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News from the South Carolina Library Association v.2 n.1 01/2004

Abstract

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Keywords

South Carolina Library Association

News from the South Carolina Library Association

ARTICLES INCLUDE

- 2003 Summary
- Diversity Conference
- SLIS Grants

AND MORE

NOTES FROM THE SCLA PRESIDENT By Marilyn Tsirigotis



A new year has begun and SCLA is underway. Committees are being appointed, many Section and Round Table officers have been elected, meeting dates have been selected, and new initiatives are beginning. Sense the excitement?

This year we will focus on three main areas: advocacy, recruitment/leadership development, and mid-year programming from SCLA. Our partners in the first two endeavors are the Partnership among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL), Association of Public Library Administrators (APLA), South Carolina Association of School Libraries (SCASL), and the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at the University of South Carolina. An advocacy summit meeting was held in December to discuss how to bring a united front to our state and federal legislators. SLIS has secured two grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that will fund the Palmetto and Pine Initiative to recruit persons into our profession and recruit practicing librarians to graduate school. Complementary to this is SCLA's Library and Personnel Standards Committee's recommendation for a standard minimum salary. We will be looking at ways to implement this proposal. The Palmetto and Pine Initiative will also feature a leadership training camp in which participants will develop skills to use as department or library heads as well as

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generally in the profession. SCLA is also about education and I believe programming is a must for the members. I am strongly encouraging the Sections and Round Tables to plan for a workshop during the year as well as a program for the Annual Conference. It is the responsibility of these groups to give something to its membership and this is an excellent way of doing just that.

SCLA has several major events during the year. The first weekend in May is National Legislative Day in which a group from SCLA goes to Washington, DC and talks with our Senators and Representatives about what is happening in our libraries and how national legislation effects us. Bill Sudduth, our Legislative Committee Chair, leads this effort and

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Summing Up – A Report on 2003

By Tom Gilson, SCLA Past President

As we look back on the past year, the South Carolina Association has accomplished a number of things in which we can all take pride.

Earlier in the year, SCLA signed on as a co-partner with the University of South Carolina's School of Library and Information Science in submitting the *Palmetto and Pine Recruiting and Educating Initiative* grant proposal. We learned in October that the proposal has been funded (see page 5). This exciting initiative will promote the recruitment of public librarians to serve in rural communities. It is a major opportunity for involvement in a significant recruitment initiative, and a natural role for SCLA to assume.

The SCLA Board also joined library associations throughout the country and passed a resolution expressing concern about the impact of the US Patriot Act on library users. And under the leadership of David Heisser, and the Legislative committee, 13 librarians from throughout South Carolina successfully lobbied for library issues at the National Library Legislative Day in Washington in May.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. Curtis Rogers and the Editorial Committee, SCLA now has an excel-

lent online newsletter published quarterly. And to make the newsletter even more tangible and useful to our members, the July Annual SCLA conference issue was published simultaneously in print, and mailed to the membership. In addition, throughout the year, the Web site was constantly updated and enhanced with valuable information relevant to all of us.

Support for our Scholarship for Diversity in Librarianship continued to grow, and we were able to award the scholarship for the second consecutive year. The Library and Personal Standards Committee completed work on a recommendation for a standard

starting salary for professional librarians in South Carolina that should be formally submitted to the Board in the coming year. With the guidance of chairman, Jim Cross, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee moved the *SCLA Handbook* into its 5th edition. The committee recommended a number of useful changes including making the Scholarship

for Diversity in Librarianship Committee a standing committee and sanctioning e-mail voting by the Board in certain instances. In a move that will streamline association decision-making, they also recommended that



*Beth Horner,
Master Storyteller*

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OCLC SPONSORS DIVERSITY IN LIBRARIES CONFERENCE First Corporate Sponsor for 2004 Event

Organizers of the 2004 National Diversity in Libraries Conference are pleased to announce OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. has signed on as a Key Sponsor of the event that will take place in Atlanta, GA on May 4 – 5, 2004.

“We're very pleased OCLC is supporting the Diversity Conference in such an important and visible way,” commented Loretta O'Brien-Parham, a member of the Conference Steering Committee. “It is consistent with their larger outlook, and it certainly acknowledges OCLC as a key stakeholder in the diversity of library personnel and activities.” The Conference will be co-hosted by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET), the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Libraries Alliance, and the Association of Research Libraries.

Promoting the theme “Diversity in Libraries: Making It Real,” the 2004 Conference will feature speakers and discussions designed to foster improved diversity within a broad range of libraries, including large research libraries, small and mid-sized college libraries, and public libraries. The agenda will examine three main issues: how to promote diversity within library staffing, how to develop collections that reflect the experiences of a diverse community, and strategies for working with diverse user populations.

