

The CRAB

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Fall, 2008



The View from State Circle and Capitol Hill:

Library Advocacy: What Can You Do?

Denise Davis, MLA Legislative Officer and Natalie Edington, MLA Assistant Legislative Officer

The view is that this will be a busy year for libraries. This past year, all levels of government were faced with difficult budget situations. The reality is that this budget year will not be much better. The good news is that you can help. Our challenging economic times make libraries an even more valuable resource, as evidenced by the increased use of our libraries. Now, more than ever, it is important for our government officials to understand the real value of all types of libraries.

So, what can you do? Do not underestimate the impact that you can have as an individual. All of us become advocates every day when we promote the library and its value both at work and in our personal lives. People are often shocked to learn about all of the services that libraries can provide. Each of you has at least one story about how your library has had or is having a positive impact on people and communities. Share your stories with friends, neighbors, library users or community groups.

You and other library supporters can take a few minutes to share those stories with your government officials. It is easy to write to your federal legislators using Capwiz, an online advocacy system. The American Library Association (ALA) and MLA make Capwiz available via the MLA Web site. ALA uses Capwiz to continuously highlight many interesting library related issues that are currently before Congress. During the year, the MLA Legislative Panel may also use Capwiz to ask for your help.

To get to Capwiz, simply go to the MLA Web site (www.mdlib.org) and click on Capwiz on the left side of the screen. Enter your ZIP code to see a list of your federal, state and local elected officials and their contact information. Select a federal legislator, click on Contact, select Compose Your Own Letter and begin to share your story. An upcoming feature will allow you to directly contact your state and local legislators. Your actions will help illustrate the value of libraries to our lawmakers and demonstrate why libraries are such a good investment, especially during hard economic times!

State Superintendent Honors Readers

Paula Isett, Division of Library and Development Services

Dr. Nancy Grasmick joined youth representatives from the Maryland Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program at a pregame ceremony on August 19 at Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles. Top readers were honored as part of the Baltimore Orioles collaboration in the summer reading program. The Orioles supported the 2008 Summer Reading Program by donating 200 tickets to every library branch in Maryland.

Nick Markakis, an outstanding Oriole's outfielder, greeted each student with a handshake and an Oriole hat. Dr. Grasmick, State Superintendent to Schools, holding hands with two of the younger participants, ac-

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Oriole Bird and Summer Reading Participants

Editor's Note

In our last issue, I invited readers to submit stories of what their library is doing that is beneficial to its community for a new column named "Giving Stories @Your Library," which will "give" staff in Maryland libraries the opportunity to share success stories with their colleagues. These stories illustrate why libraries are vital to our communities and user groups when advocating for our library and promoting its services. Examples include the story on p. 3: the impact the new mobile reference service at FCPL had on one user, and on p. 8: the effect of a traveling exhibit on Calvert County. Both demonstrate how libraries impact both individuals and communities and change people's lives. Other articles discussing the importance of advocacy and telling our stories to the public can be found on p. 1 and also in the President's Column.

I would like to welcome both Erin Dingle, the branch manager of the Thurmont Regional Library of FCPL, and Annette Kaltenbaugh, legislative librarian with the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, as the Crab's new copy editors. I would also like to welcome Alexa Leinaweaver, a librarian at the Maryland City branch of AACPL, who will be the new editor of the "Crab Soup" section. They have been very helpful in putting this issue together.

*Dana Newman, Anne Arundel County Public Library
Crab Editor*

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President's Column



Maryland's libraries were united in advocacy at the recent Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) convention in Ocean City. It was an important occasion for us to meet with elected officials from across the state and demonstrate to them the essential nature of libraries.

Our key message for this event was that libraries provide substantial workforce development resources. Rather than relying only on ourselves to tell the story, we also highlighted the experiences of a few individuals whose success is directly attributable to their local library.

With the assistance of the Division of Library and Development Services, we put out a call across the state asking for patron success stories. Despite a short timeframe to collect these accounts, several wonderful stories emerged. For example, Baltimore chef Tracie Spriggs started her own company, Honey Biscuits, after taking a course in "How to Start a Small Business" at the library. Another story emerged about Lisa Kilby, who opened a successful ice cream business after her agritourism research at the library. Then there is Kabir Abubakar, whose web hosting business is a direct result of his library research. These folks were delighted to share their success stories, so we developed print handouts, signage and a multimedia display for the MACO convention. Governor O'Malley, among the many attendees, was presented with these testimonials.

