



MEDIA CENTER MESSENGER

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Valerie Byrd Fort - SCASL President

December is here! Where has the year gone?

SCASL has accomplished a lot in 2008--

- In March, we hosted our Annual Conference in Columbia.
- In June, we hosted the SCASL Summer Institute.
- In July, SCASL started working with Capitol Consultants.
- In September, we kicked off 23 Things.
- The Pre-Service Committee presented to various groups throughout the year.
- The Advocacy Committee compiled a "tips" book.



The Instructional Technology Committee has hosted a webinar and started a NING.

And that's not all! There are almost too many great things to list! Great job SCASL! We know our projects and initiatives will grow in 2009. Look for our Annual Conference in Greenville in March and much, much more!

I know all of us are saddened by the death of Penny Hayne. She was the library media specialist at Lake Murray Elementary School in Lexington 5, an adjunct professor at USC (as well as at other schools), and a mentor and friend to many. She will be missed! The School of Library & Information Science is collecting memories and kind words about Penny for a remembrance website. If you have something you would like to share, please email Liz Qunell (equnell@sc.edu). There is a link to the site from www.scasl.net.

As you think about the end of the year — be sure you register for conference by December 31 to get the Early Bird Registration rate! I know that budgets are tight, but this conference is a one-stop-shop for all of your professional development needs. We'll have storytelling sessions, technology integration sessions, and so much more. Please plan to attend!

Finally, thank you for all you have done for our profession and for SCASL this year. I hope you have a very relaxing, safe, and joyous holiday.

Valerie Byrd Fort,
SCASL President

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2009 IMPORTANT DATES

January 2009

23-28 ALA Mid-Winter Meeting
(Denver, Colorado)

February 2009

19-21 SCIRA 2009 Annual Conference
(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

March 2009

9-13 Teen Tech Week
11-13 SCASL 2009 Annual Conference
(Greenville, South Carolina)

April 2009

National School Library Media Month
13-17 National Library Week
16 South Carolina Read In!
30 El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros

May 2009

11-12 Library Legislative Day
(Washington DC)

November 2009

4-8 AASL National Conference & Exhibition
(Charlotte, North Carolina)

KEEP IN TOUCH

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SCASL listserv:

To subscribe:

Address: listserv@listserv.sc.edu

Subject: Leave blank

Message: Subscribe SCASL-LS
yourfirstname yourlastname

The Media Center Messenger:

Send all suggestions, corrections, articles and ideas to Laura Jackson at jmoggles@hughes.net.

Other important addresses:

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

SCLA: www.scla.org

SC State Library: www.statelibrary.sc.gov

ALA: www.ala.org

AASL: www.ala.org/aasl

SCASL 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.

“LMS 411”

BY: MELANIE JACKSON

I go to the SCASL Conference every year, but now I have heard a lot of buzz on the SCASL Listserv about another conference, EdTech, that many LMIS also attend. Is this something I should look into for next year? Is it worth the time and money?

While funding will always be the bottom line, any event that can enhance and increase our own knowledge base is a sought after commodity – and missing EdTech is definitely an opportunity lost! If you can afford it and can make the time away from school manageable, then this conference is well worth the time, travel and money. This year a collection of media specialists, technologists, teachers, administrators, and vendors from over 28 states and Canada descended on Myrtle Beach for three days of intense and gratifying workshops. With over 130 concurrent sessions and over 200 vendors, there was something there for everyone, no matter what level of expertise or experience. As media specialists, we are sometimes – not often – called upon to act as or assist as our school’s first line of technology defense: trouble shooting, training, and staff development. While sometimes stressful, also serving in a technologist capacity is not only a natural extension of what we do on a daily basis, it is also job security.

This year, with a personal agenda, I attended workshops based on my newest obsession: podcasting. I was quickly assimilated into a world not just of podcasting, but of blogs, wikis, iPods, and Web 2.0 tools as a whole. Every session was beyond helpful and full of downloads, handouts, and hands-on experiences that will help carry both myself and my school farther into the virtual world that will serve to enhance our community of learners as we move forward into this new millennium. Contacts with other professionals and specialized vendors have already proved to be invaluable to me and the fact that I was the last winner of a 77” Smart Board from SMART Technologies Inc. didn’t hurt a bit either. Needless to say, I returned home loaded down with enough new technologies, software, samples, and contacts to make my head spin – but again, it was all well worth the adventure and I was able to put my new skills to work immediately!