Additional information about the Conference can be found at www.librarydiversity.org ■

~ Former President Jimmy Carter Draws Nearly 1,100 to RCPL ~

Nearly 1,100 people came to the Richland County Public Library to see former President Jimmy Carter for a special book signing held November 24, 2003. In two hours, President Carter signed more than 1,800 books. This event—Carter's only appearance in South Carolina—was sponsored by the Friends of RCPL. Carter was on tour to promote his newest book, *The Hornet's Nest*. Drawing on real events of the Revolutionary War, this fictional novel covers the war as it was waged in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. *The Hornet's Nest* follows Ethan Pratt, the main character, as he moves from Philadelphia to North Carolina and Georgia in the late 1700s. Jimmy Carter, best-selling author of *An Hour Before Daylight: Memoirs of My Rural Boyhood* and many other books, was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. In addition to his attention to economic and social problems in developing countries and promoting human rights and democracy, Carter has also worked for countless charitable causes, including building low-income housing for the poor as part of the nonprofit organization Habitat for Humanity. The Friends of the Richland County Public Library is a nonprofit organization charged with raising awareness of and support for the RCPL. For more information, contact the Richland County Public Library, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 799-9084 ■

SLIS Alumna Publishes Book: *Straight from the Stacks: A Firsthand Guide to Careers in Library and Information Science*

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Straight from the Stacks: A Firsthand Guide to Careers in Library and Information Science is Laura Townsend Kane's new book released at the end of September. Kane is a 1991 graduate of USC SLIS and currently works at the School of Medicine Library as Head of Cataloging and Acquisitions. After 11 years in this position just where did Kane get the idea to write a book? She actually had the idea for such a book while she was a student trying to make her own career decision and not finding any real help in print.

Kane's first concept for the book was to write about jobs in the health sciences field but when she sent the proposal to the American Library Association they encouraged her to include

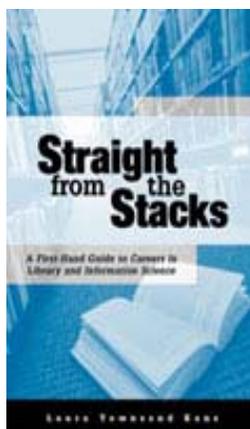
all types of librarianship. It took a year to write the book but Kane admits it wasn't as bad as she thought it might be. She emailed 33 librarians in different fields to be interviewed. "Nobody turned it down," Kane said. "I thought it was going to be a terrible process but it turned out to be easy and fun." She sent each librarian a list of



*Laura Townsend Kane,
SLIS Alumna*

questions according to the type of library in which they worked. These are included in the book under "Spotlights." Each chapter also features a sample list of possible job descriptions you may encounter at different types of libraries.

Straight from the Stacks is an up-to-date resource that uncovers the assorted jobs available in the library field. It looks at both traditional and nontraditional career paths in an extensive range of Library and Information Science professions. It is organized by type of library and includes public, school, academic, nontra-



ditional, medical/law, and library administration. These personal accounts from real-life librarians make this career guide unique while being informative.

Kane says the whole process has renewed her faith in this profession. "Librarians are generous, very kind and a great group of people."

Straight from the Stacks sells for \$34 and is available at Amazon.com or at ALA.org (10% discount for ALA members). ■

USC's School of Library and Information Science Receives Two Major Federal Grants



The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal funding agency, announced on Oct. 28, 2003 that the School of Library and Information Science has received two major grants for the recruitment and education of future librarians. These grants were made as part of the IMLS national program to "Recruit and Educate a New Generation of Librarians."

Dr. Daniel Barron, Prof. and Director of the School, received \$485,590 to design and test best recruiting practices and networking activities to support rural public library leadership, using a collaborative model, in the states of South Carolina and Maine. The program will result in supporting nine bachelor's and sixteen master's level degree students who agree to work in their local community libraries for at least three years beyond graduation. The project will also provide a case-study for the design of a sustainable network of library staff and leaders for community development.

Dr. Donna Shannon, Assoc. Prof. in the School, received \$196,590 to develop and analyze the demographic and "psychographic" profiles of students to determine the major factors leading to the choice of school librarianship as a career path. Her study will provide information on recruitment efforts, public relations, and advertising strategies for the recruitment of school library media specialists. A model for outcomes-based assessment of students and programs leading to certification of school librarians within the context of distance education will also be developed.



For more details and a list of all IMLS grants made nation-wide under this program consult their Web page: <http://www.ims.gov/whatsnew/current/102803.htm> ■

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*Sandra Johnson,
Reporter and Author*

only changes to the Constitution and Bylaws be submitted to the full membership for approval, as opposed to *all* changes to the *Handbook*. These recommendations were approved at the Annual Conference general business meeting. In addition, from an association-wide standpoint, we continued our productive relationship with Capitol Consultants, who provide us with management support, and expertise.

