“Taking time to read to our kids is one of the best things we can do to help stimulate their interest and creativity,” said Governor Kathleen Sebelius, “I’m honored to once again serve as chair of this endeavor encouraging more adults to read to children.”

Independence, KS, 3/31/06- Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Honorary Chair, and Christie Pearson Brandau, State Librarian of Kansas, announce the book chosen for the 2006 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers project: Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells.

In Bunny Cakes, Wells, a highly acclaimed author/illustrator of over 60 books in the past thirty years, tells the adventure of Max and his bossy sister, Ruby, as they each make a cake for their grandma’s birthday. Max makes an earthworm cake for Grandma’s birthday and wants to help his sister Ruby make her angel surprise cake for Grandma. Max's "help" results in many spilled ingredients and Ruby sends Max to the store for replacements.

At the store, the grocer can’t read all the items on the shopping list until Max solves the problem by drawing pictures. 2006 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers is an intergenerational project of the State Library of Kansas and was launched last year to highlight the importance of reading to children. The goal of the project is that every Kansas child, from birth to age five, is read to during National Children’s Book Week, November 13-20, 2006.

The book for the project is carefully chosen by the following children’s librarians from across the state: Holly Mathes, Selection Committee Chair, Grant County Public Library, Ulysses; Tabitha Hogan, Winfield Public Library; Amy Bayes, Newton Public Library; Madella Williams and Judy Cole, Finney County Library, Garden City; Betty Jean Neal, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library; and Christine Haines, Johnson County Library. Hundreds of books are read and vetted to ensure that the chosen book meets the criteria for the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers project.

During the project in 2005, over 20,000 children were read to by parents, grandparents, children’s librarians, Mayors, elected State Representatives, middle and high school students, Friends of Libraries and library trustees, as well as early childhood leaders and workers and many, many others!

A child develops language skills long before being able to speak and develops literacy skills long before being able to read. Early childhood experts tell us that children develop much of their capacity to learn in the first three years. Reading to babies, toddlers and preschoolers can have an incredible impact on their short and long-term reading capacity. It is no exaggeration to say that how well children learn to read affects directly not only how successful they are in school, but how well they do throughout their lives.
Greetings!

As my year as KASL President is coming to an end, I would like to thank the many Council members, committee members, and KASL members for their help in making this a memorable year. It is not often that a person has the opportunity to lead a group so devoted and loyal to making an organization not only function, but succeed. Many prefer to work behind the scenes and do so faithfully and without pause. Please know that all of your work is appreciated and valued!

It was a joy to see so many of you at Tri-Conference, and I hope that you were able to participate and come away with many new ideas. Congratulations to Martha House and Sheri Roberts as well as the Tri-Conference Planning Committee for a successful conference.

I also want to thank those of you who donated to the ALA Hurricane Relief Fund. We will be sending $250.00 to help with those efforts. Also, Martha and I are excited about participating in the Libraries Build Communities project while attending Affiliate Assembly during the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. I invite any of you who will be attending ALA to join us in working to help rebuild collections and advance literacy outreach. As of late April, over 600 ALA members have signed up to participate.

Looking forward to summer, please remember to register by May 31 for the Kansas Summer Institute to be held at Emporia State University June 14 – 15. It would also be a great opportunity to bring along a classroom teacher to this event.

Most importantly, as you enjoy your summer, please make a commitment to keep KASL as a part of your professional life. Whether you make plans to attend a fall district workshop, register for the Professional Partners mentorship program, or say “yes” when asked to serve on a committee or Council, please find something that fits you and your style. There are so many possibilities from which to choose. And, I can vouch that for every hour you spend working with KASL, you will reap many more hours of enjoyment, friendships, and satisfaction.

Once again, I thank you for the privilege of serving as President, and I look forward to serving you as Past President in 2006 – 2007.

Sincerely,

Linda Roberts
Greetings from your President–Elect . . .

Dear KASL Colleagues:

I have been slowly, and I do mean slowly, working my way through the Printz Honor books. BLACK JUICE is beautifully written, almost poetic, and though I liked it, I thought it was rather inaccessible for the skills of the typical teenaged reader. However, I funneled it toward one of the Sophomore girls this week, and she seems to be loving it, so maybe I’m more out of touch than I thought I was. I just finished I AM THE MESSENGER and LOVED it. What a page-turner of a book! My enthusiasm must be a turn off, though, because I have yet to convince anybody else to read it. Maybe I should use the technique I used with BLACK JUICE and tell them that I’m not sure whether or not they will like it. I’m saving LOOKING FOR ALASKA for last, and sadly enough, I probably won’t tackle the non-fiction.

