



Communiqué

A newsletter of the State Library of Louisiana

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LYRCA Gets a Star Turn on LA RIDERS

The Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award had a television spotlight on it in March. Louisiana television show *LA RIDER*'s executive producer Bob Courtney's interest was piqued at the title of one of the LYRCA winning books: *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*, written and illustrated by Keven O'Malley and illustrated by Carol Heyer and Scott Goto (Walker Publishing Company, 2005). The book was the 2008 top choice of third, fourth and fifth graders.

LA RIDER is a television magazine show dedicated exclusively to touring, cruising, wrenching and motorcycle riding. The program, which airs weekly, is dedicated to stories about motorcycles and the people who ride them.

Naturally, when Courtney heard about *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude* he felt it would be a great episode. The State Library arranged for the show to shoot at Baton Rouge's St. James Episcopal Day School, whose students participated in the 2008 LYRCA.

"Bob Courtney and the Cool Motorcycle Dude arrived. The kids didn't know he was coming," said school librarian Rebecca Richardson. "They just stood dumb-founded. The Cool Motorcycle Dude (aka: Troy Austin) read the story, even using different voices. They talked about it for the rest of the day!"

State librarian Rebecca Hamilton also appeared on the show where she discussed how LYRCA impacts children's reading levels. "When a young person gets a voice in a project, we find they're more enthusias-

tic about participating," said Hamilton.

"The success of the LYRCA has been the result of a partnership among the State Library, sponsor Capitol One and the many professionals who interact with children," said Hamilton. "When Bob Courtney called us for help in featuring LYRCA, it added another element to the partnership."

How important was that? As Richardson pointed out, having the Cool

Motorcycle Dude roar up on his cool motorcycle and read to the kids made "the book come to life. The students had a wonderful time!"



State Library Hosted Poetry Reading by Louisiana Poet Laureate

The State Library of Louisiana was pleased to present Dr. Darrell Bourque, Louisiana Poet Laureate, in a program held on April 30. Dr. Bourque read selections from his work, which has been described as "coming from deep Louisiana, a voice reminding us of not only where we live but where we dream."

The program focused on poems from his books and two unpublished manuscripts that highlight Louisiana experiences, locales and artists and where taken.

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Terri Fensel



Viewpoint

I missed seeing you all at LLA, but as (my) luck would have it I was about 30 minutes shy of Shreveport when I received a call from the Lt. Governor's office stating that our budget was suddenly scheduled to be heard before committee the next morning. Of course, I promptly turned around. As a result I missed conference, from being able to network to hearing the fabulous programs. But most of all I missed just being able to be with all of you, something that I look forward to each year. On a positive note, the end result was in our favor. At that committee meeting we passed over another hurdle with no budget reductions.

I still do not fully know how our budget will be impacted this session, but I do know that programs that directly impact public libraries are thus far secure (State Aid, databases, Internet, Interlibrary Loan). I have and will continue to protect these vital services that we provide to our citizens.

As we have done for the past three years, if we are indeed faced with any budget reductions, we will take these reductions on the operational side of the State Library as much as possible in order to protect the public libraries. We have been able to do this over the past three years because when I assumed office, I realized areas of the State Library needed to be streamlined thus allowing us to make appropriate reductions; however, after three years of internal reductions, we are as lean as we need to be and further reductions will stretch us to our limits and possibly impact service.

So once again, please be poised to contact your senators and representatives should I need to call on you.

State Librarian



Public Libraries Honored With LEH Awards

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities held its annual awards banquet March 29 at Houmas House Plantation and Gardens in Darrow, at which seven public libraries received the RELIC Library Attendance Performance Awards.

Congratulations to the following libraries!

