

on the same page



mississippi library commission

winter 2018

'Tis the Season....

by Hulen Bivins, MLC Executive Director

When called upon to express written thoughts at this time of the year, there is an instant concern regarding what might be pertinent and meaningful to write.

During this time of the year, we reflect on thoughtful and witty expressions gleaned from conversations or a workshop meeting that illustrate our professional friendship with fellow workers.

“Unsuccessful people measure success with money, titles and positions while successful people measure success with how much difference they made in the lives of other people” is an example of the thoughtful expression; “acknowledging the fact that your office chair swivels just may be one of the best parts of a job” is a witty expression, even if said in satire and for exaggeration. 'Tis the season to reflect.

Perhaps we should instantly go into a listing of thankful events -- events that we as librarians are thankful for such as our library patrons who trust us to give authoritative answers that provide knowledge or social entertainment. And yes, we should never forget to give thanks for the funding agents that enable our library's services, nor can we omit thankfulness for the members of Library Boards and Friends groups who support ideas and concepts that enhance library services. 'Tis the season to be thankful.

And though we may hate to admit it, this is the season of memories regarding past months. We ask questions like -- What did we do? How did we improve things? Could we have done more? Did we put forward our very best effort as a mentor or as a mentee? Indeed, these questions can be hard if we do not treat the answers as superfluous information. 'Tis the season for memories.

Forecasting is something many do in this season and in doing this, we are really just connecting the dots. As we know, medically the brain doesn't actually process every individual detail of something we look at; instead, it fills in the blanks with what it thinks should be there. That is why when things are unexpected, it will take up more of the processing power in our brain, and this can cause our

brain to create shortcuts by just filling in the blanks or connecting the dots on its own without fully processing what we're looking at. So, cerebral forecasting is our working out personnel, funding and long-range matters. 'Tis the season to look ahead.

Silence – the kind of silence that stretches into minutes -- maybe that is a better topic to write about. Indeed, maybe that has really been the theme for our year. Silence, you see, is, in reality, “listening.” Silence can provide an opportunity to reflect. Silence can provide an opportunity to be thankful. Silence can provide an opportunity to access memories. Silence can provide a wonderful opportunity to look ahead.

So, this writing is about silence. The kind of silence that illuminates one's ability to listen. This year has been a listening time for the Mississippi Library Commission to hear the thoughts and comments of Mississippi's public library directors. And, this year has been a listening time for Mississippi's public library directors to hear the thoughts and comments of the Mississippi Library Commission. Because listening intently renders greater understanding, we are all better prepared. Indeed, it has been an eventful season.

The Mississippi Library Commission looks forward to many “seasons” of cooperation and progress. Best wishes to everyone!

Congratulations!



Pictured left to right: Hulen Bivins, Executive Director of MLC, Sharman Smith and Richard Greene

During the awards ceremony at the Mississippi Library Association's annual conference in Meridian, the Peggy May Award was presented to Richard Greene, former Director of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System. Sharman Smith, former Executive Director of MLC, was presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award. MLC's Library Development Director, Lacy Ellinwood, received the Past Presidents' Award.

These awards were presented by the membership of the Mississippi Library Association.



Laundry & Literacy

Waynesboro-Wayne County Library

In order to provide literacy outreach to members of the community who may not visit the library, the Waynesboro-Wayne County Library and their Friends of the Library came up with an innovative concept.

The "Laundry and Literacy" project began when Library Director Patsy C. Brewer contacted four local laundromat owners. She shared with them how the library would like to place colorful laundry baskets in their facilities filled with books, magazines, coloring books, crayons, Spanish materials, crossword puzzles, young adult novels, children's books and other materials. All of these materials would be available for the public's free use at the laundromats. The hope was that the individuals would take items home and share them with their families. Library staff would visit the laundromats every two weeks to replenish reading materials and supplies as needed.

Funds for the project came from the Margaret Murray Literacy Grant and the library's Friends of the Library organization. Spanish books were purchased from First Books, a non-profit organization that has distributed more than 175 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low income families in more than 30 countries. Some of the reading materials included came from donations from library patrons. Library Director Patsy Brewer stated that "we are blessed that the members of our community are so generous, and continually drop off book donations at the library. From this ongoing effort we will have a variety of materials to continually supply the literacy baskets."



