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## People News

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## PEOPLE NEWS

### ARKANSAS

The board of the Arkansas State Library has named **Dwain Gordon** as associate director. Gordon received master's degrees in Library Science and in Education, both from the University of Mississippi. Gordon has been a librarian with the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) in Little Rock for the past eighteen years, and most recently has served as Manager of Youth Collections. Prior to working at CALs, Gordon held positions with the Memphis/Shelby County Public Library in Tennessee and with the First Regional Library System in Hernando, Mississippi.

### GEORGIA



The Northwest Georgia Regional Library System is pleased to announce that **Erik Lewis** was recently named Assistant Director at the regional library system, which is headquartered in Dalton, GA. Mr. Lewis' primary assignment is to serve as Branch Manager for the Dalton-Whitfield Library.

As an Assistant Director, Mr. Lewis will also be managing regional technology services and assisting with regional administrative functions of personnel, finance, and collection development.

Mr. Lewis has 10 years of library-related experience, including service in and to public libraries, and at the state library level. He obtained his Masters in Library Science from Clarion University in Clarion, PA.

**Dr. Gordon N. Baker** has been appointed Director of Libraries at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia effective July 1, 2006. Baker has served as Head of Public Services and Interim Library Director previously. Prior to his association with CSU, Baker was a Coordinator of Instructional Technology & Media Services and Library/Media Specialist with the Henry County (GA) Schools in McDonough for 15 years.

Emory University has named **Richard E. Luce** vice provost and director of the university libraries. Luce, who currently is research library director at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, will assume the post Aug. 14.

As research library director at Los Alamos since 1991, Luce has managed a world-class scientific research library with a \$12.5 million budget that supports information delivery in a high technology environment serving 4,000 Ph.D.s and 8,800 laboratory researchers. He has forged regional, national and international public information and communication technology collaborations

and co-organized the Berlin and Brazilian Declarations on Open Access. He also was co-founder of the Open Archives Initiative to develop interoperable standards for author self-archiving systems.

Luce also serves as project leader for the Library Without Walls at Los Alamos, one of the world's most advanced large-scale digital library implementations and the only U.S. Department of Energy-approved library user-facility center in the nation, supporting 26 nationally prominent research organizations and 180,000 researchers.

From 1988-1991 Luce served as executive director of the Southeast Florida Library Information Network, a research-sharing consortium with 13 institutions encompassing 89 libraries. From 1985-1988, he was network director of IRVING Library Network Inc. in Boulder, Colo.

**Fatih Oguz** has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Master of Library and Information Science Program at Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia. Mr. Oguz is a PhD student at the University of North Texas and is completing his dissertation on Web Service Technologies in Digital Libraries.

**Emily Rogers** has been appointed Assistant Professor of Library Science and Reference Librarian at Odum Library, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia. She recently completed the MSLIS at the University of Illinois.

## **KENTUCKY**

Kentucky's library community was surprised and saddened when on June 13, 2006 **Jim Nelson** announced his intent to retire as State Librarian as of September 30, 2006. James A. Nelson, better known as "Jim" to the 100's of librarians across the Commonwealth, has served as State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries for 26 years. Loss of his leadership will be a

major impact on libraries and archival communities of Kentucky as well as across the US.

Jim Nelson has been State Librarian and Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) since Governor John Y. Brown appointed him in 1980; making him the longest serving State Librarian in this state and the third longest serving in the nation. He also was Acting State Librarian under Governor Louie B. Nunn and was speech writer for Governor Wendell Ford. In all, Nelson has served eight Kentucky governors since leaving his native state of Colorado in 1965.

Nelson also was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines, worked at public libraries in Louisville and Hardin County Kentucky and has been on the library school faculties at the universities of Kentucky and Wisconsin. A graduate of the University of Kentucky's library school, he was the first Distinguished Alumnus to be named from that school. While studying at the University of Kentucky, he was named to Beta Phi Mu, an international library science honorary society, and became President of the Upsilon Chapter at UK.

Also active in the area of distance learning, Nelson chaired the group which developed our Kentucky Virtual Library and has served on the Distance Learning Advisory Committee of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education since its inception. He was Chairman of the Kentucky Information Resource Management Commission for three years and served on a Legislative Research Commission committee which revised Open Records and Open Meeting laws to accommodate the challenges of new technologies.

For the last four years, the Institute for Museums and Library Services has involved Nelson in a multi-faceted initiative to work towards a "Nation of Learners" in cooperation with the Corporation for Public

Broadcasting, the Benton Foundation and various other national organizations.

