

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

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FAULKNER COUNTY LIBRARY

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•
ARLA CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS

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LOVE FOR LESLIE



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Arkansas Library Association, 2014



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Arkansas Libraries

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FROM THE ARLA PRESIDENT: Ready to Serve

by *Devona Pendergrass, NBCT*
ArLA President

Finally, we are out of the deep freeze of winter in the northern part of the state. Having the opportunity to serve our Association as ArLA president has been a great experience for me personally.



Pendergrass

After having raised my children and earned my master's and national board certification twice, I finally feel I have the time and energy to serve as a volunteer in some of the organizations that have made such an impact on my career. Of course, one of those is the Arkansas Library Association. One of the things I love most about this group is our diversity. We have members from all areas of the state as well as all areas of librarianship, and I always learn something every time we get together.

The ArLA board and executive committee have been really busy this year. As soon as conference was over, we began preparations for our 2014 conference, which will be held October 5th through 7th in Hot Springs. The ArLA executive committee members have been meeting and working on the ArLA manual to update and streamline it so that our policies and procedures will be consistent and current.

The annual ArLA board retreat was held in Little Rock in February. During our two-day retreat the division, round table, and committee chairs worked to update their missions and duties for the ArLA manual. Those changes and suggestions will be voted on by the board at our April meeting.

One of my favorite duties as President of ArLA is the anticipation of representing ArLA at various events around the state. In May, I will attend and speak at the ALPS conference, and in July, the ArASL conference. I have attended this conference for many years, but I am excited to attend this time as ArLA President. In June I will attend the American Library Association conference. And in the blink of an eye, summer will be over, and it will be time for our annual conference. My year



as ArLA president has been fast-paced and will be over all too soon.

I would also like to remind everyone that Jud Copeland and his nominating committee are looking for candidates to serve ArLA. If you are interested, you can nominate a colleague by contacting Dr. Copeland at jcopeland@uca.edu. Offices open for nominations are Vice-President/President Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominees must be members of ArLA.

When I took office I promised the members I would work on increasing our membership and presence in the state, and my second goal was to update our procedures. With the help of my executive committee and board, we are well on our way to seeing those goals to fruition.

It has been a great pleasure and an honor to serve you as President. So far it has been an amazing journey, and I have had a great time. I know this will be one of the most memorable years in my career. Finally I would like to give a special thanks to Jamie, Trish, and Jud for going above and beyond their duties on the executive committee. They have spent countless hours driving to and attending sessions to finalize the manual changes for the board to approve. If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for the Association, don't hesitate to contact me.

Devona

Devona Pendergrass, the President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Librarian for Mountain Home High School Career Academies.

EDITORIAL WHIT: March Madness at the Library

by *Whitney Ivy*

Managing Editor

Recently, ArLA board members attended the annual retreat, and I am so glad that I was able to attend.

I was nervous about it because I was taking Lucy with me, but I should not have worried. Lucy definitely basked in lots of attention and was quite good throughout the meetings (gave me hope that she might be a future librarian). Not long ago, someone posted a query on our ArkLib listserv and within that post mentioned that we (ArLA) behaved like a family—I couldn't agree more. I cannot say enough good things about our organization or the people in it. At the retreat, we worked on updating our policy manual—sounds extremely tedious, but Devona actually made it enjoyable.

We also learned from Jud that he is working closely with the ALA office in Chicago to obtain an



Ivy

ALA accredited MLS program at UCA in Conway. The program will have an initial focus on Children and Young Adult Services. This news is super exciting, and we cannot wait to hear more about it!

My library is in the middle of “March Madness in the Library.” I saw the idea on Pinterest and ran with it. I used our circulation statistics to determine the 32 most circulated books; then I made ballots and distributed them to the English teachers, so every student had the opportunity to vote for the “Sweet Sixteen.” This week, students must come to the library to vote for the “Elite Eight.” Each week, students will be encouraged to come vote for their favorites until we have a champion. As students cast their ballots, they will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

In February, we had a “Blind Date with a Book” event—I first read about this promotion in an Arkansas Libraries article that Lacy Wolfe submitted. My students loved it, and it was so much fun! I hope that you will find something in this issue that will be useful to you.

Whitney

Whitney Ivy, Managing Editor of Arkansas Libraries, is the K-12 Librarian for the Blevins School District.



Kindergarten is tough on a little feller -- Whitney's son Grey naps in the library shelf after school. *Photo submitted by Whitney Ivy.*

From the ALA Emerging Leader

by *Lacy Wolfe*

Circulation/Reference Librarian, Ouachita Baptist University

I was privileged to represent Arkansas in the 2014 Emerging Leaders (EL) class at the American Library Association's Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia.

Our cohort gathered on Friday, Jan. 24, for an all-day workshop during which we learned about the components of the EL program, the ALA structure, leadership skills, and strategies for involvement in the various divisions, round tables, and chapters of ALA.

I met with my Emerging Leader group, a team of five academic and public librarians from around the U.S. Our task is to create a marketing and communication plan for the Learning Round Table. We will meet virtually from now until June to produce a plan with our final product being a poster presentation during the June ALA Annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Throughout Friday, we met with Maureen Sullivan, ALA Immediate Past President, Leslie Burger, ALA Past President, Barbara Stripling, ALA President, and Courtney Young, ALA President-Elect. These ALA leaders offered us words of advice on how to grow and become leaders within ALA. Following the workshop, the ELs were invited to a reception in the President's suite, providing us with further networking opportunities. The day ended with a gathering of ELs past and present at a Philadelphia institution, The Field House Sports Bar.

With the Emerging Leader workday behind me



Fresh produce. *Photo by Lacy Wolfe.*

on Saturday, I was able to take advantage of various conference activities. Saturday's highlight was the Arthur Curley lecture featuring Ishmael Beah. Beah's *A Long Way Gone* is a memoir of his life as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. His lecture was engaging, and I look forward to reading his newest work of fiction, *Radiance of Tomorrow*. I also participated in a focus group, a financial literacy forum, and attended an Executive Board/Membership info session. I wrapped up the day with a visit to the vendor's hall where I managed to pick up four boxes of books to ship home. Thankfully, a post office booth was available!

Sunday was my last full day in Philadelphia, and I began the morning with a "Kitchen Table" conversation about the pros/cons of ALA conferences. During a short break, I visited the Reading Terminal Market, a foodie's paradise, directly across from the conference center. I indulged in a latte and chocolate croissant before heading to a Leadership Development Seminar and a Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) new professionals' meeting. My conference wrapped up on Sunday night with the ArLA dinner at Bufad Wood Fired Pizza. It was a great opportunity to catch up with Arkansas colleagues over dinner.

Only a few state library associations sponsor an Emerging Leader, and Arkansas' participation in this is indicative of our commitment to stay abreast of topics and trends within the library world. I'm thrilled for this opportunity to represent ArLA! I look forward to presenting a final update on my EL experience at the annual ArLA conference.



Starting the day off right. *Photo by Lacy Wolfe.*

Arkansas Teen Book Awards Committee Announces Winners

by Linda Green

Programming Coordinator, Youth/Adult Services
Conway County Library

The Arkansas Teen Book Awards steering committee is pleased to announce the 2013 winning titles.

Currently in its fourth year, the award was created to encourage young adults to read for enjoyment; promote teacher, library and parent involvement in young adult literature programs; commend authors of young adult literature; and promote the use of libraries and media centers.

Each year teachers, librarians and young adults select books for the Level 1 and Level 2 reading lists which are distributed to teens each November. Students have 11 months to read books on the list. Teens then vote on their choices during Teen Read Week each October.

The Level 1 winner, chosen by seventh- through ninth-graders, is *What Happened to Goodbye* by Sarah Dessen, *Anya's Ghost* by Vera Brosgol and

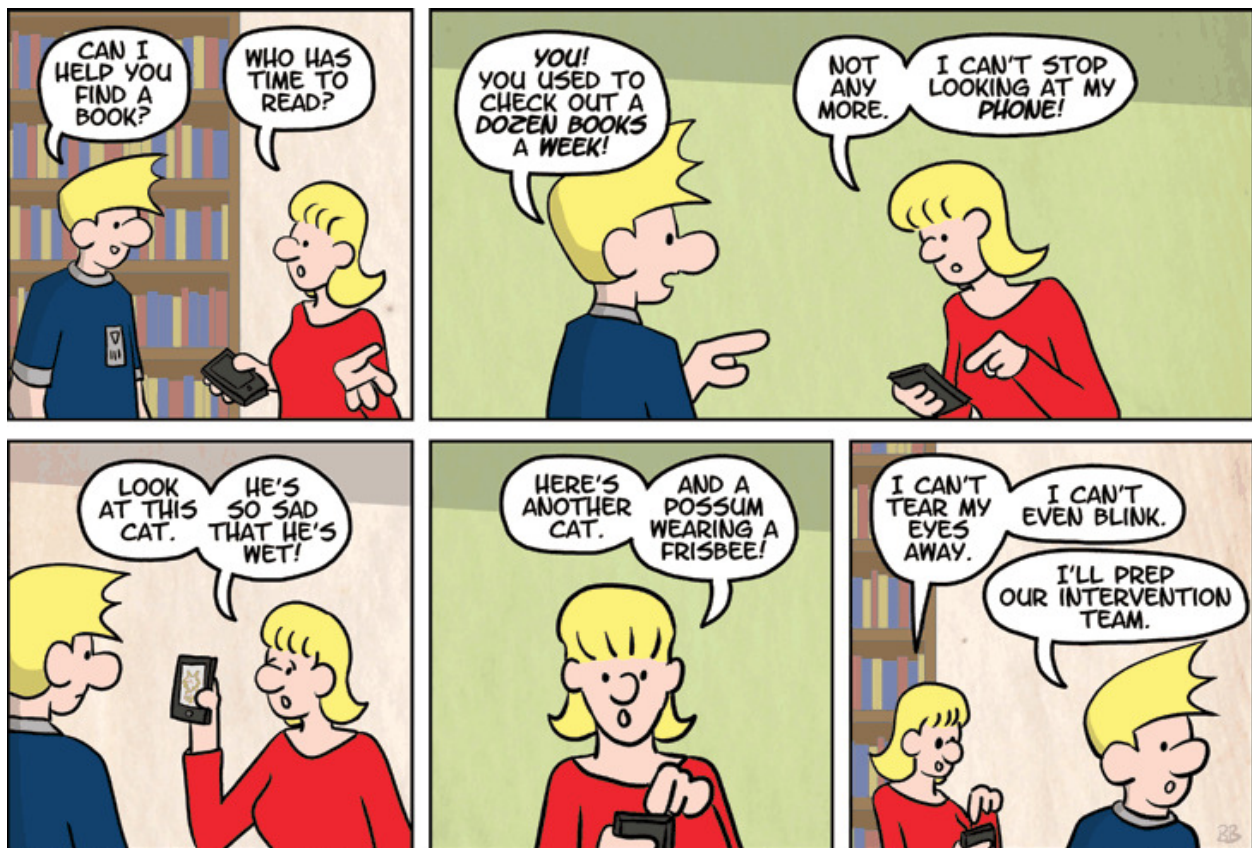
Girl of Fire and Thorns by Rae Carson were voted honorable mention.

