

A BOUNTY OF LIBRARY STORIES[Read ♥ in your browser](#)

Lawson McGhee Library and the L&N STEM Academy: Partners in Learning



Since its opening in 2011, the **L&N STEM Academy** has fostered ongoing partnerships with various organizations and institutions around downtown Knoxville that have filled in gaps where the Academy had needs. These alliances have bolstered students at STEM with educational experiences and frequently serendipitous "life lessons."

One integral partnership has been with **Lawson McGhee Library** (LML). From the beginning, its services have been invaluable to the students at STEM. For example, librarians from LML visit STEM each fall for ninth-grade orientation about library facilities and electronic resources.

Segue into the 2014–2015 school year, when teachers **Tressie Norton** and **Derek Griffin** learned they had no meeting space for their co-taught AP Language and Composition/AP U.S. History class. The STEM Academy had outgrown its space in just three years! Not to be conquered by such a miniscule obstacle, these creative minds approached **Bess Connally**, a reference librarian at LML, with their dilemma.

done-before arrangement, 38 juniors from the STEM Academy attended their co-taught AP English and history class in the meeting room at LML on Tuesday/Thursday mornings throughout the 2014–2015 school year. Their number increased to 43 as they continued this partnership in the 2015–2016 school year.



Students from the L&N STEM Academy tour Lawson McGhee Library

The **East Tennessee History Center (ETHC)** and **Hodges Library** at the University of Tennessee have also shared their resources to provide STEM students essential research for their projects. The McClung Collection housed at ETHC proved a treasure trove of primary documents for student research throughout the year. Norton and Griffin shared that their students became obsessed with primary documents from this exposure!

Using this year's theme, "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History," student teams created projects for district, state, and national **History Day** competitions. On March 4, STEM student teams received numerous awards at the East Tennessee District competition. At State History Day on April 9 in Nashville, STEM students also received several awards. Three teams from STEM participated in the National Competition on June 12–16 at the University of Maryland.

Another positive outcome of their working together is that LML, Hodges, and ETHC each provided an "out-of-school experience" internship for a STEM senior this past school year.

This partnership also received national attention when AP English teacher Tressie Norton and librarian **Rebekah Ellis** presented "Who Needs a Classroom: Utilizing Resources to Enhance Literacy Education" in November 2015 at the National Council of Teachers of English convention in Minneapolis.

Next month, LML's Bess Connally shares her perspective on the partnership. Teaser: **"I love the STEM Academy!"**

Region's History



Mark your calendar to attend the [East Tennessee History Fair](#) on Saturday, **August 20**. Participants representing the people, places, and events shaping our past will spill out of the East Tennessee History Center to fill downtown, making history truly come alive!

Walk the East Tennessee Timeline, replete with re-enactors from early settlement to the Vietnam War ... participate in hands-on activities to keep cherished crafts alive ... board a bus to tour Knoxville's historic homes ... or just sit a spell in front of the Main Stage, listening to traditional music that has long been the soundtrack to our lives.

Additionally, KCPL's [Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound](#) will sponsor backstage tours and a cinematic celebration of the region's history at the Tennessee Theatre during the day.

The East Tennessee History Fair is **free** to the public. And don't forget! During the fair, Friends will host its popular history-themed [used book sale](#) on Gay Street. Stop by and say hello!

Murphy Storytime: Kindergarten Readiness



Heather Willson, branch manager (left), and Brittney Hernandez, assistant

Location: The [Murphy Branch](#), tucked inside the L. T. Ross Building on Western Avenue, is between its summer reading programs and the opening of school. From mid-September until May, Murphy's Storytimes will help children from the L. T. Ross Center's [Head Start](#) program get ready for kindergarten.

Heather Willson, library branch manager, and **Brittney Hernandez**, assistant, take turns presenting programs to eight Head Start classes at the rate of four groups a week. Pirates, monsters, cats, shapes, colors, and the seasons are popular themes. At first the youngsters are wiggleworms, Willson says. But as time goes by, they learn to sit more quietly, interact with stories, and sing songs that they have picked up.

A 10-year veteran as a Head Start manager with a degree in communications as well as the mother of four, Willson brings deep and varied experience to the job. She and Hernandez, a graduate in accounting who now has a toddler at home, devise activities and materials that encourage **active listening**. They have also created a special section of **resource materials** for Head Start teachers.

The library branch welcomes the community at large as well as Head Starters. Attracted first by computers, many of those community members are drawn to check out books.

So the Willson-Hernandez team takes care of business, but there's a lot of fun afoot at Murphy, too. When **Police Chief David Rausch** visited Storytime, he asked the Head Start youngsters what they thought he used pepper spray for. One priceless reply? "You put it on your food." The children are excited to come to the library, Willson says. "Some bring us flowers and cards. Some cry when they have to leave"

Next on the big calendar at KCPL's tiniest branch? A back-to-school carnival with games, goody bags, and treats for 40 to 50 kids.

There's Still Time to Chip In!

Chip In for Summer Library Club!



