

# Media Center

# MESSENGER

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians

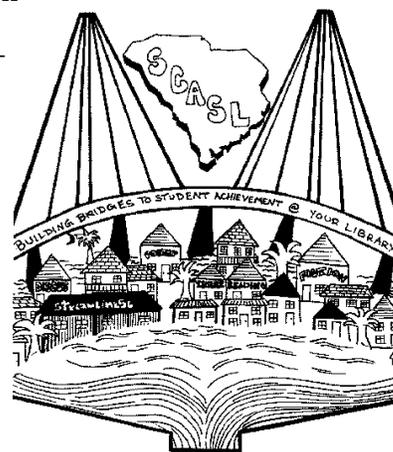
Volume XLIII

February 2006

## SCASL Conference 2006 Countdown...

By now, you are registered for conference and are poised for a dynamic professional development and networking opportunity to “Build Bridges to Student Achievement @ your library®.” Many of you will attend the preconference sessions. I know that all of you will definitely want to attend the first opening concurrent session on Wednesday evening from 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Look what’s kicking it off!

- Mica Brakefield’s session on graphic novels will allow you to talk about your concerns and share successes as well as actually browse graphic novels for ideas for inclusion in your collection.
- Audrey Tandy and Karen Roach will provide tips on building collaborative partnerships and gaining support from the school’s entire learning community.
- Catherine Nelson’s session will demonstrate how digital storytelling and other video formats can become a real possibility at your school. These products include those that are free, easy and fun!
- Mike Thun will share the possibilities for graduate credit through the South Carolina Online Professional Development program.
- The trio Kim Odom, Karen Williams (both of Charleston County Community of Readers), and Audria Amaral (Young Adult Services Manager of the Charleston County Public Library System) will offer a session on how the school media specialist, parents, and public librarians can partner to encourage teens to read. The workshop will provide steps to getting positive outcomes through creative and meaningful collaborations.
- Marion Blumenthal Lazan, who travels all over the country sharing her story as a Holocaust survivor, will tell her powerful message of determination, perseverance, faith and hope.



Conference logo designed by  
Sarah DeVere, Jenna Flenard and  
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Mrs. Randalyn Clabaugh's Art Class  
Hilton Head High School

All of these sessions will address the bridges that we build for our students every day as school library media specialists. In addition, the following await you:

- The Exhibit Hall Opening and Reception at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday
- Continuous author signings in the Exhibit Hall
- Ongoing vendor presentations scheduled in the Exhibit Hall
- Over 100 innovative concurrent sessions
- Gail Bush, David Loertscher, Brod Bagert, Sally Walker, Theresa Lubber, Stephanie Dawson, Ashley Bryan, Merrie Southgate, Will Dantzler, Tim Lowry, William Wilder, Fran Hawk, Kate Jerome, Philip Charles Crawford, SC Storytelling Network, Pat Conroy...

I look forward to seeing you at conference!!!!

Carolyn P. Jenkins, Ed.D.  
SCASL VP/President-Elect/Program Chair



# From the President . . .

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

## **“Building Bridges to Student Achievement @ your library®”**

Our annual conference will be here before we know it! There is so much to look forward to in Charleston and so much to do. One very important responsibility for every member this year is voting on amendments that have been proposed to our constitution. There are changes being proposed this year that need your attention. You will find an article by Sally Hursey, Constitution Committee Chair, presenting the currently proposed changes to the constitution on page 23. Please read it carefully so that you will be prepared to cast your vote at the SCASL business meeting at the end of the Second General Session.

Both the Regional Network and the Executive Board have recommended that there be an increase in our dues at all levels. Sally’s article explains the changes in amounts and the reasons they are needed. Your association wants to continue to be able to bring you the best and brightest speakers and authors at our conferences and the same high quality newsletter that we have come to expect over the years. Your officers continue to be active at the national level through participation in the AASL Affiliate Assembly. Since ALA’s national emphasis will be focusing on school libraries in the coming years, our input and participation at the national level will be even more important for all our school libraries.

As our association has grown over the past years, so, too, have the many responsibilities of your officers. Over the past few years the Executive Board has been discussing the possibility of adding the office of Second Vice President to assist the administration of SCASL in carrying out some of these duties. This is an important issue for our association and an ad hoc committee has been established to specify the duties and responsibilities of such an office. We will keep you updated on their progress.

As your president, I cannot stress enough the importance of your participation in SCASL’s business. Be sure to attend the business meeting at conference and cast your vote for the future of our association.

### ***Looking back and looking forward.***

Imagine, if you will, a gathering of people whose professional goals and objectives are the same as yours; whose interests in literacy, technology and collaboration are the same; whose passions for reading, learning, teaching, and sharing are the same. Professionals who share the same frustrations and triumphs as you do in your daily work. Comrades who have worked with problem children, uncooperative teachers and overzealous parents ...just as you do at times...and can tell you how they succeeded. Kindred spirits who, just like you, are touched to their very core when that uncooperative, overly talkative, down right obnoxious student realizes that you really DO care and mumbles “Thanks.”

Right now, you’re thinking of the experiences you’ve had at our SCASL conferences, but imagine being able to interact with media specialists from Ohio, Hawaii, Minnesota, Maine, Texas, Arkansas, Illinois, Florida and more! The things you can learn!! Where? At OUR national conference – AASL. Just ask Debbie Heimbrook or Mary Hope Roseneau about *their* first AASL conference! I sincerely hope that each and every one of you will make the time and attend at least one national conference. You will be hooked by the excitement on the *enormous* Exhibit Hall floor, by the collection of knowledge about libraries, books and technology, and by the number of presentations about how we can do more and even better things for our students, teachers, administrators, our profession and ourselves. And last, but definitely not least, by the opportunity to meet and talk with the movers and shakers of our profession, and the best of the best authors in the country. Start \$aving and planning now for the next AASL conference in Reno, Nevada, October 25-28, 2007.

In the meantime, you’ll have the opportunity to rejuvenate your professional self in Charleston March 1-3 by attending SCASL’s annual conference, by listening to the outstanding speakers and presenters who have been invited, and by browsing through the exhibits and visiting with the new exhibitors that are here for the very first time. Kathy Sutusky has done an outstanding job getting several new exhibitors to come this year. Let’s give all our businesses and guests a warm welcome – they have so many new and exciting things to show us and tell us about.

***See you in Charleston!***

## Keep in Touch

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SCASL, P.O. Box 2442, Columbia, SC 29202  
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### SCASL listserv:

#### To subscribe:

Address: [listserv@listserv.sc.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.sc.edu)  
Subject: Leave blank  
Message: Subscribe SCASL-LS  
yourfirstname yourlastname

#### To send a message:

Address: [SCASL-LS@listserv.sc.edu](mailto:SCASL-LS@listserv.sc.edu)  
Type: your subject  
Type your message and send.

### The Media Center Messenger:

Send all suggestions, corrections, articles,  
and ideas to [jmoggles@direcway.com](mailto:jmoggles@direcway.com)

#### Other important addresses:

SC Dept. of Education: [www.state.sc.us/sde/](http://www.state.sc.us/sde/)

SCLA: [www.scla.org](http://www.scla.org)

SC State Library: [www.state.sc.us/scsl](http://www.state.sc.us/scsl)

ALA: [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

AASL: [www.ala.org/aasl](http://www.ala.org/aasl)

## 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.

## Calendar

March 1-3, 2006: SCASL Conference,  
Charleston

April: National Poetry Month

April: School Library Media Month

April 4, 2006: National Library Worker Day

April 2-8, 2006: National Library Week

June 22-28, 2006: ALA Annual Conference,  
New Orleans, LA

## SCASL Listserv

The way to share  
ideas, keep in  
touch, and find the  
answers to your  
questions!

Join today!

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## **Happy New Year!**

This has been an extremely active and eventful academic year for SLIS. We have lots of good things going on from which, I believe, the school library media community will draw great benefits. While this list is pretty bare bones, if there is any part that you would like to know more about, please don't hesitate to contact me at your convenience. Keeping in mind that whether you are a graduate of this program or not, this is your library school and we are here to work with you if you need us.

