



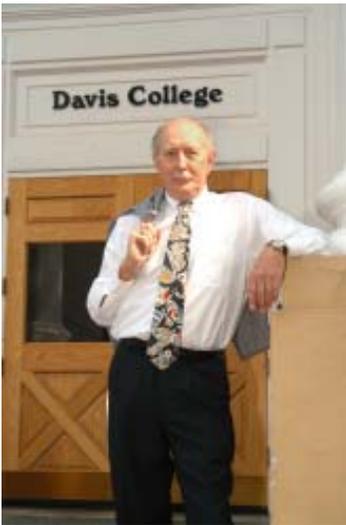
# MESSENGER

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians

Volume XLI No. 1

September 2003

## Welcome to the New Year from Dr. Dan



Dr. Dan is recipient of SCASL's 2003 Distinguished Service Award.

*Welcome to a new school year! Every fall since I started the first grade I have begun a new school year as a student, teacher, or media specialist. No! Abe Lincoln was not in my class, but it has been a few years. And each fall there is a feeling of newness and anticipation that I only can express in terms of memory and hope.*

I remember the new pad of paper, new notebook, new pencils, new jeans, new shoes, and new teachers. I remember the new students coming into my media center and my classes. I remember the excitement of new beginnings, new buildings, new towns, and new friends. And every fall there was a sense of hope that changed from an inward to an outward focus as the years went by. Hoping that I would get the teacher that I wanted, hoping I would get good grades, hoping that the students would like my course, hoping that they would be willing to work for good grades, and hoping that my life as a teacher could make a difference in their lives and the lives that they will touch.

This fall I have the great privilege, honor, and pleasure of beginning the year as the Interim Director of the School of Library and Information Science. With the help of my colleagues and the support of our professional communities, I am excited by the many possibilities that YOUR SLIS has for making positive differences in the lives of so many people in South Carolina and beyond. I emphasize "your" because SLIS does belong to the people of South Carolina, regardless of where you received your degree. Our distance education program has opened many doors for the people of South Carolina that would have remained closed if we had not accepted the risk and made the commitment to challenge traditional practice and reach outward. SLIS belongs to all of the students who have entrusted their professional education to us. Our efforts in Maine, Georgia, West Virginia, and Virginia have paid off for South Carolinians with more courses and degree options than would ever have been possible had we remained a nice little school in the center of the State. We have made new friends, shared similar problems, and rejoiced in our efforts to bring information and information literacy to schools and communities in all these states.

**A**s exciting as has been our past, your SLIS truly has a positive present and future. Like everyone else we are hurting monetarily, but we have many dreams that we won't allow to die just because of a few dollars. We continue to be enthusiastic with our new association with the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. You will hear good things from our merger. Dean Bierbauer has been a pleasure to work with and has demonstrated a sincere desire to get to know the "L" side of the house and its service communities. We have 2 new faculty coming on board this fall. Dr. Feili Tu who has an emphasis in health information and digital libraries and Dr. Jennifer Arns whose interests are in public and community library work. We will have

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

(Continued on page 4.)

# Back to school@ your library



Martha Taylor, President SCASL  
[martha\\_taylor@charter.net](mailto:martha_taylor@charter.net)

I hope that each of you has had a successful beginning to the new school year! An interesting aspect of our jobs as school library media specialists and educators is the cyclical nature of the school year. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary online [<http://www.m-w.com/home.htm>] the word cycle is defined as “an interval of time during which a sequence of a recurring succession of events or phenomena is completed.” The second definition is “a course or series of events or operations that recur regularly and usually lead back to the starting point.” Doesn’t this ancient term (from the Greek *kyklus*) describe the 21st century school year well?

Our SCASL cycle has also begun, and I hope that the events, projects, publications, and services our organization provides will be stimulating, pertinent, and enjoyable. The new fiscal and administrative year began July 1, and your board, committees, and regional network have been hard at work preparing for a phenomenal year. Please make sure your membership is current so you won’t miss a single thing!

Claudia Myers and I represented SCASL at the AASL Affiliate Assembly meetings at ALA in Toronto in June. The ALA Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of school libraries and school librarians. Nancy Zimmerman’s fantastic AASL President’s program featured a presentation by Ellin Keene, author of *Mosaic of Thought*, on the school librarian’s role in successful reading instruction. I participated in a panel, along with Barbara Jeffus and John McGinnis of California, on legislative advocacy for school libraries. Links to the resolution and handouts from these sessions are available on the AASL Web site [<http://www.ala.org/aasl>]. AASL created and submitted a strong statement of the importance of the school library media program to student achievement to the U.S. Department of Education in response to requests for input into the new National Educational Technology Plan. This document is available on the Web at [<http://www.vema.gen.va.us/NETPdocument.html>].

Robbie Van Pelt and the 2004 SCASL Conference committee have a wonderful state conference planned for March 24 –26, 2004, at Palmetto Expo in Greenville. Mark your calendars now for a not-to-be-missed experience. Congratulations and special thanks to Robbie – congratulations on her recent election as SCASL president-elect, and thanks for her willingness to serve!

## **Media Center Messenger— on line!**

MCM Electronic version will be available at the  
SCASL Web site — look for the links at  
<http://www.scasl.net/editorial.htm>  
starting September 15!

### Calendar of Events

September 2003  
Library Card Sign-Up Month

September 20 - 27, 2003  
National Banned Books Week

September 26 - 27, 2003  
Authors on the Beach, Myrtle Beach SC

October 1 -3, 2003  
SC EdTech 2003, Myrtle Beach SC

October 19 - 26, 2003  
Teen Read Week

October 22 - 26, 2003  
AASL National Conference, Kansas City

November 17 - 23, 2003  
Children's Book Week "Free to Read"

January 9-14, 2004  
ALA Midwinter Meeting

March 2, 2004  
Read Across America Day

March 24 - 26, 2004  
SCASL Annual Conference, Greenville

April 2004  
National Poetry Month

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

April 18 - 24, 2004  
National Library Week

June 24-30, 2004  
ALA Annual Conference

### **Panning for Gold SLIS Continuing Education Workshops**

Book repair, grant writing, understanding MARC are just three of the  
topics offered this Fall.

For complete schedule or further information [www.libsci.sc.edu/  
ce/pangold.htm](http://www.libsci.sc.edu/ce/pangold.htm) Or phone: 803-777-5277

## **Keep in Touch**

### **SCASL:**

Bobbie Hartley, Executive Secretary  
E-mail: [SCASL@att.net](mailto:SCASL@att.net)  
Write: SCASL, P.O. Box 2442,  
Cola, SC 29202  
Phone: (803) 796-8427  
Fax: (803) 794-2585  
Web Page: [SCASL.net](http://SCASL.net)

### **SCASL listserv:**

To send a message:  
[SCASL-LS@vm.sc.edu](mailto:SCASL-LS@vm.sc.edu)  
To subscribe:  
[listserv@vm.sc.edu](mailto:listserv@vm.sc.edu) - no subject  
Type: Subscribe SCASL-LS  
yourfirstname yourlastname

### **The Media Center Messenger:**

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

### **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)

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another new faculty member in the spring, Dr. Jennifer Marshall who has a specialization in digital preservation and archives. In the fall we will begin the search for 2 additional faculty to join us in the fall of 2004. In 1982 when we began offering courses to the people of South Carolina using telecommunications delivery, we were able to offer 1 and sometimes 2 courses in a semester—hardly adequate for folks to pursue a degree. This fall semester we will offer 15 courses for distant students in South Carolina, Maine, and Virginia with degree programs for all not only a possibility, but a reality. SLIS is ranked by *US News and World Report* as the top program in the nation without a doctoral program and our school library media program is ranked 3rd with top rankings also for our health information and public library service education programs.

**O**ur past and present have been made possible because we have received tremendous support from the professional community in South Carolina, especially SCASL. The faculty and staff are deeply grateful to you for your support and we hope that you will help us to continue to build a program that will shine for generations to come.

I certainly would be remiss if I didn't give at least a little lecture and reading assignment. It just couldn't be a Dr. Dan moment without that. But seriously, we are facing a critical time for ourselves as individual professionals and as members of the profession at large, statewide and nationally. It is important to feel a sense of tension if growth is to occur. Anxiety, on the other hand, is crippling. With budget woes, feelings of invisibility, and heaps of responsibilities with limited rewards it is understandable that what should be creative tension can give way to destructive anxiety. The key is the resolve and confidence that we must have in our value to the children, teachers, schools, and communities we serve. The value we must feel of our own self worth. We must not only have those deep feelings about ourselves, we must communicate them to all those with whom we work.

I would like to offer you a couple of readings for your new year.

Champlin, Connie and David Loertscher. "Reinvent Your School's Library and Watch Student Academic Achievement Soar." *Principal Leadership* March 2003: 67-70. (<http://www.indianalearns.org/introleadership.asp>) Includes a comprehensive list of the available research for informed opinion/evidenced based practice.

Eisenberg, Michael with Miller, Danielle. "This Man Wants to Change Your Job" *School Library Journal*, September, 2002. (<http://slj.reviewsnews.com/index.asp?layout=article&articleid=CA240047&publication=slj>) A case and strategy for developing an effective service and advocacy campaign.

Haycock, Ken. *The Crisis in Canada's School Libraries: The Case for Reform and Reinvestment*. (<http://www.peopleforeducation.com/librarycoalition/Report03.pdf>) Our northern neighbors share many of our problems. Ken, as usual, provides insights and suggestions that will be useful in South Carolina.

Todd, Ross. "Transitions for preferred futures of school libraries: Knowledge space, not information place Connections, not collections Actions, not positions Evidence, not advocacy." Key Note at the The 2001 IASL Conference in Auckland, New Zealand (<http://www.iasl-slo.org/virtualpaper2001.html>). I agree with many of the issues that Todd raises and I think we can get some mileage from jumping on the Evidenced Based Band Wagon, but I have real reservations about his construction of dichotomies of either/or and his total lack of inclusion of Information Power II. But there are good points here for us to consider.

