



## Concordia Parish Library Named Distinguished Partner in Education



*Pictured from left to right, Dorothy White, SLOL Associate State Librarian; Amanda Taylor, Concordia Parish Library Director, Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian, and Joe Landrum, retired SLOL Library Consultant.*

The Louisiana Department of Education named the Concordia Parish Library as a 2007 Distinguished Partner in Education, one of nine organizations to be so named and the first public library to receive the distinction. A reception followed at the Governor’s Mansion to honor the significant contributions these groups have made to Louisiana public schools.

James Stafford, who serves on the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, noted that Concordia Parish has made significant contributions to the local schools through its Bookmobile Service. In addition, library staff has helped mentor and tutor students.

“Our schools must have the support of their communities in order to succeed, and I am grateful that these organizations have demonstrated their commitment to education in Louisiana,” said State Superintendent of Education Paul G. Pastorek.

“These nine organizations aren’t just paying lip service to the importance of education,” said Board of Elementary and Secondary Education President Linda Johnson. “They have contributed money as well as the time and talents of their employees and are making a real difference in the lives of students across the state. We will see a return on their investment in the years to come.”

This award was first presented in 1991 and is given annually to a select number of businesses, associations or individuals for their significant contributions to education in Louisiana. Nominations are submitted by school district superintendents, businesses, groups and individuals. The Louisiana Lottery and Cox Communications were the corporate sponsors for this event.



## Livingston Parish Library Openings

During past six months, the Livingston Parish Library System celebrated the openings of four new libraries, including the Denham Springs-Walker Branch, Watson Branch, Albany-Springfield Branch, and South Branch.

The libraries were built simultaneously with the Denham Springs-Walker opening on December 1, 2006. The final one, South Branch, opening on June 13, 2007.

With the added space, patrons enjoy enhanced programming including free computer classes, book clubs, book signings, pre-school story times, lap sits, Prime Time Family Reading Time, teen summer reading programs, quilting classes, art exhibits, historical exhibits, and meeting rooms.





# Viewpoint

One of the most important responsibilities that we have at the State Library is to provide a comprehensive continuing education program for public library staff. In order to do this we continually research best practices and keep up with emerging trends. Part of how we do this is through library conferences such as ALA. Several State Library staff members attended the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

With sessions on important topics such as leadership, library administration, collection management, marketing, and digital technologies, the staff came back to the State Library energized, inspired, and ready to put what they learned to work for you. I have already had a line of people at my door with new ideas. Now that is energized!

Although I could not attend ALA due to the legislative session, I am proud to let you all know that Mary Cospers LeBoeuf, director of the Terrebonne Parish Library System, has won second prize in the Public Library Association's feature article contest for her article, "Ill Winds: Hurricanes and Public Libraries Along the Gulf Coast," which was



published in the May/June 2006 issue. State Library staff were able to see Mary receive her award during the PLA President's Program. We are all proud of you Mary.

I am also proud to say that Mary is but one of many of our Louisiana library leaders, many of whom also attended ALA. I say this every time that I attend a conference or meeting--nowhere will you find a more dedicated or exceptional group of library leaders than in Louisiana. Frankly, we "got it going on."



## Vandersteen Receives Award

Beth Vandersteen, the assistant director of Rapides Parish Library, was honored with an award from the City of Alexandria Human Relations Commission. The award was in the form of a plaque inscribed, "Alexandria Human Relations Commission honors and thanks Beth Vandersteen for dedicated efforts in promoting better understanding and the quality of life in our community." Remarks cited her work with Rapides Parish Library outreach services as well as Weed and Seed, a project through the U. S. Department of Justice which seeks to improve at-risk neighborhoods by weeding out bad influences such as crime and drugs, and seeding in good influences such as library services, educational programs, and so on. Vandersteen serves on the steering committee of the Weed and Seed Initiative.

## Author Lenora Worth Speaks at Shreve Memorial Library North Shreveport Branch

Fiction writer Lenora Worth will be a guest speaker at the Shreve Memorial Library North Shreveport Branch Wednesday, July 25 at 1:00 p.m. The newly formed North Shreveport Book Club has invited Worth to share her thoughts about writing inspirational romance. She has more than thirty published novels, including her new release, *Fatal Image*. Before writing full time she worked in marketing and public relations. Her book, *The Wedding Quilt*, became one of the launch books for the Love Inspired line of inspirational romances.



