



Capitalizing on Learning



Young Adult Book Committee Members



Lendy Hinton with one of the many
Convention Center Assistants



Janet Boltjes and Alan November



Jim Trelease



Kitt Lisenby and Senator Vincent
Sheheen



Waiting for autographs



Jim Johnson, SCASL Advocate



Harry Bliss waves a greeting

@SCASL's 32nd Annual Conference



From the President:

A “Capital” Year of Service...Milestones and Reflections

The 2006-07 school year has presented many opportunities and challenges for SCASL. In my fall letter, I outlined an overall goal with a focus on **Literacy, Leadership and Advocacy**. As an organization, I believe significant progress has been made toward the overall goal that sustains the mission of SCASL and leads to organizational growth and advocacy. I am pleased to report that most of the activities I identified have been accomplished. Some of the highlights are noted here:

- The legislative campaign, Strive for \$25, has been a tremendous support for drawing attention to the needs of school libraries and allowing communication with legislators.
- The first leadership program is underway to identify and train future leaders.
- Reinstatement of the statewide Read-In was a successful and fun event.
- Improved efficiencies are in place for handling the association’s finances.
- Professional advice and review of the organization’s governing documents is underway to ensure effective operations and management.
- An improved Website design is nearly complete to facilitate improved information-sharing and communication.
- Several new features were integrated into the annual conference to enhance its appeal and overall services.

All of these accomplishments were needed to make SCASL a viable professional organization. They would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the Executive Board and each of you. However, the work is not yet complete. These successes are just the beginning of a larger effort that must be sustained to keep the organization growing. I urge each of you to actively work on behalf of SCASL to ensure its continued progress. Service is a good thing. It puts professional concern and commitment into practice. As the new leadership team begins its work (July), it will be important that you support them and make yourself available to work on behalf of the association’s causes.

Plans are underway to continue addressing professional needs of the membership. The **Annual Summer Institute** will be held June 12 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The topic of the institute continues the focus on the need for quality school library collections with Karen Lowe as the presenter. You will find registration information in this issue of the *Media Center Messenger*. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

As you make plans to conclude your school year, I would ask that you take some time to begin looking ahead and identifying priorities. Many times in the push-and-pull of doing our work, we lose sight of the very reason for our work—our patrons. Their needs should be paramount in shaping the programs and services available through the school library media center. I was reading through one of my husband’s company newsletters recently and found a very interesting article titled the “Ten Commandments of Customer Service” that has implications for our philosophy of patron service. It says that

A customer is...

1. The most important person in any business.
2. Not dependent on us...we are dependent on them.
3. A part of our business...not an outsider.
4. Not an interruption to our work...they are the purpose of it.
5. Doing us a favor...we are not doing them a favor by serving them.
6. Not someone to argue or match wits with.
7. Not a cold statistic...they are human beings with feelings and emotions just like us.
8. A person who sends us their wants...it is our job to fill those wants.
9. Someone who deserves the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give them.
10. The lifeblood of this and every other business.

Perhaps these commandments will help you refocus your efforts and provide a framework for getting the upcoming year started with renewed vigor and a positive attitude of service.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president this year. The contrasts between my first presidency and this year are quite different. Management now requires more and more time of the leaders and more professional sacrifices to address the organization's business. With a sizeable membership, the need for programming and professional support and advocacy activities, the presidency could easily be a full-time position. I appreciate the cooperation and assistance I have received and look forward to continuing my support of the organization in any way that I can.

Ida W. Thompson, President
ithompson@richlandone.org

Calendar of Events

- A Baker's Dozen
April 21, 2007
- School Library Media Month
April 2007
- National Library Week
April 15 - 21, 2007
- National Library Legislative Day
May 1-2, 2007, Washington, DC
- ALA Annual Conference
June 21-27, 2007, Washington DC
- AASL National Conference
October 25-28, 2007, Reno, Nevada

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.

Time for "thank you's."

As always, in this final issue for the year, the names are listed throughout of all those folks who work for SCASL and you during the year; the committee chairs and their members, the officers and ex officio members of the Executive Board. If you know them personally, take time to thank them for their time and efforts. They are what make SCASL a viable organization that works for you!

Keep in Touch

SCASL:

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SCASL listserv:

To subscribe:
 Address: *listserv@listserv.sc.edu*
 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.

The Media Center Messenger:

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

Other important addresses:

- 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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Media Literacy Update

Frank Baker, Media Literacy Consultant, www.frankwbaker.com, fbaker1346@aol.com



Recently, a fifth grader raised her hand during one of the workshops I was conducting at her school. She asked: "What does deceptive mean?" She had heard me use that word in a presentation about the techniques used by toy advertisers. I thought to myself that I had used that word without fully defining it for my audience of elementary students. I assumed they would know what it means. I did tell her what it means and later I reflected on how important I think it is for students of this age to ask questions about media.

At the heart of media literacy, says Elizabeth Thoman of the Center for Media Literacy, is the principle of inquiry. Yet many of our students don't question what they read, view or listen to. They haven't acquired the critical thinking and viewing skills we all want them to have in a 21st century world.

If you've been following the news, you may already know that the Partnership for 21st Century Skills has issued its recommendations to schools nationwide: reform the curriculum to ensure students are prepared for jobs in 2007 and beyond. The president of the organization said recently, "Today's students need to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and effective communicators who are proficient in both core subjects and new 21st century skills. I urge educators, business and community leaders and policymakers to work together to create a 21st century skills initiative for every school district in America. We owe our school children nothing less." If you want to know more about this initiative, log on to <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>. Information and media literacy are contained in the English curriculum map found here: http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/images/stories/matrices/ictmap_english.pdf. As you begin to reflect on another year, I hope you will continue to consider the opportunities for you and your teachers to incorporate media literacy into the curriculum.

I was fortunate to have been invited to be part of the State Department of Education's English language arts curriculum revision writing team. I can honestly say it was some of the hardest work I had ever done. Interestingly, the ELA standards traditionally have been devoted to print, even though the National Council for Teachers of English has endorsed "non-print texts" since the early 1970's. In December 2006, I conducted two "Best Practices" workshops for SDE and some of my recommendations for ELA (and school library media specialists) can be found on a special web page I developed: <http://www.frankwbaker.com/elahandouts.htm>

Because I often find myself presenting inside a school library media center, I take the opportunity to scan the shelves to determine if the collection contains anything related to media literacy. Unfortunately, I am finding little. So, if you are weeding your collection in the coming months, or creating a list of desired titles, I hope you may consider some of the wonderful new texts about media and media literacy (for teachers and students). <http://www.frankwbaker.com/recbooks.htm>

Finally, this summer, the National Media Education Conference has an exciting agenda and its theme is "iPods, Blogs and Beyond: Evolving Media Literacy for the 21st Century." As a former board member of the sponsoring organization, the Alliance for a Media Literate America, I can tell you that the St. Louis, MO event (June 22-27) will provide you with a valuable chance to hear from experienced media educators who are doing exciting things in the classroom. (I do realize that this coincides with ALA). For more info about the NMEC program and related costs, go to:

<http://www.amlainfo.org/nmec2007>

I always enjoy hearing from school media specialists, so send me an email if you have a comment, question or concern: fbaker1346@aol.com

Frank Baker Among Finalists for National Award

Education consultant Frank Baker is one of two local educators who have been selected as finalists in the 2007 Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards program. The annual awards program is sponsored by Time Warner Cable and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation. It aims to promote and encourage innovative learning practices by honoring individuals who have transformed an aspect of education. Frank is among 43 finalists selected from hundreds of applications received across the country. He is being recognized in the Media Literacy Education Award category for his more than 20 years promoting media literacy. That includes conducting annual workshops and creating the Media Literacy Clearinghouse Web site.



From the State Department of Education
School Library Media Services
Martha Alewine, Consultant, School Library Media Services
E-mail: malewine@ed.sc.gov

The Art of Saying Thank You

On a recent trip to “browse” among the shelves at the local Barnes and Noble bookstore, I decided to check out the books on the sale shelves. I love a bargain and always find one or two gems among the titles whose prices have been slashed. This trip continued my good fortune when I spied a little book whose title I’ve used for this article.

I have repeatedly written and talked about the importance of creating advocates for your library media program. You’ve heard the same sentiment from our profession’s leaders in SCASL and at the School of Library and Information Science. Applying the art of saying thank you is one simple way to begin creating advocates for your program. Think back to how you felt when someone gave you a pat on the back, either literally or figuratively, and said thank you for a job well done or for the gift or for the assistance with a project. Now imagine how you could “pay that good feeling forward” by saying thank you. According to Connie Leas, author of *The Art of Saying Thank You*, “A thank-you note is often the only reward people receive for special acts of kindness or a job well done” (Leas, 22).

With that in mind, how many people can you list who deserved a note of gratitude but, for whatever reason, never received one? Not definitive by any stretch of the imagination, here’s my school-related suggested list:

- Kitt Lisenby (and all the people who helped) for making conference such a success;
- your principal for signing your travel request allowing you to attend conference; for his/her reading aloud to students; for his/her participation in, and support of, library media center activities;
- your assistant (if you’re fortunate enough to have one) for carrying on in your absence while you were at conference, for helping with library displays/bulletin boards, for managing the circulation desk, for offering ideas and suggestions to improve the efficiency of the media center;
- your spouse for taking care of the homefront while you were at conference;
- your student helpers (again, if you’re fortunate enough to have them);
- your parent volunteers for helping with the book fair, for helping when you attended the State Read-in, and/or generally helping in the library;
- your PTO for supporting the library media center;
- your library colleagues for sharing their ideas and expertise;
- the band director or choral director following a concert by the band or chorus;
- the art teacher following a showing of student art work;
- the drama teacher following a student theatrical production;
- the cafeteria manager;
- the school bookkeeper for helping you keep track of your budget expenditures;
- the custodians for helping keep the media center and the school neat, clean, and attractive;
- your district Board of Education members; and
- your students for their cooperation, their behavior, their participation in library activities, their suggestion of new books for the media center.

One last thought about thank-you notes. Take the time to send a handwritten note on nice paper. To send a quick email belittles the sentiment and may possibly say to the recipient that you really didn’t “care enough to send the best.” Our fast-paced lifestyle has fostered a real decline in handwritten personal notes and could, ultimately, mean the end of handwriting in general and especially to handwritten communication. Your extra effort will be greatly appreciated and valued by the recipients.

Thank you for all you do for your profession, your school and district, and most especially, for your students.



Book Award News

Samantha McManus, Book Awards Chair, smcmanus215@yahoo.com



South Carolina Book Award Program Wrap Up

Greetings from the Book Award Committee! Another successful year has ended with terrific titles once again winning the South Carolina Book Awards. Of course, the committee does such a fine job of ensuring that **every** title is terrific, that any one that wins is a guaranteed hit! 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. I'd also like to express my thanks to the many members of the book award committee who dedicated their time and energy to the students of South Carolina through their participation in creating another great nominee list.

Our Picture Book Award continues to be a great success. This year, 235 schools cast a total of 49,727 votes. That is nearly double the number of votes cast last year! The winning title was **Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum** by Lisa Wheeler.

Other winners this year were:

Children's Book Award: **Up the Learning Tree** by Marcia K. Vaughan

Junior Book Award: **So. B. It** by Sarah Weeks

Young Adult Book Award: **The Truth About Forever** by Sarah Dessen

This year, a total of 838 schools reported votes, well over the 575 schools participating last year. A cumulative total of 76,610 votes were cast as compared to the 55,000 recorded last year. The Book Award Committee is very excited about this growth in participation, especially since we know that the reason the Book Award Program is so popular is because our friends and colleagues put forth the effort to promote the nominees in their schools. The new nominee lists and activity guides can be located at www.scasl.net under the Book Award link at the left of the page. Please visit these pages to find great ideas for teaching using the 2007-2008 nominees, other titles to suggest to students who fall in love with one of the books, and Websites that feature lesson plans, author links, and more.