**A**s a part of the association-wide [ALA Campaign for America's Libraries](http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Campaign_for_Americas_Libraries) ([http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Campaign\\_for\\_Americas\\_Libraries](http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Campaign_for_Americas_Libraries)), AASL will unveil our "@ your library" school library campaign at the AASL 11th National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri this October. It is still not too late to make plans to go! Information Matters @ AASL Kansas City promises to be one of the richest yet for all of us in the profession. For more information about the conference go to (<http://www.ala.org/aaslhomeTemplate.cfm?Section=AASL>).

Recently I discovered a rule of thumb formula for presenting new ideas, projects, or changes to the status quo—3-30-3. You have approximately 3 minutes to describe your idea, project, or suggestion for change to an



## SCASL Officers and Executive Board Members 2003-2004

individual or a group. It must be compelling for them to give you additional attention or consideration. If they are convinced of the value to them or the area for which they have responsibility, they will give you 30 minutes to expand on the idea with details. If they remain convinced of the value at the end of that time, they will give you 3 hours to instruct them, guide them, or discuss with them the ways in which they will invest themselves and their time in the idea, project, or change you suggest. In other words, do your homework and know what you want to say and why—with support for your opinions.

**W**e face many challenges, but we have the capacity to respond to them, meet them, and convert them to advantages for ourselves and our schools. We must begin with the idea that responding to situations by continuing to restate the problem often mires us in feelings of helplessness and makes those around us irritated by what they perceive to be whining. Instead, we have a real opportunity to become heroes and problem solvers. As Peter Senge draws from Martin Luther King, we will succeed by “dramatizing the issue so that it can no longer be ignored.” That means developing a statement of who we are, what we can do to help others achieve their goals, how we are unique and essential to their work, and that all of the resources—including our time—are theirs—not ours. This means that we don’t complain about being highly paid baby sitters, gripe about our time being taken up with rigid schedules, point the finger at teachers who don’t know how to use library media resources effectively, lament that we don’t have enough money to purchase the things that WE need, and castigate our principals for failing to make the teachers use the media center appropriately. It means that we must become advocates with services that have been developed collaboratively with classroom teachers and with facts as to how those services have made a difference in the academic lives of our children. The choice is simple. Whine and Die! Celebrate and Grow!

**L**ast spring when SCASL gave me the Distinguished Service Award, I felt overwhelmingly honored. As many of you know, I was so surprised that I literally lost all the words that I should have spoken at such a momentous occasion. Words of gratitude for the many people who have opened their minds and futures to SLIS and me as they pursued their education. Words of acknowledgement for the many people in our professional community who have worked over the years to make SCASL the strongly positive voice it has become in South Carolina and for including me in their efforts. Words of praise for the many things that each of you do every day that make a difference in the lives of children and how much I appreciate being even a small part of that cycle. Words of encouragement for those who face a continued budget crisis, back-to-back classes, more responsibilities than time to meet them, and lack of recognition by their school communities. Words of humility at how very fortunate I have been to share in the lives of so many wonderful people. Please accept these words now as only a small part of how I feel for having been given the unique and privileged opportunity to be in this place at this time. Thank you SCASL! I hope you have a wonderful year! Let us hear from you!

Dr. Dan

Phone: 800-277-2035, Email: [ddbarron@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:ddbarron@gwm.sc.edu)  
 Web: <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/Dan/dan.htm>  
 SLIS: <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/>

### Officers

President  
 Martha Taylor  
[martha\\_taylor@charter.net](mailto:martha_taylor@charter.net)

President-Elect  
 Robbie Van Pelt  
[robbievanpelt@aol.com](mailto:robbievanpelt@aol.com)

Secretary  
 Kitt Lisenby  
[KLisenby@chesterfield.k12.sc.us](mailto:KLisenby@chesterfield.k12.sc.us)

Treasurer  
 Judy Thomas  
[jthomas@clover.k12.sc.us](mailto:jthomas@clover.k12.sc.us)

Immediate Past President  
 Janet Boltjes  
[jboltjes@lexington1.net](mailto:jboltjes@lexington1.net)

**Regional Network Director**  
 Frances O’Neal  
[francesoneal@hotmail.com](mailto:francesoneal@hotmail.com)

### Advisory

Debby Stone  
[dstone@oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:dstone@oconee.k12.sc.us)

### Committee Chairs

Advocacy  
 Paula Yohe  
[pyohe@infoave.net](mailto:pyohe@infoave.net)

Archives & History  
 Mitzi Burden  
[burdenm@charter.net](mailto:burdenm@charter.net)

Awards  
 Judy Parham  
[parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us](mailto:parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us)

Book Awards  
 Patty Tucker  
[ptucker@sc.rr.com](mailto:ptucker@sc.rr.com)

Constitution & Bylaws  
 Steven Reed  
[sreed@bamberg3.k12.sc.us](mailto:sreed@bamberg3.k12.sc.us)

# **Changes for the New School Year**

Mary R. Bull, DISCUS Program Director, South Carolina State Library,  
[mary@leo.scsl.state.sc.us](mailto:mary@leo.scsl.state.sc.us)

DISCUS – South Carolina’s Virtual Library introduces a number of enhancements for 2003-04 to keep South Carolina’s schools and libraries connected to the best information online.

School students and teachers may now connect to DISCUS databases both at school AND at home using a single K-12 access Web page. Just go to:

**[www.scdiscus.org/schools.html](http://www.scdiscus.org/schools.html)**

From home the username and/or password are still required. The username and password are changed each August and January. They are distributed by mail to each school media center prior to the change and are also e-mailed to each school district’s DISCUS contact person for distribution to school media specialists.

The *Gale Group-InfoTrac K-8 Menu* icon has been removed from DISCUS. Young users will now see direct links to their three favorite resources from that menu: *Biography Resource Center*, *Junior Edition* and *Kids InfoBits*. The latter has replaced *Kid’s Edition*, which is no longer available.

The *Gale Group-InfoTrac Full Menu* icon continues to link users to all 13 Gale-InfoTrac databases covering nearly all subjects for all age groups. Several of the InfoTrac databases, including *Student Edition*, *General Reference Center*, *InfoTrac OneFile* and *Expanded Academic ASAP*, have a new “Journal Search” feature, making it easy to browse the contents and read articles from a specific issue of a periodical.

*Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia* has a new look and added content, including a prominent “Today Is” feature highlighting historic events and prominent birthdays for each day of the year. Finding pictures, animations, panoramas and video clips is even easier with the new “Media” tab included with search results.

Both *SIRS Knowledge Source* and *SIRS Discoverer* have added library promotional materials to the “Librarian’s Corner” area of their sites.

Additional DISCUS enhancements are in progress, including a complete redesign of the K-12 access Web page to make it easier to navigate to desired resources.

For more information about DISCUS, please visit the Web site: [www.scdiscus.org](http://www.scdiscus.org) or contact the DISCUS Office: [DISCUSoffice@leo.scsl.state.sc.us](mailto:DISCUSoffice@leo.scsl.state.sc.us)

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## Get Answers to Your Questions 24 Hours a Day



Working on a project or paper late at night? Even when the Richland County Public Library is closed, you can still get the answers you need. Now RCPL patrons can get answers from reference librarians any time of day, seven days a week with the first 24-hour global reference service.

“Answers Now-All the Time, Across the World” is made possible through a partnership between the Richland County Public Library, the Brisbane City Council Library Service in Queensland, Australia, and the Somerset County Council Libraries, Arts and Information Service in the United Kingdom.

This unique online, real time reference service, will expand the available information resources for each of the three communities. Each library will be responsible for eight-hour increments, allowing constant, 24-hour reference service to patrons in all three service areas of the world.

To access the service, logon to [www.richland.lib.sc.us](http://www.richland.lib.sc.us) and click on the Answers Now icon. You can then chat with a reference librarian online, gaining access to information and resources 24-hours a day.

### Editorial

Laura Jackson  
[jmoggles@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmoggles@bellsouth.net)

### Independent Schools Section

Melinda Kane  
[melbrockkane@hotmail.com](mailto:melbrockkane@hotmail.com)

### Information Technology

Sally Wimberly  
[sallywimberly@anderson5.net](mailto:sallywimberly@anderson5.net)

### Intellectual Freedom

Patty Bynum  
[pbynum@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:pbynum@greenville.k12.sc.us)

### Legislative

Susan Gray  
[sgray@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:sgray@greenville.k12.sc.us)

### Pre-Service Education

Jessica Felker  
[jessieruth25@yahoo.com](mailto:jessieruth25@yahoo.com)

### Public Awareness

Tambra Pingle  
[tpingle@richlandone.org](mailto:tpingle@richlandone.org)

### Retired Section

Joan Kruger  
[mjk2450@att.net](mailto:mjk2450@att.net)

### SCLA Representative

Ellen Mancke  
[emancke@mindspring.com](mailto:emancke@mindspring.com)

### SC SDE Representative

Martha Alewine  
[malewine@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:malewine@sde.state.sc.us)

### SLIS Representative

Donna Shannon  
[dshannon@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:dshannon@gwm.sc.edu)

### Standards & Guidelines

Ida Thompson  
[ithompson@richlandone.org](mailto:ithompson@richlandone.org)

### Supervisors Section

Joe Myers  
[JoeMyers@berkeley.k12.sc.us](mailto:JoeMyers@berkeley.k12.sc.us)

### Young Writers’ Representative

Elizabeth Gregory  
[cgregory@compuzone.net](mailto:cgregory@compuzone.net)



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

Martha Alewine, Consultant, School Library Media Services  
E-mail: [malewine@sde.state.sc.us](mailto:malewine@sde.state.sc.us) Mobile: 803-331-0483

“To get better results, just raise the bar,” according to Larry Bell. In education we’ve heard this opinion for a long time and seen movement in that direction with the curriculum standards and PACT. This year we will raise the bar for South Carolina’s school library media specialists and school library media programs.

