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SELA/General News, Library News, and Personnel News

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LIBRARY NEWS:

Alabama

The **Troy University Rosa Parks Library** in Montgomery, Alabama was one of 78 libraries across the U.S. that received the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read for 2019/2020. We received \$15,000. The City of Montgomery will be reading *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine in March/April of 2020. <https://www.arts.gov/art-works/2019/national-endowment-arts-announces-1-million-grants-support-nea-big-read-community>

Also, Troy University Libraries just received word from the American Library Association (ALA) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) that Troy University Library on Troy Main Campus was one of 50 libraries in the United States selected to participate in the upcoming tour of the traveling exhibition *Americans and the Holocaust*. The tour will begin in March 2020 and will continue through March 2022. At press time, it is unknown which 6-week period the library will host the event.

South Carolina

On September 3, 2019, **Greenville County Library System's Five Forks Branch** was honored by the American Library Association in their 2019 Library Design Showcase featuring "the year's most impressive new and renovated libraries." The Branch was one of thirteen libraries nationwide that were recognized for "innovative architecture" that meets the needs of the community in "unique, interesting, and effective ways."



The Five Forks Branch's column-free design features bold colors and textures as well as a wealth of natural light resulting in an inviting and contemporary space for patrons to discover and enjoy. Construction of this branch library in the Five Forks area is the culmination of a plan originally set forth by the Greenville County Council 25 years ago. In 1993, the Greenville County Council approved an ordinance to replace nine existing library branches, replace the main library in downtown Greenville and construct a new library for Woodruff Road. In 2004, the Greenville County Planning Commission identified the Five

Forks/Woodruff Road area as having a high need for a library branch.

Architecture firm for the project was McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture, LLC, Greenville, SC and the General Contractor was Melloul-Blamey Construction SC Ltd., Greenville, SC.

When its doors opened on Sunday, March 25, 2018, Greenville County Library System's Five Forks Branch became the second largest Library facility in Greenville County encompassing approximately 28,000 square feet. Since opening, the facility has welcomed over 304,600 patrons and over 10,000 patrons have signed up for a Library Card at that location.

Located at the intersection of Woodruff Road and Sunnydale Drive in the Five Forks area of southeastern Greenville County, the Five Forks Branch encompasses many unique features including:

- A children's area with multiple centers for active-learning;
- A secured outside "Play Porch" adjacent to the children's area for social skill development through creative play with large foam blocks;
- Separate space for teens;
- Two drive-up windows—one for check-out of materials previously placed on hold and one for return of materials;
- Automated materials handler to identify and sort returned items;
- A quiet room for reading/studying;
- A public technology area including desktop computers and scanning equipment;
- Meeting rooms with audio induction technology to enhance sound quality for those with hearing aids.

Virginia

The **Virginia Tech Libraries** was recently awarded two grants totaling almost \$600,000 from the U.S. [Institute of Museum and Library Services' \(IMLS\)](#) National Leadership Grants program. This program funds and supports projects that strengthen the quality of library and archive services across the nation by advancing theory and practice.

Only two Virginia awards were given this year from this program and both were awarded to the [University Libraries](#) at [Virginia Tech](#). These grants total one of the largest awards in this cycle from [IMLS](#).

During the past five years, the [University Libraries](#) has been one of the most funded academic libraries in the nation by IMLS and is making a significant contribution through national-level digital infrastructure initiatives.

Of the two grants, \$505,214 will be awarded to the project: [Opening Books and the National Corpus of Graduate Research](#), led by Assistant Dean Bill Ingram, in collaboration with Edward A. Fox from the [Virginia Tech Department of Computer Science](#) and Jian Wu from [Old Dominion University Department of Computer Science](#).

The project's goal is to deploy natural language processing, machine learning technologies to advance discovery, use, and reuse of knowledge hidden in the text of books and other book-length documents. The research will focus on bringing computational access to book-length documents, such as large national corpus of freely available electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), free from the legal restrictions generally imposed by book publishers. The team will create methods for extracting and analyzing segments of long documents and put systems in place for summarizing chapters of longer texts and making it easier for users to find the information they need.

[Virginia Tech](#) has been a world leader in ETD initiatives for over 20 years. Theses and dissertations have been published at [Virginia Tech](#) since 1903, and in 1997 it was the first university to require electronic submission of theses and dissertations. Today, many universities require students to submit a copy of their thesis to an institutional digital repository that then makes the dissertation freely available online.

