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•
SOUTH ARKANSAS' LITERARY FESTIVAL

Arkansas Library Association, 2018



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Cover Photo: Spring Arts and Crafts Fair at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library. *Photo submitted by Brandi Hodges, Public Relations Manager.*

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Arkansas Libraries, Spring 2018

FROM THE ARLA PRESIDENT: Strategic Planning

Dean Covington

2018 ArLA President

The great philosopher Yogi Berra supposedly once said, “If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up someplace else.” I’m not sure I can sum up the reason for developing a strategic plan any better than Yogi. It is no secret that ArLA has struggled as an organization in recent years. Perhaps we have ended up in Yogi’s “someplace else,” but a strong community of supporters has worked tirelessly to help ArLA get through this crisis and begin looking at where we want to go.

Strategic planning can help us make progress in discovering where we want to go. A planning process will provide pragmatic ideas to guide ArLA and its leaders and will present a framework for moving ArLA in a positive direction. We need to identify strengths we need to preserve and enhance, recognize challenges, and consider realignments. ArLA still has challenges to face, but there are also opportunities for improvement. Most importantly, ArLA needs its members to make a commitment to supporting ArLA in the future. Peter Drucker, one of the founding fathers of strategic planning, said, “Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes; but no plans.” The ArLA leadership is committed to understanding the priorities of our constituencies and enhancing the relevance of our Association.

In February, the ArLA Board embarked upon a new strategic planning process designed to identify our challenges and opportunities. Dan Boice led the Board through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) that provided a starting point for the Strategic Planning Task Force. This task force of eleven volunteers from different library types began the process of identifying potential new directions for ArLA and developed a strategy for the pursuit of these new directions. Here is the task force membership:

- Jami Anne Balkman (Alma School District & Crawford County Library System)
- Johnice Dominick (Carroll & Madison Library System)



Covington



- Crystal Gates (Laman Public Library, North Little Rock)
- Debbie Hall (Arkansas State Library)
- Carol Hanan (Arkansas Tech University)
- Jil’lana Heard (Lake Hamilton High School)
- Laura Hubler (Lawrence County Public Library)
- Susie Kirk (Henderson State)
- Britt Anne Murphy (Hendrix College)
- Shelly Porter (West Fork Elementary)
- Dan Boice (UA-Monticello), Chair

Please share your thoughts and ideas about ArLA’s future with the task force members. The task force recently distributed a survey, and the response was excellent. The results will definitely help inform the planning process. The task force recommendations will be shared during the Fall Conference at the Rogers Embassy Suites. Please make plans to join us and offer your support for ArLA’s future directions.

Speaking of the Fall Conference in Rogers, plans are progressing and we expect to have an excellent event. We were able to make special accommodations at the Embassy Suites for the ArASL and ALPS’ Conferences, which will be held on September 22, preceding the September 23-25 ArLA Conference. Our theme is *Make It Happen: Arkansas Libraries Transform*. More information will be coming your way. Please make plans to attend this transformative event.

Dean Covington, President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Library Director at University of Central Arkansas.

FROM THE EDITOR: Having Our Cake...

by *Britt Anne Murphy*

Library Director, Hendrix College

It seems we're in survey season. As a director of a small college library, I rather dread filling out those surveys required by ACRL and others – revisiting numbers and comparing them with past numbers can not only be tedious, but also depressing, depending on the toll the economy or enrollment has taken on my library. Yet, filling in those blanks allows me to take stock, and serves as a pertinent reminder of how we stack up compared with others, and where our institutional priorities lie. It also serves as part of the permanent record for our profession. While I'd rather skip the whole enterprise, I know part of my responsibility is to provide a record for future directors and librarians.

In our busy lives as library workers, it's challenging to find time for what might be considered professional flourishes on the multi-layered cake of our workplaces. Surveys, time for our associations, and yes, even keeping up with professional reading such as what you read before you, become last on the list – languishing below the top screen, or on the other side of the scrap paper. Recently ArLA sent a survey out to the library community to take stock of where the Association is in the eyes of not just the membership, but those who have dropped their membership or never joined. The numbers and comments will allow a fresh look



Murphy

into how ArLA will need to change to meet the needs of our constituencies, and I know ArLA leadership is grateful for the opportunity to listen and learn. We are a diverse profession serving a diverse population, and while it's impossible to satisfy all the needs and address all the complaints, we can get a sense of where our association priorities lie and move towards matching a strategic plan to those priorities.

As editor of your journal, my priorities are in reflecting the diversity of libraries and those who work in libraries in Arkansas, celebrating and commemorating those in Arkansas who call the library their profession, and providing a historical record for our professional future. Advocacy, information, and fun are also on my list, as is the opportunity to provide a space for those who need professional advancement through publishing. You'll see these priorities reflected in this issue in our memorials, advocacy for programming and mentoring, and academic pieces. I rely on all of you to provide content that reflects our library community, and am grateful for all those contributors who take time to put flourishes on their cakes. I hope many of you reading this column will think about ways you might support ArLA, and in committing to ArLA, become change agents for the Association. We are only as relevant and energetic as those who put in the time and intellectual capital, and if you see something you might contribute, please reach out to me or any of the ArLA leadership. Sometimes we can have our cake and eat it too.

Britt Anne Murphy, the Managing Editor of Arkansas Libraries, is the Director of the Olin C. Bailey Library at Hendrix College.

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A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words... *Story Time at the Pope County Library*



POPE COUNTY
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UAMS Program Highlights Discovery of 'Lost' Papers of Florence Price

by Lee Hogan, Communications Specialist,
UAMS and
Timothy G. Nutt, Director, Historical Research
Center, UAMS

Florence Price has always been the same accomplished composer worthy of immense respect for her contributions to classical music, but her posthumous recognition has waned for nearly 4 Arkansas Libraries Vol. 75, No. 1

the entirety of the 65 years since her passing.

Price, a native Arkansan who died at 66 in 1953, was the first African-American female to have a composition played by a major orchestra. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra bestowed her that honor when it played her Symphony in E Minor on June 15, 1933. She enjoyed noted appreciation during her lifetime and collaborated with prominent artists such as Marian Anderson and Langston

Hughes.

However, that prominence faded after her death as most of her work was feared lost. Deservedly, the recognition of her contributions has been rekindled in recent years following an unexpected treasure-trove of findings at the composer's former weekend home in St. Anne, Illinois.

"There are many amazing African-Americans who have contributed a lot to where we are as a society, and she's one of the hidden figures," said Billy Thomas, M.D., M.P.H., vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion and director of the UAMS Center for Diversity Affairs, to an audience of UAMS faculty, staff, and students Feb. 26.

Tim Nutt, director of the UAMS Library Historical Research Center, recounted Price's life and the discovery of her lost and unknown works that he helped unearth at an event honoring Black History Month, hosted by the UAMS Center for Diversity Affairs, Chancellor's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, UAMS Library, and UAMS Historical Research Center.

Price was born in Little Rock in 1887 to James H. Smith, a dentist, artist, and published author, and Florence Gulliver Smith, a pianist and teacher. She graduated valedictorian from Capitol Hill School in 1903, and then studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. While there, she began to publish and sell some of her compositions.

Following her studies, she returned to Arkansas where she would teach in Cotton Plant and at Shorter College in Little Rock. She also briefly taught at Clark University in Atlanta. All the while, she continued to compose countless pieces.

She married Thomas Jewell Price, an attorney, in 1912. The couple had three children and remained in Little Rock until the lynching of John Carter in 1927 when several African-American families became distraught with the killing and left. The Prices moved to Chicago, where her father practiced dentistry after the Civil War and prior to coming to Arkansas. The Great Chicago Fire in 1871 destroyed his practice.

Price's reputation and prominence as a composer blossomed while in Chicago. In 1932, she submitted works for the Rodman Wanamaker Foundation awards and won for her Piano Sonata in E Minor and her Symphony in E Minor, which was played by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra a year later.

Marian Anderson performed one of Price's songs, "My Soul's Been Anchored in De Lord," at an open air concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1939. Anderson's concert, offered to her after she was denied permission to sing in Constitution Hall, was widely attended by more

than 75,000 people on Easter Sunday.

Price died June 3, 1953, and the memory of her work began to fade. It would be 56 years before a chance discovery by an Illinois couple would breathe new life into Price's work. The couple had recently purchased the dilapidated former weekend home of the Prices and made the discovery during renovations.

