



Media Center

MESSENGER

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians

Volume XLI No. 3

February 2004

professional involvement @your library

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



Our SCASL Mission states the purpose and goals of our professional organization in one concise and focused sentence. It's a bold statement of what we believe in and work towards every day. It challenges each of us to strive for excellence. It reminds us of the significance of collaboration – it is essential that we work together and with our fellow educators for the good of children across our state. It also empowers each of us to become leaders, within our school communities, our districts, and within our organization.

I believe that each member of our organization has many special roles to play within SCASL, and I invite you to get involved! What can you do?

- ❖ *hold an office*
- ❖ *serve on committees*
- ❖ *serve on the board*
- ❖ *present at conferences*
- ❖ *advocate for school library media programs with legislators*
- ❖ *write for publications*
- ❖ *attend conferences*
- ❖ *recruit new members to SCASL*
- ❖ *recruit new professionals*
- ❖ *work in the Regional Network*
- ❖ *post to the discussion list*
- ❖ *attend a board meeting – they are open to any interested member*
- ❖ *attend the annual business meeting*
- ❖ *invite an elected official to your library media center*
- ❖ *speak to a group of pre-service educators about library media programs*

Get involved! Speak up! Share your voice and your talents! Volunteer! Complete the volunteer form on page 2 and mail it in. Today!

I hope to see you at our conference March 24-26, 2004, at the Palmetto Expo Center in Greenville. Robbie Van Pelt and her committees have planned a program of exciting sessions, fantastic events, and great exhibits. It is THE professional development opportunity for library media specialists in South Carolina.

professional involvement

Volunteers Needed for 2004-2005

Below is a list of SCASL committees. If you are interested in serving on one or more committees, please check those you would prefer. For more information about the work of a committee or project, feel free to contact the current chairman listed next to the committee or an SCASL officer.

Committees

- ___ Advocacy: Paula Yohe [pyohe@infoave.net]
- ___ Archives & History: Mitzi Burden [burdenm@charter.net]
- ___ Awards: Judy Parham [parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us]
- ___ Book Awards: Patty Tucker [ptucker@lexington1.net]
Joyce Moore [jmoore@florence3.k12.sc.us]
- ___ Constitution & Bylaws: Steve Reed [screed3103@aol.com]
- ___ Editorial: Laura Jackson [jmoggles@bellsouth.net]
- ___ Information Technology: Sally Wimberly [sallywimberly@anderson5.net]
- ___ Intellectual Freedom: Patty Bynum [pbynum@greenville.k12.sc.us]
- ___ Legislative: Susan Gray [sgray@greenville.k12.sc.us]
- ___ Non-Public Section: Melinda Kane [melbrockkane@hotmail.com]
- ___ Public Awareness: Tandra Pingle [tpingle@richlandone.org]
- ___ Pre-Service Education: Jessica Felker [jessieruth25@yahoo.com]
- ___ Regional Network: Frankie O'Neal [francesoneal@hotmail.com]
- ___ Retired Section: Joan Kruger [mjk2450@att.net]
- ___ Standards & Guidelines: Ida Thompson [ithompson@richlandone.org]
- ___ Supervisors: Harriet Pauling [hpauling@fairfield.k12.sc.us]
- ___ Board leadership opportunities: Martha Taylor [marthataylor@marthataylor.org]

Officers:

- President: Martha Taylor [marthataylor@marthataylor.org]
- President-Elect: Robbie Van Pelt [robbievanpelt@aol.com]
- Treasurer: Judy Thomas [jthomas@clover.k12.sc.us]
- Secretary: Kitt Lisenby [kittlisenby@yahoo.com]
- Immediate Past President: Janet Boltjes [jboltjes@lexington1.net]

If you are interested in joining a committee, please complete this form (you may photocopy it) and mail to Martha Taylor / 1209 Stonehurst Drive / Anderson SC 29621. Forms will also be available at the SCASL Conference.

You are cordially invited to attend the SCASL Annual Business Meeting held during the Annual Conference, Thursday, March 25, 2004, Greenville, South Carolina

Please check your conference program book for details of the time and location of the meeting.

Keep in Touch

SCASL:

Email: ksutusky@sc.rr.com
Write: Kathy Sutusky, Executive Secretary,
SCASL, P.O. Box 2442, Columbia, SC 29202
Phone: 803-782-3956
Web Page: SCASL.net

SCASL listserv:

To subscribe:
Address: listserv@listserv.sc.edu
Subject: Leave blank
Message: Subscribe SCASL-LS
yourfirstname yourlastname

To send a message:
Address: ISCASL-LS@listserv.sc.edu
Type: your subject
Type your message and send.

The Media Center Messenger:

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

Other important addresses:

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

SCLA: www.scla.org

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

ALA: www.ala.org

AASL: www.ala.org/aasl

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2, 2004
Read Across America

March 24-26, 2004
SCASL Annual Conference, Greenville

April 2004
National Poetry Month
School Library Media Month

April 12-18, 2004
Young People's Poetry Week
National Library Week

June 24-30, 2004
Annual ALA Conference, Orlando

January 7-9, 2005
EdTech, Myrtle Beach

Information Session at USC

The School Media Information Session will be held on Saturday, February 21 in Currell College, Room 107 on the USC-Columbia campus starting at 10a.m. This session is for students new to the SLIS program and who are pursuing school media certification. Prospective students are also welcome. For additional information contact:

DonnaShannon
dshannon@gwm.sc.edu

THINGS TO DO TODAY:

Pay your SCASL dues!
Join SCASL Listserv!

Contents

Introducing Kathy Sutusky	4
Instructional Technology Committee	4
School Library Media Services	5
Winner of the 2002-2003 Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award	6
The Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship	7
SC Book Award Nominees 2004-2005	8
Book Award News	9
10th Annual Young Writers & Illustrators Contest	10
Meet the Candidates	11
Great Media Specialists Make Library Media Programs Successful	12
Professional Title Book Reviews	14
School News Once Weekly— Extra! Extra! View All About It!	15
Lightening The Load	16
DISCUS Adds Databases & Enhances Web Site	17
Library Media Advisory Committees: Practical Suggestions	18
Regional News	22

Introducing Kathy Sutusky Your New Executive Secretary



Kathy Sutusky is our new Executive Secretary. Kathy is providing direct membership services to SCASL with membership registration, correspondence, conference registration, and book awards sales. She maintains the SCASL databases, produces reports and analyses of organizational operations, and works with the Executive Board and committees in a variety of ways.

Kathy holds degrees in Library Science, Speech and Theatre, Interpersonal Communication, and Organizational Communication from Marshall University, Ohio University, and Florida State University.

She is a member of SCASL, American Library Association, American Association of School Librarians, and National Education Association and its state and local affiliates. Kathy is a National Board Certified teacher in library media, and is an Information Technology Specialist at Eau Claire High School in Richland One. Previous jobs include adjunct instructor at Midlands Technical College, assistant professor at Voorhees College, instructor at USC, Director of Development/Affirmative Action at Southern West Virginia Community College, teacher at Cabel County Schools, and librarian in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Welcome aboard, Kathy!

Email: ksutusky@sc.rr.com

Mail: Kathy Sutusky, SCASL / P.O. Box 2442 / Columbia SC 29202

Telephone: 803-782-3956

Instructional Technology Committee

(Ed. Note) SCAET was established for the purpose of promoting the innovative, intelligent and responsible use of technology in the enhancement of education in South Carolina. It is responsible for the organization and production of the South Carolina EdTech Conference. It supports other statewide forums for sharing ideas, information and resources in the use of educational technology.

SCAET. The South Carolina Association for Educational Technology (SCAET) now has 501(c)3 (non-profit) status. A governing board was established composed of: Don Cantrell, South Carolina Department of Education, Chair; Dr. Bob Perkins, College of Charleston, Treasurer; Terry Pound, South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV); Geoff Freeman, South Carolina Partnership for Distance Education; Jared Seay, Applied Association for Interactive Multimedia (AAIM); Sally Wimberly, South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL); Stephen Bajjalay, University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science; Paula Yohe, K-12 Representative; Randy Abbott, District Technology Support; Richard Bone, South Carolina Budget & Control Board Central Information Office; Jane Pearman, Avaya; Richie Eisenman, BellSouth.

Initiatives and projects supported by SCAET are the South Carolina EdTech Conference, Technology Innovative Programs Awards (TIP), and the Annual Student Cover Art Contest. The board is looking at additional ways SCAET can be of value to the state by creating additional projects and initiatives.

For further information, check the website: <http://www.scaet.org>.