The State Board of Education approved the **ADEPT Performance Dimensions for School Library Media Specialists** in June. You can read these professional standards on the School Library Media Services web page (<http://www.myscschools.com/offices/technology/ms/lms>). What does this mean for you? If this is your first year as a school library media specialist and you are going through Induction, then these are the ADEPT Performance Dimensions your school/district should use as you begin the evaluation process. If you will be formally evaluated (TEAM or another formal evaluation instrument) this year, then you must be evaluated based on these Performance Dimensions. For those of you on GBE (goals-based evaluation or another informal evaluation instrument) you should use these Performance Dimensions as the basis for writing your goals. The TEAM evaluation instrument should be available on the web within the next few weeks. When they are available, I will post a message on the SCASL listserv. We will be filming a video next week that will have a two-fold purpose: (1) to provide training for ADEPT evaluators in using this new instrument and (2) to provide an orientation for library media specialists who will be TEAM evaluated this year.

**Achieving Exemplary School Library Media Programs** contains the rubrics for evaluating the school library media center (e.g., facility, staffing, funding, collection, and curriculum integration). We will field test these rubrics during the 2003-04 school year with statewide implementation during the 2004-05 school year. These rubrics will eventually become part of the LMS Annual Survey at which point we will begin recognizing those schools/districts with exem-

plary school library media programs. I encourage you to read these draft rubrics and then work with your administrators (school and district) to volunteer to be a part of this field test. Your input will be invaluable as we refine these rubrics based on the field test data.

As you study our state professional standards for school library media specialists and the rubrics for evaluating the library media program, I hope you note the inclusion of reading encouragement and promotion in both documents. However, be creative in your reading promotion efforts and help your school community move beyond the trap created by relying so heavily on the various computerized reading management programs. To assist you in reading encouragement and promotion, the 2003-04 suggested reading lists are now available on the SLMS web page. Click on the link “**South Carolina Reads, 2003-2004: Suggested Reading Lists for Elementary, Middle, and High School Students.**”

“You always do people a disservice by lowering the standard.” (Lou Holtz) Our standards are high for library media specialists and library media programs in South Carolina. *No Child Left Behind* does not include library media specialists among the educators that must be deemed highly qualified yet national research clearly shows a correlation between improved student achievement and our involvement in the instructional process. Our professional existence is dependent upon your meeting and exceeding our standards and upon your proactive involvement in your school, district, and state. I look forward to working with you during this year as we attain the high standards set for us professionally.

**Attention Library Media Specialists!**

The LMS Annual Survey for 2002-2003 will be open for data entry through September 30, 2003.

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# Regional News

Frankie O'Neal, Director, [Francesoneal@hotmail.com](mailto:Francesoneal@hotmail.com)

Your Regional Network is made up of contacts at district and regional levels whose purpose is to disseminate information of professional interest to all library media specialists throughout the state. It also serves as a means of communication through which you can let SCASL know of your interests and concerns. Below are listed each regional coordinator and the district contacts within each district. Get to know your local district contact. Keep in touch with your organization. The more you do, the more effective SCASL can be in its efforts for you.

*If you are interested in being the coordinator in Bamberg 1 or Clarendon 1, please contact Frankie O'Neal directly.*

## Region 1A. Coordinator Laura Keese

Anderson 1. Annette Christy      Anderson 5. Carolyn Segers  
Anderson 2. Marilyn Heath      Oconee. Paige Sandifer  
Anderson 3. Deborah Jordan      Pickens. Edith Ley  
Anderson 4. Pam Owens

**OCONEE.** The county has two new media specialists: **Linda Seay** and **April Llibre**. Linda, a 20-year veteran middle school language arts teacher, is now the media specialist at Walhalla Middle School. April was an 8th grade language arts teacher for 14 years before returning to graduate school to earn her master's degree in Library and Information Science. April is now the media specialist at Ravenel Elementary School. **ANDERSON 1. Dr. Annette Christy**, Wren Middle, was awarded a \$6000 Teacher EIA grant. The grant is entitled, "Read for the Gold." It will greatly increase the collection of AR books and quizzes available to the students. **ANDERSON 4.** New to the district is **LeAnne Gause**, the LMS at LaFrance Elementary. **ANDERSON 5.** Two new elementary schools opened, Midway and McLees. **Karen Boring** is the library media specialist at McLees. **Mary Ann Kohl** is the new library media specialist at Midway. New library media specialists are **Jenny Jones**, replacing **Malinda Butler** at Calhoun Elementary; **Jeraldine Pool**, replacing **Mary Ann Kohl** at Centerville Elementary; and **Shari Ganahlat**, Lakeside Middle, replacing **Kay Herbster** who retired at the end of last year. Both Jenny and Shari are first year media specialists. **McCants Middle School**, as well as the district, are proud of **Martha Taylor** who is serving as president of SCASL this year.

## Region 1B. Coordinator Sue Fitzgerald

SCSDB. Galena Gaw  
Spartanburg Day School. Reeves Blackburn  
Cherokee. Jan Sarratt  
Greenville. Debra Wolfe, Nieves K. Lehmann  
Spartanburg 1. Nancy Gaulden  
Spartanburg 2. Sally Hursey  
Spartanburg 3. Judy Mammoth  
Spartanburg 4. Robyn Prince  
Spartanburg 5. Pat Bridges  
Spartanburg 6. Sue Fitzgerald  
Spartanburg 7. Beatrice Bruce

**SPARTANBURG COUNTY.** **Jean Kristinik**, media specialist at Wellford Elementary, hosted an all day mini-convention for the entire county that included story telling, workshops, vendors, and more. **DISTRICT 2.** New media specialists this year are **Pat Jennings**, Boiling Springs Elementary; **Beth Carson**, Carlisle-Foster's Grove Elementary; and **Heather Griffin**, Oakland Elementary. **Boiling Springs High School** media specialist **Sally Hursey** received an EIA grant for \$6,000 for the 2003-04 school year to promote reading at the high school level in conjunction with the 10th grade Tech Prep teachers. **DISTRICT 4.** **Colleen Hitchner** replaces **Tobey Rhodes**

as the media specialist at Woodruff Middle School. Tobey will be staying home with her twin daughters born this spring. **DISTRICT 6.** **Kelly Buster**, media specialist at Arcadia Elementary School, has been named teacher of the year for her school in the 2003-2004 school year. **Sue Fitzgerald**, media specialist at Dorman High School, received the Ann T. White Award from the Media Specialists of Spartanburg County. **Amanda Jackson** is now at Jesse Bobo Elementary School replacing **Mary Cannon**, who retired last spring. **Nina Crawford**, media specialist at Woodland Heights Elementary, received an EIA Teachers Grant for 2003-04 for "Monopoly on Reading" **DISTRICT 7.** **Dr. Jane Clary** is the media specialist at Cleveland Elementary School replacing **Karen McGill**, who is now the media Specialist in District Three at Cowpens Elementary. **GREENVILLE COUNTY.** New media specialists this year are: **Alison Patrick** and **Deryl McKinney**, Eastside High; **Suzanne Zeller**, Stone Elementary; **Malinda Edmonston**, Pelham Road Elementary; **Sarah Brice**, Blythe Academy; **Angela Kay**, Plain Elementary; **Willie Clay Smith**, Parker Middle; **Matthew Strickland**, Brook Glen Elementary; **Katherine Bunn**, Greenview Elementary; **Theresa Merck** and **Carrie Stringer**, Blue Ridge High; **Shawnee Arrowood**, Greenbrier Elementary. **Monique German**, media specialist was named Teacher of the Year at Powdersville Middle School.

## Region 2. Coordinator Lyn Wolfe

Abbeville. Mary Bolen      Laurens 55. Mary Fortune  
Edgefield. Jean Peeler      Laurens 56. Janice Meeks  
Greenwood 50. Tina Corley      McCormick. Lynne Wolfe  
Greenwood 51. Frankie Adkins      Saluda. Jane Keith  
Greenwood 52. Patricia Henderson

## Region 3. Coordinator Betty Jordan

Chester. Adrine Weaks      Clover. Nancy Kivette  
Lancaster. Kay Watson      Rock Hill. Betty Jordan  
Union. Tammy Fisher      Fort Mill. Lisa Rutledge  
York. Caylen Whitesides

**ROCK HILL.** Northside Elementary School's media center is benefitting from a school wide grant called SC Reads. Over the summer, the library was given over \$30,000 in funding to purchase library books. While it was a dream come true for media specialist **Cathy Nelson**, it was a monumental task that has taken all summer. The entire collection had to be evaluated and weeded to make appropriate purchases and make room for the more than 2200 books brought in. At the onset of school, all the books were still not shelved. From this experience, **Cathy** learned valuable lessons in collection development and the importance of utilizing volunteers.

## Region 4A. Harriet Pauling

Fairfield. Harriet Pauling      Lexington 3. Judy Derrick  
Lexington 1. Dupre Young      Lexington 4. Pam Livingston  
Lexington 2. Linda Hawkins

**LEXINGTON. DISTRICT 1.** New media specialists are **Stacey Merritt** at Lexington Intermediate School and **Jamey Crumpton** at Lexington Middle

School. **LEXINGTON 2.** The district has five new media specialists this year: **Debra Arvay** at Pineridge Middle, **Heather Langdale** at Taylor Elementary, **Chesley Geyer** at Springdale Elementary, **Julia H. Davis** at Congaree Elementary, and **Jill Slapnik** at Congaree Wood ECC. **Fairfield. Crystal Berry Smith** received her Masters of Library Science from USC in May. She is beginning her second year as a media specialist at Fairfield Intermediate School. **LEXINGTON 4. Dawn Blauam**, media specialist at Sandhills Elementary was named District Teacher of the Year.

#### **Region 4B. Coordinator Mary Lou Benton**

Lexington 5. Marilyn Gramlin

Richland 1. Mary Lou Benton

Richland 2. Beth Lee

**RICHLAND 1.** New media specialists are: **Carolyn Jenkins**, South East Middle School; **Russ Conrath**, Olympia Alternative; **Mary Tyler Vicks**, Forest Heights Elementary. **Richland One** held a RIF ROCKS event in September for students and families which included a parade of various literacy programs, authors, and booths in a day of celebration for RIF and reading. **LEXINGTON/RICHLAND 5.** New media specialists are **Suzanne Rhoten** at Seven Oaks Elementary and **Lorna Daves** at Dutch Fork High. **Melinda Hare** and **Penny Hayne** both earned National Board Certification last year. **Marilyn Gramling** was named Teacher of the Year 2003-04 Ballentine Elementary. **RICHLAND 2. Cindy Symonds** is the new media specialist at Round Top Elementary.

