

2016 MPLA Leadership Institute Fellows



Savannah Ball, Southwest Kansas Library System, KS

Savannah Ball started her library career at the Wichita Public Library in 2003. She graduated from Emporia State University with a Masters in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in Library Administration and Management. She now resides in Minneola, Kansas, a small town outside of Dodge City where she works as the Consultant and Continuing Education Coordinator at the Southwest Kansas Library System. Savannah is currently the Secretary of the Kansas Library Association, and a member of the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society, Beta Phi Mu. Her professional interests include library marketing, customer

service and community engagement.



Heather Braum, Northeast Kansas Regional Library System, Lawrence, KS

Heather Braum currently serves as the NExpress Coordinator and Resource Sharing Librarian in Lawrence, KS for the Northeast Kansas Regional Library System, which supports public, school, and academic libraries in a 14-county region. Heather focuses on the Koha software, systems librarianship, cataloging, data management, resource sharing/interlibrary loan, continuing education, and collection development (focused on the library profession). With lifelong passions for learning and sharing, Heather has presented at numerous regional, state, and national workshops and

conferences on a wide variety of topics including innovation, social media, open source software, lifelong learning, online security, information overload, and open education resources. In 2014, she was selected as an outstanding recent graduate at Emporia State University's School of Library Information & Management, and was also the 2010 Kansas Library Association New Professional of the Year.



Leanne Cheek, Pioneer Library System, OK

Leanne Cheek is the Teen Coordinator and Selector for the Pioneer Library System. She earned her Master of Library and Information Studies in 2009 from the University of Oklahoma. Leanne has served as the chair for the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee for the past three years and been a member of PLD for 7 years. Leanne has held multiple positions in the library world and is constantly looking for ways to advance her profession by advocating and supporting library associations.



Jason Cornelius, Logan Public Library, UT

Originally from Vermont, I settled in Utah in 2000 and began my library career in this great state in 2005. I graduated from Emporia State University with an MLS in 2008, and I've been working in the Logan Public Library since that time. I'm currently the division head for adult fiction and spend my time managing collections, planning programs, supervising staff, and working with the public. I continue to be grateful that I "found" libraries as a career.



Ashley Creek, University of Saint Mary, KS

Ashley Creek is the Access & Learning Services Librarian at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Her role is rapidly evolving as the library recreates itself under a dynamic new director. Ashley's reinventing student worker training as a series of online and in-person modules leading to badges and specialty certifications and updating access services processes to modern best practices. Her current research interests focus on the student experience: gamification, makerspaces, active learning, instructional design, and the library as center of the academic community. She serves on the university's First Year Experience and MakerSpace committees. Ashley completed a MLIS from the University of Kentucky and a B.A. in English from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. In her free time, she loves to play with her two year old daughter, Scarlett, and marathon science fiction television shows.



Becca Cruz, Pikes Peak Library District, CO

Becca Cruz manages the Creative Computer Commons (C3) in Library 21c of the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, where she has worked for the last 8 years in various capacities. The C3 department works to help local entrepreneurs with business services, provides two makerspaces to the public, and offers gaming rooms for teens and adults. Becca blogs for Public Libraries Online and facilitates the Colorado Association of Libraries Makerspace Interest Group. When not at work, Becca likes to take advantage of the amazing outdoors in Colorado or work on DIY projects.



Stephanie Espinoza, College of Southern Nevada

Stephanie Espinoza is the College of Southern Nevada's first eLearning Librarian, hired in July of 2015 to plan, direct, lead, and assess library services for distance education students and faculty. As an academic librarian at CSN since January of 2012, Stephanie has also served college students through instructional services and as Interim Digital Librarian. She currently leads both the library's Marketing Team and Distance Education committee, in addition to working with faculty on college-wide leadership committees. Before Stephanie came to CSN, she joined the Youth Services department of her local public library and earned her Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. She is passionate about education and technology, but also enjoys the creativity of graphic design and writing. Stephanie designs promotional materials for the CSN library, writes for the library's new blog and social media, and often contributes articles to the Nevada Library Association newsletter.