- One of the most exciting initiatives that we have underway is our collaboration with SCASL and SCDOE on the SCASL Legislative agenda for 2008. Jim Johnson, former State Librarian is now a lobbyist for SCLA and SCASL. SLIS is working with Martha Taylor, SCASL; Martha Alewine, South Carolina Department of Education; and Jim to develop a strategy similar to that the public library folks undertook this past year. Their efforts brought funding for public libraries from \$.86 per capita to \$2.00 per capita. Pretty impressive. It took the efforts of all the public librarians working together to get the word to the legislature who found favor with it because of the tremendous support demonstrated by the populace—which was a direct result of the efforts of the public librarians. With the exception of one-time funding in the mid-nineties, school library media budgets have not been earmarked with money for book collections ever—and they are not currently expected to receive such. That is—without our collective effort to make that change. We can do it! It will take all of us working together, but we can do it! SLIS is committed to working with data provided by Martha Alewine to demonstrate the importance of school library media programs in South Carolina. We undertook a similar research effort with Association of Public Library Administrators in which we pointed out that for every dollar the state invests in public libraries, the state gets \$4.48 in return. Legislators understand the economic impact of public libraries. John Olsgaard is working with a grad student to use Martha's data to demonstrate the importance of libraries in our schools. We will keep you informed, but get yourself ready to be a participant in this effort. If you don't, then you will have only yourself to blame if the effort is not successful. BUT—it will be, because South Carolina has the greatest group of library media specialists in the nation and they and their students deserve to be funded at a level that assures academic success.
- SLIS has just appointed Dr. Virginia Wallace as a clinical faculty member. She will work closely with Donna to make sure that the demanding recordkeeping and advisement required by the new NCATE standards are met, as well as teaching 2-3 courses per year, and working with interns along with Elizabeth Miller when the numbers go beyond that which Elizabeth can handle individually.
- The former BEST Center is now officially called the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy. We expect to appoint a full time Executive Director for the Center early this spring.
- We have opened a branch of the SCCCBL at the USC Child Development and Research Center. In addition to providing a healthy learning environment for the children who attend the educational and childcare programs, the Center provides an opportunity for researchers to study and implement the best practices in the classroom. USC students and faculty from education, nursing, public health, psychology, social work, art, music, medicine, and SLIS are involved at the center as part of their educational experiences.
- We expect to appoint a full time tenure track faculty member in the area of reading and

children's services this spring. This person will teach as well as assist in teaching our literature and information literacy courses for the College of Education, and will also be involved in SLIS courses and research.

- SLIS worked with the USC Student Government in the first Cocky's Reading Express. Eleven USC student leaders traveled the state Monday, December 12, through Friday, December 16, promoting literacy. The students took a van, dubbed "Cocky's Reading Express," to selected elementary schools and read and gave books to nearly 5,000 kindergarten and first-grade students. This is a part of the SLIS Children, Libraries, and Literacy initiative which began in September. We hope that the student leaders will repeat this in the spring, if we can find the funds. Check it out at <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/ccbl/cockyreading/cockyreading.htm>.
- The Ph.D. program was officially sanctioned by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in December and we will begin developing the particulars of the program this spring. We expect to hire two new faculty members to support the program which we hope will enroll the first group of students in fall 2007.
- The search for the new Director is going well with on-campus visits from at least four candidates in January. We hope to announce the new Director by March.
- The Children, Libraries and Literacy initiative continues to move forward and we hope to announce several programs that involve the three elements of the effort: the Augusta Baker Chair in Children's Literacy, the Readmobile, education and training for childcare providers. For more information, please go to <http://www.sc.edu/cmci/news/archive/SLIS05/litinitann.html>
- We are working with the SCRI to help develop better working relationships between school library media specialists and reading coaches over the next few months. We will build on the good work of Donna Shannon and Valerie Byrd Fort who have been the leaders in helping to create bridges and more effective working relationships with this important statewide effort.

Thank you for your continued interest in YOUR library school. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us. Or if you have suggestions or just want to talk—give us a yell. See you at Annual Conference, if not before! And be sure to keep up with our weekly news blog, Monday Matters.

Dr. Dan, [ddbarron@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:ddbarron@gwm.sc.edu), Phone: 800-277-2035

## Dr. Dan

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### CALLING ALL RETIREES

We hope everyone will consider coming to SCASL Conference in March. There are so many wonderful programs planned, and it is such a great time to meet up with old friends! Also, the Retiree Section is sponsoring a session, "Retirement Information Update", certain to be of interest. If you have any suggestions for ways in which retirees can take a more active part in SCASL, please let your committee know.

Joan Kruger, [mjk2450@att.net](mailto:mjk2450@att.net), Retired Section Chair

# BEING A PROFESSIONAL

Or “Git ‘er done!” (with a bow to Larry the Cable Guy)

Peggy Harrison, Brewer Middle, [harrisonp@mail.gwd50.k12.sc.us](mailto:harrisonp@mail.gwd50.k12.sc.us)

The SCASL listserv sometimes seems to have a split personality. On the one hand, it is a very user-friendly tool that school library media professionals employ to exchange useful and important information about concerns and practices regarding information literacy, reading, technology, and other issues with which we deal. On the other hand, some days, reading the posts is too similar to listening to a whiny child. The momentum over this or that perceived slight to our profession illuminates a public display of the Rodney Dangerfield syndrome.

Of course, the listserv is not the only forum where this cataloguing of our professional woes occurs. Wherever there are two or more SLMS’s gathered together, the pitfalls and perils of our daily lot are plaintively bewailed. (Just visit my family. Or ask my son-in-law, that poor, mostly silent sufferer. That tinkling sound is my glass house breaking.)

Why am I stating the obvious? Recently, I had a conversation that really made me forget all my imagined professional grievances. An administrator (not one of mine, obviously) stated emphatically that library media specialists are not team players and that we gripe entirely too much about how misunderstood our role is. My first reaction was outrage; my anger built slowly for a day or two. Then I read my listserv mail. Then I heard myself venting to a colleague. Then I revisited that administrator’s statement.

Reflection can be painful, but pain can be the prelude to growth and opportunity. The next time I began to fume about how I was being put upon, a tiny voice inside told me, “Just get it done, and do the best you can with what you have.” How many times had I heard my father, an unreconstructed New Englander stranded in a small southern town, quote this Yankee proverb: “Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.”

Perhaps, if library media professionals demonstrate what we can do with what we already have, then those administrator types will listen to us when we tell them what we could do if more resources were available to us.

The main purpose of a professional educator, whatever niche he or she occupies within the school hierarchy, is to further student learning.

Too often, I have caught myself thinking, or even saying aloud, “But that’s really not my job!” Now I tell myself, “Whoa!” and take a deep breath. My position exists primarily to support the education and achievement of our students. Sometimes, that means being a team player. Sometimes (gulp!), that translates into the reality of arising bright and early on Saturday mornings in April and May to participate in a remedial academy for struggling students.

Perhaps, if library media professionals demonstrate that we, too, are willing to go above and beyond to increase student achievement, those administrator types will raise their estimation of our importance to our school community and will treat our role within the school accordingly.

Administrators aren’t the only ones whose perceptions of the SLMC and the SLMS can be negatively skewed. Just review some of the posts on the listserv lambasting classroom teachers, or just recall the conversation when you were last in the company of other library media specialists. Now, if that’s what library media specialists say and think about some teachers, what do you think some teachers say and think about us? These are our colleagues. Sometimes, collegiality means that I have to squelch that pained expression and smile at the latest request to misuse my services and the LMC resources.

Perhaps, if library media professionals demonstrate our willingness to take even the most ridiculous bird unit and collaborate to redirect that activity to incorporate information literacy, those teacher types would no longer regard us as uncooperative do-nothings.

Being a professional is more than just having the credentials. Being a school library media professional is more than working in a school library media center. Perhaps, the time is right for all of us to decide what we need to be doing as professionals, to determine how best we can get it done, and then to marshal our abilities and resources in such a way that our performance makes us an integral part of our students’ success. Then, others would see us as we want to be seen—as professionals.



From the State Department of Education  
**School Library Media Services**

Martha Alewine, Consultant, School Library Media Services  
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### ***Happy New Year!***

I hope that your holiday season was wonderful with time for family, friends, and self. Did you spend any time making resolutions for the new year? Did you know that the tradition of making resolutions for the new year dates back to 153 B.C. when the Romans placed Janus on the calendar? You remember that Janus was the mythical ruler with two faces, one looking back and one looking forward. Janus became the Roman symbol for resolutions and the Romans exchanged gifts on that day to seek forgiveness for wrongs done in the old year and a promise to do better in the new year. How long do your resolutions last? When I make them, I usually see them fall by the wayside somewhere between January 15 and 31.

I read an article recently that suggested we make life resolutions rather than New Year's resolutions and then use the beginning of each new year to gauge our success. This concept is one of those things that, after thinking about it, you wonder why you didn't think of it. The author suggested that rather than resolving to lose 10, 20, 50 pounds beginning January first, the resolution should be to live a healthier lifestyle. In thinking about this new idea of life resolutions I'd like to offer some resolutions that are applicable for our personal and professional life:

- *To be consistent about what matters.* Being consistent gives you credibility and your credibility improves your relations with your family, friends, colleagues, and students. Ultimately, your consistency and credibility will provide you the avenue for greater collaboration and partnerships within your school community.
- *To be accessible, supportive, and open.* Smile; look people in the eye; respond to them in a friendly manner. Let others know you care about them; celebrate with them in the good times and be a support for them in the not-so-good times.
- *To use active listening.* Active listening is part of the previous two resolutions. Active listening lets people know you really are interested in what they are saying and that you truly hear what they say. Active listening does not mean you agree with everything someone else says but it does mean that you are trying to keep the lines of communication open and working.
- *To be real.* This one isn't always easy. Let others see you for you and not just as a library media specialist, instructional technology specialist, or other role. Be yourself and encourage others to do the same. When the comfort level increases, chances are so will the opportunities to work collaboratively.
- *To plan your schedule to take care of yourself.* Life is hectic and filled with professional and personal responsibilities. We must be intentional about taking good care of our minds and bodies so that we can be there for our family, friends, and colleagues.

Whatever your decision about resolutions for 2006 is, I wish for you peace, joy, prosperity, fulfillment, and success.

