



FALL 2010 VOLUME 7

MSLA FORUM

Massachusetts School Library Association

<http://www.maschoollibraries.org>

2010 Annual Conference



Stephen Abram
FutureReady

WORKING SMARTER



Linda Nathan
The Hardest Questions
Aren't on the Test



Christopher Bing
Using Primary Sources

Register Online at
www.regonline.com/msla2010

Complete conference information
is on the MSLA webpage:
www.maschoollibraries.org



Michael Dahl
From Tarzan of the Apes
to the Library of Doom

October 3-4, 2010 • Sturbridge, MA

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2010 Annual Conference: **WORKING SMARTER** October 3-4

Complete Information
is available on the MSLA website
<http://www.maschoollibraries.org>

From the Editor

It is my firm belief that the Forum is an essential conduit of professional information and communication for MSLA. I also believe that combining the jobs of webmaster and editor is logical and a good "fit" for me.

A Brief History Lesson: The Forum

My first impression of MSLMA came from the copy of the Media Forum that arrived in my mailbox in 1997. I'm a bit shaky on that date, but it was a good first impression. I had no crystal ball to see into the future...being the MSLMA webmaster...becoming the president...changing our name to MSLA ... serving on the AASL Board of Directors.

Back then, Nancy Jones was the editor of the Media Forum. It was published quarterly and mailed to members. I considered it a benefit of membership and read it cover to cover. I vividly remember Nancy's "Recipes for Success."

The publication schedule became irregular after 2000; shortly after I became president-elect of MSLMA in 2002, Nancy stepped down as the editor. The eBoard gave Kathy Lowe and me the mission of moving the Media Forum to an online format. That summer, we enlisted Paula Byrne as the editor and lined up Rick Paula as the technical editor.

The new Online Media Forum had an ambitious publishing schedule of five times per year, as well as a strong staff of columnists and editors. Anne Croak gave behind-the-scenes support. April Graziano's "What Works" column was a terrific resource on a variety of timely topics: summer reading, collaboration, and cooperation with public libraries.

The archives of the Media Forum on the MSLA website is a treasure of recent MSLA history. Personally, I am most touched by the tributes to Joan Gallagher who lost her battle with cancer in 2003. The award named in honor of Joan was given to Senator Jack Reed in November of 2003. MSLMA's first celebration of School Library Month took place in April 2004, with the inaugural Bookmark Contest. It was my honor to write the "President's Messages;" my theme was (and is), "SHOUT!"



In 2004, the first Media Forum PLUS was printed and mailed to members. This was acknowledgement that print was still of value; since then, the Forum PLUS has been printed each year.

In 2007, Patsy Divver and Jan Koleszar took over as the MSLA Forum editors. Linda Redding's "Lunch with an Author" debuted and the Forum online issues became available in print as a download. Patsy and Jan take their place in the "Forum Hall of Fame" with our thanks for their professional dedication.

This fall we will debut a new format for the Forum.

It promises to be interactive, informative and timely. Once again, I find myself at a frontier in MSLA history. From the print-only Forum, to online only, to....? Watch for the rollout of this exciting resource.

Enjoy this MSLA Forum PLUS with news from the Library World, plus a special 2009 Awards section and a sneak preview of our 2010 Conference.

Sincerely, Ann Perham
MSLA Webmaster and Forum Editor

The Forum Plus is also available on the MSLA webpage: <http://www.maschoollibraries.org> > Newsletter

New Beginnings, New Goals: An Interview with Greg Pronevitz

by Gerri Fegan, MSLA President



On July 2, 2010, I had the pleasure of interviewing Greg Pronevitz, the new Executive Director of the Massachusetts Library System, to discuss the organizational transition and MSLA's relationship. I thank Greg for his candor, humor, and for his support of school libraries.

Gerri: *This has been a challenging year, but we all agree that the grace during this transition has been noteworthy.*

Greg: The staff has been wonderful about this. It was an emotional rollercoaster and people were relieved when it finally ended.

Gerri: *How will services change with two offices?*

Greg: Right – the office in Waltham and one in Whately. The model for MLS advisors, what we used to call trainer-consultant, is that they will spend a lot of their time working from home and working in libraries and at different events around the state.

Gerri: *What will be their duties?*

Greg: Their duties will be to provide training in response to user needs, both themselves and hiring outside trainers. They will also be doing advisory services so they can respond by phone, email, or in person, or in meetings to address the needs of libraries in different areas.

Gerri: *What about Youth Services?*

Greg: We have Sarah Sogigian who specializes in youth services.

Gerri: And this year we have three school librarians on the MLS board. This is wonderful. What will be their roles?

Greg: All of the board members will be establishing policies for MLS, making decisions about our budget and our future. The staff has been going crazy over the past few months trying to get the organization started, though I think they're taking a little breather now. It's been a long road. So I'm putting together an agenda for our first board meeting on July 22nd in which I will be executive director. I am thrilled to have the privilege to be in this position.

Gerri: *What is the most urgent agenda item?*

Greg: The immediate concerns are filling [staff] positions. Yesterday we had our first staff meeting with everyone except the delivery specialists, and it was such a good atmosphere that after the merger and hard times, everyone was ready to move ahead. The big thrust for training will be in the fall. We'll start moving content to the website from the regions.

We will be advertizing our advisory services and getting all the other services out the door.

Another really important thing that we're working on is looking for statewide online content, the databases. We have a substantial budget for that and we're looking for something to implement as soon as possible that would supplement the Gale and ProQuest contracts.

They're planned to continue for two more years, but in addition to that, each of the regions renewed a lot from the selections they had and that will go on. We're looking to add something hopefully by the fall to the statewide license.

Another priority that might interest schools is the MassCat project. The MassCat project was brought forward from the regions and it was considered a priority by the transition team. This is one of the services that's going to benefit from the merger because now MassCat is much easier to manage. Nora Blake, our MassCat manager for many years, will lead the charge and we're going to have some other people helping her with training and support. We think we can expand MassCat more easily so school libraries may be more interested in learning about the opportunities there. We want to find ways to encourage schools to join MassCat.

Gerri: *The audience for your efforts may not be the school librarians, but the administrators who determine the technology used in school libraries, the superintendents, principals and heads of technology. This type of decision comes from the top down.*



DATABASES: *They're planned to continue for two more years, but in addition to that, each of the regions renewed a lot from the selections they had and that will go on. We're looking to add something by the fall to the statewide license.*

MASSCAT: *We think we can expand MassCat more easily so school libraries may be more interested in learning about the opportunities there. We want to find ways to encourage schools to join MassCat.*

SCHOOL LIBRARY

CERTIFICATION: *I'd like to develop an easier way to do it. If we could find a way to get an authoritative statement from a principal online, that might be the best way.*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: *We want to have professional development in all of the six regions. Let's work on this together – this makes sense. Together we can reach more people with important information.*

ADVOCACY: *It's time to focus on school library issues. We want to help advocacy efforts for MSLA.*

Interview continued on Page 4

Greg: How do we reach those people?

Gerri: *If it comes from the Commissioner of Education, if it is discussed on the superintendents and principals listserv and contains professional development for administrators, they can make decisions in favor of MassCat.*

Greg: The other thing that we haven't tackled right away is the school library certification. Some of the regions have done it recently, some have not done it recently because of the changes going on, but we need to get back on track doing that. If we could find a way to get an authoritative statement from a principal online, that might be the best way

Gerri: *We can help! We have worked to create a statewide database of all Massachusetts schools that include the names of school librarians working in our schools. It was created using the SIMS database from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Is there any way this database can help?*

Greg: When we do a mailing, we mail to the principal and we send a copy to the library teacher. It's usually the library teacher who stimulates the form being filled out. We need the signature of the principal on the form. They're the ones who certify that the school has the appropriate staffing for membership so it has to go to them. We'd like to do it electronically, so if there's a way to get the email addresses of the principals, that would be useful.

Gerri: *That's available through the DESE and through the MESPA listserv. And I would think that every school librarian should be on the lookout for this survey.*

Greg: Another useful thing would be to find an easy way to report student population, or size, of all members. When I go to a vendor and say I need a statewide price, they're going to ask for the population. I'm not sure how that's going to affect licensing in the future because of the geo-location system that's being implemented in the state. That may reduce the value of an MLS membership for superintendents and principals, but they can offer it because it's available. The training that would come from MLS wouldn't be available if the school is not a member.

The other thing we'd like to work with MSLA on is having a presence at your conference. We'd love to have a chance to talk to your members about us.

Gerri: *We will be introducing you at our Monday morning keynote address, and there will be a special luncheon table set up for you. It is our pleasure to have you at our conference.*

Let's talk about professional development. We have kept the regional structure on our board this year.

Greg: We want to have professional development in all of the six regions. Let's work on this together – this makes sense. Together we can reach more people with important information. MSLA has been so supportive of the needs of public libraries that it's time to focus on school library issues. We want to help in advocacy efforts for MSLA.

Gerri: *We have a new legislative chair, Julie Farrell, who can share our goals with MLS. Thank you for your kind words and for everything you've shared today. I'm sure our members will look forward to our collaborative advocacy efforts.*

June 1, 2010

Press Release

from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners



**MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF
Library Commissioners**

Pronevitz named Massachusetts Library System Executive Director

The Executive Board of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) is pleased to announce that it has selected Gregory Pronevitz as the first MLS Executive Director. Mr. Pronevitz will assume his new role on July 1, 2010 when the new Massachusetts Library System begins operating as the sole provider of regional library services for the Commonwealth's libraries. These services were previously delivered by six regional library systems but FY2011 state budget reductions necessitated restructuring and consolidation into one system.

Approaching library issues from a statewide perspective is not new for Mr. Pronevitz. He has been a key leader in many statewide projects that benefit libraries across the Commonwealth such as the Massachusetts Statewide Delivery Committee and its Autosort RFP Task Force, the MassCat shared ILS for smaller libraries, and the Digital Commonwealth, a portal to the digital content of Massachusetts cultural institutions. Prior to his position at NMRLS, which he held for twelve years, Mr. Pronevitz was director of library technologies at OHIONET, Ohio's OCLC network, where he managed OCLC training and support, a shared ILS for academic libraries, a statewide training program for public libraries, and internal IT services. In addition, he has nine years of professional and management experience in academic and special libraries.

The entire fifteen-member MLS Executive Board selected Mr. Pronevitz after an extensive search, review, and interview process in which, at a final interview, the three leading candidates presented their vision for MLS. These presentations and the questions that followed were streamed live on the web.

Advocacy at ALA by Judi Paradis

MSLA members used their “loud library voices” at the urging of Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to promote school libraries at the ALA annual meeting this summer. Duncan’s meeting with AASL leadership on June 28th at the Washington D.C. Convention Center was the high point of a week filled with rallies, meetings with legislators, and workshops designed to help school librarians become better advocates for their programs.

Duncan stressed that he understood the importance of school library programs, saying that school libraries are where students find their passion, where cross-curricular instruction and critical thinking take place, and where students are “engaged on an individual basis.” He assured the group that he wants to invest in what is working and encouraged us to “tell the stories” of library success. This is a tough time to be in education, citing both academic and financial difficulties.

Duncan said that the No Child Left Behind Act had many negative, unintended consequences leaving schools with many ways to fail without looking at what is working. He said he believes that there has been a “dumbing down” of standards and a narrowing of curriculum with too much emphasis on top-down control of schools. He said we need to empower educators, letting great ideas come from the local level. He would like to go from “pockets of excellence” to “systems of excellence.”

Schools are also facing a bleak financial future if the Blueprint for Education before the legislature is not passed this summer. This initiative includes \$1 billion for educational programs, including \$450 million for literacy initiatives. If this legislation passes, “we hope to see more funding for libraries—materials, technology and supplies. I hope we will see great proposals with innovative educators recognizing the value of good school libraries,” he said. Without this funding, however, he is concerned about a “level of devastation” for schools. “We have already cut the flesh and fat and are now looking at cutting bone.”

Libraries are not specifically mentioned in the Blueprint. Sylvia Norton of the AASL asked if this could be addressed. Duncan said that he “heard us loud and clear” and assured us that this could be addressed as the legislation was put into its final form. He emphasized, however, that the DOE would be focused on rewarding states that show they are closing the achievement gap and promoting student achievement. AASL President Cassandra Barnett asked Duncan to consider integrating the new AASL Learning for Life Standards into the Common Core Standards that have been adopted by 17 states to date. Duncan said that we need to “tell

stories about library programs that increase high quality, integrated experience. Show projects that are changing students’ lives—helping them graduate, stay in school, find their path past graduation. Don’t be shy about telling your stories.”

Following this meeting, librarians from Massachusetts joined an advocacy rally on Capitol Hill on June 29. Librarians from across the United States heard from Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island and Representative Vernon Ehlers of Michigan, as well as young adult author Lauren Myracle. All agreed with ALA President Camille Alire’s call to action. Alire urged librarians to call on their legislators to support both the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). A delegation from Massachusetts led by Rob Maier met with Senator Scott Brown, and Senator John Kerry’s senior staff.

ALA provided an opportunity for librarians to get expert advice on advocacy from those who lobby for a living. Librarians were encouraged to use 2.0 tools: Facebook, eLists, Twitter, and Youtube to promote libraries. South Carolina librarian Curtis Rogers demonstrated how a coordinated campaign using these tools saved his state’s libraries from serious budget cuts.

Jonathan Godfrey, a member of the House Judiciary Committee staff, told librarians to “foster connections with as many legislators as you can. There are librarians in every Congressional district in the country, and that makes your group much more powerful. You never know who your champions might be.” He recommended having parents, students and

teachers lobby on behalf of libraries to show the wide support libraries have. He told librarians that they should always ask for something – a vote, a letter of support or co-sponsorship of a bill—when they meet with legislators.