St. John the Baptist Parish Library
Total Attendance Exceeding 500 by a Library Site

Terrebonne Parish Library
Total Attendance Exceeding 500 by a Library Site

New Orleans Public Library
Total Attendance Exceeding 1,000 by a Library Site

Ascension Parish Library
Total Attendance Exceeding 1,000 by a Library Site

Ouachita Parish Public Library
Best Average Session Attendance for a Library System Serving a Parish

Franklin Parish Library
Best Average Session Attendance for a Single Library Serving a Parish

Concordia Parish Library
Total Attendance as a Per Cent of Parish Population for a Library System Serving a Parish

Winn Parish Library
Total Attendance as a Per Cent of Parish Population for a Single Library Serving a Parish

Staffers Attend Public Library Association Conference

State Library staff Diane Brown, Jerome Cummings and Sara Taffae attended the biennial Public Library Association conference in Minneapolis at the end of March. Despite the cold weather and threats of snow, they attended many productive and inspiring sessions, including the role of public libraries in the age of the Internet, advocacy tips for gaining community support and the future of proprietary versus open source software in libraries.

Upon returning, the attendees hosted a sharing session with other staff to bring them up-to-date on issues and hot topics.



People & Places

State Library

Meg Huddleston has joined the staff of the State Library as a public library consultant and will serve as the Library Development E-rate Coordinator. Huddleston comes from the Lafourche Parish Public Library where she served as reference and branch librarian before becoming assistant director. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in English at Nicholls State University before attending Louisiana State University where she earned her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science.

Governor Bobby Jindal announced two appointments to the State Library of Louisiana Board of Commissioners.

Bibb Ingram, of Rayville, is currently serving as a teacher at Jack Hayes Elementary School and has also served as a Richland Parish Library Board member. Ingram is the

granddaughter of Robert R. Rhymes who donated the building for the first parish library in the state of Louisiana.

Dr. Argiro Morgan, of Mandeville, formerly served as a teacher in Jefferson and Orleans Parish public schools and is currently serving on the St. Tammany Parish Library Board. Morgan was awarded the Bush Excellence in Teaching Award in 1991.

Around the State

Wendy Bobo was appointed as Director of the Livingston Parish Library. She has an Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from LSU. She worked for the Livingston Parish Library from 1993 to 2000, then worked in the Livingston Parish school system as a librarian from 2000 until 2006. At that time she returned to the Livingston Parish

Library system as an Assistant Director.

Lydia Acosta, Director of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, has resigned. She served as director since 2003. Acosta has accepted a position in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Donald Browning and **Jamie Griffin** have joined the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board while board member **Stephen Moret** has resigned. Moret has been newly appointed as Louisiana's Secretary of Economic Development.

On the LaSalle Parish Library Board, **Melba Pugh** is replacing **Ruth Gray**.

Gloria Waldrup-Davis replaces **Jimmy Holmes** on the Natchitoches Parish Library Board.

Alice Jean Nicholls was replaced by **Almarie Booker** on the East Carroll Parish Library Board.

New Director Appointed for Center for the Book

The State Library of Louisiana is pleased to announce that Jim Davis has been selected as the new Director of the Center for the Book at the State Library of Louisiana. Davis will begin May 12.

"The Louisiana Center for the Book within the State Library is charged with promoting the state's strong literary culture. That one mission encompasses many different areas, including nurturing our writers, encouraging the joy of reading amongst our youngsters, and promoting the accomplishments of Louisiana's writers," said Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, whose office in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism oversees the State Library. "It is imperative that we have a professional of Jim Davis's back-

ground and experience leading the Louisiana Center for the Book."

State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton echoed Landrieu's sentiments. "The State Library of Louisiana has had the pleasure of watching Jim's work over the years. In his position with the Jefferson Parish Library system, Jim was successful in creating fascinating and proliferate programming and in developing relationships with Louisiana's authors and publishers. The amazing success of his programs at the local level echo what we believe he will be able to accomplish with the state's premiere literary festival, the Louisiana Book Festival."

Davis joined the staff of Jefferson Parish Library in 2000, where

he served as Adult Programming Manager for the system's 16 public libraries. He also handled public communication and marketing of the library's programs, and has had the responsibility of content management of JPL's website, including managing the updating of event calendars for each of the branches. In recognition of his contributions to Jefferson Parish Library, he was named the Jefferson Parish Library Employee of the Year for 2007.

