Today, not only do information professionals perform traditional duties associated with the library such as managing collections and working with youth, but they also manage digital libraries, social media and other new technologies.

The Master of Library and Information Studies online option from The University of Alabama prepares you to hold positions in both traditional and emerging areas of the field. The program is ALA-accredited, and our graduates work in all types of information centers, entrepreneurial and research environments.

Take the next step to advancing your career. Visit BamaByDistance.ua.edu/AL for more information or call 1-800-467-0227 and Rise with the Tide.
Earn an M.Ed. or Ed.S. in Instructional Technology

100% Online

CONCENTRATIONS OFFERED IN:
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA

An endorsement in ONLINE TEACHING is also available.

ONLINE format ideal for professionals in higher education, corporations and other settings

PROGRAMS for P-12 educators

ELGIBLE for certificate upgrade and possible pay increase

NCATE accredited

APPROVED by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission

RANKED in the top tier in the U.S. News & World Report “Best Online Graduate Education Programs”

Published by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University, 2014
James Earl Carter Library
Georgia Southwestern State University

The James Earl Carter Library, located on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) in Americus, Georgia, has been selected as the initial venue for *Victory from Within: The American Prisoner of War Experience*. The 1,200 square foot traveling exhibit was developed by the Andersonville National Historic Site as part of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War celebration. *Victory from Within* is a multimedia project that includes audiovisual interviews and original artifacts and is based on the thematic organization of the National POW Museum—Capture, Prison Life, Those Who Wait, and Freedom.

*Victory from Within* will be at the James E. Carter Library through January 2014. The display will be available during regular library hours.

The Andersonville National Historic Site and Georgia Southwestern State University cooperate on a number of programs. The annual POW Ride Home and POW Convocation is jointly sponsored each September and includes many members of the Rolling Thunder POW organization and the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. Additionally, GSW students have the opportunity to intern at the Andersonville National Historic Site, and the library has provided display space for the POW Convocation. The Carter Library is home to the Prisoner of War Collection, which was developed with assistance from the Andersonville National Historic Site. The POW Collection contains books related to the POW experience, mostly memoirs written by those who were held prisoner and oral histories. The collection is searchable through the library’s catalog, which can be found at [http://gsw.edu/Library/index](http://gsw.edu/Library/index).

For information about the library and the exhibit, please see the library website at [http://gsw.edu/Library/](http://gsw.edu/Library/) or contact Ru Story Huffman, Dean of Library Services, at 229-931-2259.
Georgia State University
College of Law Library

The Georgia State University (GSU) College of Law Library traces its history back to the opening of the Georgia State University College of Law in September 1982. Back then, the law library’s collection of just over 65,000 volumes took up only a small portion of the law school. Today, the law library covers the lower level of two buildings and contains a print and electronic collection of over 300,000 volumes.

Going beyond the call of a traditional academic library, the law library provides access to legal materials and research assistance for students, faculty and staff, the local legal community, and the general public. Since the law library is administered as a unit of GSU Law, separate from the University Library, its collection is built primarily to support the needs of law students and faculty. However, the library’s resources have also proved to be beneficial to practicing attorneys and self-represented litigants. The collection enables researchers to have access to primary law and secondary legal resources. The library specializes in Georgia legal materials and includes amongst its collection Supreme Court of Georgia and Court of Appeals of Georgia opinions, the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, and practice materials and forms specifically related to Georgia law. As members of the law school faculty, the law librarians also teach legal research courses that are part of the law school curriculum.

In August 2010, the law library made a special effort to increase student engagement by hiring two reference/student services librarians. Together, they have worked to increase student outreach and programming. Among other initiatives, they created a blog entitled The Blackacre Times at http://theblackacretimes.com/, a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/georgiastatelawlibrary, and a student advisory council that meets twice a semester and provides feedback and suggestions on library resources and services.

This past year, the law library ushered in a new era with a change in library leadership and the construction of a new building. Kris Niedringhaus succeeded Nancy Johnson as the Associate Dean for Library and Information Services in May 2013. Johnson retired after having served in this role since 1986. In September 2013, GSU Law also officially broke ground on a new building, which is set to be completed in time for the start of the fall 2015 semester. The library will encompass the top two floors of the new building and feature such amenities as a cafe, two outdoor terraces, and a formal reading room.

Needless to say, a lot has changed over the years. The law library has experienced new expansion, new leadership, new personnel, and new initiatives. As the law library enters a new period in its life, the hope is that it will continue to serve as a valuable resource to Georgia State University and the Atlanta legal community for many years to come.

To learn more about the Georgia State University College of Law Library, please visit http://law.gsu.edu/library/.
Willet Memorial Library
Wesleyan College

Willet Memorial Library at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia is transitioning. A library on a small women’s college campus has opportunities for service that larger libraries may not be able to offer. Willet Memorial librarians pride themselves on their personal service to students, whether it is in the form of supplying coffee and tea or just listening. More importantly, they offer hours of research assistance. The library even provides the ministrations of a cat named Libris, who is a willing accomplice to its homey atmosphere. Libris is actually known world-wide, as he was a featured cat in a British magazine a few years ago.

Wesleyan College, being the first college in the country chartered to grant degrees to women, is proud of its history, and the entire campus is on the Historic Register. Its archives and special collections, housed in Willet Library, are used by students and researchers from all over the country. The special collections room, called the China Room, is a point of interest in the library that attracts many visitors each year as well as various dignitaries from countries such as China and Japan.

Wesleyan’s first Chinese students were the three Soong sisters who are known for their marriages to men important to China and the world and who were instrumental in determining the present history of that country. They were Soong Ai-Ling, married to H. H. Kung, the wealthiest man in China in the early years of the twentieth century; Soong Ching-Ling, revered to the present as the mother of China having married Sun Yat-Sen, the father of the Chinese Revolution in 1912; and Soong May-Ling, or Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, who in 1943 became the first woman to speak before the United States Congress. Current ties with China include the establishment of a Confucius Institute inside the library. The institute is working with private schools in the Macon-Bibb County area and is teaching classes on the Wesleyan Campus.