Advocacy expert Stephanie Vance described how to put together an effective coalition to get legislation passed. She urged librarians to think about what groups could partner with them to increase assets available to

them and contacts with key decision makers. Vance and Godfrey both emphasized the importance of developing good relationships with legislative staff members. “These people become experts on your issue,” Godfrey said, “and they will often go to bat for your cause.”



AASL Comments on the National Educational Technology Plan 2010

Submitted to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, May 2010

The AASL Board of Directors sent this comment letter in response to the National Educational Technology Plan 2010, Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) commended the Department of Education on the plan that presents a shared vision on the potential of technology in schools. This is excerpts of that letter:

The school librarian plays a critical role in facilitating student and faculty understanding of 21st-century literacies - digital literacy, visual literacy, textual literacy, and technological literacy.

Through AASL, the national school library community developed the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*, which addresses many portions of the National Educational Technology Plan. School libraries that are staffed with certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **LEARNING** goal in the following ways:

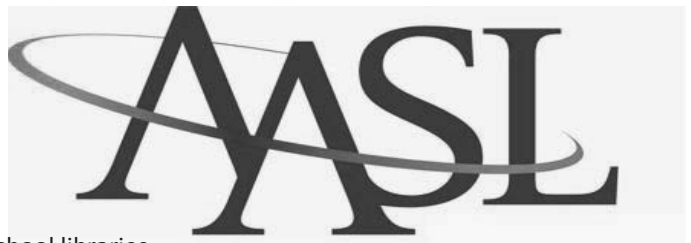
- Allow virtual access to a variety of instructional materials for students.
- Actively incorporate Web 2.0 tools, such as podcasts, blogs, RSS feeds, Wordles, and Glogster.
- Provide technology tools that enable students to interact with the global community.
- Develop lifelong learning skills by teaching students how to navigate through virtual resources.

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **ASSESSMENT** goal in the following ways:

- School librarians teach students how to assess validity and authenticity of electronic resources. This allows students to draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge
- School librarians influence and collaborate with teachers in determining how research projects are assessed. They direct teachers to alternative ways using technology for students to demonstrate mastery.
- School librarians lead teachers to resources which allow universal access for students who can't access materials in a traditional format

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **TEACHING** goal in the following ways:

- School librarians work in a multi-media environment that promotes the synthesis of information by incorporating a variety of reading, technological, and digital retrieval skills.
- School librarians are positioned to collaborate with all members of the staff to integrate digital and print resources and act as a leader in developing digital citizens.
- School librarians are experienced to work with learners at all levels.
- School librarians provide instruction for students on the ethical and legal policies and practices relating to technology and digital resources.



School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **INFRASTRUCTURE** goal in the following ways:

- School librarians are trained as facilitators and are among the first adopters in the educational process to integrate technology into the search process, which engages students meaningfully with information.
- The school library program is a platform that creates a flexible environment for planned as well as momentarily inspired needs in a supportive and carefully constructed environment. It is the great equalizer for all learners.
- While tools for a 21st-century learning model will be easily available in a robust digital environment, the skills for using the tools will be part of the educational growth of the staff members. The school librarian already with those skills is positioned to integrate and expand the digital learning community.
- School librarians use and promote learning activities that connect the integration of technology to local, state, and national content standards.

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians interface with the National Educational Technology Plan in the **PRODUCTIVITY** goal in the following ways:

- School libraries provide a learning laboratory environment with resources and technological tools for students to learn independently.
- School librarians use technology to enable and empower learners with diverse backgrounds.
- School librarians organize special programs and events related to technology.
- School librarians strive to reduce barriers to constructive use of digital resources.

School librarians are consistently at the forefront in leading the way with technology to enable students to develop the skills needed to be successful in work and in life in the twenty-first century. We are encouraged by the National Educational Technology Plan 2010 and look forward to being included in it in order to facilitate the school library program's influence on all learners through technology.

National Governors Association and State Education Chiefs Launch Common Core State Academic Standards

On June 2, 2010 the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) released a set of state-led education standards, the Common Core State Standards. The English-language arts and mathematics standards for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, states, teachers, school administrators and parents. The standards establish clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare America's children for success in college and work.



"Our best understanding of what works in our schools comes from the teachers who teach in our classrooms every day. That is why these standards establish what students

need to learn, but do not dictate how teachers should teach. Instead, the standards enable schools and teachers to decide how best to help students reach the standards," said Florida Commissioner of Education Dr. Eric J. Smith. "We are entering the most critical phase of the movement for Common Core State Standards. It is now up to states to adopt the standards and carry on the hard work of the educators and community leaders that worked to develop them."



The release of the standards marks the conclusion of the development of the Common Core State Standards and signals the start of the adoption and implementation process by the states.

The year-long process was led by governors and chief state school officers in 48 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia. The final standards were informed by nearly 10,000 public comments and by standards in other top performing countries so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy.

"American competitiveness relies on an education system that can adequately prepare our youth for college and the workforce," commented Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. "When American students have the skills and knowledge needed in today's jobs, our communities will be positioned to compete successfully in the global economy."

"Strong schools are the surest path to our nation's long-term economic success. America's students are now competing with children around the globe for jobs and opportunities after graduation. We need to maintain a national focus to ensure our kids are ready to compete and ready to win," said Delaware Gov. Jack Markell.

"The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents have a roadmap for what they need to do to help them. Further, these standards provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live, and allow states to more effectively help all students to succeed," commented Steve Paine, West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools. "With students, parents, and teachers all on the same page and working together for shared goals, we can ensure that students make progress each year and graduate from school prepared to succeed and build a strong future for themselves and the country."



These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school fully prepared for college and careers. The standards are:

- Aligned with college and work expectations;
- Clear, understandable and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Evidence- and research-based.

In the coming months, each state will follow its own procedures and processes for adoption of the Common Core State Standards. The NGA Center and CCSSO recognize that meaningful and effective implementation of the Common Core State Standards is critical to achieving these goals. To that end, the two organizations are continuing to work closely with a range of partners on how to best support states and districts as they move from adoption to implementation.

Common Core State Standards: www.corestandards.org

National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. www.nga.org

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. www.ccsso.org

Digital Commonwealth of Massachusetts

<http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org>

Primary Sources! Digital Commonwealth is a portal to the cultural heritage and history that is held in various libraries and repositories throughout our state. Using the site, researchers can search or browse the digitized collections of these institutions. Students of history will find manuscripts, images, photographs, historical documents, sound recordings, and other primary source materials.

The Digital Commonwealth (DC) has always been interested in linking its digitized presentations to the MA Curriculum Frameworks and involving school librarians and other educators in that process. I serve as the MSLA liaison to the DC executive board. DC funded a pilot mini-grant to help build the curriculum content on the DC portal. A request for proposals was sent out in late spring, 2009, and a proposal was selected during the early summer.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Sudi Smoller, grade 6-8 school librarian at Higgins Middle School in Peabody, collaborated with grade 8 math teacher Diane Devine on a social studies/math unit that incorporated Digital Commonwealth primary sources. The unit, *Peabody Math Trail 3: Government Connections* is designed to help "students... understand that primary resources are eyewitness accounts of



history and that by looking at how ordinary people experienced events they can better understand some of the key points in American history." The students investigated the historical and mathematical features of the Peabody Fire Station, City Hall, and Peabody Institute Library.

The winning unit that provided a great learning opportunity for the students at Higgins Middle School can be found at <http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/doc/curricula>

Many aspects of the unit can be replicated by other school librarians and content teachers. Collaboration is a vital part of student learning and achievement, and browsing and searching the digitized images on the DC website can provide inspiration for future collaboration.



Linda Friel has retired as Supervisor of Media Services in Methuen, but she has hardly retired from school librarianship. Besides being the treasurer of MSLA, she is an ALA Councilor-at-Large, serves on the AASL Best Websites, and is the MSLA representative on the Digital Commonwealth advisory board. As of this fall, Linda is teaching at Simmons College in the School Library Teacher Program.

Year #2: Best Websites for Teaching & Learning

This is the second year that our AASL committee has selected the Best 25 Websites for Teaching and Learning. All sites are free, web-based, and user-friendly; these sites are creative, collaborative, interactive, and encourage exploration, discovery, and student-centered, inquiry-based learning. Additionally, the selected websites are linked to AASL's Standards for the 21st-Century Learner and enhance learning and curriculum development.

Our committee used e-mail, Skype, and a wiki on Wikispaces to communicate on a regular basis; the committee also met in-person at several conferences. The group worked diligently to locate possible sites and used Diigo to list, annotate, and organize. After seemingly-endless discussion and debate, the committee selected and categorized the top 25 websites' web 2.0 tools and resources under seven headings: media sharing, digital storytelling, managing and organizing, social networking and communication, curriculum sharing, content resources: lesson plans and more, and content collaboration.

At ALA in Washington, D.C., the committee presented a pre-conference to help school librarians select, use, and integrate the top websites into their school library programs. There was also a session that announced and honored this year's winners. Again, some winners sent representatives to accept, while others sent their appreciation via videos and web 2.0 tools. This year's winning websites will display special logos on their websites.

Reflecting on the repeat experience, I worked with wonderful colleagues from around the country, learned about exemplary websites that can be used to expand learning opportunities and help improve student achievement, and gave something back to my chosen profession. I am eagerly anticipating the upcoming year's committee work .

I highly recommend participation on an AASL committee or task force. Fill out the volunteer form online, on the AASL website.

Attend Linda's Workshop at the MSLA Conference
She will give a "guided tour" of
AASL's 25 Top Websites for Teaching and Learning
Monday, 11:30 AM – 12:30 Bring your laptop!

2010 AASL BEST WEBSITES FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/bestlist/bestwebsites25.cfm>



AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner

SELECTED WEBSITES

Media Sharing	2.1.4	Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use and assess.	Glogster http://edu.glogster.com
	3.3.4	Create products that apply to authentic, real-world context.	Masher http://www.masher.com
	4.1.8	Use creative and artistic formats to express personal learning.	Prezi http://prezi.com
			Professor Garfield http://www.professorgarfield.com
Manage & Organize	2.1.2	Organize knowledge so that it is useful.	SchoolTube http://schooltube.com
	2.1.4	Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.	Scratch http://scratch.mit.edu
	3.1.4	Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use and assess.	WatchKnow.org http://watchknow.org
			Prezi http://prezi.com
Social Networking & Communication	3.1.2	Participate and collaborate as members of a social and intellectual network of learners	DIGITAL STORYTELLING:
	4.1.7	Use social networks and information tools to gather and share information.	Internat'l Children's Digital Library http://icdlbooks.org
	4.3.1	Participate in the social exchange of ideas, both electronically and in person.	Jing http://www.jingproject.com
			Storybird http://www.storybird.com
Content Collaboration	1.3.4	Contribute to exchange of ideas in learning community. Participate and collaborate as members of a social and intellectual network of learners.	Evernote http://www.evernote.com
	3.1.2	Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use and assess.	jogtheweb http://www.jogtheweb.com
			Live Binders http://livebinders.com
			MuseumBox http://museumbox.e2bn.org
Curriculum Sharing			Pageflakes http://www.pageflakes.com
			Weblist http://www.weblist.me
			Creative Commons http://creativecommons.org
			Learn Central http://www.learncentral.org
Guidelines for School Library Programs: Instructional Partner			TED http://www.ted.com
			Debategraph http://www.debategraph.org
			Exploratree http://www.exploratree.org.uk
			The Jason Project http://www.jason.org/public/whatis/start.aspx
The School Librarian collaborates with classroom teachers to develop assignments that are matched to academic standards and include critical thinking skills, technology and information literacy skills, and core social skills and cultural competencies. The School Librarian guides instructional design by working with the classroom teacher to establish learning objectives and goals, and by implementing assessment strategies before, during and after assigned units of study."			National Science Digital Library http://nsdl.org
			CONTENT RESOURCES: Plan Lessons
			Edsitement http://edsitement.neh.gov
			The National Archives' Digital Classroom http://www.archives.gov/education

MA Teen Choice Book Award

By MaryAnn Rogers

On June 1st, the nomination process began for the first-ever Massachusetts Teen Choice Award. Any Massachusetts teen aged 12-18 years old can participate. The committee wants teens



to both choose the titles they want to nominate as well as vote for their favorite title in each category. The role of librarians is to facilitate this process; this award is completely teen-driven, honoring what teens consider popular for a given year. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2010.

Nominations requirements:

- The book must be of interest to teens between the ages of 12 and 18.
- The book **must** be published in 2010.
- The primary consideration should be quality, but the level of young adult interest should be a *high level*. Adult novels with a *high level* of teen interest may be nominated.
- There are no restrictions based on home country of the author or whether they are dead or living.
- Teens may nominate as many 2010 titles as they like.

Categories:

- High School Young Adult
- Middle School Young Adult.

Timeline:

- **June 1 to December 31, 2010:** Nominations period. Nominations can be submitted by mail or online: <http://www.readsinma.org/tcba>
Mass. Teen Choice Book Awards / Milford Town Library / 80 Spruce St. / Milford, MA 01757.
- **January 15 to March 15, 2011:** Voting online or by paper ballot. The ballot will have the top five nominations for the high school level titles and the top five nominations for the middle school level titles. Teens can choose one title from each category.
- **April 14, 2011:** Two winners announced on YALSA Teen Literature Day.

The Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award is a joint project between the Massachusetts Library Association Youth Services and the Massachusetts School Library Association.

Great Fall Reads

By Pat Keogh

SO many great books for children this fall!

I love Deborah Wiles documentary novel, *Countdown*, set in October, 1962. Franny Chapman's world is in chaos, just like the outside world with the Cuban blockade and civil unrest. The first of a trilogy, this fascinating book brings the reader face to face with an 11 year-old's friendship and family problems as well as a look at life in the Sixties.

Laura Schlitz's *The Night Fairy* is beautiful to look at and lovely to read. Flory, a fairy, loses her wings and must adjust to the dangers of the night. "A little brown bat swooped down upon her, caught her, and crunched her wings." This is a nice read-aloud.