How do you approach your administrator with the request to attend (besides using this column, of course)? I would recommend borrowing someone’s EdTech program or going to the EdTech website <http://edtech.scaet.org/about.html> and downloading the listing and description of concurrent sessions offered to take to a pre-setup meeting to discuss the conference (No administrator likes to have a “can I go to this conference” query come up in passing in the hallway). Taking along “testimonials” from the SCASL listserv is also a good idea. The future for many media specialists is as the technology leaders in their schools, and to do that will require perseverance and lots of specialized training from those who are “in the know” so one can move forward with the cutting edge of technology on their side. If you can find away to afford it, GO!

Melanie Jackson, Media Specialist
Brockington Elementary Magnet School
mjackson@dcsd.schools.org



Mark your calendars for the SCASL Thirty-Fourth Annual Conference! March 11 - 13, 2009 at the Carolina First Center in Greenville, South Carolina! Our theme this year is **SCASL 2.0: Experience the Journey @ Your Library**. Come to this "one stop shop" conference with sessions covering storytelling, technology integration, leadership, literacy, and more! Questions about conference? Contact Gabrielle Barnes (gbarnes@capconsc.com), SCASL Executive Director or Amanda LeBlanc (aleblanc@greenville.k12.sc.us), Conference Chair.

COUNTING BEANS, PLANNING FOR TIGHT TIMES BY: PEGGY HARRISON

I've got the short-of-money blues
From my head down to where there's no shoes,
And I fuss and I moan,
And I cuss and I groan,
I've got the short-of money blues.

(Traditional—Unknown Author)

When whispers and small news articles began to foretell sales tax shortfalls late in the school year past, how many of us shrugged and told ourselves that we had been there and done that before and surely it couldn't be that bad this time around either? A year or two without a raise for educators—depressing to think about, but we will muddle through anyway.

Next, the first across-the-board budget cuts came, and after checking to make sure the school's doors remained open, some of us stoically said a mental good-bye to that part of our book budget that had not already been encumbered with summer ordering. With our shelves crying out for up-to-date, interesting titles to motivate our student readers and support classroom instruction, we told ourselves we'd do the best we could with what we had.

Finally, with the arrival of autumn and yet more revenue shortfall, the legislators convened in a special session to make more cuts, "targeted" this time, we were assured. K-12 education was more or less spared, although higher education took a big hit. Most disturbing, though, were the news articles that hinted that even these cuts wouldn't be enough to offset declining state revenues. Tight times were knocking on our doors.

At the beginning of the summer, the SCASL listserv was roiling when a posted message indicated that a district in our state was considering cutting school library services—and more specifically some school library media specialists' positions. In response on June 13, Martha Alewine posted a listserv message that stated the requirements regarding school library media positions as set forth by the State Board of Education and included a link to those regulations.

Initially, my reaction was to find those "requirements" very affirming. Then I read the newspaper article quoting our superintendent of education, in which one of the solutions being proposed to the budget cuts was to allow districts more flexibility to allocate the funds they did receive. Suddenly, those "requirements" no longer seemed to be sufficient protection for school library media programs or positions.

Am I Chicken Little? Or is that thud I hear a piece of the sky, or at least the media center's slice of the budget pie, hitting the ground? Whatever the case may be, complacency is not an option any more.

Instead, I propose that South Carolina library media specialists begin and/or continue to state and demonstrate what an important role the library media program has in our students' learning. Here are some of the steps we can take to get the word out about what we do for our school communities:

Document, document, document—Count those beans often and thoroughly. Martha Alewine, Joe Myers and others in our profession have been showing us how to do that in many workshops and sessions for several years now. Maybe, they were prescient and foresaw these lean times, or, maybe, they were just pointing out a good, basic, professional practice.

