

The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the State of Alabama. The Mission of the Alabama Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

ALLA COMMUNICATOR

FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Jessica B. Hayes

2019-2020 ALLA President

Happy Summer!

I am thrilled that as President I can help guide the Alabama Library Association through this next year. It is important to me that all our members, and not just Executive Council, know my vision for the Association. I hope that you join myself and the Executive Council in making these goals a reality!

Unity

As former Association president Clyde H. Cantrell said, "If we are ever to have good library service in the State as a whole, it is necessary that we coordinate our efforts and work in close cooperation one with another." This is my main goal for this association year, to unite all of us who provide library and information services to the Alabama citizenry. To accomplish this, the Executive Council and I are investigating ways in which to create *ex officio* Executive Council positions for the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL), UA's School of Library & Information Studies (SLIS), Alabama School Library Association (ASLA) or the Department of Education, Society of Alabama Archivists Association, and Alabama Special Library Association. We also plan to investigate ways in which we can partner with other associations to offer trainings for both of our memberships and participate in each other's annual meeting.

Grow and Develop

In recent years, our membership numbers have stagnated with some periods seeing declines. This has had a significant impact on how effective our Association can be as it limits our membership activity, revenue, and participation. ALLA leaders are dedicated to growing the Association membership as well as develop the Association into an organization in which people want to be a part. We are looking at creating new Round Tables like a Gaming and Graphic Novel Round Table, updating our membership models and dues structure, developing more in-person and virtual training opportunities, and providing orientation for "new members" – in both in-person and virtual formats.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

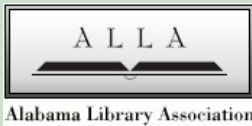
| | |
|--|----|
| From Your ALLA President | 2 |
| Library Freedom Institute Press Release..... | 3 |
| Important Announcements | 3 |
| Services to Those on the Spectrum | 4 |
| Librarians of Note..... | 6 |
| ALLA Convention Overview | 7 |
| Alabama Library Highlights..... | 8 |
| From the Editor..... | 10 |
| Items of Note..... | 10 |



@ALLibAssoc



Facebook.com/
AlabamaLibraryAssociation



2018/2019 ALLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

OFFICERS

Jessica Hayes
President

Daniel Tackett
President-Elect

Carrie Steinmehl
Past President

Paula Webb
Secretary

Karen Preuss
Treasurer

Jeff Graveline
Member-at-Large: Central AL

Ashley Cummins
Member-at-Large: North AL

Wendy Congiardo
Member-at-Large: South AL

DIVISION CHAIRPERSONS

Jennifer Powell
Children's & School

John Upchurch
College, University & Special

Barbara Curry
Public Library

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Angela Moore
Association Administrator

Jodi W. Poe
Web Administrator

Paula Laurita
ALA Councillor

Margie Calhoun
SELA Representative

OTHER POSITIONS

Jessica Platt
ALLA COMMunicator Editor

Donnelly Walton
Archivist

Ashley Brown
President, Scholarship Fund, Inc.

FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT *CONTINUED*

My top priority is to work with the Members-At-Large to plan Town Hall Meetings in the three regions of Alabama (North, Central, and South). This will be an opportunity for ALLA leadership to hear what needs those in the Alabama library and information profession have and how the Association can best address them. If you are interested in hosting one of these events, please contact your Member-At-Large for further details.

Advocate

For those who couldn't attend our most recent Legislative Day on May 1st, I'm pleased to say that we had a great event where ALLA leaders as well as representatives from APLS, NAAL, and ASLA met with state officials. Culminating the event was the signing ceremony during which ALLA leaders and special guests witnessed Governor Kay Ivey designate April 8-13 Alabama Library Week. Most significant was within days of our event we received word of an increase in state funding for the Alabama Virtual Library, public libraries, schools and school libraries, higher education institutions, and other information services institutions.

This year, we plan to continue with these legislative activities, as well as increase advocacy in the state's policy making, create resources, and establish connections to help local professionals with self-advocacy, as well as increase our understanding of the type of advocacy each library division needs. Finally, it is my hope that we can increase our advocacy on the behalf of library professionals and paraprofessionals in their own institutions. We find it important that all those in the Alabama library profession can reach out to the Association; while we might not be able to change major factors, we can be a support.

Plan

As our last strategic plan was created in 2006-2007, I have tasked Lori Northrup, the Planning Committee Chair, with the responsibility to developing a new and dynamic plan that will lead our Association forward for the next five years. This document will incorporate our Association's current goals and long-term vision so that subsequent Presidents will have a consistent plan that will help guide them through their time as president.

These are just a handful of ideas that the ALLA leadership has developed for this upcoming year; if you, as our members, have other suggestions we want to hear from you. Feel free to contact me at the email/phone number listed below and we can chat about ways the Association can help you more!