Willet Library is transitioning in other ways, evaluating systems and moving forward soon into the cloud, making every effort to bring the best of modern technology to the students at Wesleyan College. For more information, visit Willet Memorial Library’s website at http://www.wesleyancollege.edu/academics/library/services/index.cfm.
Dear Colleagues,

Spring has sprung! I for one am glad that this past winter, so harsh and long, has finally gone, even though it has left behind a not-so-subtle reminder in yet another layer of potholes on our roads.

Many of us have been made acutely aware of these potholes as we have traveled from all over Georgia to Clayton State University and to Agnes Scott College to meet and get on track with the Georgia Library Association’s activities for the year, including planning for COMO this fall. On two Saturdays in March and April we held COMO Planning Committee meetings with the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT), followed immediately by GLA Budget and Executive Board meetings. As for the Georgia Library Association (GLA), we now have a cautiously optimistic 2014 budget and have caught up on most of the business left from the January Mid-Winter meeting. As for COMO, planning for October is well underway, thanks to many volunteers from within GLA, who have been laying the infrastructure to make this a great conference! I really appreciate the many people who gave up part—or, in some cases, all—of their Saturdays to accomplish these things.

Since we just could not get enough of riding over rough patches and potholes, and since it has been many, many years since we last had an annual conference in Augusta, a group of us traveled to the Augusta Marriott and Convention Center on May 7 for a walk-through to decide on logistics for the conference, such as where to have the authors’ reception and the poster sessions and to get a feel for the various spaces we will be using for presentations. It was a very fruitful trip, and I think you will really enjoy the plush facilities where the conference will be held.

Program proposal forms for COMO 2014 are now available on the conference website at http://www.georgiacomo.org/program/ —we’ll spread the word far and wide, loud and clear. Other COMO 2014 web pages will be filled as other plans are firmed up.

The shedding of winter’s woes puts me in the mood for spring cleaning. My own office space could use tidying up—something of an understatement! In my professional specialty of interlibrary loan, the ILL world is getting ready for yet another switch of OCLC platforms, so getting things in order there is also vital. My library is searching for new leadership, with the upcoming retirement of Dr. William Gray Potter after twenty-five years of service not only to the University of Georgia (UGA), but also the University System, the state of Georgia and the library universe in general. The University System itself is looking at the next generation of library systems to replace Voyager, which has been in place since the late 1990s. And there is a newly appointed State Librarian for those of us in the public library sector, our former GLA President Julie White Walker. Cleaning, sprucing up, change, and renewal are in the air everywhere!

For GLA, there is always the potential for cleanup and updating. The GLA Handbook in particular comes to mind. The information in the committee and interest group sections is only as good as the chairs provide; I urge all chairs to make sure that the descriptions of
your committees and membership lists are relevant to this year. Our Handbook webmaster makes changes promptly, but it is up to you to give her the correct information to update. Changes to the GLA Constitution and By-Laws requires a vote; if there is something in those sections that you believe needs changing, please contact me so that it can be discussed by the Executive Board and possibly put to a vote by all GLA members during this year’s cycle.

So, clear those winter cobwebs from your mind! How are you transforming libraries, or how would you like to transform them? That is the general theme of COMO in Augusta this fall, and this spring is a good time to start doing something about it. Share what you are doing, or propose what you’d like to do, by submitting a proposal form. As I said, the COMO 2014 website now includes the proposal submission forms, and I hope to see you at COMO in the fall. In the meantime, clean up, and watch out for those potholes!

Thank you,
Susan Morris
President
Georgia Library Association
smorris@uga.edu
My Own Private Library: A Peek inside the Personal Library of a Librarian

By Lindsay Blake

As terrible as it is, I judge books by their covers. I do take some time to read the description to further determine if this is something I really want to read, but my favorite pastime is wandering bookstores and looking at books. I don’t care if it’s Barnes & Noble or an independent shop, I am not snooty (except the warehouse ones, can’t stand those). When you are browsing the shelves you need something to grab your attention. A catchy title or, for me, a cover which rouses my interest and beckons me to take a better look, is a book I will be picking up. Judging books by their covers is not all bad. Due to this predilection, I own a variety of books. Judging covers also allows me to choose or avoid certain genres, since covers can be typecast. A swooning woman with a half-naked man is certainly a tip-off as to the contents. So my bookshelves feature theoretical physics, classic literature, young adult, fantasy, science fiction, mystery, spy novels, military history, adventure, and a lot more just shelved under fiction. You will find no romances though, only because I recycle those to others in need.

My path to books has been diverse. It began with my parents who own and publish seven local papers in Northwestern Kansas. Once a year we would all pack up for the annual Colorado Press Association Conference in Denver, Colorado. There were two things we always did while in Denver. First, we would be dragged to the Art Museum. Second, we would head to the Tattered Cover. The Tattered Cover is a local independent bookstore located in Lower Denver, and there are actually three of them there now. I cannot be sure how much my parents spent in that store over the years, but they never said no when it came to books. So we three children would roam freely for a few hours through the store and return with piles of books. Those books are all still with my parents in a personal library that covers three walls of their basement and would definitely merit a separate write-up. Those piles of books also include my mother’s numerous mass market paperback historical-with-religious-figure-protagonist murder mysteries and my father’s glossy, dust-jacketed train books. My father usually spent more than the rest of us combined on those train books.

Fast forward to my library today. It is a combination of classic literature, new authors, spy novels, and history all contained on beautiful built-in shelving. This was not always the case. Our collection started the first five years of its life on my makeshift shelves in our first house. Then last year we moved into a new house, and I love it. The living room features a large fireplace, flanked on either side by floor to
ceiling bookcases. These bookcases are currently overflowing with books my husband and I apparently cannot do without. I think we have three shelves alone of Clive Cussler. My husband loves Clive Cussler and really all war/spy/adventure novels. After my attempt to clean all old books off our shelves, he defiantly reread all his Cussler novels to keep them from the discard pile. I relented, but they were assigned to the bottom shelves with all the other mass market paperbacks.