KDLA is one of 12 agencies among the 50 states who has the double responsibility of statewide library development as well as the management and preservation of public records. Since heading up KDLA, Jim Nelson has committed the agency to "Serving Kentucky's Need to Know" in all of its programs. With this goal driving him, he has indeed had a most significant impact and sterling career in the library world in Kentucky ...We will all miss his dedication, leadership and genuinely happy personality.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Tito Sierra**, the NCSU Libraries' Digital Technologies Development Librarian, has been named one of the 2006 "Movers & Shakers who are transforming libraries for the future" by the national trade publication *Library Journal*. Sierra is profiled in the *Library Journal*, which is read by over 100,000 librarians nationwide.

Described as a "dot-com guru" by the magazine, Sierra joined the Libraries in January 2004, after capping off several years of experience at Amazon.com with a Master of Science in Information Management from Syracuse University. He has applied his skills toward numerous [digital initiatives](#) at the NCSU Libraries, including Quick Search, the Libraries' customized website search engine, and its revolutionary [new online catalog](#).

Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Susan K. Nutter says, "Tito's creativity and focus on the user experience are proving to be an asset to the NC State community and the profession. He certainly deserves this national recognition."

Recently, Sierra was selected to participate in the [Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups](#), which will be

held in July 2006. The week-long institute combines training in leadership and organizational behavior while developing practical skills in key areas for academic librarians. In 2005 he was awarded a [Digital Library Federation \(DLF\) Forum Fellowship](#) for Librarians New to the Profession to defray the costs of attending the DLF's Spring Forum. Only five information professionals are selected each year for the prestigious fellowship. At the 2005 Spring Forum, Sierra co-presented "In Search of the Single Search Box: Building a 'First-step' Library Search Tool."

**Amy Harris** has been appointed Library Instruction Coordinator and Reference Librarian at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She received her M.L.S. from UNC Greensboro and her B.A. from UNC Chapel Hill. Previously, Amy was Visiting Professional Librarian at UNCG and a Research Associate.



**Byung Moo "Ben" Lee**, Dean of Library Services at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia, died on May 20, 2006. Mr. Lee served AASU for 25 years, first as Head of Technical Services and then Library Director in 1991. He was appointed University Librarian in 2000 and named Dean of Library Services in 2006. Mr.

Lee earned his Masters in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 1970. He was responsible for planning Lane Library’s \$5 million renovation,

completed just weeks after his death. Mr. Lee was 68 years old, and is survived by his wife June and son Eugene.

## **BOOK REVIEW:**

*HOW to Write Fiction Like a Pro; a Simple-to-Savvy Toolkit for Aspiring Authors* by Robert Newton Peck. Maupin House Publishing, Inc. 2006. 136 pages. \$15.95

Have you ever wondered HOW writers actually create and publish so successfully? What techniques do they use to develop enthralling plots and scenes that keep a reader eagerly turning the pages? After reading this witty, unique, simple but savvy toolkit, you may be inspired to create something of your own.

A prolific author with over 60 books published in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, Robert Newton Peck has followed his own advice in this small practical guide. With analogies and examples from his books, he clearly demonstrates HOW he selects names, builds characters, and develops believable dialogue and action. Peck points out HOW a comic or dramatic character’s name describes personality and predicts action in the plot. HOW about a football coach named Bulkhead Beefjerky or a fullback named Tank Tarzanski?

Action is a simple law of physics and HOW “stuff behaves.” A character can display her personality and love forged over a lifetime through dialog and HOW she manipulates a needle. Action verbs deliver the punch in a fast moving plot. Peck says, “If you are an upstart writer with a desire to be published some day, please allow my warning you to STOP before you plunge pell-mell into a puny and pathetic pit by using the verb *to be*.” It carries no punch and leads to a boring description of the character and dull scenes. Excitement is not what our hero is but what he does.

HOW Offers solid advice such as being a “spot remover” and eliminating clichés. A writer must originate something new and fresh from the beginning to end. Clichés may be useful in everyday conversation, but they are a tiresome yawn in a novel. HOW advises not to strain for fancy words when simple but powerful ones will convey a more expressive thought or message.

An effective writer engages the reader’s imagination through the characters and how they interact. Anchoring a viewpoint and envisioning actions through one or more characters’ eyes determines how the story unfolds. If the reader sees, feels and smells through a character’s vantage point the entire scene springs to life. A character’s description will be imagined through interaction with others in a scene.

And don’t forget the title! Inspiration may come by accident (stepping on a tack in the dark), or by the drop of a phrase, or through a shared conversation. Peck advises to buy a golf pencil and little notebook to keep track of ideas and thoughts. Choosing ideas for memorable book titles should inspire readers to be “title droppers”. Although you may