



# MCMLA EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDCONTINENTAL CHAPTER OF  
THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

BY EMILY VARDELL, MCMLA CHAIR



Dear MCMLA Members,

It's hard for me to believe I'm about halfway through my year as your MCMLA Chair. I have enjoyed working closely with MCMLA members to keep our association on track and meeting the needs of our members. I am thrilled that Ruby Nugent was elected as our new MCMLA Chair-Elect in our special election at the beginning of this year. We have a great Executive Committee team, and we are here for you. Please let us know what we can be doing to help support your work. This issue of Express is dedicated to the topic of ELEVATE – and we would love to hear what we can do to elevate your experience of MCMLA.

There are several things in the works that you can look forward to as MCMLA members:

- I held my first Chair Chat on March 6th dedicated to the topic of "What I Wish I'd Learned in Library School." Please look out for announcements for future Chair Chats; and if you have an idea for a chair chat topic, please reach out and let me know!
- I've been collecting the MCMLA committee goals and objectives and will be mapping them to the MCMLA Strategic Plan. Keep an eye out for those goals and objectives to be sent out to the MCMLA membership soon. If you want to get involved with the great work MCMLA is doing, please reach out to me, so we can get you on the list to join a committee this October.
- I am very excited to share that MCMLA's DEI Committee and Education Committee are teaming up for a very special continuing education opportunity that will be held this June. Stay tuned for more details that will be coming soon. This is a great opportunity to learn from an expert and grow professionally and personally.

As Spring arrives, I hope you are all able to get outdoors a bit and enjoy some sunshine and warmth. I recently helped staff the Emporia State University booth at the Joint Conference for Librarians of Color in St. Pete Beach, FL, and that Florida sunshine was just what I needed to get me through the last bit of winter weather. I'm sending wishes for good health to you all!

Yours in Service,  
Emily Vardell, MLS, PhD, AHIP

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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## NEWLY ELECTED MCMLA OFFICERS

By Shawn Steidinger, Chair, MCMLA Nominating Committee

I am very excited to announce the winners of the recent MCMLA election:

- Chair-Elect: **Jennifer Brady**
- Recording Secretary: **Cameron Nielson**
- MCMLA MLA Chapter Council Representative: **Hannah Pollard**
- MCMLA MLA Chapter Council Representative Alternate: **Lydia Howes**

Jennifer and Cameron will take office after our chapter's annual meeting in October of this year, and Hannah & Lydia have just a few weeks before their terms begin following the national MLA annual business meeting this May. We look forward to your contributions to the work of this chapter and thank you to all who ran for office in this round of elections!

Many thanks also go to my colleagues on the MCMLA Nominating Committee: Holly Hubenschmidt and Liz Kellermeyer, for their tireless work in trying to keep me on track – no small feat!

Please join me in congratulating our incoming members of the MCMLA Executive Board!



## MCMLA Survey is Coming!

The MCMLA Education Committee is working on a member survey for this year. When you receive it, please take a few minutes to fill it out since your answers will help the Committee develop educational offerings that better meet your needs and interests.



# CRYSTAL CAMERON-VEDROS

## RETIRES

By Katie Dayani



In March, Crystal Cameron-Vedros retired as Director of A.R. Dykes Library, University of Kansas Medical Center. We asked Crystal to answer a few questions to celebrate her retirement:

### **Q. What inspired you to be a medical librarian?**

I trained at the University of Missouri-Columbia with a focus on law librarianship and landed my first professional job at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in Kansas City, MO. When the A.R. Dykes Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center advertised an opening for a biomedical research librarian, I applied and got hired. I believe our training prepares us to transfer our skill set to various types of libraries. That is part of the appeal of the profession. We get to do new and different things all the time and we get to gain expertise in new subjects and vocabularies all the time.

### **Q. How did your career lead you to become Director, A.R. Dykes Library?**

I came to the University of Kansas Medical Center as a research librarian in 1998 and moved around and up through various departments all these 24 years. I became the A.R. Dykes Library Director in 2017.

### **Q. If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be?**

I would like to sing torch songs in a hotel lounge for an evening. You know, sitting on top of a grand piano like Michelle Pfeiffer in the Fabulous Baker Boys! Joke

### **Q. What has changed about medical librarianship throughout your career?**

I believe librarians and libraries have most literally lived the paradigm shift starting about 1990. Even in the 1970's, libraries were moving to online catalogs through MARC records, the original metadata. Most medical libraries manage online collections with few print book collections. Remote work and reduced building space seems to be the current shift.