# Memory Overload: an Occupational Hazard

Greta Flinn, Calhoun Falls High School, [mflinn@acsd.k12.sc.us](mailto:mflinn@acsd.k12.sc.us)

Once upon a time I was the person in the family who remembered stuff. Well most stuff--I've never been good with names and faces. I was the go-to person for knowing what was going on when. I learned phone numbers in a snap. I was great at memorization. Now I have the attention span of a gnat. I have lapses where I can't remember what I am working on or where I am going. I can lose things with record speed even though I have a great filing system and a specific spot for all my stuff. I am a master of putting something on top of whatever it is I need, and, presto!, the covered up item "disappears". By this point in the school year, I even have occasional trouble remembering what day of the week it is. Does this sound familiar? I have been informally surveying people in the education profession for quite a while, and everyone I have talked to suffers from what I have dubbed memory overload to varying degrees. I am sure there are exceptions out there, but I haven't found one yet.

I have decided that memory overload stems from several factors. One factor is "too many irons in the fire". The more you have going on at any one given time, the more pronounced memory overload becomes. Another factor is the necessity to run around and "put out fires". If you have situations where things are blowing up around you, such as a whole hallway of computers losing their network connections or your principal's computer starting to figuratively stick out its tongue at everyone, you kick into survival mode and your brain shelves all other

pending processes. Interruptions also play a role. Something as simple as the phone ringing or the copy machine jamming has the potential to totally derail whatever it is you are working on.

What I find absolutely amusing is that I still get called "efficient" and "organized". Every time I hear it I am torn between the need to laugh and an overwhelming urge to ask, "Are you crazy?" The fight against memory overload is a daily battle, and sometimes I have to ask for some help. One of my things is that all requests should be made in writing. I have even been known to email myself. I keep an agenda just like the students and try to schedule, schedule, and schedule some more. I have found that there are some things that should just be done now. That sometimes it is easiest to just get certain tasks out of the way. The best thing for me so far is to make out "to do" lists periodically. I take a moment to seriously prioritize items and mark them off while I go. It might take a few minutes but it saves tons of time in the long run.

Is there hope for those who suffer with memory overload? I certainly hope so, although I definitely don't have all the answers. I'm sure there is a pill in development out there somewhere for us. In the meantime, I figure a trip to the SCASL conference in Charleston may just provide some much needed relief and a temporary stay of symptoms.



## DISCUS Training Classes Now Qualify for Renewal Credits!!

Amy Duernberger, [DISCUSoffice@leo.scsd.state.sc.us](mailto:DISCUSoffice@leo.scsd.state.sc.us)

The DISCUS program wishes each of you a Happy New Year!

The Spring 2006 DISCUS Training Schedule is now available and I have great news for educators. Our Spring 2006 training classes have now been designed to fulfill the South Carolina Department of Education's Renewal Credit Plan guidelines for educator recertification. Our classes qualify under Option #6 (Professional Training) on the Renewal Plan Matrix. However, educators should contact their local Renewal Credit Plan Coordinator for confirmation of DISCUS training acceptability. Prior approval of workshop acceptance may be required. Useful links:

Recertification: Renewal Credit Plan <[http://www.scteachers.org/cert/recert/rc\\_index.cfm](http://www.scteachers.org/cert/recert/rc_index.cfm)>

Renewal Plan Coordinators <[http://www.scteachers.org/cert/Certpdf/cr\\_coordinators.pdf](http://www.scteachers.org/cert/Certpdf/cr_coordinators.pdf)>

Training will be held at various locations throughout the state. Our first workshop, "Introduction to DISCUS," was held in January 2006, at the State Library. To see a complete list of classes, either by topic or by location, go to the DISCUS web site at: <http://www.scdiscus.org/dcalendar.html>

THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR JANUARY:

- The generic home access username and password WILL NOT change in January. They are now valid for an entire academic year until August 2006!
- Several of our workshops focus on our newer products: Literature Resource Center and Gale's Virtual Reference Library as well as Thomson Gale's new PowerSearch interface. PowerSearch replaced the current Infotrac menu/interface mid-January 2006.

For a preview, explore: [http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/scsl\\_tgps](http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/scsl_tgps). If asked for a password, use *discus* (lowercase).



# Book Award News

Samantha McManus, Book Awards Chair, [smcmanus215@yahoo.com](mailto:smcmanus215@yahoo.com)



With the annual conference fast approaching, the Book Awards Committee is anxiously awaiting your voting results on the nominee lists. We think we have given you an exciting list of titles and hope that your students have enjoyed reading them. We look forward to your participation and to receiving your voting tallies. Thanks for a good year! Here are a few reminders about voting.

Votes are due **February 14, 2006!**

- You may download voting forms from the SCASL Website.
- You must indicate how many votes were cast for *each* title.
- You must tally the *total*.
- You may email or snail mail your tallies.
- Votes *must* be sent to the appropriate chair (See below)
- Late votes will *not* be accepted.

## Send Votes To:

### Picture Book Award

Lisa Conrath, Hammond School, 854 Galway Lane, Columbia, SC, 29209  
[lconrath@hammondschool.org](mailto:lconrath@hammondschool.org)

### Children's Book Award

Theresa Harmon, Oak Grove Elementary, 479 Oak Drive, Lexington, SC, 29073  
[tmharmon@lexington1.net](mailto:tmharmon@lexington1.net)

### Junior Book Award

Henry Hall, R.H. Fulmer Middle School, 1614 Walterboro Street, West Columbia, SC, 29170  
[hlhall1971@alltel.net](mailto:hlhall1971@alltel.net)

### Young Adult Book Award

Charlene Zehner, R.B. Stall High, 7749 Pinehurst Street, Charleston, SC, 29420  
[charlene\\_zehner@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:charlene_zehner@charleston.k12.sc.us)

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## Book Award Program Featured

In early December, it was a pleasure and a surprise to hear the mid-day program "Your Day" on NPR. On that program, Dr. Michele Martin of Clemson University interviewed Joyce Moore, former Book Award Chair. Dr. Martin has served in the position of professor on the Children's Book Award Committee for the past several years and now is a member of the Picture Book Committee. Thus, Dr. Martin was able to ask very specific questions as well as share her knowledge of the committee work with Joyce. Joyce spoke about the overall purpose of SCASL and then was very specific about the structure and purpose of the Book Award program. She explained the composition of the various sub-committees and how they function as well as outlining its various activities. It was great PR for SCASL and, specifically, for the Book Award Program.

Thank you, Joyce!

# Getting Along with Literacy Coaches

(Don't let literacy coaches read this; they'll learn all our secrets!)

Jill Altman, Saluda Elementary/Primary School, [JAltman@saluda.k12.sc.us](mailto:JAltman@saluda.k12.sc.us)

I promised this would not be a literacy coach-bashing article and I hope no one thinks it is. My title is definitely tongue-in-cheek because doesn't every media specialist with a literacy coach sometimes feel a little paranoid? As if the literacy coach is just a little suspicious of you and your "catalog" and your "barcoding" and your "alphabetizing?" No? Come on, no one feels that way? Hmmm....

I found out about our new literacy program a few days before the start of school three years ago. I walked into my library that day intending to get a head start on lesson plans and cataloging. It was my third year; I'd finished my scary first year and even scarier ADEPT year. It was supposed to be my easy year. Instead I found every table full of boxes, every spare open space jammed with books. One could not walk across the library without stepping on a book or even see across the space because of boxes. I yelled. There was no warning, no consultation, no ordering of labels for barcodes or bags for 6-packs of books. I was told that each book would be leveled by the literacy coach; I needn't worry about that. But I did need to barcode everything and quickly, like maybe before school started. "OK, here's the thing," I said, "I don't just press a button and a barcode comes out." I tried explaining cataloging, sorting, etc. but honestly, it seemed that no one heard. I asked why I wasn't consulted when the books were ordered and why they didn't bother ordering the catalog information along with them. What's catalog information? I was asked. That year my assistants and I cataloged over 36,000 books just for the literacy collection. To give a perspective, that is more books than the county library owned and 35,590 more than I added to my regular collection that year. Many of these books came from the teacher's classrooms where they'd been stored un-barcode for years, the rest were ordered by a group of literacy coaches. Nothing was sorted by title and there wasn't much enthusiasm at my suggestion that we should sort before cataloging. I don't even want to get started on the storage of these books. It was an extremely frustrating time for me. I very nearly quit and almost as nearly got fired for my attitude. The circumstances were terrible and I will never allow myself to go through something like that again.

Looking back on that year I can see some points at which I may have been able to make the situation better and I hope my suggestions may help someone else avoid the chaos we had. I've also had to learn when to take a stand and when to conduct a tactical retreat.

There were two major miscommunication/errors in judgement or whatever you want to call it that were made. First, when we began the processing I took the high road about cataloging and organizing a collection.

The collection really did need to be organized but it also needed to get to a usable point quickly. This is where we began to get bogged down. I had to relent and not do as complete a catalog record as I'd like for each book. However, I still insist that a book be leveled before I'll catalog or process it because I don't have time to go back and add info to the catalog later or print a new label. I think that if I'd gone to the literacy coaches early and said, "Tell me what you need first," things might have been better. So my first recommendation is: Talk to your literacy coach, be a friend to them but don't totally back down on what is best for the collection.