#### **Region 5A. Coordinator Mary Lou Wallace**

Aiken 1. Patsy Davis

Aiken 5. Cheryl Curtis

Aiken 2. Lawren Hammond

Allendale. Linda Day

Aiken 3. Cindy Snell

Barnwell. Heidi Lewis

Aiken 4. Heather Loy

Barnwell 29. John Riney

**AIKEN COUNTY. Ann Adcock** is the new media specialist at Clearwater Elementary School. **Katherine Bledsoe** is the new media specialist at Greendale Elementary School. **Mary Lou Wallace**, media specialist at East Aiken Elementary School, received a grant from Public Education Partners, a local education foundation, in the amount of \$2700. The grant will be used to purchase Early Literacy and writing software.

#### **Region 5B. Coordinator Verity Creekmore**

Bamberg 1. Needed

Orangeburg 3. Charletha Heyward-King

Bamberg 2. Steven Reed

Orangeburg 4. Lois King

Calhoun. Samantha McManus

Orangeburg 5. Verlinda Gunter

#### **Region 6. Coordinator David Hardee**

Clarendon 1. Needed

Lee. Mary Miller

Clarendon 2. Lynda Lee

Sumter 2. Carolyn Buckner

Clarendon 3. Penny Kemp

Sumter 17. Anita Vaughn

#### **Region 7. Coordinator Debra Heimbrook**

Chesterfield. Kitt Lesenby

Florence 3. Joyce Moore

Darlington. Judy Hall

Florence 4. Marie Youmans

Dillon 1. Liz Herlong

Florence 5. Pam Hyman

Dillon 2. Ann Carlson

Marion 1. Edna E. Rouse

Dillon 3. Ginger Brown

Marion 2. Robin Horne

Florence 1. Debra Heimbrook

Marion 7. Gerald Duvall

Florence 2. Vonnice Smith

Marlboro. Virginia McGraw

**FLORENCE DISTRICT 1. Amy Rhodes**, media specialist at Briggs Elementary, has been awarded an EIA Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for a project called "Quality Literature at Your Fingertips." The grant money provides all fifth and sixth grade classes at her school with sets of the 2003-04 South Carolina Children's Book Award Nominee books. Amy will be involved with a number of activities linking these students with the SCCBAN

books throughout the school year. **Royall Elementary School** has earned Master School in Reading Renaissance for 2002-2003 school year. The media specialist, **Betty Anne Smith**, has also earned Master Library for 2002-2003. **DILLON 1.** The district initiated a successful summer reading program. **Liz Herlong**, media specialist at Lake View High, reports that she is hopeful this first attempt at providing such a program will be offered again next summer. **DILLON 2.** Media specialists are helping to pilot the evaluation tool for media specialists. They have also been collaborating on writing various grants for the district. **DARLINGTON.** Three new media specialists have joined the ranks in the Darlington schools. **Cindy Peck** is at West Hartsville Elementary, **Patricia Williams** is at Spaulding Elementary, and **Jeanette Lunn** is at Rosenwald Elementary. **FLORENCE 4.** The district has two new media specialists: **Stephanie Skelley** at Brockington Elementary and **Amy Fouse** at Johnson Middle School.

#### **Region 8. Coordinator Sabra Bell**

Georgetown. Grier Rivers

Horry. Sabra Bell

Williamsburg. Elaine Culick

**WILLIAMSBURG. Linda Huell** is now serving as district library media contact person for Williamsburg County Schools. New media specialists in Williamsburg County are **Kathleen DuRant** at Greeleyville Elementary, and **Sarah Huggins** at Cades-Hebron Elementary. **Gina Taylor**, who has been serving as media specialist at St. Mark Elementary for several years now, has just completed her certification program for school library media specialists.

#### **Region 9A. Coordinator Linda Buchanan**

Charleston 1. Paula Rivers

Charleston 9. Minerva King

Charleston 2. Debbie Stroman

Charleston 10. Bill Langston

Charleston 3. Bobbie Starnes

Charleston 20. Beth McGuire

Charleston 4. Karen Stinson

Charleston 23. Richard Amble

#### **Region 9B. Coordinator Lynne Dubay**

Berkeley. Linda Hall

Dorchester 2. Cindy Ritoch

Dorchester 4. Rosa Davis

**DORCHESTER COUNTY. DISTRICT 2.** New media specialists are **Rachel Connelly** at Beech Hill Elementary and **Maxine Whitney** at Gregg Middle School. **Lynn Staudt**, is the new media assistant at Gregg Middle replacing **Wendell Aiken** who retired, and media assistant **Tonya Ambrose** moved on to a new career. **Mary Tyler**, formerly media specialist at Beech Hill Elementary, married over the summer and moved to Columbia. **Media specialist Julie Moody**, of Rollings School of the Arts, recently married and is now **Julie Mise**. Julie received a \$2,000 EIA grant for this school year. **Media specialist Sandy Parker** at Fort Dorchester High School received a \$6,000 EIA grant entitled "Lexiles and Learning Styles." **BERKELEY COUNTY. Joe Myers** will serve as the districtwide Media Coordinator as well as the AIMS School media specialist. **Lily Cooper** is joining Berkeley County as the media specialist at St. Stephen Middle School. **Ann Sabo** is retiring. She is leaving St. Stephen Middle but she will continue to serve the district. **Joanne Schwartz** has opened a new library at Goose Creek Primary. It is called Alligator Cove, because they had two real alligators in the library during construction! **Howe Hall Elementary** is now **Goose Creek Primary**. **Linda Hall** received a \$6,000.00 EIA grant to purchase SmartBoards for Hanahan Middle School.

#### **Region 10. Coordinator Celeste Stone**

Beaufort. Audra Alexander

Colleton. Celeste Stone

Hampton 1. Caril Baker

Hampton 2. Audrey Koudelka

Jasper. Karin Kadar

## SCASL'S Pre-Service Committee

The Pre-service Committee is looking forward to another productive year. Last year, many SCASL members travelled to colleges around the state to inform education majors about the school library profession. This year, we will continue to spread the word about school library media to others across the state.

*If you would like to join us, please email Jessica Felker at "jfelker@newberry.k12.sc.us"*

### Vital Statistics



**Emma Jordan**, library media specialist for 30 years in Kershaw County, passed away on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, after a long illness. She had served as LMS for many years at Camden Elementary and retired from North Central High School. She was an active leader on the Kershaw County Technology steering committee and very active as a leader of the Kershaw County Library Media Specialists. She was always willing to share her love of books, gardening, young people, and her knowledge of technology and library policy and procedures with others. Services were held on Sunday, August 17, 2003 with burial at Refuge Baptist Church in Kershaw County. She will be missed.

**Kim Richardson**, media specialist at Delmae Elementary in Florence, gave birth to a baby girl, Jessie Elise, on July 25th.

**Janet Shay** is the proud mother of a little girl. Janet is media specialist at Oakland Elementary in Greenwood.

### ***My First AASL*** **Bound to Stay Bound/ SCASL Mini-Grants**

The AASL 11<sup>th</sup> National Conference will be October 22-26 in Kansas City, Missouri. SCASL members who won the Bound to Stay Bound "My First AASL" mini-grants are Dick Amble (Schroder Middle School) and Winnie Green (Charleston Progressive Elementary School). Congratulations to both!

*Information on this exciting event is available on the Web at [<http://www.ala.org/aasl>].*

## Margaret Ehrhardt: A True Professional

SCASL and all members of the library profession are saddened by the passing of Margaret Ehrhardt who died on Sunday, August 24, 2003.

Margaret W. Ehrhardt's name is familiar to all librarians in South Carolina and her career covered half a century. During that time she served as a high school librarian, a district supervisor, a public library children's librarian, a librarian at USC's McKissick Library and finally as Library/Media Consultant for the State Department of Education, retiring in 1989. During her twenty-four year tenure as consultant, she worked diligently to improve school library facilities, develop programs and organizations, and increase use of multi-media. She was responsible for the organization of SCHSLMA. Her professional affiliations were numerous. She was also a member of SCASL with whom she helped to promote the Nancy Jane Day Scholarship. To celebrate its Silver Anniversary in 2000, SCASL in conjunction with the then College of Library and Information Science at USC, established the Margaret W. Ehrhardt Scholarship Fund in Mrs. Ehrhardt's honor. Mrs. Ehrhardt was recently named one of South Carolina's *Ten Library Professionals of the Century*.



## ***An Exciting project from Haut Gap Middle School!***

Last fall, the 7th grade teachers and I received a \$6000 EIA Unit Grant to establish the Bulldog Publishing Company at Haut Gap Middle School. The grant project focused on researching, writing, and publishing subject-specific essays, stories, poems, brochures, and informational posters. Our students practiced the writing process, evaluated their compositions according to the criteria presented by Six Traits, and designed their publications using computer technology.

Although we hoped to increase our students' knowledge and skills in research, content, writing, and computer use, we concentrated our efforts on encouraging students to analyze information, generate and organize ideas, and pay attention to details such as grammar and punctuation.

Each group produced a different publication. The guidance counselor and I worked with a small group of students to publish a brochure on social cruelty.

One language arts class wrote and illustrated parodies of familiar stories or fairy tales. Some social studies students read several accounts of Holocaust survivors, selected one and used it to compose a "Found" poem. (The idea for this lesson came from a recent School Library Media Activities Monthly article.)

A math class photographed everyday objects representing specific geometric shapes, then designed eye-catching posters that highlighted geometry in the real world. Science students were assigned a report on a famous scientist. For the Bulldog Publishing Company, we concentrated on rewriting the first paragraph to include a "hook" to grab the reader's interest.

