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Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Course

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Faculty Spotlight

Born in California and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, Dr. Catharine Bomhold has spent the majority of her adult life in the Deep South. She is a graduate of Illinois State University (BA, art history), The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (MA, art history; MLS), and the University of Alabama (Ph.D.).

After graduating from UIUC in 1993, Dr. Bomhold was given her first professional library position as Director of the Clarence B. Hanson Library at the Birmingham Museum of Art and relocated to Alabama. When she had her first child, Dr. Bomhold started reading her childhood favorites to him, an experience that fundamentally changed her academic life—both pictured below. She eventually changed her doctoral studies from history of the book to children’s literature and emergent literacy and has continued with that specialty for over 15 years.



Dr. Bomhold has been on the faculty of USM SLIS since 2003 and has taught a variety of classes over the years. She was Director of the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival from 2005-2010 and is active in the American Library Association. She served on the Sibert and Batchelder awards committees and is currently the ALA Councilor for the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table. Dr. Bomhold is the co-author of two reference books for children’s librarians; *Twice Upon a Time* (2008) and *Make It, Do It, Play It* (2014), both published by Libraries Unlimited. Her current research interests are in smart phone use in academic libraries and teaching early literacy skills to parents of young children. Most recently, Dr. Bomhold has formed the Council on Community Literacy and Reading, a

multidisciplinary association between in the College of Education and Psychology and the Hattiesburg community. The mission of the Council is to create and promote reading opportunities for people of all ages and abilities in the area.

While living in Illinois, Dr. Bomhold met and married Rex, who has faithfully followed her throughout her career moves. Rex also works for USM as a statistical analyst. The couple now have three children; Austin (20), Max (14), and Zoe (9), and a house full of pets. While all of the Bomholds are avid readers, Dr. Bomhold is the only one who still happily reads picture books every day.

Alumni Spotlight

Ashley McLendon Mattingly currently works for the National Archives at St. Louis (NARA) in her dream role as an Archivist. As a civil servant, Ashley promotes the access of thousands of personnel files. These files not only contain the career information of individuals who served as federal employees from the late 19th century to 1952, but also include clues to researchers and family members about the fascinating every-day people of the past. Every file is as individualistic as the people they document.

Ashley would not have been able to serve the public in this capacity without her education from the University of Southern Mississippi. After obtaining her undergraduate degree in history from Washington College in Maryland, she worked in various capacities for a variety of museums. After discovering that her passions lie within the realm of collection management and archival work, she decided to pursue her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi. Ashley moved from Maryland to Hattiesburg and served as a graduate assistant while obtaining her MLIS with a concentration in archival administration.

Having previously worked with the District of Columbia’s architectural drawings at the Historical Society of D.C. and under the tutelage of her Smithsonian-trained mentor at Sotterley Plantation, a historic house museum, Ashley was well equipped for an internship at a museum close to Hattiesburg: the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum. Ashley combined her education from USM with her past skills to create a collections management guide, which allowed her

to obtain a position as the museum’s Archivist following the receipt of her MLIS in December 2005.



Now Ashley works with a collection of approximately 300,000 cubic feet of civilian personnel files at NARA. While serving as an Archivist for such a unique collection of documents, Ashley has also planned and managed the relocation of these records and has performed rehousing. She has also been involved with outreach to the local community, through NARA’s Virtual Genealogy Fair, to other NARA regional facilities, at the National Genealogical Society’s annual conference, and via articles and blog posts.

Ashley is a Certified Archivist through The Academy of Certified Archivists and a member of the Midwest Archives Conference and the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists. Ashley also serves as the secretary for Friends of LeClaire, which promotes the history of her neighborhood.

Course Spotlight – The Youth Services Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature came into being in Spring 2013 and is a 15-credit hour certificate—nine hours are required and six hours are electives. The goal of the certificate is to prepare students for educational or library careers related to children and young adult literature, programs, and services. Students will use this certificate for career development, advancement, and diversification. The certificate can be earned with the MLIS or post-MLIS; 12 of the 15 credit hours can be used for the MLIS and the certificate—meaning this certificate can be earned with just one additional course! This certificate also gives students the


opportunity to experience graduate level courses from Curriculum and Instruction and Child and Family Studies.

Required Courses

- LIS 517 – Literature & Related Media for Children
- LIS 518 – Literature & Related Media for Young Adults
- LIS 519 – Programs & Services for Youth

Electives (choose two; one must be 600-level or higher):


- LIS 528 – Storytelling
- LIS 590 – Library Instruction
- LIS 629 – Studies in Children’s Literature
- LIS 634 – History of Children’s Literature
- LIS 670 – Topics in Services to Library Clientele
- FAM 650 – Family Life Cycle Development
- FAM 652 – Advanced Child Development
- CIE 768 – Children’s Literature for the Early Years



“This certificate has been extremely helpful in interviewing and advancing my career.”

Lindsey Miller Beck graduated with the YSL Certificate in 2013. She served as the Youth Services Coordinator at Columbus-Lowndes Public Library and will be starting as a school librarian in August 2015.

“These classes were really enjoyable and taught me a lot about instruction, engagement, and thinking outside of the box. As MC’s Medical Science department librarian keeping instruction exciting at a graduate level can be a challenge too!”



Michelle Finerty graduated with her YSL Certificate in 2013; she is the Reference & Instruction Librarian for School of Science and Mathematics at Mississippi College.