Jessica B. Hayes
ALLA President, 2019-2020
jhayes11@aum.edu
205-470-7580

LIBRARY FREEDOM INSTITUTE PRESS RELEASE

Auburn, AL - Auburn Public Library librarian Ashley J. Brown was one of 30 librarians from 14 states, DC, and Mexico City selected to participate in the 2019 Library Freedom Institute.

Library Freedom Institute (LFI) is a privacy-focused six-month program for librarians to teach them the skills necessary to thrive as Privacy Advocates, including educating community members, installing privacy software, and influencing public policy.

Ashley has worked for the Auburn Public Library since 2005, and she earned her master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama in 2009.

The Auburn Public Library was established in 1947 to serve the residents of Auburn, Alabama. Today, the Auburn Public Library provides residents with a collection that reflects the diverse and dynamic interests of our community, with access to public technology and information resources, and with programs and activities that contribute to an engaged, literate, and informed society.

IMPORTANT ALLA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contributed by Jessica B. Hayes

*ALLA President & Head of Public Services Librarian,
Auburn University Montgomery Library*

Children's and School Librarians Division (CSLD) Name Change

In early 2019, the members of Children's and School Librarians Division voted to change their name to the Youth Services & School Librarians Division (YSSLD). The voting members of the Executive Council meeting formally approved this change in their first quarter meeting held June 14, 2019. This change took immediate effect.

President-Elect Needed for Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT)

Tim Dodge reported at the first quarter meeting of the Executive Council that GODORT is in need of a president-elect. If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself for this position, please contact Tim Dodge (dodgeti@auburn.edu).

GET INVOLVED

ALLA Divisions:

YSSLD
*Youth Services & School Librarians
Division*

CUS
*College, University and Special
Libraries*

PLD
Public Library Division

ALLA Roundtables:

ALIRT
Alabama Library Instruction

CDMRT
*Collection Development and
Management*

GODORT
Government Documents

MCRT
Multicultural Information

PART
Paraprofessional

RASRT
Reference and Adult Services

TSSRT
Technical Services & Systems

YASRT
Young Adult Services

ALLA Committees:

Association Awards
Authors Awards
Bibliographic
Budget & Finance
Bylaws
Convention
Education
Emeritus Council
(Formerly Past Presidents)
Employee Evaluation
Handbook
Intellectual Freedom
Legislative Development
Membership
Nominating
Planning
Public Relations
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA
Committee, fill out the Committee
Interest form at:
[https://goo.gl/forms/
tS79Dg6YqFbjiS812](https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dg6YqFbjiS812)

SERVICES TO THOSE ON THE SPECTRUM

*Contributed by Paula S. W. Laurita
Director, Athens-Limestone Public Library*

In 2015, youth assistant Amanda Coleman noticed a gap in library services offered by the Athens-Limestone Public Library. There were no appropriate storytimes for those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Ms. Coleman approached her supervisor and suggested that they offer a “Spectrum Storytime” as a summer program. Building on a long relationship with Fitting the Pieces, the North Alabama chapter of the Autism Society of Alabama, Ms. Coleman developed a successful, weekly storytime. That idea has grown into a regular storytime that attracts families from around the area.

Rather than boisterous songs and dances, the storytime features lowered lights, comfortable bean bag chairs, interactive toys, and a welcoming space. Families gather in the quieter community meeting room for their library time. Ms. Coleman developed a video presentation explaining what to expect during their time together. Parents and children are more comfortable with an environment when they know what to expect. In addition, a selection of books are available so that families hesitant to use the bustling children’s room can check out books after storytime.

Ms. Coleman has since become the head of youth services where she continues an outreach program for those on the Autism Spectrum. She leads a young writer’s group that also helps teens socialize. Social skills are critical for neuro-diverse children and teens. Whether it is learning from peers, holding a job, or making friends, these interactions with others are extremely important. By moving from structured (adult-led) to unstructured (youth-initiated) activities based on the young persons’ interests, youth on the spectrum gradually learn and develop the social skills that open doors for the rest of their lives.

Knowing that education never stops, Ms. Coleman and her assistant, Ms. Ambre Hyatt, have attended the 2018 Alabama Autism Conference at the University of Alabama. This educational opportunity was funded through a Library Services and Technology Act grant. The grant also provided support for collection development and continued outreach to this underserved community. Ms. Coleman has shared her knowledge at an Alabama Public Library Services summer kick-off and an Alabama Library Association Public Library Division’s Mini-Conference. “The biggest obstacle for most librarians is fear,” Ms. Coleman shared. “They don’t want to do the wrong thing.”

