



REMC

ROUND TABLE FOR ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# REMCo News

Spring 2018

## Welcome from the Chair

Greetings REMCo Members,

As REMCo moves into the new year, welcoming new officers and new members, I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for being a part of REMCo and for being part of a profession that seeks to serve our communities and stand up for issues that matter. While 2017 was not without challenge, our work must continue, and we must persist in promoting positive change and providing support to our diverse communities. I hope that in this new year we can all reconnect with one another and recommit to putting in the work to advocate, represent, and serve.



We are excited this year to provide programming that speaks to your needs and safe spaces that help us to gather together and build community. I hope that you all consider taking part in upcoming REMCo conversations and new initiatives. As we continue to reach out to you for input on programs and initiatives, please reach out to us, your new officers. We want to listen.

Jewel Davis

## 2018 REMCo Executive Board

**Jewel Davis**, Chair, [davisja5@appstate.edu](mailto:davisja5@appstate.edu)

**Marcellaus Joiner**, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, [marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov](mailto:marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov)

**Iyanna Sims**, Secretary & Treasurer, [iyanna@ncat.edu](mailto:iyanna@ncat.edu)

**Brittany Champion**, Co-Director, [bchampion@methodist.edu](mailto:bchampion@methodist.edu)

**Arnetta Girardeau**, Co-Director, [girardeau\\_ac@outlook.com](mailto:girardeau_ac@outlook.com)

**Shamella Cromartie**, Past Chair, [scromart@uncfsu.edu](mailto:scromart@uncfsu.edu)

## New REMCo Executive Board Officers



### **Marcellaus Joiner, Vice Chair/Chair Elect**

Marcellaus is the supervisor of the Heritage Research Center for the High Point Public Library and the Archivist for the High Point Museum. His duties consist of coordinating collaborative efforts between the Heritage Research Center and Museum staff to create and implement digitization initiatives to facilitate online access to local history and genealogy materials in both collections.

Marcellaus is excited about the opportunity to serve on the REMCo board because it will allow him to further grow as a leader in the library field. Being a member of REMCo, NCLA, and a Library Leadership Institute alum has allowed him to become increasingly involved in our organization and service in the state of North Carolina.



### **Brittany Champion, Co-Director**

Brittany is currently serving as a circulation assistant at Davis Memorial Library of Methodist University. She is working towards completing her MLS degree through North Carolina Central University with a focus in public librarianship. She'll graduate in May 2018.

Working in an academic library over the last seven years has granted her many opportunities, but her goal is to become a programming director. Her professional interests include multicultural programming, youth collection development, team building functions, and library instruction. She enjoys being a part of REMCo because she has the opportunity to work with other underrepresented populations to strengthen diversity in librarianship.



### **Arnetta Girardeau, Co-Director**

Arnetta Girardeau is the new Student Services Librarian at North Carolina Central University. She is eager to connect students to library resources. She graduated from Harvard University (Bachelor of Arts), Duke University (Masters in Cultural Anthropology), the University of North Carolina (Juris Doctorate), and Florida State University (Masters of Science in Library and Information Science).

She most recently comes from the Greensboro Public Library, where she worked as a Business/Nonprofit Librarian, engaging in extensive outreach, programming, and client counseling. She has worked in both public and law libraries. Her legal background includes experience as a Staff Attorney for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Florida, corporate attorney, legal aid, and her own firm.

She is active in professional and local organizations, including serving as a Metro Board Member of the Greensboro YMCA. Arnetta looks forward to the opportunity to combine her legal, business, and library skills while serving on the Board of REMCo.

## 62nd Biennial North Carolina Library Association Conference Recap

### Roadbuilder's Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2017 Roadbuilder's Award Winners!

**Amelia Gibson**- Library Education

**Beatriz Guevara**- Public Library

**Brenda Linares**- Special Library

**Iyanna Sims**- Academic Library

**Kecia Hopper**-School Library

The Roadbuilder's Awards were established in 1989 and recognize ethnic minority librarians who have served as pioneers and positive role models in librarianship.

The awards pay homage to ethnic minority librarians who exemplify courage, integrity, and perseverance and have contributed to the field of librarianship for their specific category.

