

The University of Southern Mississippi  
**The Aquila Digital Community**

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Fonds and Feathers

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Winter 12-14-2022

## The Winter Issue 2022

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### Recommended Citation

Rodriguez, Margaret; Regan, Patrick; Holford, Rori; and Taylor, Lara, "The Winter Issue 2022" (2022). *Fonds and Feathers*. 1.

<https://aquila.usm.edu/fondsandfeathers/1>

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# FONDS & FEATHERS

Issue 1

December 2022



## Features

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Dr. Stacy Creel Named Director of Library and Information Science

A Guide to Academic Posters

U.S. National Archives

## Sections

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Spotlights

Meeting Minutes

Announcements

Graduating Members

Internships

Upcoming Conferences

## Staff

---

Margaret Rodriguez, *Editor-in-Chief*

Rori Holford, *Assistant Editor, staff writer*

Patrick Regan, *Assistant Editor, Staff Writer*

Lara Taylor, *Staff Writer*

# Letter from SMSA President

Howdy, all!

I love this group. I love everything that the Southern Miss Student Archivists want to achieve, both professionally and in our communities. I love your hearts for learning and sharing, for preservation and access, for stories and history. This is a new era for our group, one in which we will contribute to each other's scholarship, cheer each other on our successes, and encourage one another in our trying times. I want you to know that I am always available, no matter the question or concern. Please reach out to me. My email is [lara.taylor@usm.edu](mailto:lara.taylor@usm.edu).

SMTTT!

Lara

## Spotlights

### Staff

by Patrick Regan, *Staff Writer*



Dr. Brendan Fay joined USM's MLIS office after being a regular faculty member at Emporia State University, joining Mississippi because it is close to his hometown and family in Texas. His titles are Associate Director and Associate Professor, and his specialties include Book and Information History, where he has an interest, particularly in 20th Century European history; most of his research resides between WWI and the collapse of Germany in WWII. While born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he spent his whole life in Houston, Texas specifically. He comes from a family of musicians, including parents in the Pittsburgh Symphony, his Grandfather a conductor, his Grandmother a Broadway singer, his aunt an opera singer, and his cousin a Broadway actor. Most of his hobbies reflect his specialty, where he enjoys reading outside of research. Other hobbies he enjoys include playing video games with his kids and playing tennis, as he was an avid tennis player in high school. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Texas in Austin and his master's at Indiana University. As he has been an avid reader, he saw this as being a possible career back in undergrad, and his home library gave him the experience needed to work in actual libraries.

# Spotlights

## Fay, continued

As he was from a family of musicians, he minored in music as an undergraduate, which was something he did not want to major in. His favorite class was German history, with a great professor named David Crew. His favorite graduate course was a seminar on early modern history, which also had a great professor who gave him great education on how relevant 17th-century history is today. Before coming to USM, he first worked at Washburn University in Topeka as his first job after graduate school. After a year of being an adjunct, he gained the opportunity to work as an adjunct professor at Emporia State University; this was a better job for him as it allowed him more opportunities to do research. If there is one job he did not like, it was a physically demanding job at Budweiser he worked between undergrad and grad school; his job was that of a merchandiser, and it involved thirteen hours of grueling work. His current job at USM, however, is his favorite job. He loves to create new knowledge, especially with student collaboration, and he believes that people take for granted how important education really is.

His influences in life include his family, whom he learned a lot about a higher culture from. One of his biggest influences was when he studied abroad in Germany for a year for his dissertation. He recommends this, as it is a good way to change one's outlook on the world by staying in a place where English is not the native language. His dissertation is one of his proudest accomplishments, especially with it being turned into a book, and the two good kids he has raised are another one of his biggest accomplishments. Creating new knowledge is something that motivates him, as he aims to contribute more to exploring the world and how society functions. He also says that if he had to start over again, he would not do anything different as all of this is fulfilling enough. He states that any MLIS or LIS students must maintain a curiosity about the world and take advantage of all the time they have in graduate school. There is a lot to learn in this program and contributing to something that may seem out of their league can add more to this. One example he gave was a student who studied 14th-century Italian culture. He took a class on modern European history, which he thought was pointless at first until he read *The Continuities of German History*, which had great connections to expand his research. That is something Dr. Fay wants to give advice on, which is for students to put themselves out there and remain open-minded and curious as to what can come to them in their research.