Move over *Wimpy Kid*! Here comes *Big Nate in a Class by Himself* by comic strip creator Lincoln Pierce. Nate's not a bad kid; he just can't keep out of his own way.

Now for some nonfiction. Check out Steve Jenkins and Robin Page's *How to Clean a Hippopotamus...* This look at animal symbiosis is more complex and for a slightly older reader than many of their earlier titles. Look for *Sit-In* by Andrea and Brian Pinkney, another husband/wife team. "The order was simple. A doughnut and coffee and cream on the side." When four black men sit at a Woolworth's lunch counter they never realized what a change was soon to take place.

Mirror Mirror by Marilyn Singer is a remarkable poetry book. It has reversible verse, a creation of Singer's with two poems side by side with the same words, but in reverse and from two points of view. Seeing is believing with this one!

Here are a few picture books to seek out. *My Garden* by Kevin Henkes, *Yucky Worms* by Vivian French, and *Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep* by Mo Willems. Just in time for the start of school, grab a copy of Barbara Bottner's, *Miss Brooks Loves Books (and I don't)*. Watch a young child fall in love with books when she finds just the right story to share in class.

Attend Pat's Workshop at the Conference
Monday, 3:00-4:00 PM





MSLA 2009 Award Recipients

**Feature articles from these members in this issue*

INNOVATOR AWARD

Dr. Mitchell Chester, MA Commissioner of Education

ADVOCATE AWARD

Janet Allison, New England Association of Schools & Colleges

ADMINISTRATOR ADVOCATE AWARD

Southbridge Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dale Hanley

Nominated by Lynn Loftus & Lynda Shoup

Prospect Hill Academy Charter School, Liz Murray

Nominated by Mary Kelleher

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

* Carolyn Markuson

* Doris Smith

* Valerie Diggs

MSLA SERVICE

* Kathy Lowe

M.S.L.A. [Massachusetts Super Librarian Accolade]

* *MetroWest Area:* Robin Cicchetti, Concord-Carlisle High

Central Area: Diane Libbey, Westborough High

Southeast Area: Laurie Belanger, Freetown Lakeville Middle

* *Northeast Area:* Mary Melaugh, Marshall Middle, Billerica

WEB SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Lynnfield High School - Janice Alpert:

<http://www.lynnfield.k12.ma.us/>

* Avon Middle/High School - Tricia London:

<http://www.avon.k12.ma.us/librarymedia/ahlibraryhome.htm>

* Fay School - Suzanne Levasseur and Laura Beals D'Elia:

<http://library.fayschool.org/>

* Watertown Middle/High School - Linda Picceri:

<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/wms/library/splash.html>

* Austin Intermediate, Freetown-Lakeville - Lisa Ryder:

<http://www.freelake.org/AIS/library.php>

AUDREY FRIEND SCHOLARSHIP

Alexis Brown, Simmons College GSLIS student

Kathy Lowe: Service Award

I was honored to receive the MSLA service award at last year's conference. It was gratifying to be acknowledged for my years of work with the Executive Board in several capacities from Secretary, to listserv founder and moderator, to President, and finally, Executive Director.



I have enjoyed my work for MSLA, all the experiences I have had and relationships that have developed over the years. When I accepted President Audrey Friend's invitation to join the board in the early 90s, little did I know how much giving to the organization would pay back in terms of my professional and personal growth. I know for sure that at that stage in my career, I didn't perceive myself as a leader. I was fairly new to the profession and had attended a few MSLMA and NESLA events, which is probably what caught Audrey's attention. You know what they say, "Showing up is half the battle!" As soon as I started attending Executive Board meetings, I realized how much I could learn from these school library "movers and shakers." I found out what was going on in our state and region, who was doing what, and what new initiatives were on the horizon. I was hooked!

Since then, I've become a conference presenter and mentor for my colleagues, learned how to be an effective advocate for school libraries, served on the NESLA board, attended national conferences all across the United States, chaired and served on AASL task forces and sat as a member of the Affiliate Assembly, met and worked with school library leaders, presenters, and authors from all over the country. My MSLA experience paid off in a big way when I landed my dream job as founding Director of the AASL National School Library Media Program of the Year (2004) Award-winning library program for Boston Arts Academy and Fenway High School. Currently, I hold what I consider to be the best job in world as MSLA's Executive Director. It allows me to continue to apply my professional expertise and maintain contact with my colleagues here in Massachusetts and around the country while enjoying the flexibility and lack of interruptions that working from home provides.

I honestly believe that I wouldn't have had any of these opportunities if I hadn't become actively involved in MSLA early in my career. I have made life-long friends that I would never have met otherwise. In short, I've received a lot more from MSLA than I have given, which is why I urge YOU to look for opportunities to get involved yourself.

MSLA Service Award Recognizes MSLA members who have made significant contributions to MSLA. This individual has demonstrated service to the profession of school librarianship through leadership at the state and possibly at the national level.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The nominee will have a long-standing record of service to MSLA, and have demonstrated leadership of school librarians within the state or nationally. This nominee has represented MSLA members in areas of advocacy, public relations, or other public forum and worked to make MSLA an organization that leads the profession of school librarianship.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A current MSLA board member may write a letter of nomination for consideration by the Board. Up to three awards may be given each year. The MSLA Executive Board will make the final decision. **2010 Nomination are due by 8/31**

Doris Smith

Lifetime Achievement

When I retired from the Bedford Public Schools after 35 years of service, I turned my attention to MSLMA and the needs of the organization. Among other activities, we collected the MSLMA archives from various past presidents and got them ready to be stored at Simmons College, worked on reaching out to other organizations to work collaboratively, and continued the association's lobbying efforts. The Board and I worked together but we were standing on the shoulders of those who had led us in the past. We can be proud of the commitment of MSLA leadership in the past and in the present.

When I left MSLA, I put my energies into a new field of endeavor...that of being an artist. I began with collage and then moved to painting and printing. I joined an artist collective and enjoyed seeing my work in various shows. In addition, I have served on our local Cultural Council helping to fund artists and cultural events for the town of Bedford. All of these activities plus helping with the Three Apples Storytelling Festival kept me busy along with various travel adventures.

All this is to say that while I missed my library friends and the students, I had turned to another page in my life. So I was very surprised and humbled when I learned that I was to be one of the recipients of the MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award. I thank our association for this honor. It was an honor I did not know I wanted until I received it. Now I treasure it.

What this award has reminded me is this: even though we retirees move away from working within the schools, we have a responsibility to act for our students and colleagues outside the schools. We can be advocates for good school library programs and for other educational programs. We can raise our voices and we can make a difference.

When we are asked by MSLA and MLA to contact our elected officials, we should be the first on the phones or to send email. A grassroots group to check is Stand for Children: <http://www.stand.org/> **Parents are our biggest supporters.**



*I thank our association
for this honor.
It was an honor I did
not know I wanted until I
received it.
Now I treasure it.*

It is my pleasure to nominate Doris Smith for the MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award. Doris served for many years on the MSLMA Executive Board in a variety of positions. During 2000-01, Doris was the president of MSLMA. As the past president, she was the right-hand support for president Joan Gallagher and passionately worked towards the promotion of legislation to improve school libraries in MA.

In 2003, Doris retired as Library Teacher at the Lt. Job Lane School in Bedford. However, her career in school librarianship did not end there.

Doris assumed the newly-created position of the MSLMA Executive Director in 2003, pioneering a new venture in MSLMA history. She helped to define the position of Executive Director and worked tirelessly to promote the goals of MSLMA. Doris worked with MSLMA presidents Ann Perham (2003-05) and Kathy Lowe (2005-2007) to support their work as well as that of all MSLA committees. Her work with the Conference Committee was noteworthy and her work with the many details brought MSLMA to a new level of excellence. Doris stepped down as the Executive Director in 2007.

Doris continues to indulge her love of storytelling, and is presenting at the 2009 Annual Conference. She submitted a description for her 2009 presentation on Storytelling that is quite revealing, "Doris Smith has been a storyteller for over thirty years telling in many venues from schools and hospitals to playgrounds. No one is ever too old for a good story. Often it is that students who acts out in the class who turns out to be best storyteller."

Doris Smith is a very worthy recipient of the MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sincerely, Ann Perham

MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award This award is given to a MSLA member who has contributed to the profession of school librarianship during the course of his/her 10+year career. The honoree has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the service of students and 21st century learning and the advancement of school libraries.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: Not contingent upon retirement, this award honors a School Librarian or Director of Libraries whose career in school libraries has spanned 10 or more years. The individual has been a member of MSLA for a minimum of 7 years and has (or held if retired) state certification as a School Librarian or holds a MLS degree. Up to three awards may be given, but this award does not need to be given if a suitable recipient is not nominated.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A nomination letter may be written by any member of MSLA. The MSLA Executive Board will vote to award this recognition.

AWARD: Lifetime membership in MSLA, and a commemoration of MSLA's gratitude. **DEADLINE for Nomination Letters:** August 31, 2010



Valerie Diggs *Lifetime Achievement*

What does a *lifetime* mean to someone who is not retired, or really ready to retire?? I have to say my award was a total surprise, and one that prompted a series of soul-searching sessions around just where I am going with my career, as well as where I have been. While I know that the award is not contingent upon retirement, but on years of service, having received this award evoked an introspection of my career in school librarianship.

Before I begin on *that* account, I want to sincerely thank the awards committee and the Executive Board of MSLA for bestowing upon me the *MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award*, given in gratitude for years of service and contributions to the profession. It is not often in one's life that such prestigious recognition is received.

My beginnings in the profession of school librarianship are humble and relatively recent, compared to the 30 and 40 year careers of many of my colleagues. However, once my career was launched, I seemed to want to be on the fast track at all times. I began my professional career as a classroom teacher in the early 1970's (old, huh?) and took many years off shortly thereafter to raise four children. When I was just about ready to re-enter the workforce, I received a call from a family friend who also happened to be the principal of a PreK-2 elementary school in the next town over. He asked me if I would be interested in helping his school establish a school library, something the children at this particular school had never had.

A school library? I had no knowledge whatsoever of the workings of a library. However, I was anxious to re-enter the world of schools, so I accepted the position. Little did I know that this decision would be one of the best professional decisions of my life. I walked into my new job with no knowledge of school libraries. I was shown to a large, double classroom, with an enormous mound of books thrown on the floor in the center of the room. No shelving, no program; I was on my own. Well, not completely on my own. I had a wonderful cadre of parent volunteers who came in day after day. They helped me order shelves, place tables and chairs in the room, and clean the closets of old pizza pans and trash. The rest is history. I was on a professional track I did not want to leave behind.

Fast forward to 2010. I have now been a school librarian for 14 years, and spent all of those years in Chelmsford. I began my

professional career in Chelmsford's elementary schools, even as I was working towards my masters' degree in Library and Information Science. In 2001, the high school position became available, and I jumped at the opportunity to work with students at this grade level.

Much of life is 50% luck and 50% deliberate choice. I think for me this is very true. I

happened to be lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, and opportunistic enough to understand this. Building a program at Chelmsford High School was a labor of love, involving a mixture of creativity, hard work, and risk taking. From the program came the facility re-design, and the opportunity to add even more to what we do at Chelmsford High School each day. From library to Learning Commons did not take place overnight, and was not accomplished without the same program-building skills mentioned above. We have received state and national recognition, but more importantly, have added a new and powerful dimension to the lives of students at Chelmsford High School. Our motto, Ask, Think, Create, is paramount to all that we do.

I also value and treasure my work at Simmons College, as an adjunct professor teaching students how to manage school library media programs; my work with the Massachusetts School

Library Association and the excitement of the impending presidency of this wonderful organization; and my work with the American Association of School Librarians as Director-Elect of Region One. All of these professional opportunities offer breadth and depth to my primary role of school librarian. It is fulfilling this role to the best of my ability that brings me the most professional satisfaction.

In conclusion, thank you MSLA for bestowing the *Lifetime Achievement Award* upon me. It is an honor that I treasure above all others, as it comes from the group I have the highest respect for: my peers.

Just a fair warning: I am not done quite yet!





Northeast Area

Mary Melaugh

M.S.L.A. [Massachusetts Super Librarian Accolade]

School Librarian at Marshall Middle School in Billerica

Read Mary's Blog: <http://mmslibrary.teachers.billerica.k12.ma.us>

Since leaving the business world seven years ago, I have been stunned by the degree of disconnect between the results expected of educators and the resources provided. In business, if something is to be accomplished, resources are provided to help accomplish the task. In education, the resources provided seldom match the results expected. A mandate is made and the result is expected to simply appear, presumably provided out of the hearts, souls, and sheer will power of educators. Instead of resources, bonuses, prize vacation trips, and outrageous salaries, we receive treasures from our students and colleagues. Here are a few gems from my treasure chest:

★ Witnessing a sixth grade girl skipping down the hall with a look of joy on her face clutching a book that I had just hand-delivered to her so she could read it over the weekend.

★ More skipping, this time by a seventh grade boy when he learned he could be a library aide.

★ The genuine look of horror on a sixth grade girl's face during our Banned Book Week lesson when confronted with the idea that books have been burned to censor them.

★ Upon hearing that some people disapprove of Captain Underpants because the principal is shown wearing only underpants, one student responds with a cheeky grin, "Well, would they prefer if he *wasn't* wearing any?"

★ A petition: "Bring Warriors to the Marshall Library!" signed by 28 students and with \$2 clipped to it! (How could I resist? I got the first series of 6 books within a week!)

★ A sixth grade girl from Africa, leaning on the counter totally absorbed in Toni Morrison's *Remember*, and the tears in her eyes after she asked me to explain what did it mean, the dedication at the back of the book with the pictures of the little girls who died in the church bombing? I wonder what I did to deserve such a privilege – the chance every day to see the world fresh again through my students' eyes?