Ellen Greene, Arizona State Archives

Ellen Greene is the Arizona History Collection librarian at the Arizona State Archives. She is a native of Arizona and spent 19 years traveling around the states with her Air Force husband before coming back to Arizona once he retired. During those years, she taught both junior high and high school English in North Dakota, Kansas, and southern California before earning her Masters of Library Science and settling in to her current job at the State Archives. She has been a librarian for 8 years and loves learning more about Arizona history and being able to find obscure but valuable sources for her library patrons. Her goals this year are to learn to play the violin well enough that she doesn't traumatize her dogs and to become more active in the library community.



Maria Gruener, Watertown Regional Library, SD

Maria Gruener is the assistant director of Watertown Regional Library. She is currently serving as the South Dakota Library Association Public Library/Trustee Section Chair. Her previous experience includes Branch Librarian at Wyoming Area Giese Memorial Library in Minnesota and Librarian at the Newman Division of Nursing Library in Kansas. She completed her Masters in Library and Information Science at Emporia State University in 2007.



Matthew Harp, Arizona State University Libraries

Matthew Harp is Digital Projects Librarian for the ASU Libraries. He is a curator of audio/visual collections, research data, and a project manager for the ASU Digital Repository. His experience includes media production and curation and content management system implementations. He represents the ASU Libraries on the tri-university LiveData project creating shared research infrastructure for UA, NAU, and ASU. Matthew was named one of Library Journal's Movers and Shakers in 2010 and received his Library Master's in Information Resources and Library Science and Certificate in

Digital Information Management from the University of Arizona.



Eva Jacobson, Los Alamos County Library System, NM

My name is Eva Jacobson. I am the manager of the Circulation Team at the Mesa Public Library in Los Alamos, NM. I have held this position for 2 years. My current job has presented an interesting challenge of adapting the circulation process to new technologies, procedures and patron demands. I was born and raised in Denmark and graduated from University of Aarhus with a dual Master's Degree in Political Science and Public Admin. I had absolutely no intention of becoming a librarian, but ended up in my first library job because of my Public Admin back ground. I have never looked back! In my previous job as Library Director of the Jemez Springs Public Library, I

gained six years of valuable experience in library administration and management and I consider myself to be a very fortunate accidental librarian.



Mary G. Johnson, O'Gorman High School Library, SD

Mary holds a B.A. in English, Secondary Education and a M.Ed from the from the University of Sioux Falls. Her experience includes an English/Language Arts/Reading teacher, Spanish teacher, librarian — all levels, K-12; School Library Coordinator for South Dakota State Library (consultant, presenter, etc.) Currently, she is a Teacher-Librarian at the O'Gorman High School Library while serving as the senior advisor; on the mentoring program; as a member of the following committees and associations: school system technology exploration committee; faculty technology committee; American Library Association (ALA); American Association of School Libraries

(AASL) Best Websites for Teaching and Learning (national) committee; Young Adult Services Association (YALSA); Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA); South Dakota Library Association (SDLA); and the South Dakota Young Adult Reading Program (YARP) committee. She also received the South Dakota 21st Century Library Award, 2014-2017 (exemplary level; awarded by SD State Library).



Amber Kent, City of Casa Grande Public Library, AZ

Amber, a wife and mother of four, has been working for the City of Casa Grande since 2010, first as a Children's Librarian and currently as the Library Manager. Prior to moving to Arizona, Amber worked for the Madison Library District in Rexburg, Idaho for nine years. While in Idaho, she served for two years on the Talking Books Advisory Board for the Idaho Commission for Libraries as well as local volunteer organizations. For the last two years, Amber has

served as the Central Region Representative for the Arizona Library Association. Outside the library, Amber enjoys reading, music, and dance. She and her husband recently purchased a dance studio in Casa Grande and take any opportunity they can to perform, sometimes even with the kids in the community.



