President’s Message

If your parent is a librarian, you probably visit many libraries and attend community events in partnerships with libraries. You wait patiently in grocery store aisles for your librarian parent to answer a friend or neighbor’s question about a library service. You try not to spin in your chair too much at special author events. Your dining room table at home is a testing space for slime recipes or STEM experiments that might become library programs. You wait for mom or dad on evenings and weekends while they help other families in the library. You speak the language of stacks, book drops, databases, and book sales. Thank you to all of the librarian parents out there. Your support of families reaches far beyond Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Your children see this impact in their community. Keep going.

Erin Gray, MLS
Branch Manager
Republic Branch Library
Springfield-Greene County Library District
ering@thelibrary.org
(417) 732-7284

President, Missouri Library Association
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<td>Tips for Hiring the Right Person</td>
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MLA Awards Committee Seeking Nominations

The MLA Awards committee is seeking nominations to recognize and celebrate our colleagues and institutions in the library field. If you know an outstanding Missouri librarian, trustee, library student, or institution please consider nominating them for an award. Visit the MLA Awards Page to see what awards we have available each year and to complete the nomination process. The deadline to complete nominations for 2019 is July 1st!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Meggan Moore, Awards Chair, at megganm@thelibrary.org.

MLA Awards PEER CI to Award $2000 Scholarship to Missouri Library Student

The Missouri Library Association and the Professionalism, Education, Employment, and Recruitment Community of Interest invite applications for the Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship. The Bohley Scholarship is awarded annually to an individual enrolled in or recently accepted into an ALA–accredited program in pursuit of a Master’s degree in Library or Information Science. Applications are due June 30th. To learn more about eligibility criteria and to start your application go here:

http://molib.org/awards/scholarships/ronald-g-bohley-scholarship/

Registration Open for YALSA’s 2019 YA Services Symposium

Register Now for the 2019 YALSA YA Services Symposium!

Registration for YALSA’s 2019 symposium, which will take place Nov. 1-3 in Memphis, TN is now open. Now through early bird registration (September 15), those who join YALSA and register for the symposium will be automatically entered for a chance to win free registration for the 2020 YALSA symposium.

Additionally, non-members who join YALSA/ALA before registering become eligible to register with the YALSA member rate, apply for a $1,000 symposium travel stipend, gain access to a quarterly journal, additional grants, and more. Joining and then registering often costs less than the non-member rate. Additional events such as pre-conferences, a Graceland tour, and an author luncheon can be added for an extra fee. View the preliminary schedule. Learn more at www.ala.org/yalsa/registration.

Anna Lam
Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)
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alam@ala.org

Technical Services Community of Interest News

PLEASE NOTE: Application period is June 1st-30th!

2019 MLA Conference Award for Technical Services Staff Member

The Technical Services Community of Interest (TSCI) is pleased to offer reimbursement of up to $250 in conference expenses for an individual employed in a technical services role. Our goal is to assist a library employee who would not otherwise be able to attend due to financial limitations. The annual Conference is an excellent way to meet other library professionals, exchange ideas and rekindle enthusiasm for work in the library field.

The 2019 MLA Annual Conference will be held on October 2-4 at the KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Applications for the award will be accepted June 1-30, 2019. TSCI Officers will review the submissions and select a recipient by mid-July. The winner will be notified upon approval by the MLA Board.

Access the application and get additional details at http://molib.org/tsci-award/. For more information, contact the 2019 TSCI Chair Dylan Martin at MartinD2@lincolnu.edu.
Featured Library Employee

Meet this issue’s Featured Library Employee for the Missouri Library Association, Clare Hollander!

What is your name, your library, and your role at the library?

Clare Hollander, Kansas City Public Library. I am a children’s librarian, currently managing the youth services floor of our Central location.

What originally got you interested in working at a library?

Originally, it was all about the books, like so many people. I loved browsing, reading, talking about books. Writing. My first library job was as a student helper in 6th grade, and my favorite thing to do was to sort cards using the card sorter (remember those?). I’ve always enjoyed alphabetizing.

What keeps you coming back every day?

The people. What good are the books if you don’t connect them to their readers? It is my favorite thing to do I think, Reader’s Advisory.

What’s challenging about your work?

Managing the unique nature of our set-up regarding our collections. More than half of our books are in closed-stacks due to the limitations of architecture! We are able to put many of our books face-out and at eye level for many of our patrons which is great for browsing, but when looking for specific things, patrons rely on us to run to the stacks. We love to do it, but keeping up with the new books coming in finds us constantly shifting books to the back to make room. It’s complicated. And challenging!

Has your work made you either curious, or passionate, or awestruck about something?