EdTech. Due to a number of conflicts, the EdTech Conference dates had to be changed for the next school year. The conference is now scheduled for January 7-9, 2005, Friday through Sunday, at Myrtle Beach Convention Center. It is hoped that this will be an incentive for those who cannot get professional leave to attend the conference. Registration will again be made available online. The website for complete information is <http://www.scaet.org/edtech/>

Sally Wimberly, Information Technology Chair, sallywimberly@anderson5.net



What gets measured gets done. How many times have we heard this and yet not felt it really applied to us personally or professionally? The time has arrived when we need to re-think that opinion. We must begin building the case that demonstrates the direct positive impact that school libraries make on student achievement. Here's a list of suggestions for demonstrating your instructional role and importance in your school and district:

- Conduct site-based action research to show how your instructional involvement improved student learning.
- Attend SCASL conference in March including pre-conference sessions. My concurrent session will be devoted to establishing and working with a library media center advisory committee.
- Read and use the SDE publication, *Achieving Exemplary School Libraries: LMC Evaluation Rubrics*.
- Begin collecting data now so that you'll be prepared to complete the 2003-2004 LMS Annual Survey.
- Be intentional about your personal professional reading, placing particular emphasis on conducting action research.
- Establish or expand your partnership with your principal and your classroom teachers to emphasize your instructional importance in the total instructional program of your school.

Don't wait for someone else to do it for you. It's wonderful that we can quote national research findings that document the instructional importance of school libraries. But (and it's a big "but," folks!) we need South Carolina data and much of it should come from you.

The standard directly related to school libraries on the External Review Instrument says: "The library media center program contributes to improving school and student performance." One of the indicators reads: "The media center professional staff provides formal feedback to the school leadership on student performance. " This is where your action research comes into play and where you can document your role in student learning. So where do you stand and how do you demonstrate your instructional role and the importance of your school library to student learning and achievement? Your answer could well be the determining factor in the continuing existence of school library media specialists!

**Martha Alewine, School Library Media Consultant
South Carolina Department of Education**

Winner of the 2002-2003 Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award

On behalf of the SCASL, Tambra Pingle, SCASL Awards Committee Chair, awarded Carolina Forest High School graduate Christina M. Morgan the 2002-2003 Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award. (*Ed. note: This is now the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship. See opposite page.*)

Nominated by Ron Cowan and Nancy Nelson of Carolina Forest High School, Christina's activities included serving as vice president and photographer of the Library Media Club and being named to the Governor's Reading Honor Roll as well as the Carolina Forest Reading Hall of Fame for reading all 20 of the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award nominees. "Christina exemplified the volunteer spirit and service of the Margaret Ehrhardt Award and was a great promoter of the arts and literature at Carolina Forest," commented Nelson.

In her application essay Christina stated, "In elementary school, the librarian opened the world up to me by reading aloud from a chapter book. Up until then I did not enjoy reading because I am dyslexic and it proved to be a difficult task. All it took was that single day and I began to read more knowing there were worlds hidden away within those pages. The library also provided and checked out instructional packets and kits to my mom so that she could assist me. I battled my learning disability and I succeeded. Being an active member of the Library Media Club has helped me take on more responsibilities. It has allowed me to come out of my shell and it helped build my confidence up. With this new found confidence I began working with other clubs and honor societies. Yet, none of this would be possible for me today if the librarians had never taken the time to assist me."

Christina was president of the National Art Honor Society, served as a math tutor for Mu Alpha Theta, and was a member of the National Science Honor Society. She competed on the soccer team and the swim team; participated in the Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Young Writer's Conference; and served as a Panther Buddy. Her honors include Carolina Forest High School Student of the Month, Junior Marshall, ACT and SAT Wall of Fame, and the summer Governor's School for Arts and Humanities Academy. She won first place in 3-D category at both the Fourth Annual and the Third Annual Horry/Georgetown Juried Art Show. She also sold art work at the Art Garage, a professional gallery in Columbia, South Carolina. Christina is a member of the Bayboro Saddle Club and has competed in the Sandlapper Horseshow Association show circuit. She is presently attending Midway University in Kentucky.



SCHSLMA and the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award

SCHSLMA became inactive last year due to decreased participation across the state. Changes in high school scheduling, as well as other areas, made the establishment and maintenance of library media clubs very difficult. It was through these clubs that the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award, which included a \$500 monetary reward, was given.

SCASL is committed to continuing the promotion of library media programs and the participation of interested students. To that end, SCASL will continue with the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Service Award, renaming it the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship Award. All SCHSLMA funds from previous years are being held separately in certificates of deposit and will only be drawn upon for the scholarship awards. See the next page for details.

Applications are now open for The Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship

Tambra Pingle, Awards Committee Chair, tpingle@richlandone.org

Purpose

The Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship honors a high school senior media center student volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to South Carolina school librarianship, school library media services and/or SCASL.

Criteria

Nominations are made by the student's library media specialist. The nominating library media specialist must be a current member of SCASL.

The following documents must be completed according to the directions provided below. Label all sections. Do not exceed space limitation indicated. Font size must be no less than 12. Do not use folders or binders.

Document One

The nominating LMS will write a letter of recommendation that describes the duties routinely performed by the student nominee, his/her length of service, and what the student has accomplished to make him or her outstanding. (Not to exceed two pages.)

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

Document Two

The student nominee will write about how he or she feels that libraries have enriched their lives and how being a volunteer in their school library media center has impacted their education and personal growth. (Not to exceed two pages.)

The following information should be included:

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

Completed applications should be mailed to:

Tambra Pingle, Public Awareness Chair,
Burton-Pack Elementary School,
111 Garden Drive, Columbia, SC 29204.

Six copies of the documents of application must be received by the awards committee chairperson no later than March 31, 2004.

Please do not use folders or binders. Applications will not be returned. Email or faxes will not be accepted.

The scholarship funds will be sent to the student's institution of choice.

South Carolina Book Award Nominees 2004 - 2005



Children's Book Award Nominees

The 55,000 Year-Old Puzzle: Solving a Mystery of Ancient Egypt
Claudia Logan

Because of Anya
Margaret Peterson Haddix

A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor
Harry Mazer

Dillon Dillon
Kate Banks

The Gold-Threaded Dress
Carolyn Marsden

Halfway to the Sky
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Handel, Who Knew What He Liked
Matthew T. Anderson

The House in the Mail
Rosemary Wells

I Smell Like Ham
Betty Hicks

King's Mountain
G. Clifton Wisler

Lumber Camp Library
Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Mr. Lincoln's Way
Patricia Polacco

A Real American
Richard Easton

Ruby Holler
Sharon Creech

Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps
Andrea Warren

Taking Care of Trouble
Bonnie Graves

To Fly: The Story of the Wright Brothers
Wendie C. Old

Uncle Daddy
Ralph J. Fletcher

A Week in the Woods
Andrew Clements

When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, the Voice of a Century
Pam Munoz Ryan

Junior Book Award Nominees

Goddess of Yesterday
Caroline B. Cooney

Heir Apparent
Vivian Vande Velde

Hippolyta and the Curse of the Amazons
Jane Yolen & Richard J. Harris

The Hunting of the Last Dragon
Sherryl Jordan

Just Jane
William Lavender

Kindling: The Fire-Us
Jennifer Armstrong & Nancy Butler

Once Upon a Marigold
Jean Ferris

Pictures of Hollis Woods
Patricia Reilly Giff

Red Midnight
Ben Mikaelson

The Rope Trick
Lloyd Alexander

Rowan of Rin
Emily Rodda

Ruby Holler
Sharon Creech

Stand Tall
Joan Bauer

Storm Warriors
Elisa Carbone

Stormbreaker
Anthony Horowitz

Surviving the Applewhites
Stephanie S. Tolan

Swimming Upstream
Kristine O'Connell George

The Thief Lord
Cornelia Funke

Things Not Seen
Andrew Clements

Wild Man Island
Will Hobbs

Young Adult Book Award Nominees

All-American Girl
Meg Cabot

Ashes of Roses
Mary Jane Auch

Before We Were Free
Julia Alvarez

Book of Fred
Abby Bardi

Breaking Through
Jimenez Francisco

Bronx Masquerade
Nikki Grimes

Dunk
David Lubar

The Gospel According to Larry
Janet Tashjian

Home of the Braves
David Klass

The Lovely Bones
Alice Sebold

The Night I Disappeared
Julie Reece Deaver

Out of the Fire
Deborah Froese

The Pact
Drs. Sampson David, George Jenkins & Rameck Hunt

Shattering Glass
Gail Giles

Soldier Boys
Dean Hughes

Son of the Mob
Gordon Korman

Stoner and Spaz
Ronald Koertge

Things Not Seen
Andrew Clements

This Lullaby
Sarah Dessen

What Happened to Lanie Garver
Carol-Plum Ucci

Book Award News

Patty Tucker, Book Awards Chair, ptucker@lexington1.net

Votes are due March 12, 2004!

