

ArLA Nominees for Officers & Executive Board

President-Elect

Taylor Vanlandingham

Secretary

Jessica Riedmueller

SELA Representative

Emily Rozario is a Youth Service Librarian at the Argenta Public Library of the North Little Rock Public Library System. Emily has been working with the library since 2017. She leads programs for the children's department and enjoys thinking of creative ideas for new programs. Emily loves the excitement kids show when their new books come in. Emily received her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in 2016. She has served as the Arkansas SELA Representative for the last four years. Emily lives in Little Rock with her husband, daughter, and dog.

Treasurer-Elect

Ron Russ is the Electronic & Public Services Librarian at ASU-Beebe. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and is a second-generation librarian. Ron received his MLS from the University at Buffalo in 1993, and was a librarian in the Brooklyn Public Library system from 1993-1996. He has served in leadership positions in ArLA, ALA, ARKLink, and is currently a member of the Shared Governance Council at ASU-Beebe. His ArLA service includes (but is not limited to): Member-at-Large, 2021-present, Webmaster/Web Services Committee Chair, 1997-2011, 2015-present, ALA Councilor, 2009-2012, Two Year Colleges Round Table Chair, 2001-2002, 2019-2021, Reference Services Division Chair, 2008, and Publications Committee Chair, 2003-2004. He is also a recipient of the 2007 Suzanne Spurrier Outstanding Academic Librarian Award and the 2016 & 2020 President's Award. He's also been recognized at ASU-Beebe with the 2022 Student Life Impact Award as well as several Strategic Plan Spotlight Awards. Previous financial experience includes being treasurer of the Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club and business manager of WHRW-FM. His interests outside of libraries are jazz music, photography, and cooking.

Members-At-Large

Cassandra Barnett is the Program Advisor for School Libraries at the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. Her responsibilities include providing resources, professional development and support for school librarians and school library programs for the state of Arkansas as well as developing collaborative partnerships for implementing object-based learning and civic engagement.

Before coming to the Arkansas Department of Education, Cassandra was a school librarian in the Fayetteville Public Schools at both the elementary and secondary level for 37 years. During her career, Cassandra has presented at many national and state conferences. She earned her National Board Certification in 2003, is the 2000 recipient of the Arkansas Library Association's Rhetta Patrick School

Library Media Specialist of the Year and the 2018 recipient of the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media's Pat McDonald Outstanding Individual Achievement Award. An active member of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), Cassandra has served in several capacities including the 2009-2010 President of AASL, past member of the AASL Board of Directors, and currently serves on the AASL Knowledge Quest Editorial Board. She is also a past ALA Council member and currently on the Committee on Literacy.

Amy DeVooght is the Circulation Manager for Bailey Library at Hendrix College. She has held this position at Bailey Library for five years. She absolutely loves working so closely with the students. In most cases, she hires the students as freshmen and then gets to watch them flourish here on campus through the years. She is the Chair of ALPS this year and it has been a fun way to get to know other members of ArLA. She has one daughter, Penelope, who is starting kindergarten this fall, and she and her husband will celebrate eight years of marriage in October—a busy few months ahead!

Gwen Dobbs has served as the Library Director for Northwest Arkansas Community College since 2012. She received her MLIS from the University of Oklahoma and has served in various capacities at academic libraries in Oklahoma, primarily as a Reference and Instruction librarian, with additional duties in Library fundraising and assessment. She lives in Bella Vista with her spouse and a few rescued pets.

Tammie Evans is currently employed at the North Little Rock Library System. Her 10+ years working in public library settings has given her opportunities to be well rounded in many different library positions. These include Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Branch Manager, Assistant Director, Marketing Director and now her current role as the Adult Services Supervisor for the William F. Laman Public Library.

Tammie currently assists in the Arkansas Library Association as the Communication's chair for the Library Advocacy Community of Interest (LACI) as well as the chair for the Mental and Emotional Lives of Library Workers (MELLW) and is serving as Vendor chair for ArLA Conference in October. Tammie received her Master's in Library and Information Science from UNT in December 2020.

Leah Frieden has worked at the Fayetteville Public Library for over 10 years. After completing her Bachelor's Degree in English Literature at the University of Arkansas in 2013, she went on to earn her Masters of Information and Library Science from the University of North Texas in 2015 as part of the Educating Librarians for the Middle South (ELMS) cohort. She was promoted to Assistant Manager of the Adult & Reference Services Department in 2018. Leah has been on the organizing board for the True Lit Literary Festival since 2016. She helped carry out the City Lore/National Endowment for the Humanities "Becoming American" grant in 2018 the "Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters" grant presented by Library of America in partnership with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in 2020. She is currently participating in the Arkansas State Library's Arkansas Library Leadership Institute.

April Griffith received her MSLS from Clarion University in 2012, and has worked in academic, special and public libraries over the past decade. Her passion for the intersection of library services, community and sustainability prompted her to serve as a project advisor for ALA's Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change, write a chapter for Libraries and Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact, edited by Rene Tanner, et al., and contribute blog entries for ALA's Programming Librarian blog. April has presented on the topic of sustainable library practices at the 2020 Association of Rural and Small Libraries annual conference, 2020 ARLA annual conference, as well as for web program feature series hosted by various state libraries. Her service to the profession includes volunteering as a

reader for the Arkansas Teen Book Awards and participation on ARLA's Nominating and Awards committees. April currently works as the library director of the Carnegie Public Library in Eureka Springs.