Book Award Banner Program

The Book Award Committee thanks each of the schools that submitted a banner based on one of the 2006-2007 nominees this year. The judges were impressed with the variety of materials used and the many ways our students interpreted the books. One banner even came with batteries! Winners from this year's contest were:

Picture Book Award

1st Place: **Crazy Hair Day** submitted by St. Andrew's Elementary

2nd Place: **Knuffle Bunny** submitted by Pocalla Springs Elementary

3rd Place: **Whose Garden Is It?** submitted by Heathwood Hall

Honorable Mention: **Crazy Hair Day** submitted by Robert E. Howard Middle School

Honorable Mention: **Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook** submitted by Pendergrass Fairwold School

Children's Book Award

1st Place: **Buttermilk Hill** submitted by Howe Hall Arts Infused Magnet School

2nd Place: **Knockin' On Wood** submitted by Ninety-Six Elementary

3rd Place: **Great Sockathon** submitted by Moore Intermediate School

Junior Book Award

1st Place: **Double Dutch** submitted by Oakbrook Middle School

2nd Place: **Double Dutch** submitted by A.R. Rucker Middle School

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

Honorable Mention: **Becoming Naomi León** submitted by White Knoll Middle School

Young Adult Book Award

- 1st Place: **Jake, Reinvented** submitted by Ninety-Six High School
2nd Place: **Shadow of a Doubt** submitted by Oakbrook Middle School
3rd Place: **Sara's Ground** submitted by Hilton Head High School

Special thanks to Melinda Hartsook from Glenforest School in West Columbia, South Carolina, for receiving the banners this year, as well as to our judges who took time from conference events to evaluate the banners. Book award banner submission guidelines and the judging rubric are located at <http://www.scasl.net/bkawards/banner.htm>

And very important thanks to the following committee members who devoted so much time and effort to their task in order that the library media specialists, teachers and students of South Carolina might have the best of the best for their enjoyment!

Picture Book Award Committee

Lisa Conrath, Chair
Daniel Beach, Vice Chair
D'Etta Broom
Susan Cassels
Gwendolyn Davis
Jenny Dilworth
Sally Ficklen
Lynne Holcombe
Alleene Holland
Sherwin L. Johnson
Janet Kittrell
Laura Linder
Cerese Long
Michelle Martin
Donna Kaye Myles
Teri Puryear
Suzanne Rhoten
Joanne Schwartz
Lisa Ulmer
Barbara Zinkovich

Junior Book Award Committee

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Tambra Pingle, Vice Chair
Teresa Blankenship
Kelly Brown
Kathleen Butler
Brandy Caroway
Dianna Deaderick
Camellia Harris
Lauren Harrison
Peggy Harrison
Charletha Heyward-King
Julie Hornick
Melanie Jackson
E. Kim Livingston
Beth Poole
Susan Prettyman
James Washick
C. Alex Webster
Shannon Wham
Beverly Windham
Marci Yates

Children's Book Award Committee

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Greta Flinn, Vice Chair
Janell Alston
Jill Altman
Karen Bennett-Waterfield
Lois Rauch Gibson
Elisabeth Hall
Eleanor Haton
Deborah Henson
Jennifer Jones
Sheila Keaise
Mary Anne Kohl
Stephanie Nichols
Debbie Poole
Michael Seagle
Deborah Sessions
Marley Shaver
Deborah Wolfe

Young Adult Book Award Committee

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Mary Lou Elliott, Vice Chair
Michal Brandon
Sheri Carpenter
Tiffany Flowers
Galena Gaw
Melinda Hartsook
Sally Hursey
Pam Lorentz
Heather Loy
Michelle Pope
Leah Roche
Mary Silgals
Michelle Williams
Emilie Woody



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President - **Ida Thompson**
President-Elect - **Kitt Lisenby**
Secretary - **Valerie Byrd Fort**
Treasurer - **Steve Reed**

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Archives & History
Joyce Moore
Awards
Lizzie Padgett
Constitution & By-Laws
Lillian DeGuire
Book Awards
Samantha McManus
Editorial
Laura Jackson
Information Technology
Donna Teuber
Intellectual Freedom
Amanda LeBlanc
Legislative
Martha Taylor
Special Public/Independent
Schools
Gina Reilly
Public Awareness
Judy Parham
Pre-Service
Pam Williams
Regional Network
Frankie O'Neal
Retired LMS
Blanche Fowler
Standards & Guidelines
Melanie Stewart
Supervisors' Section
Wayne Martin

Ex Officio Members
SCLA **Jane Connor**
SDE **Martha Alewine**
USC **Ann Perrault**
Executive Secretary
Kathy Sutusky

South Carolina Book Award Nominees



Picture Book Award Nominees PreK - 2nd Grade

About Arachnids: A Guide for Children
Cathryn P. Sill
Actual Size
Steve Jenkins
Apples to Oregon
Deborah Hopkinson
Bad Kitty
Nick Bruel
The Bumblebee Queen
April Pulley Sayre
Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles
Get Sick Too!
Donna Rathmell
Coming on Home Soon
Jacqueline Woodson
The Dog Who Cried Wolf
Keiko Kasza
Elephants Can Paint, Too!
Katya Arnold
Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog
Pamela S. Turner
If You Decide to Go to the Moon
Faith McNulty
Leaf Man
Lois Ehlert
Leonardo the Terrible Monster
Mo Willems
Llama Llama Red Pajama
Anna Dewdney
My Big Brother
Mirian Cohen
My Teacher for President
Kay Winters
Not Norman: A Goldfish Story
Kelly Bennett
Papa, Do You Love Me?
Barbara M. Joosse
Precious and the Boo Hag
Pat McKissack
Reaching for the Moon
Buzz Aldrin
Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing
James Rumford
Sweet Tooth
Margie Palatini
Too Many Frogs!
Sandy Asher
Turtle Tide: The Way of Sea Turtles
Stephen R. Swinburne
When Charlie McButton Lost Power
Suzanne Collins



Children's Book Award 3rd - 6th Grade

Abby Takes a Stand
Pat McKissack
Ballpark: The Story of America's Baseball Fields
Lynn Curlee
Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan
Mary Willilams
Defiance
Valerie Hobbs
Each Little Bird That Sings
Deborah Wiles
Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy
Andrea Warren
Escape to West Berlin
Maurine F. Dahlberg
The Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story from the Netherlands
Louise Borden
Hidden Child
Isaac Millman
A House of Tailors
Patricia Reilly Giff
Lowji Discovers America
Candace Fleming
The Missing Manatee
Cynthia C. DeFelice
The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story
Mary Downing Hahn
Only Emma
Sally Warner
The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy
Jeanne Birdsall
Rosa
Nikki Giovanni
Show Way
Jacqueline Woodson
Stumptown Kid
Carol Gorman
Tackling Dad
Elizabeth Levy
When Ratboy Lived Next Door
Chris Woodworth



Junior Book Award 6th - 8th Grade

Bound
Donna Jo Napoli
Chicken Boy
Frances O'Roark Dowell
The Cloud Chamber
Joyce Maynard
Cryptid Hunters
Roland Smith
Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue
Julius Lester
Double Identity
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Eyes of the Emperor
Graham Salisbury
Hitch
Jeanette Ingold
In Darkness, Death
Dorothy Hoobler
Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery
John Feinstein
The Liberation of Gabriel King
Kelly L. Going
The Lightning Thief
Rick Riordan
Princess Academy
Shannon Hale
The Revealers
Doug Wilhelm
The Safe-Keeper's Secret
Sharon Shinn
The Sea of Trolls
Nancy Farmer
The Secret of Castle Cant
K.P. Bath
Shakespeare's Secret
Elise Broach
Sixth-Grade Glommers, Norks & Me
Lisa Papademetriou
Soul Surfer
Bethany Hamilton

#Title shared with Young Adult Book Award

2007 - 2008



Young Adult Book Award 9th - 12th Grade

13 Little Blue Envelopes

Maureen Johnson
Caught in the Act

Peter Moore

Code Orange

Caroline B. Cooney

Dark Angel

David Klass

Double Helix

Nancy Werlin

Elsewhere

Gabrielle Zevin

Fake ID

Walter Sorrells

Invisible

Pete Hautman

Jude

Kate Morgenroth

Names Will Never Hurt Me

Jaime Adoff

Prom

Laurie Halse Anderson

Rob&sara.com

P.J. Petersen & Ivy Ruckman

Runner

Carl Deuker

The Safe-Keeper's Secret

Sharon Shinn

Stealing Henry

Carolyn MacCullough

Things Change

Patrick Jones

Twilight

Stephenie Meyer

Uglies

Scott Westerfeld

Upstream

Melissa Lion

Who Am I Without Him?

Sharon Flake

Title shared with Junior Book Award



New Look! New Logo! New Web Site!

The school year is now winding down and summer will be here before you know it!! We are very excited about the launch of both our new logo and our new Web site. We have listened to you by incorporating many of your suggestions (from the Database Assessment Survey results) into the new site design. We will also be giving you an opportunity for comments and further suggestions. The following are features of our new DISCUS Web site:

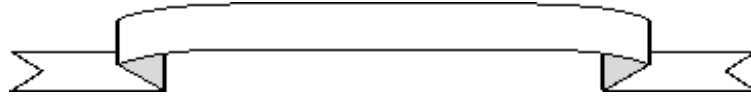
- ❖ An updated logo with a new tag line - "Your Information Place" reflecting our thoughts about what DISCUS should be for all South Carolinians.
- ❖ Refreshing new colors.
- ❖ Clean concise interface designed to enhance access to the databases as well as the training, promotional and technical materials.
- ❖ Great interactive features built into the new site utilizing Web 2.0 technology. From the home page, you'll see a link for joining the DISCUS community. Becoming part of the community allows you to participate in discussions and share ideas with colleagues and other DISCUS users. An RSS feed on the community will keep you updated on new posts as they arrive.
- ❖ "How Do I Find?" tag cloud (another interactive feature) allows users to contribute by entering descriptive words to describe the resources on the Web site. These descriptive words, known as tags, provide an opportunity for users to participate in "defining" the information available within the databases.

As always, the DISCUS staff welcomes the opportunity to assist you in promoting the use of DISCUS resources to your school's students, parents and teachers throughout the year.

Finally, we wish to thank all 2007 SCASL Conference attendees who stopped by the State Library exhibit booth and provided feedback about the DISCUS Program. We received many positive comments and suggestions. Our door prize winner was:

Alice Reid, Media Specialist
Berkeley County School District

Amy Duernberger,
Aduernberger@statelibrary.sc.gov



SCASL Award Winners 2006 - 2007

Media Specialist of the Year



Carole McGrath, Wade Hampton High School

The School Library Media Specialist of the Year honors a full-time media specialist on the basis of exemplary library media programs as well as active participation in SCASL and other professional organizations. Exemplary library media programs are those defined as reflecting the themes of collaboration, leadership, and technology integration.

Mrs. Carole McGrath, Media Specialist at Wade Hampton High School, was chosen as the School Library Media Specialist of the Year. Mr. Chris Christy, Representative of Hart, Inc., in his presentation to Mrs. McGrath, noted her outstanding work with all of the Hampton County Schools. One special initiative required that the schools undergo a formal assessment process. Spearheading this process, Carole

presented the findings to the school board. The results of this challenging process were that every school received funding for books!

Mrs. Melanie Hahn, Media Specialist at Honea Path Elementary School, and Mrs. Betsy Long, Media Specialist at Doby's Mill Elementary School, were finalists for this award.

Distinguished Service Award



Harriet Pauling, Fairfield Middle School

The Distinguished Service Award is a multi-faceted award that recognizes an individual or an organization for contributions to SCASL and/or school media programs throughout the state of South Carolina. The purpose of this prestigious award is to recognize one who has made an outstanding contribution to South Carolina school librarianship, school library media services, and/or SCASL.