- You may send your tallies either by email or by regular mail. **Envelopes must be postmarked March 12, 2004 or earlier.** Late votes will not be accepted.
- **Email votes must be received by midnight on March 12, 2004.** Late email votes will not be accepted.
- Tally sheets are located on the SCASL website www.scasl.net under **Book Awards**. Please send your votes to:

Children's Book Award:

Susannah Hogan, 30 North Avondale Dr., Greenville, SC 29609. Email: shogan35@aol.com

Junior Book Award:

Samantha McManus, John Ford Middle School, 304 Agnes St., PO Box 287, St. Matthews, SC 29135. Email: smcmanus215@earthlink.net.

Young Adult Book Award:

Sue Ann Spears, Midland Valley High School, 227 Mustang Dr., Graniteville, SC 29829.
Email: saspears@aiken.k12.sc.us

Book Award Banners

Banners are due March 12, 2004!

Banners must be postmarked by March 12, 2004. If you choose to hand deliver your banner to Suzanne Washick, it must be delivered by 3:00 PM on March 12, 2004. Late banners will not be accepted.

The banner is to represent a Children's Book Award Nominee, Junior Book Award Nominee, or a Young Adult Book Award Nominee. It must measure 2'6" by 6', to be hung vertically. It must be made from cloth and have a 2" pocket on the top for the insertion of a dowel rod and three (3) "buttonholes" through this pocket for alternative hanging measures. The banner must have the author and title on the front. To identify the banner, place a 3"x5" card on the back with the name of the designer (individual or group), the class, school, and name of the sponsoring media specialist(s). The banner will be judged on the authenticity of the art as it relates to the book as well as on the artistic quality of the banner. All artwork must be the original work of the child or children involved and must be the work of the students and not an adult. Certificates of participation will be awarded to every participating school as well as a prize of \$25.00 to the first place winner in each of these categories. Send completed banners to:

Suzanne Washick, Media Specialist, Stone Academy, 115 Randall Street, Greenville, SC 29609

Banners must be picked up at the conference; they will not be mailed.

Book Award Committees

Many of you have expressed an interest in serving on a book award committee. All of the media specialist positions on the committees have been filled; however, we are still looking for teachers and administrators to serve on the committees. If you know of a good candidate, please email me at ptucker@lexington1.net.

10th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest

ETV is teaming up with the Emmy Award-winning series **Reading Rainbow** to promote children's love of literature and appetite for learning. Hosted by actor LeVar Burton, **Reading Rainbow** introduces young children to the joys of reading and the fun of learning.

To support this program and encourage children's creative expression, **Reading Rainbow** and **ETV** are presenting the **10th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest**, a nationwide contest encouraging children, kindergarten through third grade, to write and illustrate their own story. This contest has proven tremendously successful—nationally last year, 43,000 youngsters entered original stories and South Carolina's Noëlle T. from Summerville was a national Grand Prize winner!

To make this contest a major success, we invite you to join in the fun. ETV will support the contest with broadcast promotional announcements, and you can broaden the reach of the contest by displaying fliers and entry forms in your library. You might also consider organizing an after-school or Saturday morning workshop for interested students and their parents. But don't wait—the deadline is **March 31, 2004**.

Every child will be recognized for their participation with a Certificate of Achievement signed by LeVar! We hope you will join us in bringing the love of reading and the joy of self-expression to children in your community.

The official rules and this year's entry form can be accessed at www.scetv.org/readytolearn/rrcontest, and more stories can be viewed or listened to on the Reading Rainbow website: www.pbskids.org/readingrainbow. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Thank you for the great work you do in encouraging children and literacy. Spread the word!

*Lydia Freeman, ETV Ready to Learn Coordinator
lfreeman@scetv.org*

A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen



The 18th annual "A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen—A Celebration of Stories" will be held on **Friday, April 23** and **Saturday, April 24, 2004**.

Arthur Yorinks, the founder and director of The Night Kitchen Radio Theater, will be the featured guest. He has written for opera, theater, dance and film, and is the author of many highly acclaimed books for children, including the Caldecott Medal Winner, *Hey Al*. His writing has been noted as one of the most distinctive prose styles in children's literature. Don't miss "An Evening with Arthur Yorinks" at 7 p.m. on April 23 at the Richland County Public Library in downtown Columbia.

RCPL's annual storytelling festival, co-sponsored by the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, honors the works and achievements of nationally-known author and storyteller Augusta Baker, who moved to Columbia in 1980 and was appointed the Storyteller-in-Residence at USC.

The two-day festival will include several special events:

- Storytelling for Fourth Graders on Friday morning by invitation.
- An evening event with the festival's featured author.
- Storytelling for Families on Saturday. Free and open to the public.

For further information call (803) 929-3474 or visit us online at www.richland.lib.sc.us

Padgett S. Lewis, Public Relations Manager, Richland County Public Library

Meet the Candidates

Vice-President/President-Elect - Lawren Hammond



Lawren has been a media specialist in South Carolina for 26 years, but began her library career as a high school library student assistant. She is a graduate of Georgia Southwestern College and received her MLS from the University of South Carolina.

She has been actively involved in SCASL since 1978 and has served as chair of the Awards Committee twice, on the Young Adult Book Award Committee twice, on the SCASL Elections Committee and served on the SCETV Media Specialists' Advisory Committee. She is a member of ALA/AASL and the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

She has been the supervising media specialist for several USC-SLIS interns and especially enjoys sharing her love of our profession with new media specialists and brainstorming with other professionals for ideas on how to better serve our students and teachers.

She was a founding member of the Aiken County Media Educators, the district's school librarians association, serving as the first ACME Chair from 1985-89, and again in 2002.

Lawren was chosen by the Paul Knox Middle School faculty as their Teacher of the Year and was the 4th SCASL Media Specialist of the Year.

She now works at North Augusta High School as media specialist, also serving as the school webmaster, and is a National Board candidate.

Secretary - Kitt Lisenby



Cynthia (Kitt) Lisenby is currently in her fourth year as media specialist at Cheraw Intermediate School, Chesterfield County School District. Kitt received her MLIS degree from the University of South Carolina in December 2001 and also has a Master's degree in elementary education from USC. She taught 7th and 8th grade Language Arts and English 1 Honors for 20 years before becoming a media specialist. During her years as a classroom teacher, Kitt's many recognitions included being honored as the Chesterfield Middle School Teacher of the Year, Chesterfield County Reading Teacher of the Year, and a STAR Educator. She has been the *Media Center Messenger* contact person for her district and has assisted with EdTech and SCASL registrations. She is currently serving on the South Carolina Children's Book Award Committee as well as serving as the Secretary of SCASL.

Treasurer - Steve Reed



Steven was born in Thermopolis, Wyoming. He attended elementary school in California and North Carolina, junior high in North Carolina, and high school in North Carolina and South Carolina graduating from Columbia High School. He attended the University of South Carolina where he received a BA in political science, MEd in Educational Administration, and MLIS (2002). He has nineteen years of experience in education and nine years experience selling educational computer software to South Carolina schools. His school experience includes teaching high school social studies, and being a school and district level administrator. He is currently serving as library media specialist at Denmark-Olar High School. Steven has been on the executive board of SCASL for two years, serving as chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Great Media Specialists Make Library Media Programs Successful

Donna Moyer, Stratford High School, Goose Creek, demoyer1@excite.com

What makes a great media program? Is it a great faculty? Is it a motivated student body? Is it lots of money? Or, is it good leadership? With budgetary woes, report cards, and many other troubles weighing us down, it is often hard to tell if what we are doing on any given day is the best we can do. I've thought about this a great deal, and wondered what other people are doing that makes a difference in the life of a child? For instance, do other media specialists have trouble recruiting teachers? What about collaboration—is it just you and a teacher talking about a book she could integrate into a lesson, or is it more? How do other media specialists get kids to read? What about the difficulties of making the Library Media Program a respected literacy-based research facility instead of a glorified study hall? Do other media specialists ponder these questions? I had to find out, so I asked a few media specialists around the state some questions about their programs and methods, and they had some interesting answers. I hope to highlight a few of those media programs now and in the next edition of the *Media Center Messenger*. I thought it would be interesting to talk with media specialists from varying levels and areas of the state. I started with my own district, Dorchester District Two.

