Welcome Pirate Nation!

This is a very exciting time to be an MLS student at ECU. During our last tailgate party, we elected new officers for our student chapter. Paul Goodson will be our chapter’s new President; Jill Whitson will remain our Vice President; Laura Hile will take over our Facebook account, and I will concentrate on being the chapters’ Editor. Getting to see so many of you during our last tailgate party was really outstanding. Each student chapter officer is enthusiastic about the direction the MLS department is going.

It is exciting to read the department’s new online journal, Beyond the Stacks and read about all the new changes. Though it is sad to see the MLS department separate itself from LSIT and form its own department, many of us understand and support the logic behind this necessary move as we reach our goal of becoming ALA accredited.

Our student chapter recently received national attention from ALA by having our annual book drive reprinted on their website. It was truly remarkable for us to collect over 5,100 books in such a short period of time. We could have not done it without your help, thanks! Sonja Beckham, a former MLS student tells us about her experiences as an ECU MLS student. It was refreshing to read her comments and suggestions as many of us strive toward our goal of completing our MLS degree or licensure.

This issue has a new section titled, “Resource” that we hope many of you will take advantage of. It offers ALA’s new American Libraries Digital Supplement and the top eleven games suggested by Scott Nicholson, an Associate Professor at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University whom I met during the ALA National Conference 2008. This man really knows his games and how they can benefit any library. We hope you enjoy!

Sincerely,
Kevin Vickers
Editor
ECU ALA Student Chapter

“If you don’t have the time to do something right, where are you going to find the time to fix it?”
- Stephen King
Jill: Tell me Paul, what made you decide to become a librarian?

Paul: I have a passion for lifelong learning that I wish to share with others. In elementary school I discovered the joy of libraries and read selections from every division of the Dewey system. After completing my undergraduate degree, I was busy with the responsibilities of a young family and could not pursue graduate studies. Reaching age 40 caused me to re-evaluate my career, and I decided that working in a field that I love is much more important to me than simply earning money in jobs I didn’t particularly enjoy.

Jill: Tell me about your family. How do they feel about your going back to school?

Paul: I have a wonderful wife (Michele) of 21 years who has been very supportive of my return to academia. We have 7 children (yes, we know what causes it and no, we are not having any more—those are usually the first two questions that I am asked). The two oldest are in college with a high school senior and junior right on their heels. My three youngest are 15, 12 and 7, so we have a ways to go before the nest is empty. I guess I should mention that we have homeschooled them all (my dear wife handles 98% of the teaching).

Jill: Do you work as well as go to school? Tell me about your job.

Paul: Early in 2008 I accepted a position with University Printing & Graphics at ECU. I enjoy my job and the staff there. Obviously, my goal is to move into a full time library position as soon as the right opportunity presents itself.

Jill: What was the last book you read for pleasure?

Paul: Most of my pleasure reading is non-fiction (primarily American & European history). For light reading I enjoy science fiction. Ben Bova is probably my favorite author of that genre. He tends to deal in the future of humanity in space over the next 25-100 years. I prefer this type of realistic science fiction over fantasy stories of “galaxies long ago and far away.”

Jill: What has been your favorite class in the program so far and why?

Paul: I have completed three courses thus far, so my selection is limited. Jami Jones’ class (LIBS 6903) on writing literature reviews was both enjoyable and a very useful undertaking.

Jill: What caused you to become active in the ALA student chapter?

Paul: My initial motive was simply to have contact with other students in the program. Because I am not a full-time librarian at present and because our Library Science program is completely online, I felt it was essential to connect with others that my shared my passion.

Jill: What advice would you give new library science graduate students?

Paul: I would hope that they have chosen this field because they have a love for learning and a desire to serve others. I highly encourage being active in our ALA chapter as we always welcome new voices and helpers! Take every opportunity you can to connect with others – there are opportunities through ALA, NCLA and conferences.
Spring 2008 Graduation

Fall 2008 Graduation

Beyond the Stacks is the department’s new online newsletter

Check out ECU’s MLS’s new website at:
www.ecu.edu/educ/libs
Library Science Society
Student Chapter Annual Christmas Book Drive
Gets National Attention For Being A Huge Success
By: Jill Whitson

December 10, 2008, was the big delivery day for the Greenville branch of the ECU ALA Student Chapter’s Christmas Book Drive. Members Greg Mills, Paul Goodson, and Jill Whitson met at Dr. Jami Jones’s residence to collect all the donated books. We were all amazed to find that we had collected over 5,100 books!!!! Thanks to the efforts of these members, the Library Science Faculty, whose Christmas gift exchange yielded lots of book donations, and Robin Boltz who donated her weeded books during the tailgate party in November.

The books were loaded into cars for the short trip to the Greenville Family Violence Center where all the adult books were donated and then on to the Building Hope Community Life Center where a group of happy children greeted the students. The 700 books donated will help supplement the library the children use after school. The kids danced around holding their new books some sitting down on the floor to read right then!

All off, student member Angela Finn, collected over 3000 books! She donated books to the Catholic Parish Outreach, The Raleigh Rescue Mission, and the Duke Children’s Hospital.

The ECU ALA student chapter’s book drive was a huge success this year; the benefits were felt across the state of North Carolina. Paul Goodson, the new ALA Student Chapter president stated, "It was a joy to see the excitement of the kids at Building Hope and the appreciation of the staff at both Building Hope and the Family Violence Center." The gift of books to those in need was a great experience for all involved!