Noxubee County Library System Recipient of a Pilcrow Foundation Children's Book Project Award



The Noxubee County Library System received two Pilcrow Foundation grants for \$1,200 each. The funds will be used to purchase new hardcover books for children ages birth through 12. The new materials will be a great addition to weekly storytimes, and the updated titles for middle school readers will be welcomed!

Pilcrow Foundation grant recipients are able to select books from a book list that includes award-winning and star-reviewed titles from educational journals.

The Pilcrow Foundation was founded in 2013 and their mission is to provide new, quality, hardcover children's books to rural public libraries across the United States. The organization recognizes the importance of public libraries in rural communities as they are often the center of the community, where people come together to learn and share ideas.

<https://thepilcrowfoundation.org/>

State Line Library Receives Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Grant



The Pine Forest Regional Library System is proud to announce that their State Line branch recently received a \$1,000 grant from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Via the program, public libraries were invited to apply for *Revisiting the Founding Era*, a nationwide project that uses historical documents to spark public conversations about the Founding Era's enduring ideas and themes and how they continue to influence our lives today. Branch Manager, Pam Brown plans to do three programs for their patrons in March 2019. *This program is a project of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Constitution Center with support by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).* <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

INSIDE THE COMMISSION

Welcome New Staff Members in Technology Services



As the Director of Technology Services, **Scott Higdon** oversees the daily operations of the department. He has enjoyed sports all of his life, so he is proud of the teamwork exhibited by the technology staff. Growing up with a mother who was a teacher and principal, education has always been important in his family. Education is all about knowledge and the pursuit of knowledge. Where better to pursue knowledge than in a library?



Neil Machowski is a Computers System Analyst here at the Mississippi Library Commission. He provides support at MLC's Help Desk, troubleshooting computer problems for MLC and Mississippi public library staff. Neil also assists with audio/visual support at the agency. Prior to working with us, he served for twenty years with the United States Navy; we're fortunate to have his dedication and strong work ethic here at MLC.



Wes Von Hoene is a new Systems Administrator at MLC. He is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of computers and software here at MLC and Office 365 migrations for the libraries. Wes has degrees, in computer networking and in cyber security. He likes to learn and expand his knowledge. He says problem solving and analytical questions bring him enlightenment. He enjoys being here at MLC and says the people he works with are some of the finest people he has had the privilege of meeting.

News from the Technology Department



MLC Technology Services Department has been hard at work migrating library systems throughout Mississippi to Microsoft Office 365. Office 365 allows library systems to have access to Word, Excel, Outlook, Skype and many more Microsoft products, and it is used by almost every business and educational environment in the country. Not only does Office 365 give access to these products, it is also cloud based, allowing users to take “Office” with them wherever they go. If a

library employee has access to the internet, they also have access to all the Microsoft products that are used to do their job. Under the watchful eyes of Eahmon Jamison, Neil Machowski, and Wes Von Hoene, a total of 31 library systems have been migrated over to Office 365. After the most recent migration of the Pike-Amite-Walthall Library System on November 28, there are 15 remaining migrations to take place. The next migration, Noxubee County Library, is set to be completed before Christmas. We have set a goal of June 2019 to have all migrations completed. This is a lofty goal, but with proper planning and teamwork, the Technology Services Department is optimistic we can obtain this goal. Pictured: Neil (left) and Wes (center) at the McComb Library working with their staff member on Office 365 migration.

News from Talking Book Services



Mary Rodgers Beal is the new director for the Talking Book Services. She is a native of Ridgeland, MS, and has a bachelor’s degree from Ole Miss as well as a master’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. She began working with Talking Book Services as a volunteer in 2012, and came on board officially as a Readers’ Advisor in 2016. Mary Rodgers has been involved with people with disabilities her whole life, as her parents both work with individuals who are disabled. She has worked with children with cerebral palsy and is active in volunteering.