I wondered what was going on at Alston Middle School, because kids who feed into our school from that middle school always talked about things they did in the media center. So, I contacted the media specialist there, Rachel "Gin-g" Edwards. Gin-g often promotes reading by offering motivational rewards. The school's reading program called "Reading Renaissance" focuses on student reading. Language arts teachers set reading goals with students and when they reach their predetermined goal, they might enjoy a basketball game, an ice cream sundae party, or a dunking booth. She also sponsors a Read-In with activities including book charades, storytelling, making and sharing filmstrips and a scavenger hunt. Students love these activities. In fact, one student said, "Mrs. Edwards holds a read-in every year. It's when top readers spend the night (and) it is very cool." Based on the number of books they have read, students might enjoy a "by invitation only" luncheon, or they might participate in an auction. These are great activities that help motivate students to read and to enhance the joy of reading. When it comes to collaborating with teachers, her advice is "to be approachable." As for funding, Gin-g has written many grants and says her PTA is very supportive of the library program. Her budget is only \$5.00 per pupil, but she writes grants and sponsors fundraisers. She also has a super principal, administrative staff, and faculty. She sponsors a storytelling club that is funded by a grant, combines displays and activities that promote literature and learning and con-

siders herself "user friendly." With regard to research, one student claims, "she teaches us about the Dewey Decimal System and how to use an encyclopedia. . .and she shows us how to use the online catalog." Gin-g keeps running lists of requests from both students and teachers. She says, "that is how I know what to order. . .what my patrons need. Our budgets are so limited that it just makes sense to get them what they need." These are all great techniques to master the art of running an effective library media program. When asked what her faculty might say about her program, Gin-g said, "They would say that it is the heartbeat of the school. . .a vital part of the school program."

Next, I turned to Greenville County. I decided to seek out a colleague from the SCASL YABA committee because she is always involved in something at her school. Jennifer Garrett of Mauldin Middle School involves her students in the book committee and relates to them on their level. I wanted to know what kind of things she does to make her program work. She and Christy Batson shared some interesting activities they use in their middle school. They sponsor a year-end Mustang Book Award Pizza Party for readers of Junior and Young Adult nominees. When 7th and 8th graders read at least five of the nominees, they can participate. If they read eight books they receive a free book from the book fair. Jen says many of these students go on to read other books in a series and keep reading even when the competition stops. Both media specialists go into classrooms and read books aloud to students. Jen is reading *Flipped* to a 7th grade class now. In their program they collect and circulate lots of graphic novels. Jen says, "graphic novels are HUGE" with their students and they have drawn many new students into the library who might not have come in before. She opens computers for games before and after school and admits it helps build relationships with students. This enables both media specialists to help students with academic research or book recommendations because students feel comfortable in the media center. Students are so at ease that one reports, "I love the open and welcome feeling in the library to just go up and read or chat with the librarians." Jen boasts a circulation increase of 25% and claims the increase is a result of the graphic novels and incentives. One effort at collaboration with an art teacher three years ago has turned into a grand event at the school. In fact, all 8th grade language arts classes now participate. It starts with biographical research on famous artists, and concludes with graphic organizers, drama, and a little art work. Parents are invited to view the "art" gallery the students have created, snack a little on hors d'oeuvres, and the kids get to gloat on their success. This has become such a success for the media program that students in the 6th and 7th grade look forward to getting to

do the project. District funding is only \$9,000 annually, but the principal usually provides the media center with Title V funding that is around \$4,000. They must have great support to have two media specialists in a middle school. Although they have 1,260 students, it isn't often that a middle school program will support two professionals and a full time assistant. Jen and Christy have three book fairs a year and sponsor a faculty-student basketball game for extra funding. During Teen Read Week they host "Name the Author/Book" contests, make book displays, give away candy displays when students guess the number of pieces, and create a pleasant, teen environment for the kids. One student claims, "She makes reading fun; she gives us rewards for reading with pizza parties and books from the book fair." Lava lamps, magic 8 balls, and movie posters set a contemporary mood for the students, too. In other events, book fairs help fund a Poetry Alive event for 7th graders. Actors perform or act out poems for students in conjunction with the poetry unit they study. Both Jen and Christy participate in professional associations as well. I think it is important to be a part of something separate from your media center to enhance your knowledge and give you an opportunity to share with others. Jen has been an active member in the YABA nominee committee for three years and also participates in ALA, and the Greenville County Media Specialists Association. Jen asks students to help in the selection process, too. Students can leaf through copies of VOYA or check out books on Amazon.com. If the reviews are good and they meet the selection criteria, students who ask for them get "first dibs" on them when they come in. Indeed, children love to take part in selecting books. In fact, one in particular says that he makes suggestions all the time. "I am a book freak and frequently request fantasy books, and they almost always appear on the shelf afterward." Jen and Christy compile an e-newsletter for parents and students through yahoo groups. This helps keep the communication open with parents. When selection is questioned or parents disagree with the policy, titles sometimes are challenged. Jen says that by maintaining an open dialogue . . . most challenges end with her.

Two schools, three media specialists, separated by a few hundred miles, but not really so different. Good strong media specialists make good strong media programs. Great ideas help too. But, I still wanted more information about elementary schools. So, I contacted a couple of media specialists in Berkeley County.

Karen Cookson at Marrington Elementary School says she displays books based on movies, author's birthdays, and holidays. She also creates Marrington "READ" posters, fashioned after those of the ALA, of her faculty for the kids to enjoy. She places the READ posters on a shelf near where the title featured would be found. She tries to feature a book review or a special library event on

every school TV news program, in the school newsletter, and on brochures she sends home with report cards. Not only does she read to her students daily, but also they often make puppets to go along with the story. I thought this idea was so cute, but you should keep in mind that I'm a high school media specialist, and we don't often get the chance to make puppets with our students—although some kids would love the opportunity. Anyway, Karen collaborates with her teachers using the Big6 Strategies, and finds that giving individual attention and help can often make a difference in the relationships formed between a teacher and a media specialist. In relation to the budget, she says she gets to spend \$5,000 a year on books, but also has been given up to \$6,000 in Title I money. She says she has a good relationship with the Title I facilitator and has purchased materials that support math, reading, and science, plus she keeps a wish list ready when money becomes available. She admits, "It's very important to have a global view; I always make sure that the purchase will benefit the whole school." One particular activity I found interesting was the February "Read-in", where students and teachers gather in the hallway before school starts to celebrate Black History Month. Armed with books about black authors and illustrators, children and adults read in a "read-in chain" for about five minutes. What a great way to start the day. Karen says her faculty, "know(s) that I am a teacher first and foremost. . ."

At Westview Primary school, things are going well too. Just in its second year, Westview houses 830 students ranging from four-year-olds through third grade. With limited funding, a mere \$6,500 for all of 2003-2004, Erika Elder is still able to take requests from students for books, form a library advisory committee, and maintain a good selection of reading books. She believes her faculty is "grateful for (her ability to) incorporate many standards into the lessons" used in the media center, and that "students know they are number one when they visit the library." In fact, when asked, second graders at her school said Erika, "helps us find books and teaches us about the computer. She shows us that reading is fun." Students also report their favorite activities include a read-a-thon and book swap held during Children's Book Week in November.

All in all, I found that in many libraries kids are reading and loving it, teachers are working with media specialists to promote reading, literacy, and information skills, and even with lean budgets media specialists can make really great media programs. So, even with all the strains and stresses involved in running an effective library media program, many are doing just that. But wait! There's more to come. . .

Professional Title Book Reviews

Valerie Byrd, Dutch Fork Elementary School, vbyrd@lex5.k12.sc.us

*You know what's funny? I could have used each one of the books below much earlier, (like last summer) to help me plan for what I am doing this year in my school library media program. I have started a book club for 5th graders (see *The Kids' Book Club*), I am coordinating a schoolwide reading incentive (see *School Wide Book Events*), and I am ALWAYS trying to find ways to show that I am instrumental to student achievement (see *Student Success and Library Media Programs*). I wish I had had these books to start the year off with...they all help to make planning and accomplishing things much easier. Enjoy!*

The Kids' Book Club: Lively Reading and Activities for Grades 1-3 by Desiree Webber and Sandy Shropshire; illustrated by Sandy Shropshire. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 2001 (<http://www.lu.com/>)

This book explains how to plan and conduct a successful book club, giving suggestions on what to do for the first meeting, how to obtain copies of the book, and other important information. The title states that the activities included in the book are geared to grades 1-3. However, I feel that they can be "molded" to suit your needs. Each chapter in the book is dedicated to a particular title: *Digging up Dinosaurs* by Aliko, *Commander Toad and the Space Pirates* by Jane Yolen, and *The Tortoise and the Hare* by Janet Stevens are only a few of the books included. Each chapter goes through a book club session step by step with an introduction to the book, an introduction to the author and/or illustrator, discussion questions, activities, a craft idea, snacks, other titles related to that book club title, and how to contact the publisher. There are also templates for nametags and ideas for story stretchers. This is a helpful book even if you do not plan to read the titles listed...the templates and ideas for use can be applied to other books and the information on how to conduct a book club meeting are very informative. There is also a subject index that can help you find activities that suit titles you are already reading with your students.

School Wide Book Events: How to Make Them Happen by Virginia Lawrence Ray. Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2003 (<http://www.lu.com/>)

This book gives you ideas on how to promote reading through schoolwide programs. Guess what? There is no mention of AR, Reading Counts, etc. Just simple, easy to do schoolwide themes and suggestions. Ray gives you the basics to start with: talk with your administrators; understand that your schedule needs to be such where you can carry out a schoolwide program, and to remember the point: make reading fun. This book is divided by theme: weather, mystery books, and travel are all schoolwide themes that are included. Each chapter includes a purpose, materials needed, student contribution ideas, a timeline of what to do for the event, and a book event activity. There is also a suggested bibliography of books related to each theme at the end of every chapter. Just as with *The Kids' Book Club*, you don't **have** to use the books or themes that Ray suggests—the book will act as a springboard to ideas and activities you already have or do.

