



# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

Volume 74, No. 2

Summer 2010



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**On the cover:** "Reflections" by David Schommer. The photograph "Reflections" was taken in 2000. David Schommer is the librarian at Watkins Elementary School in Jackson, Mississippi, and in 2010, he was named Outstanding Educator by Parents for Public Schools and the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson. A native of Louisiana, he earned a BA and MEd from the University of New Orleans and has been interested in photography since high school.

# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

*Mississippi Libraries* is a publication of the Mississippi Library Association (MLA). The articles, reports, and features herein represent the viewpoints of their respective authors and are not necessarily the official opinions of the Association.

**Subscription Rates:** \$16.00 per year (\$4.00 per issue); \$24.00 per year outside of the U.S.; free to MLA members. Back issues are available from University Microfilms International.

**Advertising Rates:** Rates are available upon request from the Advertising Editor.

**Advertising Deadlines:** Spring: February 10; Summer: May 10; Fall: August 10; Winter: November 10

**Submissions:** Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic format in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format. Documents can be sent as an attachment via e-mail or on a CD-ROM or a 3½ inch disk via surface mail.

**Deadlines for submission:** Spring: February 2; Summer: May 2; Fall: August 2; Winter: November 2.

In order to assure the widest possible audience for the work published in *Mississippi Libraries*, that work is added in electronic form to the Mississippi Library Association Web site and, by contractual agreement, to one or more EBSCO Publishing databases. *Mississippi Libraries* is also indexed in *Library Literature and Information Sciences Abstracts*.

Dues must be paid by March 15 in order to receive the Spring issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

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For additional information and a list of committees and roundtables, see the Mississippi Library Association's Web site at <http://www.misslib.org/>.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This summer has been like a runaway train!

**ALA Annual Conference**

This very hot summer I attended the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington, DC for several days in late June. I arrived at Dulles International Airport and, in light of the cost of a cab, choose to hop on a city bus. At L'Enfant Plaza Station, I was told to access the subway, where I boarded the train into the city. After a couple changes in route, going from the green line to the red and finally to the orange line, I arrived at Farragut Square on Sixteenth Street and half a block from my hotel on Connecticut Avenue. In all, a three hour trip from point A to point B; most of the time I had to depend on the kindness of strangers to give me directions and keep me moving toward my destination. It was my travel adventure for the year! In spite of the intense heat, the conference was well attended and I saw fellow Mississippi librarians and other friends, too. I visited many exhibitors that support the Mississippi Library Association (MLA) at our state conference and invited them to return this fall to Vicksburg. In particular, I thanked EBSCO for their continued support of MAGNOLIA in maintaining pricing for another year.



Ann Branton

**MAGNOLIA Funding**

Speaking of MAGNOLIA, Frances Coleman, dean of libraries at Mississippi State University and chair of the MAGNOLIA Steering Committee, reported in May 2010 that the Mississippi legislature had made significant decreases to the MAGNOLIA budget for fiscal year 2010/11. This summer, the committee worked with several libraries and other governing bodies around the state to secure ways and means of maintaining some of the MAGNOLIA resources we have come to depend on to serve students and library patrons alike.

*OCLC WorldCat.* Sharman Smith, executive director of the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), proposed to the MLC Board that Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding be used to pay for the subscription to *OCLC WorldCat*. Due to her intervention and support, and with approval by the MLC Board, publicly funded K-12 schools, public libraries, community college libraries, and university libraries in Mississippi will continue to have access to *OCLC WorldCat* resources through MAGNOLIA.

*Credo Reference.* Likewise, several libraries and entities provided the necessary funding to continue access to the *Credo Reference* database. Contributors included: Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Hinds Community College, Itawamba Community College, MAGNOLIA escrow account, Mississippi Electronic Libraries Online (MELO) – the community college virtual library, Mississippi Library Commission, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

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Special thanks to Ken Chapman, director of the Oswalt Library at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and Glenda Segars, director of the Learning Resource Center at Itawamba Community College, for working with the community college directors and the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges to direct the MELO funding to the *Credo* database.

We especially want to thank EBSCO for all that they continue to do to assist us during these difficult economic times. Please be sure to express your thanks to EBSCO representatives when you see them.

**Open Access**

The really big buzz word at conference was about open access (OA) to a variety of  
*(continued on page 37)*

# H.W. Wilson Response to Kristin Finch's "A Comparison Analysis of Education Databases: *ERIC* and *Education Full Text*"

September 3, 2010

Dear Ms. Zelner,

Regarding Kristin Finch's article "A Comparison Analysis of Education Databases: *ERIC* and *Education Full Text*," published in the Spring 2010 issue of *Mississippi Libraries*.

I read Ms. Finch's article with great disappointment, as her conclusion that "*ERIC* is the better choice of databases for education related research" is based on a deeply flawed methodology.

Ms. Finch came to her conclusion by conducting searches for five identical search terms in each database for the same date ranges and comparing the resulting numbers of items retrieved for abstract and full-text articles. She searched *ERIC* using EBSCO's SmarText search option, and used WilsonWeb's default All-Smart Search option for *Education Full Text*. Unfortunately, Ms. Finch did not understand that these are not equivalent search strategies.

The author writes that "...the SmarText feature was selected in *ERIC* so that all fields, including the article texts, would be searched for keywords." However, SmarText builds a search string by OR'ing the terms together. This is explained in a

description of how SmarText searching works, available at [http://support.ebscohost.com/knowledge\\_base/detail.php?id=3736](http://support.ebscohost.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=3736).

Ms. Finch also writes that "...in *Education Full Text*, the default advanced search option automatically searches every field, including full text." This is a misunderstanding. WilsonWeb searches full text only when the user first checks the box labeled "Also, search within the full text of the articles, for extra results." Furthermore, All-Smart Search builds a default search string by connecting the terms with a Boolean AND.

The author's strategy may be summarized in this way:

1. In *ERIC*, she searched all fields, including full text, with the search terms connected by a Boolean OR.
2. In *Education Full Text*, she searched all fields, except full text, with the search terms connected by a Boolean AND.

It is this difference in search methodologies, and not any inherent qualities in the databases themselves, that resulted in vastly different numbers of items retrieved.

Apart from questions of methodology, I would like to correct Ms. Finch's belief that *Education Full Text* is a "relatively recent creation." In fact, the database's roots go back to 1929, with the first appearance in

print of H.W. Wilson's *Education Index*. *Education Index* went online in 1983, added abstracting coverage in 1994, and was further enhanced with full-text in 1996. More than 2 million records covering over eighty years of the education literature may now be searched electronically as *Education Index Retrospective: 1929-1982* and *Education Full Text*.

In her conclusion, Ms. Finch recommends that further study be conducted to determine the amount of material overlap between *ERIC* and *Education Full Text*. Such an analysis has been performed, and reveals that the two databases share comprehensive coverage of only 223 journals – a fraction of the full scope of each. Considering the differences in journal coverage, inclusion of other document types, indexing style, and editorial policy, education researchers who aim to conduct an exhaustive search of their professional literature would benefit from access to both *ERIC* and *Education Full Text*.

Sincerely,

Mark Gauthier  
Vice President, Indexing & Editorial Policy  
H.W. Wilson Company ■

# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARIES

# Creating an Outreach Librarian at the University of Mississippi

Melissa Dennis

## Abstract

*This article focuses on the marketing, promotion, and outreach efforts at the University of Mississippi Libraries since creating a position for an outreach/reference librarian in January 2008. Utilizing a committee of librarians and library staff to solicit ideas and create outreach and marketing goals, the outreach librarian has been able to implement and assess new ways of promoting library services to the university and surrounding community. Specific changes include using a student focus group to create consistent branding for the libraries, training subject librarians to create online newsletters for specific departments, and offering open tours each semester to all faculty, staff, and students.*

## Introduction

Until 2008, outreach efforts at the University of Mississippi Libraries were projects undertaken by a variety of librarians and staff members. A need for an individual position to oversee and correlate existing efforts, while establishing new projects, became evident in the late 2000s, although the opportunity to create such a position would not arrive until the end of 2007. Creating such a position involved reshaping an open reference librarian position into an outreach/reference position. This position would respond directly to the head of information and outreach services and receive reference, instruction, collection development, and outreach responsibilities. Because a distance learning librarian position was already defined, the new outreach librarian would focus on ways to reach the Oxford campus and community,

as well as establish more cohesive marketing efforts on and off the main campus.

**Job Description:** Under the direction of the head of information, outreach and delivery services, the outreach reference librarian:

- Develops, promotes, and provides creative programs and activities to market the collections and services of the University of Mississippi Libraries to students, faculty, and staff
- Creates and manages online activities that promote the library, including Web pages, tutorials, and promotion sites
- Creates and maintains the library's online image through listing services and social networking tools, when appropriate
- Conducts outreach presentations to groups
- Creates ads, brochures, and other materials to promote library services and resources
- Provides library instruction, reference services at a general reference desk including evenings, and virtual reference services
- Manages collection development in assigned areas of responsibility

## Branding

Having a strong identity is an important part of library outreach. Whether the brand is an image, slogan, or both, a logo quickly and consistently delivers a message about the library to users. Before the outreach librarian position was created, the University Libraries used inconsistent

branding methods to market various resources and events. The dean of libraries gave the outreach librarian a new committee to chair to help create and implement outreach/marketing goals; thus the Outreach/Marketing Committee was born mid-2008.

## Marketing/Outreach Committee Charge:

The committee is charged with planning and implementing a marketing/outreach plan for the university libraries' collections and services. The committee's first task is to develop a plan for the coming year which outlines three or four goals with measurable objectives and budgetary needs. The committee, which reports to the dean, should work with the management group and other key stakeholders to develop and implement the goals.

The committee made branding a first-year priority when establishing marketing and outreach goals. The outreach librarian conducted a focus group with Outreach Committee member and coordinator for instruction, Dr. Amy E. Mark, to determine a slogan in the fall of 2008. After about forty minutes and a few large pizzas, a diverse group of nine students came up with a great slogan that expressed in an active way what they felt the library accords: Experience Information. In a separate, but fortunate coincidence, the university adopted a new slogan the following year with the inception of its new chancellor: Experience

Melissa Dennis is outreach/reference librarian and assistant professor at the University of Mississippi; e-mail: mdennis@olemiss.edu.



Figure 1. UM Libraries logo.



Amazing. This compelling match works to the libraries' advantage in supporting the new administrative goals by aligning UM's and UM Libraries' Web design, slogan, and marketing videos.

To market the libraries' brand on a tight budget, promotional magnets and bookmarks were purchased featuring the library's adopted image of various printers' marks from the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries and Web address. Both magnets and bookmarks were distributed at orientations on and off campus and throughout the J.D. Williams Library and the Science Library. Branding efforts continued throughout the Web site, including a five-second Flash video that was added to the beginning of all of the online research help tutorials. This brand included the new slogan and logo. In addition, other print materials, designed for specific orientation groups, used elements of the brand to consistently promote the libraries. All library branding components, from the colors and fonts used to the printer's marks and slogan, were established by the end of 2008. The outreach librarian shared all of the branding options with library faculty and staff to use on relevant promotional materials within departments.

### Online Newsletters

The next goal for the Outreach/Marketing Committee was to find a way to notify as many faculty and students as possible about library news and events. The committee agreed that most students seemed unaware of happenings in the library and sources available to them for research. Like other academic libraries, UM Libraries constantly changes and updates resources, services, events, and exhibits. What are the most efficient ways to promote these services and resources? How can the librarians reach all students and faculty in their designated fields to discuss subject-specific issues? Considering these types of questions, the outreach librarian worked with the Outreach Marketing Committee to create a new form of outreach for all subject librarians called the eNewsletter campaign.

