



STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

P. O. Box 131

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BATON ROUGE, LA
PERMIT # 2012

NEWS BRIEFS

ALA and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have partnered to create a unique interactive space research exhibit for a new program called *NASA @ your library*. The program, part of *The Campaign for America's Libraries*, was created to inspire more participation at public libraries, raise awareness and encourage interest in science. It features presentations for all ages about NASA research regarding health, home and transportation, agriculture and environment and commerce. The unique, self-contained exhibit has six desktop computers and workspaces and provides information on space shuttle operations; living, working and conducting space research aboard the International Space Station; and



future aerospace activities. Apple Computer contributed 36 computers and is funding transportation of the exhibit. Over the next two years, the exhibit tours 120 public libraries across the U.S., selected based on ALA criteria. Participating libraries will receive a stipend to enhance their

book and electronic resources and collections and will host various social and academic activities of their choice. To promote interest in International Space Station research, ALA has created a new web site (www.ala.org/nasa) with reading lists, career info and other space-related activities.



Louisiana Book Review

The Louisiana Purchase

Written by Gail Sakurai

Series: Cornerstones of Freedom

New York: Children's Press - 1998

\$12.10 (retail) ISBN: 0-606-22916-7

32 pages (Ages 9-12; Grades 4-6)

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 was one of the most important events in American history. The transaction doubled the size of the United States and opened the way for westward expansion. The coveted city of New Orleans and the mighty Mississippi River came under American control, allowing trade and commerce to flourish. For \$15 million, or about four cents per acre, the U.S. made one of the best real estate deals in history.

This year, during the statewide celebration of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, books about the Louisiana Purchase are especially popular. This is the fourth review in a series of five on Louisiana Purchase books chosen for children and young adults. Previous issues examined *Louisiana Purchase – Let Freedom Ring* by Elizabeth Jaffe; *What's the Deal?*

Jefferson, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase by Rhoda Blumberg; and *The Jeffersonian Republicans: The Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812, 1800-1823* by Christopher Collier. A final selection will be reviewed in the next issue.

The Louisiana Purchase, written by Gail Sakurai, is suitable for elementary-school aged children. *The Louisiana Purchase* is a colorful, well-illustrated and informative book on the history of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition. This book is part of the *Cornerstones of Freedom* series that offers children a glimpse of the important events that helped shape U. S. history. Other books in the series include *The Constitution*, *The Boston Tea Party* and *The Declaration of Independence*. If you are looking for a story that brings history and characters to life, Gail Sakurai's *The Louisiana Purchase* is an excellent choice.

Children who read this book will learn about Louisiana's early history in a large-print, easy-to-

read format. They will discover why the Mississippi River and New Orleans were so important to the U. S. They will meet Jefferson, Monroe, Livingston, Napoleon and other key historical figures who made the Louisiana Purchase possible and will also take a journey with Lewis and Clark as these explorers search for a route to the Pacific Ocean.

The book's pages include color and black-and-white paintings, etchings, maps and

photographs, offering children a stimulating visual experience that enhances the text. Young readers can view illustrations of LaSalle claiming the Mississippi River basin for France, images of trappers, traders and settlers coming into the territory, portraits of key figures and a photograph of the actual Louisiana Purchase treaty.

Maps are colorful and clearly marked. One map shows all the countries that claimed ownership to the area we know today as the U. S. Another map outlines the route taken by the Lewis and Clark expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. Two

excellent additional features are a map of the present U. S., with states that were carved out of the Louisiana Purchase named and clearly outlined in purple, followed by a listing of each state that was part of the Louisiana Territory and the date it was admitted to the union. A glossary, time line and index will assist children in understanding text and dates and locating information.

The Louisiana Purchase, by Gail Sakurai, is a nice addition to any library collection. It is an excellent choice for anyone seeking a well-written and illustrated resource on the history of the Louisiana Purchase for juvenile audiences.

Reviewed by Charlene Bonnette
Reference Librarian
Louisiana Section
State Library of Louisiana



News Briefs

After a similar measure failed two years ago, voters passed a property tax on Oct. 4 that will fund expansion of the **Livingston Parish Library**. The library tax, which received 57 percent of votes cast, will raise \$8.9 million to build facilities in the Denham Springs-Walker area, Watson and the eastern and southern areas of the parish.

