

MLA-ACRL Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015 (11:30 AM – 1:30 PM)

Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, MS

The ACRL Section of the MLA opened its annual spring meeting a little before 11:30 a.m. with a pre-ordered lunch. Attendees included:

Elena Azadbakht

Michele Frasier-Robinson

Steve Haller

Jennifer Brannock

Tisha Zelner

Xiaojie Duan

Tracy Englert

Antoinette Giamalva

Violene Williams

Merrie Knight

Joyce Pryor

Rose Lockett

Mary Caradine

James Kennedy

Bob Wolverton

James Kalwara

Nikoal Eichmann

Li Zhang

Amanda Clay Powers

Hillary Richardson

Sheeji Kathuria

Shugana Williams

Chameka Robinson

Sheryl Stump

Rick Torgerson

Hazel Bell

Brenda Jackson

Lutisha Hall

Audrey Beach

Kristy Bariola

Judy Hilkert

Mariah Grant

Melissa Dennis

Marty Coleman

Charly Martin

Charles Gaudin

Jackie Quinn

Barbara Price

Following lunch, chair James Kennedy welcomed the attendees and asked vice-chair Michele Frasier-Robinson and secretary-treasurer Elena Azadbakht to introduce themselves to the group. Michele Frasier-Robinson then introduced the program's topic and panelists. This year's topic was "Engaging Communities: Best Practices for Successful Outreach Programs." The panelists were:

- Jennifer Brannock, Curator of Rare Books and Mississippiana at the University of Southern Mississippi, described the work that went into planning an event to promote the Mississippi Community Cookbook Project. The successful program included a talk on African Americans and community cookbooks by Dr. Andrew Haley as well as food prepared from a 1950s community cookbook for attendees.
- Tracy Englert, Reference Librarian for Science and Technology at the University of Southern Mississippi, discussed the importance of STEM outreach and several of her most recent programs: science cafés and "innovation" cafés; Nano Day and the working with the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE); blogging for the Science-Technology Actives and Resources for Libraries network (STAR\_Net).
- Antoinette Giamalva, Access Services Librarian at Delta State University, spoke about "passive programming," outreach that students can do at any time/on their own schedule. She shared several innovative examples: Pictionary on the Go; a Book Bowl; photo opportunities with Delta State's mascots; catchy boards/displays where students could offer their support for a particular pop culture icon such as their favorite comic book super hero or villain.
- Shugana Williams, Librarian at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, described her work to make MGCCC's PRIME TIME Family Reading Time a success. Her outreach strategy utilized community contacts and networks such as local school district staff to get families to attend the program each week as well as to secure food and prizes for the participants.

Although questions were held until all the panelists had spoken, each panelist received questions from the attendees about some aspect of her outreach program. The panelists were eager to share their knowledge and advice with the audience.

#### Section Business Meeting Minutes

After the panel session ended, James Kennedy called the section business meeting to order.

Since the panel presentation had run a little longer than anticipated, there was a motion to approve the agenda and commence the business meeting immediately. This was quickly seconded and carried by voice vote.

Stephen Haller moved to approve of MLA-ACRL minutes from the October 16, 2014 meeting as posted on ACRL wiki. The motion was seconded by Bob Wolverton and carried by voice vote.

Under Old Business, James Kennedy reminded the group of his and Bob Wolverton's work to update the portion of the handbook relating to ACRL, referring to the email he sent out on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

James Kennedy then asked the group if they had any old business or news they wanted to share. Lacy Ellinwood, who is Chair of the Poster Session Committee for the 2015 MLA Annual Conference, reminded attendees that the deadline to submit poster proposals for the conference is May 31, 2015. She also noted that this year there is an added component to the traditional poster session, "lightning rounds." These will consist of two presentation slots that will each have 8-9 poster sessions giving a 5-minute talk on their poster project. The hope is that this method will expose more conference-goers to the presenters' projects and ideas. She also reminded Mississippi Library Leadership Institute participants that their grant funding information is due to Joy Garretson soon.

Under New Business, Michelle Frasier-Robinson spoke about the speaker she has been working to bring in for the upcoming MLA-ACRL Fall meeting at the MLA Annual Conference in Natchez. Jaena Alabi, Reference Librarian at Auburn University, will discuss the importance of having an inclusive organizational culture in academic libraries.

Barbara Price informed the group of a recent vote to create a joint MLA-ALA student membership. Students will now pay \$38 to be a member of both MLA and ALA.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

*Submitted by Elena Azadbakht, Secretary/Treasurer, 2015*