Yes, pretty much on a daily basis! This week I was a bit blown away to overhear a parent commenting on all of the tactile things we have available for kids to handle besides books. Writing and drawing with various implements, playing with puzzles, puppets, board games; these things vs holding a computer mouse or device all the time is one of the reasons this particular parent likes bringing her 8 year old to the library. I had no idea it was getting that bad out there!

Who is one of your mentors?

I was very lucky to have come on board at KCPL a year or two behind April Roy, current past president of MLA, and she has mentored me from the very beginning particularly around story times and the literature of early childhood. My story times sometime see as many as 100 or more participants, and I learned so much about how to make it flow from her training me years ago how to handle large groups, from choosing the materials to dealing with chatty parents. I see her influence in my work on a weekly basis and I am eternally grateful to her.

What book, author, artist, show, or music are you engaging with this week, either personally or professionally? Persuade us in one or two sentences that we should pick this up, too.

Jon Scieszka (rhymes with Fresca). In honor of national poetry month I’ve been reading aloud his book Science Verse to the 3rd 4th and 5th graders who come for read-alouds and check out once a month. Not only is he funnier than anyone, he’s super smart and creative, too (check out his website if you don’t believe me: www.jsworldwide.com ). There’s all kinds of science here, (the end pages are the periodic table of elements—or are they?) as well as all kinds of poetry represented by his parodies of famous works, sometimes put to famous tunes such as “I’ve been working on the food Chain.” One group of 3rd graders left singing the chorus/refrain “who’s for lunch today? Who’s for lunch today? Eat or be eaten, that’s the only way!” Nothing is more gratifying than to finish reading a book this awesome and have a hand go up out there immediately to ask “can I borrow that book?”
**Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?**

Jon Scieszka is on the Governing Board of the Rabbit Hole, a local endeavor in Kansas City with the mission of creating an Exploratorium, an interactive museum of the picture book. The Rabbit Hole will be opening later this coming fall in time for the 100th anniversary of Children's Book Week in November and like everybody else, I can’t wait! Check out their website for more information: www.rabbitholekc.org

Would you like to nominate someone to be our next Featured Library Employee? Examples could be:

…a new employee you’d like to introduce
…someone with a unique job or on a unique career path
…an employee you find inspirational
…a coworker whose gifts you wish were more widely known
…someone who’s “an institution” full of interesting stories
…a role that has a new focus or is reaching a new audience
…someone you’d like to make more visible to potential employers

Submit name(s) and contact information, along with place of employment, to Shannon Mawhiney at smawhiney@missouristate.edu. We’ll do all the work of contacting; we just need you to connect us!

### Missouri Evergreen

Missouri Evergreen welcomed two new members recently! Oregon County Library and Montgomery City Public Library bring the number of member libraries to 48. Ray County Library went live on Evergreen on April 15, and will be followed by Seymour Community Library in June and Heartland Regional Library in July. Missouri Evergreen upgraded to Evergreen version 3.1.10 in early March, which added some new features fixes for the web-based staff client. The consortium held its April membership meeting via conference call to discuss the business of the consortium.

Missouri Evergreen is in its seventh year and comprises 48 member systems—43 live on Evergreen—representing over 100 locations, containing more than 3 million items, over 1.6 million bibliographic records, and over 600,000 patrons. Missouri Evergreen is still accepting new members and hopes you will join this wonderful resource-sharing consortium!

The Missouri Evergreen website, [http://libraries.missourievergreen.org](http://libraries.missourievergreen.org), contains more information about the consortium, including member libraries, steps to join, past meeting information, and borrowing/lending statistics.

The mission of Missouri Evergreen is to provide a shared integrated library system to increase resource sharing among Missouri public libraries. Administered by MOBIUS, it is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as Administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

### MOBIUS

**MOBIUS OverDrive Libraries Present at ACRL**

The highly successful MOBIUS Shared OverDrive Collection was featured in a panel presentation at ACRL on Thursday, April 11. Speakers included Steve Potash, CEO, Overdrive; Lindsey Levinsohn, Account Manager, OverDrive; and three MOBIUS member librarians: Sandra Harris, Library Director, Maryville University; Paul Huffman, University Archivist/Reference Librarian, Lindenwood University; and Sheryl Walters, Reference & eResources Librarian, Logan University. The session featured panel members sharing how the participating institutions joined together to create a successful, shared digital collection that serves students and faculty from colleges and universities of all sizes and specialties.

