**FEATURE ARTICLES**

“Check out our New Curves @ the HCC Library Expo!”—Using a Renovation to Promote Services to Students

In August 2015, Harford Community College Library debuted a new look for its reading room. Based on a Libraries Fair that the University of Alabama held in 2013, the HCC Library Marketing and Promotions Committee decided to hold a Library Expo in the new space to show off the new curved shelving and highlight the services and resources available to the students.

St. Mary’s County Library Wins Curiosity Creates Grant, Presents JAMuary in January 2016

St. Mary’s County Library was lucky enough to win one of the Curiosity Creates grants awarded by ALSC and Disney. Twenty ukuleles were purchased to be used in the programs, and several exciting professionals have been selected to present.

MAILL Fall 2015 Meeting

On Friday, November 13th, the MAILL (Maryland Interlibrary Loan) Group met at the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library system in Ellicott City for its Fall 2015 meeting. Eighteen members from academic and public libraries were in attendance. The group met to discuss a recent survey MAILL conducted as well as how to strengthen MAILL’s membership and role within the Maryland library community.

Here’s What’s Happening in the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System has been busy as of late, offering a myriad of programs ranging from boys, books, and barbershops to Early Literacy Week. The system also temporarily closed its New Carrollton branch in late December for an 18 month renovation project.

Our Solar System Is Almost Normal, But Not Quite

It was just over 20 years ago that the very first exoplanet was found and confirmed to be orbiting a star not so different from our own sun. Fast forward to the present day, and the stellar wobble method, wherein the gravitational tug of a planet perturbs a star’s motion, has been surpassed in success by the transit method, wherein a planet transits across the disk of its parent star, blocking a portion of its light in a periodic fashion.
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Editor’s Note

Another new year ushers in the newest edition of the Crab. I am pleased to present a great group of articles about MLA and happenings in Maryland’s libraries. Congratulations go out to St. Mary’s County Library as a recipient of a Curiosity Creates grant. They are putting the grant to good use in the month of January, or shall I say, JAMuary? Find out more about what St. Mary’s is doing with the grant on page 10, in an article by the librarian featured on our cover, Tess Goldwasser. Harford Community College Library also debuted a new initiative back in August, encouraging new and returning students alike to check out its “curves” at a successful HCC Library Expo. Read all about it on page 8. Prince George’s County Memorial Library System also has a lot of great programs and activities going on—check it out on page 13.

In addition to all that’s going on in Maryland libraries, the Maryland Interlibrary Loan Group (MAILL) has also reported on its recent activities and seeks to strengthen its role within the Maryland library community. Check out what the group has been up to and how to get more involved on page 11.

Speaking of getting involved, I’m also happy to present the 2016 MLA Slate of Candidates as submitted by the Nominations Committee. See who’s running for MLA office on page 6!

As always, I’m excited to see the flurry of activity in Maryland’s libraries (though there are no flurries on the ground as of this writing). Happy reading!

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor

Department of Legislative Services Library
Change at Work…a Guarantee!

Recently, I attended the Library Journal Directors’ Summit in Washington, DC and one of the takeaways was that change at work is a given and we need to make it work for us. There were several discussions about the need for libraries to embrace change and become fearless innovators willing to be risk takers. I left the Summit with the impression that there is a strong perception that libraries are not innovators or risk takers and that we go out of our way to avoid change. My curiosity was piqued, and, after very little research, found that this is a misconception. We embrace change, are innovative, and in many instances, lead innovation in our communities through technology, community resources, and more.

Cecil County Public Library received the National Medal, the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to their entrepreneurial community. Howard County Library is once again a Five Star Library and recently received the Library Journal Library of the Year award. Both Carroll County Public Library and Harford County Public Library are designated Star Libraries by Library Journal and Enoch Pratt Free Library received recognition for keeping the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch open during the unrest in Baltimore this past spring. These honors and many others throughout the state happen because we are innovators and game changers in our communities. We not only embrace change, but we are the catalyst for change in our communities.

