Message from the Chair

Dear Southern Chapter,

Anything interesting going on right now? Spring 2020 promises to be a time none of us will ever forget. I’m writing my Message from the Chair on April 9, 2020 from my home in Memphis. First and foremost, I hope that all our members and their families are safe and healthy. I also hope that your institutions have continued to look to you to provide information and expertise to your users.

There has been a great deal of sadness and uncertainty for many of us. Personally, it was heartbreaking to clear out our students (especially our M2 students studying for their exams) when University of Tennessee Health Science Center closed our campus to all students on March 16 at 5pm. Subsequently, our team here began working from home.

We, as a profession, can continue to provide access to information for our users because we’ve worked diligently (with our vendor partners) to make a large portion of the collection virtual. Similarly, we’ve harnessed technology to bring our expertise to our users whether they’re in our buildings or around the world. While we’re equipped for this moment, we long to return to our workplaces and see our colleagues in person.

To that end, Program Chair, Trey Lemley, along with Local Arrangement Co-Chairs, Margaret Alexander and Inga Moten continue to plan for our October conference in Montgomery, AL. They are putting together an outstanding program and what a happy reunion it will be to meet in person with our beloved colleagues and, hopefully, a large group of new friends.

Again, we want Southern Chapter to be the primary professional home for any librarian working with the health sciences in the region (and beyond). Whether you work in an academic health science center, a hospital, a four-year college, a two-year college, there’s a home for you in Southern Chapter. As we approach the end of our renewal period (April 30), we humbly ask you to renew.

Again, it is my honor to serve as your Chapter Chair for 2020 and I welcome your input, questions, concerns, or ideas throughout the year. Drop me a line at gwatts3@uthsc.edu

Sincerely,
Randall Watts
2020 Southern Chapter Chair
MEMBER Spotlight

We asked Margaret why she is a member of Southern Chapter—this is her story:

I never would have imagined, in a million years, that I would end up in library services. My chosen profession was the retail industry. However, after ten years in retail, I decided to follow my mother into the library services profession, and I couldn’t have made a better choice! In 1991, I accepted the position of librarian at the T. S. Williams Veterinary Medical Library, College of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University. For many years, I attended MLA Annual Meetings. However, attending Southern Chapter Annual Meetings was not part of my professional agenda. A member of SCMLA, Sylvia McAphee (UAB), encouraged me to join SCMLA. My first SCMLA Annual Meeting was in Jackson, MS. I was hooked on SCMLA and continued to attend the annual meetings.

The SCMLA atmosphere, workshops, networking, and experiences were significant factors in my decision to become active in SCMLA. Expanding my involvement through two committees, the Program Committee, and the Professional Development Committee, offered opportunities for me to grow and explore the benefits of SCMLA.

Working in the veterinary medical environment, which is parallel to human medicine, presents the best of both worlds. SCMLA affords members a pathway to build and enhance their professional aspirations, network and learn from other librarians, and facilitate in the growth of SCMLA.

“SCMLA affords members a pathway to build and enhance their professional aspirations, network and learn from other librarians.”
Around the States

ALABAMA

University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

After more than 40 years of service at the University of South Alabama, Geneva Bush Staggs is retiring from her current position as Director of the Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library. Staggs began her career as the cataloging librarian at Mobile College. In 1979, she joined the library staff at the Medical Center site of the Biomedical library. After five years she accepted the challenge of setting up library services for the University’s newly developing Baldwin County campus in Fairhope and Bay Minette. Since returning to the Biomedical Library, Staggs has held several increasingly responsible positions including Head of Public Services and Assistant Director for Hospital Library Service and has been involved in developing and implementing library services in reference, education and consumer health.

Awards received include the Southern Chapter Medical Library Association’s Hospital Librarian of the Year in 2012, and the Medical Library Association’s prestigious Lois Ann Colaianni Award for Excellence and Achievement in Hospital Librarianship in 2015. Staggs has been a member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals for 20 years, the last ten as a distinguished member. The Academy recognizes accomplishments in professional development and service.

