

*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:

Greetings,

I welcome all of you to 2022 and hope that it brings happiness and health to you and your loved ones. As we move into the new year it is important to stay focused on the goals and aspirations we have and remember the importance of staying true to ourselves and the dreams that set up in our hearts long ago. I can remember being a little girl and always thinking of the possible things I would become when I got older. Perhaps a ballerina, perhaps a writer, perhaps a veterinarian. Some of those dreams came to fruition and some morphed into a newness I never could, as a younger child, imagine, as opportunities and interests paved the way for where I am now. I always worry that we forget what it feels like to dream a little and wonder about what great things we can accomplish and become. Somewhere along the way of childhood turning into adulthood we lose this “dreamer mentality” and it is a fight to find our dreamer-selves once again when we grow older.

That all being said, make this year a time of dreaming again. What do you want to accomplish in your career? What about the library work that you do – is there a new program you have been itching to try or a new piece of research you have been wanting to tackle? Do you want to see policies change and advocacy take a new leap forward in your community? Have you thought for many years now about weeding those books off the shelves and rearranging the furniture in your library classroom or sitting area? Now is the time to let those dreams and interests steer you in a direction of happiness, contentment and most of all, peace. We only get 365 days in the year to set our dreams in motion and go after them.

*Continued on next page*

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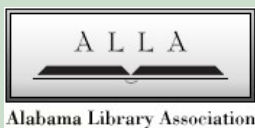
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2021/2022

### 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  
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 the ALLA  
COMMunicator and The Alabama  
Librarian  
Donnelly Walton—Archivist  
VACANT —President, Scholarship  
Fund, Inc.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Continued*

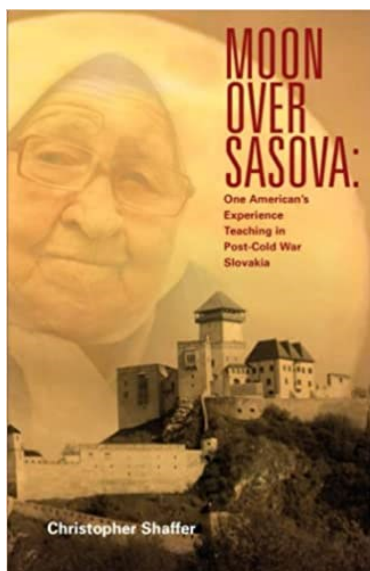
Here is to a Happy New Year and the possibility of learning  
what it means to dream big again.



Sincerely,

Laura Pitts  
ALLA President, 2021-2022

## ALABAMA DEAN PUBLISHES BOOK



Dr. Chris Shaffer, Dean of Library  
Services at Troy University has published a  
memoir about his experiences teaching Eng-  
lish as a Second Language in post-  
communist Slovakia. He arrived in Slovakia  
in 1993, fourteen days after it became an in-  
dependent nation. Published by Hellgate  
Press, *Moon Over Sasova: One American's  
Experience Teaching in Post-Cold War Slo-  
vakia* is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

# BATGIRL AT 60!

*Submitted by Paula S.W. Laurita*

*Technical Library Director,*

*NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Alabama*

*Chapter Councilor, ALA*

Batgirl turned 60 in 2021. What made Dr. Barbara Gordon more than just another sidekick to Batman? How much of a punch was her character to the portrayal of women in comics? How has she changed from her first appearance? The arrival of Bat-Girl (note the hyphen) in 1961 was not with the daring librarian Barbara Gordon. Betty Kane, the niece of crimefighting Batwoman Karen Kane, decided to create her own costume and become a superhero. Betty Kane carried a “crime compact” and “trick lipstick” and caught the eye of Dick Grayson (Robin). Two years after her appearance in Batman #139, Bat-Girl quietly disappeared. While not the most well-known version of Batgirl, Karen Kane deserves to be recognized as the original.

In 1966, the TV show Batman was smashing the campy criminals of Gotham. When the ratings began to slip the producers asked DC Comics for a new Batgirl to be added to the series. Barbara Gordon, daughter of police commissioner Jim Gordon, crashed the Batman party in Detective Comics #359, 1967. Soon after Yvonne Craig donned the stylish purple Batgirl suit for TV.

Batgirl did not set out to join Batman and Robin in stopping crime, neither was she the demure, shy librarian stereotype. She was not a wealthy socialite. Barbara Gordon had a PhD in library sciences and was director of the Gotham Public Library. It is easy to forget how the world has changed in 54 years. For a woman to achieve that level of academic and professional achievement was uncommon in mainstream entertainment. DC Comics chose to show an intelligent, strong woman. Barbara Gordon is a star athlete, trained in multiple martial arts including a black belt in Judo.



*Continued on next page*

## 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>

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## BATGIRL AT 60!

*Continued*

Barbara's adventures as Batgirl began as act of bravery. She was attending a masquerade ball and created a Batgirl costume. On her way to the ball, she saw Killer Moth, trying to kidnap Bruce Wayne. She rescues Wayne, eventually helps to capture Killer Moth, and decides the life as a masked superhero was a way to protect her community. In the beginning Batman and Robin find her an annoyance, but that changes as she proves her abilities. Batgirl became an integral part of the Justice League of America.

That's not to say all of the DC Comics showed Batgirl as more interested in fighting crime than a run in her tights. There were many scenes where Batgirl appeared focusing on her make-up rather than joining Batman and Robin in taking down criminals. These were often ploys that caused outlaws to underestimate her.

Throughout her many adventures, Barbara Gordon looked for a way to serve and help the people in Gotham. In the 1970s she unmasked herself to her father, when Jim Gordon was running for congress. She asked him to step aside and allow her to run in his place. One of her prime platforms was prison reform. Of course, there was opposition from the criminal element of Gotham. Barbara was victorious and turned to creating law in order to secure the safety of the citizens of her beloved city.