The Level 2 winner, chosen by students in 10th through 12th grades, is *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, *How to Save a Life* by Sara Zarr and *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys were voted honorable mention.

Teachers and librarians wishing to nominate titles for the next reading list or volunteer as readers can email the steering committee at arteenbookaward@gmail.com. The group also has a Facebook page, Arkansas Teen Book Award, and a promotional wiki at arkansasteenaward.wikispaces.com.

The Award is sponsored each year by the Arkansas State Library. The Arkansas State Library provides the resources, services, and leadership necessary to meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of the citizens of Arkansas, and provides guidance and support for the development of local public libraries and library services. For more information on the library's services, visit www.library.arkansas.gov.

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ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT

2014 ALA Midwinter Meeting

by Hadi Dudley, Bentonville Public Library

In preparation for a January meeting in Philly, I gathered my warmest clothes, gloves and boots, plus a scarf and hat. Many flights were being delayed and canceled due to winter weather, so I was concerned about being snowed in.

As I traveled, I previewed reports for Council meetings, and I became concerned about a resolution on Snowden. My thoughts of potentially being snowed in flurried to Edward Snowden... this might be an interesting trip!

The 2014 American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter (MW) Meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA on January 24-28. A returning concept, the theme for MW is "The Conversation Starts Here...." and 8,407 registrants joined 3,800 exhibitors for a grand total of 12,207 attendees.

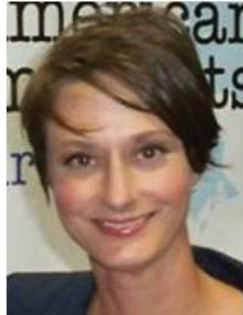
The Auditorium Speaker Series highlighted authors such as Wes Moore, Matthew Quick and David Baldacci while the President's Program featured Andrew Slack, co-founder and Director of the Harry Potter Alliance. Ishmael Beah, author of *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* and *Radiance of Tomorrow*, was a featured lecturer. The 2014 Youth Media Awards were announced and a complete list of winners can be found at www.ala.org/yma.

As the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Chapter Councilor, I attended ten different meetings, sessions and forums. Additionally, I participated in meetings for the Committee on Literacy and the Planning and Budget Assembly. I also carved out some time to see the Free Library of Philadelphia; plus I enjoyed tea and dinner with important people.

ALA Membership Information Session

During the ALA Council/Executive Board/ Membership Information Session on Saturday, we heard reports from ALA President Barbara Stripling, ALA President-Elect Courtney Young and ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels.

ALA President Stripling highlighted the progress of the Libraries Change Lives: Declaration for the Right to Libraries. She reflected that the document



Dudley

is not just a piece of paper to sign and place on the shelves, but rather a statement that empowers library staff to have conversations in many communities about the impact of libraries. Association news about the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was highlighted. More than \$7 million will support community engagement and advocacy to provide staff training in public libraries across the United States.

Stripling reported on plans for a national summit on the future of libraries, a partnership with the Library of Congress in early May. The event is entitled "Libraries From Now On: Imagining the Future" and is centered on five foundational statements which outline the changing and important role of all libraries in every community, plus collaboration opportunities to secure our libraries' futures.

Miss Barb also discussed the school library advocacy campaign, which will be a focus for the next six months at ALA. She stated, school libraries are an "essential piece of the library community that is threatened and ALA's emphasis is to shore up this piece of our library ecology." Pay attention to learn about forthcoming professional tools and strategies to "stem the closing of school libraries."

ALA President-Elect Courtney Young reported that her presidency will involve a concerted effort to "aid the progress of association driven initiatives and past presidential initiatives" related to her areas of interest: "diversity, career development, engagement and outreach." To impact those areas, Courtney plans to allocate budget funds to support career development for ALA members to be successful within our profession. A "career coaching" pilot project is being developed into an action plan, with more details to be announced.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels reported that an appropriation increase for library programs in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds was recently signed by President Barack Obama. A Senate version of the Strengthening America's School Act reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) will be reviewed by the House of Representatives in the near future. ESEA outlines requirements for an effective school library media program; it is key legislation to support the future of school libraries. Mr. Fiels also discussed two forthcoming membership initiatives: a targeted program to engage current membership in providing feedback to the association and a "Why ALA" campaign to garner new or renewing memberships.

The ALA Treasurer Mario Gonzalez presented his report to the group which consisted of “2013 audited financial results.” Here is a basic summary of ALA finances:

- Revenues such as dues, publishing, conferences, and other resources totaled \$50.2 million
- Expenses such as payroll, meetings and conferences, publications and other costs totaled \$50.7 million
- Total ALA assets equal \$75.3 million
- Total ALA liabilities equal \$44.6 million.

ALA elections for the incoming President-Elect, At-Large Councilors and other Divisional positions will be held March 19 through April 25. The two candidates running for President-Elect, Maggie Farrell and Sari Feldman, addressed the group at the conclusion of the Membership meeting. ALA members should watch for more election details at www.ala.org. Election results will be posted May 2.

Council I

At the ALA Council I meeting on Sunday, Executive Director Fiels reported on Executive Board actions since the 2013 annual conference. A one-time salary increase for 2% was provided for ALA staff. The two top administrators continue to personally absorb a 10% voluntary salary reduction to help offset the organization’s budget. Prior to the

midwinter meeting, the Executive Board approved a “Statement of Appropriate Conduct.” The document outlines existing ALA legal policies and was implemented at the MW meeting.

Fiels also reported about implementation of Council actions since the 2013 annual conference. With this MW meeting, ALA began executing decreased printing practices. The cost-saving procedure allows staff to work more efficiently. Best-practices for posting and accessing digital documents will be established within the next six months. Personally, I opted to go paperless for this meeting. Aside from a few “snafus” during this initial implementation (such as the ALA website crashing when the Youth Media Awards were announced!), I managed just fine.

The ALA Working Group on Libraries and Digital Content reported that all of the “Big Five” publishers are selling to libraries. While there has been good progress with eContent rights through ALA efforts, outstanding issues include high pricing, archiving, self-published authors, privacy and accessibility. The group is reviewing all of these factors, along with the scope of its work, to provide additional recommendations this summer.

The Council I session adjourned early. An ALA-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) meeting occurred at the conclusion of the Council I session.



Arkansas librarians Devona Pendergrass, Lacy Wolfe, Hadi Dudley, Sherry Tinerella and Kareen Turner catch up over dinner. *Photo submitted by Hadi Dudley.*

Council II

During the ALA Council II meeting on Monday, ALA President Barbara Stripling discussed the association's recent efforts to "re-imagine" itself, based on conversations with members. A strategic framework focusing on three initiatives has been created to "guide our Association as we re-conceptualize our focus, structure, operations and culture." The key focus areas are: "advocacy for the value of libraries and librarians; information policy; professional and leadership development." A secondary outline discussed various mechanisms to "create a 'welcoming, inclusive, engaged and supportive organization.'" Members should watch for more ALA programs that will provide opportunities to communicate your ideas to the association!

The FY2015 Programmatic Priorities were presented by the ALA Treasurer Gonzalez, and approved by Council, providing fiscal allocations to directly align with the strategic plan.

A "Resolution on Whistleblower Edward Snowden" was presented during Council II. The primary action of the document recognized Snowden as a "whistleblower" and appreciated him for performing a "valuable service in launching a dialogue about transparency, government surveillance, and overclassification." These statements, in themselves, can be interpreted as both truthful and benign. That said, when discussing Snowden with Arkansas members and other Councilors, the mere mention of his name elicits strong reactions; Snowden's actions are divisive.

I have been asked by many library professionals why ALA would take a public stance in this political debate. When I listened to others, including the group who brought forward the resolution, my focus began to shift to the ALA strategic initiatives. I wondered how Snowden really fit with our "advocacy for the value of libraries... and professional and leadership development." How does this resolution help us save our school libraries?