Staggs has multiple publications, as well as, many presentations at professional meetings and conferences. Her writing career began with coauthoring “Finding the Source of Medical Information: A Thesaurus-Index to the Reference Collection” in 1985 and her first presentation was at the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians in 1982. Her resume includes an additional 69 publications and presentations directed at either health information professionals or consumers.

Staggs has served locally, state-wide, regionally and nationally. Locally on many University, USA Health System, and community committees including the Southwest Alabama Health Literacy Council. State-wide appointments include the LSTA Advisory Council of the Alabama Public Library Service, multiple committees and leadership positions of the Alabama Health Libraries Association, and as Secretary of the Judson College Alumnae Association. Staggs served regionally as the Secretary of the Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries, several committees of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association, and on ten visiting committees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Her latest national involvement was
Staggs graduated from Judson College in 1975 with a degree in education and school librarianship and from the University of Kentucky with an MS in library science in 1977.

FLORIDA

The Clifford E. Graese Community Health Library, Orlando Health, Orlando, FL

The Clifford E. Graese Community Health Library has exciting news to share! To expand health literacy education and resources to the communities of Orlando and surrounding areas, Jessica Daly, Consumer Health Librarian, received the 2020 Orlando Health Community Grant in the amount of $18,500. These dollars will fund the “Orlando Pediatric Health Literacy” program. Pediatric caregivers will be empowered by gaining research and resources needed for improved health and overall quality of life for the children they love.

The program will partner with Orlando Health - Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies, as well as Orlando Health - Arnold Palmer Children’s Hospital. On top of working with both accredited and highly acclaimed hospitals, the program will also benefit all Orlando Health Physician Associates pediatric practices, offering not only resources and research but in person and online health literacy education. Collaborations with East Orange Community Center of Orange County, the Ronald McDonald House of Arnold Palmer Children’s Hospital, iKids Pediatrics and the Orange County Public Library will offer pediatric caregivers free consultations with the Consumer Health Librarian and assistance through email, phone calls and even virtual consultations using Skype or Facetime capabilities.

The Consumer Health Librarian will also purchase paperback children’s books for pediatric patients and their siblings in order to promote not only literacy but health literacy as well. These books will be placed in all partnering locations. Health Literacy information kiosks will be purchased and stationed in pediatric patient waiting areas within hospitals and practices in order to offer contact information for the Consumer Health Librarian and to promote upcoming Health Literacy educational sessions. Making the services of the Consumer Health Librarian visible in these areas will increase awareness and usage of health literacy assistance. This grant enables Jessica the funding for things such as marketing, print resources, food for events, travel and even professional development in the area of pediatric medicine, which would otherwise not be possible.
Celebrating 5 Years of Art in the Library

This March UCF College of Medicine (UCF COM) held its fifth annual Art in the Library celebration. Every year UCF COM puts out a call for student, faculty, and staff created artwork, which can include paintings, photographs, drawings, pottery, and other media. The art is displayed around the library space, and as new pieces are submitted, the art is refreshed every year. This year the library hosted our second community art project, where attendees of the Art in the Library celebration could participate in creating a large piece of art to be displayed in the library. This year’s design was an abstract one, and participants were encouraged to choose a paint color and paint four shapes on the canvas. Participants, including faculty, staff, and students, showcased their creativity by adding designs to their chosen shapes. To see the unveiling of the final piece, see our Instagram page at instagram.com/ucfcomhsl.

Natasha Williams,
User Services Librarian next to her artwork.

UCF College of Medicine Dean Dr. Deborah German participates in the library’s community art project.

Our completed community art project will be displayed in the library.
Women’s History Month Honoree

Natasha Williams, User Services Librarian, was honored this March during Women’s History Month. Every March UCF’s department of Faculty Excellence honors women faculty. This year 31 women were chosen for this prestigious honor. Natasha was nominated and selected for her work on the Council for Diversity and Inclusion. Some of Natasha’s accomplishments include hosting a focus group of Black and African American students to inform future recruitment of new minority medical students; co-teaching research techniques to high school students from Orange and Osceola counties as part of the College’s Health Leaders Summer Academy; and helping to organize COM’s first Latinx Heritage Month celebration.

Congratulations Natasha!