# People & Places

## State Library of Louisiana

**Sheila Coleman** joined the State Library of Louisiana as a Librarian 2 in SBPH on June 18. She is a reader advisor, working with nursing homes and other institutions, and assists with cataloging and maintaining the collection of talking books.

**Shirley Ponthieu** began as the new Library Specialist Supervisor in Circulation on June 11. Shirley comes to the State Library from the Carver Branch of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library where she handled circulation, reference and serials maintenance.

**Jerome Cummings** has been hired as a Library Consultant in the Library Development Division of the State Library of Louisiana. Jerome will begin his duties at the State Library on Wednesday, August 1st. Jerome holds a Master of Library and Information Science from Florida State University. Jerome served as the Interlibrary Loan and Distance Education Librarian at McNeese State University. Currently, Jerome is a Librarian at Lafayette Public Library where he works in Administrative and Extension Services.

## Around the State

**Norma Trosclair** joined the St. Charles Parish Library staff as a Computer Specialist/Trainer. She was previously a Computer Systems Specialist at the Jefferson Parish Library.

**Claire Delaune** is the new East Baton Rouge Parish Library public relations director. Formerly news planning associate producer at WBRZ Channel 2, Delaune is a Baton Rouge native and LSU graduate.

She will be responsible for all press releases, media appearances, the monthly newsletter and television show.

**Melodie Franklin** has joined the Children's Department at the Lafayette Public Library as a Librarian I.

**Sam Lollar** has joined the Information Services Department at the Lafayette Public Library as a Librarian I.

**Linda Guidry**, who recently earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from LSU, was assigned to the Southside Branch of the Lafayette Public Library as a Librarian I.

**Ramona Pellerin**, Information Services Librarian at Lafayette Public Library, has been promoted to Librarian II.

## Remembrances

Tangipohoa board member **James Donald Alexander** died May 5. He was 69, a resident of Amite and a native of Hammond. James was a retired Amite High School English teacher.

**Peggy LeBlanc** passed away June 12 from cancer. She was retired from the Vermilion Parish Library, where she served as the Erath Branch Manager for her 33 years of service.

**Ashley Bonnette**, Information Services Librarian at Lafayette Public Library, passed away unexpectedly on March 28th. A resident of Lafayette since 1975, she worked at UL Lafayette's Dupre Library prior to joining the Lafayette Public Library. Ashley was a graduate of LSU's Library Science Department and a librarian for more than twenty years.

## New Appointments to the EBR Library Board of Control

On Monday, June 18 the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control elected a new president to replace outgoing President Georgia Brown, whose term expired in May. Dan Reed, previously the Vice-President of the Board, was chosen as Brown's successor. Reed has been on the Library Board since 1995 and is a local attorney.

Katherine P. Auer was elected Vice-President. Auer, a board member for 3 years, is a retired educator. Retired educator and counselor Dorothy Step-teau remains as Treasurer; she has served on the Board since 1993. Board member Stephen Moret, President and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, began his term of service in 2006. Stanford O. Bardwell has been appointed to replace Brown.

Brown will continue to serve the citizens of Louisiana through her work as chair of the State Library Board of Commissioners. Since 2002, Brown has given valuable guidance and support to the State Librarian. She also serves on the LSTA advisory committee and on the Louisiana Book Festival advisory committee.





# Volunteers Honored

More than 50 volunteers were honored June 14 at the State Library for their efforts to help provide audio books to blind library patrons of Louisiana.

"Citizen service is alive and well in Louisiana, and the work of volunteers is lifting up our communities. On behalf of the State of Louisiana, I would like to thank the dedicated volunteers of Louisiana Voices for their work to help provide audio books to blind citizens," said Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, whose office oversees the State Library. "I have volunteered with Louisiana Voices, and I can attest to the fact that this is a rewarding experience and a valuable initiative."

"People of all ages volunteer in our programs," noted Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian. "Without their help, many of Louisiana's sight impaired citizens would not be able to enjoy all the things that a library offers."