We in the library community often tell stories with facts and figures. While useful, facts and figures cannot alone tell the story of our workforce development successes. Nothing can match the joy of a person who has grown professionally because of our libraries. Whether it is a person who has learned a new vocational skill, successfully taken standardized practice tests, or learned how to start their own business, let us continue to gather and share these success stories with each other and the rest of the state.

MLA and library organizations were well represented at MACO. We appreciate everyone's assistance!

Darrell Batson, MLA President

MLA 2009 Conference Reminder:

May 13–15, 2009, Clarion Resort, Ocean City, MD

Mobile Reference Service Makes an International Impact

Patty Stephens and Donny Frank-Rice, Frederick County Public Library

The Frederick County Public Library system is now using wireless technology to provide mobile reference services, thanks in part to a grant from Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Library Development and Services. Patrons get fast and accurate help on the floor from staff members using Samsung Q1 Ultra Mobile PCs and the Vocera communication system. Recently, Reference Librarian Patty Stephens was roaming at the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick and related an unusual patron exchange.

Patty explains, "I was in the rotunda and it was empty save for a lone woman wandering aimlessly. I asked if I could help her find anything and she smiled and said "no" that she was just playing hostess. As I was walking away, she stopped me and asked what I had in my hand. I showed her the Q1 and made it do a few library dance steps and she seized my arm and said, "Please wait right here. I have people with me who must see this!" A Q1 is a small hand held computer that staff members carry that gives them access to everything that a computer at the reference desk does, but allows staff to access information while they are out working with patrons on the floor.

Patty further explains that the woman came back with a gentleman and a beautifully dressed woman. "My wandering hostess turned out to be the Frederick resident who was hosting the retired head of an American academic library and his wife, the current head of the regional library in Russia that just won 'Best Library of the Year' award for all of Russia."

Excited that the special guests chose to visit the downtown Frederick library, Patty eagerly demonstrated how the device works. "They were so excited about the Q1 that it was a nonstop question, answer and demonstration interaction. Then I got the Vocera involved. Another staffer, Trina Panagos, helped me do some demonstrations and we explained the teamwork concept."

With the Q1 and Vocera, a reference librarian greets a library patron near the library's door. If the patron is looking for a particular book on the second floor, the librarian can immediately determine if the book is on the shelf. The librarian can then communicate with another staff member on the second floor and request that the book be brought to the reference desk for the patron to pick up within minutes.

Director of the Frederick County Public Library system, Darrell Batson, disclosed the reasoning behind this project. "We want more of our staff out from behind the desk and in the stacks, assisting people at the point of need. Wireless technology now enables us to bring assistance to the people, rather than asking the people to find the reference librarians."

When Patty and Trina did the whole thing over in Russian, so it could be translated for the Russian husband, he reacted by saying, "It is amazing. The Library of Congress does not have this thing but we find it in Frederick, Maryland, in a library we did not even plan to visit!"

According to Patty Stephens, this exchange was a wonderful library experience and a great diplomatic coup!

Outreach Services Interest Group

Pamela Taylor, Harford County Public Library

The newly formed Outreach Services Interest Group met at the MLA conference in May and discussed the mission of the group and the need to meet to talk about our experiences, the various services we provide to our community and to create a forum to discuss issues unique to outreach services staff.

The fall meeting for OSIG will take place on Monday, November 17th from 9:30-12 noon at the Edgewood Branch of the Harford County Public Library at 629 Edgewood Rd, 21040. We will discuss presentations from the ABOS conference, brainstorm ideas for a conference session and share outreach experiences.

OSIG has a free chat room to use when we can't get together face to face. Go to www.meebo.com and create a free account under "meebo" and then sign off and link to <http://www.meebo.com/room/mlaosig/> to sign into the OSIG chat room. The chat room is private, so please guard the password, "library." We will have monthly chat room sessions. Please refer to the MLA website for dates, times and instructions. Please join us if you are involved with outreach services or want to learn more about services for underserved or nontraditional library users.

For more information, please contact Pam Taylor at 410-612-1600 x2225 or taylor@hcplonline.info.