On the left shelves you’ll see our non-fiction section. Primarily, this section is filled with history, and of those histories, primarily war stories. These are not mine. I have contributed a few titles from theoretical physics and astronomy—Brian Greene, Carl Sagan and Stephen Hawking—but for the most part I am a fiction gal. My husband, however, will read most any non-fiction book if it has to do with military history topics. Current American conflicts and historical military figures dominate. He will also read most sports non-fiction and throws in an occasional cooking, gambling, or travel/adventure item. Below the non-fiction we have the miles of spy/adventure paperbacks.

My books can be found on the right side of the fireplace. At the top we start with classic literature. Here I have John Steinbeck, from the well-known Of Mice and Men to the less well-known The Pastures of Heaven. Willa Cather follows with Death Comes for the Archbishop. Somehow Willa’s novels always make me feel at home, which may be due in part to their being set in the plains. F. Scott Fitzgerald is next, though I admit that I am not as interested in the details of the Jazz Age as I am in the working men in Steinbeck novels. Rounding out the shelf we have Ernest Hemingway with a concise history of love in world wars and bullfighting. I will admit that these books are from a particular reading phase. I was into classic American literature, and a number of these books were copies my parents had read at some point.

From here we move into my college Intro to Fiction class. It was here I was introduced to Salman Rushdie, Paul Auster, and Fyodor Dostoyevsky. The next many years of my life would be taken up with reading The Brothers Karamazov, Crime and Punishment, City of Glass, The Invention of Solitude, The Satanic Verses, Midnight’s Children, etc. One thing I can say for all of these authors: they are not easy to read. Dostoyevsky with his incredible detail and ten million characters to keep track of; Rushdie with references to every possible area of art and culture imaginable; and Auster where people manage to disappear little by little. They are all fascinating authors and each for very different reasons. Next to these are the authors I have come to really love not for the message they convey, but for the sheer joy of reading their work. Carlos Ruiz Zafón, Neal Stephenson, Neil Gaiman, Elizabeth Peters, Connie Willis, Terry Pratchett, and Walter Moers all filling numerous shelves and read and reread. These authors are all fun and enjoyable in completely different ways, but when I read them they all make me feel like I am curled up in a comfy spot in the sun with my favorite book on a lazy Saturday afternoon.

The bottom two shelves are devoted to children’s books. This section is a newer addition to the shelves, but as our daughter has grown (she is now four), my husband and I have found we have the same weakness when it comes to books for her as our parents had. She already has a shelf of children’s books downstairs as well as a cache for bedtime reading in her room. In addition to the children’s books we have young adult fiction. Things like Harry Potter, The Golden Compass, Eragon, and yes, even Twilight. All series I have read and collected in hardback versions (covers intact!) with the plan of reading them to my children someday.

Lindsay Blake is Clinical Information Librarian at Georgia Regents University
Reference Desk Models at the University of Georgia Libraries: An RSIG Presentation by Kristin Nielsen

Reference librarians attending conferences often find that some of the most useful information comes from asking colleagues, “How do you manage the reference desk at your library?” At the 2013 GaCOMO conference, the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Reference Services Interest Group (RSIG) took advantage of the diversity of models available at one institution to offer a presentation on reference desk models by Kristin Nielsen, Head of Reference at the University of Georgia (UGA) Libraries.

The University of Georgia Libraries includes four library buildings on the UGA campus in Athens: the Main Library, the Science Library, the Richard B. Russell Jr. Special Collections Libraries Building, and the Miller Learning Center. There are also smaller on-campus libraries, reading rooms, and materials collections.

Ms. Nielsen provided a comparison of reference desk models used at three of the UGA library buildings: Main, Science, and the Miller Learning Center (MLC).

The Main Library collections include: humanities, arts, social sciences, maps, government documents, and circulating media. The Science Library collections include: science, technology, and agriculture. While the Miller Learning Center has a reading collection, it primarily functions as a learning commons with classrooms, technology lending, and study space.

Reference Services and Trends

UGA Libraries offer many types of reference services, which are designed to meet the unique needs and traffic patterns of each building. They include:

- Face-to-face (FTF) service at reference desks,
- Phone reference at Main and Science Libraries,
- Chat reference based at MLC with backup and selected hours covered by Main and Science Libraries,
- Text reference at Main Library,
- Individual consultations, and
- Office hours.

In-person and phone reference have evened out after years of decline. Chat reference numbers are steadily rising. Text reference has never been heavily used. Individual research conferences have remained steady.

The number of classes has remained steady, but the number of students taught has dropped.

Main: Renovations for a Traditional Model

The Main Library reference desk has the most traditional service and staffing model at UGA.
There are a significant number of FTF reference transactions. Main Library reference desk staff answer more FTF (about 20,000/year) and phone (about 5,000/year) questions than Science or MLC, and 60 percent of questions asked are reference questions. There is more use by the general public at Main, heavier use of the print collection, and a wider array of databases used than Science. Circulation desk traffic is also brisker than at Science.

Full-time librarians and one reference paraprofessional staff the Main Library reference desk during the day. Reference librarians from Main and the Miller Learning Center have scheduled shifts; along with one cataloger. Three specially trained student assistants provide coverage for weekend and night shifts.

However, the physical space at the Main Library presented several challenges. The only visible service desk at the library entrance was the security desk. Circulation and reserves were in a recessed section midway down the main hallway. The reference room was at end of the main hallway. Students were using workstations as lab computers as frequently as for library research. The shrinking print reference collection meant less need for a designated reference room. This led to a renovation in summer 2012 that moved the security, reference, and circulation desks to the front lobby area. As a result, students entering the building would approach a visually unified service area.

**Science: Renovated to Combine and Cross-Train**

At the Science Library, quicker transition in the sciences to digital resources meant lower FTF transactions (approximately 6,000 per year) and phone transactions (approximately 400 per year). Approximately 50 percent of questions asked are reference. There is a rising demand for librarians to provide Endnote training. The Science Library has increased emphasis on outreach: office hours, individual consultations, etc.

