



KASL News

Vol. 4 No. 4

June 5, 2007

“I Touched a Book Written by Galileo!”

KCYAL Tour the Linda Hall Library

by Abby Neiburger

On Monday, May 7, members of the Kansas City Young Adult Librarians group met to tour the Linda Hall Library (LHL) located on the UMKC campus. LHL is a private library focusing on Science, Engineering and Technology. It is open to the public and also houses traveling exhibits with scientific content. About 20 members enjoyed the tour given by LHL staff. We viewed many areas of the library including the Cosmology Theater and History of Science Collection. The History of Science Collection, also known as the “rare books room” was definitely a big hit with the KCYAL members.

Inside this issue:

KCYAL Tour.....	1
From the President	2
District I.....	3
IRA Conference.....	5
District II.....	10
Summer Institute.....	11

Bruce Bradley, one of the rare books librarians was kind enough to lay out some of the rarest titles for our group to look at. We were able to look at and browse through several very rare books including *Hortus Sanitatis*, “The Healthful Garden” (1491), Galileo’s *Sideneus Nunceus Magna* (1610), and Benjamin Franklin’s *Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin* (1818). Although many librarians in the group were nervous about handling such valuable and rare books, Bruce explained to us that they do not require patrons to wear gloves as the gloves decrease dexterity and cause more damage to the volumes. We were amazed at the age and condition of the books and I spent the rest of the week telling everyone, “I touched a book written by Galileo!”

We also had the opportunity to view some of NASA’s “View Space” images in the Cosmology Theater. The “View Space” program allows LHL to receive satellite images from NASA orbiters as well as the Hubble Space Telescope. “View Space” cycles through images of our planet, other planets, moons, galaxies and other aspects of astronomy. The portion of the program that I enjoyed the most showed the night sky and what images you can see from Earth using binoculars or a telescope. We were told that you could probably watch “View Space” for an hour, everyday for a week and never see the same thing twice.

While LHL did not have a current exhibit open while we were touring, the next exhibit, “Out of This World” opens on May 17th. Star atlases will be displayed and the event kicks off with featured lecturer Roger Gaskill speaking about the controversy concerning constellations. This event also serves as an opener to the Kansas City Literary Festival on the Plaza. For more information about the library visit <http://www.lindahall.org/index.shtml>

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From your KASL President....

*Martha House
KASL President*

I'm going to attempt to recap the major issues of the year in Kansas school libraries as I perceive them, dividing them into bleak areas, bright spots, and trends. This is pure Martha House and by no means represents the views of the organization as a whole, or anybody, for that matter, except me.

Bleak areas

1. Librarians are not yet highly qualified under NCLB.
2. School Library Media Specialists are not yet classified as instructors by NCES.
3. KSDE is a bit of an unknown quantity. While Jackie Lakin kills herself for us, there is not the kind of support from the department as a whole that I would like to see. Apathy from KSDE encourages certain administrators to disregard well-supported school libraries as irrelevant.

Bright spots

1. Kansas School Library Media Specialists
2. Christie Brandau and the State Library of Kansas. Christie has gone out of her way to include school library representation on state committees, to listen to our concerns, and to support us however she can. The people of the State Library are accomplishing incredible things for libraries of all stripes, and it is a joy to watch the competence and enthusiasm they bring to everything they do.
3. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is more focused and driven than ever. The resources available for the price of membership are the bargain of the century.

