

on the same page



news from the mississippi library commission

winter 2016

Libraries Standing Together

By Ann Marsh, Chair
MLC Board of Commissioners

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, budgetary cuts and consolidations loom large over all state agencies. A cohesive voice will be more crucial than ever to ensure continued funding of MLC and the Personnel Incentive Grant program.

It is my hope that the state's library community can work together to focus our efforts on spreading the word about how libraries positively impact their patron's lives. Now is the time to stand strong as a community and make sure we are a cohesive voice at the capitol in 2017. We all know that libraries are critical to the success of Mississippi's communities, and we need to make sure our lawmakers are aware of the role we play in creating a more vibrant and educated citizenry.

After recently conducting my second meeting as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for MLC, I feel it is my responsibility in my new role to assure you that this agency's number one goal is to support Mississippi libraries. I have had the opportunity to visit with the MLC staff and they all stand ready and willing to answer questions, help prepare grant

requests, troubleshoot internet problems, conduct trainings and educational sessions, and listen to your ideas and concerns.

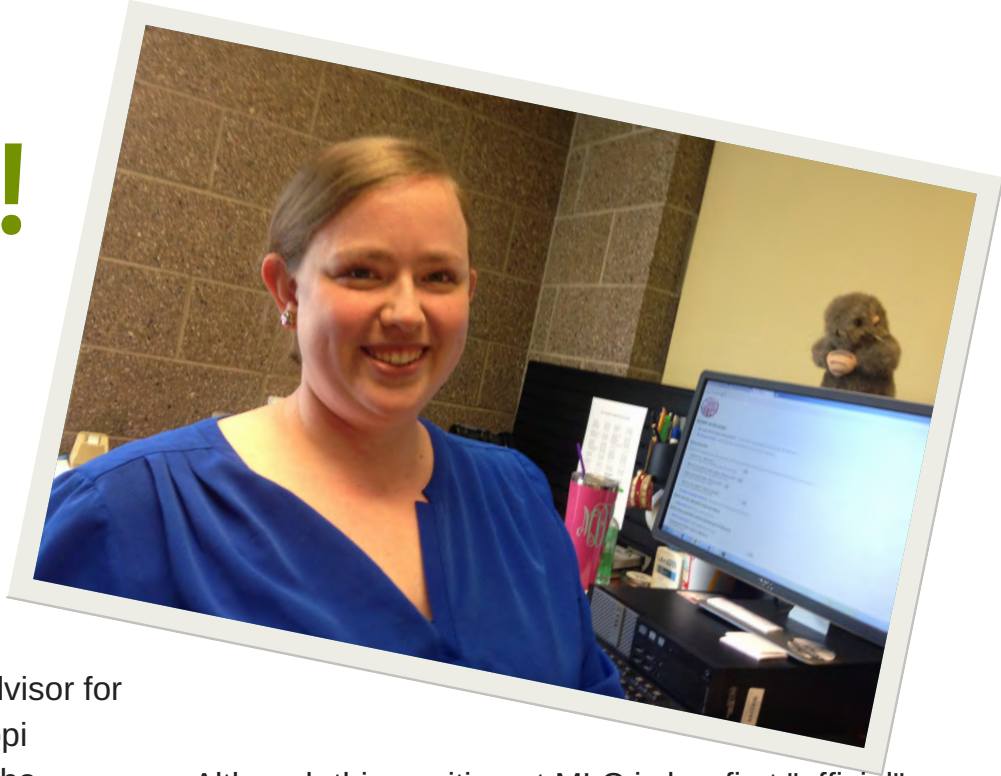
I understand that it has been a challenging year: one filled with questions, difficult decisions and unknown outcomes. On behalf of the MLC Board of Commissioners, we want you to know that we support the mission of this agency and have complete confidence in the staff here to support your libraries with the utmost integrity and professionalism.

Having just celebrated the great American holiday of Thanksgiving, I hope you will join me in facing the New Year filled with gratitude that as librarians, we have been given the opportunity to see positive transformations in the lives of library patrons. Let's make sure we share these stories so everyone understands the value of libraries for all Mississippians.

My best wishes to you all for the upcoming holiday season and a renewed commitment to libraries for 2017.

Meet MLC!

Mary Rodgers Beal Readers' Advisor



Meet Mary Rodgers Beal, Readers' Advisor for Talking Book Services at the Mississippi Library Commission! Mary Rodgers, who began at MLC in August of this year, already fills a number of important roles. She spends the majority of her time on the phone: she assists patrons with choosing books, accepts new BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) patrons and sets them up in the system, and explains how to use TBS's various services. She says that this makes it a perfect job for her because she gets to interact with a lot of different people from across the state, but all from the quiet of her office here in Jackson. "I like how much of an impact I make doing this job. So many of my patrons tell me that our service is their primary source of entertainment. They're extremely grateful," she said. Mary Rodgers also helps in various other capacities here at MLC, including filling in as back up Circulation Librarian and Front Desk Receptionist.