Throughout the year, volunteers read and record books in the studio, repair machines, inspect and rewind tapes, and assist with mass mailings.

"With the help of volunteers, *Louisiana Voices* has made 240 books available to sight impaired and disabled library patrons in accessible format," said Angèle Davis, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.



*Margaret Harrison, SLOL's head of the Blind and Physically Handicapped section, addresses the honorees.*

As of mid 2006, volunteers recorded 157 books, magazines and other publications for statewide distribution. An average of 31 volunteers spent 85 hours per month working as narrators, producers and reviewers in the Louisiana Voices studio.

The celebration at the library was sponsored by the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a small nonprofit group that assists SBPH in many ways.

## Historical Miniatures on Display at East Bank Regional Library

The Historical Miniatures Gaming Society - Gulf South and Jefferson Parish Library invite the public to a free exhibit of Historical Miniatures in the main hall display cases of East Bank Regional Library now through the end of July.

Historical miniatures are used in both static dioramas and active wargames. Dioramas show a moment in history; wargames are used to reenact historical battles. The displays highlight moments in history from Biblical to modern times.

## St. Tammany Parish Library Awarded \$6,000.00 Grant

The St. Tammany Parish Library was awarded a \$6,000.00 grant from the 2007 Unified Summer Grants. This is the second year that St. Tammany Parish Library has received a Unified Summer Grant to pay for part-time assistants for Summer Reading Program.

The 2007 grant is funded by Save the Children, the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, GNO AfterSchool Partnership, and United Way for the GNO Area.

The grant enabled St. Tammany Parish Library to hire four part-time temporary assistants for June and

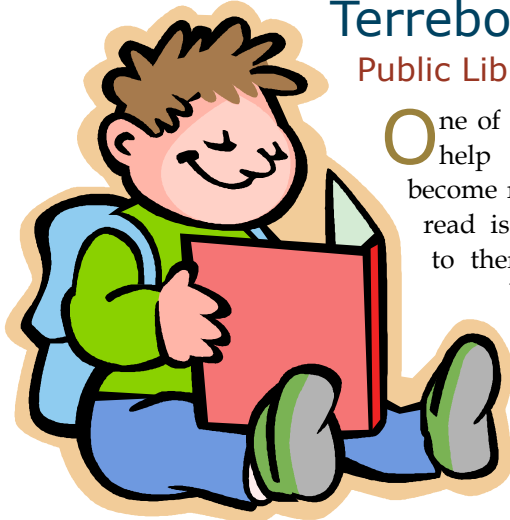
July. The assistants are assigned to the Causeway, Covington, Mandeville and Slidell branches and assist the children's librarians with all aspects of Summer Reading and Teen Reading Programs. Each assistant will work a total of 150 hours during the summer.

"This year's assistants are all college students who are pursuing degrees in education," said Director Jan Butler. "They are smart, bright, energetic and are great with the kids. With their help, the summer is going by smoothly and the librarians have more time to plan and present programs."



# Big Books in Lafayette and Terrebonne Parishes

## Public Library Outreach Services



One of the best ways to help young children become ready to learn to read is simply to read to them daily. But in Louisiana, access to books can be a challenge for 65 percent of children under age 6 whose parents are employed. Often for

these working parents, demands of work schedules and daily family life leave little time or energy for visits to the public library. However, public libraries can provide access to books to 62 percent of Louisiana children ages 3-5 who are enrolled in an early care and education program through outreach book delivery services to day care centers, Head Starts, preschool and kindergarten classrooms, and Family Day Care Homes. Such services put literacy materials directly into the hands of little children, their teachers and caregivers. (Statistics from *Kids Count*, an initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation)

Lafayette Public Library and Terrebonne Parish Library recently developed services that provide hundreds of outstanding books and other early literacy materials to early care and education programs classrooms. Both projects circulate huge, durable, clear vinyl bags of a wide variety of materials selected on topics that are closely aligned with local early care and education topics and that foster early literacy skills. Materials include: fiction, non-fiction and concept books in big book, trade book and paperback formats; props and flannel board figures for story re-telling; nursery rhymes; music CD's; and teacher guides.