Student Success and Library Media Programs: A Systems Approach to Research and Best Practice by Lesley S.J. Farmer. Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2003 (<http://www.lu.com/>)

This is not the "breeziest" professional book I have ever read. In fact, it reads much like a textbook, but a VERY important textbook. This book is full of useful, important information that we can all use to defend our programs (and ourselves!). Farmer helps you figure out how to conduct your own research to prove that you are making a difference in student achievement at your school. The bibliographies at the end of each chapter are amazingly helpful: each giving websites, library media research, and professional journal articles to go to for information on library media programs and on research that has already been done in the field. This is a great book to read along with ALA's *Information Power*. It is a wonderful resource to have in your professional collection.

Next time, professional resources on the Internet! Happy Reading!



School News Once Weekly - Extra! Extra! View All About It!

Lynn B. Scott, Nelson Elementary, Columbia; lscott@lbne.richland2.org

Like many other media specialists across the state, I, along with another partner, sponsor and produce the school news show. We have found over the years that hosting a show every day is not as informative or productive as airing once weekly. Because we have a week between shows, students have time to conduct interviews, film classrooms in action, videotape school-wide events, research historical events and gather weather information. Quality instead of quantity is the outcome.

The “WLBN Live From the Hive!” shows are broadcast on Tuesday mornings from a tiny newsroom. The room is a former health room measuring approximately 150 square feet and, to further complicate things, we share the room with a school psychologist and our school resource officer. There is also a teacher restroom reached by entering this area! Needless to say, we work in an extremely small space. The actual broadcasting area is the narrow entrance hallway into the office. During the show, we place our news desk against the entry door, hang a sign outside to discourage entrance and lock the door. Our camera angle is down the hallway toward the entrance door. Talk about tunnel vision. This is the literal interpretation!

Our 5th grade student news team was selected via tryouts in the fall. Each Monday we meet and plan with all 15 students, but on Tuesdays only the students who fill six broadcast positions (News Anchor, Weather Anchor, Storyboard, Director, VCR Operator, Camera Person) are present.

Our equipment is pretty standard— a camcorder, tripod, two televisions (small one for the VCR Operator’s use and large one for view by the remainder of the crew), a VCR, and a mixer. Our dear Carroll Wise, formerly of SCETV, created the whole setup six years ago. Budget constraints, plus the fact that everything is still in working condition, have kept us from updating to digital equipment. The only new equipment we have is a video-editing program, which has made all the difference in the quality of our broadcasts. Video-editing programs provide opportunities for cutting out unwanted segments and creating smooth transitions from segment to segment. Also, it provides an opportunity for adding copyright protected music, adding voice-overs, and creating text frames that introduce the story and/or describe happenings. We have always followed a pretty standard order of events each week, but now we are not only able to offer news from around the building, but we can also include news of off-site events such as field trips or musical productions in which our students are involved. These items are video-edited and prepared for broadcast on the next show. We have a standard order of events in our broadcast in which we insert the video-edited news. Recently I discovered that two of my 5th grade students can video-edit segments with little or no help. The process is not difficult, just very methodical.

Hopefully, you have gained something from these notes that will help you design a once-a-week school news show that impacts student learning in these ways:

- Students learn about what is happening in the school and community environment.
- Reporters and technical staff practice critical thinking while planning shows.
- Reporters and technical staff learn techniques to use when interviewing and reporting.
- Reporters write regularly and receive editing cues from teacher sponsors.
- Students learn the value of working together as a team.
- News team members become competent public speakers.

Lightening The Load

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

All work is as seed sown; it grows and spreads, and sows itself anew. –Thomas Carlyle

Educational solutions come and go. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the buzzwords were *paperwork reduction*. The laudable idea behind this particular solution to the perceived deficiencies of educators and the schools in which they taught was to free up our time. Instead of needlessly completing myriad forms, teachers could actually teach students. What a novel idea!

Actually, I remembered paperwork reduction because of a conversation when I was spending the bulk of my day reformatting computers in the media lab. A teacher wandered in and asked me jovially, “And what’s to blame for all this?” “Paperwork reduction” popped into my mind and, just as quickly, out of my mouth in reply to her query.

You see, paperwork reduction was the panacea for overload in education. The brave new world of a computer in every classroom—not to mention thirty workstations in every media lab—was to decrease paperwork and ease workloads for teachers and other educators. As a result, a golden age of higher student achievement would ensue.

Teachers would teach *and* counsel students because there would be ample time to recognize and celebrate each individual learner. As automated systems managed acquisitions, cataloging, and circulation with nary a hitch, school library media specialists could provide reader guidance, collaborate with teachers to tailor instruction to curriculum, provide and promote library media center activities, and even read book reviews before five o’clock. Student learning would soar as no longer overburdened educators facilitated that flight.

Over a decade later, the reality is quite the opposite. The workload of the SLMS is larger than ever. Technology has become another part of the library media center program that needs to be managed, and, as new responsibilities and tasks pile on, we jettison few, if any, of the old ones.

As most of us know quite well from incidents we’d rather forget, overload can cause workstations to crash. Unfortunately, overload can also prevent LMC programs from ever taking flight.

If the number of tasks a school library media specialist is expected to handle keeps growing and spreading, then it’s time to weed more than books. Just as there are guidelines for which volumes to discard, we need steps to determine which part of our workload to jettison. With a nod to the principles of Total Quality Management, following are my suggestions:

√ **Magnify the mission.** Do you have a mission statement? That’s good, because now is the time to really read it and, if necessary, revise it to reflect what your library media center program needs to offer your community. You don’t have a mission statement? Then create one. Once you are certain of your program’s mission, then you can examine how the various tasks you perform further that mission. Whatever is not mission specific becomes a candidate for the discard pile.

√ **Prefer the professional.** Does the task require your professional knowledge and skills? Will the students benefit more from *your* performing the task? Or is this just something the library media specialist has always done? In other words, you are a professional who needs to make time to collaborate with other professional educators to boost student achievement. Assistants, student helpers, and volunteers may be able to take care of some of the routine busy work. The non-professional tasks you do yield more candidates for weeding.

√ **Consult the constituency.** This is where a media advisory committee can really be useful. Let them help you brainstorm ways to lighten your load. If you don’t have a media advisory committee, then talk to members of your school faculty about the overload that is keeping your LMC program grounded. Be positive, not petulant. Emphasize your mission and focus on how the changes you intend can benefit their instruction and students. Listen and consider their concerns. Tasks you perform that they don’t regard as useful or important are more possibilities for dismissal, but bear in mind that only you can really know how important each task is to your overall program.

√ **Activate the administration.** Once you have determined those tasks that miss your mis-

sion, don't require professional knowledge or skills, and are no longer needed by your school community, make an appointment to speak with your principal. Explain the steps you have taken to make your determinations. Stress how dropping or shifting parts of your workload that fit the criteria above can make the school library media program better able to meet the most important mission of all these days—increased student achievement. Solicit support and feedback.

You've cast away the unnecessary and discarded the unimportant. You are now managing your workload instead of having it manage you. I hesitate to say this, but you haven't finished yet.

Look at the opening quote; yes, work is ceaselessly propagating. When you acquire a new job that hasn't been yours before, evaluate it according to your task-weeding criteria. If it is not in your mission, what's it doing sneaking into your program?

To paraphrase an old saying "You can't possibly work any harder, so work smarter." A lighter load permits you to work more effectively and efficiently, allowing your LMC program to take off and serve your school. Adhering to your mission and focusing on professional tasks ensure that teacher support and student achievement are on board as the essential parts of your load.



DISCUS Adds Databases and Enhances Web Site

Mary Bull, DISCUS Program Director, South Carolina State Library

mary@leo.scsl.state.sc.us www.scdiscus.org (803) 737-7736

The new year brings some major enhancements to DISCUS – South Carolina's Virtual Library. Two new databases are added, content of another database is expanded and the DISCUS K-12 page is redesigned.

DISCUS now includes *The State*, NewsBank's searchable archive of the Columbia, South Carolina newspaper, the most frequently requested addition. Also new to DISCUS is *Scribner Writer's Series*, Gale's reference source on over 1600 important authors from around the world. The *Custom Newspapers* database from Gale has been expanded to include over 100 U.S. and international newspapers.

January marked the launch of a redesigned and significantly enhanced DISCUS K-12 page. Visitors to <http://www.scdiscus.org/school.html> now have more efficient access to the wealth of information and resources available through DISCUS.

