Southern Expressions
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Inside this issue:
Message from the Chair 2
Florida 4
Georgia 9
Mississippi 10
South Carolina 10
Tennessee 13
SC/MLA Elected Officials 15
About Southern Expressions 16
Dear Members of the Southern Chapter,

Let me begin my column by saying that I hope you and your families have remained healthy during this trying period. Hopefully, many of you have already been vaccinated. It is early April, and as I write this column, it is obvious that Covid is still a major threat. But are there reasons to be optimistic? Maybe so: according to the CDC’s Covid Data Tracker, the number of weekly deaths in the United States appears to be on a downward trajectory. On the flip side, however, the FDA and CDC have just issued a statement recommending a “pause” in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine after six cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis with thrombocytopenia have been reported. (See https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-cdc-and-fda-statement-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine)

However, I am cautiously optimistic that life will regain some sense of “normalcy” in the not-too-distant future as more of the population is vaccinated against Covid-19. And evidently I’m not alone. With the evident expectation that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, my employer, the University of South Alabama, recently announced plans to return to a “traditional campus environment” for the fall 2021 semester, with face-to-face classes and other “live” university activities, meetings, and events. In addition, employees are to transition back to an on-campus work schedule as of June 1st, after working virtually for more than a year. (I wonder, however, if we will ever be truly “back to normal,” but maybe that’s a topic for another time and place.)

Now, onward to SCMLA news.

- Program Chair Skye Bickett and the Program Committee are busily planning the 2021 Annual Meeting. Although I will let Skye announce full particulars, I do want to let the membership know that the planned on-site joint meeting with the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association (SCC-MLA) originally scheduled for 2021 in New Orleans has been postponed until 2023: fortunately, the conference hotel (Hilton New Orleans Riverside) graciously agreed to let us defer our contractual obligations for two years, and as a result, the current plan is to have the joint meeting in September, 2023. To reiterate, there will not be a SCMLA/SCC-MLA joint meeting in 2021: instead, the 2021 SCMLA Annual Meeting will again be in virtual format, without the participation of the SCC-MLA. Also, the plans for the 2022 SCMLA Annual Meeting are for it to be onsite in Montgomery. In addition, the joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC-MLA) originally scheduled for 2022 is still being considered and is still in the planning stage, possibly for 2024.

- Our Treasurer, David Petersen, is busily working on the financial affairs of the Chapter - he has so many good ideas.

- The SCMLA will be hosting a Library Carpentry Workshop in the very near future thanks to funding from the NNLM SEA. The dates and instructors are currently being determined, so be on the lookout for an announcement about this exciting opportunity. I
want to offer my sincere gratitude to Rick Fought and the Professional Development Committee for taking the lead in making the workshop available to the SCMLA membership.

- Speaking of membership, if you haven’t already done so, please renew your membership at the following link: [https://southernchaptermla.wildapricot.org/membership](https://southernchaptermla.wildapricot.org/membership). I also encourage you to think about becoming involved in committees or even to run for office. In addition, I urge you to recruit new members and not just those from “traditional” sources: while most of our current members work at academic health science libraries or hospitals, we would like to expand our membership to librarians working in the health sciences in four-year colleges, two-year colleges (i.e., junior colleges), technical schools, associations, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and the military. So if you know of a librarian whose job duties include providing services in some aspect of the health sciences, please encourage them to join.

In other news, I wanted to remind you about the MLA ’21 vConference from May 10-27 to be held in a totally virtual format.

As you might have heard, the National Library of Medicine has made major changes in its organizational structure concerning regional medical libraries. As a result, the states and territories that comprise the SCMLA are now in the National Library of Medicine’s Region 2. The new Regional Medical Library (RML) is the Medical University of South Carolina, no longer the University of Maryland at Baltimore, which will now serve Region 1.

In closing, let me say it is my honor to serve as your Chapter Chair for 2021. Please feel free to contact me at lemley@southalabama.edu.