Sarah Landeryou, Wilkinson Public Library, CO

Sarah Landeryou is currently the Library Director at the Wilkinson Public Library, appointed in May of 2014. Prior to that she held positions with the Wilkinson Public Library since 2007 including Reference Librarian and Public Services Coordinator. Sarah came into librarianship as journalism major, finding that librarianship blended her passion for information and research with the written word. She was able to combine those skills as a Librarian with the Rocky Mountain News in Denver from 2000-2004. Sarah moved to Colorado in 1995 and worked as a reference librarian at the University of Denver gaining great experience and introducing her to many other librarians in the state. Sarah and her husband, Chris, a political consultant and son Spencer enjoy outdoor activities in Colorado including hiking,

trail running and skiing. Sarah is an avid reader and also has two cats.



Mary Jo Lorenz, Grand Forks Public Library, ND

Mary Jo Lorenz is a Reference Librarian at the Grand Forks Public Library in Grand Forks, ND. She has worked in various positions at the library since 1998 including as a Children's Aide and Cataloging Aide. She has a Masters of Library Science from Emporia State University, Emporia, KS and a Bachelors of Science in Education from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND. Mary has been married to Kent for 35 years and has two married children, Andrea and Craig. Her first grandchild, Corbin Michael was born this past October. Besides reading, Mary enjoys many crafts especially knitting and is a member of the Red River Valley Fiber Guild.



Sarah Nelson, Fargo Public Library, ND

Sarah Nelson serves as a Children's, Teen, and Reference Librarian at the Fargo Public Library in Fargo, North Dakota. She received her MLIS from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in Scandinavian Studies and English from the University of Minnesota.



Ruby Nugent, University of Colorado Health Sciences Library, CO

I have worked in both public and academic libraries in Colorado for over 15 years as a paraprofessional, focusing most of that time on becoming a valuable member and contributor of my library community. In addition to my membership and committee work with both the local library association and Reforma chapter, I have travelled around the state and nationally presenting sessions at library workshops on successful career paths in paraprofessionship and serving Spanish-speaking populations in libraries. For me, I have found continuing education and professional development along with networking the easiest and best way for a non-degreed library paraprofessional to get the most from what the library community has to offer. I enjoy sharing my experiences with my peers, so I also am very dedicated to giving back to others in the profession in any way I can, finding it extremely rewarding to me both personally and professionally. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity the MPLA has afforded me. It is a unique and exciting course for me to take furthering my library career as well as meeting other library staff from the region who share my same drive and aspirations. I look forward to participating in the Institute!



Jim Nyland, Pingree-Buchanan Elementary School, ND

My name is Jim Nyland. I was born and raised in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. After graduating from high school in 1980, I spent 2 years attending Northland Community College in my home town, and then moved on to Brown Institute, a radio broadcasting school in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I began my radio career in Natchez, Mississippi, and over the next 23 years, worked at stations in Colorado, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and New Hampshire, holding positions as announcer,

copy writer, production engineer, and sports play-by-play. I took on management roles early in my career, working as production director, head copy writer, program director, and operations manager for over 20 years.

After the birth of our daughter, I returned to school to complete my college degree. I enrolled at Valley City State University and graduated two years later with an elementary education degree and a minor in library media. I began working at Pingree-Buchanan Elementary school in July, 2005 as a fourth grade teacher and librarian. Since then, I have returned to school several times to acquire counselor and secondary principal certification and a middle school social studies endorsement. I also worked to upgrade my library credential from library media specialist to library director through a Masters' Degree in Educational Technology with a Library Science emphasis I received in 2010. I work in multiple capacities within our school district, which includes several technical and administrative functions.

I have been married for 28 years and have two children, a 20 year old daughter who attends North Dakota State University, and a 9 year old son. We share our home with 2 cats and a very stubborn but adorable corgi. In my free time, I am active in my community, including service as a board member at our local library. I like to read, write, hunt for goodies at flea markets and yard sales, and work with technology tools such as I-pads and computers.