Like the Main Library, the Science Library had separate areas for circulation and reference. There were also special considerations when thinking of the Science Library as a place. Science is the closest library to newer dorms, recently refurbished dorms, new fraternity houses, and the student athletic center. Like the Main Library, the
challenges of the physical space led to changes and renovations. Science added space for a writing center and a silent think tank. The interior space received updates to the color scheme, furniture, carpet, and signage.

The Science Library combined the service desks but retained separate service points for circulation/reserves and reference questions. Each area cross-trained in the basics: locating items, checking out materials, helping with GIL Express, and printer and workstation troubleshooting.

The Science Library reference desk is staffed by a wider range of staff including full-time Science Library reference librarians, two Main Library reference librarians, one reference paraprofessional, one Miller Learning Center reference librarian, librarians and full-time staff from the Access Services department, librarians from the Science Collections department, and shared student assistants.

**MLC: Collaboration Beyond Library Units**

The Miller Learning Center (MLC) is a collaborative effort of the University Libraries, Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS), and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The MLC building opened in 2003 with the expectation that it would be a popular study spot—it is. It was also expected that in-person reference questions would migrate there—they did not. Most FTF questions are directional or technical. Only 6 percent are reference questions. However, there was substantial growth in chat reference service.

MLC librarians work reference shifts at Main or Science in addition to their time at the MLC help desk, referred to as 3C (central) due to its floor and location. Three other desks on the same floor offer technical help and are staffed by EITS student assistants, who are called EITS student consultants. The other desks include: 3E (east), which provides technology checkout; the Digital Media Lab (DML), which contains specialized audio-visual editing and recording tools; and 3W (west), which provides assistance for a cluster of Mac workstations.

Library staff at 3C are always paired with a student consultant, who focuses on printing, workstation, and directional questions. The MLC librarians and reference paraprofessional monitor chat reference and answer FTF reference questions. Reference librarians from
the Main and Science Libraries choose to take shifts at the MLC. While the Main and Science Libraries monitor chat during some periods, and are able to accept transfers during busy times, almost all chat reference questions are answered by MLC library staff. Over five years, chat statistics grew, then stabilized:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY 09 2,712</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY 10 3,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY 11 3,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY 12 6,747*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FY 13 6,569</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nuts & Bolts**

Scheduling in each model is driven by collections and student use. Each building has a designated staff person who is responsible for making up the weekly desk schedules. Student assistants and librarians/staff from other buildings and departments usually have set hours each week. Once the schedule is distributed, it is the responsibility of each individual to make swaps, except in cases of illness or emergency.

Training is tailored to the needs of each location. New full-time hires meet with each subject reference librarian for training and also answer practice questions in areas relevant to the clientele of their building. Chat training is done by the Virtual Reference Coordinator, who is based in the MLC. Additional training occurs as needed, such as circulation cross-training at the Science Library.

Assessment incorporates some standardized gathering of statistics in addition to location specific assessment projects. There is a standard online form for research librarians to record instruction sessions, research conferences, and chat reference. Each location has its own method for recording desk transactions. Main Reference records every question as directional, ready reference, in-depth reference, or printing/copying/tech training. The MLC and Science Library provide Google forms for librarians. At the MLC, the EITS consultants also record statistics on paper during specified sampling weeks. Building coordinators or schedulers can examine hourly and daily usage patterns and make adjustments accordingly.

**Questions? Please contact:**

Kristin Nielsen  
Head, Reference Department  
UGA Libraries  
knelsen@uga.edu

*Sandra Riggs is Reference/Instruction Librarian at University of Georgia*
Building a Library for a Non-Profit Organization: A Success Story

By Li Chen

The Atlanta Contemporary Chinese Academy (ACCA) is a non-profit organization and teaches Chinese language and culture to children through weekend (Saturday, Sunday) classes. Since its founding in 1992, it has become the largest Chinese language program in the Atlanta area, operating through several campuses. There are over 1,000 children enrolled in the ACCA program. The library is located at 7094 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross, Georgia. It currently holds a collection of over 1,000 (Chinese language) books about China, its language, and culture. This is the story of how a non-profit, educational organization with zero funding approached the intriguing challenge of building a library.

There were many unique problems in founding this library. There was no money for library professionals, and no money for library software or hardware. Since ACCA only operates on weekends, its library, unlike other libraries, had to serve a readership that was only able to access it on weekends. Since the ACCA campuses are scattered throughout the Atlanta area, a visit to the library involved a special trip for many parents and, in some cases, made it inaccessible.

The idea of building a library began with a gift to ACCA of over 1,000 Chinese language books. After acquiring the ACCA Main Campus property in 2010, the school became a property owner, a rare position for a weekend school. In December of that same year, the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China presented the Atlanta Contemporary Chinese Academy with a gift of more than 1,000 volumes. More than half of these books are for children and the remainder are for adult readers. The content includes Chinese literature, history, cooking, culture, hobbies, medicine, philosophy, geography, archaeology, and adventure stories.

After the boxes of books arrived at the ACCA Main Campus, they were locked in a dark room, just waiting to meet their readers. The Academy had neither funds nor expertise to build a library.

In August 2011, Dr. Mary W. Chian, a former member of the Board of Directors of ACCA and an instructor, volunteered to meet the challenges to build a library. Her proposal received unanimous (and enthusiastic) board approval. Dr. Chian enlisted another ACCA instructor, Ms. Li Chen to help. Ms. Chen is the Assistant Director of The Southern Polytechnic State University Library. She also enlisted the aid of Mr. Andy Douglas, an information technology
professional and ACCA parent, who could help in programming and constructing a database.

The three volunteers contributed enthusiasm and expertise. Ms. Chen developed the book category system and library policy while working with Mr. Douglas to build system software specific to the data management of the ACCA Library. Dr. Chian, Ms. Chen, and Mr. Douglas created a library procedure that allowed the library to operate on weekends. Dr. Chian set up a system, using coordinators at each campus, to help the parents to borrow books.

