

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 the President:

Happy Spring ALLA Members and Friends!

How many times have we had to change plans over the last two years? COVID has required us all to recalibrate our expectations and think outside the box. These last two “pandemic years” have been difficult in a myriad of ways. The experiences have presented us with unique opportunities for reflection and growth. Moreover, they have imbued a renewed appreciation for human contact and the civil exchange of ideas. While these difficult times are now part of our DNA, we are learning how to move forward together.

What better way to move forward than to (safely) come together and share what we’ve learned. To that end, we are so excited to be able to finally say WELCOME BACK!

After much negotiation and preparation, the [ALLA Annual Convention](#) at the [Renaissance Hotel](#) in Montgomery, AL., is officially set for July 31 - August 3. While this return to an in-person convention may look a little different from years past, with your help, it can be just as meaningful and worthwhile.

Registration for the annual convention is now open and there’s something for everyone!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President.....	1,2
Senior Citizen Outreach.....	3,4
Memorial Scholarship.....	5
Library Happenings.....	6,7
Imagination Library.....	8
The New Alabama Libraries.....	9
Convention Updates.....	10,11
ALLA Election News.....	12
From the Editor.....	13

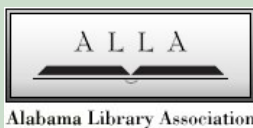


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Facebook.com/
AlabamaLibraryAssociation

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2021/2022

ALLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Laura Pitts—President
Amanda Melcher —President-Elect
Daniel Tackett —Past President
Paula Webb—Secretary
Karen Preuss—Treasurer
Emily Allee—Member-at-Large:
Central AL
Craig Scott —Member-at-Large:
North AL
Wendy Congiardo—Member-at-
Large: South AL

DIVISION CHAIRPERSONS

Caitlin Rogers—Youth Services &
School Library Division
Wendy Stephens —College, Univer-
sity & Special Libraries
Rosanna McGinnis —Public Library

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Angela Moore—Association Ad-
ministrator
Jodi W. Poe—Web Administrator
Paula Laurita—ALA Councilor
Chris Shaffer —SELA Representa-
tive

OTHER POSITIONS

Jessica Platt—Editor of *Alabama
Libraries*
Rodney C. Lawley—Editor of the
ALLA COMMunicator
Donnelly Walton—Archivist
VACANT —President, Scholarship
Fund, Inc.

From the President (continued):

The theme is “Welcome Back” and there are four integrative tracks for program proposals: Social Justice, Pandemic Budgeting/Managing, Misinformation, and Miscellaneous. If you have a creative idea, solution, research project, or experience, we welcome you to share it with your colleagues. The deadline to submit a new proposal is May 2, 2022. If you previously submitted a proposal, there is no need to submit again, but we do request that you provide a preferred alternate date to our program chairs.

Due to the postponement of the 2022 convention, along with other considerations, there will not be a traditional convention in 2023. While the Association is working on other innovative programming ideas for Spring 2023, please don’t miss this opportunity to present and share at the 2022 ALLA Convention in Montgomery!

Whether you choose to present or not, don’t forget to book your hotel room by Sunday, July 3! ALLA has arranged for [group rate pricing](#) at the Renaissance Hotel.

Both current and incoming members of ALLA's leadership team have collectively worked behind-the-scenes to reach the goal of an in-person convention this year. If you know anyone who serves within the Association’s various elected and volunteer positions, drop them a quick email, text, or phone call and let them know that you appreciate their service. It takes a village and ALLA has a strong one!

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you!

Amanda and Laura

Laura Pitts, ALLA President, 2021-2022 &
Amanda Melcher, ALLA President, 2022-
2023



Senior Citizen Outreach

The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library



Rodney C. Lawley; Information Submitted by Mandy Pinyan

With Alabama's senior citizen population expected to increase by 82.4% between 2010 and 2040 (ADPH, 2021), the demand for library services from senior citizens is sure to increase. Meeting this need will require innovative strategies from public libraries like the one initiated by the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL). Their proactive outreach services offer a helpful blueprint for addressing this issue.

HMCPL librarians recognized long ago that senior citizens do not stop learning when they retire. For this reason, the library developed a "Senior Services" program that provides intellectual and social stimulation for elderly residents who are unable to visit the library.

HMCPL works with over 40 nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior living communities, to serve immobile seniors, and the number of these facilities needing assistance is expected to increase.

According to Mandy Pinyan, HMCPL Outreach Services Manager, librarians contact residential staff prior to their visits to evaluate the needs of senior residents. In this process, they often discover necessities that extend beyond simple access to library materials and demand interactive programming for emotional and social support.