Ana Olivier, Mikkelsen Library, Augustana University, SD

Ana got her first library job as a student employee during college and loved it so much she decided to pursue it as a career! She has worked in libraries for the past 11 years and is currently the Cataloger/Government Documents Librarian at Mikkelsen Library, Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD; the same library she started at as a student. She has a BA in Music and Modern Foreign Languages and earned her MLIS from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. In her spare time, she enjoys teaching private voice and piano lessons and singing with the South Dakota Symphony Chorus.



Kara Pearson, Sandy Library, UT

Kara has worked as a Youth Services Librarian for over 8 years at the Sandy Library for Salt Lake County. She is currently the President of The Children's Literature Association of Utah, which hosts the Beehive Book Awards for children all over the state of Utah. Kara loves working with kids and putting great literature in their hands.



Joy Poole, New Mexico State Library

Joy Poole serves as the Deputy State Librarian of the NM State Library for the Department of Cultural Affairs, a position she has held for ten years. In that role she oversees the Rural Services Program - three bookmobiles and books by mail and the library for the blind and physically handicapped. She also has been responsible for the library's facilities and operations, \$5M budget including LSTA federal funding, personnel, IT and E-rate. Joy is knowledgeable in legislative processes, committee testimonies and various library issues on the state and national levels. She is the author of two books. The most recent publication is *Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The travel diaries and autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard 1825-1828* published by OU Press in 2015. In 1825, Dr. Willard examined the mountain man Hugh Glass, after his grizzly bear attack, providing the only known written account of Glass's physique. Hugh Glass was portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in the award winning movie *The Revenant*. Prior to her career as

a librarian, she was a Museum Professional for twenty plus years working at various museums in the American Southwest including El Camino Real International Heritage Center, Mesa Verde National Park, Hubbell Trading Post on the Navajo Reservation, city museums in Fort Wayne, IN, Fort Collins, CO and Farmington, NM. While administering the Baca and Bloom Houses, Pioneer Museum in Trinidad Colorado for the Colorado Historical Society she co-founded the Santa Fe Trail Association in 1986. As Director of El Camino Real International Heritage Center she was a founding member of Camino Real Trail Association (CARTA) and now serves as a board member of CARTA.



Allison Reisig, Western Nebraska Community College, NE

Allison Reisig is the Technical Services Librarian at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, NE. Her library interests include cataloging, linked data, and instruction. She lives in the Wyo-Braska area with her husband, two kids, and menagerie of animals.



Terri Rickel, University of Nebraska Libraries

My name is Terri Rickel and I have worked for the University of Nebraska Libraries since October 2001. I am working for User Services, which includes Interlibrary Loan and Circulation. I serve as the ILL Lending Team Leader. Since the merge of ILL and Circulation, new doors and opportunities have opened up to me. I attended my first Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Conference in the fall of 2013 at which I gave a presentation sponsored by ITART on Microsoft Lync. Since then, I have given several presentations include one on leadership, team building and conflict resolution. I attended the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute a couple years ago and have gained in knowledge as well as experience in leadership and team building. I have spent the last couple of years researching what it means to be a strong leader and to be a leader that followers are inspired by. I received a Master's degree in Teaching and Learning with Technology. I look forward to putting my education and skills into use as I develop the leadership skills more fully.



Sky Seery, North Platte Community College, NE

Sky Seery is the Learning Resource Center Supervisor at North Platte Community College. She has worked in the library field for over 11 years and has been a dedicated library supporter for many more, serving as a Foundation Board and Advisory member in North Platte, Board Secretary for Central Plains Library System and the current chair for the Nebraska Library Association Scholarship & Award Committee. She recently finished her Bachelor's degree in Management of Human Resources and will begin a MLS degree this fall. Sky completed the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in 2013 and belongs to ALA, NLA, MPLA and ARSL. Sky is a wife and mother to two human children and two miniature schnauzers.