This project, highly supported by the dean, was an electronic communication tool for subject librarians and their respective departments. The committee brainstormed ways to notify patrons when specific events or resources were relevant in the library. The concern was reaching out to faculty and students in various departments who may be more likely to appreciate the source or event taking place, as it may relate to their field of study. Designing an electronic newsletter template that could be modified by library liaisons to fit individual subject areas became the next task. Library newsletters, accessible in Portable Document Format (PDF), would be housed on the associated subject guide, with a message and link e-mailed to faculty, staff, and students at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

The outreach librarian established several steps in order to complete this process: (1) design eNewsletter template in Microsoft Publisher to assist all subject librarians creating bi-annual eNewsletters for their subject areas, (2) get general news and story ideas from Outreach/Marketing Committee, (3) obtain approval from the dean, (4) create and learn to use "e-mail to groups" account, (5) help design and secure a space for eNewsletters on the subject guide pages, (6) conduct a presentation to subject librarians about the eNewsletters, (7) upload template and other instructional documents to library's internal wiki, (8) offer support to individual librarians for creating and editing eNewsletters, (9) help upload eNewsletters into PDF documents and add links to individual subject guides, and (10) send out departmental e-mail notices to faculty and students upon completion of newsletters and send notices to subject librarians.

The outreach librarian also created newsletters for her subject areas: health and exercise science, park and recreation management, nutrition and hospitality management, and communicative disorders. Subject librarians quickly adopted the new project and, in August 2009, eNewsletters were available in almost every subject, from accountancy to women's

studies. Archives for the newsletters are kept on individual subject guide pages: [http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject\\_guide/home](http://apollo.lib.olemiss.edu/center/subject_guide/home). A notable change included notifying faculty and students during the third week of school instead of the busier e-mail period of the first week of school.

While some librarians received verbal and written praise for the implementation of the eNewsletters – even from department heads and deans – overall, subject librarians received little feedback from users about the eNewsletters. Web statistics also showed marginal use of the eNewsletters. Because this service is free, relatively easy for the librarians to create and market, and because some interest was received from users, the eNewsletters will continue to be a part of outreach. Changes are being made for the fall 2010 eNewsletters to be more compatible with mobile devices, as well as limiting the "e-mail to groups" feature to students only, and having subject librarians e-mail notices directly to faculty to reinforce their liaison connection.

### Open Library Tours

The libraries conduct LibQual surveys every two years to obtain feedback from users about their online and onsite library experiences. In 2009, the outreach librarian participated in a team of three librarians to code the open comments section of the survey in order to identify strengths and weaknesses in the library. Many comments indicated a desire for more library tours. At this point, open tours were not offered; tours were only connected to bibliographic instruction (BI) sessions and orientations. The committee's next goal was to initiate open tours for the first weeks of the fall 2009 semester in hopes of targeting users who would otherwise not come into the library, specifically transfer students, new faculty, and staff members.

The outreach librarian sought any willing library staff member or librarian to volunteer as a tour guide. A sample script was written and archived on the library's internal wiki and a sample tour was offered to

volunteers – this was especially helpful for some who had never conducted a library tour. Tours were offered on the hour, every hour for a set number of days and advertised in the student newspaper, library Web site, campus e-mail, and campus Web site. Total participation for the tours was fifty patrons. With modifications and feedback from the library tour guides and participants, the Outreach Committee led the tours again for the spring semester. Moving the tours into the semester a few weeks seemed to help boost numbers, as there were 201 participants in the spring. Another change in the second semester was to extend the target audience. The tours were still promoted to staff members, new faculty, and transfer students who may have missed opportunities to tour the library, but they were also marketed to faculty teaching lower level courses that consistently wanted their students to tour the library. The hope was that instructors would require students to use the open tours during the student's time instead of using a BI session to do a basic tour when the focus could better be used demonstrating assignment-specific resources.

Fall and spring tours were marketed as fun, fast, and free to attract attention. Marketing for this project included printed yard signs placed outside the library, white boards inside each entrance, colorful flyers

throughout campus bulletin boards, newspaper ads, a university news channel interview, and library and university Web site promotions. The following is a sample from a promotional flyer:

"At some point in this semester, that big building marked 'Library' will become a necessary part of your college experience. So why wait to get acquainted? There's no better time to get to know the library than right now! Did you know that there is more to the library than just its massive collections and physical space? Come and join us on a library tour to learn about what services can help you, where the coffee shop is, and how to check out books. You will also pick up study tips and hear stories of how the library is an integral part of the University."

The Outreach Committee will continue the open tours each semester, always seeking avenues to be more efficient and attract participants who may not otherwise take a tour. Publicity for these outreach events has been appended by journalism students. News Channel 99 interviewed the outreach librarian on two separate occasions: the first to promote library hours during finals week, the second to promote

the spring open library tours. Two other students also used outreach initiatives as class projects: the responsibilities of being the outreach librarian and the implementation of the eNewsletters.

### Conclusion

The addition of an outreach librarian has helped the libraries achieve outreach, marketing, and promotion goals by establishing consistent branding, developing eNewsletters as outreach instruments, and enhancing instruction by offering open tours. These small connections help build a network of advocates for library promotion, secure the library as a central location for information and knowledge, and expand the reputation of the library as a unit of creative educators willing to bond faculty and students in and out of the classroom. Following a successful first two years of work, a new sense of valor in the Outreach Committee heartened the group to ascertain new areas of collaboration, namely an inaugural campus and community-wide literacy program. The One Book One Community project, focusing on a selected book, will begin in August 2010 and provide connections throughout the academic year. The library hopes that the tradition will continue each academic year with new books selected that impact the program.

As technology and education continue to transform learning, and to an extent the role of the academic library, the role of the outreach librarian will continue to be an important part of promotion and teaching. Shelby Foote once said, "A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library." The notion that a library is the heart of a college campus has changed. However, the notion that a college campus is only as vital as its faculty, staff, and students has not changed. Reaching these people by connecting them to the services and resources of the library is the necessary responsibility of the outreach librarian. At the University of Mississippi, connecting users with the information they need remains a standard goal. ■



**Figure 2.** A library tour group visits the Faulkner Room.

# Finding the Communists: Going Online to Promote Anti-Communism Materials at the University of Southern Mississippi

Jennifer Brannock and Steven Turner

## Abstract

Online exhibits can be beneficial tools in promoting collections and drawing in researchers to using a library's collections. At the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries, an online exhibit, *Seeing Red: Anti-Communism Efforts in Mississippi, 1944-1968*, was created to promote collections on the topic. The idea for the online exhibit came from an in-house exhibit that had the potential of satisfying the research needs of a wider audience. By creating an online exhibit that highlighted the materials relating to anti-communism in Mississippi, exposure to the materials can reach people worldwide rather than being limited to those who visit an in-house exhibit. This can stimulate interest in the topic on exhibit, but can also lead researchers to other collections available in that library. This article discusses the advantages of creating an online exhibit and the process implemented by the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries for generating the exhibit.

## Introduction

In October 2008, the University of Southern Mississippi's Special Collections Department featured an in-house exhibit titled *Seeing Red: Anti-Communism Efforts in Mississippi, 1944-1968*. This exhibit featured correspondence, brochures, documents, books, and maps relating to anti-communism in Mississippi

as seen in education, religion, the Civil Rights Movement, and community activism. Due to the popularity of this exhibit and the interest in the topic, it was decided that the exhibit should go online. The in-house exhibit acted as a tool to publicize the library and the collections, but it only impacted those who visited the library. By going to an online format for the exhibit, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Special Collections Department was able to extend the publicity of these materials to researchers around the world via the Internet.

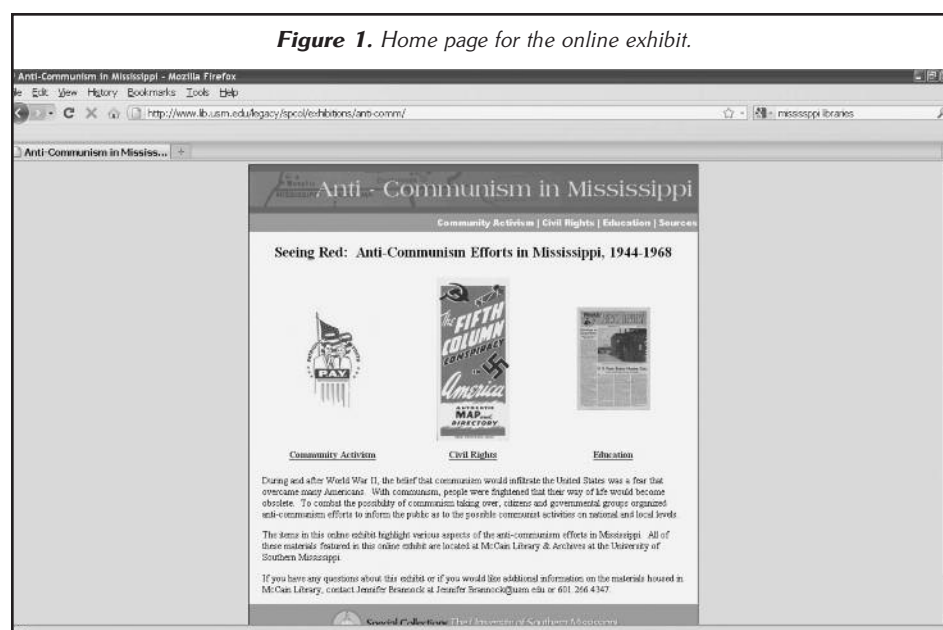
## Selecting Materials

The work on creating the online exhibit, *Seeing Red: Anti-Communism Efforts in Mississippi, 1944-1968* (<http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/spcol/exhibitions/anti-comm/>), started in early 2009. The topic was chosen because of its popularity and also because the materials had already been selected, a fact that made curating

the exhibit much easier than starting from scratch.

The in-house exhibit contained sections on education, religion, the Civil Rights Movement, and community activism. When translating from an in-house to an online version, the section on religion was omitted due to copyright issues. Copyright is a serious consideration when choosing items to place online. It is legal to place the materials in exhibit cases for display in the library, but once images are scanned and placed online, copyright becomes a key consideration. Many of the religious documents highlighted included works that were still under copyright protection. Since this online exhibit is for educational purposes, some may argue that putting the images online would not infringe on copyright. For these particular materials, it was determined that placing the images online was not worth the risk. Because of these issues, the final subjects covered in the online exhibit included the Civil Rights

Figure 1. Home page for the online exhibit.



Jennifer Brannock is special collections librarian and associate professor and Steven Turner is Web services manager and associate professor, both at the University of Southern Mississippi; e-mail: [jennifer.brannock@usm.edu](mailto:jennifer.brannock@usm.edu) and [steven.turner@usm.edu](mailto:steven.turner@usm.edu).



Movement, education, and community activism.

### From Paper to Digital

Once the materials were selected, they needed to be scanned. The USM Libraries have a comprehensive digital program that was able to assist with this part of the process. The images to be scanned were compiled in a spreadsheet that included the name and subject of each document, the collection number with the manuscript box number or call number, the copyright status, and a brief description of the image. This information helped the digital lab identify the items that required scanning. After the images were scanned, the scans were moved to disks from which the items could be renamed to correspond to the different areas of the exhibit.

### Writing the Text

Once the images were compiled, additional text had to be written to include with the images. The text for the in-house exhibit was general, with limited information on each topic. For the online exhibit, more detailed information was needed to provide viewers with a more thorough understanding of how the anti-communism movement impacted each subject. Additional research was performed, and reference sources that had not been viewed in six months were consulted again.

To accomplish this research, it was necessary to consult various sources including manuscripts, online sites, oral histories, vertical files, and books. By including a list of sources used in the research, researchers are provided with a bibliography to consult for further information. The bibliography was also a way to highlight sources available in Special Collections, directing researchers to the collections at the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries.

Once the documents were scanned and the text written, the information was then sent to the University of Southern Mississippi's Web Services Unit for creation of the actual online exhibit.