This year's recipient, Mrs. Harriet O'Neal Pauling, has been a dedicated member of SCASL for over thirty years! Mr. Bob Rinaldi, representative of Sagebrush, said that Harriet not only serves as the "go-to" professional in her district, but she also quietly inspires other to make important strides in their professional growth. Harriet's

impact is far-reaching for she has consistently supported and "raised the bar" for others as they work toward National Board certification.

Nancy Jane Day Scholarship



Teresa Clark Gray

The Nancy Jane Day Scholarship is awarded annually to an SCASL member to reimburse the cost of a successfully completed college course taken for credit to improve job performance or to complete a graduate degree in library science. The scholarship honors Nancy Jane Day, who was the Supervisor of Library Services for the South Carolina State Department of Education for twenty-four years.

Teresa Clark Gray is the 2006-2007 recipient of this award. Maintaining a 4.0 average while also managing her responsibilities as wife and mother, she is completing her degree requirements in library science. She is looking forward to working as a media specialist, and she has a special interest in implementing research strategies

to promote the reading interests of fourth and fifth grade boys.



Margaret Ehrhardt Scholarship

Brian Michael Smith, St. James High School

The Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship is given annually to a deserving high school senior library media center volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to South Carolina librarianship, school library media services and/or SCASL. This year's recipient, Brian Michael Smith, was nominated by his media specialists at St. James High School in Murrell's Inlet, Barbara Schlidt and Steven Reed.

Brian writes that books helped him "learn things about people because in books you get to see how the characters think and evolve". Brian wants to be a psychologist, and he feels that books showed him new aspects about life and people. Brian is continuing his studies at Clemson University.

Awards Committee Members:

Lizzie Padgett, Chair, Melissa Adair, Susan Adams, Debbie Heimbrook, Betty Jordan, Judy Parham, Vonnie Smith

Intellectual Freedom Award 2007 Presented to Michael Giller

The Intellectual Freedom Award is sponsored by ProQuest/SIRS and is presented on alternate years by SCASL and SCLA. The awards are presented to individuals or groups who have met or resisted attempts at censorship and have otherwise furthered the cause of intellectual and academic freedom.

The SCASL Intellectual Freedom Committee is proud to announce this year's Proquest/SIRS Intellectual Freedom award winner, Michael Giller. Mr. Giller is Assistant Director at the South Carolina



Governor's School for the Arts in Greenville. He was nominated for his tireless promotion of the ideals of intellectual freedom, both in his classes with students and with special programming and displays. His devotion to the ideals led him to create a special film entitled "Know Your Enemy" intended to inspire and motivate students to defend their 1st Amendment rights. The film integrated information about banned and challenged books with clips from the 1960's Free Speech movement on the UC Berkeley campus, and students could see firsthand the importance of understanding their rights and the impact that students can have on an institution.

An "Open Mic" was held and students were invited to introduce their favorite banned book, the reasons it was chosen, and read an excerpt. There was school-wide support for this event.

He presented a poster session at SCLA on promoting intellectual freedom.

His nominator also commented on his everyday encouragement to students to become critical consumers of information, using a variety of opinions and views to become more tolerant citizens of our world. Congratulations to Michael Giller.

*Amanda LeBlanc, Chair
Intellectual Freedom Committee
aleblanc@greenville.k12.sc.us*

Intellectual Freedom Committee Members: Amanda LeBlanc Chair, Randa Edmunds, Helen Chao, Betsy Russell, Helen Winningham, Gayla Williams, Nancy Self

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

A SCASL Conference 2007 Retrospective

Peggy Harrison, Brewer Middle School, harrisonp@mail.gwd50.k12.sc.us

“This was the best conference ever!” “Oh,” someone will reply, “you always say that.”

Actually, I don't always make that statement, although I am frequently heard to say, “We've just had a wonderful conference!” The accolade with which I began this article has, in fact, only been uttered by me about four times in my more than twenty years of conferences. There have been many good and very good conferences; a great conference, like anything else truly deserving that qualifier, is not as frequent an occurrence.

Anticipation heightened and expectations rose with the hints appearing on the SCASL listserv in the fall. The excitement built as the details emerged more clearly in the call to conference. Conference fever was contagious, and the only cure for its sufferers was to obtain professional leave for as many of those three important days as possible.

The only whisper of concern dealt with possible parking problems. This conference would be the first held in the fairly new Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, and were they really ready for us? After all, we are SCASL, the group that has already outgrown other fine facilities across our state. Would we find a place to stow our transportation without having to worry about ransoming towed-away vehicles?

Thanks to the foresight and planning of our officers and other conference organizers, the parking problem was really no problem at all—at most just a minor convenience. No other cloud appeared that threatened to rain on this annual parade.

The conference theme, “Capitalize on Learning @ Your Library,” was echoed throughout the preconference seminars, exhibits, concurrent sessions, exploratorium, and other offerings. From when I first entered the center, walking past the gorgeous, prominently displayed book banners (no more getting lost trying to find them tucked away in a corner), I thought, “The book is back!”

That first impression, reinforced by an informative preconference session featuring new titles for all levels that I attended at the Richland County Public Library, stayed with me throughout the conference. Technology is here to stay, and who would want it to go away?, but what better to blog and podcast about than books and reading?

Besides concurrent sessions that featured book clubs, book talks about the book award lists, professional books—we were really getting booked up at this conference—there was the read-aloud guru, Jim Trelease himself, presenting a keynote address, using statistics to support what we already know, that students need a print-rich environment to achieve their best, that students who read succeed.

Being the introvert that I am, the nomenclature 21st Century Soiree made me more than a little wary. I needn't have been alarmed. Hearing Sharon Draper, Coleen Salley and Dr. Walter Edgar speak was the highlight of the conference for me.

To cap off the best conference was the best Author Celebration Luncheon. Not only was the food as tasty as the company at the table was pleasant, but I won a door prize. Let me repeat that: I won a door prize. Did I tell you that...? (I suppose by now you have realized that I've never before heard my name called for a door prize.)

Kudos to all involved—the hard-working SCASL officers and member volunteers, the speakers, the guests, the presenters, the exhibitors, the convention center staff, and all of us attendees! This conference will go down in my book as the best ever—at least to date.



Capitalize on Learning @ your library!
A HUGE SUCCESS!

Kitt Lisenby, President-Elect

Eight hundred and fifty of us made our way to Columbia to present, to volunteer, to network, to re-energize, and to gather wonderful new ideas to put into action in our own school library media centers. SCASL's 32nd Annual Conference was filled with extraordinary information and outstanding fellowship. Alan November and Jim Trelease gave us food for thought, while Coleen Salley, Sharon Draper, and Jacqueline Woodson inspired us with their enthusiasm. The soiree was a great success and all events led up to a wonderful final-day luncheon that was enthusiastically enjoyed by all participants--speakers included.

The locale was excellent as were the facilities. The entire 3-day program would not have been a success without the remarkable efficiency and help of the local arrangements folks and the technology staff of Richland School District One. The staff of the convention center was extremely helpful, friendly and courteous. They really extended themselves to accommodate our members.

I have read every single one of the evaluations and made notes to pass on to Val Byrd Fort, our new President-Elect, as she begins preparation for next year's conference. Do you know what you really liked? The spiral-bound conference program, the SCASL Conference notes, and the 8 ½ X 14 "cheat" sheet! We certainly do like the "little" things. And that made me think how important the "little" things are to our students, faculty, and administrators.

As I said at the luncheon, everyone should have the opportunity to see conference from "the other side!" The myriad details are beyond description. But cooperation and support make sure everything gets done.

Be sure to send in your volunteer forms if you are interested in assisting with next year's conference or working on Executive Board committees. Thank you again to everyone who volunteered to do anything at conference; it would not have been the success it was without you!



Getting the conference off to a great start: (l.to r.) Richland District One Superintendent Dr. Allen Coles, member of the Columbia City Council Sam Davis, President-Elect Kitt Lisenby, President Ida Thompson, and Senator Vincent Sheheen.

In a world of nformation, Where will your students find their place?...



With the integration of career clusters into the middle and high school curricula and the EEDA Pathways to Success (<http://www.teachscpathways.org>), students need exposure to as many careers as possible. The 21st century has already been labeled “The Knowledge Age” which makes it imperative that we, as information specialists, exercise our professional responsibility. We must educate our students about careers in technology and information management and build capacity in our profession for future leadership. To that end, SCASL is proud to sponsor the Student Professional Association for Technology, Information, And Libraries (SPATIAL).

SPATIAL goals are to encourage each member to participate in **co-curricular activities** that:

- Promote 21st century literacy (e.g., information, media, technological, digital, global, economic)
- Promote awareness of information needs of various career clusters
- Promote responsible citizenship, self-confidence and professional pride
- Promote awareness of realistic career choices
- Promote an understanding of the importance of interacting and cooperating with other students and organizations
- Promote an understanding of the relationship between information skills and career success
- Promote awareness of the information sciences and technologies and their benefits to society

The Student Professional Association for Technology, Information, And Libraries will use the 16 state-adopted career clusters (<http://www.careerclusters.org>) as its focus. Each year activities will be directed toward the information needs of one particular career cluster. The career cluster emphasis will provide the opportunity for collaboration with other student groups and will present numerous opportunities for all students. Student participants will be able to represent their schools in the SPATIAL competitive events program. The annual state-wide conference will showcase the leaders in each of the competitive events. The three categories and their events are:

Category I - Individual Events

Information systems terminology
Bibliographic citation and plagiarism
Copyright law
Book talking
Technical writing
News writing
News reporting
Biographic writing
Investigative writing
Extemporaneous Writing
Web-page design

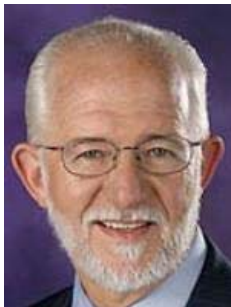
Category II - Team Events

Battle of the books
Researched speaking
Researched persuasive speaking
Extemporaneous speaking
Community Awareness Career Information Display
Parliamentary Procedure
Creative Problem Solving
Freedom of Information Debate
Technological ethics

Category III - Recognition Events

Outstanding SPATIAL Chapter
Outstanding SPATIAL Chapter Newsletter
Outstanding SPATIAL Member

Your ideas, input and support are important to the success of our students. Please join in helping us establish this exciting new program for students. SPATIAL is kicking off now for start up in schools for the 2007-08 school year. For more information about getting involved or starting up a local chapter at your middle or high school, go to <http://www.geocities.com/spatials/SPATIAL.html> or email: spatials@yahoo.com to request information to start up a local SPATIAL chapter.



David Goble Named Director of the South Carolina State Library

David S. Goble assumed his position as director of the South Carolina State Library as of March 19, 2007. In addition to extensive library service, his background includes both staff and management experience in the commercial world, service as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and service in the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Goble has a wide range of library service, both public and academic, including stints at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library, North Carolina State University Libraries and the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Most recently he served as Dean of Libraries at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte where he initiated services using technology to provide library access 24/7 to its users including a Web-based library system, 24/7 reference service, and instant messaging-based reference.

SCASL welcomes David Goble and looks forward to working with him and his staff at the South Carolina State Library.

Effective Advocacy!

Martha Taylor, Legislative Chair, marthataylor@anderson5.net



It's been an exciting year as we've ventured into **Strive for 25!** The advocacy work that so many of you have done has been truly outstanding. The media coverage and print publicity about our initiative have been great. As our legislative consultant Jim Johnson has said many times — this is only the beginning of an ongoing campaign. We are off to an excellent start.