Take a few moments and scan the various library systems’ Annual Reports and you will be amazed to learn about the new products and services available throughout the state along with the traditional resources offered by Maryland libraries. We are embedded in our communities and nurture true partnerships with businesses, non-profits, higher education, K-12 education, local boards, rotaries, Chambers, and more. We introduce the latest technology to our customers and offer customer experiences that are memorable. We transform lives and welcome all.

Our challenge is to sustain and maintain our innovative spirit and be savvy with allocating funding and identifying potential new revenue. I always know when a new initiative is successful when someone adopts it as a revenue generator for a business. Let’s celebrate our initiative to change the world and work collaboratively to sustain our creativity and boldness. Here’s to the next life we change!
Maryland Library Association 2016 Slate of Candidates

MLA Vice President/President Elect
Andrea Berstler (Wicomico County Public Libraries)
Denise Davis (Cecil County Public Library)

MLA Secretary
Mary Anne Bowman (St. Mary’s County Public Library)
Sandy Meyers (Anne Arundel County Public Library)
Tina Pickens (Baltimore County Public Library)

Support Staff Division (SSD)
Vice President
Nicole McClain (Baltimore County Public Library)
Secretary
Lou Sica (Baltimore County Public Library)

ACRL Maryland
Vice President
Sara Arnold-Garza (Towson University),
Secretary
Robert Miller (University of Maryland University College)
Christine Ameduri
Mike Kiel (University of Baltimore)

Children’s Services Division (CSD)
Vice President:
Conni Strittmatter (Harford County Public Library)
Secretary:
Jessica Crutchley (Baltimore County Public Library)
Jill Hutchinson (St. Mary’s County Public Library)

Public Services Division (PSD)
Vice President:
Jennifer Jones (Harford County Public Library)
Secretary:
Elizabeth Slack (Baltimore County Public Library)
Melissa Lauber (Charles County Public Library)

Leadership Development Division (LDD)
Vice President:
Stephanie Long (Frederick County Public Library)
Tyler Wolfe (Baltimore County Public Library)
Secretary
Kaitlyn Miller (Frederick County Public Library)
Tiffany Fossett (Frederick County Public Library)

Technical Services Division (TSD)
Vice President:
none
Secretary:
none

Respectfully submitted by the Nominations Committee: David Dahl, Jesse Roth, and Carrie Plymire.

The Knowledge River Cohort 15 for Academic Year 2015-16 is Now Open

Knowledge River (KR) is now accepting applications for the 15th Cohort. The priority deadline for Cohort 15 is March 1, 2016.

Knowledge River is an educational experience within the University of Arizona School of Information that focuses on educating information professionals who have experience with and are committed to Latino and Native American populations. Knowledge River also fosters understanding of library and information issues from the perspectives of Latino and Native Americans and
advocates for culturally sensitive library and information services to these communities. Since its inception, Knowledge River has become the foremost graduate program for training librarians and information specialists with a focus on Latino and Native American cultural issues. To date, over 170+ scholars have graduated from this program.

The Knowledge River package may include:
- Financial aid covering tuition and fees;
- Work Experience in a graduate assistantship;
- Cohort support;
- Mentorship;
- Professional development with support for professional development events;
- Enhanced curriculum from Latino and Native American perspectives.

To find out more about the program, a presentation was created using an online tool, VoiceThread. The presentation talks about the iSchool and shares two videos about what KR scholars are doing while working on their Master of Arts degrees. The presentation appears here: https://voicethread.com/share/7017243/ Visit the KR website at http://si.arizona.edu/knowledge-river-0 to find out more about how to apply.

Registration for National Library Legislative Day 2016 has opened! The event will be held in Washington, D.C. on May 2-3, 2016 at the Liaison Hotel.

This two-day advocacy event brings hundreds of librarians, trustees, library supporters, and patrons to Washington, D.C. to meet with their members of Congress to rally support for libraries issues and policies. As with previous years, participants will receive advocacy tips and training, along with important issue briefings prior to their meetings.

Participants at National Library Legislative Day are also able to take advantage of a discounted room rate by booking at the Liaison (for the nights of May 1st and 2nd).

To register for the event and find hotel registration information, please visit ala.org/nlld.

Want to see a little more? Check out the video from last year!