### Site Surveys and Research

Part of the process for creating the exhibit was surveying and analyzing pre-

existing online exhibits. A variety of facets were examined, including content organization, site navigation methods, design styles, how design was used to convey meaning and present information, and the various technologies used to present and store the exhibited content.

Of the exhibit sites surveyed, several used approaches that were considered desirable for this exhibit. To record and organize these approaches, a matrix of Web site traits was created. This matrix was used as a reference and idea-generating tool in later discussions and when planning the specifics of the different technical areas of the Web site.

### Design and Content Organization

Idea sessions addressing design and organization were conducted over a period of several weeks. The Web site surveys were discussed, the matrix of implemented methods was reviewed, and our design choices were realized over this period of time.

First, in terms of graphic design, it was noted that many online exhibits exist outside of the design space of the parent library. That is, these sites tend to create their own design languages, standards, fonts, and color palettes. This allows an exhibit to fully exploit design elements in order to communicate the unique meaning behind the content of the exhibit. This was

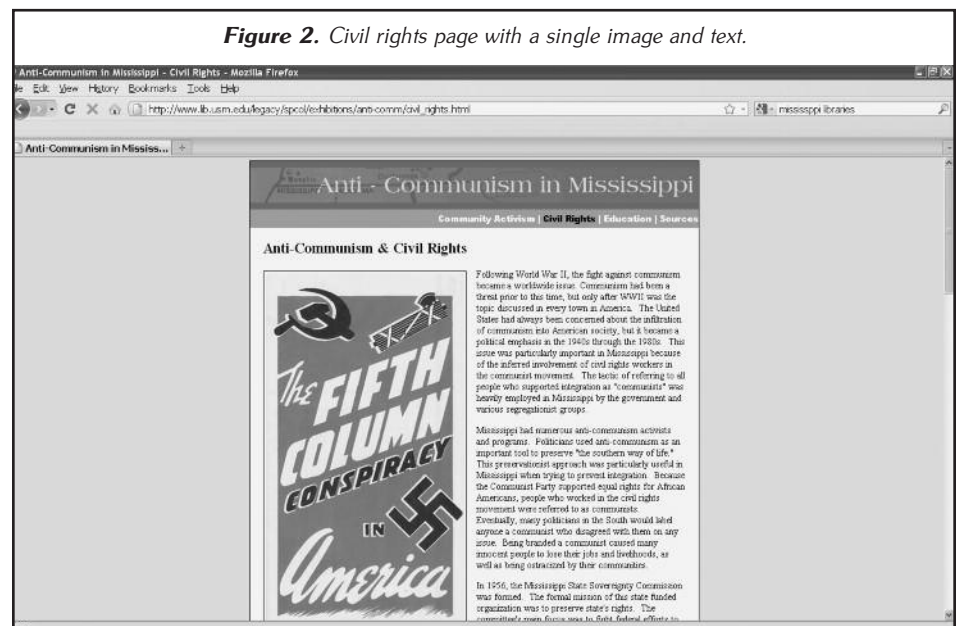
thought to be an ideal approach, and one that was adopted for the project. To a certain extent, similar font styles to the parent site were retained. University and library branding were also kept in several areas, including the footer and portions of the header to identify the parent organization (the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries) behind the exhibit.

Three separate graphic designs and color palettes were created. After some discussion over a period of several weeks, a design and palette were agreed upon.

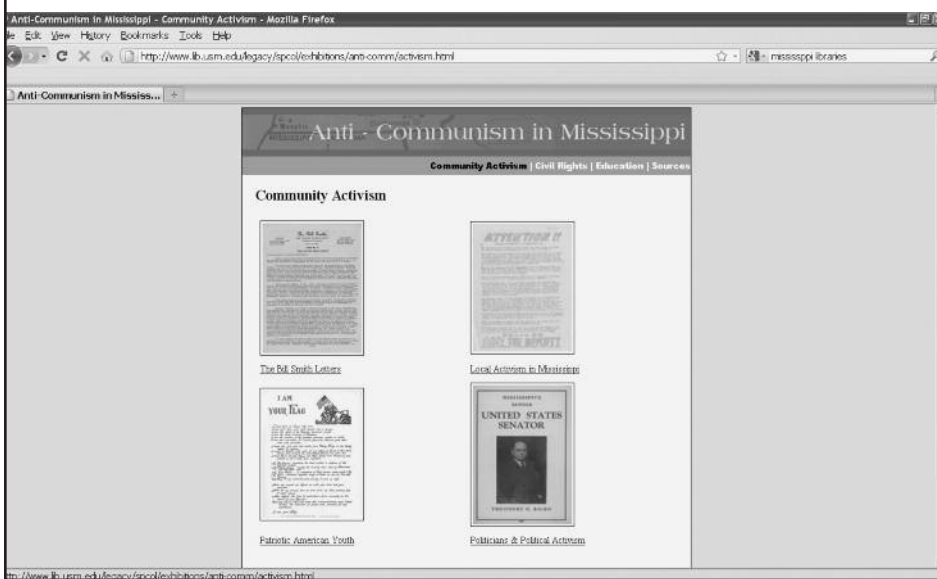
In terms of content organization, a hierarchical organizational format was created, including primary subject categories about the main topic. These main topic pages were comprised of primary expository content about each category and a gallery of primary source materials and, in a couple of cases, links to more specific topics.

It was difficult to decide on the best approach to link to the images. Ultimately, it was decided that a thumbnail gallery below the main text would be the best way to organize the images, and that clicking on each item would generate a 1200 by 1200 pixel version of the thumbnail suitable for detailed inspection and reading. Each enlarged image pop-up was created on a separate, static HTML page. This is important because it was decided not to automate the creation of HTML windows with browser code using JavaScript or

Figure 2. Civil rights page with a single image and text.



**Figure 3.** Community activism page with four links to more specific information on the topic.



Flash, but rather by using standard HTML blank document indicators in the link itself, i.e., using the "Target='\_blank'" variable within the <A> tag. The two main reasons being: (1) JavaScript can fail or be turned off, which results in failure of the site for the user, and (2) Flash is a proprietary format. Additionally, Flash quality and generation speed is highly dependent on the Internet connection available and the speed of the requesting client computer.

Navigation was fairly simple to organize and implement. A global navigation bar was positioned on the upper section of each page, between the header and the body of the document. This global navigation bar contained links to the four main sections of the exhibit and always remained in this area, with the links in the same order, from page to page, resulting in a stable and easy-to-remember navigational format.

Templates for each section were created using the global navigation bar as a tool to help users determine their location in the online exhibit. At the top of the screen, the subject being viewed is found in bold type. Once the user chooses a subject, a selection of more specific aspects relating to that subject appear. By establishing an organizational scheme that goes from the home page to the main subject to more specific subjects, users will be able to easily make their way around the exhibit.

### Technology

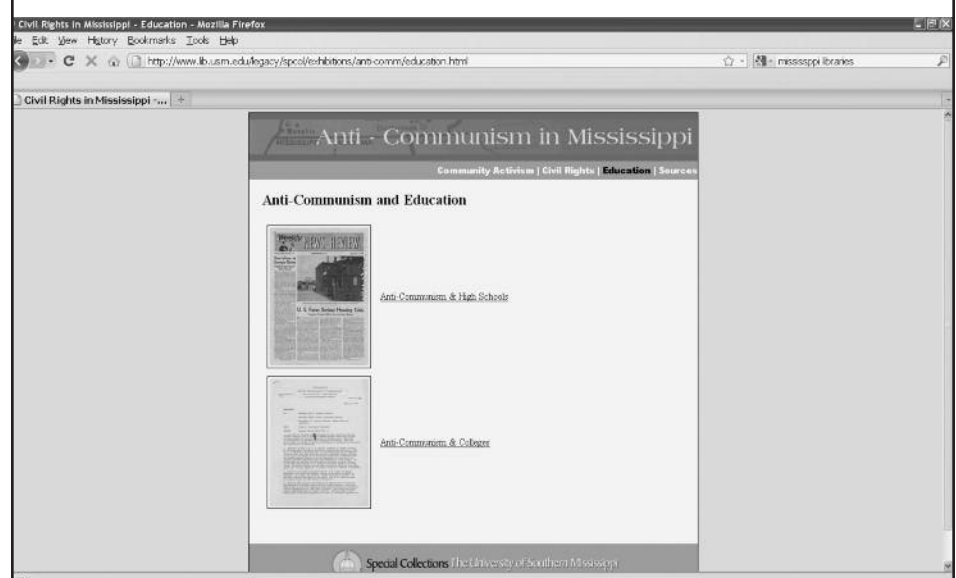
Several technologies were considered and rejected. From the survey of online exhibits, it was observed that many organizations used content management systems, as well as online exhibition tools dedicated to creating, organizing, and presenting library or museum exhibits online. Many of these systems used a database such as MySQL for a backend and to serve out large images using an interpreted language such as PHP, which is a time- and resource-consuming process.

Standard HTML and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) were ultimately decided

upon as the technology backbones of this exhibit for several reasons. First, time constraints were becoming apparent – the exhibit needed to be completed and placed online, and speed of implementation is a primary consideration in the online world. Second, creating or implementing an online exhibition system seemed like overkill for this project because it was fairly simple and straightforward. We let our needs dictate the scope and complexity of the technology involved. There was no real need for PHP and MySQL based exhibit tools, so they were not used. Third, browser-interpreted markup and presentation languages were considered the most heavy-duty and easily accessible technologies available. Standardized HTML 4 Transitional, the World Wide Web Consortium (WC3) defined version of HTML that we used, is one of the most commonly used document type definitions (DTD), and is easily parsed or displayed by the browser.

The same holds true for CSS. While one could make the argument that CSS1 and CSS2 are still interpreted by browsers in sometimes startlingly (or frustratingly) different manners, one would also have to understand that HTML is theoretically deprecated as a display language, so CSS is necessary for most display applications. That is, HTML is used to organize the content for the browser, and CSS is used to indicate to the browser how the elements should appear and be displayed.

**Figure 4.** Education page – notice how Education is bold in the navigation bar.





During the creation of the Web page for the online exhibit, a constant dialog existed between the exhibit curator and the Web services manager. Once into the exhibit, issues arose about how to display detailed images and images accompanying text, the arrangement of the text, and the layout of multiple image documents. Due to these discussions and the work on both sides, the online exhibit was realized.

### Why Go Online?

The main reason to go to an online format is to promote materials and topics to a wider audience. By using an online format, researchers and Internet surfers are able to discover the exhibit and learn more about the topic without having to visit the collections. This type of exposure not only creates interest in the materials found online, but can also generate an interest in the library collections as a whole.

Many of the materials found in the exhibit are not listed at an item level in

search tools. Finding aids may have folders titled "Communism" or "Red Scare," but most of the materials are found in general correspondence folders of local business people or, in this case, in state government civil rights collections. Highlighting these materials provides the researcher with ideas as to different methods of searching and conducting research and opens up the possibilities regarding where to look for materials on subjects. Researchers may not have thought to look in certain collections for resources on anti-communism, but by focusing on various collections and including a resources page, they can see the possibilities of conducting research on this topic.

Some researchers may be interested in topics relating to anti-communism, but not exactly what is covered in the online exhibit. They may be drawn to the collections at USM, in this case, because the university has information about anti-communism in Mississippi and there is, therefore, the pos-

sibility that the collections also contain materials on anti-communism in Louisiana or other regions. The online exhibit promotes collections to potential users.

