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Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Courses

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Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Stacy Creel began her career as a part-time Youth Services Librarian at LeRoy Collins Public Library in Tallahassee, Florida. After working for New York Public Library as both a Young Adult Librarian and an

Assistant Branch Librarian, she joined the Houston Public Library in Texas, where she eventually became the Young Adult Manager for the multi-branch library system. After 8 years of work in public libraries, Dr. Creel became an Assistant Director at Cy-Fair College Branch Library—a joint public and community college library in Cypress, Texas.

Dr. Creel earned a BA in Education degree from the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), a Master of Science in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University, a Specialist Degree (Youth Services Emphasis) from Florida State University, and in 2007, a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of North Texas. After earning her Ph.D., she taught at St. John's University in Queens, New York for four years before joining the faculty at Southern Miss.

Dr. Creel's area of research has two main components: online education and teens and children. "When looking at online education, my areas of interests focus on both their preparedness for the field of librarianship and their sense of community in the online environment. The area of teens and children includes their information seeking skills, censorship of youth library materials, their reading habits, and their reading lists."

In 2015, she received an ALA Carnegie-Whitney Award for "The Importance of Play: A Selected Bibliography of Resources Related to Learning Through Play." This resource list includes materials for a variety of age groups, and the online resource center geared toward the general public with children and to librarians.

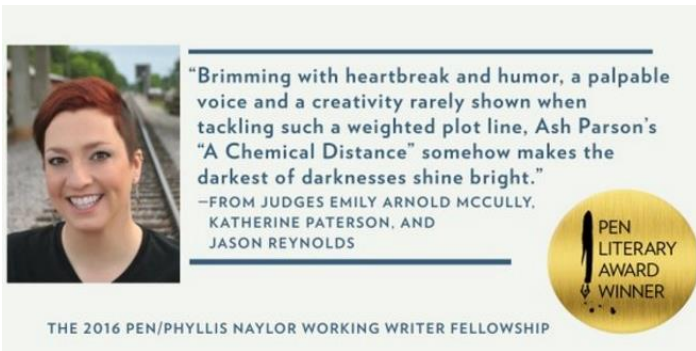
The screenshot shows the Aquila Digital Community website. At the top, it features the University of Southern Mississippi logo and the text 'AQ'UI-LA, (akwala) n. [L.] Constellation of the Eagle'. Below this is the title 'THE AQUILA DIGITAL COMMUNITY' and a subtitle 'A Showcase of Scholarship, Research, and Creativity at The University of Southern Mississippi'. The page has a navigation bar with links for Home, About, FAQ, and My Account. A search bar is prominently displayed. The main content area is titled 'Home > Research Projects > The Importance of Play'. It features a featured collection titled 'The Importance of Play: A Selected Bibliography of Resources Related to Learning Through Play.' with a small image of children playing. Below this, there are sections for 'Browse the The Importance of Play: A Selected Bibliography of Resources Related to Learning Through Play Collections:' and 'For Parents & Caregivers' with links to Readings, Videos, and Websites. There is also a section for 'For Researchers, Librarians, & Educators' with similar links. The page footer includes the Digital Commons logo and navigation links for Home, About, FAQ, My Account, and Accessibility Statement.

<http://aquila.usm.edu/play/>

Dr. Creel has numerous publications, has presented at international conferences, and is the creator and advisor of the Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature.

As a SLIS Associate Professor, she has taught online synchronous courses pertaining to school libraries, youth services, literature, reference, and public/academic libraries for graduates and undergraduates. Dr. Creel was responsible for creating new courses including LIS 491/590: Library Instruction, LIS 419/519: Programs and Services for Youth, and LIS 670: Special Topics – Graphic Novels, Manga, Comics & Anime. In February 2013, Dr. Creel received the *Exemplary Online Course Award* for LIS 501 presented by Southern Miss Learning Enhancement Center, and in April 2014 she was awarded the Inaugural College of Education and Psychology's *Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award*.

More information on Dr. Stacy L. Creel, Associate Professor can be found at <http://stacycreel.wix.com/home>.



<http://pen.org/2016-pen-literary-award-winners>

Alumni Spotlight – Ash Parsons

Ash Parsons, an award-winning author of young adult books, has been involved in Child and Youth Advocacy since college. She taught English to middle and high-school students in rural Alabama. Watching some of her students face seemingly impossible problems helped inspire her first novel, *Still Waters* published by Penguin/Philomel. Ash has taught creative writing for Troy University's ACCESS program and media studies at Auburn University.

Ash is a 2016 Pen Literary Award Winner for the Phyllis Naylor Working Writer Fellowship for her manuscript, *A Chemical Distance*. Additionally, she is an Alabama State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellow for Literary Arts, 2016.

Ash earned her MLIS at Southern Miss in 1998. According to Ash, "My first professional library job was for Huntsville, Alabama's Public Library- in the Madison Branch. I was the youth services librarian. I absolutely credit USM/SLIS, the de Grummond Collection, and The Faye B. Kaigler Book Festival with equipping me to become a youth services librarian and with setting my feet on the path to writing for children and young adults."

You can find out more about Ash Parsons at her website: <http://ashparsonsbooks.com/>

Spotlight – Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature

The certificate may be earned with a MLIS degree, and twelve hours can apply to both MLIS and the certificate, or it may be earned post-MLIS degree.

Required courses:

- LIS 517 – Literature and Related Media for Children
- LIS 518 – Literature and Related Media for Young Adults
- LIS 519 – Programs and 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 (on a youth-related topic)
- FAM 650 – Family Life Cycle Development
- FAM 652 – Advanced Child Development
- CIE 768 – Children's Literature for the Early Years

Highlights from Selected Courses:

LIS 591 Library Instruction introduces students to the basic concepts of instructional design, teaching methods, and learning theory. They develop skills in delivering library instruction using a variety of different techniques. In addition to talking with practitioners and observing library instruction in the field, students design and present their own library instruction lessons in small groups. They incorporate technology by evaluating online instruction tools and designing and creating their own online tool using technology.

LIS 634 History of Children's Literature traces the development of children's literature from antiquity to the early twentieth century. The emphasis is on children's literature in England and the United States and its role and context within Western society and culture. Students are required to complete a bibliography and an historical study on an approved topic related to historic children's literature. This course is an elective for the Archives and Special Collections Graduate Certificate and the Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature. More information about the course is available online: ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w146169/634syllabus.htm