ALA also offers a scholarship opportunity to one first-time participant at National Library Legislative Day. Recipients of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) Award receive a stipend of $300 and two free nights at a D.C. hotel. For more information about the WHCLIST Award, click here.

Your firsthand library experience—from behind the reference desk or as a patron—is an invaluable part of helping legislators to understand the impact that libraries have in the day to day lives of their constituents.

For more information or assistance of any kind, please contact Lisa Lindle, ALA Washington’s Grassroots Communications Specialist, at llindle@alawash.org or 202-628-8140.

Back by Popular Demand!

Katherine M. Bolger returns for “Censorship and the Law” at the 2016 MLA-DLA Conference

Monica McAbee, Prince George’s County Memorial Libraries

How well have our laws upheld freedom of speech and opposed censorship through the years? How do today’s cases show the continuing evolution of our First Amendment interpretation? Are there legal decisions that have actually threatened privacy or intellectual freedom?

Intellectual freedom is a core value of American libraries. Two years ago, Katherine M. Bolger wowed conference-goers with her engaging, illuminating talk on the legal underpinnings of our freedom of speech. She is a First Amendment lawyer with Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz, LLP, and her passion for her subject came through loud and clear at the 2014 conference. Conference attendees wanted her back, and they wanted to hear more than an hour’s worth of material. Therefore, the Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel is pleased to sponsor “Censorship and the Law” on Thursday, May 5, 2016, from 3 to 5 pm at the MLA-DLA Conference.
Using a Renovation to Promote Services to Students

Lois Entner, Harford Community College Library

HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY debuted a new look in August for the reading room on the main floor of the Library. Gone are the tall shelves of reference books that had dominated the middle of the reading room, replaced with new shorter curved shelving that mimics the half circle of two-story windows surrounding the room. Motivated by noise complaints, the need for more space and the move toward more electronic resources for reference, the new design incorporates varied study spaces and computer workstations scattered throughout the area to create a more open, brighter space.

After months of work to get the space ready, the staff wanted to do something to celebrate and show off the new space. Based on information from a 2013 Libraries Fair at the University of Alabama, the HCC Library Marketing and Promotions Committee decided to hold a Library Expo to show off the new shelving and highlight the variety of services and resources available to students. Using the tagline “Check Out our New Curves @ the HCC Library Expo,” the event was promoted around campus through flyers, handouts, digital signage and social media. To create a fun atmosphere for students to explore the library’s services, library staff set up eight brightly colored tables, with hands-on activities, displays, candy and balloons. The tables were staffed by library employees in matching shirts.

Services promoted included:

- reference;
- circulation;
- government documents;
- how to find books and eBooks;
- using the website and databases;

Library Expo
Sept. 8 & 9 | 10 AM-2 PM
Explore our library services & fill out a “Library Passport” to receive a FREE study kit full of goodies!
Snacks and giveaways
information literacy;
- the library computer lab; and
- the Hays-Heighe House, an 1808 historic house on campus now used as a public history site.

A passport was created for the students. The student got their passports stamped as they visited each of the eight stations. Every student who completed the passport was given a study kit containing basic office supplies. Snacks and lemonade were also provided, as food is always an essential for college students! Students were asked to fill out a survey after visiting the Expo and we were able to get good feedback about the event.

Over the two days the event was held, more than 150 students visited the Expo and 81 participants turned in finished passports. Students gave positive feedback. Comments included:

“This was very helpful. There was a lot of useful info given.”
“It is important for us to know and understand the resources available for the students. Keep up the Library Expo Day!”
Awesome! Very helpful!”

The event was deemed a resounding success and the staff is excited to hold it again next year!
St. Mary’s County Library Wins Curiosity Creates Grant!

Tess Goldwasser; St. Mary’s County Library

St. MARY’S COUNTY LIBRARY was lucky enough to win one of the Curiosity Creates Grants awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Disney. To inspire the young people in the community to be curious and creative, St. Mary’s County Library turned the month of January into JAMuary and has created a variety of music-based programs. The library purchased 20 ukuleles to be used in the programs, and has recruited several exciting professionals for the programs. “Pleased to Meet Uke!” is a beginner ukulele class, which was taught by teacher and musician Nani Lowery earlier this month. Two song writing workshops will be offered on January 16. One is for ages 6-10, which will be lead by music educator Nathan Earley and the other is for ages 11-14 and will be lead by author and musician Mary Amato. The festivities culminate with two Family Jam and Open Mic programs. St. Mary’s County Library is happy to share the joy of music with its library users throughout the whole month of JAMuary!

