Greetings, LISSA Members!

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2014-15 academic year. LISSA, short for Library and Information Science Student Association, is one of The University of Southern Mississippi’s official student groups and also an affiliate student chapter of the American Library Association (ALA). It represents the students of all SLIS programs. So, whether you are a newcomer or have almost completed your MLIS, once admitted to SLIS you automatically become a member of LISSA. Therefore, it is your group, and we hope you will take an active interest in its goals and objectives for the 2014-15 academic year.

First, we are pleased that many of last year’s LISSA officers have returned to fill new roles. Last year’s executive, led by former President Emilie Aplin, involved LISSA in several new service projects and increased LISSA participation from students outside of Hattiesburg—achievements that have greatly influenced this year’s goals. We are therefore pleased to introduce a new LISSA officer position, the Editor of the LISSA Links, which has been filled this year by Candice Cloud, a Texas-based writer and editor currently completing her MLIS. Links is a new, bi-annual newsletter that will help LISSA keep in touch with its many members around the world.

LISSA considers service as one of its most important roles and we support many LIS-related projects in the Hattiesburg and wider LIS communities. Past years’ activities have included helping local after-school literacy programs, donating to book drives for disadvantaged seniors and youth, assisting at the annual Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, and sponsoring the McCain Library and Archives’ Digi Day workshops. This year we will continue our support of such initiatives and remain on the lookout for new service opportunities.

Although nearly all of SLIS’s programs are fully online, we want you to remain connected with LISSA as much as possible. Since we broadcast our monthly meetings live via Blackboard, any member can attend the meetings no matter where you live. (We also archive the meetings for later viewing.) You are very welcome, either live (via Blackboard) or after (via email), to ask questions, share ideas and make suggestions about our plans and activities. We will announce the dates and times of these meetings well in advance. Of course, you are always welcome to join our Facebook page (@ Southern Miss LISSA) if you have not already.

Refer to page 3 for information about ALA’s “Student to Staff” exchange, a joint LISSA-ALA program that will sponsor one eligible SLIS graduate student to attend the forthcoming ALA conference in San Francisco (June 2015).

Once again, we welcome all LISSA members to the 2014-15 academic year. We look forward to another productive year and hope to see you at our meetings!

Dr. Cindy Yu and Dr. Matthew Griffis
Faculty Advisors, 2014-15

Elizabeth La Beaud
LISSA President, 2014-15 and MLIS Candidate
Meet Your 2014-2015 LISSA Officers

**Elizabeth La Beaud, President**

Elizabeth originally comes from Fairhope, Alabama and earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a second year MLIS student and is also pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections. She started the program in the summer of 2013 and expects to graduate in the fall of 2015. Elizabeth currently works in the Digital Lab in McCain Library and Archives at the University of Southern Mississippi. She occasionally tweets at @elabeaud, and enjoys reading, running, and radical alliteration.

**Colleen Smith, Vice President**

Colleen is graduating in May of 2015 with an MLIS degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, along with an Archives and Special Collections Certification. She currently teaches information literacy within the School of Library and Information Science. Colleen is also the President of Southern Miss Student Archivists (SMSA). She received her B.A. in English with Honors from the University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Park Campus. There she was a Speaking and Writing Tutor. In the future, Colleen would like to achieve her M.A. in Literature and/or Folklore, and eventually her Doctorate in LIS.

**Emilie Aplin, Secretary**

Emilie originally hails from New Orleans, but has lived in Mississippi, Florida, and Illinois. She received a B. S. in General Biology in 2004 from the University of Southern Mississippi, while working as a student assistant in the library on campus. Several years later, Emilie returned to work in Cook Library, this time as a staff member, and enrolled in library school shortly thereafter. In addition to the MLIS, Emilie is also pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections. Emilie is active in the Graduate Student Senate, serving as the SLIS representative. In keeping with librarian stereotypes, Emilie has two cats and enjoys cooking, sewing and reading--along with a healthy amount of video games.

**JJ Crawley, Webmaster**

JJ Crawley is originally from the Hattiesburg but now resides in Sumrall, MS, which is jokingly referred by her as the “black hole of technology.” She earned an Associate from JCJC in computer programing and a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from the University of Southern Mississippi. JJ is currently enrolled in the MLIS program along with pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections. She works for University Libraries at the University of Southern Mississippi as the Integrated Library System Administrator in addition to other technology-related tasks. For fun, JJ enjoys karate, video games, comics, 5k’s and mud runs. She is planning on running her second Spartan Sprint this November.