*Alexa Leinaeweaver, Anne Arundel County Public Library;
Soup Editor*

Registration for ALA Midwinter Meeting

ALA's 2009 Midwinter Meeting will be held in Denver, CO, January 23–28. The Midwinter Meeting is primarily a business meeting for handling the business of the association. Advance registration opens October 1, 2008. Registration includes several special events, including the Best Selling Author Forum, the Spotlight on Adult Authors, and the Technology Showcase, which features the latest trends in library technology. Register through the ALA website, at <http://www.ala.org/midwinter>.

MLA Executive Board Meets

Donna L. Sebly, MLA Secretary

The Executive Board of the Maryland Library Association met on the morning of July 16 at the MLA office. Besides approving the MLA Budget for 2008–2009, Board members heard reports from Steering Committee and unit officers. Susan Waxter, MLA Treasurer, conveyed the happy news that MLA is fiscally sound. MLA President Darrell Batson, chairing his first meeting of the new administrative year, updated board members on the ALA annual conference. He also informed those present that MLA and the larger state library community would have ample representation at the upcoming annual Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference in August. Conference Director Elizabeth Cromwell shared the marketing campaign that will be used at MACo: a series of portraits of ordinary citizens who have benefited from using libraries in advancing their small business concerns. The portraits were poignant and uplifting, making a strong case for the importance of libraries in the lives of Maryland citizens. Executive Director Margaret Carty shared a schedule of programs offered by the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations (MANO), in which any MLA member may participate at member registration rates, since MLA is a member of MANO. Officer and the Executive Director's reports were followed by updates from MLA unit officers.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be held on November 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the MLA office in Baltimore.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference 2008

Registration is open for the MARAC Fall 2008 meeting, which will take place on November 6–8, 2008, in

Silver Spring, MD. The theme for this year's meeting is "Making History Local". The program features twenty one sessions ranging in topics from archival detectives, Washington, D.C. in 1968, television news collections, digital curation, electronic records education, digitization projects, career development, and changes in the archiving profession.

The plenary address will feature Dr. Mary Beth Corrigan, an independent consultant who advises businesses and unions in the care of their historical collections. She will discuss the importance of local history collections when used by a diverse and large audience of popular historians.

The luncheon speaker, Jerry A. McCoy, is the special collections librarian and archivist in the Washingtoniana Division of the District of Columbia Public Library and the Peabody Room at the Georgetown Branch of the DC Public Library.

Register for the conference online at: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/2008/fall08/fall08.html>.

Maryland's iSchool Appoints New Faculty

Jaime Oliver, University of Maryland

Maryland's iSchool is pleased to announce the appointment of two new faculty, Dr. John Carlo Bertot and Dr. Jean Dryden.

Dr. John Carlo Bertot joins the iSchool as Professor and Director of the new Center for Library Innovation. Prior to joining the iSchool, Dr. Bertot served as Professor and Associate Director of the Information Use Management Policy Institute at Florida State University. Dr. Bertot's research interests are in the areas of public library use of and involvement with the Internet, telecommunications and information policy development, with an emphasis on electronic network based issues. Dr. Bertot serves as editor of two distinguished journals; he is sole editor of "Government Information Quarterly" and co-editor of "Library Quarterly."

Dr. Jean Dryden joins the iSchool as an Assistant Professor in archives specialization. She recently received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. Dr. Dryden's current research interests include how institutions operate under the constraints of copyright, particularly in the digital environment; standards for archival arrangement and description; and the behavior and needs of users of archival material. As an adjunct instructor, Dr. Dryden has taught courses on archives, records management and legal issues for information professionals.

The Siebert Center: A New Learning Space at Goucher College

Nancy Magnuson, Goucher College

Goucher College has announced that space in the new Goucher Athenaeum, set to open next summer, will be named for Sara “Bunny” Siebert, who died on July 24, 2008. Siebert graduated from Goucher in 1942 and went on to become coordinator of young adult services for the Enoch Pratt Free Library. In that position, she was a leader in the library profession whose life work was to inspire teenagers to read.

The Siebert Center will be a new kind of learning space, designed to support the needs of Goucher education students. The Center will also provide opportunities for connections with local teachers and librarians. It will house books for young people, as well as other kinds of classroom materials that students will use in preparing for their teaching careers.