**2019 Annual MOBIUS Conference**

The 2019 MOBIUS Conference will be held June 3-5 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO. The conference is a chance for MOBIUS members to come together once a year and swap ideas, network, and receive training. Attendance is free for employees of Missouri libraries and affordable for those coming from outside the state. More information, including registration details, can be found at [https://2019conf.mobiclusconsortium.org](https://2019conf.mobiclusconsortium.org).
Missouri State Library - Wolfner

Wolfner Library’s Youth Summer Reading Program

Wolfner Library patrons ages 18 and under are invited to participate in Wolfner Library’s Youth Summer Reading Club. This year’s slogan is “A Universe of Stories,” and will feature a variety of space and Sci-Fi themes! Wolfner Library always strives to provide fun and accessible prizes each year. For 2019, we are giving grand prizewinners the opportunity to choose from three different prizes. Options include an iPad, a Samsung tablet, or Beats by Dr. Dre wireless headphones. We will also be awarding top readers with a “A Universe of Stories Top Reader” t-shirt. The program will run from May 30th-July 30th. Registration is currently open online at https://tinyurl.com/wolfner-2019-src or contact the Youth Services Librarian at 800-392-2614.

Wolfner Library Book Club Schedule

June:
June 13 at 2 p.m. Novel Reads: *Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin
June 20 at 2 p.m. Good Books: *Where Courage Calls* by Janette Oke and Laurel Oke Logan
June 27 at 2 p.m. Big Ideas: *The Republic of Pirates* by Colin Woodard

July:
July 11 at 2 p.m. Novel Reads: *Artemis* by Andy Weir
July 18 at 2 p.m. Good Books (mild reads): *Bringing Columbia Home: The Untold Story of a Lost Space Shuttle and Her Crew* by Michael D. Leinbach
July 25 at 2 p.m. Big Ideas: *Space Race: The Epic Battle between America and the Soviet Union for Dominion of Space* by Deborah Cadbury

Wolfner Library Application Certification Reminder

Librarians and other library staff that routinely work with the public are able to certify Wolfner Library individual and institutional applications for those with visual and physical disabilities. In addition to library staff, other certifying authorities include medical professionals, social workers, teachers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and therapists. However, if a patron has a reading disability the only certification authority would be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

For more information about signing up for Wolfner Library services, see: https://www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner/applyforservices.

Wolfner Library Large Print Books

Wolfner Library circulates large print books in addition to audio and braille books. Sometime these books are accidentally returned to local libraries. If a patron has returned Wolfner Library large print books locally, could the books please be returned to us? The books can be mailed back to: Wolfner Library, PO Box 387, Jefferson City, MO 65102. The wording “Free Matter for the Blind” can be written in lieu of postage.

Wolfner Library large print books can be identified several ways. Property stickers can be located on the inside covers. The spine label is formatted to have a number that always begins LP followed by a series of four or five numbers. Most recent titles will also have Wolfner Library’s contact information stamped on the ends of the text block.
Amigos Member Spotlight

We’re proud of our Amigos Library Services members and want to recognize the work that they do in their communities. Each month we will be showcasing an Amigos member library or institution. It’s a great way for Amigos members, and non-members alike, to learn from and meet colleagues and peers.

Would you like your institution to be featured in our spotlight? Send us a message at communications@amigos.org.

***

Amigos Members Receive Introductory Discount through June

Artifex Press, a publisher of digital catalogues raisonnés, is offering a discounted rate on All Catalogues Subscriptions through June 2019. First-time subscribers will get 25% off the first year and 20% off the second and third years, of a three-year subscription.

Artifex’s subscription rate is based on the size and type of your institution and follows the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning. To learn more, please join us for a webinar on Friday, May 24 at 11:00 CST.

For additional information, please contact Susie Thompson at thompson@amigos.org or 800-843-8482, ext. 2880.

New Infobase Films on Demand Collection on Fashion Studies – Special Introductory Discount Available

Infobase has launched a new Films on Demand Collection – Fashion Studies. Fashion is a passion for many people, encompassing all things à la mode from clothing and jewelry to makeup and perfume. A solid complement to university and community college fashion programs, this collection features entertaining and enlightening programs on the history of fashion, the cultural impact of styles, and the careers and works of many great designers. For fashion students who aspire one day to see their works on both the runway and the red carpet, this collection is their first stop for ideas and inspiration.

Amigos Members can take advantage of a special introductory discount of 25%! Contact us at MDS@amigos.org today for trial and discount pricing information.

New Oxford University Press Spring Offers

Amigos members can now take advantage of Oxford’s special Spring promotion for new subscription orders. Starting in April, members can add new online subscription products (excluding law products) to their collection of OUP online resources for the 2019/2020 12-month price with access starting as soon as the order is entered. Under this offer, Amigos members will be getting 15, 14 or 13-month subs for the price of the annual subscription (12 months), depending on when the order is placed (subscriptions will run through 06/30/2020)!