Senior Services Coordinator, Ms. Elaine Leffel, reminds residents of upcoming visits, records their book requests, and works to brighten the day of senior citizens who sometimes lack needed support networks or receive infrequent visits.

Continued on next page.

GET INVOLVED

ALLA Divisions:

YSSLD
Youth Services & School Library 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
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>

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(Formerly Past Presidents)
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Senior Citizen Outreach

Continued

Pinyan describes Leffel's work with admiration and respect, emphasizing her importance as a library ambassador to the groups.

Another important part of the HMCPL outreach is "Senior Storytime." Requests for this service are increasing according to Pinyan, and she believes the readings help "trigger memories with pictures, music, movement, and sensory recall."

During the pandemic, HMCPL librarians were not allowed to visit nursing homes. Knowing elderly patrons needed their help more than ever during this time, librarians maintained contact through phone calls and began curbside delivery of books and movies. Pinyan stressed the emotional and physical challenges librarians faced while providing services during this ordeal, commenting, "We do the best we can in a landscape that is still changing."

Large print books for seniors are expensive and present a challenge to outreach efforts. HMCPL mitigates some of these costs through the reallocation of discarded large print books from their branches. They also pursue grant funding, and Pinyan expressed her gratitude for a recent grant provided by an employee giving fund.

The Extension and Outreach Department of the HMCPL produced impressive circulation numbers in 2021. They provided 5,544 large print books, 1,117 DVDs, 305 books on CD, 143 music CDs, and 12,029 regular-print books to their patrons.

Exemplary Leadership:

The staff of HMCPL have set an exemplary standard for outreach service to elderly senior citizens that can—and should be—emulated by other libraries in the state of Alabama.

Please visit the HMCPL website for further information on their exceptional programming: <https://www.hmcpl.org/>.

Reference:

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). (2021). Website. *Health Rankings: Geriatrics*. <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthrankings/geriatrics.html>

Ginny Frankenthaler Memorial Scholarship



The Continuing Education and Staff Development Committee of the Southeastern Library Association is accepting applications for the Ginny Frankenthaler Memorial Scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship is to recruit beginning professional librarians who possess potential for leadership and commitment to service in libraries in the Southeastern United States. The scholarship provides financial assistance towards completion of the graduate degree in library science from an institution accredited by the American Library Association.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded every two years. The recipient of the scholarship will be notified at the end of July, with funding to begin with the fall school term.

The deadline for the receipt of applications is June 1, 2022.

For information on how to apply, please visit:

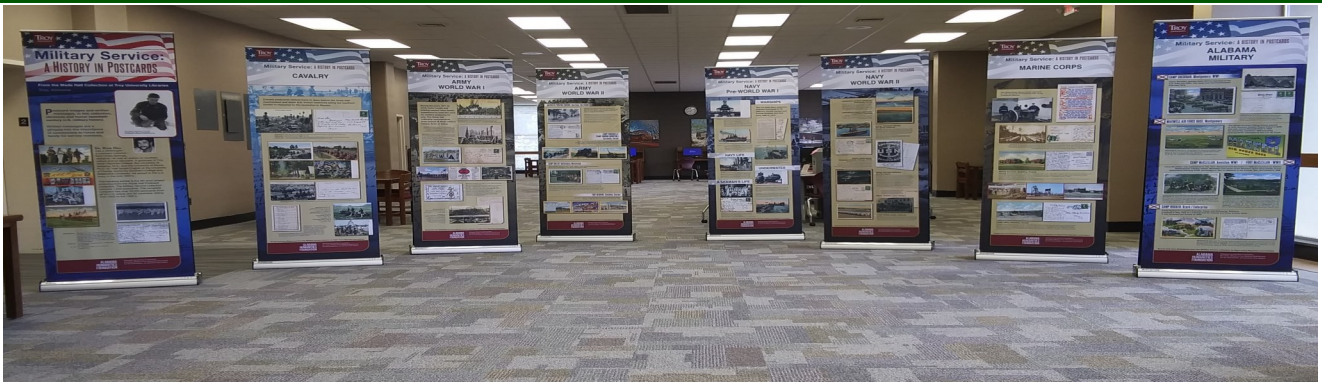
<http://selaonline.org/sela/awards/10scholarship.html>

Please feel free to share this with your state library associations and universities/colleges.

Thank you,

Muriel Nero
Senior Librarian, Head of Cataloging
University of South Alabama Libraries

Alabama Library Happenings



“Military Service: A History in Postcards” will be on display at the Birmingham Public Library, 2100 Park Place, Birmingham from April 2 to June 5, 2022.