Other ALA Student Chapter students across North Carolina have been collecting books and donating them to local agencies too. Marlene Greeble of Franklin collected coins for books and raised $100 to purchase books for their two homebound students. This was done in conjunction with their Scholastic Book Fair. Scholastic will now donate 100 books to a charity. This doubled the impact of their efforts. Nonya Brown, the media coordinator at SAGE Academy in Chatham County, collected 200 books; Kevin Vickers’s group near Charlotte donated over 100 books to a local preschool.

Delane Fuquay from Farmville collected and delivered 425 books; ALA student chapter historian, Laura Hile donated 75 books to an agency near Fayetteville, NC; and to top it
As former President of the ECU ALA Student Chapter, I am very blessed to be apart of something as dynamic as ECU and ALA. This past summer, I represented ECU’s student chapter at annual conference in Anaheim, CA, as a Student to Staff participant.

There was never a dull moment during my week stay in CA as I worked behind the scenes with Conference Services, @ your Library Campaign, and the Washington Office. After landing in CA, I went right to work helping and met Dr. Loriene Roy (former ALA President - photo above). This was really great because I had just interviewed her for our last newsletter.

While in CA, I became a part of YALSA and quickly found myself among friends! This opportunity allowed me to meet famous authors such as Sherman Alexie (bottom photo) and go to events such as “Libraries and Gaming” (board and electronic). I have never met so many gaming enthusiasts in my life; and for the first time, fully internalized their importance in a library.

One evening was capped off with ECU faculty (photo above). As if all this were not enough, I helped backstage with the Bookcart Drill Teams (talk about enthusiasts) and visited Disneyland.

The halls at the conference were packed with over 250 vendors and free books as far as you could see along with authors like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (whom I spoke with). For me, the best way to describe my first ALA annual conference is like trying to squeeze Disney World into a one day visit - it’s impossible to do.

I would recommend you attending at least one annual conference in your life - you will not regret it.
Library Science Society
National News . . .

Celebrate National Library Week
April 12 - 18, 2009

Come join us at the ALA Annual Conference
July 9 - 15, 2009
Frankly, the internship was less of a problem just as being in the school library was less of a problem due to the fact I had been a classroom teacher previously.

I taught for two years, then did school library media for two years then law school. Also during that time, I taught a graduate class at NC State for about six years.

I do think folks who have never been in a classroom have a little bit of a harder time with the teacher-librarian aspect but with so many helpful folks in the field there are lots of mentors to assist.

After 18 years in law, I returned to library media without the MLS that by then was the standard. I did have the law license and the JD, as well as a lapsed teaching license in three areas, Speech & Theatre and as an Assistant Media Coordinator--that's how long ago I was originally licensed!

I realized after getting National Boards that I wanted to hold the standard that was the MLS. I can’t say enough good things about ECU’s program. It holds something for everyone, but was especially useful to me due to the fact I could do it entirely online.

My experiences were positive; although I believe they may have changed some of the criteria for this Fall and now require a video of your teaching like the National Boards.

I think the program is helpful; although in the end, all programs are what you make of them.

My experience was also impacted by my having worked in the field for so long and that the internship class being online was no problem either.

Mainly you gather your artifacts, scan if hard copy, write up your philosophy and the mission of the school, burn to a CD and send it on to the professor for the culminating activity. There are discussion boards to share thoughts on articles, etc. You have a few of the big goals under the IMPACT Guidelines you have to show evidence of and align with.

I think the program is helpful, although in the end all programs are what you make of them.

The only caveat I can add is don’t wait until the end to start gathering materials or organizing/scanning them. It will make you crazy if you wait. I know from my own experience!
Check out American Libraries online journal. It has a lot of resources that could help every type of library. Inside you will find:

- Cover story, “The Bunheads are Dead,” by Ken Haycock and Carla Garner, San Jose State University
- Excerpt from “Service Learning: Linking Library Education and Practice,” by Loriene Roy, ALA immediate past president and professor, University of Texas at Austin
- “APA Certification/ LSSCP programs,” by Jenifer Grady, ALA/APA
- List of ALA-Accredited Colleges—with live links
- List of ALA Division classes/courses for CE credits
- List of ALA educational scholarships
- And more!

http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/4696d0a9#/4696d0a9/1

Scott Nicholson is an Associate Professor at the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. As an expert on gaming, he provides excellent resources for librarians that utilize games in their libraries. His website is located at http://scottnicholson.com/ where he even gives video presentations on how to play 50 different board games. The top eleven board games that he recommends include:

- 10 Days in Asia ($19.62)
- Pictureka! ($15.00)
- Monopoly Express ($9.62)
- Clue Express ($9.38)
- Apples to Apples ($19.99)
- Wits & Wagers ($29.99)
- Sorry! Sliders ($24.99)
- Blokus ($23.99)
- Hey! That’s My Fish! ($19.99)
- Tsuro ($18.78)
- Trans Europa ($24.95)

All these titles can be found on Amazon.com for a total of $216.30 with free shipping. If you have any games that you want to suggest for a library, please let us know at alastudent@ecu.edu.
The Student Chapter is now on facebook. So far, we have 27 students that have added us as a favorite. It is very easy to join facebook, add us as a favorite, and even restrict who is able to view your information. Please e-mail us at alastudent@ecu.edu if you need any help.

Sale your book on our wiki at: http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/