For the second grant, \$87,151 will be awarded to [Community Development Model for Digital Community Archives](#), led by Nathan Hall, director of digital imaging and preservation services. This project is in collaboration with [Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights Coalition \(POWHR\)](#), and Ralph Lutts of [Blue Ridge Heritage](#).

This project expands digital access to regional collections and networks that are rich in cultural heritage but are isolated due to the absence of robust digital infrastructures. As a result of this project, communities will have greater digital access to geographically, socially, and politically siloed collections and networks.

PERSONNEL NEWS:

Louisiana

Live Oak Middle School Librarian **Amanda Jones** is getting national attention for her efforts to use social media to garner support and awareness of literacy projects she has created for her students.

Jones was recently awarded two top national honors from the American Association of School Librarians during the group's conference in Washington, D.C. She received the group's 2019 Social Media Superstar Program Pioneer Award and was awarded a 2019 Inspire Special Event

Grant. The grant includes a cash award of up to \$2,000 for Jones to invest in her school's social media project.

At the same time, she was featured on season two of School Librarians United podcast to discuss a presentation she gave in Philadelphia last summer, called "Put Your Self(ie) Out There: Using Social Media to Advocate for Your School Library Program." The national podcast is heard in all 50 states and was recently featured in the School Library Journal as the top podcast among school librarians. The podcast can be heard online at <https://schoollibrariansunited.libsyn.com/using-social-media-to-showcase-your-library-program>.

Jones is also a past winner of the James O. Modisette Award for Excellence in Middle School Library Programming from the Louisiana Library Association.

Jones said she plans to use the AASL grant to continue her school-wide Battle of the Books program, as well as expand it to middle schools in the district.

Jones is her 19th year at Live Oak Middle School. She holds a Master +30 degree, is a certified K-12 librarian, elementary teacher, school administrator and reading specialist. Before becoming the school librarian, she taught 7th and 8th grade English and Language Arts.

She is an active member in several professional organizations, and she heads up several school clubs, including Girls Who Code, Novel Bunch, Silent Reading Club, Wizards of Watson and the after-school STEAM program.

Mississippi

University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Jennifer Steele joins the School of Library and Information Science faculty at The University of Southern Mississippi after having served as the Electronic Resources Librarian for three years at Mississippi College, located in Clinton, Mississippi. She received her Master of Library and Information Studies degree in 2013, followed by her Ph.D. in Communication and Information Sciences in 2017, both from The University of Alabama.



Dr. Steele's research focuses on censorship, information accessibility, and intellectual freedom. Her dissertation is titled *Censorship in Public Libraries: An Analysis Using Gatekeeping Theory*. Her research agenda also includes the role of academic libraries in online education, as well as the information literacy skills of first-year college students.

Dr. Steele is involved in multiple professional organizations, including the American Library Association (ALA), Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), as well as the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), and has served on numerous committees in various leadership positions. As part of ALA, she currently serves on the Resolutions Committee, as well as the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee. As part of ACRL, she currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, and is also a member of the Professional Values Committee. As part of ALISE, she currently serves as the 2019-2020 Chair for the Connie Van Fleet Award for Research Excellence in Public Library Services to Adults Committee. Dr. Steele is also a member of the Beta Phi Mu International Library and Information Studies Honor Society.

Mississippi State University

Mississippi State University Libraries are pleased to announce the appointment of four new faculty members. **Marsha Belton** is the new Electronic Resources Cataloger, appointed at the rank of Assistant Professor. She has 15 years of librarianship experience, which serves her well in her new role at MSU. Marsha will be responsible for cataloging serial materials, ETDs and other library materials. She also serves on the library liaison team for agricultural and life sciences departments.

Prior to this appointment, she worked as Cataloging Librarian at Mississippi Valley State University. Marsha holds a B. S. Degree from Alcorn State University in Agriculture Economics and M. S. Degree in Library and Information Science from University of Southern Mississippi.

Lauren Geiger was appointed Metadata Librarian at the rank of Assistant Professor. As a member of the Collection Management Services department, Lauren will be a part of the cataloging unit. She will help expand and create metadata workflows for several departments in the library.

Prior to this appointment, Lauren was a graduate assistant at the Park Library at UNC's Hussman School of Media Journalism and a docent for the Burwell School Historic Site.