Which is a shame because Richard Soash really has convinced me that we need more of an emphasis on reading non-fiction in our reading and literature classes. His session at Tri-Conference, Kansas Reading Assessment and Resources to Improve Reading Skills and Scores, was terrific.

I couldn’t attend as many Tri-Conference sessions as I wanted to, but the ones I went to were excellent. I’m already using the information from Barb Johnstone and Linda Brungardt’s Avoiding Plagiarism and Using easybib.com.

And wasn’t Elaine Christelow delightful at the KASL luncheon? I’m looking forward to buying LETTERS FROM A DESPERATE DOG. Even though I work with high school students, I cheat sometimes and read a children’s book. I love them for displays in the high school library. Lauren Child’s books, for example, include so many wonderful drawings of books and libraries that they are perfect to scan, print on photo paper and use for displays for ANY kind of book at any level.

The AASL Instructional Classification Task Force has completed the position statement addressing the issue of the instructional classification of school library media specialists and its ramifications for school library media specialists and programs. The statement went before the AASL Board and was approved March 31. It should be posted soon on the AASL site. The Task Force is currently working on a toolkit that state affiliates may use. I have learned so much as a member of this task force and will attempt to keep you informed about what is happening.

Just as a general point of reference, it probably doesn’t hurt to know where AASL’s position papers are posted on the ALA site: http://www.ala.org/aaslTemplate.cfm?Section=positionstatements&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=10&ContentID=15852 The position papers, along with the toolkits, can be very handy tools.

I know this is a frenzied time of year for everybody. However, I hope you take some time just to enjoy the beautiful spring weather. It will be 100 degrees outside soon enough!

Martha House
President Elect
The 2006 Summer Institute offers school, academic, and public librarians and classroom teachers more opportunities to experience education at its best – this year with talented authors, storytellers, songwriters, booktalkers, book discussion group leaders, and others who use and share valuable instructional practices, guides, and resources.

**Mike Printz Writers Workshop**

**“How to” Sessions**
Guest authors, artists, and Kansas librarians will present best practices in storytelling, booktalking, discussion group leadership, using the Kansas Virtual Library, and many other practices for engaging readers and writers. Sessions will include large group presentations, and small group breakout sessions from which to select your favor topics. Evester Roper, international professional storyteller, library consultant and touring artist, and, Lem Sheppard, popular Kansas storyteller and musician, will be featured in interactive-instructional sessions.

**Book Autographing**
Books written by Christopher Paul Curtis will be available on-site to purchase from the Emporia State University Memorial Union Bookstore. Or you may bring your own books for autograph.

**Register today!**
Team participation is encouraged. Registration cost: $100 for first participant from each school district or library; $75 for each additional attendee from the same school or library. There is limited space available. Registration will be processed on a firstcome, first-served basis. Maximum seating 120 persons

**Enroll for Graduate Credit (Approved for KSDE Continuing Education Credit)**
Participants may enroll for two graduate credit hours in LI755 Summer Institute: Best Practices for Teaching Children and Youth to Read and Write. In addition to attending the two day conference, enrolled students will complete an individualized-to-your audience assignment based on the content and activities presented during the Institute. Enrolled students must enroll and pay tuition, and register for the conference and pay registration fee. For more information about the course and/or enrolling for credit, please contact Dr. Mirah Dow at dowmirah@emporia.edu

More information and registration at [http://slim.emporia.edu/programs/summerinst.htm](http://slim.emporia.edu/programs/summerinst.htm)
2006 William Allen White Award Winners

3rd-5th Donuthead by Sue Stauffacher
6th-8th The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

Sue Stauffacher a professional journalist from Grand Rapids, Michigan has been writing children’s book reviews for ten years. Jeanne DuPrau lives in Menlo Park, California where she keeps a big garden and a small dog. DuPrau has been a teacher, an editor, and a technical writer, The City of Ember is her first novel for young adults. For more information about these authors visit their websites: Sue Stauffacher (http://www.suestauffacher.com/) and Jeanne DuPrau (http://www.jeanneduprau.com/index.shtml).

William Allen White Celebration
54th Annual Celebration - October 7, 2006

• Bring the entire school to share in this fun time. Tickets are available for purchase. The price is still $5.00 per person.