For more information about this offer, contact Bea Ramirez at Ramirez@amigos.org.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Rethinking Reality – AI in the Library

As artificial intelligence continues to trend, the question remains – how will this affect libraries? Is augmented, virtual, or mixed reality the way of the future? Join us for our latest course for libraries of all types, where you’ll learn how to define artificial intelligence, types of AI, discuss the affect of AI on libraries, and evaluate the challenges of AI.

Register Now – Wednesday, May 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Event Planning 101

As librarians, we plan programs for our patrons every day, but what about when you’ve been tasked with planning a large-scale event such as a conference, awards gala, or a fundraising dinner?! This course will cover the roles and expectations of the event planner and

Continued on page 9
the planning process. We will also discuss event management, budgeting, evaluation, and how to be prepared for if (or when) things go wrong.

Register Now – Tuesday, June 18 – Wednesday, June 19, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Know & Go Updates

Know & Go’s are part of a series of informative web sessions covering topics of current interest. Designed for group participation, FREE for Amigos members – and only $35 for non-members – Know & Go Updates are presented online on Monday afternoons from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Register today!

- Tips for Hiring the Right Person May 20
- Blockchain: It Isn’t Just for Bitcoin June 10
- Using and Creating Infographics in Libraries June 17
- Collaborating through Social Media June 24

Upcoming Online Classes

Here’s a quick look at upcoming online classes. Classes are always being added, so be sure to check out our course schedule!

- Know & Go: Tips for Hiring the Right Person Monday May 20, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- Rethinking Reality – AI in the Library Wednesday May 22, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Know & Go: Blockchain: It Isn’t Just for Bitcoin Monday June 10, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: Using and Creating Infographics in Libraries Monday June 17, 1:30- 2:30 p.m.
- Event Planning 101 June 18-19 (TU-WED), 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Know & Go: Collaborating through Social Media Monday, June 24, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- Drama Free Graphic Design Thursday, June 27, 2 - 4 p.m.
Presentations at 2019 iConference

With spring in full swing conference season has returned! On March 31st-April 3, 2019 the iConference was held in Washington D.C. The iConference is an exciting conference in which information professionals and researchers gather to celebrate and discuss the field of information technology. This year, several of our faculty and alumni hosted workshops and presented papers and posters:

- **Jenny Bossaller, Associate Professor and Sean Burns, Alumnus**: Workshop, “InVivo Inspiration: Investigating Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS),” with M.L. Radford, V. Kitzie, D. Floegel, L. S. Conna, J. Bossaller, S. Burns
- **Isa Jahnke, Associate Professor; Joi Moore, Professor, and Johannes Strobel, Professor**: Workshop, “Utilizing an Empathy Lens To Understand Information Technology Usage And Adoption.”

SISLT Student Conference

The annual SISLT Student Conference was held Saturday, April 6th at the Leadership Auditorium of the MU Student Center. Students and faculty enjoyed four keynote speakers:

- Jyldyz Bekbalaeva, director of the library at the American University of Central Asia
- A. J. Million, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Michigan’s iSchool
- Katie Gregory, MidContinent Public Library’s Employment Specialist, and
- Kristen Sorth, Director of St. Louis County Library

Three students presented papers: Levi Dolan with Chris Pryor: “Shortened Answers: Implicit Bias, Health Disparities, and Library Services”; Emily Wiechman: “3D Printing in Library”, and Elizabeth Winter: “(Re)Born: Digital Preservation Workflows.” We also learned about student research from three poster presenters: Zhuzumkan Askhatbekova, Cori Atkinson, and Ila Blankenbaker. Congratulations to all for a great job, and to all of our student organizations for putting together a great conference.

Faculty Achievements

Finally, a warm congratulations is extended to three faculty: Jason Alston, Heather Moulaixon Sandy, and Denise Adkins. Dr. Jason Alston has recently published a book, *Developing a Residency Program: A Practical Guide for Librarians* with co-authors, Lorelei Rutledge, Jay L. Colbert, and Anastasia Chiu. Dr. Denice Adkins and Dr. Heather Moulaixon Sandy were recognized as the winners for the 2018 IJIDI Outstanding Paper Award for the category of Research Papers for their paper, “Engaging Linguistically Diverse Populations: Gatekeepers in rural parts of the U.S. Midwest.”
University of Missouri – Columbia

Barker Participates in ACRL Panel

Anne Barker, MU research and instructional services librarian, was part of a panel discussion on April 11 at the ACRL Conference in Cleveland, OH. The panel was titled, “Connect the Campus Dots: Using Institutional Systems to Support Students When They Need It the Most.”