Librarians Mentoring FIRE Students

Two of our librarians, Nadine Dexter and Shalu Gillum, acted as mentors for first and second year medical students as part of the Focused Inquiry & Research Experience (FIRE) module. FIRE is a two-year module where students undertake a research project of their choosing and work with a mentor to complete either original research or a literature review. At the end of their second year, students present their work in the form of a poster at the FIRE Conference held at COM.

Library Director Dr. Nadine Dexter mentored three second year students who presented posters at the FIRE Conference. Those projects included: “How Electronic Health Records Help and Hurt Patient Outcomes: A Review,” “Effects of Clinical Mobile Applications on Enhancing Medical Student Cognition,” and “Physicians’ Opinions on the Effectiveness of Electronic Medical Records on Patient Care.”

Shalu Gillum, Head of Public Services, is mentoring a first year student who is working on a literature review, titled, “Association of Time Between Onset and Diagnosis of Necrotizing Fasciitis in the Upper Extremity and Mortality Outcomes: A Literature Review.” Shalu’s student was selected to give an oral presentation at the FIRE conference and won second place in the faculty & staff choice awards. We are so proud of our medical students!

University of Florida Health Science Center Libraries - Gainesville, FL

Publications


Conferences Attended

Rethlefsen ML, Chair of Session 4: Reproducibility Perspective, NIH Biomedical Ecosystem Workshop: Role of Generalist Repositories to Enhance Data Discoverability and Reuse, February 11-12, 2020; Bethesda, MD

Rethlefsen ML, attendee, REWARD/EQUATOR 2020, February 20-22, 2020; Berlin, Germany. The conference theme - “Sharing strategies for Research Improvement” – represents an ambition to move beyond the articulation and description of problems, to instead provide greater focus on possible solutions; their development, testing, evaluation and dissemination.

Rethlefsen ML, attendee, RDAP Summit, March 11-13, 2020; Santa Fe, NM. The RDAP Summit is relevant to the interests and needs of data managers and curators, librarians who work with research data, and researchers and data scientists.

Presentations


Rethlefsen ML. Librarians’ roles in enhancing reproducibility. In Session 4: Reproducibility Perspective. NIH Biomedical Ecosystem Workshop: Role of Generalist Repositories to Enhance Data Discoverability and Reuse, February 11-12. Bethesda, MD; 2020. [session chair and panelist – invited]
Exhibits

The UF Health Science Center Library hosted the National Library of Medicine’s traveling exhibit “From DNA to Beer: Harnessing Nature in Medicine and Industry” from January 20 through February 29, 2020. The exhibit explores the dynamic relationship between microbes, technology, science, and medicine. Javiera Rudolph, a PhD candidate in UF’s Department of Biology and Arthur Rudolph, PhD, Quality Manager of Gainesville (FL)’s local First Magnitude Brewing Company spoke on “Data Science in Craft Brewing” and “Micro-Brewers: Why Humans Rely on Microbes in Brewing”, respectively.

The library is hosted the NLM Traveling exhibit “Fire and Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America”, which highlights the knowledge of farming and food acquisition of indentured servants, Native Americans and African slave labor in the early colonial era.

Special Projects and Events

To get general feedback on our services, space, and collections from library users, our fall “3 wishes” campaign asked users for their top wishes for the Health Science Center Library. While the 199 wishes described by the 80 respondents included a wide variety of suggestions, the requests most frequently related to improvements to the library space in general: furniture, food available within the library, air conditioning, and printing options. The library’s management team responded with some immediate changes, such as: more whiteboards, better library closing process, purchasing human skeleton models, and added some ideas to longer-term space planning efforts and future areas of advocacy.

Wishes for the Library
The Passport to Wellness contains 12 wellness activities for students, staff and faculty to participate in at the Health Science Center Library in Gainesville. The passports are available at the circulation desk and are stamped there when owners have completed an activity such as attending art-making sessions, visiting with a therapy dog or using the library’s under-desk exercisers or energy pods. Different prizes are awarded those completing 7 and 10 of the activities. The program will run through the Spring 2020 semester.