Trends

1. Kansas Assessments, while increasing pressure on human and material resources, provide focus for schools and the opportunity to make the role of the KS SLMS vital. They also drive instruction, sometimes to the detriment of student learning. For example, because writing is difficult to measure, that assessment has taken a minor role compared to math and reading, which are more easily assessed online. I'm hoping that changes in NCLB will moderate the pressure somewhat, making assessments more realistic and useful.
2. The technological marvels available at our fingertips are becoming more seamless, easier to incorporate into the jobs we do every day, and easier to maintain. They are expensive, and can be misused, however. For example, is it my imagination or do schools that incorporate a program of providing a computer for every child tend to cut their library programs? Though glitzy, computers alone do not provide an education. Though I love technology, I am a firm believer that introduced too soon, while neglecting core skills and sound educational practice, computers and all the peripherals surrounding them can actually harm students' ability to communicate effectively or to hold a thought in their heads for more than one nanosecond. Content, depth, and discipline are the result of a truly educated mind at work. When technology ceases to help us accomplish our educational goals, it ceases to be useful. Increasingly, the school librarian's role is to see that technology is educationally relevant in the school.

Continued on page 3

3. Finally, we as school library media specialists cannot depend upon automatic support for our programs. Building support is a constant process involving:

- a. knowing what resources we need to accomplish the educational goals of our schools,
- b. conveying that knowledge in a practical, concrete way to our students, their parents, teachers, and administrators, and
- c. delivering on our promises.

This should be the essential priority underlying everything else we are doing. Our programs should be relevant, rigorous, and built on solid relationships. To achieve this goal requires a constant round of weeding; evaluation—of our libraries, our students' needs, our teachers' needs, ourselves; a thorough understanding of what we need to positively impact student learning; and the focus to understand what we want to accomplish and why.

How many books per student does a school library need?

As many as possible. But there better be some connections between those books and our students and the school's curriculum. We must draw those connections in a way that makes sense to administration and the community. We may still be chopped to pieces in the end, but at least our very best, educated clientele will understand the choice that has been made.

Martha House
KASL President

“...and it hasn't been the same since”

District I Workshop, Saturday, September 22, 2007
Williams Science and Fine Arts Magnet School
Topeka, Kansas

If you are going to give up a Saturday in September to spend with media specialists in Topeka, I had better make it worth your time. I am lining up an agenda with that in mind. At this time, I am very excited about the 20 breakout sessions that are currently being planned. There will also be a “Swap & Share” opportunity for us to share ideas that work with other media specialists. We have had a favorable response from several vendors, and are collecting goodies for our door prizes.

Williams Magnet School is located within walking distance from the *Brown vs. Board Historical Site*. I have arranged for workshop participants to take a few minutes after the workshop to view some of the displays if you haven't done so yet. It is a powerful display of the court decision that changed our country.

Watch the *KASL List Serve*, and your mailbox this summer for the completed agenda and enrollment forms. If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, I can be reached via e-mail at sthowe@topeka.k12.ks.us

Susan Thowe

KASL District Workshop Survey

Thanks to all who took part in the KASL District Workshop Survey conducted earlier this year. There were 157 respondents. Of those responding, 52% had attended a 2006 KASL Fall Workshop. The majority of those who did not attend had a conflict with the date. Ninety-six respondents (63%) stated they would like to see the KASL Fall Workshops continue as they have in the past, specifically, having the workshops on Saturday. There were many comments from those wanting the structure to stay the same and those who would like to see changes made. Many comments were made regarding the workshop sessions. These comments were then shared with the Directors and Assistant Directors for this coming year.

Again, thank you all for your support, comments, and concerns. Your input helps us to better serve our professional organization. Don't hesitate to make suggestions to your directors and assistant directors about sessions you would like to see in the future.

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Committee Members:

Jane Barnard
Amy Brownlee
Beth Cook
Linda Roberts
Joann Proctor

Hooray for YA!
By Terri Snethen

With the end of the school year craziness I haven't had much time to read so I thought I'd share with you the books I'm taking home for the summer. Maybe you'll get some ideas, too. Happy Reading!