Some groups were more successful than others, but the teachers and I learned a few general lessons from all of them:

Lesson #1: For our students, writing should be an individual activity. Small groups can collaborate on research or share ideas, but each student needs to be accountable for his/her own written work.

Lesson #2: At our school, more actual work is accomplished if the teacher sends one small group to the media center at a time. When the whole class comes, only those students who have the attention of the teacher or media specialist are actually involved in the learning process. Projects can be introduced to the class as a whole, but the research and writing activities should be individualized.

Lesson #3: For our students, computers are excellent motivators and task masters. Whenever students were working on the computers, they were excited about the project and stayed on task. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact me.

*Helen Thompson, Haut Gap Middle School, Johns Island  
helen\_thompson@charleston.k12.sc.us  
thompsonh@charleston.net.*



Former First Lady Rachel Hodges reads to South Carolina school children.

## **AASL 2003 Crystal Apple Awards Presented to Rachel Hodges & Scholastic, Inc.**

AASL 2002-2003 President Nancy Zimmerman selected Mrs. Rachel Hodges, former First Lady of South Carolina, and Scholastic, Inc. as recipients of the AASL Crystal Apple Award. The award is given at the discretion of the AASL President to an individual or group who had a significant impact on school libraries and students.

Rachel Hodges launched the "Reading with Rachel" program in 1999 to help instill a love of reading in South Carolina's children. During her tenure as First Lady, Mrs. Hodges visited over 250 classrooms in the state and distributed over 300,000 books, donated by 18 publishers and selected by state educators, to students and school libraries in South Carolina.

Adult and youth volunteer groups called "Rachel's Readers" were established in 2000 to expand the popular initiative. Rachel's Readers were trained by professors in the School of Library and Information Science at USC's BEST Center. The adult volunteer readers adopted schools and read there each month, presenting the school media center with copies of the "Reading with Rachel" Book of the Month. The youth volunteers, consisting of teen Girl and Boy Scouts, presented scripted reading programs in school libraries, public libraries, after-school programs, and day care centers, giving each child in attendance a book generously donated by Scholastic Inc. Six thousand books were distributed directly to the children of South Carolina by the youth volunteers because of the vision of Mrs. Hodges and the generosity of Scholastic, Inc.



*In attendance at the AASL Awards luncheon: Elizabeth Miller, Claudia Myers, Nancy Zimmerman, Charlie White (AECT).*

## **Attention "Retirees"**

If you have an e-mail address, please send to  
Joan Kruger, Retired Section Chair, at

[mjk2450@att.net](mailto:mjk2450@att.net).

**Let's Get Connected!**

# Professional Title Book Reviews or "Exploring the Library Z's"

Valerie Byrd, Dutch Fork Elementary, [vbyrd@lex5.k12.sc.us](mailto:vbyrd@lex5.k12.sc.us)

Ahhh...Summer. What a great time to read "grown up" books found on the best seller shelves at Waldenbooks or on the new fiction shelves of the public library. It is also, even if we don't want to, a great time to catch up on professional reading.

I love to read (well, skim, mostly) professional titles anytime of the year for idea starters or for a little more information on a topic just touched on in library school. I remember one of the librarians at Thomas Cooper calling it "exploring the library Z's"

I imagine there aren't many of us who LIKE to read professional titles "for fun," so I hope this column (which will run in each *Media Center Messenger* this year) will serve as a review of the newest titles out there.

Remember, I am in an elementary school, so many of these titles are geared towards teachers of younger grades. However, I think a lot of the ideas found in professional books can be adapted for any age group.

All of these titles are available at the Thomas Cooper Library at USC (You may check out up to 5 titles at no cost if you are a member of the alumni association. If not, spend a Saturday browsing through the stacks.), from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (check out the used titles, often they are just as good as brand new), or directly from the publisher (which I've included in each annotation).

[Video Production for School Library Media Specialists: Communication and Production Techniques](#) by Terry McConnell and Harry W. Sprouse, Linworth Publishing, Inc (<http://www.linworth.com/>), 2000.

I bought a digital video editor with all the fixings in January of last school year. Ever since, I've been learning how to use it and have been coming up with ideas for our weekly news program, which will start in September 2003. I have found this book to be extremely helpful with the little things—applications for the news team, job lists, ideas for programs, as well as the big things—copyright, how to figure out lighting, what kinds of cameras to buy, how to set things up, etc. Great resource for those just starting out.

[Conversations: Strategies for Teaching, Learning, and Evaluating](#) by Regie Routman, Heinemann (<http://www.heinemann.com/>), 2000.

I took a class through my school district this summer called *Reading in the Primary Grades*. OH MY GOSH,

what a fantastic class! I was introduced to this book through that class...It's thick and scary...but GREAT! Aimed at classroom teachers, there are lots of things in this book that we, as media specialists, may not be able to directly apply. However, I think it's good to see "how the other side lives," so to speak, and feel that what we cannot apply in *our* classrooms, we can still learn from. Routman talks a lot about change and why it's important. She focuses on literacy and she's a firm supporter of flexible scheduling in library media centers. There is even a chapter called "Critical Resources for Curriculum Inquiry: Librarians, School Libraries, and Technology" where she talks about how important the media center is for students and teachers. The best thing about this book is "The Blue Pages" in the back. Here you'll find a list of resources, by chapter, that she mentions in the text. Annotated professional titles, websites, children's books, lists, etc. are all included. The Blue Pages alone are worth a look at this title. A great book to read and to tell your teachers about!

[Making Flexible Access and Flexible Scheduling Work Today](#) by Karen Browne Ohlrich, Libraries Unlimited, Inc. (<http://www.lu.com/>), 2001.

I am lucky enough to be getting the chance to show my teachers and administrators how important a flexible schedule is to our students by having grades 3-5 totally flexible this school year. As many of you know, this will be my 2nd year as a media specialist at a school that has been on a totally fixed schedule for over 20 years. This book has given me MANY pointers and ideas for educating teachers on what a flexible schedule is and how it works, pointers on how to create your own lesson plan book (something I find VERY helpful, since none of the "teacher" lesson plan books really work for me), and other useful information for those planning on making the move over to flexible scheduling. I put in a lot of effort trying to get my administrators to agree to try flexible scheduling—it will take even more work to prove that it DOES work and this book will come in handy!

Don't worry; I enjoy reading books that aren't "professional" too. Stay tuned for the next issue as I explore more "library Z's!"

*Have a happy start to the school year!*



# SCASL AWARDS

**Now is the time to nominate individuals for the following awards. Get the applications on the SCASL website at [www.scasl.net/awards.htm](http://www.scasl.net/awards.htm) or contact Judy Parham, Awards Chair at [parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us](mailto:parhamjs@spart5.k12.sc.us). Applications will be accepted until December.**

## **School Library Media Specialist of the Year Award**

This award honors a full-time school library media specialist who has made an outstanding contribution to school library media service in South Carolina. Nominees are judged on the basis of exemplary quality library media programs, collaborations with classroom teachers, and active membership in SCASL and related organizations. Nominations may be made by administrators, members of SCASL, or teachers presently employed in South Carolina schools.

## **Administrator of the Year Award**

First given in 1979, this award recognizes the responsible and influential role of the school administrator and his/her support of library services. At the SCASL conference a school administrator who has made a unique and sustained contribution toward furthering the role of the library media center and its development in elementary and/or secondary education is honored. State, county, or district school superintendents and building principals are eligible for nomination. District administrators responsible for broad instructional leadership, such as assistant superintendents, directors of curriculum and instruction, and directors of education, are also eligible.

## **Distinguished Service Award**

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual or organization for contributions to SCASL and/or school media programs throughout South Carolina. Because the emphasis is on service at the state level, an author, illustrator, educator, media specialist, business professional, or organization may be nominated. Membership in SCASL is not required for nomination.

## **Nancy Jane Day Scholarship**

The Nancy Jane Day Scholarship is awarded to an SCASL member to reimburse the cost of one successfully completed college course. The member may choose either a graduate course to improve job performance or a graduate course to complete a degree in library science. The scholarship was established in honor of Nancy Jane Day, who was the supervisor of library services for the South Carolina Department of Education for twenty-four years.

## **Exemplary Paraprofessional Award**

The Exemplary Paraprofessional Award goes to an individual who has exhibited outstanding contributions to the media profession through responsibilities and work habits, initiative, willingness to grow professionally, and through interaction with all types of media patrons. The nominator of this award must be a member of SCASL.

# South Carolina Book Award Nominees 2003-2004



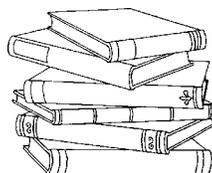
## Children's Book Award

All the Way Home  
**Patricia Reilly Giff**  
Amber was Brave, Essie was Smart:  
The Story of Amber and Essie Told  
Here in Poems and Pictures  
**Vera Williams**  
The Butterfly  
**Patricia Polacco**  
The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving  
Their World and Ours  
**Jane Goodall**  
Coolies  
**Yin**  
Down Cut Shin Creek: The  
Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky  
**Kathi Appelt**  
\*Fair Weather: A Novel  
**Richard Peck**  
Gleam and Glow  
**Eve Bunting**  
Goin' Someplace Special  
**Pat McKissack**  
Leonardo's Horse  
**Jean Fritz**  
Love That Dog  
**Sharon Creech**  
Love, Ruby Lavender  
**Debbie Wiles**  
Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr.  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**Doreen Rappaport**  
My Dog, My Hero  
**Betsy Byars**  
The Mysterious Matter of  
I.M. Fine  
**Diane Stanley**  
Oddhopper Opera: A Bug's  
Garden of Verses  
**Kurt Cyrus**  
The Other Side  
**Jacqueline Woodson**  
Owen Foot, Super Spy  
**Stephanie Greene**  
The Secret School  
**Avi**  
When the Circus Came to Town  
**Laurence Yep**