Following a little research, the couple contacted the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, which already housed a small collection of Price's works. Nutt, who worked in the University Archives' Special Collections at the time, made the trek to St. Anne, Illinois, with Tom Dillard, then-Head of Special Collections, to determine the state of her works, which had sat abandoned for decades.

The yard surrounding the bungalow was overgrown with tall grass, weeds and numerous trees. The house itself was vandalized and held extremely worn and tattered furniture, gaping holes in the ceiling and sunken floors. Price's prized works lay scattered on the floor — thrown from their filing cabinets by vandals — in a room with an unceremonious skylight as result of a fallen tree, vulnerable to the elements. Miraculously, the papers were in good condition.

"It's a wonder anything survived in that house," said Nutt. "A few papers were mildewed or molded but for the most part, they were in extraordinarily good condition." Nutt said he knew he and Dillard had made a considerable discovery, but they were not aware of how immense it would be. There were lost works and unknown pieces, as well as previously unseen family photos, a painting of her father's, and manuscripts of his novel, *Maudelle*, published in 1906. "It was an exciting find," said Nutt.

With the discovery has come national attention for Price, including from *The New Yorker*, *The New*



Florence Price, 1941.

York Times, and NPR.

Er-Gene Kahng, a violinist and Graduate Studies Chair in the University of Arkansas's J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences' Department of Music, recorded some of Price's found compositions, including Violin Concerto No. 2. She played a recording of the 15-minute piece for the audience at UAMS.

"I came to see the piece's theme of a dream not yet realized," said Kahng. "The theme is in a remote key so it is a jarring experience, yet it's sweet and distant. It's a musical personification of the tensions and unrealized dreams Florence undeniably experienced in her lifetime, and she's expressing it in her music."

Kahng said her realization brought feelings of empathy and compassion for Price's struggles.



Florence Price home.

"She writes in many letters and describes her race and gender as two handicaps," said Kahng. "It's absolutely heartbreaking to read these letters, and I can only imagine this was in the forefront of her mind, so how could it not show up in her music?"

Kahng was enthralled by Price's originality, as well as her commitment and meticulous attention to detail in order to honor the tradition of classical music in her pieces, yet find a way to make them her own. "When you're tasked with creating something original, the knee-jerk reaction is to abandon pre-existing systems and forge your own path," said Kahng. "That can be interesting, but more incredible is to inherit and absorb the tradition and insert pockets of originality and recreate the system."

Kahng said she's hopeful this resurgent adoration for Price's work will continue to increase. "It's been encouraging to see so much interest," she said. "Speaking with historians and scholars who have researched her since the 1970s, it's been a warm and enthusiastic response. It's my hope she is on her way to becoming a normal part of the concert stage and a normal part of the discussion on classical music."

In addition to the program at UAMS, the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville held a three-day event in mid-February honoring Price's contributions. The Price collection is housed in Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville and is available for research.

The Impact of Faculty Status on Job Satisfaction among Academic Librarians in Arkansas

*by David Sesser, Collections Librarian
Huie Library, Henderson State University*

The status of academic librarians at institutions of higher learning in the United States is varied. Some institutions classify these employees as staff while others grant them faculty status. The impact of faculty status for academic librarians can make some jobs more appealing than others. This impact will continue after a librarian is hired, and can even play a role in keeping well trained and motivated library faculty at an institution.

This study utilizes a survey to gauge job satisfaction among academic librarians with faculty status in Arkansas. It is designed to determine if this status has a positive impact on overall satisfaction and to find what aspects of faculty status are important to these librarians.

Literature Review

Faculty status among academic librarians is a

well-studied topic. Articles on a multitude of related topics, including the benefits of faculty status and the perception of that status, regularly appear in journals. An article that focuses on the idea of faculty status and tenure in a single state is missing from the literature.

One of the first things to determine when examining faculty status for academic librarians is to determine what that status actually means. Applegate compares academic librarians with faculty status with librarians who do not hold that status (1993). She argues that there is a perception that faculty have certain roles and benefits, and librarians without faculty status lack access to those roles and benefits. Her research found that this was not the case and that on several different measurements, including salary, librarians were close to their peers on the teaching faculty, whether or not the librarians held faculty status.

As research shows, faculty status can be beneficial for librarians. Depending on their

institution, it can lead to benefits that librarians at other colleges and universities do not have. The type of institution can play a role in these benefits. Bolger (2006) found that librarians at top-ranked liberal arts colleges were sometimes at a disadvantage when compared to their colleagues at lower ranked institutions (p. 227). The library faculty at the lower ranked colleges were able to participate as equal members of the faculty alongside teaching faculty while librarians at top ranked colleges had access to more research and travel funding. Research shows that another benefit for faculty status for academic librarians is satisfaction. Horenstein found that “academic librarians with faculty status are more satisfied than other librarians” (1993, p. 264). She argues that this is because “the librarians perceive that they are involved in library planning and decision making, consulted about factors directly related to their job responsibilities and work environment, informed about matters affecting the library, and in control of their own activities” (p. 264).

The perception of faculty status for librarians has changed over time and has not remained static. Silva (2017) found that even among academic librarians, different standards and expectations exist. The authors argue that tenure expectations need to be established well before tenure is granted, and additional expectations must be related to library faculty after tenure is received (Silva, et al, 2017). The faculty of library schools also have differing opinions when it comes to granting faculty status and tenure to academic librarians. Because the faculty who teach in American Library Association (ALA) accredited programs typically hold doctoral degrees and regular tenure track appointments, they are tasked with training future academic librarians. Wyss (2010) found that there is not a consensus among library school faculty that academic librarians should or should not have faculty status. He did find that many felt that the masters level ALA accredited programs did not adequately prepare academic librarians for research intensive positions and left them at a disadvantage when compared with other faculty members (p. 385).

Another group that looks at the impact of faculty status for academic librarians are university administrators. An effort to cut costs at institutions can see a revocation of faculty status for librarians. Kingma examines why this effort exists and if it can actually save institutions money (1995). The authors’ conclusion is that faculty status for librarians is not revenue neutral and administrators are correct in their efforts to look at changing this status to save limited resources (p. 263).

Tenure for librarians is also a topic that has seen much research within the field. While faculty status could mean either tenure track or non-tenure

track, it often comes with the former. It can be quite beneficial to colleges and universities to offer this additional benefit to library faculty, as explained by Meyer (1999). His research found that “faculty status including tenure for librarians has a positive impact on the success of institutions concentrating on teaching” (p. 118).

Other research on tenure for librarians includes Welch (2006), who found that the tenure system for librarians is changing across the country. As more teaching faculty are replaced by adjuncts and expectations change for librarians, the tenure system is also changing. The authors argue that tenure is there only to provide full participation in university governance, academic freedom, and opportunities for professional growth. The access to tenure that many librarians enjoy must be protected and not rolled back.

One of the arguments that continues to appear against faculty status and tenure for librarians is the fact that they have additional job duties that often prevent them from conducting the same amount of research as teaching faculty. Mitchell found that almost all universities that offer faculty status to librarians either require or encourage them to publish in order to gain tenure (1999). Even with this requirement, the authors found that more than ninety percent of all librarians who underwent a tenure review during a three year study were granted tenure. The authors argue that “faculty status does not lead to publication requirements that severely harm the chances of academic librarians to achieve tenure” (p. 241). Coker also found that librarians holding academic appointments often perform at the same level as teaching faculty (2010). Arguing that academic librarians should enjoy the same protections as teaching faculty, the authors say “librarians require the same protections offered by tenure to continue contributing to their profession without administrative repercussions should a librarian choose to publish or teach on controversial topics” (p. 417).

A review of the available literature indicates that the use of faculty status and tenure is not uniform across the country. It also indicates that the benefits of faculty status and tenure range widely. Finally, it does not appear as though job satisfaction, as it relates to faculty status, is a well-researched topic.

Method

In order to determine current satisfaction among academic library faculty at institutions in Arkansas, I created a survey to gauge attitudes that I sent in several emails to librarians across the state. The participants were thanked in the initial email and a follow up email was unnecessary due to the substantial response rate. I received several emails from participants with thanks for sending the survey out. One participant asked to see the final report with

the results, as one institution in the state is currently discussing faculty status for librarians.

