Gleaves Scholarship: Diona Eberhart Layden

Diona Eberhart Layden is a graduate of Spelman College and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, College of Law. After two decades of working as a lawyer, she decided to pursue a career as a librarian. She returned to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK) as a distance learner, where she is pursuing a Master of Science in Information Sciences. Despite being a distance learner, she has been active in student organizations, including the Dean of Libraries’ Student Advisory Council; member of ALA-UTK; member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, UTK Chapter; and a student member of AALL (American Association of Law Libraries). She plans to graduate in July 2022.

TLA Conference Interns

This year’s Conference interns are Christopher Byrns, Benjamin Ferkin, Hannah Fountain, Maggie George, Shanda Hall, Hannah Nelsen, Kathryn Shepas, Jane Steffen, and Kyndall Wright.

Friend of the Year Award, Small Library:
Friends of Seymour Library

For years Friends of the Seymour Library (FOSL) have kept their eyes on one grand activity, contributing to the community's long-range goal of expanding their library. On January 20, 2022, that goal was achieved. More than 400 people attended the grand opening of the Williams Family Seymour Branch Library, when Friends presented a check to the new facility for $17,818, just one of many FOSL donations that gradually totaled $125,000.

Friend of the Year Award, Large Library:
Diane Rocco

Diane Rocco and the 40 or 50 other volunteers on the Online Sales team have accomplished a paradigm shift in the Blount County Friends of the Library (BCFOL). For over 40 years the group depended on person-to-person sales, which yielded at most a few thousand dollars a year. Today online sales are the primary source of income in the BCFOL portfolio, producing about $10,000 a month. Team leadership, flexibility based on data, growing knowledge of the market, and the ability to adapt to change have contributed to this remarkable result.
HONORS & AWARDS

Library Support Staff Award: Paula Phillips

Paula Phillips is a native Memphian who has served as Library Assistant in the Interlibrary Loan Office of the University Libraries at University of Memphis for over twenty years. Since March 2000, Paula has utilized her breadth of ILL knowledge and outstanding work ethic to provide exceptional support to library patrons in borrowing resources from the collections of regional, national, and international lending libraries. Among her colleagues, Paula is known for her extensive ILL knowledge, outstanding performance, and exceptional customer service, but also for her endless kindness, great humility and gentle sense of humor. In her free time, Paula enjoys spending time with her family, especially her younger sister and her children and grandchildren. She loves finding new adventurous activities to try locally, such as visiting new restaurants, enjoying sweets, making people laugh, and gift shopping for her loved ones. Paula's personal goal is to complete her bachelor's degree before retirement, and she is starting back in Spring 2022. The personnel in the Information Access Services Department are very proud to be Paula’s colleagues and are honored to celebrate Paula’s well-deserved state recognition.

Library Support Staff Award: Betsy Eckert

A Library Assistant in Government Publications, University Libraries at University of Memphis, for over 30 years, Betsy Eckert has consistently demonstrated outstanding service to her department and to users of the University Libraries. She brings professional and organizational skills to her position, including phenomenal productivity and timely, accurate, and efficient execution of a multitude of responsibilities—all while producing high-quality work. Service excellence is a hallmark of her work, and her extensive knowledge and expertise in government publications inform her contributions to every aspect of the work of the department. Betsy's pursuit of knowledge is commendable, and her curiosity and love of learning serve her well in researching hard-to-find government publications information. Betsy routinely performs above and beyond the call of duty in the role of support staff when assisting librarians in serving the needs of the University Libraries. She is a relentlessly positive force in the Department and exemplifies superior and steady performance. A joy to work with, Betsy's compassion and warmth shape her interactions with Libraries colleagues and users, and those across and outside of campus.

Tennessee History Book Award: Mastodons to Mississippians: Adventures in Nashville’s Deep Past, by Aaron Deter-Wolf and Tanya M. Peres

Was Nashville once home to a giant race of humans? No, but in 1845, you could have paid a quarter to see the remains of one who allegedly lived here before The Flood. That summer, Middle Tennessee well diggers had unearthed the skeleton of an American mastodon. Before it went on display, it was modified and augmented with wooden “bones” to make it look more like a human being and passed off as an antediluvian giant. Then, like so many Nashvillians, after a little success here, it went on tour and disappeared from history.

But this fake history of a race of Pre-Nashville Giants isn’t the only bad history of what, and who, was here before Nashville. Sources written for schoolchildren and the public lead us to believe that the first Euro-Americans arrived in Nashville to find a pristine landscape inhabited only by the buffalo and boundless nature, entirely untouched by human hands. However, during the period between about AD 1000 and 1425, a thriving Native American culture known to archaeologists as the Middle Cumberland Mississippian built the first urban landscape in what would become Nashville. Theirs is only one of the stories of the city’s deep past, a history that includes mastodons, saber-toothed cats, and millennia of Native American settlement along the Cumberland River.

In Mastodons to Mississippians: Adventures in Nashville’s Deep Past, authors Aaron Deter-Wolf and Tanya M. Peres describe the history of what happened in Nashville—before Nashville happened. Aaron Deter-Wolf is a prehistoric archaeologist for the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, and Tanya M. Peres is a professor of anthropology at Florida State University. They are the editors of The Cumberland River Archaic of Middle Tennessee and Baking, Bourbon, and Black Drink: Foodways Archaeology in the Southeastern United States.
Tennessee History Book Award: *Rebel Salvation: Pardon and Amnesty of Confederates in Tennessee*, by Kathleen Zebley Liulevicius

In *Rebel Salvation*, Kathleen Zebley Liulevicius examines pardon petitions from former Confederate soldiers and sympathizers in Tennessee to craft a unique and comprehensive analysis of the process of Reconstruction in the Volunteer State after the Civil War. These under-utilized petitions contain a wealth of information about Tennesseans from an array of social and economic backgrounds, and include details about many residents who would otherwise not appear in the historical record. They reveal the dynamics at work between multiple factions in the state: former Rebels, Unionists, Governor William G. Brownlow, and the U.S. Army officers responsible for ushering Tennessee back into the Union. The pardons also illuminate the reality of the politically and emotionally charged post-Civil War environment, where everyone—from wealthy elites to impoverished sharecroppers—who had fought, supported, or expressed sympathy for the Confederacy was required by law to sue for pardon to reclaim certain privileges, including the right to vote, hold office, practice law, operate a business, and buy and sell land.