### Conclusion

Creating an online exhibit is an efficient and effective way to promote collections and reach out to a wider audience. By having an online interface to collections, researchers from around the world can have access to collections. Including images and detailed text sparks the interest of researchers and puts your collection in their minds when they begin the research process. Online exhibits can be particularly valuable if you are trying to promote a particular collection and increase usage of specific materials. Local researchers are often unaware of resources available in their area. Online exhibits not only attract researchers worldwide, but can also assist in bringing the local community to the library. ■

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*(continued from page 29)*

scholarly resources. A number of institutions such as the College of Arts and Letters and the Law School of Harvard University, the School of Education at Stanford University, Cornell University, and Georgia Tech are already fully embracing the concept of open access to their institutional repositories in significant efforts to provide free online access to all faculty scholarly communications. Awards of grant funding by the National Institute of Health now require that the product of research supported by the federal government must be made freely available to the tax-paying public within certain guidelines. Publications and presentations must be accessible for reasoned inquiry by fellow scientists in the international health community.

To quote the Budapest Open Access Initiative of 2002, "by open access, we mean its immediate, free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software or use them for any other

lawful purpose..." The concept of open access has been an issue of interest for the past ten years. The feasibility of developing a repository, however, is now more broadly understood, the vendors that can host and serve open access initiatives and institutional repositories are growing, and acceptance of this publishing paradigm is increasing worldwide. See the Web site at [www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml](http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml).

Repositories contain digital items of the original or published intellectual output of an institution's collections, such as dissertations, faculty publications written for peer-reviewed journals, electronic or print, and any material an institution wants to make available to support open and reasoned discourse about the intellectual product of its faculty. Because the author or institution retains the copyright, the cost of access is not transferred to the user. Legal consent of the copyright holder, author or institution, can be established by use of an open-content license and is necessary in providing open access to scholarly output. Basically, authors provide access free of charge to the end user. Scholarly impact is the object of this generous accessibility, as open discourse and free

exchange of ideas without barriers to information leads to greater collaboration in research. Needless to say, there is much more to say about this topic as we explore the growing potential of this new paradigm in publishing and user access.

For the MLA Annual Conference in late October, both the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Section and the Special Libraries Section have lined up programs on the topic of open access to review all the issues and concerns with lively discussions to follow. To prepare for these programs, visit a couple of Web sites that outline the basic principles and issues: [www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm) and [www.arl.org/sparc/](http://www.arl.org/sparc/). SPARC is the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition developed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and its Web site has a number of current articles about open access and the right to research the results of federally funded projects. Open access promises to be a timely topic at the MLA Annual Conference in October.

See you in Vicksburg! ■

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# A Summer Reading Program in an Academic Library

Anna Brannin

## Curriculum Materials Center

The main purpose of a curriculum materials center (CMC) on a university campus is to provide education students with the resources they need to complete various assignments, create lesson plans, work in actual classroom settings during their practicum experiences, or work with students one-on-one. The primary purpose of the Curriculum Materials Center at the University of Southern Mississippi is to provide elementary and secondary education majors with access to a variety of state-adopted textbooks and supplementary materials. As such, the University of Southern Mississippi is a depository for the most recent Mississippi State Adopted Textbooks. The CMC also has over one thousand classroom activity books and bulletin board design books, as well as educational games, kits, realia, media, and manipulatives in many subject areas. The CMC houses copies of all the Caldecott, Newbery, and Coretta Scott King award winners, along with a collection of fiction and non-fiction books and a wonderful collection of "big books" and books on tape.

The majority of the patrons visiting a curriculum center are students, faculty, and staff from the education department on campus. But why settle for that? When I first began working at the CMC at the University of Southern Mississippi's Cook Library, I couldn't help but notice the scope of resources without thinking about how many other members of the university community could benefit from the center – namely, university employees or students with children. The housing options available at the university include the Pine Haven Apartments, which are available to

married and single-parent students and their children. This population is a perfect audience for expanded use of the CMC. The question then becomes, how do we get children living on campus and their parents into the CMC? The answer: a summer reading program.

## Summer Reading Program

In April 2009, Cook Library decided to host its first summer reading program. For various reasons, we decided to keep things simple. This was, after all, a university campus and not the typical setting for a summer reading program. We decided the program would occur only during the month of July. Informational messages were sent out to an informal university e-mail distribution list, as well as the official weekly announcements e-mail message sent to faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, flyers were posted at busy parts of campus and a sign was posted in the CMC.

Four reading lists were created, organized by grade: preschool, K-3, 4-7, and 8-12. All reading lists contained fifty to seventy books, with a combination of old and new, fiction and non-fiction. A registration form was created, and upon its return the parent(s) received their child's reading list and reading log. Participants were asked to read only books from the list, ensuring everyone had equal access to the books.

To bring even more fun to the table, we decided to host two events in conjunction with the program – one in the middle of the month and one at the conclusion. Both events consisted of arts and crafts and other activities for each age group, as well as light refreshments. Each event lasted for about two hours and both events were held in the evening. At the final event, prizes were awarded to the top three readers in each age group. Every participant received a certificate and a goody bag.

To collect the prizes and items for the goody bags, I asked a student to assist by

visiting local businesses to solicit donations. Together we made a list of places to visit, ranging from a sporting goods store to a movie theater. The student assistant then visited each location and spoke with the manager or owner when possible. I also wrote a letter explaining the program and its purpose, which she left at each store. Although some stores did not choose to donate items, many did. We received items we could use as prizes (gift certificates, book bags, t-shirts, etc.) and others that were perfect for the goody bags, including a coupon for a free ice cream cone and glow-in-the-dark Harry Potter glasses. Not surprisingly, the best donations were received from the bookstores in town. They provided books, bookmarks, posters, stickers, key chains, and other promotional materials from various books and publishing companies.

After much preparation, we were ready. Or so we thought! We estimated (and hoped for) about fifteen to twenty participants. Our final count was over sixty. As



**Figure 1.** A mother and daughter work on an arts and crafts project. Office of University Communications, University of Southern Mississippi.



the month began, books on the reading lists began flying off the shelves, and halfway through the month we had to add more titles to each of the reading lists to keep up with demand. Participation at both events was wonderful.

### Program Assessment and Follow-up

Particularly because this was a new initiative for our library, we conducted a survey to gather data for assessment. At the final event, we asked parents to fill out a brief questionnaire, consisting of five questions:

- What did you like best about the program?
- Are there any books you would like to see added to next year's reading list?
- What changes would you like to see made to the summer reading program?
- What are your thoughts on the two events held in conjunction with the program?
- Would you be likely to attend any future events held at the CMC?

The survey results were overwhelmingly positive. The only comments received that could be considered somewhat negative were those requesting the program last longer, the reading list contain more books, and the program include more events. Parents appreciated the reading list, as it gave them an opportunity to discover books they may not have otherwise been aware of. By far the best comment was in response to the last question, regarding future CMC events. The response: "Yes, my son wants a not-summer reading program." Success!

Besides seeing the instantaneous effects of the program during the month of July, we have continued to see results afterwards. Several of the participating families returned to the CMC for our Scholastic Book Fair in August and our *Where the Wild Things Are* party in October. We see many of the parents visiting the CMC to check out items to bring home to their children. Satisfied parents are now recommending the CMC to other parents on campus.

Based on the initial program, we creat-

ed a list of ideas to make things run smoother in the future. When advertising the program, we are going to make sure we mention that it is *free* and *not* a program at which parents can drop off their children! The majority of the phone calls I received were from parents who thought this was a camp-type program. We also took note that many businesses can only donate a certain amount of merchandise or gift cards per month, so the earlier you ask for donations, the better. We will make sure our reading lists for preschool and K-3 are significantly increased, as the bulk of our participants were in those grades, and, of course, it takes much less time to read a picture book than it does a chapter book. In general, survey results suggest we should increase the number of books on

all our reading lists. And, last but not least, we will plan more than two events during the program.

### Conclusion

Overall, our first summer reading program was better than we could have imagined. We introduced more members of the university community to the Cook Library Curriculum Materials Center and, by visiting the CMC regularly, those people become more familiar with Cook Library in general. We introduced the children to some wonderful books and, in turn, received great suggestions for books to add to future reading lists. Parents are already asking about the next summer program! ■

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# News Briefs

Tina Harry, Editor

## Columbus-Lowndes Public Library to Host Photograph Exhibit on Mississippi's Outdoor Sculptures

*From Monuments to Mufflers*, a photograph exhibit detailing Mississippi's unique outdoor sculptures, was shown at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library May 3-June 28, 2010. The exhibit included photographs of U.S. Civil War and civil rights monuments, architectural sculpture, pieces that celebrate a town's heritage, cemetery monuments, and light-hearted and inspirational sculptures from around the state. These sculptures are pieces of art that are sometime celebrated and many times forgotten.

Over two years, Mississippi volunteers helped to discover the state's various outdoor sculptures in part with the "Save Outdoor Sculptures!" or "SOS!" national campaign cosponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Institution for the Conservation of Cultural Property. *From Monuments to Mufflers* celebrates their findings and the many pieces of outdoor sculpture the state has to offer.

The exhibit was produced by the Museum Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). For more information about this exhibit or the Traveling Exhibits Program, contact the Museum Division at 601-576-6800.

– Submitted by Mona K. Vance, archivist,  
Columbus-Lowndes Public Library

## Bake Sales or Book Sales: Whatever It Takes

The Friends of the Crosby Library-Picayune's Annual Book Sale successfully raised \$5,000 for the library's book budget. The sale was started by former director Josephine Megehee in the 1980s, and occurs each year at the end of April.

Tina Harry is associate professor/catalog and assistant automation librarian at the University of Mississippi; e-mail: [tharry@olemiss.edu](mailto:tharry@olemiss.edu).



**Figure 1.** Buyers know a good bargain when they see one. Photograph by Linda A. Tufaro.

The sale started with the Friends members-only sale on the afternoon of April 25, 2010. Friends were able to purchase or renew memberships and could enter a prize drawing for a Friends book bag, coffee mug, or coupon for \$3-\$10 off the afternoon's purchases. This members-only sale is a way to say thank you to all the Friends members who support the library through the year. The sale then opened to the general public on April 26, 2010.

Buyers find bestsellers, as well as old favorites and classics. Some books are discards from the library, but most are donations given to the Friends throughout the year and kept in storage until the sale. Some shoppers buy books and then turn them back in for the next year's sale after they read them. There is a standing joke about how many times certain titles may have been recycled through the sale. The sale creates a lot of goodwill in the community, as well as generates much needed funds to supplement the library's book budget. The big sale items are westerns, crafts, gardening, cookbooks, children's books, and magazines.

The sale ended on May 1, 2010, with the \$1-a-foot sale, which was started by Megehee as a means of getting rid of the many picked over books at the end of the sale. On Saturday morning everyone is waiting on the library steps to enter the \$1-a-foot sale. Some buyers even bring their

own bags and boxes. Sellers are all equipped with twelve-inch rulers. Everyone has a great time and the library benefits.

– Submitted by Linda A. Tufaro, director,  
Pearl River County Library System

## Historical Exhibit Viewed at Pascagoula Library

The Pascagoula Public Library Genealogy and Local History Department hosted an exhibit for Mississippi Heritage Trust in the library atrium during the months of March and April 2010. The history display is being shown across the state and was cosponsored by the City of Pascagoula.

The historical display defines Mississippi's Ten Most Endangered Historic Places with photographs of buildings and locations along with information about their historic significance. An information booklet about the exhibit was also available.

The exhibit featured Pascagoula's Front Street District and specifically identified the John B. Delmas House, built circa 1840, and the Charles B. Delmas House, built circa 1890-1910; both on the endangered list this year.



**Figure 2.** The Mississippi Heritage Trust Ten Most Endangered Historic Places display at the Pascagoula Public Library. Pictured left to right: David Preziosi, Sherry Owens, and Barry McIlwain.



The Jackson County Historical and Genealogical Society held a public reception for the exhibit along with their monthly meeting in April.

The exhibit travelled to Natchez for the Annual Mississippi Preservation Conference on May 6, 2010. The conference was hosted by the Mississippi Heritage Trust and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The display then returned to the Gulf Coast to be showcased at the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs through May.