# Spotlights

## Archives

by Margaret Rodriguez, *Editor-in-Chief*

The LGBT+ Archives of Louisiana is not at all where I thought I would be performing my practicum because I did not know a practicum could be done online. My practicum consisted of conducting an oral history interview and transcribing the interview. Before the interview was set up, I read three books about conducting Oral Histories: Patricia Leavy's *Oral History: Understanding Qualitative Research*, Donald Ritchie's *Doing Oral History*, and Valerie Raleigh Yow's *Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, as well as John Pope's book *Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from the New Orleans Times-Picayune*. I was lucky enough to interview John Pope, who created the AIDS beat in 1985 and wrote obituaries for the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*.

The LGBT+ Archives of Louisiana works in conjunction with the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and houses oral histories that document the events of the LGBT+ community in Louisiana. In 2012 Stewart Butler, Otis Fennell, and Mark Gonzales started the archive with the intent of compiling oral histories.

<https://www.lgbtarchiveslouisiana.org/home>

## Students

by Patrick Regan, *Staff Writer*

My name is Patrick Regan, and I am pursuing a Master's degree in Library & Information Sciences with an Archival Certificate. I currently work at the School of Library & Information Sciences located at Fritzsche-Gibbs Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. In this job, I work the circulation desk, answer phone calls (where I also help and guide the recipients), take care of the mail, and perform any other duties assigned to me. While I received my Bachelor's in Film in 2017, I chose to pursue a Master's in Library Sciences because I am also very interested in books, artifacts, and collections. This program has given me great insight into all of these fields, such as how to weed a library collection, how to label them with correct catalog information, how to write finding aids, and how different types of archives differ from each other.

I have created a few websites, including two where I built my own archive with finding aids and collections. I also contributed to a user-friendly interface for a group assignment. As for web design, I have even coded a website from the ground up with HTML codes. I am entering my final semester, proposing a capstone on research methods in library censorship, and I will be gaining hands-on archive experience in an upcoming practicum at DeGrummond library.

First Website I Created: <https://patrickglenregan.wixsite.com/my-site-1>

First Website I Coded: <http://angrykittenstudiosprojects.myartsonline.com/>

Archive 1: <https://patrickglenregan.wixsite.com/my-site-3>

Archive 2: <https://patrickglenregan.wixsite.com/my-site-7>

User-Friendly Interface (I contributed with a group):

<https://victoriapattick25.wixsite.com/ww-ii-collection>

# Features

## Dr. Stacy Creel Named Director of Library and Information Science

by Patrick Regan, *Staff Writer*

Dr. Stacy Creel is an associate professor at the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Library & Information Sciences. She received her Master's in 1996, an advanced master's the following year, and a Ph.D. a decade later in 2007. Her Master's and Advanced Master's were earned at Florida State University at Tallahassee while her Ph.D. was earned at the University of North Texas at Denton. Her dissertation she wrote while earning her Ph. D. was titled *Are Online Catalogs For Children Giving Them What They Need?: Children's Cognitive Development and Information Seeking and Their Impact on Design*.

Dr. Creel has taught many courses including LIS 501: Reference & Information Sources, which details creating or evaluating reference sources; and LIS 692: Storytime & Early Literacy which provides methods for visual storytelling for children to help get them into Storytime. She has also specialized in Library Instruction, Management, Studies in Children's Literature, Graphic Novels, Manga, Comics, & Anime.

As of August 2021, Dr. Creel is now the Director of USM's School of Library & Information Sciences after Dr. Teresa Welsh's retirement. She continues to teach and help with graduate student advisement while also serving as a manager for the Graduate Assistants.