**Candice Cloud, Editor**

Candice is a Texan—working, living, and studying in the “Pineywoods” region. She received her B.A. in English literature before going on to pursue her MLIS. She is interested in archives and museums, and she is currently working as a docent for a few nineteenth century historical locations. When Candice is not studying or working, she is spending time with her dog, watching documentaries on Netflix, catching up on leisure-reading, or eating (she loves food). She also maintains a personal blog, thegothicarchivist.weebly.com, where she writes about her school and work.
Meet Your 2014-2015 LISSA Officers (Cont.)

Dr. Matthew Griffis, Faculty Advisor
Dr. Griffis is an Assistant Professor at The University of Southern Mississippi’s School of Library and Information Science. This is his second year at SLIS and his second year as a faculty advisor for LISSA. Dr. Griffis currently teaches LIS 605, 636, 646, 457, and 557. This past July he became a second faculty supervisor for SLIS’s British Studies program. He studies library as place, library architecture and planning, public libraries, rural libraries, and library history. He has very few hobbies that are not library or archives related, but among these are collecting music and watching old Hollywood movies.

Dr. Xinyu Yu, Faculty Advisor
Dr. Xinyu Yu is an Associate Professor who received her tenure from USM in 2013. Joining USM SLIS in 2007, she has served as a LISSA faculty advisor since 2009. Born in Guiyang, China, she has a bachelor’s degree in English from Beijing Language and Culture University. She received her MLIS from the University of Oklahoma and PhD from the University of North Texas. She has taught 505, 636, 651 and is currently teaching 405, 506, and 675 (digital libraries). In Spring 2015 she is going to teach 642, 652 (metadata), and 667 (health informatics). She does research in image analysis, digital preservation, and health informatics. She enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, running, and swimming.

Earn While You Learn: ALA’s Student-to-Staff Program 2015

Professional associations play an instrumental role in shaping the careers of many professionals. Our profession’s most internationally recognized professional association, the American Library Association (ALA), began in 1876 and has been a guiding force in librarianship ever since. It holds annual conferences every June and smaller, mid-winter meetings each January. The annual conference showcases professional talks, research papers, celebrity readings, tours of local libraries, and countless vendors and merchants. Nearly everyone, from beginners to mid-career professionals to veterans of the field, should attend an ALA conference at least once in their careers. It is nearly impossible to leave an ALA conference without thinking differently (and often more creatively) about the importance of libraries in the lives of users.

Each year the ALA selects 40 qualifying students from accredited LIS programs across the country to attend the Association’s annual conference. Called the “Student to Staff” (S2S) program, selected students receive complimentary registration, complimentary housing, and a per diem for meals. In return, the student commits 16 hours of their time (4 hours per day) to assist with various conference programs and operations. This helps the ALA run their conference and gives students work experience, valuable networking opportunities, and a chance to travel. In past years LISSA has covered the S2S student’s transportation costs.

The ALA’s Chapter Relations Office runs the S2S program in partnership with each school’s LISSA group. Because of space limitations not all nominees are selected for the program. Last year’s S2S nominee, Callie Wiygul, was eventually selected as one of ALA’s final 40. According to ALA’s website, S2S student nominees: must be a current student chapter (LISSA) member (LISSA further requests that nominees have entered themselves on the membership roster); must be a current ALA member (and remain so through the ALA Annual Conference that he or she is nominated to participate in); cannot have previously participated in S2S; and cannot be an ALA Spectrum Scholar receiving funds to attend a Spectrum Leadership Institute. Students that graduate in May 2015 are still eligible.

LISSA is again selecting its annual nominee through an essay contest. Essays were to answer the following question: What role(s) will professional associations play in the libraries and information field in the 21st century? The deadline to submit was October 24th. LISSA is currently reviewing submissions and will announce its nominee in early November.
Early last spring, USM Digital Lab manager, Elizabeth La Beaud, came to me with the beginnings of an idea to provide LIS students with hands-on digitization experience and an opportunity for service hours. Over the next few months, she and I ironed out the details of what would become known as Digi Day. The plan was to see if we could pull off such an event and to gauge whether or not it would be something we could turn into a recurring opportunity for students.

