

## The Busy Days of Summer

by Susan Cassagne, Executive Director

We're moving into the warmer days of summer and ending another fiscal year. While we are proud of the many services the Library Commission has been able to provide, there is so much more we want to do. During the past legislative session, most of Mississippi's state agencies suffered significant reductions in funding. MLC was not spared, and the effects of those cuts on state aid to public libraries have been experienced throughout the state. While we're making necessary adjustments,

as are public libraries, we all hope for an improved economy and the restoration of funding that is so critical to support the many services needed statewide.

Budget cuts aside, summer is here, and school is out for most of our young patrons! Mississippi's public libraries have been busy planning summer programs for kids of all ages – preschool and school-aged children, as well as teens and adults! This year's theme, "Build a Better World," is so timely and includes age-appropriate programs for all. Each year, the Library Commission provides materials for all public library systems, and offers training for library staff throughout the state. We all recognize that children need to stay engaged in learning throughout the summer so they are prepared when school starts back in the fall. Children who participate in summer library programs are much better equipped to start the school year than those who do not.

MLC is currently visiting libraries throughout the state to lend a helping hand, and also to film your programs and services. Our consultants are here to help libraries in any way, so reach out to them with your needs and questions. It is our hope that the short films we are creating will help libraries tell their stories – and will help MLC promote the value of public libraries.

Enjoy your summer,  
Susan

# What it really means to tell your story

It happens every single day in our libraries. Someone is truly impacted by their experience; whether by using library computers to learn a new skill, applying for jobs, taking a test, or watching a new world open up to their children through the love of reading. These are challenging times, and there are not enough hours in the day to find time to focus on advocacy, but taking those few extra minutes is invaluable to telling the real story of libraries and how they impact the residents of the state.

Most local media want to share the good news about what's going on in the library. If you need assistance, let MLC help! Contact Susan Liles, Public Relations Director, with any questions you may have at [sliles@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:sliles@mlc.lib.ms.us)

## *What the Library Means to Me*

*By Patty Bailey*

*Have you ever thought about getting a college degree online? That's exactly what Coffeeville Public Library user Josephine Torrance did using library resources and public computers in the library. Josephine has been a regular computer user at Coffeeville for many years. Last November, she completed coursework and received a BS in Early Childhood Education from Ashworth College, the most recent in several degrees she attained using the library. Congratulations to Josephine for her outstanding educational achievements using her public library!*



*When we asked Josephine what the library means to her, she wrote: "The library offers a wide range of learning tools. It helped me by being able to use books for research and the computers to do my homework. Using the library, I earned my CDA, an Associate and Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, and also a degree in Business Administration. I encourage people to use the library when they don't have access to a computer or books needed to do homework or school projects. The library is an awesome place to study or read..."*

*Coffeeville and Oakland Public Libraries offer free computers for public use. This is a valuable and important service in our small, rural communities where many people cannot afford to own a computer or pay for Internet access. Literally thousands of people each year use library computers to take online courses like Josephine, search for jobs, apply for jobs, complete school projects, and a host of other applications.*

*Over the next few months, we hope to introduce readers to library patrons of the Yalobusha County Public Library System who feel that the library has made a positive impact on their lives. The ways your local public library may impact or improve your life are varied. It might be through access to library materials or services, attending library programs, interaction with library staff, or experiencing the library as a community hub.*

# Meet MLC!

Robin Hedrick

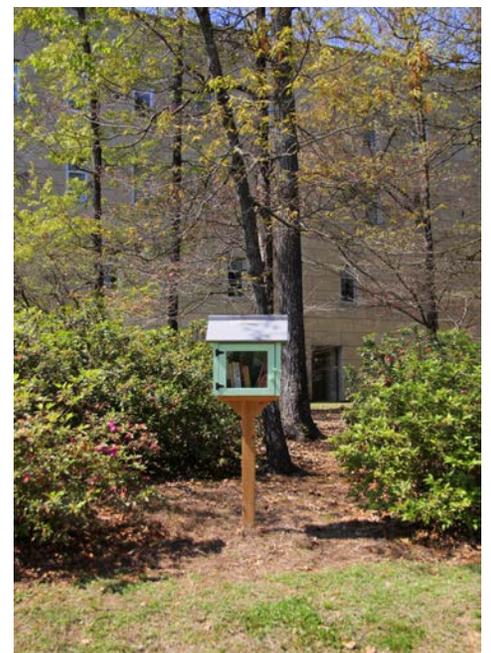
Human Resources and  
Payroll Director

Meet Robin Hedrick, Human Resources and Payroll Director at the Mississippi Library Commission. Robin not only coordinates personnel matters and payroll for the entire agency, but also takes care of travel and training for MLC staff, fields personnel issues for MLC and Mississippi public libraries, and deals with workers' compensation and

tort claims. She also coordinates state employee health fairs and wellness events for the Education Research Center with six other agencies. Robin has worked at the Mississippi Library Commission since February of 1998, when she started shelving books at the main agency and working at Talking Book Services (known at that time as Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Services.) She moved into Human Resources in 2000 and now has the national SHRM-CP certification and the national PHR certification. She also participated in the State Executive Development Institute in 2009 and completed several trainings and programs through the Mississippi State Personnel Board. "I love helping people with the problems they're having," says Robin. She adds, "being able to talk them through whatever situation they have is very rewarding for me." When the subject turns to the benefits of libraries, Robin has this to say: "I love libraries because they give anyone an opportunity to further their knowledge." She loves to read and has a wide range of tastes. Thanks for all you do at the Mississippi Library Commission!