St. Mary’s County Library Wins Curiosity Creates Grant!

Presents

JAMuary

in January 2016.
Cara Sabolcik, St. John’s College

On Friday, November 13th, the MAILL (Maryland Interlibrary Loan) Group met at the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library system in Ellicott City for its Fall 2015 meeting. Eighteen members from academic and public libraries were in attendance. The group met to discuss a recent survey MAILL conducted as well as how to strengthen MAILL’s membership and role within the Maryland library community. The mission of MAILL is to facilitate the processes of interlibrary loan; resource sharing and document delivery in Maryland libraries through the mutual sharing of ideas; and to address concerns, procedures and policies by professional and paraprofessional interlibrary loan personnel.

During the meeting, MAILL members discussed how the group could support Maryland interlibrary loan staff. Suggestions included:

- Maintaining the MD-ILL listserv to send out messages to all MAILL members. New members will be added to the listserv. Members agreed that they would like to see more activity on this list. The purpose of the list would be to share stories, updates, information on new technology, and so forth.

- A MAILL membership directory that includes the member’s contact information, type of ILS, and type of interlibrary loan system would be helpful to MAILL members. Work will be done to compile such a list.
A meeting with MILO staff to discuss MILO would be very helpful. Many members are confused about the MILO service and a meeting to discuss the different routes, etc., would be very helpful.

A MAILL consortium for OCLC WorldShare

Creation of a MAILL blog

A MAILL wiki

Share free online resources for e-books/journals

As well, the group also reviewed its bylaws and new officers were elected. Sean Hogan (University of Baltimore) was elected as the Vice Chair of MAILL and Erin Doherty (Prince George’s County Memorial Library System) was elected as the Communications Liaison.

After the business meeting, MAILL members toured the ILL operations at the Howard County Library Administrative Branch. Beth Tribe, ILL Supervisor and STEM Education Instructor, led the tour.

Anyone interested in learning more about MAILL and becoming a member should visit MAILL’s website: https://maillinfo.wordpress.com or contact Cara Sabolcik, Chair, at cara.sabolcik@sjc.edu, 410-295-6927.

Beth Tribe, of Howard County Library Administrative Branch gives a tour of the Interlibrary Loan operations at the Howard County Library Administrative Branch.

MAILL Members touring the ILL Operations at the Howard County Library Administrative Branch
Boys, Barbershops & Books!: A New Library Outreach Program in Prince George’s County

The Boys, Barbershops & Books program is new to Prince George’s County. In an effort to shrink the achievement gap, the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will be supplying strategically selected books, targeted for African American boys in Grades K-5, to five local barbershops. The boys will be able to read the books during their visits to the barbershops. The purpose of this initiative is to link the African American male barbershop experience with positive early literacy exposure.

On average, reading for pleasure yielded a 14.4 percent advantage in vocabulary, a 9.9 percent advantage in math skills and an 8.6 percent advantage in spelling, based on a 2013 London University study. The study also revealed that the habit of reading for pleasure had a greater impact than that of having at least one parent with a degree.

This PGCMLS program is available at the following barbershops, serviced by the corresponding branch libraries.

**Barbershops**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Associated Branch Libraries)</th>
<th>Bawscow’s Barbershop</th>
<th>Drake’s Place II</th>
<th>Drake’s Unisex Salon</th>
<th>Joe’s Old Fashion Barber Shop</th>
<th>Majesty Barber and Hair Salon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fairmount Heights Branch</td>
<td>Largo-Kettering Branch</td>
<td>Greenbelt Branch</td>
<td>Spauldings Branch</td>
<td>Hyattsville Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Library will set up the display furniture and service the reading areas as needed.