Sincerely,
Trey Lemley
2021 Southern Chapter Chair
Around the States

FLORIDA

AdventHealth University, Orlando, FL
Submitted by Mary C. Rickelman

Publication

Harriet F. Ginsburg Health Sciences Library, University of Central Florida College of Medicine, Orlando, FL.
Submitted by Shalu Gillum

A Long Journey Finally Comes to an End: Celebrating Our New Book

Two members of the library’s Public Services team are celebrating a huge milestone: the publication of their first book! Head of Public Services Shalu Gillum and User Services Librarian Natasha Williams co-edited the recently released “Planning and Promoting Events in Health Sciences Libraries: Success Stories and Best Practices” (Rowman & Littlefield). What began as an idea to create a how-to course on library programming for medical librarians as part of Shalu’s Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute experience, evolved over two long years. First the team presented a webinar for the Medical Library Association (MLA), then a continuing education course at the SCMLA annual meeting in 2018, and then turned that knowledge into an entire book at the encouragement of MLA Books Panel, and with the help of many talented librarians from across the country.

The book guides readers through the stages of planning and promoting library events and is written with health sciences librarians in mind. It covers everything from brainstorming, creating a budget, effective communication, and assessment. Most importantly, it contains practical case studies from varying library types and locations, showcasing how to pull off successful library programs. Several of the book’s contributors are fellow Southern Chapter members, and their contributors are much appreciated, as is the support of the Health Sciences Library team. This book was truly a team effort!
Over two years of work finally culminated in a new book – Planning and Promoting Events in Health Sciences Libraries: Success Stories and Best Practices.

Shalu and Natasha recently met via Zoom to celebrate the arrival of their book and to open their copies together.

**Publications**


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

Jessica Daly, MLS, Consumer Health Librarian of the Clifford E. Graese Community Library of Orlando Health was recently awarded a grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to fund the "Health Literacy Ambassador Program.” This is a train-the-trainer program using NLM resources, CDC resources, All of US resources, and other consumer health information.
intermediaries to train a target population on locating and evaluating health information for the patient, family caregiver, and community. This program will improve understanding of and participation in medical research by conducting virtual and recorded training sessions for public library staffs, community center employees, healthcare professionals, and community leaders. Each participating group will be able to then reach diverse and underrepresented populations bringing health literacy resources and services to those in need of improved health and quality of life.

The marketing department of Orlando Health is assisting Jessica in creating promotional materials that will be used to promote health literacy within the communities of Central Florida. Online and printed materials will be available. Jessica is primarily using social media and virtual health education sessions as means of sharing health literacy to her audiences instead of in-person trainings considering COVID-19. A focus of this program is equipping key people inside the community with credible and timely resources, which they can directly share with patients, family caregiver, or community members.

By training others to promote health literacy resources and education, participants become a link between those they serve and the Clifford E. Graese Community Health Library. People cannot use the amazing services and resources available to them through this library if they never know this library exists.

The overarching goal of this program is for public librarians, medical professionals, and community leaders to witness what improved health literacy can mean in the lives of people they serve or work alongside. Hopefully, this work and the outcomes of the program will offer participants experiences which will inspire them to become a health literacy advocate in their own corner of the world.

Health Science Center Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Submitted by Nancy Schaefer

Events

Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar Series https://uf-repro.github.io/movementdisorders-seminar/, jointly hosted with the UF Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration Program and funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) features talks on rigor and reproducibility topics for the pre-doctoral training program.

In the first three months of 2021, individual seminars featured Emily Sena on “Why & How to Embrace Open Science”, Kirstie Whitaker on “The Turing Way: Empower Researchers in Reproducible, Ethical, Inclusive and Collaborative Science” and Ulrich Dirnagl on “Translational Research - Lost in the Garden of the Forking Paths.” Talks scheduled for the future include:

- 2021-04-09 Malcolm Macleod “Using Data to Drive Research Improvement”
- 2021-06-11 Maryann Martone (TBD)
- 2021-09-24 Russ Poldrack “Building a Culture of Computational Reproducibility”
Online Author Talk

On February 11th, author Megan Rosenbloom read excerpts from her book “Dark Archives: A Librarian’s Investigation into the Science and History of Books Bound in Human Skin” and discussed the historical, cultural, and ethical implications of this macabre piece of publishing and medical history. Open to the public, our 100+ attendees asked questions ranging from the logistics of storing and cataloging these books to the identities of the people who were used to create these objects.

Therapy Dogs

February 8 saw the return of Beau (the larger dog) and Lentil Bean for masked, socially distanced appointments with students outside our library.