The Mississippi Library Commission recently installed its very own Little Free Library! Millions of books pass through Little Free Libraries each year and MLC is excited to join this worldwide movement. Drop by any time day or night and browse, borrow, or leave a book for someone else! The agency also provided ten of these little gems to libraries across the state so that their communities may participate as well.



# Mississippi Center for the Book Announces Creation of New Mississippi Literary Map

The Mississippi Center for the Book, located at MLC, recently announced the creation of a new Mississippi Literary Map, funded by a Bicentennial Grant through the Mississippi Humanities Council. Twenty-one Mississippi authors will be represented on the map by a portrait, created by noted Mississippi artist Ginger Williams Cook, known for her illustrative, whimsical portraits. The map will also include many of Mississippi's most noted writers represented through text. All authors on the map were chosen by a selection committee, and include many prominent as well as often undervalued Mississippi writers. This map is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all Mississippi authors; rather, it is a representative sample of authors from the state who have achieved national attention and awards, such as Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes. The last literary map was created in the mid-90s.

Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, will unveil the map at the third annual Mississippi Book Festival on August 19, 2017 at the Mississippi State Capitol.

"This being Mississippi's bicentennial makes it the perfect opportunity to look back and celebrate the state's literary treasures as well as recognize some overlooked authors," said Tracy Carr, Director of Mississippi Center for the Book. "It is beyond exciting that Dr. Hayden open the Mississippi Book Festival by unveiling the map," Carr said. Maps will be available free of charge to the general public at the Mississippi Book Festival.

The Mississippi Center for the Book is the state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, a national program that promotes books, libraries, literacy, and reading. The Mississippi Center for the Book, housed at the Mississippi Library Commission since 2000, hosts statewide programs such as Letters About Literature, a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12; creates programming opportunities for public libraries such as the popular Book Club in a Box program; participates in the Mississippi Book Festival and National Book Festival; and creates special projects, such as Bicentennial Bingo (visit [msbingo200.com](http://msbingo200.com)).

## 2nd Annual Margaret Murray Grant Recipients

The Friends of Mississippi Libraries Inc. is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2017 Margaret Murray Grants. Three public libraries with Friends groups received \$500 each for their projects, along with a cash match provided by their local Friends of the Library organization.

There were 18 applications this year and the application process was more competitive than expected. Because of this, the state Friends of Mississippi Libraries Inc. provided a partial grant of \$300 to a fourth Friends group.

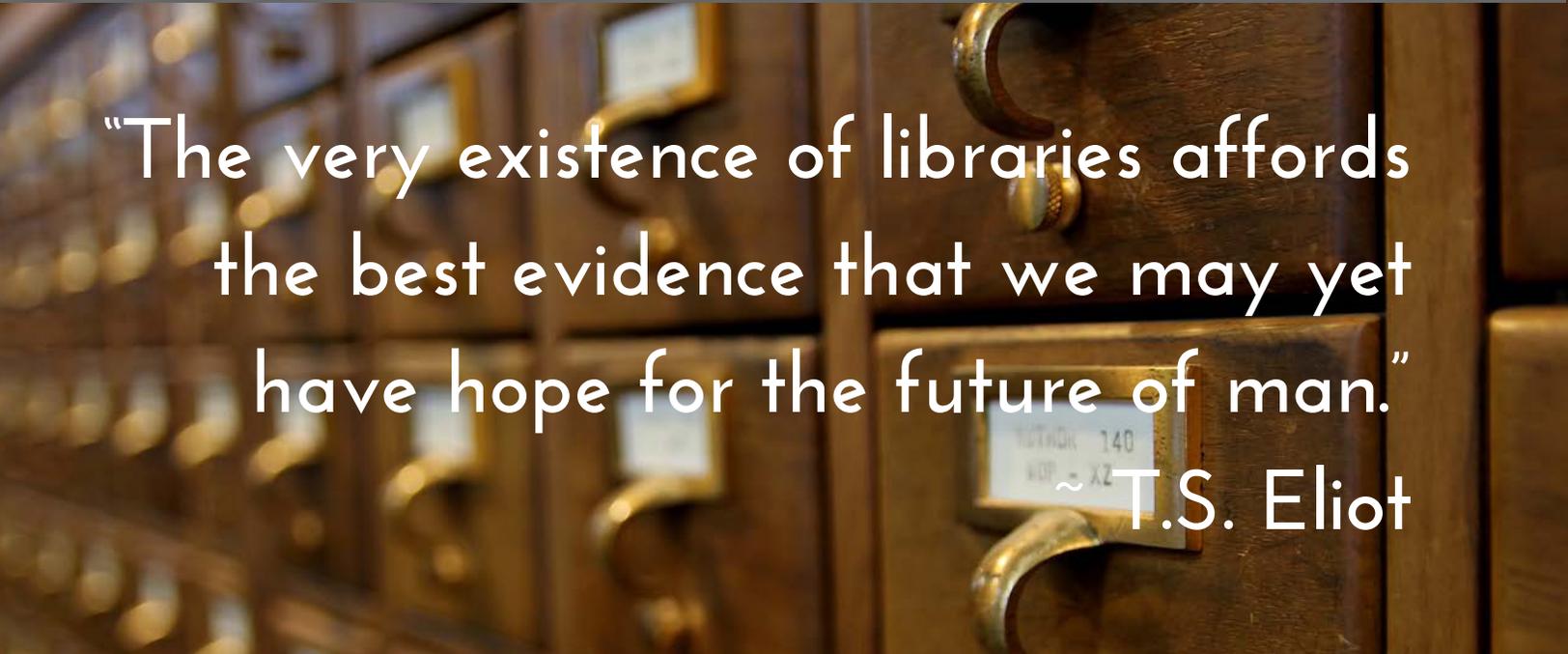
The Friends of the Pass Christian Library which is part of the Harrison County Library System will be hosting a “100 Books Before High School” Literary Program. It promotes reading for fun to school age youth; for every 25 books read a prize is won and at the 100th book a free book is awarded.