Plans for the Center have been underway for several years, arising from discussions with librarians, education faculty, and Goucher alumna Dr. Judith Evans, who has donated funds for collections and programming related to the functions of the Center. Inspiration also came from Goucher’s 2004 public program “Reinventing the School Library,” keynoted by New York City architect Henry Myerberg.

The mission of the Center will be further enhanced by a fund to present programming related to children’s literature, established by alumna author and illustrator Nancy Patz. Patz has also given Goucher an extensive collection of her book preparation materials, including original artwork, which will reside in Special Collections & Archives.

In June, Goucher was honored to receive a grant from the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust to build a collection of award winning books for young adults that will help build the Center’s collection. One of our hopes is that the space will help cultivate engaged partnerships between teachers and librarians in schools. Our vision for the Siebert Center is a broad one, reflecting a desire to better support the excellent work Goucher’s education departments do in preparing teachers and to honor Siebert’s commitment to the importance of reading.

Sara L. Siebert

Sara L. Siebert who served as YALSA President from 1961–1962 and worked as a coordinator of young adult services for Enoch Pratt Free Library died on July 24, 2008 at 88. Miss Siebert, a native of Baltimore, was known for sharing her passion for books with many young adults throughout her career.

As a child, Miss Siebert was an avid reader whose love affair with books was heightened when her father drove her to the new Central Library on Cathedral Street, which had opened in 1933. Of that experience she wrote, “My father drove me to the children’s entrance on Mulberry Street. I dashed into the room, signed the application, rushed out to the car for parental signature, and then whisked back into the building to begin my search, for I knew exactly what I wanted, a Nancy Drew mystery, “The Motor Girls in the Argonne Forest” and Lowell Thomas’ “With Lawrence in Arabia.” That same day, she made the acquaintance of Margaret Alexander Edwards, an innovative librarian who had been hired to handle teenage readers’ requests.

The two became friends, and Mrs. Edwards was a willing tutor when it came to helping her young friend focus and shape her taste in literature.

“To present books, or library services, so that they contribute to the broadening and the maturation of youth is one of the big reasons for libraries to provide for special focus on the teenage,” Miss Siebert wrote.

She followed Margaret Alexander Edwards, and between the two, they put young adult services at Pratt on the map,” said Linda F. Lapidés, who was Miss Siebert’s assistant young adult coordinator. “She went to public, private and parochial schools to talk to students about books. She challenged kids to read. She was just wonderful,” said Mrs. Lapidés.

“Miss Siebert’s rule of thumb when it comes to selecting books for the young adult collections is the question whether the book offers a ‘clear vision of life,’” reported *The Evening Sun* in 1971.

In 1971, she received the American Library Association’s Grolier Award for her work in getting inner city children to read. She will be deeply missed by friends and colleagues.

This information was taken from an article published on baltimoresun.com by Sun Reporter Frederick N. Rasmussen.

MLLI: *A View from Two Perspectives*

The Participant's View

Julie McCann, Baltimore County Public Library

When I decided to apply to attend the Institute, my first thought was, "Wow! A whole week away from work just to concentrate on myself and what I do." Then I looked at the application form. I knew the week would be enjoyable, but it was clear that it would be serious business, too. Still, my first impression was right on target. The Riverfront Conference Center at the Donaldson Brown Estate is a beautiful setting. And, what I had heard was true. There was lots of good food available all day long!

I spent a lot of time feeling out of my comfort zone and this was one of the things, along with taking risks, that we talked about in our sessions. I met public librarians like me, but worked with school and academic librarians as well. I shared feelings and experiences with people of my (AARP) age range and with younger librarians. As the week progressed, my group grew to trust each other and we were able to work together more successfully each day. We celebrated our successes and looked at how we could improve on the not so successful moments.

By sharing their own experiences, our mentors showed that they have dealt with the same issues that we are all facing. Their feedback to our groups helped each of us focus on our abilities and to identify areas for improvement. As the week went on, we felt closer to each of them because of their honesty in appraising themselves and us.

John and Becky are fantastic leaders! They are passionate about libraries and about helping people make changes in their lives, in their libraries and in the future of libraries.