The Boys, Barbershops & Books program is made possible by a grant from the Local Management Board, Child and Family Services Division of Prince George’s County.

PGCMLS Celebrates Early Literacy Week 2015

Since early literacy is important to our diverse communities, the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System launched its 2015 Early Literacy Campaign the week of October 18. This campaign included the completion of all 10 Ready 2 Read Centers, Beanstack, ABCmouse, AWE Literacy Stations and storytimes enhanced with early literacy tips. Below are some descriptions of these early literacy projects and initiatives:

**Ready to Read Centers**

Helping families with young children to talk, sing, read, draw/write, play and learn together each day is the goal of the PGCMLS Ready 2 Read Centers located at the Accokeek, Bowie, Fairmount Heights, Greenbelt, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Largo-Kettering, Oxon Hill, South Bowie and Spauldings branches. PGCMLS is proud to offer this early literacy space where very young children can enjoy literacy-rich, hands-on experiences and activities, such as blocks, dramatic play and puzzles. As they engage children in play, parents and caregivers strengthen their role as the child’s first teacher and excite young minds to think creatively. An early literacy information display provides adults with ideas to take home and try.

**Beanstack**

Beanstack is an innovative tool to connect children and their families with books that match each child’s specific age, interests, reading level and background. Sign up at http://pgcmls.beanstack.org/ to use Beanstack on any computer or mobile device with Internet access. A learning guide that contains helpful tips, background information and activities to encourage engagement and critical thinking accompanies each recommendation. This is a fun new way to get excited about books.

**ABCmouse**

ABCmouse was developed in close collaboration with early childhood education experts; its curriculum comprises the subjects of reading, math, science, social studies, art, and music. This resource is available for free in branches throughout the PGCMLS library system. Some of the features included in ABCmouse.com are 3500+ interactive books, educational games, puzzles, and other learning activities, all of which research has found to be compelling and fun for youth.

**AWE Early Literacy Stations**

The AWE (Advanced Workstations in Education) Literacy Stations are a popular resource at the following PGCMLS library branches: Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville and Spauldings. AWE is founded upon literacy-focused digital learning solutions for early learners. Features of the AWE Early Literacy Stations, designed for toddlers and preschoolers, and AfterSchool Edge “Literacy Stations, designed for elementary school children include content aligned to STEM/STREAM and correlated to Common Core State Standards and state specific academic standards; and activities and content
particularly suited for a wide variety of learning styles including auditory, visual, tactile & kinesthetic learners.

**Storytimes**

Storytimes are offered at all Library branches. During the Early Literacy Week Campaign, selected storytimes included a special segment on early literacy presented by the Youth Services Coordinator and Family Literacy Specialist, along with other PGCMLS staff. Beanstack bags with early literacy tips were distributed at these storytimes.

**Lynda.com and Brainfuse’s JobNow**

Lynda.com and Brainfuse’s JobNow are now available for free with a PGCMLS library card and offer tools for workforce development. Patrons can enhance their skill sets to expand their businesses, advance their careers, or land that perfect job with Lynda.com.

More than 3,600 video courses are available on Lynda.com, on topics such as Microsoft Office, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, GIS, SQL Server, web development, photography, graphic design, filmmaking, music editing and more. Patrons can access JobNow for career assessments, job searches, resume preparation, expert feedback, and interview tips through live coaching.

**The Power of the Vote! @ Your Library**

With the elections on the horizon, reinforcing the importance of voting was an integral contribution of the Hyattsville Branch Children’s Department of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. Youth voted for which woman ought to be featured on the new $10 bill in conjunction with the United States Treasury’s campaign, The New 10.

Towards that end, the 15 female candidates meeting the criteria of being famous, deceased, and upholding our nation’s foundational freedoms were displayed on a large bulletin board with their pictures and descriptions. The list included: Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Nelly Bly, Rachel Carson, Dorothy Height, Grace Hopper, Juliette Gordon Low, Wilma Mankiller, Patsy Mink, Rosa Parks, Helen Rodriguez-Trias, Janet Rowley, Sacagawea, Sojourner Truth, and Ida B. Wells.