Participants

Using data compiled by the Arkansas Library Association and individual library websites, surveys were sent to every academic librarian in the state who held faculty status. Any librarian with faculty status received a survey, even if those librarians are not tenured or on tenure track. This included librarians at both public and private institutions which grant undergraduate degrees. Community colleges and other two-year institutions were not included and other specialized institutions such as law and medical schools were also excluded.

Instrumentation

The survey was designed in Survey Monkey and emailed to academic librarians.

Procedures

I sent the survey to seventy-three academic librarians across the state. Each librarian was either listed as a faculty member or had the word “librarian” in their title. Only librarians at four-year colleges and universities were contacted, and several universities were not included in the sample as they classify librarians as staff. The sample includes librarians from both public and private institutions.

A total of forty-three responses were received, a response rate of fifty-nine percent. All responses were sent anonymously. All of the respondents indicated that they are employed as academic librarians at an institution of higher education in the state of Arkansas, as indicated in question number one.

Results

The results are detailed below and also appear in a chart. On question number two, 90.7 percent or thirty-nine of the respondents hold faculty status. Two respondents do not hold faculty status, and one

respondent did not answer the question.

The majority of the respondents either hold tenure or are eligible to hold tenure at their institution according to question number three. About three quarters of the librarians surveyed (74.4%) answered that they did have tenure available to them. The remaining eleven respondents do not have a possibility of tenure at their current institutions.

The responses to question number four on job titles were quite varied. Each possible choice received at least one response, and seven more responses were submitted by respondents for a total of fifteen different titles. Only one respondent holds the title of assistant librarian, while two are simply librarians. The two responses with the most responses are assistant professor and associate professor, with ten and eight responses, respectively. The submitted responses included library director, distinguished professor, and several combined ranks.

Questions about tenure followed these initial demographic inquiries. While many of the respondents hold faculty positions, they do not feel as though they should be evaluated in the same manner as their teaching faculty colleagues. According to the results of question number five, 55.8% either disagree or strongly disagree with using the same standards for library faculty. Only 25.6% agreed or strongly agreed that library faculty should be held to the same standard as teaching faculty when it comes to tenure review.

Libraries exist to serve patrons and connect them to information resources. Most of the respondents thought that faculty status was beneficial to their patrons. According to the results of question number six, 72.1% thought that their status as faculty was a benefit to their patrons. Zero either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

Tenure provides a benefit to academic librarians according to the respondents in question number seven. In total, 74.4% either agree or strongly agree

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
5	4.65% 2	51.16% 22	18.60% 8	18.60% 8	6.98% 3
6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	27.91% 12	41.86% 18	30.23% 13
7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	25.58% 11	39.53% 17	34.88% 15
8	0.00% 0	9.30% 4	13.95% 6	46.51% 20	30.23% 13
9	0.00% 0	4.65% 2	11.63% 5	51.16% 22	32.56% 14
10	0.00% 0	11.63% 5	9.30% 4	51.16% 22	27.91% 12

Survey results.

that tenure is beneficial to academic librarians. Most telling in these results is that zero respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

The majority of the respondents also agreed that faculty status is an important part of retaining employees. According to the results from question number eight, 76.7% of the librarians surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that this status helped keep employees at their institutions. A total of 4 respondents or 9.3% disagreed with the statement.

The last two questions dealt with job satisfaction for the respondents. Only two of the respondents said that they disagree with the statement that they are satisfied at their current job. No respondents selected strongly disagree on this question. An overwhelming 83.7% either agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied in their current position according to question number nine. The role of faculty status in that satisfaction is not quite as strong as shown in the responses to question ten. 79.1% either agree or strongly agree that this status plays a strong role in their satisfaction. Five of the respondents or 11.6% disagreed with the statement and no one strongly disagreed in response to question number 10.

Conclusions

Among academic librarians in Arkansas, faculty

status and tenure are important. The overwhelming majority of respondents to this survey think that having that status also allows them to better serve their patrons. Most also believe that tenure provides a benefit to the librarians.

For those librarians at institutions that do not currently offer faculty status or tenure, this study could be used to show members of their institution's administration the benefits of such status. While much research can still be conducted on this topic, this study could prove to be a starting point in opening dialogue about librarians on academic campuses in Arkansas and the impact of faculty status and tenure.

Appendix I

This survey is being conducted to examine the relationship between faculty status and job satisfaction for academic librarians. This study is part of my graduate studies. I am enrolled in an Advanced Research Class and piloting a survey is one of my class assignments. I appreciate your assistance with this project. Responses are anonymous. If you have any questions or concerns about participation, please contact me at sesserd@hsu.edu or my professor, Dr. Gail Hughes at gdhughes@ualr.edu.

#			
1	Are you an academic librarian at a college or university in Arkansas?	Yes	No
2	Do you hold faculty status at your institution?	Yes	No
3	Do you hold or are you eligible to earn tenure at your institution?	Yes	No
4	What is your rank/title at your institution?		

Possible answers for Question #4- Lecturer/Instructor/Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor/Assistant Librarian/Associate Librarian/Librarian/Other (Please provide)

#		SD	D	N	A	SA
5	Academic librarians with faculty status should be evaluated using the same criteria as teaching faculty.	1	2	3	4	5
6	Faculty status is ultimately beneficial, directly or indirectly, to library patrons.	1	2	3	4	5
7	Tenure provides a benefit to academic librarians.	1	2	3	4	5
8	Faculty status is an important factor in retaining employees.	1	2	3	4	5
9	I am satisfied in my current position.	1	2	3	4	5
10	Faculty status plays a role in my job satisfaction.	1	2	3	4	5

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Department of Education Launches Fourth Year of Declaration of Learning Initiative

by *Cassandra Barnett, Library Media Services*
Arkansas Department of Education

The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to launch the fourth year of the Arkansas Declaration of Learning initiative. Arkansas is the first state to participate in the national program and is partnering with the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, the Clinton Foundation, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

Over the last three years, the partners collaborated with more than 80 Arkansas school librarians and English language arts, fine arts and social studies teachers in grades 7 through 12. Educators developed, taught, and revised innovative units and lesson plans using historic art and objects from the collections of the national and state partners and developed civic engagement projects. To date, more than 6,000 Arkansas students have benefited from the program.

"When you give students the chance to address real issues in history and in their community today, and you give them the historical art and artifacts to analyze and the skills to think their way to their own conclusions, your students will rise to the challenge,"



The ARKANSAS
DECLARATION
of LEARNING

stated ADOL participant Marcia Lanier, the librarian at Bryant High School in Bryant, Ark. "They want to think about things that matter and say what matters to them."

Arkansas was chosen as the pilot state to develop the model for the nation's first Declaration of Learning, which was signed by 12 national organizations in January 2013. The Declaration of Learning pledged that five premiere museums located in Washington, D.C., and seven national educational organizations would work with teachers and school librarians to create innovative units, lesson plans, and civic engagement projects that bring history, art, and English language arts to life using historic objects and art.

To learn more about the Arkansas Declaration of Learning initiative, please visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/library-media-services>.



A R K A N S A S

DECLARATION OF LEARNING PROGRAM

Applications are now open for year four of the prestigious *Arkansas Declaration of Learning* program. This program is an innovative public - private partnership in which 7th - 12th grade Arkansas art, English language arts, social studies teachers and school librarians use object-based learning to develop curriculum that brings history to life and shares the importance of stewardship and civic engagement with students.

Teachers and school librarians selected to participate will commit to a year-long initiative that begins with a training program in Little Rock, Arkansas from June 25 - 29, 2018. During the program, educators will learn about the partner's historic objects, works of art, and oral histories, and how to use them in their classrooms and school libraries (see partner list below).

Using these resources, educators will develop innovative units and civic engagement projects. The units will be refined and tested during the 2018 - 2019 school year and shared with educators throughout the nation.



Arkansas Declaration of Learning educators explore objects and art at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.



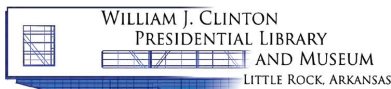
Students at Helen Tyson Middle School work on their civic engagement project - a 100-foot mural designed to raise awareness about the plight of the U.S. Marshall Islands.

Program applications will close at 11:59 p.m. on February 25, 2018

For additional program guidelines and requirements for the 2018 *Arkansas Declaration of Learning* program, please visit the Arkansas Department of Education website: www.arkansased.gov.

