

EXECUTIVES

President-Elect: James Gilbreath, University of Alabama at Birmingham

James Gilbreath was born and raised in Birmingham, AL. Since then he's had more than ten years of experience in academic libraries in the state. He's been professionally active in the Alabama Library Association, serving as chair of CUS twice. He's also been active in the state chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the Medical Library Association, and the Alabama Health Libraries Association, having previously served as President in that association. He currently resides in Birmingham where he works at UAB Libraries, specifically Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences. He resides with his parents, who he helps around the house, and two cats, Ben and Tillie.

Secretary: Danny Stewart, Pell City Public Library

Danny Stewart is the Library Director at Pell City Public Library. Danny grew up in Pell City, completed his undergraduate degree at Jacksonville State, and received his MLIS from the University of Alabama. Danny lives in Pell City with his family.

Treasurer: Jessica Hayes, Auburn University at Montgomery

Jessica Hayes is the Head of Public Services at Auburn University at Montgomery. Jessica received her MLIS from University of Alabama, and her undergraduate degree from Samford University and she lives in Prattville AL with her husband and son. She is a past president of ALLA and is currently leading the ALLA Advocacy Taskforce.

Member-at-Large Central Alabama: Megan Green, Birmingham Public Library – Powderly Branch

Megan M. Green is Branch Manager and Librarian II at Birmingham Public Library-Powderly Branch. Birmingham, AL is her hometown and University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa are her alma maters. Her professional goals are to serve all who visit the public library either in-person or remotely and to provide access to information in the most helpful ways. Her professional goals are in alignment with the mission of BPL to promote lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment for all visitors to the public library. Her personal goals are to travel abroad, continue her language learning journey, and be open to always investing in skill building and ways to provide the best service on her career path. Her hobbies include reading mind-bending stories, acquiring Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, and improving her coding skills. Her areas of expertise are in building collaborative relationships, connecting people with information, serving the public, and instructing in technology.

2024 ALLA Elections

Member-at-Large South:

1. Chris Warren, Dothan Houston County Library System

Chris Warren is the Director of the Dothan Houston County Library System. He has worked in libraries for over 20 years and has held positions with the Auburn Public Library, the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, the Gwinnett County Public Library, and the University of Georgia Libraries. Chris has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Georgia and a Master's Degree in Library Science from Florida State University. He is an active member of the Alabama Library Association, the American Library Association, and the Public Library Association. He is a 2015 PLA Leadership Academy Fellow, a past-president of the Auburn Rotary Club, and current member of the Dothan Tuesday Rotary Club.

2. Paula Webb, University of South Alabama

Paula Lenor Webb, has a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Alabama. She is a tenured Librarian at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL. She is currently the Outreach and Communications Librarian and over the USA Libraries Art Galleries at the University of South Alabama.

SELA Representative: Chris Shaffer, Troy University

A senior level library administrator with over 30 years of experience in education and considerable international experience, Christopher Shaffer is Dean of Troy University Libraries. Prior to entering the library field, Shaffer spent 8 years as a history teacher in Georgia and one year teaching English as a second language in Slovakia. He received his MLIS from the University of Alabama in 2005 and his Ed.D in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law from Alabama State University in 2014. He has been published in several peer reviewed journals, has considerable experience writing and implementing grants, and has presented nationally. In 2015 the Carnegie Corporation, American Library Association, New York Times, and the New York Public Library presented him the I Love My Librarian Award for his work in public outreach. Shaffer's memoir, "Moon over Sasova," about his experiences teaching English in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia in 1993 was published in November, 2021. In 2022, he received the Outstanding Southeastern Author Award for Nonfiction from the Southeastern Library Association