One of the issues that SCASL is concerned with this year, in addition to our special funding request, is the "65-35% Solution." There are currently two bills in the S.C. House on this issue – H3348 and H3296. It is very important that library media specialists and programs be classified in the *instructional* side of these initiatives. The SCASL legislative committee is monitoring the progress of these bills and will provide information on them as this legislative year unfolds. We will alert the board and membership to any recommended advocacy actions via the SCASL-LS list, Regional Network, and the SCASL Web site.

For information about this type of budget legislation and how it affects school library media, the AASL Instructional Classification Toolkit is a great resource on the Web. Be sure to visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/toolkits/instructional.htm> to learn more about this critical issue. Dr. Nancy Zimmerman has provided national leadership on this topic. We are lucky to have her expertise here in South Carolina. You'll find this AASL link and many other valuable legislative and advocacy resources on the SCASL Web site.

Keep up your advocacy efforts with our elected officials and our school and district communities. Each one of us has the potential to make that magic connection that will bring us closer to our ultimate goal for our library media programs.

Legislative Committee

Members:

Martha Taylor, Chair
Jim Johnson,

Legislative Consultant

Ida Thompson,
SCASL President

Elizabeth Gregory

Penny Hayne

Lena Lee

Fran O'Neal

Kathy Sutusky

SCASL Regional Network
members

Keep on Learnin'

Amber Keeran, Jesse S. Bobo Elementary, keeranal@spart6.org

Upon arrival at this year's SCASL conference and perusing the program of presentations, I found myself woefully dated on the technology front. It seemed that so many sessions contained the words "podcasting," "blogging," or "download." My first instinct was to hover towards the relative safety in the descriptions with "new reads" and "book clubs," of which there were still plenty to choose, thank goodness!

I know I would have enjoyed those sessions highlighting books and I would have come away with ideas, just like every other year. But after Thursday's tours, I resisted the temptation of the safe and familiar and forced myself to explore the unknown, to learn what's really new – not just book titles – in the world of library media.

All three sessions I attended on technology were informative and full of ideas – just like I want my SCASL conference to be! I learned that "blogging" doesn't have to concern politics (the only time I'd heard it mentioned was by my political extremist brother-in-law) and that my students *can* do it safely if I show them how. They can "blog" about the South Carolina Book Award nominees. They just might get excited about reading if they can get on a computer to respond to the books they read *and* it might help their writing skills, too.

I found that I can help kids create video book reviews, much as I already do on tape, but it can go on a "podcast" now so they can watch it whenever they want from home to share with their families and friends. No computer at home? Hey, it might even get them to the *public* library at night to tune in – and there are a lot worse places for them to hang out at night.

Then there was the idea to start a walking club with iPods and audiobooks. With all the talk of childhood obesity and the state's new health and fitness initiatives, my only fear was that everyone will be writing grants to get MP3 players (they probably already are – I'm just that woefully behind!). To get kids exercising and building listening skills with books was just too perfect. Who'd have thought we'd be collaborating most with the PE teacher?

I'm still not sure how to "blog" or "podcast" or even download an "ebook," but I'm a little less frightened by the terms and a lot more excited to learn more about all of it. Now if I can just find time for my son to show me how to do it all!

Am I giving up on books? No way. They'll always be my mainstay and the reason I'm a librarian. But to keep up with kids and prepare for the future, I need to truly be an information specialist. I need to practice what I would preach to the students and not be afraid to embrace it all.

Thanks, SCASL conference and fellow media specialists, for keeping the excitement alive!

A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen April 20-21, 2007



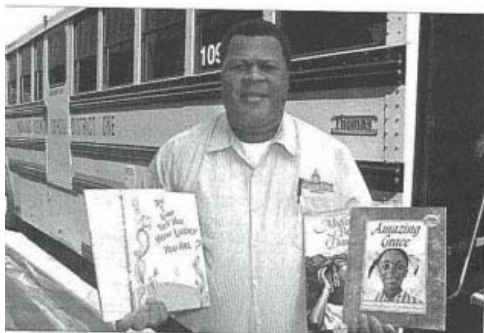
Mark your calendar now for A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen this month. Author-illustrator Bryan Collier will be the featured guest for the 21st annual Celebration of Stories at the Main Library in Columbia.

This event is sponsored by the Richland County Public Library and the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science.

For details visit <http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/baker.htm> or call 803-929-3474.

Larry Gunn - Idea Man of the Year!

*The following article was written by Erin Trostle,
communications intern at Richland School District One.*



You won't find any paper-throwing, rowdy students on Lewis Greenview Elementary School's school bus route number 311.

Thanks to bus driver Larry Gunn, the elementary school students can be found sitting in their seats reading.

With the help of Greenview principal Delores Gilliard and Spanish teacher Amlynah Al-Muslin, Gunn started Books on Bus (known to students as B.O.B.). Books on Bus is a project that began with collecting nearly 150 books and sending letters home to the parents of children on bus 311. Those who did not respond received a home visit by Gunn himself who further explained that parental-involvement was essential to Books on Bus. Gunn's reasons for initiating B.O.B. included his desire to pass on the love of reading to children. "It's good to get them started at an early age", he said. "Reading provides comfort and improves comprehension and fluency." However, one of Gunn's biggest concerns was the behavioral problems on school buses. When students misbehave, there is a serious threat of danger posed by the distraction of students who act up.

"On a scale of one to ten," Gunn said, "I'd say the improvement has put the students on my bus up to a 10." With the incentive of a \$20 gift certificate to the student who reads the most books, it's easy to see why the students are on their best behavior. Gunn says that reading excites the students. His challenge is to monitor their comprehension of books by setting a standard for each grade level.

"The first-graders will draw a picture and the older students will write a few sentences or a paragraph explaining what their books were about," Gunn said. When asked if he'd like to see the program expand to other bus routes, he said, "It's up to the drivers." He indicated that he would like to see others become involved, but understands that some don't have the time or resources.

Gunn's desire to be a good role model to children only begins with B.O.B. He has also initiated Clean Sweep, a project that motivates the students in his Meadowlake subdivision bus route to build teamwork skills by volunteering to clean their neighborhood.

Larry Gunn has been employed by Richland One for two years and is currently working on his master's degree in management.

Start Spreading the News

Recently, a colleague shared a Family Circus comic with me that read "To be a librarian, all you have to learn is how to say 'SHH!' While I laughed aloud at this lighthearted depiction of our profession, it also made me pause to think about all the people who think there is truth in that statement. It is very disheartening to defend a profession that you love to people who do not have a clue about what you do.

How do we change this? We must take a proactive approach! Are you passionate about your career and do you enjoy talking to others about it? Then the SCASL Pre-Service Education Committee just might be the right fit for you. We are looking for media specialists to represent the diverse regions of our state who are willing to speak to pre-service and in-service audiences about who we are and what we do. Please feel free to contact me about how you can get involved. In the great words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

Pamela Williams, SCASL Pre-Service Chair
padams2218@aol.com

Pre-Service Committee Members:

Pamela Williams, Chair, Virginia McCraw, Susan Cathey, Ann Morris, Vicky Culbertson

SCASL Blogs!

Catherine Nelson, cnelson@rock-hill.k12.sc.us

At the SCASL Conference this year, we were most definitely able to “Capitalize on Learning @ Your Library” even from afar. That’s right folks, SCASL went Web 2.0. Through the Web 2.0 portal of a SCASL Blog and a Flickr account, attendees and non-attendees were able to experience the conference, regardless of where they were!

A Brief History

For those who know me, I am an avid fan of MANY blogs and podcasts. I have no less than 135 feeds that I follow in blogs alone. Please allow me to name a few that I follow:

- “2 Cents Worth” by David Warlick
- “Neverending Search” by Joyce Valenza
- “SC Politics Today” by The State (Newspaper)
- “AASL Weblog” by Alice Yucht (among others)
- “Tame the Web: Libraries and Technology” by Michael Stephens
- “Blue Skunk Blog” by Doug Johnson
- “Alan November Weblog” by Alan November
- “Moving at the Speed of Creativity” by Wesley Fryer
- “Weblogg-ed: The Read/Write Web in the Classroom” by Will Richardson
- “Kathy Schrock’s Kaffeeklatsch” by Kathy Schrock

And these are just a few of the 135 feeds I follow. I also follow many podcasts, but I think I’ll cover that in another MCM. The focus of this article is on blogging and the “SCASL Blogs!” Weblog.

To tell this story, I need to start at the beginning. I began paying attention to blogs nearly two years ago. I recognized in 2003 and 2004 that the term “blog” was rapidly becoming a buzzword, and so I needed to understand it. During the summer of 2005, I attended my first National Education Computing Conference (NECC) (in Philadelphia that year) and Web 2.0 was all the rage. I noticed all the sessions that filled up quickly or offered standing room only were about Web 2.0 applications like blogging and podcasting. To see what all the excitement was about, I went to some of those sessions. Immediately I saw the impact they could have on classrooms, but the presenters of these wonderful sessions could also offer me continuous growth in knowledge through their blogs. I suddenly realized that blogs could offer me a whole new level of professional development—continuous professional development. So I returned home to begin visiting their blogs. Many blogs offer a blogroll, or a listing of blogs that author likes to read, so I began visiting their favorites, too. My bookmarks or “favorites” list became long and tedious, and I would have a difficult time remembering which ones I had already visited each day.

Learning to Manage Blog Subscriptions with an Aggregator

But during my time spent reading, I learned about aggregators, and how all my favorite blogs could be sent to me through an aggregator. Bloglines was the first one I used, and to this day I have continued using it, even though I am now aware of Google Reader and the Yahoo aggregators that are also free and supposedly easy to use. I visited Bloglines, set myself up a free account and began adding the blogs I liked to read to my Bloglines account. Many of the aggregators have online tutorials to help you if you need it.

Bloglines allows me to manage my feeds, and I can read them when I have time. It is easy to see with a quick glance whether anything has been newly posted on the blogs, and, in all honesty, it is so much BETTER to visit ONE SITE rather than 135 sites to see new content. Now I visit my Bloglines most of the time daily (generally in the evenings at home) and can read or skim through new items fairly quickly. On occasion, I’ll link out of the Bloglines to see what kind of comments others are making, or bravely make my own comment on their site. Bloglines offers hyperlinks to allow a visit to a subscribed blog, where you can read and comment by writing your thoughts back to them.

The professional growth I have obtained over the past two years from my Bloglines alone is immeasurable. I have decided I like my blog and podcast subscriptions even better than email, which I never thought I'd say. But it is true. The list above is just a sampling of the blogs I follow, and most of those are related somehow to the library or educational technology profession. But I also have subscriptions to literature, teaching, Christianity, local news, my son's college (DePaul), and even weather-related blogs or podcasts. I admit that I am addicted.

The Birth of "SCASL Blogs!"

Now for the SCASL Blogs! Weblog. How did it come to be? As an avid fan of David Warlick, I noticed that he was encouraging folks to blog about conferences they attend. It is his belief that networking can occur through blogs too, and he wanted anyone who was attending a conference to register it, blog about it, and tag each post so that it could be tracked through his site (Hitchhikr.com) or through the Technorati site (Technorati.com). Now this was way above my comfort level, but I did visit these sites to begin to understand what he was taking about. At Hicthhikr, I discovered that I could "virtually" attend a wealth of conferences that were related to educational technology, school libraries, and Web 2.0 applications, without ever leaving school or home. On the Hitchhiker site, David Warlick writes (and I quote):

"...In changing times, we need to raise our heads out of the water every once in a while, take a drink of kool-aid, network, learn, and energize. Yet, we can't always make it to the conferences we need to attend to mix with the people we need to see — face-to-face. This is why Hitchhikr was invented, to provide you with a virtual space where, thanks to blogs, podcasts, and RSS, we can connect, share, respond, and grow knowledge out beyond the place and time of the event..."