Confederate Rock Exhibit at Ellis Library

In support of Black History Month, the University of Missouri Libraries created an exhibit on Confederate Rock.

Confederate Rock was a monument erected by the John S. Marmaduke Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1935. The monument originally stood in the area known today as Speakers Circle.

In 1974, Mizzou activists led by the Legion of Black Collegians succeeded in having the monument removed from the MU campus. The monument has had many homes in Boone County, eventually being placed at the Centralia Battlefield Historical Site in 2015.

The exhibit contained several newspaper articles and photographs that highlight the history of the monument.

For more information, visit libraryguides.missouri.edu/mlk.

University of Missouri Health Sciences Library Provides Students Access to Pharmacology Resources

Written by Dr. Marilyn James-Kracke, MU Associate Professor of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology.

With the help of Rebecca Graves, educational services librarian, and Mike Spears, system support analyst, my students in medical pharmacology are included in the list of students who can use UpToDate and its Lexi-comp drug database for 15 assignments that teach information technology to pre-medical and pre-health professional students. Each assignment explores different components of drug monographs, drug interactions reports, calculators for renal function, disease treatment strategies and pill identifiers etc.

My students greatly appreciate this opportunity for professional training. These assignments provide additional valuable active learning components to this advanced basic science course.

For the Medical Physiology course and the Medical Pharmacology course, I provide direct links within the CANVAS course components to electronic textbooks so students can freely access any part of these well recognized textbooks using the library fees they pay as students. The students feel that I have their best interest at heart by saving them textbook dollars while also providing access to quality textbooks.

I’m glad my students get a great library experience, so they learn to value these resources as future professionals.

Continued on page 12
University of Missouri Libraries Makes Rare Titles Available Through Digitization

According to the British Library’s English Short Title catalog, the only place you could read the poem pictured was at Ellis Library at Mizzou. Until now! Thanks to the work of our Digital Services Department, it’s now in the HathiTrust. Read it or download at https://buff.ly/2TWmqSD.

Mizzou has added other English Short Title Catalog titles to the HathiTrust, too. Many of these are unique to the HathiTrust. To view them, see the MU English Short Title Catalog collection / https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb?a=listis;c=1689078988.

At the University of Missouri Libraries, we are committed to making our collections accessible to a wider audience through digitization.

Lucia & Corydon, et Chloe monita : poetamia duo, Latine reddita
Mid-Continent Public Library

Museum Pass Program Launches

Mid-Continent Public Library, the City of Independence, and the Jackson County Historical Society have launched a new pilot program called the MCPL Museum Pass, which provides complimentary admission to select Independence attractions and museums through the end of 2019.

MCPL cardholders who are at least 18 years of age are now able to check out a Museum Pass from select MCPL branches for up to one week. Each pass includes a voucher valid for four adult, senior, or child admissions to one of the following Independence attractions:

- Vaile Mansion
- National Frontier Trails Museum
- The Chicago & Alton Railroad Depot
- The 1859 Jail and Marshal’s Home and Museum
- The Bingham-Waggoner Estate
- Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum (until it closes for renovation later this spring)

Cardholders may only check out a Museum Pass to one attraction at a time, and the passes are only available for checkout in person on a first-come, first-served basis. They cannot be renewed and must be returned to the branch where they were checked out from at the end of the seven-day checkout period.

To learn more about the MCPL Museum Pass Program, including which branches have the passes, visit mymcpl.org/MuseumPass.

Midwest Genealogy Center Featured on ‘Queer Eye’; Finds Congressman’s Roots

Viewers of the most recent season of Netflix’s hit show Queer Eye, filmed in the Kansas City metro, may have noticed a familiar location in the fifth episode. In a very emotional and powerful episode, Mid-Continent Public Library’s Midwest Genealogy Center and its manager, Cheryl Lang, make a cameo as the hero of the episode, Jess, is presented with her biological family’s history.

After weeks of research, Lang and her team made several discoveries about Jess, which Cheryl presented during the program. The impact of the reveal is powerful and awe-inspiring, and it’s a strong reminder of just how affecting genealogy and connecting with one’s familial lineage can be. Combined with the episode’s overall focus on identity and family, it makes for a very moving viewing experience.

Also during the month of March, the Midwest Genealogy Center partnered with Kansas City PBS and the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center to host a special screening and discussion of the hit PBS show Finding Your Roots. Following the screening, a panel of local genealogy experts, including Lang, as well as Preston Washington, President of M.A.G.I.C. (the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition), and Lyle Gibson, author and history professor at Metropolitan Community College, offered attendees tips and tricks on tracing their own ancestry.