Mary Rodgers holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Mississippi and a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi along with an Archives and Special Collections graduate certificate. She recently attended MLC's Librarianship 101.

Although this position at MLC is her first "official" library job, Mary Rodgers has worked in and volunteered at libraries since she was a little girl. "I love libraries because they are always there, and yet they are always changing. I love how they adapt themselves to fit the demographics of the various communities they serve to best meet their needs," said Mary Rodgers. She also remarked on how you can see this change in terms of technological advances as well. "For example, in the last several years, TBS has moved from the old cassettes that they used to send out, to digital cartridges, audio downloads, and mobile apps, like BARD. Libraries change and adapt to fit to the times."

Mary Rodgers loves to read a variety of books, including mysteries, romance, and historical fiction. Her favorite author, though, is Jane Austen. The last book she read was *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* When she's not reading, she likes to hang out with her dogs Lola and Pickles. She also loves to travel. Her favorite trip was a visit to London and Scotland when she participated in Dr. Welsh's British Studies program at USM.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Mary Rodgers to MLC!



In 2004, MLC implemented the statewide interlibrary loan system provided by Auto-Graphics. The system virtually replicates the idea of a union catalog—a master list of several libraries holdings—by linking library catalogs together and making them searchable. Instead of a list that must be updated whenever items are acquired or deselected, the virtual union catalog allows users to receive up-to-date information about a library’s holdings each time a search is completed. The system was temporarily named the Mississippi Virtual Union Catalog and Interlibrary Loan System. That temporary status has lasted over 12 years, but has now come to an end as MLC announces the name has been updated to Beehive Resource Sharing.

“We wanted a name that would communicate the value of interlibrary loan without using another acronym,” said Tracy Carr, Library Services Director. “The honeybee is Mississippi’s state insect, and we liked the idea of bees working together for a common cause, like libraries who borrow and loan materials across the state do,” said Carr.

The Beehive Resource Sharing name and logo have been updated within the interlibrary loan system, and libraries who advertise the service on their websites are encouraged to update to the new name at their convenience. Let us know if you have any questions!



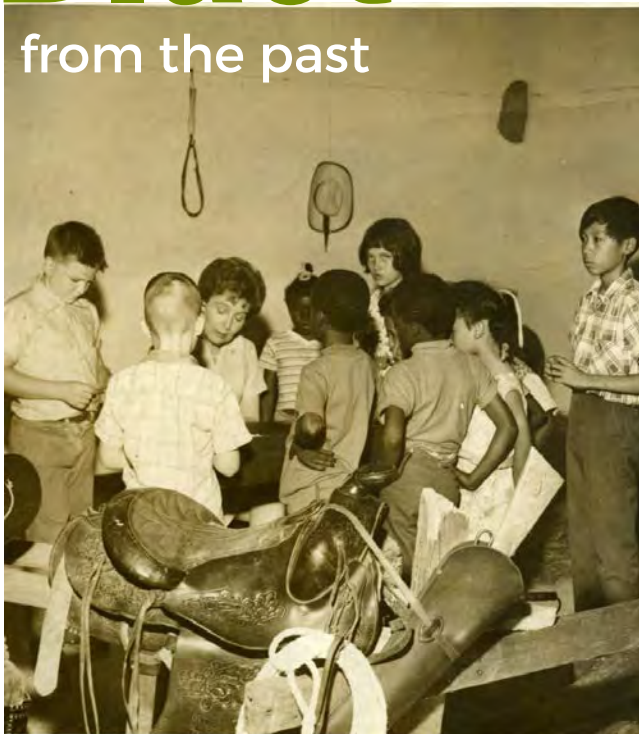
MLC Board of Commissioners

The members of the MLC Board of Commissioners are a dedicated group of individuals who are passionate about libraries and the role they play in making Mississippi's communities vibrant places to live and work.

L to R: Janet Armour (Tupelo), Suzanne Poyner, Vice-Chair (Florence), Ann Marsh, Chair (Brandon), Pamela Pridgen (Seminary), Jolee Hussey, Secretary (Oxford)

Blast

from the past



Washington County

MLC has recently joined the Mississippi Digital Library in order to share its recently digitized, 3000+ Historical Library Photograph collection. The metadata for the photos is being created and submitted now. The collection features photos from the 1930s on up and includes images of library programs, bookmobiles, receptions, buildings, and library staff. To browse the collection visit msdiglib.com If you have questions, contact Joy Garretson at jgarretson@mlc.lib.ms.us



Jones County



Coahoma County



“When I got my library card, that was when my life began.”
~ Rita Mae Brown

South Mississippi Regional Library Wins Inaugural Jane Smith Literacy Award

The South Mississippi Regional Library (SMRL), headquartered in Columbia, has received the inaugural Jane Smith Literacy Award, awarded by the Mississippi Library Commission and the Mississippi Center for the Book via the Library of Congress for the Families Read First program. Families Read First is a family reading initiative designed by the South Mississippi Regional Library to encourage families to spend time together reading by educating parents and caregivers on the importance of reading to children at an early age and by providing families with the skills and resources needed to establish positive reading habits in their own households.

