollar Hotel & Casino, Pearl River Resort-One night stay & buffet for two at Chef's Pavilion

LIBRARIANSHIP 101 CELEBRATES 8 YEARS, HELPING TRAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF

Thirty (30) paraprofessionals from 20 of the 51 public library systems attended the Institute in August 2011.

Throughout the four (4) days, participants were involved in lectures, discussions and group exercises. On a variety of library topics.



Shown is LYRASIS' Palmer sharing reference sources with 101 participants.

Presenters Russell Palmer with LYRASIS and Mississippi Library Commission Information Services Director Tracy Carr Seabold Reference introduced the critical elements of conducting successful reference included ethical issues, the reference interview, search strategies, and evaluating resources. Hands-on activities led students to new reference tools, online catalogs, electronic online resources and other strategies for locating information.

Greg Sellers, Collection Management Librarian for the Library Commission, participated in the Institute and was thrilled with what he learned. "What I liked about 101 was the background and history of public libraries. I also found the presentations on Collection Development very useful."

Sellers summarized his feelings, "The whole Librarianship 101 experience made you want to go back and be a better librarian."



Sellers concentrates on using useful resources to complete 101 assignment.

The Librarianship 101 Institute is designed to improve public library services in Mississippi by developing the skills of public library staff, assisting public library system directors in training public library staff and motivating public library staff to acquire, maintain and develop skills for personal fulfillment and career enhancement.

RECEPTION HELD FOR ARTISTS, "NO FRAME, NO GLASS" EXHIBIT

The Library Commission recently hosted a reception for fiber artisan Marcy Petrini and visual artist George Miles, Jr. More than 60 art enthusiasts came to view this unique mix of art. Guests enjoyed light conversation, food, photos, and art as they mingled and viewed the exhibit.



Sheri Cox, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi and fiber artisan Marcy Petrini (r) posed for a photo during the artist reception.

Petrini weaves, spins, and knits for enjoyment as well as passing on the craft. "At my paternal grandmother's knee, I learned to sew by hand in my native Italy. Later I found out that my maternal grandmother spun, wove and knitted in Lithuania."

As an educator, she has taught around the country and currently teaches a local ongoing weekly class.

Petrini has written about crafts for more than twenty years, with the last seven years as a regular columnist for the quarterly *Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot*, the award-winning periodical of the Handweavers Guild of America.

A visual artist who specializes in photography, collage, mix media and graphic design, is how Miles describes himself. He has won several awards for his visual arts and has exhibited in numerous places throughout the United States. Miles teaches classes on drawing, painting, collage, photography, and computer graphics, in addition to a wide range of arts and cultural workshops.



Pictured are Jean Whitehead, MSART & Design Consultants and exhibiting visual artist George Miles, Jr.

A highlight of the reception was Miles' use of an old, empty frame, in photos with guests.

The current exhibit, "A Time for Sharing", features husband and wife artists Bob & Mary Lynn Dunaway and artisan Larry Smith. Scheduled to run for two months, the exhibit consists of photography, watercolors, mixed media and a variety of handmade, one-of-a-kind, techno art clocks.

COVINGTON COUNTY BECOMES SINGLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

For years, Covington County libraries in Collins, Seminary and Mount Olive were part of the Pine Forest Regional Library System. Now after a year of planning, the Covington County Library System is a fully functioning single county library system.

Sandra Boyd, chair of the Administrative Board of Trustees for the library system said, "The goal of the new system is to restore library hours, introduce more library services, and upgrade the computer system."

Boyd further stated, "We feel like we're going to be able to make decisions for our libraries. For instance, we're going to try to fit the hours for each library to benefit the people in that community, not just have a standard set of hours across the whole system. However, the immediate change to library hours is returning to five-days-a-week service at the Seminary and Collins libraries."

Other changes include the hiring of a new library director, Robin Hosey. She is a certified librarian with a Masters Degree in Library Science.

Board Secretary Annie Ruth Campbell said the decision to become a single county library system has been a dream of the Library Board of Trustees, the County of Supervisors, the City of Collins and the Towns of Seminary and Mt. Olive for more than a year. "Everyone has worked cooperatively to make the transition a reality."



Pictured from left are Covington County Library Board Chair Sandra Boyd and the new library director, Robin Hosey.

Campbell also said the Library Board will be working with the schools, community organizations and the municipalities to upgrade in all phases of the three libraries.

The majority of funding for the new system comes from the County Board of Supervisors, with contributions from the three municipalities.

Article and photo reprinted with permission from News Editor Jonah Taylor, News Commercial, Collins, Miss.

COMMISSION KICKS OFF WRITERS GUILD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Mississippi Writers Guild opened its fifth Annual Writers Conference with a reception hosted by the Mississippi Library Commission. More than fifty participants attended the first night of the two-day conference.



Executive Director Smith

Guests arrived, registered, and mingled while they enjoyed lite refreshments. Participants then assembled in the meeting room for the official opening with Library Commission Executive Director Sharman B. Smith welcoming the Guild and giving a brief synopsis of the agency and the services offered.

Tracy Carr Seabold followed with an overview of The Center for the Book and its mission. Seabold also shared information about the *Letters About Literature* writing contest and the *Book Club in a Box*.



Seabold

Special guest speaker Diane Williams spoke on Grants for Writers. Award-winning, best-selling author, business owner, licensed death scene investigator, Deborah LeBlanc, was the Keynote Speaker for the evening.

The evening concluded on a light note with the Literary Artists on Stage (LAOS) providing the entertainment. Known for their performance with poetry, hip-hop, slam, essays, fiction, non-fiction, songs, plays, and monologues, LAOS believes if you can write it, you can perform it!

The Mississippi Writers Guild (MWG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and preservation of the literary arts in Mississippi.