I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You	Carter, Ally
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist	Cohn, Rachel and Levithan, David
As Simple As Snow	Galloway, Gregory
Nothing But the Truth: and a Few White Lies	Headley, Justine Chen
Accidents of Nature	Johnson, Harriet McBryde
Devilish	Johnson, Maureen
Fairest	Levine, Gail Carson
Wide Awake	Levithan, David
Raider's Night	Lipsyte, Robert
Returnable Girl	Lowell, Pamela
Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City	Miller, Kirsten
Wait For Me	Na, An
The Actual Real Reality of Jennifer James	Shields, Gillian
A Bad Boy Can Be Good For a Girl	Stone, Tanya Lee
Rooftop	Volponi, Paul
Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083	White, Andrea



Planting the Seeds of Literacy

34TH PLAINS

IRA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

NOVEMBER 8–11, 2007

Join us for two days of sessions, workshops, symposia, and children's book authors on November 9 and 10. Also, on November 11, you'll have the opportunity to participate in 1 of 4 three-hour institutes. Here are just a few of the exciting speakers you'll hear!

General Session Speakers



Michael Johnson, a former rodeo cowboy, industrial psychologist, university professor, award-winning author, and national magazine columnist, shares a unique blend of academic and life experiences wrapped in wholesome humor. He focuses on motivation, productivity, personal growth, and leadership plus key behaviors of those who truly help others. Johnson's *Healing Shine* was named the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best Audio Book of 2006.



Linda Gambrell, a professor of education in the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at Clemson University, is president-elect of the IRA and will become president in 2007. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher and reading specialist in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1998, she received the IRA Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award and in 2004, she was elected to the Reading Hall of Fame.

Featured Speakers

JoBeth Allen, professor of language and literacy education at the University of Georgia, has collaborated with teachers in Kansas and Georgia in studying literacy teaching and learning, educational equity, and teaching for social justice. Her latest book, *Creating Welcoming Schools: A Practical Guide to Home-School Partnerships with Diverse Families*, is co-published by IRA.

Carrice Cummins, professor of reading and early literacy at Louisiana Tech University, has served in a variety of capacities in her thirty years in the field of education including serving as a member of the IRA Board of Directors. The coauthor of *The Power of Retelling: Developmental Steps to Building Better Comprehension*, Cummins has developed a number of staff development workshops in the areas of retelling and nonfiction.

Continued on page 6

Marcus Conyers, author of ten books on the brain and teaching, is an educational consultant who has shared his practical strategies with educators internationally. He and partner Donna Wilson co-developed the online Master's and Educational Specialist Degrees specializing in BrainSMART Teaching with Nova Southeastern University. He shares free strategies on www.brainSMART.com.

Jerry L. Johns, past president of IRA, had a distinguished career at Northern Illinois University. He began his career as a classroom teacher and reading specialist and now serves as a consultant. He

has authored the Basic Reading Inventory and coauthored seven books dealing with fluency, primary reading, vocabulary, comprehension, visualization, writing, and content area learning.

Donna Knoell is an educational consultant and author who works with schools, school districts, and groups of professionals to help improve their instructional programs. She is an expert in content literacy, vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and visual literacy.

Maureen McLaughlin is a professor of reading education at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania and a member of the IRA Board of Directors. She has served as a volunteer with the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Project and has authored numerous books, including the Guided Comprehension series.

Donna Ogle, past president of IRA, is a professor in the Reading and Language Department of National-Louis University. The K-W-L strategy she developed is widely used across North America as a major component in expository reading and learning. She is the author of several books including *Reading Comprehension: Strategies for Independent Learning*.

Evester Roper, after eight years as a public librarian, is now an international professional storyteller as well as a library consultant, public speaker, touring artist with the Kansas Arts Commission, and a consultant for Kansas City's Lyric Opera. She has received several awards and has performed for a First Lady of the United States.

Barbara J. Walker, a professor at Oklahoma State University, is vice president and will be president of the International Reading Association in 2008. She began her career as a reading specialist at the elementary level, taught reading improvement at a junior college, and coordinated the instructional program for physically challenged children in Bolivia. She has authored books, articles, and chapters including the Reading Team Series and *Diagnostic Teaching of Reading* (Merrill).

