



Media Center

MESSENGER

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians

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Jump In. . .the Digital Water Is Great!

Bob Noë, ETV TeacherLine, bnoe@scetv.org

Over the last year I have probably made over 50 presentations across the Carolinas while talking about PBS TeacherLine. One of the key points I always make to educators in the audiences is that most of us have grown up in an analog world but all of our students are growing up in a digital world.

I do not know if it actually sinks in to listeners. I have a colleague who tells me that I need to draw some pictures! I need to explain just what the difference is. That could be the problem. Maybe the teachers just do not understand that their kids' world is so much different from theirs. I read last week in a local newspaper that email is now snail mail to the generation Y'ers, folks from the age of 18 – 26. I know baby boomers in education who are just now learning email!

There are some things nice about analog. For one it is slower, and I can get my brain around it better. Digital is instantaneous. Analog allows one to process and think about it before delivering an answer. I think you can feel analog.

I remember when I could show a 16mm film to my class or even a filmstrip. I could feel the film in my hands, the sprockets of the projector, the reels as I threaded it and the noise of all the mechanical parts all working together... if it worked the first time. It awoke all my senses of sound, texture, sight, smell and taste. Well, the last is a little stretch, but with all the lights out in the classroom, I could sneak a snack if I didn't chew too loud!

Oh, analog....prior to the nineties, we could take our time and order our films from the state audio visual library in the spring for use the next year. Of course, it made no difference if something came up in the year and the film came thirty days before you needed it. You had it for one week, and then it had to go back in the mail. So, we showed it to the kids and told them to remember it until the topic came up! And remember...Do Not Rewind before sending back! Don't get those SDE AV folks upset!

Filmstrips were another thing. What a great way to put your class to sleep. Now it did show places, body parts and butterflies they had never seen before, and that was great. It was so slow and the room so dark. But it had great feel.... That 35mm film was nice, cinching it back into that small canister, the smell of the hot lamp and droning of the fan ("What? The fan is not working? Quick! Turn it off or you'll blow the bulb!")

Analog next progressed to cassette recorders from record players. Video replaced 16mm film with its clunky ¾-inch cassettes, Betamax tapes that ETV assured us all were the ones to go with, until all home users bought VHS. Librarians became media specialists with all this technology, especially since the media specialist was now responsible for recording off the air, making dubs, broadcasting over the network and now, production. It still had a nice feel to it... those tapes in your hand and that quieter machine running. Wow... there are a lot of tapes to keep up with! When can I recycle these? Who knows?

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The President's Letter
Ida Thompson, President SCASL

**Literacy, Leadership and Advocacy –
Cornerstones of Quality Library Media Service**

It is that time of year when we all check and recheck our calendars hardly able to accept the fact that the summer has slipped away and a new school year is here, clamoring for attention and action. There is something magical about a new school year. Excited students, young professionals embarking on their careers, veterans equipped with new ideas and goals, anxious parents and determined administrators, all readying themselves for a year of discovery and work. As school library media specialists we have many opportunities to shape the experiences of students, teachers, staff, administrators and the community. By beginning the 2006-2007 school year with a focus on service and collaboration, we are assured of success. The entire leadership of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians is here, as your partners, to provide the support you need to meet the endless demands of being a library professional.

The association has continued to work on your behalf throughout the summer. The Summer Leadership Institute on legislative advocacy was a tremendous success. The work of SCASL was showcased at the AASL Affiliate Assembly at ALA, your Vice-President is working diligently on the plans for the annual conference, and committees have begun their work as well. Our association is just that; it is us, joining together to promote the ideas we believe in as professionals. There is a place for each of you in SCASL. Work with and through your regional network representative and board members to keep SCASL a viable and growing organization.

I am anxiously looking forward to this year as SCASL embarks on a course of expanded service and programming. The Executive Board had a very productive planning retreat in July, focusing on the association's mission and the needs of its members. During the retreat, I outlined for the board my overall goal for the year and the activities needed to reach that goal. I urge each of you to share your thoughts with me on these proposals and ways you see them being realized. They center on the major themes of my program for year— literacy, leadership and advocacy.

Overall Goal:

Programming that sustains the mission of SCASL and leads to organizational growth and advocacy.

Specific Activities:

1. Improved business and management practices
2. Greater visibility and outreach to members
3. Development and promotion of a leadership program for members
4. Sponsorship of activities focused on reading and literacy
5. Planning to support development of an organizational strategic plan

While many ideas have been discussed for programming to facilitate these activities, I want to mention several that I think will have a tremendous impact on our work. The first is a targeted legislative campaign. Each of us must capitalize on developing legislative prowess to draw attention to the needs of school libraries in this state. One of the planned activities supporting this is re-instatement of the statewide Read-In. Mark March 28 on your calendar and stay tuned for further details from the legislative committee. The second is seizing opportunities to take SCASL on the road through a series of town hall meetings and special programs.

As I look at the many accomplishments of SCASL over the years, it is very rewarding to know that the commitment and service of our members have positioned us positively for fulfilling our mission and moving confidently into the future. I believe that SCASL has the potential to be a great professional organization, with an expanded service level and program delivery. It is important that each of you join with the Executive Board to fuel this continued growth.

(Continued next page.)

We have many new opportunities to strengthen our collaborations with other organizations and literacy partners. We are looking forward to working with Dr. Samantha Hastings, the new director at the School of Library and Information Science, and Dr. Patti Butcher, the new State Library Director. These partnerships will figure prominently in the activities I have outlined for SCASL this year.

During the ALA conference in New Orleans this past June, it was difficult to see firsthand the destruction from Hurricane Katrina and the impact that it continues to have on the school and public libraries in the area. I want to personally thank each of you who responded so generously to Jim Johnson's call to raise funds for libraries in the New Orleans area. This effort and those of corporate sponsors, the American Library Association, and ordinary citizens are a testament to the concern and professional commitment of SCASL's members and like-minded individuals across the country.

This is an especially exciting and challenging time for our profession. Now, more than ever before, the expertise and service of trained school library media specialists are needed to help shape the direction of teaching, learning and professional development in our schools. We can each influence these by preparing ourselves, networking and growing professionally.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you as we plan programs around the state this year. My very best to you for a rewarding and productive school year. □

July 31, 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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 Subject: Leave blank
 Message: Subscribe SCASL-LS
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So, analog rolled on while students and media specialists pushed big carts with larger and larger size TV's and VHS machines around the school, until someone realized they could go on the wall. Hooray!

But what is that TV monitor with a keyboard? Is digital encroaching into my school? Yes! Micro processor, micro computers and companies like IBM, Radio Shack, and Apple are replacing Bell and Howell, Eiki, RCA, Sony and Panasonic. The digital age moved into the nineties in a big way and there was no turning back. The AV management course I taught at Davis College in the 80's might as well be called ancient history!

Now, quickly jump to today in 2006. Our students have only known a life with digital technology- laptop computers, cell phones, wireless touchtone phones at home, digital remotes, wireless micro-phones, PDA's, digital cameras and the Internet. These kids know instant messaging, text messaging, messaging languages, too, like LOL, online video games, and I am sure many other digital activities.

Digital has its rewards for media specialists, too. It is great to have the computer to maintain student, book and materials scheduling and management. It is so nice to have automated those clunky card catalogs... and adding inventory scanners for books, student ID's, laptops and software. Now just think about how Streamline SC has reduced the work of the media specialist, now that teachers can direct their own media planning and use. *Knowitall.org* can be used by teachers and students easily and safely. If teachers want to learn more about a specific teaching pedagogy, they can take an online class from PBS TeacherLine at home or school...anytime, anywhere and anyplace. They can even get credit for recertification.

Digital is all it is cracked up to be. No, one cannot see it well, nor smell, taste, touch or hear it too well. Most of all the interaction is primarily with the hands on the keyboard and mouse. It requires little or no walking or exercise. But, the trade-offs are great. It is time for all teachers and media specialists to jump into that digital swimming pool where all the kids are swimming. Go ahead and start in the baby pool, but don't wait too long.

Our South Carolina students are learning *for a digital world*. Our teachers need to immerse themselves in digital to lead the learning our children deserve. (I really still wish I could just get my hands around digital like I could with film...) □

Retired? Read On

Stay in touch with fellow LMS's by becoming an active member in SCASL. Attend the Annual Conference. Attend the special session for retirees at the Conference. Volunteer some of your time to work for one of the wonderful SCASL committees. There's a place for everyone. Meantime, enjoy yourselves! For further information on the Retirees Section of SCASL, contact

Blanche Fowler, Retirees Section Chair
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Archives and History

On June 27, 2006, the Archives and History Committee met at the Caroliniana Library to work on our organization's archived materials. One of the chores that day was to note gaps in various chronological records. Currently members who are responsible for submitting missing items are being contacted, in order to fill the gaps. If you have other items you would like to contribute to SCASL holdings, please contact Mitzi Burden at *burdenm@charter.net*.

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From the State Department of Education
School Library Media Services

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Welcome back to the 2006-2007 school year! WOW! Can you believe it? Seems just yesterday we were in the midst of concern over the approach of Y2K and now we've passed the mid-point of the 21st Century's first decade. This would be a good time to ask what has changed about our school libraries. Are we any more prepared to help our students learn and use information literacy skills than we were prior to Y2K? If you answered no, then what needs to be done? How much progress have we (you) made in establishing teaching collaboratives with the classroom teachers? If you once again answered no, then what needs to be done? Hard as it is to say or hear, perhaps we need to admit that our biggest obstacle may ourselves.

In late July the SCASL Executive Board participated in its annual planning retreat for the upcoming year. The chairs of each of the standing committees had an opportunity to submit a report to the Board. Hearing from the Legislative Committee made me think of a quote I heard recently, "Nothing works until you work. Nothing moves until you get moving. Nothing happens until you start happening." So what's happening with you?

One comment I hear repeatedly is "I can't." What a defeatist attitude is that! Each of us needs to look inside and tap the power within. The word "power" is rooted in the Latin word *potis* meaning *able*. Each of us is *able* to make connections in our own school and district which could have far-reaching ramifications across the state. No longer should we, or can we, be content to meekly accept what our principal (or district) decides to "give" us for the library. Each of us is *able* to tell about our library. Each of us can tell why our library is important to student achievement. Each of us can tell why we are important to student learning. Additionally, each of us can tell what our library needs to be a vital part of our school's and district's instructional program. No longer should we, or can we, afford to keep quiet about those needs. The losers in every instance are our students, not us!

Can't is a four-letter word that should be eliminated from our vocabulary. I challenge each of you this year to concentrate on what you can do and not on what you can't do. You know what needs to be done in your library media center, in your school, in your district, and across the state. So ask yourself, "How is this possible? What am I *able* to do?" That's what I ask on a daily basis and that's what your SCASL Legislative Committee asks. Just imagine the potential of our collective power and what we would be *able* to accomplish if we eliminated *can't* from our vocabulary!