Publications


People

Aida Miró-Herrans started work as Bioinformationist at UF Health Science Center Libraries in February after eight years of postdoctoral research at University of Florida and University of Texas at Austin’s departments of Anthropology and the Florida Museum of Natural History. Her research, which uses genetics, anthropology, and computational analyses to study human evolutionary and migration history, has been funded almost continuously since 2007 by the National Science Foundation. She turned her two years of experience as a middle school science teacher while in graduate school into lessons to teach science teachers and Florida Museums of Natural History visitors about mammals, biology and evolution. At UT-A she developed and led an informal course for anthropologists on performing bioinformatics analyses of genomic and trained undergraduate and graduate students in lab and computational skills. She used her current mentoring of two undergraduates in accessing DNA and other types of data from public repositories (e.g., Genbank) and analyzing it with freely available programs as the basis of multilevel instruction in bioinformatics across UF’s varied campus.

Welcome Aida!!
And finally, for a little levity:

Covid-era fashion

*Au courante* in Covid-era color-coordinated double masking ensemble.

GEORGIA

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

**Librarians as Authors: Pop Culture and Academic Libraries Book Contract Awarded**

Three librarians from Augusta University, Melissa Johnson, Thomas Weeks, and Jennifer Davis, have signed a contract with Rowman and Littlefield to produce an edited book tentatively titled *Integrating Pop Culture into the Academic Library*. This book will explore how pop culture is being used in academic libraries for collections, instruction, and programming. It will provide a foundational basis for implementing pop culture and discusses how its use promotes conversations between librarians and students, making the information and library staff relatable. The editors utilize pop culture in various ways to provide instruction and reinforce information literacy concepts. They are accepting chapter proposals through April 15. Potential contributors should email an abstract (300-500 words) and author bios (up to 100 words) as a Word document to librarypopculture@gmail.com.

**A Virtual Reality Space in the Greenblatt Library**

The Greenblatt Library was recently awarded a Technology Improvement Award from the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) to implement a virtual reality (VR) space in the library. Gail Kouame, Assistant Director for Research & Education Services, will serve as the Principal Investigator for the project. Ms. Kouame collaborated with faculty at the Medical College of Georgia and the School of Computer and Cyber Sciences to plan the project. The project will enable immersive health sciences education and wellbeing through virtual reality experiences. The health sciences and computer science faculty at Augusta University have already developed some interdisciplinary virtual reality applications, such as simulations of visual deficits, the effects of Parkinson’s disease, as well as post-stroke rehabilitation.

The virtual reality space will be available to any member of the Augusta University campus communities. Wellness and relaxation components will also be available to help offset stress and burnout, which are common for health sciences students and professions. Having the space at the
library expands opportunities for students and faculty to access VR experiences, as the library is centrally located on the health sciences campus and has extended open hours including evenings and weekends. The virtual reality space will open in spring 2021.

Dr. Elena Wood, Medical College of Georgia, project consultant

Photo source: https://news.kennesaw.edu/stories/2020/game-design-medical-simulation.php

MISSISSIPPI

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

RML Updates Database Pages and Website to Improve User Experience

Recently, the Rowland Medical Library has undertaken two simultaneous web projects to boost the user experience. Research and Instruction Librarians, Lauren Fletcher and Sarah Adcock, completed their database description project in February. The team had been working on the redesign since August 2020. The restructured database descriptions removed vendor descriptions and instead highlighted subject and content coverage. The redesign will allow users to make more informed decisions about which resources to use to fit their information needs and better utilize built-in SpringShare features. The team will present the project during a paper session at MLA ’21. Concurrently, the entire library team worked on an update to the design of the library website. The project saw changes to the library homepage and a streamlining of resource and services links.

Database Description Update Before and After

Before

![Before Image]

After

![After Image]
Library Service

Misti Thornton, MLIS, Archive Librarian at RML, will be Chair of the MLA History of the Health Sciences Caucus starting in June 2021. For the next two years she will also continue to serve as a board member for the Mississippi Society of Archivists.

Excellence in Service

Chameka Robinson, Associate Director for Public Services, was recently recognized for her dedication to UMMC’s education mission with the Joanne Olson Award from the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Winners of the award display mission-drive dedication and demonstrate excellence in service. They also serve as role models for their colleagues. Chameka puts patrons first, and always with a smile. She is well-known on campus because of her commitment and enthusiasm for public service. Her leadership during the pandemic was the epitome of the qualifications for the Joanne Olson Award.

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia has established the Luminary Leaders in Medicine and Science Recognition program. Seven individuals were selected as the inaugural class of Luminary Leaders and were recognized during a virtual ceremony on February 18, 2021.