The program application is available at: <http://bit.ly/2AopCBK>

The Arkansas Department of Education is proud to work with the following *Arkansas Declaration of Learning* partners.



ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Midwinter 2018

by *Lacy S. Wolfe, Henderson State University*

This year's ALA Midwinter Meeting took librarians from around the country to Denver, Colorado, February 9-13.

Friday's opening session presented by Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, and Marley Dias, founder of the #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign, provided a phenomenal, energizing beginning to the conference. Dias interviewed Cullors in this lively session that covered everything from #BlackLivesMatter to motherhood to favorite books.

On Saturday I attended the ALA Council/ Executive Board/Membership Information Session and heard reports from the ALA leadership: President, President-Elect, Executive Director, Treasurer, Trustees, and the Budget Analysis and



Wolfe

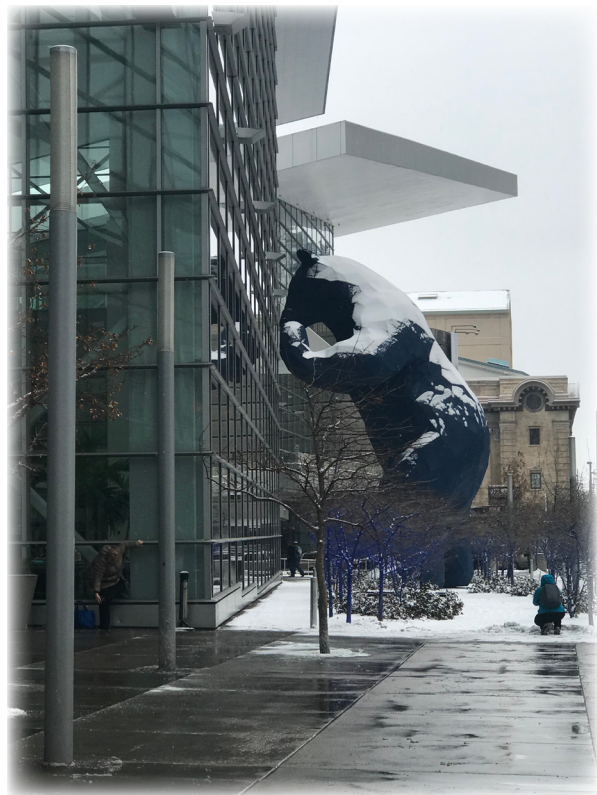


Review Committee (BARC). For me this session provides a framework for the rest of the Council meetings, as I'm made aware of issues with the budget and other concerns of the leadership.

Following the Information Session, I attended my first in-person meeting of the Public Awareness Committee. I was appointed to the committee in July 2017 and had taken part in phone meetings. It's always pleasant to meet in-person the people you've been speaking to over the phone for months. At the meeting we received updates on the Libraries Transform campaign and National Library Card Sign-up Month. Alan Fishel, library advocate, joined the meeting to discuss advocacy work and the 5E's of libraries: Education, Employment,



Line for exhibit opening.



Snowy bear at the convention center.

Entrepreneurship, Empowerment, and Engagement (for Everyone, Everywhere). This advocacy tool had only recently crossed my radar, so I was delighted to engage in a discussion about the importance of being able to speak to all constituents about libraries with language that is easily understood, yet full of purpose.

The Arkansas Librarians' Dinner held on Saturday evening was sponsored by Jeff Scott with OCLC. The dinner was held at The Nickel near the Convention Center and was attended by librarians from the University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Tech University, University of Arkansas, and Henderson State University.

On Sunday I was asked to attend the session "School Library Advocacy: Enhancing Collaboration & Strengthening Library Ecosystems" as a representative of Arkansas by the Chapter Relations Office. I was able to take part in a round table brainstorming session with Cassandra Barnett and librarians from nearby states. Each time I have the opportunity to speak with different librarians, I'm continually reminded of the similar struggles we face regardless of library type.

The Chapter Councilor's Forum on Sunday afternoon provided a great outlet for discussing the business of state chapters. This meeting's discussion



Treasurer report.

touched upon communicating ALA business to the chapter membership including what emails to forward on from ALA to state chapter listservs as well as reports and newsletter communications.

Sunday's ALA President's Program "Are Libraries Neutral? Have They Ever Been? Should They Be?" was not to be missed. Eight ALA members representing academic, public, and library education backgrounds addresses these questions in this spirited panel moderated by ALA President Jim Neal. Panelists discussed the notion of neutrality in libraries in a recorded session. Once the recording is made available, I will be sure to share it with the listserv.

Sessions of Council (Sunday-Tuesday) and Council Forum (Saturday-Monday) covered topics such as best use of council time (i.e. when official Council business ends early), ALA re-organization, and conference attendance. The total attendance for Midwinter 2018 was 7,894 compared to 8,892 for Midwinter 2017 in Atlanta and 11,680 for Midwinter 2016 in Boston. The drop in Midwinter attendance was a topic of discussion among ALA members as well as the exhibitors.

One of the highlights of attending conference is the serendipitous conversations with librarians from around the country as well as those within the state! I attended a publisher's breakfast that Carol Hanan from Arkansas Tech University was also attending and had a lovely conversation with her while waiting for the book highlights to begin. I ran into Amber Gregory from the Arkansas State Library as I was going to lunch. We had a great discussion about libraries in Arkansas.

There are exciting changes for ALA with a new Executive Director and a possible reorganization in the works. Please feel free to email me at wolfel@hsu.edu if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to talk in-depth about my ALA experiences.

The 2018 ALA elections ran from March 12 to April 4. Wanda Kay Brown, director of library services at Winston-Salem (NC) State University, has been elected president-elect of ALA. She will serve one year as president-elect and begin her term as ALA president at the close of the 2019 ALA Annual Conference. For full election results visit <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection>.

Lacy S. Wolfe is the Information Literacy and Reference Services Librarian at Henderson State University.

Are You Ready to Go ALL-In?

by Ruth Hyatt, Manager of Library Development

Arkansas State Library

What is ALL-In?

The Arkansas Library Leadership Institute (ALL-In) is a 3-day leadership event for library staff, created and implemented by the Arkansas State Library to develop emerging leaders within the library profession, the local community, and in life. The first Institute was held in 2015. Several of our participants will continue their commitment by acting as mentors to the participants of our second Institute to be held November 14-16, 2018.

Who should apply for the Institute?

Library staff across the state of Arkansas whose personal and professional goals include leadership. The Arkansas Library Leadership Institute selection committee is seeking a diverse set of applicants, degreed and non-degreed alike, based on type of library, organizational responsibility, and geography.

Who is leading the Institute and what topics will be covered?

The topics, activities, and content will be directed at a general audience of those working in libraries with a variety of backgrounds, interests, and abilities. Particular attention will be placed on participants getting to learn from each other as well as the learning facilitators, thus sharing their knowledge while gaining connections that can last after the institute and can be career-long colleague friendships. Learning outcomes will be met through a series of meaningful experiential learning activities, group and individual projects,



Dr. Sharon Morris and Kieran Hixon will lead the Institute in 2018.

stories and case studies, personal reflection and planning, humor, discussions, and games. Content will be based on research, facilitators' expertise, and knowledge of participants and will be focused on practical application of new leadership concepts and skills in the library setting. The primary topics to be covered are self-awareness, leadership behaviors, and specific strategies for leading teams in project implementation.

Dr. Sharon Morris and Kieran Hixon of the Colorado State Library will be facilitating the 2018 Institute. Topics covered will include: Self Awareness, Leadership Basics, Leading from Every Level, and Determining Success. Chosen participants will be sent a copy of the book *Strengths Finder*. We will be using the results in the training. Participants can expect to gain:

- Greater understanding of personal strengths and values, as well as plans for implementing these from a positive orientation
- Clear grasp of various leadership strategies and when to use them
- New skills in team leadership including
 - Building team consensus that leads to innovation
 - Influencing team dynamics for effective work
 - Coordinating efforts for accountability and effectiveness

Where is the event taking place?

DeGray Lake Resort State Park is Arkansas's only resort state park. Set in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains and nestled along the north shore of DeGray Lake, one of the region's five Diamond Lakes known for their crystal clear waters. Each participant will have his or her own room. There are walking trails and a fitness center at the lodge. Sessions will take place in on site meetings rooms, and all meals will be provided by or served in the Shoreline Restaurant. Dietary needs will be accommodated if possible.

