



Media Center

MESSENGER

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians

Volume XLIII No.4

April 2006

2006 Annual Conference Review

The twenty-third annual SCASL conference offered a great deal to members and guests alike, all planned around the theme of “Building Bridges to Student Achievement @ your library”. The city of Charleston provided a beautiful backdrop for the 820 members in attendance to learn, renew spirits and build new alliances. The warm and breezy weather was the perfect complement for tours, excursions to the city’s many restaurants and shopping and time to enjoy the fellowship of colleagues and friends.

Several years ago, when pre-conference sessions were added to the program outline, the intent was to provide members with more in-depth learning experiences on topics of importance to developing quality media programs.

This year’s Wednesday pre-conference sessions offered something for everyone. School library media specialists could experience an in-depth review of research regarding the effectiveness of school library programs, learn the latest techniques in video production, delve into the appeal of graphic novels, experience the mysteries of the U.S.S. Hunley, discover new ways to integrate video into the curriculum or enjoy the eternal appeal of puppets. The half-day and full-day sessions were well attended and provided valuable learning opportunities that illustrate the diverse spectrum of responsibilities and interests of SCASL members.

Ninety-two sessions were presented in the eight concurrent blocks, demonstrating the talent of our members and their willingness to share with colleagues and advance the overall capacity of the organization. The wide range of concurrent topics provided ample opportunities to explore new ways to strengthen literary programming, learn effective strategies for legislative advocacy, understand the collaborative planning process, gain important tips for the National Board certification process, make connections across the curriculum and get first-hand reviews of the latest nominees in the various book award programs. Through the Exploratorium sessions, 102 exhibits and exhibitor classrooms, the 2006 conference experience was extended.



Keynote sessions by Dr. Gail Bush and Dr. David Loertscher, coupled with a stirring awards luncheon address by Ashley Bryan, were special highlights. Without a doubt, the appearance, speech and book signing by Pat Conroy capped off a very engaging conference.

Heartiest congratulations to all members of the planning committee for their efforts in developing a quality professional development experience!

If you forgot to leave your evaluation form at conference, please mail it today. Your ideas and suggestions are most important in shaping the association’s direction and services. Additionally, please remember to volunteer for one of the standing SCASL committees. Your talents and support are welcomed and needed. Make your plans now for Columbia, the site for next year’s conference scheduled for March 7-9, 2007.

Ida Thompson, ithompson@richlandone.org



From the President . . .

Lauren Hammond, SCASL President
lhammond@aiken.k12.sc.us

It is customary for the outgoing president to give members a report on the state of the association, and I am pleased to state that our association is sound and it is ready for the challenge of the coming year. So much has happened since July 2005!

- SCASL has begun accepting credit cards for purchases of materials and conference registration.
- The association provided professional recertification credits for conference learning sessions again this year.
- The Executive Board also created a program of sponsorships whereby our vendors can help support SCASL and assist the Executive Board to provide additional learning experiences for members at reduced cost to members. In fact, there will be a second leadership workshop this summer focusing on legislative advocacy. (Look for more details in this issue.)
- The Executive Board also approved the establishment of another scholarship program to honor the memory of Robbie Van Pelt.
- Our individual memberships in AASL have helped maintain SCASL's status as an affiliate member of that association. This helps school media specialists to have more influence in the national activities and business of ALA.

Our membership now stands at 1249 and 865 attended our conference in Charleston in early March. The scholarship cruise raised approximately \$1200.00 to help future and current media specialists. Those attending conference had a wide variety of sessions and speakers to hear and enjoy. All in all, the conference was another example of how well-organized our association is and how willing everyone is to pitch in and make it a success.

I encourage each of you to step outside your comfort zone a little and get more involved in your professional association. You will benefit personally from your involvement with your peers across the state. Our association will benefit from individual members' contributions – no matter how small they might seem. Every single one of us keeps SCASL a member-driven association.

I am very proud to have served as your president and thank you for your encouragement and support throughout the year.

Throughout the year, a number (a very large number) of SCASL members give of their personal time in order help provide and maintain the services of our organization to ALL members. They are the unsung heroes of SCASL. As a small "thank you" to each of them, their names are printed on several pages of this issue. If someone you know is on the list, take a moment to say thanks for their efforts. And, perhaps, next year you will consider adding your name to the list!

MISSION STATEMENT

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians advocates professional excellence, facilitates collaboration, and develops leadership to ensure that school library media programs are integral to teaching and learning in every South Carolina school.

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Subject: Leave blank
Message: Subscribe SCASL-LS
yourfirstname yourlastname

To send a message:

Address: SCASL-LS@listserv.sc.edu
Type: your subject
Type your message and send.

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SC Dept. of Education: www.state.sc.us/sde/

SCLA: www.scla.org

SC State Library: www.state.sc.us/scsl

ALA: www.ala.org

AASL: www.ala.org/aasl

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*Join SCASL
Listserv and keep
the conversation
going!*

The following folks have been responsible for the many wonderful articles you have read in the Messenger throughout the year. Some names you may recognize from articles they have written in years past as tried and true "Messengers". I want to give a very special thank-you to each and every one of them. They share their ideas and activities with you, the reader. Their email addresses are always included in case you have a comment or just want to thank them for their efforts. I certainly want to thank them!

*Laura Jackson, Editor, Media Center Messenger
jmoggles@hughes.net*

Jill Altman, Peggy Bayne, Jennifer Burley, Valerie Byrd Fort, Terri Catalano, Debbie Cooper, Betty Daniels, Kathy Dorkewitz, Greta Flinn, Beth Hale, Peggy Harrison, Mary Anne Kohl, Lynda Lee, Betsy Long, Liz Martin, Carole McGrath, Samantha McManus, Mary Jane Michels, Barbara Montgomery, Lynn Scott, Sandy Stearns

**Additional photo credits in this issue go to:
Jill Altman, Lynn Scott, Pam Williams, and
Melanie Jackson**



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Seven Keys to Success in Advocacy and Promoting Your Library Media Program

Building an effective library media program involves many things and primary among them is a good *sales* campaign. Site-based management means the library media program must compete with other programs (e.g., technology, band, athletics, career/technology, chorus, reading initiatives) for funding. Often times it is the programs with the best sales promotion that have the most supporters **and** that receive the largest budget. Every lesson you teach and every interaction you have with teachers, with your principal, with students, or with parents is a sales event. You are in the business of convincing your patrons (customers, if you will) that they need the library media center and all its resources and your services and expertise.

In thinking about how to sell your program, I see seven key strategies to help you be successful:

1. Believe that student achievement (learning) can be improved through the library media center.
2. Believe that students and teachers need the library media center.
3. Know the needs of your patrons (e.g., the academic standards, the information literacy and technology skills students should be mastering).
4. Create and maintain a quality library media program. Use the SDE program recommendations and evaluation rubrics to judge your library media program.
5. Walk the walk and talk the talk. Do what you say and deliver on what you promise.
6. Market your library media center and program.
7. Keep on keeping on. Use multiple strategies to reach your constituents. Remember: redundant communication!

Is your library media program, as it currently exists, the right program for your learning community? Do your students and teachers truly need what you have to offer? If you are not actively involved in the instructional program of your school or if you feel marginalized, then perhaps you are offering the wrong product. Sales people will tell you that it's hard to sell the wrong product; you have to determine what the right product is for your target group. "The right product is one that people will buy. It is one that people can ultimately be convinced that they need—or, if not need, that they will come to want, believing that it will enhance the quality of their life. And it is one that will be economically viable." (Hamilton 18) Adam Hamilton

probably was not thinking specifically about school libraries when he wrote this but the concept definitely applies.

Following their school library study in Ohio, Ross Todd and Carol Kuhlthau determined that there are eight roles that library media specialists have in a school.

- *Resource Agent*: You are there to provide an up-to-date collection of diverse materials that meets the information needs of your patrons.
- *Literacy Development Agent*: You are there to provide bibliographic instruction and help your students master information literacy and technology skills that are really essential life skills for this information/knowledge age.
- *Knowledge Construction Agent*: You are an instructional partner with the classroom teacher to assist students in scaffolding information as they interact with new information and use it to create new knowledge.
- *Academic Achievement Agent*: You and the classroom teacher working together help students achieve more.
- *Independent Reading and Personal Development Agent*: You are there to provide a resource collection that will meet the recreational reading needs of your students, to connect them with good literature, and to challenge them to read for pleasure **and** for information.
- *Technological Literacy Agent*: *Information Power* says the school library media specialist is a technologist, one who knows the technology hardware, software, and necessary skills and can help teachers and students incorporate information technology into the classroom curriculum and into everyday activities.
- *Rescue Agent*: Students have information crises on a daily basis. Who better to help them solve these crises than you, the resident library information specialist? (Haycock 34)

So if your program is not the library media program your customers need (want?), look at these eight roles of a library media specialist and the seven keys to successfully selling your program and resolve to begin making some changes now as you plan for an even better, more involved program next year.

I wish for each of you a wonderful spring and a calm, peaceful closing of this school year. “We are all travelers. May you go from strength to strength and be a source of strength for others.” (ben Shea 179).

ben Shea, Noah. 2003. *Inspire, Enlighten, & Motivate*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.

Hamilton, Adam. 2005. *Selling Swimsuits in the Arctic*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Haycock, Ken. 2004 “Effective Roles for Student Achievement,” *Teacher Librarian* 31:5 (June): 34.

Greetings!



Wow! The light at the end of the tunnel is Summer!!!!!! Wow! Was that a fast year! I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the SCASL conference. And for those of you who attended the first session and stood up for me—thank you! I was sincerely moved. But, that is still a mean thing to do to someone who is supposed to introduce the speaker!!

☺ Words don't fail me now!

- We were successful in our search for a new Director. Dr. Samantha Kelly Hastings will join us in August. Dr. Hastings is currently associate professor in the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of North Texas. Her previous work has concentrated on the value of libraries and museums as cultural institutions. She served as interim dean at North Texas, was a

consultant to the Bureau of Library Development for the state of Florida, and has been both a teacher and medical librarian in Tucson, Arizona. She was president of the American Society of Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). She received her Ph.D. from Florida State University. I believe that Dr. Hastings will be a good friend of school library media specialists.

- As you read this, we will have filled a children's services faculty position. This person will teach our literature courses for the College of Education, but will also be involved in SLIS courses and research.
- As you read this, we will have filled the position of Executive Director for the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy. Also, the Center has additional space at the State Library and we hope you will come by and check out the largest collection of recent children's and young adult books in the state.
- Our undergraduate program in Information Science has passed the necessary hurdles at the University and will be considered by the Commission on Higher Education in July. We hope to begin the program in the fall of 2008.
- Our doctoral program is scheduled to enroll the first class in the fall of 2007. Keep a look out for more information regarding the program by checking our web site at <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/>



Thirty years ago I was working day and night on my dissertation for a very good reason. In March 1976, I was offered a faculty position in the College of Librarianship at the University of South Carolina with the stipulation that the degree had to be conferred before my official appointment in August. With the exception of July 4th, I literally worked every day for sometimes twelve or more hours—I wanted this job.

As they say, "Be careful what you wish for..." Well I did wish for it and not only my wish but a true dream came true for me professionally. For the past thirty years I have often not known the difference between work and play, I have gotten to know some of the most wonderful people in the world—my students, and I have had the opportunity to make a positive contribution to society. What more could I ask? Nothing. I have been blessed in so many ways and those who read these words are among my most cherished blessings.

Now it is time for me to move on. I love South Carolina and its people, especially my people, but it's time for me to go home to the mountains of North Carolina. I don't have specific plans, but I know that I will continue to do something connected with libraries, communities, diverse populations, and learning. I assure you, I won't retire in the stereo-

typical sense of the word. My wife is an artist and she will be able to pursue her career in an area that is becoming a mecca for the type of work she does. I will be closer to my mom who really needs more attention than I have been able to provide over the last couple of years. I am the only blood relative that she has (Boy—that is a scary thought!). We are building a house in Bakersville, North Carolina (see the pictures at: <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/Dan/bakersville.htm>). We will be moving up there in June. I will remain here to work with SLIS until our new Director takes over the 1st of August. In many ways, I will never leave South Carolina, nor will its people ever leave my heart.