The event also included a Finding Your Roots-style presentation to Kansas Citian and U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver on his family history, which Lang and her team at the Midwest Genealogy Center had researched. Lang revealed what they uncovered about Cleaver’s ancestry and how they made their discoveries.

Visit MidwestGenealogyCenter.org to find out more about what’s new at MGC.
Construction Update

As Mid-Continent Public Library’s Capital Improvement Plan progresses, more MCPL branches are receiving upgrades, including the Edgerton Branch, which reopened on February 19, and the Dearborn and Camden Point Branches, which reopened on January 22. The Camden Point and Dearborn Branches hosted reopening celebrations on Friday, March 29, and the Edgerton Branch is scheduled to host one in the coming weeks. The festivities included remarks from local officials and Library leadership, refreshments, and the distribution of commemorative tokens to attendees that can be used one time to clear Library fines and fees up to $10.

MCPL’s Claycomo and Kearney Branches remain closed as they are renovated, and upgrades are slated to be finished this summer. The Library’s Red Bridge Branch is also currently undergoing a major overhaul. Construction recently kicked off at the new location, also located within the Red Bridge Shopping Center, and is estimated to be complete sometime this summer. The current Red Bridge Branch will remain open during construction.

In May, the Library will break ground in Lee’s Summit, Mo., on a plot of land where the Library intends to erect a brand new 18,500-square-foot branch—its third in the City of Lee’s Summit—with a wide array of amenities and upgraded technology.

Learn more about the Library's construction projects at mymcpl.org/Community.
Springfield-Greene County Libraries

“Circe” Author Madeline Miller Thrills 200-Plus Fans

Who knew Greek mythology could be so much fun? The One Read title “Circe” invited all kinds of interpretations. One Big Party on Saturday, March 2, at The Annex by Arris Pizza kicked off the Library’s homage to Greek mythology and the One Read selected title, “Circe” by Madeline Miller. The Library Foundation fundraiser featured a Greek wine tasting, appetizers, music and dancing. Missouri State University’s Brooks Blevins proved the Greeks have nothing on the Ozarks when it comes to outrageous (and unreal) creatures like the Hoop Snake and the Gowrow; super-strong men and seers. Blevins entertained his audience at the Library Center Thursday, March 21, during The Truth Ain’t in Us: Mythology and the Mythological Ozarks. On Friday, March 22, at Moxie Cinema, movie lovers who came to watch the 1981 cinema classic “Clash of the Titans” donned Greek garb for the photo booth. The One Read celebration ended Thursday, April 11, at the Library Center with the visit from “Circe” author Madeline Miller. During the interview-style presentation with Drury University F. W. Olin Library Director William Garvin, Miller talked to more than 200 attendees about what inspired her love for Greek mythology and why the topic is relevant today – “They are primal, human stories….We return to them to see ourselves.”

Library Foundation Wins Grant for Seniors, Memory Care

The Library Foundation received a $2,300 grant from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks for the Movies and Memories project. It is designed to provide socialization through programs for seniors and adults who were excited to Skype with author Cressida Cowell (“How to Train Your Dragon”) on Wednesday, March 6. We took part in this Skype visit with children from around the world – from Alaska to Bosnia. Ms. Cowell also answered some of our attendees’ questions in the live Q&A after the Skype.
people living with dementia in the welcoming and stimulating environment of the Library Center. The project also will provide kits for Library Outreach and any care partners that want to replicate the program.

**Library and Ozarks Literacy Council Team Wins Prize in Adult Literacy XPRIZE Communities Competition**

XPRIZE, in partnership with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation named team “Lit 417” a recipient of its milestone prize as part of its $1 million Adult Literacy XPRIZE Communities Competition.

Lit 417, the Springfield-Greene County Library District and the Ozarks Literacy Council team, was among 24 teams nationwide that will split the $500,000 milestone awards. They were selected for submitting the most innovative, feasible and scalable plans to promote a free, mobile app that makes it easy for adults to learn to read in private, at their own pace, on their own schedule. Lit 417 will make available to learners a mobile app that was developed by one of four app design finalists in the Adult Literacy XPRIZE. Each app demonstrated literacy gains in participating learners who took a pre- and post-test in a 12-month field test in 2018. The Lit 417 team will use its share of the milestone award to create materials to engage adults wishing to learn to read or improve their reading skills; show them how to download and use a free mobile app to learn; and partner with community groups to engage adult learners to use the app. In Phase 2 of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE Communities Competition, a $500,000 prize purse will be awarded in fall 2019 for teams that go on to recruit the most adult learners to download and use the apps through August 31.