★ "My mother used to paint like the pictures in this book. She doesn't live with us now because she abused me." Said matter-of-factly by a seventh grade girl. (This one hurts to hold, but it's very precious.)

★ I am touched each time a teacher, parent or student cares enough to donate time, money, supplies, and books. Even so, a few stand out, like the parent who arranged her cancer treatments so as not to interfere with her library volunteer hours. And the four daughters of a beloved English teacher who have made a sizable donation in her name each year on her birthday for six years. And the retired school nurse who has volunteered faithfully once a week for seven years.



★ The outstanding principal I'm lucky enough to work with who asks often what I think the library and the school need most, and then tries his best to get those things for us.

★ The math teacher who learned that students were put on a waiting list for a popular book, and went to a bookstore to buy another copy. He checks in every once in awhile to see if there are series books I can't provide and donates them.

★ The quiet hum when a class is working productively. (You know what I mean!)

★ Quotes... from a teacher, "You've made this library a happy place -- one where we don't mind coming." The parent, "You have such a nice setup here... I want to find a book and curl up and read." And the teacher who, in a student-created video said, "No, actually, what *really* made me want to come here was the Library. It was so warm and welcoming."

We are fortunate to touch so many lives in our work. Remember to embrace all the happy, the sorrowful, and the humorous events. When all those silly, annoying parts of the job start piling up, we can balance them against our treasures and remember we have the best job in the world!

Massachusetts Super Librarian Accolade (M.S.L.A.)

DESCRIPTION: Area Director's Award, one award per MSLA area for a total of six awards per year.

CRITERIA/ELIGIBILITY: Practicing MA library teachers with a professional library degree or state certification as a library teacher who has been a member of MSLA for the past three years.

APPLICATION/NOMINATION: Each AD will receive nominations and may make recommendations. The nominee will be submitted to the Executive Board for final approval.

AWARD: Certificate

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the MSLA Forum

DEADLINE for nomination is August 31, 2010



Metrowest Area

Robin Cicchetti

M.S.L.A. [Massachusetts Super Librarian Accolade]

School Librarian at Concord-Carlisle High School

CCHS Learning Commons Wiki: <http://cchslearningcommons.concordcarlisle.wikispaces.net/>

CCHS Learning Commons Blog: <http://concordcarlislelibrary.blogspot.com/>

In 2007 I left my K-5 library and moved to our high school library at Concord-Carlisle. It was an in-district move and both my children had graduated from CCHS, so I was familiar with the culture of the school and already knew many of the faculty.

None of it helped prepare me for the reality of running a program at the high school level. I was starting from scratch, learning on the fly and experiencing moments of sheer terror.

There were a few key things that helped me hit the ground running and simultaneously institute change while building my program.



The library needed to be re-positioned within the school as a more open, technology rich and student-centered

place. The November 2008 issue of *School Library Journal* had the article *Flip this Library: School Libraries Need a Revolution* by David Loertscher, and it became my blueprint for change. It gave me the name for the changes: we were going to flip our library and turn it into a learning commons.

The changes outlined by Loertscher gave me a punch list for innovation. I needed to reevaluate space usage, our technology assets, our web-based support for students, and re-tool lessons to address 21st century skills.

To succeed I would need a lot of professional development. Being new to the high school level I recognized that I had huge gaps. I remember reading SLJ back when I was K-5 and flipping past all the database reviews, thinking "So glad I don't have to worry about any of that!" Now I needed to get up to speed, fast.

My RSS feed became my lifeline for learning. Joyce Valenza and Doug Johnson were my first "mentors" and through links on their blogs I found other people to add to my feed: Buffy Hamilton, Jeff Utecht, Stephen Abram, to name a few. Reading about my field and the lightning fast evolution of information and librarianship from leaders in the profession helped me articulate my vision to my

faculty, administration and parents. The resources my RSS feed brought me weren't just about vision and theory. They continue to be my technology boot camp. I learn about wikis, voki, free web-based platforms for learning, creating, collaborating and publishing on the web. I mine my feed for resources in order to create a rich portal that provides students with 24/7 support, available whenever and wherever they needed it.

When I first started using an RSS feed, it was a bit overwhelming, like another email box demanding my time and attention. Building it into my routine helped, but approaching it with a spirit of play is what turned it from being a burden to an exciting treasure box of possibility.

Capturing and organizing all these resources was a challenge, and so I created the CCHS Learning Commons Wiki which acts as a digital toolbox for our entire K-12 school community. It is an ongoing project that I add to almost daily. Today our learning commons wiki has logged hits from all over the world.

Blogging is by far the best thing I have ever done in terms of professional development and pushing my program to new levels. It requires me to play with ideas and online tools. Blogging provides a discipline for reflecting on practice as well as creating a window where I can invite others in to digitally observe what we do each day, as well as the challenges and richness of student life.

I used to say that I could be teaching students how to play the kazoo and nobody would ever know. Through the learning commons blog and wiki this is no longer true. We have designed

total transparency, and it is reaping huge dividends. Students, faculty, administration and parents know exactly what learning occurs.

People don't know what they don't know, and as librarians we are uniquely positioned to teach them everything from evolving information skills, social media, diverse formats for reading, collaboration and media production, to what goes on daily in a 21st century school library. I say throw open the digital doors and invite everyone in to play!



Web Seal of Excellence: Linda Picceri

Educational Technology Teacher, Watertown Middle School
<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/wms/library/splash.html>

Wearing and Sharing Multiple Hats

As I am writing this article I am thinking about the theme of our 2006 conference, "The Many Hats We Wear." It seems that each year the number of hats I wear increases exponentially. In fact, I am running out of room in my closet for all of them. I would like to focus on how learning to share the hats in my closet has helped me and my program.

It all began last summer when our new superintendent took over. She announced that our school library teachers and instructional technology teachers would no longer be separated into two distinct groups.

We now would be called educational technology teachers who would be sharing library and technology integration duties. Our department, formerly the Department of Libraries and Instructional Technology, would be called the Educational Technology Department. Initially I had a "here we go again" reaction as did many of my school library and IT colleagues, but after the dust settled and I had a chance to think about it, I thought that maybe this could work. After all, there is a lot of overlap between school library teachers and IT teachers, and as more technology comes into play the overlap increases.

Later that summer I was informed that a job had been created for an additional educational technology teacher at my school. This person would work out of the library with me. This made me a little nervous. After all I wasn't used to sharing my space or duties with anyone. I had been the go to person for all things library and technology almost 20 years. In spite of my nerves I decided to remain open minded. The new hire turned out to be Lindsay Hull, a very bright and enthusiastic IT teacher who was in the final stages of completing her Masters Degree at Harvard.

Coincidentally I had supervised her internship the year before and had found her to be very receptive, creative, and easy to work with. The more I thought about job sharing with Lindsay the more excited I became about the upcoming year.



As it has turned out, the match was everything I had hoped it would be. Our individual skills and areas of expertise, though different, dovetailed perfectly. After I got over my initial fear of letting her near the automated catalog, I realized that she was as capable of learning the basics of school librarianship as I was of wikis, blogs, podcasting, movie making, and basic web design. Of course I realize there are aspects of both our jobs that remain sacred. I am still in charge of developing, organizing, and maintaining the collection and she is the main go to person for teachers looking to integrate 2.0 technologies into the teaching and learning process. Even though we share many of these responsibilities, we have managed to maintain our individual professional identities.

In our first year working together, we have made a concerted effort to create a learning commons environment at Watertown Middle School. We have opened the space, created areas for presentation and multimedia production. We even began a very successful listening lunch for grade 8 which we are hoping to expand to at least grade 7 next year. More importantly we are trying to foster an atmosphere of openness, collaboration, and creativity in the learning commons. I think we are on the right path. When you walk into our learning commons you can sense the positive energy.

As more and more school districts consider adopting the model of combining school library teachers and IT teachers, I wonder if this is the way of the future. Will we eventually morph into something new, something hybrid? Will a new certification ever be considered which incorporates both fields? It seems to me we are on two roads that are merging. I have been doing a lot of thinking, questioning and soul searching ever since I heard Chris Harris speak at our MSLA conference a few years back. It was like being awakened from a deep sleep. David Loertscher and Ross Todd have had an impact on my line

of thinking as well. I wonder what our school libraries are going to look like, not five years from now, but ten years from now. What new skills will we need to learn and bring to the table in order to help students not only access information but transform

information into new knowledge? What I am certain of is we can't dig our heels in and resist change. We need to expect and embrace change as it comes our way. I truly believe that this is how we will stay relevant.

Will a new certification ever be considered which incorporates both fields? It seems to me we are on two roads that are merging.



Web Seal of Excellence: Tricia London

School Librarian at Avon Middle High School

<http://www.avon.k12.ma.us/librarymedia/ahlibraryhome.htm>

It goes without saying that the web is such a large part of our world, but this is even more applicable for teens. According to the standards, I should be using technology "to communicate with teens virtually," and my library's webpage is supposed to be "attractive and functional."

I am a self-taught web designer. When I accepted the position at Avon Middle High School five years ago, and began to create a website I used Dreamweaver. First lesson – don't create a website before checking with your internet provider to learn that I must use Frontpage.

The great thing about the web is that it is meant for sharing. The idea of including a catalog tutorial was borrowed from Rachael Costello at Pentucket Regional High. My print instructions about how to use the OPAC, were in turn, borrowed from Joanna, at Archbishop Williams High School. Librarians are by nature good sharers and good communicators. Why create a pathfinder or webquest when there are wonderful ones out there already?

However, the web does allow you the opportunity to pull together resources in a unique way. When playwright Melinda Lopez was coming to visit our school and our drama classes were trying to investigate Operation Pedro Pan, I couldn't find a webquest on this time in history so I simply created one.

The standards mention that web content should be "changed and updated frequently." This is where I am truly blessed at AMHS. I have the best district technology director in the whole world, who allows me access to my page and lets me do my own updates. In a larger district, I might not be so lucky. How do librarians without this access manage? They create links from their "official" website to places they have control over.

Other librarians use NewVibes, create free Google sites, or just blog. I don't change or update my website nearly as frequently as I'd like. In fact I had to change the page "W.O.W – Website of the Week" to Website of "Whenever" because I was always three weeks late in my weekly update. My colleagues are

terrific about emailing me links to include. Last summer my principal sent me a homemade video of an Irish library that I posted on my site.

The thing I like about my website is that it fits our school and our curriculum. If you look at my Social Studies page in the subject directory you'll notice twenty-two links for the Victorian era, fifty links to Civil Rights pages and only two or three links for World War I because that's what we teach.

Another thing I like about web pages is the ability to include documents.

I do a lot of teaching. This doesn't leave me much time for traditional librarian activities like book talks. This is why I've included lots of Book Trailers on my site. I do it mainly because I don't

have a lot of time to booktalk but posting Book Trailers also follows the standard that enjoins me to promote my young adult collections.

I like linking kids to books; that's why I do what I do. The standards tell me I should use annotated booklists and book reviews, and with the web I can in turn, link these titles to my OPAC so students can get instant gratification and know if a book is available. I use the web to connect. On my summer reading page I included a link so students could become a fan of "My Most Excellent Year - a story of love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park" on Facebook. Hey, did you know that messaging on Facebook is a very efficient and effective way to get overdue books returned? But I guess that's a different story for a different day...



The thing I like about my website is that it fits our school and our curriculum.

Web Seal of Excellence

DESCRIPTION: A school library's web presence is an important tool for teaching, learning, communication, advocacy and public relations. This award will recognize excellence in a school library's use of web tools: webpage, ning, wiki, blog, etc.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: School Library webpage maintained by the Library Teacher who has been a member of MSLA for at least two years; must hold a professional library degree or be a state certified library teacher. Nominations will be evaluated using a rubric with specific criteria for judging the web devices.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: Application for this award can be made by the Library Teacher or other member of MSLA, submitting their school library web tools. Judging panel may involve non-Massachusetts school librarians, using the rubric with specific criteria for school library web devices.

AWARD: Up to five awards per year: Certificate; Graphic, MSLA "Seal of Excellence" to be displayed on their webpage /blog/ning/wiki

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the Forum



2010 Deadline is August 31



Web Seal of Excellence: Suzanne Levasseur and Laura Beals D'Elia

Fay School <http://library.fayschool.org>

A Mission-Based Web Site by Suzanne Levasseur, Fay School Library Director

Receiving the MSLA Seal of Excellence for the Fay School Library web site is an honor that validates some of our strongest beliefs about the role of 21st century school libraries.

Ten years ago, in creating our first web site, we were guided by our mission statement:

In the spirit of fostering inquisitiveness, the library program:

- Encourages a love of reading and an appreciation of quality literature;
- Ensures that students are effective and responsible users of information and ideas;
- Equips students with the skills to construct meaningful knowledge and understanding.



Most of all, we wanted to create an online presence that would be instrumental in working towards our mission even when the library is not open. We started small, with just our catalog and links to online databases, and soon we added pathfinders for specific research projects. As the web site got larger and I saw how students had trouble finding what they needed on the site, I realized it was organized for a librarian, not a student (long lists in alphabetical order, I'm embarrassed to admit). After attending a Pam Berger workshop, I gathered a group of students, gave them file cards with page names, and asked them to organize the web site in a way that made sense to them. I took their advice and re-organized the site by courses.

The addition of a NoodleBib subscription provided an easy and effective way to guide students with their research. When they share their lists with teachers and librarians, we can comment and offer suggestions. Even during the evenings and on weekends, students ask questions and wonder about additional sources via email. This investment in time during research projects pays dividends in students learning how to find and use authoritative information.

Next, we thought about how we can help students find good books to read even when they're not in school. Laura D'Elia's blog, *Read This Book!*, is a fun, multi-media source for fourth and fifth grade.



I created *The Great Book Finder* for grades six through nine, which organizes books by genre with book covers that link to our catalog. The summer reading lists for our school use the same format and are also featured on the library site.