I could draw this out for a lot more lines and pages, but my main point is to express my deep admiration for the strong professional organization that SCASL has become and the leaders who have made that happen; my admiration for each of you, especially our grads; and my deepest appreciation to each of you for being a part of my life and for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of yours.

Dr. Dan

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"My basic philosophy of teaching is that I prefer a guide on the side approach as opposed to a sage on the stage."

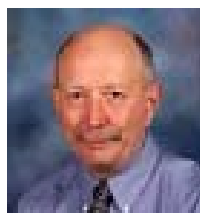
—Dan

A few of Dan's many honors:

- ✓ The South Carolina Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award (2003)
- ✓ Social Issues Resource Series/South Carolina Library Association Intellectual Freedom Award
- ✓ South Carolina Association of School Librarians President's Award (1985)
- ✓ Association for Educational Communications and Technology of South Carolina's Media Person of the Year
- ✓ University of South Carolina Lilly Teaching Fellow
- ✓ The Second Annual (1996) University of South Carolina Distinguished Service Award.

and under Dan's leadership

- ✓ The School of Library and Information Science, CMCIS, was ranked number two in the nation in 2006 by U.S. News & World Report.
- ✓ Children, Libraries and Literacy Initiative was developed.



"If there were Emmies for TV educators, Dan Barron would have a shelf of them."
—Charles Bierbauer, Dean CMCIS

What in the World Is a Podcast and How Do I Get One?!

Valerie Byrd Fort, Dutch Fork Elementary School, vbyrd@lex5.k12.sc.us
www.readingwithmsbyrd.com

For the past few years, I have dreamed of owning an iPod. I love music, I love radio, and I love to move around, so an iPod is the perfect accessory for me. Dreams do come true and I got an iPod for Christmas from my folks, (side note: my parents even had it engraved. It says “Librarians Rock”). I signed on to iTunes and instantly became obsessed with podcasts.

There is a podcast for everyone, by everyone—chefs, knitters, poker players, golfers, and, yes, even kids and readers! I stumbled onto *The Bobby Bucket Show*, which is a podcast by Bob Sprankle (www.bobsprankle.com). *The Bobby Bucket Show* is a podcast that highlights children’s books with a theme. The latest *Bobby Bucket Show* has a “lost and found” theme (with books such as *Knuffle Bunny* and *Oliva...and the Missing Toy*). Bobby Bucket even uses the podcast to introduce kids to a reading strategy and talks about making connections.

After hearing *The Bobby Bucket Show*, I wanted to create a similar podcast with students at my school. So, with the help of my intern, Tracie Evans, we figured out how to create a podcast and I am now proud to present *Bookin’ It*, the Dutch Fork Elementary School podcast. It is not perfect, and I am still learning. For those interested in learning about podcasting, here are some of the best resources (and podcasts) that I have come across:

Kathy Schrock’s blog:

<http://kathyschrock.net/blog/2006/02/brief-overview-of-k-12-podcasting.html>

The Bobby Bucket Show-my inspiration!:

<http://www.bobbybucket.com/blog/B96573213/index.html>

Bit by Bit (another Bob Sprankle podcast-this one is for teachers):

http://bobsprankle.com/bitbybit_wordpress/

KidCast: Podcasting in the Classroom-lots of tips and tricks:

<http://www.intelligenic.com/kidcast/>

Now for the fun part-creating your podcast. I want to start with a disclaimer-I do not have a Mac and I want to let you know that having a Mac with Garageband seems to be the easiest way to create a podcast. However, if you are like me and are stuck with a school paying tribute to Bill Gates, here’s what you can do to create a podcast (and you do not even need an iPod to do it)!

- First, I record various audio into my computer. I use a microphone or a digital voice recorder. I have to make sure all files are .wav files before I can edit, so I convert them with Switch.

http://www.download.com/Switch/3000-2140_4-10430342.html?tag=lst-0-2

- Then, I edit my .wav files and create my show using Audacity.
http://www.download.com/Audacity/3000-2170_4-10325373.html?tag=lst-0-1
- When my show is complete, I export it from Audacity to my desktop.
- Then, I upload the show using my FTP client.
- I create a link to the show and post it to my *Bookin’ It!* blog:
<http://bookinitpodcast.blogspot.com/>
- I then post a link to the blog on Feedburner (www.feedburner.com). Apparently, THAT’S when it becomes a “podcast” instead of just an internet link with audio.

You can listen to *Bookin’ It!* by subscribing on iTunes or by going to my website at www.readingwithmsbyrd.com. Happy podcasting!



South Carolina Book Award Program Wrap-Up

Greetings from the Book Award Committee! I just want to thank everyone who participated in this year's book award program and encourage everyone to continue to support this wonderful event. AND, if you happen to know a book award committee member, give that person a big pat on the back! This committee is a lot of fun, but it is also a lot of work.

This year was the first year that the Picture Book Award was voted on and I don't think anyone was disappointed to hear that Mo Willem's ***Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*** won. We received nearly 26,000 votes for the Picture Book category from 195 schools, and Mo Willem's precious read received over 20% of those votes. What a wonderful kick-off to this, our newest book award!

Other winners this year were:

Children's Book Award: ***Diary of a Worm*** by Doreen Corwin

Junior Book Award: ***House of the Scorpion*** by Nancy Farmer

Young Adult Book Award: ***Eragon*** by Christopher Paolini

Altogether, we had 575 schools reporting votes and over 55,000 votes cast this year in all voting categories. We look forward to even more participation next year. How can we make this happen? With YOU of course! The new nominee lists and activity guides are already out and posted at www.scasl.net under the Book Award link at the left of the page. If you haven't visited it, then check it out!

Book Award Banner Program

This year's book award banners were beautiful, as always. Judges for the banners had a very difficult time choosing a winner out of all the artistically designed representations of the nominees in each of four categories, but the winners were:

Picture Book Award

1st Place: ***Bear Snores On*** submitted by Pocalla Springs Elementary

2nd Place: ***The Dot*** submitted by J.K. Gourdin Elementary

3rd Place: ***Snowmen at Night*** submitted by Pineview Elementary

Children's Book Award

1st Place: ***Chief*** submitted by Pineview Elementary

2nd Place: ***Fame and Glory in Freedom, GA*** submitted by Moore Intermediate

3rd Place: ***Guardians of Ga'Loo: The Capture*** submitted by Beaufort Academy

Junior Book Award

1st Place: ***Swear to Howdy*** submitted by Sullivan Middle

2nd Place: ***East*** submitted by Westview Middle

3rd Place: ***Wenny Has Wings*** submitted by White Knoll Middle

Young Adult Book Award

1st Place: ***Second Summer of the Sisterhood*** submitted by Charleston School of the Arts

2nd Place: ***The Secret Life of Bees*** submitted by Boiling Springs High

3rd Place: ***An Ocean Apart, A World Away*** submitted by Timberland High

Special thanks to Linda Hall from Hanahan Middle School in Hanahan for receiving the banners this year and assembling a group of judges to evaluate the banners. The Book Award Committee will be reviewing the Book Award Banner program and submission guidelines in the near future. Please visit <http://www.scasl.net/bkwards/banner.htm> to view updated information as it is posted.

2006-2007 South Carolina Book Award Nominees. . .



Picture Book Award Nominees

Abe Lincoln: the Boy Who Loved Books
Kay Winters

Alice the Fairy
David Shannon

Babu's Song
Stephanie Suve-Bodeen

Baghead
Jarrett Krosoczka

Bertie was a Watchdog
Rick Walkton

Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book
Alexander Stadler

Boxes for Katje
Candace Fleming

Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum
Lisa Wheeler

A Christmas Like Helen's
Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Crazy Hair Day
Barney Saltzberg

Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll
Karin Ireland

Duck for President
Doreen Cronin

A Frog in the Bog
Karma Wilson

Hot Day on Abbott Avenue
Karen English

Hummingbird Nest: a Journal of Poems
Kristine O'Connell George

If Not for the Cat
Jack Prelutsky

Jackalope
Janet Stevens

Karate Hour
Carol Nevius

Knuffle Bunny
Mo Willems

Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook
Michael Garland

Saturdays and Tea Cakes
Lester Laminack

Squeal and Squawk: Barnyard Talk
Susan Pearson

What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile?
Judy Sierra

Whose Garden Is It?
Mary Ann Hoberman

Winners Never Quit
Mia Hamm



Children's Book Award Nominees

American Moments: Scenes from American History
Robert Burleigh

Becoming Naomi León
Pam Muñoz Ryan

Buttermilk Hill
Ruth White

Circle Unbroken: the Story of a Basket and Its People
Margot Theis Raven

Ghost of Cutler Creek
Cynthia C. DeFelice

Great Sockathon
M.C. Delaney

Heartbeat
Sharon Creech

Honeysuckle House
Andrea Cheng

Ida B.:...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, & (Possibly) Save the World
Katherine Hannigan

Knockin' on Wood: Starring Peg Leg Bates
Lynn Barasch

Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen
Marissa Moss

Niagara Falls, or Does It?
Henry Winkler

Operation Clean Sweep
Darleen Bailey Beard

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America
Sharon Robinson

Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry
Brian P. Cleary

Report Card
Andrew Clements

Seaward Born
Lea Wait

Up the Learning Tree
Marcia K. Vaughan

World According to Humphrey
Betty G. Birney

Young Man & the Sea
W.R. Philbrick

Picture Book Award Committee Members

❖

Jana Wood, Chair

Lisa Conrath, Vice Chair

Daniel Beach

D'Etta Broam

Susan Cassels

Megan Conrath

Gwen Davis

Jenny Dillworth

Sally Ficklen

Lynn Holcombe

Alleene Holland

Janet Kittrell

Carla Laney

Laura Linder

Michelle Martin

Taylor Moore

Donna Myles

Teri Puryear

Susanne Rhoten

Lois Stroud

Lisa Ulmer

Barbara Zinkovich

Children's Book Award Committee Members

❖

Celeste Stone, Chair

Theresa Harmon, Vice Chair

Tracy Anderson

Alayna Anderson

Becky Bridges

Valerie Byrd-Fort

Rose Davis

Lynne Douglas-Simmons

Jan Faile

Eleanor Haton

Jennifer Jones

Shelia Keaise

Mary Anne Kohl

Kitt Lisenby

Kathleen McTeer

Hannah Quackenbush

Marley Shaver

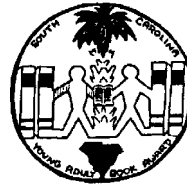
Deborah Wolfe

. . .and Book Award Committee Members



Junior Book Award Nominees

Al Capone Does My Shirts
Gennifer Choldenko
The Ballad of Sir Dinadan
Gerald Morris
Becoming Naomi León
Pam Muñoz Ryan
Chasing Vermeer
Blue Balliett
City of Ember
Jeanne DuPrau
Close to Shore: the Terrifying
Shark Attacks of 1916
Michael Capuzzo
Double Dutch
Sharon Draper
The Goblin Wood
Hilari Bell
Gregor the Overlander
Suzanne Collins
The Last Treasure
Janet S. Anderson
Millicent Min, Girl Genius
Lisa Yee
Mutiny's Daughter
Ann Rinaldi
North
Donna Jo Napoli
Race for the Sky: the Kitty
Hawk Diaries of Johnny
Moore
Dan Gutman
Shadows on the Sea
Joan Hiatt Harlow
So B. It
Sarah Weeks
Sweet Miss Honeywell's
Revenge: A Ghost Story
Kathryn Reiss
Trickster's Choice
Tamora Pierce
Worlds Afire: the Hartford
Circus Fire of 1944
Paul Janeczko
The Young Man and the Sea
Rodman Philbrick