Since I had benefitted immensely from visiting this site to see what is happening at conferences of interest to me, I decided to propose to the SCASL Board a blog for our conference. I approached Donna Teuber, the Instructional Technology Chair, about it, and she sent the proposal for review at the next SCASL Board meeting. It was approved in January, and I went right to work on creating the blog. I registered our conference on Hitchhikr, and created our Blog. I proposed introducing it at the conference in an Exploratorium session at the opening reception, which was accepted and listed as a part of the program. All I had to do was wait for the conference to arrive. I had a friend from Columbia, Chris Craft (Open Source Classroom), of the blogosphere also coaching me through the possibilities, too. So I had every confidence that this would happen.

Now in between my registering the conference with Hitchhiker and the actual conference opening reception/exploratorium, I had a major yearbook deadline. I can remember getting a call from Martha Taylor on the Monday before the conference, asking me the blog's address, passwords, etc., and all I could tell her at that time was that I was in the middle of my final yearbook deadline, and that I could not even think about a blog until I finalized the yearbook, which would happen on Tuesday, the next day. I asked her to just trust me, and believe that I would take care of it, and that I would "invite" the entire SCASL executive board to be guest authors for the blog Tuesday p.m.

Meanwhile, on Monday, March 5, David Warlick posted on his blog (2 Cents Worth) that the SCASL Conference was that same week, and that the week immediately following our conference, the North Carolina Association of Educational Communications Conference was taking place. He told all his readers that he would be at the North Carolina conference (his home state) but would be following ours since it is registered with Hitchhikr. So suddenly, one of my favorite blogosphere names was talking about US! But he wasn't coming to our conference, only lurking. So the gauntlet had been thrown, so to speak. I felt an AMAZING amount of pressure to make this effort successful. He wasn't coming, but he would be lurking.

So, on Tuesday, March 6, I busily got ready for the exploratorium, making posters, banners, hand-outs, and sending "invitations" as promised to the SCASL Board. I arrived at the conference center only to find that I had no power or screen in the reception hall where the exploratoriums were, even though I was prepared to plug in my laptop and projector to demonstrate, show-n-tell, and give "quick and dirty" directions to anyone who wanted to listen. I decided not to worry anyone about the power issue or screen, but someone let those Richland One local arrangements people know, because next thing I knew, I had power and a makeshift screen ready to go. I cannot say enough about how hard those local arrangements people worked, all for one small, insignificant exploratorium session. They were such a godsend!!

On Wednesday, March 7, at 5:30, we launched the SCASL Blogs! Weblog. Anyone who expressed an interest in authoring blog posts about sessions was signed up on the spot. These volunteer authors were taught how to login, make a post, and tag it with the Technorati tag "SCASL07" so that visitors hitting the Hitchhikr site (like, perhaps, David Warlick?) or anyone who came across our tag on the Technorati site could virtually attend our conference. I also made announcements on the SCASL listserv regarding the ability to follow what was happening at the conference through the blog or our Flickr site!

Who gets credit?

We had many pictures posted to our Flickr account (which is an image hosting site), and these were tracked on the blog along with summaries and announcements from the conference. I know that I blogged sessions, as did Janet Boltjes and Martha Taylor. I learned quickly that I am way too wordy to blog sessions. My posts seem more like lists and facts, while Janet and Martha have provided much better summaries. Donna Teuber assisted as well, uploading images or assisting others to upload pictures. I believe all of us actually uploaded pictures. Had to, because I know that I did not post all 169 images that can be found on that site. Thanks to anyone and everyone who shared pictures or information regarding sessions that were blogged. It was an exciting endeavor, and I'm still amazed that we pulled it off. But I never doubted my colleagues who joined to make this a successful adventure. I thank you all!

Join us to blog next year's conference!

It was a lot of fun, and I'm pretty sure we'll do it again next year. I just hope I can get more SCASL Conference attendees to participate and blog about the sessions they attend. We are in the same location, and the Columbia Metro Convention Center offers free wireless! We didn't get every session covered, but we did get enough, and Alan November, one of our keynote speakers was VERY impressed! With his vote of confidence, I can feel assured that our SCASL Blogs! mission was definitely accomplished. We will resurrect the SCASL Blogs! for next year's conference, so plan to help out next year!! Who knows, it may take on a life of its own now that it has been birthed!

Websites to note:

- "SCASL Blogs!" <http://scasl.wordpress.com>
- "Technorati" (tracking SCASL) <http://www.technorati.com/search/scasl07>
- "Hitchhikr" <http://www.hitchhikr.com/>
- "Flickr" (tracking SCASL Pictures) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/scasl/>
- "Bloglines" <http://www.bloglines.com/>
- "Open Source Classroom" <http://opensource.christophercraft.com/>

FREE Upstate Technology Conference, July 10-12, 2007

Dr. Annette Lamb from Indiana University's Library Science program and EduScapes will be the keynote speaker on technology integration. This is a free technology conference open to media specialists, teachers, administrators, district personnel, student teachers, etc.

To register to attend go <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/utc>

For more information, contact:

Amanda S. LeBlanc, Intellectual Freedom Chair
Media Services Coordinator, Greenville County Schools
aleblanc@greenville.k12.sc.us



USC School of Library and Information Science

Dr. Samantha Hastings, Director

Greetings from Davis College and the wonderful School of Library & Information Science. I am still aglow from the wonderful experience of my first South Carolina Association of School Librarians conference. You all sure know how to do a conference! Of course, I'm sure that Ida Thompson and her team received the gold stars they so richly deserved for such a great meeting!

I gathered as many stickers as I could for the sessions I was able to attend at SCASL. Your program was just full of important and timely material and I was delighted to learn some new things. One of the most exciting is the SPATIAL initiative. SPATIAL is the brain work of Martha Alewine and Chuck Baker and stands for Student Professional Association for Technology, Information and Libraries. A temporary website is at <http://www.geocities.com/spatialschool/SPATIAL.html> I encourage you to help sponsor this initiative as it addresses all of our concerns for ensuring we have Library and Information Professionals in the future. Recruitment for our field is of national concern and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services has it as one of their program priorities. If SPATIAL works for South Carolina students and helps them understand how they may fit in the information and knowledge society, then we may well serve as a model for others.

In addition to our rocking booth in the exhibit hall put together by Ellen Shuler and Helen Fellers at the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy and Nonie Price, I also enjoyed meeting so many of our alums at the lovely SLIS Alumni Tea that Nonie planned for us. It was inspiring to hear the variety and scope of your positions and the impact that you make daily on K12 education. There is no more powerful group than School Media Librarians. You really are the connective tissue, the bridge between resources, curricula, teachers and students. I admire you and thank you for taking such responsibility with grace and intelligence. I look forward to the next SCASL meeting. In the meantime, don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

I can't close this column without mentioning two incredible happenings. First is Spring in Columbia. Wow! Every hour the colors get more varied and brighter and I find myself watching the awakening with great interest. In celebration, don't miss the Spring Fling at my house on April 13 at 6:00 p.m. Second is ICOMM week with the Dean's Lecture with Ken Heycock following Beta Phi Mu inductions and awards ceremony on Thursday night, April 19.

Check out our two new courses that you may be interested in: J797S: Opensource Software is offered Summer II session and J797x: Web 2.0 Technologies and Libraries is scheduled for fall. Another incredible resource is DISCUS for K12 <http://www.scdiscus.org/school.html> with two new podcasts for Academic One File and the History Resource Center: US.

In closing, keep up the great work, enjoy the spring, feed the birds and hug a librarian!

Yours,
Dr. Sam

read-in 2007

Wednesday, March 28, 2007



Crayton Middle School joins in the march.



Hopkins holds its banner high.



Cocky and the Clemson Tiger help Ida Thompson at the podium.



It was a happy crowd.



They filled the capitol steps.

It was an impressive crowd that finally gathered at the steps of the capitol in Columbia, South Carolina. The parade of some 1,700 students began at the State Library at 10:00 o'clock in the morning and proceeded en masse to the capitol steps where students, teachers and celebrants gathered for greetings, a celebration of books, music and excitement. The Eau Claire High School Drumline and cadets from Eau Claire, Lower Richland and Columbia high schools made the event even more exciting. SCASL president Ida Thompson was supported in her greetings by Cocky and the Clemson Tiger.

The Read-In is a demonstration of support of literacy, school libraries, and reading for fun and enjoyment. It is a visible representation to the legislature of this state and the public in general of what library media specialists strive for and support throughout the year.

Join Read-In 2008 next year! Be a part of this unique event!

(Editor's Note: The following article is a bit unusual for the Messenger, and yet it addresses issues that have been expressed before, but not so profoundly. It is a very personal story.)

On the Care and Feeding of a Black Dog

Shannon Wham, Bell Street Middle, sdwham@laurens56.k12.sc.us

Whenever I've written articles for the MCM, I've tried to write about what I know. After all, I'm a second-year librarian writing to many who have been in this profession for years and years. It would be silly for me to try and hold forth on topics of policy and methodology with my thus far limited knowledge. So, I take what I know and apply it to librarianship. This will be the hardest article I've ever written for the MCM.

I suffer from chronic, and sometimes crippling, depression. It's what Sir Winston Churchill, another depression sufferer, called "a black dog." I have dealt with this depression since I was fifteen. The suffocating emotional blackness very nearly destroyed me in high school. I began self-medicating with alcohol and illicit drugs, a practice I was to continue for over ten years. When I started teaching, I knew I had to quit all the hard stuff or lose my job. I went cold turkey and as a consequence, the "black dog" gripped my throat again. I can't begin to count the number of times I contemplated suicide. Then, somehow, I met, wooed, and then married my beloved wife. She suffered silently for four years before sitting me down and gently saying, "Honey, get help or I'm leaving. I can't live wondering if I'll come home and find you in a pool of blood, dead." That was six years ago.

Now, what does this wonderful bit of soul-baring have to do with librarianship? Simple. Many of you have sat next to me in conferences. Several of you were my classmates at USC-SLIS. I've worked with lots of you on committees. In spite of my proximity to so many of you, to my knowledge, only two other librarians in the state know the seriousness of my condition. I keep up a good front and mask my condition well due to a good medication regimen, therapy, and a real desire to "be well." I am functional and, if my principal is to be believed, even brilliant at times. Still, understand that the black dog is quieter now, but far, far from dead. I still have days when it takes every iota of energy in my body and every scintilla of willpower I can muster just to get out of bed.

My point is this – depression is a real threat and a very serious one. Just as most of you had no idea before now of the fight inside me, many people at your schools are in the pits with black dogs of their own lunging at their throats, and, quite often, no one can tell a thing from casual observation. Think of the students you know who are loners or seem isolated or even angry. Think of the ones who are constant discipline problems. Sure, they may be loners and well adjusted at the same time but they may be suffering some degree of clinical depression. Oddly enough, many of the best readers whom I've known as students have eventually been treated for depression or some other mental illness. Reading, especially big doses of fantasy or other escape fiction, can be a potent way of self-medicating, and a much safer alternative to alcohol or drugs.

Don't just stop with the students. That colleague who always seems a little down; the teacher down the hall from the library who has dark circles under his eyes; or even someone who is "trying too hard" to be happy – all of them could be in need of help. In fact, our librarian colleagues may be suffering from chronic depression. After all, the nature of the job we do lends itself in many ways to being a haven for the depressive personality. Depression doesn't know socio-economic status, grade point average, or job description. Most people would go out of their way to help someone with a broken leg, but because depression is "invisible," many people ignore the signs of someone crying out for help.

Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not advocating we be junior mental health professionals. To be very honest, severe depression really is a job for trained people, if not Superman. What I'm asking is that we all keep our eyes open, and that we don't get so busy working with our collections and collaborations that we fail to notice people hurting around us. I know that I always found solace in the library when I was in elementary and middle school. My depression started getting worse when I abandoned my library time in high school because I just didn't feel as welcome there. Don't get me wrong; my high school librarian was a wonderful professional, but I just didn't connect with her.