On December 11, 2019, the HSC Library sponsored a panel discussion of UF nursing faculty critiquing popular representations of nurses in television and movies. The event was part of the HSC Library’s exhibition of a travelling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine, Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling Postcard Collection.

On February 18, 2020, Margaret Ansell represented the Health Science Center Libraries and other UF Libraries at the annual Gator Day at the Capitol event in the state capitol building in Tallahassee. With representatives from the various colleges at UF, she displayed some of the exciting work happening on campus, including the libraries’ digitization efforts, research support, and 3D printing services. She spoke with Florida legislators and visitors to the Florida Capitol about the importance of the libraries as the “information backbone” of the state through the libraries’ support of UF students, staff, and faculty. Visitors walked away with 3-D printed orange and blue gator tie pins made by miniature printers that the libraries have available for checkout.
Calder Library hosted the presentation and accompanying photo exhibit, Bay Yo Lapawol - Haitian Women’s Barriers to Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control, on Monday, February 4, 2020 by Dr. Rhoda Moise. The presentation and photo exhibit centered on her use of photovoice—a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) method that uses digital media to guide conversations—in her work on cervical cancer in Haiti. Dr. Moise uses photovoice to engage women in semi-structured individual and group interviews grounded in cultural empowerment that allow them to bay yo lapawol, or let their voices be heard through personal narratives. The exhibit was hosted by Calder Library from February 4-29, 2020.

Rhoda K. Moise received her Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in May 2019. Dr. Moise works at the intersection of science, health, and policy to promote wellness for all by engineering health systems with equity as the foundation. Through research, her goal is to create products and services which solve systemic issues for health advancement of the globally underserved with focus on women’s health.
Implicit Bias Training at UM Libraries

On March 6, 2020, the University of Miami (UM) Libraries’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Interest Group hosted its first collaborative event, “Implicit Bias Training for Information Professionals,” to further diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in libraries across all UM campuses. The DEI Interest group received grant funding from the University’s SEEDS (A Seed For Success) program whose core mission is to advance the careers of all UM faculty by embracing and celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion, and by helping to eliminate biases resulting from, gender, ethnicity, race, accessibility, age, etc.

The first half of the day featured a 4-hour interactive session facilitated by Shannon Jones, Director of Libraries, Medical University of South Carolina; Dr. Kimberly Reynolds, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; and Kelsa Bartley, Education and Outreach Librarian at the Calder Library. A panel was held in the afternoon to discuss the impact of implicit bias in various campus work-place settings. Panelists included Ms. Jones, Dr. Reynolds and Dr. Nanette Vega, Executive Director of Programs for the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. The panel discussion was moderated by Kelsa Bartley. The session was well attended, with over 50 participants from the Calder Medical Library, the UM Libraries on the Coral Gables Campus, the Rosenstiel Marine and Atmospheric Science Library, and the UM Law library, as well as staff from UM’s Lowe Art Museum.
Calder in the Community

Calder Library personnel volunteered at Miller School of Medicine Department of Community Service (DOCS) Health Fairs from September 2019 through February 2020, promoting Medline Plus, and providing location and contact information for public libraries in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. Hand sanitizer give-aways were also provided. The Calder Library volunteers were:

- Amalia de la Vega
- David Goolabsingh
- Shidan Hemmat
- Yesenia Navarro
- Manny Pasos
- Geddy Paulaitis
- Erica Powell
- John Reynolds
- Velda Thompkins

The **University of Miami DOCS Program** focuses on providing healthcare access to underserved and vulnerable populations. Services include free annual health screenings to provide high-risk patients with examinations, health prevention education, health coverage opportunities, and much needed access to primary and specialty care physicians.

Calder Library staff at DOCS Health Fairs around Broward, Miami-Dade, & Monroe Counties.

**Personnel News**

**New Biomedical Data Librarian at Calder Library**

On March 16, Calder Medical Library and the University of Miami Libraries welcomed Dr. Thilani Samarakoon into her role as Calder Library’s first full-time Biomedical Data Librarian.
Thilani received her PhD in Chemistry from Kansas State University and Master’s in Information Science from the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah. She worked as a cancer researcher for over eight years, following her dissertation on quantifying the levels and types of proteases expressed by different stages of cancer. She has expertise in R, SQL, and Tableau, and experience working with datasets of all sizes. Thilani’s scholarly achievements include patents and peer-reviewed publications.