The Friends of Pontotoc County Library, which is part of the Dixie Regional Library System, will purchase new children’s non-fiction animal books for the library collection in conjuncture with “Animal Tales,” an educational program with live animals to be held in the library.

The Friends of Lexington Public Library, which is part of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, will purchase the 2017 American Library Association award winning books to increase local patron access to high quality materials on school reading lists.

The partial award was presented to the Friends of Stone County Libraries, which is part of the Pine Forest Regional Library System. They will purchase five sets of books for their Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration. The “15 Great Books for Mississippi Kids” will serve as the initial list of books for Bicentennial Book Club meetings. This list was created for the 2016 Mississippi Book Festival by Library Commission staff.

Congratulations to the awardees! The state Friends of Mississippi Libraries, Inc. looks forward to offering this grant again for 2018.



“The very existence of libraries affords  
the best evidence that we may yet  
have hope for the future of man.”  
~ T.S. Eliot

# Letters About Literature

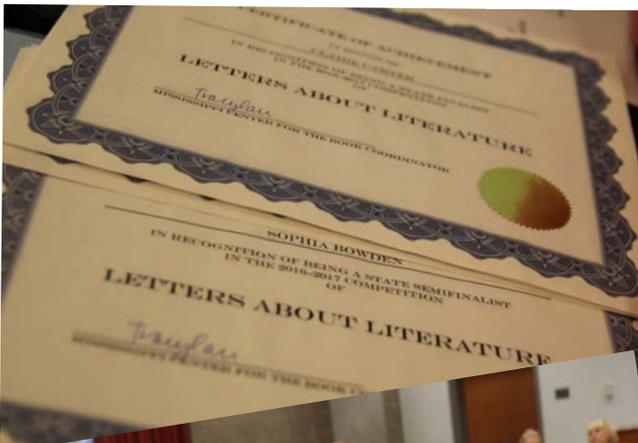


Letters About Literature is a competition and reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in The Library of Congress. Young readers write personal letters to authors, explaining how their work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or 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. Congratulations to all the 2016-2017 winners!



## Welcome to Camp Kudzu

MLC's mock summer reading program is back this year to help gear everyone up for a fun summer! Camp Kudzu campers were making plans for this year's theme, *Build a Better World*. The first thing the campers planned was a day of adventure seeing the architectural sights of the capitol city! There are countless ways we can all build a better world. What's your library doing this year?





## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

### Executive Director

### Mississippi Library Commission

The MLC Board of Commissioners seeks a dynamic leader to strengthen and enhance libraries and information resources for all Mississippians. The ideal candidate is a dedicated library advocate who possesses strong communication skills and has a proven track record of professional relationship development. The Board is looking for a skilled strategic planner to provide visionary, innovative and collaborative leadership for the agency and for Mississippi libraries. Successful candidates will excel in nurturing an organizational culture that values customer service, teamwork, diversity, creativity, and accountability. To find out more, including how to apply, visit **Mississippi Personnel Board website**.

## MLC Calendar

June

22-27 - ALA Conference, Chicago, IL

July

3-4 - State Holiday, MLC closed

25 - Board of Commissioners meeting

August

17 - Public Library Directors' meeting

18 - Librarian of Congress visit to MLC

19 - Mississippi Book Festival, State Capitol

September

4 - State Holiday, MLC closed

## About MLC

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Susan Cassagne, Executive Director

Board of Commissioners

Janet Armour, Tupelo

Jolee Hussey, Oxford

Ann Marsh, Brandon

Suzanne Poyner, Florence

Pamela Pridgen, Seminary

Connect with the Mississippi Library Commission



Susan Liles

Editor - *On the Same Page*

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

MLC strives to strengthen and enhance library services for all Mississippians, 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 support in financial and property management, human resources, technology services, and federal and state grant programs to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of libraries, government agencies and the citizens of Mississippi.