Not to discount the revelations Snowden's actions provided to our society, and with respect for the group who presented the resolution, I spoke against its passage on the Council floor. I stated that we should consider how passing this action would serve ALA's strategic goals, specifically "information policy" and "build(ing) a more robust public communication and public relations/marketing capacity." Many Councilors spoke up, both for and against the Snowden issue. The resolution required a standing vote, but it failed.

Council III

The ALA Council III meeting on Tuesday began with memorials, tributes and testimonials. The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) and the Committee on Legislation (COL) presented two joint resolutions. One document entitled "Resolution on Curbing Government Surveillance and Restoring Civil Liberties" outlined support for the USA FREEDOM Act reforms. The document for "Resolution on Expanding Federal Whistleblower Protections" urged for amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 to "expand existing legal protections ... to employees of all national security and intelligence agencies, and to non-federal employees working for civilian contractors."

The Committee on Legislation also presented a "Resolution on Maintaining Government Websites During a Government Shutdown." The significance of this document urges the US government to provide mechanisms to offer "continued access by the public to essential information on agency websites" during an event of government shutdown or other emergency by securing the "retention of paid personnel ... to assure access."

Council passed each of these resolutions, with discussion, debate and much consideration that document verbiage reflects ALA intentions. At this time, COL and IFC did not prepare a formal resolution regarding the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit ruling on Verizon v. FCC. However, ALA is already on record supporting net neutrality. President Stripling's statement on January 14, 2014 states, "ALA will work with policy-makers and explore every avenue possible to restore the long-standing principle of nondiscrimination to all forms of broadband access to the Internet." The COL and ALA Washington Office will continue to analyze the implications of the case in order to provide a prudent statement for ALA Council consideration this summer.

Council Forums

Two late-evening Council Forum meetings convened for councilors to informally discuss business. I find forums to be helpful in order to learn background information and points-of-view for various issues, policies and resolutions. I also attended a Council Reception to get to know my colleagues. Additionally, I participated in a Chapter Relations Forum on Monday afternoon; I was one of 40 attendees. It was a great meeting to network and meet other states' chapter councilors.

Time for Tea

While attending the ALA Midwinter meeting, I spared a few moments to attend the Gala Author Tea presented by United for Libraries and sponsored by Reference USA. A panel of six contemporary authors addressed the group: Sue Monk Kidd, Laura Lippman, Lisa Scottoline, Alice Greenway, Christina Henriquez and Gabrielle Zevin. Each author spoke eloquently about their love for libraries and appreciation for the people who provide library services. Their passion and support was just what I needed to recharge and forge ahead in anticipation of a late night Council Forum. Scottoline's remarks made me laugh out loud and shed a few tears, but mostly her words made me proud to be a librarian (she is my new idol!). Additionally, the authors' books were distributed and autographed. It was a lovely and enjoyable event and I highly recommend it to those who attend future ALA national meetings.

Arkansas Dinner in Philly

On Sunday evening, a small group of five Arkansans braved the cold conditions to gather for a visit and dinner. We enjoyed good conversation, delicious wood fired pizza and gourmet desserts at Bufad. I was certainly glad to get to know these ladies! In attendance were Devona Pendergrass, Lacy Wolfe, Hadi Dudley, Sherry Tinerella and Karen Turner.

Conclusion

The COL/IFC resolutions are considered political statements for ALA. Why did I vote in favor of these



The Free Library of Philadelphia (main branch) is a landmark institution. *Photo submitted by Hadi Dudley.*

documents, and not the Snowden resolution? Why does ALA tread this line with legislators? Honestly, last year -- I did not realize that I would be learning about, discussing and voting on such political issues. I'm halfway through my term now. Since working as the ArLA Chapter Councilor, I've come to realize that our institutions cannot live in a vacuum.

The American Library Association needs to go on record with government agencies to promote libraries and support our profession's core values. When we take a stand, we do so in a deliberate manner that will hopefully impact information policy and benefit our advocacy efforts with legislators. As I step back and look at the big picture, I believe that ALA should not shackle itself to a particular individual, but speak to key issues such as intellectual freedom, privacy rights and open access to government documents.

I will continue to learn more about these important matters throughout my term as your ArLA Chapter Councilor. Additionally, I will focus on the important issues – advocacy for all libraries, training and professional development for members and the viability of our national association. If you have questions or thoughts about ALA, please feel free to contact me at hdudley@bentonville.com.

Hadi Dudley, Library Director at Bentonville Public Library, is the Arkansas ALA Councilor.



Special collections and historical maps are valued resources at the Free Library of Philadelphia. *Photo submitted by Hadi Dudley.*

ASK THE STATE LIBRARIAN:

The ELMS Project: Educating Librarians in the Middle South – Diversifying Librarianship for our Digital Future

*by Guest Columnist Dr. Yvonne Chandler,
Department of Library and Information Sciences,
University of North Texas*

A new generation of Arkansas librarians began studying for the master's degree in Little Rock in January. There is a critical need in the Middle South region for the next generation of professional librarians equipped with specialized skills to handle information access and management.

Professional librarians and information managers play a central and important role in designing and providing access to resources, decreasing the digital divide, and improving the vitality of their communities, assisting learners, and engaging experiences to prepare people to be full participants in local communities and the global society. The program "Educating Librarians in the Middle South – Diversifying Librarianship for our Digital Future" (referred to as the "ELMS Project") will increase the number and diversity of librarians and information stewards in the rapidly changing library science and data management field for the Middle South. The University of North Texas College of Information – Department of Library and Information Sciences (UNT/DLIS), the University of North Texas University Libraries (UNT Libraries), and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library (UAMS) partnered to offer thirty scholarships for residents of the Middle South states of Arkansas and Tennessee.

Through the program, thirty students received scholarship funding of \$12,000 for training in 21st Century library skills with an emphasis on digital content management, enriched workshops, and professional association membership. These scholarships will cover approximately 70% of the tuition for the master's degree. Students will select a focus area for their curricula with one third completing the M.S. degree program with study in health information, one third in technology integration, and one third in library services for diverse work settings. All graduates will complete courses in digital curation and will earn the Graduate Academic Certificate in Digital Content

Management. Students will work closely together in a cohort setting through semester launch events with their professors, be mentored by a local librarian, and will attend workshops on digital libraries, curation, and preservation, topics taught by nationally recognized leaders in the field of digital information management. In two years, when these students have completed the educational program, the Middle South region (comprised of the states of Arkansas and western Tennessee) will gain qualified information professionals able to contribute to the development and improvement of libraries, educational programs, and community activities with skills in digital technology, curation, and preservation.

The ELMS Cohort – Recruiting a Diverse Group of Students

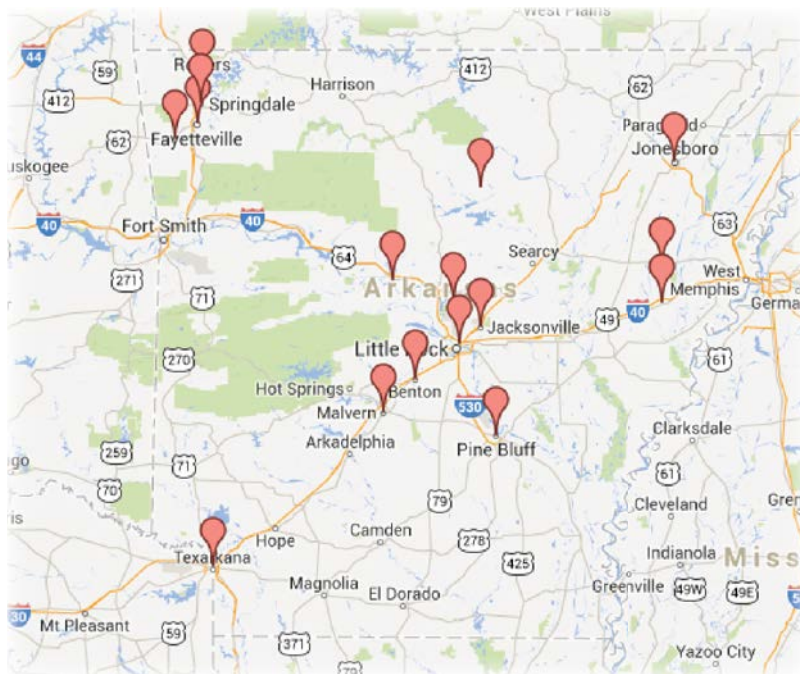
Recruiting for ELMS was designed to identify potential students and to inform employers about the program. Student recruitment activities were held in person, as well as using social networking and communication methods. A variety of methods were used to market the program including creating a website and Facebook page, exhibiting at professional association conferences (Arkansas Library Association, Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and the Arkansas School Library Association), virtual meetings using WIMBA, and information sessions held at libraries in both states. Recruiting information sessions were held on campuses of colleges and universities, at special libraries, and public libraries. A major effort was made to introduce the ELMS project to employees of health information and medical libraries since this is one of the concentrations to be offered in the program. Because a goal of the ELMS project was the enhancement of library education opportunities for diverse populations of the Middle South region, recruitment sessions were held at Historically Black Colleges and Universities located in Arkansas and Tennessee. Through these varied recruitment efforts, contact was made with more than 225 individuals that showed interest, emailed, met a recruiter at a conference, or attended a virtual or in-person information session.

The ELMS Cohort Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/untelms2014#>) and Website (<http://lis.unt.edu/apps/elms>) were both used to disseminate information about the project, the MLS program, the scholarship application process and directions, and to announce recruitment activities. These sites will continue to be used to disseminate cohort activities,

student accomplishments, and as a method for communication by the cohort members. “Like” the ELMS Facebook page to see information about the Cohort program.