A special gift of $1,000 each, from former ACCA Board Chairman Mr. Zhiqiang Liu and Dr. Mary Chian, allowed the library to begin construction.

**Bookshelves**

The library was very fortunate to obtain the bookshelves for little cost. In September 2011, the book retail giant Borders closed. They liquidated their assets and Dr. Chian was able to purchase, through the local Borders, very nice shelves to equip the entire library for less than $500. ACCA parent volunteers moved the shelves from the store to the Main Campus.

![Picture of children and adult volunteers]

**Volunteers**

The library startup depended entirely on volunteer work. In addition to Dr. Chian, Ms. Chen, and Mr. Douglas, the ACCA parent volunteer workers moved not just shelves, but books and data. Augmented by students from Southern Polytechnic State University, these people entered book data, catalogued and labeled books, and shelved them. Each of these people gave up family and personal time, sacrificing their holidays, evenings, and weekends.

**Book Classification**

Ms. Chen completed the book classification. Since over 99 percent of the books were already ordered with the Chinese system of book classification, she chose to continue to use this system, thus saving time, reducing the workload, and shortening the learning curve for the volunteers. The table below shows the Chinese Book Classification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Marxism, Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Philosophy and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Political and Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Military Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Culture, Science, Education, and Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Languages and Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>History and Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Natural Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Mathematical, Physics and Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Astronomy and Geoscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Medicine and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Agricultural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Industrial Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Aviation and Aerospace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>General Works</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Software Construction**

Mr. Andy Douglas, an ACCA parent who is an information technology professional, helped to develop the library management system.
software using Microsoft Access. This system includes the book catalog, circulation, patron modules, and booklist reports. The booklist reports are posted on the ACCA website at http://www.acca-web.org/index.php/library for patrons to view what books are available.

Special Considerations

The ACCA weekend operations and the different locations of the campuses made it difficult not only for readers to borrow books and return them, but also for the library to assess fees for overdue materials. Dr. Chian suggested that each campus select a coordinator (or establish a group of people who would serve as coordinators).

The library coordinators serve as the extended arms of the librarian at the Main Campus. The librarian provides training to the coordinators and supervises the operations of the library. These coordinators may be parents of ACCA students, ACCA faculty, or ACCA students who can drive. They serve as a physical liaison between the library and its campuses.

The library coordinator(s) for each campus are responsible for enrolling and registering new readers, collecting and returning books from the library, and collecting fines and late fees.

By adjusting the book cycle from a month to four weeks, a book request can be given to a coordinator, who retrieves the book from the ACCA Library. The reader has two weeks to enjoy the book(s) and can either renew the book(s) or return it through the coordinator. Late fees are charged on a weekly basis.

Conclusion

The Atlanta Contemporary Chinese Academy now has a central library. The library did not cost any school funding. It has been built through the efforts of many loving and caring volunteers who shared a dream. They established not only a library but also a community of Chinese readers.

Li Chen is Assistant Director, Johnson Library, at Southern Polytechnic State University
Georgia Regents University

Georgia Regents University to Host National Library of Medicine Georgia Biomedical Informatics Course

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has awarded Robert B. Greenblatt M.D. Library, Georgia Regents University (GRU) a multi-year, $1.7 million contract to host the NLM Georgia Biomedical Informatics Course. The course, previously held at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, offers participants a week-long immersive experience in biomedical informatics and provides continuing education to health care professionals and librarians interested in the application of computer technologies to medicine. Registration, travel, housing, and meals are fully supported by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

The NLM Georgia course will be held in Brasstown Valley, Young Harris, Georgia. The fall class is scheduled for September 14-20, 2014.

The deadline for application is July 7, 2014, 8:00 a.m., EDT.

The application is available at:

http://www.gru.edu/library/greenblatt/services/biomedical-informatics-fall-2014.php

For more information, please go to:

http://reeselibrary.wordpress.com/2014/05/16/georgia-regents-university-to-host-national-library-of-medicine-georgia-biomedical-informatics-course/

For questions please contact:

Dr. Brenda Seago
Principal Investigator
Professor and Director
GRU University Libraries
bseago@gru.edu

Kathy Davies
Project Leader
Chair, Research and Education Services
Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library
kadavies@gru.edu

The Great Speckled Bird Exhibit

Reese Library on the Summerville campus of GRU hosted The Great Speckled Bird, a traveling exhibit of the so-named Atlanta-based alternative newspaper—published from 1968 to 1976.

On loan from the Georgia State University Library, the exhibit was created with a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council, and offered a glimpse into the tumultuous times of the newspaper’s tenure as seen through Southern eyes.
According to the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, “During its eight-year existence, The Great Speckled Bird symbolized and spoke for the New Left and counterculture in Georgia and the Deep South. It maintains a place of significance in the story of America’s underground newspapers.”

For more information about The Great Speckled Bird, and to access the digital archive, please go to: [http://library.gsu.edu/search-collections/special-collections-archives/southern-labor-archives/the-great-speckled-bird/](http://library.gsu.edu/search-collections/special-collections-archives/southern-labor-archives/the-great-speckled-bird/)

The photograph collection in the Historical Collections and Archives of the GRU Greenblatt Library contains class photographs of the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). Some of the earliest class photos include an essential character to the history of MCG, Grandison Harris, the school’s resurrection man. Just as he played a part in the background of the school’s history, Mr. Harris stood in the back row of the class photos.

The Smithsonian online magazine features an article about Harris that includes three class photographs. The photographs are believed to be the only ones of Harris to exist. While the original photographs are kept in the Historical Collections and Archives, digitized versions are available online via several webpages from the Greenblatt Library website:

- [Scholarly Commons](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/meet-grandison-harris-grave-robber-enslaved-and-then-employed-georgia-college-medicine-180951344/), the GRU institutional repository (Medical College of Georgia photos)
- Scroll through the online “History of the Medical College of Georgia” exhibit.
- [Historical Images](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/meet-grandison-harris-grave-robber-enslaved-and-then-employed-georgia-college-medicine-180951344/)


For more information regarding Grandison Harris, the photograph collection, or Historical Collections and Archives, please contact Renée Sharrock, Curator, Historical Collections and Archives, at rsharrock@gru.edu or 706-721-3444.