For more information on Talking Book Services call 601.432.4111 or toll free at 1.800.432.0892

Welcome New Consultant in Library Development



Louisa Whitfield-Smith is the newest member of the Library Development team! As a Library Consultant, she works as a liaison between public libraries in Mississippi and MLC. She gives advice and provides information and resources to library directors and staff. Louisa graduated from Murrah High School in Jackson (MS), on the birthday of her mom, a fellow Murrah grad. Her master's in library and information science is from LSU. She won an Urban Libraries Council top innovator award for communities in crisis for her work as a civic engagement librarian. She has served on RUSA's Notable Books Council, and the ALA

Center for Civic Life Advisory Board, reviewed for *Booklist*, and judged for the Foreward INDIES awards. She is also a proud graduate of the Granger Leadership Academy. In her new position, she looks forward to traveling all over her home state's highways and back roads, visiting libraries and librarians working to provide the best possible service to communities. She thinks something powerful happens in a space where all are welcome and treated the same.



2018 LAL Winners

Now Accepting Entries for 2019 Letters About Literature

The Mississippi Center for the Book is now accepting entries for the 2018-2019 Letters About Literature competition. The competition is a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The deadline for submission is December 14.

Letters About Literature is a writing contest for students grades 4 through 12. To enter, young readers write personal letters to authors, explaining how their work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The contest theme encourages a young reader to explore his or her personal response to a book, then express that response in a creative, original way.

The competition is broken up into three age categories with level 1 being grades 4 through 6, level 2 is grades 7 and 8, and level 3 is grades 9 through 12. First place winners in each level will receive \$100, second place winners will receive \$75, and third place winners will receive \$50. First place winners will also move on to national judging. National prizes are \$1,000 for first place in each of the three age levels and \$200 for Honor Winners in each of the three age levels.

Submissions can be mailed to the Mississippi Center for the Book at 3881 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39211, or submitted online at <https://lettersaboutliterature.submittable.com/submit/126581/mississippi-letters-about-literature>. For more information, contact Ally Mellon at amellon@mlc.lib.ms.us.

In the Gallery at MLC

Throughout 2018, the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) has been honored to feature pieces from some of the state's finest artists in the gallery. A year-long partnership with the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) has enabled MLC to showcase the work of many of MAC's Visual Arts Fellowship recipients. This highly competitive grant is awarded annually by MAC to artists exhibiting the highest level of artistry in their craft. The final show will feature the work of the latest group of fellows. We hope you will join us for a reception celebrating their artistry on Thursday, December 13 at 5:00pm, or be sure to stop by MLC through January 11 to see this amazing Mississippi art. MLC would like to thank MAC for partnering with us to showcase some of Mississippi's finest artists.

The Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased
to showcase the work of the

2019 Visual Arts Fellowship Recipients

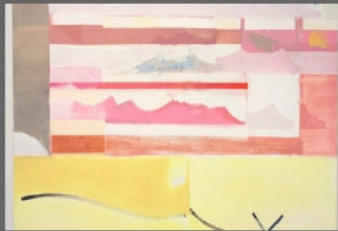
at the Mississippi Library Commission
3881 Eastwood Drive ~ Jackson, Mississippi

Please join us for a public reception on **Thursday, December 13**
from **5pm to 7pm**. The work will be on exhibit through January 11,
2019 ~ Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm, except on state holidays.

For more information, call 601.432.4111 or visit www.mlc.lib.ms.us.



Charlie Buckley



Eric Huckabee



Rob Cooper



Rory Doyle



Betty Press



Earl Dismuke



Carolyn Busenlener



Welcome New MLC Board Member

Stephen Cunetto

Stephen Cunetto, the Associate Dean for University Libraries at Mississippi State University, was recently appointed to the MLC Board of Commissioners by Governor Phil Bryant. He earned his B.S. in Communication at Mississippi State University and his Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi in 2006. As the Associate Dean he provides strategic direction, oversight, and maintenance of the Libraries' technological infrastructure and technology services, ensuring tight integration of all digital and online services as well as assists in the overall management and strategic operation of the University Libraries.



Stephen Cunetto

Additionally, he manages and provides direction for Access Services, Digital Media Center, Systems, Web Services, Digital Preservation and Access Unit, and the Charles Templeton Music Museum. Other responsibilities include serving as the director of the Mississippi Library Partnership, a consortium of 53 academic, public and school libraries, managing the Mississippi Academic Library Consortium and serving as a member and the Technical Advisor for the MAGNOLIA project.