## Junior Book Award

All the Answers  
**Anne LeMieux**  
Artemis Fowl  
**Eoin Colfer**  
Being Dead: Stories  
**Vivian Vande Velde**  
The Edge on the Sword  
**Rebecca Tingle**  
\*\*Fair Weather: A Novel  
**Richard Peck**  
Flipped  
**Wendelin Van Draanen**  
Ghost Soldier  
**Elaine Alphin**  
Girl in Blue  
**Ann Rinaldi**  
The Graduation of Jake Moon  
**Barbara Park**  
A Hole in the World  
**Sid Hite**  
The Land  
**Mildred Taylor**  
Lizzie At Last  
**Claudia Mills**  
Odysseus in the Serpent Maze  
**Jane Yolen**  
The Other Side of Truth  
**Beverly Naidoo**  
The Ransom of Mercy Carter  
**Caroline Cooney**  
Silent to the Bone  
**E.L. Konigsburg**  
Torn Thread  
**Anne Isaacs**  
Under a War-Torn Sky  
**Laura Elliott**  
The Wayfinder  
**Darcy Pattison**  
Witch Child  
**Celia Rees**



## Young Adult Book Award

Born Blue  
**Han Nolan**  
The Boy in the Burning House  
**Tim Wynne-Jones**  
Breathing Underwater  
**Alexandra Flinn**  
Damage  
**A.M. Jenkins**  
Double or Nothing  
**Dennis Foon**  
In the Company of Men: A Woman  
at the Citadel  
**Nancy Mace**  
The Land  
**Mildred Taylor**  
Of Sound Mind  
**Jean Ferris**  
Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss,  
and What I Learned  
**Judd Winick**  
Razzle  
**Ellen Wittlinger**  
Scribbler of Dreams  
**Mary Pearson**  
Shades of Simon Gray  
**Joyce McDonald**  
The Sisterhood of the Traveling  
Pants  
**Ann Brashares**  
Soldier X  
**Don Wulffson**  
Spellbound  
**Janet McDonald**  
Stick Figure: A Diary of My Former  
Self  
**Lori Gottlieb**  
Touching Spirit Bear  
**Ben Mikaelson**  
Whale Talk  
**Chris Crutcher**  
What My Mother Doesn't Know  
**Sonya Sones**  
You Don't Know Me: A Novel  
**David Klass**

\* Also appears on the Junior Book Award list

\*\* Also appears on the Children's Book Award list

# BOOK AWARD NEWS

Patty Tucker, Book Awards Chair, [ptucker@sc.rr.com](mailto:ptucker@sc.rr.com)

On the opposite page are listed the SCASL Book Award Nominees for the 2003-2004 school year. They have been carefully chosen by members of each of the three committees. These committed media specialists devote hours and hours to their selections: the members of the Children's Book Committee read up to 150 books, the Junior Book Committee members read 125, and the Young Adult Committee members read 100 titles from which they select the best--those titles you see opposite. Below are the guidelines which explain how you can be part of the voting process to choose the winner in each category. It is your participation that makes the overall program such a success.

South Carolina Book Award Guidelines, revised in 1996

1. Participation in the Book Award programs is open to all students who are attending public and private schools in grades 3-12.
2. It is suggested the media specialist be the sponsor of the award program in a school; however, any teacher or administrator may act as sponsor.
3. In order that the students may participate, the sponsor should:
  - a. Secure the support and authorization of the principal.
  - b. Provide information about participating in the award program to teachers and students.
  - c. Read the books to determine if they are acceptable by the school's book selection policy.**
  - d. Have available at least twelve of the twenty titles. (Votes for the books should be sent to their corresponding book award vice-chairman by the specified date, usually late February.)
  - e. Encourage individual students, teachers, and classes to participate in the award program and promote the award in various ways.
  - f. Provide ballots for voting. Students are eligible to vote for the book award program if they **have read or have heard** three of the books on the list. Ballots will be available on the SCASL website.
4. Since it is the purpose of the Book Award programs to encourage reading, each media specialist may choose the best list or combination of lists to serve his/her school. Schools must purchase at least 50% of the titles on each appropriate list. Students should read a minimum of three books from a list in order to vote for that award.

**Voting Deadline for Book Awards is March 12, 2004.**

## Book Award Banners

The banner is to represent a Children's Book Award Nominee, Junior Book Award Nominee, or a Young Adult Book Award Nominee. It must measure 2'6" by 6', to be hung vertically. It must be made from cloth and have a 2" pocket on the top for the insertion of a dowel rod and three (3) "buttonholes" through this pocket for alternative hanging measures. The banners must have the author and title on the front. To identify the banner, place a 3"x 5" card on the back with the name of the designer (individual or group), the class, school, and name of the sponsoring media specialist(s). The banner will be judged on the authenticity of the art as it relates to the book as well as on the artistic quality of the banner. All artwork must be the original work of the child or children involved and must be the work of the students and not an adult. Certificates of participation will be awarded to every participating school as well as a prize of \$25.00 to the first place winner in each of these categories. Details about submission of banners will be in the next *Messenger* as well as on the SCASL Web page.

**Banner Submission Deadline is March 12, 2004.**

# WINNING WAYS

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

*What's the most obvious difference between the busy, crowded library media center that is an important, integral part of the learning that goes on at a school and the almost empty, underutilized library media center whose impact is minimal?*

There are many possible answers to the question posed in the preceding paragraph, but one of the most succinct and commonly accurate is—no great surprise here!—ATTITUDE, more specifically the attitude of the library media specialist. The certainty denoted by those capital letters comes from experience and observation, my own and that of my colleagues.

As library media specialists we often feel that the web site sobriquet “warrior librarian” is all too true many days, as we fight to maintain our place and our budgets and to achieve recognition for our mission and our programs. If we want to emerge as winners, and more importantly to have our students emerge as winners, adopting a winning attitude is the first step to victory.

All of us have heard that tired, old, dismissive statement “Poor \_\_\_\_\_, she/he just can’t win for losing.” Many of us unconsciously echo that resigned attitude about failure when we begin defensively listing all of the reasons why we *cannot* succeed. “My fixed schedule makes it impossible for me to even speak with teachers, much less plan with them.” “I don’t have a fulltime (or part-time) aide like \_\_\_\_\_ does.” “My principal wouldn’t even consider that” (said prior to any consultation with that principal). These speakers have already acknowledged themselves defeated before they have even made an attempt at success.

Making the decision to be a winner requires a great deal more effort than finding excuses for not even attempting to succeed. A winning attitude requires constant cultivation and, as with nurturing our students and our own children, unrelenting hard work. However, the benefits, measured out in student learning, professional collaboration, and community awareness, are worth the effort.

There are many signposts that point to a winning attitude, but here are some of the most evident and useful for mapping the way to a successful library media program:

- **Courtesy** may seem a bit quaint and outdated, but everyone appreciates a cordial welcome. Fellow faculty members and students alike are more apt to return to the library media center when they feel that we really want them to use the facility, its resources, and our services. Even if we are truly unable to assist with a particular request, the student or teacher making it will appreciate being treated as a welcomed patron instead of an annoying interruption.

- **Listening**, actively listening, to our colleagues and our students gives us the information we need to be winners. As school library media specialists, we are information professionals, but too often we neglect to gather information about the needs and interests of the students and faculty at our schools. Carefully listening to

those we serve is the only way to ensure that the library media center is providing them effective service.

- **Perseverance** can overcome almost any obstacle. All of the defensive rationales quoted earlier are really just indications of some of the challenges that library media specialists have to surmount. Whenever I think of obstacles, I recall the story about the bear hunt. If you can’t go through it, you go over it, around it, etc. Many of the long-standing principles and practices concerning the library media center and its function within the school appear as solid brick walls, incapable of being scaled. Grab a shovel and start tunneling instead. But be prepared; when that rigid wall called “the way it’s always been done” tumbles down, some of your comfort level will be lying in the rubble. And that statement brings us to the most important signpost on the road to success.

- **Innovation** goes beyond flexibility. Flexibility denotes a willingness to change and adapt as required. Innovation signals a proactive approach that changes to meet anticipated needs and that constantly seeks new goals. Innovation demands that the library media specialist learn continuously in order to establish the library media program as an integral part of the learning community.

The first of these signposts, courtesy and listening, point us to better, more productive relationships with the other members of our school community. The latter two, perseverance and innovation, signal our commitment to building a quality library media program. All four indicate a winning attitude, the positive, can-do determination to better provide students and teachers with the quality resources and programs that make all of us winners.

## Tips For Running a User-Friendly School Library Media Center

Answer the questions before they are asked.

Explanation: Try to anticipate the questions of users and promote the answers via newsletters, flyers, email, programs, and other services.

Be approachable.

Explanation: Before users ask for help, offer to assist.

Be Prepared.

Explanation: Plan ahead, set things up, and get things organized before you leave school the previous year or negotiate some summer work hours for either pay or 'Comp. Time' for the upcoming school year.

Make resources accessible.

Explanation: Don't hide the periodicals. Put them where...yes, they can be read and used and checked out.

*More tips next issue!*

*Glenda Green, Keenan High, Richland One,  
greencrew3@juno.com*

# Welcome Aboard the S.S. Reading Adventure: Opening a New Library Media Center

Beth Hale, Media Specialist, James Island Elementary School, [bethhale90@yahoo.com](mailto:bethhale90@yahoo.com)



The S. S. Reading Adventure is the new media center at James Island Elementary in Charleston County. I am the sometimes overwhelmed, most times crazed, and always excited new captain of this ship. Adventure is the key word. This experience has already been an amazing adventure, with some rocky seas, but smooth sailing is ahead.

It all started late in the spring when I accepted the position at the new James Island Elementary School. I was entranced by the blueprints, and even more excited when I visited the construction site. Visions of my favorite media centers danced in my head. I thought about what kind of theme I would do. (Clearly, I decided on ships!) I even emailed Deborah Ford for help and confidence. After the shock and celebration, the work began.

First things first, I contacted John Bach at Follett and started talking about an opening day collection. A three-year plan was decided upon: purchase one half of the books the first year, then the remaining half over the next two years. I then emailed all of the teachers being transferred to the new school introducing myself and asking for suggestions for material selection. I also emailed the media specialists at the other James Island elementary schools to learn about the children's tastes and the teachers' resource needs. Soon, John delivered the thick printed book lists, and set up the lists on a titlewave account. I spent evenings shaping the lists to fit the allocated book budget, while making sure we ordered all the "must haves." This was quite a job! Just after I submitted my final list, the book fund allocation was raised (yippee), so I am currently working on another big order with the help of the teachers and soon the students.