That's the main idea of what I'm asking us to do – connect. Notes to fellow faculty members, a kind email, even something as small as a smile will all go a long way toward giving a bit of solace to a suffering colleague. As for our students, notice who hangs out in the library. Stop a minute before shooing them out the door for being in the library without a pass. Oh sure, most of them might be rule breakers trying to get out of class, but one or two may be genuinely looking for a place to hide or to cry without the entire student body seeing him or her. Depression thrives on loneliness.

In the news not long ago, a story ran about a ten-year-old boy who committed suicide by shooting himself with his father's gun. The note the little one left said he was "tired of being sad and then angry all the time" and he "just wanted to stop hurting." Our world is way too fast in many ways. Children lose their naïveté much too soon these days while we adults have our own slate of marital problems, financial problems, sickness, job issues, and the list goes on. Some become like the little boy, sad, angry, hurting all the time, and before they know it, everything seems hopeless. It's a sickening feeling . . . believe me, I know all too well.

So keep your eyes open. Connect with the people around you. Watch your colleagues. Never be afraid or ashamed to point out to someone something that concerns you. Sure, you may not be appreciated every time, but you also may never know that you helped drag a black dog away from someone's throat. Finally, if the black dog is at your throat, remember that, covers of recent issues of *School Library Journal* aside, you don't have an S on your chest and a red cape on your back. Please, don't wait twenty years to seek help as I did. No one needs to fight the black dog alone.

Editor's Note: We received a note from Lynda Lee expressing her regret for not being able to meet her assignment for this issue. Having been plagued with bouts of ill health, she has had to prioritize her activities, but she still manages to positively interact with her students and appreciate members of her faculty. Bearing in mind Shannon's suggestions, who knows how her acts of kindness may have affected them? The following is excerpted from her note, with her permission:

. . . This year my intent had been to write at least one thank you note a week to staff members. I was going to build my article on that activity. When school began, I learned that my library assistant would be out for an undetermined amount of time. Going into survival mode, I still wrote some thank you notes. The teachers whom I wrote to were very touched. One thought that I must be leaving. Yikes! My exhaustion from working and dealing with this flawed middle age body wreaked havoc with my "thank you" plans. I have managed to still do some random acts of kindness as thank you's. Instead of giving the cold shoulder to a teacher who was very rude to me in front of a group, I gave them a print of one of my nature photos that they had admired. I use my photography to brighten my work area, and they had seen some of the pictures scroll by on my screen saver. I purchased one of my favorite old DVD's to give to a coach who always prepares his classes well before he brings them and addresses behavior before it ever becomes an issue. When Valentine's Day approached, I used the student council's fundraiser of valentines attached to CHOCOLATE to thank several teachers. With the end of the year fast approaching, I am making sure that the coveted empty Follett boxes get to teachers who are going to be leaving us. While I don't believe we should take on the job of "babysitter", I do volunteer to watch a class for 15 or 20 minutes every once in a while to give a teacher heading to a graduate class an easier afternoon. Another teacher doing double duty...teaching and being taught...was easy to say thank you to with a book from the SCASL conference and forwards from our listserv that were sure to save valuable time. While none of these activities are extraordinary, I have found that just by having a thankful mindset, I have taken more notice of the many kindnesses afforded me during the year.

Lynda Lee, Manning High School, LLee@clarendon2.k12.sc.us

What I Do That Makes Me LOVE My Job!

Roberta Dwelley, Sanders-Clyde Elementary,
Roberta_Dwelley@charleston.k12.sc.us

Wow what a fun title! Love my job, yes indeed I do! I do love my job. Where else can you be Santa, Easter Bunny, Leprechaun, an Elf, Lilly (and her purple plastic purse) a Pirate, Ms Frizzle and all other assorted characters?!

I love to excite children about reading because I myself get excited to find a new book. I was thrilled to find the latest addition to the Junie B Jones series this past weekend.

I love being able to present a character to children and draw them into the story.

Sharing special books or even certain phrases with a particular group helps me make a stronger connection. Earlier this year one of my second grade classes made the discovery that the crayons had “special names”. This group now loves to say “Hi, Burnt Sienna” to me. That is “our” special word and it makes for many smiles as we greet each other in the hallway or classroom.

Of course, I also have older students and they don’t necessarily love my characters. For them I try to make things interesting and draw a connection to their lives—a feat that is often much more difficult than I would like to admit to anyone.

Being with the students and watching them grow as readers is what makes me love my job.

The Advocacy Committee - Working For You!

The Advocacy Committee continued the mentor program. We had many who volunteered to be mentors and not as many who wanted or needed a mentor. We attributed this to the individual districts having their own mentoring programs.

The committee wishes to thank those who volunteered to be mentors. We also want to encourage everyone to attend the SCASL Summer Institute on June 12 at the Columbia Convention Center. Karen Lowe has highly pertinent information on collection development.

*Lendy Hinton, Chair
lhinton@lex2.org*

Advocacy Committee Members:

Lendy Hinton, Chair
Susan Adams, Janie Doyle, Andi Fansher, Peggy Harrison, Melanie Stewart, Celeste Stone

Things to do:

Work in your community to support Strive for 25.

Complete a leadership application form available on the SCASL Website.

Join the conversation on SCASL Listserv!

Plan to attend the SCASL Summer Institute

Volunteer to serve on one of the SCASL Committees.

Public Awareness Committee Members:

Judy Parham, Chair
Patty Bynum, Teresa Morelli, Robert Cashion

Archives & History Committee Members:

Joyce Moore, Chair
Joan Kruger, Laura Jackson

Special Public/Independent Schools:

Gina Reilly, Chair
Patricia Bradley, Galena Gaw

SCASL Summer Institute

Library Media Resource Alignment

*Does your library media collection support student achievement?
Are the resources aligned with your standards-based curriculum?*

Join us for an exciting and productive day of professional development led by expert Karen Lowe. Learn best practices to ensure that your students and teachers have access to the resources and support they need to complete standards-based assignments and to read for pleasure!



South Carolina Association of School Librarians
<http://www.scasl.net>

**Approved Professional Training Session for S.C. State Department of Education Renewal Credit
(Based on the South Carolina Department of Education Renewal Credit Matrix.)**

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 12, 2007 from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM

Location: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, South Carolina

Sponsor: South Carolina Association of School Librarians
P.O. Box 2442; Columbia, SC 29202; Telephone: 803-782-3956

Intended Audience: School Library Media Specialists

Presenter: Karen Lowe, Northwest Regional Education Service Alliance

Training Objectives:

- To assess the media center collection by matching it to the state curriculum
- To identify resources that need to be discarded as well as gaps and weaknesses in curriculum support
- To develop a five-year resource development plan
- To prepare a five-year budget plan to acquire needed resources

Registration: \$50.00 (Includes lunch and snacks)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

School _____ District _____

E-mail _____

Check #: _____ - or - Credit Card Information: Circle One Visa Mastercard

Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiration Date: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Name of Cardholder: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

**Registration space is limited. Form and payment must be received no later than May 25, 2007.
Mail to: SCASL / P.O. Box 2442 / Columbia SC 29202**

Retirement?

Barbara Montgomery, Pontiac Elementary, Mont9898@bellsouth.net

When one begins to look forward to retirement it is important to remember what you are leaving behind. It can be your legacy and should be someone's largess. Keep in mind that the person coming after you may be a seasoned veteran or more likely a fresh new face. Do you remember your beginning as a fresh new face? Think about what you wanted to walk into.

You probably wanted to find sitting in the middle of the well cleaned out and cleared off desk a lovely note from the former media specialist welcoming you to a great school. She gave you her phone number inviting you to call if you had questions. But, you did not have to call because she left the "book." That's right the "book." Your reference book containing a wealth of information. The book includes a list of book jobbers preferred and the name and number of the appropriate representatives. It also lists the best places to purchase equipment, laminating film, barcodes, poster paper, overhead lamps, and many other items. It suggests where equipment can be repaired by someone who picks it up, delivers it and doesn't charge an arm and a leg. This book includes a list of willing volunteers, good dates for book fairs and details of other ongoing programs. It tells you who to talk with about these activities. There are suggested names of teachers of each grade level who have been most willing to collaborate.

Notes about the circulation system are included: how to startup and how to make date changes, who the SASI guru is and her favorite chocolate. It emphasizes that you need to have the bookkeeper's number on speed dial and find out what her favorite chocolate is. (Chocolate always works!) Really important is a list of all accounts and when they should be spent. The book also provides up-to-date magazine lists, and book and equipment inventories, too. To round things out, sitting next to the "book," is an up-to-date policy manual of everything you need to know but did not want to ask about libraries and librarianship in this new district. Also included is a list of all the media specialists and how to reach them during the summer.

Now the only thing more important than the book and the manual is the name and information about the assistant you will be working with. This person is your right hand, your sentence finisher, your buffer and partner in crime. The assistant is the person who knows just as much as you do about everyday operation of the library and the person who will be your greatest asset and supporter. Encourage her and praise her.

Retirees Still "Feeding Their Minds"

Feeding Your Mind was the theme for our retiree session at the conference. I wish to thank those who attended for their suggestions as to how to keep our profession and the love of reading going. Some of the suggestions offered included visits to hospitals, senior citizen centers, and group homes. Working with afterschool programs and visiting other facilities to read to individuals or groups were other good ideas. A great idea for anyone who doesn't want to take time away from home is to create a community reading program wherein a retiree-volunteer reads to children one day a week on her own porch or in her yard. Many of these suggestions will be presented to the executive board and, with your participation, initiated during the coming year. Please stay in touch with SCASL and your friends. Many of our former media specialists are still helping to foster the love of reading in others. Plan to work with our group next year.

*Blanche F. Fowler, Chair
Retirees Section
bfowler@dorchester2.k12.sc.us*

The Retirees Section members:

Blanche F. Fowler, Chair
Lucille S. Pinckney,
Judy Roumillat

Constitution and By-Laws

Committee Members:

Lillian DeGuire, Chair
Florence Gibbs, Karen Stinson,
Winnie Green, Stephanie Sistrunk-Edwards

Elections Committee

Lawren Hammond, Chair
Frankie O'Neal, Laura Jackson
Penny Hayne

Information Technology Committee Members:

Donna Teuber, Chair
Alice Brice, Julie Putnam, Shannon
Wham, Andi Fansher, Linda Estridge,
Laura Richardson, Charletha King,
Catherine Nelson, Susan Adams,
Linda Day

South Carolina Rural Schools Denied Right to Intellectual Freedom

Rhett Jackson, *rhett@happybookseller.com*

For decades censors have been crawling out of the woodwork, determined to decide what school children should be allowed to read. While this invasion of intellectual freedom appalls many of us, a similar censorship threatens the social fabric of rural South Carolina.

What could be more abhorrent than restricting the right of adolescents to read the coming of age stories told by Judy Blume, Mark Twain and J.D. Salinger? The answer is vividly illustrated along the I-95 corridor of South Carolina, where schools stand in malignant disrepair and aged texts serve as reminders of the days of “separate but equal.”

The American Library Association defines Intellectual Freedom as “...the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction...”

Along this “Corridor of Shame,” as it is popularly known, 132,000 school children are denied access to information because our legislature refuses to seek a standard of exemplary education, instead, electing to accept a state standard of a “minimally adequate education.” Adding to the deprivation of resources available to school children, the decline of the agricultural and industrial sectors of the rural communities has deteriorated the tax base and, in turn, local funds available to these 36 rural elementary, middle and high schools.

Few would deny that intellectual freedom is the basis for our democratic system. In order to hold our citizenry responsible for self-government, we must provide them opportunities and tools to be well-informed. Access to ideas and information is critical to allow people to inform themselves and, as a by-product, make well-educated decisions.