In addition to serving on several Library committees he is also a member of the MSU Information Technology Oversight Committee and serves as chair of the MSU Performing Arts Committee. He has received numerous grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council and the U. S. Small Business Administration. Cunetto served as the President of the Mississippi Library Association (2012), Mississippi Theatre Association (2001-2002), Starkville Area Arts Council (2001), and Starkville Community Theatre (1999-2001). He has also served as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Theatre Association from 2003-2016. In 1999 Cunetto was awarded the Mississippi Library Association's Peggy May Award and in 2016 the Mississippi Theatre Associate named its highest award in his honor.

Join MLC in welcoming Stephen to the Board of Commissioners!

Check out a great story about MLC in **Explore LeFleur** magazine. Many thanks to this publication for helping to spread the word of the work of the agency and Mississippi's libraries! https://issuu.com/finditinfondren/docs/el-wi18/22?ff&fbclid=IwAR09Jk9gfnWDdEie5QPblk2SqG_mgreTTWSvc7Gw0elzblvLqT7YKsJY6jQ

INFORMATION FOR LIBRARIES

Friendly reminders about staff and system changes in your libraries:

- When an employee leaves your system, please contact the Helpdesk at 1.877.652.8324 or helpdesk@mlc.lib.ms.us so we can cancel access to their email account.
- When you migrate to a new integrated library system (ILS), please let Ally Mellon know so we can work with you and your vendor to update your settings in the Beehive Resource Sharing system. Ally can be contacted at 601.432.4117 or amellon@mlc.lib.ms.us.

Grant Opportunities

IMLS Launches New Special Initiative

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has launched a new special initiative, Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP), and is accepting grant applications now through February 25, 2019.

This new funding opportunity is designed specifically to strengthen the ability of small and rural libraries, archives, and related organizations to serve their communities. Award sizes range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

The initiative is in line with the IMLS Strategic Plan 2018-2022, Transforming Communities, which includes goals of lifelong learning, increasing public access, and building capacity. APP is a special initiative of National Leadership Grants for Libraries, which support projects that enhance the quality of library and archives services nationwide by advancing theory and practice. IMLS is offering two webinars to assist potential applicants. They are on Tuesday, December 18 at 2:00pm Central and on Wednesday, January 9 at 1:00pm Central. For more information, visit <https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/fy19-ols-app-nofo.pdf>.

Lisa Libraries Grant

The Lisa Libraries donate new children's books to small libraries and organizations that work with kids in poor and underserved areas. They have a strong interest in supporting small, grass-roots organizations. Recipients of these free books will need to cover the shipping costs and must have a tax exempt 501(c)(3) status.

For more information on how to apply for this grant visit: <http://lisalibraries.org/need.php>

Coca-Cola Foundation Grant

The Coca-Cola Foundation supports non-profit organizations and programs that offer scholarships, school drop-out prevention projects, access to educational programming and other educational initiatives, and also programs that strengthen and enrich communities, through education, youth development, and other community initiatives.

Links to their application and FAQs can be found at: <https://www.coca-colacompany.com/stories/community-requests-guidelines-application>

2019 Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant Program

Deadline: March 31, 2019

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, dedicated to supporting arts and literacy programs in public schools and libraries across the country, has announced its annual call for proposals.

Approximately 70 grants, up to \$500 each, will be awarded to teachers and librarians in public schools and libraries whose proposals reflect imagination and a desire to make learning fun. The Foundation welcomes Mini-Grant proposals focusing on any subject. Decisions will be emailed to all applicants in May, allowing educators to plan for the next academic year.

Founded by Ezra Jack Keats, one of America's greatest children's book authors and illustrators, the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation fosters children's love of reading and creative expression by supporting arts and literacy programs in public schools and libraries through the EJK Bookmaking Competition and Mini-Grant program; cultivates new writers and illustrators of exceptional picture books that reflect the experience of childhood in our diverse culture through the Ezra Jack Keats Award; and protects and promotes the work of Keats, whose book *The Snowy Day* broke the color barrier in children's publishing. *The Snowy Day* was adapted by Amazon as a holiday special, which earned two Daytime Emmys®, including Outstanding Preschool Children's Animated Program; and was used as the subject of a set of Forever stamps issued by and still available from the United States Postal Service.

To learn more about the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, visit www.ezra-jack-keats.org. To learn more about EJK Mini-Grants, and to see the criteria for application, visit Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grants.