Now that the books were getting squared away, I went to meet with the purchasing supervisor for Charleston County. Because I was joining the process late in the game, all of the major decisions were already made. The colors, carpets, and furnishings were chosen. I was thrilled (and a little relieved) as she showed me what the library and all of the furnishings would look like. This seems like ages ago and now the media center is filled with books, furniture, and even the wonderful ship signal flags are flying – adding such a bright touch.

With the newfound knowledge of my library start up budget, I went to work on the fun stuff. I scoured all the catalogs ordering the tools of our trade: puppets plus tree and stage, easel, flannel board, wall hangings, bookmarks, and much more. I did, however, forget things like bookends! The books are currently sliding on the shelves (until I take up a helpful colleague on her offer of a loan!). The Ellison order was one of the most fun to create. Coming from a school with just bold and italic, I drooled over the lollipop letters and have since used them in all of my signage. The teachers all wholeheartedly agree that we have an incredible collection of die cuts.

During the summer, I met with the principal and talked about what some of our needs were for technology. The school is outfitted with two wonderful computer labs directly off the media center, yet no technology instructor was funded. Thank goodness my forward-thinking principal believes in the value of an open access media program. The rest of the summer involved checking on the orders, finalizing processing specifications, and hunting for nautical treasures to decorate the soon to be christened S.S. Reading Adventure. I visited the school more often than I may have been welcome and drove everyone I knew by to see it.

I did have a few scary moments. Three weeks before school was to start, I called to check on the aforementioned Ellison order. Armed with the P.O. number, I was confident. I was petrified when told me they had no record of any order. Visions of the Ellison-less teachers haunted me. Our order did get processed, and arrived in time for school to start. However, we are still waiting for a number of materials. More fear welled up in me as I watched the scores of new computers being unloaded. The sheer number of potential technology troubles and questions left me panicked.

In the middle of July, the books arrived. I was heartbroken that I missed the truck by minutes. I had dreamed of watching all those boxes unloaded. I was so excited to tear open the boxes and start shelving. This was not meant to be, however, as the next day I returned to find all of my low shelves and half of my wall shelves blocked by large television boxes. I tried to have them moved, but Mt. Zenith remained solidly in place for the next two and a half weeks. Finally, two weeks before school was to begin, the large boxes began to disappear as the televisions were installed in the classrooms.

With the help of some wonderful volunteers, the books made it onto the shelves in just a matter of days. This made it all real. The books really brought the room to life. Teachers and parents started talking about how great the library looked. I swelled with pride, and humbly explained that it was, indeed, simply the books! In the few days before school began the computers were set up, Follett software installed, and my encyclopedias arrived. I sighed in relief, somehow feeling we couldn't open without encyclopedias.

As smooth as this all feels, we are still waiting for our Accelerated Reader software, still waiting for the media center televisions to be mounted, and still waiting for the studio equipment to arrive. Thank goodness for the encyclopedias, huh?

All in all the experience has been one without comparison. I am truly so honored to have been chosen to start this adventure. All the hard work has been worth it and I cannot wait to share the media center with the students, teachers, and staff of James Island Elementary. Next time anyone is in Charleston, come visit us!

# Collaborating to Increase Student Achievement in Social Studies

Brenda Milton, Bishopville Primary, [brm47@yahoo.com](mailto:brm47@yahoo.com)

The time of standardized testing, school report cards, and professional accountability is here. They are not going anywhere; they are here to stay. What can we, with our skills as media specialists, do to increase student achievement in our schools? We must step up to the bat with the classroom teacher to plan, assist, and participate in the learning of each child. Collaboration can lead to a teaching partnership in which the teacher with her knowledge of content and of her students and the media specialist with familiarity with a variety of resources and skilled in information literacy combine their areas of expertise to ensure a rise in student achievement.

Building these partnerships takes time. In my experiences working with teachers, I first had to work at getting teachers to depend on me. For example, by getting a book that is requested, you demonstrate that your services are necessary to them. They begin to “need” you. However, most still do not view you, the media specialist, as a teacher. So you listen. You listen to the “talk on the halls.” You already have them on your side. Now, show them that you are one of them . . . a teacher. All the “talk” is student achievement and standards. Social studies standards are the “hot” topic under discussion now. Teachers are always sharing their concerns about how to include social studies into their instructional day. “Not enough time in a day. . . students find the books boring, etc.” This is when you put your arm around their shoulder and say, “Come with me.” A fourth grade teacher took this walk with me one day. We discussed the time factor, expectations, resources, student test performance, students’ interest, etc. We began making steps toward a collaborative partnership to increase student achievement in social studies. Thus we:

- 1) Discussed expectations.  
We discussed what we knew was expected of us as teachers. Increasing student achievement is the school’s mission. The school report card points out to us how successful we have been as a school. District reports show how successful the teacher has been. Our planning focus began with the clear expectation of fulfilling the school’s mission.
- 2) Studied the social studies and language arts standards.  
We took out the fourth grade standards and brainstormed ways to integrate the social studies content standards into the language arts instructional program. This would help ease the time factor. Use the social studies textbook for guided reading.
- 3) Made a curriculum map.  
For social studies, we took the four areas (history, government, geography, and economics) and established a timeline for addressing the standards, with the largest chunk of time going to history. The timeline begins in August and ends in March.
- 4) Looked at available resources.  
We looked at book series. Series like *Geography Starts* and *Mapping Earthforms* would be great for building vocabulary, making comparisons, and for classification activities. A unit on Natural Disasters could include the reading of *Tornado* by Beverly Cleary and a research project to integrate information literacy skills. To make learning meaningful and interesting, we were very specific about the resources and student activities. We added standards, a resource list, activities, and assessments to the map.
- 5) Decided on responsibilities.  
We made a list of necessary things to do and who would do them: acquire additional materials; commit to planning ahead of time; develop evaluations, etc.

This is partnering in progress. We both have the same goal . . . increase student achievement in social studies. With the emphasis on standards and accountability, the teacher/media specialist partnership can effectively integrate the social studies standards throughout the instructional day. Jean Donham states the benefits of collaboration to students in her article in the March 1999, NASSP Bulletin titled, “Collaboration in the Media Center: Building Partnerships for Learning.” “. . . It is, after all, student learning and student achievement that schools are all about! Assignments created by teachers and library media specialists in concert are more likely to be authentic, complex, and significant . . . As a result, students benefit and achievement rises.”

# SCASL Honor Rolls

Every day, whether we realize it or not, someone brightens our day or makes it easier for us to function well. It may be a spoken word or a friendly gesture or a conscious effort to support us and our programs. Though many thanks go to our students and our teachers, it is the administrators and paraprofessionals who help with the nitty-gritty of our daily efforts. You have the opportunity to honor these special people by nominating them to their appropriate Honor Rolls. They will be recognized in the *Media Center Messenger* and the conference program, they will receive a certificate of merit, and a letter of commendation will be sent to their supervisor, superintendent or school board. This program is ongoing throughout the school year and nominations may be sent in at any time. The December deadline makes sure names are in the conference program.



## Honor Roll of Administrators

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

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

On a separate sheet please include the following:

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

**Send the completed nomination no later than  
December 5, 2003 to  
Tambra Pingle, Public Awareness Chair,  
111 Garden Drive, Columbia, SC 29204**



## Honor Roll of Paraprofessionals

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

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

On a separate sheet, please include the following:

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

**Send the completed nomination no later than  
December 5, 2003 to  
Tambra Pingle, Public Awareness Chair,  
111 Garden Drive, Columbia, SC 29204**

## Attention All Media Specialists!

Are you National Board Certified, or did you have a book challenge at your school during the last school year? Would you like to be a part of a workshop on either of these two topics for the SCASL conference in Greenville next March? If you are interested, please contact Patty Bynum at [pbynum@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:pbynum@greenville.k12.sc.us)

NOTE: Email is provided to employees for the instructional and administrative needs of the district. E-mail correspondence to/from a district e-mail account may be considered public information and subject to release under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act or pursuant to subpoena.

South Carolina Association of School Librarians

# Literacy and Learning@Your Library

March 24-26, 2004

Palmetto Expo Center, Greenville, South Carolina

## Application To Present

(Deadline for submission: Received by October 17, 2003)

Please type or print all information.

### Main Presenter

Vendor: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Work address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Co -Presenter

Vendor: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Work address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Session Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Session Description:** Your description will appear in the program and should be written to “market” your session. (No more than 50 words. Use back of page if necessary.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a brief statement for the presider to use to introduce you before the session begins:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment Needs:** Computer hardware, peripherals, and Internet connectivity will NOT be provided.

\_\_\_\_\_

Choose program format you prefer: 1 hour \_\_\_\_\_ 2.5 hour workshop \_\_\_\_\_ 5 hour workshop \_\_\_\_\_

For technology sessions, what level of expertise is required? Novice \_\_\_\_\_ Experienced \_\_\_\_\_

Has this program been presented before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to make your presentation twice? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a day when you are NOT available to present? Wed. \_\_\_\_\_ Thurs. \_\_\_\_\_ Fri. \_\_\_\_\_

Is the appeal for: Elementary \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ High \_\_\_\_\_ ? (Check all that apply.)