Design by the Book

Congratulations to Lake View Elementary/Middle School on being selected as the recipient of the Design by the Book library makeover. Read about the selection at

http://www.myetv.org/about_etv/pressroom/releases/Design_By_the_Book_Winner.cfm

Work was done in the library on June 13-14. Watch your ITV Monthly Update for the broadcast information of our Fall SLMS Teleconference which will have two parts: Design by the Book, Chapter 2: Part I: The Selection and Part II: The Makeover.

2006 - 2007 South Carolina Book Award Nominees



Picture Book Nominees

Abe Lincoln: the Boy Who Loved Books
Kay Winters

Alice the Fairy
David Shannon

Babu's Song
Stephanie Suve-Bodeen

Baghead
Jarrett Krosoczka

Bertie was a Watchdog
Rick Walkton

Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book
Alexander Stadler

Boxes for Katje
Candace Fleming

Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum
Lisa Wheeler

A Christmas Like Helen's
Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Crazy Hair Day
Barney Saltzberg

Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll
Karin Ireland

Duck for President
Doreen Cronin

A Frog in the Bog
Karma Wilson

Hot Day on Abbott Avenue
Karen English

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

If Not for the Cat
Jack Prelutsky

Jackalope
Janet Stevens

Karate Hour
Carol Nevius

Knuffle Bunny
Mo Willems

Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook
Michael Garland

Saturdays and Tea Cakes
Lester Laminack

Squeal and Squawk: Barnyard Talk
Susan Pearson

What Time Is It, Mr. Crocodile?
Judy Sierra

Whose Garden Is It?
Mary Ann Hoberman

Winners Never Quit
Mia Hamm



Children's Book Nominees

American Moments: Scenes from American History
Robert Burleigh

Becoming Naomi León
Pam Muñoz Ryan

Buttermilk Hill
Ruth White

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

Ghost of Cutler Creek
Cynthia C. DeFelice

Great Sockathon
M.C. Delanye

Heartbeat
Sharon Creech

Honeysuckle House
Andrea Cheng

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

Knockin' on Wood: Starring Peg Leg Bates
Lynn Barasch

Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen
Marissa Moss

Niagara Falls, or Does It?
Henry Winkler

Operation Clean Sweep
Darleen Bailey Beard

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America
Sharon Robinson

Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry
Brian P. Cleary

Report Card
Andrew Clements

Seaward Born
Lea Wait

Up the Learning Tree
Marcia K. Vaughan

World According to Humphrey
Betty G. Birney

Young Man & the Sea
W.R. Philbrick



Junior Book Nominees

Al Capone Does My Shirts
Jennifer Choldenko

The Ballad of Sir Dinadan
Gerald Morris

Becoming Naomi León
Pam Muñoz Ryan

Chasing Vermeer
Blue Balliett

City of Ember
Jeanne DuPrau

Close to Shore: the Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916
Michael Capuzzo

Double Dutch
Sharon Draper

The Goblin Wood
Hilari Bell

Gregor the Overlander
Suzanne Collins

The Last Treasure
Janet S. Anderson

Millicent Min, Girl Genius
Lisa Yee

Mutiny's Daughter
Ann Rinaldi

North
Donna Jo Napoli

Race for the Sky: the Kitty Hawk Diaries of Johnny Moore
Dan Gutman

Shadows on the Sea
Joan Hiatt Harlow

So B. It
Sarah Weeks

Sweet Miss Honeywell's Revenge: A Ghost Story
Kathryn Reiss

Trickster's Choice
Tamora Pierce

Worlds Afire: the Hartford Circus Fire of 1944
Paul Janeczko

The Young Man and the Sea
Rodman Philbrick



Young Adult Book Nominees

After
Francine Prose

The Battle of Jericho
Sharon M. Draper

Can't Get There From Here
Todd Strasser

Contents Under Pressure
Lara M. Zeises

Cuba 15
Nancy Osa

Devil On My Heels
Joyce McDonald

Freaky Green Eyes
Joyce Carol Oates

Jake, Reinvented
Gordon Korman

Keesha's House
Helen Frost

The Last Chance Texaco
Brent Hartinger

Leaving Protection
Will Hobbs

A Mango-Shaped Space: A Novel
Wendy Mass

Nothing to Lose
Alex Flinn

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies
Sonya Sones

Sarah's Ground
Ann Rinaldi

Shadow of a Doubt
S.L. Rottman

Teen Idol
Meg Cabot

Tending to Grace
Kimberly Newton Fusco

Tree Girl
Ben Mikaelson

The Truth About Forever
Sarah Dessen



Book Award News

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



Ah! Tax-free weekends, the broadening smile of parents throughout the state, and the smell of fresh pencil shavings indicate that school is back in session. Wait...hear that? The frantic scramble of library media specialists and teachers just DYING to get those students to open a book...any book! What to do? Well, why not participate in the South Carolina Book Award program along with hundreds of other schools and THOUSANDS of other students throughout the state! What fun! But how? Keep reading and I'll share the secret...

The first thing you'll want to do is read up on the South Carolina Book Award program at the SCASL website (www.scasl.net). Just click on the Book Awards link on the left side of the page and get ready to get excited! A few things you'll discover include:

1. There's a Book Award category for every age group with a list of twenty to twenty-five Book Award nominees in each category. Categories include: Picture Book Award (PreK4 - Grade 2), Children's Book Award (Grade 3 - 5), Junior Book Award (Grade 6 - 8), and Young Adult Book Award (Grade 9 - 12).
2. While it is suggested the school library media specialist be the sponsor of the award program in a school, any teacher or administrator may act as sponsor.
3. In order that the students may participate, the sponsor should:
 - a. Secure the support and authorization of the principal.
 - b. Provide information about participating in the award program to teachers and students. Look for great ideas for book award promotion in future issues of MCM and on the SCASL listserv.
 - c. Read the books to determine if they are acceptable by the school's book selection policy.** While all books on the nomination lists must have at least 2 positive reviews from reputable sources and all titles have been voted on by a committee of students, teachers, parents, and library media specialists from throughout the state, there may be a few titles that just aren't right for your student population.
 - d. Have available at least ten (or 50%) of the titles available to students through your library media center or other accessible location. Encourage individual students, teachers, and classes to participate in the award program by piquing their interest with your most creative ideas...or those of your colleagues!
 - e. Remind students that they must read or LISTEN TO at least **three** of the nominees in their voting category to vote. Challenge students to read more books through contests, grade challenges, and other creative incentives...the more they read ,the better!
 - f. Provide ballots for voting. Students are eligible to vote ONLY if they have read or listened to at least **three** titles from their voting category. Ballots will be available on the SCASL website. Votes for the books should be sent to their corresponding book award vice-chairman by the specified date (February 9, 2007 this year). Watch for more information on voting as the voting date nears.
4. Since it is the purpose of the book awards to encourage reading, each media specialist may choose the best list or combination of lists to serve his/her school.

Now that you have the tools to get started, get out there in Cyberspace and visit the SCASL website for more information! We're excited to have this fantastic Book Award Program for the students of South Carolina and you'll be excited to see your students eager to read. If you have questions, don't hesitate to email me at smcmanus215@yahoo.com or ask a colleague who is already involved in the Book Award program.

Already a Book Award Program participant? Have GREAT ideas that really motivate your students? Share them with your colleagues by emailing me your ideas or success stories at smcmanus215@yahoo.com or by posting them on the SCASL listserv.

Happy Reading South Carolina!

“What First-Year Reality Is Like!”

Cindy Sparks, North Central Middle School, sparksc@kcsd.k12.sc.us

W*ere not in Kansas anymore*” I thought to myself on that very first day of the new school year. Where was Kansas? For me, it was Davis College on the USC campus where I’d grown to feel comfortable with my professors. I’d made many wonderful friends along the way on my three year journey to obtain my Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. I was clearly not in my comfort zone anymore.

Was I ready? I’d had many enriching experiences, read countless textbooks and research articles, surrounded myself with the best in the field, attended professional conferences and hundreds of hours of lectures. I’d used various schools in my community as learning labs while completing internship requirements and had worked full-time as a library aide for over six years.

Ultimately I’d landed here, North Central Middle School in Kershaw County. I was to oversee a perfectly lovely library and was especially pleased with its many wonderful windows since the one I’d been working in previously was without a single one. I think those windows, in addition to the fact that this library had its very own restroom (a rarity), coupled with the fact that I was convinced North Central had a principal of pure gold were some of the deciding factors upon signing my very first teaching contract for the ’05-’06 school year. There were other factors too. I loved the idea of working in a small school with just over 400 students in a beautiful, rural setting, not to mention the partially flexed schedule. At the time, I could only speculate that it would be worth the 37-mile commute from my house in Northeast Columbia. I’m pleased to say one year later that my initial assumptions were correct ones. I must admit, however, that some mornings when my alarm blared at 5:30 a.m., I did wonder about schools much closer to my home.

So I wasn’t in Kansas anymore and reality soon set in. I was not only in charge of library programming but was the designated technology contact person for our campus, the copyright compliance cop, and webmaster, as well. Oh, did I forget to mention being director of the morning news show, Patriot T.V., and running the school supply store? I didn’t know a thing about the programs I was to use: E-Chalk, Follett, Safari, Track-it, Avelin.

Hmmmmmm. It did seem as if my professors had mentioned that “T” word once or twice along the way as in, “Oh, and by the way, they might also want you to know a little something about technology, too.” I had found it a bit odd that during my many job interviews not once was I drilled about genres or authors or the classics. Those interviewing me always wanted to know what I knew about technology.

So I dove in and began learning all I could about Safari, our campus-wide distribution system. The equipment took up nearly an entire room housed just behind my office. For the most part I was to be self-taught on a system I was told had been problematic for years, a scary proposition at best, I reasoned. There was no time to waste if we wanted the school bells to ring at the appointed hour, the security cameras to function for the school resource officer, along with daily scrolling announcements to run on all TVs throughout the building, and our morning news show to air. In the year 2005, and at age 47 and fresh out of graduate school, “I was clearly not my mother’s librarian,” I thought. I must admit to a few sleepless nights around this time.

I made a pact with myself. I would not panic about anything! I simply wouldn’t allow it and I didn’t. This would be my motto throughout that entire first year. Looking back, I know it served me well. Of course, I was counting on the patience of a very understanding principal who had placed his confidence in me. More than once I had to apologize to our Curriculum Coordinator, who had taken me under her wing, professing that I really did realize that every problem of my own was not necessarily her problem, too. Fortunately, everyone was very nice and seemed to understand that I had a rather large learning curve to wrestle with. I was so thankful to be working with so many kind people who weren’t inclined to push panic buttons whenever things didn’t go just right.

I drew on a multitude of resources to include other media specialists across our state via the SCASL listserv, our district’s technology department, my graduate school texts and former professors. There was one hitch; it didn’t help that I was unable to read the previous librarian’s handwritten notes to me, of which there were many. I decided if I didn’t know the answer I could find someone out there who did. After all, librarians do have the distinct reputation of being resourceful. I would not panic!

Fortunately, I’d been blessed to inherit an absolutely wonderful and charming media assistant. Not only was she smart but was loyal to me from day one and seemed determined to do anything and everything I needed and all in record time. At a time when I was still wondering which hall to take to reach the cafeteria, what an answer to prayer she was! Everyone should be so lucky.