For more information about Georgia Regents University Libraries please go to: [http://www.gru.edu/library/](http://www.gru.edu/library/)
Gwinnett County Public Library

Local Author Day at the Five Forks Branch

On May 17, 2014, Gwinnett County had no shortage of literary talent as the Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) recognized writers during Local Author Day at the Five Forks Branch. Attendees met new authors, had the opportunity to read undiscovered debut novels, and learned about the journey from blank page to published book and everything in between.

Local Author Day is a great opportunity to meet local authors who will be selling and signing copies of their books while discussing their journeys. James Newman, Mike Brown, and Robert Hardin are three of the ten authors who participated in the afternoon long event. Many genres were represented including romance, historical fiction, thrillers, mystery, inspirational, and more.

The Five Forks branch is located at 2780 Five Forks Trickum Road Lawrenceville, GA 30044. For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs, events, and services, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org, call (770) 978-5154, or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.

GCPL and Norcross High School Team Up for MakerCamp

Coming in June, the Gwinnett County Public Library, in partnership with Norcross High School, will host the first “MakerCamp” for Gwinnett students. MakerCamp introduces students to practical—and fun—hands on learning through the use of computer-aided design software and a MakerBot 3D printer. Students will learn about the history and function of 3D printing. They will begin by exploring 3D projects that are available online and then move to designing and printing their own projects. The camp will take place June 9 through June 12 at the Peachtree Corners Branch. A public reception will be held on June 23 where MakerCamp participants will unveil their newly printed creations.

3D Printing has become a powerful tool for teachers and students. 3D printers foster exploration in a variety of subjects—science, technology, engineering, art, and math—by allowing students to have a hands-on learning experience. Designs are created on a basic computer with browser-based design software. GCPL’s 3D printer, the MakerBot Replicator 2, uses PLA plastic made of corn starch to lay down thin layers to form three-dimensional objects. To learn more
about 3D printing and the library’s printer, visit: http://lib.gwinnettpl.org/makerbot

Teens interested in participating in MakerCamp can sign up on the library’s website beginning May 1, 2014: www.gwinnettpl.org. Space is limited. To learn more about Gwinnett County Public Library programs and services, please visit online, find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, or call (770) 978-5154.

§

Gwinnett County Public Library Presents an Evening with America’s “Master Griller,” Bestselling Cookbook Author and Television Star Steven Raichlen

Steven Raichlen, dubbed America’s “master griller” by Esquire Magazine, will visit Gwinnett to discuss his prolific career and share some barbecuing secrets with fans. He is the author of over 25 bestselling cookbooks, including the award-winning Barbecue! Bible cookbook series. That series alone has sold over 4.7 million copies. Raichlen will appear on stage at Norcross Cultural Arts Center on Thursday evening, June 12, at 7 p.m. to host a cooking demonstration and talk about his newest book Man Made Meals.

Raichlen’s articles appear regularly in Food & Wine, Bon Appétit, and other magazines and newspapers. His current show, Primal Grill, is a PBS hit series, and his popular Barbecue University series is now available on DVD. Bon Appetit named him Cooking Teacher of the Year. Man Made Meals focuses on tools and techniques—so guess what griller?—you still get to play with knives and fire! It's about adopting secrets from the pros—how to multitask, prep before you start cooking, clean as you go. It's about understanding flavor and flavor boosters, like anchovies and miso, and it’s about essentials: how to shuck an oyster, truss a chicken, and cook a steak to the desired doneness.

The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. The Norcross Cultural Arts Center is located at 10 College Street in Norcross. For more information about library events, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org, call (770) 978-5154, or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, or Google+.

§

Gwinnett County Public Library Presents New York Times Bestselling Author Karin Slaughter

As part of the Gwinnett County Public Library's Meet the Author series, bestselling author and library advocate Karin Slaughter will have a book discussion and signing at the Barnes & Noble store located at the Forum in Peachtree Corners. She will discuss her new book Cop Town—her first-ever stand-alone novel. The book talk and signing will take place at 7 p.m. on July 10, 2014.

Barnes & Noble will donate a portion of all sales during the day of the event to the Friends of Gwinnett County Public Library when customers mention the library while making a purchase at the store’s checkout counters.

Karin Slaughter is the New York Times and #1 internationally bestselling author of 14 thrillers, including Undone, Fractured, Beyond Reach, Triptych, Faithless, and Unseen. She is a native of Georgia and a dedicated supporter of public libraries.
For more information about Gwinnett County Public Library programs, events and services, please visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnet tpl.org), call (770) 978-5154, or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.

§

**Free Workshop for Aspiring Writers**

On Thursday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m., bestselling author and renowned writer's workshop conference speaker Joe Samuel Starnes will host a free workshop and book discussion at the Suwanee branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library. Starnes will focus his discussion on Research: A Writer's Best Friend and A Writer's Worst Enemy—Using Research in Your Fiction.

Eudora Welty once wrote “the art that speaks most clearly, explicitly, directly, and passionately from its place of origin will remain the longest understood.” Starnes, author of the novels *Fall Line* and *Calling*, will discuss how fiction can come alive with details acquired from research, giving your short stories and novels a sense of verisimilitude. He will offer practical advice to aspiring writers about conducting research, and he will offer writers tips on avoiding the pitfalls and delays that doing research can bring to fiction writing.

Joe Samuel “Sam” Starnes first novel, *Calling*, was published in 2005. NewSouth Books published his second novel *Fall Line* in November 2011. Articles by Starnes have appeared in the *New York Times, Washington Post* and various magazines, as well as essays, short stories, and poems in literary journals. In December 2012, *Fall Line* was named to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s* “A Year in Reading: Best of the South” list.

The Suwanee branch is located at 361 Main Street, Suwanee, GA. To learn more about Gwinnett County Public Library programs and services, please visit [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org), find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, or call (770) 978-5154.