"I feel very fortunate to be joining the staff of the State Library of Louisiana," Davis said. "As an employee of one of the state's public library systems, I have seen first hand what the dedicated team at the State Library has done to sup-

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Louisiana Library Association Awards

During the March Louisiana Library Association conference in Shreveport, State Library staffer April Milton was awarded the Outstanding Support Staff Award from the Louisiana Library Association's Louisiana Support Staff Association of Libraries section.

Milton has been very active in this section since its inception and has served as president of the section for 2 consecutive years. The Outstanding Support Staff Award is given to a member of this section who has made a significant contribution to further the development of paraprofessionals in Louisiana. Other award winners include:

Outstanding Academic Librarian Award (Academic)
Michael DiCarlo

Sue Hefley Educator of the Year Award (LASL)
John P. Juneau,
Supervisor of Librarians in
Jefferson Davis Parish School System.

School Library Media Specialist (LASL)
Betty Brackins

Lucy B. Foote Award (Subject Specialist)
Elissa Plank

James O. Modisette Award for Public Libraries
Jefferson Davis Parish Library

James O. Modisette Award for Public Library Trustees
Vivian Wylene Hurst, Pointe Coupee

Anthony H. Benoit Mid-Career Award
Vicki Nesting

Louisiana Library Association Meritorious Service Award
Sona J. Dombourian

Essae M. Culver Award
Jackie Choate

Louisiana Literary Award
After the Hunt: Louisiana's Authoritative Collection of Wild Game & Game Fish Cookery by John D. Folse.

Education Foundation of the Trustee Section Scholarship
Michele Jones

Ollie Burns Scholarship
Maria Landrum

Education Foundation of the Trustee Section Scholarship
Michele Jones

Academic-Thorpe Associates Grassroots Grant
Ben Bell

LLA Scholarship
Christopher Brown

Mary Moore Mitchell Scholarship
Tracey Couret

Friends of Clinton Branch Hosts Fundraiser

The Audubon Regional Library's Friends of the Clinton Branch threw a 90th Birthday Celebration on Saturday, April 5th. The birthday bash served as a fundraiser to build a new Clinton branch that will replace the beautiful, historic but small building on Lawyers Row.

Several former directors and staff of the library had a wonderful time catching up. More than 100 people attended the party, including State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton. Other special guests were Louisiana authors selling and signing their books, including Anne Butler, Henry Howell, Chuck Hustmyre, Pam Kaster, Betty Miley, Mary Ann Sternberg and Audubon board member Evelyn Wilson.

The Friends President, Frances Phares, organized and spearheaded the event.



Front Row: Lula Pride (Director 1997-2001), Martha Yancey (Director 1990 - 1996), Doris Buerger (Acting Director 2001 - 2003) and Rebecca Hamilton (Assistant Director 1998 - 2001). Back Row: Virginia Smith (Director 1981-1990) and Mary Lindsey (Director 2007 - present).



SLOL Rolls Out Red Carpet for SBPH Volunteers



Left to right, guest speaker and Mistress of Ceremony Sylvia Weatherspoon; Angi Cinquemano, Louisiana Voices; Margaret Harrison, head of SBPH; Philip K. Jones, Founder of the Jones Foundation; Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian; and Jennifer Anjier, President of the Jones Foundation.

Guest speaker and former Louisiana Voices volunteer Sylvia Weatherspoon hosted the State Library's Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and Louisiana Voices' Annual Volunteer Recognition Event on April 24. The State Library honored 30 committed volunteers who donated their valuable services to SBPH.

"Today, more than 7,000 blind and disabled Louisiana citizens of all

ages receive talking books, Braille and large print books on loan free of charge from this special library program," said Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu. Landrieu oversees the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which includes the State Library.

Several long time members of the Capitol Club Telecomm Pioneers commemorated more than 20 years of repairing talking book machines for the patrons who rely on this equipment. Other honorees assist in mailing the SBPH quarterly newsletter in three alternative formats to more 7,000 of Louisiana's blind and handicapped readers. Additional honorees are narrators, reviewers and researchers for Louisiana Voices, the state's only digital audio book program.

State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton is grateful for those who help the State Library of Louisiana reach this valued segment of Louisiana's citizens. "Without the generosity of the

volunteers' time, skills and compassion, many Louisianans would not have access to quality literature, nor receive news of special interest. We are indeed very grateful to our volunteers."