A total of 47 students are enrolled in the ELMS Cohort and began the master’s degree program. A goal of the ELMS Project was to recruit and educate a diverse group of master’s degree students from both rural and urban communities and from underrepresented populations. Among the total of 47 students, the cohort is very diverse with 18 students from underrepresented populations in librarianship comprised of 17 African-Americans and one student who is a native of the Philippines. Among the Cohort, 30 students were selected to receive IMLS-funded scholarships, and 17 other students were admitted to the program and are self-funding their tuition. The ELMS Cohort includes 38 Arkansas residents and nine students from Tennessee. The Arkansas group includes representatives of public, academic, school, and special libraries from all regions of the state.

Twenty-one Arkansans were selected as one of the 30 recipients of the ELMS scholarship. In addition to the \$12,000 in scholarship funds for their tuition and fees, the ELMS Scholars will get other benefits including an assigned mentor to assist them as they are matriculating through the master’s degree program, professional association dues for two years, and enrichment activities concerning digital libraries, curation, and preservation. Below is a map identifying the coverage of students across the state.



Collaboration

The ELMS project is made possible by a \$498,363 grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians Program. The program supports efforts to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and the faculty who will prepare them for careers in library science. Since the program’s inception, IMLS has awarded 369 LB21 grants totaling \$198,999,539 for library and information science (LIS) education, professional development of library staff, research, and institutional capacity building.

The project is being directed by Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler, Associate Professor in the University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Sciences. This unique blended program has proven to be a successful and sustainable approach to cohort-based learning in rural and urban locations including the Rio Grande area of Texas and New Mexico, Houston, nine other states (Nevada, Utah, Georgia, Virginia, California, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana), and the Pacific Islands.

The three partners in the ELMS project – University of North Texas – Department of Library and Information Sciences (UNT/DLIS), University of North Texas Libraries (UNT), and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) collaborated to plan, design and implement the curriculum, develop a marketing plan, recruit students, and deliver the program. Representatives from all three partners will be developing and

participating in the programming for the enrichment and professional development activities as well as other experiences in digital curation and preservation that will be presented to the cohort.

Web Institute – Enhanced Blended Learning Curriculum for the ELMS Cohort

The ELMS Cohort students officially began matriculation in the master’s degree program at the Web Institute that was held in Little Rock, Arkansas, in January. The UNT/DLIS master’s degree program established a satellite base on the campus of the grant partner, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Library in Little Rock. All of the blended weekends of learning

and socializing for the students, called the Web Institute, will be held on the UAMS campus. During the Web Institute weekend, the UNT professors, teaching assistants, administrators, and the project team joined the ELMS students for a variety of classes and learning sessions. The ELMS students were introduced to the core courses, the class communication system, and the Blackboard LEARN course instruction platform. The remainder of the coursework will be completed through fully online or blended classes that will include either synchronous or asynchronous methods for course delivery. The Institute weekend enables the professors and students to meet, interact, and establish connections to one another prior to beginning the web-based distance learning portions of the coursework.

The ELMS Institute included an array of enrichment activities and coursework geared toward cultivating library leaders in the 21st Century. The kickoff of the Web Institute was a luncheon with Arkansas State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, who welcomed the Cohort to the study of librarianship and the profession. As part of the on-site instruction, the classes included guest speakers and a panel of respected information professionals. Mary Ryan, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Director of the UAMS Library, gave a challenging presentation to the cohort. A former President of the Medical Library Association, Ms. Ryan spoke on “A Leader’s Perspective on Library and Information Sciences.” A special treat for the Institute was a talk by Terri Garner, Director of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library. She gave an energetic and enlightening talk about, “Information Use and

Management at a Presidential Library.” On the last day of the Institute, the professors invited a panel of professional librarians to speak about “Providing Information Services in Diverse Information Environments.” Even after four days of instruction and hands-on assignments, the students were excited by the panel of speakers that included Carol Coffey, Head of Library Resources and Digital Services, Central Arkansas Library System; Jon Goodell, Reference & Outreach Librarian, UAMS Library; Christina Thompson Shutt, College Archivist & Public Services Librarian, Olin C. Bailey Library, Hendrix College; Christy Ray, Library Media Specialist, Horace Mann Arts & Science Magnet Middle School, Little Rock School District; and Jeffery Woodmansee, Asst. Professor of Law Librarianship, Research Support & Reference Librarian, University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law Library and University of North Texas alumnus.

The enrichment activities at the second Web Institute, to be held at the end of May, will focus on digital libraries and curation. Dr. Martin Halbert, Dean of Libraries at the University of North Texas and other speakers will present a one-day workshop on this topic. Through two other webinars, students will gain training in the emerging field of digital curation and digital preservation, including planning and policy creation, preservation metadata, preservation standards, and preservation tools, systems, and services through classes, workshops, and webinars. As part of this training, each student will be required to establish a relationship with a local institution to assist them in producing a digital preservation plan, thus providing the student with the opportunity to deeply engage with real-world scenarios while also providing much-needed expertise and guidance to regional institutions.

The ELMS Cohort is a complete success. Both faculty members and students are looking forward to all of the experiences and activities that will be coming. The demand for well-trained library professionals firmly grounded in librarianship and well versed in digital services will continue to increase. The ELMS program will cultivate a pool of new, digitally knowledgeable library professionals who are well prepared to serve in both rural and urban library settings, who have adopted a culture of collaboration and cooperation, who will reflect the diversity of their future constituents, and who will be fully prepared to meet the specific, projected demands for the Middle South’s future library workforce.



Love for Leslie

by *Diane Holwick*

Assistant Library Director, Fort Smith Public Library

Jennifer Goodson, Director of the Fort Smith Public Library, stated that the loss of Library Assistant Leslie Creekmore was the hardest thing she ever had to face in her professional life.

Leslie, who was just 29-years-old when she passed away, had worked at the Fort Smith Public Library for more than 11 years. Her library career began in the Circulation Department, before she found her true calling – working with teens in the Youth Services Department. In an interview with Fort Smith’s paper, the *Times Record*, Youth Services Librarian Robin Benham Kelly stated “Her gift really was with teenagers.” Robin noted that Leslie was “very intuitive about knowing what kids wanted to read, and spent a lot of time researching and reading blogs and book reviews” to help build the young adult book collection. Leslie developed innovative programs for teens, including the Teen & Tween Book Lover’s Club; she also started a library blog for young adult readers. A lot of people find teens difficult to work with, but nothing seemed to rattle Leslie. She was known in the department as “The Statue of Liberty,” because she welcomed everyone without judgment.

Leslie was admitted to Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith on January 11, 2014, with a fever and shortness of breath and was diagnosed as having contracted the H1N1 strain of the flu virus. As her condition worsened, she was transferred to the hospital’s ICU,



“Our library staff member Leslie Creekmore lost her battle with complications of the H1N1 flu virus this morning. Leslie joined the library staff when she was still a teenager and had worked at the library over 11 years. Leslie loved the library, her co-workers, books, and our library customers, especially our teens. We loved her too and will miss her terribly.”



– Fort Smith Public Library, Facebook post, February 10, 2014

and then flown to Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where her medical team worked tirelessly to save her and her unborn child. Thoughts and prayers were shared by family and friends across the country, with more than 6,000 people coming together in the Facebook Group Love for Leslie. Leslie left us early on Monday morning, February 10th. She is survived by her husband Chris, her parents, Dennis and Debra McHugh, a sister, Mandy McHugh, and grandparents Arman and Helen McHugh, and Charles Jeffrey.

Those interested in making a contribution towards defraying medical costs can go to loveforleslie.com, a website started by supporters of the Creekmores. As Leslie’s husband, Chris, comments on the website, “I sincerely and wholeheartedly want to thank every one of you for caring and especially for supporting my mission to get people to vaccinate so fewer lives might be cut short.”

The employees at the Fort Smith Public Library, and especially the Youth Services Department, are a close-knit family. Leslie’s coworkers looked to her as an example of leadership; she was also a wellspring of great ideas. She lit up the library with her smile. “When you work in a public place, there are all kinds of people who walk in the door,” Robin said. “Leslie took everything in stride, and treated everybody with a measure of grace.”

As Director Jennifer Goodson noted in the Facebook post “We loved her too and will miss her terribly.” And indeed we do.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: Portrait of a Website: Elementary Librarian

by *Ashley J. Cooksey*, West Magnet Elementary

Once in a while, we stumble across a website with so much great information, tips, and resources that we never want to leave that happy virtual bubble. ElementaryLibrarian.com is one such website.

Jocelyn Sams, a school librarian at Cold Hill Elementary in London, Kentucky, began her website, ElementaryLibrarian.com, in the summer of 2012. The website came about after Jocelyn began to develop lesson plans that align the Common Core State Standards and the American Association of School Libraries standards.

While writing lesson plans during her time off, she decided to start ElementaryLibrarian.com as a means to share her wealth of information, lesson plans, and ideas with librarians across the country and around the world.

Jocelyn says that “the site took off from the very beginning. I was shocked that so many people were interested in my blog posts and my library resources.”

Podcasts were added to the site in 2013 and have become a favorite part of the site for Jocelyn and



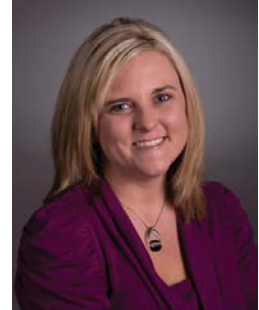
Cooksey

listeners, alike. I, personally, follow the podcasts through iTunes so that I am informed when new ones are posted. Most run around 30 minutes, so I can listen on my lunch break.