By year's end, our membership was close to 500 strong with interest and involvement continuing to grow. And maybe best of all, the annual conference made a tidy profit. In short, the SCLA remains financially sound, and has the funding to continue supporting its programs and fulfilling its mission.

Speaking of the conference, close to 300 librarians from throughout the state attended a number of programs on a diverse range of topics. Internet plagiarism, the ABC's of library buildings, outsourcing technical services, the US Patriot Act, 24/7 virtual reference, selecting graphic novels and the latest on copyright were all featured in the program. In addition, three dynamic keynote speakers including master storyteller Beth Horner, reporter and author Sandra Johnson, and Dean Charles Bierbauer of our own College of Mass Communication and Information Studies, informed and entertained us. There were also pre-conferences on the why's and how's of storytelling and on disaster preparedness. Add to all this, Friday morning's ever-popular poster sessions, and there was more than enough to keep even the most jaded conference-goers satisfied.

As SCLA President, it was rewarding to play a small part in these accomplishments, but it takes a committed team effort, to make our association work. I owe a debt of gratitude to more people than I can mention. The guidance and support that I received throughout this year has been humbling. Whenever I have asked for assistance, it has been there. The members of the SCLA Board, the officers of our sections and round tables, and the members of our committees are an incredible group of people. They are dedicated and concerned about libraries and library service. It has been a distinct honor to work with them, and with all of you. Thank you for allowing me that opportunity. ■



*Dean Charles Bierbauer,
College of Mass Communi-
cations and Information
Studies*

**STEPHANIE ALI TO ADMINISTER HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE
LEADERSHIP GRANT FROM THE
ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION**

Stephanie Ali has joined the SOLINET staff as HBCU Library Alliance Program Administrator. In this role Ms. Ali will administer the HBCU Leadership Grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant supports a one-year planning effort to develop a leadership program for the library deans and directors of the 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The goals of the project are to strengthen the role of the library in teaching and learning on campus and to develop the leadership skills and activities of HBCU librarians. The initial undertaking of the planning project is a series of focus groups of these librarians; a session with HBCU Presidents is planned for this winter.

Ms. Ali joins SOLINET with experience in non-profit and HBCU organizations. She is a junior at Georgia State University, where she majors in business administration. With respect to her position with the HBCU Library Alliance, she says she is excited "to be on the ground floor of a project with the potential to impact so many people so positively."

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium, founded in 2002, that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. The purpose of the HBCU Alliance is to ensure excellence in HBCU Libraries and the development, coordination and promotion of programs and activities to enhance member libraries.

Founded in 1973, SOLINET is a non-profit membership organization serving more than 2300 libraries of all types and sizes in ten Southeastern states and the Caribbean. Primary programs are Member Services, OCLC Services, Preservation & Access, Electronic Databases, Library Products, Workshops, and Consulting. For more information, please contact Sandra Phoenix, <sphoenix@solinet.net>. ■



*Check out the SCLA Annual Conference Photo
Gallery at <http://www.scla.org/gallery/>*



*The South Carolina
Library Association*

Executive Secretary
Gigi Kunz
South Carolina
Library Association
PO Box 1763
Columbia, SC 29202
803-252-1087
scla@capconsc.com

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FORM AND MUCH MORE!

*Editor: Dr. Curtis R. Rogers, South
Carolina State Library.*

*To contribute articles to future
publications, please email them
to curtis@leo.scl.state.sc.us.*

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Committee.*

SCLA Executive Officers for 2004:

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- Elizabeth Shuping, Vice-
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- Joyce Durant, Second Vice
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bership Committee
- Kathy Mitchell, Secretary
- Camille McCutcheon, Treas-
urer
- Gigi Kunz, Executive Secre-
tary
- Norman Belk, ALA Councilor
- Bill McRee, Southeastern Li-
brary Association Represent-
ative

Visit <http://scla.org/docs/execs.html> for contact information.

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anyone is invited to attend. The other event is the Annual Conference, which will be held late October in Greenville. Elizabeth Shuping is already making plans for this event.

All of these plans are well and good but it requires one thing: participation from SCLA members. There is a committee, Section or Round Table for each of your tastes. After all, the association is for you to network, learn new skills, and become a leader. It gives the possibility to make a difference! The membership drive is now underway and I encourage each of you to renew your membership and to encourage co-workers to get also get involved.

Tom Gilson ably led the Association last year as he increased communication with members, began the push for mid-year programming, and led us in advocating for our needs. Thank you, Tom, for a job well done. I look forward to working with each and every one of you this year, as SCLA stands ready to face the issues and challenges before us. ■