



# Notes & Tracings

Newsletter of the Academic Section

## *From the Chair* by Heather Plaisance

Life in the time of COVID-19

What unprecedented times we are living in. The COVID-19 public health emergency has profoundly impacted not only our personal but our professional lives. At the height of the pandemic, and for months thereafter, our libraries closed and we were asked to provide library services from a distance. Currently, the spread of coronavirus has slowed in Louisiana and the state has begun to reopen. However, significant risks remain. Librarians everywhere now face the challenge of resuming services in our physical spaces while at the same time ensuring the safety of users and library personnel. Limited occupancy, social distancing, disinfectants, and PPE will be the norm for the near future.

Events across the country were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic including our very own Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference. While disappointing, I believe the cancelation was in the best interest of the membership. I commend the Conference Committee on all their hard work. It was to be an exciting conference. The hope is to resume the LLA annual conference next year in Alexandria. Stay tuned for details.

In lieu of a physical conference this year, the LLA Executive Board voted to hold virtual events for members to attend instead. The first virtual Annual Membership Meeting was held on June 29. LLA President Sonnet Ireland organized a virtual presentation by LLA Literary Award winner Bobby Fieseler to discuss his book *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*. Unfortunately, in keeping with the trend of 2020, the event had to be postponed but will be held sometime in the future.

It has been a pleasure serving as the Academic Section Chair, even under these extreme circumstances. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. As my term comes to an end, I want to welcome the incoming officers who I am confident will continue to lead the section into the future. The new Academic Section officers are:

Blair Stapleton, Chair, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Angela Dunnington, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Southeastern Louisiana University  
Shanna Clevenger, Secretary, Delgado Community College

These are certainly trying times, and we have been challenged in ways like never before. But just like in other times of crisis, I am confident we as librarians will rise to the occasion and continue to meet our profession's core values.

Stay safe,  
Heather C. Plaisance

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Heather Plaisance  
Chair



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# *Academic Section news*

## *Academic Section Election Results*

Section Officers 2020-2021

Chair

Blair Stapleton - UL Lafayette

Vice Chair / Chair Elect

Angela Dunnington - Southeastern Louisiana University

Secretary

Shanna Clevenger - Delgado Community College

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## *About the Academic Section*

### **Purpose:**

The mission of the Academic Section is to provide a network for the exchange of ideas, to enhance leadership for college and university libraries, and to promote study and research relevant to academic libraries.

### **Officers:**

Chair; Vice Chair/Chair Elect; Secretary.

### **Committees:**

Awards

Conference Programs

Grants

Publications

### **Publications:**

*Notes and Tracings*

### **LLA Annual Conference:**

Conference information can be found on the conference webpage

### **Awards:**

Outstanding Academic Librarian Award

Grassroots Grant for Library Student to Attend Conference

### **Activities:**

- Holds Annual Section Meeting at LLA Annual Conference
  - Sponsors continuing education programs on topics of interest to academic libraries
  - Co-sponsors a meal with the Association of College & Research Libraries-Louisiana Chapter at the LLA Annual Conference
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## Library news

### *Louisiana State University Health Shreveport* submitted by David Duggar

Congratulations to **Montié Dobbins**, **Will Olmstadt**, **David Duggar**, and **Julia Esparza**, who co-authored a chapter in the recently published book *Library Collaborations and Community Partnerships*. Former LSUHS library faculty Talicia Tarver is also a co-author. The chapter describes the lessons learned from the funding the LSUHS library received to promote reputable health information in the Shreveport/Bossier community.

Frances O'Callaghan, talented and respected local artist, generously drew sketches of 9 paintings completed by the patients in the Arts in Medicine (AIM) program at Feist-Weiller Cancer Center. The health sciences library is pleased to partner with Arts in Medicine to display 7 of those paintings this Spring. Copies of the other 2 paintings, from private collections, are displayed at the library front desk. For biographical information about Frances O'Callaghan, [see this link](#). Please also view the library's guide about [Arts & Humanities in Medicine](#).




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### *Northwestern State University* submitted by Anna Tapia MacDonald

Librarians **Debbie Huntington** and **Anna Tapia MacDonald** presented a Lunch and Learn in February for the College of Business & Technology on using the *Learning Express* database for student success and the *Living Library* program at Northwestern State University.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, **Debbie Huntington** and the *Living Library* Team hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Living Library* event which honored the late Ben Johnson. The panel of speakers consisted of relatives, friends, and mentees. The panelists were: Claire Prymus (niece of Mr. Johnson), Dr. Marcus Jones, Mr. Edward Ward, Dr. Johnny Cox, and State Representative Kenny Cox. The event also commemorated Black History Month by sharing how a young man from Campti with \$2.75 in his pocket and a dream became an entrepreneur, civic leader, mentor, philanthropist, and advocate in the Natchitoches African American community. His legacy lives on today through the Ben D. Johnson Education Center, the Legacy Youth Workforce Development Program, and the Legacy Café.

The **Watson Library Programming & Outreach Committee** organized a week of midterms events at the Library. Events included a workshop called "Tackle Test Anxiety," yoga in the stacks, stress-free coloring and craft station, and a popular grand prize gift bag drawing.

#### **Cammie G. Henry Research Center**

On February 6, Assistant Archivist **Sharon Wolff** was appointed as a committee member of the NSU Louisiana Studies Conference and Louisiana High School Essay Contest focused on planning and implementing the NSU Louisiana Studies Conference in mid-September.

On February 9, Head Archivist **Mary Linn Wernet** delivered a presentation on the various collections held by the Center during the North Louisiana Historical Association's meeting at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center. **Sharon Wolff** discussed the current exhibit, "Glimpses of Shreveport," loaned to the Center by Ed Chopin, and Wolff and Wernet gave tours of the Center to the members. On February 15, Wernet delivered a short presentation on Louis Juchereau de St. Denis and his importance to Natchitoches at the Natchitoches Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution meeting.

In May, **Mary Linn Wernet** and **Sharon Wolff** attended several professional meetings through Zoom. On May 6, Wernet and Wolff attended a Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) meeting where attendees discussed safe strategies for re-opening archives and special collections. On May 7, Wolff attended a relaxed LAMA get together on surviving COVID-19 and the new normal. On May 22, Wernet and Wolff attended the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) Annual Business meeting that was to take place in Denton, Texas. Even though much of the conference was canceled due to COVID-19, SSA offered a modified workshop on *Dealing with Copyright? Ask Copyright Experts!* on May 29. Wernet and Wolff attended the Q&A session conducted by Yvonne Dooley, the Copyright Specialist at the University of North Texas, and Emilie Algenio, Copyright/Fair Use Librarian at Texas A&M University Libraries.

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## *Academic Section Officers 2019-2020*

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Blair Stapleton, UL Lafayette.....Vice Chair/Chair Elect  
[blair.stapleton@louisiana.edu](mailto:blair.stapleton@louisiana.edu)

Jim Bass, LSU Shreveport.....Secretary  
[james.bass@lsus.edu](mailto:james.bass@lsus.edu)

### Notes & Tracings

is on the web:

[llaonline.org/Main/Newsletters.aspx](http://llaonline.org/Main/Newsletters.aspx)

Susan Marshall Richard, UL Lafayette

Editor

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## **LLA Association Executive Board Election Results 2020-2021**

First Vice President  
Jeremy Bolom  
*Lincoln Parish Library*

2nd Vice President  
Lora Amsberyaugier  
*University of New Orleans*

Secretary  
Erin Chesnutt  
*Beauregard Parish Library*