Welcome Pirate Nation!

East Carolina University’s Department of LSIT is alive and well. The department continues to seek the distinguished ALA accreditation and is currently waiting until November 2007 for the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA) to provide feedback pertaining to the department’s request for candidacy. Due to the ALA’s COA’s busy Schedule, our request was deferred during the ALA Annual Conference in March 2007. We are still very optimistic since ALA accreditation can be a lengthy process.


To better inform you, our chapter made the decision to host its own website located at http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/. This site outlines our constitution as well as officers and the different roles that each of us play. The site also hosts an outside Wiki where students can post textbooks for sale. A tutorial located on the Wiki home page also offers step by step directions on how to post information.

We hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we have putting it together for you. Inside you will find articles from the Outgoing ALA President Leslie Burger as she speaks on ECU’s accreditation process. Erin Byrne of The Office of Intellectual Freedom takes a proactive approach when discussing banned books. ECU’s LSIT faculty also offers insight into Young Adult literature and The North Carolina Library Association’s 57th Biennial Conference. Page 7 highlights the bicentennial of William Wordsworth’s best known work I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud - “England’s most easily-recognized poem.”

Sincerely,
Kevin Vickers
President
ECU ALA Student Chapter

"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions."
- Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas

Special points of interest:
- William Gee NMRT page 7.
- Student Chapter Football page 10.
- Scholarship News page 11.
What has been your greatest accomplishment as ALA President?

There were so many things that happened it is hard to choose just one. I am most pleased about the Emerging Leaders program that will continue on beyond my presidency offering a chance for new-to-the-profession librarians to learn the skills they need to become the future leaders in ALA and their state associations. I am also really excited about the ilovelibraries.org website that allows ALA to extend its advocacy reach using the power of the web. I believe that my message about the need to transform libraries to transform the communities we serve inspired many people toward action.

What resources does ALA offer for MLS students?

Students can join ALA at greatly reduced rates and use that as an opportunity to get involved in the association. ALA is a great place to network with others building important contacts that can prove helpful once you graduate and are looking for a job. ALA also provides students with a great overview about all types of librarianship and the important issues affecting our work. I like to think that ALA is a learning lab that supplements classroom instruction and encourages all students to take advantage of what it can offer.

What will ALA accreditation mean for East Carolina University?

The ALA accredited degree has for a long time been the “gold standard” for professional library education. It will mean that your graduates are more competitive in the hiring environment in which many libraries still require an ALA accredited degree as the hiring criteria. It also means that your curriculum has met the standards established by our profession to ensure that your library school education provides you with the values, skills and training you need to be successful in the workplace.

What can students do to help obtain the accreditation?

Talk to the accreditation team when they visit, write letters of support about your program to the ALA accreditation office.

What advice can you offer as we organize our student ALA chapter?

The student ALA chapter can be a great way for people to become familiar with ALA and all it has to offer. Recruit a leadership team that is willing to invest the time needed to get the chapter going. Don’t be afraid to reach out to recognized library leaders to invite them to speak, those of us who have been around for a while love going to college campuses to talk to students. Don’t shy away from controversial topics for your programs – use the ALA chapter to focus on issues important to the profession – intellectual freedom issues, privacy, funding and legislation, new approaches to cataloging, the revolution in the provision of reference and information services, etc. Use the ALA chapter as a way to promote involvement in the association.
“How could I be a good librarian if I had not experienced first hand the different types of positions?” For Dr. Clark, the library was an open door to wonder and achievement. Because of Dr. Clark’s feelings about libraries, she received an intellectual freedom award for fighting a censorship case in a school. With the exception of the public library, in which she volunteered, Dr. Clark has been employed in every type of library. Her area of instruction has been children’s and young adult literature since she began teaching undergraduate classes at Texas Woman’s University in the early 90s. She has also taught Administration of School Libraries and Internship related courses. Her favorite course to teach is Materials for Young Adults.

As a child attending a small school with the school’s library serving as the town’s public library as well, Dr. Clark’s best friends quickly became books. Although she is not a fan of the Harry Potter series, she generally delights in lengthy books such as James Michener’s Hawaii. Growing up she marveled at the many escapades she had while traveling to distant places like Hawaii or to fantastical places like the Emerald City, all from the comfort of her home through the many pages of her books. It is no wonder that as an adult, the books she read as a child flamed her adventurous spirit leading her to leave Upper Michigan and settle for periods in Alaska where she received her B.Ed; Hawaii, where she received her MLIS; Oregon, Wisconsin, Texas, where she received her PhD, the U.S. Virgin Islands, North Carolina, and finally Kentucky.