What is so amazing about the podcasts is that Jocelyn brings in librarians across the country to share their ideas and lessons! As school librarians, we often do not have face-to-face collaboration (such as running across the hallway with a question for a fellow teacher) or a platform for discussion of best practices in school library settings.

I find ElementaryLibrarian.com's information and resources invaluable. As part of our TESS training and evaluation system, we are charged with the task of demonstrating a knowledge of current trends in library media practice, information technology, and literature. What better way to do that than through collaboration and listening to a discussion among peers from around the world?

If you have never visited Jocelyn's website, I suggest you do so. Jocelyn hopes by utilizing her website “that school librarians will use time saved creating lesson plans to do their most important job – foster a love of reading in students.”



Sams



Ashley Cooksey is Library Media Specialist with West Magnet Elementary in Batesville. She has one children's book published titled My Mom is a Super Hero.



Author Alexandria LaFaye stopped in a Magnet Cove Elementary School to facilitate a research project. See the article on the following page for details. *Photos submitted by Phyllis Hunt.*

Author Makes Research *Worthwhile*

by *Phyllis Hunt*

Library Media Specialist, Magnet Cove Elementary

Students in fifth and sixth grades at Magnet Cove Elementary School (located just outside of Malvern) participated in a research project facilitated by author Alexandria LaFaye. LaFaye is the author of many books including *Worth*, which won the Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award.

In *Worth*, LaFaye weaves a tale of the grueling hardships of day-to-day farm life in the 1870s as told through the viewpoint of the son who experiences rejection when a boy from the Orphan Train is brought into his home to help with chores. Students worked in pairs on iPads while LaFaye used her real life experience as a researcher to model the inquiry and search process. Sixth-grader Brittney Asbury said, "One thing I learned is that you need to ask questions from other people's point of view."

When exploring historical accuracy, students were taught to rely heavily on primary sources and triangulation. Sixth-grader Rachel Shanlever learned this is important because, "the story changes every time someone tells it." Students had the opportunity to study photographs, letters, and newspaper articles from the late 19th century. They built on their existing skills to find and use primary sources of their own.

Regarding bias, LaFaye cautioned students to look for what is "missing" from these sources and to ask why the author(s) presented the information given in the format that is used. Sixth-grader



Addyson Williams summed it up by commenting that she learned, "there is always more than meets the eye . . . when writing, you need to get *all* the facts—not just bits and pieces."

This was an invaluable learning experience, and the students were engaged the entire two hours. The students also gained research skills they will be able to apply across the curriculum throughout their education. They also had the opportunity to discuss how research can be implemented in the process approach to writing, which requires extensive revision.

Ms. LaFaye is an engaging speaker who offers academic, creative, and character building skills to her audience. As a child, Ms. LaFaye struggled with dyslexia and bullying, so she can serve as a role model to students who are struggling with similar issues. Teachers also found her advice useful and learned new ways to integrate research skills into their literacy units. Ms. LaFaye can offer presentations on a multitude of subjects to students of all ages and teachers. She can be reached at a@alafaye.com, on Facebook at her A. LaFaye page, and through her website at www.alafaye.com. We are so glad that we got to experience her expertise at Magnet Cove Elementary.



Author Alexandria LaFaye fields questions from students. *Photo submitted by Phyllis Hunt.*

ArLA Calling for Nominations

Attention ArLA Members:

At this year's Annual Conference we will elect two officers for the ArLA Board who will begin serving in 2015. They are:

- Vice President-President Elect/President/Immediate Past President (3 year commitment)
- Secretary/Treasurer (2 year term).

We are seeking dedicated and enthusiastic members to serve as Officers in these important Board positions. Consent of all nominees shall be secured prior to nomination. Nominees must be a current member of the Arkansas Library Association. ONLY current ArLA Members may make nominations or vote in the election.

The Board Descriptions and Nomination Form follow.

Thank you,

Jud Copeland

ARLA Vice President 2014

<i>Arkansas Library Association Manual</i>
Chapter 3: Duties of Officers

Duties of the Vice-President/President-Elect

1. Act for the President during his/her absence.
2. Maintain contact with the Association's Committees, serving as the liaison between the Committees and the Executive Board.
3. Act as President if the elected President is unable to serve or resigns.
4. Become President for the term of office immediately following expiration of the term as Vice-President/President-Elect.
5. Serve as chair of the Nominating Committee.
6. Submit the report of the Nominating Committee to the editor of *Arkansas Libraries*.
7. Direct and oversee elections:
 - ✓ provide ballots in member packets at the annual conference
 - ✓ appoint tellers to assist in conducting elections and counting votes
 - ✓ provide absentee balloting procedures
 - ✓ announce results of the election
8. Serve on the Executive Committee.

Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer

1. Serve on the Executive Committee.
2. Keep a record of the proceedings of the Association and the Executive Board.
3. Prepare minutes of Association meetings, Executive Board meetings, and Executive Committee meetings.
4. File a copy of all minutes, including officer and committee reports and any other material distributed at the annual meeting, with the archivist.
5. Submit an approved copy of the Executive Board minutes to the webmaster for posting on the website.
6. Keep the ArLA Manual revised.
7. Send final draft of a revision for ArLA Manual to Executive Administrator.
8. Assume responsibility for all Association money.
9. Serve as chairman of the Finance Committee.
10. Advise Executive Board on Association related financial matters.
11. In cooperation with the Executive Administrator review financial records and give a financial report at the Executive Board meeting.
12. Present an annual report to date at the annual business meeting.
13. Prepare a Conference income statement.
14. Prepare an annual report in narrative form.
15. In cooperation with the Executive Administrator, maintain accurate and current financial records of the Association and present financial records to accountant for audit/preparation of tax return at the end of each year.
16. Pay all bills in absence of the Executive Administrator

Arkansas Library Association
2015 Board Nominations

Vice President/President Elect (3 Year Term)

_____ Nominated by: _____
(Nomination)

Secretary/Treasurer (2 year term)

_____ Nominated by: _____
(Nomination)

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:

Deadline for nominations will be July 7, 2014. Mail-in nominations must be received by the Executive Administrator no later than 30 days before the annual meeting which will be September 5, 2014. A request for an Absentee Ballot may be made to the ArLA office. Consent of all nominees shall be secured prior to nomination. Nominees must be a current member of the Arkansas Library Association. **ONLY current ArLA Members may make nominations or vote in the election.**

If an absentee ballot is needed, please contact our office.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by September 26, 2014 to:

ArLA – Executive Administrator
PO Box 958
Benton, AR 72018

Email to:

arlib2@sbcglobal.net or fax to: [501-778-4014](tel:501-778-4014)

TRAINING: TIPS, TOPICS AND TECHNIQUES

Best Practices for Training Fellow Library Professionals

by *Joanna Ewing and Chrissy Karafit,*
University of Central Arkansas, Torreyson Library

As library professionals, we have all attended a variety of training sessions, either in the workplace, at a conference or online. Some sessions are well-organized and informational, and some may leave attendees feeling more confused than when they started.

In reflecting on these training experiences, both positive and negative, we have developed a list of best practices for library professionals who wish to offer training, either to coworkers in the workplace or to fellow professionals in a wider venue. These basic guidelines can apply to both in-person and online training situations, regardless of the instructional topic.

Save the surprises -- Clearly define your presentation's goals

Surprises can be a good thing, but not so much in a training situation where the participants typically like to know what to expect before they begin. Let them know in the initial session description if your presentation is aimed at those new to or very experienced with a particular topic. You may also want to mention if you will be discussing theoretical concepts or hands-on exercises, as well as provide a basic outline of the information to be covered and your goals for the session.

Follow the Boy Scouts' example -- Be prepared

We've all been in training sessions where everything is running smoothly until the planned PowerPoint presentation won't run correctly or the Internet connection gets dropped. It is always a good idea to prepare for such situations by arriving early to your presentation location and checking any technology you may be using for your session (such as laptops/computers, Internet connection, and any audiovisual equipment, including microphones). Be sure to have several possible ways to access your PowerPoint presentations and other electronic documents, such as flash drives, email, and paper copies for both you and your session's participants, in case of technological issues. Also, check ahead of time to make sure that your presentation is compatible with the presentation software available at your session site (i.e., will the laptop in your session's room run the Keynote presentation you created on your Mac?).

Your audience's time is valuable -- Don't waste it

Chances are that regardless of your training session's format, whether it be a conference presentation, webinar, or an extended professional development course, your participants are going to be busy fellow professionals who are going to want the most "bang for their buck (and time)." You can help make the best use of your session's time by 1) choosing a presentation style that you are comfortable with and will allow it to progress at a comfortable pace, 2) limiting the amount of information on your PowerPoint slides to just the key points (otherwise why should they sit through the whole session when they could just read the slides on their own time?), 3) not overwhelming your participants with unnecessary handouts or "busy work" activities just to fill up time, 4) allowing enough time to cover adequately the information that you believe is most important.

Be flexible -- Teach to your audience

It is always a good idea to adapt a presentation to the needs of its audience, and this can be accomplished in a number of ways. If you are able to find out who will be participating in your session ahead of time (such as a webinar or other session that requires pre-registration), you could send out a short survey to determine the participants' familiarity with the subject matter to be covered. In the case of a "drop-in" conference session, you could ask the audience (either verbally or using a polling software like Poll Everywhere) a couple of preliminary questions to gauge their knowledge. Depending on the level of audience expertise, you may want to limit your use of jargon or unfamiliar terminology, or at least provide definitions or explanations if needed. Encourage the participants to ask questions, and let them know that "no question is a dumb question" (just like you would at the reference desk!). If you are covering a technical topic, such as a piece of software, it might also be helpful to refer participants to additional sources of information for future reference. Finally, don't be afraid to adjust your lesson plans if the training participants have a lot of questions and difficulty with a preliminary topic. Though you may have planned to cover more ground, often learning cannot progress until the root concepts are mastered.