This exhibit depicts part of a much larger postcard collection donated to Troy University by the late Dr. Wade H. Hall. It contains over 2,000 images from 46 U.S. states, 200 (plus) U.S. cities, and 6 countries dating from 1903 to 1966. Messages on the cards provide perspective and insight into the lives of men and women who served in the military during this time span.

This project is supported by a generous grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, or to schedule this display at your venue, please contact Mr. Kelly Reeves at: jreeves157554@troy.edu or visit the Troy University website: <https://troy.libguides.com/military>.



The New York Times and other news outlets reported the death of Dr. Autherine Lucy Foster on March 2, 2022. Dr. Foster made headlines in 1956 as the first African American attending the University of Alabama. Her intent was to obtain a 2nd undergraduate degree in library science. The university subsequently removed Foster from classes—against her will and without just cause—after only 3 days.

After leaving the University of Alabama, Foster was offered a scholarship to the University of Texas to pursue a masters degree in library science. Eventually, she chose to become a teacher.

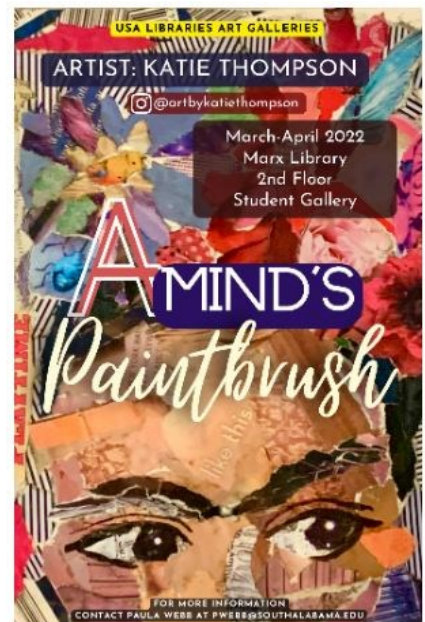
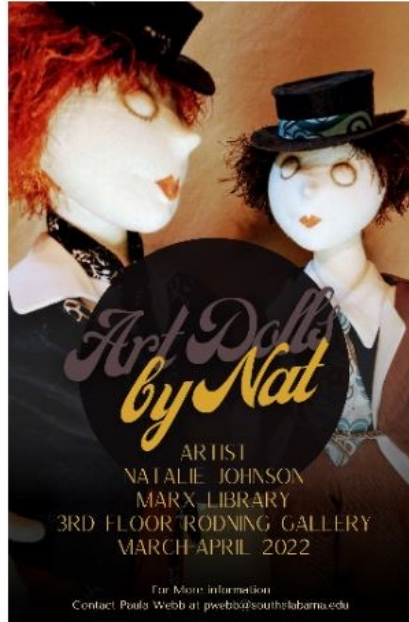
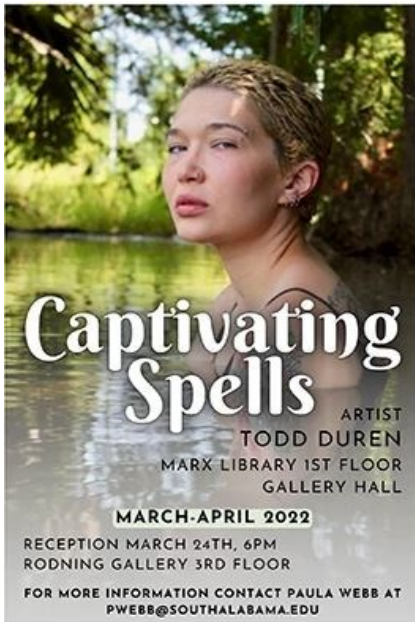
Foster’s bravery, and her lifetime of service and leadership, contributed greatly to the freedoms we have today. She will be greatly missed and respectfully remembered.

“Miss Lucy ready to return to school.” (1959, May 09). Afro-American.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/02/us/autherine-lucy-foster-dead.html>

Photo credit: Library of Congress

Alabama Library Happenings



The University of South Alabama's Marx Library is sponsoring 3 unique art shows in their galleries during April. The library regularly exhibits art work from different artists and mediums. From the Library's website: "Such exhibitions not only enhance the library's cultural role on campus and in the community, but also create an environment which should be uplifting, inviting, and inspiring for library visitors and employees."

Visit the library's art gallery website [here](#), or contact Outreach and Communications Librarian Paula Webb for more information: pwebb@southalabama.edu.

Illustrations Provided by USA Libraries Art Galleries.

"George Washington Carver: An Uncommon Way" is on exhibit at the University of Alabama's Gorgas Library.

The April exhibit "is a tribute to George Washington Carver's industry and innovation as photographed by P. H. Polk..." ([UA Website](#)).

