

*Making a Space

(Continued from page 1.) \$170 from a supply company. Instead you guys are able to make it here for pennies.”

The execution and installation of the Makerspace in the library was such an innovative concept that Thompson was tasked with presenting the ideas during the Mega Resource School Librarian Workshop held June 2017 at Mississippi State University.

“Since I started as director last January (2018),” said Thompson, “a lot of other (college library) directors have had the opportunity to come tour... we’ve had several universities, several colleges visit this library here, this Makerspace, because they

themselves are planning for one, Mississippi College and Hinds. They can develop their own technologies based on the student feedback they have, so no Makerspace is the same nor should it be.”

Increasingly, students are coming out of the Youtube world into college, coming from intense visual learning but with limited hands on learning experience. The Makerspace aims to help alleviate that limitation.

Student workers at the library also serve on the front lines for Jim and his staff in acclimating other students and staff members in using the space. On Valentine’s Day, Kosciusko native and secondary education major Dustin Perry engaged in a virtual

reality archery shoot while at the same time having a 3D Valentine card printed for a friend, showing the versatility and multi-use functionality of the space.

Goodman campus Head Librarian Sarah Clay has worked in her position for the past four years and in her own words, “I’ve made so many T-shirts!” All in good fun though.

“In the past two to three years, I’ve assisted in the making of T-shirts, that we’re all experts now,” Clay said referring to the screen printing in the Makerspace. “The space has been very beneficial to both students and the library. Libraries aren’t strictly about books and reading, we’re evolving with the times and technology.”

The library once even hosted a cell phone repair workshop, with participants able to 3D print a brand new cell phone case for pennies.

Due to the nature of emerging technologies, technology is always changing, the Makerspace in the McMorrough Library will soon be relocated within the library to accommodate the growth in interest and equipment.

Thompson added the he is looking for technologies to be amplified as well at both the Grenada and Ridgeland campuses. The Makerspace in not limited in use to only staff and students of Holmes Community College but also to the general public, home educators and students from area school districts, including tour groups.

“My belief is, in how my libraries are ran, the libraries for Holmes Com-

Senator Wicker votes ‘No’ to President Trumps emergency declaration on border crisis

U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, R-Miss., on Thursday, March 14, voted for H. J. Res. 46, a resolution of disapproval for the national emergency declared by the President on February 15. This week Wicker cosponsored legislation to provide for affirmative Congressional consent for future emergency declarations. He also supported negotiations that would have advanced the President’s border plans while preventing future overreach. Senators and the White House negotiated until late last night, but an agreement could not be

reached.

Senator Wicker issued the following statement:

“I had very cordial conversations with the President yesterday and this morning. I shared with him that I strongly support his plan to build walls on our southern border, but that an emergency declaration was the wrong approach. The President already has almost \$6 billion available that can be used to build border walls. For over 20 years in the House and Senate, I have voted for funds to build more than 600 miles of border structure, and I

look forward to working with President Trump on additional border security measures.”

“I am concerned about the precedent an emergency declaration sets, which might empower a future liberal President to declare emergencies to enact gun control or to address ‘climate emergencies,’ or even to tear down the walls we are building today.”

“I regret that we were not able to find a solution that would have averted a challenge to the balance of power as defined by the Constitution. The system of checks and balances established by the Founders has preserved our democracy. It is essential that we protect this balance even when it is frustrating or inconvenient.”

Auditor’s office returned over \$50,000 to taxpayers last month

Press Release

On March 12, State Auditor Shad White announced his office returned \$52,780.09 to Mississippi taxpayers last month after investigations by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor determined public funds were stolen or misused.

A significant amount was recovered from Chris Smith, who was issued a demand letter in January

community College,” Thompson said, “are set up to where we have sections for everything. Whether you’re here for entertainment, studying, using the computer or just to relax, we have a space for that.”

2019.

The State Auditor’s Office recovered \$25,000 in February from former Director of Accounting and Finance at the Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Chris Smith. He received a demand letter after investigators determined he paid personal C-Spire, DirecTV, Entergy, and Atmos Energy bills using a government procurement card. While the principal loss has been repaid, Smith is still responsible for interest and investigative cost of the case.

“You work hard for your money, and you expect those handling your tax dollars to spend it properly,” said State Auditor

Shad White. “Returning that money to its proper use is the most important function my office has.”

Since being appointed in July 2018, State Auditor Shad White has issued demands for nearly \$3.5 million in stolen or misspent public money on behalf of Mississippi taxpayers.

Once recovered by the Auditor’s office, the money is returned to the agencies, counties, municipalities, or other government entities to which it belongs.

Fraud and embezzlement can be reported to the Office of the State Auditor online any time by clicking the red button at www.osa.ms.gov or via telephone during normal business hours at 1-(800)-321-1275.



Head Librarian Sarah Clay holds a 3D printed purple dragon paper weight that she keeps on a shelf in her office. The object was created and designed in a computer program then printed using the 3D printer in the library’s Makerspace.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)



Pictured above, Kosciusko native, library student worker and secondary education major Dustin Perry uses the virtual/mixed reality simulator to practice on an archery range. Perry is flanked by motion sensors, (seen on tripods) that transmit his real world body movements into the computer simulation.

(Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

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