Our latest additions are embedded videos and other media by various people. Laura D'Elia has created webcasts and animations that teach students basic skills like how to take notes, why you should love subscription databases, and how to access these databases from home. These are a big hit with students of all ages; they watch with rapt attention and remember the content; it's incredible! We will definitely create more of these.

There are several contributing factors that made the Fay School Library web site and the MSLA award possible. Of special importance is a school administration over the past ten years that recognized the value of supporting the library with not only adequate staffing and funding, but also with enthusiastic encouragement and recognition of librarians as educators. The crucial ingredient is librarians with a passion for the profession who are always eager to learn a new technology if it will enhance student learning. We have different areas of specialization.



Laura D'Elia uses a variety of new technologies and tools which she has taught herself and is now teaching others at conferences. (You can catch her in action at the MSLA and MassCUE conferences this fall.) I know HTML and am slowly learning newer technologies myself. Our library web site is a joint effort which continues to be a major focus of our work, but is also wonderful fun for both of us.

The MSLA Seal of Excellence has given the library additional recognition in our school. We announced it to the student body, included it in a newsletter to parents, and while teaching, we refer to our "award-winning library web site." Everyone is impressed.

Learn from Laura! At our 2009 Conference, Laura Beals D'Elia's workshop, "My Favorite Tools" received rave reviews. This year, Laura will present a **bring your own laptop** session on Monday, 3:00-4:00: **"Cartoons and Comics and Animations, Oh, My! Using GoAnimate and ToonDoo to Engage Your Students."**

Web Seal of Excellence: Lisa Ryder

Austin Intermediate, Freetown-Lakeville
<http://www.freelake.org/AIS/library.php>

Librarians as Leaders:

Important for the Future of our Profession

While studying to earn my Masters in Library and Information Science, it was exciting to think about how school librarians could influence changes in the teaching and learning process. I started developing a vision for building partnerships to achieve twenty-first century learning standards.

Six years later, I have developed a program that I am proud of. One of the most noteworthy aspects is my library website. I was thrilled in the fall of 2009, when my library website was awarded the MSLA Seal of Excellence. It was an honor to be recognized because so much of what I do involves providing services and often there is little feedback. In building this website, I tried to include meaningful information for all of our stakeholders: students, teachers, parents, administrators and the community.



Although I take great pride in what I have created, I am still not satisfied. I will not rest until I get 100% teacher buy-in for the media center. While I still believe that an enthusiastic media specialist is essential for bringing the potential of information and learning resources alive for both students and teachers, I have learned that it is imperative to have strong

leaders who share that vision. There are still teachers out there who have no idea that our roles as "librarians" have evolved in response to the 21st century. Perhaps because they have not evolved themselves or perhaps they are so busy doing their jobs that they don't take notice of what we can do for our educational communities.

In order for my vision to become fully realized, we need leaders who will encourage teachers to see beyond the four walls of their classrooms. We need leaders who will help change those old perceptions of the school librarians we grew up with. We need leaders who will bring about change with sensitivity and a sense of humor while building an understanding that we can help transform education for the better. Nobody is better equipped to do this for us than us. Do it. Be a leader. The opportunity is there, why not grab it? I used my summer to complete the coursework to earn an administrator's license. Not sure what I will do with it yet, but, going through the program has pushed me to get more involved with the administration than ever before. Those few teachers who weren't paying attention to me before are starting to take notice.

MSLA Lifetime Achievement: Carolyn Markuson

I enthusiastically nominate Carolyn Markuson for the MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Carolyn served on the MSLA Executive Board for many years in many positions, including president. As Director of Libraries in the Brookline Public Schools, she administered an exemplary program that garnered wide recognition. As an adjunct professor in the Simmons GSLIS program, she taught legions of future school library media specialists. Over the years she has offered countless workshops on strategic planning, new technologies, and facility design. Carolyn also shared her expertise beyond Massachusetts as a member of the board of NESLA for many years, holding the office of President in that organization more than once.

When Carolyn retired from her position in Brookline, she became the President and CEO of the BiblioTECH Corporation and launched her international career as a consultant in school library facility design. With Rolf Erickson, she authored Designing a School Library Media Center for the Future and is widely recognized as an authority in this arena.

Carolyn's unflagging enthusiasm for advancing the school library profession has kept her current in her field even in retirement. This year, after having done an in-depth review of the library program in the Wellesley Public Schools, Carolyn emerged from retirement to take the position of Director of Libraries in that school district.

Carolyn has been a role-model and mentor for countless colleagues in our profession, giving generously and freely of her time and vast knowledge of school library programs, facilities, and technology. There is no other MSLA member more deserving of this award.

*Submitted by Kathy Lowe
MSLA Executive Director*



MTA – Are You Involved?

By Patsy Diver



When I first became involved about 12 years ago with MSLA, it was the first professional organization I'd ever joined. Well, I guess you might include 4H, but that was a really, really long time ago! Our organization, Massachusetts School Library Association, provided me with a

network of people who shared my interests, inspired my ambitions, and helped me become a better school librarian.

Then, as my involvement grew, I heard about ALA, AASL, MLA, MRA, NELA, NESLA, and MTA. Then it was Nobscot Reading Council, Foundation for Children's Books, Children's Book Council and Norfolk County Teacher's Association.

If you haven't joined or connected with the Massachusetts Teachers Association, perhaps you might want to consider it. And if you ARE a member of MTA and haven't been to a conference yet... well, maybe you should consider that, too.

Why? I can only offer you two reasons: the two conferences I attended, last year and this year, both had issues that concerned school libraries. As teachers, our voices need to be heard by others. MTA's statewide conference, like the MSLA, provides an empowered forum for input, discussion and impact. Last year, a group of school librarians led the way to have a resolution approved for MTA to support certified school librarians. This year, in discussing how to best prepare students for 21st century learning, I stood up and suggested schools keep their school libraries, and their school librarians. Is this going to make a difference? We won't know until we try. **So try it this year: get involved with your MTA chapter.** Be a leader as a teacher as well as a school librarian. We are both.

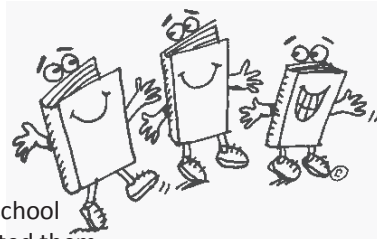
Introducing the new Author Database

<http://maauthors-msla.wikispaces.com/>

A group of MSLA members are working to create the new MSLA database to connect authors and schools. This resource will include local authors and illustrators from the greater New England area and are known to do school visits.

Information available includes:

- Author/illustrator name
- Published work
- Contact information of author/illustrator
- Contact information of school librarians who have hosted them.



This database is in the early stages of development. With contributions from our members, this promises to be a valuable source of information for us all.

Future plans include:

- Continual adding of author/illustrator information
- Tips for how to do author visits, and programs
- Ideas for creative funding

Got a suggestion? To add information, please visit the site and fill out the "Add an Author" form. With everyone's help, this will soon become a valuable resource.

If you are interested in being an active participant in this project, please contact Chris Steinhauser chrissteinhauser@yahoo.com

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2010 MSLA Conference: "Working Smarter"

TRADING POST

formerly the Exploratorium

Share ideas that have been successful in your school.... We want to hear about it!

★ Collaboration ★ Resource sharing ★ Program ideas ★ Money saving tips ★ You name it!

What should your application include?

A. Title B. 1-2 Paragraph description C. Your name, school & your email.

How can you submit it? Send it to Leslie Schoenherr (leslieschoenherr@gmail.com) by **9/24/2010**.

Those submitted by 9/24/2010 will be "posted" on the Trading Post in the lobby at the conference. For the procrastinators, write up your idea at the conference and submit it at the registration desk. All "posts" will be placed in the lobby for viewing during the conference & posted on the MSLA website for future reference.



P.O. Box 658
Lunenburg, MA 01462
Tel./Fax: 978-582-6967
www.maschoollibraries.org
Visit MSLA website for current conference information

2010-2011 MSLA Membership Form

Fill in **BOTH** the MSLA Membership and Conference Registration forms
if you are attending the conference.
Conference registration includes MSLA dues.

Email: _____
First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Job Title or Other Status (e.g. Student, Retired): _____
School/Business: _____
Work Address: _____
Work City: _____
Work State: _____ Work Zip: _____
Work Phone: _____ Work Fax: _____
Library or Personal Website/Blog: http:// _____
Home Address: _____
Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home or Cell Phone: _____

Preferred mailing address ☐ Work ☐ Home

☐ Please do not provide my contact information to MSLA Conference Exhibitors

Position Type ☐ Full Time ☐ Part Time
School Type ☐ Public ☐ Independent (Private, Parochial)
Grade Level ☐ Elementary ☐ High School ☐ College
☐ Middle ☐ District Level
Library Region ☐ Boston ☐ Metrowest ☐ Southeast
☐ Central ☐ Northeast ☐ West

For 2010-11 MSLA will continue to align its membership with the former Massachusetts Library Regions. Please select the region in which your school (college, home, or organization if you do not work in a school) is located.

Membership Info

☐ ALA ☐ NESLA ☐ MassCUE ☐ AFT MA
☐ AASL ☐ MLA ☐ MTA

MSLA Membership Types & Fees (Membership dues are included in the cost of conference registration)

☐ Professional - \$40.00 ☐ Vendor - \$40.00

☐ Other (such as library support staff, student*, retired, unemployed) - \$20.00

*If you are a student in a graduate degree program while working full-time as a professional in a school library, please register as a Professional.

Do you want to be listed by MSLA as a Resource Person willing to share your expertise? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List area of expertise _____

First time member referred by _____

- Includes Membership through Nov. 1, 2011
- A check or school purchase order **MUST** accompany this form. Please make check payable to MSLA.
- MSLA dues are not refundable.
- Return this completed form to:
MSLA Director
P.O. Box 658
Lunenburg, MA 01462
Email: klowe@maschoollibraries.org
Tel/Fax: 978-582-6967

★ NESLA Special Rate for MSLA Members!

Join the New England School Library Association for \$20 (a savings of \$10) Please send a **SEPARATE** check payable to NESLA, to:

Merlyn Miller
Burr and Burton Academy
57 Seminary Avenue
Manchester, VT 05254

For more information
visit the NESLA webpage:
www.neschoollibraries.org

For MSLA Office Use Only:

Check: _____

School PO# _____

Amount: _____

Date Paid: _____



2010 CONFERENCE Registration Form

October 3 & 4, 2010

Fill in **BOTH** the MSLA Membership and Conference Registration forms if you are attending the conference.
Conference registration includes MSLA dues.

Register by September 1 and get 25% off your MSLA dues

Registration includes MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name: _____

NOTE TO STUDENTS: If you are a student in a graduate degree program while working full-time as a professional in a school library, please register as a Professional.

PROFESSIONAL	1 - DAY	2 - DAYS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday or <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <i>please select day</i>	
Early Bird Registration (before Sept. 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$130	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180
Regular Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190
Walk in Registration (register day of the conference)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240
OTHER (such as library support staff, student, retired, unemployed)	1 - DAY	2 - DAYS
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday or <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <i>please select day</i>	
Early Bird Registration (before Sept. 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140
Regular Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145
Walk in Registration (register day of the conference)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$145	<input type="checkbox"/> \$195
~ When registering prior to the conference you will receive confirmation by email that your registration is complete ~		
SUNDAY LUNCH options - please select one		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Napoleon atop Barley Pilaf with a Balsamic drizzle or <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Stuffed with Apples & Cranberries		
SUNDAY AWARDS DINNER - Sunday, October 3		
<i>Dinner Buffet - Minestrone Soup, Rustic Italian Antipasto, Roast Sirloin with a Madeira Demi Glaze & Confetti Vegetables, Farfalle (butterfly pasta) in a Vodka Cream Sauce with Fresh Parmesan, Italian Squash Medley, Garlic Breadsticks and Focaccia, Assorted Italian Pastries & Cookies, Coffee & Tea</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00		
MONDAY BOXED LUNCH options - please select one		
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey & Cheese on a Bulkie Roll or <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Wrap (included with both - Whole Fruit, Chips, Cookie & Drink)		
EXHIBITS, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & DINNER - Sunday, October 3 (for guests of conference attendees & award winners)		
# of guests _____ x \$40.00 = _____		

Refund policy for cancellation of conference registration:
No refunds will be made if registration is cancelled within 5 days of the conference.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ **SCHOOL P.O. # (if applicable)** _____

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Symposium
Stephen Abram: FutureReady

OK, the future is here. What is the NEW normal and what are the new expectations for teacher librarians? These expectations are not driven just by what libraries want to provide or tradition. They are driven by the new ecology of the web and big players like Facebook, Bing, Hulu, YouTube, Amazon, Google and more. That is the new ecology of the 21st century. How do we prepare learners for the new world they will encounter? Are you meeting your learner and community expectations? Will your library thrive in the 3.0 world? What adaptations will you need to make to thrive in future changes?

Are you future ready? Stephen Abram, a well known library technology futurist, will lead us through a conversation and presentation on these issues. He is the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Markets for Gale Cengage Learning. Stephen was listed by *Library Journal* as one of the top 50 people influencing the future of libraries. He has received numerous honors and speaks regularly internationally. He is the author of ALA Editions' bestselling *Out Front with Stephen Abram*. His blog, "Stephen's Lighthouse," is a beacon in the library world.



9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Symposium
**Christopher Bing:
 Using Primary Sources**



Authors and illustrator can attest firsthand to the importance of using primary sources in their work. Whether it's crafting a novel with authentic detail, or illustrating historic event, primary source are essential tools.

Christopher Bing won a 2001 Caldecott Honor Award for *Casey at the Bat*. In a review, *Booklist* termed *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* a remarkable visual interpretation of Longfellow's classic poem. His other notable works include *Little Black Sambo* and the illustrations for *Lincoln Shot: A President's Life Remembered*.