§

**Gwinnett County Public Library Presents a Luncheon with *New York Times* Bestselling Authors and Award Winning Chefs: Nathalie Dupree and Cynthia Graubart**

Gwinnett County Public Library, in partnership with Garden Plaza of Lawrenceville, will host an upscale weekday luncheon on June 4 at 12 p.m. with *New York Times* bestselling authors Nathalie Dupree and Cynthia Graubart. The authors will discuss their 2013 James Beard Award winning book: *Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking* and host a Q&A session followed by an onsite book-signing while guests enjoy a delicious lunch. Cookbooks will be available for purchase during the luncheon. Proceeds will support the Gwinnett County Public Library.

Nathalie Dupree is the author of fifteen cookbooks and has appeared on more than 300 television shows for The Food Network, PBS, and others. She has been prominently featured
in the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune as well as Bon Appétit, Food and Wine, Southern Living, Coastal Living, Better Homes and Garden, Redbook, Cosmopolitan, and Good Housekeeping magazines. She is a three time James Beard Award winner and was awarded the prestigious “Grand Dame” of Les Dames d’Escoffier, an international organization of top women in the culinary field, and was named the 2013 Woman of the Year by the prestigious organization of French Chefs of America.

Cynthia Graubart, a James Beard Award winner, is the author of Slow Cooking for Two: Basics, Techniques, and Recipes. Her other books include Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking (2013 James Beard Award) and Southern Biscuits, both co-authored with Nathalie Dupree. Her first book was The One-Armed Cook: Quick and Easy Recipes, Smart Meal Plans, and Savvy Advice for New (and not-so-new) Moms. She is also a columnist for Southern Living magazine and a cooking teacher.

The Lunch & Listen series brings authors and readers together, providing the ultimate food for thought with a wide range of authors—from bestselling mystery writers, and award-winning regional novelists, to nonfiction and cookbook authors.

Seating is limited and tickets can be purchased in advance for $12 per person. Tickets sold at the door will be $17. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit http://friendsgcpl.org. Or email Contact@FriendsGCPL.org. Doors do not open until 11:30 p.m. The luncheon will take place at, and in partnership with, Garden Plaza at Lawrenceville, off of Route 316 at 230 Collins Industrial Way in Lawrenceville.
Kennesaw State University

Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) and Kennesaw State University (KSU) will be consolidating into one university, Kennesaw State University, in 2015. The Johnson Library staff from SPSU and the Sturgis Library staff from KSU have been having potluck lunches and various meetings to get to know one another. Staff from both libraries are looking forward to working with each other.

The Sturgis Library has had a busy spring semester. In February the library had Blind Date with a Book. Staff members selected a variety of books, wrapped them in valentine paper, and patrons picked their “blind date” book. Patrons were asked to rate their “date” and enter a raffle drawing.

At the end of February during midterms, the Happy Tails Therapy Dogs visited the library to help students relieve stress. Students also made their own “stress balls” using balloons and sand.

The library had a special Dr. Seuss book display to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday in early March. The library staff got into the spirit of Saint Patrick’s Day by having a limerick writing contest. Three limericks were selected and the campus chose the best poem. Eli Arnold, Information Commons Librarian, won the contest.

To celebrate Women’s History Month, the Friends of the Library sponsored a lecture by KSU history professor, Dr. Elsa Nystrom, “Mad for Speed: Women Racers of the Brass Age, 1900-1912.” Dr. Nystrom’s discussion was based on her book about female racer Joan Newton Cuneo, Mad for Speed: The Racing Life of Joan Newton Cuneo.

For Poetry Month, the Friends of the Library invited poet Earl Braggs to do a poetry reading. Braggs is a professor of English at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. For Money Smart
Week @ your library, Christopher Dehner from the KSU ITS Information Security Office talked about identity theft. During National Library Week the Friends of the Library had a used book sale. The Sturgis librarians celebrated National Library Worker Day with a breakfast for the staff. On Monday and Tuesday of that week, the library unveiled four “Read” posters featuring the student assistant staff.

Two Sturgis Librarians were presenters at the Research on Teaching and Learning Summit, held at KSU on February 7. Dr. Linda Golian-Lui’s topic was “Using De Bono’s 6 Thinking Hats for Creative Thinking, Effective Decision Making, Engaged Meetings, and Faster Problem Solving.” Johnny Woods presented “Up Close & Personal: Harnessing Online Forums for Collaborative Dialog in the F2F Environment.”

Librarian Rita Spisak presented a poster, “Beware the Book-Censorship,” at the KSU Conference on Literature for Children and Young Adults, March 26-27. Librarian Cheryl Stiles gave a brief presentation, “The Art of the Chapbook,” at the National Graduate Student Writing Conference at the University of West Georgia in March. She is completing her doctoral degree in English at Georgia State University.

Three Sturgis employees graduated with new degrees in December:

Johnny Woods, Distant Education Librarian, Master of Instructional Design & Technology.

Chris Sharp, Government Documents Librarian, Master of Public Administration.

Carey Huddelstun, Cataloging & Public Services Assistant, Master of Library and Information Science.
University of West Georgia

Shelley Rogers, Senior Cataloger and Associate Professor at Ingram Library, University of West Georgia (UWG), has been granted tenure effective at the start of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Ingram Library and Houser Walker Architecture Receive AIA Georgia Award

AIA Georgia, an association of The American Institute of Architects, awarded a 2013 Georgia AIA Citation Design Award to Houser Walker Architecture of Atlanta and the Ingram Library and Tom Murphy Archives at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. The award of architectural distinction was presented “in recognition of commitment to the design profession and the pursuit of architectural excellence.” Steven Raike, AIA, served as the Design Awards Jury Chair. Submissions were evaluated on creativity, design excellence, and for innovation beyond the current trends of form and image making. Hank Houser of Houser Walker Architecture served as principal architect on the project. The design and construction team included TVS Design, the Jaeger Company, Sykes Consulting, Minick Engineering, Parrish Construction, and Avient Museum Services, which designed interpretive exhibits highlighting Georgia House Speaker Tom Murphy’s life and political career. Lorene Flanders, Dean of Libraries, and Michael Conley of the university’s AEC Project Services joined Hank Houser and other members of the firm at the awards ceremony, held in Columbus, Georgia in October.