The Mentor's View

Glennor Shirley, Library Coordinator, Correctional Education Libraries, MSDE

Watching the process and the development of the participants is one of the most fascinating and rewarding aspects of my role as a mentor for the Maryland Library Leadership Institute. From the start, you can identify the participants who take the leadership role and can watch the others allowing them to take over. How? You see others in the group attempting to say something, but out of politeness they often defer to the leader, putting their hand up and then retreating, listening and agreeing. As the week progresses, you watch the participants working through the self-evaluation exercises and activities. You see those who were initially reluctant begin to take responsibility for their role in the group's success. Meanwhile, those who were more dominant begin to spend

more time learning to listen and letting others make a contribution. At the end of the week, you see all of the participants watching the group, being aware of one another and working together.

The self discipline for me as a mentor is observing and guiding the group through the process while trying not to step in directly to fix the task at hand. It is more challenging than you might think to keep a deadpan face as members of the team tend to look to mentors for solutions. It was a learning process for me. Both participants and mentors benefit at the Maryland Library Leadership Institute.

Congratulations to these summer, 2008 Maryland Library Leadership Institute graduates:

Sarah Avant, Calvert Library

Jo Blankenburg, Baltimore County Public Library

Cameron Caswell, Anne Arundel County Public

Library

Andrea Christman, Montgomery Co Public Schools

Amy Ford, St. Mary's County Library

Irene Green, Harford County Public Library

Jill Hutchison, St Mary's County Library

Jennifer Jones, Harford County Public Library

Ellen Keith, Johns Hopkins University

Krista Knapp, Salisbury University

Julie McCann, Baltimore County Public Library

Sydney McCoy, Frederick County Public Library

Lisa McKenney, Allegany County Library System

Jennifer O'Halloran, Montgomery County Public

Schools

Stephanie Petruso, Anne Arundel County Public

Library

Elizabeth Reinker, Baltimore County Public Library

Rebecca Riti, Talbot County Free Library

Michele Sellars, Montgomery County Public Libraries

Alison Sherwell, Charles County Public Library

Andrea Sleek, Allegany College of Maryland

Jessica Smith, Wicomico County Public School

Arleen Talley, Prince George's County Memorial

Library

Diana Virando, Anne Arundel County Public

Schools

Xiaoyu Zhou, Enoch Pratt Free Library

Summer May Be Over, But MLA 2008 Lives On Online

Jennifer Spriggs, *Western Maryland Regional Library*

Did you know that the 2008 Maryland Library Association Annual Conference is still going strong? Yes, that's right, although it has been months since the onsite event was held in Ocean City, MLA 2008 is thriving in cyberspace via its Virtual Conference Community. The Conference Community is open to all interested MLA members, and almost 200 members have already joined the Conference Community to listen to virtual conference recordings; view and download conference materials and handouts; read the conference blog; and network with other community members by participating in the discussion boards.

MLA members can take advantage of these features and many more until early May 2009. It's quick and easy



sations and meet your colleagues from around the state. Questions? Email help@learningtimes.net.

This project was made possible with funding by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services, as well as sponsorship by Maryland's Regional Libraries.

to join the Conference Community and catch anything you might have missed at the conference.

Instructions for Joining the MLA Conference Community:

Go to <http://www.learningtimes.net/mla>. Click on "Join Now" and create your community account. Head to the Virtual Conference Café and introduce yourself!

You can return to the link any time to view programs you've missed, retrieve handouts, continue conver-

PALINET Fall 2008 Education Program Now Available

Register at www.palinet.org/learn

Featured Workshops

Integrating Resources Cataloging (SCCTP)

Friday, October 24, 2008 - 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Library Budgeting Fundamentals: Terminology, Methods and Managing

Thursday, November 13, 2008 - 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Promoting Your Library by Creating a YouTube Video

*Thursday, November 13, 2008 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM *Live Online**

Open Source 201: Applications in the Public Library

*Thursday, November 13, 2008 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM *Live Online**

Web Tools for Reference Librarians: Widgets & Toolbars

*Wednesday, December 10, 2008 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM *Live Online**

Plus many more!



Creating a New Perspective of Teens in the Library

Elizabeth Rafferty, Baltimore County Public Library

A popular theme in current library literature is 'the library as the third space'. This refers to the library as one of the top three community gathering places, just after home and school. The library as a third space is especially applicable to teens, because they are old enough to be left on their own in the library, but often too young to have a job to go to after school. Some teens that come to the library after school are not old enough to drive to other places, and others do not have their own driver's license or car. Also, parents are reluctant to allow teens to come home and be left unsupervised for several hours, which is probably wise. There is a need for a place for teens to be until they can return home.