Sense and sensibility -- Remember that everyone processes information differently

Be aware that your training participants may have a wide variety of learning styles, such as auditory, visual, or kinesthetic. Some people process information best through concrete experience, and

others do so through abstract thinking, observation, or experimentation. Visual aids and mnemonic devices can help trainees to grasp and retain information. People often forget information that is only heard (it goes “in one ear and out the other”), but information that is both seen and heard tends to be remembered longer. Be mindful of how technical or complex your topic is, and use diagrams, screen shots, and lists of key terms to visually reinforce your verbal explanation. The more senses you can engage in the training process, the stronger information retention will be. If the training involves developing a skill or teaches how to use a software application or database, provide trainees with hands-on access to the technology or software needed. You may wish to provide exercises for practicing newly acquired skills; if time permits, considering scheduling practice time during the training session so that you can answer questions and troubleshoot problems. This may mean that the training should be conducted in a computer lab, or that trainees should be requested to bring laptops or tablets. Active learning, or learning by doing, creates a practical and tactile dimension to the learning process and further improves comprehension and retention of material.

Don't be a stranger - Follow up

In order to maximize trainees' opportunity to review and use the training content, provide access

to supporting resources beyond the training session whenever possible. You might consider posting your PowerPoint presentation on SlideShare.net so that trainees can refer back to it. It may also be helpful to provide a list of sources cited or helpful websites, which could be distributed as a handout or by email, or posted on your professional blog where trainees could access it. If you provide links to supplementary online resources, first check that all links are functional. To extend learning beyond the training session, encourage trainees to discuss relevant topics through use of wikis, discussion boards, blogs, etc. If providing contact information, make sure it is a phone number or email address that you frequently check. Providing avenues for follow-up will help trainees to resolve problems and questions that arise later and help them to get the most benefit from the training experience.

We hope these tips are helpful to you, whether you are new to the instructional arena or you are looking for ways to refresh and strengthen your training skills.

Joanna Ewing is a Cataloger at University of Central Arkansas' Torreyson Library and Chrissy Karafit is the Serials Librarian at that library.



Here's a milestone -- the last LIBM 6332 Cataloging & Classification class to actually meet on the University of Central Arkansas campus. The classes had met for six Saturdays during each regular semester, but are now all online. *Photo submitted by Jud Copeland.*

THE FACE OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIES: Meet Southeast Arkansas Regional Library

by *Judy Calhoun*, Southeast Arkansas Regional Library

This piece was not the intended article for this issue but, as many of you are aware, my library life is in a mayhem moment. So with a deadline looming near, I decided to introduce readers to something that has always been a part of my life, the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library.



Calhoun

As a youngster I had library cards at two Dumas branches and the Monticello Branch. During the summer, the best days were when the bookmobile made its monthly stop at our house. Ms. Bailey, the traveling librarian, would always bend the rules and let me check out 30 books. One for each day until the bookmobile returned. So come with me and let me tell you about my library system.

Our History

Long before the wonders of the internet and ebooks existed, the foundation of today's library

was established in 1902 by a group of devoted women who made it their mission to create a library in Monticello. The local Sorosis Club started its library with twenty-four books that were donated by members. The responsibility of being librarian rotated among the members as well as the collection of books.



By 1931, it soon became difficult to transport the material to its next location, and the process began to establish a fixed place. Over the years, the Sorosis Club endeavored to raise money for the library to provide a larger and permanent home. Candy and bake sales, ice cream dinners, and many other events were used to raise money. The most unusual fundraiser was the development and sale of a *Rest Room and Library Cookbook*. The title alone is enough to raise eyebrows. But it seems these women were not only concerned with enhancing their library but also improving the lives of their community by raising money to establish a public restroom in a convenient downtown area. A copy of the book sits in the Director's office on a bamboo shelf that was used in the first library.

The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library (SEARL), serving Drew, Desha, and Lincoln



SOUTHEAST ARK. REGIONAL
First Bookmobile 1959

counties, was established in 1947, thereby becoming eligible for a regional library grant from the State Library Commission. To qualify for this aid, each county had to agree to maintain service at its present level and, in addition, to contribute \$500 to the operating costs of the Regional Library. The Monticello Branch was chosen as headquarters for the Regional Library. During the first six weeks of operation, approximately 7,500 books had been processed for the Regional Library and were ready for circulation, and over 2,000 more were on order or waiting to be processed.

In addition to the issues of building a collection and housing it appropriately, there was the problem of making the collection accessible to potential patrons, particularly in the rural areas. To this end, an important aspect of library services was the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library bookmobile, which began operation in late 1947 with a Ford panel truck converted for the purpose. The partnership between the counties enabled member libraries to take advantage of practical economics such as bulk purchasing and centralized record-keeping, ordering and processing materials. Staff development, hiring, budgeting, fund-raising, and other administrative tasks developed around a Regional Board and Librarian (later Director) centrally located in Monticello, which provided a more reliable source of professional guidance and oversight. Bradley County, with its two branches in Warren and Hermitage, joined in 1984. In 1995 Chicot County rejoined the system, adding the Lake Village, Eudora, and Dermott branches, bringing the total number of libraries to fifteen.

From its headquarters in Monticello, the earliest bookmobile served schools and branch libraries in Lincoln, Drew, and Desha counties on a six-week rotation. In 1957, a custom-designed book truck with an interior tall enough to stand up in was acquired to replace the panel truck. At the cost of \$3,685,

this vehicle had angled shelves to hold the books securely, boxes to hold 30 books so that they could be placed on the shelves and readily delivered to a single destination, and a capacity of 1,500 volumes. In 1963, the bookmobile at that time, stocked with 2,000 volumes, made 75 stops in four counties in the course of a month.

Southeast Today

Today SEARL is composed of five counties and nine branches. A shrinking budget, as well as declining library usage in some small branches, made it necessary to merge resources to better serve the populace. But we are growing in other ways. One benefit of a regional system is that the entire region's collection is available to all the citizens of the whole region. Thus, our smallest branch, which houses almost 5,000 books, can offer its patrons access to over 130,000 items. There is no charge for the sharing, and materials are generally delivered within a week by our van service. Large print books, DVDs, and audio books are circulated among the branches through our rotating collection system. Our outreach service also delivers a constantly-changing supply of large print books to twelve nursing homes and assisted living centers.

We have just completed our new 20,000 square-foot facility that will house the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library administrative offices, as well as the Monticello Branch library. Amenities in the new building will include meeting rooms, expanded access to computers, outdoor reading spaces and a children's garden. We are positive the new facility will be a dynamic community space for the residents of the Monticello area and the region. We hope you will come see us!

Judy Calhoun is the Regional Director of Southeast Arkansas Regional Library in Monticello.



Celebrating the American Dream @ Bentonville Public Library

by Sue Ann Pekel

Children's Librarian

Bentonville Public Library

Bentonville Public Library (BPL) is celebrating our growing, global community with the support of the American Dream Starts @ your library program.

Designed to provide literacy services for adult English language learners, the initiative helps public libraries in diverse communities provide new and expanded services. Funding is provided by the American Library Association (ALA), its Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS) and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. While this funding enhanced Bentonville Public Library's service to immigrants, the lessons learned from participating in the American Dream Program reached more than just one segment of our community. From the onset of our American Dream experience, Bentonville Public Library realized the importance of creating strategic partnerships.

The library's most recent American Dream literacy and education efforts expanded our partnership with the Bentonville Public Schools English as a Second Language Department (ESL). The ESL Department serves over 1,000 students whose families speak 49 languages from 39 different countries. The shared goal of the library and the schools is to bring these families into the public



Chinese Lion Dance by 5way Dragon. Photo submitted by Sue Ann Pekel.



library to become familiar with our many available resources. To achieve that goal, the partnership designed and implemented a series of Family Literacy Days themed on multicultural celebrations and presented programs at the library. These events featured diverse entertainment, provided an opportunity for families to obtain library cards, promoted usage of the library's literacy and bilingual world languages collections, demonstrated online library resources, and connected ESL families with the library and the Bentonville Public School staff. The Literacy Day celebrations were opportunities for family fun and community building.

The American Dream festivities began in February 2013 as over 250 people welcomed in the Year of the Snake at an event commemorating the Lunar New Year. Community members presented a traditional Chinese Lion Dance, a Snake Storytime, Chinese Zodiac Mask Craft and a special presentation of the Chinese folktale, The Mouse Bride, that tells the story of the Chinese zodiac. This year we will welcome in the Year of the Horse with the Lion Dance presented by students of 5Way Dragon's Martial Arts.

Black History Month was also a cause for



Dora visits family literacy day. Photo submitted by Sue Ann Pekel.

celebration in February 2013 with a special presentation by the Afrique Aya Dance Company. Dressed in traditional African garb this group of energetic dancers and drummers enthusiastically brought the music and culture of West Africa to Bentonville. Afrique Aya is supported by the Arkansas Arts Council, which provides financial assistance through grants. After the dance presentation, the Northwest Arkansas Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presented “storytime,” and we concluded the event with crafts led by Ebony Kids of Northwest Arkansas.