Library staff are often intimidated by their lack of knowledge and skills to provide appropriate storytimes and other activities for those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Athens-Limestone Public Library wanted to share their experiences and encourage other libraries to expand services. The search for how to fund training led to the American Library Association’s (ALA) Loleta D. Fyan Grant. Fyan, 1951-52 ALA President, bequeathed funds to ALA with the intent that “these funds be used for the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide.”

In its public announcement about the grant, Stephen Wiberley, Chair of the Loleta D. Fyan Award Jury, noted the Athens-Limestone Public Library’s grant “will provide resources and training for librarians from two states to learn how to help young people on the Autism Spectrum develop social skills. All communities have people on the spectrum, and the Athens-Limestone effort will serve as a model for other public libraries. It addresses the needs of an underserved population and builds on Athens-Limestone’s Spectrum Storytime program and on its relationship with their area’s chapter of the Autism Society of Alabama. The proposal has thoughtful plans of action, evaluation, and sharing results.”

SERVICES TO THOSE ON THE SPECTRUM *CONTINUED*

HOT TOPIC: SERVICES TO THOSE ON THE SPECTRUM

A workshop on Friday, September 13, 2019, will provide education and the opportunity to express concerns and gain the confidence to reach out to those on the Autism Spectrum. Keynote speaker Dan Weiss is the co-founder of Libraries and Autism. Mr. Weiss is the director of the Fanwood Public Library in Fanwood, New Jersey. After lunch, Ms. Coleman will lead a sample Spectrum Storytime. Jennifer Wolfe, librarian at Athens-State University Library, will discuss her experience as the parent of a son diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Registration is still open for the workshop. Those interested can register at <https://tinyurl.com/Autism-Libraries>. The registration fee is \$15 and includes morning snacks and lunch. Those libraries needing to use a purchase order to register may do so by contacting Laura Poe at (256) 232-1233.



Amanda Coleman
Head of Youth Services
Athens-Limestone Public
Library



Dan Weiss
Co-Founder, Libraries and Autism
Director, Fanwood Public Library



Jennifer Wolfe
Associate Librarian
Athens State University

HOT TOPIC: LIBRARIANS OF NOTE

NEW ACQUISITIONS LIBRARIAN

AT THE LEVI WATKINS LEARNING CENTER

Ashley V. Eaton is the new Acquisitions Librarian at Alabama State University's Levi Watkins Learning Center. She received her M.L.I.S. from The University of Alabama in December 2018 and prior to working at the LWLC, Ashley worked as a Library Page in the Nonfiction Department at Hoover Public Library.

In her spare time, she loves photography, traveling, genealogy tracing, and learning about history and different cultures.

When asked if she has any specific goals or things she'd like to accomplish in her new position at ASU, Ashley says:

"As someone new to the field of Acquisitions, my first year's goal is to learn as much as I can about Acquisitions to better contribute to my university. As time goes on, I would like to acquire knowledge and experience in Archives, Circulation and Special Collections. My ultimate goal is begin able to contribute to the advancement of the Library and Information Studies field."



CHAIR OF YOUTH SERVICES & SCHOOL LIBRARIANS DIVISION

&

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE COMMITTEE OF

ALABAMA SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Jennifer Powell is the Chair of the newly renamed Youth Services & School Librarians Division (formerly Children's and School Librarians Division). She is a 5th year school librarian at Tarrant High School in Tarrant, Alabama, but she has 10 years of experience in public and academic libraries as well. Along with serving as YSSLD chair, she is also a board member and Social Media Chair for ASLA as well as on two National committees.

She is passionate about diverse and inclusive collection development and creative classroom learning. She also enjoys making spreadsheets and playing with her dog. You can follow her on Twitter @Powells_Library.

ALLA ANNUAL CONVENTION:

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

The ALLA Annual Convention, held April 2-5, 2019, at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort in Point Clear, offered many helpful and exciting programs such as Yoga on the Beach; the always popular Author Awards Program; Democratic vs. Transformational: Leadership Findings and Discussion; Finding Your Instructional Voice: Improvisation, Philosophy, and Performance Principles for Every Librarian; Best Practices for Working with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their Families in a Library Setting; Using Survey Data and Reports to Change Policy and Implement New Programs; Serving English Language Learners in Your Library, and many others.

Book Talks and Signings were held with Dick Wall, Alicia Hunter Pace, Karyn Tunks, Leslie Tarabella, Winston Groom, and Lauren Denton. The Keynote Speaker of the Opening Session was Ben Bizzle, Library technology and marketing specialist, national speaker, consultant, and author of *Start a Revolution: Stop Acting Like a Library*. The Convention closed with a Keynote Session and Book Signing with Frye Gaillard, author of *A Hard Rain: America in the 1960s, Our Decade of Hope, Possibility, and Innocence Lost* and winner of the F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald Museum Literary Prize and the Governor's Arts Award.