All of this leads to the library as the third space, as many parents see it as a safe, supervised and convenient place for teens. The problem with this is that teens are not in the library for traditional reasons; they are there

because there is nowhere else for them to be. This often leads to conflicts between teens and library staff or traditional users. Teens want to be loud and physical and laugh and talk; behaviors that are not normally associated with the library. Unfortunately, this is not the mental model that many staff and patrons have of the library. Many people view the library as a calm, quiet place to study or work, and this is just not true of many public libraries. We need to stop thinking of the presence of teens in the library as a problem, and start thinking of it not only as an opportunity, but as the status quo. If we accept the noise of storytime on the floor in the morning, we can accept the noise of teens after school. Teens are not going away or changing their behavior, so we must accept them and work to serve their needs. This may require library administrators to rethink the strategic plan or library mission and branch staff to create a new mental model of their library that meets the needs of all their patrons.

Book Exhibit Inspires Calvert County Readers!

Robyn Truslow, Calvert County Public Library

Less than a year ago, the Calvert Library hosted the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*. To get people in the food spirit, the library offered a book discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*. In her book, Kingsolver proves that one can feed one's family locally. She also demonstrates the positive impact on the environment of limiting oneself to food that has not had to travel across the country or from other countries to get to our dinner table.

The turnout for the discussion was way above and beyond a normal book discussion. Clearly there is interest in food and in eating locally in Calvert County. No wonder, given Calvert's wonderful history of agriculture and the value this county places on our environment.

This group of readers was not content to just discuss the book. They decided to take action! The group began meeting monthly to come up with ideas to support local agriculture and encourage local consumption. So far, the group has inspired one farm family to create a CSA, community supported agriculture, a way for Calvert countians to make a financial commitment to a farm and receive a portion of the bounty throughout the growing season. When this CSA had to turn away potential members and ended up with a 40 person waiting list, a

local land preservation organization looked into starting their own CSA for next year.

The group has also begun the process of asking citizens of Calvert about their food habits in order to better inform farmers of what the market might bear. They also wrote letters to the editor preceding the Buy Local, Eat Local Challenge week encouraging people to rise to the challenge. The library has created a Yahoo group for interested parties to share ideas about sources for various local ingredients and supplies. Check it out at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/calvertlocalvores/>.

For more information, call Robyn Truslow at 410-535-0291. See what else the Calvert Library is up to at calvert.lib.md.us.

Save the Date!

New York City Libraries Bus Tour

Friday November 14, 2008

6:00/6:30 AM (pick up) – 9:00 PM (drop off)

Costs: MLA members \$85,

Nonmembers \$128, Students \$72

Register online at:

<https://www.mdlib.org/happenings/register.asp>

Sponsored by ARLD of MLA

MLLI Class of 2005

Cathy Hollerbach, Anne Arundel County Public Library

In July of 2005, we were put together as a working group for the week of the Maryland Library Leadership Institute, or “Library Camp” as we fondly refer to it! We spent the week discussing librarianship and libraries, our challenges and successes, and goals for our careers and our communities. It didn’t always go smoothly. There were differences of opinion, some discomfort about taking on more responsibility and difficult decision making, and sometimes painfully honest introspection! However, we also cheered each other on, asked thought provoking questions and shared experiences that gave insight and encouragement to each other.

After the Institute ended, we decided to continue to meet every 6 months to continue the process of supporting each other in our library work. Many of us have changed jobs and taken on new responsibilities in the 3 years since MLLI. Sometimes meeting every 6 months turns into every 9 months due to staff shortages and scheduling challenges. However, all of us have enjoyed and benefitted



(from left to right) Beth Hulett, Washington County Public Library; Jenny Harner, Rising Sun Elementary Media Center; Bob Baldwin, Allegany College of Maryland; Mary Triandafilou, Enoch Pratt Free Library; Bob Maranto, Baltimore County Public Library; Cathy Hollerbach, Anne Arundel County Public Library; and Dianne Whitaker, Montgomery County Public Library.

from the continued work discussions and friendships we have maintained in the three years since MLLI.