Lafayette Public Library's outreach service is a pilot project. It uses existing staff at the Chenier Branch Library to circulate ten bags to eight Head Start classes attending monthly storytime programs. During the 2007-2008 school year, the service provided 740 children with access to 871 items as the bags circulated a total of 37 times. A survey of teachers involved in the project reports that the children most enjoyed the big books, the flannel board stories, the CD's and cassettes, and the alphabet books featuring children's names.

Terrebonne Parish Library bought an outreach service van and purchased books and materials for multiple sets of more than 40 different themes. Lillie Brunet, a retired early childhood educator, was hired to manage the service and to deliver the bags. The service was launched in early 2007. Each month, Brunet delivers bags of books to 2,471 children in 42 day care centers. In the first four months, the service circulated 2,874 items in 152 bags.

The State Library's Early Childhood Services Consultant, Rose Anne St. Romain, closely assisted both libraries in materials selection and policy development. St. Romain also provided training to the Lafayette Parish Head Start teachers involved in the service in collaboration with Lafayette Public Library staff. For more information on developing these education programs, please contact St. Romain at (225) 342 - 4931 or at [rstromai@state.lib.la.us](mailto:rstromai@state.lib.la.us).



*Judy Smith, head of the Louisiana Collection at the State Library, conducts a breakout session entitled The WPA Artifact Collection: Teaching with Primary Sources.*

## SLOL Staff Participate in Teacher Workshop

State Library staff participated in a recent teacher workshop, Murals and More: The Works Progress Administration in Louisiana. The workshop was sponsored by the Louisiana Gumbo: A Recipe for Empowerment Project. The workshop was geared toward familiarizing K-12 teachers with new resources in Louisiana history. As part of the Louisiana Digital Library, The Gumbo Project includes many historical documents including photographs, artwork, maps, audio components, local histories and slave narratives.



## SLOL Invited to National Conservation Summit in DC

### Focus On Saving Museum, Library Collections

Charlene Bonnette, Preservation Librarian at the State Library of Louisiana has been invited to participate in *Connecting to Collections: The National Conservation Summit* to be held June 27-28, 2007 in Washington, DC. Four representatives have been selected to attend this invitation-only national conference sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The event will underscore the risks that endanger America's books, works of art, documents, and other treasures and promote solutions for saving them.

"Those who have been selected to attend the summit have a strong commitment to conservation and are among the best people in the country to spearhead a national conservation initiative," said IMLS Director Anne-Imelda Radice, Ph.D. "After the summit, we hope that the conversation about saving invaluable collections will continue in communities across the U.S."

Participants in the meeting represent small and medium-sized museums, libraries, and historic organizations with a proven dedication and commitment to conservation. They will be joined at the meeting by national leaders in conservation, government officials, and leaders in private sector support for conservation.

## Public Libraries Receive We the People Bookshelf Grants

Louisiana public libraries that received the *We the People Bookshelf* grant are: DeSoto Parish Library, Evangeline Parish Library, Lafourche Parish Library, Pointe Coupee Parish Library, Vermilion Parish Library, and West Feliciana Parish Library.

Each library will be given a collection of 15 classic books (plus four titles in Spanish) for young readers. This year's theme is the Pursuit of Happiness. Programs for promoting these titles will be conducted in libraries between May 1, 2007 and April 30, 2008.

We the People Bookshelf is a joint initiative between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The purpose of the grant is to encourage people to read and understand classic books in the K-12 reading levels while exploring American history, culture and ideas. To find out more about this program, visit: <http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/wethepeople/wepeople.htm>.

*Communiqué* is a monthly publication of the State Library of Louisiana to provide information to Louisiana libraries and people with an interest in libraries. Inquiries, subscription information or requests on obtaining large print or audiocassette versions should be directed to the Communications Section.

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The State Library of Louisiana is one of our state's greatest resources for research information, government documents, genealogical data, books in Braille, audiobooks and more.

The State Library's mission is to build an informed, literate and democratic society by ensuring access to informational, cultural and recreational resources, especially those resources unique to Louisiana.