### **Q. What makes you most proud about your career?**

I love libraries and librarians. When I met my husband, he told me he liked librarians because we are smart and open minded. That was a good pick-up line!

### **Q. What is your biggest accomplishment?**

Finding a career comprised of meaningful work and dedicated librarian colleagues devoted to information services.

### **Q. How has being a member of MCMLA enhanced your career?**

Getting to know and work with other medical librarians has helped me grow professionally and has broadened my view of how other libraries and librarians work. We have much in common and we also have experiences to share that can help us.

### **Q. What are your retirement plans?**

Maybe I'll land that job as a hotel torch singer. Or at least, re-watch The Fabulous Baker Boys.

### **Q. What advice would you give to librarians just starting out in the medical librarian profession?**

If the work is mostly in a remote setting, be sure to be visible and communicative in all ways offered through our professional memberships and through your institution's professional and social outlets. Getting involved early in your career will keep that ball rolling. I regret I have not been as involved in professional organizations. I found it harder to commit the time as I moved up in my career.

## KCU LIBRARIES PUBLISHES LITERARY JOURNAL

By Lori Fitterling;

Edited by Danielle Westmark

Kansas City University Libraries are elevating their game this spring by supporting the second issue printing of their student literary arts journal, Pulse. Last spring, KCU Libraries worked with the editors to publish the inaugural issue last spring, which was a huge success.

It was published digitally, available via a dedicated LibGuide. This spring, KCU Libraries will be adding it to their KCU@DigitalCommons repository and facilitating a Read-In to launch the issue so students can read their works in front of their peers. Check out the Spring 2022 issue: <https://kansascity.libguides.com/pulse>



## CM LIBRARY SERVICES 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

By Katie Dayani

Children's Mercy Library Services elevated its annual report this year. Thanks to Librarian Heather Steel, the Library's 2022 Annual Report was presented as an infographic that can be read [on the Library's website](#).



## Susan Sanders Retires

By Katie Dayani

After almost six years as a part-time medical librarian at Children's Mercy, Susan Sanders, MLS, MEd, AHIP, retired in March. Susan will be greatly missed for her knowledge, empathy, and kindness. We thank Susan for everything and wish her all the best in retirement!





# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## ERIN DREDGE

By Cindi Flanagan; Chair, Membership Committee; Edited by Nina McHale



### **What is your position title?**

Library Coordinator –  
Kansas City University

### **What do you like most about the library and information science field so far?**

I have enjoyed finding out that there is so much to learn and how widespread this field is. I feel as if I could always be picking up new skills or information every day.

### **What do you like most about MCMLA so far?**

The most recent newsletter was so fun to read, and it is clear this is a group that works well together. I am excited to be a part of that.

### **Are you interested in a specific area of libraries?**

Public Health and community services are the areas where I see myself growing the most and the field I am currently learning more about.

### **What is your educational background?**

I have BS in Psychology from Northwest Missouri State University, and I completed my MLIS in 2022 at University of Denver.

### **What made you want to work in libraries?**

While working my first out-of-college corporate job, I would always search job openings at the local libraries on bad days. I realized there was a pattern there and started looking into what it would take to seriously pursue that. As a lifelong lover of books and information, I found it a natural fit, and I am so glad I was able to do that.

### **What is your previous work experience?**

My first library experience was working in the University of Missouri Ellis Library as a page who returned books to the shelves. I returned to libraries during my post-grad study and worked in an elementary school library for two years and am now at Kansas City University working at the KC campus. Outside of that, my favorite non-library job was probably working at a local bagel shop here in KC, and I have yet to find any bagels better than those.

### **What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?**

I am looking forward to finding a community that is diverse and inventive. The medical information field is one that has so many opportunities for growth, and I envision learning so much from the leaders here.

### **The MCMLA mascot is an owl; what kind would you be if you were an owl?**

The Barred Owl has a good vibe, so I'll go with that!

### **What is a fun/unique/exciting tidbit for your fellow MCMLA'ers to know about you, or how do you spend your free time?**

Outside of work, I enjoy playing on a recreational kickball league! It runs from March to October, we play other KC teams, and make our own tie dye uniforms every season.