Those individuals filing petitions experienced Reconstruction in personal and profound ways. Former Rebels relayed narratives about the motivating factors compelling them to side with the Confederacy, chronicled their actions during the war, expressed repentance, and pledged allegiance to the United States government and the Constitution. Although not required, many petitioners even sought recommendations from their former wartime foes.

The pardoning of former Confederates proved a collaborative process in which neighbors, acquaintances, and erstwhile enemies lodged formal pleas to grant or deny clemency from state and federal officials. Indeed, as *Rebel Salvation* reveals, the long road to peace began here in the newly reunited communities of postwar Tennessee.

A native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Kathleen Zebley Liulevicius graduated with a B.A. in History from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, earned an M.A. in History from Kent State University, and completed her Ph.D. in nineteenth century U.S. History at the University of Tennessee. Her research interests focus on the Civil War and Reconstruction era. She received a Gilder Lehrman fellowship, and she has taught at SUNY-Geneseo, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and the University of Tennessee. She lives in Knoxville with her family.

TLA Honor Award: Chuck Sherrill

Chuck Sherrill has been a longtime member of the Tennessee Library Association. Throughout his tenure as the State Librarian and Archivist and member of TLA, Chuck has made an enormous contribution to the field of librarianship, the association, and our state. As a long-standing officer in TLA, Chuck has consistently provided an immense wealth of knowledge of the association’s history and much-needed insight as we continue to push our work forward. In addition, Chuck was instrumental in the relocation of the Tennessee State Libraries and Archives. Chuck has announced his retirement date will be June 4, 2022. While we are all very happy for Chuck, his influence across the state will be greatly missed. In honor of his tireless work for the field of librarianship, the state of Tennessee, and TLA, we bestow the TLA Honor Award upon Chuck Sherrill.

Trustee of the Year Award: George McCrary

George McCrary joined the Macon County Public Library System Board in June of 2002. With almost 20 years of library advocacy and service, his faithful dedication to the community has been invaluable. George volunteers his time and attention to any task, and he works hard maintaining the landscaping for both the Macon County Public Library and the Red Boiling Springs Branch Library. From building display cases for both libraries to changing light bulbs and flags, if something needs attention, he sees to it.

In addition to his service on the Board, George has served on the Red Boiling Springs City Council since 2007, where he advocates for the public library system and makes certain that the city understands the importance of the Maintenance of Effort being maintained through the years.

He attends County Commissioner Meetings as well. The Macon County Public Library System Board of Trustees and Staff are thankful for the years of service that Mr. George McCrary has so graciously given!
TLA Executive Board, 2021 – 2022

Officers:  
President: Sharon Edwards  
Vice-President/President-Elect: Dwight Hunter  
Recording Secretary: Holly Hebert  
Past President: Erika Long  
Executive Director: Cathy Farley

At Large Representatives:  
Academic Libraries: Jennifer Harris  
Public Libraries: Lon Maxwell  
School Libraries: Angela Frederick  
Special Libraries: Charles Sherrill  
Friends/Retirees/Trustees: Diane Johnson

TLA Advisory Council, 2021 – 2022

Administration Division Representative: Blake Hopper  
Archives & History Committee: Lon Maxwell, Crystal Nash  
ByLaws & Procedures Committee: Margaret Brown, Blake Hopper

Membership Division Representative: LisAnn Moreheart  
Membership Committee: LisAnn Moreheart

Communications Division Representative: Michael Hale  
Public Relations Committee: Rhonda Tippitt, Debi Babb

Advocacy Division Representative: Jessica McClure  
Advisory Committee on State Documents: Perveen Rustomfram  
Diversity Committee: Pat Rua-Bashir

Continuing Education: Lauri Thompson  
Conference Planning Committee: Jamie Osborn, Courtney Fuson, Jodie Gambill  
Honors, Awards, Scholarships Committee: David Phillips, Marisa Snead  
Staff & Career Development Committee: Lauri Thompson

Roundtables:  
Access & Patron Services: Andrea Kincaid  
Children & Young Adults: Lyn Hunter, Nikki Glassley  
College and University Libraries: Michael William Harris  
Government Documents: Jennifer Castle, Will Stringfellow  
Leadership: Susan Earl  
Library Technology: Paige Hendrickson  
Public Libraries: Cody Dishner, Dinah Harris  
School Libraries: Melissa Williams  
Special Libraries: Brigitte Billeaudeaux  
Technical Services: Carl Parham

Statewide Affiliates:  
ALA/TLA Student Chapter: Sarah Stanley  
Friends of Tennessee Libraries: Kathy Dooley-Smith  
Tennessee Association of School Librarians: Angela Frederick  
Tennessee Health Sciences Library Association: Rick Wallace  
Tenn-Share: Ari Baker

Regional Affiliates:  
East Tennessee Library Association: Amy Dye-Reeves  
Memphis Area Library Council: Felicia Knox  
West Tennessee Academic Library Consortia: Brooke Caldwell

Representatives:  
American Library Association: Erika Long, 2021-2024  
Southeastern Library Association: Stephanie Adams, 2019-2022  
Tennessee State Library & Archives: Chuck Sherrill