What is the cost of the Institute?

Selected applicants will be responsible for a portion of the cost which will cover meals, lodging, and materials for the entire 3-day workshop. The participants of the 2018 Institute will be responsible for \$300 towards the costs of the Institute. Financial forms will be sent out to the applicants chosen for the Institute. Your library may pay for your participation. Payment is expected on or before November 4, 2018.

For more information and to download the

application form, follow this link to the ALL-In libguide: <http://libguides.library.arkansas.gov/all-in>. The completed application can be sent either via email to Debbie Hall (debbie@library.arkansas.gov) or a printed version can be sent via regular mail to:

Debbie Hall
Arkansas State Library
900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72204
The deadline is **May 25th, 2018**.

LIBRARY PROFILE

Off-Site Programs

by *Sarah Loch*, *Young Adult Librarian*,
Springdale Public Library

Working with local businesses and community organizations is nothing new in the library world. But for two Northwest Arkansas libraries, it's become a key path to creating and sustaining successful adult programs.

Any librarian who has done programming for adults will tell you that getting people in the door is difficult. Between jobs, families, and leisure activities, adults have a lot more competing demands on their time and attention than children and teens. In addition, even if adults do have free time, the library is usually not the first place they think to turn for leisure activities.

When faced with these challenges, programming staff at Springdale Public Library decided to think outside the box. In early 2016, Jennifer Johnson, a Reference Librarian, reached out to the ownership of Black Apple Crossing to see if the downtown cidery would allow her to hold a monthly book club there on a weekday evening. They responded with an enthusiastic yes, and Books on Tap was born.

The first meeting had twenty-eight attendees gathering on the Black Apple patio to discuss *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed. Attendance has varied since then, with popular books like Paula Hawkins' *The Girl on the Train* drawing larger crowds than less well-known titles such as *Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything* by Timothy Caulfield. Members who can't make it to the in-person discussion often participate on Facebook instead, extending the conversation into the virtual sphere.

Building on the success of Books on Tap, Springdale Public Library opened a second off-site book club session in December 2016, this time meeting at Onyx Coffee Lab in Springdale. After polling members of the existing group, a Saturday afternoon time was selected for the new session, christened A Whole Latte of Books. Attendance numbers haven't been as explosive as with Books on Tap, but they've remained steady and consistent, doing as well or better than the existing in-library book club. All three book clubs discuss a variety of fiction and nonfiction titles, and once they're finished

with the books, Springdale makes them available for nursing homes and community groups to check out and use in their own discussion groups.

Springdale Public Library Director Marcia Ransom is pleased with the new direction and its success. "It's been a great opportunity to get the library presence out into the community," she said. "We see a slight shift in the public's perception of the library's role in the community. It's been a very positive experience for us, and I'm hoping for our merchants, as well."

Book clubs aren't the only off-site program Springdale offers. The library's successful Fiction Forge writer's workshop has gone from meeting twice per month in the library to four meetings per month, two in the library and two at Onyx Coffee Lab. "Meeting off site opens up more opportunities for writers across Springdale to meet and support and interact with local businesses," said Erin Collum, the library Information Assistant who runs the program. "Also, every writer knows that a change of scenery can provide new inspiration!"

Springdale is not the only library in Northwest Arkansas with off-site programming. Starting in May 2017, Fayetteville Public Library's Books & Brews book clubs quickly expanded to meet twice a month at different Core Brewing Company locations in Fayetteville. The clubs read a variety of popular fiction and nonfiction titles and genres, with discussions led by Leah Frieden and Susie Walker, Reference Librarians. The library staff member on-site also uses PolarisLEAP, a mobile version of the Polaris ILS, and an iPad to check out the next book to club members.

According to Frieden, some of the considerations in creating these programs were engaging with people who might not use the library regularly and finding a more convenient location. The two book clubs meet at the Core Public Houses on Mall Avenue and Mission Boulevard, considerably further north than the library's location near the University of Arkansas Campus.

But location isn't the only benefit. "The public house environment is more casual than the environment in the library's board room, where our on-site book clubs are held," Frieden said. "This allows for a different type of conversation than we might have in the library."

From Oil to Arts and Culture: **South Arkansas Prepares for Inaugural Literary Festival**

by Philip Shackelford, Libary Director
South Arkansas Community College

On April 13th and 14th, South Arkansas Community College and the SouthArk Library will host the first ever South Arkansas Literary Festival. The festival will be held in the El Dorado Conference Center and on the West Campus of South Arkansas Community College, located near the heart of El Dorado’s charming downtown and the new Murphy Arts District. What is the primary focus of the festival? The book – in all of its wonderful forms, nuances, and impact.

The idea for such a festival came about in early 2017 as South Arkansas Community College was undergoing a new phase of strategic planning for the next five-year period. After a day-long meeting with the planning committee and consultant, Associate of Arts Program Director Jennifer Baine wondered, “Wouldn’t it be great to do a symposium on the book?” The idea came from thinking about a way to tie the talent at the college and in the community to the greater community of writers and readers in the region. A committee was formed, and now, almost a year later, final details for the inaugural South Arkansas Literary Festival are taking shape.

Intended for both academic and general audiences, the festival’s programming features two keynote speakers and numerous local author spotlights, emphasizing the literary talents and accomplishments of South Arkansas and North Louisiana. A call for papers was issued in late 2017,

calling for proposals relating to the theme of “The Book as Concept, Object, and Literary Device.” Multiple submissions were accepted, with the presenters hailing from several institutions of higher education around the State of Arkansas, including the University of Arkansas at Monticello, National Park College, University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Southern Arkansas University, and Henderson State University.

Also included in the program are two panels, one focused on the general reader and one dedicated to lovers of poetry. “On My Nightstand: A Look at New Releases and Favorites,” will feature librarians and avid readers offering their thoughts on recently released titles, favorite authors, the lasting power of books, and specific titles that have had a profound impact on the panelists’ lives. “Poetry of South Arkansas” will feature a collection of local poets reading their original works – a must-see event for those interested in current original poetry.

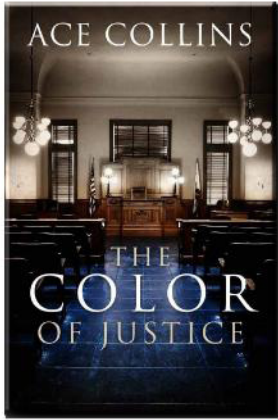
The festival will highlight Genaro Kỵ Ly Smith as a regional spotlight. Smith, an English instructor at Louisiana Tech University, will speak regarding his books *The Land South of the Clouds* and *The Land Baron’s Sun: The Story of Ly Loê and His Seven Wives*. Fiction and poetry, respectively, these works act as companions to one another and focus on the experiences of *con lai* culture – simultaneously African-American and Vietnamese – in the United States following the Vietnam War. Smith himself was born in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and he earned an MA and MFA from McNeese State University in Lake



Genaro Ky Ly Smith.



Ace Collins.



2015
Suspense
Winner

Charles, Louisiana, before coming to Louisiana Tech in 1999 to teach composition, literature, and creative writing.

Christy Award winner Ace Collins will be the keynote speaker for Friday evening. Collins, author of more than ninety books, celebrates his Arkansas heritage and defines himself as a storyteller more than a writer, observing that modern novels have changed considerably in recent years, and this transformation affects the traditional ways that novelists pursue their craft. His fictional works, spanning a spectrum of genres from historical fiction to courtroom thrillers, include *Hollywood Lost*, *The Fruitcake Murders*, and the 2015 Christy Award for Suspense Book of the Year winner *The Color of Justice*.

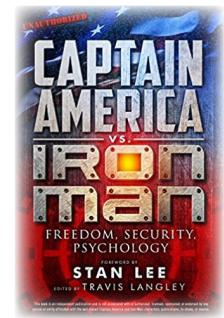
Having appeared on every network morning show as well as CNN, MSNBC, and CNBC, Ace Collins has also written numerous nonfiction, magazine, and other works. His nonfiction book *The Stories Behind The Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* climbed to #3 on the Amazon bestselling list for all books and hit #1 in several other categories. Collins' discussion of his writing process and modern storytelling will be a fascinating event that readers of all genres will enjoy.



Travis Langley.