The redesigned page features a tabbed navigation bar that facilitates easy movement between multiple access points for DISCUS databases. Users are guided to databases alphabetically, by subject and by grade level. A graphical *DISCUS Kids!* page has links only to the databases targeted to elementary through middle grades. A *Search Tips* page helps guide users to databases by type of article included, such as newspaper, magazine or reference articles, and gives tips on finding maps, pictures, lesson plans and teacher resources, timelines, and other often overlooked content in DISCUS. Quick links to database descriptions and ready access to help information and support materials are also available.

The DISCUS office is eager to have feedback from media specialists, teachers and students about the changes to the K-12 page or any aspect of DISCUS. A *Contact Us* link is available at the bottom of each page on the DISCUS site.

Library Media Advisory Committees: *Practical Suggestions*

Greta Flinn, Calhoun Falls High School, mflinn@acsd.k12.sc.us

One of the first things I did as a brand new library media specialist was approach my principal about forming a library media advisory committee. After I received his blessing to do so and a commitment that I would have at least one representative per grade level, I embarked upon what seemed to me an intimidating task. There I was, still wet behind the ears and with little knowledge of the community and students the library media center would serve, faced with chairing a committee of veteran elementary teachers, some of whom had been at that school for longer than I had been alive. I scheduled our first meeting and invited anyone who wished to join our committee to attend. I brought refreshments, handed out an agenda, took a big breath, and began our first meeting. Believe it or not, they were really interested in what I had to say and my new-fangled ideas about how the library media center could serve them. Their advice was invaluable for deciding which programs, services, and materials would really impact our students and support the learning environment. They were super at working out logistics. Did we agree on everything? Certainly not, but I did open up avenues of communication, boost advocacy for our library media center, and jump ahead light years in understanding the community. I have learned much since then about what works for me in regard to a library media advisory committee and have identified some absolutely critical components. I hope you will find the following practical suggestions useful:

√ **An advisory committee serves an advisory purpose.** By definition the advisory part of this committee's name means that you, as the trained and certified library media specialist, take the committee's suggestions under consideration but that you make the final decisions. This does not mean you should tell your committee, "I disagree, and I make the final decision so forget it." However, there may be times that you need to gently point out why a suggestion is not feasible. There may be other times when you diplomatically need to say, "I'll certainly take that under consideration."

√ **Administrative support and inclusion is a must for success.** Administrative support for your committee is invaluable. If your school leader views the committee as valuable, so will your teachers. Honestly, I haven't run into an administrator yet that does not support having a media advisory committee. The administrators I have worked for have been thrilled

about the idea because it makes the school look good. Administrators are busy people and may not always be able to attend your meetings. This does not mean they can't be members of your committee. At the very least type up the meeting minutes to turn in and discuss meeting conclusions when you meet with your administration about pressing issues. I meet with my principal on an as-needed basis with a list in hand of topics we need to discuss to keep me focused and make sure that all matters, big and small, that impact my library media program are on the agenda.

√ **Best practice points to diversity among committee membership.** You hear over and over that school committees should have a membership comprised of administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community members. The more diverse your membership, the better representation you have. The problem comes when coordinating a meeting everyone can attend and recruiting for membership. Here is what works for me. I hold meetings when it is convenient for my teachers because they are asked to do so many things after school already. To get input from community members, parents, and students, I ask those I have gotten to know and developed a rapport with if they would be willing for me to bounce ideas off them from time to time. Before, or soon after, the official meeting date, I run the meeting agenda items by them for their input. I consider them to be committee members. That being said leads me to my next point.

√ **Meetings don't have to be face-to-face.** Committee meetings don't always have to be face-to-face. Before the budget crisis I used to place periodical orders in the spring. Because this was such a crazy time for all with testing and everything else we cram in, I would email and/or snail mail questions about the periodical order and ask committee members to respond by a deadline. With a little reminding, I actually received some really good feedback this way. Sometimes committee members are actually more comfortable with expressing themselves in this manner. As a general rule, if multiple items need addressing, or if the items will need clarification, meet face-to-face. If the items are simple in nature, or if only one item needs addressing, meet through email/hard-copy mail.

√ **Open to all.** My library media advisory committee is open to anyone who should wish to attend

or become a member. The reason for this is simple. I want our library media center to be viewed as an equal opportunity enterprise in which everyone is welcome and everyone has ownership.

√ **Don't having meetings for meetings' sake.** I don't schedule to meet every month or even every nine weeks. We meet on an as-needed basis. Everyone from students to teachers stays busy and is under increasing pressure. Added to this is the fact that I have never met anyone who enjoys meeting just to meet. In order to make meetings meaningful, I only call them when we have issues to discuss. For us, that usually means we meet face-to-face once a semester and via email/hard-copy mail two or three times a year, but this is not a hard-and-fast rule.

√ **"Feed them and they will come.*/Stay positive.** Refreshments are the tried and true standard for making meetings more bearable. Homemade and even store bought treats show your members you value them and give them something to look forward to as well. Refreshments also help set a positive atmosphere. To further this, make sure you smile and put a positive twist on even those downhill situations. Inject a little humor. If you act like you are in the dumps, or like you'd rather be anywhere else, your committee members will feel the same.

√ **Always have an agenda and stick to it.** Sometimes I get a little blond. Sometimes I get a lot ADD. And sometimes I am both at the same time. To combat this, to make meetings seem more meaningful, and to give visual learners and tactile learners something to work with, I always prepare an agenda. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. My first agendas were bulleted lists, but now I favor creating an open-ended style agenda, using tables in Word that double as forms on which to keep minutes for my records. A partial example appears below.

CFHS Library Media Advisory Meeting

Topics Order	Discussion
Targeted Areas: Ancient History Science, African-American biographies and reference Other Critical Needs Areas? Specific Requests? Material Format?	
SC Book Award Program Donor funded Promotion? Program Rewards? Suggested Curriculum tie-ins and activities www.scasl.net/BookAward/bkawrd.htm	
Computer Virus Issues (See handout for clocking email with undesired subject lines) Getting the word out about suspicious email attachments (.vbs, .exe, .scr)	

Any time is a good time to form a library media advisory committee. Approach your principal; approach your grade level leaders or your department leaders; approach students, parents, and community members; issue an invitation; type up your agenda; and get ready to strengthen your school library media program and services by garnering support. If you don't know parents, students, and/or community members well enough to ask for their involvement, don't be disheartened. I would suggest starting your committee with a representative from each grade level, cluster, or department and then approaching parents, students, and community members as you begin to meet people and get more comfortable. Or ask your newly formed committee of teachers for suggestions. You don't have to start on a large scale. Begin smaller and build from year to year. Library media advisory committees really are worth the effort.

A Good Idea

This year the Midway Media Center in Lexington introduced "RPMs" (Reading Powers Mustangs), a new reading program designed to encourage students to zoom ahead with reading progress. Participating students record the time they spend reading on a specially designed race-track bookmark, much like the public library's summer reading program. Each completed racetrack, representing a total of four hours of reading time, is rewarded with a sticker and a chance to win a prize in the weekly drawing. At the end of the year, participants will be eligible for a random drawing for bookstore gift certificates. Response has been moving at a rapid pace. On December 7, 2003, 80 Midway readers represented Midway in Lexington's annual Christmas Parade. **Reading Powers Mustangs—ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM!** D'Etta Broam is the Midway Elementary media specialist.

. . .and A Good Tip

Being an experienced media specialist, Robert Dwelley, Muray-Lasaine Elementary, knows all too well the isolation the profession can bring in terms of association with other professionals and wants to pass on a suggestion to elementary media specialists to obtain a sample copy of *Library Sparks*, a recent publication for librarians. The February issue for 2004 is devoted to Black History Month with resources listed along with suggested Web sites and activities included for math, history and research, geography, and language arts. Instructions are given for construction of a dashiki and black and white line drawings are included to create storyboard characters of flannel for *A Story, A Story* and *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock*. A letter to LIBRARYSPARKS, P.O. Box 565, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-7482 or visiting [librarysparks.com] to request a FREE trial issue will bring a copy to your center. Other features for February include: Library Lessons and Meet the Author.



**January 7, 8, 9, 2005
Myrtle Beach Convention Center**

Join fellow education technology professionals for a winter weekend packed with great presentations, workshops, speakers, exhibitors, and awards at the South Carolina EdTech Winter Weekend Conference.

@your library

"While libraries are popular, they are often taken for granted. While libraries are ubiquitous, they are often not visible. And, while libraries are unique, they are facing new challenges." —ALA

Out of these challenges was born The Campaign for America's Libraries, ALA's multi-year public education campaign designed to showcase the value of public, school, academic and special libraries and librarians in the 21st century. The most important thing the campaign is providing are materials that libraries are adapting and using themselves. These materials can be downloaded from the campaign Web site at [www.ala.org/@yourlibrary].