## A Guide to Academic Posters

by Rori Holford, *Staff Writer*

I was exceptionally nervous the first time I presented LIS research. It wasn't that I hadn't presented before. I had. But in many ways my nervousness was the result of two new and parallel experiences becoming braided together.

First, I was new to LIS and archival science. Like many seeking a graduate degree in this field, I came from a different academic background. I now see this as a strength and part of what makes LIS and archival science so dynamic, but it was definitely intimidating at the time. Second, I was really unfamiliar with academic poster presentations. Ultimately, what helped me build my confidence to the point that I felt I could present in a poster session was understanding the process from a 30,000-foot view.

In general, poster presentations are a visual and written overview of one's research and are shorter than other research formats like paper presentations, panel discussions, or publications. For this reason, poster presentations offer an excellent way to begin presenting your research. They can be held virtually or in person, and though some conferences have dedicated sections for student posters, researchers at all career levels are present at conference poster sessions. Ultimately, poster sessions offer presenters an opportunity to engage with colleagues, receive feedback, and contribute to greater conversations happening within our field.

# Features

## Academic Posters, continued

Calls for poster session submissions can generally be found in the conference section of an organization's website, like that of SAA, or posted on an organization's listserv that you have subscribed to. Locally, calls for proposals are often shared through our SLIS listserv, and students can present research posters in the spring at USM's virtual SLIS Student Symposium Flash Poster Session.

Many organizations provide resources for creating effective research posters. The following suggestions highlight information recommended by the American Historical Association, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Washington's Disability, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology Center.

Your ideas should be clear. Ideally, the reason and conclusion of your research should be identifiable and understandable to those who may be viewing it at a distance. Allow for space, use succinct language and simplify the design to promote readability.

Keep posters under 800 words. Brevity and clarity go hand in hand. Include visuals that illustrate and support your research. Visuals like images, maps and graphs should illustrate your main point or add supporting detail.

Image quality matters. Image resolution should be considered when selecting visuals to ensure image quality in both digital and printed forms.

Make it accessible. High-contrast colors and following the previous suggestions are all important factors in creating accessible posters.

### Additional Considerations

Microsoft PowerPoint is commonly used to create academic posters. Always carefully read submission guidelines. Some poster sessions only allow public domain or Creative Commons-licensed images, while others do not specify. Like with other research, please cite the resources used.

More information about creating and presenting research posters can be found at:  
<https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting/resources-and-guides/poster-resources/effective-poster-presentations>

<https://gradschool.unc.edu/academics/resources/postertips.html>

<https://guides.lib.unc.edu/media-design-center/academic-poster-design>

<https://www.washington.edu/doi/how-can-i-create-conference-poster-accessible-people-disabilities>

# Features

## U.S. National Archives

by Rori Holford, *Staff Writer*

Did you know the US National Archive and Records Administration (NARA) had opportunities available for members of the public to increase access, learn about navigating historical documents, and contribute to the historical record? In 2011, The National Archives, which is home to over “2.5 million images of historical documents” [1,2], launched its Citizen Archivist program. Through participation, volunteers are able to engage with historical documents like photos, maps, correspondence, records, and reports housed in the National Archive.

The Society of American Archivists defines a citizen archivist as “a member of the general public who aids an archival organization by performing functions such as description” [3]. Volunteer participants of the National Archives Citizen Archivist program contribute to the national historical record through descriptive efforts aimed at increasing access and discoverability of historical documents within the National Archive catalog.

The primary responsibility of a NARA citizen archivist is to describe digitized items in the historical record through the addition of geotagging and transcription. Resources and tutorials are available for participants.

Metadata tagging and transcription of historical documents is not always an easy task. This is especially true when working with historical handwritten documents as common abbreviations and the prominence of cursive handwriting changing prominence over time. To address common challenges experienced by transcribers and taggers, a number of resources have been created including a discussion board for questions and feedback, FAQ links for participants, and tutorials.

