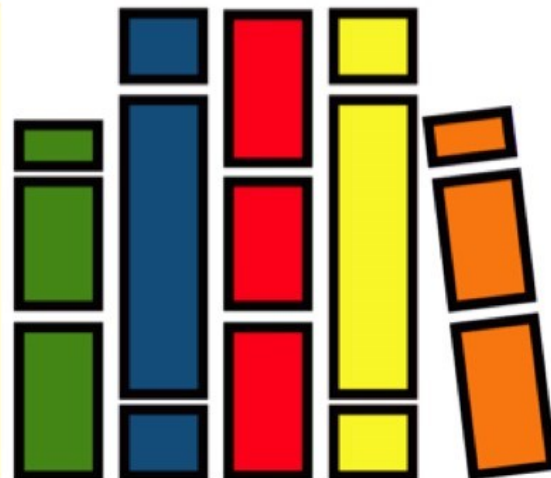


on the same page



news from the mississippi library commission

summer 2016

Summer is Here!

By Susan Cassagne, Executive Director

This Mississippi spring weather was just wonderful...filled with cool days and bright sunshine. Now as we move into the dog-days, along with them come some fun activities in libraries. Summer reading programs are kicking off in public libraries all over the state, and here at MLC we had our own bit of fun. We staged our own summer camp experience...Camp Kudzu! Each year our campers will gather 'round to celebrate the new theme. This year's theme, *On Your Mark, Get Set, READ* provided our campers with some fun activities all centered on the power of reading. We hope all libraries have a truly successful program this year. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and share your photos with us.

I recently traveled to Washington with the members of MLC's Board of Commissioners to participate in National Library Legislative Day. A diverse group of Mississippi Library Association librarians from public, school, academic, and state libraries made the trip.

The visit gave the delegation of librarians the chance to share information with our national elected officials on the exciting things going on in Mississippi libraries.



We have some great ideas for new exhibits in the building to increase community awareness and promote the many services that we and public libraries all over the state are providing.

Even with the recent budget cuts, be assured that we are committed to serve all of Mississippi's public libraries in every way possible. It is our mission to provide leadership, advocacy and service, and that will never change.

Pictured left to right: Pamela Pridgen, Ann Marsh, Suzanne Poyner and Susan Cassagne

Library Day at the Capitol and Legislative Lawn Party



On March 8th, librarians and library supporters from across Mississippi gathered at the Mississippi state capitol to advocate for libraries. Over 100 supporters attended the event, met with their legislators and shared the good news about the power of libraries in our communities.

Libraries have an important story to tell and are truly impacting lives each and every day. We want to make sure that lawmakers are fully aware of this impact and so we will continue to build awareness.

A special "thank you" to all who came to the event - we hope you will mark your calendar for March 14, 2017 when we will converge on the state capitol again!

In the meantime, remember that advocacy is not just a once a year effort. As supporters of libraries, it is something we need to do continuously!



That evening, the Mississippi Library Association and Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. brought together librarians and legislators at the first- ever Legislative Lawn Party! The event was a tremendous success and provided an opportunity to advocate in a more relaxed setting. Over 30 legislators were in attendance and a great time was had by all.



A huge "shout out" to MLA, the Friends, and also to Lucky Town Brewing Company for a job well done.

Libraries have a complex, wonderful story to tell and this day of advocacy was a great time of storytelling.

Check out this short film showcasing this day of advocacy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phUa3ziNurs>

Pictured above left to right: Senator Sally Doty, Representative Tommy Reynolds and Representative Tom Miles.



Meet MLC

Jennifer Nabzdyk Todd
Digital Services Library Consultant

Meet Jennifer Todd, Digital Services Library Consultant at the Mississippi Library Commission. Lovingly called "Nabz" by many in the library community, she works in the Technology Services Division assisting libraries and their staff with implementing and using current and emerging technologies in their libraries. Nabz assists with staff training, like helping them learn how to use Microsoft Office Suite, eBooks, and the Cloud. She has also helped develop many of the new library websites across the state. (Did you know that most of them are now mobile-friendly?) Nabz maintains a close relationship with Mississippi State University Extension Service and their Intelligent Community Institute. She is also the chair of the MLC Celebration Committee which plans events for staff at the Commission. She additionally serves as the web committee co-chair for the Mississippi Library Association and is on the web committee for the Asian Pacific American Library Association. Jennifer began as an intern at MLC in August 2010 and was officially hired April 2012. She obtained her MLIS in 2012 from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Talking Book Services Welcomes Special Guest!