After getting the green light from the powers that be, we were able to begin cementing the details of the event. We obtained permission from the curator of the de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection to use the H. A. and Margret Rey papers for the event and lined up guest speakers from the Mississippi Digital Library and the Aquila Digital Community to speak to participants during the “lunch and learn” session. The USM Library and Information Science Student Association (LISSA) sponsored lunch for the day, and faculty advisor Dr. Matthew Griffis was on hand during the all-day event. We put out calls for volunteers on the LISSA Facebook page and through the SLIS listserv. SLIS faculty were also asked to spread the word by making a Digi Day announcement in their classes.

Digi Day ran from 8:00–5:00 on Saturday, June 21, with a session in the morning and another in the afternoon; a total of ten SLIS students participated in the event. Students attended a one-hour orientation, which covered background information about the Reys, the basics of digitization, and the creation of production records. After the orientation period, the students went to individual scanning stations where they set to work creating production records, scanning items from the Rey papers, and editing the resulting images. Digital Lab staff were on hand to answer questions and assist as needed.

Each participant received a Certificate of Participation and a booklet outlining the digitization standards used by the USM Digital Lab. Take-away bags containing a T-shirt and other goodies were also provided. At the end of their shift, participants were asked to complete a survey indicating their reaction to the event. We also asked if Digi Day was something they would like to see repeated, and sought suggestions to improve any future Digi Day opportunities. The response from participants was overwhelmingly positive!

To our knowledge, the Digi Day concept is unique to USM. The success of our pilot event is encouraging, and we would like to make Digi Day something that happens once or twice a year. An ongoing partnership between the Digital Lab and our student chapter would provide a wonderful opportunity for students, as well as benefiting the Lab by assisting with their digitization projects.
This past July Dr. Welsh and Dr. Griffis accompanied the 2014 LIS British Studies class to London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland. The class included graduate students from LIS programs across the country, including Southern Miss, Rutgers, the University of South Carolina, the University of Wisconsin, SUNY Buffalo, the University of Texas, the University of Tennessee, and Indiana University, among others. In London, the class stayed at the King’s College campus on Stamford Street, just up the road from Waterloo Station, and at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

The British Studies Program is an intensive, month-long study abroad experience consisting of tours, lectures, and research assignments. Several departments at Southern Miss offer British Studies courses, among them History, Business, and Psychology. This year’s LIS students enjoyed as many as 20 extensive tours of libraries, archives, museums, and literary sites all over the UK, including the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Shakespeare’s birthplace at Stratford-upon-Avon (where they also saw a Royal Shakespeare Company performance of *Henry IV*), the Westminster Abbey library, the British Museum Archives, the British Library, the Museum of London’s Archives, St. Paul’s Cathedral Library, the London Archaeological Archive and Records Center, the National Library and Archives of Scotland, the Royal Geographic Society—and the highlight of Dr. Griffis’s month: a special day trip to the Dunfermline, Scotland Carnegie library of 1883, history’s first Carnegie library.

There were also optional day trips to Stonehenge, Winchester, Dover, the Houses of Parliament, and across the English Channel to Paris. Many students and faculty experienced many of London’s finest stage shows. Harry Potter fans were especially delighted to visit the Elephant House coffee shop in Edinburgh, Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford and, in their spare time, the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio tour in Watford. Dr. Griffis especially enjoyed seeing Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Pinter Theatre, strolling the grounds of Balliol College at Oxford, browsing rare book shops at Charing Cross Road, and walking the famous “zebra” crossing at Abbey Road Studios.

Hello LIS students! Would you like to win a $25 Barnes and Noble gift card? Place yourself on the LISSA roster for 2014-15! LISSA is one of The University of Southern Mississippi’s official student groups and also an affiliate student chapter of the American Library Association (ALA). It represents the students of all SLIS programs. So, whether you are a newcomer or have almost completed your MLIS, once admitted to SLIS you automatically become a member of LISSA. However, LISSA must still maintain an active roster. In order to collect student names and information for the roster, LISSA requires permission from each student it adds. To make things simple we have created an online form here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RL6wHI9s02L6a6LuaNQcyeVeuzmxJKldRpiRH_CHTe/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RL6wHI9s02L6a6LuaNQcyeVeuzmxJKldRpiRH_CHTe/viewform)

Any students that have added their names and information to the 2014-15 roster by November 3rd will be considered for a $25 Barnes and Noble gift card. If you have added your name to the roster in past years, we encourage you to re-enter your information into the new form.

Dr. Griffis and Dr. Welsh will soon begin their promotion and recruitment campaign for British Studies 2015, so be watching for information. Also feel free to contact either of them with your questions.