A 3.96-mill tax dedicated to the **Bienville Parish Library** was renewed Oct. 4 by a 65 percent margin. The millage generates \$450,000 yearly.

President Bush signed the **Museum and Library Services Act of 2003** on Sept. 25, reauthorizing it through 2009. The law increases the base amount of the LSTA formula distribution to states, sets the authorization level for library programs for the 2004 fiscal year at \$32 million and creates an evaluation process.

The Library of Congress named **Louise Gluck** as **U.S. Poet Laureate**. Gluck, who takes over from Billy Collins, began by holding a reading of her work Oct. 21.

The **New Orleans Public Library** is one of eight public libraries across the U.S. chosen as a field test site for the **Healthy People Library Project**, an initiative of the American Association for the Advancement of Science funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. As a field test site, NOPL will host free public programs especially for targeted populations more at risk of developing diabetes and heart disease, the project's targeted health problems. Targeted populations include the African American, Asian American, Hispanic American and Native American communities. The project goal is to assist libraries in playing an active role in increasing the quality and years of healthy life and eliminating health disparities for all Americans.

St. Charles Parish's 26-year-old planetarium at the **West Bank Regional Library** in **Luling** is open again after a six-month, \$200,000 renovation project. Patrons can now relax in tilting cloth seats to view images from a new digital projector on the 20-foot domed ceiling and enjoy surround-sound from stereo speakers. Regular 40-minute shows are held Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. The free shows are rotated every two months.

Nominations are sought through Dec. 1 from current **LLA** members for the **Outstanding Academic Librarian Award**. The award recognizes an individual, typically an active Louisiana academic librarian, who has made an especially significant contribution to academic libraries and librarianship as a whole. Details are available from Van Viator via email (moonfall9@yahoo.com).

The Southeastern Librarian, the official publication of the **Southeastern Library Association**, will feature depictions of library special collections on the covers of upcoming issues. Libraries in the Southeast are invited to submit electronic images of items such as artwork, sculpture, manuscripts and woodcarvings in their collections, accompanied by a one-sentence description. Black-and-white or color images must be at least 300 DPI resolution in JPG or TIF format. Questions should be directed to editor Frank Allen (fallen@mail.ucf.edu).

Get on Board and Read @ your library, a partnership to promote teen reading sponsored by **ALA** and **Morningstar Foods**, is in its third year. Free library promotional tools such as program ideas and artwork are available via the web site

Send us your library's news!

Libraries are invited to submit details and photographs of new or innovative events and programs with potential for use or adaptation by other libraries; successes and milestones; community partnerships; friends group activities; board membership; and staff changes, promotions and job openings. To be considered, information for publication must be submitted in advance (by Dec. 1 for the January/February issue) to Catherine Carlock Simpson, State Library communications director (csimpson@state.lib.la.us or 225/342-9713).

(www.hersheysmilk.com). Teens are encouraged to check out a favorite book from the local library and create an entry about how the book is meaningful to them. Entries—a written essay or a creative entry consisting of a poem, painting or video—can be submitted individually or as a team. The winning teen or team and the sponsoring librarian will meet program spokesperson Tony Hawk. Prizes will be awarded in three categories (5-14 entries, 15-25 entries or 25+ entries) to librarians who submit entries on behalf of teens served. The program is part of *The Campaign for America's Libraries*.

The **OCLC Digital & Preservation Resources Outreach Services** web site, now called the Digitization and Preservation Online Resource Center, is accessible at <http://digitalcooperative.oclc.org> without a password.

continued on page 8

People & Places



Patricia Murray Preis was re-appointed by Gov. Mike Foster to a five-year term as a member of the **State Library Board of Commissioners**. Preis has served on the State Library Board since 1988. She has been actively involved with the **Tensas Parish Library** for over 20 years and has served as a trustee on the Tensas Parish Library's board for many years.

Linda Foreman replaced Chelsea Norris as branch librarian at the **Logansport Branch** of the **DeSoto Parish Library**. Foreman, who has worked 22 years in the library system, has held various positions at the main library in Mansfield for the past eight years.