With ADEPT guidelines from the S.C. State Department of Education staring me in the face, I knew I was charged with running an exemplary school library media program. Did my principal seem to grasp what “best practice” meant with regard to school library services? Would he share my vision? What did “best practice” really entail? I’d need to do lots of effective collaboration with classroom teachers designing standards-based lesson plans. I would need to make my library a true extension of their classrooms and I would need to be a full instructional partner.

Clearly there was not enough time in the day to get everything done. I designed my “orientation to the library” PowerPoint to be shown to each ELA class and began working on a checkout schedule to accommodate each teacher. My assistant created over a hundred new files off my endless to do lists and we began to prioritize. My mother had always said “a place for everything and everything in its place” was the key to survival. I would know where to find what I needed quickly. Files were created on everything: copyright, Accelerated Reader, Lexiles, AUP, gender-based book clubs, information literacy skills, Dewey Decimal scavenger hunts, differentiated instruction, inventory, research methods, collection development statistics, Scholastic Book Fairs, pod casting, and budget to name just a few.

There were faculty meetings, PTA meetings and pep rallies to attend. We worked concessions at football and basketball games. We videotaped the Miss Patriot Pageant and chaperoned the Harvest Ball. I was head of the Technology Committee and head of Teacher Appreciation Week. There were grants to write. This was not a 9 to 5 job. Each morning I arrived in my office at 7:20 and many nights didn’t make it home until close to 6:00 p.m. and sometimes much later. I ate lunch each day at my desk while returning phone calls and answering emails.

Looking back over my first year I can honestly say that one of the most important things any new librarian can do is to network. Join the statewide association. Bookmark under favorites Martha Alewine’s site off the South Carolina Department of Education site. Sign onto the SCASL listserv. Go to conferences. Never ever waste time originally cataloging more than perhaps a handful of books. Sometimes it cannot be avoided but order the processing on books whenever possible. It is well worth whatever it costs! Believe in yourself and be realistic! If you are a perfectionist you may want to switch to a different field. In today’s information saturated society there is no way you can know it all and there is no way you can expect to reshelve every last book in the library every single day before you turn out the lights and lock the door. It is a *huge* job we do. Your “to do” list is always long and your inbox is always full. If you like a lot of variety and you like staying constantly busy where no one day is like the next, you will be happy in a school library. Days fly by and you will never be bored.

One day, as I was working on my periodical subscription renewals, an interesting email came across my desk. It appeared that research had been conducted on 250 jobs. I was being referred to *Jobs Rated Almanac* (1999). Everything had been rated from florist to patrol officer, from real estate agent to barber to school librarian. Working environment, job security, physical demands, income, and stress levels had all been factored in. I wasn’t sure if I wanted to know if the stress of a school librarian today is akin to that of an air traffic controller or not, but curiosity got the best of me. I won’t spoil the fun for you; it’s kind of like telling someone the ending to a book they are reading or a movie they haven’t yet seen. Let me just say, I found the information insightful. I wondered if I should share the statistics with my daughters who had expressed amazement that their mom could be so tired at the end of the work day. In their view, all Mom had been doing all day was sitting down checking out books and how hard could that possibly be?

I’d ended up where I’d started with many a detour along the way. As a sixteen-year-old, my first real job for pay was at the Spartanburg County Library in my hometown. As overwhelmed as I was during this first year, somehow the library felt like home where I’d belonged all along.

Is it an important job we choose to do? Yes, I believe it is vitally important. The “digital divide” is huge and real. Today’s students must be taught information literacy skills to succeed in this world, whether college bound or not. I often recite a favorite quote of mine. “Give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime.” And I never forget to remind myself that educators make all other professions possible. Pat yourself on the back and you remind yourself, too!

Pay your SCASL dues by October 1, 2006, to lock in the reduced registration rates for the 2007 Conference in Columbia!

Tried and True

Being the First in a Series of Helpful Hints

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

**** Back-To-School ** Scheduling ** Book Awards ****

At the beginning of the year with my 3rd graders, we listen to a tape recording of the “Z” was Zapped by Chris Van Allsburg as we follow along in the book. (It is a wonderful recording with great sound effects.) The students really enjoy it and I use this as a jump off point for book talks about all of the neat alphabet books that are out now and how they are not just for little kids anymore. This is also a starting point for a study of other Chris Van Allsburg books throughout the year. The kids really get into it and it’s always a good kickoff for the beginning of the year.

Sherrie Gore, Myrtle Beach Elementary School

✓ This year instead of book talking the book award nominees in October with the librarian from our local public library, I waited until the first part of January. We did our book talks and the kids really took off reading them. So I will do this again!

✓ We have reduced our theft rate by asking the students to scan their own books. We always ask that an adult be at the desk with them in case of difficulties, but giving the kids ownership of the process has really helped.

Cathleen Moore, Myrtle Beach Intermediate

Now is a good time to start a file of bulletin boards. Take a picture of every BB you do and date it. If you use a digital camera, store the picture as a file. If you’re using a regular camera, keep a copy of the print in a 4 x 6 box or store with the letters and materials you used in a brown envelope. In preparation for future BB’s, start an idea file. If a picture in a magazine sparks an idea, tear out the picture and add a rough drawing to it and put this in your idea file. Once you’ve done the BB move, it to your picture file. Save any unusual thoughts or pictures or jokes in the idea file. This helps the creative process and keeps track of ideas you’ve used so that you don’t repeat the same thing every year. After 3 or 4 years, some ideas are worth repeating.

Sandy Stearns, Colleton County High School

I think it is important to make contact and welcome new staff members to the school library at the start of the year. I give each new teacher a file folder labeled “Library Media Center” with written descriptions of library procedures and programs. I know that they will not remember everything we talk about at the start of school and perhaps having a written record will help later on. You can include little goodies, too, like bookmarks, pencils, etc. Also, my assistant and I always make sure every new staff member from the cafeteria to the part-time teachers know that they are welcome in the library to get a cup of coffee anytime. Our informal “Coffee Café” offers regular, decaf, hot water and occasional baked good treats (or leftover holiday candy). It has been a great way to get to know staff members...and oftentimes leads to great collaboration opportunities, too!

Sabra Bell, Waccamaw Elementary, Conway

✓ Our **Chalk Party** is designed to promote the use of the public library during the summer. At the end of school, students take home a letter encouraging them to join the summer reading program at the public library. At the start of school, students bring their summer reading record to me and I place their name on the guest list for the Chalk Party. Instead of lunch in the cafeteria they go outside and eat pizza, have soft drinks and cookies. They then use sidewalk chalk to draw pictures from the books they read on the sidewalks that surround our building. The children’s librarian from the public library attends the party and helps us celebrate their summer reading. The children have the chance to see that we are friends and professional colleagues.

✓ I promote the Book Awards with my **Certificate Party**. I also give away the paperback copies that I purchase of the book award titles. Students who are eligible to vote have their names entered in a drawing to win the paperbacks used during the year. I use their ballots as raffle tickets to enter the drawing. I announce the winners during National Library Week.

Sarah Sheely, Nursery Road Elementary School, Columbia

When teaching genre, have the students break into small groups and develop and perform a skit illustrating the genre you assign them. The other groups guess which genre they are acting out. This is a fun way to reinforce genres.

Shari Ganahl, Lakeside Middle School, Anderson

New Orleans - The Big Easy

Each year I work with two teams of students. These boys and girls are the ones who help me either with our morning news show (Patriot TV) or as a regular library assistant (reshelving books and running errands, check-outs, etc.). I make sure to print regular sized, card stock business cards and name badges for each one. They LOVE the idea of having their own business cards for the year. It makes them feel like real professionals and they know an adult in the building has taken the time to create something special just for them. The cards are all very original with cute graphics and are quite colorful. I use Print Shop Premiere to design the cards. I pick up packs of Avery Templates (#27881 or 27882) at Wal-Mart for less than \$6 for a pack of 150 cards.

**Cindy M. Sparks, North Central Middle School,
Kershaw**

✓ I introduce the SC Picture Book award nominees to one grade at a time during grade level meetings. (We will begin with 2nd grade in August-September, then 1st grade in October-November, and Kindergarten in January-February.) The books are checked out to the grade's unit leader for 4 to 6 weeks during which time they will share the books and read them aloud. I also present each teacher with a poster listing the titles with pictures of their covers. Teachers can check off the titles as they are read. (I had the posters printed at a local print shop.) When they have finished reading (or run out of time), they invite each child to come up and point to the cover of the book they liked the best. Teachers will tally these on a tally sheet, which I will provide when it's time for their grade level to vote. The books and posters are then delivered to the next grade level. Completed tallies are held in the library until all have had a chance to read and vote.

✓ Before school starts, I send new staff members a card or letter welcoming them to our school. In the letter, I introduce myself and my staff (with a photo) and list the services that we offer through the media center. Once school begins, I visit their classrooms in person and present them each with a book for the classroom library. The book has a sticker in the front indicating who it's from and the occasion. (These books are obtained from the previous year's book fair.) I also use this time to answer any questions and provide information about policies and procedures they may want to know about.

Finally, my assistants and I "perform" a song or poem about the library at the first "Nuts & Bolts" faculty meeting followed by a brief rundown of special library events for the upcoming school year. (One year I wrote a song about the library using the "Green Acres" theme!) This is a great way to get teachers enthusiastic about book fairs, author visits, and other special programs.

**Teri L. Puryear, Lake Murray Elementary
School, Lexington**

Several SCASL members attended this year's ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, including President Lawren Hammond, President-Elect Ida Thompson, Vice President Kitt Lisenby and Conference Exhibits Chair Kathy Sutusky. Lawren and Ida represented SCASL at the AASL Affiliate Assembly and submitted several concerns and commendations for the Affiliate Assembly to consider forwarding to the AASL Executive Board. Of the concerns and commendations submitted by Region 4, of which SCASL is a part, one was voted forward to the AASL Executive Board for action. SCASL's recommendation for "Children, Libraries and Literacy - An Initiative for South Carolina" was voted forward to the AASL Executive Board for commendation.

The Region 4 concern dealt with "the decline in media supervisors both local and at the state level, funding, and positions in the library." The Assembly submitted a formal request for

"a task force to support national standards by developing guidelines which include quantitative and qualitative measures that identify exemplary media programs with assessments that include rubrics (e.g., rubric showing levels of preparation of professionals, FTE staff in ratio to student populations, and percentage of collaborative projects).

[and to]

Identify and collect successful advocacy programs that each state could download from the AASL web site and modify to its needs."

Announcements about AASL's decisions on the concerns and commendations will come later this year.

Even with all the work of the Affiliate Assembly, thousands of exhibits to see, outstanding pre-conferences and sessions to sit in on, there was still time to stroll along Bourbon Street and listen to the jazz pouring out of door after door, and to partake of the café au lait and beignets at Café du Monde.

Looking around the city, you still could see effects of Katrina even in the downtown areas where there was the least damage. Visits out to the hardest hit areas gave the impression of a war zone. The dankness and mold in the air were unbelievable and there are still trailers in almost every large parking lot we passed going to and from the airport.