The goal of the Mississippi Heritage Trust exhibit is to raise awareness about the most threatened historic places in Mississippi and the dangers they are facing which could lead to their destruction.

For more information about the exhibit, visit the Mississippi Heritage Web site at <http://www.mississippiheritage.com>.

– Submitted by Rex Bridges, PR and marketing manager, Jackson-George Regional Library

### JGRLS Technical Services Hits Milestone

The Jackson-George Regional Library System (JGRLS) hit several milestones in 2010, a year that also included the fortieth anniversary of the library system. One of the biggest successes was achieved by the staff members behind the scenes – the people responsible for getting new books and other library materials out to the shelves. A long-standing backlog of materials was processed and released to the branch libraries.

The backlog began when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005. The library system had to close the Pascagoula branch for many months. All administrative offices had to be moved to other locations, including the

technical services department which was temporarily set up in the Gautier library meeting room. The technical services staff quickly got to work processing materials for the seven other branches, but Pascagoula Public Library's materials languished in boxes for quite a long time. When the Pascagoula branch reopened in 2007, the technical services staff set out to finally process all of the boxed up materials for that branch. Along with that strategy, they had to set aside many of the materials coming in for the seven other branches.

Since that time, the department has seen the loss of a manager, hiring a new manager, and several other staff changes which all contributed to the growing backlog of materials to be processed. Finally, during March 2010, the last item in backlog was processed. The department can now focus solely on processing new items to move them quickly to the branch libraries.

Library director Carol Hewlett commented, "These folks aren't on the front lines and are never in the spotlight, but no library system could exist without them. I consider their department the heart of the library. The team we have in this department now is professional and hard working and I am grateful to work with such great folks every day."



**Figure 3.** Alisa St. Amant, Donna Hinkel, Rose Franklin, Gina Morgan, Kathleen Murphy, Ashley King, Susan Agnelly, Dana Woods, and Cheryl Rupp.

Assistant library director Alisa St. Amant said, "I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to supervise and work with individuals who maintain an outstanding level of performance daily. The department's recovery after Hurricane Katrina, and eventual success in clearing a huge backlog of materials, is the result of a team effort."

For information about new books and other materials, branch locations, and more, visit the library Web site at <http://www.jgrls.org>.

– Submitted by Rex Bridges, PR and marketing manager, Jackson-George Regional Library

### Fourth Annual Festival a Success at Mississippi State University Libraries

Turn-of-the-century melodies were once again brought into modern focus when the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival returned to Mississippi State University's Mitchell Memorial Library March 26-27, 2010. The festival, sponsored by the MSU Libraries and the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum for its fourth year, brought over 250 guests from over ten states across the country to the Starkville, Mississippi, campus for concerts, intimate talks-at-the-piano, and tours of the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum. Daytime festival events were featured in the museum, and evening concerts were held in MSU's historic Lee Hall's Bettersworth Auditorium.

Nationally known and highly regarded ragtime musicians Frederick Hodges, Carl Sonny Leyond, Adam Swanson, and Terry Waldo entertained and enlightened festival attendees with music and insight into the world of ragtime. New York-based musicologist and collector David A. Jasen, in addition to co-coordinating the event, served as festival master of ceremonies and led in-depth tours and discussions of the Templeton Collection.



**Figure 4.** Adam Swanson at the piano. Photo by Jim Tomlinson.

Prior to the kick-off of the weekend festival, eighteen-year-old piano talent Adam Swanson visited local Starkville elementary schools to share his musical passion with students. Hundreds of students experienced Swanson's dynamic piano stylings and listened as he shared with them some of the pieces' histories. Swanson's visit with the Starkville schools continues the festival's annual outreach efforts to bring more attention to the Templeton Collection at MSU Libraries and to take the music of the collection to where the students are.

The Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival is sponsored annually in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Other sponsors include the Starkville Area Arts Council, Starkville Rotary, and the Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information on Mississippi State University Libraries and on the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>. To explore the vast Charles Templeton Sheet Music, Instrument, and Recordings Collections, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/templeton/>.

– Submitted by Lyle Tate, special event coordinator, Mississippi State University Libraries

### ALA Honors MSU for Digitization of Ulysses S. Grant Papers

The American Library Association (ALA) honored Mississippi State University (MSU) for its online digitization of the Ulysses S. Grant papers.

On March 11, 2010, the ALA's Web site, [ilovelibraries.org](http://ilovelibraries.org), designated MSU Libraries as the "digital library of the week" for providing free online access to the collected papers of the former president and Civil War general.

MSU serves as host for the U.S. Grant Association's Web site, <http://digital.library.msstate.edu/collections/usgrant>. For the announcement of the papers' public access, visit [www.msstate.edu/web/media/detail.php?id=4827](http://www.msstate.edu/web/media/detail.php?id=4827).

Housed in Mitchell Memorial Library, Grant's collected papers begin in 1837, as he was about to leave for the U.S. Military Academy in West Point. They conclude with the retired chief executive's 1885 death from cancer as he rushed to complete his memoirs.

In addition to the Grant papers, MSU Libraries' other digital archives include over 22,000 pieces of sheet music from the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Sheet Music Collection, selections from the Congressional and Political Research Center, and a variety of items and materials from the CHARM (Consortium for the History of Agriculture and Rural Mississippi) Project.

The ALA is the world's oldest and largest library association. In addition to academia, its members include public, government, and special libraries.

For more information on Mississippi State University Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>.

– Submitted by Angela M. Patton, library assistant, Mississippi State University Libraries

### Southern Miss Children's Book Festival Featured Prominent Authors and Illustrators

Devotees of children's literature made their annual pilgrimage to Hattiesburg and the University of Southern Mississippi to celebrate the work of some of the genre's top authors and illustrators April 7-9, 2010, at the Thad Cochran Center.

Now in its forty-third year, the university's annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival is recognized as one of the top events of its kind. Approximately five hundred teachers and librarians from across the country attend each year for two days of workshops and concurrent sessions featuring presentations by renowned authors, illustrators, storytellers and experts in children's literature. Southern Miss faculty, staff, students, and community members are also invited to participate.

Presented by the School of Library and Information Science, the festival annually presents its Southern Miss Medallion in honor of the work of a recognized author or illustrator in children's literature. The 2010 recipient was David Wiesner, illustrator of more than twenty books for children and only the second three-time winner of the Caldecott Medal, awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

"The list of people who have received it (Southern Miss Medallion) is certainly a who's who of authors and illustrators in the field, and many are friends and people I admire. It's just an amazing honor to be included among them," said Wiesner.

Wiesner said children's literature events like the one at Southern Miss provide



**Figure 5.** David Wiesner

opportunities to learn more about and meet the up-and-coming authors and illustrators in the field. "I love to go and hear what everyone else is doing. There's just an incredible range and variety of approaches to the work and the processes that go on for each author and illustrator," Wiesner said.

"It's an amazingly rich field because the level of creativity is really remarkable."

Such events are also opportunities for authors and illustrators to educate the public about what goes into creating award-winning children's literature, he said. "You still run into audiences that say 'wow, I never had any idea about all that went into making a good children's book,' so there's a lingering idea out there that it's easy, but it takes every ounce of talent and creativity I have to produce one."

Karen Rowell, assistant director for the festival, said the 2010 edition of the event was especially significant with the university celebrating its centennial anniversary. "The festival has been and is an important event in the life of the university," she said. "Through it, we support the university's educational mission by promoting and supporting the work of authors and illustrators who enrich the lives of young people and plant the seed for love of the written word."

Wiesner's most recent popular works include "Tuesday," "The Three Pigs" and "Flotsam" with two more, "Sector 7" and "Free Fall" earning the Caldecott Honor Book award. He is also a three-time winner of the Caldecott Medal, only the second person to achieve this feat. Wiesner is also a past recipient of an International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) honor, the Japan Picture Book Award, and the Prix Sorcières, the French equivalent of the Caldecott Medal.

The 2010 festival featured a presentation by the event's first Colleen Salley Storyteller, Walter M. Mayes, a popular performer, writer, children's literacy advocate and educator whose signature rallying cry

is "Love, food, shelter, clothing... BOOKS!" He is the co-author of Valerie and Walter's Best Books for Children, and the picture book *Walter the Giant Storyteller's Giant Book of Giant Stories*, illustrated by Kevin O'Malley.

The Colleen Salley Storyteller designation honors the late Salley, a supporter of the festival who was famed for her colorful personality and enthusiastic support of children's literature. She served as a distinguished professor of children's literature at the University of New Orleans for thirty years.

The festival began as a way to showcase Southern Miss' renowned de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, considered a leading research center in the field of children's literature. Founded in 1966 by Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond, it was established to preserve the primary literature of children and young adults and serve as a valuable resource for researchers of children's literature. It includes some of the original work of H.A. and Margret Rey, creators of *Curious George*.

In 2001, the festival was named in honor of retired elementary school teacher Fay B. Kaigler, a native Mississippian and longtime supporter of the festival and Southern Miss who taught in the public schools of California and Mississippi for thirty-three years. The festival's Kaigler-Lamont Award recognizes teachers and librarians for distinguished accomplishments in promoting children's reading.

In addition to Wiesner and Mayes, the distinguished lineup of presenters at the 2010 festival included:

**Richard Peck:** Peck, the 1991 recipient of the Southern Miss Medallion, tries to "give readers leading characters they can look up to and reasons to believe that problems can be solved." He has also received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Newbery Award, a Newbery Honor, the Christopher Medal, and an Edgar Award.

**Lulu Delacre:** Delacre's art reflects and

celebrates the folktales, songs, and dances of her native Puerto Rico. Her first foray into young adult literature, *Alicia Afterimage*, holds a unique perspective on grief and loss for both teens and adults. The many accolades she has received include three Pura Belpré honors for illustration for *The Storyteller's Candle: La Velita de los Cuentos*, *The Bossy Gallito—El Gallo de Bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale*, and *Arroró Mi Niño: Latino Lullabies and Gentle Games*. Her works have also been recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English, the New York Public Library, and the International Reading Association.

**Frank McGarvey:** After retiring from the United States Postal Service, McGarvey volunteered at a local elementary school in the Columbus, Ohio area. Having always had a love for books and a desire to give back to his community, he felt it was important to help share the love of books and reading to small children. He is currently a member of the Storytellers of Central Ohio and still takes the time to read two or three times a week to children at the elementary school. Every summer Frank and other local storytellers join with community organizations in the area to provide literacy outreach for underprivileged children as part of Columbus Story Adventurers.

**Dan Yaccarino:** The artistic style of author, illustrator, and television producer Yaccarino is known for its simple designs, primary colors, and 1950s imagery. He considers himself a creator of images and teller of stories and has published over three dozen books and is the producer of such cartoons as "Oswald," "The Backyardigans," and "Willa's Wild Life." He describes himself as a traditionalist who is only now learning to use Photoshop, but the majority of his published artwork is still created by hand.

**Sharon Draper:** As a high school English teacher in her native Ohio, Draper once accepted a student's challenge to "write something sometime" and entered a





**Figure 6.** Fans of children's literature peruse its latest titles during the Forty-third Annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi. University Communications photo by Steve Rouse.

short story contest for *Ebony* magazine. To her surprise, her essay "One Small Torch" took first prize, igniting a spark within the teacher and thus beginning her writing career. In 1994 her first children's book, *Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs*, as well as her first young adult novel, *Tears of a Tiger*, were published. Since then she has produced an extensive list of literary works and received multiple awards and honors for her books.

Draper's visit to the festival is made possible with assistance from Edie Greene of Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Green produces Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Emmy-winning series "Writers," which is spotlighting children's literature authors and illustrators.

