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People News

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People News

Dr. Linda B. Alexander of the School of Library and Information Science at University of South Florida in Tampa has been working on a "USF Collaborative For Children, Families and Communities Faculty Grant" this past year. The collaborative grant has involved working closely with Egypt Lake Elementary School in Hillsborough County (Tampa) to present a program for diversity for K-5th graders. Dr. Alexander, pictured below, received her MLS from East Carolina University in 1986 and her doctorate from the University of Louisville in 2000. She worked in North Carolina and Kentucky before coming to USF in 2001. She also teaches an online library science course at USF in Materials for Multicultural Populations.



Charles Edward Beard, 63, died June 2, 2004. At the time of his death he was Professor and Director of Libraries at the State University of West Georgia where he had served since 1978. He began his library career in 1964 as a branch librarian at Jacksonville Public Library. His career as an academic librarian began in 1966 at the University of Alabama Libraries where he was head of reference. He later served as director of library services at Judson College and as director of libraries at Georgia College. He served as a trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation and was a national co-chair of the White House Conference on Library Information Services Task Force. As a member of the American Library Association, he served on both the Executive Board and the governing Council. He served as president of the Southeastern Library Association and the Georgia Library Association, and as editor of the *Georgia Librarian*. He also served as a member of the Executive Board of the Library Administration and Management Association. He served as chair of the Georgia Board for Certification of

Librarians and as a member of the Georgia Center for the Book Advisory Board. His honors included the Juanita Skelton Distinguished Service Award given by the Georgia Association for Instructional Technologies, and the Nix-Jones Distinguished Service Award and the Bob Richardson Distinguished Service Award, both given by the Georgia Library Association. He received the White House Conference on Library Information Services Task Force Service Award. In October 2003 the Georgia Library Associations Advocacy Award was renamed the Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award because of all his years of effective advocacy for funding and support of libraries. At the time of his death he was serving a co-chair of the ALA Advocacy Assembly. He was a beloved mentor and active leader in professional associations who inspired and motivated librarians of his generation and those that followed. At his retirement party on May 28, an audience of more than 100 was regaled with tales of his exploits to support funding for libraries and encourage professionals through state, regional, and national library associations.

Diane M. Brown has been appointed Deputy State Librarian at the State Library of Louisiana. Previously she served as director of library programs for the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) in Atlanta, Prior to joining SOLINET in 1991, Brown was head of technical services at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial System in Chattanooga, Tennessee from 1984 to 1991. She also served the Chattanooga library system as director of the Eastgate Branch Library from 1981 to 1984 and as reference librarian from 1977 to 1980. Brown is a 1973 magna cum laude graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She received a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1981 and is active in national, regional and state library association activities. As Deputy State Librarian, Brown will oversee the operations of the State Library, which has an annual budget of \$9 million, under the direction of the State Librarian. She succeeds Michael R. "Mickey" McKann, who retired April 9 after 26 years at the State Library.

Teresa Burk has been appointed Research Services Archivist in the Special Collections and Archives of Emory University's General Libraries.

Teresa received her MLIS from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2002 and a BA in Art History from Reed College. She served a 9-month Librarian Fellowship in Special Collections and Archives, and as Circulation and Reserves Desk Supervisor for five years, also at the General Libraries.

Merilyn Burke has been promoted to University Librarian at the University of South Florida Tampa Library.

Maria C. Gebhardt has been appointed Marketing Development Manager for the Broward County Libraries Division. She will manage all of the library system's public communication efforts, including print pieces, media relations, and the library website at www.broward.org/library. Maria, pictured below, has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Marketing Management from Florida Atlantic University. She was most recently an Online and Interactive Marketing Consultant, aiding small businesses to maximize their online exposure. Maria, a native Floridian, has volunteered for several non-profit organizations in Fort Lauderdale, arranging special events, handling press relations and establishing websites.



Lucia M. Gonzalez, Assistant Section Manager of Youth Services in the Broward County Main Library, has been promoted to the position of Broward County Library Youth Services Coordinator. She replaces Marlene Lee, who retired in December after 20 years of service with Broward County Library. Gonzalez, pictured below, holds an MLS degree from the University of South Florida. She was formerly the children's outreach librarian for the Imagination Factory, a division of the Miami Dade Public Library system. During her tenure with the Miami Dade Public Library, Lucia worked at the Miami

Lakes and Hispanic Branch libraries, was the children's department manager at the West Kendall Regional Library, and programs coordinator for the Miami Dade Public Library System.



Jennifer Crawford Goodson is the new director of the Fort Smith, Arkansas, Public Library. Goodson succeeds Larry Larson, who recently retired after eighteen years as director. Ms. Goodson is a native of Fort Smith and worked as a page at the Fort Smith Public Library during high school and college. She has her undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and an M.L.I.S. and Certificate of Advanced Study from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She held several positions as a librarian in Oklahoma before returning to the Fort Smith Public Library in June 2002 as assistant director.