For each of his projects, Christopher Bing has used primary sources. His symposium will focus on authors' and illustrators' use of visual resources, illustrations, maps, diaries and letters. This is an important cross-curricular connection for social studies, language arts, and art. The principles are applicable at all academic levels.

Working freelance, Christopher Bing is a conceptual, editorial, and political illustrator. He has won numerous awards and his work has appeared in numerous publications: *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *American Heritage Magazine*.



Stephen Abram Christopher Bing SUNDAY SPEAKERS Linda Nathan

Keynote Speaker, Awards Banquet 5:30 PM

Linda Nathan

**The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test:
Lessons from an Innovative Urban School
*Literacy as a Democratic Right***

Boston Arts Academy comprises an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse student body, yet 95 percent of its graduates are accepted to college. This remarkable success rate, says Co-Headmaster Linda Nathan, is in large part due to asking the right questions and being open to seeking answers collaboratively with faculty, parents, and the students themselves.

In her book, *The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test: Lessons from an Innovative Urban School*, Nathan gives insights into the process of grappling with these questions, attempting to implement solutions, and evaluating the outcomes. Stories that are inspirational as well as heartbreaking reveal the missteps and failures—as well as the successes. Nathan doesn't claim to have all the answers, but seeks to share the philosophies and practices that have worked for the BAA. Her remarks will focus on specifically Boston Arts Academy's school-wide literacy efforts.



2010 Author Fest: MSLA Celebrates Local Authors and Illustrators

Meet the Authors...Have Authors Sign their Books...Line up an Author Visit for your School

October 3, 2010

SUNDAY 3-5:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall



Steve Abram <http://www.stephenslighthouse.com>

Stephen Abram was listed by Library Journal as one of the top 50 people influencing the future of libraries. His columns appear in many professional magazines, including *Library Journal*. *Out Front with Stephen Abram* is an ALA bestseller.

Mark Binder <http://www.markbinder.com>

Mark Binder's writing falls into three categories: traditional folk-style tales, the "Chelm" series, and autobiographical whoppers and lies. *It Ate My Sister* is a favorite for youngsters ages 10 and up. *The Bed Time Story Book* was written for caregivers to share with children, and has sold more than 60,000 copies.



Christopher Bing <http://www.christopherbing.com>

Christopher Bing won a 2001 Caldecott Honor Award for *Casey at the Bat*. Booklist termed *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* a remarkable visual interpretation of Longfellow's classic poem. His other notable works include *Little Black Sambo* and the illustrations for *Lincoln Shot: A President's Life Remembered*.

Anne Broyles <http://www.annebroyles.com>

Anne Broyles is the author of *Priscilla and the Hollyhocks*, a Bank Street College Best Children's Books of 2009, Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2009, and Massachusetts Book Awards Recommended Book. *Shy Mama's Halloween*, was a 2001 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People and Teachers' Choice 2002 Award.

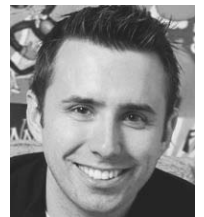


Jerry Craft <http://www.mamasboyz.com> appearing both Sunday and Monday

Jerry Craft is the creator of the award-winning *Mama's Boyz* comic strip, distributed since 1995. One of the few syndicated African-American cartoonists, he has published seven books, including *Mama's Boyz: As American as Sweet Potato Pie!*, *Mama's Boyz: Home Schoolin'*, and *Mama's Boyz: The Big Picture* (S'Indie Award Winner for best children's book).

Jarrett Krosoczka <http://www.studiojjk.com/pressfiles.html>

Jarrett J. Krosoczka is the author and illustrator of several picture books and middle grade graphic novels. His work has been short-listed by *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*, among many others. Jarrett's *Punk Farm* and *Lunch Lady* series are both currently in development as feature films. His books include: *Good Night*, *Monkey Boy*, *Baghead*, *Annie Was Warned*, *Max for President*, *Punk Farm*, *Punk Farm on Tour*, *The Lunch Lady Series*



Alisa Libby <http://www.alisalibby.com> <http://www.alisamlibby.wordpress.com>

Alisa is drawn to writing the stories of "bad girls" in history. *Blood Confession* is about a legendary Hungarian Countess. For her second novel, *The King's Rose*, she visited the Tower of London in search of the ghost of Catherine Howard, fifth wife of the notorious King Henry VIII.

Barbara McGrath <http://www.barbaramcgrath.com>

Barbara McGrath is a national speaker promoting writing and literacy in schools. She is the award-winning author of over thirty books for children, both fiction and non-fiction including: *McGrath Math*, *Teddy Bear Counting*, *The Little Red Elf*, *The Little Green Witch*, *The Storm*, *Soccer Counts*, *The Baseball Counting Book*.



Linda Nathan In her book, *The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test: Lessons from an Innovative Urban School*

Linda Nathan asks: How and why does a school develop a shared vision of what it stands for? What makes a great teacher? How can a principal help good teachers improve? Why must schools talk openly about race and achievement? Nathan shares her insights on schools that matter.

2010 Author Fest: MSLA Celebrates Local Authors and Illustrators

Meet the Authors...Have Authors Sign their Books...Line up an Author Visit for your School

October 4, 2010

MONDAY 10:15 AM-1:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall

Martha Ackmann <http://marthaackmann.com>

Martha Ackmann is an author, journalist and speaker who writes about women who have changed America: *The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight* and *Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League*.



Darryl Cobb <http://www.darrylcobb.com>

Darryl Cobb is a singer/songwriter and author of nine children's picture books, including *Do Pirates Go To School?* and *Daddy Did I Ever Say? I Love You, Love You, Every Day*. "Teaching through Creative Arts" is an exploration of the writing process through interactive activities, stories and music.



Jerry Craft <http://www.mamasboyz.com> appearing both Sunday & Monday

Jerry Craft is the creator of the award-winning *Mama's Boyz* comic strip since 1995. He has published seven books including *Mama's Boyz: As American as Sweet Potato Pie!*, *Mama's Boyz: Home Schoolin'*, and *Mama's Boyz: The Big Picture* (S'Indie Award Winner for best children's book).



Michael Dahl <http://stonearchbooks.blogs2008/01/staff-spotlight-michael-dahl.html>

Michael Dahl is the author of more than 100 books for children and young adults. He has written *Gotcha Covered* on nonfiction books that get kids excited about reading. He has written and edited numerous graphic novels and has authored the *Library of Doom* and *Dragonblood* series.



Jacqueline Davies <http://www.jacquelinedavies.net>

Jacqueline Davies is the author of seven books for children, including the bestselling chapter book for young readers, *The Lemonade War*. Other titles include *The Boy Who Drew Birds*, *Tricking the Tallyman*, and *Lost*. Ms. Davies travels across the country presenting at schools and conferences.



Susan Goodman <http://www.susangoodmanbooks.com>

Susan E. Goodman is the author of many award-winning nonfiction books for children: *See How They Run: Campaign Dreams, Election Schemes, and the Race to the White House*, *All in Just One Cookie*, *On This Spot: An Expedition through Time*, *Choppers!* Her latest book is *Monster Trucks* and comes out in September.



Ralph Masiello www.ickybugman.com www.ralphmasiello.com

Once known as the "ickybugman" illustrating books for other authors, Ralph Masiello has emerged with a new focus on his drawing books. *The Dragon Drawing Book* and *The Egypt Drawing Book* are the first two titles. Ralph is currently working on a series of very cool robot illustrations for his next book! In addition he is sketching the illustrations for his wife Stephanie's new book, *The Mystic Phyles*.



Marcella Pixley <http://www.marcellapixley.com>

Marcella Pixley is the author of *Freak*, which received starred reviews from *Kirkus Reviews* (Editor's Choice and a Best Book of the Year), *Booklist*, *Book Sense*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Bulletin of Children's Books*. It is currently on Macmillan's Pick list for books about Bullying. Marcella's second book, *Queen of Toads* will come out next September. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.



David Yoo <http://www.daveyoo.com>

David Yoo is the author of the novels, *Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before*, and *Girls For Breakfast*. His first middle-grade novel, *The Detention Club* comes out spring 2011, while his first collection of essays for adults, *The Choke Artist* is forthcoming. David teaches in the MFA program at Pine Manor College and at the Gotham Writers' Workshop.



**8:30-9:45 AM
WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

President's Welcome:
Gerri Fegan, MSLA President

Update and Greeting:
Greg Pronevitz, MLS Executive Director:
The New Massachusetts Library System

**8:30-9:45 AM
Keynote Address**
Michael Dahl
*From Tarzan of the Apes
to the
Library of Doom:
One Author's Journey
into the
21st Century!*



From the moment he stepped into a library as a young child, Michael Dahl was hooked on books! He went on to read thousands and write hundreds of them, fiction, nonfiction, chapter books and graphic novels. Some of them won awards, and some of them turned reluctant readers into book lovers. Michael shares with insight and humor how librarians changed his life at various stages of his career, and what he has learned about books, children, and how the two connect (and sometimes collide!).

**2010 CONFERENCE
MONDAY**

**10:15 AM – 11:15 AM
Concurrent
Session I**

Learning Commons Panel

Level: All

Robin Cicchetti
Concord-Carlisle High School
Linda Picceri
Watertown Middle-High School
Toni Carlson
Cunniff Elementary, Watertown
Valerie Diggs, Moderator
Chelmsford High School

The panel members will discuss the learning commons philosophy and present ways in which they are converting their libraries into the learning commons model at all three levels, elementary, middle and high school.

Getting Grant Dollars Panel

Level: All

Mary Frances Zilonis
Simmons GSLIS
Marlene Heroux
MA Board of Library Commissioners
April Graziano
Holyoke Community College
Deborah Lang Froggatt
Boston Arts Academy/Fenway High

Learn how to approach the grant writing process to become a successful grant writer. A team of experienced grant writers and reviewers will provide tips on navigating this sometimes intimidating process. These school librarians will share their experiences.

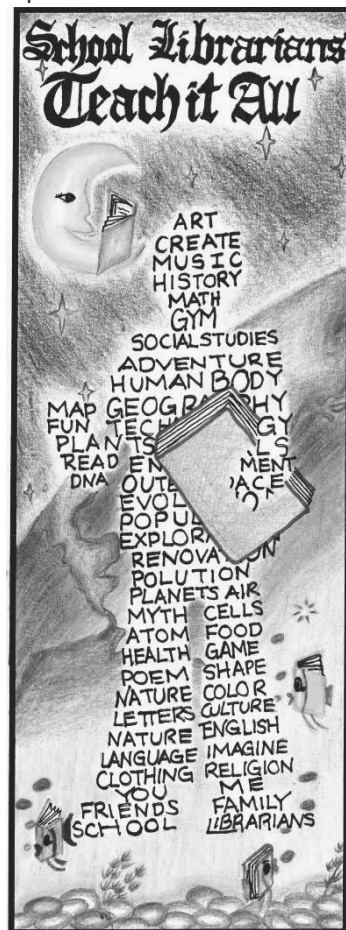


**The Popular and the Literary:
What's New in YA Fiction**

Level: Middle/High

Amy Pattee
Simmons GSLIS

This program shines the spotlight on the latest young adult fiction and nonfiction from popular paperback to literary hardback. Special attention will be paid to those books that address bullying and interpersonal conflict.



Bringing STEM to Your Library

Level: Elementary

Katie Cersale-Messina
Whelan Elementary, Revere

Classroom teachers struggle to fit the required time for math, science, technology and engineering into their daily curriculum. The school librarian can help them! Your school library can be a resource for science, technology, engineering, and math materials. This session will give school librarians ideas to bring back to their libraries to help support STEM at their school. We will go over where to find materials, STEM read alouds, web resources, and project ideas.

AASL's 25 Top Websites for Teaching & Learning

Level: All

Linda Friel

Member of the AASL Task Force

This is the second year that AASL has named the "Top 25 Websites for Teaching and Learning." Find out how these websites were selected, and the criteria used. Learn how these websites best support the Standards for the 21st-Century Learner, and how they can be integrated into a variety of curricula. Come, bring your laptops, and have some fun as you use this opportunity to focus on possible ways to collaborate with classroom teachers and use these exciting Web 2.0 tools to enhance student achievement.



Visit the TRADING POST

- Give an idea
- Get a tip
- Grow your program

2010 CONFERENCE

MONDAY

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Concurrent
Session II**

Cushing Academy: One Year Later

Level: High

Tom Corbett, Cushing Academy

Fisher-Watkins Library Executive Director

This session will review the progress Cushing Academy has made over the past year in its rather aggressive transition away from print and toward digital resources. Come hear how the library now focuses far less on inventory management and much more on finding new and creative ways to better support information AND reading literacy in an all-digital environment. With his MLS from the University of Missouri, Tom Corbett has worn many librarian and archivist hats over the past 25 years. He only recently "migrated" to school libraries in order to participate in this ambitious project at Cushing Academy. Up until now, his background has been in public libraries and library networks, mainly focusing on finding better ways to access, organize and distribute printed books and physical media within and among libraries.

Building a Reading Buzz in the Library

Level: Elementary

Judi Paradis

Plympton Elementary, Waltham

Mary Kenslea

Whittemore Elementary, Waltham

Elementary school libraries are important partners in literacy, supporting all student readers and helping them develop a strong reading habit. In this program, we will share a number of easy-to-implement ideas for creating excitement around reading, from reading incentive programs to book group ideas to partnerships with teachers and reading specialists.

Digital Storytelling: Bringing New Media Together with Traditional Literacies

Level: All

Carol Kelly

Salem State College

The wide variety of new media offers rich and varied presentation options for student work, but too often its use also disguises a lack of substantial content and traditional research. Digital storytelling offers us the opportunity to foster those skills and to set high standards for learning while still supporting the use of the exciting range of possibilities. Session includes basic resources, examples of projects, excellent rubrics and open-ended ideas for every grade level.