We encourage other MLLI graduates to continue meeting with their groups to follow up on the processes and goals started at the Institute.

PGMLS Director Retires

After 37 years, Maralita “Micki” Freeny has retired from the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System after serving as their director since 2001. In a recent article on “Maryland Community Newspapers Online”, she was quoted as saying about her focus on children’s literacy that she has “been active in early literacy programs throughout the state” and that PGMLS does “about 60 story times a week for babies and toddlers” in an effort “to educate the public on the importance of it.”

In the same article, Interim director Evelyn Tchiyuka said of Micki’s career that “We have staff and early literature specialists as a result of Micki’s involvement” and that she has “been involved in every aspect of library services, but she never misses a chance to go out and do a story time.” She has also been credited at PGMLS for helping to focus efforts on building programming for infants and toddlers.

Before becoming director of PGMLS, she served as branch manager at the Beltsville and Hyattsville libraries. She will be missed by staff at PGMLS, but is still focusing on children’s literacy and programming as the Children’s Coordinator for the District of Columbia Public Library. *This information was taken from an article published on www.gazette.net by Jonah Schuman.*

Upcoming MLA Events:

MANO Annual Conference, November 7, 2008

PSD and TIG program, “TheirSpace: Adding Teens to Libraries” on Nov. 13, 2008

APLSS program, “Service that Works: People and Process” on Nov. 20, 2008

Fall SLRC Tour on November 20th

MLA Annual Conference, May 13–15, 2009 (Date correction from Summer Crab)

MLA Awards: Recognizing Contributions

Lucy Holman, Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore

The Maryland Library Association wants to recognize special people who have contributed to libraries in Maryland. Each year, MLA recognizes several people at the annual conference. We need YOUR nominations for the awards listed below. The awards committee will select recipients from your nominations. Please look over the list of awards and send nominations by November 7, 2008.

Distinguished Service Citation

May be awarded to any person, except staff currently employed in libraries, who actively supports library development and services in the state of Maryland and whose contributions in this field extend beyond the political boundaries of his/her institution. It is awarded for sustained efforts on behalf of libraries on the national, state and or local level over a period of time. Candidates could include trustees, persons in related fields (e.g. lawyers, teachers, academic personnel, legislators, etc.) or any "friend" of the library who fulfills the qualifications.

Maryland Library Association Award

Open to any staff member in the state of Maryland who: 1) has provided sustained service to the Maryland Library Association in any capacity, 2) who is active in supporting library interests in the state, and 3) who is a member of the Maryland Library Association. Candidates could include past and present members of the Executive Board and/or Advisory Council who have continued to serve the Association efficiently and effectively in elective and/or appointed positions over a number of years. Full consideration will be given to all candidates, regardless of the size or type of library they represent or the positions that they hold in a library system or institution.

Honorary Membership

It is conferred for a significant contribution of more than local or limited achievement to librarianship or a closely related field rather than for years of service. It recognizes the contribution of an individual per se rather than an individual representing the accomplishment of many. The recipient may be a librarian or individual in a related field. Only a living person should be considered.

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Open to any library volunteer within the state of Maryland who is active in providing ongoing direct library service to library/media clientele or support to library/media staff. Nominees for this award might include persons volunteering in academic, institution, public and school libraries regardless of size. Criteria to be considered when nominating a candidate will include:

- ◆ *Significance and impact on clientele.*
- ◆ *Contributions to more effective library services.*
- ◆ *Impact on the promotion of library services and resources.*
- ◆ *Degree of personal development or knowledge which has contributed to library services or activities.*
- ◆ *Unusual difficulties that the nominee has overcome to volunteer.*
- ◆ *Demonstration of sustained effort to support the library/media clientele or library/media staff.*

Maryland Library Association Emerging Leader Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals with strong leadership potential in order to encourage them to take on roles of increasing responsibility in library work. The award will be given annually at the association's annual conference in May. The award is open to any individual working in a library or information center in Maryland who shows exceptional promise as a leader in the field who exhibits the following qualities:

- ◆ *The ability to create a positive vision, to communicate it to others and to inspire and guide others to achieve it,*
- ◆ *A history showing an increasing leadership role in their work in their home organization, in cooperative efforts between libraries and/or in service to the Maryland Library Association,*
- ◆ *Demonstrated success in her/his current role in library work,*
- ◆ *Strong communication skills,*
- ◆ *Initiative,*
- ◆ *Creativity, and*
- ◆ *Behavior which shows a commitment and belief in the vitality, flexibility and future of library service.*

The award can be received only one time by any individual.