Part psychology professor and part pop-culture guru, Henderson State University's Travis Langley writes books that explore the psychology of superheroes and other fictional characters – fertile ground that has produced *Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Night*, *The Psychology of Star Wars*, and *Captain America vs. Iron Man*. The keynote speaker for Saturday afternoon, Langley will explore how two seemingly distinct areas – psychology and comic book culture – have merged into an innovative discipline that harkens back to his childhood.

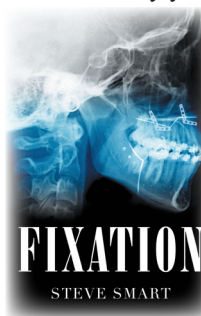
Travis Langley's Henderson State faculty profile quotes the professor as reporting that "When I was in the fourth grade, I checked out a psychology book at the library. I wanted to figure people out." Later, Langley observed that the "professor side of my life and the nerd side were two separate things until I went to ComicCon in 2007. A lot of things came together for me that summer...and I knew I had to write a journal article about Batman." Comic enthusiasts, fans of science fiction, and those interested psychology will find Langley's address a larger-than-life experience not to be missed!



Spotlight on Local Authors

Writers turn up in surprising places, even in a small town like ours! Everyone has a story to tell, and we're fortunate that these writers from South Arkansas made the time to tell their very different stories.

Dr. Steve Smart has been an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with a practice in El Dorado for over thirty years. His first novel is called

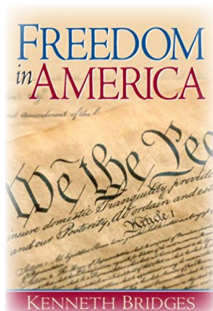


Fixation, and although he began writing it over twenty years ago as a non-fiction historical account, the now-fictionalized story explores the post-surgical death of a patient that occurred while Dr. Smart served in the U.S. Army.

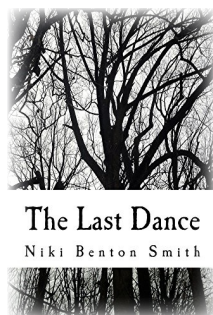
Prolific local author Richard Mason writes, among many other titles, a nostalgic twelve-book series about his childhood in 1940s South Arkansas, beginning with *The Red Scarf*. He's also teamed with his wife, Vertis, to write *From a Dead Downtown to America's Best Downtown*. Published in 2017, this book features insights on bringing life

to formerly unused areas in small cities. His memoir *From a Shotgun Shack* traces his journey from the actual shotgun shack, to his work in oil exploration, and his devotion to environmental concerns. He also keeps busy as the president and CEO of Gibraltar Energy in El Dorado.

Ken Bridges has been a history professor at South Arkansas Community College since 2003. He is the author of *In An Arkansas Minute: The Collected History Minute Columns*, a collection of his "History Minute" syndicated columns on Arkansas history. Dr. Bridges has also published *Freedom in America*, an exploration of freedom through essays, letters, and other primary sources, and *Twilight of the Texas Democrats: The 1978 Governor's Race*, covering the changed political climate in Texas.



Niki Benton Smith's profession is nursing, and she's also a mom and a wife. Her suspenseful first novel *Nightingale* is about a Samantha, registered nurse with a very special otherworldly ability. The sequel *The Last Dance: A Nightingale Novel* continues the story of Samantha. Niki Smith is a lifelong resident of South Arkansas, and the South Arkansas Literary Festival is excited to feature Niki as a local author spotlight.



Local authors like these are treasures of any local or regional literary scene, and South Arkansas is blessed with an impressive array of talent. Plan to meet each one at the festival, learn about their lives outside of writing, and how their works have contributed to the vibrant local culture of El Dorado



and the surrounding area.

South Arkansas Community College and the SouthArk Library

South Arkansas Community College was formed in 1992 upon the merger of Oil Belt Vocational School and the Southern Arkansas University El Dorado Branch – two facilities three miles apart that now make up a busy two-year college producing graduates in a variety of health, computer, and technical education programs. A Library/Facilities Committee was formed on February 8, 1993 to discuss building a new building for a library. The dream came true in September 1996. We know the building today as the SouthArk Library, and celebrated our 20-year anniversary in September 2016.

The SouthArk Library offers a number of valuable services to the students, faculty and staff at South Arkansas Community College, as well as the general El Dorado community. Patrons have access to an online catalog featuring an educational as well as broad general interest collection, numerous online databases, digital content streaming through Hoopla Digital, and community events. Some upcoming programs include the second annual "Arts and Crafts Expo," on April 2 and 3, a beginning bird study presented by the Union County Master Gardeners on April 8, the Literary Festival, our second annual "Hitchcock in April" film festival happening April 23-27, and a couple of educational programs presented by Laura Rogers of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

All of these are components of our mission to serve at the intersection of education, resources, and community. We believe that everyone should have access to the tools and content they need to broaden their horizons, enrich their lives, and provide for their future. Libraries should provide opportunities for individuals and progress for communities. Enhancing our local quality of life is important to

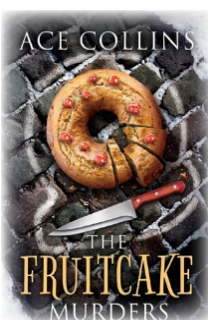


us, and we see libraries places to quench curiosity, pursue new boundaries, and explore ideas, hobbies, and careers. Simply put, libraries transform, and that's what we are here to do. Come visit us!

About El Dorado

Nestled near the calm waters of the Ouachita River in the Timberlands region of South Arkansas, El Dorado is undergoing a unique renaissance. Voted as having "America's Best Downtown" in 2009, El Dorado has evolved from a humble oil town into an area rich in southern charm, history and some of the best Arkansas Festivals. From the award-winning MusicFest in the fall to the bustling and vibrant Mayhaw Festival in the spring, El Dorado is fast becoming known as a premier entertainment destination. Also, discover the MAD-ness in El Dorado, the city's new arts and entertainment district. Spring 2018 is a great time to host a festival. El Dorado has the facilities, places to eat and stay, and even an orchestra concert for guests to attend during the festival weekend.

Many local and regional vendors will be participating in El Dorado's inaugural South Arkansas Literary Festival. The local poetry



group, South Arkansas Poets of the Pines, the newly minted Murphy Arts District (MAD), the Lion's Club, the South Arkansas Historical Preservation Society, Barton Public Library, *El Dorado News-Times*, the Arkansas Women's Business Center, the Books for Less bookstore out of Pine Bluff, the Arkansas Library Association,

the *El Dorado Insider*, and others will come together to offer festival participants a wide array of goods, information, and more for a great weekend.

Howell's Barbeque, a local El Dorado establishment, is a family-owned restaurant specializing in homemade goodness. The Howell family makes their own barbeque sauce, and the loaded baked potatoes are a meal in itself! Howell's will be on site providing samples of their mouthwatering barbeque and lending a delicious smoky flavor to the festival.

The Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, located in Smackover, Arkansas, will also participate as a vendor. Visitors to the museum are in for a fascinating glimpse into the exciting oil boom days of early South Arkansas. A thriving economy and surging population following the 1920s boom led to El Dorado being the most populous city in Arkansas

at one time, and even though the initial gusher may have subsided, oil will be woven into the cultural fabric of South Arkansas forever.

Festival participants will also want to savor the delicious menu from the Postmaster's Grill Cruisin' Kitchen, a food truck enterprise of the storied Postmaster's Grill restaurant in Camden, Arkansas. Once a post office, the building now holds a spacious restaurant and downstairs bar area, complete with an outdoor patio for outdoors dining on summer nights and a stage for live music. But the claim to fame is still the food – delicious, legendary creations from Chef Tyler Hensley – and available on the very doorstep of the festival on Saturday, April 14!

Join Us!

All told, this inaugural South Arkansas Literary

Festival promises to be a landmark event tailor-made for literature lovers, reading enthusiasts, poets, aspiring writers, and anyone interested in a having a great time in a vibrant community. Catch new reading recommendations from the panel, listen to local poetry, grab a bite at the food truck, or listen to some great music from Louisiana Tech University's classical guitar ensemble and watch Chef John E. Peters III from the Murphy Arts District's Griffin Restaurant perform a live cooking demonstration on Saturday. We promise – you'll have a blast with plenty of wonderful memories to share!