Jeffrey Wilhelm, classroom teacher for fifteen years, is currently professor of English education at Boise State University. Wilhelm works in local schools as part of the Professional Development Site network, and teaches middle and high school students each spring. He is the founding director of the Maine Writing Project and the Boise State Writing Project.

Featured Authors

Brod Bagert was raised in New Orleans where he studied the classics in Latin and Greek, wrestled and boxed to vent adolescent angst, fell in love with and married his high school sweetheart, practiced law, served in public office, reared four children, and is now a full-time poet.

www.brodbagert.com

Carmen Agra Deedy is an award-winning storyteller and the author of numerous bestselling books for children. She will have a new book in the fall of 2007 titled *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*. While her storytelling reflects themes of separation and deprivation, she is better known for her razor-sharp wit and light, entertaining style. Also essential are her strong sense of perseverance and her dual heritage drawn from growing up steeped in the riches of both Latin American and Southern U.S. culture. www.peachtree-online.com

David Greenberg is the author of poetry picture books from *Slugs and Bugs!* to *The Book of Boys for Girls – The Book of Girls for Boys*, to his most recent, *Don't Forget Your Etiquette*. His first novel about the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965 is scheduled for release by Dutton in 2008.

Will Hobbs was a reading teacher for many years before becoming a full-time writer. He is the author of 16 novels for upper elementary, middle school, and young adult readers, as well as two picture books. The American Library Association included *Far North* and *Downriver* in its list of the 100 Best Young Adult Books of the Twentieth Century. www.willhobbsauthor.com

Jane Kurtz, award-winning author of 24 books for children, spent most of her childhood in Ethiopia, where she is now involved with efforts to plant the very first libraries and publish the very first children's books. An acclaimed speaker, she speaks with power and passion about the ability of books to change lives.

Ben Mikaelson is the award-winning author of many middle-grade novels. These include *Touching Spirit Bear*, *Petey*, and *Tree Girl*. Several of his novels have been optioned for screen use, and he has been featured on national television and in magazines around the world. He lives in Montana in a log cabin with a black bear that he has raised for over 25 years. www.benmikaelsen.com

Jeanie Franz Ransom, former school counselor and now in private practice, has more than 20 years of experience in writing. *Grandma U* is a 2004 Storytelling World Award Honor Book. Spring 2007 will see the release of her newest book, *What Do Parents Do? When You're Not at Home*. Ransom has known she wanted to be a writer since the third grade when her teacher read her poem to the entire class. www.peachtree-online.com

These speakers are confirmed as of April 17, 2007. Please check back periodically for updates.

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Reno, Nevada

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/reno2007.cfm>



Preconferences:

AASL Advocacy Institute

Library Media Specialist 2.0: Social, Collaborative, and Interactive Technologies

Assessing for Learning: Connecting the Library and the Classroom

Books Kids Will Sit Still For: A Look at New and Notable Children's Books Across the Curriculum and How to Use Them

Collaboration: The Key to the Future Begins@ Your Library

Copyright and Plagiarism—Teaching Ethics to Tomorrow's Citizens

Designing School Library Media Spaces for Now and the Future: A Special Place for Reading, Thinking and Learning

Urban Fantasy, Chick Lit, Graphic Novels, Audiobooks, and More: Young Adult Literature for the YouTube and MySpace Generation

Gathering of School Library Media Program Instructors

School library media program instructors from four Kansas institutions of higher learning met recently in Wichita to get acquainted with each other and to compare the various library media licensure programs.

Sue Stidham from Pittsburg State University, Sheri Roberts from Wichita State University, Carol Fox and Mirah Dow from Emporia State University, and Betsy Losey and Traci Henning from Fort Hays State University were in attendance. Jackie Lakin from the Kansas State Department of Education also participated.