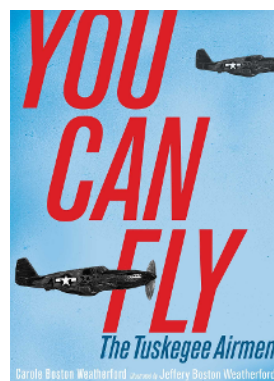


*Roadbuilder's Award Winners with incoming chair from left to right: Beatriz Guevara, Amelia Gibson, Brenda Linares, Kecia Hopper, Iyanna Sims, Jewel Davis*

**Thank you to our Roadbuilder's award committee members Jewel Davis, Denelle Eads, Dr. Lou Sanders Sua, and Valerie Pierce.**

### The Weatherfords: REMCo Author Luncheon

During the REMCo Author Luncheon, attendees were treated to the artistic stylings of the mother and son team, author Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrator Jeffery Weatherford. In the form of spoken word, the Weatherfords read excerpts from their children's book *You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen*. Accented with a backdrop of film clippings from the heyday of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Weatherfords took the crowd on a journey of the experience of these brave African American men. Their performance was masterfully done and evoked the spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen's era.



## 62nd Biennial North Carolina Library Association Conference Recap

### Starting Basic Genealogy: How Can We Find the Skeleton's in the Closet

By Marcellaus A. Joiner

This past biannual I co-presented a pre-conference workshop with Jamane Yeager of Elon College and Dr. Vincent Henrich of UNC-G. The workshop focused on strategies for beginning genealogy: using databases and archives as well as family bibles and oral history for beginning and intermediate enthusiasts. This was a hands on workshop sponsored by REMCo with a turn out of around fourteen people. During the workshop we even had someone learn the name of grandparents they never knew.

If you are interested in starting your own genealogy search, follow these basic genealogy tips:

- 1 **Gather initial information:** Interview senior members of your family as well as relatives who frequent family reunions.
- 2 **Organize your resources:** Find a system for tracking the information you discover that works for you This could be writing in a notebook or building a family tree on a website.
  - Familysearch.org and ancestry.com are two sites available to build family trees for free.
  - Myheritage.com is a paid site you can use for building a family tree.
- 3 **Always trace your family tree from the present back.**
- 4 **Utilize the four main Vital Records for genealogy research--**death certificates, marriage licenses, birth certificates, and divorce records.

### #WeNeedToFindDiverseBooks



In this session, Jewel Davis explored the history of the diverse books movement, the challenges in finding and evaluating diverse books, and new and upcoming K-12 books featuring characters of color and native youth. If you missed this NCLA session, be sure to register for our next Culture Conversation with REMCo, titled **Building Diverse Collections for K-12 Students**.

## Reconnect: Membership Initiative

REMCo is undertaking a new digital membership initiative. We will be creating a member network to connect us to one another so we know who the members of REMCo are, where we are, and what we are doing. The first part of the initiative consists of connecting us all through a REMCo listserv. If you have news, events, job openings, questions, or concerns, we want you to reach out and be able to communicate with all of REMCo.

The second part of the initiative consists of the creation of an online membership directory. The members of REMCo are doing great work all across the state, and we want members to be able to find each other and connect through networking and professional support. We hope this new initiative will promote more communication between members and more positive online REMCo community building. You will soon receive communication regarding the listserv set up and the membership directory.

## Recommit: Culture Conversations with REMCo

We are pleased to continue our online Culture Conversations with REMCo series this year. Spearheaded by our past chair, Shamella Cromartie, the series began in 2016 and has focused on the following conversations:

- Race in the Professional Workplace featuring Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield
- Libraries and Social Justice: A Conversation with Sheila Kennedy
- Imposter Syndrome: A Conversation with Joyce Roche
- Let's Talk About Power: Why Diversity and Cultural Competence are Important to LIS featuring Dr. Nicole Cooke

Our first conversation for the series this year will be **Building Diverse Collections for K-12 Students** featuring our REMCo Chair, Jewel Davis. Jewel Davis is an Education Librarian and Assistant professor at Appalachian State University. She works in a K-12 curriculum materials center at Belk Library and Information Commons and serves as a liaison to the College of Education. We hope you join us for her webinar on **Thursday, February 15 at 2:00pm EST**. Registration information will follow.