BPL and BPS ESL Department continued to engage our community in May as we presented “Dig Into Reading!” a Family Literacy Day that promoted the library’s summer reading programs for all ages. Al “Papa Rap” Lopez performed his bilingual hit songs that encourage cooperation despite language barriers. Teen volunteers provided demonstrations of Mango Languages, an online resource that offers courses in 39 foreign languages as well as 18 English as a second language courses. Nick Lai, BPL Foundation Board Member, read *The Giant Turnip*, adapted by Henrietta Barkow in Mandarin, while Bentonville High School drama students acted out the story. The Bentonville Street Department brought over several pieces of heavy equipment to complement the Dig Into Reading Theme. Hundreds of eager readers signed up for the summer reading program that day.

When students returned to school after a summer of reading, we kicked off the new academic year with “Many Cultures, One Community,” A Family Literacy Day. Storybook Strings, a local quartet, brought several favorite children’s books to life with theatrical readings accompanied by the violin, viola, cello and double bass. A special appearance



Black History Month Storytime with Delta Sigma Theta. *Photo submitted by Sue Ann Pekel.*

by Dora the Explorer attracted a record number of attendees for this event. We also learned the value of promoting American Dream events on social media sites such as our Bentonville Library Friends & Foundation Facebook and Twitter accounts. The attendance figure for this literacy day, 451 attendees, was a significant increase over our last event. We also experienced high levels of school participation with each Bentonville Public School setting up tables sporting literacy activities. The Literacy Council of Benton County, the Bentonville Library Foundation, and the University of Arkansas – Department of Diversity all provided information booths featuring services from each of these organizations. The Bentonville Public Library Teen Advisory Board recorded video interviews with community members who shared personal American Dream Experiences. Several of these interviews can be viewed on the library’s website. We also raffled donated “book bundles” using the raffle tickets as surveys to gather information on the library usage for grant reporting.

The American Dream grant also provided funding for collection development and marketing. The children’s department added over one hundred new books and DVDs that include citizenship materials, beginning reader books that focus on distinguishing letter sounds, and popular juvenile fiction titles in foreign languages. The teen services department used grant funding to create a young adult foreign language collection and high-low books. Teen Services Librarian Sarah Gowdy shared that a teen suggested the library purchase the Spanish version of *The Hunger Games* because his mother, who reads in Spanish, wanted to read the series. Adult collections benefited from the grant funding with additions of citizenship materials. To promote the American Dream Starts @ your library, library



Al “Papa Rap” Lopez. *Photo submitted by Sue Ann Pekel.*

book bags were printed with BPL and American Dream logos. These colorful blue bags were distributed at all our literacy celebrations.

This funding is the second time that Bentonville Public Library has received the support of the American Dream Starts @ your library program. In 2010, the library was awarded a grant that allowed expansion of its literacy and bilingual collections and enabled the library to host a United States Naturalization Ceremony. In conjunction with the 2010 grant, Library Director, Hadi Dudley, participated in panel discussions featuring “The American Dream Starts @ your library” at the American Library Association Conference in Washington, D.C. and the ProLiteracy Conference in Houston, Texas.

The American Dream initiative is currently in its third cycle of grant funding, thanks to the generosity of the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. ALA is committed to this important project and hopes

to offer future grant opportunities. Libraries are encouraged to check the Association’s website for grant news and utilize OLOS toolkits to implement grassroots projects in your own communities. The key to successful programs, regardless of funding, is trying something new and reaching out to other organizations for complementary partnerships.

The American Dream Starts @ your library program has been a year-long celebration at Bentonville Public Library. We are celebrating new partnerships and new patrons. With the support of the American Library Association and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the newest members of our community are accessing library services, materials and resources to realize their own American Dreams.

Sue Ann Pekel works as the Children’s Librarian at Bentonville Public Library. She received ArLA’s Ann Lightsey Children’s Librarian Award in 2012.

RECOMMENDED LINKS

Bentonville Public Library: <http://www.bentonvillelibrary.org/>

American Dream Starts @ your library: <http://www.americandreamtoolkit.org/>

American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org/>

Office for Literacy and Outreach Services: <http://www.ala.org/offices/olos>

Bentonville Public Schools’ English as a Second Language Department: <http://portal.bentonvillek12.org/ESL/SitePages/ESL.aspx> and <http://bentonvillek12.org/web/schools/school.asp?Id=140>

Afrique Aya Dance Company: <http://www.afriqueaya.org/>

Arkansas Arts Council: <http://www.arkansasarts.org/>

Northwest Arkansas Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority: <http://nwadst.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/NWAAADST>

Ebony Kids of Northwest Arkansas: <https://www.facebook.com/EbonyKids> and <http://ebonykidsnwa.blogspot.com/>

Al “Papa Rap” Lopez: <https://www.facebook.com/papa.rap.1> and <http://paparap.net/>

Bentonville Street Department: http://www.bentonvillear.com/street_main.html

Storybook Strings: <http://www.storybookstrings.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/storybookstrings>

Bentonville Library Friends & Foundation Facebook and <https://www.facebook.com/bplfriendsfoundation>

Bentonville Library Friends & Foundation Twitter: https://twitter.com/BPL_FOL_BLF

Literacy Council of Benton County: <http://goliteracy.org/>

Bentonville Library Foundation: <http://www.bentonvillelibraryfoundation.org/>

University of Arkansas – Department of Diversity: <http://diversity.uark.edu/> and <http://waltoncollege.uark.edu/diversity/>

Bentonville Public Library Teen Advisory Board: <http://www.bentonvillelibrary.org/teens/teen-advisory-board>

Arkansas Libraries 2013 Index

Arkansas Libraries.

Volume 70, 2013 Index.

Compiled by Joanna Ewing, Cataloguer, Torreyson Library, University of Central Arkansas

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WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Wordpress, Trends & More

by *Jon Goodell, UAMS Library, Little Rock*

At the annual conference in October, several members expressed interest in serving on the Web Committee. We are in the process of moving to WordPress and want your ideas about what you would like the website to provide. Some of the suggestions we have received include online staff development training, ways to network with other members, and a résumé review service. We will hold a virtual meeting soon, so if you are interested in participating please send an email to webmaster@arlib.org.

Website Updates

ALA Councilor Hadi Dudley has been working hard to promote the American Library Association President Barbara Stripling's "Declaration to the Right to Libraries" in Arkansas. The campaign is currently featured on the homepage of ArLib.org and was recently recognized by ALA as a "best practices" example for other states. Great work, Hadi!

Black History and Privacy Month

February was Black History month, a time to recognize the achievements and struggles

of black Americans. The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture has several insightful articles on black history and events. See www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

February was also privacy month. Keep your computer software updated, use strong passwords, and learn to recognize phishing attempts. See www.stopthinkconnect.org to learn more about data privacy for you and your library's users. Look for a future ArLA conference program on data privacy.

Educational Technology Trends

Have you seen the 2014 Horizon Report? Written by the New Media Consortium and EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative, the report explores technology trends and challenges in higher education. All libraries are places for higher education! Some of the trends include 3D printing, data-driven learning and assessment, and the low digital fluency of faculty. One in particular that stood out was a link to "The Case for a Campus Makerspace" (<http://hackeducation.com/2013/02/06/the-case-for-a-campus-makerspace/>). See the full report at nmc.org.

Please send updates to the arlib.org website to webmaster@arlib.org. If you have an Arkansas-based library related event or job relevant to the state-wide audience, please send those announcements too.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Become an ALA Emerging Leader

By Ashley Parker,

Library Director, Malvern-Hot Spring County Library

The American Library Association's Emerging Leader is a program that began as an initiative of Leslie Burger in 2007 and has since become a recurring annual ALA program.

Each year librarians new to the profession are selected from libraries across the country to participate in the Emerging Leader's program, which is designed to encourage, develop, and teach those who will be the future leaders of the American Library Association.

Many Emerging Leader participants have been chosen from Arkansas over the years, but only recently has the Arkansas Library Association taken on the role as an Emerging Leader Sponsor. The Arkansas Library Association firmly believes in the mission of the Emerging Leader's program and has not only become a sponsor of the program, but has created an Emerging Leader Selection Committee, comprised of past Emerging Leaders, whose purpose is to promote the Emerging Leader's program throughout the state and to select, encourage, and mentor Emerging Leader candidates.

The Emerging Leader Selection Committee would like to encourage all qualified applicants to apply for this amazing program. The application process normally opens in May and closes in August. All potential candidates are encouraged to contact the Committee for more information about the program. This year the Committee will choose the award recipient from Arkansas from the general application published by the American Library Association.

Requirements

- Worked in a library for fewer than five years (does NOT have to have an MLS).
- Be able to attend ALA Mid-Winter and ALA Annual.
- Be able to work on projects remotely in-between conferences.
- Be willing to serve on an ALA committee.
- Be a member of ALA and ArLA.
- Present a presentation or poster at ArLA immediately following their term as an Emerging Leader.
- Write an article or articles for ArLA's state journal, *Arkansas Libraries*, about the Emerging Leader experience.

Benefits

- Understand the inner workings of ALA.
- Meet important ALA officials and office holders.
- Receive preferential appointments to committees.
- \$1,000 sponsorship to both required conferences during the Emerging Leader term.
- Development of leadership characteristics.
- Develop relationships with other Emerging Leaders from around the country.
- Receive recognition at the ArLA conference following the Emerging Leader term.

The ArLA Emerging Leader Selection Committee is composed of Ashley Parker-Graves, Nicole Stroud, and Fallon Zschiegner-Bleich. Please contact any of us for more information!

Ashley Parker is the Library Director of Malvern-Hot Spring County Library.

Arkansas Books & Authors

Compiled by Bob Razer

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

The Billy Bob Tapes: A Cave Full of Ghosts.
Billy Bob Thornton and Kinky Friedman.