Young Adult Book Award Nominees

After
Francine Prose
The Battle of Jericho
Sharon M. Draper
Can't Get There From Here
Todd Strasser
Contents Under Pressure
Lara M. Zeises
Cuba 15
Nancy Osa
Devil On My Heels
Joyce McDonald
Freaky Green Eyes
Joyce Carol Oates
Jake, Reinvented
Gordon Korman
Keesha's House
Helen Frost
The Last Chance Texaco
Brent Hartinger
Leaving Protection
Will Hobbs
A Mango-Shaped Space: A
Novel
Wendy Mass
Nothing to Lose
Alex Flinn
One of Those Hideous Books
Where the Mother Dies
Sonya Sones
Sarah's Ground
Ann Rinaldi
Shadow of a Doubt
S.L. Rottman
Teen Idol
Meg Cabot
Tending to Grace
Kimberly Newton Fusco
Tree Girl
Ben Mikaelson
The Truth About Forever
Sarah Dessen

Young Adult Book Award Committee Members

❖
Evelyn Newman,
Chair
Charlene Zehner,
Vice Chair
Kimberly Calhoun
Sheri Carpenter
Molly Carter
Joy Danigel
Mary Lou Elliott
Greta Flinn
Kay Horton
Maggie Horton
Sally Hursey
Hannah Jarrett
Heather Loy
Donna Moyer
Pamela Newton
Stephanie Nichols
Leah Roche
Haley Rogers
Michelle Williams

Junior Book Award Committee Members

❖
Leigh Jordan, Chair
Henry Hall,
Vice Chair
Sandy Bailey
Elizabeth
Blankenship
Teresa Blankenship
Kelly Brown
Kathleen Butler
Kristen Dominick
Brandy Caroway
Linda Hall
Tricia Hartley
Susan Henley
Tami Huggins
Cassidy Jarrett
Debbie Jarrett
Kim Livingston
Jennifer Mitchum
Tambra Pingle
James Washick
Marci Yates

Well Deserved Recognitions



Martha and Lawren

The American Association of School Librarians awarded the South Carolina Department of Education a Certificate of Commendation for the "Design by the Book" library makeover program which highlights the needs of school libraries across the state in a take-off on the current popularity of reality-based television programs. Martha Alewine, SDE Consultant for School Library Media Services, developed the "Design by the Book" program and accepted the award on behalf of the SC Department of Education.

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians' Book Awards Program received a formal commendation by the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) at their 2005 Annual Conference of the American Library Association for its addition of a Picture Book Division encouraging children in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade to read quality contemporary literature.. Since the mission of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is to "advocate excellence, facilitate change, and develop leaders in the school library media field", AASL members felt that the addition of this division was worthy of the recognition. Joyce Moore, organizational chair of the Picture Book Award Division, received a plaque and letter of commendation at the 2005 SCASL Conference in March, a copy of which will be placed in the SCASL archives.



Lawren and Joyce

Retirees Section

The concurrent session sponsored by the Retired Section at the Spring Conference of SCASL was well attended. Mrs. Alice Copeland of the South Carolina Retirement System presented an excellent program, "Retirement Information Updates". Mrs. Copeland not only took questions during the presentation, she graciously stayed and answered individual questions after the session.

It was wonderful to see so many retirees at the conference. Let's keep up this trend next year in Columbia! Retirees, don't forget to let your representative to the SCASL Board know what you would like to have for our program next year. Please consider joining the Retirees Section Committee to help implement ways to be of service to our organization.

Joan Kruger, Chair
mjk2450@att.net

Constitution and By-Law Changes Passed at Spring Conference

At the SCASL Annual Conference in March the membership voted to accept the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws which were presented in the February 2006 issue of the *Media Center Messenger*. There was a two-thirds affirmative vote to increase dues for ALL members and to change the name of the Non-Public Schools committee to Special Public/Independent Schools. The amendments will not go into effect until the 2007-2008 year which begins on July 1, 2007.

Sally Hursey, Constitution Committee Chair
Sally.hursey@spartanburg2.k12.sc.us

SCASL Standing Committee Members & Chairs

Advocacy

Greta Flinn, Chair
Andi Fansher
Valerie Byrd Fort
Peggy Harrison

Archives & History

Mitzi Burden, Chair
Laura Jackson
Joyce Moore
Joan Kruger
Sue Pruitt

Awards

Patty Bynum, Chair
Melissa Adair
Susan Adams
Mica Brakefield
Elizabeth Padgett
Judy Parham

Constitution & ByLaws

Sally Hursey, Chair
Charlene Zehner
Katie Hughey
Brenda Milton

Book Awards

Samantha McManus, Chair
See pages 10-11.

Editorial

Laura Jackson, Chair
See page 3.

Elections

Martha Taylor, Chairman
Janet Boltjes
Elizabeth Gregory
Margaret Mackey
Frances O'Neal

Information Technology

Catherine Nelson, Chair

Intellectual Freedom

Andi Fansher, Chair
Greta Flinn

more

Fairfield County Participates in Flat Stanley Activities

Kathy Walker, McCrorey-Liston Elementary, kwalker@fairfield.k12.sc.us

What do you get when you take 3,087 third grade students from 158 classrooms in 88 schools from 27 counties in South Carolina? You get an innovative project called *Flat Stanley Learns about South Carolina History!*

This project, started in 2003 by McCrorey-Liston Elementary School library media specialist Kathy Walker, has been helping students all over South Carolina learn about their state's history in a fun, interactive way. The project starts with teachers reading the book *Flat Stanley* to their students. *Flat Stanley* is about a little boy who is flattened when a bulletin board falls on him during the night. As a flat person, Stanley finds out that he can do things that he could never do before. One of these things is to be folded up and mailed to see his cousins in another state. Using this idea and basing her project on an ongoing Flat Stanley project started by Canadian teacher Dale Huber, Walker got permission from Huber to adapt the idea to help South Carolina students learn about South Carolina history.

Students who participate in the project conduct research about their communities, digging up information about historical events, famous historical people, civil war battles fought there, and other information of interest. They then write letters, incorporating the information from their research. These letters, along with Flat Stanleys that the students make, are sent through the mail to other participating classes. When the Flat Stanleys arrive at the schools, they "visit" for several days. At the end of the visitation period, students write another letter, telling about Flat Stanley's activities while he was visiting. The students also include the information that they had gathered when researching their communities. The letters and Flat Stanleys are sent back to the original schools.

Participating teachers have used a variety of creative ways to incorporate the information that their students receive in their social studies curriculum. The teachers have their students share the information that they receive in the letters with the other students in the class. Many of them display a large map of South Carolina and indicate where the Flat Stanleys came from. Other ideas that have been used include keeping journals, making books using the information, and making up packages of artifacts to help others learn about their communities.

Walker reports that she has had many teachers who have participated in the project every year since she started it in 2003. This year, teachers Seledia Jackson (Kelly Miller Elementary) and Margaret Robinson (McCrorey-Liston Elementary) and library media specialist Brenda Boyd (Kelly Miller Elementary) all represented Fairfield County schools in the project. To see more information about the project, visit the McCrorey-Liston Library Media Center website at

www.myschoolonline.com/sc/mrs_walker.



DISCUS DATABASE ASSESSMENT SURVEY



We want your input!!!! The last DISCUS database evaluation survey was completed in the fall of 2002. The DISCUS Database Assessment Committee has determined that it is time for us to conduct a new survey of participating institutions. Jointly, we are creating a SHORT web-based survey that will be mounted on the DISCUS web site during the month of April. Please be on the lookout for more information about the survey. We thank you in advance for providing much needed input about our current database offerings, future content needs and other aspects of the DISCUS program.

DISCUS Article Appears in the Post & Courier

Fran Hawk, who is a columnist for the Post and Courier, an author and the librarian at Clark Academy, has recently written a wonderful article about DISCUS from the K-12 perspective. It is now available through one of the DISCUS databases — Custom Newspapers. The title of the article is, "S.C. Virtual Library a Reliable Resource." Please check it out!!

Robbie Van Pelt Memorial Grant

The media specialists of Greenville County are establishing a grant to honor the memory of Robbie Van Pelt, Greenville County Coordinator of Media Services from 1999-2005. Greenville County media specialists will apply for the grant by proposing an exemplary instructional activity they would like to do with students. The board members of the Greenville Council of Media Specialists will select the winning applicant each July. The donated monies will be deposited and the interest produced each year will be the amount of the award. Robbie Van Pelt's strong leadership set an example of dedication and enthusiasm for creating world-class media centers that we hope to continue with this memorial grant.

If you are interested in making a donation, checks should be made out to "Van Pelt Memorial" and sent to: **Terry Landreth, 505-A North Main Street, Room 222, Greer, SC 29650.**

Standards & Guidelines Report

The **Standards and Guidelines Committee** finished the alignment of the 2005 South Carolina social studies standards with our information literacy standards. The project has been sent to both Donna Shannon at USC and Martha Alewine.

Cathleen Moore, Chair
cmoore@mbi.hcs.k12.sc.us

Katrina Library Funds

The Friends of South Carolina Libraries' campaign to raise funds for the Hurricane Katrina battered New Orleans Public Library has passed the \$10,000 mark. There is still time to contribute. Just think if all library-media specialists contributed \$5 how much we could raise.

Contributions should be sent to:
**Friends of South Carolina Libraries,
PO Box 11121, Columbia, SC 29211.**

Special Public/Independent Schools

The Non-Public Schools committee changed its name to Special Public/Independent after an affirmative vote for this constitutional change by the membership. This name change reflects a broader range of memberships in this section of SCASL. It is our belief and hope that this name change will draw librarians from special public schools as well. Our section presented at the annual SCASL conference a workshop on information sharing. Presenters were Lakesha Darby, Reference Information Specialist Librarian, Miller Whittaker Library, SCSU and Patricia Bradley, Librarian, Felton Laboratory School. An information packet along with a list of two-year and four-year colleges and universities in close proximity to independent and special schools was distributed to workshop participants. The title of this workshop was Information Sharing Between College and School Libraries.

Patricia Bradley, Chair
pbradley@scsu.edu



HELP PRESERVE SCASL'S HISTORY

Do you have materials that belong in SCASL's archives? If so, please make arrangements for their transfer by contacting a member of the Archives and History Committee. The Committee will hold a work day this spring to further organize holdings which are now housed in the Caroliniana Library.

Mitzi Burden, Chair
burdenM@charter.net

Public Awareness Committee

We apologize that names submitted for the Honor Roll of Paraprofessionals and the Honor Roll of Administrators were not published in the conference brochure though they were presented. Letters to Honor Roll nominees were recently mailed. Pictures from our SCASL conference were submitted to the SCASL listserv. Post-conference announcements were submitted to SCASL members via the Network (Frankie O'Neal) for use with local newspapers and other media sources prior to the conference.

Thank you to members who served on the Public Relations Committee for this year.

Debbie Cooper, Chair
dcooper@fairfield.k12.sc.us

Regional News

Region 1A.

ANDERSON 1. **Monique German**, Powdersville Middle School, and **Becky Bridges** wrote and received a \$1000 grant from Dollar General to fund the district-wide literacy festival held in April at Wren High School. All district media specialists worked on the festival. Activities included authors, storytellers, an art exposition and auction, musical performances by both high school and elementary musicians, a book fair and swap, and a book walk. Folks from the Literacy Association, the Anderson County Public Library, and the district Family Literacy department attended. **OCONEE COUNTY.** Seneca Middle School, **Sydney Jones**, media specialist, hosted an African-American Author Celebration in February. During lunch students browsed author displays, listening to poetry readings, and enjoying refreshments. At Westminster Elementary, **Melissa Farmer** held celebration parties for the book award winner in the library for all the children who voted.

Region 1B.