Editor's Note: This article was written well before the Spring issue went to press. Unfortunately, much of the festival was cancelled due to a fire from lightning that struck an administrative building at South Arkansas Community College. We apologize for the delay in publishing this article, but hope relating the planned events will give readers a sense of what might occur at future literary festivals in El Dorado.

Assistance in writing this article was provided by: Cynthia J. Arnold, Archives and Technical Services Librarian; Lauri T. Wilson, Cataloging and Digital Content Librarian; Mindy F. Farley, Programming and Outreach Librarian; Jennifer O. Baine, Associate of Arts Program Director.

Biographical information and photos for keynote authors taken from:

- <http://www.acecollins.com/acecollinsbio.html>
- <http://www.hsu.edu/directory/people/professors/travislangley.html>

Collaborating to Help Students Travel

by *Kay J. Walter, Ph.D., Professor of English and Kathy Anderson, M.S.I.S., M.Ed., Associate Library Discovery Services & Student Success, University of Arkansas at Monticello*

Student Travel from the Professor's Perspective (Kay Walter)

Even Emily Dickinson, who really didn't get out much, understood the importance of travel as a form of education. Notably a recluse, she spent most of her adulthood in or near her family home in Amherst, Massachusetts. She celebrates the potential of librarians to facilitate the educational aspects of travel when she writes, "There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away." Students from rural Arkansas need opportunities to travel more than most as it provides them with unavoidable lessons in human contexts, diversity, and cultures. It provides real-life practice of composition and communication skills and pries open perspectives that may have no other means of hatching. As a university professor specializing in British literature, I teach works of literature that most of my students have never heard spoken in a native accent. Poetry which turns on details of language or sound devices are cryptic to my learners. Plays that are not readily available in movie form may be difficult for them to read. Nuances of differing accents in a single language blur in their minds, but travel can change all that.

When we travel overseas, students undergo the constant challenge of overstimulation. Everything is new. Many of them have never before travelled by plane or by train. Most of them have virgin passports. Many know no one in their family of extended social circles who have left the country. Travel is a baptism in the global community of their modern world. Their ability to process and benefit from their experiences is optimized when they share it with others. Thus, as often as possible, I take my students with me to professional gatherings. I teach them to write abstracts and encourage them to prepare and deliver poster presentations or take part in roundtable or panel discussions.

At least once each year I develop a travel seminar which provides an opportunity for students to travel internationally. We usually go to the United Kingdom where I am familiar with the language, the stories, and the culture. We rent a car and set off for a whirlwind journey around the island in an effort to

come to understand England, Wales, and Scotland all in a fortnight. I've often longed for a "home away from home" we could come back to each day and rest in, but there is always too much we would have to sacrifice for that convenience. I ask my students at the end of each course, "What could we leave out?" They refuse to see any experience as optional or expendable and treasure every single memory they have made.

My favorite author is John Ruskin, the leading English art critic and author of the Victorian Era. February 2019 marks the 200th anniversary of his birth, and the celebrations of this event begin early in 2018. In March, the Guild of St George is sponsoring a Ruskin exhibit in the Doges' Palace in Venice. The Master of the Guild will be meeting with the Directors during my university's spring break. These coincidental circumstances prompted me to make a profound change in my travel seminar this year. I developed a course focused on Ruskin which I call Venetian Influences on Victorian Literature.

For all my overseas traveling, I have never been to Italy. The dreamy city of gondolas and canals calls to me, but as I speak no Italian I have so far been able to ignore its lure by avoiding letting my gaze linger on Venetian images. This year the time has come. I have arranged a hybrid course which will meet electronically in Blackboard for the first two and a half months, reading and discussing Ruskin and exploring and imagining Venice. Over spring break we will travel to Italy, and when we return, we will reflect on our journey and our enlightenment. I could not manage this adventure without the support and encouragement of my librarian.

I rely upon Prof. Kathy Anderson to help me prepare my students for the shock of finding themselves "not in [Arkansas] anymore." She helps them clarify their research ideas and find the terms to articulate them in a search for source material. She arms them with the tools they need to winnow the best and most useful from the weak and disreputable responses. She patiently guides them into an understanding of the work of the intellectual developing an informed opinion. Most importantly, she provides them with an understanding and sympathetic audience. They can try out ideas, wonder aloud, confess fears, engage in Skype conversations, and practice presentations with Prof. Anderson, and I know I can trust her to have a merciful and professional response which calls them to their best efforts and celebrates their every achievement.

Student Travel from the Librarian's Perspective (Kathy Anderson)

I was so excited to hear about Dr. Kay Walter's seminar course to Venice, Italy. I met with her several times to map out what her goals were for the course, and how she wanted me to help prepare her students for the coursework and the travel overseas. Most of her students have never traveled outside of the United States. I wanted to share my experience of traveling to new places and stepping outside my comfort zone with the students to let them know that new experiences can be very rewarding.

I started preparing for Dr. Walter's class by gathering together all the books that we had available on John Ruskin, Venice, and Venetian architecture and art. Once I gathered the books, I met with Dr. Walter, and she selected the books she wanted the students to see. We decided to put the books on course reserve so that all the students would have access to the materials. Next, I explored the library's electronic resources. We have a resource called Mango Languages that will enable the students to learn an introductory level of Italian before their trip. Dr. Walter emailed the students about this database, and some immediately started using this resource before the semester even began!

Another electronic resource I suggested was the Culture Grams database that we access through the Arkansas State Library's Traveler's subscription. This database provides access to cultural reports, statistics, and primary source material for countries across the globe, including the United States and Canadian provinces. It includes unique information such as native recipes, interviews, photos, and videos. The students can use this resource to find information on the customs and culture of Italy. Because the Guild of St George is sponsoring the Ruskin exhibit in Venice, I feel that the students need to know the history of the Guild of St George. I have compiled a list of websites for the students to help prepare them to meet with Companions from the Guild.

Next, we arranged for the students to come to the library

to meet me and the rest of the library staff. The students learned where to find course reserves, what they need to access reserve materials, and how to find and make use of the electronic resources. Most importantly, I stressed that their upcoming travel is a form of education. For many of these students, this will be their first plane ride. Dr. Walter has a handout on travel tips that we all discussed, and I shared my personal experience of traveling to new places and meeting new people. I wanted to calm any fears the students may have traveling overseas. It is important that students embrace new things and learn to be citizens in a global community. My recent travels to conferences with Dr. Walter opened new opportunities to collaborate and network with other librarians across the U.S., and these students will find opportunities to network around the world.

Collaborating with Dr. Walter allows me to give more than the common one-time instruction session. Our library has an opportunity to influence these students greatly not only with the material resources we can offer but with our human resources as well. The students will not only interact with me, but the Information Services staff, ILL, and even the Library Director. I believe it is important for our students to know that the library provides not just one contact point but numerous people who are here to assist with their needs and support them even as they travel abroad.



Kay Walters (left) and Kathy Anderson (right), with Library Director Dan Boice assisting (second from right back row), pose with students from the Ruskin and Venice class.

Karen Russ: In Memoriam 1970-2017

by Ron Russ, *Electronic and Public Services Librarian*

Arkansas State University-Beebe

Karen Russ, longtime “What’s Up? Docs.” column editor for *Arkansas Libraries*, passed away after a long fight with cancer, on December 15, 2017. She was an accomplished academic librarian, penning many scholarly articles, presenting numerous programs, and serving the UA-Little Rock campus community for over 21 years. In addition, she chaired the Depository Library Council, an advisory board to the U.S. Government Publishing Office. Karen also served on the boards of the Arkansas Genealogy Society, Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club, and Arkansas Affiliate of the Association on Higher Education And Disability (ARK-AHEAD), among others. She was a longtime active ArLA member, and her leadership included Centennial Committee Chair, Government Document Round Table Chair, and Conference Chair, and was a winner of the Suzanne Spurrier Award, President’s Award, and LaNell Compton Award. Within the last year Karen received the Teresa Haven Distinguished Service Award from ARK-Ahead.