Representatives from the institutions shared specific points about their programs, i.e. number of hours required for licensure, how the classes are presented, the number of students in each program, and other points of interest. Jackie brought up-dates from the state agency.

Other topics concerning library education were addressed. The group decided to meet on a regular basis in order to share insights and to discuss concerns and issues of library education across the state.



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From Your Incoming President Elect...

I'd like to introduce myself. I am the LMS at Pittsburg Community Middle School, a 6-8 building which has 550 students. This is my 29th year in Kansas education with two years of teaching English grades 8-12 in Quenemo, one year as LMS at Neodesha, 16 years at Pittsburg High and 10 years at PCMS. I have been an active KASL member and did not miss a Tri-Conference until the year my son was born, 1983. I served on council as District II director, Secretary, and Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair. With an empty nest, Jenny at Wichita State and Ben at Missouri State; I'm excited to again join the KASL Council. My husband, Rick, plans to remain home where he is in charge of transportation, maintenance, and animal control; while running the County Health and Mental Health Departments.

The leadership opportunities in KASL are wonderful. I invite each member to volunteer for committees and attend the top notch programs available each year at District Meetings, Tri-Conference, and Summer Institute. Kansas is also well-represented nationally at ALA and AASL. If you haven't looked at the upcoming AASL National Conference in Reno, Nevada, Oct 25-28, please do. I've been fortunate to attend three previous AASL conferences and have found them to be extremely motivating. One look at the program, especially the Paddlewheel Cruise of the Lake Tahoe Shoreline, had me signing up immediately. Take the conference theme, The Future Begins @ your library, and make it your own personal goal. If you can't travel to Tahoe, travel to Emporia for Summer Institute. Find one way to become more involved and connected with KASL and AASL.

I ran across a very stimulating article in the May, 2007 American Libraries, "Setting Your Own Standards," by Mary Pergander. She poses nineteen questions to ask yourself about your workplace behavior. It really made me stop and think because number one was as basic as "Am I present and ready to work on time every day?" Since I usually race in at the last minute, this is a natural improvement goal for me. Her third question is "Do I limit my work hours, take my breaks and vacations, and in other ways practice good self-care?" I'm trying to focus on my exercise and just completed my second marathon, the Nashville Country Music Marathon. I walk, not run. Since these are the crazy end of school days, this is a natural time to assess and set goals for next year. I hope you'll join me in setting new goals for yourself, both professionally and personally. I also hope to meet you this year at Summer Institute, District Meetings, and Tri-Conference. And be sure to let me know if you'll be in Reno!

Cindy Pfeiffer



The Party's In Leon!!!!

And it is **B.Y.O.B.**
(that's **Bring Your Own BOOK...**
and shame on you for thinking
otherwise)

What: District II Workshop

When: September 22, 2007

Where: Bluestem Elementary Leon
Leon, KS

Session topics include (but are not limited to)....

Carol Fox on Using the "Handy 5"

Resources to support state reading and math assessments

(this may include any topics teachers seem to be asking for more than others)

Technology- what's new from the state...and/or....

incorporating the new technology standards into the media program

Roundtable discussion addressing concerns/questions on shelving, weeding and cataloging

New children's books

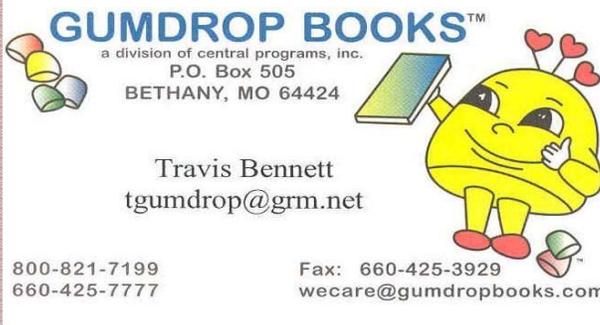
New YA books

If you would like to present on one of these topics or if you have an idea to do a presentation on another topic, please let me know. We are particularly looking for a good topic geared toward Middle School librarians. Of course I would never turn down additional volunteers to help with registration, getting door prizes, etc. But most of all I would love to see a huge turnout from District II to join in the fun. We even have musical entertainment scheduled!!