ALA was the first major conference since the hurricane and many New Orleanians personally expressed their heartfelt thanks to us for coming. Everyone from wait staffs to taxi drivers to the custodians did all they could to make us feel welcome and make our visit a memorable one. New Orleans is a city still struggling, but she's keeping her head high and proud.

Lawren Hammond, Past -President
lhammond@aiken.k12.sc.us

SCASL Leadership Institute 2006:

School Library Media Advocacy

Over 70 SCASL media specialists from across the state gathered at the Columbia Metro Convention Center on June 15 to participate in the 2006 Leadership Institute on School Library Media Advocacy. The Institute was moderated by Jim Johnson, Legislative Consultant.

The day was jam-packed with information, presentations, and activities! Morning program features included Martha Alewine's DVD presentation on *School Library Media Advocacy Committees*; Dr. Nancy Zimmerman on *National Perspectives on Advocacy Issues*; and Ida Thompson on *Advocacy and Communications*. The afternoon program included a panel discussion by Senator Joel Lourie, Richland County; Paula Benson, Staff Counsel for the S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee; and Lena Lee, Researcher for the House Education and Public Works Committee on how the State Legislature works and how to communicate effectively with legislators and their staff members. Jim Johnson concluded the program with a session on how to use the Legislative Handbook as an aid to effective communications and an overview of the SCASL Legislative initiative – ***Strive for \$25*** – that will commence this fall.

Participants received Advocacy Toolkits including the AASL Advocacy Handbook, The South Carolina Legislative Manual, and a CD-ROM of presentations and communications sheets. The Legislative Manuals were provided courtesy of members of the Anderson County Legislative delegation.

Participants enjoyed morning pastries and coffee, box lunches, and an afternoon fruit and soda break provided by David and Peggy Watson of Watson Library Services. Watson Library Services sponsored all the arrangements for this year's Institute, including the conference center, AV, and catering. Tote bags and thousands of dollars worth of books and gift certificates for books were given away from the following companies: ABDO Publishing Company/Spotlight Books; Bearport Publishers; Capstone Press/Compass Point Books/Picture Window Books/Stone Arch Books; Enslow Publishers; The Child's World; The Creative Company; and Mason Crest Publishers. No one went away without a free book, courtesy of Watson Library Services.

Thank you again, David and Peggy, for your generous support! Thanks also to Kathy Sutusky, SCASL Executive Secretary, for event pre-registration, and to Frankie O'Neal and the Regional Network for event promotion and running the onsite registration pickup table.



Jim Johnson



David and Peggy Watson

SCASL Legislative Initiative: Strive for \$25!

Final preparations are underway to kick off the first major SCASL legislative campaign – *Strive for \$25* – in which we will request state funding of \$25.00 per pupil for library books for all South Carolina public schools. Our goal has been set high, and SCASL is committed to carry on this campaign until it is achieved.

Rationale

Strong print collections are necessary for library media programs to support student achievement in reading and across the curriculum for all grade levels. Twenty-five dollars will purchase one new library book for each public school student in South Carolina. This amount was approved last year by the SCASL board after a series of focus group meetings with SCASL members including the Regional Network.

- It is important for our organization and members to have a single, easily communicated message and request to share with our elected officials in state government and the Department of Education.
- Literacy and reading initiatives for schools and classrooms have traditionally received state funding in South Carolina.
- Print collections in school library media centers represent a universal and critical need across the state.

SCASL is currently working with our legislative advisor Jim Johnson and Ann Addy of Solutions!nk to create a powerful brochure for the campaign. Each SCASL member will receive multiple copies of the brochure to share with elected officials and potential supporters.

Two thousand and six is an important election year in South Carolina, with many statewide offices up for election including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Superintendent of Education. All 124 House district seats are at stake in this election. We plan to survey major candidates on their position on school library media programs and will keep you informed.

What can you do to participate and support Strive for \$25?

- Create/maintain advocates for school library media programs with your media center advisory committee; PTA or PTO groups; school administrators, teachers, parents, and students; and district administrators and trustees.
- Promote your library media program with newsletters, bookmarks, Web pages, and other media. Put elected officials on your mailing list.
- Invite elected officials to visit your media center for special programs. Ask them to read to your students or participate in other ways. (Be sure to keep your principal informed.) Remember – some of them have not been in a school media center since they were students! Educate them about today's programs and how crucial we are in the teaching and learning process.
- Participate in the elections process and remember to cast your vote.
- Watch out for and respond to calls to action via the SCASL-LS list, Regional Network messages, and the SCASL Web site.

~~2006 – 2007 SCASL AWARDS ~~

Lizzie Padget, Awards Committee Chair, lpadget@fle.richland2.org

Leadership, Literacy, Technology, Collaboration, and Advocacy

These important strands will be infused throughout our annual conference. When you consider these terms, who comes to mind? SCASL's Awards Program now includes five annual awards: one to recognize and thank exemplary administrators, another to recognize an outstanding library media specialist, a third to thank those who have long supported the goals of SCASL, a fourth to provide a scholarship to encourage further study in the field, and a fifth to honor a student library media center volunteer. These awards will be presented at the SCASL Conference in Columbia, March 7-9, 2007. The Awards Committee of SCASL is currently accepting nominations for these awards.

Download the award packet with full information from the SCASL Website at <http://www.scasl.net/awards.htm>.

Administrator of the Year

The Award for Administrator of the Year was first presented in 1979. SCASL annually honors a school administrator who has made a sustained, unique contribution toward furthering the role of the library media center. Building level principals, as well as state, county, or district superintendents are eligible for nomination. District administrators responsible for broad instructional leadership, such as assistant superintendents, directors of curriculum and instruction, and directors of education are also eligible. Membership in SCASL is not required for nomination.

Media Specialist of the Year

The Media Specialist of the Year Award honors a full-time media specialist on the basis of exemplary library media programs as well as active participation and service to SCASL and other related professional organizations. Exemplary library media programs are those defined as reflecting the themes of collaboration, leadership, and technology integration as outlined in *Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning* (American Association of School Librarians). Qualities of exemplary programs include outstanding and effective support of student learning through well-rounded, innovative, and comprehensive program administration; effective collaborative partnerships with teachers in both teaching and learning; and information access. In accepting this award, the Media Specialist of the Year agrees to make presentations throughout the state to share his/her methods of best practice including presentations at the annual SCASL Conference and the South Carolina Administrator's Conference. The Media Specialist of the Year also agrees to write at least one article for the Media Center Messenger, serve on the SCASL Awards Committee, and represent SCASL in Columbia on South Carolina Legislative Day.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual or an organization for contributions to SCASL and/or school media programs throughout the state of South Carolina. Business professionals or organizations, authors, illustrators, educators, and media specialists who have given sustained and/or outstanding service at the state level may be nominated. Membership in SCASL is not required for this nomination.

The Nancy Jane Day Scholarship

The Nancy Jane Day Scholarship is awarded to an SCASL member to reimburse the cost of one 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.

Please note:

Completed applications for the above four awards must be mailed and postmarked no later than December 1, 2006 and mailed to:

Lizzie Padget, Awards Committee Chair, 4933 Wofford Ave., Columbia, SC 29206.

The committee cannot consider any applications postmarked after the deadline. Applications by email or fax will not be accepted.

The Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship

Do you have a graduating library media center volunteer whom you would like to honor? The Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship honors a high school senior library media center volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to South Carolina school librarianship, school library media services, and/or SCASL. Nominations are made by the student's library media specialist. Please note that the nominating library media specialist must be a current member of SCASL.

In order to nominate a student, the library media specialist must send a letter of recommendation and a letter from the student using the criteria stated below. Label all sections, and do not exceed indicated space limitations. Font size must be no less than 12. Do not send folders or binders. Applications for this award may be sent by email or email attachment, but faxes will not be accepted. Applications will not be returned. The scholarship funds will be sent to the winning student's institution of choice.

Letter of Recommendation

The nominating LMS will write a letter of recommendation (not to exceed two pages) that describes the duties routinely performed by the student nominee, his/her length of service, and the outstanding accomplishments.

The following information should be included:

1. Name of Nominating Library Media Specialist
2. School District
3. School Name
4. School Address
5. Telephone Number
6. Nominating Library Media Specialist's Email Address

Student Letter

The student nominee will write a letter (not to exceed two pages) about how he/she feels that libraries have enriched his/her life and impacted his/her education and personal growth.

The following information should be included:

1. Name of Nominee
2. School Name
3. Nominee's Home Address
4. University or College Student Plans to Attend

Completed applications for the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship including both letters are due no later than December 1, 2006, and should be sent to:

Lizzie Padget, Awards Committee Chair, 4933 Wofford Avenue, Columbia, SC 29206.



PUBLIC AWARENESS HONOR ROLLS

Let's "toot a horn" for those who support school library media centers and recognize those exemplary administrators and paraprofessionals who work with us to reach all the students in our schools. Here is the perfect opportunity to distinguish these special people by nominating them to their appropriate Honor Rolls. They will be recognized in the Media Center Messenger and the conference program, their names will be sent to The State newspaper as well as their local newspapers, they will receive a certificate of merit, and a letter of commendation will be sent to their supervisor, superintendent or school board. Nominations may be sent in at any time before the December 11, 2006 deadline to make sure names can be published in the conference program.

Honor Roll of Administrators

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

- Your name, position, and address
- Name of nominee and position
- Name and address of school
- Names and addresses of superintendent and chairperson of the school board

On a separate sheet please include the following:

- Description of the activity for which nomination is being made
- One or two sentences for publication purposes summarizing the reason for nomination
- Verification: e.g., agendas, programs, photos, clippings, letters of commendation, etc.

Honor Roll of Paraprofessionals

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

- Your name, position, and address
- Name of nominee and position, including number of years at current position
- Name and address of school
- Name of supervisor or media specialist and principal

On a separate sheet, please include the following:

- A short description or tabular list summarizing the reasons for the nomination (consider responsibilities, work habits, strengths, and interaction with media patrons)
- At least one letter of recommendation from someone other than the person making the nomination (example: a teacher, principal, media patron, etc.)

Send the completed nomination no later than *December 11, 2006* to:

Judith Parham, Public Awareness Committee Chair
parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us

The Floor Is Now Open for Nominations!!

Nominations for the offices of Vice President/President-elect and for Secretary of SCASL are now open. This is your chance to nominate an energetic professional who is enthusiastic, organized, and dedicated to our profession for either of these offices. You can also offer your name as a candidate for either position, so don't be shy – throw your hat into the ring. Candidates will be introduced to the membership via the January 2007 *Media Center Messenger* and the election will be held at our March 2007 conference in Columbia.

The office of **Secretary** is a one year commitment and involves attending all Executive Board and Executive Committee meetings to record and distribute the minutes of these business meetings for the association. The Secretary also serves on the Budget Committee and is a valuable part of the work of the association. This office does not require previous board experience, and is a wonderful way to learn more about the behind-the-scene work of SCASL.