DIVISIONS

CUS Chair Elect: Tracy Cole, University of South Alabama

Tracy M. Cole is honored to be a chair-elect nominee for the College, University, and Special Libraries Division (CUS) with the Alabama Library Association (ALLA). Cole has 15 years of professional library experience in both public and academic libraries, and currently is the Acquisitions Librarian with the University of South Alabama (USA) Libraries in Mobile, Alabama. Prior to joining the USA Libraries, Cole served nine years as the Director of the Spanish Fort Public Library, where she established and ran the first public library for the City of Spanish Fort, Alabama, which participated as one of 13 libraries within the Baldwin County Library Cooperative (BCLC). Prior to her public library experience, Cole worked as Reference & Instruction Librarian with Virginia Tech Libraries in Blacksburg, VA. Cole also served as Instruction & Reference Librarian with McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. Cole is a past member and served with both the Virginia Library Association and the Louisiana Library Association New Members Roundtables. Cole currently is a member of the Alabama Library Association (ALLA). Cole holds a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University and a BA in Art History from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA. Overall, Cole has contributed to the field of Librarianship since 2007, and has a special interest in Alabama library history. Her academic research involves library censorship issues, intellectual freedom, diversity, equity, and inclusion, misinformation/disinformation, as well as open access awareness initiatives.

CUS Secretary: Jaycee Chapman, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Jaycee Chapman is the Collection Development Librarian for the arts, humanities, social sciences, and STEM at University of Alabama at Birmingham. She received her MLS from Indiana University, and previously worked as Assistant Manager and Library Supervisor for Indiana University RPS Libraries. Her research interests include collaborative collection development, student equity and access, and the history of librarianship.

CUS Member at Large for Projects: Alex Boucher, University of Alabama

Alex Boucher is Reference and Instruction Librarian, The University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections. He received his MLIS from the University of Alabama, a Master's from the University of Arkansas, and an undergraduate degree from University of Alabama at Birmingham.

2024 ALLA Elections

PLD Secretary/Chair-Elect:

1. Jason Baker, Trussville Public Library

Jason Baker started at Trussville Public Library serving first as the Adult Librarian, then Assistant Director, and is currently the Director. He graduated from UA's SLIS in 2004, Auburn University in 1997, volunteered with the Peace Corp from 1998-2013, and enjoys running. Jason is an Alabama native, from Dothan, AL.

2. Alyx Kim-Yohn, Huntsville-Madison Public Library

Alyx Kim-Yohn (they/them) is an early career librarian at the Madison Public Library, a branch of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. They became circulation librarian in January 2020, just a few months before the world shut down for COVID, and hit the ground running when the library reopened that summer. They might tell you they've been running ever since, obtaining their MLIS in December 2022 and becoming active in public library advocacy in mid-2023, along with trying to be the most trauma-informed, justice-oriented, inclusive librarian and supervisor they can be. Nowadays, when they aren't on they clock, they're usually assisting with community organizing around public library advocacy -- or else they're cuddling with their cat and reading. They'll be celebrating their 5-year library anniversary this May.

YSSLD Chair-elect: Helen Thompson, Anniston Middle School

Helen Thompson is the Library Media Specialist at Anniston Middle School. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University in 2006, followed by a Master's degree in Library Media from the University of West Alabama in 2021. Her journey in education began in 2003 when she started as a Substitute Teacher for Oxford City and Calhoun County Schools. After completing a Bachelor's degree, she spent a year teaching elementary school before transitioning to educating middle-grade students in Technology and Mathematics. Later on, she had the opportunity to work with students at Job Corps, where she took the lead in establishing a Student Library on campus, driven by a passion for fostering literacy and creating enriching learning environments. In 2021, she completed her MEd in Library Media. Armed with this qualification, in 2022, she assumed the role of Library Media Specialist at Anniston Middle School. As an ardent reader myself, she is deeply committed to inspiring and mentoring middle-grade students, guiding them to uncover and appreciate the enchantment of the written word.

ROUND TABLES

ALIRT Moderator-Elect: Sydney Orason, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Sydney Orason (she/her) is a faculty librarian at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Libraries, serving as the Freshman Composition and Student Success Librarian. She is a member of the American Library Association (ALA) and the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL). She has a passion for research instruction and fostering strong information literacy skills. She has a background in theatre education and access services and holds an MLIS from the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

ALIRT Secretary/Treasurer: Abigail Higgins, Auburn University

Abigail Higgins works as an Instruction and Student Success Librarian at Auburn University, where she teaches information literacy and research skills to first-year, transfer, and other new students, as well as networking with campus partners providing student services. She received her BA and MA from Baylor University, and completed her MLIS at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In addition to being a member of ALLA and ALIRT, she is also a member of ALA and ACRL, where she serves as the secretary for the Instructional Technologies Committee under the Instruction Section.