We are currently contacting speakers for our next topic on **Microaggressions in the library**. We hope you continue to participate in the Culture Conversations series. If you have any topic or speaker suggestions, please let your executive board know!

**If you have expertise in a subject you believe may be of interest to our members, please consider contacting us to present a webinar. We want to support you and provide a platform for you to present your knowledge.**

## REMCo Member Spotlight and News



### Kai Ewing

Kai Ewing (pronouns they/them) earned a BS in Economics and a BA in German with a minor in International Studies from UNC Charlotte (2012). After a brief foray into full-time work at the local public library, Kai decided to dive headfirst into the profession and get a Master's degree in Library Science. They graduated with an MSLS (and a Diversity Advocate Certificate) from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science in 2015. Kai currently works in Reserves Processing and Evening Circulation Supervision at the Undergraduate Library at UNC Chapel Hill, serves as the alumni representative for the 2017-2018 SILS Diversity Committee, and volunteers on multiple library committees at the LGBTQ Center of Durham in their free time.

### Why did you join REMCo?

I chose to become a member of REMCo because I want to support the excellent work being done by this organization and the people behind it. After attending my first REMCo event in 2016, I was inspired by the conversation being facilitated regarding recruitment of underrepresented populations to the library profession. This is an issue in which I am particularly invested, and REMCo is the first professional group I've had the privilege of joining which actively works toward such goals. Additionally, since I am still quite new to the field, it is my hope to find other professionals interested in furthering ethnic minority concerns from whom I can learn!

Kai can be found on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com/in/kaiewing](http://www.linkedin.com/in/kaiewing), and on their website [www.kai-ewing.com](http://www.kai-ewing.com).

### Member News

Congratulations to **Ericka Patillo** who successfully defended her dissertation, "The Middle Manager Role in Academic Libraries" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science with Barbara Moran as her advisor. Dr. Patillo currently serves as the Associate Dean of Libraries at Appalachian State University.

**Marcellaus Joiner** has recently been accepted to the Leadership High Point program. Leadership High Point is a 10-month program of the Business High Point–Chamber of Commerce that transforms actively engaged citizens and leaders into community champions and Chamber ambassadors. The program offers participants exceptional "insider" access to all that High Point offers and to top-level business, civic, and government leaders. Class days are orchestrated by a Steering Committee, which is comprised of program alumni.

## REMCo Member Spotlight and News



### Denelle Eads

Denelle Eads is the Employee Relations and Staff Development Librarian at UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library. Before this position, she was the Special Collections Research and Outreach Librarian at Atkins. In 2009 she earned her MLIS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Originally, from Huber Heights, Ohio, Denelle earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Journalism from Bowling Green State University. Prior to her library career, Denelle was an Assistant Director of Admissions for Wilberforce University, Kent State University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Denelle is a sports fanatic and she enjoys writing, photography, and spending time with her family.

### Why did you join REMCO?

I joined REMCo because this section of NCLA allows me to engage, interact, and collaborate with other librarians of color. It pleases me to know that our library association values diversity and provides a platform to offer programming and education on multicultural issues that relate to and affect our profession.

### Member News

The American Library Association's New Members Round Table is sponsoring **Jewel Davis** as its 2018 Emerging Leader. The sponsorship consists of a \$1,000 award towards attendance at the ALA midwinter meeting in Denver and the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. As NMRT's Emerging Leader, Jewel will undergo leadership training and will work on a team to complete an ALA project.

UNC-Greensboro is searching for their next **Diversity Resident Librarian**. For more information and to access the link to apply, please visit: [jobsearch.uncg.edu/postings/9427](http://jobsearch.uncg.edu/postings/9427)

### Treasurer Report

As of 4th quarter 2016, REMCo has a balance of \$767.51. We started last fiscal year with a balance of 1,352.74. In the 1st quarter, we spent \$226.80, earned \$145.00 in the 2nd and 3rd quarters, and spent \$503.43 in the 4th quarter. The 4th Quarter Fund can be found at [www.nclaonline.org/executive-board/treasurers-report-january-2017](http://www.nclaonline.org/executive-board/treasurers-report-january-2017).