Counting Beans, continued from page 4

Promote, promote, promote—“But,” you sputter, “I send out a newsletter every month, and only a few teachers read it.” Yes, teachers scarcely have time to read everything that hits their desks, but step back and evaluate what you are promoting and how you are communicating. Perhaps, a brief weekly email would have more impact. How about posting a one-page announcement occasionally on the bulletin board where the principal leaves important messages (with permission, of course)? Why not survey teachers to find out what they want you to communicate (what’s most important to them) and how they want you to communicate it?

Publicize, publicize, publicize—How is publicizing different from promoting, you ask? Well, for the purposes of this article, I separated publicize to highlight the importance of getting the news about your library media program out to the general public. Events can be publicized after they happen, too! Send a picture and caption or brief article to your local newspaper, or post an event slide show to your web site. Promote the upcoming; publicize your library media events past and present.

Improvise, improvise, improvise—When there are no funds available for new purchases, look at what you already have. Just as a really good cook can find the fixings for a satisfying meal in the pantry, you can use the technology, materials, and other resources you do have to create learning opportunities for students and to support teacher instruction. Sometimes all that is needed is the ability to pragmatically substitute what you have at hand instead of bemoaning what you lack.

Educate, educate, educate—Introduce your administrators on the school and district levels to all of those Keith Curry Lance and *School Libraries Work* studies that have been gathering dust in your back office. Be positive about what you do and what the potential of a solid school library media program can be.

The suggestions above are just that—suggestions; certainly, the list is not all-inclusive. If you’d like to make your own proposals for coping with the lean times ahead, please send them to harrisonp@gwd50.org and I will compile them for a later issue. Meanwhile, let’s just keep doing what we library media specialists do so well, promoting student learning and supporting teacher instruction, as we continue to serve our school communities.

Peggy Harrison
Springfield Elementary School
harrisonp@gwd50.org



Has a school library in your area been affected by a disaster? Dollar General, in collaboration with the American Library Association (ALA), the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the National Education Association (NEA), is sponsoring a school library disaster relief fund for public school libraries in the states served by Dollar General. The fund provides grants to public schools whose school library program has been affected by a disaster. Grants are to replace or supplement books, media and/or library equipment in the school library setting. Grants range from \$5,000-\$15,000. Visit www.ala.org/aasl/disasterrelief for eligibility requirements and to apply.

IMPORTANT NEWS!

DISCUS ANNOUNCES A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BRITANNICA

As you all know, South Carolina institutions and agencies are experiencing budget reductions in these tough economic times and DISCUS is no exception. In light of a \$346,000 reduction in funding, the DISCUS Database Assessment Committee and DISCUS staff met in late October to review license renewal options. I'm pleased to announce that we have found a way to meet this reduction with a minimal loss of content. I truly believe that the committee recommended the best solution for South Carolina citizens.

As part of our solution, DISCUS is partnering with Britannica Digital Learning to offer a new suite of encyclopedia products for 2009. (We will be discontinuing our Grolier Online subscription.) We are very excited about this addition and think you will be also! The products include:

- Britannica Online Elementary - PreK - Grade 5
- Compton's Encyclopedia - Grades 6 - 8
- Encyclopedia Britannica - Grades 9 - 12

These following additional resources will provide new content for DISCUS. This content has been frequently requested by our users:

- Britannica Learning Zone - PreK - Grade 2
- Enciclopedia Juvenil - Spanish-language

resources

The package provides these **Special New Features** for DISCUS:

- A dynamic multimedia collection
- Early childhood materials
- Spanish-language resources

You are invited to explore these new Britannica resources before the January implementation by using the following log-in information. Go to www.school.cb.com
Username: socarolina
Password: learn

Unfortunately, as part of this budget process, DISCUS will be losing access to two South Carolina newspapers: The State and The Greenville News. However, our Gale resources and SIRS products will remain unchanged.

As always, the DISCUS program staff welcomes the opportunity to assist you in promoting the use of DISCUS resources to your school's students, faculty and staff. We encourage you to check out both the [What's New](#) section of the DISCUS Web site to read about various summer updates and the [Toolkit](#) tab to find helpful handouts, brochures and PowerPoint presentations.