Second, I griped too much and even though I felt strongly about doing a good job and organizing the collection the right way, I was identified as "not being a team player." My resentment went very deep at this and did I mention that I also worked at two schools (K-2nd and 3rd -5th) with two principals and two literacy coaches. Secrecy is not good...ever. We've all read the SCASL listserv and I think it is clear that the majority of people really don't know what we do as media specialists. Is that their fault? Some of the things that literacy coaches are now doing, we as media specialists, have been doing for quite a while. It is, I believe, a problem that needs to be resolved from the very top—state administrators have got to be made aware of our training and job tasks. Regular businesses would never allow two different departments to order the same type of parts without consulting one another first. It is not efficient for time or money. So I gave up trying to tell my coaches what I do and now I just try to show them. I took their book orders and I compared them to the catalog and when they saw how many duplicates were being ordered we began to get more inline with one another. I also gave up trying to explain the time it takes to catalog and process books.

My next recommendation, aside from Be More Cheerful, is to be proactive about literacy training. We have lots of training in my district done by the literacy coaches. I've begun trying to anticipate their needs by having presentation equipment ready and ideas for how I can collaborate with training by demonstrating various technology options to the teachers. It doesn't matter that I'd normally have a short training session on using the library catalog, but now I offer a session on using that library catalog to find leveled texts. I also explain the privacy and copyright laws carefully and tactfully.

Another recommendation is to be proactive about book ordering. The literacy coach does all the ordering of literacy books and I order all library books and other media but I take her catalogs that have books she might like to order and I help her find storage options and

other kinds of supplies. I relented and buy the barcode labels without complaint. I bring her catalogs of companies that offer leveled texts **and** processing. Through a miracle of timing I managed to get real library shelves donated from a law firm going through a renovation. I highly recommend going to businesses like this for furniture type donations. You wouldn't believe what some companies spend on furniture and supplies and what they consider fit for the trash heap is often gold to us.

My absolutely last recommendation is to remember that we are here to support the curriculum of our school and not to just manage a great library for kids. That was the hardest step for me because I love the storybooks and getting kids interested in reading for the pleasure of it. But let's face it, literacy programs aren't really about reading for pleasure, they are about reading, period. Those state exams don't read themselves. We've had some wonderful results with our literacy program. I can personally say that our students are improving because of it but in many of the emails I've read and talk I've heard from media specialists there seems to be a slight fear that literacy programs will swallow up the library and free choice reading. We must stay calm because they really are separate, free-standing entities. I don't want to do the literacy coach's job and she sure doesn't want mine (she says so all the time.)

Things are still a little rough at times. I'm still cataloging the literacy collection as well as the library's. New boxes arrive frequently without warning but I'm trying to be cheerful when they come in. I leave work at work. I try not to roll my eyes when asked where that yellow Level 3 book is. And I'm almost sure they aren't suspicious about my catalog anymore. Almost.

## The Honor Rolls Grow!

Names for the Honor Roll of Administrators and the Honor Roll of Paraprofessionals are still being reviewed. Those so honored will be listed in the conference program. In the meantime, ***Hats off to the following for all you do!***

### Honor Roll of Administrators

**Dr. Doug Limbaugh, Principal, Gettys Middle School, Pickens County.**

*Nominated by June Banton and Dr. Linda Reardon, media specialists*

Dr. Doug Limbaugh is spearheading a fundraising drive to update the library collection at R. H. Gettys Middle School in Easley. The goal is to update the average copyright date of the collection to the recommended date of 1996.

**Kathie Greer, Principal, A.C. Flora High School, Richland County School District One.**

*Nominated by Betsy Adams and Donna Teuber, media specialists*

A strong supporter of the entire library media center program, Mrs. Greer provides financial support for incentives used in the Flora Reads program (Sustained Silent Reading program) and supported integration of technology into the curriculum by providing funding for a wireless lab, SmartBoards, and projectors.

## Greenville Growl Ice Hockey Team Visits

What do students at Blythe Academy of Foreign Languages have in common with the Greenville Growl Ice Hockey Team? **GOALS!** (reading goals and hockey goals)

**Kathleen Carey**, media specialist, arranged for the Greenville Growl and the students of Blythe Academy to make reading a fun goal! A reading incentive called, "Go for your Goal with the Greenville Growl" was sponsored November 2005. Students who successfully met their individual reading goals during that period received a free ticket to the Greenville Growl Grrruff's Reading Club game on Monday, January 16th.



# *The Care and Feeding of a Library Media Specialist*

Mary Jane Michels, Pauline – Glenn Springs Elementary School. [MichelMJ@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us](mailto:MichelMJ@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us)

The holidays are behind us and another year is ahead with a whole new stack of to-do lists just waiting for us. Before you tackle all of those collaboration projects, web design challenges and book talk opportunities, take a few minutes and put yourself first. Yes, put yourself ahead of all of those piles sitting on your desk and find out a few ways to care for yourself that will give you the energy to care for everybody else. Our profession is a giving one. We give our time and talent all day to teachers and students and rarely stop to think about where all that energy comes from. Just like batteries, we need to be recharged. Here are a few easy ways to incorporate taking care of yourself into your daily routine:

- Take a break, yes, a real 5- to 10-minute break where you are not helping someone else. Our brains and our bodies function best when they are fresh. Let those synapses rest for a few minutes. You'll be surprised at the new perspective you will gain. How can you accomplish this? Don't try to do this sitting in your office...you know someone will come looking for you with a question! Take a quick walk through the building. You'll get a change of scenery and a new outlook.
- Treat yourself like an athlete. In a way, we are. We stand, walk, bend, pick up and put away all day long. You need to be prepared physically for those challenges. Start the day with light stretches and some deep knee bends to loosen up. No equipment or special workout space required. Use your office chair for balance, use a wall to do standing pushups. A few minutes in the morning will help those muscles make it through the media center marathon.
- Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Our voices take a beating. We are a helping profession that loves to talk. Take care of your voice so it will be there when you need it. Water not only lubricates the vocal cords but also keeps the rest of our body from feeling the fatigue of the day. As you come into your building, fill a cup with water and refill

it as needed. Studies show that drinking enough water also prevents headaches and helps ward off the dreaded afternoon snack attack.

- Let go of the "I'm the only one who can do that" syndrome. Yes, we know that that display or newsletter would look so much better if we had done it. But if we do everything then no one else gets an opportunity to shine. Share the spotlight with a volunteer, your assistant, another teacher. Of course the projects that we do are perfect. But only Mary Poppins was practically perfect in every way and we all know that she didn't really exist, right?
- Do something just for yourself. Knit, read, run a marathon, bike up a mountain, anything that is just for you. Yes, you will have to make time for this but if you don't put yourself at the top of your priorities, no one else will. As media specialists we want to put others first. That's what we do all day. Helping others comes so naturally to us that we sometimes forget about ourselves. We are important, too. It's not selfish to take time for ourselves; it's commonsense. Without that time, we will find it harder and harder to give to others. Like the emergency procedures on an airplane, put your own oxygen mask on first before you try to help anyone else.
- Indulge yourself every once in awhile. Enjoy that piece of dark chocolate, watch "My Name Is Earl", read People magazine, wear your PJs until noon. Pamper yourself with indulgences that put a little spring in your step. Having something to look forward to can help those long, cold weekdays become just a little more bearable.

So, with this second half of the year looming ahead of us, breathe in deeply, take time for yourself, fill your glass of water, stretch those arms and legs and run toward the finish line of May with no guilt allowed.

# Fabulous Family Reading Night Forays

Betsy Long, Doby's Mill Elementary School, [longb@kcsd.k12.sc.us](mailto:longb@kcsd.k12.sc.us)

A couple of years ago, a working parent casually mentioned that she would love to have a period of time after school hours that she could visit the library with her son to read, check out books, and see how Accelerated Reader works. I agreed to host a Family Reading Night, although I must admit, I was less than thrilled about the idea. You see, I am a morning person, and I envisioned myself dragging around the room, staying late for a handful of parents and their children. Boy, was I mistaken! Little did I know that these events would prove to be so popular that we would quickly outgrow the confines of the library. I was shocked to find that offering such an opportunity (with very little effort or prior planning) would be so overwhelmingly accepted and amazingly energizing to this early-bird.

Starting with the first Family Reading Night, at which over 150 people showed up, it became apparent that I would need to make some alternate arrangements to accommodate the crowd. I began by asking parents to bring camp chairs, blankets, and/or pillows so that they could set up a comfortable "reading camp" in one of the hallways of the school. Now, students and their parents select books, check them out, and head to their base camp to read. They return the books they finish at the end of the night and take home the ones they don't. I also started selling Chick-fil-A sandwiches or Papa John's pizza for supper at some Family Reading Nights. This was very easy to arrange, allowed parents to attend an evening event without having to worry about cooking a meal, and proved to be an easy fundraiser for the library.