CHEROKEE COUNTY. Retiring this year are: **Melba Lindler**, Blacksburg Elementary, **Evelyn Bennifield**, Limestone-Central Elementary, **Jan Sarratt**, Ewing Middle School, and **Jan Petty**, Northwest Elementary. **GREENVILLE COUNTY.** **Patty Bynum**, President of GCMS, reports that over \$1,900 has been raised for the **Robbie Van Pelt** Memorial Fund. The Instructional Materials Center has been named in honor of Robbie. As of March 27th, **Amanda LeBlanc** officially became the Media Services Coordinator for the county. **Ruth-Ann Dixon**, August Circle Elementary, will retire after 28 years as a media specialist, twenty-one of which were at Augusta Circle. Ruth-Ann also received a \$2,500 Best Buy Grant earlier this year, which was used to purchase equipment for the school's student-run news program. **Theresa Morelli** has announced that the original water colors for the book *Papa Bruce's Barnyard* written by **Beth Reynolds** and illustrated by **James Heaton** are on display in the Robert E. Cashion Media Center. Retiring media specialists in Greenville County are: **Judy Player**, Greenville High School, **Judy Lemmons**, Hillcrest Middle School, **Pam Huntley**, Woodmont High School, and **Ruth-Ann Dixon**, Augusta Circle Elementary. Blythe Academy of Languages, **Kathleen Carey** hosted two author visits this school year, thanks to the generosity of their PTA. **Laurie Myers**, author of *Lewis and Clark and Me: A Dog's Tale*, visited the third, fourth and fifth grade students. The unique perspective of this story, as well as the primary source journal entries of the explorers, made her appearance a great curriculum connection. The third and fifth grade enjoyed Myers' visuals and explanation of the writing and publishing processes. She spoke about *My Dog*, *My Hero*, *Surviving Brick Jones*, *Earthquake in the Third Grade*, and *Guinea Pigs Don't Talk* and *The SOS File*. The following week author **Danny Schnitzlein**, played his guitar, sang, and spoke with the kindergarten, first and second grade students about his background and his book, *The Monster Who Ate My Peas*. The children enjoyed the rhyme and humor of the book. In addition, the first grade students were motivated to create their own vegetable monsters in the media center and later in the computer lab using Paint

software. In January, **Sandy Bailey**, Northwest Middle School, arranged for **Vivian Vande Velde** to fly down from New York to spend the day with the students talking about writing, her books (and cover art), and autographing books. Each student who had purchased a book had his picture taken with her and was then given a copy of the print. **Sherer Reid**, Mitchell Road Elementary School, hosted illustrator **Michael P. White**, *The Library Dragon*, who held assemblies with all of the students in grades K5-5. **SPARTANBURG COUNTY. District 2.** **Sally Hursey** and **Jay Campbell**, media specialists at Boiling Springs High School, held their 5th Annual Poetry Festival in March. The festival is the result of a year-long collaboration between the media center and the English Department. **Sally Hursey** will become a Secondary Literacy coach for the district next year. **District 5.** **Candi Vaughn**, Florence Chapel Middle School, received a Wal-Mart Grant for \$1,000 for a summer reading program in a low income housing development. **Pat Bridges**, Berry Shoals Intermediate School, will be retiring this year. **Melanie Dillard**, Wellford Elementary School, will graduate with a Master's in Library and Information Science in May. At Byrnes High School, **Judy Parham** and **Karen Hill** media specialists, the teachers book discussion group, called Chat & Chew, will read and discuss the 2006-07 SCYABA nominees on April 20th which is during the week set aside to celebrate National Library Week. **District 6.** Students, faculty and staff at Dawkins Middle School have surpassed the halfway mark in their attempt to read 20,000 books this year in their "20,000 Reads under the Sea" campaign where **Letitia Moore** is media specialist. The school cafeteria is being transformed into an undersea wonderland as one fish per book read is being mounted on a sea of blue. At Anderson Mill Elementary School, **Laura Tripp** heralded the coming of their "Kingdom of Reading" book fair, and was selected as a second place winner in the Fall 2005 Scholastic Books' "Start a Book Fair Buzz" contest. **Amber Keeran**, media specialist, reports that "Magical Storyteller" **Mark Daniel** presented an assembly of magic and puppets for students and an evening for parents at Jesse S. Bobo Elementary in conjunction with their Book Fair.

Region 2.

MCCORMICK. **Betty Daniels**, Douglas Elementary in Trenton, was featured in "Who's Who Among America's Educators" in November 2005.

Region 3.

LANCASTER. Author **Alex Flinn** visited Lancaster High School in April. A.R. Rucker Middle School is hosting a caricaturist in January to kick-off the library's new graphic novel collection and 40 students were selected to receive a free caricature by an artist at Paramount's Carowinds. Author **Sharyn McCrumb** visited Indian Land High School in November. "Buck 4 Books" campaign has begun to encourage parents and teachers to honor friends and family with a donation to

Regional Network Frankie O'Neal, Director

Special Public/Independent Schools: Patricia Bradley
Retirees: Joan Kruger

Members & Chairs* By Regions

1A Carolyn Segers*

Becky Bridges
Pam Wright
Deborah Jordan
Pam Owens
Carolyn Segers
Tracy Whaley
Yvonne Mayo

1B Sue Fitzgerald*

Darla Cudd
Sandy Bailey
Nancy Gauden
Katie Huhey
Judy Mammoth
Colleen Hitchcock
Judy Parham
Peggy McQuade
Lee Ann Bailie

2 Lyn Wolfe*

Greta Flinn
Jean Peeler Cover
Peggy Harrison
Linda Martin
Patricia Henderson
Sherri Sherer
Janice Meeks
Jill Altman

3 Betty Jordan*

Teresa McKenzie
Debbie Hegler
Pam Sloss
Caylen Whitesides
Nancy Kivette
Betty Jordan
Susan Cassels

4A Harriet Pauling*

Dupre Young
Janie Doyle
Judy Derrick
Pam Livingston
Jessica Felker

4B Elizabeth Gregory*

Marilyn Gramling
LaDoris Walker
Beth Lee . . .

the media center for the purchase of books. **YORK 2. Clover.** **Nancy Kivett**, Clover High School, reports that the district has allotted extra funding, beyond the annual budget, to media centers to replace worn out and outdated books. Clover High School got almost \$80,000. Students contributed over \$800 in a one-week period towards Pets in Peril, to assist displaced Katrina pets. They also contributed pet food, toys, etc. to the local Humane Society to replace items sent to help Katrina pets. **YORK. Rock Hill.** Thanks to a \$6,000 EIA grant, **Tim Lowry**, nationally known performer, was guest artist in January at Old Pointe Elementary School. He worked with third graders each day and gave presentations to other grades once during the week as well as a teacher workshop after school and a night performance. A grant from the Arts Council of Rock Hill covered his expenses. At Sullivan Middle School, **Betty Jordan** teamed up with a 7th grade math teacher and they were awarded a \$1,000 Rock Hill Foundation grant which provided a Jeopardy game and extra components for use with instruction as well as competition activities. **CHESTER. Teresa McKenzie**, Chester Senior High School, conducted a session at the SCASL conference entitled "Bookclubs Are Us."

Region 5A.

AIKEN COUNTY. North Augusta High School is sponsoring a "gently used" book drive to help Bay St. Louis High School in Mississippi. **Lynn Goodwin**, LMS, is coordinating the effort. Paul Knox Middle School Media Center is hosting a Parent Breakfast for parents to preview their book fair in April. Author **Mary Triola** visited the school in October. **Valerie Hoffman** reports that Mrs. Triola fascinated students as she played her harp and other musical instruments and talked about the characters in her books. She also autographed copies of her books for the students. **Aiken.** Retiring this year are: **Cindy Snell**, Warrenville Elementary, **Nancy Lex**, Aiken High, and **Faye Oswald**, Gloverville Elementary. **Serena DuBose** is moving to Barnwell from Belvedere Elementary. Midland Valley High School was awarded a grant from the Aiken Council of the International Reading Association. **Sue Anne Beym** and **David Harrison** are the LMS's there. **BARNWELL. District 29.** **John Rainey**, Williston/Elko Middle/High Schools, received a \$500 grant to buy camera equipment to support the high school news program.

Region 5B.

CALHOUN COUNTY. In March, **Julia Fanning** hosted author **Dori Sanders** for a Writer's Workshop including all English students at Calhoun County High School. Food and Nutrition students prepared a faculty luncheon using recipes from Dori's Country Cooking book. English students read one of her novels, completed journal responses, learning logs, and a variety of final products to maximize the literacy impact of Ms. Sanders' visit. **ORANGEBURG. District 5.** **Regina Taylor**, Robert E. Howard Middle School, made *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* for the second year in a row (2006 edition).

Region 6.

SUMTER. District 2. A 3rd grade Social Studies Web Quest "Where in South Carolina is Sandy Coast?" was created and presented by **Michael Duffy**, Shaw Height's El-

ementary, grades 2-3 school, at the SCIRA in Myrtle Beach. It was based on lessons developed by the 3rd grade teachers. Pocalla Springs Elementary media specialist, **Donna Myles**, hosted **Tim Lowery** to kick-off the Celebration of "Read Across America." He gave three performances to all grade levels and then conducted workshops demonstrating good storytelling. **CLARENDON. District 2.** **Marguerite Harris** is retiring as media specialist at Manning Primary School. **KERSHAW. Norma Young** will retire at the end of the year from Blaney Elementary.

Region 7.

FLORENCE. District 1. In March, Charleston's **Carol Poole** and **Becky Dingle**, familiarly known as "The Social Studies Ladies," were in Royall Elementary School's library working with each grade level of students and teachers demonstrating how to incorporate the arts with the social studies standards for each grade level. They used a multitude of picture books as they incorporated drama, music and movement to teach specific standards. **Betty Anne Smith** is the media specialist at Royall. The kindergarten students at Henry Timrod Elementary celebrated *Read Across America* with a Mardi Gras celebration. During February, kindergarten and fifth grade students raised money by selling Mardi Gras beads and bracelets to purchase books for the children of New Orleans. The students collected \$404.50 during the event! **Cynthia Sneed** is the media specialist at Timrod. **Susan Lane**, Moore Intermediate, headed a celebration of Valentine's Day and reading with "I Love Reading! Night". Some 150 parents and students read books together and enjoyed pizza afterwards. Carver Elementary celebrated "Read Across America" by sponsoring a classroom door decorating contest. Judges from the district office selected winners. **Melanie Stewart**, USC intern at Carver, spearheaded the idea for this event. **District 3.** **Kaye Thomas**, Ronald E. McNair Middle School, will retire after 37 years of teaching. The last 12 years have been as media specialist.

Region 9A.

CHARLESTON. In April, **Deborah Bobo**, St. Andrews Elementary, hosted **Will Dantzler**, 14 year-old Mt. Pleasant author of *The Sword of the Dragon Master* who spoke to 4th and 5th graders. **Fran Hawk** attended a luncheon in honor of their South Carolina Book Award Committees composed of 18 students, who worked through the summer and the early part of the year to promote the book awards program. Fran talked about the writing process, and her book, *The Story of the H.L. Hunley and Queenies Coin*. Each student received an autographed copy of her book. **Debbie Stroman**, Whitesides Elementary, hosted a St. Patrick's Day Book Swap and gave away 2,500 books donated by students. Debbie was able to offer free books to everyone in the school. The media centers at McClellanville Middle and St. James Santee Elementary Schools hosted **Marc John Jefferies** in March. Marc, author of the Secret Agent MJJ series and teen actor starring in "The Haunted Mansion" with Eddie Murphy, spoke to the students at St. James Santee in the morning and later spoke to two groups at McClellanville Middle School. He spoke at length about his commitment to his education, the need to set goals and his writing ideas. **Kim Livingston** is the media specialist at McClellanville Middle and **Tina Berger** is the media specialist at St. James-Santee Elementary. Teacher coaches **Audra**

5A Mary Lou Wallace*

Linda Day
Donna Taylor
Heidi Lewis
John Rainey

5B Anita Hutto*

Cynthia Tucker
Julia Fanning
Helen Winningham
Wendy Blevins
Samantha McManus

6 Kitt Lisenby*

Sylvia Witherspoon
Lynda Lee
Penny Kemp
Susan Prettyman
Mary Miller
Carolyn Buckner
Anita Vaughn

7 Debra Heimbrook*

Shari Caskey
Judy Hall
Liz Herlong
Ruthann Wooten
Ginger Brown
Vonnice Smith
Gayla Williams
Amy Fouse
Pam Hyman
Janice Lane
Robin Horne
Elaine Hite
Teresa Reid

8 Sabra Bell*

Grier Rivers
Elaine Culick

9A Bill Langston*

Kim Livingston
Debbie Stroman
Melanie Crumpton
Joyce Smith
Michele Bryan
Beth Hale
Beth McGuire
Stephanie Sistrunk-Edwards