The Luminary Leaders in Medicine and Science Wall, located in the lobby of Building Three on the School of Medicine’s VA Campus, was unveiled. The wall features plaques honoring each of the inductees. The honorees are noted members of the medical and science community, who have not only made meaningful contributions to the School of Medicine, but who have also created a legacy through their service, leadership and efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. To see the list of honorees and watch the presentation, visit https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/medicine/about_the_school/news/2021/luminaryleaders.php.
The School of Medicine Library faculty have been actively participating in the School of Medicine strategic planning process including efforts to build a more robust culture of diversity and inclusion within our School. They’re also engaged in the examination of the medical school’s organizational culture, curriculum planning, development of metrics for high-performing faculty, and support for rural healthcare initiatives.

The following are a few highlights of our librarians’ involvement:

- Student Pipeline, Recruitment & Support Work Group - Ruth Riley, Assistant Dean for Executive Affairs & Director of Library Services
- Culture and Inclusion Work Group - Felicia Yeh, Deputy Director
- Faculty and Staff Work Group - Laura Kane, Assistant Director for Information Services
- Climate Task Force - Ruth Riley, Assistant Dean for Executive Affairs & Director of Library Services
- Medical Students Portfolio Project - Roz McConnaughy, Assistant Director for Education & Outreach
- Academic Incentive Task Force - Laura Kane, Assistant Director for Information Services
- The Rural Libraries and Health Innovations Program of the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare - Roz McConnaughy, Assistant Director for Education & Outreach

Christine Whitaker, Collection Development Librarian, announced her retirement effective March 31, 2021. Christine started her library career in 1997 at the University of South Carolina Thomas Cooper Library as a Science and Technology Librarian. In that role, she was active in Special Libraries Association (SLA), where she chaired the Science and Technology division. She served in the SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division as Chair of Professional Development from 2010-13. She also served as a member of the Executive Board of the South Carolina Chapter of SLA, served two separate terms as President and chaired planning committees for two Regional SLA Conferences. After transitioning to the UofSC School of Medicine Library Columbia in 2006, she became a member of the Medical Library Association (MLA) and the Southern Chapter. Christine chaired MLA’s Leiter NLM/MLA Lectureship Committee in 2016 and served on the Awards Grant Jury for Continuing Education in 2008. She also worked on the Collection Development section’s program committee for the One Health Conference in May 2013, and the Mission Revision Task Force in 2012. She enjoyed membership in Southern Chapter and served as a member of various committees including Membership Committee, History Committee, Research Committee, and the..
TENNESSEE

Health Sciences Library, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN

UTHSC Library Releases a Multitude of Video Content

The UTHSC Library has been busy over the last few months developing a variety of video content to better serve its patrons. Several videos have already been released in the EndNote How-to series with several more in the works. They also debuted a web series entitled “Ask a UTHSC Librarian” which answers the Library’s FAQs. More videos are on the way explaining the variety of electronic resources available to UTHSC students, faculty, and staff.

Meet Skeldon!

The library made a new, small friend over the Holidays and his name is Skeldon! He started as an elf-on-the-shelf like addition, but we think we’ll keep him around. Follow us on social media to see his continued adventures!

Librarian Turned Voice Artist!

The Library’s own Hilary Jasmin made her debut as a voice over artist on December 9 when she recorded the Information Literacy Medallion in partnership with the UTHSC Teaching and Learning Center. We can’t wait to hear her debut work!

Welcome Nii!!

Fund-Raising/ Vendor Committee for QUAD Meeting in Baltimore MD, 2012. She greatly enjoyed her volunteer work to review submissions and judge paper and poster sessions for several years. The School of Medicine Library welcomed Nii Martey as the new Circulation Specialist on March 16. Nii replaced Timothy Schafer who retired last year after 40 years of services!
Meharry Medical College Library, Nashville, TN

Congratulations to Sandra Parham.

Her book on the history of Meharry will be released in May.
SCMLA Current Officers

Chair
Trey Lemley

Chair-Elect/Program Chair
Skye Bickett

Program Chair Elect
Emily Brennan

Immediate Past Chair
Randall Watts

Secretary
Elizabeth Laera

Treasurer
David Petersen

Chapter Council Rep.
Skye Bickett

Chapter Council Rep-Alt
Elizabeth Hinton

MLA Nominating Comm. Nominee
Gail Kouame

Appointed Officers

Archivists
Sylvia McAphee & Peggy Balch

Website Administrators
Pamela Herring & Anya McKinney

MLA Credentialing Liaison
Terry Kit Selfe

Discussion List Moderator
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Gail Kouame

Nominating
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Professional Development
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Research
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