According to Dr. Clark, good teaching practices allow for growth and interaction in a safe environment. The classroom, especially the virtual classroom, should allow students to share opinions and make mistakes. She uses the discussion board area extensively to communicate with students and to make them aware that they are an integral part of the learning process. Her teaching philosophy, “to do no harm”, was cultivated while in high school. She reflects back to her teen years and her family, which includes three mathematically brilliant older brothers. While in high school her algebra teacher told her she was too stupid to be a member of her own family. Hence, her goal is to create a safe learning environment to encourage all students to learn, no matter the level of foundation knowledge life has given you. She does this with compassion, subject knowledge, and an open teaching style. Personally, she is proudest of her family and the 5 grandchildren she and her husband Steve share. She loves being the Gramma who brings books.

Professionally, she is proudest of introducing booktalking strategies and styles in youth materials courses. She perceives the “perfect school” to be one where all teachers booktalk in their classrooms, not just the librarian.

East Carolina University is fortunate to have Dr. Clark as an instructor on its staff, and the students at ECU are grateful that Dr. Clark had the wit to charge through the doors of the public library and cultivate her future while marveling at the world that she found standing on the shelves in books.
Celebrate Banned Books Week
September 29 - October 6, 2007

Get Hooked on a Banned Book

Banned Books Ahoy!
Treasure your Freedom to Read

Banned Books Week • www.ala.org/bbooks

OIF permission granted 2007
What has been your experience with supporting banned books?

My experience has been overwhelmingly positive. Often the media specialists who call us have never faced a challenge before and don’t know where to begin. We’re able to give them the tools and support they need to defend the freedom to read in their libraries.

Last year there were 546 challenges reported to our office. Fortunately, few of the challenged materials were removed from the library. Unfortunately, we do not know exactly how many books are challenged or removed each year. Based on past experience, we estimate that for every one challenge reported to us, five go unreported. This is troubling because we can’t provide help when we don’t know where it is needed. I’ve met media specialists and when I told them about our office and what we do, they’re surprised because they didn’t even know our office existed. One of our ongoing missions is to spread awareness and let people know who we are and what we do.

The goal of the office is to educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries. We do everything we can to keep as many books in readers’ hands as possible. I’m happy that OIF has the resources to help make this happen.

How do you suggest that media specialists handle (pre and post) banned books?

Policy, policy, policy. Procedure, procedure, procedure. No library or school media center should be without selection and reconsideration policies and procedures.

The selection policy should directly address problems associated with the acquisition of controversial materials. Materials that may be controversial or offensive to some patrons or staff might be selected if their inclusion will contribute to the range of viewpoints in the collection as a whole and the effectiveness of the library’s ability to serve the community. The policy should also include a statement on intellectual freedom and its importance to librarianship, as well as an affirmation of the Library Bill of Rights.

It’s important to remember that a media specialist must follow these policies as well. Article VII of the ALA Code of Ethics states that media specialists must distinguish between their personal convictions and their professional duties. They must recognize that even if they don’t agree with some materials, the content of some materials may need to be in the collection to serve the needs of the library’s users.

Should an item be challenged—and the chances of that happening are there, no matter how strong your policies are—it is time to consult the reconsideration policy. This procedure should establish a fair framework for registering complaints while defending intellectual freedom, the library user’s right of access, and the media specialist’s professional responsibility and integrity.

With these policies in place, a media specialist is prepared to face whatever challenges come his or her way. It’s important to remember, however, that no media specialist or librarian ever has to face an intellectual freedom problem alone. The Office for Intellectual Freedom is always just a phone call away.

What steps (pre and post) can media specialists take if a book in their collection is challenged knowing that NC is a "no fault state"?