Thilani will play a central role in developing and providing library services for access, use, and manipulation of quantitative and qualitative datasets in biomedical research, scientific research, and laboratory environments. She will also be an active participant in the UM Libraries’ efforts to build a coordinated, cross-campuses data services and data management infrastructure.

**Executive Director to Step Down**

JoAnn Van Schaik is stepping down as Executive Director of the Louis Calder Memorial Library at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine at the end of May 2020. She will remain at Calder Library in a half-time faculty position as the Library’s Collection Development Librarian.

JoAnn became the Associate Director for Library Operations at Calder in June 2011 after a long career at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s Preston Smith Library. She became Calder’s interim Executive Director in January 2014 and in 2016 was appointed Executive Director.

**GEORGIA**

**Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library - Augusta University, Augusta, GA**

Jennifer Davis, Scholarship and Data Librarian, for this year’s Fair Use Week (February 24 – 28, 2020) created a computer game in collaboration with Mr. Jeff Mastromonico, Director of Technology Advancement from Augusta University’s Center of Instructional Innovation. In order to raise students’ awareness of using materials in education fairly, players explore around the Summerville Campus of Augusta University to find the four factors of Fair Use and are presented with various scenarios of Fair Use.
This game is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND), which means that the work can be freely shared as long as credit is attributed, but the work cannot be changed in any way or used for commercial purposes.

You can play the game here!

Gail Kouame was an invited panelist at the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy, February 21-22 in Savannah, GA. The title of the presentation was: “Embed Yourself: Reaching Students Where They Are.” Ms. Kouame represented the health sciences library perspective on the panel.

New Employee

Mr. Jacob Gallay joined the Research & Education Services department at the Greenblatt Library as the Clinical Information Librarian effective March 16, 2020. Mr. Gallay completed his MLIS degree from Valdosta State University in December 2019. He also holds a Master’s degree in English and Creative Writing. Most recently, Jacob has been the Editorial Manager for the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, based at the Dental College of Georgia, so he is familiar with the health sciences environment and with the Augusta community.

Recent Publications

MISSISSIPPI

Rowland Medical Library, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS

The Rowland Medical Library at the University of Mississippi Medical Center is doing their part to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 by temporarily closing and reassigning staff to non-clinical areas. Faculty will work remotely and will also take turns working in the library (alone) to answer calls from the main line and to retrieve physical items. Items are placed outside of the library doors for retrieval.

SOUTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Staff Photography Exhibit

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library is proudly hosting an exhibit of photographic works created by its staff. Located on the second floor of the library, the exhibit features a wide variety of images of nature, architecture, travel, and beyond. The exhibit is free and open to the public to view during the School of Medicine Library’s open hours from February 1 – April 30, 2020. An opening reception was held on February 6.

Conference Exhibit

Steve Wilson, Web Architect & Outreach Librarian, attended and exhibited at two conferences: the 2020 Assistive Technology Expo held in Columbia, SC on March 4th and the South Carolina Human Service Provider’s Annual Conference held in Myrtle Beach, SC from March 9-11.

New Center for Disability Resources Library YouTube Channel

The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) Library is proud to announce a new YouTube channel featuring videos about its collection and services. Please check out the channel and consider leaving us feedback in the survey links posted with each video. (NOTE: Developed resources reported in this YouTube Channel are supported by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH) under cooperative agreement number UG4LM012340 with the University of Maryland, Health Sciences and Human Services Library.)
University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville Health Sciences Library, Greenville, SC

UofSC School of Medicine Greenville recognized as Apple Distinguished School

![Apple Distinguished School 2019-2022](image)

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville is the proud recipient of the Apple Distinguished School award for 2019-2022. Presented in recognition of the innovative use of Apple technology in both the classroom and clinical environment, this award acknowledges that technology for students here is a part of every patient encounter. Before working with patients, medical students use iPad apps created for learning abnormal heart sounds and 3D printing technology for development of lower-cost prosthetics. In addition, use of virtual reality gives students an in-depth understanding of the structure and function of the human body. Future patients of these students are able to reap rewards of their vision into the future!