• Spend a night at the Emporia Recreation Center and enjoy a visit with an author by registering for the Read-Ins/Sleepover! (FREE)

• We will once again offer a Cafeteria style lunch in Memorial Union on the ESU campus. The cost is $4.75 per person.

Registration Forms are now available at http://waw.emporia.edu

Wanted!
Library Media Specialists who would benefit from having a mentor

Reward:
Greater knowledge and peace of mind knowing you are getting expert help from experienced media specialists

Contact:
Go to www.kasl.ws and click on the mentorship link at the top of the page
THE AASL FALL FORUM GRANT  
presented by  
Kansas Association of School Librarians  

The $1,000 grant is made possible by the Kansas Association of School Librarians. It will enable a school library media specialist to attend the biennial American Association of School Librarians Fall Forum with the Past President and will provide the following expenses up to $1,000:

- $40 per diem (actual expenses for meals and incidentals such as cab) for the number of days covered by the Fall Forum
- accommodations for the number of nights covered
- mileage and airfare, including transportation to and from the hotel
- meeting registration.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION ARE:
- Current AASL & KASL membership
- At least two years experience as a school media specialist.
- Must be currently employed as a school library media specialist.
- Ability to be gone from your present position for 3 days.
- Commitment to present on Fall Forum topic with the Past President at the next Tri-Conference following the forum.

Procedure:
1. A satisfactorily completed application.
2. A supporting statement from one of the library media specialist’s supervisors.
3. Receipt of five (5) copies of the application and supporting statement.
4. Deadline for submitting application will be July 15.
5. Award will be based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and Council approval at the August Council meeting.
6. The Past President will notify the recipient by August 15.
7. The recipient will submit receipts from the Fall Forum to the Treasurer for reimbursement up to $1,000 after attending the Fall Forum.

Recipient will accompany and room with the Past President to the AASL Fall Forum. 
Recipient will present with the Past President on the topic of the AASL Fall Forum at the following Tri-Conference.

For complete information and the application form go to:

http://www.cgrove417.org/cghs/KASL/kaslscol/AASL.doc

2006 AASL Fall Forum  
Assessing Student Learning  
in the School Library Media Center  
October 13-15, 2006  ◆ Warwick, Rhode Island

We all know how important the teaching of reading has become in the high stakes of No Child Left Behind. In some schools, all staff are committed to a daily time period where everyone teaches reading. In other schools, staff are becoming more aware of what it takes to teach reading and how to help the process within their discipline. Here is a title that can be used by the LMS and the classroom teacher and so is a good candidate for the professional library.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. Students must become aware of the sounds and how they relate to letters before advancing to recognizing words.

This title has literature and activities for the initial consonants, hard and soft consonants, 30 lessons in all. Each lesson includes

- a read-aloud book description,
- literacy experience activity,
- direct instruction,
- follow-up activities,
- a recommended poem,
- and related title for further use.

While all of the activities would not be suitable for the library because of time required and materials needed, this book does provide a generous bibliography of titles, both old and new, to support the letter sounds. The LMS could support the class reading program by sharing the titles during story time, allow students to share experience stories, offer space for the bulletin boards and display the results of the various art projects. This title would be an excellent addition because it is full of ideas that can be used individually or as a whole program of support to any reading program. This title is especially suited for early childhood and kindergarten teachers, as well as for use with students needing additional support in the reading process.

*Betsy Losey*
blosey@ruraltel.net
**Member News**

*Ken Stewart, Barbi Simons, Marsha Fassold and Linda Corey* presented at the MO Assoc. of School Librarians at Tan-Tara on PLCs and the library. *Linda Corey* also participated in a presentation with the library directors at Lee’s Summit (Sharon Early) and Liberty (Carroll Makemson) to recruit, encourage, interest building level LMS in becoming district level library media coordinators, directors, teacher’s on special assignment, etc.

*Joe Amos*, LMS at Blue Valley North High School and co-editor of KASL News, passed away May 26, 2006. Joe was a great teacher, librarian, coach and friend who positively impacted the lives of all he touched. He will be greatly missed.

