Celebrate the freedom to read with the Department of English and the Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library. Gather at the front of the library to hear faculty, staff and students read from banned books:

**Tuesday, September 29**  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Gulf Coast Library Plaza

By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, *Banned Books Week* draws national attention to the harms of censorship. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted with removal or restrictions in libraries and schools. While books have been and continue to be banned, part of the Banned Books Week celebration is the fact that the majority of books have remained available thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, students, and community members who stand up and speak out for the freedom to read. Typically held during the last week of September, this annual event highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community – librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types – in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.