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Welcome



# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## CAMERON NIELSON

By Cindi Flanagan; Chair, Membership Committee; Edited by Nina McHale



### **What is your position title?**

Assistant Research and Instruction Librarian for Health Sciences, Utah Tech University

### **What do you like most about the library and information science field so far?**

I appreciate the variety of work we get to do in an academic setting. It's not just grading and preparing lectures all day, every day. I appreciate being able to be a part of a variety of conversations, and I keep up with developments across academic disciplines.

### **What do you like most about MCMLA so far?**

The welcoming membership!

### **Are you interested in a specific area of libraries?**

Information literacy instruction & research.

### **What is your educational background?**

I did a BA in History and MA in Religious Studies before deciding to get my MSLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### **What made you want to work in libraries?**

I wanted to continue to work in an environment of academic research, but I decided that a PhD was not the best use of my time. I also discovered that assisting researchers behind the scenes offered a much better work-life balance than is really possible while teaching a full load of classes.

### **What is your previous work experience?**

I was a Reference and Instruction Librarian (all subject areas) at Penn State's Scranton and Wilkes-Barre campuses, in Northeastern Pennsylvania. As a grad student, I worked in the UIUC Library's digital preservation unit.

### **What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?**

Well, I need to learn how to be a librarian specializing in the health sciences, and what kinds of professional development will be beneficial in this area.

### **The MCMLA mascot is an owl; what kind would you be if you were an owl?**

The Great Horned Owl is pretty common throughout the Western areas I grew up in and has the comforting "who who" call we generally associate with owls, and that I remember hearing as a kid. I also remember hearing barn owls, but they look scary and their call sounds like a giant hoarse bat, so let's go with the horned owl!

### **What is a fun/unique/exciting tidbit for your fellow MCMLA'ers to know about you, or how do you spend your free time?**

I have been drawing & painting, off and on, since I was a teenager. Some of my pieces are inspired by the red rock landscapes here in Southern Utah (see attached). I go on hikes whenever I can to get ideas.

I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you in the MCMLA better!



# NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## CASEY PHILLIPS

By Cindi Flanagan; Chair, Membership Committee; Edited by Amanda Sprochi

### What is your position title?

Biomedical Librarian Liaison, KUMC [University of Kansas Medical Center] School of Nursing

### What do you like most about the library and information science field so far?

I love the challenge of finding answers to students' research questions and helping them research more efficiently.

### What do you like most about MCMLA so far?

I am looking forward to connecting with other librarians in the health sciences field in a more concentrated geographical area.

### Are you interested in a specific area of libraries?

I really love academic librarianship and have enjoyed my time in the health sciences world.

### What is your educational background?

BA International and European Studies, University of Oklahoma  
MLIS, University of Missouri

### What made you want to work in libraries?

It finally dawned on me that I naturally gather resources and organization information for people, so why not do that as a profession?

### What is your previous work experience?

Community College Adjunct Faculty Librarian;  
Health Sciences/Health Equity Library Fellowship;  
Stay-at-home parent/caregiver to aging parent;  
Community organizer & volunteer

### What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?

I hope to learn from the experiences and advice of others. I have a lot to learn.

### The MCMLA mascot is an owl; what kind would you be if you were an owl?

Definitely a snowy owl.

### What is a fun/unique/exciting tidbit for your fellow MCMLA'ers to know about you, or how do you spend your free time?

I am a first-generation graduate (both undergrad and graduate), and I may have a bit of obsession with gnomes (the ones without legs/feet though). I love to read, to write, and to be outside.

:



## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH POLLARD



By Cindi Flanagan; Chair, Membership Committee; Edited by Nina McHale



### **What is your position title?**

Scholarly Communication Informationist, Strauss Health Sciences Library, University of Colorado Anschutz

### **What is your educational background?**

I have a Bachelor of Arts from University of North Carolina at Asheville, and my MLIS is from Florida State University.

### **What is your previous work experience?**

My first job in libraries was Health Sciences Librarian at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. Prior to that, I was a bloodborne disease counselor in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

### **What do you hope to gain from being a new or returning member of MCMLA?**

Prior to this, I was part of the Pacific Northwest Chapter and I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with all of my fellow librarians around the region and stay updated on what they were doing. I'm very excited to learn more about my new midcontinental colleagues!

### **The MCMLA mascot is an owl; if you were an owl, what kind would you be?**

Since I'm afraid of heights, I'm going to go with burrowing owl. Like me, they like wide open spaces and are very loud when startled.