**Librarians Kick off Channel 10’s Book Club Series**

Two library staffers helped put books and The Library in a fresh, fun light when they kicked off Joy’s Book Club series on KOLR Channel 10’s Ozarks Live segment Wednesday, March 20. Host Joy Robertson (far right), an extreme Library supporter and reader, wants one or two Library staffers to come on the show twice a month to talk about a few books they love and recommend for readers. Library Center Local History Associate Konrad Stump and Reference Librarian Miranda Eudaly kicked off the series, giving viewers a rich synopsis of each book including the selected One Read title “Circe.”

**Illustrator AG Ford Visits for African American Read-In**

National best-selling illustrator AG Ford demonstrated his methods for some 55 children and adults on Thursday, March 28, at the Library Center. He was among the featured guests during the month-long series of programs for the African American Read-In. The committee is a partnership of the Springfield schools, Missouri State University, The Library, Springfield NAACP and others. “He was so excited to share his tips and processes for drawing,” said Library Center Manager Jessie East. “He’s particularly passionate about portraiture so he studies figures in motion by photographing himself in different action poses and then uses those photos to draw from. It’s interesting to look at his illustrations now and know that he, as the illustrator, has virtually acted out the story at home! We had a variety in attendance: adults who want to become illustrators and families. There were several very excited kids in the audience who got to take his large demo drawings home.”
How-To Festival Draws Nearly 700 Eager Learners

Nearly 700 people attended the How-To Festival on Saturday, March 30, at the Library Center. Twenty-five different sessions were offered at the event including ukulele, pressure cooking, character design and contouring, which the presenter described as “Spanx for your face.”

Teens Get Expert Crash Course in Car Care

Representatives from A-1 Custom Car Care, Christian Brothers Automotive, Complete Automotive, Don Wessel Honda and Rick’s Automotive provided demonstrations, presentations and even a few prizes during BBB Car Care for Teens on Friday, March 29, at the Library Center. About 100 teens were in attendance and didn’t let the rain keep them from looking under the hoods of three vehicles parked on the patio.

Kathleen O’Dell, community relations director, kathleeno@thelibrary.org
St. Louis County Library

St. Louis County Library Opens New Meramec Valley Branch

St. Louis County Library will open the new Meramec Valley Branch on Wednesday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. as part of the Your Library Renewed campaign.

Construction on the Meramec Valley Branch began in May 2018. The project is part of a multi-year, $120+ million campaign to renovate or replace 19 branches within the Library District.

The new Meramec Valley Branch is located at 1501 San Simeon Way, St. Louis MO 63026.

The new branch will replace the former Meramec Valley Branch, located at 625 New Smizer Mill Road in Fenton. The old location closed on April 27 at 5:00 p.m.

The previous location of the Meramec Valley Branch was the smallest branch in the Library District, measuring 2,690 square feet. The new Meramec Valley Branch is a full-service library branch encompassing 21,000 square feet. The new branch features a colorful interior, with abundant natural light, comfortable seating, architectural light fixtures, wood accents and contemporary furniture throughout. Unlike the old branch, the new Meramec Valley will be open on Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm.

The new branch is the third location to feature a Discovery Zone; a space designed to encourage children to explore, play and learn. The Discovery Zone has several unique features including interactive touchscreens, a pneumatic tube maze, a light table, a magnetic wall with gears and a ball maze. The dynamic space also features mirrors for crawlers, a construction-like wall with foam bricks, a story wall with lyrics of four favorite children’s songs, a build-your-own-race-car race track, and a 250 square foot built in playhouse with operable lights, a mail slot, a kitchen set and other play furniture. Ample comfortable seating for parent-child reading and other family-friendly furniture is also featured.

Other amenities at the branch include: three private study rooms, a quiet reading room, a community meeting room with a capacity of 150, a business center, a community garden (spring 2020), a 1/3 mile walking path, and an outdoor reading deck.

The new Meramec Valley Branch was designed by Mackey Mitchell Architects and Bond Architects. The budget was $5.6 million and was funded by proceeds from a 2012 tax initiative.

The Meramec Valley Branch is the 17th location to be renovated or replaced as part of the Your Library Renewed campaign. Construction is currently underway at the Mid-County Branch, which is scheduled to reopen in summer 2019. The timeline is subject to change based on weather conditions and other factors.

More details about the construction projects can be found at www.slcl.org/your-library-renewed.
“Idenia is more of a sister to me than a coworker,” Frances says with a smile, and Idenia nods in agreement. “We’ve been partners in crime.”