Prentice Herman Polk (1898-1984) was a prominent African American photographer from Alabama, and his work has been exhibited at the American Museum of Natural History. For more on Polk's career, please visit the [Encyclopedia of Alabama](#).



For more information on the exhibit, please visit the University of Alabama [website](#).

The University of Alabama Libraries Exhibit, An Uncommon Way, featuring photos by P. H. Polk.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library

By Wendy Congiardo, MLIS

Managing Librarian

Thomas B. Norton Public Library



The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is now available to children from birth up to five years old in two counties in south Alabama. In Baldwin County, children of Bay Minette, Stockton, and Perdido will be serviced thanks to the Bay Minette Public Library, sponsored by a grant from International Paper and a generous contribution from Senator Greg Albritton. In addition, the family of Ashlea C. Singleton, along with the Henson and Kirkland Charitable foundation, have chosen to honor her memory and love of books by making this opportunity available to the children of Washington County. Both libraries are now ready to sign children up to participate in this global reading initiative.

Launched in Sevier County, Tennessee, in 1995, the project has grown into a global program that has expanded into Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. The library sends a book, free of charge, through the mail each month to the child. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to read to their children from the curated titles.

The organization has a Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee that chooses the titles which are purchased at the wholesale price. Thanks to the North Baldwin Literacy Council, which is housed in the library, the Bay Minette Library was able to qualify for non-profit postal rates. Set up by zip code, the program is available for children in the North Baldwin County zip codes 36507, 36579, and 36562. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/353685903140153> for more information about availability in Washington County.

According to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, “there is almost a 90 percent probability that a child will remain a poor reader at the end of the fourth grade if the child is a poor reader at the end of the first grade.”

“We want to provide the children in our community with a firm reading foundation to ensure reading success in their school years to come,” said BMPL director Joanna Bailey. “Thanks to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, we will be able to provide quality books that are their very own.”

The Dollywood Foundation covers the overhead costs associated with the program. The program sponsors’ only financial responsibility is the at-cost books and mailing expenses. The funds stay local and 100 percent of the funding goes to serve the children in resident communities.

Go to <https://imaginationlibrary.com/> and enter your zip code to see if there is an Imagination Library participant in your area.

The *Alabama Librarian* is now *Alabama Libraries!*

This newly titled journal is seeking articles relevant to librarianship in Alabama. The Alabama Library Association's peer-reviewed journal publishes scholarly articles biannually in an open access format.

Guidelines for Submissions:

- All manuscripts must be submitted to AlabamaLibrariesJournal@gmail.com as attachment to an email, preferably in MS Word.
- Manuscripts must be written in APA style (7th ed.) and include an abstract and keywords.
- Although longer or shorter works may be considered, 2,000- to 5,000-word manuscripts are preferred.
- The name, position, and professional email address of the author should appear in the bottom left-hand corner of a separate title page. The author's name should not appear anywhere else in the document.
- Submissions will undergo a double blind peer review process.
- Photographs and other images relevant to the submission will be accepted for consideration but cannot be returned. Digital images are preferred.
- No other publisher should be simultaneously considering a manuscript submitted to *Alabama Libraries*.
- If the manuscript includes analyses of survey results, please acknowledge approval by the appropriate Institutional Review Board either through direct reference in the manuscript or acknowledgement as part of the manuscript submission.
- Upon receipt, manuscripts will be acknowledged by the Editor-in-Chief, who will then assign manuscripts to two reviewers. The reviewers who receive the manuscript will have no direct information on the author or the author's affiliation. Following the review, a decision will be communicated to the writer.
- Upon acceptance, publication can be expected within six months.

For more information, contact Jessica E. Platt at:

jplatt@alasu.edu

ALABAMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Start Date: Sunday, July 31, 2022

End Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Last Day to Book: Sunday, July 3, 2022

Special Hotel Group Rate: \$164.00 per night
(not including taxes and fees)

Convention Rates:

Full Convention - Early Bird Rates

Member: \$75

Non-Member: \$110

Student Member: \$10

Student Non-Member: \$20



Member & Student Bundles will also be available. Pricing will be listed on the ALLA website's Convention Page.

Early Bird Registration opens 3/8/22 [Book Your Group Rate](#)



Convention Call for Programs

Thank you to those members who volunteered to present or host a program at the 2022 Alabama Library Association Annual Convention at the Renaissance in Montgomery. Your program request will be automatically reconsidered for the new dates. Additional program requests may continue to be made until May 2, 2022, as well. To submit a request, fill out our online [form](#).