9B Lynne Dubay*

Linda Hall
Suzanne Crow
Joyce Pearson

10 VACANT

Leah Roche
Celeste Stone
Carole McGrath
Audrey Koudelka
Karin Kadar

Pinckney and **Bonnie Wall** organized the visit. James B. Edwards Elementary, **Laura Judson** media specialist, hosted **Gail Karwolski**, author of *Water Beds, Sleeping in the Ocean* and first graders were able to visit with her and ask her questions about her research into the sleeping habits of marine mammals. Sylvan Dell Publishers donated a class set of the book to James B. Edwards Elementary school so that teachers can use the book as a class teaching tool to explore the world of animals in their habitats. **Gail Galey**, media specialist at Orange Grove Elementary, has been selected by NASA to serve as Solar System Ambassador for the year 2006. For more information on the Solar System Ambassador program go to <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/ambassador/> **Minerva King**, St. John's High School, Johns Island, attended the annual Young Writer's Conference at Ballentine Elementary School in Columbia in March. Six authors presented to over 500 registered student writers who were given the opportunity to have their works critiqued by these authors. Minerva also performed as a storyteller at the conference. **Robert Olson**, principal of West Ashley High School, was chosen Administrator of the Year at the South Carolina Association of School Librarians' Conference in March. **Elizabeth Miller**, Coordinator of School Library Field Experiences at the University of South Carolina, recently went to Singapore to help evaluate their media programs. She took with her West Ashley High School's media center orientation video to share with their schools. North Charleston High School, **Mary Kathleen Dorkewitz** media specialist, celebrated this month's Women's History by taking snapshots of local female population. The display was in the media center. It was a unique way to celebrate not only notable women but also local women. Charleston author and illustrator **Kate Salley Palmer** visited Angel Oak Elementary for a Young Author's Conference. She gave a presentation on her books, *The Pink House*, *Palmetto-Symbol of Courage*, and *Francis Marion, Legend of the Swamp Fox*. The media center and classroom hall decorations were inspired by her books.

Region 9B.

DORCHESTER. District 2. Gin-g Edwards, Alston Middle School, hosted an UMOJA Night in February that featured low-country heritage: sweet grass baskets, Gullah, storytelling, steel drums, poetry, music, and low-country cuisine. She wrote an EIA grant titled: "S.C. History: Alive and Well" which helped fund this event. **BERKELEY.** Sue Coleman is the new media specialist at Boulder Bluff Elementary. **Joanne Schwartz**, Goose Creek Primary, has written the article entitled "Collaboration That Works" published in the Feb/March issue of *The School Librarian's Workshop*. The Timberland High School Media Center received a School-to-Work/Service Learning Mini-Grant for \$891 to enhance reading through the "Reading in the Wolf Pack Café". **Donna Rodin** and **Fausteen Hodge** have collaborated with the staff and students to make the café a successful program. They also won 3rd place in the SCYABA banner contest for *An Ocean Apart, A World Away* by Lensey Namioka. The College Park Middle School Media Center sponsored their first Battle of the Books competition which was a successful incentive reading program. **Julie Mise** at Rollings School of the Arts received National Board Certification. Fort Dorchester High School media center received two awards from the state PTA last year: one for a Literary Café program, the other an endowment grant for the program supporting the SC Young Adult Book Awards.

Region 10.

HAMPTON COUNTY. District 2. Audrey Koudelka reports that the district School Board allocated an extra \$6000 to Estill High School's book budget so that up-to-date books could be purchased. The American Association of University Women has adopted the media center and has donated books and money so that the collection can be further updated.

Region 1B.

Riverside Middle School

Gayle Forbes, media specialist at Riverside Middle School, reports that students participated in a creative writing contest to tell the story of Sir Russell, a knight charging on horseback toward a fire-breathing dragon, as painted in the new media center mural. The winners received monetary prizes, and their stories will be published and made available from the media center.



Region 9A.

North Charleston Elementary School reopened this fall as a completely new 92,000+ square foot facility. The PreK-5 school is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) registered school in South Carolina and has many energy saving and environmentally friendly features. The 4,000+ square foot media center features 11,000+ books, a production studio and conference room, and an outdoor reading patio. **Debbie Palmer** is media specialist at North Charleston Elementary.

National Honor Society and Teacher Cadets
presents

Leaders for Literacy Rockin' Read-A-Thon

What: District 10 Read-A-Thon

Where: West Ashley High School Football Stadium

When: Friday, April 7, 2006, 9am-1pm

In conjunction with the Children, Libraries, and Literacy Initiative sponsored by the University of South Carolina, the **West Ashley High School** National Honor Society and Teacher Cadets hosted this Read-A-Thon for the purpose of raising money for literacy programs in our community, raising community awareness of literacy programs, encouraging students in District 10 to read daily, and challenging students in District 10 to take responsibility for their learning through reading.

Region 5B.

**Big Doings at Sandy Run Elementary
and John Ford Middle School**

School students have been ‘traveling’ around our country all year! Media specialists **Tami Huggins, Susan Morris,** and **Mary Jo Springs** collaborated to design this activity. Although each school’s journey was a little different and designed for their particular needs, students have ‘traveled’ to a different state in the U.S. about every five weeks. Based on hints provided through our morning news show, students played a guessing game at the beginning of each trip, as they tried to determine which state we were visiting next. Once the destination was revealed, classes visited the media center to complete a research activity on that state. The research activity concentrated on improving information literacy skills, including creating a bibliography, evaluating sources, using higher order thinking skills, and engaging in inquiry based learning. Each ‘trip research activity’ included an ‘independent research extension activity’ that students could choose to do at home, in the classroom, or in the media center, before the end of the ‘trip’. Over the course of our ‘travels’ throughout this school year, we have learned much about different areas of the country. In addition, we are becoming information literate, lifelong learners who enjoy having our minds piqued with a higher level of questioning.

Third graders at Sandy Run Elementary spent the last few weeks working on animal research. They were studying survival, specifically habitat, physical adaptations, and food requirements. The discussion of these issues began in the classroom. Students came to the media center where they read Margaret Brown’s *The Important Book*. We watched a video from United Streaming entitled “Animal Places, Animal Faces.” Students chose their animals to investigate; we reviewed The Big Six; and they began their research. They used three resources in different formats, practiced/learned new information literacy skills (creating a bibliography, evaluating sources, taking notes w/concept web, etc.). Then, they took their notes and wrote a paragraph, modeling their writing after Brown’s format in *The Important Book*. Students drew their animals in their habitat. The paragraphs and pictures were put together to form a class book, *The Important Book of Animal Survival*. In addition, each page of the book was scanned into a computer and students presented their book to other classes in the school, using an LCD projector. A small group of students explained the process they had gone through to create the book. It was a great learning experience for the third graders, the classes who came to hear the presentation, the collaborating teacher, and media specialist Tami Huggins!

An Important Part of SCASL History Is Gone: The Implosion of the Carolina Plaza

When the Carolina Inn opened in 1973 it was Columbia’s first major convention hotel. From 1978 through 1984, The Carolina Inn or Carolina Plaza was the locale of the SCASL annual conference. After a two million dollar renovation, it reopened on November 25, 1985, as the Radisson Hotel Columbia and SCASL again held its conferences there in 1989 and 1990.



19246... Carolina Plaza tumbled down in implosion

On February 11, 1992, it was purchased by the University of South Carolina for use as a welcome center. In 1995, the South Carolina General Assembly used this as a temporary “State House” while the South Carolina Statehouse was being renovated. But the Carolina Inn, Plaza, Radisson, welcome center met its end in about 15 seconds when 1,000 sticks of dynamite imploded the tower at 8:02 a.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2006. It was demolished to make way for the University of South Carolina’s Arnold School of Public Health and USC’s Innovista.



Vital Statistics

Sympathy is extended to Marie Carter Youmans whose mother passed away in February.

Sympathy is extended to Martha Alewine, SDE, on the loss of her father.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Anne Prentiss Moore Lewis, who passed away in March. Mrs. Lewis was an assistant librarian for many years before becoming a librarian with the Sumter Public Library.

In February, Yvette Allen, Grove Elementary, was married and became Yvette Case.

Heather Kanipe, Oakland Elementary, announced the birth of her daughter, Abigail Madelyn, in February.

A Juggling Act:

Reflections on Really Being in Charge-Years 1,2...Will I stay?

Mary Dorkewitz, North Charleston High, mary_dorkewitz@charleston.k12.sc.us

When the school year started I would never have dreamed of not being among my books and working with students and teachers less than I usually did. I was happily and blissfully adrift in my sea of books, computers, students and staff. I drifted over slowly rolling waves doing research, promoting our library during freshman orientation, not having to make many earth-shattering decisions, not “the boss”. Like Robert Duvall in “Apocalypse Now” I loved the smell of books early in the morning! That always jump-started me on my daily journey across the sea of questions, research panic, and computer problems.

That all changed on one hot day in August. What a shock to the system! I was asked to be “in charge.” I knew my little, secure boat had suddenly developed a very slow, dangerous leak. My protective cocoon had dissolved. No longer was I in the safe-haven of my sailboat. I was now on a make-shift log raft trying to stay afloat during the storm of the century.

I never had an appreciation for jugglers until that fateful Friday! The first few weeks I drifted in and out of a major fog bank. I said “yes” and “no” to things and situations I do not even remember. I attended meetings, meetings and more meetings. And, if I had not taken careful notes, I don’t think I would remember what went on, what decisions were made. I never knew just how lucky I had been.

Jugglers?...as I look back on the year, jugglers have it easy. They know what they are juggling, and know where and when each object will come down. But best of all they can put all of that aside and go on with something else. We can’t. We have very few clues as to what we will be juggling. Teachers and students are very different juggling items. We are ambushed every minute with situations even we cannot imagine. How do you handle teachers waiting on you to open the library at 6:20 a.m. when you first arrive? (That event disrupts your morning routine.) You have to react with as much caring and concern as possible even when you haven’t had that second cup of coffee or time to put your things down.

During the day many balls may be thrown at you, over you and around you. What do you do? Well, you just have to handle each event as it unfolds

Ball 1: The daily copy of the newspaper hasn’t arrived. I have to call the circulation department at the newspaper and find out why.

Ball 2: I am told that I have to create a LMC Advisory Board. A what? I ask myself. What happened to the old one?

Ball 3: State survey? I have to fill one of those out too? Based on last year’s statistics? I was with my students and books most of the time. What do I remember about last year? This document is asking for budget amounts. We have a new prince. Will he even know? (I did get a budget breakdown but not until late in first semester.)

Ball 4: Answering the phone is at best a chancy situation. You never know who is on the other end. Lots of times the caller is a salesperson offering fantastic deals. All you have to do to get a quick hang-up is to tell them you have no money. I’ve never heard the dial tone return as quickly as when no money is an answer.

All of this is happening and it’s only 7:00 in the morning.

Ball 5: The copier is out of toner and paper. That’s not our job but we call anyway. We are trying to keep the staff happy.

Ball 6: The copier is jammed and nobody said anything until another staff member tried to copy her test for next period. Another phone call.

Ball 7: All the while classes are coming to do research. Now, where is that collaboration sheet? The labs are full, computers are freezing up, printers are printing like there’s no tomorrow. Printing brings on a whole slew of new mini-balls: “Ten cents? For each page?” or “I didn’t mean to print that 35 page document!”, or (my personal favorite) “That’s not mine!”

Ball 8: I have to participate in what? State reading incentives? We’re lucky to be able to open each day and plod through this sea of huge waves of requests. But we will try.

The balls never stop hurling towards you. The bombardment of events, problems, questions, complaints, and many other missiles never stop. It doesn’t ease up even when you finally get to go home. “They” have your phone number and your email address. “They” can find you.

So how do you handle all those bouncing, darting missiles day-in and day-out? It is not easy. High schools are ever-changing beasts. You can either work with the beast or let it devour you. I find that working with the beast is the better choice. You have to take each event as it unfolds. Computers are malfunctioning? Try to fix it or call in reinforcements. Are you overwhelmed by multiple classes on a daily basis? Handle each of them one at a time by making the rounds through each group whether they are in the reading room or in a lab. One of your teachers checked out a laptop and LCD setup and it won’t work for her? You have to answer that call as soon as you can. But how do you leave twenty students at your circ desk wanting twenty different things? Again handle each one in order of request.