The **Vice President/President-elect** nominee must be a current member of SCASL and have had SCASL Executive Board experience. He or she will serve a three year commitment to SCASL. During these three years, he/she must maintain a personal membership in ALA and attend all meetings of the SCASL Executive Board, and will also serve as a member of the SCASL Executive Committee.

1. First-year duties include serving as VP of SCASL, planning the 2008 conference, attending ALA Annual Conference and Mid-winter Conference. (ALA conference expenses incurred on behalf of SCASL are reimbursed with receipts by the association.)
2. Second-year duties include serving as SCASL President, attending both ALA Annual and Mid-winter conferences as a representative of SCASL at the AASL Affiliate Assembly.
3. Final-year duties include serving as Immediate Past President, chairing the Elections Committee, chairing the conference locations search team and attending one additional ALA Annual Conference.

SCASL needs strong leaders and you know who and where they are in South Carolina. Please don't wait!

Send your nominations to Lawren Hammond, Elections Committee Chair, 3 Curry Court, North Augusta, SC 29860 or email your nominations to lhammond@aiken.k12.sc.us. Include the nominee's name, address, school, phone and email, and any comments you would like to add that will help us know your nominee is just the person we need to lead us toward the next decade.

Lawren Hammond, SCASL Past President

SCASL Thanks Our Business Associates

SCASL is always happy to welcome businesses as members of our association. SCASL is proud to announce that, as of August, the following businesses and their representatives have chosen to support our association with paid memberships.

Davidson Titles, Inc., *Brenda Davidson*
Linworth Publishing, Inc., *Marlene Woo-Lun*
Saunders Audio Video, Inc., *Harold Saunders*
Soundzabound Music Library, *Martha Stewart*
Usborne Books, *Amy Coquillard*
World Book School & Library, *Judy Stancil*

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Promoting the Book Award Nominees

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

Every year is an election year for the nominees on the four South Carolina Book Award lists, but this particular school year felicitously coincides with a political election year. With the words *vote* and *voting* being blared from placards and on the airwaves, promoting the SC Picture, Children's, Junior, and Young Adult Book Award lists to our student readers is a civic, as well as a literary, duty.

Stockpile your campaign literature now! The four book award nominee lists have already been published in the *Media Center Messenger*, distributed via the SCASL listserv, and posted on the SCASL Website <http://www.scasl.net>. Book vendors have already flooded our mailboxes (actual and electronic) with sales lists. If you haven't already done so, order the nominees for the grade levels your school library media center serves today.

Is your budget financially challenged? Many of the titles are already available in paperback, or ask your PTA/PTO or a community group to help you purchase the nominees. One library media specialist I know has used donations from a resident of the local community to acquire book award titles each year.

Recruit volunteers! Enlist your teachers as precinct captains. Teachers who read the nominees themselves and promote their favorites to students are the best way to get out the word. When teachers spotlight one or two titles as read-alouds, students' interest in the entire list increases. Please don't limit your recruitment efforts to English language arts teachers. At my school, a math teacher who reads prolifically does a really great job promoting the nominees.

Turn out the base! No campaign succeeds without exciting the grassroots. One of the most obvious ways to build excitement about the award titles is "built-in," so to speak. The nominees, for the most part, should be "fresh faces." New books are worth a look for their newness alone. Pass the word that you have new arrivals, and the regular readers will rush through your door.

Build name recognition! Use unneeded dust jackets or scanned covers to create bulletin boards or wall displays. Announce the award nominees on a tripod stand near the school's entrance. Publish a web page promoting the nominees. Invite avid readers to advertise their favorites on the student news program. Create a contest to publicize the titles and the voting.

Register your voters! If your book budget is like mine, there is a limit to the number of copies of book award nominees that you can purchase. Therefore, I drew up a contract that students must sign before checking out any current award nominee title. The contract states that students will read at least three nominee titles by a specified date and will vote on election day. Once I began using the contracts, students became much more interested in reading the nominees. Participation in the voting acquired a certain cachet.

Using the contracts also allows me to send out reminders as election day draws nearer. Because of this communication, I keep my voter rolls up to date. Teachers tell me if students are no longer at our school. Students let me know if they have changed their minds about participation. The week before the election, I send out a registration card for the student to present when voting, which serves as a final reminder about election day.

Keep the polls open! To ensure that my voters have ample opportunity to cast their ballots, my assistant and I permit voting at any time during election day. I also email all the teachers requesting that voters be allowed to visit the polls and have announcements made concerning the election. The ballot box is front and center in the library media center on election day.

Recognize the voters! Adults get an "I Voted!" sticker for going to the polls. My student participants who read and vote are recognized on Awards Day with a certificate from me and dollars from the PTSO (\$5.00 to be exact). Other incentives have been lunch in the library featuring pizza or sub sandwiches. This year I still plan on presenting awards, but I'm also considering those stickers for more immediate recognition. The possibilities for rewarding those students who do their literary duty will vary by locality and grade level, but rewarding voters this year will mean more readers next year.

With the word *election* in the spotlight this year, local newspapers may be more interested in reporting your students' involvement in voting for books. Be sure to take pictures and submit them for publication along with brief articles explaining the activity. If your school board has an open forum time at their meetings, arrange for a library media specialist to inform board members about book award participation.

Voting for the book award winner is more than just another way to encourage reading and build excitement about books. Participating in the South Carolina book awards can also focus on the role of your library media center in promoting literacy for all students.

Your Mission Statement – Once Created, Live It!

Lynn Scott, Nelson Elementary, Richland Two, lscott@lbne.richland2.org

The Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School Media Center provides a warm, pleasant, and just plain friendly atmosphere in which students, faculty, and community members become effective users of ideas and information. The primary goal of our media center is to encourage students to READ, either for pleasure or when gathering information (research). Our motto is "Reference Takes Preference." We strive to maintain a collection that matches the curriculum and personal needs of our patrons

I don't recall when I actually wrote the Mission Statement for the Nelson Elementary Media Center, but I do remember while I was writing and once it was written I began to look at things a little differently. How do I fulfill the statement? Where would I display it, and who did I expect to be my audience? Would revision ever be necessary? Even as I write this, I contemplate changes. Therein outlines the value of a Mission Statement, not only to inform my audience of my intentions, but also to constantly review how my library program best serves its patrons.

An analysis of my Mission Statement:

Atmosphere is important in any library. "...just plain friendly..."

1. Greet each patron who walks in.
2. Offer help but don't hover. Often I say, "If you need help just let me know."
3. School libraries are teaching libraries. I teach patrons to be excited about visiting other libraries and to ask for help. With a smile I say, "Why do you think the public library has people working there? They are there to help you. Ask for help."

"...encourage students to READ..."

1. Create displays.
2. Provide opportunities for contests.
3. Honor special days like Read across America Day, Children's Library Day, etc.
4. Use the school newsletter, library newsletter, library brochure, library Web page, PTO meetings, and postings around the building to announce reading participation and to recognize those who participate.
5. Involve key players in reading promotion (District employees, Administrators, Guidance Counselor, School Nurse, etc.).

"...READ...for gathering information (research)..."

Although not ideal because we lack an open schedule, I become creative when making collaboratively planned lessons happen.

1. Meet before or after school.
2. Occasionally my assistant teaches classes, which provides time for me to meet with grade levels.
3. Teachers in upper grades attend library check out time with their students, making it possible for

me to meet with them to plan at that time.

4. The library always welcomes whole classes and small groups as well as individual students.

"...Reference Takes Preference..."

No other activity supercedes that of research. I don't need to do it often, but if a teacher asks for research time during a routinely scheduled activity either:

1. I support both activities in the media center, or
2. my assistant meets with the non-research group in another setting, and I meet with the research group in the media center.
3. Making it happen is a challenge, but not impossible.

"...maintain a collection..."

1. I read reviews, consult award-winning lists, visit bookstores for up close and personal perusal, and glean ideas from my Media Advisory Committee.
2. I treat book salesmen with the utmost respect, but only rely on them for suggestions. I still read the reviews on the books I buy.
3. I know the curriculum, as I reread it regularly.
4. I have two methods for making sure I cover student interest. I post a mailbox for student suggestions, and I listen when they ask for certain topics that show gaps in my collection. But I still read the reviews before ordering.

These ideas only touch the surface and many of them are things you already do. Take this only as a reminder of how important and useful our Mission Statements are and visit yours as often as I visit mine.

Other Mission Statements I found helpful when forming and reconstructing my own:

❖ The mission of the *South Carolina Department of Education* is to provide leadership and services to ensure a system of public education through which all students will become educated, responsible, and contributing citizens.

❖ The mission of the *State Library Media Consultant* is to advocate for high quality school library programs, to support the state library media specialists, and to serve as a liaison to other groups and organizations working toward excellence in education.

❖ The Mission Statement of Richland School District Two, in partnership with the Columbia Northeast community, guarantees each student a quality education by providing appropriate and challenging learning experiences to equip each individual for lifelong learning, responsible citizenship, and productivity in an ever-changing world.

❖ You may also want to refer to pages 101 and 102 of *Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning* for further ideas.

WRITING AND ART COMPETITIONS FOR STUDENTS

Sponsored by the South Carolina Center for the Book

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores and in cooperation with affiliate state centers for the book, invites readers in grades 4 through 12 to enter ***Letters About Literature***, a national reading-writing contest. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre— fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic, explaining how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves. There are three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8, and Level III, grades 9 - 12. Winners receive cash awards at the national and state levels. National winners go to Washington, D.C. to read their letters at the National Book Festival. The **deadline for entries is December 8, 2006.**

In 2006, over 1200 entries in the Letters About Literature Contest from South Carolina were received by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Most of the entries are submitted by teachers, who have students write the letters as an assignment or an extra writing activity.



Beginning in Fall 2006, The South Carolina Center for the Book will be adding a second contest, also affiliated with the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Open to any one ages 5 to 19, ***River of Words*** is a poetry and art contest on the theme of watersheds. Approximately 100 entries in both the poetry and art contests are chosen as finalists, all of whom will receive prizes. National winners win a trip to Washington, D.C. for a special award ceremony. The deadline for entries is February 15, 2007.

Please share the information about these contests with appropriate faculty at your school.

For questions, contact Jane Connor: jconnor@statelibrary.sc.gov; 803-734-8658.

South Carolina Center for the Book, 1430 Senate Street.

Columbia, South Carolina 29211.