It’s unusual for employees today to spend their entire careers at the same business or organization. But that’s exactly what Frances Bush and Idenia Thornton have done. With 50 years of service and counting under their belts at the Columbia Public Library, they are the longest-serving employees — and perhaps the closest friends — on staff.

“It’s been a long time,” says Frances about working at the library. “It doesn’t feel like it, though.”

Frances, a Columbia native, began at the library on June 1, 1968, after graduating from high school. Idenia, who grew up in Auxvasse, followed six months later in January of 1969. Both were hired by long-time library director Gene Martin to work in the Circulation Department, which is where their friendship began. The two remember their days of ordering books, processing invoices and issuing overdue notices before computer automation existed.

“I started with filing in the card catalog. I don’t know if anyone remembers the card catalog now,” Idenia says. “We had to do a lot by hand then.”

Frances eventually moved to the library’s Outreach Department, which takes library materials to those who can’t get to the library, and enjoyed many years of traveling around Mid-Missouri on the bookmobile. Idenia also moved, from Circulation to the Technical Services Department, which handles every aspect of acquiring library materials and getting them ready to be checked out by patrons. Both remain in their respective departments today as senior assistants.

Despite all the changes over the years, the two have remained devoted friends and consider each other family.

“We babysat for each other. We went to church together — and dances, picnics, barbecues — stuff like that,” Idenia recalls of their youth. “Both of our husbands were in Vietnam, and we stood by each other and were able to comfort each other because we were going through the same thing.”

While no one else can claim a half-century of service at the library like Frances and Idenia, there are a number of employees who have recently celebrated work anniversaries ranging from 10 to 40 years. The kind of camaraderie that formed between them is one reason why Idenia and Frances believe employees stay so long at the library.

“People love their jobs here, and that’s why they stay,” Frances says. “It’s home. That’s what this place is about – family.”

Idenia agrees. “If something happens to one of our staff, it happens to all of us,” she says. “We couldn’t have a better staff – our library family, as we call it.”

Neither Frances, now a grandmother, nor Idenia, a great-grandmother, have any plans for retirement. They are proud to work at the library and to serve the community.

“I hope we never, ever get rid of the library,” says Idenia.
On a Roll to Literacy

Not all children have books at home, or have ever visited a library. Does it matter?

Yes, it does. So we’re taking the library to them. We understand that demands on families may make getting to a library a challenge, so we decided to reach preschoolers where many spend their weekdays, at a child care center.

“The science is clear: there are long-term positive outcomes for children who begin learning from birth, and for 15 million children in America each week, the child care setting is an opportunity to learn and set healthy habits for life.” (Source: Child Care Aware of America, 2016 State Fact Sheets)

Thanks to many people and businesses* who donated more than $158,000 through the Daniel Boone Regional Library Foundation, we were able to buy Book Rover entirely through private funding. The Book Rover is a specialized van that comes equipped with shelves that we load with books. Children and teachers browse through the mini collection and check out what they want. They can read the books on the spot and take them home. While there, we also offer story times and mentoring to child care staff on how to incorporate school readiness skills into their daily activities.

“We started going to licensed child care centers nine years ago with Bookmobile, Jr. and we’ve been wanting to expand this service for a long time. The Book Rover allows us to do that. It’s a small enough vehicle that we can visit a wider variety of places than we could with a bigger bookmobile,” said Sarah Howard, the Youth Services Manager at the Columbia Public Library. “Improving early childhood literacy is such an important part of what we do here at the library, that being able to expand our efforts to more kids is a dream come true.” The Book Rover visits licensed child care centers in Ashland, Columbia and Fulton, while Bookmobile, Jr. visits licensed child care centers in communities without a library facility.

Staff began taking the Book Rover out in February. We received a wonderful reception at our first child care center stop, where we saw 77 children and adults who checked out 130 items!

“We’re off to a great start,” said Howard. “But how we measure its success goes beyond the number of books the children check out. It’s how having access to books translates into the child’s success in school and over their lifetime as a lifelong learner.”

*Book Rover Donors: Monica Creighton Estate, the Lora L. and Martin N. Kelley Family Foundation, Veterans United, Boone County Community Trust, Boone Electric Cooperative Community Trust, Central Bank of Boone County, The Callaway Bank, Landmark Bank, Missouri Employers Mutual, Officer Mechanical, Williams Keepers and 228 individuals and community groups.
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Article format:

- Microsoft Word document
- Include desired headline and your contact email and role in MLA
- Include digital photos (with captions) and graphics with your articles as desired

Article and Advertising Submission Deadline: 15th of the month preceding publication. Article copy submitted by email to Lindsey Warner at moinfonews@gmail.com