GODORT Moderator-Elect: Tim Dodge, Auburn University

Employed at Auburn University since 1992, Tim currently serves as History, Political Science, and Theatre and Dance Librarian in the Research and Instruction Department. He previously worked at the University of New Hampshire and Barry University (Miami, Fla.). He has held numerous ALLA offices including President (2004-2005) and currently serves as GODORT Moderator and MCIRT Moderator-Elect. Also active in SELA (including President 2019-2020) and AACRL (including President 2000-2001 and 2008-2009). Education: Ph. D. in History, University of New Hampshire (1992); M.A. in History, University of New Hampshire (1982); MLS, Columbia University, 1980; and B.A. in History, Swarthmore College (1979). Fun facts: Tim plays boogie woogie piano and has hosted the Golden Oldies radio show on WEGL – Auburn FM 91.1 since 1998. The show features 1950's Rock 'n' Roll/R. & B. and related music Tuesday nights 7 – 9 p.m. (<https://www.weglfm.com/page/listen-live>)

GODORT Secretary-Treasurer: Allison Boswell, Jacksonville State University

Allison Boswell joined Jacksonville State University's Houston Cole Library as the Scholarly Communications/Government Documents Librarian in 2020. She obtained her MLIS in 2018 from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa. Previously, she was the Acquisitions Librarian for Pell City Public Library. Also, Allison was a Librarian's Assistant on a Senior Bookmobile for the St. Louis County Library for many years as well as a Computer Lab Trainer for the same system. In her off-time Allison lives a crazy life in rural Alabama with her husband, child, 2 cats, 2 dogs, a tortoise named Bertha, and a bunny named Honey-Bun!

2024 ALLA Elections

MCIRT Moderator- Elect: Leesha Coleman, University of South Alabama

Leesha Coleman is the Assistant Librarian for Collections and Assessment at the University of South Alabama's Bauth Biomedical Library. She has worked various positions in both public and academic libraries in Florida and Georgia before returning to her alma mater as a professional librarian. Her academic interests focus on the ever-growing field of Graphic Medicine. In her free time, she is a baker and a self-proclaimed retired K-pop fan.

PART Paralibrarian Round Table Moderator-Elect: Veronica McCoo, Mobile Public Library

Veronica McCoo is a 2018 graduate of The University of Alabama, an Adult Service Librarian, Branch Manager, and Past PART Moderator, working in the Public Library Sector. She is currently employed by the Mobile Public Library with 22 years of expertise.

TSSRT Moderator: Neil Foulger, Alabama State University

Neil Foulger has been the Electronic Resources / Serials Services Librarian at Alabama State University since July 2010 after being the Collection Development Librarian from February 2001-July 2010. Having been an ALLA member since he started at Alabama State University, he served as the TSSRT Moderator from 2008-2009 and ALLA Treasurer from 2009-2011. He is an Assistant Professor and achieved tenure in 2022. Neil started library work at American University in Washington DC during his undergraduate which became full-time during his first master's studies in Linguistics. He obtained his MLS at Indiana University in 1999 while doing both part-time and later full-time work within the Indiana University library system. For fun, Neil enjoys movies, photography, travel, volunteer work at the Montgomery Humane Society, and foreign languages (he currently teaches a basic Spanish class at his church).

TSSRT Moderator-Elect: Debbie Cobb, University of South Alabama

Debbie Cobb has been at the University of South Alabama since 1985, where she currently serves as the Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, Library Supervisor at the Marx Library. She holds an MLIS from the University of Alabama and has been an active member of the American Library Association (ALA), Southeastern Library Association (SELA) and the Alabama Library Association (ALLA) for the past 20+ years serving on various committees and presenting at conferences

TSSRT Secretary: Tim Bailey, Auburn University at Montgomery

Tim Bailey graduated with my MLS from the University of Alabama in 1994 and began his career shortly thereafter. His first position was with the Montgomery City-County Public Library System, in Montgomery, AL. His second position was as ILL/Reference Librarian and Troy State University – Montgomery (now Troy University Montgomery). After that, he began working at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) in Interlibrary Loan and Reference; her is currently the Systems Librarian and Head of Library Technology and Systems at AUM. He has served the Association in various capacities, including as Chair-elect and Chair of the TSSRT, and twice as Treasurer of the Association. He looks forward to returning to service for the TSSRT and Association, if elected.