Amy Duernberger
aduernbergere@statelibrary.sc.gov

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR READ-IN 2009!

The 2009 Read-In will be held Thursday, April 16 at the State House in Columbia. The event will feature entertainment, a parade and special guests. The registration form for Read-In will be posted to the SCASL website by the first of the year. More information will be posted as soon as plans are finalized.

If you have any questions, contact Ann Addy, Read-In coordinator, at aaddy@solutionsink.com.

SCASL HONOR ROLLS

Public relations and advocacy are important parts of every school library media program. Showing our appreciation for those who help us is one simple way that we can promote our programs. A word or note of thanks is often all it takes to win an advocate. Our administrators and paraprofessionals are some of the people that are often missed when it comes to showing our appreciation. Here is the perfect opportunity to distinguish these special people by nominating them to their appropriate Honor Rolls. They will be recognized in the Media Center Messenger and the conference program, they will receive a certificate of merit, and a letter of commendation will be sent to their supervisor, superintendent or school board. This program is ongoing throughout the school year and nominations may be sent in at any time.

Honor Roll of Administrators

To submit a nomination to the Honor Roll of Administrators, please include the following in your application:

Your name, position, and address

Name of nominee and position

Name and address of school

Names and addresses of superintendent and chairperson of the school board

On a separate sheet please include the following:

Description of the activity for which nomination is being made

One or two sentences for publication purposes summarizing the reason for nomination

Verification: e.g., agendas, programs, photos, clippings, letters of commendation, etc.

Send the completed nomination to:

Gabrielle Barnes

SCASL

PO Box 2442

Columbia, SC 29202

Honor Roll of Paraprofessionals

To submit a nomination to the Honor Roll of Paraprofessionals, please include the following in your application:

Your name, position, and address

Name of nominee and position including number of years at current position

Name and address of school

Name of supervisor or media specialist and principal

On a separate sheet, please include the following:

A short description or tabular list summarizing the reasons for the nomination (consider responsibilities, work habits, strengths, and interaction with media patrons)

At least one letter of recommendation from someone other than the person making the nomination (example a teacher/principal/media patron/etc.)

Send the completed nomination to:

Gabrielle Barnes

SCASL

PO Box 2442

Columbia, SC 29202

SCASL REGIONAL NETWORK NEWS

FRANKIE O'NEAL, DIRECTOR

Region 1B.

Greenville County. Stone Academy's library media specialist, **Alice Littlejohn**, attended the Spartanburg Writing Project's Fall Conference in October. The keynote speaker was award-winning author, **Jacqueline Woodson**. **Miriam Chamberlain**, Lakeview Middle, received a \$1,000 check from the Pleasantburg Rotary Club to buy books of interest to boys.



Jacqueline Woodson pictured with Miriam Chamberlain.

Spartanburg 2.

The Bulldog Booklovers Club (Club sponsors are **Fran Bullington** and **Tricia Menzer**) and the Boiling Springs High School Library Media Center sponsored a Fang vs. Fur Feud on Thursday, Nov. 20th in honor of the release of the film *Twilight* on November 21. **Chad Crews**, educational entertainer, presented "The Catch the Reading Bug Safari Show" at Oakland Elementary in November. Students enjoyed an entertaining performance that integrated reading, science, and magic.

Spartanburg 6.

The October-November "The Harvest of Books Literacy Drive" at R.P. Dawkins Middle School netted 2500 books donated by students. They will be donated to 4 local agencies that serve needy children. **Leticia Moore** is the media specialist. Dorman High School Media Center celebrated the *Twilight* movie premier with a *Twilight* Book Party. It featured food, games, and *Twilight*-themed prizes and was a huge success.

Special Public/Independent Schools.

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) students are reading the book, *Little House on the Prairie* this year. The library is sponsoring this school-wide reading event. Students will be involved in many book tie-ins including creating art, writing stories and participating in a Pioneer Day. The library also hosted a Halloween Book Swap. Students were asked to trade gently used books. Students and staff brought in about 40 books to swap. The library received 650 books from a First Books Grant. These books will be distributed to our students to read on the buses and at home.