As with Batman and Robin, Batgirl has undergone many changes over the years. One of the greatest shocks came in the 1989 graphic novel *Batman: The Killing Joke*. The Joker shoots Barbara Gordon, severing her spinal cord. Barbara is physically confined to a wheelchair, but her spirit is not. She reinvents herself again to Oracle, using her computer skills to become the greatest intelligence asset of the Suicide Squad. Later, she also continued to provide invaluable support to Batman. Oracle becomes part of Birds of Prey with Black Canary.

While Oracle lived on the comic book pages, in 1993 Barbara Gordon returned as Batgirl to TV. *Batman: The Animated Series* found Barbara fighting to exonerate her father on false corruption charges. After that Batgirl returned to print in the *Batman Adventures* comic book. Batgirl's adventures have continued in the many iterations of the world of the Dark Knight. It has been remarkable 60 years, from Karen Kane's entrance in 1961, to the superhero librarian. From a U.S. representative in congress, to the computer genius Oracle she has always fought to serve and protect. In all her iterations Batgirl has never been dull. ***Her spirit of daring and service exists in all librarians.***

# OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND DUAL ENROLLMENT: MAKING A CASE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

*Submitted by Charlotte Daily*

*Technical Library Director*

*Program Specialist-OER  
Postsecondary Education  
Southern Regional Education Board*

Join colleagues from around the country to share policies and learn about emerging practices at this conference.

Open educational resources and dual enrollment hold promise to increase equity, access and affordability for students in high school and college. [Click here to register](#).

## WHEN

Thursday, February 24 -  
Friday, February 25, 2022

## WHERE

Kimpton Overland Hotel  
Atlanta

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education  
Richard Sebastian, Director of Achieving the Dream's Open and Digital Learning

## SESSIONS

- OER, Dual Enrollment and Career and Technical Education
- Regional Scaling of Open Educational Resources
- Expanding OER in Developmental Education and College Readiness
- State Legislation on OER

In-depth looks at programs in Arkansas, Tennessee and more!

UPCOMING OER CONFERENCE

SREB Open Educational Resources  
and Dual Enrollment Conference

*Making a Case for Student Success*

February 24-25, Atlanta



## ALABASTER KIDS KEEP WARM THIS WINTER WITH LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

*Submitted by Frances Smith  
Youth Services Librarian  
Albert L. Scott Library*

Children have fun learning about unusual animals during *Homeschool Happening: Weird Animal Guessing Game* on January 10 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster.



Animal friend Winnie-the-Pooh is celebrated during the *Pete the Cat Book Club* on January 18 at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. Those attending heard the award-winning book *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick and *Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes* by Kim Dean.

## ALABASTER KIDS KEEP WARM

*Continued*

Science-minded kids learn about deciphering secret codes during the January 20 meeting of the *4-H Shelby Scientists Club* at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. It's led by Julie Yocom (far right), Shelby County 4-H Foundation Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System.



*Toddler Tales* celebrates the 140<sup>th</sup> birthday of author A. A. Milne with his most famous character Winne-the-Pooh at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster. On January 21 the group had a great time with a special visitor who entertained with stories, music, and dancing.

Creativity with cupcakes inspire guests during the *American Girls Club* at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster on January 21. Winter is here and they made marshmallow snowman cupcakes. Fans of the American Girls books, characters and dolls also discussed their favorites.



WARMING UP WITH LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

## 2022 ALLA ANNUAL CONVENTION

*Submitted by Wendy Stephens*

*Associate Professor of Library Media & Instructional Technology  
Jacksonville State University*

**The 2022 Annual Convention will be held  
April 26-29, 2022 in Montgomery, Alabama.**

Presenting at the ALLA Annual Conference provides an opportunity to build your professional network and experience lifelong learning with lifelong friends. Presenting a content-rich session individually or as part of a team is a wonderful way to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas.



### **Call for Programming Proposals**

The conference's community-generated program will showcase future directions, best practices, stories of successful collaborations, lessons learned, and solutions to community-wide issues. We welcome your submission!

<https://forms.gle/Mhgv7Nvje8rimPxy8>



## 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

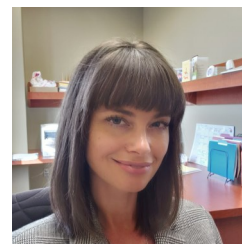
## The Alabama Library Association

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

## FROM THE EDITOR

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



Happy New Year, everyone!

The beginning of a new year is a great time to reflect on past experiences, and as I reflect on my time as the editor of the *ALLA COMMunicator*, I recognize the need for fresh ideas in this publication. That is why I am appointing Rodney Lawley as the new editor of ALLA's newsletter. He has been helping me gather content for several months now, and I think he will be a great editor! I look forward to reading the future issues that will be created and edited by Rodney.

A new year is also a wonderful time to show gratitude for those who have helped you along the way. I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the following people:

- Rodney Lawley, for his willingness to gather content for this publication and to take over as the role of editor;
- Savannah Kitchens, for providing content and proofreading issues;
- Monica Hodge, for proofreading this issue;
- Charlotte Daniel Carr, for proofreading issues;
- Michelle Hamrick, for proofreading and posting issues on Facebook;
- Jodi Poe, for uploading issues to ALLA's website;
- The Alabama Library Association, for entrusting me with the task of publishing their newsletter; and
- All of the readers of the *ALLA COMMunicator*, without whom there would be no need for a publication such as this.

Thank you. It has been an honor to serve ALLA in this capacity.

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If you have any questions or comments, please send them to  
[communicator.alla@gmail.com](mailto:communicator.alla@gmail.com).

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**Celebrate what you want to see more of.**

**—Tom Peters**