803-734-8658.

www.sccenterforthebook.org

From the Mountains to the Shore: South Carolina Fieldtrip Destinations

Denise McWhorter, Paris Elementary School, dmcwhort@greenville.k12.sc.us

As we get back into the routine of a busy school year, I cannot help but think back to the relaxing and fun adventures I had with my family this past summer. Granted, we did not do anything out of the ordinary; this summer the South Carolina coast seemed to be our destination of choice. On the trek to and from the beach we passed many places that piqued my interest—historical Laurens, Dreher Island State Park, Gallivants Ferry, for example. Unfortunately, due to our eagerness to reach our destination, we never stopped, much to my chagrin. But the professional “information specialist” part of my personality cannot help but wonder about these places. Would they be good places to bring a busload of elementary students? Do they offer educational opportunities that would shake up the monotony of some of our more routine fieldtrip destinations? These questions lead to another question: *What other South Carolina destinations do schools visit for fieldtrips?*

I asked this question of my peers in Greenville County and received a huge response. Some of the places are familiar and others are not. All of them are educationally significant for one grade or another. Here are some of the South Carolina destinations students in Greenville County visit:

Roper Mountain Science Center	Paris Mountain State Park
Camp Greenville	Greenville Art Museum
Happy Cow Creamery	Peace Center of the Performing Arts
Downtown Greenville (Hunt for the nine bronze micel)	
Various upstate farms	Local grocery stores and malls
USC-Upstate	North Greenville University
Clemson University (including the Calhoun mansion)	
Isaqueena Falls	Fish hatchery in the mountains
Keowee-Toxaway	Kings Mountain Military Park
Cowpens Battlefield	Walnut Grove Plantation
Columbia (zoo, capitol, museum)	SC Railroad Museum
Charleston	Barrier Island
Fort Sumter	Fort Moultrie

Starting with this issue, and, hopefully, in future issues, let us share these places with each other. Perhaps students at your school have experienced fascinating fieldtrips in South Carolina not mentioned in this article. Maybe you have discovered a wonderful Carolina destination on your family vacations. Whatever the case may be, let the rest of us hear from you. Compiling and sharing this information with your teachers might encourage them to try something new, to get out of the rut of the same old thing year-after-year. Finding out about all the wonderful places in our fine state can only enhance the educational experiences of our young folks. Plus, it just might be fun!

Send your Carolina destinations to me at: dmcwhort@greenville.k12.sc.us

From the Editor:

We previously neglected in our April issue to report the results of the election of officers at the business meeting during the 2006 conference in Charleston. The results were a unanimous acceptance of the offered slate:

President: Ida Thompson
Pres/Elect: Kitt Lisenby
Secretary: Valerie Byrd Fort
Treasurer: Steve Reed

Proposed changes to the constitution of the SCASL were printed in the February issue of the *Media Center Messenger*. At the business meeting there was no discussion in regard to those proposed amendments which primarily included a restructuring of dues. In addition, an amendment was proposed that the Non-Public School Section be renamed Special Public/Independent School Section.

Both the changes in regard to dues and the renaming of the Non-Public Schools Section were unanimously approved at the business meeting.

Training Your Right Hand

Mary Jane Michels, Pauline–Glenn Springs Elementary School, michelmj@spart6.org

If you remember the TV show *Murphy Brown*, you will recall the revolving door of assistants that the main character employed. The new assistant would show up with that first day of school look on her face only to disappear by the end of the episode. Usually the leaving occurred because of unreasonable demands, silly misunderstandings or Murphy's insensitivity. Many times the problem could have been avoided with clear expectations and adequate training but that doesn't make for very funny television. Those ideals do form the basis for a productive working relationship, though. Here are a few tips to help you and your assistant avoid the *Murphy Brown* syndrome.

- Provide a clear and reasonable written job description. Visit scasl.net to look at examples posted there. Ideally, the job description should identify areas of responsibility, working hours and general expectations. Aside from a written description, it's helpful to provide a new assistant with an understanding of the culture of your school. Is your principal a stickler for professional dress? Which teachers are the media center's biggest champions and which ones still need convincing? In an emergency who is the best person to contact? Who always has a stash of chocolate that they are willing to share?...Insider information that can prove invaluable during those hectic days of book fairs and scheduled classes.
- Make a physical space for your assistant to call her own. We all feel more welcome when we have a place to hang up our coat, a chair that's our own and a little space for personal effects. Cheerfully sharing your workspace will go a long way toward establishing a cordial working relationship.
- Show and tell your new employee how to do things. Many assistants have backgrounds in a variety of fields with little understanding of the behind-the-scenes work of a media center. Make a "cheat sheet" for your circulation system that can be referred to for routine tasks. Demonstrate the most efficient way to shelve books or process new materials. Don't assume that just because these routines are second nature to you, that they will be the same to your new employee.
- Try to make a personal connection. Work relationships are more than acquaintances. Your assistant will see you at your best and worst on a daily basis. Establishing a harmonious environment from the beginning will help smooth the inevitable bumps and bruises that a new school year will throw at you. Even on those days that you are certain you should never have gotten out of bed, make the effort to let your assistant know that the work she does is appreciated. Just remember what happened to Murphy Brown—her show got cancelled!



DISCUS Update

Amy Duernberger, DISCUS Office, aduernberger@statelibrary.sc.gov

The DISCUS program welcomes you to the beginning of a new school year! We are looking forward to assisting you in promoting the use of DISCUS resources to your school's students, parents and teachers this year. The following are DISCUS updates:

- ❖ The new username and password have been implemented for the new academic year. The information has been mailed to each school library media specialist and also sent via the DISCUS listservs.
- ❖ Check out the recent upgrades to *Grolier Online*. All articles are now searchable by Lexile reading level scores. The "For Educators" section now provides lesson plans that are correlated to South Carolina educational standards.
- ❖ Our fall training schedule will soon be available on the DISCUS Web site. Our courses are now designed to fulfill the South Carolina Department of Education's Renewal Credit Plan guidelines for educator recertification. Classes are free, but registration is required. To view classes or register online, go to the "Training" page on our Web site.
- ❖ We have created two new PowerPoint presentations to assist you. Feel free to download these presentations to show at your school — DISCUS: An Overview and DISCUS Is For Kids, Too!
- ❖ We wish to thank you for participating in our recent database assessment survey. Over 61% of our responses came from media specialists, students and teachers. Overall, you rated our databases as good or excellent. As for future content needs, the K-12 community ranked history, current events and geography & multicultural resources as its top three choices. A complete summary of the survey findings will be on the DISCUS Web site soon.
- ❖ Stay tuned for a "new look" to our DISCUS Web site to be unveiled in late fall. More about that later!!

Come Gee, Come Haw!

The Iditarod Comes to Charleston

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

“Miss Dwelley, did I just hear that my musher had a dog in the basket?” “Can you help me check the necropsy report for the dog?” “Wow!, did you see the temperature’s -15° today!” “How fast was the pace for your musher today?” “Oh man, my musher scratched, now I can’t finish the race!”

The above is not typical conversation for sixth graders in South Carolina, but during a four-week project all of the sixth graders at Sanders-Clyde Elementary were immersed in the life of the Iditarod mushers and their dogs.

What began as a simple comment over coffee with a fellow media specialist provided the base for a four-week project that easily could have been expanded and extended. I shared my idea with the sixth grade math teacher who immediately was on board and, “mush,” we were on our way!

I was chosen to be the teacher who would introduce the Iditarod, read several short stories to build knowledge, as well as teach the unique vocabulary. I also created an area in the media center where maps, magazines and artifacts could be accessed for research.

Ms. Marzett, the sixth grade teacher, took on the responsibility of teaching the math-related items. These included estimating the number of booties to be used by each musher, the number or pounds of dog food needed, and the amount of food you could carry between checkpoints. Additional curriculum-related studies included student use of computers to record daily temperature; an estimation of rates in miles per hour based on the 2005 winner; and then an estimate of who would be the top five winners. Students also determined the distance between checkpoints and at what speed each sled was traveling, predicted how much dog food to place at each checkpoint, and how much dog food would be needed for the entire race.

The four-week project also allowed for the following additional curriculum areas to be covered by both of us:

Social Studies: To investigate and learn about the state of Alaska.

Language Arts: To research the history of the Iditarod and to write brief biographies of chosen mushers to be posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Technology: To do research using the assigned two Internet sites

Visual art: To design logos for the chosen musher’s bib.

Science: To graph daily weather; compare the speed of the sled in relationship to the temperature; and read up on how to prevent frostbite and hyperthermia.

To accommodate the differentiated learner, students were given partners and additional support from the teacher’s assistant. The sixth graders used 80 minutes per week of media time to do research, design their mushers’ bibs, check on mushers’ progress, review the daily pictures posted on the website, and investigate items of personal interest.

Although students were a bit reluctant at first, they soon began to check on their musher and sled progress daily, often two or three times. In the hallway I posted daily news and weather reports, which allowed the students to see how well their mushers were doing each day and what checkpoint had been reached. The media center, as well as one hallway bulletin board, had the official trail map posted and the paper sleds were moved weekly to show the musher’s progress.

The finalizing of the project was a short quiz and an award ceremony. Students received prizes for participation as well as a prize if they had chosen one of the top ten finishing mushers. The Red Lantern award, given to the final musher to cross under the arch, was also given to the correlating student. We plan to collaborate with the art teacher on the project this school year.

Websites:

<http://www.iditarod.com>

<http://pbs.org/teacersource/mathline/concepts/iditarod?activity2.shtm>

Bibliography:

Official Race Guide 2006

Gill, Shelley *Iditarod The Last Great Race To Nome* ©1993

Paulsen, Gary *Dogsong* Athenaeum Books for Young Readers © 1985

Standiford, Natalie *The Bravest Dog Ever—The True Story of Bolto* Random House © 1989

"It's All About MEdia Exploration"

or

How Two Media Specialists Partner in Celebration of Literacy Throughout Their District

Betty Jordan, Sullivan Middle School, Rock Hill, bjordan@rock-hill.k12.sc.us

Showcasing students' work has several benefits. Students get to see exemplars and know what a good project looks like. It also provides affirmation to students by having their work displayed so others can view it. And, it allows the community to see the creativity of the students. And, it gives the media specialists yet another opportunity to demonstrate a connection between the classroom and media center.



Media specialists Susan Staton of Saluda Trail Middle School and I decided to take a deep breath and attempt a large scale celebration of literacy. Our two schools are currently undergoing the application process to become MYIB (Middle Years IB Programme) schools and the district embraces the WOW (Working on the Work) concept of teaching. These two concepts fit well together and this event is a great way to incorporate these ideas. We decided to begin with the two middle schools and see what happened. Our journey culminated in an event that was well received by parents, students, teachers, and administration. We felt so positive afterwards that we have decided to expand our categories and will invite all grade levels of all schools to participate next year. The following is an overview of how it was planned and we encourage you to plan your own.

There are several steps involved in planning such an event, but careful planning and organization are essential.

- *Name the event* – Hold a contest to make it easier.
- *Set a date* – We held ours in April.
- *Reserve a facility* – Setting the date may depend on the availability of the facility. Keep in mind the technology needed for judging and viewing.
- *Decide on the categories*- We used writing (separate categories for creative and that requiring research); photography; editorial cartoons; PowerPoint and Digital Movies (such as MovieMaker). We also provided for both individual and group entries, since most of the entries were class projects assigned throughout the year.
- *Write a grant and/or write to a business partner for sponsorship*. Our local communications company helped sponsor ours.
- *Acquire judges* – Start early and have at least three for each category. Ask district level personnel, school board members, newspaper reporters, local TV reporters, and even college students (photography students to judge that category, for instance).
- *To feed or not to feed* – We provided refreshments for the judges and the parents, students, and teachers who attended the Open House. Perhaps a home arts teacher will provide this service for a better price than a caterer.
- *Awards* – We awarded ribbons to first, second, and third places and monetary rewards for those places, as well. For group entries, the award money was divided among the group.
- *PR* – This is the most important and most difficult part of the process. The showcased work should not be extra work for the teacher. It is to showcase projects that the students have done throughout the year. Therefore, you must get the word out early and often. Encourage teachers to save projects and writings to enter. **This is also an excellent opportunity for you to collaborate with classroom teachers, especially in technology related projects.**
- *Entry forms* – We created one that was attached to the appropriate rubric. The student name was not on the rubric but we assigned it a number we could use to identify the student after judging.