TENNESSEE

Annette & Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center – Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Eskind Biomedical Library Activities

In February, the Vanderbilt University Libraries celebrated years of service and accomplishments at its annual Staff Service and Excellence Awards Breakfast. Pearl Chai was nominated for the University Librarian’s Award which honors the work of a Library Assistant, Associate, or Support staff member who made a difference in a library or department. Rachel Lane Walden won the Jean & Alexander Heard Award for Distinguished Librarianship which honors a professional librarian for distinguished service and leadership.

Congratulations Rachel!

![Rachel Lane Walden](image)
The Eskind Biomedical Library is sponsoring an exhibit from April 8 to May 8, 2020 entitled, *Telling our stories: graphic medicine and the intersection of art and health care*. Staff, students, faculty, and patients from Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center are invited to participate in this campus-wide event. The exhibit, held at the Eskind Biomedical Library, opens with a panel discussion and a reception on April 8. Once complete, all submissions will be digitally scanned and uploaded to the library’s website as an online exhibit. The exhibit is sponsored by the Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center, the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries at Vanderbilt University, the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, & Public Policy at Vanderbilt, and a grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH) under cooperative agreement number UG4LM012340 with the University of Maryland, Health Sciences and Human Services Library.

**History of Medicine Collections**


Vanderbilt’s History of Medicine Collections recently acquired two rare books in the history of medicine, both first editions. First published in 1822, Thomas de Quincey’s *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* was one of the first addiction memoirs, becoming a literary sensation instantly upon its release. De Quincey chronicles his experiences in London’s underworld, as well as the attractions and dangers of opium. Celebrated for its honest and even cultured approach to its lurid subject matter, the book was also criticized for glamorizing drug abuse.

Nathaniel Hulme’s *Safe and Easy Remedy Proposed for the Relief of the Stone and Gravel, the Scurvy, Gout, etc.* was published in 1778. This remedy was “fixed air,” otherwise known as carbon dioxide, which was thought to change the chemistry of the urine and thus cure gout and dissolve bladder stones. But instead of prescribing carbonated water, Hulme proposed that patients make the fixed air themselves by ingesting salt of tartar followed quickly by weak spirit of vitriol. Hulme was so taken with the concept that he also applied the cure to consumption, fevers, dysentery, scurvy, and even worms.
National library services veteran and former Dean of Beaman Library at Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee; Sandra Parham has been named Library Executive Director of library services at Meharry Medical College.

As director of library services, Parham will oversee the management and operation of the college’s medical library. She will lead strategic planning in addition to enhancing and expanding the library’s digital holdings, special collections and programming among other activities.

“Ms. Parham is dedicated to the advancement of the effective use of the library and associated technology components which enhance the student, instructional, and research mission of the college”, said Dr. Dexter Samuels, Vice President of Student Services. “She is a seasoned and successful educator and administrator who brings to the Meharry Medical Library a wealth of ideas and experience that will greatly benefit our institution.”

Parham, a Nashville native, is passionate about serving the Meharry community. Parham comes to Meharry after five years of service at Lipscomb’s Beaman Library where she changed the landscape of the library by adding an art gallery to the building and additional digital resources to enhance the collection.

Previously having spent 15 years as dean of the library at California State University, Dominguez Hills, a university of nearly 15,000 students located near Los Angeles, she spearheaded the institution’s $50 million building project that doubled the size of the university library. In addition to leading the daily operations and strategy of that library, Parham also added a multicultural art gallery with African art and an events gallery - the “extra” learning opportunities that libraries can offer. While there, she also raised millions of dollars through campaigns and grant opportunities. In addition to her work in library services, Parham launched a nonprofit homeless ministry, Healing and Hope 4 the Homeless, which continues to serve the homeless community in South Central Los Angeles.