You can make list after list of things to do but the list doesn’t take into account the unexpected. You have to anticipate that not all things can be planned. When things seem to be too much and you are pulled in 25 different directions, just stop for a second, take a deep breath, and let the balls you are trying to juggle fall where they may. You are only one person, maybe two if you are lucky enough have a LMC assistant.

Wait... Good news! We are hiring a second library media specialist! Hallelujah! I hope she is ready to capture some of the missiles we’ve been juggling!

~ SCASL Award Winners 2006 ~



Betty Jordan, Media Specialist of the Year

Chris Christy from Hart, Inc. presenting the award

Betty Jordan runs a dynamic media center program at Sullivan Middle School in Rock Hill. She has begun such programs as a Family Literacy Night, a weekly Boys' Breakfast Club held in the media center to provide extra help in reading and writing, creating a curriculum map for her faculty, based on the teachers' long range plans, and an historical fiction reading incentive program in collaboration with social studies teachers. She is also very involved at the district level, where she served on the committee that developed the Rock Hill School District Research Model, used by every school in the district. Her principal, Dr. Robert Heath, says Sullivan Middle School has "been blessed with her initiative and proactive, service-minded efforts for seven years," and the greatest difficulty I have "in writing this letter is that of failing to remember all of the things she has done for our school."

Robert Olson, Co-Administrator of the Year Award

East Educational Services Co. presenting the award



Robert Olson has been principal of West Ashley High School in Charleston since it opened in 2001. Martha Ameika has worked for him during this time, and she says in her nomination letter that his "support of print media and state-of-the-art technology is extraordinary." Their collection of online databases is as comprehensive as any high school in South Carolina, according to the Gale regional representative. Mr. Olson has also been personally committed to providing more than \$65,000 above the regular budgeted amount over the last three years to allow for extensive weeding and book purchases to dramatically improve the average copyright date of the collection. He frequently brings visitors to the school to the

media center to see the state-of-the art technology available to teachers and shares how the media specialists support the instructional goals of the school. He is to be commended for his vision to establish an outstanding media center at West Ashley High School.

Dr. Richard Moniuszko, Co-Administrator of the Year

East Educational Services, Inc. presenting the award



Dr. Moniuszko has been the Deputy Superintendent for Richland School District One for the past six years. Ida Thompson, in her nomination letter, describes the many hours he spends attending school-based library activities, how he participates in monthly professional development sessions for media specialists, and his thorough understanding of the standards and practices of media specialists. In addition to his understanding and support of the vital role media specialists play in the educational setting, he has also been instrumental in acquiring over \$2,076,000 for the purchase of print materials for school media centers over the last six years. And he has brought about important changes in district budgeting procedures that will ensure an exclusive allocation for print materials and library resources at every school in Richland

One. An additional significant achievement has been that he has secured the approval of a district-wide computer replacement program, which removes one quarter of the old computers from each school each year and replaces each one with a new computer. We salute Dr. Moniuszko for his many accomplishments on behalf of all of the school media specialists in Richland One.

Denise Hilton, Media Paraprofessional of the Year

Follett presenting the award



Denise Hilton has been such an enthusiastic media assistant at the K-8 Mason Preparatory School in Charleston that she has been a member of SCASL since 2001 and attended the annual conference each of the last three years. She reads all of the nominees for the South Carolina Book Award program each year, helps plan and implement media center programs, and has a caring relationship with students and faculty members. Marci Yates, the media specialist at Mason Prep who nominated Denise for this award, says that Denise's good humor has been clearly evident when she has dressed in character for special events as a "Geisha Girl,"

or "Rodeo Cowgirl." Her principal, James Mobley, describes her as cooperative, dependable, and one who "relates exceptionally well with her peers."

Ida Thompson, SCASL Distinguished Service Award
Bob Rinaldi of Sagebrush Corporation presenting the award.



This year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award is a dearly loved friend who has been a member of our organization for as long as it has existed, 28 years. She began her career as a media specialist at McCants Elementary School and later transferred to Eau Claire High School, both in the same school district that she had attended growing up. She then became the library media consultant for the Richland One School District and now serves as director of the Office of Instructional Technology Services. Her leadership in our state is well known and it is a challenge to condense her accomplishments in a brief list. But here are some:

- Is a Past president of SCASL – 1988, and is president-elect this year
- Plans and coordinates a week-long Summer Leadership program for Richland One media specialists, and a professional development opportunity each month to Richland One media specialists
- Sponsors an annual Visual Literacy Festival in Richland One
- Strongly supports the Reading is Fundamental program through the Reading Rocks program
- Is a visionary and spokesman for the vital role of the school library media programs in our state.

Both Linda Bartone and Martha Taylor submitted nominations of this person for the award and we join them in honoring Ida Thompson as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for 2006.

Paula Shaw – Nancy Jane Day Scholarship



Paula Shaw is a graduate of Georgia Tech who has worked in the business world since her college graduation in 1985. She is finishing her library science courses at USC and doing her first internship this semester and she anticipates graduating in May of this year. Her husband and teenage children have been supportive as she has worked as a substitute teacher, often in school media centers in Greenville County, while she has worked on her masters. But she is nearing the time when student loans will have to be repaid, and SCASL is pleased to be able to help her towards the expenses of SLIS J757, Young Adult Literature, by awarding her the Nancy Jane Day Scholarship.

Christina Burch, Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship



Christina is a senior at Liberty High School, where Yvonne Mayo is the media specialist. Christina has been a Media Research Assistant for two years, a for-credit class where students create the school's web page, and the daily scrolling announcements for the school news, and troubleshoot computer problems throughout the school. During Christina's senior year she has taken the initiative to propose the creation of a broadcast journalism class that was approved by the Pickens School District. She raised the funds from community donors to purchase equipment, created the syllabus, and purchased the equipment and software for the class. Her involvement with the media center and the staff members has not only raised the level of service the media center provides, it has also sparked an interest in computers, web design, and broadcast

journalism in Christina that will continue as she attends Winthrop University in the fall to pursue a degree in communications. Congratulations, Christina. We are pleased to award you the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship of \$1,000 that will go toward your first semester's tuition.



Book Award Banners



Frankie O'Neal & Ashley Bryan

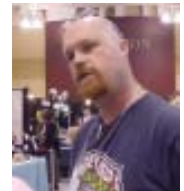


Hugs for Ida Thompson

Conference 2006



Martha Taylor & Pat Conroy



Joe Myers



The cruise



Pat Conroy



Dr. Dan & friend



Still more banners



More banners



Dr. Moniuszko & Ida Thompson



Ida Thompson & Lawren Hammond

South Carolina Association of School Librarians
March 7-9, 2007
 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, South Carolina
Application To Present Concurrent Session
 (Deadline for submission: Received by August 15, 2006)
 Please type or print all information.

Main Presenter

Vendor: Yes _____ No _____
 Name _____
 Institution _____
 Work address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Co -Presenter

Vendor: Yes _____ No _____
 Name _____
 Institution _____
 Work address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Session Title _____

Strand: Leadership Reading and Literacy Legislative Advocacy
 Collaboration Technology Integration

Session Description: Your description will appear in the program and should be written to “market” your session.
 (No more than 50 words.) _____

Please include a brief statement for the presider to use to introduce you at the session.

Presentation Equipment: Computer hardware, peripherals, and Internet connectivity will NOT be provided. Each room will have a screen, podium w/microphone, and table with multimedia projector

- I will provide my own equipment.
- My presentation does not require any equipment.
- Please provide the following equipment:
 - VCR DVD Overhead projector
 - Other (please specify) _____

Has this program been presented before? Yes No If yes, where? _____
 When? _____

Would you be willing to make your presentation twice? Yes No

Is there a day when you are NOT available to present? Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____

Is the appeal for: Elementary Middle High (Check all that apply.)

Are you a vendor? Yes No If yes, please state the name and address of the vendor: _____

Return to: Kitt Lisenby / 789 Huntley Shop Road / Chesterfield, SC 29709
Phone: 843-623-2285 / Email: Lisenbyk@kcsd.k12.sc.us
All applications must be received by August 15, 2006.

Electronic submissions are permissible.

All presenters must be listed on the application. Vendor presenters must be conference exhibitors.
 Attendance at any conference function other than your own requires paid registration.
 Presenters are responsible for their own conference expenses, including registration.
 This application to present is limited to SCASL members.
 Others interested in conference presentations should contact Kitt Lisenby, Program Chairman.
 Notification of acceptance will be mailed to the main presenter.

SCRI: It's About Libraries, Too!

Stephanie Davis, Lemira Elementary, Sumter, daviss@sumter17.k12.sc.us

Busy, busy, busy... isn't that the way things always are in every school library/media center? I, for one, struggle to get everything done on my daily "TO DO" list with six back-to-back classes and open checkout/research time from the first bell to the last. But as hectic as my days are, I have stumbled into a most interesting initiative that has produced quite a change in my reading presentations. This three year literacy-based instruction is the South Carolina Reading Initiative, otherwise known as SCRI. It was not my initial intention to volunteer to take on what I was sure to be another in a long line of literacy improvement "break throughs" that fizzle out after a period of time, nor did I see myself in the category of "Reading Teacher." I was (I assured myself) a media specialist, and sitting down to teach reading strategies to students each day was not the best use for what I felt my job description required. However, with subtle, repeated persuasion from my principal, I gave in, only to be pleasantly surprised by what I had preconceived to be just another "how to teach reading" class. Well, I am here to broadcast: It's not! Yes, SCRI does require a three-year enlistment period. However, classes meet twice each month with a trained literacy coach who carefully guides participants through books, professional readings, reading and writing practices that have enlightened my own ideas about story presentations and have improved upon the reading strategies that I do use with students during storytime. Classroom teachers learn, respond, and reflect on their own teaching methods as they develop a system of instructional practices and strategies while observing, gathering data, and reflecting on their own students' progress. Armed with this information, teachers build a purposeful literacy knowledge base with strategies that meet individual cognitive, social, and personal differences among students of varied cultural backgrounds and share this knowledge with colleagues.

YEAR #1. Our focus during Year #1 of SCRI was on reading. Participants chose students to observe and interview throughout the year about reading while keeping records on their progress. Relevant articles and readings from professional texts by noted experts such as Regie Routman supported and reinforced what was being taught to us not only for classroom use but for the media center as well. I used much of this information to reshape my reading presentation strategies in the media center. Collaboration with classroom teachers using reading strategies and booktalk information helped to sup-

port their units in various subject areas. All learned strategies and practices correlate with the Language Arts state standards for reading and writing as well as Science and Social Studies standards.

Each meeting during Year #1, and now during Year #2, our literacy coach conducts the most amazing book and author talks while soliciting and sharing our own responses to each reading which we, in turn, can use with our own students during storytime. After each session, I am so excited about the things I have learned that I can't wait to share not only with my students but with my sister, also a media specialist, as well. Anita, a middle school media specialist in our district, has been participating in her first year of the initiative. She has found SCRI to be an excellent collaborative resource in her meetings with teachers from each grade level. Like me, Anita has been able to tailor what she has learned through SCRI to meet the needs of her practice in the library/media center, and it has paid off with positive teacher response.

YEAR #2. During Year #2, our emphasis has been on responsive writing. This is not necessarily "report" writing, but writing that shows understanding and growth. After all, the more students write, the more they will be able to think about, select, differentiate, organize, and express their thoughts and ideas about what is important to the topic. For those of us in the SCRI class, our writing has reintroduced ourselves and allowed us to discover things about each other that, through all of our years together as colleagues, were never known but are now appreciated. Our in-class exercises are shared each week with our school faculty who join in the reading and writing fun with writings of their own. This has created quite a bond among us all and provided an avenue of unification in our effort to improve reading and writing skills for students in our school.

YEAR #3. I look forward to discovering what will be behind Year #3 as we continue to practice what we have learned with our students as well as with our colleagues. Each time I share my stories from SCRI with my students, I see them so much more engaged and responsive, and I know that my decision to participate has been as meaningful and profitable for them as it has been for me. Reflecting back....we are ultimately all teachers of readers and writers.