The celebration was sponsored by the SBPH's Friends Group, the Mrs. W. Carruth Jones Foundation.

Jefferson Parish Voters Say Yes to Libraries

Jefferson Parish voters renewed a 6.5-mill tax by an overwhelming 73 percent in a March 8 election. The property tax brings in \$13 million annually for the library and was renewed for an additional 10 years. Congratulations to the Jefferson Parish Library, Director Lon Dickerson, the staff and Library Board.

New Director *(continued)*

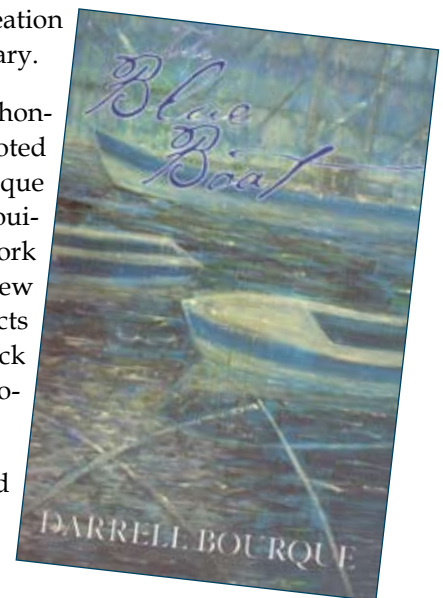
port public libraries, especially the support shown those libraries struggling to survive the ravages of Katrina and Rita and their aftermath. The State Library leads the charge in promoting books, reading and literacy within the state through the Summer Reading Program, its migrant program to support author appearances in underserved parts of the state, and, of course, one of the best literary events in the South, the Louisiana Book Festival, which I have not missed since the first one was held in 2002. Having appreciated the Festival annually from the reader/festival-goer perspective, I am excited about helping to continue its momentum as Director of the Center for the Book."

Poetry Reading *(continued)*

"Dr. Bourque's contributions to the corpus of Louisiana art through his poetry are exceptional," said Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu. Landrieu oversees the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which includes the State Library.

"We at the State Library of Louisiana are honored to have hosted this important event," noted state librarian Rebecca Hamilton. "Dr. Bourque is a highly regarded poet. The Center for Louisiana Studies recently selected his latest work *The Blue Boat* as the premiere issue in their new Louisiana Writers Series. His current projects include a collaborative book with poet Jack Bedell of Hammond and an independent poetry manuscript *Ordinary Light*."

Dr. Bourque also signed autographs and chatted with attendees.





WCEF Grant Opportunity

The month long World Cultural Economic Forum will be held in October. The Louisiana Book Festival is scheduled for October 4 as a kickoff event.

The WCEF is an initiative by the Office of Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu and the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism to promote the state's creative and cultural industries as a major economic force. Its goal is to leverage the state's unique heritage and to ensure that it becomes the driving force and embodiment of a global cultural economy.

During October, Louisiana Passport events will be held around the state. Louisiana Passport events are cultural and artistic activities that engage visitors and locals alike by promoting the culture and heritage of each region. Reflecting the goals of WCEF, Louisiana cities and towns will have opportunities to partner with various international cultural programs. Activities include festivals, outdoor concerts, introductions to local culinary traditions, theatrical performances, art exhibits, literary readings, and many others.

Grants are available for public libraries that want to host a Passport event. Visit www.wcefculture.org for more information. The deadline is May 15th.

Talking Books Program Spotlited

Donald McKain of Breaux Bridge looks like Ernest Hemingway on a motorized scooter. McKain is a writer and enthusiastic user of the State Library's talking book program.

McKain came to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on a story assignment with his wife, photographer Ginnie McKain. "We came for a story and we liked Louisiana so much that we stayed here," he said. "We love the people here."

The peripatetic pair were in Baton Rouge to interview Margaret Harrison, the head librarian of Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The McKains are working on a story about the talking book program for the *Teche News*, the weekly paper that covers St Martinville and surrounding areas.

"I love this library program, and I want others to know about it. Some

people think that it is only for blind people, but there are so many other people out there who qualify for service," said McKain.