Jessica Kirk is in a new role as the librarian for Statewide Sharing and Engagement at the Arkansas State Library. She works with libraries in Arkansas on resource sharing and engages with various stakeholders throughout the state to help them discover and connect with the resources they need. Her work has always been framed by how we impact and make positive change in our communities and in support of positive workplace culture.

Jessica's work in libraries began with CALS as the system-wide AV manager then as an assistant branch manager. She moved to the Arkansas State Library for a Senior Reference Librarian role. Prior to her discovery of Arkansas libraries, she coordinated higher education civic engagement programs in Tennessee and then enrichment programs for a public charter school in New Jersey. She graduated with her MLS from TWU in 2021.

When not at the library, she enjoys casual outdoor excursions with her family, staring at plants, and staying vaguely aware of pop culture.

Simone Kirk—Growing up to be a certified bookseller in Germany, and acquiring a European Master's Degree in Literature & Publishing/Marketing, Simone Kirk never gave libraries much thought, since reading books, and having to give them back, seemed pretty cruel to this passionate reader. Her goal to work in the publishing industry in German was redirected with a move to Star City, Arkansas in 2004. After arriving in this very rural area of the States, she became the Branch Manager at the Star City Branch Library, which changed everything: Simone fell in love with libraries, and decided to put her knowledge of book selling, marketing, and customer service training to work. Simone is constantly trying to invent new ways to serve her community, developing programs, and spread her love for literacy in Southeast Arkansas. She has been a member of ALPS since 2009, is still active as an ALPS Representative, and has also served as ALPS Chair in 2018.

John McGraw—A native of Conway, John McGraw received his first library card at the Faulkner County Library in Conway when he was about six years old and heavily into Beverly Cleary. He graduated from Hendrix College in 1992 with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, and received his Masters of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Alabama in 2008.

John is proud to serve as the Regional Director of the Faulkner-Van Buren Regional Library System. He has previously been employed as a Student Supervisor in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library, as Branch Manager of the Sid McMath Library in Little Rock, and as Manager of Reference Services for the Central Arkansas Library System.

In 2021, he had the dual honors of being elected to a Member-At-Large position with ArLA, as well as receiving the Intellectual Freedom Award for stirring up good trouble.

Relinda Ruth is the Director of Educational Resources and OER Specialist at the University of Arkansas-Cossatot Community College. She is responsible for the Educational Resource Center (ERC) at three campuses, which includes Kimball Library, all tutoring services, the college's award-winning textbook rental & OER program, along with textbook procurement, and a recently added fourth department-the

college gift shop. Relinda serves on the Academic Council and teaches English courses as an adjunct instructor. She was instrumental in building the state's first two-year-college internal textbook rental program and growing the college's OER initiative in 2015. In 2020, UA Cossatot was awarded a Title III SIP 2.2 million-dollar grant, and Relinda serves as the Title III Director.

As the college's OER Specialist, she is responsible for the development and implementation of policies relating to open licensing, OER initiatives and practices, and provides guidance on Creative Commons licensing and OER content. She compiles open resources and provides OER usage training for faculty. Relinda leads the college's OER Team, raises awareness of open education activities and practices, and as a leading contact for OER in Arkansas, she encourages broad participation across the state through conferences. She chairs the OER Taskforce Committee, a component of the Arkansas Library Consortium (ARKLink), a nonprofit organization of 53 college and university libraries in the state. From 2019-21, Relinda served a two-year term on the six-member steering committee for the Open Education Network.

Relinda holds an MA in English and a BS in English and Mass Communications from Texas A&M University-Texarkana, certification for specialization in open licensing and the Commons through Creative Commons, and certification in effective college instruction through the Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education. She is an outspoken advocate for open education and is currently enrolled in a program developed by globally-recognized experts in open education. The course is offered through Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in British Columbia, one of the world's leading institutional supports for open education.

Darby Wallace (she/her) was a Library Media Specialist at Boone Park Elementary in North Little Rock, Arkansas from 2013-2020. Prior to that, she worked as a LMS in Newport, Arkansas at both the elementary and junior high levels. She served as the Director of the Jackson County Library system from 2008-2011. She has a BA in history from Hendrix College, MEd from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi. She recently organized a story walk project with the libraries of Union County and has volunteered with the South Arkansas Arts Center. In 2021 she served as the Chair of the Arkansas Library Association Presidential Task Force and volunteered as an ArLA Conference Planning Committee Member. She lives in El Dorado with her husband and their greyhound. Their son, Miller, is attending U of A this fall and their daughter, Natalie, lives and works in Harrison with her family, including four-year old, Parker, and a brand new set of twins.

Jennifer Wann—As Manager of Library Development at the Arkansas State Library, Jennifer Wann is interested in developing statewide programs that assist libraries design services that meet their communities' needs; foster best practices in library management and administration; and facilitate the professional development of library workers at all levels of the organization.

Jennifer believes that even the smallest, most rural communities can have outstanding public library service that can contribute significantly to the vitality of rural communities and their quality of life. Her professional memberships include the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), the Mississippi Library Association (MLA), and the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA). She currently serves as a Member at Large on the ArLA Board, writes the "Face of AR Libraries" column for Arkansas Libraries, and served as the ArLA Conference Program Subcommittee Chair for the 2022 Annual Conference.

Jennifer received her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2006. She is a Certified Practitioner of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Jennifer's MBTI type is ISTP, she has two cats named

Spooky and Bug, her favorite novels of all time are the Realm of the Elderlings series by Robin Hobb, and she's a Ravenclaw.