Mississippi's First Lady Deborah Bryant recently visited the Mississippi Library Commission to record the book *The Fib: A Wordy Tale* by Bill Wilson. With early childhood education being the focal point of her platform, Mrs. Bryant has traveled the entire state as part of her "Read Across Mississippi" program. Mrs. Bryant has been reading *The Fib* in all the schools she has visited recently and leaving a copy of the book for their collections. By recording the book, Mrs. Bryant is making the *The Fib* available to all the young patrons in the Talking Book Services Department. She is also going to promote the Talking Book Services in the schools that she visits—bringing more light to this important program. Thank you, Mrs. Bryant, for being an advocate of Talking Book Services!



Talking Book Services Recognizes Volunteers



[Talking Book Services](#) recently held its Annual Volunteer Recognition event. They celebrated their volunteers and the many hours they have contributed to MLC. Krista Estes, Volunteer Network Officer at the [Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services](#), served as guest speaker.

Since last April, TBS volunteers have donated a grand total of **2,858 hours** of their time! All the volunteers received a certificate signed by Deborah Bryant, First Lady of Mississippi, as well as a letter of appreciation for their service. Of special note is our volunteer Melvin Smitherman, who received an honorable mention for the [Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence Award](#).

Thank you for all you do! If you or someone you know is unable to read standard print due to a visual, physical, or organic reading disability, or if you are an institution which serves such individuals, please contact us at 1-800-446-0892 or talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us to learn more about Talking Book Services at the Mississippi Library Commission.



On the road with MLC!



Joy Garretson, MLC Director of Library Development, helped librarians from Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin during a workshop at the library in Brookhaven.



A student works on her science fair project in the Hattiesburg Library. These additional computers were made possible by LSTA Grant funds.



What a fun day visiting Jackson-Hinds Library System libraries! The Bolton Library has some exciting things going on and are ready for their summer reading program!

MLC Makes

Joy Garretson

Library Development Director, MLC

Starting in April 2013, MLC hosted a Mississippi Library Leadership Institute, made possible by a 21st Century Laura Bush Grant from IMLS. One stipulation of involvement in MLLI was for each participant to design and lead an innovative community project.

One particularly successful project was Elizabeth Simmons's makerspace at the Puckett Attendance Center Library. Elizabeth has transformed her library from an unwelcoming and under-utilized space into the "Wolf Den Makerspace." Simmons equipped her library with a Makerbot 3D printer and has also brought recording and production technology into the library, thus making the space interactive and friendly to students and teachers alike.



Elizabeth Simmons

When I learned that we would be able to use MLLI funds to replicate projects, I started making calls and figuring out how I could do something similar to Elizabeth's project. In the end, I came up with MLC Makes, an ongoing project in which MLC will lend innovative technology to libraries.

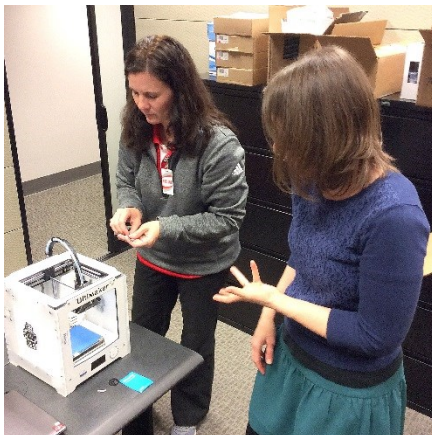
The first phase of this project is the 3D Printer Loan-Out project. With

IMLS funds, MLC was able to purchase two Ultimaker 3D printers to loan to public libraries and public schools in Mississippi. Our primary aim is to allow Mississippians to have access to this technology, even if for a limited time.

Libraries must fill out an application to check out the printers. MLC provides resources, activities, and troubleshooting help for the librarians, and also provides 1-2 hours of training when they pick up the printers.

Our secondary aim is to build relationships between public libraries and the communities that they serve. The libraries and schools that borrow the printers will be expected to have community partnerships. While our services are generally for the public library community, school libraries may borrow these printers as long as one of their partners is a Mississippi public library.