If censorship is said to occur when expressive materials, such as books, magazines, films and videos, or works of art, are removed or kept from public access, then isn't also the lack of current text books and ill-equipped libraries in the rural schools of our state a form of negligence to intellectual freedom? A systemic change to rectify these conditions is necessary to provide for the emergence of a knowledgeable society and assure the continuation of a functioning democracy.

The words of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas come to mind. He once said, “Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions. It is the one un-American act that could most easily defeat us.”

Each decade, year, month and day that passes, the world gets smaller, as technology makes the other side of the globe a click away. These left-behind children are languishing in conditions without access to modern day amenities.

These same children are the fabric of today's rural landscape in South Carolina. They are the only hope we have of sustaining a quality of life in our rural communities for future generations. These forgotten children have been denied their rights to intellectual freedom and the opportunity to pursue the American dream of personal advancement amidst social progress.

Rhett Jackson is a founding member and former board member of American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. For most of his life, Jackson has been an active advocate for education and the children of South Carolina. Mr. Jackson was the recipient of the SCASL-SIRS Intellectual Freedom award presented at the 2005 South Carolina Association of School Librarians annual conference in Florence.

Regional News

Region 1A

Anderson District 5. Westside High School media center has been very proactive in improving services including the introduction of graphic novels, book clubs, focus on technology, and a comfortable reading area. Pictured are some of their students.



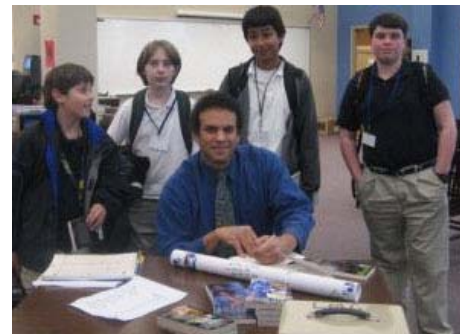
Oconee County. April Llibre and Kay Moxley, Walhalla High School, teamed up with literacy coach **Lana Parris,** and ESOL instructor **Lynn Thrift,** for a \$2000 grant from their local Education Foundation. The grant money was used to purchase 45 Playaways to start an audio collection in

the school's library, and the Playaways have flown off the shelves! Tamasee-Salem Elementary and library media specialist **Tracy Whaley** hosted **Melinda Long,** author of *How I Became a Pirate* and *Pirates Don't Change Diapers* on Young Author's Day in March. The next day, journalist and author **Michael Cogdill,** from WYFF 4 visited and did a presentation about his children's book *Cracker the Crab.* He and his wife Jill, the book's illustrator, flew in on the SKY4 helicopter! Code Elementary and library media specialist **Phyllis Mays** also hosted **Melinda Long.** Ravenel Elementary and library media specialist **Cindy Edgerton** hosted **Tim Lowry** who spent the day telling stories and that night families came back for the Social Studies Soiree where he told stories in Revolutionary War Period costume. Fourth graders were also dressed as Revolutionary heroes and participated in the performance. Seneca Middle School and library media specialist **Sydney Jones** hosted their first Teen Tech Week Contest. Students created commercials, videos, PowerPoint presentations, iStories and posters promoting READING through the use of technology. The student with the overall best project won an iPod Shuffle, while three students won flash drives just by participating.

Region 1B.

Cherokee County. Kaye Cox moves from Granard Middle School to Lexington Intermediate in Lexington District 1 next year. **Spartanburg 6. Amber Keeran,** Jesse Bobo Elementary, was awarded a DHEC mini-grant for recycling and coordinated a schoolwide recycling program with the Second Grade Recycling Club. Amber will move to Inman Intermediate School in Spartanburg School District One next year. On April 11, **Letitia Moore,** Dawkins Middle School, and **Joyce Dillard,** Gable Middle School, hosted author **Will Dantzler,** 15-year-old author from Mt. Pleasant. **Greenville County.** In February, the local Barnes and Noble hosted Bryson Elementary Day for students,

faculty and family members. There was music, art work, readings by students and principal **Thomas Chambers.** This special event was a result of collaboration between the media specialists, **Deborah Wolf** and **Pam Maggio,** art and music teachers at Bryson with **Dana Graddick,** the community relations manager of the store. On Valentine's Day, storyteller **Tim Lowry** visited Mitchell Road Elementary. Students in grades K-5 were entertained by his wonderful standards-based stories. This was made possible through the organization of **Sherer Reid,** media specialist. The "Survivor" Reading Challenge at Blythe Academy was a great success as students were challenged to outlast and outread each other during a four-week period. Teachers also tried to score additional points for their groups. The PTA provided treats for all. **Susan Dicey,** Southside High, is proud of daughter Elisabeth who has been named one of the top five finalists in the state in the AAA Travel High School Challenge. **Marion Blumenthal Lazan,** speaker at last year's SCASL Conference, was hosted by **Sandy Bailey,** Northwest Middle, and **Paula Shaw,** Hillcrest Middle. Mrs. Lazan shared her experiences as a child living through the Holocaust. Her book, *Four Perfect Pebbles* was also available for purchase by students and teachers. **Shannon Wham,** Bell Street Middle (Clinton), also hosted her at his school and a community-wide event. Young adult author **Neal Shusterman** (pictured) visited several district schools and spent the day at Beck Academy. In preparation for his visit, **Andi Fansher** read from *Dreadlocks* each morning before school, and displayed posters and a large collection of his books in the library to encourage students to read his books on their own.



Region 3.

Chester. Russ Conrath, Great Falls High School, gave a presentation on the historic Brainerd Institute in Chester to the USC's South History of Education Society during their conference in March. Russ is an ED. D candidate at USC.

Region 4A.

Fairfield County. The monthly meeting in April for the district media specialists will be held at a new local bookstore. The Fairfield County Public Library Director, **Sarah McMaster,** will be presenting the expansion plan for the main branch of the public library. Final plans will be made for the April Read-In.

Region 5A.

Aiken County. **Kathy Bledsoe**, Greendale Elementary in New Ellenton, received a \$525 grant from Wal-Mart for the school's Accelerated Reader program.

Region 7.

Chesterfield. Cheraw Intermediate holds a Media Center Family Day the first Saturday of every month. **Joely Stafford**, LMS opens the media center to families and students from 9 to 12. **Darlington.** **Dr. Darlene Atkinson-Moran**, LMS at Brunson-Dargan Elementary, has started "Come Read With Me" from 7:15-8:00 each morning. Parents come in and read with their children. **Dillon 1.** Throughout February, Lake View High School Media Center teamed up with a local business, The Gator Florist, to encourage students to "Fall In Love With Reading." Literacy was promoted in various ways. Students who visited the media center on February 1 received a chocolate kiss and on Valentine's Day, students brought in their favorite recipes and book-talked their favorite books. To end the month, top readers were treated to a pizza party where the month's top reader received a bouquet of flowers from The Gator Florist. **Dillon 2.** Thanks to an *Improving Literacy Through School Libraries* grant, three schools in Dillon hosted author and illustrator **Bob Barner** in March. He talked to the students at East Elementary, South Elementary and Stewart Heights Elementary about many of his books and also drew illustrations from some of his books. Author **Dori Sanders** visited Gordon Elementary and J.V. Martin Junior High schools recently. **Florence 1.** As of January, **Jane Shurman** became a new assistant in the media center at Royall Elementary. **Debra Heimbrook**, Carver Elementary, arranged a visit from author/photographer **Charles Smith, Jr.** in January. **Florence 3.** **Lynda Hawkins**, district library coordinator, is retiring after 35 years of service to Florence District Three. **Elaine Miles**, district library secretary and assistant, is retiring after 31 years. They will be missed.

Region 8.

Horry County. **Nancy Nelson**, Carolina Forest High, reports that the Library Media Club promoted the Poetry Cafe Night at Socastee Library. They enjoyed a poetry mini-workshop conducted by **Dr. Nelljean Rice** of Coastal Carolina University. **Sabra Bell**, Waccamaw Elementary, is planning a repeat of last year's "Poetry Party" to celebrate National Poetry Month in April.

Region 9B.

Dorchester. District Two. An AR Auction will be held at Alston

Middle School on April 27, 2007. It will be the finale for their Reading Renaissance Program. Students will have a chance to bid on items that have been donated and/or purchased. **Berkeley County.** The St. Stephen Middle School media center will host the third annual Wonder of Words (WOW) Festival on Friday, March 30. The festival will feature storyteller **Carolyn "Jabulile" White**, readers' theater, poetry jams, student-written drama, guest readers, games, free books for everyone. College Park Middle School started a promotion called "Caught You Reading". They designed a simple coupon with a space for the student's name and homeroom teacher. If any teacher sees a student reading at an appropriate time (after class work is done, in the media center, during lunch) s/he gives the student a coupon which s/he fills out and drops off in the media center. They can come during their regular media center cafe day for a free drink and snack. It promotes free reading, the kids like it, and it is easy to do.

Region 10.

At Robert Smalls Middle School Media Center, media specialist **Lillian Haist** and her staff are now featuring a composer of the week. So far her students have heard works of Dvorak, Mozart and Bach in the background. She calls it "music to stimulate the creative and intellectual soul". The idea has caught on, and students can also hear the same composer but different works in guidance. **Sharon Draper**, an SCASL favorite, took part in a 2-day media blitz in Beaufort County in March appearing at Hilton Head Middle and Robert Smalls Middle Schools, and spending the entire day at Hilton Head High. Students at all the schools avidly read her novels prior to the visit, and took part in writer's workshops, group discussions, and other exciting activities highlighting her hugely popular works.

**Teachers of the Year!
Congratulations All!**

Berkeley County.

Linda Bryant, Cainhoy School
Lily Cooper, St. Stephen Middle
Emily Davis, Daniel Island School
Lynne Dubay, J.K. Gourdin Elementary

Hampton 1.

Carole McGrath, Wade Hampton High

Dorchester 2.

Debbie McLoud, Knightsville Elementary School

Williamsburg County

Kim Avant, Hemingway High School

Kudos to Marianne

Dorchester 2. **Marianne Odom**, Beech Hill Elementary School A/V Assistant, was selected as the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Vital Statistics



Births

Tina McDaniel, Blacksburg High School, adopted a baby girl.

Misty Gosnell, Mauldin Elementary, had a baby boy in March.

Marriages

Darla Cudd, Corinth Elementary, was married in February and is now Darla Cudd Scruggs. Her husband Danny Scruggs was deployed to Iraq in late March.

Deaths

Union County. Sympathy is extended to the family of Joseph "Joe" Chamberlain who died in early March.

Congratulations!

These Districts have 100% SCASL membership for the 2006-2007 year.

Region 1A.

Anderson 2

Anderson 4

Oconee

Region 1B

Spartanburg 4

Region 2

Greenwood 52

McCormick

Saluda

Region 3

Union

Region 4A

Fairfield

Lex 3

Lex 4

Region 4B

Rich 1

Region 5A

Barnwell 45

Barnwell 29

Region 5B

Orangeburg 3

Region 6

Kershaw

Region 7

Dillon 1

Dillon 3

Florence 2

Florence 3

Florence 4

Marion 1

Marion 2

Region 10

Hampton 2

Thinking of starting up a cozy cafe?
Here is how BHS did it!

Teens Read-a-Latte at the BHS Library Café

A little bit of "Starbucks" came to the Beaufort High School Media Center on Friday, March 2nd, with the grand opening of its library café, *The Turning Page*. National "Read Across America Day" was used as the kick-off for this new venture, designed to encourage reading for enjoyment in a casual, low-key atmosphere. Was it a hit? BHS café-goers seemed to think so. "This is SO cool! Why did they wait until I was a senior to do this! This is the coolest thing Beaufort High has ever had," lamented senior Ebony Sumpter.