Emily Swanson, Westminster College, Giovale Library, UT

Emily Swanson received her MLIS from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2009. She began her career as the Reference and Instruction Librarian at Westminster College in Salt Lake City in 2010 and was recently promoted to the Director of Access Services, Reference and Instruction. She discovered her love for libraries while working as a student employee at the Lawrence University Library and her passion for teaching while teaching English in Xinxiang, China. Outside of work she enjoys running, hiking, traveling and spending time with her family.



Becky Thoms, Merrill-Cazier Library, Utah State University

Becky Thoms is the Head of Digital Initiatives at the Merrill-Cazier Library at Utah State University and also serves as the Scholarly Communication and Copyright Librarian. She manages both the Digital Library and the Institutional Repository, DigitalCommons@USU. Her work focuses on the role of the library in the development of open educational resources, integrating digital content and literacy into the curriculum, and student research in institutional repositories. Thoms received bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Spanish from the College of St. Benedict and an MA in Library and Information Science from The University of Iowa.



Melanie Toledo, Ak-Chin Indian Community Library, AZ

Melanie Toledo has been the Library Manager of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Library since 2008. The Ak-Chin Indian Community is located 36 miles south of Phoenix in the northwestern corner of Pinal County within the Santa Cruz Valley of south-central Arizona. The Ak-Chin Indian Community consists of the Tohono O'odham people and the Gila River Pimas. There are currently 913 enrolled Ak-Chin members and the languages spoken in the community are English and Tohono O'odham. Melanie received her MA in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona (UA) and her

BA in History and Minor in Ethnic Studies from Arizona State University. She was in the inaugural Knowledge River class at the School of Information Resources and Library Science. Knowledge River was a program initially started to recruit Hispanic and Native American librarians. Melanie is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation (Diné) from Low Mountain, Arizona; she is Táchii'níí clan, born of the Tánéészahníí clan. She is currently the co-chair of the Gathering of Arizona Tribal Libraries and serving on the 2016 American Indian Library Association Youth Literature Awards jury committee.



Natalie Vaughn, Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Natalie Vaughn received her B.A. in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations in 2010 and her M.L.I.S in 2012, both from the University of Oklahoma. She began her career in 2009 as a student employee in the circulation department of OU's Bizzell Memorial Library, and then accepted a staff position in the Interlibrary Loan Department at OU in 2010. In 2011, Natalie took on the role of Assistant Circulation Librarian at the Oklahoma City University School of Law Library, and was later promoted to Interlibrary Loan Librarian. In 2014, Natalie joined the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) as a reference and cataloging librarian. In addition to reference and cataloging, Natalie is collaborating with law librarians to develop ODL's newest initiative, Legal Information for Oklahoma. She is also an Adjunct Reference Librarian at the Rose State College Learning Resources Center. Natalie currently serves the Oklahoma Library Association as the 2015-2016 Chair of the Marketing Committee. She also serves on the Communications Committee, Ethics Committee, Program Planning Committee, and Executive Board. She was Chair of the Ethics Committee in 2014.



Diana Weaver, Basehor Community Library, KS

Diana Weaver is the director of the Basehor Community Library in Basehor, Ks. She has worked in libraries for over 20 years, including public, academic, and library systems. She has been active in state, regional, and national library associations. She serves as a volunteer in her community. Diana has two grown children. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas and received her MLIS from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.



Coreen Wagner, Maricopa County Library District, AZ

Coreen Wagner started her professional life as a music teacher for grades 1-8. After six years, she was inspired to become a librarian, continuing her work with both Teens and Children. Her career in the library field so far has taken her to Phoenix Public Library, Glendale Public Library, and Maricopa County Library District in Arizona. Coreen currently works as the Library Region Manager for the West Valley libraries in Maricopa County, overseeing the operations of four branches in the Library District.