Details regarding the **B.Y.O.B** theme will follow (fun stuff for everyone). We would love to see visitors from any and all districts, so mark the date and look for reservation information to follow.

Can't Wait to See You

Lori Kohls



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Digital Literacy: The School Library Program and Learning in an Information Rich World

June 13-14, 2007

Emporia State University

Jones Institute for Education Excellence

Visser Hall – Room 330 Emporia, Kansas



Guest Presenters:

David Warlick

Susan Stevens Crummel

Sharon Draper

We are delighted to announce the 2007 Summer Institute for School Librarians, June 13-14, 2007 at Emporia State University, The Jones Conference Center for Educational Excellence. Our time together will be structured once again in two parts: best school library media programming day; and, author day focused on literacy reading and writing.

At this institute, we will "roll up our sleeves" and explore the rapid changes occurring in education; the impact of these changes on learners and educators in the 21st century, and the changing role of the school library media specialist in this new landscape. We'll be asking participants to react to speakers and panel presentation, synthesize information, and collaborate to create vision, action, and to respond to upcoming opportunities and challenges.

We have put together a group of presenters who together will enable participants - - librarians, classroom teachers, technologists, administrators - - to respond to these focus questions:

- In what ways does the concept of literacy change in a digital context?
- What roles can library media specialist play in helping students to become literate adults?
- What are the relationships between language literacy (i.e., reading and writing) and media, information, digital, technological, and/or other types of literacies?
- How can the link between literacy and libraries be made more evident?
- How can technology be used to support collaboration (partnering) between library media specialist, technologists, and classroom teachers in helping students become literate?
- How can library media specialists be leaders in their schools to serve the literacy needs of students?
- How can technology be used by library media specialists and classroom teachers to meet students' individual learning needs and/or in adapting instruction to address differing learning styles?
- How can technology be used to enable library media specialists and classroom teachers expand students' understanding of the world through national and international literature?

Continued on page 12

Sponsored by:

Kansas Department of Education • Kansas Regional Library Systems • State Library of Kansas • Kansas Association of School Librarians • School of Library and Information Management, ESU



Guest Presenter:

David Warlick, a 30 year educator, has been a classroom teacher, district administrator, and staff consultant with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. For the past ten years, Mr. Warlick has operated The Landmark Project, a consulting, and innovations firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. His web site, Landmarks for Schools, serves more than ten-million visits a month with some of the most popular teacher tools available on the Net. David is also the author of three books on instructional technology and 21st century literacy, and has spoken to audiences throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and South America (from <http://www.davidwarlick.com>).

Mike Printz Writers Workshop:

Susan Stevens Crummel is an award-winning picture book author who since 1997 has collaborated with her sister, Janet Stevens, on several picture books. Before becoming a children's author, Susan taught math for 31 years. Their titles include *Cook-a-Doodle-Do*, *Jackalope*, and *And the Dish Ran Away With the Spoon*.

Sharon Draper also has long been a professional educator as well as a very popular young adult author. Her books have won many awards including the Coretta Scott King award and many honors from ALA and the International Reading Association. Her titles include *Tears of a Tiger*, *Forged by Fire*, *Darkness Before Dawn*, and her latest *Copper Sun*.

Book Autographing:

Books written by all three presenters will be available on-site to purchase from the Emporia State University Memorial Union Bookstore. Or you may bring your own books for autographing.

Registration Available Soon:

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 district or library. There is limited space available. Registration will be processed on a first-come, 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: Digital Literacy: The School Library Program and Learning in an Information Rich World. 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 is available at <http://slim.emporia.edu/programs/summerinst.htm>