A little library lady humor from Carole H. McGrath, Wade Hampton High School, cmcgrath@hampton1.k12.sc.us

This has been floating around on the Net for some time, but just in case you haven't seen it. . .

"Bio-Optic Organized Knowledge" Device. . . Trade Name: BOOK

BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use, even a child can operate it. Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere—even sitting in an armchair by the fire—yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disc.

Here's how it works: BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder, which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence.

Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, BOOKs with more information simply use more pages. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet.

BOOK may be taken up at any time and used merely by opening it. Unlike other display devices, BOOK never crashes or requires rebooting, and it can even be dropped on the floor or stepped on without damage. However, it can become unusable if immersed in water for a significant period of time.

The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet and move forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an "index" feature, which pinpoints the exact location of selected information for instant retrieval. An optional "BOOKmark" accessory allows you to open BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session—even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus, a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufacturers. Conversely, numerous BOOKmarkers can be used in a single BOOK if the user wants to store numerous views at once. The number is limited only by the number of pages in the BOOK.

You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries with an optional programming tool, the Portable Erasable Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylus (PENCILS). Portable, durable, and affordable, BOOK is being hailed as a precursor of a new entertainment wave. Also, BOOK's appeal seems so certain that thousands of content creators have committed to the platform and investors are reportedly flocking. Look for a flood of new titles soon.



A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: 2006 Featured Guest Lois Ehlert

Lois Ehlert, this year's featured guest, is the author and illustrator of numerous acclaimed books for young children, including Caldecott Honor Book *Color Zoo* as well as *Color Farm* and *Circus*. She illustrated many other books, including *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr., *Crocodile Smile* by Sarah Weeks, and *A Pair of Socks* by Stuart J. Murphy. Ehlert's vivid illustrations capture the attention of her young readers, and what makes Ehlert's stories unique is her ability to translate ordinary experiences such as a trip to the grocery store or a walk in the park into colorful encounters.

Check Out Teachers Toolbox!

Looking for activities and books to use in your work with children? RCPL's online Teachers' Toolbox includes this and much more. Visit <http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/toolbox/>.

Teen Central

Check out the Richland County Public Library's Teen Central, a section of its Web site just for teens, at www.richland.lib.sc.us/teen.

The site contains information, written specifically for teens, on books, colleges and jobs, news and politics, sports and more. Teens can also access a list of good reads compiled by RCPL staff, read reviews by other teens and even submit reviews of good books they have read. For more information on programs and services for teens, call 929-3434 or visit www.richland.lib.sc.us/teen.

Remember Beth Hale and her Reading Prize Patrol on James Island? Cathy approaches it a bit differently and learns an important lesson at the same time!

The Northside Reading Prize Patrol -A Reading Incentive Program

(...and oh, you might learn digital video editing at the same time too!)

Catherine L. Nelson, Northside Elementary School, Rock Hill, clnelson@comporium.net

SELFISHNESS & COVETING

After coveting a software program for over a year (Adobe Photoshop CS), I decided the only way I would be able to afford it was to write a grant. So, I worked up a project to get funding for my program. Thus, the Northside Reading Prize Patrol was born. I based the foundation of the proposal on our focus for staff development over the last few years. Much of it had been on literacy and cultivating a classroom conducive to teaching reading. One of the important factors we learned that impacts student success in reading and literacy is time spent reading. We strived to implement in our classrooms no less than three “read-alouds” a day, and encouraged students to make reading each night a part of their daily after-school activities as well. Parent conferences were conducted to encourage parents to set aside time for reading or participating in academic related activities. When students deem that parents think of education and schoolwork as important, students will strive to achieve more. Research shows that when students are immersed in literacy activities such as reading and writing, especially at home, they become stronger students in the classroom. Since our goal was to encourage literacy activities at home, I wrote a local mini-grant for the Northside Reading Prize Patrol. (Selfishly, I wrote it to get the expensive software!! But the project was a good plan, too, and so I decided to go for it.)

THE PROJECT

This project was written initially as a February Focus. It was a mini-grant, after all. My initial idea was to write a letter home describing the importance of parents reading with or to their children, and participating in literacy-based activities for a scheduled time each evening. My letter explained that the activities could be anything as structured as doing/checking homework, playing word games, or reading either to or with the child, or having the child read to another sibling. We wanted parents and students to make the commitment to participate in these kinds of literacy based activities at least Monday through Thursday all during the month of February. So a letter was designed to be sent home stating the goal of the project—literacy enhancing activities at home between 5:00-7:00, and asked parents and students to return a “pledge” that they would participate. Once a week we drew a name from the pledges returned. We always drew three just in case we arrived at a home without anyone there! We visited the home of that student, presented the family with a bouquet of helium balloons, a poster-sized certificate of achievement for the family, and a gift certificate to an area restaurant. The grant proposal, which was funded by a local school organization, provided funding for the gifts. It also allowed me as media specialist to purchase the

photo editing program. With each visit, we invited our principal, our program teacher (i.e. curriculum specialist), and the classroom teacher of our winner to go along with me for the Reading Prize Patrol presentation. I as media specialist took along a banner sized sign for the car, and a digital video camera and digital still camera to capture the exciting surprise presentation. Upon arriving at a home, we would ask to see the winner’s homework, and ask about reading too. After our Publisher Clearinghouse-style presentation at the home of the student, I would go home and spend approximately forty-five minutes to an hour editing the contents of our cameras into a two-to-four minute video highlight to show on our in-house news program “The Explorers News Network” the very next morning. Each family was later given a copy of the video showcasing their child’s visit.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

On our third visit during February, I was rushing around just before we left. I had everything in my car ready to go—balloons, poster sized certificate, gift card, cameras, and other assorted necessities. I pulled up to the front door of the school to meet everyone going. I went in to tell them it was time to go—five o’clock. Everyone went back to get purses, coats, etc., and I decided to use the restroom quickly before we left. As I finished my business, adjusted my clothes, and flushed, I heard a splash, and realized my car keys had slipped from my pocket and just disappeared down the toilet. I was mortified!! I had to call my husband to bring me an extra set of keys since everything we needed was locked up outside in front of the school in my car!

Another time we almost approached the wrong house, as we had not paid close attention to the numbers on our address. The four of us making the visit were on our way up to the door when one realized it was the wrong house number. It was a close call, and not something you need to spring on an unsuspecting person.

There have also been some surprises and things that have really impressed me too. Kids were suddenly asking everyday if we were going to visit a home. Teachers reported that students were begging for homework, and relaying that they had done their homework or read with their parents. One third grade teacher told me she thought homework participation in her class had been 100% for the whole month of February. After our final visit in February, we unanimously decided to continue the project at other intervals during the school year because of the excitement students showed in response to our Reading Prize Patrol.

On Losing My Better Half

Jill Altman, Saluda Elementary/Primary,
JAltman@saluda.k12.sc.us

HINDSIGHT IS 20/20

Let me leave you with some tips and hindsight I learned along the way. First, discuss a plan (storyboard) for what you want on your video. After our first visit, we had to re-stage everything for the video. But we were ready for the next visits knowing ahead the exact pictures and video moments we wanted to capture. Decide on a basic template for the format of the video. I think I used a lot of time trying to plan out the project in the beginning and it took a long time to create my video product. Once I had a project template of some kind, the next projects didn't take as long to complete. But I was also learning the editing process along the way, and would try out different techniques too. I did use my new picture software to enhance pictures that were too dark, but because I was just learning to use it, more often than not, I used PowerPoint screenshots to make eye catching images to use in my videos. By the last video during the month, it took less than forty-five minutes to complete beginning to end. Also, folks need to know that short three-minute video clips can take up to fifteen minutes to "render" using an editing program. It doesn't happen as quickly as you'd think or like. I would also suggest having a person assigned to video and another person assigned to use the still camera. I found it difficult to juggle the task of both, and my sloppy video handling frequently showed in our final video projects. But I do recognize that I am an amateur at this. Worse, I realized after the fact that even though it was my grant project, I was not physically shown in many pictures, and did not make any appearances on my video projects. But the project was to focus on the student and their family anyway, so that is a minor point. I have decided that including business partners, our PTO, and volunteers is how we will continue the project now that the grant cycle of implementation is finished. We will continue the Reading Prize Patrol at other intervals in the school year.

FINAL THOUGHTS & UNEXPECTED RESULTS

Seeing the faces of the children was absolutely priceless. After my first involvement in a home visit, which I initially dreaded, I found myself anxious for the next visit. The enthusiasm of both the kids and the parents was contagious, and I found that I couldn't wait to go home and edit together the videos we would showcase the next day.

This project also garnered some interest in my teachers to learn more about digital video and editing. So the result perhaps in the long run will be more parental involvement in literacy efforts, and more teachers using video as a tool to teach or have students demonstrate concept mastery, by integrating video and editing in the class curriculum.

ONE LAST LESSON LEARNED

DO NOT TAKE YOUR KEYS IN THE RESTROOM EVER!!

The dreaded words came one crisp October day, "I've decided to retire." My hands gripped the work table, "I'll pay you to stay," I said crazily. My assistant of three and a half years laughed. "You'll be ok," she said, "don't be silly."

My assistant, Nancy, was great. Not only did she know where everything was, she knew where it had been and why we moved it. She knew every child's name; could catalog books and make a bulletin board exactly like the one I pointed out in a magazine. She decorated exactly two-and-a-half weeks before every holiday, made extra little flannel board pieces when the others disappeared and was always polite to people even when they made really dumb requests (the kind that makes us roll our eyes though I hardly ever do that anymore). How could I replace her? And would I even be allowed to help find a replacement? I really did think of her as my better half; what I would like to be more of as a Media Specialist. As the date of her retirement approached I kept hoping she'd change her mind, but she didn't. Proactively I pestered my principal to let me have a say in who was hired and he did. It went like this. "Do you know Susan?" he asked me one day. "The kindergarten assistant?" I asked. "Yeah, do you like her?" he said. "Yeah, she's nice," I answered. "Great, she's your new assistant," he smiled.

Then, suddenly, I was alone with a new person whom I barely knew except for her help during bookfairs. The fact that she helped out during bookfairs should have told me something but it never occurred to me that she liked the library. It's since taught me to look for people who have shown an interest and who are naturally helpful.

Fortune has twice smiled upon me. This person, Susan, was friendly and smart, especially about technology and organizing. Susan became my other better half, the one who wrote notes on how to do complex technology things so that the next time she knew what to do; the one who could draw out a new layout of the library that worked; the one who helped us work out the best schedule we've ever had. She didn't know how to catalog, of course, but she learned quickly and I got to tell her exactly how I want things done. But she is a font of new ideas and resourcefulness and since she's retired from another career she doesn't have to be there but she is because she likes it and wants to make a difference in kid's lives. Susan and I had a great 6 months together and were excited about starting off fresh this year until we heard these words from our principal one day..."Something's come up and I need Susan's experience in the classroom, just for a year..., I promise." If both my better halves are gone, do I still have to come to work?

P.S. Cross your fingers, our year is almost up!

I DO NOT LIKE VOLUNTEERS!

I DO NOT LIKE THEM, SLMS I AM!

Peggy Bayne, Belle Hall Elementary, *margaret_bayne@gmail.charleston.k12.sc.us*
Shamelessly modeled after our inspired author Theodore Seuss Geisel

No! Don't come here! Don't come in!
I do not like parents in my library media center.
I do not like them, SLMS I am!

Have you said anything remotely like this to your parents who offer to help in your school library media center? Or do you catch yourself saying something like, "No, but check in the office, maybe they know someone who needs help." I must admit - I had a reason to write this article. Many of the parents of students I know have told me that after the elementary school experience is over, they no longer feel welcome in schools. Yep, that's what they have told me! They have not been encouraged to help in the school library media center. That's the scoop. And that means that's the local gossip! In fact, many parents told me they have been given an emphatic "NO."

There is no one here. I am alone!
I like it like this, SLMS I am!

Do you complain about not having enough time to get things done? Do you skip district and county meetings, and do you beg the principal to excuse you so you can get your work done?

No one likes green walls and doors.
I do not like it either, SLMS I am!