Council on Library and Information Resources: Recordings at Risk

Recordings at Risk is a national regranting program, administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), to support the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual content of high scholarly value through digital reformatting. The program aims to help institutions identify priorities and develop practical strategies for digital reformatting, build relationships with partners, and raise awareness of best practices.

Grants may be made to government units and their agencies or instrumentalities not organized under IRS Section 501(c)3, provided that collecting and disseminating scholarly and cultural resources are among the primary functions of the unit and that the grant funds will be used for charitable purposes within the scope of the Recordings at Risk program. They recommend that government units wishing to apply to Recordings at Risk contact them to ascertain their eligibility. Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and will cover up to 100% of the direct costs of audio or audiovisual digital reformatting services. Applicants must be U.S. nonprofit academic, research, or cultural heritage institutions. The final application cycle will open on December 3, 2018; the application deadline is February 8, 2019. Visit the CLIR website to review the Applicant Resources. <https://www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk/>

New Innovative Projects Needed to Improve Services, Educate Families and Policymakers, and Promote Self-Advocacy and Leadership for People with Disabilities

The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities is accepting proposals for new, innovative grants to begin July 1, 2019. The deadline to submit proposals is noon on March 1, 2019. The mission of MSCDD is to improve the quality of life for people with developmental and other disabilities across the lifespan and their families. MSCDD expects to fund several one-year grants with approximately \$200,000 available. Areas of emphasis may include community support or services, employment, quality assurance, health, education, early intervention, child care, transportation, or recreation. Activities may include any new, innovative approach to address a need for people with developmental disabilities and families, self-advocacy empowerment, leadership development, future planning of care for aging adults with disabilities (supported decision making, guardianship, etc.), improved access to services or systems, or educating policymakers. There is a match requirement for this project. There are mini-grants available at the same site too, so make sure to look at projects that have been funded in the past for inspiration.

The Request for Proposals FY2020 is available at: www.msccdd.org

2019 Margaret Murray Grant

This is the fourth year for the Friends of Mississippi Libraries Inc.'s Margaret Murray Grant. Last year the state Friends funded three projects and they are hoping to have just as many great projects submitted for 2019!

The purpose of the Margaret Murray Grant is to advance library programming and literacy for Mississippi public libraries through activities sponsored by the local Friends of Mississippi Libraries chapters. Margaret Murray, a retired employee from the Mississippi Library Commission and former liaison to the State Friends of Mississippi Libraries, actively supported and encouraged many local public libraries in the state of Mississippi to establish Friends of the Library chapters. Her efforts resulted in the establishment of over 100 local chapters. The State Friends organization support of local libraries has strengthened and enhanced communities around the state of Mississippi since 1972.

These grant funds are earmarked for library programming, collection development, and literacy activities. Funds are not available for administrative or operational use. Three \$1000 grants hope to (or) will be awarded for 2019. Successful applicants must agree to match grant funds at the minimum of 5% (\$50.00). If you have any questions about the grant application please contact Lacy Ellinwood directly at lEllinwood@mlc.lib.ms.us.

- Deadline: February 22, 2019.
- Awards will be announced: April 1, 2019.
- Grant Application: <https://goo.gl/forms/mA4WmMLZLFjMRgAu2>

Webpage for the Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc.: <http://mlc.lib.ms.us/ms-libraries/library-development/friends/>



**A library is not a luxury but one
of the necessities of life.**

-Henry Ward Beecher

Happy Holidays!
from the
Board and Staff
of the
Mississippi Library
Commission

MLC Calendar

December

24-26 Holiday - Agency Closed
31 Holiday - Agency Closed

January

1 Holiday - Agency Closed
9 SLP for Early Literacy-MLC
21 Holiday - Agency Closed
22 MLC Board Meeting-MLC
31 MLA Day at the State Capitol

February

1 Autism Resources for Librarians
5 Tech Academy-Inter. Excel
7 SLP for Children - Gulfport

About MLC

3881 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39211
601.432.4111
www.mlc.lib.ms.us

Hulen Bivins
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Jolee Hussey, Oxford, Chair
Stephen Cunetto, Starkville
Ann Marsh, Brandon
Suzanne Poynor, Florence

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.

This publication is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the Mississippi Library Commission.