In the summer of 2009, Cushing Academy made headlines with the Headmaster's announcement that the library was discarding its books in favor of digital resources. MSLA honored the Cushing Academy library staff at the 2009 conference.

l-r: Karen Lemieux, Liz Vezina, Susan Larkin

WIN a FREE 2011 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION!

Check the MSLA Member Directory to see who in your district or local area has not yet joined MSLA. The Directory is on the MSLA website, under Members. For every new member you recruit, you will be entered into a drawing for a 2011 Conference Registration.



Digital Literacy Challenge

Level: All

Rachel Costello

Pentucket Regional High School

Lindsey Barlow

Instructional Technology Specialist

Often librarians and technology specialists are tasked with promoting digital literacy without classes. This two year digital literacy challenge project took students and faculty beyond the bell and outside the classroom, alternating library and Web 2.0 learning activities: social bookmarking, online library catalog, citation generators, online study skills workshops, digital footprints, book review messaging, online giving, database research, presidential pledge wiki, online study sessions, Wordle clouds, LibraryThing, and audio creators. These challenges expose students to educational technology and models instructional uses for teachers and administrators. Attendees will receive an e-package to replicate in their schools.

2010 CONFERENCE

MONDAY

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**Concurrent
Session III**

Working WITH the Web: Enhancing Student Research Using Web 2.0 Tools

Level: Middle/High

Christopher Franks

Springfield High School of Commerce

Have you read up on Web 2.0, and attended workshops on using wikis and other tools, but are still not sure how you can implement them at your school? Then this session is for you. We will be examining ways you can begin collaborating with teachers to make research projects more engaging using Web annotation, site creation, and other Web-based tools. At the same time, we will be exploring ways to embrace skeptics and reactive Web usage /filtering policies.

Primary Sources Personalize History: Using *Alan's Letters* as an Introduction to World War II

Level: Middle/High

Nancy Rial

Baldwin School, Cambridge

Alan's Letters is a book about a 16 year-old and his life-altering decision to join the U.S. Army in April 1943. Nancy will explain how the project began and ways to use the book to teach about World War II. She will share interview techniques, tips on using primary sources, and travel resources. Nancy has been researching WWII events for the past ten years and travels between her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts and France.

Mixing Mythology, Science, Art and Writing

Level: All

Ralph Masiello

Author and Illustrator

Stephanie Brockway

Author

The Mystic Phyles is a new middle grade illustrated novel series written by Stephanie Brockway and illustrated by Ralph Masiello. Ralph is the author/illustrator of *Icky Bug Alphabet*, *The Skull Alphabet*, *The Flag We Love*, and his own how-to-draw series. *The Mystic Phyles: Beasts* is the first in a series of visual journals written by the fictitious 13 year old, Abigail Thaddeus. She is sent on a secret quest to unearth the mysteries of mythological beasts while discovering that there are mysteries lurking in her own dysfunctional teenage life. Take a visual journal expedition deep into the world of mythology, through science and art. Learn about the Vegetable Lamb of Tartary, the Bonnacon, the Barguest, the Ahool, and many more. Discover how Cryptozoology seeks to validate the origins of legend. Learn methods of designing visual journals, field guides, and alphabet books, using what students have discovered while researching mythological themes. Come laugh, learn, and explore the depths of the human imagination.



The Common Core Standards for English Language Arts: A New Opportunity for Massachusetts Educators

Level: All

Susan Whelple

Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education (DESE)

Director of the Office for Humanities

In July 2010, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted the national Common Core Standards, the first new standards in Massachusetts for English Language Arts since 2001. Come to this session to learn who developed Common Core Standards and what's in them. Understand how librarians can take the lead in their schools and districts in helping others make the transition to these new standards.

ALL HANDOUTS

will be available
on the

MSLA WEBPAGE

Handmade Books for a Healthy Planet: Earth-Friendly Bookmaking Around the World

Level: All

Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord

Book Artist

In this time of transition in the world of books, take a look back at the development of the book form through time and across cultures and learn how to make handmade books with your students. After a short history lesson, you'll make four books from around the world with recycled materials: a wish scroll from Ethiopia, an accordion book from China, a comic book from the US, and a news book from Europe. You'll get ideas for content and adaptations and be ready to go back to your library and make books with your students.

2010 CONFERENCE

MONDAY

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Concurrent
Session IV**

Cartoons and Comics and Animations, Oh My!: Using GoAnimate and ToonDoo to Engage Your Students

Level: All

Laura Beals D'Elia

Fay School

GoAnimate is an online video animation creator and ToonDoo is a comic strip generator. Both tools allow the user to make fun, meaningful, and captivating mini lessons. These can be shared and viewed online or embedded into your web site or blog. Use them to enrich your curriculum, to create instruction that is accessible at any time, and to make lessons memorable. Both tools are easy ways to incorporate 21st century skills into your curriculum. Laura will show some of her creations, as well as the basics of using each tool.

NOTE Technology prerequisites:

- Your own laptop (wireless capable)
- Adobe Shockwave: Free download from Adobe website
- Adobe Flash: Free download from Adobe website
- Browser: Firefox or Chrome



What's New in Children's Books

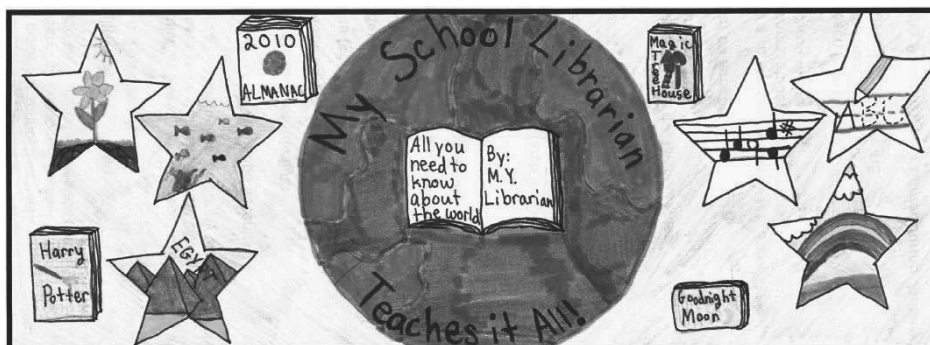
Level: Elementary

Pat Keogh

Retired School Librarian

Worcester State Adjunct Professor

This session looks at new books that school librarians might consider adding to their libraries. Pat will include both fiction and nonfiction from the 2010 publishing season. Renowned for her presentations on children's literature, Pat has been a regular columnist on children's literature in the *MSLA Forum*.



Transitions for the MSLA Executive Board

By Gerri Fegan, MSLA president

The start of the new school year, the MSLA Executive Board has many transitions. It's been a year since the announcement of reorganization of the Massachusetts Library System. MSLA supports the courageous decisions in response to a tough economy.

It is a great pleasure to welcome **Valerie Diggs** as President-Elect. Her leadership and reputation in Massachusetts and across the country will promote school librarians as essential to student achievement.

Past President **Sandy Kelly** is moving into a new position on the board as the MSLA liaison to the MA Reading Association.

The MSLA board has been privileged to have many skilled and collegial representatives who are completing their terms on the Executive Board and I thank them for their service:

Patsy Diver and **Jan Koleszar** have been the editors of the Forum for several years. Through their efforts, MSLA members have had access to important professional news, delivered both online and in print.

Kathy Dubrovsky has been a leader of professional development in her work with Thinkfinity by Verizon. Many MSLA members have taken advantage of her workshops and have enjoyed learning about the new tools Thinkfinity has to offer.

Heather Macpherson has served on the MSLA Board as the Southeast Area Co-Director with Lynn Weeks. The Southeast has been very active in school library professional development. Heather will stay active as a representative to MTA in her school district.

Rose DeNucci is leaving the MSLA Board to travel to Hawaii to live with her two daughters and grandchildren. Rose has been the Boston Area Co-Director this year and has been one of our finest conference committee members. Her enthusiasm will be missed and the Board would like to take a field trip to visit her!

Katie Baxter has been the independent schools liaison. She will continue to be a reliable link to the school librarians of independent schools.

Maureen Ambrosino and **Sarah Sogigian** have represented the MLA/Youth Services as liaisons on our board. Their insight, advice and professionalism have been exemplary. Maureen is the new director for the Westborough Public Library and Sarah will be the Youth Advisor with the newly-organized Massachusetts Library System.

Unsung Hero: LaurieAnn Riley Jobs Editor for MSLA

For over three years, Laurie has tirelessly posted job openings on the MSLA webpage, a service that is vital to our profession.

Originally, Laurie answered a "help wanted" posting on the MSLA Listserv, posted by webmaster, Ann Perham. Laurie didn't hesitate when she saw the instructions to use the webpage Joomla application which is very challenging to learn. But learn she did, and Laurie has been the epitome of quiet service to MSLA and its members.

She has done more than just wait for job openings to be posted on the listserv or sent to her via the webpage. Laurie has gone the extra mile, combing newspapers for school library openings and linking to other online resources. She has kept the Jobs Page current, with emails to verify the status of the jobs.

***THANK YOU** is a small gesture to a member of MSLA who has served us without fanfare or limelight. Laurie is everything that is good about our profession.*

Bob Roth has been the Constitution and Policy Chair for MSLA and previously was Legislation co-chair and the Boston Area Co-Director. His work for school librarians continues on ALA Council.

Linda Picceri is known for her singing group, "City of Roses" which has been the delight of our recent conferences and is always "buzzed about" in attendee evaluations. Linda has served as Public Relations co-chair with Laura Larsson.

Laura Larsson has been the Public Relations Co-Chair with Linda Picceri for the past year. We thank her for her work on the Bookmark Contest.

Laura Larsson
Bob Roth **Rose DeNucci**
Sandy Kelly **Patsy Diver**
Jan Koleszar **Heather Macpherson**
Maureen Ambrosino
Thanks
Kathleen Baxter **Kathy Dubrovsky**
Sarah Sogigian
Linda Picceri

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Awards

Carrie Tucker and Margaret Phoenix, Co-Chairs



The Awards program allows MSLA to achieve three goals. First, we advocate for strong school libraries throughout Massachusetts by celebrating examples of excellence and service in school librarianship. Second, we recognize supporters of school libraries. Third, we offer grants and scholarships to foster growth and encourage new school librarians.



The awards were presented at the MSLA conference in October 2009 (* indicates NEW Award):

Administrator Advocate for Excellence in School Libraries

Liz Murray, Middle School Director at Prospect Hill Academy in Somerville, nominated by Mary Kelleher;

Dr. Dale Hanley, Superintendent, Southbridge Public Schools, nominated by Lynn Loftus and Lynda Shoup

**Web Seal of Excellence*

Lynnfield High School - Janice Alpert

Avon Middle/High School - Tricia London

Fay School - Susanne Levasseur and Laura Beals D'Elia

Watertown Middle/High School - Linda Picceri

Austin Intermediate School, Freetown-Lakeville - Lisa Ryder

Audrey Friend Scholarship Alexis Brown, Simmons College

**Area Director's Award: Massachusetts Super-Librarian*

Central Region—Diane Libbey, Westborough High School

Northeast—Mary Melaugh, Marshall Middle School, Billerica

Southeast—Laurie Belanger, Freetown-Lakeville Middle School

Metro West—Robin Cicchetti

**MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award*

Doris Smith, Carolyn Markuson, Valerie Diggs

**MSLA Service Award*

Kathy Lowe

**School Library Advocate Award*

Janet Allison, NEASC

**School Library Innovator Award*

Mitchell D. Chester, Commissioner of Education

MSLA Forum

Jan Koleszar & Patsy Divver, Co-Editors

As we complete our third year of collaborating on this newsletter, we have encountered several changes to our 2009 Action Plan.

In reviewing our Action Plan for 2009, we met the objective of the continuing a quality online newsletter, *The Forum*, as evident in the Fall print issue (2009) and the online Winter issue (2010.) Objective 2, to publish three online issues, will be met with the Spring online issue (2010), to arrive by the end of May.

With the expertise of Webmaster Ann Perham, the *Forum* successfully offered as a PDF file linked to the MSLA webpage. Ann's thoroughness and design ability truly bring the articles together in a professional, high-quality presentation.

Objectives 3 and 5 were not met. Involving new writers and expanding the articles to include other library professionals continue to present difficulties: either people have no interest or no time to add to the newsletter. The recent survey did ask whether people would be

interested in receiving the *Forum* in a different format (such as a blog). We will continue to look into whether this might be an option.

Overall, we have enjoyed working on the MSLA Board as well as interacting with library staff statewide. So many people have great ideas to share – we were pleased to be able to put some of their inspirations into words in the newsletter. Meanwhile, it has been a frustration to continue to ask for material, seek and send reminders to others, and collect timely articles. As discussed in early conversations, we feel it is time to step back and encourage a new person to present this newsletter.

Our sincere thanks to the board and to the membership for their support.



Public Relations

Linda Picceri and Laura Larsson, Co-chairs



The continuing goals of the Public Relations Committee were information dissemination and event promotion and planning. In keeping with these goals much was accomplished. Co-chairs, Linda Picceri and Laura Larsson, began the year by updating the display boards to reflect the 2009 annual MSLA Conference's theme of *Now More Than Ever*. The boards were set up at the Conference with other promotional literature for conference attendees to look at and take with them. Winning bookmarks from the 2009 contest were also displayed at the Conference.



We wrote and sent out several press releases to publicize various MSLA events and activities. These activities included the MSLA Conference, the Bookmark Contest and our joint Legislation Day with MLA. In addition we attended the Bookmark Contest judging, took pictures, and submitted an article to the MSLA Forum.

We continued to have a presence in the Massachusetts Library Association's Newsletter. Several articles highlighting various MSLA activities were written and appeared in the MLA newsletter throughout the course of the year.