*Lois Stapleford*, former KASL President, passed away March 23, 2006 in Topeka. Lois was born 18 May 1925 and was raised in Lincoln, Kansas. Just out of high school in 1943 she taught in a rural school in Lincoln County with an emergency certificate. She then went to Emporia State where she graduated in January 1947 and taught at English at Chase, Kansas. After her marriage to Robert Stapleford they moved to Hoxie, Kansas where he taught science courses and she was the high school librarian. She received her MLS in 1957 from Emporia. In the fall she joined the staff of Washburn Rural High School. It was that year that she served as president of the Kansas Association of School Librarians. From Jan. of 1968 until 1984 she
Tammie Benham, Early Childhood Resource Center Coordinator, KITS, The University of Kansas, chairs the Web Committee and David Hanson, Kansas City Kansas Public Library and Kate Capps, Johnson County Public Library, Indian Creek Branch, co-chair the Public Relations Committee with Linda Childress, Kansas Association of Child Care and Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRA).

Check the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers website at [www.kansasreadstokids.org](http://www.kansasreadstokids.org). For more information about this project please contact Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director for the State Library, 620-331-8218 or vikkijo@kslib.info.

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**New WSU Library Media Cohort Begins Fall 2006**

Wichita State University will be starting a new cohort for licensure in school library media this fall. Entrance requirements for the program include a bachelor’s degree and current Kansas teaching certification/licensure as well as two years of successful teaching experience.

The program requires 19 hours of coursework plus internships. In addition, children’s literature is required if the candidate has not already completed it. The cohort completes 1-2 courses each summer and one course each fall and spring semester on Tuesdays from 5-7 at the WSU West campus, completing the practicum in the summer of 2008. The State of Kansas now also requires a Masters degree for school library media licensure, so if the candidate has not already earned a Masters, twelve hours can be applied to a Masters in Curriculum & Instruction at WSU.

The program is specifically geared to the needs of school library media center, with an emphasis on practical, hands-on learning. The instructors all have school library experience, and candidates are teamed with current practitioners.

If you have staff in your building who might be interested, please have them contact Richard Soash, Coordinator of the School Library Licensure Program at 316 729-6591 or Richard.Soash@wichita.edu. They can review program requirements and the program at [http://webs.wichita.edu/libcert](http://webs.wichita.edu/libcert).
KASL Announces Award Winners at Tri-Conference

Jane Barnard, President’s Award

This award recognizes an individual of the library media profession who has made an outstanding contribution to school librarianship and school library media development in Kansas.

John Bergkamp, Distinguished Service Award

Recognizes one or more State Legislators, School Administrators, or Community Leaders who have made a distinguished contribution to School Library Media Services

Joe Amos, KASL Vision Award

Given to an individual in or out of the profession who has contributed to the vision of Kansas school library media centers.

Joe’s Acceptance for the Vision Award

Editor’s Note: The following was written by Joe Amos and read by Terri Snethen at the Tri-Conference Luncheon.

I would like to thank the KASL for this honor. There are a few people I need to thank because without their influence I would never have been in a position to be considered for this honor.

First, a lot of credit goes to Emporia State’s School of Library and Information Management, especially instructors Mirah Dow, Carol Fox and John Agada as they convinced me to be a librarian more interested in the patrons than in books.

I need to thank Grace Corrick because when I was a “regular” classroom teacher she showed me how a curriculum oriented library could improve the delivery of the curriculum. It was Grace that inspired me to become a librarian.

And Linda Corey, our District Coordinating Teacher for Library Media. She was my sounding board for new ideas and provided guidance as I learned everyday to be a better librarian.

When I moved into the library from the “regular” classroom I decided to attack being a librarian the same way I did being a Head Track Coach. Many of the lessons I learned while coaching served me well in the library.

First, REMOVE EXCUSES. You have to find out what excuses kids have for not using the library and then remove those excuses. This usually doesn’t take money, it takes creativity.

Second, SET HARD GOALS AND GO AFTER THEM. I kept detailed records on student and faculty use of the library and worked to improve the numbers every year. I love breaking records!

CELEBRATE ALL SUCCESSES. Even little successes need to be publicized and celebrated. Let the kids and teachers know you had more students in the library this month than you did last year. Make people wonder what they are missing out on by not being in the library.

I couldn’t have been as successful if not for my best friend, Terri Snethen. I usually introduced her as my “partner in crime.” That was the way we felt a lot of the time, but what we did, we did together as co-Library Media Specialists at North. I know she is the one reading this and she and better damn well have read this paragraph, I have my spies!

Finally, I want everyone here to know I loved being a Librarian. It allowed me to work with students in ways I never got to in the regular classroom. I really enjoyed getting to know so many of you. I consider most of the folks in this room my friends. I thank those of you who have been praying for me. I miss you so much! I love the KASL and I love all of you!

Joe Amos