Harrison explained how the program evolved over the years, starting out serving blinded veterans, and then expanding to serve people with visual impairments, physical disabilities and dyslexia.

"The talking book program, which is affiliated with the Library of Congress, is completely free of charge for library users," said Harrison. She particularly enjoyed speaking with the McKains. "This interview was more like a conversation than a formal process. The McKains were both so interested in learning about the program and keen to let people know about talking books, that we talked like old friends for more than half an hour."

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 Paulita Chartier.

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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.



WIRELESS INTERNET
AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA



Andrew D. Lytle's Baton Rouge: Photographs, 1863-1910

Edited by Mark E. Martin

Louisiana State University Press

March, 2008

ISBN: 0-8071-3296-9

Pages: 120 Price: \$34.95

Early photographs of Baton Rouge are always in high demand. Hill Memorial Library at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge has an excellent collection, which include many images by noted Baton Rouge photographer Andrew D. Lytle. *Andrew D. Lytle's Baton Rouge: Photographs, 1863-1910*, edited by Mark E. Martin, is part of *The Hill Collection: Holdings of the LSU Libraries Series*.

Andrew D. Lytle lived in Baton Rouge for over sixty years and owned the Lytle Studio on Main Street. He is noted for portraits, as well as city and waterscapes. Lytle's images of Civil War era Baton Rouge show

the effects of the war's devastation upon the city's residents as well as its government. His portraits offer a glimpse into the lives of the wealthy, middle and lower income residents. Lytle was a varied and prolific photographer and his photographs offer a view of Baton Rouge that many have never seen.

Almost every page of the 102-page book has an image. The images are quality reproductions in black and white. Each image is accompanied by narrative information which greatly enhances understanding of the photograph. Chapters are arranged by subject, rather than chron-

ologically. There are chapters of images on the *Civil War Era, Postwar, Prison, Politics and the State Capitol, Social Life, Firefighters, Louisiana State University, Portraits, The Lytle Family, Outdoors, Forestry, and Railways and Waterways*.

D. Lytle's Baton Rouge: Photographs, 1863-1910 will find a special place in the historical or photography section of a library, or a personal collection and enhance the study of Baton Rouge and Andrew Lytle.

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

Ground-breaking ceremonies at the new Westside Regional Library

The Rapides Parish Library Board of Control celebrated groundbreaking for the Westside Regional Library March 28 at the future site.

The facility will replace the Fuhrer Branch Library, and will triple the size of Fuhrer. Features and services include wifi, two new meeting rooms, study rooms and an in-house coffee shop. This location will allow the library to restore ample parking for customers and return children's programming to the library.

The Library is realizing its long-time goal of developing a regional facility that is in the heart of a rapidly growing area of the Parish. It will be easily reached by residents in the burgeoning Highway 28W corridor.

The regional library will be co-managed by Karen Gipson and Tammy DiBartolo. Gipson is the manager of the Fuhrer Branch and DiBartolo is the Youth Services Manager for the parish library system.



Left to right: Steve Rogge, Library Director, Fran Davis, Chuck Fowler, Alexandria City Council, Diane Lawton, Rapides Parish Library Board of Control, Karen Gipson, Co-Manager, Westside Regional Library, Tammy DiBartolo, Co-Manager, Westside Regional Library.



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May 20 and 21, 2008

State Library of Louisiana

**701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

**We invite you to participate in
A FREE NASA-supported workshop
designed to bring earth and space science
into your library and after-school children's
and community programs.**

Space is limited! Please complete the on-line registration form
by May 1 at: http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/lib_workshops/elw200804/registration/

- ✧ Meet NASA scientists involved in Mars exploration
- ✧ Learn about Mars science, missions, and future exploration
- ✧ Receive training in related hands-on science inquiry activities, designed for children ages 8 to 13
- ✧ Receive related resources and materials that you can use in your programs
- ✧ Explore ideas for presenting space science programs to young audiences and to other colleagues
- ✧ Collaborate with children's and youth librarians and after-school program providers in Louisiana and become part of the growing Explore! community
- ✧ Travel expenses of up to \$100 will be reimbursed.