**Maureen Johnson:** As a young girl, Johnson knew she wanted to write. As an author of numerous novels and short stories for young adults, she captures her imagination, her love for the wild and unusual, and her many varied and fantastic experiences, and shapes them into her own stories and novels. She explores the many values of family and friendship in unique, comical, and often fantastic settings in her writing. Her wit and unusual sense of humor, as well as her unique understanding of teenage girls, make her

novels both wildly unexpected and comfortingly familiar. She blogs at <http://maureenjohnson.blogspot.com/>.

**Charles Ghigna (Father Goose):** Ghigna is the author of more than forty books which have been featured on ABC's "Good Morning America," PBS, and NPR, selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club, and received the Parents' Choice Book Award and the National Parenting Honor Award. His poems for children and adults have appeared in hundreds of textbooks, anthologies, magazines, and even in the national SAT and ACT tests. He has served as poetry editor of *The English*

*Journal* for the National Council of Teachers of English and has presented poetry programs at the Library of Congress, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the American Library in Paris, and the International Schools of South America, among hundreds of other venues.

For more information about the festival, visit [www.usm.edu/bookfest](http://www.usm.edu/bookfest).

– Submitted by David Tisdale, senior reporter, Office of University Communications, University of Southern Mississippi ■

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# MLA Officers for 2011

The results are in for the election to fill three positions on the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board beginning in January 2011. **Stephen Cunetto** was elected to serve as vice president/president-elect, **Jennifer Brannock** was elected to serve as secretary, and **Jeff Slagell** was elected to serve as ALA Councilor. Congratulations to the incoming members of the MLA executive board!

## Vice President/ President-elect

Stephen Cunetto is administrator of systems at Mississippi State University Libraries. Cunetto manages the Golden Triangle Regional Library Consortium, which he assisted in establishing in 1993. He also manages the Mississippi Academic Library Consortium, serves as the technical advisor and systems administrator for the MAGNOLIA Project, and chairs the MAGNOLIA Database Selection Committee.

Cunetto received his MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2006 and BA in Communication from Mississippi State University in 1990.

During the past ten years, Cunetto has served as president of several organizations, including the Mississippi Theater Association, Starkville Areas Arts Council, and Starkville Community Theater.



**Stephen Cunetto**

## Secretary

Jennifer Brannock has been special collections librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi since 2004. Prior to that, she was the Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship at Yale University, 2003-2004; library manager junior at Lexmark International, Inc., 2001-2003; librarian's assistant at Lexington [Kentucky] Public Library, 2000-2001; and graduate assistant in the Preservation Department at the University of Kentucky, 1999-2001.

Brannock received her MSLS in 2000 and a BA in Art History in 1997, both from the University of Kentucky.

Brannock's involvement with MLA includes serving as 2010 chair of the Archives and History Committee, 2009 co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and 2004-2008 chair of the Special Collections Roundtable. She has served as book review editor for *Mississippi Libraries* since 2009.



**Jennifer Brannock**

## ALA Councilor

Jeff Slagell has been dean of library services at Delta State University since 2008. His previous positions at Delta State University include director of library services, 2006-2008; interim director of library services, 2005-2006; assistant director of library services, 2002-2005; and head of serials/ILL, 1999-2002.

Slagell received his MA in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona and BA in Psychology from the University of Iowa.

Slagell's selected MLA activities include serving as immediate past president, 2009; president, 2008; vice president, 2007; chair of the ACRL Section, 2002; and vice chair of the ACRL Section, 2001. His prior ALA involvement includes serving as Legislative Network State Representative, 2002. ■



**Jeff Slagell**



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# People in the News

Tina Harry, Editor

Hinds Community College (HCC) Libraries/Learning Resource Centers had four staff members retire in spring 2010: **Dr. Juanita Flanders**, dean of learning resources; **Dianne Kelly**, technical assistant, Rankin campus; **Ruby Neely**, cataloging systems administrator/technical assistant; and **Gail Tramel**, cataloging systems administrator/technical assistant. These four were with the HCC Learning Resource Centers for a number of years and will be missed.

**Margaret Rogers**, director of learning resources, was among the retirees honored at a recent Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony and Reception at Northwest Mississippi Community College. Dr. Chuck Strong, vice president for educational affairs, delivered a special tribute to Rogers for her twenty years of service during the April 28, 2010, ceremony in the David M. Haraway Conference Center on the Senatobia campus.

— ♦ —

**Mona K. Vance**, Columbus-Lowndes Public Library archivist, officially took office as president of the Society of Mississippi Archivists (SMA) on March 30, 2010, at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson.

Vance plans to work with SMA on several projects that include offering more educational opportunities through statewide workshops and increasing awareness of the benefits of SMA membership.

Vance said, "I am honored to serve such a wonderful and worthy organization. The members of SMA work diligently not only to educate, but serve as points of information for everyone interested in preserving the rich history of our state."

*Tina Harry is associate professor and catalog and assistant automation librarian at the University of Mississippi; e-mail: tharry@olemiss.edu.*



**Margaret Rogers  
and Chuck Strong**

Other members of SMA inducted into offices and positions include the following:

Vice president/president-elect: **Shugana Williams**, librarian, Katrina Research Center, University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast  
Secretary/treasurer and SMA newsletter editor: **Heather Weeden**, special collections librarian, Mississippi College

Primary source editor: **Ryan Semmes**, assistant archivist, Mississippi State University  
Webmaster: **Laura Capell**, digital archivist, University of Southern Mississippi

Board of directors: **Jamie Bounds**, local history and genealogy librarian, Harrison County Library System; **Emily Erwin**, university archivist, Delta State University; **Jennifer Rose**, public history coordinator, Sunflower County Library System; **Ryan Semmes**, assistant archivist, Mississippi State University

The Society of Mississippi Archivists was organized in 1977. Among many things, the society strives to promote effective communication among professional archivists; to encourage the preservation and conservation of archival and manuscript materials in the state; and to assist citizens, professional organizations, educational institutions, and cultural groups in the preservation and use of our recorded heritage.

To learn more about SMA, visit [www.msarchivists.org](http://www.msarchivists.org) or contact Mona K. Vance at 662-329-5304 or [archives@lowndes.lib.ms.us](mailto:archives@lowndes.lib.ms.us).

— ♦ —

**Mara Villa**, 29, is proof that when you are on fire for what you believe in, it doesn't take long to get attention and recognition. Vision and enthusiasm landed Villa in the top spot at the Pearl Public Library, where she became branch manager on March 1, 2010. Before then, Villa was the Pearl Library's youth services supervisor. In that position and since, blazing a trail of outside-the-box thinking, especially in terms of community outreach, Villa has found herself fixed in the local media spotlight; almost a media darling.

High energy, a passion for her work, and an advocate for the traditional and the groundbreaking moments for libraries best describes

Villa. It's no surprise that she has captured media attention over and over, making the front page several times. "I'm old school librarian meets new school librarian," she said. "I like a lot of old things, but I like to incorporate new and then create some kind of harmony about it." She believes the library is perpetually evolving to fit existing needs. "The library is a place that grows as the people grow," said Villa. "It changes when the people need it to change. The future of the library is the people that it serves."

All that being said, it's hard to believe that Villa's career plans initially did not involve the library world. In 2004, after graduating with a history degree from the University of Mississippi, Villa held a short stint at the Oxford-Lafayette County Public Library in Oxford. That's where she heard her calling in a "hallelujah" exclaimed by an elderly patron who had just been handed a miracle. It was a poem that the patron knew was virtually impossible to find, but one that she desperately wanted to read at a friend's funeral. Villa found that poem. When she saw the elderly woman's reaction, "It was my hallelujah/aha moment," said Villa. From that point on Villa knew the library was her place in life.

In May 2009, Villa received her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. A few months after her graduation, she was asked to join Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information studies honor society. Before 2009, Villa garnered numerous scholarships, including the 2005 Graduate of the Mississippi Library Commission's Librarianship 101 program, 2007-2008 Mississippi Library Commission Public Librarian Scholarship, 2008 Central Mississippi Library Council Scholarship, 2008 Mississippi Library Association's Virgia Brocks-Shedd Scholarship, and the 2008 Rankin County Employee of the Year (Central MS Regional Library System). ■



**Mara Villa**



# About Books

Jennifer Brannock, Editor

**Black, Patti Carr.** *American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast: George Ohr, Dusti Bongé, Walter Anderson, Richmond Barthé.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009. 104 pp. \$35.00 (hardcover)

The National Endowment for the Arts started a major program in 2005 called American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius with the goal to expose Americans to our country's cultural heritage. *American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast: George Ohr, Dusti Bongé, Walter Anderson, Richmond Barthé* was originally published as a companion book to this program and highlights four Mississippi's artists with ties to the Gulf Coast.

Patti Carr Black begins with describing the unique character of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, its history and culture, and the relationship the four artists had with the Gulf Coast. Black proceeds with dedicating a section of the book to each of the four artists that includes a biography and a sampling of the artist's works in color. Ms. Black does an excellent job in conveying the roles these artists played in modern American art.

If this book has a weakness, it is in the sampling of artwork that leaves the reader wanting more. However, given the intent of this book and the quality of the bibliography, this is understandable and easily forgiven.

This book would make an excellent addition to high school and public libraries, as well as to those with Mississippi

author collections. Academic libraries would do well to also include some of the works mentioned in the bibliography to provide greater depth on the subject.

*Eric Speas*, information services/outreach librarian, University of Southern Mississippi

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**Cash, Jean W. and Keith Perry, eds.** *Larry Brown and the Blue-Collar South.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008. 240 pp. \$50.00 (hardcover)

On first sight, the front cover of this book's jacket may lead one to believe she is opening the pages of a short fiction read about middle-class southerners. That idea may be further expounded on by turning the book over to view the back cover, which pictures a lone man smoking a cigarette and fishing from a small boat. Further investigation into the book jacket and book, one realizes this is not fiction at all, but is instead an amazing collection of opinion pieces on the literature of Larry Brown.

In this compilation of critical studies of several of Larry Brown's works, the reader receives a glimpse into his life, as well as his works. For casual readers of the book, each essay offers enough information about the works to entice further reading. For the literary student, there are thorough representations of these works. Each contributor has provided an essay worthy of recognition as having been researched extensively and written with great respect.

The book's forward, "A Tribute to Larry Brown" by Rick Bass, lends much information about the author's life, as well as his writing. Bass is unwavering about

informing readers that the studies in this book about Brown's works are scholarly. Bass knew Brown's novels as "novels of manners, of deeply moral values, works in which every action has profound consequence, and in which every description is either laced – if not fraught – with beauty or laments the absence thereof." Bass, who knew Brown well, wants readers to know that Brown was "beloved by so many for his innocence and tenderness, for his thoughtful consideration for the voiceless, the disempowered, and the disenfranchised: for children, dogs, wild nature under assault, and, always, the poor."

In the introduction by Jean W. Cash, she states that Brown emerged as a "breakout talent in Southern fiction." Cash's introduction contains a very detailed biography of Brown's life, as well as brief reviews of the studies in the book.

Brown told his stories with dignity using topics and language that were familiar to him. It seemed difficult for the contributors of this collection to relate to his writings without leaning heavily on the life of Larry Brown.

This book would be appropriate for public and academic libraries.

*Helen Barlow*, branch manager, Jackson-George Regional Library System

— ♦ —

**Griggs, Lamon K.** *After the Verdict: Crossing the Line.* Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2009. 612 pp. \$24.99 (paperback)

*After the Verdict: Crossing the Line*, written by Lamon K. Griggs, is a fascinating book of details relating to one man's

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*Jennifer Brannock is associate professor and special collections librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi; e-mail: jennifer.brannock@usm.edu.*

experiences, but it is lacking because of grammatical errors and personal feelings.

The beginning of the book makes the reader believe that the book details the trial of Mr. Griggs and Wal-Mart. However, once into the book, the reader begins to feel that the author is using this medium to destroy this Wal-Mart's reputation. Even though the events described in great detail may have occurred, the lack of other points of view and direct quotes causes the story to lose credibility.