To say that Billy Bob Thornton's autobiography *The Billy Bob Tapes: A Cave Full of Ghosts* is quirky would be an apt description, though a bit of an understatement. The life journey of the Arkansas native from his childhood in the southwestern part of the state to Hollywood will not win a Pulitzer Prize, but it will keep readers entertained with tales as eccentric as its author. Anyone who has followed Billy

Bob's career – or read an article in a popular magazine – is familiar with his quirky personality, and it is easy to see how he became known as much for his quirks as his acting and movie directing talent (he did wear a vial of Angelina Jolie's blood around his neck during their marriage).

Thornton moved from small town to small town during his Arkansas childhood, mainly because his father had anger issues and frequently lost his job as a basketball coach and history teacher. Thornton's mother held some renown as a psychic. Not only did his parents shape his personality and influence the development of his movie characters, but so did

his extended family, and the neighbors he interacted with in Alpine, Hatfield, and the other Arkansas communities of his childhood. Thornton even admits that his most famous character, "Karl" from the movie *Sling Blade*, is somewhat inspired by many people he knew in Alpine.

Thornton's autobiography takes the readers from Arkansas to his rise in Hollywood as a respected actor and director to his music career, and, as with the years spent in Arkansas, he talks about the characters he has met during his acting and musical journey. The tone of the book is fairly informal. Imagine sitting on your front porch conversing with the town eccentric about his life, wondering whether what you are hearing actually happened or is a figment of a fertile imagination...that is the flavor of this book.

Thornton repeats some stories throughout the book, and some facts that could be easily checked are just wrong. One of these instances is the population of Hatfield, Arkansas—one of the small towns he lived in as a child. He cites the population of that southwestern Arkansas city around 1960 as 20,000. Actually, the population was a little over 300. Now, this might be Thornton taking some creative license and perhaps a town of 300+ felt like a town of 20,000 to a five-year-old, but it calls into question what else might be exaggerated. Despite this, the stories Thornton tells are never boring and often liberally laced with profanity.

The book is a fascinating look into the Hollywood scene, and there can be no doubt after reading his autobiography that Thornton has lived a raucous yet almost stereotypical life as he pursued his movie and music dreams. As with many actors, Thornton moved to Hollywood, worked at a less-than-perfect job, often went hungry, and met people who helped and influenced him, including Robert Duvall and Dwight Yoakam. Duvall and Yoakam contributed to the book with commentaries which testify to Thornton's creative spirit. Duvall, who starred in Thornton's movie *Jayne Mansfield's Car*, likens Billy Bob's directing abilities to those of Coppola and Altman.

Tom Epperson, Thornton's friend and frequent collaborator, also contributes commentary throughout the book. Epperson, also an Arkansas native, lived with Thornton during the lean years in Hollywood and suffered right along with him. All these commentaries add to the flavor of the book and make *The Billy Bob Tapes* even more interesting.

Other Arkansans make appearances in the book. Harry Thomason and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason gave what is considered, Thornton's big break: a small role on their television show *Evening Shade* which led to a bigger role in the Thomasons' show *Hearts Afire*. Later, Thornton made the jump to movies

— both writing, directing, and acting — including the aforementioned *Sling Blade*. Oftentimes, Thornton's movies are set in his home state of Arkansas.

Thornton's phobias are well-documented, and he is not shy about telling readers about them in this book. Some of his phobias are truly weird, and, quite possibly, he might be the only person with them. One of the more unusual ones is a phobia of British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, especially his hair. Disraeli died in 1881, so there is no chance that Thornton would run into him on the street, but Thornton is fearful of even seeing a photograph of or someone portraying the 19th century politician. That is not the only odd phobia that Thornton confesses to having.

In his chapter "Dead End Drive" he relates how antique chairs spook him, his "real live fear" of Komodo Dragons, how he cannot use real silverware to eat, and how certain phrases or terms ("tater tots") drive him bonkers. Even Thornton acknowledges that these might not be actual phobias, but they influenced his life to the extent that he felt the need to include them in his autobiography. Of all the interesting Billy Bob tidbits in this book, this chapter proved to be the mother lode of interesting tidbits.

Thornton now prefers to be known as a musician more so than an actor and his music features prominently in his autobiography. He has played in bands going back to his teenage years in Arkansas and admits that music has played a big part in his life. Song lyrics, written by Thornton, are sprinkled liberally throughout the book.

Despite its frenetic and chaotic narrative, *The Billy Bob Tapes* is easy to get caught up in, and it would be hard to imagine Billy Bob Thornton writing an autobiography any other way. I highly recommend this book for those interested in film history and for a "boy makes good" story. It is entertaining and pure Billy Bob Thornton. It is full of profanity as mentioned previously. Angelina Jolie, Thornton's ex-wife, writes in the foreword that she kept hearing Thornton being referred to as the "hillbilly Orson Welles" and then she saw *Sling Blade* and knew it to be true.

Thornton certainly is a creative person, as demonstrated by his movies, songs, and this autobiography. But after reading the book and Jolie's comments, I have a picture of Welles in *Sling Blade* uttering the line made famous by Thornton: "Some folks call it a Sling Blade, I call it a Kaiser Blade." Perhaps that is the sign of Thornton's true genius.

Tim Nutt

Nutt is head of Special Collections at UA, Fayetteville

The four books being reviewed here combine nicely as two duos. David Sesser's *The Little Rock*

Arsenal Crisis and W. Stuart Towns' *Arkansas Civil War Heritage: A Legacy of Honor* provide bookends to a Civil War study with Sesser looking at Arkansas events in the months preceding the Civil War and Towns looking at the war's legacy in the post-war years in the state, an influence that has lasted even to our contemporary times. The other books are two collections of poetry written by Arkansans: C.L. Bledsoe's *Riceland* and Justin Booth's *Trailer Park Troubadour*.

David Sesser, a librarian at Henderson, provides a much more detailed account of the events preceding the surrender of the Federal Arsenal in Little Rock (a building that is now the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History located in MacArthur Park) to state militia in February of 1861, an event that took place prior to Arkansas seceding from the United States and at a time prior to the firing on Ft. Sumter. Thus, the argument can be made that the Civil War actually began in Arkansas not South Carolina, but perhaps this is an "honor" best left to South Carolina.

The arsenal story is generally told in a few pages in Arkansas history books. Sesser writes a book about the event, granted a short one, but still a book. In a book-length treatment, Sesser is able to set the stage and describe the various actors more fully in the drama that would take place. He also provides much more information about the actions and the thinking of the arsenal's commander, Arkansas' own James Totten, to avoid armed conflict and civilian bloodshed.

Two conclusions stand out from reading Sesser's work. First, the situation was brought to crisis status due to the actions of Governor Henry Rector, who favored secession. Rector left the impression that while he wouldn't request secession sympathizers to come to Little Rock and seize the military post, he wouldn't discourage such action either. With such a position held by the state's governor, it was no surprise that men favoring secession traveled to the capitol city with the intent of taking control of the arsenal. Once these troops had arrived, Rector adopted the position that circumstances (armed militia in town) forced him to intervene and request the federal troops leave the post in order to prevent bloodshed.

Secondly, Captain James Totten, the commander of the small band of federal soldiers stationed at the arsenal, made valiant attempts to inform the government in Washington of the serious nature of the situation he faced and repeatedly requested orders as to what he was to do. Hearing nothing from those he requested guidance from, he made the decision to abandon the arsenal. His troops were badly outnumbered by the massed militias in town so defense by armed action would have been futile, but such action would have resulted in civilian deaths and provided a spark for war. Abandonment of the arsenal saved lives and perhaps avoided an armed

conflict between the United States and Arkansas. Totten well deserved the sword presented him by the ladies of Little Rock for the action he took to save lives.

Stuart Towns' book recounts through an Arkansas lens the national story of how various groups "saved" the Lost Cause version of the Civil War so that the "real" story could be taught to Southern school children in later years. It was a multi-pronged campaign involving memorial statuary, Decoration Day for Confederate cemeteries, and close attention to school history books (though Towns doesn't cover this aspect of the story). The chapter providing the most new material to readers familiar with the national story is Towns' lengthy account of all the Confederate monuments in the state (often accompanied by photographs).

Both of these books are publications of The History Press in Charleston, South Carolina. Many of you are probably familiar with the two series of books published by Arcadia Press of that city that deal with historic photographs or postcards of a local nature. Those series are visual works with very little text. The History Press appears to be affiliated with Arcadia and be serving as the "text" publisher for local history topics. As with Arcadia's material, History Press books are quality productions and reasonably priced. There are currently eighteen Arkansas books listed in The History Press catalog. All would be of interest to readers at your library.

C.L. Bledsoe's latest collection, *Riceland*, brings attention to a poet perhaps unknown to many librarians in the state. These seventy-some-odd poems show Bledsoe to be a writer to keep track of in the future. His poetry is firmly based in family and farm life in eastern Arkansas. The poem "Riceland" tells of sitting in trucks at the Riceland plant waiting to unload rice. Bledsoe's poems about his family will make them seem like people readers know or are at least familiar with. Good times and bad times are reflected in these poems as they describe living in Arkansas and being a kid raised in the state. This is a book not to be missed.

Justin Booth writes about hard times as well in *Trailer Park Troubadour*, real hard times since Booth "has survived multiple marriages, bad women, and several trips to prison." Not to mention the five years of homelessness, sleeping on the streets of Little Rock, and his drug addiction. Seldom will you see someone with that background thanking the Poets Round Table for returning him to a better life. Booth has a way with a phrase and these poems are the real deal. And how can you not like a book whose dedication is to the author's mother, "who has never stopped loving me, and I have been pretty damn unlovable at times."

Bob Razer

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