Commemoration of Georgia House Speaker Tom Murphy’s 90th Birthday

The University of West Georgia’s Irvine Sullivan Ingram Library and its friends organization, the Penelope Melson Society, commemorated the 90th birthday of the late Thomas Bailey Murphy, former Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, who was born in Bremen, Georgia on March 10, 1924. Following Murphy’s death in 2007, the Georgia General Assembly honored him by appropriating $8 million to renovate Ingram Library and replicate his iconic State Capitol office within the facility. The Murphy Office was dedicated on April 19, 2012 in a ceremony attended by every living speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, and former governors Roy Barnes and Sonny Perdue. The Sunday afternoon event drew some 130 members of the Murphy family, Capitol staffers, state representatives, and members of the university community. Speaker Murphy’s Chief Aide, Steve Anthony, Class of 1973 spoke, and

Martha Murphy Long, daughter of former Georgia Speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas B. Murphy, at “White Gloves” tours
Representative Calvin Smyre of Columbus gave a powerful statement concerning Speaker Murphy’s mentorship of him as a newly-elected legislator. Elected in 1974 as the youngest member of the Georgia House, and appointed floor leader by Governor Harris for the 1987 session, Smyre was the first African-American leader in the House since Reconstruction. He has served as president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators since 2006. Smyre attributed his success during his forty year legislative career to Speaker Murphy’s willingness to place him in positions of learning and leadership.

Ingram Library’s Annie Belle Weaver Special Collections hosted White Gloves tours during the afternoon. The event showcased a selection of books, photographs, and archival materials representing the breadth and depth of the collections. Highlights included a 1579 early English printed bible, an 1887 prospectus promoting the mineral and timber riches of Tallapoosa, Georgia, a 1999 memorandum written by then U.S. Congress member Bob Barr pertaining to the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, and a 1917 photograph of the Fourth District A&M football team. The event was organized by the Head of Special Collections, Blynne Olivieri, with assistance from UWG graduate student Brian Crews. Participants in the white gloves event interacted with graduate students who answered questions about the items and tours into the storage areas were given.

On Monday, March 10, ninety visitors enjoyed cupcakes in the Ingram Library lobby in honor of the Speaker’s 90th birthday, beginning an annual tradition to reach students and involve them in exploring why the Murphy Office is replicated on campus, and how Murphy's leadership changed Georgia and the nation.

For more information about the University of West Georgia, Ingram Library, go to http://www.westga.edu/library/

Ruth Wasserman is a Jewish girl who returns to her southern Alabama home for the summer after completing her freshman year of college at the University of Michigan. Because of the regional differences in location, the novel first appears to be a contrast of southern and northern cultures, but when Ruth begins to internally express anxiety over how she looks, it becomes clear that this account is more about personal struggle. This internal conflict only intensifies when Ruth observes that everything about home has changed, including her brother’s personality and her parents’ relationship.

The story is told through Ruth’s point of view, but there is more than one plot line occurring. These simultaneous narratives are sometimes confusing, but at the same time reflect that life is not always painstakingly structured. Ruth’s true thoughts are revealed only through inner dialogue because she is not emotionally capable of voicing them out loud. Because Ruth expresses her true feelings through inner dialogue, the story becomes more relatable to readers who clearly understand, if not identify with, her feelings.

The description of the other family members’ conflicts, however, is biased because the story is told in first person and is only revealed through Ruth’s interactions with them. If the story was written in third person, readers might gain more insight into a family who all endure the same stress of change. The author then could have elaborated on, instead of hinted at, how they endured in different ways. By limiting this perception to Ruth, however, the author discloses only cursory details to their conflicts which in turn provides for a tedious sequence of events with a lack of character development.

Despite these shortcomings, the author does well in portraying how Ruth and her family experience mutual struggles. They remain taciturn in dealing with these conflicts until a near disaster forces them to confront their feelings toward each other.

The climax of the story is unexpected and is somewhat disappointing. The author uses a near tragedy of a young child to interject clichés of the Deep South’s racial segregation, and this does not add to the overall message of the story and so is therefore unnecessary. Although the situation obviously places the story among typical southern culture, differences in race do not contribute in any way to how the author uses this situation to bring the Wasserman family together again.

Because the characters in the story are not fully developed, this novel may be more appropriate for a young readership instead of for the experienced adult who is looking for an insightful read.

Jennifer Putnam is Reference Assistant at Georgia Regents University

Charles Seabrook grew up on John's Island near Charleston, South Carolina and has been a science writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution for the past thirty-three years. His childhood experiences on a barrier island combined with his interest in science make The World of the Salt Marsh a delightful read. The book explores all aspects of salt marshes from North Carolina to Florida. There are chapters about marsh ecology that explore the important role these ecosystems play in the coastal environment. The species that inhabit this harsh environment must be extremely tolerant to a quickly changing landscape, one subject to tidal processes and variations in salinity.

Seabrook takes us through the biological zones that make up these types of marshes—from the upland edge where dry land meets wetland through the high marsh, low marsh, and the hammocks. Spartina and its important role as food producer in the marshes are significant themes as well. Seabrook explores the recent marsh dieback, where large swaths of spartina were turning yellow, then shriveling and dying. Researches explored many theories on the reasons for this and finally concluded that drought and its associated problems were to blame. Seabrook also explores the cultural history of these coastal communities, focusing on the Gullah and Geechee peoples. Their way of life is vanishing as beachfront property becomes more desirable and the lure of such attractive properties causes huge spikes in property taxes. These coastal communities are developing too quickly, causing pollution that is decimating oyster and fishing operations.

Seabrook's love for these areas is abundantly clear, and he joins his voice with the poet Sidney Lanier in this beautiful elegy to the important and endangered salt marshes found on our southeastern coast.

Diana Hartle is Science Librarian at the University of Georgia