Greetings, LISSA Members!

The 2014-2015 academic year may be coming to a close, but LISSA is still going strong! There are still ways to get involved, volunteer, and gain experience before the next school year begins. I am excited about our recent LISSA events, and I think you will be too.

First up, the annual Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival was a great success. LISSA, in conjunction with the Southern Miss Student Archivists (SMSA), hosted a meet and greet table and sold magnets and t-shirts to send a SLIS student to ALA's Student to Staff program. It was great to see some of our alumni again. We love hearing where you are and what you are doing!

LISSA was also excited to take part in a new event – the Edible Book Contest! The event took place April 13, 2015 as part of National Library Week, and featured literary inspired works constructed in consumable materials. Our Curious George-themed cake was a big hit, and our own JJ Crawley won best in show for her Walking Dead-inspired cake.

Of course, the 50th anniversary of the SLIS grad program is just around the corner. It is hard to believe so much time has passed. I guess it is true: time really does fly when you are having fun. We have celebratory plans in the works, first of which is a wonderful SLIS history write-up in this very issue of LISSA Links. The Fall issue of SLIS Connecting will be anniversary-themed as well, so keep a look out for more great material there.

LISSA will also be co-sponsoring Digi Day with University Libraries' Digital Collections over the summer. Digi Day will offer hands-on digitization experience to volunteers and a chance to work with archival materials in a real world setting. Keep an eye on our listserv and social media for more information.

We are prepared to finish this year strong, and hope you will join us. The officers and faculty advisors have done a remarkable job organizing opportunities for LISSA, and it is just the beginning. If you think these upcoming events are great, just wait for what is in store next year!

Looking forward to it,

Elizabeth La Beaud
LISSA President, 2014-15 and MLIS Candidate
Help Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the SLIS Graduate Program

This fall will mark the 50th anniversary of the graduate program in library science at the University of Southern Mississippi. SLIS will be commemorating the occasion with a number of events, bringing together past and present faculty as well as alumni. The event will be of interest to countless library and archives professionals across the southeastern United States since The University of Southern Mississippi’s library science program is the only fully ALA-accredited program in the state, and one of just a few nationally-recognized library programs in The South.

Library training dates back to ancient times. Ever since the Hellenistic period, with the organization and construction of the Library of Alexandria, caretakers of libraries have been expected to possess special skills and competencies, among them a high degree of literacy and scholarly knowledge as well as administrative and organizational abilities. Although some of the earliest modern examples date back to 1820s France, librarian training courses did not emerge in the West until the late 19th century, about ten years after the American Library Association formed in 1876, when Melvil Dewey initiated library science classes at Columbia College in the mid-1880s. Similar library education programs later emerged in Canada, Germany, China, and England. The University of Chicago’s Graduate Library School, founded in 1928, marked the first graduate program in library science offered in North America.

Library training courses were first offered at Southern Miss as far back as 1926, when the school was known as the Mississippi State Teacher’s College. In the late 1950s, after the school had been renamed Mississippi Southern College, the library science program became part of the College of Education and Psychology. The first Masters program in library science at Southern Miss was introduced in 1965, and became fully accredited by ALA in 1978-79. The department was officially named the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) in 1993.

Today SLIS is in the College of Education and Psychology and offers a Bachelor of Science in LIS; an MLIS; a supplemental school library media specialist endorsement; a graduate certificate in archives and special collections; a graduate certificate in youth services and literature; and dual master’s degree programs in history, anthropology, and political science. SLIS offered its first hybrid library training courses the mid-90s and, several years later, offered one of the first online MLIS programs. This is now a fully online MLIS program, one of only a few offered in the United States.

SLIS will be commemorating the occasion with a number of events, including a special presentation at the fall meeting of the Mississippi Library Association. SLIS is also planning a special commemorative issue of SLIS Connecting, the department’s indexed journal. An article about the history of the department will be submitted to Mississippi Libraries. The department is also preparing a web page that will include an illustrated timeline.

LISSA and the Southern Miss Student Archivists’ Association (SMSA) will also be preparing an on-campus display. The display will include items relating to the history of the university’s library science courses, the campus libraries, and the history of modern librarianship in general. The display will include many pieces from Dr. Griffis’ personal collection of artifacts relating to library history; among his rarest pieces are copies of manuals and textbooks from some of the first American library schools, ca. 1880s-90s.

You are invited to contribute suggestions and ideas for other events. Please contact Dr. Griffis (matthew.griffis@usm.edu) or Dr. Welsh (teresa.welsh@usm.edu) for details.
This year’s Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival, an annual literary festival and conference organized by the School of Library and Information Science, took place April 8-10. Each year over 400 librarians, teachers, and children's writers attend. The 2015 festival was a great success; this year’s speakers included Coleen Salley, Carolyn S. Brodie, Rita Auerbach, Peter Brown, Pat Cummings, Nikki Grimes, David Levithan, Steve Sheinkin, Deborah Wiles, Gene Luen Yang, and this year’s Southern Miss Medallion Winner Paul O. Zelinsky.