Does your library look like it did the day you arrived? I know it takes time and help to make changes. Are you asking for any help? Are there parents at your school who love to decorate? Or organize? Do you even know what your parents do for a living?

I do not know them, SLMS I am!

What do people think of you in your role as media specialist? Do you survey your parents? Do they know what you look like, or do they only see you through the window of your door? How will they know what you do if they do not see you at work? Most of us are busy, but there is not a library media program in our state that couldn't stand some improving, mine included. One of the easiest ways to get support for your library program is to invite parents to volunteer - yes, in your media center!

Would I, could I network with parents?
I can meet them, SLMS I am!

Parent volunteers could help you. It's easy and simple. At the beginning of the year, ask the PTA (or the office) to keep a volunteer sign-up roster for your library media center. Copy down the names, and call those parents!

Would I, could I build a team?
I can do it, SLMS I am!

Get one parent each day to come in for a few short hours every week. Don't worry about keeping them for the entire day. Set up a simple, flexible schedule so you know who is coming in at what time. Of course parents will not always show up; this is not a full-time job, and we don't want to make them feel overstressed about coming in. Find jobs that are not too taxing for your volunteers, and put them to the side for your parents. Database work, stamping or shelving books, laminating, decorating bulletin boards, filing catalogs, and manning the circulation desk or copier are just a few ideas. Maybe they can just work a couple of hours at the book fair. Or even just help set it up! And don't worry if the filing is not perfect.

I could eat it on a box!
I could eat with Mrs. Fox!

No time to eat lunch during the school day? Ask a parent to come in during lunch and work while you eat. They don't have to shelve books to be a help! They can check out a few books, take down requests, and answer the phone.

Don't have time to meet with a grade level? Invite them to the LMC, and ask a parent to bring refreshments and set up a table. Or ask them to man the desk while you pop in on your teachers and network with your principal.

I do like parent volunteers!
I like them, SLMS I am!

That "no" message reverberates in your school community. When you say "no", you are sending a very important message:

I don't like you, SLMS, I am.

That's not the positive image we should be presenting to our principals or our community. If we want our library media centers to be considered a vital part of our school community, then we need to network with our community. Otherwise, the gossip that we are "difficult" or "bookish" or even "snobby" may come true. Who knows, parents might think you are not really working in there! What if they think you have all the money you

need for books and materials? Is it true? Are you indeed living on a self-sufficient island, with only General Operating Funds and overdue fines as your sole support?

So okay, maybe you said no to volunteers your whole career. You can change. It's a good move, and one you will be happy about later. Many of my students and their parents have moved to other locations, and have come back and told me how the school library did not compare to my library media center.

Wow! They liked it here, SLMS I am!

I would never have gotten feedback like that if they had not been active in my library media center. So, please don't say no to your parent volunteers.

Yes, I want you in my media center!

Thank you, thank you, SLMS I am!

Say yes, and invite them to stay every year. And call them again the following year. And don't forget to thank them, with a note, a small gift, and recognition at the end of the year. Parent volunteers can be part of your program—if you let them. *Remember, they are out there, talking about your program.*



Members of YABAC Arise and Promote Reading!

Susan Prettyman, Camden High School, prettymans@kcsd.k12.sc.us

Young Adult Book Award for South Carolina has been a part of the Camden High School library program through many years. The thrill of getting that new set of 20 books has not diminished; and yet, for our students it seems reading the books has dropped in priority. This year, in order to freshen our attitudes and get excited about reading, the CHS library staff formed a new school club called the Young Adult Book Award Committee or, as 10th grader Sarah proclaimed at our first meeting, YABAC!

YABAC started with about 25 interested students and quickly dropped to 15 as students realized the nature of the club. We are pledged to promote the reading of the Young Adult Book Award titles, to encourage and inspire other students to read these books and to promote reading in general at CHS throughout the year. The students who stuck with the club through the year gave much of their time and contributed a lot of energy and creativity. This made a great difference in our SCYABA program.

Our projects have been numerous. Members were offered a choice of activities including writing book reviews for the website and for the schoolwide televised Bulldog Bulletins; giving book talks to freshman English classes; preparing advertising in the form of posters and slides for the Bulletins; creating bookmarks to be given out at the circulation desk; and designing a Book Award banner for the March SCASL Library Conference.

We met for breakfast approximately every two weeks and enjoyed chatting and planning our work.

Students with lots of initiative stepped forward immediately, producing bookmarks and grabbing the books to read as they became available. Through eChalk we posted our thoughts and comments in an online discussion. After lots of reading, writing and discussing, several were ready to give book talks in December. With encouragement from their librarian, these young, shy students went bravely to the English classrooms and gave their best to the 9th graders.

All the hard work paid off when over 150 students qualified to vote for their favorite, having read three or more of the YA books. We had the best turn out for voting in our history. Later in the year, it was a tremendous event when Anna Lynn produced the first ever Camden High School YA Banner to hang at the 2006 SCASL Conference. Best of all, the students involved in YABAC have demonstrated a real pride in their affiliation with this "reading" club. I was excited to see that on the Technology Student Website, Kristen stated that she was a member of the Marching Band, JROTC and "YABAC, a student panel that critiques and recommends books for the student body of CHS".

We are all looking forward to promoting reading again next year at Camden High as the YABAC team.

(You can view our Group page and explore our work at <http://chs.kcsdschools.com/> Look in the Clubs area for *South Carolina Young Adult Book Readers*.)

National Writing Project

Mary Ann Kohl, Midway Elementary, maryannekohl@anderson5.net

National Writing Project is a nationwide initiative with a dual focus: to help teachers become better writers and to help teachers become better teachers of writing. NWP is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. There is no cost to participants, and fellows who complete their site's Summer Institute receive six graduate credits. Currently, there are 195 writing project sites across the United States, with eight sites in South Carolina. They are:

- Coastal Area Writing Project at Coastal Carolina University
- Lowcountry Writing Project at The Citadel
- Midlands Writing Project at the University of South Carolina
- Santee-Wateree Writing Project at the University of South Carolina
- Spartanburg Writing Project at the University of South Carolina Upstate
- Swamp Fox Writing Project at Francis Marion University
- Upstate Writing Project at Clemson University
- Winthrop Writing Project at Winthrop University

The project is open to certified teachers in all fifty states. To apply, teachers submit an application along with a letter of support from a school administrator. Applicants are invited to an interview with the local writing project director and staff. During the interview, you may be asked to discuss strategies that you currently use in teaching writing and to provide samples of students' work. Those accepted are invited to join the project for the summer institute.

If you join the summer institute, you can plan on being quite busy for a few weeks. Here are some typical requirements of the Upstate Writing Project, the site I joined: You will spend time in personal writing and reflection, reading professional works on writing for your grade level, learning new technologies, and a lot of peer review. You will offer some current research on why writing matters, and by the end of the institute you will have a solid research base to support writing in the schools. At Upstate Writing Project, we also had a variety of writing "marathons" around the Clemson and Greenville areas. The best way I can describe one of our writing marathons is that it is like a scavenger hunt, except that instead of finding objects, we find excuses to write. We also had several opportunities to hear stories from some well-known Upstate writers, including Ron Rash and Melinda Long.

During your summer institute, you will create and present a teaching demo on a writing strategy that is appropriate for your students' needs. By the time you complete the summer institute, you will have seen teaching demos presented by each of the other fellows in the institute. You will be amazed and inspired by the variety of writing strategies you will see! The demo I presented was entitled "Fractured Fairy Tales." I used a pre-writing strategy to help students brainstorm creative ways to write variants on familiar fairy tales. Since completing the summer institute last July, I've presented my teaching demo to my school faculty and at three professional conferences.

There are numerous reasons you might consider applying to your local writing project. Among them are:

- you will become a better writer yourself as well as a better teacher of writing.
- you will earn 6 graduate credit hours at no cost.
- you will make new contacts in your area who value writing and the teaching of writing as much as you do.
- you will have lots of opportunities to stay involved as a Teacher-Consultant.

One of the Upstate Writing Project's new initiatives is a Young Writer's Camp, a two-week writing project for rising 5th through 8th graders. I'm proud that I've been selected as a mentor for this year's YWC, and look forward to working with small groups of burgeoning writers.

If you love writing and want to see your students become better writers, see what your local writing project can do to help! If you need more information, go to www.writingproject.org to find out everything you need to know.

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Continued

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South Carolina Association of School Librarians is proud to announce . . .



SCASL Leadership Institute 2006: Legislative Advocacy

This year's summer Leadership Institute focuses on advocacy for school library media programs, with a step-by-step guide through the legislative advocacy process. Join us for an exciting day as we hear from the experts, practice new skills, and share resources and ideas. SCASL will launch its first extensive legislative advocacy initiative during 2006-2007. **Be a part of the SCASL Legislative Advocacy Team!**

- ◆ Develop advocacy skills to benefit your library media program within your school and beyond
- ◆ Learn how to compose and deliver the right message to the right person
- ◆ Learn how to communicate with elected officials from our panel of elected officials and staff members from the S.C. House and Senate
- ◆ Play a role in the SCASL Legislative Agenda to effect change to benefit school library media programs across the state
- ◆ Explore and use a toolbox of school library media advocacy resources that you can take home
- ◆ Join in the leadership opportunities available in SCASL and beyond
- ◆ Develop new contacts and network with other school library media leaders across South Carolina

SCASL Leadership Institute: Legislative Advocacy

Thursday, June 15, 2006 from 9:30 - 5:00 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

Registration fee (includes snacks and lunch) \$25.00 Limited to 100 participants

Name: _____

Job Title: _____ School: _____

Preferred Email address: _____

Personal Telephone: _____

Home address: _____

Lunch Preference -- Please check one.

Roast Beef & Cheddar Wrap Grilled Vegetable Wrap Italian Style Hero

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2006

Please mail form and check payable to SCASL to: SCASL -- P.O. Box 2442 -- Columbia SC 29202

*Special thanks to Watson Library Services for its generous financial support
in sponsorship of the SCASL Leadership Institute 2006.*

David Watson ◆ 126 Lancelot Court ◆ Lexington, S.C. 29072 ◆ 803-359-5252 Fax: 803-356-7140



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The Dinner Cruise

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Dinner Cruise Ticket. As you know the main reason for it was to raise money for the scholarships we support.

I was very worried and concerned that things would not go perfectly and, of course, they didn't. However, it will be something that people will remember from the conference. So below is my rendition of the cruise to the theme song from Gilligan's Island. (Forgive the artistic license.)

*Joe Myers, Local Arrangements
 SCASL Conference 2006*

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale,
 a tale of a fateful trip
 That started from the Patriot's Point
 aboard this tiny ship.
 The host was a baldhead local man,
 The dinner hot for sure.
 Hundred seventy-five passengers set sail
 that eve
 for a two-hour tour,
 A two-hour tour.

The diners started getting gruff,
 the line was slow and long.
 If not for the courage of the fearless
 host,
 the scholarship would be gone,
 The scholarship would be gone.

The ship went round the brand new bridge
 of the charted Drum Isle
 With Lynne Dubay,
 Ashley Bryan too,
 Tim Lowery and his wife,
 The movie star
 Dave Loertscher
 And Lawren,
 Here on SCASL's Isle.

Sound familiar?

Catalogs

Audrey Koudelka, Esill High School
 ACKoudelka@rocketmail.com

They're on my desk and on the floor.
 I've got them piled behind the door.
 The catalogs are in stacks.
 They are hidden in the racks.
 Why I bother, I don't know.
 I really only use but four.
 Still, in case teachers ask or want to borrow,
 I've got all sorts of catalogs.

There are catalogs from Gale and Facts on File.
 They're somewhere in the left-hand pile.
 Some are ripped and some are torn
 Others tossed on a table with scorn.
 Too many pages of this and that.
 Catalogs that are really too fat.
 But, in case the teachers ask or want to borrow
 I've got all sorts of catalogs.

I've finally had enough! Yesterday
 Those catalogs went out that very day!
 I stuffed them in boxes; they went out in one
 lump.
 I took them to the recycle dump.
 Now as I look around and see catalogs no more,
 The mail arrives with two hundred and four.
 So, in case the teachers ask or want to borrow,
 I've still got a bunch of catalogs.

Have a Wonderful Summer!