Media specialists Leah Roche and Doug Smith wanted more students to use the media center as a headquarters for recreational reading. "I wanted our students to really take ownership of the project from the start. I figured if **they** planned and designed the café, it would be inherently appealing to other teens," said Roche. Eight students, representing all grade levels, were recruited to serve on a Media Center Teen Board. After hearing the concept of the library café, and seeing pictures of other existing library coffee houses, they were brimming with ideas about what their BHS version should look like and feel like.

The Teen Board met on a weekly basis with their media specialists to determine such issues as color scheme, menu, and the name of the café. After much brainstorming, the group decided "The Turning Page" conveyed just the right vibe. "We wanted to create a restful space for reading and relaxing, but one that was also kind of funky and fun," said Estabon Middleton, Teen Board member. They also developed a special pass that allows teachers to send students to the café. "If a student needs to do some computer research, then the café is **not** where they need to be. But if they have finished class work, or have done something special, like "ace" a test, then we are happy to provide them with an added incentive to read here at school," said Doug Smith.

Media center student assistants run the café during school hours serving coffee and snacks. Roche emphasized that it was not meant to be a money-making project, but to encourage students to read in the media center.

Since there was no budget for this project, all the basics were donated. Faculty members contributed coffee pots and café supplies. Kathy Pitt, freshman biology teacher, offered to bake cookies. Sally Mayse, BHS School to Work coordinator, scoured local consignment shops for two easy chairs for the café. Bruce Roche, a local furniture refinisher, turned his hand to creating a sign, wood room dividers, and a serving cart. Art teacher Ginger Anderson painted a large mural depicting an idyllic outdoor scene which provides needed depth to the small space. "This is SO New York," enthused junior Joellen Hirshey, "I love it!"

Dan Durbin, BHS principal, was also pleased with the results. "Hopefully, **The Turning Page** is just the start of new and innovative offerings for our young adults. It is encouraging to see such positive ownership and responsible behavior from our students."



Regional Network

Director: Frankie O'Neal

Non-Public: Gina Reilly
Retired: Blanche Fowler

* Region Co-ordinator

Region 1A.

*Carolyn Segers

Anderson 1: Becky Bridges
Anderson 2: Pam Wright
Anderson 3: Deborah Jordan
Anderson 4: Pam Owens
Anderson 5: Carolyn Segers
Oconee: April Llibre
Pickens: Yvonne Mayo

Region 1B.

*Sue Fitzgerald

Cherokee: Darla Cudd Scruggs
Greenville: Sandy Bailey
Spartanburg 1: Nancy Gauden
Spartanburg 2: Katie Hughey
Spartanburg 3: Karen McGill
Spartanburg 4: Vickie Brown
Spartanburg 5: Judy Parham
Spartanburg 6: Peggy MCQuade
Spartanburg 7: Lee Ann Bailie

Region 2.

*Lyn Wolfe

Abbeville: Catherine Parker
Edgefield: Jean Peeler Covar
Greenwood 50: Peggy Harrison
Greenwood 51: Linda Martin
Greenwood 52: Patricia Henderson
Laurens 55: Sherri Sherer
Laurens 56: Janice Meeks
McCormick: Lyn Wolfe
Saluda: Jill Altman

Region 3.

*Susan Cassels

Chester: Teresa McKenzie
Lancaster: Connie Horton
Union: Pam Sloss
York 1: Caylen Whitesides
York 2: Nancy Kivette
York 3: Julia Nichols
York 4: Susan Cassels

Region 4A.

*Harriet Pauling

Fairfield: Harriet Pauling
Lexington 1: Dupre Young
Lexington 2: Janie Doyle
Lexington 3: Judy Derrick
Lexington 4: Pam Livingston
Newberry: Rebecca Elswick

Region 4B.

*Elizabeth Gregory

Lexington 5: Renee Williams
Richland 1: LaDoris Walker
Richland 2: Amy Whitfield

Region 5A.

* Mary Lou Wallace

Aiken: Mary Lou Wallace
Allendale: Linda Day
Barnwell 19: Donna Taylor
Barnwell 45: Heidi Leiws
Barnwell 29: John Rainey

Region 5B.

* Anita Hutto

Bamberg 1: Cynthia Tucker
Bamberg 2: *Vacant*
Calhoun: Julia Fanning
Orangeburg 3: Helen Winningham
Orangeburg 4: Wendy Blevins
Orangeburg 5: Helen Chao

Region 6.

* Dr. Katherine Barrett

Clarendon 1: Sylvia Witherspoon
Clarendon 2: Lynda Lee
Clarendon 3: Penny Kemp
Kershaw: Kitt Lisenby
Lee: Patricia Stukes
Sumter 2: Carolyn Buckner
Sumter 17: Anita Vaughn

Region 7.

* Debra Heimbrook

Chesterfield: Linda Estridge
Darlington: Judy Hall
Dillon 1: Liz Herlong
Dillon 2: Ruthann Wooten
Dillon 3: Christy Berry
Florence 1: Debra Heimbrook
Florence 2: Vonnie Smith
Florence 3: Gayla Williams
Florence 4: Amy Fouse
Florence 5: Pam Hyman
Marion 1: Edna Earl Rouse
Marion 2: Robin Horne
Marion 7: Ged Duvall
Marlboro: Teresa Reid

Region 8.

* Sabra Bell

Georgetown: Grier Rivers
Horry: Sabra Bell
Williamsburg: Elaine Culick

Region 9A.

* Susan Henley

Charleston 1: Kim Livingston
Charleston 2: Debbie Stroman
Charleston 3: Beth Hale
Charleston 4: Joyce Smith
Charleston 9: Minerva King
Charleston 10: Melanie Crumpton
Charleston 20: Polly Greene
Charleston 23: Stephanie Sistrunk-Edwards

Region 9B.

*Lynne Dubay

Berkeley: ue Coleman
Dorchester 2: Suzanne Craw
Dorchester 4: Joyce Pearson

Region 10.

* Carole McGrath

Beaufort: Leah Roche
Colleton: Celeste Stone
Hampton 1: Carole McGrath
Hampton 2: Audrey Koudelka
Jasper: Karin Kadar

SCASL Bound to Stay Bound My First AASL Grant

“My First AASL” Grant

Have you ever attended an American Association of School Librarians’ Conference? If not and if you meet the criteria listed below, you may qualify for a newly announced grant to help you attend the meeting in October.

“My First AASL” To qualify for one of the \$750 awards, all you must do is:

1. Be a member of AASL by October 1, 2007
2. Be a member of SCASL
3. Be currently working in an elementary or middle school library
4. Be attending your first AASL National Conference
5. Have little or no travel funds available from your district

Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc., a leading supplier of children’s and young adult books, will award two of these grants to members of SCASL, in an attempt to encourage professional growth and interaction. If more than two qualified people apply, the local association will determine the winners.

Applications must be received by May 11, 2007.

References:

For additional AASL Conference information go to:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/reno2007.htm>

For AASL membership information go to:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslmembership/aaslmembership.htm>

SCASL Bound to Stay Bound My First AASL Grant

“My First AASL” Grant

Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

District _____

Tried & True

Being the Fourth in a Series of Helpful Hints

Sabra Bell, Waccamaw Elementary, sbell@we.hcs.k12.sc.us

*****End of the Year *** Miscellaneous Ideas*****

Anytime I have to go fix something (computers, printers, telephones, reset TVs, distribution lists, replace Office applications, etc....), I type up the steps to do the FIXES and keep them in a file called SHORT CUTS (because I now have the directions and don't have to start at GO). Chances are, if there is a problem that needs my attention, the solution is in my file. And, if it isn't, it will be after I have solved the problem. I currently have about 50 "short cuts" in my SHORTCUT File!

Paula Canine, St. James Middle School, Horry County

We have been weeding nonfiction science heavily again this year, and I hated to see the wonderful photos go to waste. The art teacher and I put together a photo realism/photo mosaic project. I made a power point with two Chuck Close works and then pulled a couple of pictures from Rob Silver's work. We read "Up Close with Chuck Close" to the 4th grade classes. Then we showed examples of photo mosaic pictures that we found elsewhere (a cruise line photo, the cover of a 9-11 book, etc.)

I had my aide razor blade the photos from the science books and put them in categories, plants, mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, insects. The art teacher then had the students choose one photo to replicate in the photo mosaic style (Ours are slightly different. Most photo mosaics use tiny images of the final product.) Then the students cut the photos into approximately 1" X 1" squares of the category and pasted them onto their hand drawn animal or plant.

This project, of course, had curriculum tie-ins. The 4th graders are studying habitats and can now fit their animal/plant into the appropriate habitat and ask other students with animals/plants from the same habitat to join in a larger picture.

Maybe someone else can recycle those wonderful nonfiction photos this way!

Cathy Moore, Myrtle Beach Intermediate, Horry County

I have a file drawer labeled "Previous Year's Data". At the end of each year (or at least before the next year starts), I clean out all my files and consolidate the papers into a few folders that I can keep and have easy access to when the need arises. I include budget, purchases, and book order information, lost book receipts, and special program information. I only keep what I might need in the future and recycle the rest.

Sabra Bell, Waccamaw Elementary, Horry County

I always have a short (3 day) book fair after testing is over to give students a chance to purchase summer reading. I give out the list of books nominated for the JBA so students can begin reading them during the summer. I also generate a brochure listing the students' favorite books (voted on by students) Usually we have a theme like "What 3 books would I pack to go on a cruise?", etc. This brochure is distributed in the final report card and I give it to the rising 6th graders when they come to tour the school in May. We also invite the children's librarian from Chapin Library (our local public library) to come and explain the summer reading program to students.

Dr. Nancy Ragin, Myrtle Beach Middle, Horry County

We give stickers to our kindergartners when they come to the circulation desk to check out their new books. It serves as an incentive, advertises reading and the library (we usually get book or library related stickers from Upstart) and also ensures that they don't walk out with a book without coming to the desk to check it out.

Donna Eddings, Myrtle Beach Primary, Horry County

I have a Notetaking Template that is very popular when teachers are researching at NMBHS. http://www.hcs.k12.sc.us/high/nmbh/templates/notetaking_template.rtf. Whenever I get an e-mail request that asks for my assistance and after I have done whatever is requested of me, I move the e-mail into a folder called **Assistance 06.07**. For this year I have 141 e-mails in that folder. It's just a sampling, but it is a record.

Frank Moore, North Myrtle Beach High, Horry County



Change Service Requested

Tidbits from Conference 2007



The Abbeville School District Media Specialists attended the SCASL conference and pictured are media specialists: Angie Ferguson, Catherine Parker, Sara King and Merry Kimmons with the "Strive for 25" banner.



Even early morning opening day was busy at the opening of conference.



Courtesy signage made sure attendees found their way.



The steel drum band from Logan Elementary entertained.



The assembled Richland District One choruses excitedly await their cue.



Making their annual friendly appearance, the Mumford brothers make offers LMS's can't refuse.



Jacqueline Woodson obliged everyone with autographs despite lack of sleep.

If you have found the articles in the *Media Center Messenger* this year to be interesting, informative, or inspiring, you have these folks to thank. Their ideas are unfailingly good, and they deserve many thanks for taking time from their busy schedules to share information with you. I, personally, thank each and every one of them for constantly improving the content of our newsletter. Thanks especially to Jennifer Burley who has, for years, made sure the t's were crossed and the i's dotted. Your contributors this year were: Jill Altman, Sabra Bell, Jennifer Burley, Mary Dorkewitz, Roberta Dwelley, Randa Edmunds, Greta Flinn, Valerie Byrd Fort, Beth Hale, Peggy Harrison, Amber Keeran, Mary Ann Kohl, Lynda Lee, Betsy Long, Carole McGrath, Denis McWhorter, Mary Jane Michels, Cathleen Moore, Barbara Montgomery, Sharmen Oswald, Lynn Scott, Cynthia Sparks, and Shannon Wham.

Laura Jackson, Editor, MCM
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