The children’s section library display, *She Works Hard for the Money*, received 73 ballots. While each of the candidates received at least one vote, a landslide victory went to Rosa Parks. A letter was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew, with voting results graphics and the children’s rationale behind their votes. The children are excited about contributing their voices to the redesign of this United States currency honoring women.

**The Data Difference: Doubling Engagement @ Your Library**

For Summer @ Your Library 2015, PGCMLS coupled online summer program registration with the segmentation tool of OrangeBoy’s Savannah to uncover the difference in the details and more than doubled the summer reading program enrollment to 19,000. The Savannah system tracked pertinent data such as the youth’s age, library material usage and school district.

“Motivated by the ability to view daily registration data, the Library staff realized a summer reading program participant increase of 106.7 percent,” Michelle Hamiel, Chief Operating Officer for Public Services elaborated. The relevance of this increase is its impact of effectively reducing “the summer slide,” the typical one month of instruction loss by students during the summer break, according to one study.

Surprisingly enough, the Savannah heat map uncovered that branches with less staffing had a greater impact on the statistical outcome. “We wanted to be able to take our limited resources and put them where we’ll get the best bang for the buck,” Michael Gannon, Chief Operating Officer for Support Services explained. “We were able sign up twice the amount of participants over last year with the same resources (staff time) as last year,” Gannon added.

Moving forward, the Savannah dashboard will be available to all staff, not just management. It will be an instrument in the designing of programs and the selection of resources and materials to target the needs and preferences of our diverse communities. Gannon reiterated the advantage of staff being able to monitor progress to generate optimum service and programming at the library.

**New Carrollton Branch Library Closes for Renovations**

The New Carrollton Branch of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, located at 7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD, closed for renovations, effective Monday, December 28, 2015. The renovations will take approximately 18 months, during which time the interior of the building will be completely gutted and renovated. Exterior site work will also be done during the renovation period.

Parents and caregivers of students who frequent the New Carrollton Branch Library after school will need to make other arrangements as of December 28. Nearby library branches are Hyattsville, Greenbelt and Bladensburg. The Bladensburg Branch will add Friday hours of operation, from 10 am to 6 pm, during the New Carrollton Branch’s closure for renovations.

Visit the PGCMLS website at www.pgcmls.info for the latest information regarding the New Carrollton Branch closure.
It was just over 20 years ago that the very first exoplanet was found and confirmed to be orbiting a star not so different from our own sun. Fast forward to the present day and the stellar wobble method—wherein the gravitational tug of a planet perturbs a star’s motion—has been surpassed in success by the transit method—wherein a planet transits across the disk of its parent star—blocking a portion of its light in a periodic fashion. Thanks to these methods and NASA’s Kepler spacecraft, we have identified many thousands of candidate planets with nearly 2,000 of them having been confirmed and their masses and densities measured.

The gas giants found in our solar system actually turn out to be remarkably typical; Jupiter-mass planets are very common, with less-massive and more-massive giants both extremely common. Saturn—the least dense world in our solar system—is actually of a fairly typical density for a gas giant world. It turns out that there are many planets out there with Saturn’s density or less. The rocky worlds are a little harder to quantify, because our methods and missions are much better at finding higher-mass planets than low-mass ones. Nevertheless, the lowest mass planets found are comparable to Earth and Venus, and range from just as dense to slightly less dense. We also find that we fall right into the middle of the “bell curve” for how old planetary systems are; we are definitely typical in that regard.

But there are a few big surprises, which is to say there are three major ways our solar system is an outlier among the planets we have observed:

All our solar system’s planets are significantly farther out than the average distance for exoplanets around their stars. More than half of the planets we have discovered are closer to their star than Mercury is to ours, which might be a selection effect (closer planets are easier to find), but it might indicate a way our star is unusual: being devoid of very close-in planets.

All eight of the orbits of our solar system’s planets are highly circular with even the eccentric Mars and Mercury only having a few percent deviation from a perfect circle. But most exoplanets have significant eccentricities, which could indicate something unusual about us.

And finally, one of the most common classes of exoplanet—a super-Earth or mini-Neptune, with 1.5 to 10 times the mass of Earth—is completely missing from our solar system.

