

What's Poppin' with the Paraprofessionals

April 2017

South Carolina Library Association Paraprofessional Round Table



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www.scla.org



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Dear SC Paraprofessionals,

Your Round Table has been hard at work to make sure you get the most out of this organization. In 2017 we are adding member meetups and sponsorship opportunities for you to attend the annual conference in addition to hosting our 3rd annual all-day workshop that is just for paraprofessionals in August. Stay up to date with this information at our website www.scla.org/paraprofessional-round-table

This year, our annual workshop will be held at Richland Library Main located in downtown Columbia on August 9th. During the day we will have the chance to hear what some of our fellow paraprofessionals are doing around the state, a presentation from the State Library as well as training regarding leadership and customer service by Merry Taylor.

We are having our first member mixer this summer. Date and location are to be determined closer to summer. If you would like to subscribe to our email list, please send me a message at the address below and I will be sure to add you to our list.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Amanda B. Reed
AREed@RichlandLibrary.com
Chair 2016-2017



South Carolina Library Association

Save the Date!

June 14

iTeach

For more info and registration

<http://www.scla.org/iteach>

August 9

Paraprofessional One-Day
Workshop, Columbia, SC

Registration opens June 1 at
www.scla.org

October 11 - 13

SCLA Annual Conference
Columbia, SC

Congratulations to the
2016 Outstanding
Paraprofessional of the Year!



Laura Baines

Furman University

We are now accepting
nominations for 2017 at

www.scla.org/awards

Let's Hear From You!

Have you recently hosted an interesting program, read a great book or just have something you'd like to share with other paraprofessionals in South Carolina? Send us a 200-300 word write up about it. We will choose one or two to post in our next newsletter to be published October 2017.

Send submissions to: AReed@RichlandLibrary.com before September 15, 2017.

WORKING OVERNIGHT IN A 24/7 LIBRARY

The role of library specialist conjures little mystery for patrons. Add overnight to the mix, and suddenly, people fall into disbelief. They're shocked the library is open 24/7, shocked that people are actually here, and shocked that we're actually working. Aside from Public Safety, we're the only service on campus that remains open all hours of the day. In a way, that makes us the most reliable department on campus, the one patrons—mostly, undergraduate students far from home—trust in times of need. There's a certain pride in that.



Overnight Access Services Specialists are frequently asked the question, "Who is in the library all night?" The answer is easy, we have students in our library all night. While we do limit access to campus students and employees only between the hours of 2am and 6am, many patrons take advantage of our services at all hours. Often, we're serving several dozen patrons, even after 2 a.m. Many of these students work in the hospitality industry and need access to our resources in the wee morning hours after they are done with work. Some use our library for socializing and relaxing when they don't want to hang around the residence hall.

Another question of us is, "What could you do overnight besides sleep?" In a way, we do what every shift does. We process circulation requests, PASCAL Delivers, and ILL. We answer webchats and we resolve reference questions, both the simple—can you help me find an article?—and the weird—how do I cook a steak? We check out laptops, and assorted equipment. We even respond to emergencies: fire alarms, injured patrons, distressed students, suspicious activity, extreme weather, etc. We're just like the others.

What's it like to work overnight in a 24/7 full service library? Fulfilling!

Submitted by:

William Carter, Access Services Specialist/Overnight Supervisor - wcarter1@coastal.edu

Tristan Daniels, Access Services Specialist - tjdaniel@coastal.edu

Coastal Carolina University, Kimbel Library

COOPER BOOK GROUP ON THE MOVE!

It has been a year since the Cooper Branch of Richland Library closed for renovations and the Cooper Book Group has graciously been using the meeting space at the Southeast Branch for our monthly meetings. The Cooper Book Group has approximately forty members on the roster with twenty to twenty-five members attending regularly on the first Monday of the month. What makes the Cooper Book Group so successful and why are they willing to meet offsite?

Longtime member Andi Pigeon said, "I would drive anywhere to be with our group because I just love the discussions!" She also enjoys the different genres and diversity of opinions. "Opinions are respected, there are no moans and groans when you make a statement." She also enjoys encountering members in various parts of town and chatting with them.