Subscribe to the State Library's News Podcast

Columbia, SC – The Lions are roaring about something new from the South Carolina State Library! Today, the library launched its biweekly podcast, the *Lion's Roar*, featuring South Carolina library-related news and information. Users can now directly subscribe or listen to the podcast at

<http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/podcasts/thelionsroar.rss>.

Soon, users will be able to subscribe to the library news podcast via iTunes by searching for *Lion's Roar* or *South Carolina State Library* in the iTunes store.

Each podcast will highlight recent news and information of importance to South Carolina's library community, a featured library-related web site, and upcoming important dates. If your library or organization would like to have your news items considered for inclusion in the podcast, please contact Communications Director, Dr. Curtis R. Rogers at crogers@statelibrary.sc.gov or 803-734-8928.

TRIED AND TRUE**BY: SABRA BELL****Question:**

What is your favorite item--product--office supply, etc. that you find to be really helpful in your job as a library media specialist? This could relate to your teaching role or your administrative role.

Acrylic sign holders that can be mounted to a wall, clipped to a bulletin board or stood in an easel with a sign or notice....makes the simple printed page look more finished and you don't have to laminate!

Sabra Bell, Waccamaw Elementary, Conway

I use Post-it notes everywhere. I tape the ITV programs for our districts and I can have as many as 6 different programs at the same time. I put the date, time and channel on the Post-it note and hang it on the VCR. If I'm gone then people know not to use that VCR. After it tapes I attach the sticky note to the tape or DVD.

Cheryl M. Robinette, Spartanburg DES

Magic Eraser cleaning sponges clean marks & dirt off of any books that have a covering like the Bound to Stay Bound books. I had some books donated from a different school and I used the Magic Eraser and the covers looked like new.

Sharon Kapicka, Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary, Charleston

"Graffiti Off", WD-40 and Crystal Light empty canisters- great pencil holders.

Brenda Branson, Crowder's Creek Middle School

As long as we're being practical, hand sanitizer and Formula 409. Formula 409 will take most any marks off the tables where kids like to doodle. And with as many sick kids in here, anytime I assist them and/or touch the student computer keyboard/mouse, I make sure to use the hand sanitizer.

As far as library specific items: book ends. I use the book ends not just to hold books up on the shelves, but to "face out" books, too! The book ends keep the books standing up w/o causing the spines/pages to bend/warp as they do when you stand them up on the shelves.

Heather Loy, Wagener-Salley High School, Wagener,

My favorite administrative item is a date/time stamper for 'signing' passes all day. They are expensive, but worth every penny!

Sue Busbee, Sandhills Middle School, Gaston

Fabric makes a great decoration and it's inexpensive. I buy a few yards of seasonal fabric and drape over display easels on top of a shelf. The books are displayed on the easels which are under the fabric. Instant decoration!

Debbie Keenan, Brooklyn Springs Elementary, Lancaster

Goo Gone is wonderful for removing unsightly sales prices stickers from books before they are covered and put out.

Teresa Shutt Carlson, Rock Hill High

Clorox wipes are useful tools! During flu season I wipe the keys on the keyboards with them.

Marsha K. Humphreys, Alice Birney Middle, Charleston

I know this is a simple thing, but I don't think I could survive without a Sharpie marker. I use the silver to write on video tapes and books with black end pages, and the standard black to mark on CD's and other things.

Cerese Long, Newberry Elementary

For teaching, my best resource is the Promethean board. For administrative duties, I bought a small copier/scanner/color printer which sits on the circulation desk next to my computer. It has been a lifesaver many times over in those busy moments when I only need one copy of something and can't run down to the copier room. I am also able to scan in articles and other hard copies of documents that I would like to share with teachers. I scan the documents and send them to the teachers as PDF files via e-mail, saving paper, a trip to the copy room, and another trip to the front office to put copies in teachers' mailboxes.