Until we develop the technology to probe for lower-mass planets at even greater distances around other star systems, we will not truly know for certain how unusual we really are!

This article is provided by NASA Space Place. With articles, activities, crafts, games and lesson plans, NASA Space Place encourages everyone to get excited about science and technology. Visit spaceplace.nasa.gov to explore space and Earth science!
Minakowski Joins Staff of the Nimitz Library at the United States Naval Academy

Adam Minakowski has joined the staff of Nimitz Library at the United States Naval Academy. Minakowski is a reference librarian working in both the reference and special collections departments. He formerly worked for the Smithsonian Institution’s National Anthropological Archives in Suitland.

Berstler Named First Segment Instructor for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy

Andrea Berstler, Executive Director of the Wicomico Public Libraries, has been named the first segment instructor for the 2015-2016 class of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!). YEA! is an innovative program that transforms local middle and high school students into real entrepreneurial successes. Classes began on November 10th and the 2015-2016 class is the 1st YEA! class on the Eastern Shore. Students will work in close cooperation with local business leaders, community leaders and educators to develop ideas and objectives, write a business plan, pitch potential investors, obtain funding, establish a web presence and much more.
Share the Knowledge

Save these Dates!

Maryland Library Legislative Day
Wednesday, February 3, 2016

ALA National Library Legislative Days
May 2–3, 2016

MLA/DLA Annual Conference
May 4–6, 2016

MD Librarians and Friends:
Italian Extravaganza Cruise
May 14–26, 2016

You’ve got great ideas, and made them realities. You’ve bombed, and you know why. You have library colleagues all around the state your colleagues should know. You know what’s going on.

Send us your newsletters, press releases, articles you’re publishing, snippets, pictures and videos. Anything and everything about MLA and Maryland libraries: we’ve got the space for you.

Help us Share the Knowledge!
MLA is now offering three terrific blends of coffee. If you find one to your liking, visit Cabin Creek Roasters and use the "Shop" menu to order today!

Enjoy these unique coffees while enriching the programs and services of the Maryland Library Association.

**Margaret’s Choice** is 100% Arabica Coffee grown in Brazil and fresh roasted by our Roastmaster at Cabin Creek Roasters. The varieties used to produce this bird friendly coffee are among the highest quality producing Arabica beans available: Yellow and Red Bourbon, Yellow and Red Catuai, and Red Mundo Novo. In the cup it produces stable and naturally medium body with berries, dark chocolate and a hint of nuts. The stability and sweetness of this coffee makes for a rich taste that lingers smoothly in the aftertaste.

**Readers’ Brew** is 100% Arabica Coffee grown in Guatemala and fresh roasted by our Roastmaster at Cabin Creek Roasters. This Fair Trade and Organic coffee, a blend of Bourbon, Caturra, Catuai beans, evokes ripe cherries in balance with chocolate and spices. In the cup it produces a mild, balanced coffee with nice body, and excellent floral tones and fruitiness.

**Dewey’s Decaf** is 100% Arabica Coffee grown in Mexico and fresh roasted by our Roastmaster at Cabin Creek Roasters. This Swiss Water Processed Decaf produces a smooth/rich cup with a very strong chocolate bottom and a little sweeter top for a medium/full body taste. All this taste makes it hard to believe that it’s decaffeinated.
Keep up with MLA/ALA events...Share job openings... Offer weeded items from your collection to others...Ask a question!

To subscribe to the list:
Send a message to sympa@lists.umd.edu from the address you want to subscribe to the list. In the subject line of your message, type in: subscribe marylib Firstname Lastname (indicate your own first and last name). Leave the message body blank. When your request is accepted, the message you receive confirms your subscription to the list.

To post a message to the list:
Address your message to marylib@lists.umd.edu. (When you reply to a message sent through the listserv, your message will go to everyone! Therefore, it might be a good idea to include your email address in the body of any messages you post to the list. In some systems, the reader won’t be able to see the address in the sender line. For private replies, send a separate message addressed to the original sender.)

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From the address with which you subscribed to the list, send a message to sympa@lists.umd.edu. In the subject line of your email, type in: unsubscribe marylib. Leave the message body blank.