This year I have begun to hold Family Reading Nights in conjunction with other events at the school. We have found that parents like being able to attend several school events in one night instead of having to come to school two or three nights a week or choose which events they can

and cannot attend. In August, September and October, I held "Family Walking and Reading Night," in a partnership with the P.E. teacher and school nurse. Families were invited to visit the school to walk on the school track, pick up literature on healthy living, and attend Family Reading Night. I fashioned an eye-catching display of health and fitness books in the media center. To make these events even more appealing, our School Improvement Council sponsors "No Homework Family Nights" on these dates so that families will be freed of those duties for the night. The music teacher and I are planning a "Storybook Sing-Along Night" for March, and a student "Poetry Family Reading Night" is in the works for April. Another idea that I'd like to try came from fellow media specialist, Mary Kay Hall, of Wateree Elementary School. She has recently hosted a "Streamline Family Reading Night." Students were encouraged to wear their pajamas to this event. She divided the audience into two groups (K-2 and 3-5, with their parents). The younger group went to the gym and watched the Streamline video, "Abel's Island," while the older group went to the media center and watched an age appropriate Streamline video storybook. After the short videos, the two groups reconvened in the cafeteria to read stories with their families and enjoy milk and cookies before heading home for the night. I look forward to trying something similar in the near future.

I have found that my school community enjoys these opportunities to get out of the house, away from the distractions of television, telephone, chores, homework, etc., etc. Parents are happy to see their children enjoying reading, and children are ecstatic to have their parents' positive attention. I relish seeing so many children and their parents enjoying the simple act of reading a good book. Family Reading Nights are a win-win situation for all involved, and I encourage you to host one soon.

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## Upcoming South Carolina Storytelling Festivals

**Stone Soup**, April 21-22, Friday & Saturday in Woodruff.

<http://www.stonesoupstorytellingfestival.org/>

**A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen**, April 21-22, in Columbia <http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/baker.htm>

**SC State Book Festival**, February 24-26, Friday, Saturday, Sunday in Columbia.

<http://www.schumanities.org/bookfestival.htm>

**Spring into Literacy**, April 27, 6-8 p.m., Wren High School, Anderson. Storytelling, authors.

# Grab Student Interest with I-Search!

Beth Hale, James Island Elementary School [Margaret\\_Hale@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Margaret_Hale@charleston.k12.sc.us)

Are you looking for a way to address the South Carolina ELA standards for research and many more? Would you like to integrate the Big6 or other information literacy models into a project? I-Search is a great way to do just that, either collaboratively or on a smaller scale, with your fixed schedule classes. The concept behind the project is outlined in the book *I-Search, You Search, We All Learn to Research* by Donna Duncan and Laura Lockhart. The project can be adapted for any level and can be reduced or expanded to fit your needs. I have done this project for two years with a fifth grade class. This year, it was so successful, the two other fifth grade classes asked to do it too! The best part was that the teachers were encouraged by their students to try it. The other 5th grade teachers were hounded by their students to “do an I-Search like Mrs. Maguire’s class!” How about that for PR?

Here’s how we started. We created a step-by-step checklist with everything the students must accomplish to earn the two hundred points that this project was worth. (The teachers counted it as **2 test grades!**) The first step was topic selection; we conducted a whole class brainstorming session in which students listed 10-15 things that interested them. Next, students worked together in groups to whittle the number of topics down to three. Groups were instructed to evaluate the topics using the following criteria: *Is this topic too broad? Is it too narrow? Will I be able to find information in a number of different sources? Will it be hard to find information?* Each student then had a list of three finalist topics. The final topic selection was made with a home learning partner activity. Students were to discuss their three topics with a partner at home and together decide which would be the best one. This helped us build parent awareness of the project. With the final topic selected, students wrote a brief paragraph about why they chose it.

Now the students were ready for some real research! Students were asked to brainstorm 15 questions they wanted to answer about their topic. We modeled creating good research questions and taught the difference between yes/no and broad questions. We required students to complete note cards with source citation information. However, to make it easier, we created preprinted note cards

with blanks for the source information. These printed easily on unlined 4 by 6-inch note cards. We required students to use 5 different sources and complete 15 note cards. I used my fixed library class time with 5th grade to review using encyclopedias and non-fiction resources, and to teach students how to use DISCUS and online search strategies. However, students were allowed to use any type of resource. We encouraged them to interview experts, depending on their topic. One student selected purses. She had a hard time finding print sources, but interviewed her mother who designed and sewed purses (one of which I just received as a Christmas gift!). She and her mom even made an instructional video to include in her final PowerPoint. Last year, a student chose space and we looked up the College of Charleston Physics and Astronomy Department together and she and her mom found a professor who consented to a telephone interview. This project can really bring the community into the school and teach the students how information is available in the community. After completing all the note cards, students selected the best information and created an outline for their PowerPoint. They also created a complete source list. During the research and writing portion, all students were required to have a conference with either Mrs. Maguire or me. We used this time to check on progress and address any needs. We also provided help to all students with searches, finding information within the sources, and more. Students were given freedom in creating their PowerPoint presentations, but we warned that sounds and graphics had to be **relevant!** We also used this opportunity to teach students to use the clips online option in PowerPoint to find more relevant clip art, sound files, and photos without scouring the Internet.

Finally, students presented their finished presentations. All parents were invited and about 20 came! One student researched deer and her father, an avid deer hunter, brought a mounted deer head to show at her final presentation! We also invited our Teacher Coach, Principal, and Constituent District Superintendent, who also all came to watch. The students really wowed us with great information! I learned so much. Other students also took the presentation a step beyond with visual props or demonstrations. One student

researched chocolate and gave the class a sampling of the different varieties. Dark chocolate was my favorite! Another gave a demonstration of Irish Step Dancing.

After the whole project was over, we asked students to evaluate the project and the process with an anonymous questionnaire. We even asked the students to evaluate us as teachers and facilitators of the project (*gulp!!* – not for the faint of heart!!) This was the most eye opening part of the project for me. None of the students were rude, but they were honest. When asked if Mrs. Hale or Mrs. Maguire helped them during the project, one student responded “Not really, because I had my hand up for like an hour.” Ouch, right in the gut! I know there are 25 of them and 2 or 1 of us, but when you hear that it makes you more aware of the service you give. Almost all students also reported that they needed more help using the Internet! And I thought it was their favorite!

This project is a long and tiring journey, but such a great experience for the kids. It teaches them that information relating to their interests is available in the media center and beyond. It also teaches them valuable research skills that they will take with them to middle school. The best part I have found of this project is that it is adaptable for student success at all levels. Our fifth grade class is very academically diverse and all students were successful. Some required a great deal of help, but they made compelling final presentations just the same. I feel confident in saying that all of my fifth graders can work through the research process from topic selection to final evaluation!

If you are interested in trying this project, I have posted all of my handouts on my school website at <http://jies.ccsdschools.com>. Just click on Media Center.

If you have any questions or want to share suggestions or ideas, please email me at [margaret\\_hale@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:margaret_hale@charleston.k12.sc.us). I am sure there are others who have tackled the I-Search too. I would love to hear how you make it work. Happy Researching!

## **The 20th Annual A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen — A Celebration of Stories**

**A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen—A Celebration of Stories** will be held **April 21-22**. Sponsored by the Richland County Public Library and the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science, the event brings to life the world of storytelling and children's literature and honors nationally-known author and storyteller Augusta Baker. The two-day festival features storytelling for nearly 2,000 fourth graders on the grounds of the Robert Mills House on Friday morning and a public event on Saturday with regional and local storytellers.

For more information:

<http://www.richland.lib.sc.us/baker.htm> or call (803) 929-3474.

*Padgett S. Lewis, Richland County Public Library*

## **Augusta Baker**



Born in Maryland in 1911, Augusta Baker received her degree in library science in New York and subsequently taught for a time. In 1937, she was Children's Librarian in the New York Public Library. By 1953, having discovered her interest in and great ability for storytelling, Ms. Baker was named Storyteller Specialist and in 1961 she became Coordinator of Children's Services for the NYPL. She served as a consultant to Sesame Street and finally retired after 37 years service with the NYPL. By 1980 Ms. Baker was in Columbia, South Carolina and was appointed Storyteller-in-Residence at the University of South Carolina which position she maintained until her death in 1999. The A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen is an annual tribute to her work.

## Regional News

**Frankie O'Neal, Director**

### Region 1A.

**ANDERSON COUNTY. District Two.** Students at Marshall Primary School, **Patsy Martin LMS**, are participating in a new morning news show, WMPS-TV Morning News. Each K-2 class broadcasts on the closed circuit system for a week. The new principal, **Dr. Kim Clardy**, then gives the announcements. **District 5. Martha Taylor**, library media specialist at McCants Middle School, has been named Library Coordinator for Anderson District 5. She replaced former library coordinator **Sally Wimberly** who is now a testing coordinator for Westside High School.

### Region 1B.

**GREENVILLE COUNTY.** A few Greenville County media specialists have received awards due to some grateful, but "anonymous," students or parents. The following ladies will be included in the latest edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers: Christy Batson*, Mauldin Middle, **Anne Edge**, Wade Hampton High, **Jennifer Garrett**, Mauldin Middle, **Nancy Mankin**, formerly at Blythe Elementary, **Jeanne Peak**, Bell's Crossing Elementary. **Gayle Forbes**, Riverside Middle School in Greer, was visited by nationally-known poet and performer **Glennis Redmond** in December. In addition to performing her poetry for each grade level, Ms. Redmond had a Q & A session with the members of the student writing club, The Writer's Block. She encouraged them to read and then read some more as one of the best ways to develop their own writing skills. After reading an article in a recent issue of *LMC*, **Sandy Bailey** and **Tami Ferguson**, Northwest Middle, decided to create *The "Panthers Read" Book Nook*. The fiction section of the media center has been revamped and arranged by genre. The students love it and so do the teachers, as they see more students reading and locating books that they are interested in. The rise in circulation statistics during the first month of "operation" was terrific!