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There's still time to be a part of the third annual **Chip In campaign** for Knox County Public Library's Summer Library Club. Donate today and help make a difference in the lives of our community's young readers!

Make your donation **online** or by mailing a check to Friends of the Knox County Public Library, 500 W. Church Avenue, Knoxville, TN

¡Ellos hablan español!

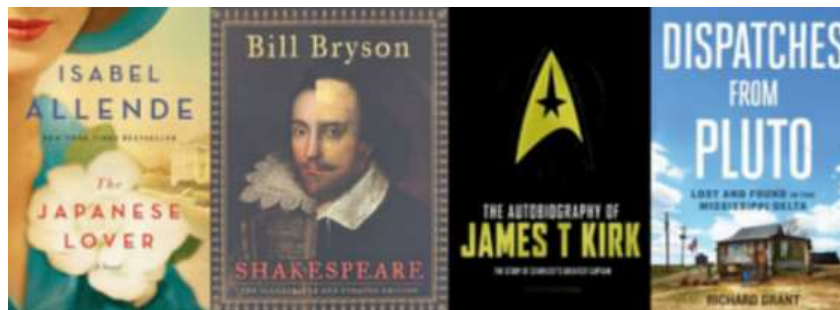


Lawson McGhee staff members watch a Spanish video during their lunch break

Six months ago, four staff members at the downtown library began meeting once a week during their lunch break. Their goal is "to learn enough to have basic conversations in Spanish with patrons," according to group organizer **Emily Ellis**. She and **Ian Henderson** — who says, "*El grupo español es muy bueno*" — represent the Reference Department. They are joined by **Erica Littke** and **Thomas Anderson** from Circulation. While they have not yet been able to speak Spanish with patrons ("... but that day will come!" says Ellis), they have been excited when hearing spoken Spanish words they would not have recognized before now.

Ellis is going to Mexico this month for a one-week **language immersion class** and hopes to bring back new vocabulary and new confidence to the group.

Beat the Heat With a Good Book



KCPL staff members are back with some suggestions for **your to-read list**.

The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende

"This is a story of forbidden love that endures through generations. The Japanese Lover explores questions of identity, abandonment, redemption, and how fate guides our lives." – Susan Poorbaugh, Bearden Branch

Shakespeare: The Illustrated and Updated Edition by Bill Bryson

"Bill Bryson's books are always fun to read!" – Alan May, Lawson McGhee Library

"A riveting account of Captain Kirk's life told in his own words from childhood up to the time of his demise. It's a guilty-pleasure read, even if you don't care for science fiction and are not a Trekkie!" – Terry Caruthers, McClung Historical Collection

Dispatches from Pluto: Lost and Found in the Mississippi Delta

by William Grant

"An eye-opening look at contemporary life in the Mississippi Delta, written by an English-born writer. The Delta is truly 'another country.'" – Steve Cotham, East Tennessee History Center

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New Year, New Faces



Left to right: Christine Dano Johnson, Friends coordinator; Maggie Carini, president-elect; Laurie Pearl, Jen Cooper, and Sharon Smith, new board members.

friends and brings new faces to the organization's leadership.

Christine Dano Johnson has joined the Friends staff as coordinator.

Newly elected board member **Maggie Carini** is the president-elect. Current board members **Rusha Sams** and **LeAnn Luna** are the new board secretary and treasurer, respectively. All three join **Claire Serrell**, president, and **Bill Crosland**, past president, as members of the Executive Committee.

Janine Al-Aseer, Jen Cooper, Laurie Pearl, and Sharon Smith are the organization's new directors. View the full list of directors for FY 2017 [here](#).

Did you know you can shop at the [Friends @ Rothrock Used Book Shop](#) just inside Lawson McGhee Library all year long? The **August specials** are old and interesting collectible books and books about birding. Learn more about Rothrock [here](#).



WHAT'S COMING UP

- **An Evening with Dan Zak** – Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Bearden Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, August 5, and Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *The Bees*** – Monday, August 8, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **East Tennessee History Fair** – Saturday, August 20 [MORE>>](#)
- **Books Sandwiched In: *Republic Lost: The Corruption of Equality and the Steps to End It*** – Wednesday, August 24, noon [MORE>>](#)
- **All Over the Page: *H is for Hawk*** – Monday, September 12, 6:30 p.m. [MORE>>](#)
- **Books Sandwiched In: *Give Us the Vote: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*** – Wednesday, September 28, noon [MORE>>](#)
- **Farragut Branch Used Book Sale** – Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. [MORE>>](#)

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About Friends of the Knox County Public Library: Friends is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a love of libraries, books and reading in the Knox County area. The organization raises funds to sponsor community outreach programs, represent the interests of Knox County library patrons, and support a variety of services offered by the local library system that would otherwise not be available due to budget or staff restrictions.

Friends of the Knox County Library has this e-mail address either from our membership roster or from email sign-up sheets. If you are receiving this message in error, please accept our apologies and unsubscribe below. Thank you.

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