She completed her M.L.S with an Archives and Records Concentration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Blair Booker is the new Assistant Professor/Distance Education and Instruction Librarian. Blair has 11 years of

experience as an academic librarian, serving most recently as the Serials/Reference Librarian at Hinds Community College. Blair will work with the MSU's distance education students and serve as a subject liaison for the Departments of Physics/Astronomy, Mathematics/Statistics, and Geosciences. Blair holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Alabama and a Masters of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Alabama.

Carrie P. Mastley is the newest addition to Mississippi State University Libraries' Special Collections Department. In this role, Carrie will be responsible for making the department's rare and unique manuscript items accessible and discoverable to patrons. This includes processing collections, creating finding aids, assessing materials for preservation needs, and conducting research consultations and information sessions. Prior to this appointment, Carrie served as the Collection Processor for the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana. She holds a MA in English from Mississippi State University and a MLIS with a Graduate Certificate in Archives & Special Collections from the University of Southern Mississippi.

North Carolina

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of **Nadia Clifton** as special collections engagement librarian for the Wilson Special Collections Library.



In this position, Nadia will ensure an excellent visitor experience for all users of the Wilson Special Collections Library. She will collaborate with colleagues across the University Libraries and around campus to create research and learning activities outside the curriculum that engage the UNC-Chapel Hill community with Wilson Library. She will also develop tools, programs and relationships to share

Wilson Library's resources with communities on campus, in North Carolina, and beyond.

Prior to this appointment, Nadia was a graduate research assistant for the Rare Book Collection, Technical Services, and Special Collections Research and Instructional Services, all at Wilson Library. She was an [Association of Research Libraries/Society of American Archivists Mosaic Fellow](#) while interning in the Rare Book Collection.

Nadia holds an M.S.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an M.A. in English literature and B.A. in English with a minor in cognitive science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The Council on Library and Information Resources has selected the University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to host one of [six inaugural postdoctoral fellows](#) for data curation in African American and African studies.

Kimber Thomas will hold the two-year appointment at the University Libraries, beginning September 16, 2019. Her focus will be data curation for African American collections.



CLIR postdoctoral fellowships provide recent Ph.D. recipients the opportunity to develop as scholars while also learning about modern libraries and librarianship. In 2018, CLIR [received a grant](#) from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to extend its long-running fellowship program to the field of data curation in African American and African studies.

Thomas recently completed her Ph.D. in American studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The title of her dissertation is "The House that Black Built: Black Women, Materiality, and Makeshifting in the Jim Crow South, 1927-1947." She is a member of the University's [Royster Society of Fellows](#), which provides stipends and full benefits for five years of study to doctoral students of outstanding promise.

Thomas received her M.A. in African American studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a B.A. in English from Alcorn State University in Mississippi.

At the University Libraries, Thomas will be part of the Digital Research Services department and will work with units across the library system to increase the visibility and use of materials relevant to African American studies, including the potential use of these materials as data.

As part of her work, she will develop practices for curating data from the University Libraries' [community-driven archives initiative](#) in ways that meet the needs and goals of community partners. She also will use data from primary sources in her own research projects and by engaging with scholars, using these experiences to inform data curation methods at the University Libraries.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

University Libraries recently welcomed **Melody Rood** as the new student success librarian in Jackson Library. In her role, Rood will be working closely with student success initiatives across campus as a point person for collaboration, instruction and research for University Libraries. She will also serve as the liaison for the International and Global Studies program.



Additionally, Rood will coordinate the department's information literacy programming with area high schools as well as other outside groups.

Prior to joining UNCG, Rood was a librarian at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina and interned at Queensborough Community College Library in Flushing, New York. She holds a master of library and information science degree from North Carolina Central University and a bachelor of arts in gender studies from UNC Asheville. Rood is a member of the North Carolina Library Association, the Asian Pacific American Library Association and the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Web Team.

Tennessee

Sue Knoche will be retiring from the State of Tennessee after 31 years of service at East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine Library. Sue worked in cataloging, acquisitions, serials, reference/circulation desk and also gave tours and provided staffing assistance at the Museum at Mountain Home a few hours a week. Her current plan is to tour most portions of the world she hasn't been to, the first destination being Athens, Greece. Sue has been very active within SELA and will be missed.