The Jane Smith Literacy Award is part of the Library of Congress Literacy Award program and seeks to recognize an existing literacy program that is outside of traditional library service, is innovative in nature, and is in a Mississippi public library. The \$1,000 award is supplied by the Library of Congress. The award is named for longtime Mississippi library champion Jane Smith who sought to improve library service in the state for over 30 years.

“We’re excited to award the first Jane Smith Literacy Award to South Mississippi Regional Library,” said Mississippi Center for the Book Coordinator Tracy Carr. “The Families Read First program has many different elements that make it deserving of this award: a community book giveaway, training by a licensed early childhood specialist, a community one book program, and future plans to partner with local pediatricians and health departments to provide new parents with reading resources.”

A requirement of the Jane Smith Literacy Award is that the library have community partners as part of their literacy program. South Mississippi Regional Library’s community partners are plentiful: the Friends of the Columbia-Marion County Public Library, Marion County Kiwanis, Early Steps to School Success, the Pearl River Valley Opportunity Head Start program, Marion County Lions Club, and Columbia First United Methodist Church.

Ryda Worthy, Youth Services Librarian, who administers the program, said, “We are delighted to receive this award. Not only does it honor Jane Smith, a pioneer in Mississippi librarianship, but it also validates the efforts of Families Read First to increase family literacy in South Mississippi. We plan to use the funds from the award to host this year’s early educator workshop, purchase books for our One Book, One Community program, and institute early literacy bags for families with new babies.”



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO READ



Shelby Parsons, Big House Books, Lacy Ellinwood and Susan Liles with MLC

MLC's Public Relations Director Susan Liles and Senior Library Consultant Lacy Ellinwood have been working with board members from Big House Books, a non-profit dedicated to getting books into prisons, on a short film entitled *Big House Books: Protecting the Right to Read*. The group hopes to create awareness about the issue of literacy in Mississippi's correctional facilities. They applied for *The Magnifying Glass* grant which is provided by Artless Media. The grant works to pair individuals committed to making crucially important progressive short documentaries with humble financial support. The program supports the lenses of those who know injustice firsthand and are able to quickly bring awareness to specific injustices within their communities.

The group recently learned that they were awarded \$800 by Artless Media and the film will be shown at the Oxford Film Festival in February 2017. These funds will be provided to Big House Books for costs associated with making and promoting the film. Social media will play a major role in the outreach plan for this project so be sure to watch our Facebook for special announcements about screenings and other fun events!

State Agencies Partner to Reach Unserved Mississippi Communities

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), in partnership with the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), recently launched a special initiative to provide unserved counties with grants for local artists and art programs.

In order to share information about its services and highlight the artists who benefit from them, MAC is hosting a variety of artists at libraries and other community spaces in Chickasaw, George, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jasper, Perry, Smith, and Tunica counties in November and December. After the artists showcase their work in disciplines such as storytelling, music, and dance, MAC staff will discuss how organizations and individuals can apply for grants in the arts. All events are free and open to the public.

"We are grateful to the Mississippi Arts Commission for providing such an outstanding grant opportunity to libraries in these unserved communities," stated Susan Cassagne, Executive Director of MLC. "By partnering with our fellow cultural agency, we are better able to assist the libraries as they struggle to provide outstanding programming for their patrons."



All of us at MLC
are



MLC Calendar

December

- 1 - Copyright Basics Workshop at MLC
- 26 - MLC closed for holiday

January

- 2 - MLC closed for holiday
- 9 - Technology Academy Workshop at MLC
- 16 - MLC closed for holiday
- 19 - Genealogy Workshop at MLC
- 24 - MLC Board of Commissioners Meeting
- 25 - SLP Workshop (Children's Services) in Canton

February

- 6 - SLP Workshop (Early Literacy) at MLC
- 20 - MLC closed for holiday
- 22 - SLP Workshop (Children's Services) in Oxford

About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-432-4111
www.mlc.lib.ms.us

Susan Cassagne Executive Director

Board of Directors
Janet Armour, Tupelo
Jolee Hussey, Oxford
Ann Marsh, Brandon
Suzanne Poyner, Florence
Pamela Pridgen, Seminary

Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Susan Liles

Editor ~ *On the Same Page*

The Mississippi Library Commission was established in 1926 to ensure that all Mississippians have access to quality library services in order to achieve their greatest potential, participate in a global society, and enrich their daily lives.

MLC strives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians, while embracing the technology our users expect.

LIBRARY SERVICES bureau provides direct and indirect services to all of the state's libraries and citizens to improve access to a quality experience for all, including special populations.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES bureau provides support in financial and property management, human resources, technology services, and federal and state grant programs to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of libraries, government agencies and the citizens of Mississippi.