**Spartanburg County. District 2. Heather Kanipe** had author **Dave Sargent** and his dogs visit Oakland Elementary in December for presentations and autograph sessions. Heather was included in the 9th Edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers (r), 2004-2005. Spartanburg 6.* Faculty, staff, and students at Dorman High School spent a day in November with story teller **Tim Lowry** who enthralled everyone with American short stories along with some Gullah tales.

### Region 2.

**Abbeville.** Abbeville High School's LMC underwent a face lift. The LMC was painted, carpeted, received new furniture including a circulation desk and new lighting. **Greta Flinn** is LMS there. **Laurens 56.** The M. S. Bailey Elementary School library in Clinton, **Janice Meeks LMS**, has received two grants from the Wal-Mart Foundation. The first grant was awarded for \$500 and is to be used for the purchase of library books. The second grant was for \$2000 and is to be used to purchase incentives for the two reading incentive programs at the school, Explore New Worlds for grades K-2 and READO for grades 3 through 5. **McCormick. Lyn Wolfe**, McCormick Elementary/Middle School Media Center has just completed his first year in his

new facility and the first full year of flexible scheduling for 3rd through 8th grades. The media center serves the three-year old Montessori kindergarten students through the eighth grade. **Saluda.** Saluda Primary Media Center is thrilled to have a new mural by **Joe McKinney**. The forest library features a bear, fox and owl all reading. They hope to continue the mural around the library by summer. Check out their website soon to see a picture of it.

### Region 3.

**York 3.** Northside media specialist **Cathy Nelson** hosted a Christmas celebration with the story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* as theme. A special guest performance of the "Grinch Song" was presented by local opera specialist **Kris Irmeter**. Attendance was based on individual goals for literacy set by the students themselves.

### Region 4A.

**Lexington 4:** Swansea High School raised \$100.00 for the Louisiana Library Association for the LLA Relief Fund. **Pam Livingston**, LMS, is very proud of her school and the students who helped make this donation.

### Region 4B.

**RICHLAND COUNTY. District One.** Author **Jack Gantos** visited Nursery Road Elementary in February. **Elisbeth Hall**, media specialist at Brennen Elementary in Columbia, is an adjunct instructor of children's literature at USC. Congratulations to **Carolyn Masek** and **Susan Adams**, who achieved National Board Certification. **Lexington 5.** New National Board recipients: **Angie Bardin**, Chapin Elementary; **Marilyn Gramling**, Ballentine Elementary School; **Mary Haddon**, Dutch Fork Middle School; **Lisa Wilkins**, Irmo High School. **The South Carolina Young Writers Conference** for students in grades 3-12 will be held at Ballentine Elementary on Saturday, March 25, 2006. This conference is partially sponsored by SCASL.

### Region 5A.

**AIKEN COUNTY. Eva Bennett**, A. L. Corbett Middle School in Wagener, received National Board Certification. East Aiken Elementary School has had two recent author visits. Author **Mary Triola** described her books in the "Magic of Merlin" series and played the harp for students in grades K-5. Students from grades K-2 heard author **Eddie Bowman** ("Chester Drawers") sing songs from his Silly Songs series and talk about the importance of good character. **Mary Lou Wallace** is the LMS at East Aiken.

### Region 5B.

**Wendy M. Blevins**, Carver-Edisto Middle School, was selected to be among Who's Who Among America's Teachers. She also coached the Edisto High School JV Volleyball team to an undefeated season.

### Region 6.

**KERSHAW COUNTY. Alice Brice** at Baron DeKalb Elementary has begun a Poetry Break where students arrive in classes right

after the morning news show to read a poem to a class. Camden Elementary sponsored a holiday book drive where students brought in used books in hopes that every child would get a “new” book to take home for Christmas. **Betsy Long** at Doby’s Mill Elementary received a grant that was used to purchase IPODS. Students began a walking and listening to a book-on-tape program. **Kitt Lisenby**, Mt. Pisgah Elementary, sponsored a Celebrity Reader Day during National Children’s Book Week. Among the forty-five local and state “celebrities” who visited the school and read to students were **Senator Vincent Sheheen**, former USC quarterback **Steve Taneyhill**, and SC State Department Director of Library/Media Services **Martha Alewine** as well as doctors, lawyers, district office personnel, and school board members. **David Hardee** sponsored a “Food for Fines” promotion from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Students donated canned food that was distributed to needy families in Kershaw County, and their fines were forgiven.

#### Region 7.

**DARLINGTON.** Southside Childhood Center, kindergarten ages 3-5, became the Polar Express December 21st. All classes read *The Polar Express* and worked on related activities. The children dressed in their pajamas for the journey. Faculty and staff dressed as the elves, cooks and other characters from the book. The principal, **Mrs Toney**, was the conductor. The children were served refreshments as they took their trip to the North Pole. Each child received a “gift of Christmas”—a jingle bell. **Mary Gibbs** is the media specialist at SECC. **Florence District 1.** **Amy Rhodes**, Briggs Elementary, has announced that **Sayumi Ikeda** was selected by the South Carolina State Board of Education to receive the 2005 Silver Volunteer Award. Sayumi is a media center volunteer at the school and she promotes student achievement by reading with individual students, volunteering in the media center, and sharing Japanese culture with students and adults. Carver Elementary School hosted two performers from Poetry Alive! in November. The interactive presentation reinforced concepts of rhythm, rhyme, and emotions found in poetry. Carver was also visited by the Cockey Express on December 15th. ETV’s character, Dooley, and USC students brought the message of literacy and a special book gift for all first grade students. **Debra Heimbrook**, media specialist at Carver, received National Board Certification in November. **Jan Chatlosh**, Lester Elementary, coordinated a poetry unit for third grade students that included listening to, reading, viewing (using United Streaming) and writing poetry. The unit culminated with a group of students from South Florence High School who worked with the third graders to write original poetry based on what they had learned. **Florence District 3.** **Laura Ward**, J. C. Lynch Elementary School, earned her MLIS degree from Northwestern University in North Carolina. J. Paul Truluck Middle School has received the Palmetto Silver Award. **Gayla Williams** is the media specialist and **Laura Hickson** is the principal. **Dillon 2.** Stewart Heights Elementary hosted author **Lynn Floyd Wright** in November. She talked about the writing process and she used some of the eight books that she has written as examples.

#### Region 8.

**HORRY COUNTY.** **Nancy Nelson**, Carolina Forest High School,

reports that the Library Media Club and the English Honor Society joined forces to conduct a Gulf Coast Collection. A total of 2,317 items were collected. The conference room was filled with books, CD’s, toys, school supplies, and canned goods. They were distributed to the 110 families who have resettled in Horry County. Earlier, the entire school participated in a fund drive for the hurricane victims and raised \$3,239.15. **Stella Carmody** reports that **Kim Brown**, sister of **Marc Brown**, author of the Arthur books, visited Forestbrook Elementary. She is the model for D.W. in the Arthur books, and discussed the writing process with students. **GEORGETOWN COUNTY.** Congratulations to **Jean Power** at Georgetown High School, and **Donna Owen** at Carver’s Bay High School, for earning National Board Certification. **WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY.** **Mary Montgomery** is the new library media assistant at Kingstree Elementary.

#### Region 10.

**BEAUFORT COUNTY.** **Mary Hope Roseneau** is the new district coordinator of media and technology services. **Debbie Rhoad** from Bluffton High School retired in December, and **Audra Alexander** will be assuming this position on a part-time basis while still at Beaufort High. **Paula Baughan** is the new media specialist at McCracken Middle School. **Doug Smith** received a grant from Northern Beaufort County Education Association to study the waterfront. He is the media specialist at Beaufort Elementary School, which is located quite scenically right on the Beaufort Bay. **Rebecca Compton** and **Anne Carver** spent the holidays on a wonderful trip to Europe, and visiting **Jeannie McNamara**, former Beaufort media specialist and USC library school professor. **Leah Roche**, media specialist at Beaufort High, spent several weeks in Japan as a participant in the Fulbright Educator program. **Carolyn Jenkins**, media specialist at Hilton Head High, is now Dr. Jenkins, receiving her degree from USC in December.



A baby girl to **Heather Dennis**, Carver’s Bay Middle School, Georgetown.

A baby girl to **Joye Taylor**, Hollywood Elementary, Saluda.

**Janet Drafts Boltjes** has an article published in December’s edition of Knowledge Quest, Journal of the American Association of School Librarians.



**Edna Bedenbaugh**, the first Media Specialist of the Year honored by SCASL, spent some time at Lexington Medical Center recently. She is at home now, improving slowly. Let’s all wish “Miss Edna” a return to better health in 2006!

## South Carolina Cares!!

Members of the library community in South Carolina have made major efforts to assist fellow librarians, public and school, who were left without facilities, books or materials after Hurricane Katrina swept through the Gulf area. Some of them lost their homes and/or their personal possessions. Realizing the need, school librarians hastened to collect books, book vouchers, donations, and money to help these victims try to restore some normalcy to their lives. You saw the listing in an earlier *Messenger* of assistance given by many schools in our state. As you read the *Regional News*, you will note that several more schools, guided by their media specialists, took steps to help their neighbors. They all deserve more recognition than they will receive. But we thank them all and those who suffered the devastation of the hurricane will always be grateful.