A media specialist has to know that, no matter how strong their policies and procedures are, challenges will happen. That’s why it is so crucial to have policies

Continued on page 10
Library Science Society

Telling Our Story: An interview with Kevin Cherry
By: Stacy Menzies

October 16-19 marks the North Carolina Library Association’s (NCLA) 57th Biennial Conference being held in Hickory, N.C. Kevin Cherry, visiting instructor in the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology at ECU, is the co-chair of the conference’s program committee and has had an integral role in planning the events and workshops that will be presented at the conference. He was gracious enough to take time from his schedule and answer some questions about the conference, themed "Telling Our Story.

Q: What is your role in planning the NCLA Conference?

A: I am the co-chair of the Conference Program Committee. That means that I help coordinate the more than 100 sessions of workshops, panel presentations, author readings, etc. that take place at the biennial conference. My co-conspirator in this is Frannie Ashburn who works at the State Library of North Carolina as the Director of the Center for the Book. Together, we pick the all-conference speakers, solicit program ideas from members, schedule the sessions, and make sure the subject matter of each set of concurrent sessions do not compete with one another.

Q: How did you get involved in both NCLA and the planning of the convention?

A: I have been involved in NCLA since I was a graduate student in Library Science at UNC-CH. I was asked to serve on a committee because they wanted "new blood." I then moved from that ad-hoc committee to the editorial board of North Carolina Libraries where I worked a couple of years and I became a member of the executive board as chair of the Round Table on Special Collections. I have been on the NCLA board since 1995 in one capacity or another except for on Biennium. I have helped plan individual conference programs for the past twelve years but this is the first time I have ever helped with the entire conference program.

Q: How many people are expected at the convention?

There are about 1,000 people who attend each conference. Friday is traditionally the day set aside for a lot of school library issues. That is when the folks from DPI usually present. But each day contains a good solid mix of author programming, technology, public service, and management issues. The exhibit area is open each day of the conference.

Q: What types of conference sessions/events will be offered that would benefit ECU students?

A: The DPI programs should appeal to a number of our students, but so should presentations on children’s and YA literature. I also think that our students will be interested in presentations on virtual reality and Web 2.0 technologies in libraries. There will be a Washington lobbyist from the ALA office talking about federal legislative issues, and there will be a panel on the future of newspapers. There will be loads of storytellers and performers, as well, since the theme of the conference is "Telling of Story." Bland Simpson of the Red Clay Ramblers, Public Television's David Holt, New York Times Best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb, Bill Leslie from WRAL in Raleigh, lots of children's authors and poets will be there. There is something for every type of librarian. The presidential endowment dinner will feature a performance of "War Bonds," a musical cabaret based upon World War II oral histories, letters, and songs from the era. The same performers who will present this on public television in the fall will be presenting it at the conference. In addition, the head of the Veteran's History Project at the Library of Congress, Col. Bob Patrick, will be speaking. (He was instrumental in the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington DC.)

The cost to attend the NCLA Conference is $40 for students if you register by 9/21, and $50 if you register on-site. More information about the conference, including programs, workshops and registration information can be accessed at http://www.nclaonline.org/
NMRT – Need More Ramen Today?

Not quite, but a good guess. Among ALA’s alphabet soup of divisions, roundtables, and committees, the NMRT is one that all library science students and new librarians should definitely learn. The NMRT is the New Member Round Table. This wonderful group exists to bring new ALA members into the fold of librarianship.

NMRT provides opportunities to get involved in ALA, network, build your resume or CV, and develop some leadership skills. It offers a mentoring program and a review service for resumes and articles for publication. A newsletter, Footnotes, offers tips on entering and advancing in librarianship, as does the NMRT’s active discussion list (NMRT-L) and, starting soon, blog. Volunteering to serve on any of the NMRT’s 18 committees is a great place to start. Everyone in the NMRT are fairly new to the field and to ALA, so NMRT is a safe place to ask questions and even to make mistakes.

The NMRT offers several programs at ALA Annual Conferences, including an orientation session on the first day to help everyone navigate their first conference. Two free socials are hosted at Annual: one is for current library science students; the other is for new librarians, which includes a free buffet dinner and a live band. To help members attend Annual, NMRT offers several scholarships, including the Shirley Olofson Memorial Award of $1,000, the Student Chapter of the Year Award for $1,000, and, in conjunction with the 3M corporation, the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant, which covers round trip airfare, lodging, conference registration fees, and some incidental expenses, for several people each year.

The best part of NMRT is that membership is FREE for the first two years you are a member of ALA. After that, membership is only $10.00 each year. To ensure that the NMRT remains the vibrant starting point in ALA, membership is limited to one’s first ten years of ALA membership.