- *Rubrics* – The other most difficult step of the process. We used steps in the design cycle of the IB concept. Our rubrics were very specific and weighted. We also included an area for students to respond to questions requiring self reflection that counted as points.
- *Signage* – Have each category clearly labeled in several places. Have a big welcome sign to point people in the right direction.
- *Survey*- Was it a success? Survey the judges, some Open House visitors, and students who entered. Revisit your strategies and adapt the changes for the next time!

What will we do differently next year? That's easy. All we had to do was take a look at the surveys. We will get the word out early and invite all schools to participate. We will add more categories. A music teacher has requested a category for students who write music, for example. Since our two schools took up the entire facility last year, those schools that elect to participate will hold a school wide event first, and the winners from each school will compete at the district level. There will be lots more judges and rubrics will be edited and distributed early. We will also be looking for more involvement at each school level to assist us in this event. We were fortunate to have our USC SLIS interns, Ashley Gibson and Tiffany Rickey, as well as our district media specialist liaison, Meredith Spradley, or this event wouldn't have occurred.

If you decide to embark on this journey and would like more information, please contact me at bjordan@rock-hill.k12.sc.us.

Note: Betty Jordan is SCASL's 2005-2006 Media Specialist of the Year .

Media Literacy

Frank Baker, Media Literacy Clearinghouse, fbaker1346@aol.com
 New URL www.frankwbaker.com



In 2006, it is clear that our students pay more attention to the visual media than the print media. Yet our education system is still mostly print based. The word literacy itself has changed and all of us must acknowledge that it means more than just words on page. Media are languages with their own rules.

As I write this, the State Department of Education is finalizing a revision of the English Language Arts standards, which will again include many references to media. (I have been contributing to the ELA monthly Literacy Links newsletter and you can find all of my past contributions here:
http://www.frankwbaker.com/lit_links.htm

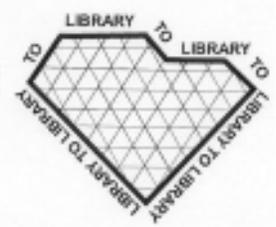
I have always been a proponent of the school library media specialist as a critical player in promoting media literacy. Some of you may recall an initiative I started in 2004 to get SLMS to promote media literacy by way of a series of billboards. If you want to know more about this project, go to this web page:
http://www.frankwbaker.com/lms_project.htm

One of the best ways to support media literacy in your school is to review your student and professional resource collection. It has been my experience that many media centers don't contain anything that would be related to media or media literacy. (This summer, I was at a local middle school and picked up a book on advertising whose copyright was 1968!) To find current books appropriate for your students or teachers, I have created a list of recommendations on my web site: <http://www.frankwbaker.com/recbooks.htm>

Speaking of books: I have authored a text about the movies and media literacy for students in grades 3-5. It is due out in January and as soon as the publisher gives me permission to promote it further, I will let you know.

Finally, I hope your school might consider inviting me to conduct a workshop on the important role of "critical thinking about media messages." I look forward to hearing from you this year.

Regional News



Region 1B.

SPARTANBURG, DISTRICT 1. New media specialists this year are **Michelle Pope** at Landrum High School and **Rachael O'Brien** at Mabry Junior High School. **DISTRICT 6.** **Kelly Buster**, the former media specialist at **Arcadia Elementary School**, has traded spaces with **Kim Riddle**, a third grade teacher. Kelly will be Kim's mentor as she begins her media specialist career! **Martha Greenlee**, Lone Oak Elementary, has retired. **Allison Ratterree**, USC grad and former science teacher/library assistant at Boiling Springs Junior High, will be the new media specialist. **Greenville COUNTY.** There are ten new media centers, in ten new schools this school year. Those schools and corresponding media specialists are: Berea High, **Boris Bauer** and **Cathy Eoute**; Riverside High, **Carole Harris** and **Dan Tollison**; Southside High Academy, **Susan Dicey**; Beck Middle Academy, **Andi Fansher**; League Middle Academy, **Patty Bynum**; Thomas E. Kerns Elementary, **Joan Mullin** (combining Bakers Chapel and Greenville Elementary); Taylors Elementary, **Sally Nuss**. A significant District Board decision was made to add a second media specialist to all elementary schools that have exceeded 1,000 students. In the following, asterisks indicate the additions. New media specialists to the district are: **Betty Teague** August Circle Elementary; * **Sherry Shewmaker**, Bethel Elementary; * **Pam Magio**, Bryson Elementary joining **Debbie Wolfe**; **Kymerli Drum**, Crestview Elementary; **Karena Hill**, Hillcrest High; **Paula Shaw**, Hillcrest Middle; **Brian Erb**, J. L. Mann High; * **Misty Gosnell**, Mauldin Elementary; * **Gwendolyn Brown**, Oakview Elementary; **Cliff Hinston**, Sterling School; **Sandra Brundage**, Woodmont High. Transfers to a different school include: * **Bell's Crossing**, **Katherine Bunn**; Berea Middle, **Rebecca Huskey**; Greenville High, **Carol Brown Harris**; Stone Academy, **Alice Littlejohn**. ♦ **Susan Dicey**, Southside Academy, received a Donors Choose grant entitled "Making Summer Reading Available for All." ♦ **Patty Bynum**, League Academy, has reported that all elementary schools will be implementing flexible scheduling over the next 3-4 years. This has been the vision of **Dr. Kathy Howard** and **Amanda LeBlanc**, media coordinator. ♦ **Teresa Morelli**, Robert E. Cashion Elementary, received a fellowship to attend a week-long seminar in St. Augustine entitled "Between Columbus and Jamestown: Spanish St. Augustine." Fifty teachers from across the nation participated in this study. Participants were housed in the historic Flagler College. The grant was from the Florida Council for the Humanities.

Region 4A.

Harriet O. Pauling, media specialist at Fairfield Middle School was awarded the Laura Bush Grant for America's Libraries in the amount of \$5000. She will be purchasing books targeting her 500's, 600's, 900's and Fiction sections with the funds.

Region 7.

DILLON COUNTY, DISTRICT 1. Lake View Elementary/Middle School Media Center was awarded the "Design By The Book Award". The makeover included a stage with lighting, murals on the walls, new books, an updated news production area, and more. **Eula Page** is the media specialist at this school. **Dillon 2.** The district was recently awarded a grant, "Improving Literacy Through School Libraries" by the U.S. Department of Education. The winning project, entitled *Literacy for a Lifetime: Creating Literacy Communities*, is the only school district winner in North

and South Carolina. The \$212,417.00 project is a multi-faceted, approach to improving literacy and academic achievement. The media specialists at the six schools in the district **Sarah Stubbs**, **Marcia Bethea**, **Rebecca Coleman**, **Ann Carlson**, **Linda Dutton** and **Ruthann Wooten**, will work together with **Paula Yohe**, project director, to meet the objectives of the grant.

Region 8.

Horry County, Georgetown. The District Media Center has completed a move to a new facility which is housed at the new Academy of Technology and Academics. ♦ New media specialists this year are: **Linda Leisen**, Pee Dee Elementary, **Tammy Shelley**, Blackwater Middle, **Cathy Hesselink**, Ocean Bays Middle. **Lee Anne Dusenbury** is now at Carolina Forest Elementary; **Brenda Little** is at Ocean Bays Elementary; and **Ron Cowan** at Academy of Technology and Academics.

Region 9B.

BERKELEY COUNTY. Eight new media specialists this year are **Charlene Zehner** at Hanahan High; **Sue Coleman**, Timberland High; **Nicole Smalls**, Hanahan Middle; **Elaine Berndt**, Hanahan Elementary; **Emily Davis**, Daniel Island; **Shelley Struble**, Boulder Bluff Elementary; **Sylvia Garland**, Sangaree Elementary; and **Jennifer Smith**, Whitesville Elementary. **Diana Clark** is now at Devon Forest Elementary and **Lynne Dubay** is now at J. K. Gourdin Elementary. **Claudia Myers**, Hanahan High; **Fausteen Hodge**, Timberland High; **Linda Hall**, Hanahan Middle; and **Kerry Dwyer**. Devon Forest Elementary have retired. **DORCHESTER 2.** New media personnel in the district are **Libby Davis**, media assistant at Rollings Middle School of the Arts, **Sheryl Bailey** at Fort Dorchester Elementary, and **Lee Anne Jenkins**, media specialist at Windsor Hill Elementary School.

Congratulations!

Betty Wallace, Andrews High School, was selected as Teacher of the Year at her school.

Grier Rivers, Brown's Ferry Elementary, was selected as the Georgetown County School District's Teacher of the Year.



Sympathy is extended to Frankie O'Neal, SCASL Regional Network Director, whose mother, Thelma Lee, passed away July 26th.

Regional Network

Director: Frankie O'Neal

The Regional Network is made up of all the school districts in the state grouped into geographic regions. As a true network, this organization functions as a means of communication to each and every LMS in each and every district.

News intended for *The Media Center Messenger* should be sent by the local LMS to the district contact who in turn compiles this information and sends ALL of the district's news at one time to the region coordinator. The coordinator, in turn, submits the news for publication

This list is current as of mid-August

Non-Public: Gina Reilly
Retired: Blanche Fowler

Region 1A.

Coordinator: Carolyn Segers

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

Region 1B.

Coordinator: Sue Fitzgerald

Cherokee: Darla Cudd
Greenville: Sandy Bailey
Spartanburg 1: Nancy Gaulden
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.

Coordinator: 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.

Coordinator: Susan Cassels

Chester: Teresa McKenzie
Lancaster: Connie Horton
Union: Pam Sloss
York 1: (York) Caylen Whitesides
York 2: (Clover) Nancy Kivette
York 3: (Rock Hill) Julia Nichols
York 4: (Fort Mill) Susan Cassels

Region 4A.

Coordinator: 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.

Coordinator: Elizabeth Gregory

Lexington 5: Marilyn Gramling
Richland 1: LaDoris Walker
Richland 2: Beth Lee

Region 5A.

Coordinator: Mary Lou Wallace

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

Region 5B.

Coordinator: Anita Hutto

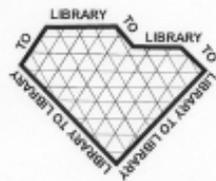
Bamberg 1: Cynthia Tucker
Bamberg 2: Saphire Wilson

Calhoun: Julia Fanning
Orangeburg 3: Helen Winningham
Orangeburg 4: Wendy Blevins
Orangeburg 5: Alfie Allen

Region 6.

Coordinator: 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.

Coordinator: Debra Heimbrook

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

Region 8.