This was our final year as Public Relations co-chairs. We have enjoyed the opportunity to assist our organization in getting the good word out about school libraries.

Annual Reports of the MSLA Executive Board, 2010

Standards

Valerie Diggs, Chairperson

The Standards Committee had two objectives for the 2009 – 2010 Executive Board term:

Objective 1: Plan professional development for our members around the marketing and adoption of the L4L initiative. Presentations at our conferences around the topic of the AASL standards address this topic. Additionally, the opportunity recently presented for "Empowering 21st Century Learners: P21." This is a one-day institute designed to help school librarians understand how AASL's "Standards for 21st-Century Learner" and the framework of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) align to make it easier for integration into a school or district's current and future



practices. The institute will show how the learning standards and framework are aligned and how they are different. "Empowering 21st Century Learners" will also address how the learning standards can empower students and what skills students will need to succeed in the future. Attendees will leave the institute with a customized plan of action to implement 21st century skills into their school's curriculum.

Objective 2: Develop a brief document on MSLA Standards for NEASC Visiting Committees. NEASC Visiting Committee Document has not been prepared. It is hoped that by keeping this objective on the Standards Committee's 09-10 Action Plan and will be accomplished during this time frame. The review of the standards document and the completion of the ELA review dominated the year's activities.

Student Interest Group

Jamie Phillips and Alissa Rosellini co-Chairs
MSLA-SIG's objectives for this school year included:

- Hosting fun events for School Library students related to children's and young adult literature and interests.
- Providing professional development opportunities for aspiring school and youth services librarians
- Mentoring students who were new to the program

We held monthly meetings for members. During these meetings we advertised upcoming MSLA-SIG events and provided a forum for students to discuss the School Library Teacher Program at Simmons. During one meeting we invited students to come with questions regarding the required fieldwork and practica experiences in the program. Students who had already completed a practicum were able to share their experiences, and faculty members were also available to answer questions about licensing and other procedures.

We hosted a number of events for students this year. They included a trip to the Museum of Science to see the *Harry Potter Exhibit* and a movie outing to see *New Moon*. We also collaborated with the Scott Ross Center to advertise and organize a volunteer opportunity at the Mission Hill Elementary School library. The Mission Hill experience was successful, and well received by students, many of whom expressed



gratitude for this opportunity as they were able to get some "live" experience in book processing, a skill lacking in the School Library Teacher Program.

We held two professional development programs this year: one in the fall and one in the spring. Our fall

"Career Panel" was a huge success. Four librarians shared their experiences and advice on how to "get the job" and then "what to expect when you have it." The attendees of the panel left with a plethora of interview advice and information about working in both independent and public schools. A recent Simmons grad even shared some of her "first year" stories with the group. It was an excellent evening. The spring conference, "A Librarian's Toolkit" was a daylong workshop with topics ranging from librarian-teacher collaboration to library architecture and planning to grant writing. This day was also widely received by the attendees, and one of the only downsides was that attendance was low. For next year, we have already begun brainstorming ways to boost attendance and open the conference up to a larger community.

Overall, the year began with a few bumps and some changes in leadership, but MSLA-SIG was able to provide members with some sound advice, great opportunities, and instill a sense of community among the members. Next year's talented board is already planning, and will without question continue to strengthen the MSLA-SIG.

Webpage

Ann Perham, Webmaster

The webpage continues to support the activities of MSLA and serves as our public face. The work of the webmaster has centered on the Conference, Bookmark Contest, Legislation Day, Awards, and the Forum. Posting the Conference registration links, presenter information and schedules is vital to the success of our conference. The MSLA webpage is a resource for the Bookmark Contest rules and entry information and posts the winners and honorable mentions. Awards and Legislation use the webpage for information and announcements.



Ethel Downey is the Spotlight Editor, recruiting new schools every 2-3 weeks. Although she does not do the actual posting because of the complexity of Joomla, her work is quite important for keeping the webpage interesting. Kathy Lowe continues to edit the headlines section of the front page to maintain the current issues for MSLA and the Library World in general. LaurieAnn Riley has been the Jobs Editor since the fall of 2006, performing a critical role for our members. She is stepping down and will be missed.

With the reorganization of the eBoard, the Forum will be the direct responsibility of the Webmaster. The vision for the Forum to enable easy editing by multiple contributors, use an RSS feed, and encourage member feedback. An appeal has been issued for feature editors.

Annual Reports of the MSLA Executive Board, 2010

Central Area

Linda Kimball & Cecily Houston, Area Directors

We contacted several members of the region who have lapsed memberships to encourage them to re-sign up to the region.

Working with our YA consultant Maureen Ambrosino throughout the year as always has been a plus. Maureen is always there to help with advice and develop ideas; this personal support will be greatly missed as we transition to a one region system. On January 19th at Westborough High School over 30 Librarians and Para, from the Assabet Region and several from outside, gathered for an all day Professional Library Day, hosted by Westborough High Librarian Diane Libbey, and Middle School Librarian, Linda Kimball.

Maureen Ambrosino, began the morning presentation with the AASL Top 25 Websites for Teaching and Learning. Keynote Speaker Kathy Lowe presented the AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action and the plan to implement the standards.



On May 4, 2010 at Nashoba Valley Regional High School 15 librarians from across the region met with Maureen Ambrosino and Jackie Belisle from the Central Region to discuss the merger of all the regions and the impact on school libraries. Interlibrary loan system will be through the Thomas Crane Public Library.



Metrowest Area

Linda Coviello & Char Sidell, Area Directors

We had a successful year of collaboration with Sarah Sogigian (MetroWest), providing a multitude of professional development opportunities for our MSLA members. In addition to professional development, the events presented opportunities for networking and impromptu sharing of best practices among school librarian members. The potential lack of MBLC support in the future will be a serious loss to our membership.



Collaborative events included: Technology Share; Storytelling Workshop by Doris Smith; Can't Miss Books presented by Pat Keogh

Lapsed members were contacted and encouraged to consider re-joining to take advantage of the benefits of membership and participate in the conference and various other activities throughout the year. We participated on the MSLA Conference Committee, the MSLA/MLA Legislative Day, and the Bookmark Contest Awards Ceremony.

Northeast Area

Katie Cerasale-Messina & Chris Steinhauser, Area Directors



This year has been busy and productive. An ongoing focus as Area Directors is to contact school librarians who are not members of MSLA to encourage them to join our organization. We used e-mail, phone, and snail mail, sharing information as to why joining MSLA would be beneficial to them, their students, teachers and school districts. We also communicated with



MSLA members whose memberships had lapsed. We find that the personal touch makes the difference.

The Northeast Area continued its MSLA/NMRLS "Making the Connections" Series. This year four meetings were held at a variety of sites within the region with attendance ranging from 20 to 30+.

Citations and Ethical Use of Information with Nancy Anthony of Salem State and Marblehead Schools was very well attended by over 30 school librarians. Web 2.0 tools to use in the Library was presented by Chris Steinhauser and Katie Cerasale-Messina. Advocacy and Legislative Day, was cancelled due to low interest. The final workshop, He said/She Said- 100 Books to talk for Boys and Girls was a tandem style new and noteworthy fiction and non-fiction book talk by Nancy Keane and Michael Sullivan.

We attended and participated in MSLA's joint Legislative Day with MLA. During our time at the State House, we lobbied our legislators, celebrated the winners of the MSLA Bookmark Contest, and heard testimony concerning the importance and worth of public and school libraries in Massachusetts. We participated in the MSLA Conference committee and created the "Day in the Life of..." (<http://mslapics.pbworks.com>) wiki for the board.

Boston Area

Jen Varney and Rose DeNucci, Area Directors

Progress toward our Action Plan goals was difficult this year. The position of director of Library and Media Services in the Boston Public Schools remains unfilled. Issues and concerns such as maintenance contracts, software renewals, book donations and professional development were not addressed. The Administrative Assistant position has only been filled off and on with temporary employees.

Without this support, identifying which schools have libraries, support staff and/or professional librarians is next to impossible.

We anticipate a successful outcome to the next round of interviews for the Director position. It is our hope that the 2010-11 year will have administrative support in place to advance the cause of school libraries in the Boston Area.



Annual Reports of the MSLA Executive Board, 2010

Southeast Area

Heather Macpherson & Lynn Weeks, Area Directors

Area meetings were offered to Southeast members as professional development and networking opportunities. Our first area meeting was hosted by Laurie Belanger at Freetown-Lakeville Middle School on February 10, 2009. The topic was "Award-Winning Literature"; participants shared ideas about how they promote and utilize award-winning literature in their schools. The second area meeting was held at the Bourne Middle School on March 19, 2009 in collaboration with the Southeastern Massachusetts Library System. Kathy Lussier and Vicki Beene-Beavers of SEMLS brought the "Technology Sandbox" for participants to be introduced to and have "play time" with new technologies.



To increase membership and involvement, lapsed members were e-mailed and called to encourage them to renew their membership online. Messages were also sent through the SEMLS list-serve to reach SEMLS members who were not in the MSLA database. Potential members were contacted prior to area meetings and invited to attend.

Communication and resource-sharing took place through the MSLA listserv as well as the Southeast area wiki. The wiki can be accessed at: <http://mslasoutheastshares.pbworks.com/>

Lynn Weeks attended the Legislative breakfast and arranged for a parent to speak about school libraries. Heather Macpherson attended Legislative Day in Boston. She also attended the annual meeting of the MTA and presented a resolution in support of school libraries.

Western Area

Leigh Barnes and Vicky Biancolo, Area Directors

We may be in a remote location, but that didn't stop the directors of the Western Region from attending the MSLA Conference in Sturbridge on November 3, or from attending and participating in monthly executive board meetings in Concord. We brought those discussions home with us, and shared them with the membership at a general meeting at Capeless Elementary School in Pittsfield on October 21. We are lucky to have such experienced, enthusiastic members, who were full of good ideas and willing to share their opinions and suggestions.

The MSLA Western Region was a presence at several legislative events this spring, both locally and in the state capitol. Representatives attended the annual Library Legislative Breakfast at the Berkshire Athenaeum on March 6, the joint Legislative Day with the Massachusetts Library Association in Boston on April 2, and the

Governor's Community Forum at Pittsfield City Hall on May 12. This was essentially a "listening tour," and we hope to have a more vocal presence when these events roll around next year. Our regional representatives also attended this year's Librarian Open House Day at the Eric Carle Museum in Amherst on March 24. What a wonderful resource to have right in our own back yard! In addition to presentations by the likes of Jim Trelease and free poster giveaways, we awarded a one-year membership to one lucky raffle winner. We hope to see many more members there next year.

We are planning additional professional development opportunities to be offered in the Western Region next year. Throughout this year, we contacted lapsed members of the region by email to encourage reenrollment, and we contacted area non-members by email and by phone to encourage them to join our organization.



Advocacy

Sandy Kelly, Chairperson

The Advocacy position was newly created to coordinate public relations, legislation and Legislation Day. A database of contact information has been updated with professional organizations, legislators and media outlets that the board can access to expedite communications.

Several MSLA regions participated in MLA Legislative breakfasts providing both funds and members who spoke on behalf of the services that school libraries provide and those we highly value from the regional system.

A rally was held at the State House during this year's joint MLA-MSLA Legislative Day in March. Speakers and legislators representing all library types advocated for continued funding for the regional library system. Local television and the Massachusetts Teachers Association provided media coverage.

The day also included another successful Bookmark Contest celebration on the Grand Staircase. This contest continues to grow in popularity with members, their students, parents and legislators. Students received citations and State House tours from their local legislators.



Additionally, the executive board has acquired data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. President Gerri Fegan has been collating and assessing this information to determine its currency and accuracy. It will be used to determine which schools in Massachusetts are served by certified school library professionals.

MSLA 2010-11 Executive Board

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Jennifer Varney

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Liaisons & Representatives (non-voting)

Independent Schools: Elizabeth Vezina, Cushing Academy

Vendors: Gwen Paquette, Scholastic Library Publishing, Chelmsford

MLA/Youth Services Section: TBD

Massachusetts Young Adult Book Award: Mary Ann Rogers, Locke Middle School, Billerica

Massachusetts Library System: MLS Staff, Waltham

MLS Executive Board: Vicky Biancolo, Miss Hall's School, Pittsfield

Massachusetts Reading Association: Dolores Krasner, MRA Executive Board

MSLA Liaison to the MRA Executive Board: Sandy Kelly, Carlisle School

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners: Mary Rose Quinn, Director Stevens Memorial Library, N. Andover

Assoc. of College & Research Libraries – NE Chapter: Kieran Ayton & Sara Marks, New England Library Instruction Group

Massachusetts PTA: TBD

Digital Commonwealth: Linda Friel, MSLA Executive Board

Student Special Interest Group: Emily Sypole & Alissa Rosellini, Simmons College GSLIS

MSLA Listserv Moderator: Leigh Barnes, Stearns Elementary School, Pittsfield

AASL Region 1 Director: Ann Perham, Needham High School

AASL Region 1 Director-Elect: Valerie Diggs, Chelmsford High School

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WORKING SMARTER

Sunday, October 3 & Monday, October 4, 2010
Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA

SUNDAY DINNER

MSLA Awards
Speaker: Linda Nathan
The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test: Lessons Learned from an Innovative Urban School

FEATURED PRESENTERS

Stephen Abram
Christopher Bing
Ralph Masiello
MSLA Superstars - Your Colleagues in the Trenches

MONDAY KEYNOTE

Michael Dahl – From Tarzan of the Apes to the Library of Doom: One Author's Journey into the 21st Century

SESSIONS

- Learning Commons • Digital Literacy • STEM Topics
- Securing Grants • Using Primary Sources
- Best New Children's & YA Literature

HIGHLIGHTS

- Vendor Exhibits • Book Signings
- Job-Alikes • Trading Post
- Giveaways & Raffles • Author Fest

Handouts
will be
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