P. Toby Graham, director of the Digital Library of Georgia, based at the University of Georgia, received the 2004 Alabama Author Award for Non-fiction for "A Right to Read: Segregation and Civil Rights in Alabama's Public Libraries 1900-1965," the first book to examine public library segregation of libraries in the South. The book stems from Graham's dissertation at the University of Alabama. He earned his doctorate in 1998. As a dissertation, the study won four other awards, including two national citations: the Eugene Garfield Dissertation Award given by the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) and the Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award given by the American Library Association's Library History Round Table. Graham used primary source material, including records of public library boards, to examine public library segregation from its origins in the late 19th century through its end during the tumultuous years of the 1960s

civil rights movement. Graham contends that, for librarians, the civil rights movement in their institutions represented a conflict of values that pitted their professional ethics against regional mores. He details how several librarians in Alabama took the dangerous course of opposing segregationists, sometimes with unsettling results.

Mark Greenberg, Ph.D. is the new Director of Special Collections for the University of South Florida Tampa Library. In addition to his new responsibilities, Dr. Greenberg is also the Director of the USF Florida Studies Center.

John Harrison, director of the University Libraries at the University of Arkansas from 1983 to 1998, died recently in Fayetteville. Harrison received his undergraduate degree in English in 1960 at Michigan State University and an A.M.L.S. in 1962 at the University of Michigan. He worked as a librarian at Harvard and Yale and taught library classes at Southern Connecticut State College. After assuming the library directorship at the University of Arkansas, Harrison oversaw the addition of 75,000 square feet to the main library, the installation of the Libraries' automated system, and the addition of electronic indexes and full text resources. An active supporter of the arts, Harrison introduced listening sessions of opera recordings at the library and arranged for rotating art exhibits that featured the work of university artists.

Larry Heilos was recently appointed Associate Director of the University of South Florida Tampa Library. Previously, Mr. Heilos was the library's Director of Special Collections.

Erwin Lester "Les" Inabinett, Director of the South Caroliniana Library from 1958-83 died April 26, 2004 at the age of 78. Mr. Inabinett was the library's second director, following in the footsteps of his mentor and the library's founder, Dr. Robert L. Meriwether. He worked as assistant director of the library from 1950-58 and was also on the staff of the Papers of John C. Calhoun project. Mr. Inabinett was a native of Charleston County, S.C. and a naval veteran of World War II. He held a B.A. in history from Pepperdine University.

A. Venable Lawson, director of the Division of Librarianship (later Division of Library and

Information Management) at Emory University from 1965-1988, died May 14 at his home in Atlanta. Lawson graduated from the University of Alabama in 1947 after serving in the U. S. Air Force for four years. He received his master's degree from the Division of Librarianship at Emory University in 1950. After a temporary part-time position at the Atlanta Public Library, he joined Harvard University Library as assistant librarian. In 1953, Lawson returned to Atlanta as head of reference service at the Atlanta Public Library and was promoted in 1957 to Coordinator for Public Service. He served as part-time instructor at the Atlanta University and Emory University library schools. In 1960, he accepted the position of assistant professor on the faculty of the library school at Florida State University, and in 1965 became Director of the Emory University Division of Librarianship. He received his doctorate in Library Service from Columbia University in 1969 and was appointed full professor at Emory. Among his notable honors, he was awarded the Emory Medal during Emory's 2002 alumni weekend in recognition of his outstanding service to the University, the Emory libraries, the library profession and the Druid Hills community of Atlanta during his more than fifty-year association with Emory. The Emory Medal is Emory University's highest recognition after the honorary degree.

Lea Leininger has joined Jackson Library at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro as Life Sciences Librarian. Lea, pictured below, comes from the University of Texas at Austin, where she received her MLIS in May 2003.



Naomi Nelson has been appointed Coordinator of Research Services in the Special Collections and Archives Division of Emory University's General Libraries. Previously, she served as the

Interim Head of Research Services, the Curator for Southern History, and the Director of the Special Collections and Archives Digital Archive at Emory. Prior to those positions, she was the Modern Political Collections Archivist at Emory. She received her Ph.D. and M.A. in History from Emory, her M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh and her A.B. from Duke University.

Dr. Derrie Perez, Interim Dean of the USF Library System, has been elected as President of the Florida Library Association. Her term will last through 2005. The theme of Dr. Perez's leadership in FLA will be "Common Threads: Libraries, Museums, Culture, Heritage." It is her vision to bring these institutions together with the common goal of preserving Florida's vibrant culture and history for future generations. Prior to joining USF, she was the Associate Vice President of Learning Resources Services for Hillsborough Community College. She holds a doctoral degree from Florida State University, M.L.S. from Louisiana State University and B.A. in English and Liberal Arts from Louisiana State University and in 1977 she was named to the International Library Science Honor Society, Beta Phi Mu. Dr. Perez has held leadership roles on many boards and task forces such as her service as President of the Tampa Bay Library Consortium, President of the Florida Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and Inaugural Chair of the Advisory Board and Executive Committee of the College Center for Library Automation. In 1995 she received the National Award for Program Development from the Community and Junior College Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries for her work at Hillsborough Community College.