I found the book hard to read because of numerous grammatical errors and the continuous ranting. I did not feel that I was reading a story. I felt I was reading an angry testimony. One would not know that Mr. Griggs had won a multi-million dollar lawsuit.

With help in editing and guidance in putting the story together, the book would be worth reading.

Valeria Johnson, librarian, St. Aloysius High School



**Haskell, Sam.** *Promises I Made My Mother.* New York: Ballantine Books, 2009. 236 pp. \$24.00 (hardcover)

Sam Haskell is the quintessential boy next door your mother wants you to marry. He is that good. *Promises I Made My Mother*, his first book co-authored by David Rensin, is less a memoir than a dedication to his mother. Haskell also explains "how to succeed in business" while maintaining Christian values.

Haskell grew up in Amory, Mississippi. The oldest of three children, he felt pressure to be perfect, academically and physically, from a father who ignored him. His

mother was a godsend. Even twenty-five years after her death, people in the Tupelo area still speak fondly of Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell, the school nurse practitioner.

While attending Ole Miss, Haskell decided he no longer wanted to be a doctor – his father's dream – and followed his own. He loved everything about the movie business and was determined to succeed in Hollywood. After graduation, he moved to California and worked in the mail room at the William Morris Company. By 1999, he was Worldwide Head of Television, answering only to the president of the company.

Haskell uses promises he made his mother as a format for the book. Some of these promises include, "be kind, find something to believe in, treat everyone – high or low – the same, be a strong and fair parent, never stop dreaming, be a good friend, keep God at the center of my life, maintain my character and integrity, [and] be trustworthy."

Within the ten chapters, he relates using one or more promises to make friends, woo new clients, and move up the corporate ladder. He left the company in 2005, when he could no longer "stand in the light," as promised.

The book begins with a funny foreword by Ray Romano. An even funnier prologue by Haskell follows, as he retells the "Cheer Man Cometh" story. The pace slows down as the promises in the corporate world are examined. At this point, readers might feel they are attending an inspirational seminar. The ending speeds up the pace again as Haskell discusses his mother's tragic bout with cancer and the reason he left Hollywood.

Readers will enjoy this memoir of a hometown son who succeeds by using values he learned from his Mississippi moth-

er. This book belongs on the shelves of every public library in Mississippi.

Maggie Moran, public service and reference librarian, Northwest Mississippi Community College



**Holley, David M.** *Mystery and Meaning: What it Means to Believe in God.* Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. 256 pp. \$29.95 (paperback)

How does a person come to a system of belief? Is belief something external to be embraced without question? Is it fully formed or is it something we determine for ourselves through rational consideration, logical deliberation, and observation? Or is belief something that can be dispensed with altogether?

In *Meaning and Mystery: What it Means to Believe in God*, David M. Holley proposes that none of these paths to belief (or nonbelief) is realistic or sufficient in a vacuum, but rather that belief is bound up with some type of context which, in a sense, makes it believable. This context is in the form of a narrative, a story that functions as a framework or structure and which we use to orient ourselves – not only with belief but also with the practicalities of living life and interacting with the world and the people around us. These life-orienting stories are the narratives and traditions we grow up learning from family, culture, and personal experience; it is likely that we start out taking them for granted as true or trustworthy. Holley discusses ways to think about the beliefs we hold in light of our life-orienting narratives.

Making sense of the way we live, choosing what we say and do, and reflect-

ing on how we meet the joys and sorrows of existence are lifelong experiences to be undertaken with intention and perspective. Holley provides a thoughtful alternative to an approach that might be likened to unquestioning certainty, and he invites the reader to consider that a too-neatly wrapped package (of belief or non-belief) may be too simple to be believed.

*Meaning and Mystery: What it Means to Believe in God* would be well placed in the college or university library collection and in public libraries that serve college and university communities. A good foundation in philosophical systems and religious thought will be helpful to the reader.

Linda Ginn, head of general collections cataloging and metadata, University of Southern Mississippi

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**Trefzer, Annette, and Ann J. Abadie, editors.** *Global Faulkner*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009. 194 pp. \$55.00 (hardcover)

The eleven essays in this volume were originally presented as papers at the thirty-third annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference held in Oxford, Mississippi, in 2006. The theme, "Global Faulkner," refers not only to the author's worldwide impact on other writers, but also to the reflection in his own work of such diverse influences as Miguel de Cervantes and the myth of Pygmalion. In particular, a number of the essays focus on the effect of William Faulkner's work on writings in the "global South" – i.e., in countries and regions with a shared history of colonialism, slavery, economic exploitation, and racism. Explorations of his influence on

authors from Gabriel García Márquez to the African writers Wole Soyinka and Terno Monénembo reveal echoes of Yoknapatawpha County in surprising ways and places. One contributor also notes Faulkner's impact in Japan, with its post-World War II history of occupation and rapid social change. Closer to home, two of the essays view economic and class conflicts and inequalities in Faulkner's Snopes trilogy and in *Absalom, Absalom!* through the lens of present-day critiques of globalization; while the term did not exist in Faulkner's day, his work contains implicit criticisms of the relentless focus on money and economic expansion that has come to characterize our era.

It may be unusual for a volume of literary criticism to contain a statement on the incomprehensibility of a major author's work, but one of the contributors to *Global Faulkner* makes such a statement in a way that pays tribute to the depth and complexity of Faulkner's writing: "His books remind me of the phenomena of creation: nature, the cosmos, the seas. One cannot understand them. It is enough to simply contemplate their pure beauty and experience their impenetrable mystery." *Global Faulkner* is recommended for academic libraries and for comprehensive Mississippiana collections in public libraries.

Kathleen L. Wells, senior catalog librarian, University of Southern Mississippi

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**Wilburn, Thomas L. and Jeannine K. Smith.** *Tales of Tom Wilburn*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 2007. 378 pp. \$22.75 (paperback)

Tom Wilburn is a storyteller, and his recollections of the people of Artesia,

Lowndes County, and beyond make the title of this book most appropriate. It is a collection of tales: tales of his childhood, his family and neighbors, his education, his farming days and war service, and his passion for harness horse-racing. Culled from hours of tapes and conversations with Jeannine Smith, this oral history is a snapshot of rural Mississippi from the 1920s through the 1950s. Apart from the occasional note, Smith, as a good oral historian, does not impose herself on the book. Wilburn is allowed to talk, and his unique voice comes through strongly.

It is an authentic voice that describes growing up during the Depression when whites and blacks struggled to survive on next to nothing. Wilburn acknowledges the racial inequality of the day, but he is recalling a society where everyone knew their place and did not question it. He does not sugarcoat the hardships or the shortcomings of himself and others. This is no dour diary of an old man, however. The book is one humorous story after another. Wilburn was a practical joker and some of his tales seem almost too tall for the younger, urban reader. Did he really build a flame thrower as a kid and use dynamite to stir up a lazy employee?

Illustrated with photographs of Wilburn and his family, Smith has achieved her objective of producing a time capsule that captures the life and times of Tom Wilburn, cattleman, reinsman, and raconteur. The combination of personal memories and the stories passed down to him makes Wilburn's book a valuable local history, but as a collection of anecdotes, it would certainly appeal to a much wider audience.

Gerald Chaudron, archivist, Mississippi State University





**McKee, Anne B.** *Historic Photos of Mississippi*. Nashville: Turner Publishing Co., 2009. 216 pp. \$39.95 (hardcover)

Anne McKee, the author of *Historic Photos of Mississippi*, is also a literary and performing artist who performs as a storyteller, humorist, public speaker, writer, and creator of Mississippi heritage projects. She is a founder of the Mississippi Writers Guild and has written holiday short stories that are popular in elementary schools.

*Historic Photos of Mississippi* is a journey told through pictures. The almost two hundred images printed in black and white or sepia tones lend a film noir quality to the book. The photographic journey traces the changing characters and landscapes of Mississippi from the piney woods to the Delta, as well as Mississippi historical events and the lifestyles of a diverse population.

McKee draws upon a number of archival collections of photographs in Mississippi, in addition to the Library of Congress and various private collections. She divides her text into four specific periods: the Civil War and its aftermath; the Golden Age (from 1900 to 1919); the Depression years; and World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, and the Space Race.

The book attempts to capture the good and bad periods of Mississippi history. For example, McKee includes photographs of Governor Ross Barnett standing on the steps of the University of Mississippi in an attempt to prevent African American student James Meredith from going to class, as well as photographs from the era of slavery.

McKee assembles the photographs chronologically to tell the Mississippi story.

She includes captions and brief introductions in each section of the book to set the stage for the photographs that follow. McKee did not set out to create a scholarly analysis of any of the events, individuals, or eras that are represented by photographs in the book. She recognizes that the photographs quite literally have the capacity to speak for themselves.

Though the text is similar to others that have been written before, such as compendiums of historic photographs of Little Rock, Arkansas, or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, *Historic Photos of Mississippi* is, more than anything else, a loving tribute to a place and its people. The book is recommended for public school libraries, public libraries, and academic libraries.

William L. Bahr, director, Marks-Quitman County Public Library



**Span, Christopher M.** *From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse: African American Education in Mississippi, 1862-1875*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009. 264 pp. \$35.00 (hardcover)

*From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse* is centered on the debate over the control of and purpose of black schools. The book is also a thorough inspection of the political landscape and the policies of racial education in Mississippi.

The main argument is whether schools for freed slaves should establish those freedmen as citizens, equip them for freedom but as inferior manual workers, or devise another, altogether different end result. The freed slaves perceived that schools they created for themselves would allow them to become independent, politically legitimate, and have some societal

and economic flexibility. However, most northerners, who were helping the freed slaves, saw the freed people's perception of their educated selves as impractical. The northerners fully expected the freed slaves to continue working, albeit under contract, for the very persons who had enslaved them. At the same time, the vast majority of white Mississippians argued against any educational opportunities for former slaves. Limiting his work to Mississippi from 1862 to the end of Reconstruction in 1875, Span proves that the freed slaves' desire for an all-inclusive public education system played a critical role in the political landscape and the policies of racial education in Mississippi during that time. It becomes abundantly clear that his purpose for writing *From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse* is for the reader to understand the significance of knowledge and literacy to the slave community, and how those who were once slaves became knowledgeable.

Others have chronicled the trials of education in the South during Reconstruction, but Span's work is seemingly the first compelling book to portray the drama of former Mississippi slaves' quest for a public education. Although predicated upon astounding archival research, Span's book can arguably serve as an ideal for those southern states who wish to chronicle black educational efforts. Therefore, those interested in African American history, Southern history, Reconstruction, and African American educational history will find this title most informative. *From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse* would be a wise purchase for any public or academic library.

Mantra Henderson, interim director, James H. White Library, Mississippi Valley State University ■

# MLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

**February 5, 2010**

**Mississippi Library Commission,  
Jackson, MS**

## **Executive Board Members Present:**

President: Ann Branton  
Vice President: Jennifer Smith  
Secretary: Ruth Ann Gibson  
Treasurer: Molly McManus  
Immediate Past President: Jan Willis  
ACRL Section Chair: Tisha Zelner  
School Library Section Co-Chairs: Edith  
Leggins and Melissa Moak  
Special Library Section Chair: Cindy Yu

## **Others Present:**

Mary Julia Anderson, executive secretary;  
Jenny Bossaller; Marsha Case, chair,  
Nominating Committee; Susan Cassagne,  
chair, Legislative Committee; Crystal  
Giles; Maggie Moran, chair, 2YCRT; Shar-  
man Smith, director, Mississippi Library  
Commission; Kathleen Wells, chair, Hand-  
book Committee

## **Call to Order**

Branton called the meeting to order at  
10:40 a.m.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Gibson reminded everyone to sign the roll.  
Minutes of the December 11, 2009, final  
2009 executive board meeting and the  
December 11, 2009, first 2010 executive  
board meeting were distributed by e-mail  
to the board and in print for review.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Willis  
to accept both sets of minutes as distrib-  
uted. Motion was seconded by Smith and  
approved.