Once again LISSA hosted an information and hospitality table on the second floor of the conference center and distributed literature about LISSA and SLIS programs, assisted conference attendees with directions, and helped administer Festival and exhibitor door prizes. To raise funds LISSA sold sets of fridge magnets, which were reproductions of vintage postcard images of children reading books. (The images were selected from Dr. Griffis’ vintage postcard collection.) LISSA was able to raise nearly $200, which will help fund its various service projects and sponsor the annual ALA Student-to-Staff program.

Edible Book Festival, 2015

Many thanks to Elizabeth La Beaud (LISSA President), Emilie Aplin (LISSA Secretary), and JJ Crawley (LISSA Webmaster), who entered a cake on LISSA’s behalf in the inaugural Edible Book Festival, which took place on the morning of April 13th in the Cook Library gallery in the Learning Commons.

“Edible books,” as they are called, are culinary creations inspired by famous works of literature or the authors that wrote them. This was the first time Southern Miss had hosted such an event, and this year’s Festival was organized by Jennifer Brannock of the McCain Library and Archives and co-sponsored by the University Libraries, LISSA, and the Southern Miss Food Research Group.

Awards were given for Best in Show, Most Nutritious, and Most Creative. LISSA’s entry, a domed layer cake resembling a hat, was inspired by Curious George’s keeper, The Man with the Yellow Hat. We would also like to thank LISSA member Amanda Myers for contributing the Curious George gingerbread figure.

Top Left: LISSA’s entry was inspired by Curious George’s keeper, The Man with the Yellow Hat.

Bottom Left: (left to right) JJ Crawley, Emilie Aplin, Elizabeth La Beaud, and Amanda Myers.
This July, approximately 200 students from across the United States and Canada will meet at the King’s College dormitory in the heart of London, England, for nearly five full weeks of learning, exploration, and leisure. This is the British Studies experience, a month-long study abroad program.

Several departments at Southern Miss offer British Studies courses, among them History, Business, and Psychology. For the past nine summers the SLIS has offered a British Studies class, the 2014 class (which totaled 24) being one of its largest. The course comes in the form of two LIS electives, a total of six hours of credit from The University of Southern Mississippi. The LIS British Studies class of 2015 has already reached over 20 approved students (and there is still room for more). Some are from SLIS; most are from LIS schools elsewhere in the United States. And, for the very first time, some LIS students from Canadian LIS schools will be participating.

The LIS class will enjoy numerous on-site lectures and guided tours of some of the UK’s most important and historic libraries, archives, and special collections from distinguished British librarians, archivists, and curators on-site in London, Edinburgh, and Oxford. This year’s schedule will feature many of our regular stops but also some new ones. The tentative schedule includes visits to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, St. Paul’s Cathedral Library, the British Library Conservation Centre, the British Museum Archives, the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the London Library, and the British Film Institute Library and Archives, among others. The class will also be spending a week in Edinburgh, Scotland, where they will visit the Edinburgh Central Library (a Carnegie Library) and the New College Library at the University of Edinburgh. Other trips include a day trip to Bletchley Park. Students will also have the opportunity to see the Elephant House coffee shop in Edinburgh and many other sites related to Harry Potter.

The British Studies Program is headquartered in central London at King's College in their Stamford Street dormitories, a hundred yards or so from Waterloo Station. The central location puts students just a few minutes' walk from Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, and the theater district. A historic recreation of the Globe Theatre, where you may purchase tickets to a Shakespeare production, is within walking distance, as is the historic Old Vic Theatre and the modern National Theatre.

Information about course requirements, including the tentative 2015 schedule and syllabus, is available at: http://www.usm.edu/library-information-science/british-studies. Late applications will be considered depending on available room, and late registrants will have to make their own air travel arrangements. Contact USM's office of International Programs for more information on applying after the deadline. Please contact Dr. Welsh or Dr. Griffis for more information.
LIS 457/557 Computer Applications in Libraries

Instructor: Dr. M. Griffis

This fall will see the launch of a new version of the 457/557 course, currently known as “Computer Applications in Libraries”. The new version, tentatively named Information Technology and Libraries, will cover many of the same topics as the old 457/557 syllabus did (e.g., productivity applications, databases and database searching, social media, and so forth) but will be broadened to include such topics as: e-books and e-reading, innovation spaces and idea labs, adaptive technologies, Library 2.0 and virtual services, and more. Assignments will include: several short, in-class activities relating to learning basic productivity software functions; a research paper on a chosen topic relating to the course subject; a blog; and the preparation of a professional, LIS ePortfolio. The course is cross-listed at the undergraduate (457) and graduate (557) levels. Any questions about the course are welcome and can be directed to Dr. Griffis.

LIS406/506 Advanced Cataloging

Instructor: Dr. Xinyu Yu

Are you interested in broadening your interests in cataloging and information organization? This fall, you will have an opportunity to explore cataloging in perspective. This course intends to build upon what is already taught in LIS505 cataloging and classification, but expand knowledge and skills in cataloging and classifying diverse library materials. Class lectures and readings will feature topics in print resources, integrating resources, electronic formats and management, audiovisual resources, and serials. To go with lectures, there are hands-on practice exercises and projects to make one become more familiar with bibliographic control principles and tools and take a further step in researching cataloging trends and issues.