Grier Rivers, Brown's Ferry Elementary, Georgetown

Digital photo frames can be used to promote library activities, books, or authors. The idea comes from York Comprehensive High School's Caylen Whitesides and her fellow LMS. Make a basic PowerPoint to use as the promotional tool, then save the PPT as pictures to load into the digital frame. The digital frame can be set in the library or office or wherever it best serves its purposes to help promote literacy activities.

Cathy Nelson, Conway Middle

I have a 2-way tie for my favorite library gadget.

1) My Kensington wireless presenter. I call it my clicker because it lets me "click" through a PowerPoint presentation without having to go back to the computer. It also has a laser pointer on it, which the kids just love.

2) My 3M Book Repair Tape Applicator. This thing is AWESOME for mending damaged books or just to hold your tape for you so you can use both hands to tape just about anything.

Betsy Long, Doby's Mill Elementary, Lugoff

For me it is an A-V cart. I try to avoid carrying anything that is bulky or over five pounds. I use the media cart to roll items from one place to another. I may be moving a computer CPU or monitor or an overhead projector, but I try to save my back by rolling items where they need to go to and from.

Frank Moore, North Myrtle Beach High

I love the acrylic sign holders. I have them attached to the back of the stall doors in the teacher bathrooms and I mount my monthly library newsletter there. When I started doing it, the teachers were very enthusiastic saying it was the only time they had to read the newsletter - even though I send it via e-mail also. Another thing I have that I need is my kitchen timer. I have a fixed schedule and it keeps me from running over.

Judy Mamroth, Clifdale Elementary, Spartanburg

Sticky notes.

Donna Q. Eddings, Myrtle Beach Primary

I cannot live without my label maker! In a pinch I can whip out a call number or rename a shelf display and it sure looks better than my handwriting - I know you can do this with your computer, but that is time printing and cutting. I invested in one that does multiple sizes and also allows me to import our district/school logos in it so everything looks so professional.

Laura Spears Linder, Berkeley County School District

I use a number of gimmicks to get students attention. I have a collection of stuffed mini-animals and also some fun shaped balls. During the younger groups story time students may be elected to hold the special toy (example during November I have a stuffed Turkey that gobbles) If they are good listeners they get to let the turkey talk. With the older

children I use the same stuffed toy or ball. I toss the item to the student and they have to answer a trivia question. That question may be a Social Studies question (name the state tree, etc.) or a library specific question. Again if they answer correctly they get to squeeze the toy or toss the ball to someone else. This is a fun way to review skills and they kids love seeing what the new item might be.

Roberta Dwelley, Sanders-Clyde Elementary/Middle, Charleston

I can't get by without my document camera AKA the "ELMO". I have arthritis in my neck and hands so holding books up to read them was causing pain. I use my projector with it, but you could easily hook it up to a TV for nearly the same result. I can also zoom in on the pictures to create greater interest. In some cases the kids can read along. The one I have was about \$1500 but you can get one that is simpler but does the job for about \$500. A great way to spend your bookfair money. My favorite vendor is Camcor. Their rep is Bryan Pigford and he is fantastic at helping with AV needs.

Gail Galey, Orange Grove Elementary, Charleston

I also have this equipment (the big ELMO) and I think it should be standard equipment in every media center. When I read to K and 1st students they can see the words, and by January, I can hear them reading with me.

Diane Gresham, Rice Creek Elementary, Columbia

I have discovered that the scented oil reed diffusers work well in the library. Since we are not allowed to use plug in air fresheners and burning candles is a no-no, these give a light fragrance without worries. They are fairly inexpensive and you can change fragrances for the seasons.

Fredda Shaw, Code Elementary, Oconee County

VITAL STATISTICS

Congratulations

Courtney Rouse, Woodland Elementary, had a little girl Lucy on October 31.

Pamela Williams, Columbia High School, gave birth to son Adam Preston in July.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Susan King** who passed away recently. Susan retired from Wando High School in 2006.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Susan O. Bell**, Darlington County, who passed away on November 21, 2008 after an extended illness. Susan had retired after many years of active service in the Lamar School System.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Penny Hayne**, library media specialist at Lake Murray Elementary School in Lexington/Richland 5 and former SCASL President, who passed away November 24.