Since applications opened in March, two public schools have borrowed the printers and have had positive results. Kristy Wooldridge from West Lauderdale High School was the first person to borrow the printer. She estimated that 650 high schoolers and 100 middle schoolers on her campus were able to see the printer and create 45-50 prints. Wooldridge stated, "All the students were amazed! I heard nothing but positive comments from teachers, students,



and the community and our school got good publicity from our local paper about it."



Wooldridge's students made everything from jewelry to wear to the prom, to balloon-powered race cars. The students also took a lead in learning the software and finding shortcuts for printing and modifying designs.



Melissa Sanzin of Long Beach Elementary was able to share the printer with lower elementary classes. She said "First graders studied a unit on shapes (cone, cube, etc.). They then used various shapes to create their own tower." The students got to vote on the best tower out of the five classes. Our hope is that many more people will continue to borrow these printers and share them with students of all ages.

Letters About Literature

Nine students across Mississippi won awards in this year's Mississippi *Letters About Literature* writing contest. Approximately 50,000 young readers across the country participated in this year's competition, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Friends of Mississippi Libraries were a partner on the state level.

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

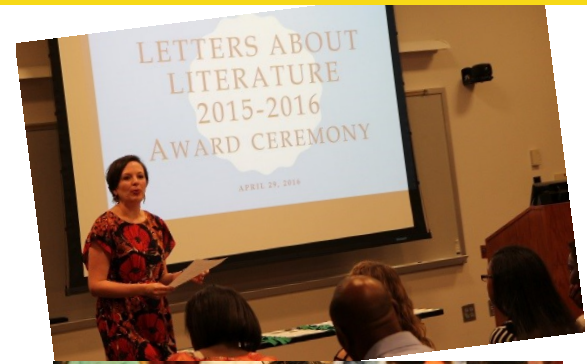
In Mississippi, approximately 500 students competed across all three competition levels; only 50 letters advanced to state semifinals. From those, 30 were selected to advance as state finalists for judging.

The Mississippi Library Commission hosted an awards ceremony and reception on April 29 to honor state semifinalists, finalists, and winners. After a welcome and remarks by Mississippi Center for the Book Coordinator Tracy Carr, the nine state winners were invited to read their letters aloud. The students then received their awards, and afterwards light refreshments were served.

The first place state finalist for competition Level I (grades 4 through 6) was Isyss Jones of Newton for her letter to Rachel Renee Russel. The first place state finalist for Level II (grades 7 and 8) was Kyran Williams-Roberts of Starkville, who wrote a letter to J.K. Rowling. Victoria Kinsey of Pontotoc was the first place state finalist for competition Level III (grades 9-12) for her letter to J.R.R. Tolkien. Mississippi first-place finalists each receive a \$100 cash prize and their letters move on to the national competition. State winner Victoria Kinsey's letter also moved on to the national semifinals.

The Mississippi Center for the Book is one of 50 state affiliates of the [Center for the Book at the Library of Congress](#). The Center's mission is to promote books, reading, libraries, and literacy in society. Mississippi's Center for the Book is devoted to promoting and exploring Mississippi's rich literary heritage through statewide activities.

For more information, contact Mississippi Center for the Book Coordinator Tracy Carr at tcarr@mlc.lib.ms.us or visit www.read.gov/letters.



A Special Goodbye *MLC mourns the passing of Murphy Mann*

It is with great sadness that MLC shares the recent passing of Murphy Mann, who had recently retired from MLC. We send out deepest condolences to his family and wanted to make sure all of his friends in Mississippi libraries knew of his passing.



Welcome to Camp Kudzu! Nestled amid soaring stands of pine trees in the heart of Jackson, Mississippi, you'll find this haven for summer readers. While the wildlife prowls about outside--we've spotted deer, foxes, bats, birds, snakes, and nearly a million squirrels--we've been beating the early summer heat with our mock summer library program, which we've dubbed Camp Kudzu. The Collaborative Summer Library Program's slogan this year is "On Your Mark, Get Set... READ!" with a theme centered around wellness, fitness, and sports. With Camp Director Mac and campers Charles, Tracy, Elisabeth, and Jennifer, we took aim... and hit the bull's eye!

We hope everyone has a great summer and spends lots of time reading!

About MLC

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Jolee Hussey, Oxford
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Susan Liles Editor ~ *On the Same Page*

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

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

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

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES bureau provides financial management and administrative support for MLC; including fiscal management, budget monitoring and management of agency grant programs.