CHILDREN ENJOY ALABAMA'S UNIVERSE OF STORIES Alabaster's Summer Challenge Ends

Contributed by Frances Smith

Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

Youngsters of all ages have an advantage heading into the school year after reading thousands of library books during the Alabama has a Universe of Stories Summer Challenge at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Nearly 500 children registered, picked a reading goal, earned prizes, and received a certificate. Several children won prizes during the Finale on July 17. The 8-week challenge featured more than 60 entertaining and educational programs.

We thank our sponsors: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, AmStar Cinemas, Bike Link, Friends of the Library, Hungry Howie's Pizza, Jim 'N Nick's, Magic City Daylight Donuts, McDonald's, Oak Mountain Lanes, Panda Express, and Whataburger.

Here's a recap of July Summer Challenge Activities:



Alabama Biographies & Crafts
During Alabama Biographies & Crafts kids discover picture book biographies of author Harper Lee and inventor Lonnie Johnson. Also during the July 1 program they painted ceramic rocket ships and birds.



Science Lab: Astronomy
Children explore seasons, eclipses and the dark side of the moon with Dr. Michael Sterner co-director of the Shepherd Observatory in Montevallo. The July 1 session included a PowerPoint tour of the observatory and questions and answers.

CHILDREN ENJOY ALABAMA'S UNIVERSE OF STORIES CONTINUED



Animals: Back to Natives

Kids meet Alabama birds and reptiles during the July 8 visit with educators and creatures from the Alabama 4-H Science School.



Teen Kitchen

National Sugar Cookie Day, July 9, is celebrated a day early by more than a dozen tweens and teens on July 8 with a cookie decorating contest conducted by Charity Waldrep of Shelby 4-H. They also learned the secrets of making blackberry parfait. The blackberry is the official state fruit.

The Albert L. Scott Library
100 9th Street NW
Alabaster, Alabama 35007
205.664.6822

ALLA COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to submit your library-related news to:
communicator.alla@gmail.com
Submissions must include:

- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact Email and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

ALLA COMMUNICATOR PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

| Edition | Submission Deadline | Publication Date |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Jul/Aug/Sep | Mid-June | July |
| Oct/Nov/Dec | Mid-Sept. | October |
| Jan/Feb/Mar | Mid-Dec. | January |
| Apr/May/Jun | Mid-March | April |

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Friday, September 06, 2019

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Friday, December 06, 2019

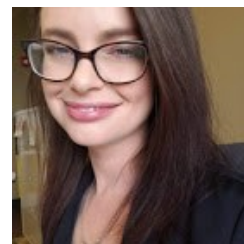
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Friday, March 06, 2020

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

FROM THE EDITOR

*Contributed by Jessica Platt,
Education Doctoral Librarian
Alabama State University*



Thank you for reading the *ALLA COMMunicator*, the official newsletter of the Alabama Library Association. As this publication's new editor, it is a privilege to help increase awareness of successful library programs and individuals making a difference across the state of Alabama.

I'd like to sincerely thank the following individuals for their role in the proof-reading process of this issue: Melvia Walton, April Moon, Deni Owens, Neil Foulger, Rosanna McGinnis, Sarah Cooper, Jodi Poe, Kara Van Abel, and Tiffanie Jeter.

If your organization would like news or accomplishments published in a future issue, please submit your contributions following the guidelines listed to the left. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to communicator.alla@gmail.com.

Libraries and library staff are making a positive impact in our communities every day. I look forward to receiving and sharing your organization's submissions in upcoming issues.

The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man. —T.S. Eliot

ITEMS OF NOTE

- Nominations for ALLA positions remain open through November 14. Visit www.allanet.org and visit the *Announcements* section to nominate yourself or someone else.
- The Fall issue of the GODORT Connection is online. You can check it out here: https://issuu.com/allacommunicator/docs/alla_godort_fall_2018_final.
- The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) has formed an educational partnership with Drexel University allowing members the opportunity to earn their library science degree **ONLINE** at **20% OFF the regular tuition rate!** For more information, visit <https://www.allanet.org/continuing-education>.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** The next ALLA Convention will be April 14-17, 2020 in Birmingham, Alabama. #allabham2020
- Win Free Registration to YALSA's 2020 Symposium! Those who join the Young Adult Library Services Association and register for the 2019 Symposium by September 15, 2019 will be automatically entered for a chance to win *free* registration for the 2020 YALSA Symposium. To learn more, visit <http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2019/04/registration-open-yalsa-s-2019-ya-services-symposium>.