From the South Carolina Association of School Librarians to those who made the effort, a most sincere and profound Thank You.

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Here is the story from Teri Puryear of the efforts of her school to help out victims of Katrina.

My library assistants and I just returned from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where we delivered 20 boxes of books and approximately \$2500 to Oak Park Elementary and Ocean Springs Middle Schools. The books and money were donated by schools in Lexington District One. There was also a box of books donated by the SCASL Picture Book Committee. While in Mississippi, we toured the area and saw first-hand the devastation. People literally lost everything, including Charlene Cherota, media specialist at Oak Park Elementary. She and her husband lost their home and all of their furnishings, photographs, clothing, etc. They also lost a car and three pets. Now they're having to deal with the insurance company which is giving them the run-around. There are stories that you wouldn't believe of what the folks down there continue to go through. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.



Alicia Jenkins and Lynn Buchanan (Media Assistants at Lake Murray Elementary, Lexington), Teri Puryear (Media Specialist at Lake Murray Elementary), and Charlene Cherota (Media Specialist at Oak Park Elementary, Ocean Springs, Mississippi)



The terrible devastation wrought by Katrina.

# Using Photography to Enhance Your Environment

Lynda Lee, Manning High School, [llee@clarendon2.k12.sc.us](mailto:llee@clarendon2.k12.sc.us)

Ten years ago, quite by accident, I stumbled into a way to personalize my library and involve students at the same time. It began when I was looking over photographs I had taken at a school tennis match. My daughter, Kate, who was on the team, had spent her off the court time studying for a math test. I had photographed that moment as her mom, but when looking at the photograph of a student in team tennis dress doing school work, I saw more. There was already a growing collection of ALA's wonderful "READ" posters in the library. I decided to begin a more personal line of posters. I had the photograph of my Kate enlarged to 20" X 30", and added a printed notation across the bottom that said, "Read. Succeed." Later, it occurred to me to print it on a transparency. Sometimes I match the font to letters already evident in the photograph being used. From that first student activity poster grew a whole gallery of students representing various school activities holding a book and promoting reading. Even a teacher or two has posed for a reading poster over the years. I've also been able to snag reading photos of visiting college coaches, and while Kate was a student at USC she arranged a photo shoot for me with Cocky on the Horseshoe. Since I've yet to be able to get a reading photo of the Clemson tiger, I took a picture of a tiger at Riverbanks Zoo, enlarged it, and snuck a book under his paw.



Another way that I utilize student photos is to photograph students who earn a full college scholarship or excel in some other way (ex., becoming part of a NASCAR team) upon leaving the high school. Those are enlarged to 11" X 14" and hung over the checkout desk. They are very popular with my students.

One thing I've learned is that you can use animal photos to make a point for you without hurting anyone's feelings. I used my dog as a model for how not to treat a book. He really enjoyed chewing up the bird book during his photo shoot. A close-up shot of an elephant at Riverbanks Zoo helps to remind students to remember to return their books.

Photographs taken at Darlington Raceway and Huntington Beach decorate my office and serve as easy conversation starters with my students. Since my library has no external windows, I enlarged a beach photo to create my own window.

Of course, my older photographs were done with a 35mm camera, but now I'm reveling in a digital world. The library has a good digital zoom lens camera, and last summer for my birthday I treated myself to a digital camera body that uses lenses that I already had at home. Now I use photographs on thank you notes, announcements, bulletin boards, etc.

Using photography in the library has helped to make it feel like home.



# It's on the Web!! Social Studies, Leading the Way to a New Standard

Catherine Nelson, Instructional Technology Chair, [cnelson@rock-hill.k12.sc.us](mailto:cnelson@rock-hill.k12.sc.us)

Recently there has been a thread on our SCSL listserv about the new Website for Social Studies. The site which is available at <http://www.sctlc.com/ss/soc/> is a supplementary site that does much to enable teachers to align resources to the South Carolina Social Studies Standards—the newly revised ones. Since there seemed to be some interest in this site and what it offers, I thought it was a timely topic from the SCASL Instructional Technology Committee. It is known simply as the Social Studies Academic Standards Support Site. Authored by many in our state, it has come to fruition under the guidance of our very own former State Department of Education social studies guru, our “Palmetto Guard” as his email address attests, James Bryan. Many knew him as the Social Studies Coordinator in the Office of Curriculum and Standards from our State Department of Education. He frequently responds to queries on the list, and is passionate about improving instruction in the area of social studies. He thinks of us as his best instructional partner in furthering literacy!! But James has taken a new direction in his career path. He is now working as an independent educational consultant and as a sales representative for Pearson Scott Foresman.

In considering the site and the questions that seemed to be popping up on the listserv about resources that supplement the newly revised Social Studies Standards, I was happy and delighted to share my knowledge of the South Carolina Social Studies Supplemental Site on our list. In responding to queries about resources, I found there were MANY who didn't know about the resource.

How did I become familiar with it? I frequently used Bryan's recommended lists to supplement social studies when I was filling orders, and needed a few more resources. It was late May, and I had to spend \$\$ by the end of June or lose it. I remembered the lists from Martha's monthly SLMS news. So when I looked for a list, I stumbled across the South Carolina Social Studies Supplemental Site. Since I was in a hurry to spend my money, I simply bookmarked it to review better later on. I found an old list, and spent my money like any good steward of school money.

Upon coming back to this resource, I found that it was much better than the lists of books that supplemented the social studies standards. I found a Website that was truly fleshed out to teach the newly revised Social Studies Standards. At first, though, I did not understand the site and its layout. I even initially dismissed it, thinking how redundant to have a new Web page that simply listed the new standards, since the SDE site already did that. I was wrong! For that reason I am using this article to RAVE

over this site, and explain how to maneuver through it so you don't make the same mistake I did. I want to give you a path to follow. Then I'll tell you a little about its creation, plans for the future, and its IM-PACT on other curriculum areas as well.

## **Growing pains!!**

As I admitted before, I was initially unimpressed with the site. Its claim to fame was that it was “supplemental” for the Office of Curriculum and Standards, and for social studies. In looking at it the first couple of times, I rolled my eyes, and thought to myself, Why in the world do we need another way to list the standards? I could even copy and paste them in a word document, and format them to my own heart's desire. I truly thought the site was redundant!

## **Confession time now.**

In October, I went to USC-Lancaster to an Olde English Consortium meeting for media specialists in that region, and there were many sessions we could choose to attend. The main session I wanted to attend was full, so I had to pick another and I selected the StreamlineSC session, even though I felt that I knew the resource inside and out. But I must say it wound up being one of the best sessions I attended the whole day! My second choice is how I became aware of the South Carolina Social Studies Supplemental Site. You see, the session was led by Dean Byrd and Carole Poole. Most of us know Dean from StreamlineSC; Carole works out of the SDE Office of Curriculum and Standards. She was there to emphasize the effectiveness of using the United Streaming resources, and also to point to other online tools that truly help teachers understand and teach their standards. They both presented their content very well. I was familiar with this resource, but not to the degree they showed me.

## **Visiting the Site**

The site, available since February 2005, is set up in frames. Along the top is the name “South Carolina Social Studies Academic Standards Support Site” with the navigation buttons down the left hand side of the page, leading visitors to a home button, and then each grade and content area of the social studies standards. There is a lot of information on the formation of the site on the home page for anyone who wants to spend time reading it. I found the site was put together by James Bryan, while working in the Office of Curriculum and Standards, and 12 leading social studies educators, many of them affiliated with one or more of the state social studies organizations. The brain behind the site, though, is prima-

rily James Bryan, whose ultimate goal was to give teachers guidance in understanding the standards. Our SDE wanted districts to do that primarily, but James felt it was important, and eventually was granted time and funding to put together the valuable resource.

When a visitor clicks on the left navigational area for a grade or content area, the frame in the center where "introduction" is currently located changes to that grade or content area's information.

Visitors are provided with a synopsis of the standard. On the right is a list of the specific standards in numerical order, and this is where I failed to realize the first time what the site had to offer. Upon clicking a specific standard number, a wealth of information is provided to help understand and teach this standard. Listed on the site, is a brief description of what the standard is to teach in lay terms, followed by suggested vocabulary, suggested literature, streaming video resources, Web sites, a pacing guide, and even assessment suggestions. This is true for every grade and content area. Clicking on the "indicators" link will provide even more information and resources.

#### **Make some inroads!**

When I showed this to my teachers at my school, of course, they wanted me to order every book, film, and resource I could, and help them find the re-

sources to utilize with their instruction. The site opened the door wider for more collaboration to take place as well, as my teachers wanted me to look and then tell them to save time. We developed Webquests, treasure hunts, and stockpiles of lesson plans for topics and research projects just using this resource. If you are in need of "winning over" a difficult to please teacher, especially one who teaches social studies, sit down and share this resource. You will have a BEST FRIEND for life, I promise. It is that powerful and that helpful. Full to the brim with supplemental resources for teaching!!