Calling all "Retirees". Come join in our very own session at conference. Share what fun things you have been doing in retirement AND bring your ideas for ways we can be of service to SCASL. See you in Greenville in March.

Joan Kruger, Retired Section Chair.

Constitutional Change to Be Voted On

The following proposed amendment to the By-laws will be voted upon at the business meeting at the conference in Greenville. To pass the amendment needs a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present.

Amendment:

Add to Article IV Section 6. Awards (listed after Administrator of the Year) **the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship**

Steve Reed, Constitution Committee Chair
sreed@bamberg2.k12.sc.us

**Have You Paid Your
2003-2004 Dues Yet?**

If you are not sure, check with Kathy Sutusky, our Executive Secretary, ksutusky@sc.rr.com. Do it now. Be a paid up member and earn the registration discount at the Annual Conference!

2004 South Carolina Book Festival

Saturday, February 28th, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 29th, 12:00 Noon - 6:00 p.m.
At the State Fairgrounds

What began in 1997 as a one-day event at the Koger Center in Columbia has now become the largest literary event in the state and one of the foremost book festivals in the Southeast. The festival is an annual gathering of more than sixty well-known authors, scores of booksellers and exhibitors, and thousands of avid readers, all coming together for two days of reading, signings, and serious book shopping—free of charge. This year there will be panel discussions on Horror Writing, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Coming of Age Stories, Southern Families, Low Country Writers and many more scintillating subjects.

This grand event is made possible by the Humanities Council of South Carolina with the support of local and national organizations, businesses and individuals.

For further details see: www.schumanities.org/bookfestival.htm



Follow up to article "Emerald High School in Africa!" in the November issue of the *Media Center Messenger*

The CALEB Library Project web site is online!

<http://home.earthlink.net/~caleblibrary/>

Contributing to Africa's Literacy and Education with Books

The site is still a work in progress, but it explains what our mission is and how to be a part of it. There are some photos and articles there, a profile of Byron (Mawingo) Jeys, and information on how to ship books.

I encourage you to share this site with friends and family. We hope to motivate people to take the initiative to send books to Malawi. If you know of a group who may be looking for a project, perhaps you can suggest this one!

We will update the site quarterly and use it as a vehicle for sharing information about life in Malawi, so if you have input, please drop me a note. I look forward to your feedback on the site - I know you will have lots of great ideas for us to incorporate.

I am eager to hear from you!

Virginia Pulver, vjpulver@earthlink.net

Vital Statistics



Deaths

Richland District 1. **Mary Lou Benton**'s mother Hunter Quin, passed away in December.

St. Andrews Middle School: **Rita Black**'s father passed away in Virginia just before Winter Break.

Burnside Elementary: **Janet Kittrell**'s father passed away on December 29th.

Births

Janet Shay, Oakland Elementary School in Greenwood, has a baby girl, Delea Margaret Shay, born last June.

Patricia Candor gave birth to Samuel Lewis in November 2003.

Susan Myers, Chesnee High School, gave birth to Thomas Jesse Benjamin Myers on September 13, 2003.

Angela Ham, assistant to **Mary Jo Spring** at Calhoun County High School, gave birth to twin girls.

Lexington 2: Springdale media specialist **Chesley Geyer** is expecting her second child in March.

Announcements

Marinda Motes at Saluda River Academy of the Arts will be wed in April.

Valerie Byrd, Dutch Fork Elementary School, is engaged to Marty Fort.

Last call for applicants for the AASL/3M Salute to Schools

Apply now for the 2004 3M Salute to Schools program which gives a complete detection system, a package with an average value of about \$15,000, to selected schools. The program is open to middle and high schools and applications are available online at [www.ala.org/aasl] or [www.3M.com/us/library].

But HURRY! The deadline for program applications and supporting materials is **March 1, 2004**. Recipients will be announced in early April.

JOIN SCASL LISTSERV TODAY!!!

Regional News

Region 1A.

OCONEE COUNTY. Westminster Elementary and James M. Brown Elementary enjoyed visits by **Dave** and **Pat Sargent**. **Laura Keese** and **Cindy Edgerton** are the media specialists at these schools.

ANDERSON COUNTY. DISTRICT 2. Marshall Primary Media Center is completing a new outdoor classroom that is located right outside the media center. It was funded through a \$5000 grant from the WebbCraft Foundation and donations by area businesses. The school is in the process of having the garden certified as a Schoolyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. It contains a pond, a bog, a rock sitting wall, an herb garden, and native plants. Teachers will write lesson plans that will tie the garden into the curriculum. The media center will provide books and materials and help the students with plant and habitat research. **Patsy Martin** is the media specialist. **Dr. Marilyn Heath**, media specialist at Belton-Honea Path High School became a National Board Certified Teacher in November. **DISTRICT 5.** **MaryAnne Kohl**, Midway Elementary, is setting up a sister-school relationship with a poor, rural school in Nueva Vida, Nicaragua. The Midway Student Council is working with her to raise funds to send Spanish language picture books to the school there. Details are still being worked out, but MaryAnne expects to do some other projects with the sister school once things are fully organized. **Linda Couch**, Southwood Middle School, earned National Board Certification this year. **Sydney Jones**, **Kay Moxley** and **Debbie Stone** presented at a workshop promoting library media programs for teacher cadets and student teachers in Oconee County entitled *Information Power: Partnerships in Action*.

Region 1B.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY. DISTRICT 2. For Boiling Springs High School students involved in READissance, a voluntary reading program at Boiling Springs High School, during the fall semester read a total of 188,763 pages.

Region 3.

ROCK HILL. Author **Sharon Draper** will visit Rock Hill High School on February 25. All students have had the opportunity to read at least one of her books. The reading initiative committee received a \$6000 grant to purchase copies of four Draper titles and books were rotated to all 3rd block classes for 6 weeks at a time to give students an opportunity to read one of Ms. Draper's books. Other activities during the grant promotion include a book fair, a book banner contest, and a door decoration contest. At Old Point Elementary School, **Jane Daffin** media specialist won an EIA grant of \$6,000 called "Lights, Camera, Learning!" It has provided them with a video editor, video camera, tripod, digital camera and a wonderful field trip to Charlotte to go to a 12:00 news show with **John Carter** (anchor) for our Panther News Network Crew.

Region 4A.

LEXINGTON 1. **Sharmen Oswald**, Gilbert Middle School, presented at the South Carolina Council for Children with Behavior Disorders conference. Sharmen's presentation, "Working Smarter, Not Harder with the Big6 Research Model", focused on maximizing student success in the media center. **Elizabeth Harrell** has

been selected Lexington High School's Teacher of the Year. The "Lake Murray Live" television news team was the subject of a recent article in *PC Teach It* magazine. The team consists of eight fifth-grade students who direct and produce a live broadcast twice a week under the direction of **Teri Puryear**, media specialist at Lake Murray Elementary in Lexington. Mrs. Puryear has also been named as a recipient of a Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant. Funds from this grant will be used to create a special section of favorite read-aloud books for her teachers to check out. **NEWBERRY COUNTY.** **Jean Gibson**, Mid-Carolina Middle School, was selected as a Distinguished Teacher of Reading by the Newberry County Reading Council at the annual Christmas tea. **FAIRFIELD COUNTY.** **Louise Sanders** is the new community services librarian at Fairfield County Public Library and will be meeting with the media specialists monthly. **Sarah McMaster**, Director, also attended and introduced Louise to the group.

Region 4B.

LEXINGTON 5. **Kelly Brown**, Cross Roads Middle School, welcomed the author, **Charles R. Smith, Jr.** who spoke to all the students on January 26th. His visit incorporated photography, writing and information on being an author and photographer. Students wrote an essay for a chance to have lunch with him. As of January 2004, **Kathy Cole** is the new media specialist at H.E. Corley Elementary School. **Valerie Byrd** held a Reading for Real Reasons celebration, a schoolwide reading incentive program, on Friday, January 16. Author **Idella Bodie** presented to 5th graders at Dutch Fork in January. SCETV brought her to the school to film a portion of a new show for ETV. **Marilyn Gramling**, Ballentine Elementary, piloted a reading incentive program in the district, "Reading Journey", a comprehensive reading/language arts incentive program. **RICHLAND COUNTY.** Hopkins Middle School is a first time participant for RIF. Media specialist, **Linda Senn**, held a big 6th grade kick-off around the theme of "Reaching New Heights with RIF". Hopkins 6th grader, **Jeff Coward**, won the National RIF Writing Contest in October. Fifth grade students at Brennen Elementary, **Elisabeth Hall** media specialist, have been learning to "chat" online about the books they read. In November they discussed *Sing Down the Moon*, by **Scott O'Dell**. In January and February they will be discussing *The Door in the Wall*, *Adam of the Road*, *Crispin*, and their research papers on the Middle Ages. This time they will be joined by their parents!

Region 5A.