Paraprofessional Recognition Award

Open to any library associate, paraprofessional, or library support staff member who does not have an M.L.S. or the equivalent. The award is open to staff who work in any area of a library in Maryland, not just public service. The candidate should have been employed for at least one year and work at least 15 hours per week in the library. Possible activities that the candidate may be involved in include:

- ◆ *Working to further the role and strengthen the image of paraprofessionals in the library profession*
- ◆ *Working to promote awareness, professional growth and solidarity for and among support staff within the library*

Continued on page 11

Shady Grove MLS Expansion Successful

Jaime Oliver, University of Maryland

Maryland's iSchool announced today the successful enrollment of the inaugural class of its Master of Library Science (MLS) degree program expansion at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Maryland.

The 30 students in this inaugural class come from diverse backgrounds, with degrees in a wide range of fields from linguistics to music to law. While the majority of students are enrolled in the school library media and public librarianship specialties that can be completed entirely at the Shady Grove campus, other students are pursuing alternative specialties and will supplement their work at Shady Grove with courses taken at the College Park campus and online.

"We are delighted with the response to our new program at the Universities at Shady Grove! As the need to prepare more school and public librarians continues to grow because of anticipated retirements, the iSchool is delighted to be able to make its highly ranked educational program more accessible for potential students in central and western Maryland and contiguous states. We

Another MLA Benefit

This summer, as I completed my last class towards my MLS degree at the University of Maryland, College Park, I took a moment to consider what a long and expensive three years of schooling this has been and how much I owe the Maryland Library Association for helping me along. Even though I have received tuition reimbursement from my library system, other college expenses still nearly nailed me. Books, fees, wear and tear on the car from those long commutes, it all added up. However, as a member of MLA, I applied for scholarships and received some very nice educational grants from our association that helped me pay for some of those books and cover some of those other expenses. I would like to thank the Maryland Library Association for pulling through for me. The scholarships were generous and kept me going.

Thanks, MLA.

Donna L. Seibly, Harford County Public Library

State Superintendent continued...

accompanied them onto the field. The Oriole Bird, mascot for the team, entertained participants as they awaited the field ceremony.

This ceremony marked the end of the summer reading

believe that the expansion of our program will contribute significantly to the need for highly qualified information professionals throughout the region," commented Ann Carlson Weeks, Coordinator of the School Library Media Program at the iSchool.

The MLS program at the University of Maryland is fully accredited by the American Library Association (ALA); the school library media program is also accredited by NCATE.

For prospective students who are interested in learning more about the program, information sessions will be held September through December. More information about these sessions can be found at www.ischool.umd.edu/admissions/infosessions.shtml.

The Universities at Shady Grove offer more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs from nine respected institutions within the University System of Maryland at one central location in Montgomery County. USG provides daytime, part time and full time, evening and weekend programs to meet the needs of its students.

MLA Awards continued...

and/or across the state

- ◆ *Contributing outside the library in some library related activity such as involvement with MLA or service to the community on behalf of the library*
- ◆ *Demonstrating superior knowledge and skills in the job*
- ◆ *Performing above and beyond the job description*
- ◆ *Providing excellent library service enabling the library to best meet the needs of its patrons*
- ◆ *Encouraging reading and the use of the library's resources*

The awards committee encourages you to submit the name(s) of anyone you think deserves any of these awards. The form is available on the MLA website at <http://www.mdlib.org/member/awards.htm>. If you prefer a paper form, please contact Lucy Holman, MLA Awards Committee Chair, by phone (410-837-4333), or email lholtman@ubalt.edu. Paper forms may be sent to Lucy at Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore, 1420 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201. The form may also be faxed to 410-837-4319 or emailed to lholtman@ubalt.edu.

collaboration between the Baltimore Orioles and Maryland Public Libraries. The Oriole's generous donation of tickets was notable. Posters of Nick Markakis were sent to all Maryland Public Libraries to advertise the Summer Reading Program's theme, *Catch the Reading Bug*.



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