## ENDOWMENT FUND THANK YOU

By Jackie Hittner; Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee;

Edited by Jerry Carlson

The Finance Committee thanks the chapter members who contributed to the MCMLA Endowment Fund during the 2023 dues renewal period. \$309.00 was collected for the endowment.

Tax Letter: Email Jackie Hittner at [jhittner@aaortho.org](mailto:jhittner@aaortho.org) if you want a letter stating your donation to the endowment for tax purposes.

A big **THANK YOU** to chapter members who generously gave to the endowment:

- Margaret Bandy
- Judith Bergjord
- David Brown
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- Deborah Divis
- Lori Fitterling
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- Mary McFarland
- Casey Phillips
- Carolyn Reid
- Catherine Soehner
- Angela Spencer
- Shawn Steidinger
- Kristy Steigerwalt
- Lisa Traditi
- Sarah Winston



## SAVE THE DATE: DEI PRESENTATION, JUNE 21, 2023

By MCMLA Education Committee &  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The MCMLA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee along with the Education Committee have arranged for a special DEI presentation and discussion event on June 21 at 3-4:30 p.m. (CDT) /2-3:30 (MDT) by Dr. Linda Grace Solis to be our guest speaker. Dr. Solis will speak for 60 minutes and then there will be a 30 minute discussion to follow.



Linda Grace Solis, PhD, has long been passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues as related to medical

education and to healthcare in general. She joined the faculty at University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine in June of 2017, just weeks before the first DO class matriculated.

Dr. Solis serves as faculty advisor for several learner affinity groups at UIWSOM and loves getting to know the learners through these groups. She delights in mentoring students on their journeys to and through medical school, especially those students who are from communities that are under-represented in medical education and healthcare. Her service extends to national organizations as well, serving, from July 1, 2021

to June 30, 2023, as chair of the Council on Diversity and Equity (CDE) at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and on the Board of Directors for the National Healthcare Diversity Council.

Closer to home, she serves as chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio.

On her own campus, she co-chairs UNITY, UIWSOM's DEI committee, and founded and co-leads the Anti-Racist Transformation in Medical Education (ART in Med Ed) program.

A lifelong fan of libraries of all kinds, Dr. Solis is fortunate to be a "librarian-in-law" through her sister, who has been a medical librarian for over 25 years. Dr. Solis has had the privilege of attending several South Central Chapter MLA meetings and two national MLA meetings. Dr. Solis has a deep appreciation for and understanding of the work libraries and librarians do to further the ideals of equity and justice in medicine and beyond.

Dr. Solis holds a PhD in Leadership Studies from Our Lady of the Lake University. She fervently hopes for, and works toward, a more just and equitable world and is doing what she can to bring those ideals to medical education and healthcare. When she isn't trying to change the world, she can likely be found on her sofa with a good book, and a cat or two on her lap.

## Brenda Linares Voted MLA President-Elect

Congratulations to Brenda Linares, MLS, AHIP, Associate Dean of Library Services, UMKC Libraries, University of Missouri-Kansas City, MO, for being elected the Medical Library Association's President-Elect!

Way to go, Brenda!



## IN MEMORIAM: REBA BENSCHOTER, PH.D.

Submitted by Nancy Woelfl;

Edited by Amanda Sprochi

Reba Benschoter, Ph.D., a pioneer in distance communications, telemedicine, and biomedical media passed away January 1, 2023, after a lifetime of service and contributions to the health sciences.

Dr. Benschoter entered the television industry in 1956 and in 1962, became director of communications for the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, a unit of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. In this role, she created a two-way, closed-circuit telemedicine system, which was recently recognized as one of the first applications of telemedicine in the country. Always attuned to the possibilities of new technologies, she played a leading role in the development and operation of NEB\*SAT, a state-wide satellite TV system for rural communication and education. As founding Associate Dean of UNMC's School of Allied Health Professions, she harnessed technology to create professional programs that addressed the shortage of allied health personnel in rural Nebraska.

Health sciences librarians remember Dr. Benschoter as an advocate for the integration of biomedical media centers within health sciences libraries. She recognized the ability of librarians to organize and disseminate the slides, tapes, and films that were among the earliest learning media and later to create and incorporate these tools into curricula. She was an active member of HESCA, the Health and Science Communications Association, serving as its president in 1977. In 1981, she and her spouse Leon Benschoter, also a health communications and media professional, were recognized with HESCA's highest honor for their service and achievements.