#### **Where is this resource? Follow the well worn path!**

So now to explain how to find it. The address is <http://www.sctlc.com/ss/soc/>. Type it in and you will find it. You can also access through the State Department of Education at [www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com). The path? Okay:

SDE ([www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com)), Office of Curriculum and Standards, Social Studies, Academic Standards Curriculum Support (very first link on this page!).

*(Continued on the next page.)*

#### **How often will it be updated?**

The plan was to continuously update it but with changes in that office, that is on hold at this time. The first major update was planned for June 2006, and it was to be a field experience guide. (The plan was to provide a map of the state and when you "roll

## **SCASL Leadership Institute 2006: School Library Media Advocacy**

**Thursday, June 15, 2006 from 9:30 – 4:30 at the Columbia Metro Convention Center**

The institute will be limited to 100 SCASL members. SCASL Regional Network directors and district contacts will be key participants in this major initiative!

Be part of SCASL Legislative Advocacy — you can make a difference for school library media programs across South Carolina! Jim Johnson, SCASL legislative consultant, Martha Alewine, and special guest speakers, will provide training.

- Participating in the SCASL Legislative Initiative
- Learning how government works
- Connecting with decision makers
- Getting the most from the S.C. Legislative Handbook
- Framing and delivering your message
- Incorporating the personal touch
- Encouraging others to advocate for our school library media programs

**Mark your calendars now for this exciting event!**

over” a county, all of the historic sites and parks would appear. Click on one and a window will pop up. In the window there will site information including contact, Web address, etc., plus it will say which of the 2005 social studies academic standards may be addressed by going to the site.) So we’ll need to keep watching the site. The contributors worked diligently to align resources such as literature, Weblinks, and streaming video resources to our standards, so everything found is grounded in the standards we are to teach. I am so thankful for the time spent creating this resource, and am proud to know our state department has caring educators at work even at the top of the educational chain to ensure I am teaching what our students need to know.

#### **Coming soon to the Science Office of Curriculum and Standards....**

According to James, the site has proved so popular, that the new science standards will have a similar site. It is being planned right now. I think it will look similar to the social studies supplemental site. I’m already anxious, and have told my teachers it is in the making right now.

#### **Back to James!!**

James has been absent from the Office of Curriculum and Standards now since mid-October. He is now working as a full time consultant as well as a sales rep for Pearson Scott Foresman. He is a strong advocate of using the media center and integrating subjects for best practice instruction. And did I mention he annually joins SCASL? To me that speaks volumes about his support for information literacy and the role of the media center in our schools. Perhaps some of you will let him know just how thankful you are for his continued support. Feel free to drop him a note, or better, use the listserv.

James Bryan, Educational Consultant  
113 Walden Court, Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: 803-463-9299  
FAX 803-787-1564  
palmettoguard@aol.com

## **Constitution and By-Law Changes**

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

The proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws on the opposite page will be voted upon at the business meeting at the annual conference in Charleston. To pass the amendments, a two-thirds affirmative vote is needed by those present. The amendments will not go into effect until the 2007-2008 year which begins on July 1, 2007.

The proposed increase in dues for ALL members is based on the present cost of membership and mailings for the association. *Media Center Messenger* mailings cost the association \$12.37 per member regardless of status (\$30.00 full members, \$10.00 members, \$5.00 members, and free retired members). Kathy Sutusky, Executive Secretary, calculated the cost of full membership at \$30.97 per member for administrative costs. That figure does not include any increase in costs to the association. Therefore, full membership costs the association \$43.34 per year (\$12.37+\$30.97). Media specialists who retired prior to July 1, 2006 and who have been members for ten or more consecutive years will be eligible for honorary memberships without paying dues, with membership to be renewed annually. In order for the association to continue to offer its members the services we want and need, the board supports the increase in dues.

The Non-Public Schools committee has requested changing their name to Special Public/Independent Schools.

Read over the proposed amendments carefully and be prepared to vote at the annual business meeting in Charleston. I look forward to seeing everyone at conference.

*The proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws are stated on the table below:*

**Current Constitution and By-Laws**

**Proposed Constitution and By-Laws**

<p><b>Article III. Membership, Section 3.</b> Retired library media specialists who have been members of SCASL for ten or more years will become honorary life members without payment of dues.</p>	<p><i>Retired library media specialists are eligible to be active members of SCASL.</i></p>
<p><b>Article IV. Officers and Committees Section 3.</b> Non-Public School Section</p>	<p><i>Special Public/Independent School Section (Name Change) Also to include name change of committee/section throughout the constitution.</i></p>
<p><b>Article IX. Dues, Section 1.</b> Dues shall be <del>\$30.00</del> for certified library media specialists, retired media specialists on TERI and/or who are working full-time in a critical needs program as a media specialist, students employed as library media specialists, and other library professionals (e.g., library media specialists and technology specialists in any building level and district level position as well as academic, public, and special librarians) and shall be for the current year.</p>	<p>\$50.00</p>
<p><b>Article IX. Dues, Section 2.</b> Dues shall be <del>\$10.00</del> for full-time students (those carrying a minimum of nine hours per semester) and not employed as a library media professional and shall be for the current year.</p>	<p>\$20.00</p>
<p><b>Article IX. Dues, Section 3.</b> Dues shall be <del>\$5.00</del> for associate membership for state, district, and school administrators, (e.g., district superintendents, assistant superintendents, district curriculum coordinators, school principals, and assistant principals) legislators, teachers, paraprofessionals, and other interested members.</p>	<p>\$15.00</p>
<p><b>Article IX. Dues, Section 4.</b> Dues shall be <del>\$15.00</del> for individual exhibitors and shall be for the current school year.</p>	<p><i>Delete this. (This falls under Article IX. Section 5.)</i></p>
<p><b>Article IX. Dues, Section 5.</b> Dues shall be <del>\$50.00</del> for institutions, associations, and business memberships and shall be for the current membership year beginning in the <del>2000-2001</del> year.*</p>	<p>\$60.00 2007-2008</p>
<p>(Section 6 will be added as a new section to Article IX.)*</p>	<p><i>Section 6. Dues shall be \$15.00 for retired media specialists who have been active members of SCASL. Media specialists who retired prior to July 1, 2006 and who have been members for ten or more consecutive years shall be eligible for honorary memberships without paying dues, with membership to be renewed annually.</i></p>
<p><b>By-Law Article II. 2.</b> Retired media specialists who have been active members of SCASL for ten or more consecutive years will become honorary life members without payment of dues.</p>	<p><i>Retired media specialists who have been active members of SCASL will pay dues of \$15.00 annually. Media specialists who retired prior to July 1, 2006, and who have been members for ten or more consecutive years shall be eligible for honorary memberships without paying dues, with membership to be renewed annually.</i></p>

\*When Article IX. Section 4 is deleted, Article IX. Section 5 will become Section 4, and the new Section 6 will become Section 5.

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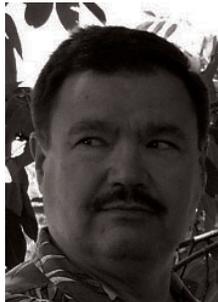
## SCASL Elections Slate for 2006-2007

### Nominee for Vice President/President Elect: **Kitt Lisenby**



Kitt Lisenby is the Library Media Specialist at Mt. Pisgah Elementary School in Kershaw County School District. She received the MLIS degree from the School of Library & Information Science at USC in addition to a Master's degree in Elementary Education from USC. Kitt earned National Board certification in Library Media in 2004.

Prior to becoming a library media specialist, Kitt taught seventh and eighth grade language arts for 20 years. Recognitions include Chesterfield Middle School Teacher of the Year, Chesterfield County Reading Teacher of the Year, and a STAR Educator. Previous SCASL service and offices include Board Secretary (2003-2005), Children's Book Award Committee for three years, and Region 6 Regional Network Coordinator.



### Nominee for Treasurer: **Steve Reed**

Steve Reed is the Library Media Specialist at St. James High School in Horry County. He has received three degrees from USC, including a BA in Political Science, MEd in Educational Administration, and the MLIS.

Prior to becoming a media specialist, Steve taught high school social studies and was a school and district administrator. Previous SCASL service and offices include Treasurer (2004-2006), Constitution Committee chairman, and Regional Network.

### Nominee for Secretary: **Valerie Byrd Fort**



Valerie Byrd Fort is the Library Media Specialist at Dutch Fork Elementary School in Irmo, South Carolina. At DFES, she concentrates on collaborating with classroom teachers and encouraging students and staff members to read for fun. Prior to receiving her Master's Degree in Library & Information Science, she worked in a variety of book related jobs, including Barnes & Noble, Waldenbooks, and the Richland County Public Library. She was also an active volunteer for Rolling Readers, USC's Meet in the Middle, and Rachel's Readers.

An active member of SCASL, Valerie has served as a member of the Information Technology committee, as a writer for the *Media Center Messenger*, and is currently Board Secretary. She is a member of the School of Library and Information Science National Advisory Council, Beta Phi Mu, the Columbia Area Reading Council, the International Reading Association, and the American Association of School Librarians.

Valerie earned a BA from the University of South Carolina in 1999 with a focus on English Literature and Film Studies. While in library school at USC, she was awarded the William M. Trafton III Outstanding Student Award for Leadership.

#### **2005-2006 Elections Committee:**

*Martha M. Taylor, Chair, Janet Boltjes, Elizabeth Gregory, Margaret Mackey, Frances O'Neal.*