For much more information, contacts, and forms, please visit the NMRT’s website, http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/nmrt.htm or contact me at geec@ecu.edu.

WordsworthRap
http://www.golakes.co.uk:80/wordsworthrap/

2007 marks the bicentennial of William Wordsworth’s best known work *I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud* - “England’s most easily recognized poem.”
Celebrate Teen Read Week
October 14-20, 2007
Fall Conference Schedule:

Faculty in the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology will be attending the following conferences in fall 2007 and early winter 2008 and welcome opportunities to talk to students. At NCLA, students can drop by the LSIT booth in the exhibit hall. At NCSLMA, LSIT will be sponsoring a reception for students and alumni. More information about the reception will be forthcoming.

Association for Small & Rural Libraries, September 26-28, Columbus, Ohio

Georgia Conference on Information Literacy, Savannah, Georgia, October 5-6, 2007. Additional details are available at http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/infolitprecon.html.


Continued:


November 15-December 15, 2007, is the ECU’s ALA Student Chapter Holiday Book Drive. Volunteers are needed to gather books to distribute to a variety of agencies serving needy men, women and children throughout North Carolina. Visit our website for more information at http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/.

School Library Media Summit, November 30-December 1, Scottsdale, Arizona

Association of Library and Information Science Educators, January 8-11, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

American Library Association Midwinter Conference, January 11-16, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Football Fans: Save this date!

If you want to meet PeeDee the Pirate, then your best chance is to attend the October 6 football game and tailgate with your fellow LSIT students. This is the first social event to be sponsored by the ECU American Library Association Student Chapter. We have arranged for a block of tickets at the October 6 Military Appreciation game against the University of Central Florida. This evening game kicks off at 7:30 p.m. after an impressive flyover by military jets. To purchase your tickets, go to www.ecupirates.com and click on Buy Tickets and then Promotional Code. Enter the promotional code, which is ALA07 (ALA is all caps). Tickets will be on sale until October 1. The cost per ticket is $15. Tailgating before the game is planned.

Freebies!

Library school students can now get free one-year subscriptions to Library Journal and/or School Library Journal at www.libraryjournal.com/contents/pdfstudentform.pdf.

Continued from Page 5

Erin Byrne speaks . . .

already in place. But there’s more. The school administration, be it at the individual school, or at the district level, must recognize and adopt these policies and procedures. Knowing that your principal backs you up can give great peace of mind to a librarian undergoing a challenge.

If an employer retaliates against a media specialist for refusing to remove a book, or making sure that the administration follows the reconsideration guidelines, OIF does provide tools to help media specialists weather this storm.

Our sister organization, the Leroy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund (www.merrittfund.org), provides financial assistance for media specialists who have been discriminated against or denied employment rights because of their defense of intellectual freedom. We have a program called Lawyers for Libraries, which is building a nationwide network of attorneys committed to the defense of the First Amendment freedom to read and the application of constitutional law to library policies, principles, and problems.

The media specialist is responsible for developing the policies and procedures for their libraries. If those policies and procedures are violated or ignored, librarians can come to us and we can help them.
Congratulations Karen Mathis!

Treasured Pirate Award July 2007: College of Education

Karen is our outstanding Student Services Manager and Secretary in the Department of LSIT. This is her second Treasured Pirate Award since its inception.

Congratulations Karen Dotson!

Karen is the Media Coordinator of Mount Vernon Ruth Elementary and the winner of our chapter’s creative photo contest. Her students look as if they are having a great time during their library hunt. If you would like to be considered for our next photo contest, please send us your photo. Include your name and school to alastudent@ecu.edu.

ECU ALA Student Chapter Scholarship

Our chapter is excited to announce our first “ECU ALA Student Chapter Poetry Scholarship.” We will be awarding $50.00 to one library science student who writes an original poem about their experience as an ECU MLS student. Visit our website for more information (http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/).
Library Science Society

Notable News . . .

Congratulations Graduating Class of 2007!
Visit us on the website at: http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/

Our next chat session will be on Tuesday, September 11 at 9:00 PM.
LSIT Survival Skills 2.0
Visit our website at: http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/

Visit our Wiki at: http://www.ecu.edu/org/alasc/