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## Creole Houses – Traditional Homes of Old Louisiana

Author: Steve Gross and Sue Daley  
Publisher: Harry N. Abrams, Incorporated  
Publication Date: 2007  
ISBN: 0-8109-5495-8  
Pages: 192  
Price: \$35.00

The Mississippi Valley is home to the Creole Architectural building tradition, which displays French, Spanish and Caribbean influences to name a few. This style came to Louisiana by way of its early settlers, who developed this unique architectural style in America. It is in Louisiana that one will find a majority of this type of architecture, which was in vogue from the French Colonial Period (1699-1762) to the mid 1800s. *Creole Houses - Traditional Homes of Old Louisiana* is an expressive offering of plantations and other structures stretching from New Orleans, the River Road and Natchitoches to Pointe Coupee and the Bayou Country.

Creole Colonial Architecture is one of many American building traditions. Other American building traditions include British Colonial (East Coast) and Spanish Colonial (Southwest). Some of the features that indicate Creole architecture are French doors, wide porches, no interior hallways, bousillage (mud and moss mixture within the walls), raised structures and the pigeonniers (pigeon houses). All of these features, and more, can be viewed in *Creole Houses - Traditional Homes of Old Louisiana* by Steve Gross and Sue Daley.

Numerous color and black-and-white illustrations enhance the text. Each section offers a brief history of the

area followed by interior and exterior images of the structures, as well as historical and architectural information about each site. There is no index, which would be helpful to locate the many owners listed throughout. However, the Table of Contents can serve as a guide to locate the appropriate structure. From chapters on New Orleans (Pilot House, Bourgoyne House, Cooper-Thomann House, Patout Cottage, Pontalba Buildings, O'Brien Cottage) to River Road (Laura Plantation, Chene Vert, Magnolia Mound), to Pointe Coupee (Austerlitz Plantation, Maison Chenal, Parlange Plantation, Lacour House, Jacques Dupre House) to Bayou Country (Cocoret Plantation, Acadian Village, Hilaire Lancon House, Dumesnil House) to Natchitoches and Cane River (Tante Huppe House, Wells House, Cherokee Plantation), the reader will find a wealth of information and images to please the visual and architectural senses. For those desiring more information, the authors have provided a Suggested Reading list of thirteen titles. *Creole Houses - Traditional Homes of Old Louisiana* by Steve Gross and Sue Daley will enhance a library's collection on Creole architecture, plantations and Louisiana. It is a resource for anyone interested in historic Louisiana architecture.

*Charlene Bonnette is a Reference Librarian in the Louisiana Section of the State Library of Louisiana.*

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## Calcasieu Public Parish Library to Form Foundation

The Calcasieu Parish Public Library (CPPL) is in the process of establishing a Foundation with donated seed funding of approximately \$150,000.

The Library hosted a meeting where visitors from the Lafayette Library Foundation briefed the board on what they may expect. Sona Dombourian, Lafayette Public Library

director, spoke about Lafayette's Foundation, as did the former director Sonya Branch, who started the Lafayette Library Foundation. The final speaker was Susan Hamilton, Lafayette Public Library board member and liaison to the Foundation Board.

CPPL board member Chad Thielen will chair the committee to form the CPPL Foundation.

CPPL Director Jeff Rippel is very grateful for the help from the Lafayette Public Library. "I would like to publicly thank Sona Dombourian, Sonya Branch, and Susan Hamilton for their gracious assistance to my Board in this process," said Rippel.



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## **FREE WORKSHOPS**

YALSA's

# **Get Graphic Institute**

September 5 and 7

The Young Adult Library Services Association of ALA is sponsoring two free workshops for Louisiana public library staff on Sept 5 at the State Library and September 7 at Shreve Memorial Library.

"Get Graphic @ Your Library" is a full-day workshop presented by Francisca Goldsmith.

For details, contact Gale Criswell at [gcriswel@state.lib.la.us](mailto:gcriswel@state.lib.la.us) or 225-342-4931.



Celebrating 50 Years • 1957-2007

**Free Workshop:  
Get Graphic @  
your library!**

This event is funded by YALSA and the State Library of Louisiana in part through a grant from the ALA World Book Award.