Participants of the Mississippi Writers Guild Fifth Annual Writers Conference.

BAY ST. LOUIS LIBRARY HOSTS "HIGH TEA"

On Wednesday, July 6, at 3:30 p.m. as part of the Adult Summer Library Program (SLP) "Novel Destinations," Bay St. Louis Library staff hosted a High Tea. Thirty participants, some wearing hats, attended the "Tea and Titles High Tea."

Seated at tables with white tablecloths, fine china, lavender colored linen napkins and bouquets of silk



MLC Consultant Barbara Price (center) held Novel Destinations sign while posing with "High Tea hatters".

violets as centerpieces, participants enjoyed scones with mint jelly, tuffles, and other delicacies and a variety of teas. Each participant received a Novel Destinations book bag, a journal and a tasseled bookmark.

Marketing/ Programming Coordinator, Nel Ducomb opened with introductions and followed with a short program. Library Commission Consultant Barbara Price



"High Tea" participants visited England via the armchair traveler's website.

gave a book review and shared how to take a virtual tour of England via the armchair traveler's website www.armchair-travel.com. Books from the SLP booklist were on display and available for check out. Drawings for door prizes donated by local merchants concluded the program.

The British tradition of High Tea began as an afternoon meal usually served between 3 and 4 o'clock. High Tea originated as a British working class tradition. "High" referred to the way it was taken, sitting atop stools in a teashop or standing at a counter or buffet table. A cross between afternoon tea and supper, for many it was the main meal of the day.

TRUSTEE INFO!

To encourage coalitions of strong local supporters for libraries, the Mississippi Library Commission will host a preconference at the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). James LaRue, Director of the Douglas County Library (Castle Rock) will be the featured speaker and will share how Colorado began a very successful Public Library Advocacy Initiative.

Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) was the basis for the Initiative that began in 2010. LaRue and BHAG use a different approach to library advocacy than has been used over the last 20 years.

BHAG, designed on a belief that advocacy is a continuous process, features four simple, short, succinct, and repeatable community-based messages:

- Libraries change lives
- Libraries are serious
- Libraries build communities
- Libraries are a smart investment

And, uses a speakers network of supporters who can bring these messages about the library's economic value to a community or statewide.

How can Mississippi's library supporters participate in empowering strong financially sustainable libraries? Come and be part of designing a network and telling our stories. Leave with skills to recruit and train spokespersons, craft messages, plan, and implement your own BHAG!

Registration is FREE! Library supporters (library staffs, Friends, trustees, and citizens) from all types of libraries are invited to participate.

The preconference will be held at the Library Commission (3881 Eastwood Drive, Jackson) on Tuesday, October 18th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration information is available on the MLA website: www.misslib.org.

GROUND BREAKING HELD IN EAST HANCOCK

Located in Shepherd Square in Diamondhead on the campus of the Hancock Medical Center Complex, the library will be a full-service library with a children's area and a community meeting room. Funded by a Community Development Block Grant through the Mississippi Development Authority, East Hancock will serve the communities of Fenton, Standard, Dedeaux and Diamondhead. Construction should be completed in the fall of 2012. Architects for the project are Dean and Dean of Jackson, Mississippi, GM&R are the contractors.



Pictured from left are Jesse Farley, Dean & Dean Architects; Tish Williams, Hancock Chamber Director; Tony Wayne Ladner, Hancock County Board of Supervisors; Ashley Boone; Patrick Martinez, GM&R; Henry Martinez, GM&R; Stephanie McConnell, Hancock Library Board of Trustees; Betty Claggett, Former Library Board Chair; Patty Furr, Hancock Library Executive Director; Sharman Smith, Mississippi Library Commission Executive Director; Sharon Alexander, Hancock Library Board of Trustees; Susan R. Lee, Hancock Library Board of Trustees; Bill LeBlanc, Hancock Library Board of Trustees; Chuck Benvenuto and his granddaughter Elizabeth; Lisa Cowand, Hancock County Board of Supervisors; and Tim Kellar, Hancock County Chancery Clerk.

FRIENDS HOLD "COMMUNITY" BLOOD DRIVE

The Friends of the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library held their first community blood drive with United Blood Services on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Members of the Friends of the Library registered donors. Each donor received a T-shirt for participating.

Library Director Patsy Brewer stated, "Patrons were very appreciative of this community service. Many commented that having the blood drive at the library was very convenient; it was held at a central location in town."

The goal was 30 units; however, at the end of the day, 33 units were collected. Since this service to the community was a success, the Friends will now hold four blood drives a year.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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MLC NEWS



Ally Mellon
Librarian I

Best Wishes . . .

The Library Commission extends best wishes to the following staff member who recently left the agency: Tamalyn Generette, Brandie Thomas and Michael Whities.

Mississippi Library Commission
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The PACKET

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011

ARTISTS – BOB & MARY LYNN DUNAWAY; LARRY SMITH
24-25 NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL - WASHINGTON DC
27 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
29 PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS WORKSHOP - MLC

OCTOBER 2011

ARTISTS – BOB & MARY LYNN DUNAWAY; LARRY SMITH
18 WORKSHOP – MLA PRE-CONFERENCE:
THE BIG, HAIRY, AUDACIOUS GOAL – MLC
19-21 MLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JACKSON
20 LIBRARIANSHIP ALUMNI MEETING AT MLA

NOVEMBER 2011

ARTISTS – RICK ANDERSON & TBA
1 PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS MEETING
2-4 PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS SYMPOSIUM - JACKSON
11 VETERANS DAY - AGENCY CLOSED
15 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
24 THANKSGIVING DAY - AGENCY CLOSED

DECEMBER 2011

ARTISTS – RICK ANDERSON & TBA
TBA E-Rate Workshops - MLC
25 Christmas Day - Agency CLOSED

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