Reba lent her talents to many causes. Through Project Hope, she made multiple trips to China to share knowledge of instructional technology in medical education. Organizations benefitting from her tireless efforts include the Friendship Force, AARP, the Lauritzen Botanical Garden, the Stephen Center Homeless Shelter, and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Omaha. She is survived by four children as well as countless friends, colleagues, and persons whose lives she touched professionally and personally.



### PUBLICATION STATEMENT

MCMLA Express is a publication of the Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association. It is published four times a year.

#### Committee Members:

Katie Dayani, editor

Jerry Carlson

Nina McHale

Amanda Sprochi

Danielle Westmark

# congratulations

## Kudos to the following MCMLA members on their recent publications, presentations, & accomplishments



Congratulations to the following MCMLA Members who won MLA awards:

- Carla J. Funk Governmental Relations Award: **Ruby L. Nugent**, Tucker Memorial Library at National Jewish Health, Denver, CO
- Lucretia W. McClure Excellence in Education Award: **Emily Vardell, AHIP**, School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS
- Collection Development Professional Development Grant: **Dianne M. Aldrich**, Frank Ritchel Ames Memorial Library, Rocky Vista University, Ivins, UT
- Gwendolyn S. Cruzat MLA Scholarship: **Samantha Nunn**, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS



Congrats to **Christi Piper** on her recent publication:

Piper, C., & Wilairat, S. (2022). Graduate library student interest in health sciences graduate employment positions: A think aloud study. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 48(6), 102600. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2022.102600>



Congrats to **Dana Abbey** and **David Brown** on their publication:

Brown, D., & Abbey, D. (2022). Mentoring Health Sciences Library Students: Practices and Perceptions from the NNLM Region 4. *The Chronicle of Mentoring and Coaching*, 6(15), 569–572.



Congratulations to **Kristen DeSanto** on her publication:

Brad Morse, PhD, MA; Marvyn Allen, MPA; Lisa M. Schilling, MD, MSPH; Andrey Soares, PhD; Kristen Desanto, MSLS; Brooke Dorsey Holliman, PhD; Rita S. Lee, MD; Bethany M. Kwan, PhD, MSPH. Community engagement in research and design of a transgender health information resource. *Applied Clinical Informatics*.

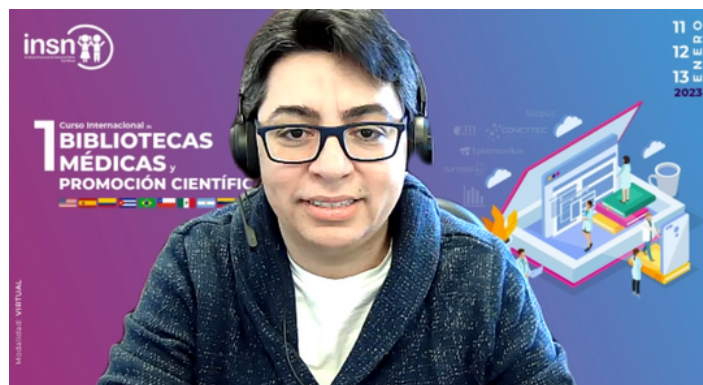


Congrats to **Ellie Svoboda** and **Ben Harnke** for their recent publication:

**Svoboda, E.**, Chatterjee, D., & **Harnke, B.** (2022). Do I Need to Ask Permission? Applying Fair Use to Educational Activities. *Journal of graduate medical education*, 14(5), 515–518. Do I Need to Ask Permission? Applying Fair Use to Educational Activities

# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Brenda Linares, AHIP** on her recent presentations:



I presented in Spanish for a virtual conference for Latin American Health Sciences Librarians “1er Curso Internacional de Bibliotecas Medicas y Promocion Cientifica”. It was organized by a health sciences librarian in Peru.

My presentation was titled: “Trabajando Juntos: Formando un buen equipo par mejorar el Alfabetismo en Salud”: [https://www.insnsb.gob.pe/docencia/wp-content/uploads/Programa\\_BMPC.pdf](https://www.insnsb.gob.pe/docencia/wp-content/uploads/Programa_BMPC.pdf)

I attended JCLO – (Joint Conference of Librarians of Color) in St. Pete Beach, FL, from February 8th to 12th. I presented the following presentation:

“Podcasts Created to Confront Covid-19 Pandemic Misinformation: Librarians and the JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health Partner to Provide Credible Health Information to the Latinx Community”