Another member who has enjoyed "being on the road" with the Cooper Book Group is Mary Lewis. She gets to go to different stores that she normally wouldn't drive to if the group wasn't meeting at a different location. She has been with the group for over ten years and likes the friendly members.

There are members that have not been able to attend our meetings while we are meeting off site. One member didn't want to drive the extra distance, but assures me she is returning once our site reopens and another member has a prior commitment each month before our meetings. When we were at our site she could make both events, but the extra travel time means she can't participate until we return, but she still reads the books every month!

Martha Sanders has been with the group since 2001 (her sister Judy was the facilitator before I took the position and got her involved with the group) and she loves a book like *Unbroken*, which she couldn't put down. She feels certain everyone is going to rave about it, comes to book group, and finds out that people didn't even finish reading it. She hates to miss book group and enjoys that no one is afraid to speak up. Martha also appreciates all the research done in preparation for the book discussion, my abilities to keep the discussion moving, and the questions I come up with to ask the group. Thanks Martha!

One of our newer members, Merrie Duggan, joined our group in the summer of 2015 and "absolutely loves book group" and can't wait to get there every month. The exposures to books she would never would have picked up on her own is the thing she cherishes, especially all the World War II books such as *All the Light We Cannot See* and *The Paris Architect*. Merrie says, "I'm going to stay until I can't drive anymore - then I'll probably hire a driver to bring me!"

Submitted by:

Lorraine Law, Library Associate ~ LorraineL@RichlandLibrary.com
Richland Library, Cooper Branch



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OLLI AT COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY



2017 SCLA CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The Round Table is sponsoring one paraprofessional to attend all three days of the annual conference. The sponsorship will cover only fees associated with conference registration, this does **not** include hotel, meals or travel expenses.

Criteria:

- Must be a paraprofessional who has worked in South Carolina libraries for at least one year
- Must be a current member of SCLA
- Is able to commit to attending all three days of the conference (Oct. 11-13)

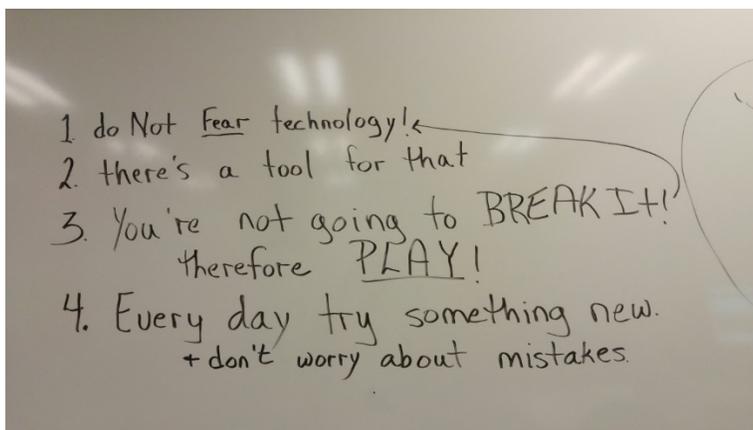
Answer the following in 300 words or less:

1. Describe your position and the work you do in your library system.
2. How do you hope this experience will benefit your professional development?

Applications are due by August 1

To access application, please visit <http://www.scla.org/paraprofessional-round-table>

This spring, I had the opportunity to present a 4-week workshop series as part of the course offerings available through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Coastal Carolina University. The series was called "Grow Your Lifelong Learning using 21st Century Tools" and was designed to introduce mature learners to some tools they can utilize to keep up with their learning 'passions'.



During Week 1, I introduced the class to Google alerts and made them aware of the numerous databases they could access through DISCUS. To help them 'grow' their learning, I presented the concept of RSS feed readers and showed them my preferred reader, Feedly. For Week 2, we discussed how to save what we've found AND find it again when we need to. We looked at Evernote, its ability to organize a variety of materials into 'synced' notebooks, and its search ability using 'tags'. I also introduced the class to Diigo as a way of saving and retrieving bookmarks or favorites without being tied to a particular piece of hardware. In Week 3, we attempted to 'build' individual PLNs (Personal Learning Networks) using resources they had previously identified as being relevant and Week 4 was devoted to tools for curation and a discussion of takeaways.

If you're interested in developing a similar program for your community, please feel free to contact me.

Submitted by:

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Coastal Carolina University, Kimbel Library