A 1976 graduate of Fisk University, Parham said that her love for libraries was enhanced when she was an English major at the institution where she spent many hours in the John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, studying, reading and realizing that a library is a vital part of the academic community. Parham has a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Michigan, where she also received certification as a medical librarian.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, she began her in career in Detroit, Michigan, eventually returning home to Nashville to work at Tennessee State University Library. Continuing to serve at HBCU’s, she relocated to Houston, Texas where she served at Texas Southern University (TSU) Library for some 20 years and had the privilege to become the archivist for the late Congresswoman Barbara C. Jordan. As Archivist and Coordinator of Special Collections at TSU, she published two works, A Catalog of Traditional African Art and Barbara Jordan: Selected Speeches.

Parham notes that she is indeed pleased that her career has come full circle. “It has always been my desire to return to Nashville and utilize the medical certification garnered at the University of Michigan. I could not have imagined a better opportunity than to be at Meharry Medical College Library serving the community in which I was born and raised.”
The Library’s User Services and Student Events Committee continues to sponsor the “First Thursdays” event series in providing snacks and refreshments to students on the First Thursday of every month. The committee switched up the event on March 5th with a special donut event, providing 250 donuts to over 100 students. Students remarked that the free food gives them motivation to study.

Engaging Students!

Tamara Nelson, Senior Research & Learning Services Librarian, recently attained membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) at the Distinguished Level. She has also been elected to the 2020 MLA Nominating Committee and was invited to serve on the JAMA Network Library Advisory Board. In March, she presented as part of the webinar Strategies for Recruiting & Retaining Librarians of Color sponsored by the African American Medical Librarians Alliance (AAMLA).

New Staff Member

The UTHSC Library welcomed a new member of their staff in February, with the onboarding of their new Communications Coordinator, Sarah Thompson. Sarah came to UTHSC from Jonesboro, AR with a background in communications for economic development and a host of state and national awards. Sarah says she is excited to spend her working hours in a library and delve into the interesting world of medicine with her social media content.
SCMLA Current Officers

Chair
Randall Watts
Trey Lemley
Skye Bickett
Lindsay Blake
Nadine Dexter
Kathy Davies
Skye Bickett
Elizabeth Hinton
Hannah Rutledge

Chair-Elect/Program Chair
Trey Lemley

Program Chair Elect
Skye Bickett

Immediate Past Chair
Lindsay Blake

Secretary
Nadine Dexter

Treasurer
Kathy Davies

Chapter Council Rep.
Skye Bickett

Chapter Council Rep-Alt
Elizabeth Hinton

MLA Nominating Comm. Candidate
Hannah Rutledge

Appointed Officers

Archivists
Sylvia McAphee & Peggy Balch

Website Administrators
Pamela Herring & Anya McKinney

MLA Credentialing Liaison
Terry Kit Selfe

Discussion List Moderator
Nelle Williams

Newsletter Co-Editors
Asia Frey & Leah Cordova & Terri Gotschall

Parliamentarian
Luda Dolinsky

Local Arrangements Co-Chairs
Margaret Alexander & Inga Moten

Committee Chairs

Bylaws
Megan Bell

Communications
Rachel Lane Walden

Fundraising & Scholarships
Jan LaBeause

History
Lauren Adkins

Honors & Awards
Tamara Nelson

Hospital Libraries
Christine Willis

Membership
Gail Kouame

Nominating
Lindsay Blake

Professional Development
John Reazer

Program
Trey Lemley

Research
Ayaba Logan

Strategic Planning
Lindsay Blake
Southern Expressions

Published quarterly by the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association (SC/MLA).

Southern Expressions Editors:

**Asia Frey, MLIS**  
Medical Librarian  
Infirmary Health System, Mobile, AL  
Asia.frey@infirmaryhealth.org

**Leah Cordova**  
Research and Learning Services Librarian  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
Health Sciences Library  
lcordova@uthsc.edu

**Terri Gotschall**  
Scholarly Communications Librarian  
University of Central Florida College of Medicine  
Terri.gotschall@ucf.edu

Send Contributions to: Asia Frey and Terri Gotschall

Content policy:

Statements and opinions expressed in Southern Expressions do not necessarily represent the official position of its co-editors or SC/MLA. Contributions may be edited for brevity, clarity, or conformity to style. Final decision on content shall be left to the discretion of the co-editors with the advice of the Communications Committee of SC/MLA.