In Memorandum

Ellen Sikes Johnson was born on November 23, 1941, in San Angelo, Texas, and peacefully passed away at home in Conway, Ark., on April 15, 2019.

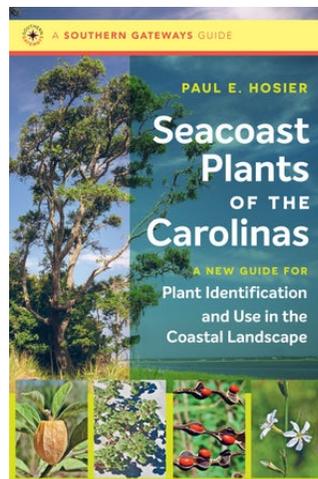
Ellen earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education at the University of Texas at Austin in 1964, followed by teaching second grade at Eanes Elementary School from 1964-1966 in Austin. She dedicated herself to full-time parenting and local community and church initiatives in Texas, Tennessee, and Arkansas between 1967 and 1987. In 1981, she achieved a Master of Library Science at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

She was passionate about reading and achieved her ambition of becoming a librarian when she joined the University of Central Arkansas's library staff in 1987. She served first as head of the Circulation Department, then as a reference librarian and children's librarian. In the latter role, she developed a free-standing children's library at Torreyson Library at UCA, embodying many intriguing features that displayed a love of books and children.

Ellen was a member of the Arkansas Library Association, the Southeastern Library Association and the American Library Association. She had the distinction of being one of 18 persons nationally elected in 2003 to the Council of the American Library Association, serving 2 three-year terms as National Councilor. Later she was the Arkansas Councilor on the ALA Council. Ellen was a founding member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the American Library Association. Representing the Arkansas Library Association, she conducted school workshops throughout the state on freedom to read. She helped many schools as well as individual teachers navigate the treacherous waters of challenges to books in school libraries. She also received the Francis P. Neal Award in 2007 from the Arkansas Library Association in recognition of her notable service to librarianship in the State of Arkansas. Ellen retired from Torreyson Library in 2007 after the birth of her first grandchild while remaining active in professional librarian circles.

BOOK REVIEWS

Seacoast Plants of the Carolinas: A New Guide for Plant Identification and Use in the Coastal Landscape. Paul E. Hosier. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2018. ISBN 978-1-4696-4143-0 (pbk: alk. paper). 504 p. \$28.00



Seacoast Plants of the Carolinas is a spectacular achievement of research on the topic of foliage on the shores of South and North Carolinas. The author, Paul E. Hosier, is a University of North Carolina at Wilmington Botany Professor Emeritus and for forty-one years was a University of North Carolina at Wilmington Professor of Botany. Professor Hosier has a Duke University Ph.D. in Botany and Ecology, a University of Massachusetts M.A. in Botany and Forestry, and a New York State University B.S. in Biology. Hosier also co-authored *Living with the Georgia Shore*.

The writing style is easy to understand. The content includes Introduction, 1. Environmental Setting for the Coastal Carolinas Flora, 2. Environments and Flora: Beaches, Dunes, and Maritime Grasslands, 3. Environments and Flora: Maritime Shrub Thickets, Maritime Forests, and Salt Shrub Thickets, 4. Environments and Flora: Palustrine and Estuarine Wetlands, 5. Invasive Plants of the Coastal Carolinas, 6. Landscaping with Native Coastal Plants, 7. Native Vegetation and Coastal Storms, 8. Climate Change and the Flora of the Coastal Carolinas, 9. Coastal Carolina Plant Profiles: Ferns, Graminoids, Herbs, Vines, Shrubs, Trees, Appendix 1. Accessible Natural Areas for Viewing Coastal Plants and Plant Communities, Appendix 2. Glossary, Appendix 3. Common Name to Scientific Name Synonym, Acknowledgments, Reference Resources, and Index. Six interesting tables include 1. Grasses and Shrubs Suitable for Dune Restoration and Augmentation, 2. Native Species Suitable for Planting in Backdune Environments, 3. Native Plants Suitable for Planting in Maritime Shrub Thickets and Maritime Forests, 4. Native Plants Suitable for Planting in Freshwater Wetland Environments, 5. Native Plants Suitable for Planting in Estuarine Environments, 6. Suitability of Trees and Large Shrubs for Planting in Hurricane-Prone Environments.