Coordinator: Sabra Bell

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

Region 9A.

Coordinator: Susan Henley

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

Region 9B.

Coordinator: Lynne Dubay

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

Region 10.

Coordinator: Carole McGrath

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

ADVENTURES IN READING

HORRY COUNTY.

District Media Coordinator **David Bell** reports a very successful year for the two library-initiated reading programs in Horry County. The Superintendent's Reading Honor Roll recognized 3,586 students with a certificate of accomplishment. With the required minimum of at least 20 books per student this represents 71,720 additional books read by these students. Participation in the Horry County Schools / Pelicans - Dinger's Home Run Reading Club accounted for a total of 13,602 prizes awarded. The Dinger's Home Run Reading Club was extended to include all middle school students this year, with 30 out of 34 eligible schools participating. One of the greatest accomplishments of the Dinger's Home Run Reading Club was the fact that over 2,500 students read more than the minimum number of books required for their particular grade level, and most of these students read significantly more books, not just one or two.

At Carolina Forest High School twelve students who read all of the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award nominees were treated to a limo ride and lunch with the principal. Three teachers who also read all of the nominees joined in the celebration.

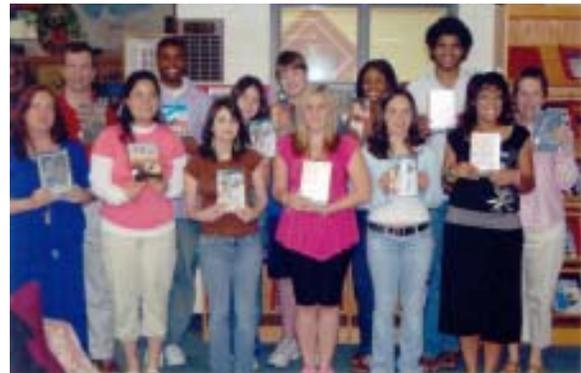
Three Carolina Forest High School students were awarded four-year membership plaques in the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award Readers Hall of Fame at the school induction ceremony in April. Seniors Madeleine Dresden, Katie Grainger and Anthony Thomas read all twenty of the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award nominees each year for four years. "This is only the second time students have achieved this reading goal in the Horry County Schools," according to Nancy Nelson, library media specialist.

They join three other Carolina Forest students, Rachel Brown, Jennifer Campbell, and Starena Cusack who accomplished this goal in 2004.

Do you have a special program/event that you are proud of? If so, write it up in a couple of paragraphs and send it in to Regional News for publication. Next deadline is October 28, 2006.



Carolina Forest High School four-year members of Readers Hall of Fame: Seniors Madeleine Dresden, Katie Grainger and Anthony Thomas read all 20 of the S.C. Young Adult Book Award nominees every year of high school.



Carolina Forest High School Readers Hall of Fame 2005-2006. Back: Jay Philon (teacher), Anthony Thomas, Melissa Gasser, Alex Forney, Sasha Jones, Anthony Glover, Martha Herring (teacher). Front: Leta Watts (teacher), Madeleine Dresden, Katie Grainger, Alicia Gagnon, Lindsey Todd, Allegra Herring



Madeleine Dresden and the limo.

Capitalize on Learning @your library

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

March 7 - 9, 2007

Literacy - Leadership - Technology - Advocacy

Conference 2007 Notes:

Plans for the conference at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center are well underway for an exciting conference which promises to be full of surprises.

This year's theme is Capitalize on Learning @ your library. We will be focusing on Leadership, Legislative Advocacy, Literacy, Technology, and Collaboration.

Don't forget that membership dues must be paid by October 1st to receive the bargain registration price. All conference registrations should be paid by December 31st. Mark your calendars for March 7-9, 2007 to join us in Columbia. See you there!

Kitt Lisenby, Pres-Elect
lisenbyk@kcsd.k12.sc.us

Coming Attractions

**The Annual Book Award Luncheon
will have a new look.**

Watch for upcoming details!

YOUR SCASL EXECUTIVE BOARD 2006 - 2007

Officers

President - Ida Thompson, ithompson@richlandone.org
VP/Pres-Elect - Kitt Lisenby, lisenbyk@kcsd.k12.sc.us
Secretary - Valerie Byrd Fort, vbyrd@lex5.12.sc.us
Treasurer - Steve Reed, sreed@sjh.hcs.k12.sc.us
Advisor - Janet Boltjes, jboltjes@lexington1.net

(Do you really know what members of the Executive Board do for you? Here are the current committee chairs and the purposes of their committees. Read carefully.)

SCASL Standing Committees, Their Chairs and Their Functions

Advocacy – Lendy Hinton, lhinton@lex2.org

Advocates for library media specialists, school library media centers and their programs, informs membership of issues impacting school media programs, and provides tools to members to be advocates for the profession.

Archives & History – Mitzi Burden, burdenm@charter.net

Compiles, organizes, and maintains records of the organizational functions of SCASL.

Awards - Lizzie Padget, lpadget@fle.richland2.org

Handles recognitions presented by SCASL: Media Specialist of the Year, Nancy Jane Day Award, Distinguished Service Award, Administrator of the Year, Media Paraprofessional of the Year, and the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award.

Book Awards - Samantha McManus, Scm56@orangeburg5.k12.sc.us

Selects nominees for book awards, encourages students to read good quality contemporary literature and honors the authors of the books annually chosen the favorites by student vote.

Constitution & By-Laws – Lillian DeGuire, Lillian_deguire@charleston.k12.sc.us

Makes constitutional revisions to facilitate the proper functioning of the Association.

Editorial - Laura Jackson, jmoggles@hughes.net

Creates and produces four issues of the SCASL newsletter, the *Media Center Messenger*, throughout the school year.

Information Technology – Donna Teuber, dteuber@richlandone.org

Promotes the role of the media specialist as a technology leader and supports the integration of technology into the total school curriculum. Also assists with maintaining the SCASL listserv and website.

Intellectual Freedom – Amanda LeBlanc, aleblanc@greenville.k12.sc.us

Works to provide information and support on related intellectual freedom needs and will work with SIRS to award the Intellectual Freedom Award at the 2007 SCASL conference.

Legislative – Martha Taylor, marthataylor@anderson5.net

Keeps the membership informed of state and federal legislation under consideration that is relevant to school media programs, promotes Legislative Day, and works with government officials.

Pre-Service – Pam Williams, pamwilliams@richlandone.org

Provides members of the teacher-education community current information about school library media services.

Public Awareness – Judy Parham, parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us

Recognizes those administrators and paraprofessionals who are outstanding in their support of school library programs through relevant advocacy activities.

Regional Network – Frankie O'Neal, foneal@fairfield.k12.sc.us

Is a communications channel between the Executive Board and the membership, creates opportunities for professional contact and exchange of professional information, provides opportunities for individuals to have input into programs and activities on local, regional and state levels. It also sets priorities of action or concern in the form of resolutions for presentation to the Executive Board and coordinates activities for membership growth and retention.

Retired LMS – Blanche Fowler, bfowler@dorchester2.k12.sc.us

Provides a means for discussion and cooperation among retired library media specialists and supporters of the profession as well as offering service to SCASL.

Special Public/Independent – Gina Reilly, greilly@beaufortacademy.org

Promotes SCASL membership to all special public and independent school media specialists, sends Regional Network information and communications to these members, and encourages attendance at conference and the Special Public/Independent meeting.

Standards & Guidelines – Position not yet filled.

Keeps the membership informed of new or revised standards and guidelines affecting library media center programs, personnel, and facilities.

Supervisors' Section – Wayne Martin, wmartin@richlandone.org

Brings library media supervisors throughout the state together to facilitate communication and collaboration that will lead to improving library media services throughout South Carolina.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

SCDOE – Martha Alewine, malewine@sde.state.sc.us

Serves as a liaison between SCASL and the SC SDE and provides the SCASL Executive Board information on issues relevant to the profession and SCASL.

SCLA – Jane Connor, janec@leo.scsl.state.sc.us

Provides information and communication between SCASL and the SC Library Association.

USC-SLIS – Anne Perrault, perrault@gwm.sc.edu

Serves as a liaison between SCASL and the USC School of Library & Information Science and shares with the SCASL Executive Board information and issues relevant to the profession and SCASL.

Exec Secretary – Kathy Sutusky, ksutusky@sc.rr.com

Is responsible for all aspects of membership, conference registration, handling book awards materials and communication with membership, she is the primary direct contact with members.

From the SCASL Executive Secretary:

As Executive Secretary of the SCASL, my responsibilities include all aspects of membership, book award sales and conference registration including exhibitor registration. These are wide ranging responsibilities and the following is a very simplified explanation of some of them.

MEMBERSHIP

- Receiving and processing membership applications and renewals.
- Maintaining updated membership information including a directory of members available online at SCASL.net. Access to this directory is available to all paid members.
- Providing mailing label file for the *Media Center Messenger*.

BOOK AWARD SALES

- Handling all book award orders sent to the SCASL PO box.
- Maintaining book award supplies as needed.

ANNUAL SCASL CONFERENCE

- Processing all conference registration information and sending confirmation of receipt of complete information/payment. Confirmation is by email.
- Preparing and mailing registration materials.
- Receiving, processing and confirming exhibitor registration as well as preparing exhibitor registration materials.

If ever in doubt about how to get something you need, the best way to reach me is email ksutusky@sc.rr.com. I respond to all email messages daily after 5:00 PM during the school year on work-days and throughout the day on non-work days.

If you need to speak to me personally, leave a message at 803-782-3956 with an evening telephone number.

Remember the conference registration deadline is December 31, 2006. Reduced registration fees available to those who pay 2006-2007 membership dues prior to October 1, 2006.

SCASL
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Columbia, SC 29202



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IMPORTANT ALA/AASL INITIATIVES

Here is your chance to take a leadership role at the state and national level! I urge each SCASL member to join ALA and AASL to strengthen your skills and capitalize on leadership opportunities and service to the profession.

Emerging Leaders.

ALA president Leslie Burger is supporting a project that will identify emerging leaders within the ALA membership. Applicants must be ALA members and have a recent ALA or NCATE accredited MLS degree or be currently enrolled in an ALA or NCATE accredited MLS program. As school library media specialists we want to ensure our representation in the applicant pool. Act now! DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 30th! AASL will sponsor two members who are accepted for the institute. Details on the program and what your sponsorship would involve can be found at:

http://lb.princetonlibrary.org/emerging_leaders.html

Vision Summit.

The AASL Board of Directors is sponsoring a "vision summit" that will bring together visionary leaders of the profession to explore the school library media program of the future, and to identify what needs to be done to achieve that vision. The summit will be held in Chicago in late September.

I have asked Janet Boltjes (jboltjes@lexington1.net) to represent SCASL at the summit, but need your ideas to help shape the suggestions that are carried forth. Please think critically about this topic and share your comments via email, the listserv or website.

Ida W. Thompson, President
ithompson@richlandone.org

Keep up with the latest—lexiles, flex scheduling, technology tricks, storage problems, sources of information—How? Join the SCASL Listserv!

One more tool to serve you.

Have a Great Year!