You may contact Paula Laurita (paulalaurita97@gmail.com) or Wendy Stephens (wendysteadmanstephens@gmail.com) about adjustments to the schedule.



Annual Convention Update

New ALLA Convention Dates: July 31 - Aug 3

On behalf of myself and the ALLA Executive Council, we would like to announce the change of date for our annual convention. The convention will now be held **July 31 - August 3** at the Renaissance hotel in Montgomery, AL.

We know that this has been a challenging couple of years for everyone, both as individuals and as institutions. We have listened to each of you regarding concerns for the upcoming convention, the ebb and flow of the current COVID environment, and personal concerns. We are thankful to the Renaissance for allowing ALLA to delay the annual convention from last year to this year. We also appreciate their willingness to work with the Association to ensure both parties are able to fulfill their commitments to contracts.

As part of the convention planning process, under the leadership of Paige Crumbley, Convention Chair, the convention committee, along with the Renaissance, a variety of COVID precautions will be in place during the convention. These can be found below through a link provided by the hotel.

While the annual convention may not look the same as it has in the past, understand that this change is a good thing. We now, as an association and also as members, have the opportunity to be part of our desire to see the annual convention reach more people in a variety of ways. Let's look at this change of date with optimism and the hope of gathering together once again to share our lives with each other.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Alabama Library Association President for 2021-2022. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact me. I am looking forward to the remainder of our year and the convention that is coming!

Sincerely,
Laura Pitts

ALLA President 2021-2022
Scottsboro Public Library Director
256-574-4335

laurap@scottsboro.org

<https://www.allanet.org/registration>

ELECTION

The 2022 ALLA Annual Election is underway. Voting is restricted to current members and will close on **June 10, 2022**. Please vote for one candidate in each of the Association Offices and then one candidate in the division(s) and round table(s) ***in which you are a member***. Votes must be submitted using the online ballot:

<https://alla.memberclicks.net/election>.

All candidates are running unopposed this year. Below is a listing of the candidates and the positions they will be assuming. Official results to be announced at the 2022 ALLA Conference:

President-Elect: Matt Layne

Secretary: Danny Stewart

Treasurer: Jessica Hayes

Member-at-Large Central: Emily Allee

Member-at-Large South: Wendy Congiardo

CUS Officers:

CUS Chair Elect: James Gilbreth

CUS Secretary: Tim Whittemore

CUS MAL for Organization & Bylaws: Allison Boswell

PLD Officers:

PLD Secretary: Mandy Broadhurst

YSSLD Officers:

YSSLD Chair-Elect: Vanessa Warner

Roundtable Officers:

Gov. Doc. (GODORT) **Moderator-Elect:** Tim Dodge

Gov. Doc. (GODORT) **Secretary/Treasurer:** Ricky Best

Multicultural Info. (MCIRT) **Moderator-Elect:** Paula Webb

Paralibrarian (PART) **Moderator-Elect:** Erin English

Ref. Adult Serv. (RASRT) **Moderator-Elect:** Piper Cumbo

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

The Alabama Library Association

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[Click here to donate to ALLA.](#)

From the Editor

Rodney C. Lawley,
Social Sciences Librarian
Troy University



Friends,

It is a great time to be a librarian, and our services have never been needed more. This newsletter reports on topics relevant to Alabama librarians and the communities which they serve. More importantly, it highlights the work of library professionals using innovative ideas to provide exceptional community service.

Librarians influence and benefit society through educational service and outreach, community building, and political influence pertaining to liberty, information access, and social justice. With this in mind, the *COMMunicator* will publish enriching stories that illustrate the positive impact of our organization, its professional members, and the library profession as a whole.

We are our own best advocates, and we must speak louder and more frequently than ever to affirm our value to a healthy democracy and a functional society. If you have an uplifting success story that speaks to our profession's merit, please share it with our readers. Through your knowledge, experience, and vision, we can promote the value of librarianship, information literacy, and adult education so that others can discover what we already know. Librarians matter.

Thank you for your continued support of the ALLA and your interest in our newsletter. I look forward to a great year supporting our organization, its leadership, and the progressive outreach and enrichment initiatives of our members.

Thank you to Mr. Kelly Reeves (Troy University) & Dr. David Chroust (Troy University) for their generous service in proofreading this month's issue.

The *COMMunicator* notes the passing of one of Alabama's greatest librarians, Dr. Margaret Stieg Dalton.

Dr. Dalton once worked as a librarian at Harvard University, and she served on the LIS faculty at the University of Alabama and Columbia University. She was an award winning author who penned numerous books and professional articles during her career.

We thank Dr. Dalton for her exemplary life of service.

Source: obituary on the website of the [Tuscaloosa News](#).