Resources and how-to guides are available[4] for reference when deciphering handwritten historical documents, and navigating abbreviations used in the 1800 and 1900s which included names, Civil War abbreviations, and regularly misspelled words used at the time.

Curated projects in the program are described as missions to be completed by the citizen archivist community. Some missions currently underway include: Confidential Cablegrams, 1917- 1919, Indian Arts and Crafts Board Correspondence, 1935-1983, Ships’ Records, 1846-1963, Previously completed missions include The Pentagon Paper, Reports from Thomas Edison, Alcatraz Warden’s Notebook Pages: 1934-1963, and President Truman’s Committee on Civil Rights Files, to list a few.

Becoming a Citizen Archivist requires the creation of a free account and policy agreement for participation. More information about this program can be found on the National Archives website at <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist> .

[1] Citizen Archivist call: <https://narations.blogs.archives.gov/2011/05/11/may-18th-citizen-archivist-program/>

[2] Citizen Archivist program description: <https://www.citizenscience.gov/citizen-archivist/#>

[3] SAA, citizen archivist definition: <https://dictionary.archivists.org/entry/citizen-archivist.html>

[4] Resources: <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/resources>

[5] Mission list: <https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions>

\*Link for image of document transcribed in the project:

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/23870545?objectPage=3>



# *Upcoming Conferences*

## **CONTESTS / CALL for PROPOSALS / SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**

2023 Theological Librarianship Student Essay Contest  
<https://serials.atla.com/theolib/announcement/view/28>

CAPAL23 Call for Proposals  
<https://www.conference.capalibrarians.org/cfp2023>

NMRT Professional Development Grant (Travel Award to Attend ALA Conference 2023)  
<https://www.ala.org/rt/nmrt/initiatives/applyforfunds/applyfunds>

The Library Learning Experience - LLX Conference  
January 27-30, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana  
<https://www.2023.alaliblearnx.org/why-you-should-attend-liblearnx>

SLIS Scholarships and Awards  
<https://www.usm.edu/library-information-science/student-scholarships-and-awards.php>

ALA Awards, Grants, and Scholarships  
<https://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/>

## *Submit an article*

Is there a topic you would like to write about? Please submit an article to  
[usm.studentarchivists@usm.edu](mailto:usm.studentarchivists@usm.edu)

## *Feedback*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8fMnQplH4S8aMu1EDC4QPzK188Mm24HMLzW-2O-nxvuVjgQ/viewform>

# ***SMSA Meeting Minutes***

## **Minutes from Sept. 29, 2022 Meeting**

Motion for a donation drive for the 3D School in Petal - details forthcoming.

Motion to begin a group Newsletter (Fonds and Feathers)

Motion to provide group T-Shirts (still searching for best price)

Dr. Hirschy was our guest speaker.

## ***Announcements***

### **Fonds and Feathers Newsletter:**

Archives of this issue and future issues will be available on our Aquila page. Check it out! <https://aquila.usm.edu/smsa/>

### **Officer Elections:**

We are losing our Vice President, Meg Rodriguez, at the end of this semester. We will open January with a call for nominations to fill any empty positions. Please be thinking about how you can serve SMSA!

## ***SMSA Graduating Members***

*We have several SMSA members who are graduating in December.*

*Congratulations to each of you! Please keep in touch!*

John Hubbard, MLIS & ASC

Cheryl Kaletsch, MLIS & ASC

Erica Kates, MLIS

Jessica Marshall, MLIS

Kimberlee Reynolds, MLIS

Margaret (Meg) Rodriguez, MLIS & ASC

Julie Russell, MLIS

Francesca Scrimgeour, MLIS & ASC

Preston Shackelford, MLIS (deferred) & ASC (pending)

Kelli Simpkins, MLIS (Licensure) & YSL

Jeanne Stewart, ASC

Kathleen Sullivan, MLIS & YSL