AIKEN COUNTY. Greendale Elementary School had a visit from author **Michael Finklea** in November. He spoke to the entire student body in two school assemblies. He emphasized that each person can be an author by telling of his experiences with ADD as a child and how he overcame his disability. His presentation helped illustrate the character trait of determination. **Kathy Bledsoe** is the media specialist at Greendale.

Region 5B.

CALHOUN. At John Ford Middle School **Samantha MacManus** and her principal are planning a visit from storyteller **Mary Lloyd Dugan** in February. During her week at John Ford, Mary Lloyd

will work with fifth grade language arts students with creative writing as well as give two storytelling performances and provide a workshop for faculty.

Region 7.

FLORENCE DISTRICT 1. At Lester Elementary **Jan Chatlosh** began a Monday night program in September where families can read together in the media center weekly. This is something that allows the families to see the books that are available and to show their children the value of reading. The attendance continues to grow and students want to come. Some families stay for the entire time and others read a story and test before leaving for the night. Students enter a drawing for a free book that is given away the following morning on the morning show. ☞ Media specialist **Debra Heimbrook** hosted South Carolina author **Julie McLaughlin** and illustrator **Ann Marie McKay** who worked together on the counting book *Hungry Mr. Gator*. They presented their program to kindergarten, first, and second grade students. Their book includes wildlife native to South Carolina. ☞ Several elementary schools will be hosting **Laurie Myers**, co-author of one of the current book award nominees, *My Dog, My Hero* and other titles. Ms. Myers will be visiting Royall Elementary, **Betty Anne Smith** media specialist, North Vista Elementary, **Gaye Brown** media specialist, and Carver Elementary, **Debra Heimbrook** media specialist. **DILLON 2.** **Kaye Woodberry** and **Blue Huggins**, district literacy coaches, received the Reading First Grant for South Elementary and Stewart Heights Elementary. This will provide \$300,000 a year for three years for literacy. **DARLINGTON.** **Dorothy Crosby**, J.L. Cain Elementary School, assisted third grade students in designing PowerPoint presentations for Black History Month. Students went on-line to DISCUS to search for information on their person/topic. They then created a four-slide presentation including a title slide, introduction slide, contribution to society slide, and works cited slide. Graphics and transitions were also part of the presentations. A handful of students will present their presentations to parents at the February 23 PTO meeting. **MARION 1.** **Anne Hood**, Johnakin Middle School, has accepted the position of Technology Coach for Marion School District One. ☞ **Laura Atkinson** has accepted the Johnakin Middle School media specialist position.

Region 8.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY. During American Education Week **Kaye Thomas** at Rosemary Middle School sponsored an author visit by **Charles R. Smith, Jr.** Students followed up the visit by exploring the author's website to locate extension activities. Kaye recommends everyone visit www.charlesrsmithjr.com to learn more about this author. ☞ **Allen Pritchard** of Waccamaw High School sponsors an Aviation Club, which competed in this year's Team America Rocketry Challenge at The Plains, Virginia. His team placed fourth in the nation in the rocketry challenge, earning the school a \$7,500 savings bond to be distributed among the team members, and \$1,500 for the media center. For more information, check out *RocketContest.org*. **HORRY COUNTY.** **Sabra Bell** at Waccamaw Elementary achieved National Board Certification. Sabra was also named Teacher of The Year at her school for 2004.

Region 9A.

CHARLESTON COUNTY. Thus far there have been two sessions of the newly organized Proviso Media Specialist team for devising a "librarian specific" self-assessment tool with **Linda Hains**, Proviso expert for the Charleston County School District, leading the group. Currently the Proviso instrument is designed for the classroom teacher and not for the specialized duties of the various levels (elementary, middle and high) of a school librarian's job. Already in the county the current instrument has been found to penalize answers of "NA—i.e., not applicable" given by librarians when the media specialist job does not include many classroom functions. Discussion included details of a librarian's job such as database maintenance, inventory control, circulation procedures, ordering procedures, web design, etc. that involve high levels of technology skills. ☞ **Theresa Robards** is now the Lincoln High library media specialist. ☞ **Melanie Crumpton**, an intern from USC, is working in the media center at West Ashley High School as well as West Ashley Middle School for the spring semester. ☞ **Martha Ameika** and **Bunny Kerr**, the media specialists at West Ashley High School, will conduct one of the concurrent sessions at the SCASL Conference in March. Their session is entitled "Java, Journals, and Jazz: How to Create a Starbucks Cafe in Your Library." Be sure to look for it at the conference, as the write-up got in a day or two late to be printed in the call for conference booklet. ☞ James B. Edwards Elementary, **Laura Judson** media specialist, has been designated as one of the five Showcase Technology Schools in the County School District. As part of their role as a showcase school they were included on the tour for the recent NFUSSD Conference (National Federation for Urban and Suburban School Districts). During the tour they were visited by many Superintendents from Utah as well as other states. ☞ On February 2, poet **Brod Bagert** visited West Ashley Intermediate where **Deborah Davis** is media specialist, as well as Ashley River School of the Arts, and later Oakland Elementary and Orange Grove Elementary. ☞ **Beth Hale**, James Island Elementary, and **Minerva King**, St. John's High, opened a brand new media centers this fall.

Region 9B.

BERKELEY COUNTY. **Jeanne Holladay** at Strafford High School has been appointed by the Charleston County Council to the Charleston County Public Library Board of Trustees for 2004-2008. ☞ **Diana Clark** at Whitesville Elementary School received a \$500 grant from the Berkeley County Foundation and \$300 from the Berkeley County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta to update her school's science book collection. ☞ **Donna Rodin** at Timberland High School received a \$500 grant from the International Paper Company Foundation to update their science book collection. ☞ **Marcia Russo** at Hanahan Elementary School reports that her school is a finalist for the Palmetto Finest Award. ☞ Media specialist **Kay Paul**, Oakbrook Elementary, hosted a very successful Family Reading Festival in November. **Margot Raven**, author of *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*, was the featured guest. **DORCHESTER TWO.** **Rachel Connelly**, media specialist at Beech Hill Elementary, received National Board Certification in the Fall of 2003.

SCASL
P.O. Box 2442
Columbia, SC 29202



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 158
Columbia, SC

Change Service Requested

SCASL Annual Conference

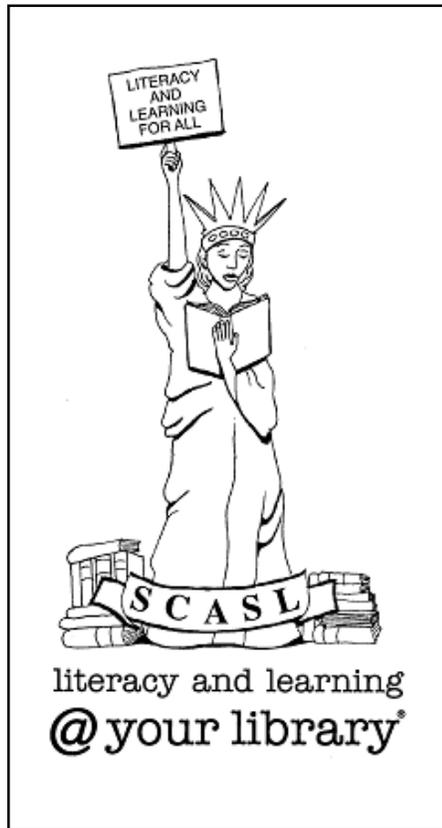
Literacy and Learning @ Your Library®

March 24-26, 2004, Palmetto Expo, Greenville

Pre-registration ends February 27th!! Register now!!

There is so much to see, so much to learn, so much to do at this year's annual SCASL conference that you won't want to miss a thing. The pre-conference seminars are without par! Michael Eisenberg on the Big6, Tim Lowry on storytelling, Pat Scales on Intellectual Freedom, practical informative sessions with Martha Alewine and Wayne Martin. All these seminars will give you a wealth of inspiration and knowledge to take back to your media center.

Come see Mike Eisenberg, Eric Rohmann, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Carol Plum-Ucci, The South Carolina Storytelling Network, vendor exhibits and lots of exciting presentations at our 2004 annual conference. Learn more about evidence-based research, flexible scheduling, video production, collaboration and curriculum design.



And don't forget the tours! Visit the exciting new Greenville County Library, second only to Richland County Public Library in size and holdings. Or tour the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Or visit the the Zentrum, the only BMW museum in North America. The building itself is a technological achievement and architectural wonder that is enjoyed from outside as well as inside.

This is your opportunity to help launch the @Your Library campaign here in South Carolina because:

- ★ *School library media programs are critical to the learning experience.*
- ★ *School library media specialists are crucial to the teaching and learning process.*
- ★ *School library media centers are places of opportunity.*

Questions? Contact Robbie Van Pelt, Vice-President/President-Elect
robbievanpelt@aol.com