Karen Marlene Madej was born in Buffalo, New York on November 20, 1970. She grew up in the nearby suburb of Amherst, NY. She graduated from Sweet Home High School, and graduated with honors from SUNY College at Fredonia with a BA in History in 1992. She then went to the School of Information and Library Studies at SUNY-Buffalo, where she met her future husband, Ronald Russ, in a government documents class. After she graduated with her MLS in 1994, she worked as a government documents librarian at the Queens Borough Public Library in Jamaica, NY. In 1996, she was offered the government documents librarian position at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she worked until her passing. Karen taught many



library instruction classes, especially in the social sciences and graduate programs. In addition, she also authored or co-authored many publications including *1957 Crisis at Central High: An Annotated Bibliography of Government Publications, Piece by Piece: A Handbook - Library Instruction for Students with Disabilities*, and *Reaching Out to Youth with Electronic Government Information*, among others.

Karen was a special person. While I might be biased (being her husband), the number of cards and emails I received after her passing bears this out. She meant a lot not just to the UA-Little Rock community, but the Arkansas library community as well. On a personal note, she meant an awful lot to me. We traveled all over the state together, taking photos along the way. We served on some of the same boards together (including ArLA and the Arkansas Genealogical Society). None of these things will be the same anymore. However, for what she had gone through in the last few years, she is at least not suffering anymore. Rest well, dear, you’ve earned it.

Donations to the Karen M. Russ Memorial Scholarship may be made at the UA Little Rock Office of Alumni and Development website: <http://ualr.edu/giving/product/you-select/>. Donors should specify the scholarship when prompted by the question: “Where would you like your donation to go?” Also, checks made payable to “UA Foundation” with “Karen Russ Memorial Scholarship” in the memo field can be sent to UA Little Rock Office of Development, 2801 S University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204.

Former State Librarian Nix Dies

by Carolyn Ashcraft, *State Librarian*

Arkansas State Library

Mae Frances Nix of Little Rock, passed away December 17, 2017. She was born in Midway, Arkansas (Hot Spring County) on February 10, 1925 and was the only child of the late John Wiley and Carrie Octava (Hughes) Nix. Nix graduated from Friendship High School in 1940

and received her BA degree from Henderson State University in 1948. In 1954, she graduated from Vanderbilt University Peabody College with an MA degree in library science.

Her career as a practicing librarian included the following: Magnet Cove High School (1946-51); Smackover High School (1951-54); The Public Library of Camden and Ouachita County (1954-57); Hall High School (Little Rock, 1957-65); and

Hendrix College (Conway, 1965-76). She retired in 1986 after ten years at the Arkansas State Library, five years as the Arkansas State Librarian.

Frances Nix made a large and lasting contribution to the development of library services and librarianship in Arkansas. During her time in Camden (1954-57) she oversaw the construction of a new library building. In 1957, Miss Nix moved to Little Rock to open the new library at Hall High School, where she was one of many who weathered the crisis in public education in the city caused by the closing of the schools for one year. In 1965 she opened the new and innovative underground library facility at Hendrix College in Conway. She came to the Arkansas Library Commission in 1976 as deputy director. She was named director of the Commission in 1978 and then became State Librarian of the Arkansas State Library on July 1, 1979, the date on which the library was established by Arkansas Act 489. In July of 1981, Miss Nix stepped aside to become associate director for library services/development in order to bring someone new into the agency director position. She retired from the



Arkansas State Library on Dec. 31, 1985.

I had the opportunity to meet Miss Nix early in my career. She was an imposing figure, very professional in her interactions with others, and deeply committed to quality library services and programs. I certainly respected her as an individual who had worked tirelessly throughout her career to improve libraries, who was willing to share her knowledge with others, and who had a definite love of libraries.

AROUND ARKANSAS

by *Heather Hays, Associate Editor*

Loretta Edwards, Web Services Manager at UAMS, is retiring after more than 30 years. Loretta has been an important part of the UAMS Library as she has primary responsibility for the many computers provided for students and other library users. She has also been a valued part of library website development and maintenance. Although Loretta enthusiastically and tirelessly supported all users of the Library, she was first and foremost an advocate for students. She instituted the stress buster dog program as well as coffee and snacks to help the students through the stressful period during finals.

The Central Arkansas Library System's (CALs) Maumelle Library, reopened on March 12 after an extensive remodeling and expansion. A grand reopening ribbon cutting event with city officials was held Friday, March 30, at 11:00 a.m.

Maumelle Library's 1,377-square-foot addition includes five new study rooms and one additional meeting room. Space was reallocated in the existing building for a children's program room. Other features included in the renovation are an upgraded HVAC system, LED lighting, new interior finishes, and additional parking spaces.

Funds for the \$1.954 million addition and

renovation were provided through bonds issued by the Maumelle Facilities Board in December 2016.

The Central Arkansas Library System's (CALs) Amy Sanders Library offered a variety of activities during the grand opening with a ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 10, at 10 a.m. The grand opening included CALs and Sherwood city leadership, including Nate Coulter, CALs executive director; Sherwood Mayor Virginia Hillman Young; and philanthropist Amy Sanders. The library will offer a variety of activities during the grand opening including refreshments and a performance by the Kinders.

The new 14,244-square-foot facility is located on 14 acres with amenities including three study rooms, a teen area, gallery space, and a 985-square-foot public meeting room.

Sherwood voters approved a 1.3 mill personal and property tax increase to issue bonds to fund a new library in November 2014. CALs broke ground on the new location in January 2017.

Karen Russ has been named the 2018 recipient of the James Bennett Childs Award (posthumously). This award is given by the American Library Association Government Documents Round Table to an individual who has made a lifetime and

significant contribution to the field of documents librarianship. The Award is based on stature, service, and publication which may be in any or all areas of documents librarianship. Karen was Government Documents Librarian at UA-Little Rock from 1996-2017. The Award will be given at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA.

announce the hire of a new Assistant Director, Donovan Mays. Mr. Mays has a background in Arkansas libraries, most recently as Coordinator of Technology Support at the Arkansas State Library. Stuttgart Public Library Director Anna Bates and her staff look forward to working with Mr. Mays when he begins his Stuttgart tenure in January.

Bobbie Morgan is the new director of the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System. She started her job on Nov. 21st. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Morgan has worked in libraries since 1989. Her MLS is from the University of Washington.

A reminder to Arkansas librarians: please submit news items to me for the next *Arkansas Libraries* issue! Births, deaths, new hires, retirements, funding, new buildings, and news that affects Arkansas libraries would be perfect fits for this column. Just jot me an email at hhays@bentonville.com, and you'll most likely see it published in our journal.

The Stuttgart Public Library is pleased to

Arkansas Books & Authors Bibliography

*Compiled by Bob Razer, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
and Timothy G. Nutt, Historical Research Center, UAMS*

- *Armbrust, Roger. *Pressing Freedom*. Little Rock: Parkhurst Brothers, 2017. 9781624911255 \$22.95 240 p.
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***Arkansas Author**

Inclusion does not indicate recommendation

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Volume 74, 2017 Index.

Compiled by Joanna Ewing,

Library Faculty & Cataloger, Torreyson Library, UCA

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Virden, Rebecka, Lacy Wolfe, and Ashley Burris. ArLA Conference 2017: conference report. 3/4:24-29.

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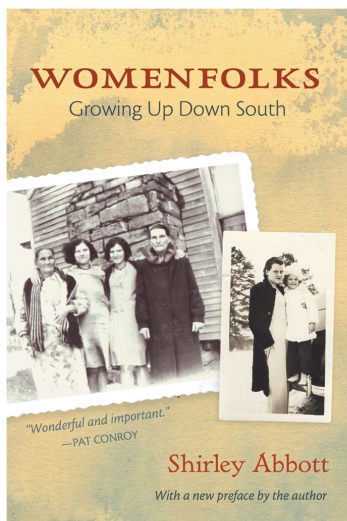


Redbuds in front of UA Fayetteville's Mullins Library. Submitted by Necia Parker-Gibson.



Frances Price home, 2010. Please see article on Page 4.

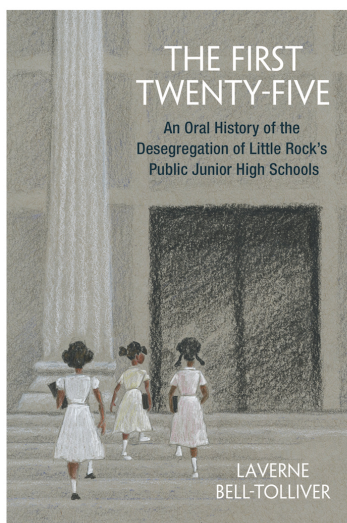
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Story Time at the Pope County Library. Please see more photographs on page 4.