**Return to: Robbie Van Pelt / 10 Gilder Point Court / Simpsonville SC 29281**

**Phone 864-968-2036/ Fax: 864-968-2039 Email: SCASL04@aol.com**

**All applications must be received by October 17, 2003. Electronic submissions are permissible.  
All presenters must be listed on the application. Vendor presenters must be conference exhibitors.  
Notification of acceptance will be mailed to the main presenter.**

SCASL Conference 2004:

# Literacy and Learning@Your Library®

Literacy and Learning@Your Library® is what we are all about. That is the theme of our 2004 Conference which will be held March 24-26 in Greenville at the Palmetto Expo Center. Mike Eisenberg, co-creator of the Big6 Research model, will present a full day pre-conference session, concurrent session and keynote address. We will have lots of exciting, fun, and informative sessions. Please mark your calendar, request professional leave and make plans to attend. On the opposite page of this issue of the Messenger, you'll find an application to present. Please consider sharing your great program ideas with your colleagues. If you don't want to plan a formal session, consider our Exploratorium opportunity—you can share informally using a portable display board and handouts while meeting and networking with media specialists from across the state. (See below.) If you have program ideas, suggestions or requests, please contact:

*Robbie Van Pelt 10 Gilder Point Court Simpsonville, SC or email SCASL04@aol.com*

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## Proposal to Present One Hour Exploratorium Session

SCASL Conference March 24-26, 2004, Palmetto Expo Center, Greenville, South Carolina  
Literacy and Learning@Your Library®

Exploratorium Session will be a one-hour table top exhibit session. Selected presenters will have the opportunity to share great program ideas via portable display and handouts (optional). Session will be held in conjunction with vendor reception on Thursday evening, March 25.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Presenter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Presenter (if any)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: Robbie Van Pelt/ 10 Gilder Point Court/ Simpsonville, South Carolina 29681**

**Phone: (864) 968-2036 Fax: (864) 968-2039 Email: SCASL04@aol.com**

**All proposals must be received by October 17, 2003.**

**Notification of acceptance will be mailed to main presenter.**

## Why should you become a member of SCASL?

SCASL is your professional organization whose members, in addition to working library media specialists, include full-time students of library and information science, retired library media specialists, administrators at all levels--state, district or school--legislators, paraprofessionals, teachers, exhibitors and associations or businesses. The bulk of the membership is, of course, working library media specialists. We encourage you to join SCASL, either for the first time or to re-up your membership. You may say, "Why should I join SCASL? What does it do for me?" You need only look at the committees listed on pages 5-6 in this issue to see the various groups who work throughout the year to support you according to their purpose. The Regional Network establishes school level communication among all library media specialists throughout the state--members or not! The advocacy committee proactively advertises and explains the purpose of the school library profession; the awards committee recognizes excellence in many areas; the intellectual freedom committee assists in the case of challenges; and the book awards committee selects the finest books at all levels for the school children of South Carolina. These are only a few of the committees working for you. The mission statement of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians appears on page one of this issue. It is reason enough to join the association and work toward its purpose. Join now! Send in the completed application form below. Do it now. Memberships are welcome throughout the year, but only those applications sent in by November 1, 2003, will be included in the organization's directory.

## Why shouldn't you become a member of SCASL?

<p><i>South Carolina Association of School Librarians</i>  <b>2003-2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>            MEMBERSHIP IS BASED ON A FISCAL YEAR THAT RUNS FROM JULY 1 - JUNE 30</p>		Name _____
PLEASE CHECK AS APPROPRIATE:		Position/Title _____
<b>Individual Membership</b>		School District _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Library Media Specialist or TERI	\$30	County _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Time Student	\$10	HOME ADDRESS
<input type="checkbox"/> Are you a retired Library Media Specialist? Please check.		Street _____
<b>Associate Membership</b>		City/State /Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> State, District or School Adm.	\$ 5	Phone _____ Fax _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislator	\$ 5	E-Mail _____ Check No. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Paraprofessional	\$ 5	Institution _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	\$ 5	BUSINESS ADDRESS
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor	\$15	Street _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Association or business	\$50	City/State/Zip _____
Please make check payable to SCASL, and return to:		Phone _____ Fax _____
<b>SCASL • PO BOX 2442 • COLUMBIA • SC • 29202</b>		E-Mail _____
Dues paid to SCASL are deductible for income tax purposes.		

## Why should you join the SCASL Listserv?

SCASL Listserv provides you with constant communication with other members which allows you to share ideas, ask questions, help others solve problems, and find information as you need it. But it can even be more significant as seen by this letter sent to Frankie O'Neal, director of the Regional Network, by Kathleen DuRant. And Kathleen is not the only LMS who has profited from her membership in the Listserv. Read on.

Fran:

Thanks for your help, through Lynda, with my recent job search. I found out Wednesday, April 29th, that my district was re-assigning me to teach social studies next year because my position as the second media specialist at Manning High School was being eliminated. I had an idea that they were only going to have one media specialist at the high school but I thought they were going to send me to another media center in the district.

I sent a message to the listserv Thursday, May 1st. I got a call at work the next morning from the principal at Greeleyville Elementary. The media specialist there, LeAnn Gause, was leaving to move to the upstate. She saw my message and asked some of the teachers there from Manning if they knew me, which they did. I finalized my application on the SCCTR web site and scheduled an interview for Tuesday, May 6th. The principal called me on Monday, May 12, to tell me the job was mine. It only took 12 days to find a job. The best part is that if I did not think that was the right job for me there were other schools on my list to interview. I was still scheduling interviews the morning I found out about the position in Greeleyville. I can credit the listserv with a major portion of my success in finding a job so quickly. The job at Greeleyville was not posted on the SCCTR vacancy list until after I had interviewed and the person who answered the phone at the district office when I called told me there was a hiring freeze in the district. The online application process at the SCCTR web site and the vacancy list are also a great benefit for South Carolina teachers. I think it would make a nice little inservice for teachers because all of them probably do not know about that service. I was familiar with the web site because of my National Board stuff. This is definitely a strong endorsement for the SCASL list. I found a job much more quickly that I would have. I also gained support and encouragement in a stressful time. I was planning to concentrate on studying for the NB test the entire month of May. I am glad the job search went so quickly so I can get back to studying.

Kathleen DuRant, jkdurant@ftc-i.net, Manning SC

*Ed. note: And Kathleen reports her new job is great!*

## Why shouldn't you join the SCASL Listserv?

*This wonderful recounting of the everyday adventures of a library media specialist was posted to the SCASL listserv late last spring. It is reprinted here so that those of you who have not signed up for listserv can enjoy the humor in some of Jennifer's . . .*

## Trials and Tribulations . . .

Jennifer Reilly, Beaufort Academy,  
greilly@beaufortacademy.org

Whew...what a month! When I was at the SCASL conference I got word that the Internet was down at our school and no one seemed to know what the problem was. Upon my return I was notified that our ISP skipped town in the middle of the night and we had to find someone else immediately. We decided it would be quicker and cheaper to stay with our wireless technology and the new company agreed. This was not the case....after four weeks, much rain, incompatible equipment, and a tree, we had to go with a third company! They showed up on the day of my author visit and proceeded to hammer on the roof during the morning performances. I had words with the technology director (lucky man - he's my husband) and they agreed to hammer only BETWEEN performances but needed to communicate by cell phone to the headquarters adjusting the radio frequencies! My visiting author, April Pulley Sayre was a trooper and very gracious but I was terribly embarrassed. (I know she understood, however, because she had been frustrated trying to reach me by email for the past month!) The author visit was a success, the Internet was up that afternoon, and I made amends to my husband.

What did I learn? That I rely very heavily on the Internet and missed it very much! I research, instruct, place orders, communicate, and plan using the Internet. The silver lining in all of this was DISCUS. I want to thank Mary Bull and every saint that has anything at all to do with DISCUS. I had printed brochures about DISCUS at the start of the year and again after the holidays and as soon as it looked like the Internet was going to be down for any length of time I gave a whole school review about using it and how they can access it from home. Our upper school students could complete projects with much-needed full text articles and our lower and middle schools made extensive use of GoGrolier and Sirs Discoverer. I didn't feel the least bit inadequate because I had discontinued my Reader's Guide to Periodicals. (Don't have space for many back issues anyway.) And many of our parents were taught by our students how to use it since they were accessing it from home. We got to have Internet Access for almost three days. Just long enough to type in all the new IP addresses. Our new radio then got fried by lightning during that bad storm on the weekend. Who knows when they'll get the new radio in. But I'm mellow...I can handle anything. *Now when was that next conference?*

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### Last call for this year! Authors on the Beach

Carolina Forest Elementary School, Myrtle Beach. Friday and Saturday, SEPTEMBER 26th and 27th, 2003  
For more information, email KidConnect2002@aol.com or contact Annie Smith at 843-450-5653.

Deadline for registration is September 20, 2003.

SCASL  
P.O. Box 2442  
Columbia, SC 29202



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Permit No. 158  
Columbia, SC

**Change Service Re-  
quested**

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## Nominations Are Now In Order!

Even though school has just started, it's time to think ahead to next year and your organization's leadership. The Nominating Committee wants your help in building a slate of strong candidates who will be proactive and serve us well.

Nominations are needed for **vice-president/president-elect**, **secretary**, and **treasurer**. Elections will be held during the March 2004 conference business meeting in Greenville. Both positions require membership in SCASL, attendance at all Executive Board meetings, and Executive Committee meetings, if necessary.

The **treasurer** serves for two consecutive years. He/she is responsible for handling all monies, keeping accurate records, preparing a written report for each meeting of the Association and preparing an annual report for auditors.

The **secretary** serves a one-year term from June 1 through May 31. He/she is responsible for recording minutes of meetings as well as distributing them to Executive Board members. No prior Executive Board experience is necessary.

The **vice-president/president-elect**'s commitment is for three years. This person must have served previously on the Executive Board. He/she plans the SCASL annual conference in 2005, assumes the presidency the second year, and serves as Immediate Past President on the Executive Board and as chairperson of the Nominating Committee the third year. The vice-president represents SCASL during the American Association of School Librarians' Affiliate Assembly held during ALA's summer and mid-winter conferences and must have a current personal ALA/AASL membership during this period.

### SCASL NOMINATION FORM

I request that the Elections Committee certify the eligibility of the following member to run for the SCASL office of

\_\_\_\_\_ vice-president/president-elect    \_\_\_\_\_ secretary    \_\_\_\_\_ treasurer

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form before **October 30, 2003**  
Janet Boltjes, Gilbert High School, 765 Main St., Gilbert, SC 29054  
Phone: 803-892-1116 Email: [jboltjes@lexington1.net](mailto:jboltjes@lexington1.net)