## **Reports**

Secretary: Gibson thanked Case for taking  
minutes at the December meeting.

Treasurer: McManus presented the pro-  
posed budget for 2010, which came as a  
recommendation from the Fiscal Manage-  
ment Committee. The budget shows an  
anticipated income of \$76,570 and  
expenses of \$83,945.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Smith  
to accept the recommended budget.  
Motion was seconded by Willis and  
approved.

President: In reviewing the 2009 confer-  
ence evaluations, Branton reported that the  
School Library Section's program rated  
quite high. All program results are to be  
posted on the MLA Web site. Branton  
noted that committee assignments for  
2010 were almost complete. She was still  
searching for chair-persons for Bylaws and  
Conservation and noted that some new  
committees, such as Diversity and Social  
Consciousness, may need to be added.

Vice President: Smith announced that the  
2010 conference will be at the Vicksburg  
Convention Center, October 20-22. The  
theme will be "Outside the Lines: Missis-  
sippi Libraries – Defining Ourselves." She  
is currently talking with hotels and caterers.  
The planning forms will be available on the  
MLA Web site soon. Jeff Slagell is chairing  
the Site Selection Committee for 2011 and  
2012.

Past President: Willis stated that the Asso-  
ciation of College and Research Libraries  
(ACRL) is requesting a letter of support for

Nashville to be selected as the 2017 con-  
ference site. Zelner is also working on this  
for the ACRL Section of MLA. Willis vol-  
unteered to draft the letter of support from  
MLA.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Willis  
to endorse Nashville as the 2017 ACRL  
conference site. Motion was seconded by  
Zelner and approved.

Executive Secretary: Anderson reported  
that paper renewal notices will be sent next  
week. She requested that the Membership  
Committee work with her on building  
membership.

ALA Councilor: Sherry Laughlin sent a  
written report on the American Library  
Association 2010 Midwinter Meeting in  
Boston. Council actions and documents  
are available on the ALA Web site at  
[www.ala.org/](http://www.ala.org/). Branton said Laughlin's  
report will be available on the MLA Web  
site.

SELA Representative: Deborah Lee sent a  
written report stating that SELA's biennial  
conference will be held jointly with the  
2010 Arkansas Library Association Annu-  
al Conference. Information can be found at  
[www.arlib.org/calendar/index.php?cmd  
=view&event=108](http://www.arlib.org/calendar/index.php?cmd=view&event=108). Nominations for the  
SELA Outstanding Author Awards are  
being accepted through March 31. Bran-  
ton said Lee's complete report will be  
available on the MLA Web site.

ACRL Section: Zelner attended the ACRL  
Chapters Council meeting at the ALA  
2010 Midwinter Meeting in Boston and  
reported that each chapter can apply for

reimbursement of program expenses.

*Public Library:* No report.

*School Library Section:* Leggins stated that the third annual meeting of the Mississippi Association of Library Teachers had fifty in attendance. She requested that MLA support school librarians during the current state budget crisis. Branton announced that she has drafted a letter to school principals that supports requests from school librarians to attend meetings, workshops, and other professional development events. The letter will be available on the MLA Web site.

*Special Libraries Section:* No report.

*Trustees Section:* No report.

*Nominating Committee:* Case noted that the ALA Councilor serves a three-year term rather than a four-year term and recommended the revision be made in the *Handbook*.

*Action Taken:* Motion was made by Smith to accept the recommendation of the change in the length of the Councilor's term. Zelnor seconded the motion which was passed.

Case presented the following slate of nominees for 2011 MLA officers: ALA Councilor – Ellen Ruffin and Jeff Slagell; Secretary – Jennifer Brannock and Jill Nicholson; and Vice President/President-Elect – Stephen Cunetto and Joan Tierce.

*Action Taken:* Smith made the motion to

accept the slate as presented. Willis seconded the motion and it was passed.

*Legislative Committee:* Cassagne reported that the Legislative Committee was meeting February 5 to finalize state activities. March 11 is Advocacy Day. Cassagne emphasized that communication is key to getting the message of libraries' needs to the legislators. She also expressed a need for the membership to contact our congressmen and senators in Washington, DC regarding Jobs for Main Street Act. National Library Advocacy Day in Washington, DC is June 29. Gloria Washington has prepared a talking points brochure that will be posted on the MLA Web site. Sharman Smith pointed out that MLA needs to decide what is important locally with regard to ALA issues and act accordingly. Alerts and talking points should be geared toward the impact on Mississippi and such matters should be funneled through the Legislative Committee.

*Government Documents Roundtable:* Laura Harper submitted a written report that will appear on the MLA Web site.

*Library Instruction Roundtable:* Jorge Brown submitted a written report that will appear on the MLA Web site.

*New Members Roundtable:* Brown submitted a written report that will appear on the MLA Web site.

### **Old Business**

*IMLS Grant:* Dr. Jenny Bossaller reported that the University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science graduate program received a grant of

\$423,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to recruit ethnic minorities to the library field. There are ten grant assistantships available with an application deadline of March 15. Recruiting applicants has been done primarily through college career fairs. Branton suggested that something be put on the MLA Web site.

*Fiscal Management Committee:* Smith provided justification for the 2010 budget, noting that part of the increase in expenses was because of the salary increase for the executive secretary (\$15.45/hour increased to \$16.00/hour). She felt that travel expenses could be picked up locally and that lifetime memberships needed to be promoted. Her report was accepted and will be placed on the MLA Web site.

### **New Business**

*Web Site:* Branton announced that each section could have its own page on the MLA Web site to make announcements specific to the section's interest. McManus will create logins for anyone who wants to update a section page.

*2-Year College Roundtable:* Moran presented the following names as the new officers: Sherita Howell, vice chair and Nancy McLemore, secretary/treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Ann G. Gibson, MLA secretary

Minutes approved at MLA Board meeting May 7, 2010. ■



# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Year January-December 2010

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Library \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

One of the primary forms of communication between MLA and its members is the MLA listserv. As a member of the MLA listserv you will receive important announcements from MLA via email and be able to discuss library related issues with your peers. If you are not already a MLA listserv member, can we add your email address to the listserv?

☐ Sign me up! ☐ I decline

## A. MEMBERSHIP TYPES

**Membership** (Any person currently working in a library or information center. Mark by salary range.)

\$0 to \$9,999	\$15 per year	\$ _____
\$10,000 to \$19,999	\$25 per year	\$ _____
\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$35 per year	\$ _____
\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$45 per year	\$ _____
\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$50 per year	\$ _____
\$50,000 to \$59,999	\$55 per year	\$ _____
\$60,000 or above	\$60 per year	\$ _____

Student (2 Year Limit)

Full or Part-time	\$10 per year	\$ _____
Retired	\$15 per year	\$ _____
Trustee	\$15 per year	\$ _____
Friend of Library	\$15 per year	\$ _____
Institutional Membership	\$45 per year	\$ _____
Vendor	\$40 per year	\$ _____

## Lifetime membership

One-time Payment \$1000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Installment Plan

(Payable in increments of a minimum of \$200 each year until paid in full) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A. MEMBERSHIP TYPES SUBTOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_



<http://www.misslib.org/>

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## B. SECTIONS

Enter "FREE" for one section membership  
(Enter **\$6.00** for Additional Sections)

Academic (ACRL)	\$ _____
Public	\$ _____
School	\$ _____
Special	\$ _____
Trustee	\$ _____
<b>B. SECTIONS SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ _____

## C. ROUNDTABLES

Join one or more roundtables for opportunities in professional growth **\$3.00 EACH**.

<b>ANRT</b> (Automation and Networking)	\$ _____
<b>BLACK CAUCUS</b>	\$ _____
<b>ECTRT</b> (Educational Communication and Tech)	\$ _____
<b>GODORT</b> (Government Documents)	\$ _____
<b>LIRT</b> (Library Instruction)	\$ _____
<b>NMRT</b> (New Members)	\$ _____
<b>SCRT</b> (Special Collections)	\$ _____
<b>TSRT</b> (Technical Services)	\$ _____
<b>2YCRT</b> (2 Year College)	\$ _____
<b>YPSRT</b> (Young People's Services)	\$ _____
<b>C. ROUNDTABLES SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ _____

## D. SCHOLARSHIPS

Donation to Peggy May Scholarship	\$ _____
Donation to Virgia Brock-Shedd Scholarship	\$ _____
<b>D. SCHOLARSHIP SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ _____

## GRAND MLA TOTAL

(DUES GRAND TOTAL (A + B + C) AND SCHOLARSHIP D)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed (Make payable to Mississippi Library Association and mail to MLA, P.O. Box 13687, Jackson MS 39236-3687). All dues include subscription to **Mississippi Libraries**.

\_\_\_\_ Please charge my MLA dues to my:  
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

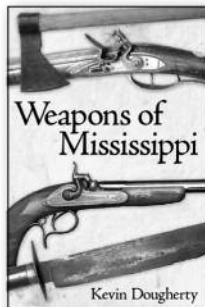
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dues must be paid by **March 15** in order to receive the Spring issue of **Mississippi Libraries** and for annual election of officers. MLA may at times supply its membership list to professional organizations or library vendors.

☐ Check the box if you do not want your name included.

(Revised 12/09)

# Must-Have Titles for Mississippi Libraries



## WEAPONS OF MISSISSIPPI

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY

A history of weaponry used to defend, attack, suppress, and stalk over the centuries

\$25 cloth; \$25 Ebook

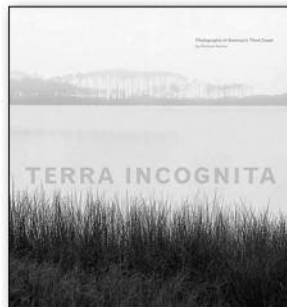
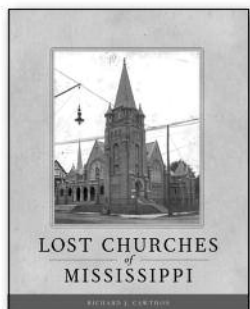


## LOST CHURCHES OF MISSISSIPPI

By RICHARD J. CAWTHON

A richly illustrated history of more than one hundred sacred structures lost to disaster, demolition, or abandonment

\$35 cloth; \$35 Ebook



## TERRA INCOGNITA

*Photographs of America's*

*Third Coast*

By RICHARD SEXTON

FOREWORD BY J. RICHARD GRUBER

INTRODUCTION BY JOHN H.

LAWRENCE

AFTERWORD BY RANDY HARELSON

Photographs capturing the subtle beauty of the Gulf Coast, a dynamic landscape constantly reshaped by nature and human intervention

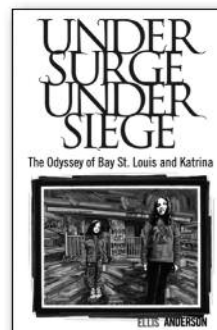
\$40 cloth

## UNDER SURGE, UNDER SIEGE *The Odyssey of Bay St. Louis and Katrina*

By ELLIS ANDERSON

A survivor's tale of the hurricane's destruction and a community's enduring determination

\$25 cloth; \$25 Ebook



## LOSING GROUND *Identity and Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana*

By DAVID M. BURLEY

FOREWORD BY SARA CROSBY

AFTERWORD BY T. MAYHEART

DARDAR AND THOMAS DARDAR

How residents of a changing coastline reconcile sense of place with the Gulf's encroachment

\$40 printed casebinding; \$40 Ebook

## CULTURE AFTER THE HURRICANES *Rhetoric and Reinvention on the Gulf Coast*

EDITED BY M. B. HACKLER

Essays examining the fraught negotiations between official agencies and local communities in the aftermath of disasters

\$50 printed casebinding; \$50 Ebook

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