Patricia Pettijohn of the University of South Florida Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute Library has been promoted to the rank of Assistant Librarian. Patricia is currently running a women's issues listserv, with a special focus on gender and trauma. For more information or to join, please contact her at ppettijohn@fmhi.usf.edu.

At its annual Holiday Luncheon held on Dec. 16th, 2003, the University of Memphis Association of Retirees (UMAR) presented the first TRACES Award to **Dr. Les Pourciau**, retired Director of Libraries at the U of M and an active

UMAR member. This award will hereafter be presented at the Holiday Luncheon in December of each year to a University of Memphis retiree "... to recognize ... a life of outstanding service and scholarship, and ... continuing effort to provide service and scholarship."

Elizabeth Russey has been appointed to the position of Manuscripts Processing Archivist in the Special Collections and Archives of Emory University's General Libraries. Prior to coming to Emory, she served for 18 months as project archivist in the Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary. Elizabeth was a graduate assistant at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Library and an intern at the National Archives and Records Administration. She has an MLS with archives administration and a M.A. in American history, both from the University of Maryland.

The NCSU Libraries' first metadata librarian, **Jacqueline P. Samples**, has been awarded a Digital Library Federation (DLF) Forum Fellowship for Librarians New to the Profession. She will receive up to \$1,000 to help defray the costs of attending the DLF Forum 2004. Samples, who received her Masters in Library and Information Science in 2002, joined the NCSU Libraries in April 2003. She has been honored by various organizations over the past few years. In 2001, the Iowa Library Association awarded her the Jack E. Tillson Scholarship. In 2003, she was inducted into the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society, Phi Beta Mu. More recently, she and NCSU librarian Karen M. Letarte were co-recipients of the 2004 Samuel Lazerow Fellowship, given by the Association of College and Research Libraries. The DLF is a consortium of libraries and related agencies that are pioneering in the use of electronic-information technologies to extend their collections and services.

Tanya Simons-Oparah, Outreach Services Director for Broward County Library, was recently inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame by the Broward County Women's History Coalition. The event honored Simons-Oparah for her work with the Sistrunk Historical Festival and her role in developing diversity programs for Broward County Library's Outreach Services. Simons-Oparah was honored along with ten other women. She has numerous

honors including two gubernatorial appointments to the Board of Directors of the Florida State Fair Authority, an appointment to the State Task Force of the Black Family, and the Literature Review Panel for the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Simons-Oparah, pictured below, has also served as a Steering Committee Member for the National Women's Conference Center, and as a member of the Broward Center for the Performing Program Committee.



Rose Anne St. Romain, the Early Childhood Services Consultant for the State Library of Louisiana, has received three national honors for her book *Moon's Cloud Blanket*, a Louisiana Native American tale. The awards are: the Children's Choices for 2004, selected by the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council; the 2004 Notable Social Studies Books for Young People; selected by the National Council for Social Studies and the Children's Book Council; and the 2004 Storytelling World Honor Award, selected by the Storytelling World Committee of 50 professional storytellers.

Tomaro Taylor was appointed Assistant Librarian at the University of South Florida Tampa Library. Ms. Taylor was the first recipient of the library's prestigious Dr. Henrietta M. Smith Residency, a two-year program for recent MLS graduates who are from underrepresented ethnic and minority populations.

Matt Torrence has received promotion to Assistant Librarian at the University of South Florida Tampa Library.

The Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association, has awarded the Allie Beth Martin Award for 2004 to **Jean Trebbi**, retired Broward County Library employee and former Executive Director of the Florida Center for the Book. The award honors a librarian in a public library setting who has demonstrated an extraordinary range and depth of knowledge

about books or other library materials and possesses a distinguished ability to share that knowledge. Trebbi, pictured below, will receive a plaque and a \$3,000 honorarium at the American Library Association Conference this June in Orlando, Florida. For more than 25 years, Trebbi has played a pivotal role locally, statewide and nationally in bringing together readers and writers and promoting books, reading and libraries as Executive Director of Florida Center for the Book, which she founded in 1984. Trebbi, a book collector, has secured a significant collection of Mark Twain first editions, international alphabet books, and publications of the Works Progress Administration and the Federal Writers Project for the Bienes Center for the Literary Arts at the Broward County Main Library.



Dr. Sue Weaver has been appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the State Library of Louisiana. Weaver is the dean of University College at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches and a professor of education, where she teaches graduate courses in educational leadership. She also operates an academic program of certification in non-profit leadership, in conjunction with the American Humanics program at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Weaver began her career as a high school English and speech teacher in Natchitoches after earning a B.A. degree in English education from NSU in 1966. She received an M.A. in speech in 1973 and an M.A. in English education in 1975. She continued her education at LSU in Baton Rouge, where she earned a Ph.D. in educational administration in 1993. After nearly two decades of teaching at the secondary and university levels, Weaver was elected to serve on the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board. She later served as assistant to the state Superintendent of Education. She returned to NSU in 1994 as the dean of the College of Education.