Terri Hawsey joined the **Logansport Branch** of the **DeSoto Parish Library** as children's librarian, sharing duties with Harold Spring.

Angela McGinnis retired from the **Iberville Parish Library** in late September after 30 years as a cataloger.

The **Plain Dealing Branch** of the **Bossier Parish Library** held a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting on June 22. The expansion project tripled the amount of library space, providing room for new services, materials and historical exhibits.



The **Cameron Parish Library** held a grand opening Aug. 18 for the new **Grand Lake Branch**. Pictured (left to right) are branch manager Kim Poole; the State Library's new Associate State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton; board president Cyndi Sellers; library director Charlotte Trosclair; board members Wanita Harrison and John Calzada; police juror Charles Precht III and assistant branch manager Paige Jouett. The library recently opened new branches in Johnson Bayou and Hackberry and plans to open a fourth branch in Grand Chenier. Until this year, the 1,931-square-mile parish had only one main library and a bookmobile.

The **Lafayette Public Library** held a three-day grand opening celebration Sept. 23-25 for the new **Southside Branch**. Library director Gail D. Smith cut the ribbon.



Also on hand were (left to right) Lafayette Consolidated Government Council members Rob

Stevens, Marc Mouton, Chris Williams and Lenwood Broussard; chief administrative officer Glenn Weber and numerous library supporters.

Sept. 28 marked the grand opening of the **Mooretown Branch of Shreve Memorial Library** and the end of phase two of the library's building program. The 9,500-square-foot-building is a high-tech space with towering curved ceilings, exposed beams and air ducts and retro-style lighting. A large permanent tile mural over the circulation desk depicts the Mooretown community's strengths and unity. Bookshelves in the children's area feature decorative space-age lights in various shapes, sizes and colors.



In Memoriam

John A. "Fred" Melancon, 79, died Oct. 2 in Baton Rouge. He was president of the St. Martin Parish Library Board for nearly two decades and received the Modisette Award from LLA in recognition of his distinguished service.

Ruth Darphin, 52, died Oct. 4 in Baton Rouge. She was a former employee of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

Marion Taylor, 80, died Oct. 5 in Minden. She was the former director of the Rapides Parish Library and also worked as a librarian at the Webster Parish Library.



JOB OPENINGS

Children's Librarian

Lafayette Public Library – Lafayette

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; familiarity with current children's material. Plan, execute programs for children, parents, caregivers; select children's material; provide reference, reader advisory services. Flexible schedule required, including some nights, weekends, minor holidays. Salary \$27,352. To obtain application, send resume to Lafayette Consolidated Govt., Civil Service, P. O. Box 4017-C, Lafayette, LA 70502 (sboswell@lafayettegov.com fax 337/291-8349).

Science Reference Librarian

LSU Middleton Library – Baton Rouge

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; undergraduate degree or sciences coursework; computer skills, including web page creation; excellent communication, organizational skills; demonstrated ability to provide library instruction, reference services; knowledge of traditional, electronic reference resources; experience in collection development, reference work, bibliographic instruction in academic environment. Salary \$32,000. Excellent benefits. Send application letter, resume (with email address), 3 references with to Dawn Zaske, Personnel Coordinator, LSU Libraries, 295B Middleton Library, Louisiana State University, Ref #002287, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; (dzaske@lsu.edu 225/578-2217; fax 225/578-6825).

Branch Manager

Livingston Parish Library – Livingston

Requires ALA-accredited MLIS; library or comparable experience; excellent oral, written communication skills. Direct all branch activities; supervise technical, non-technical staff; develop branch collection; maintain branch records; communicate effectively with staff, patrons. Salary based on education, experience. Parochial Retirement System, vacation, sick leave, health insurance. Send resume, references to Allen Cunningham, Director, Livingston Parish Library, P.O. Box 397, 13986 Florida Blvd., Livingston, LA 70754 (acunning@state.lib.la.us 225/686-2436).

Children's Librarian

Livingston Parish Library – Livingston

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; library or comparable experience; excellent oral, written communication skills. Serve as children's librarian at main branch; direct children's activities at all branches; provide reference, reader advisory services, children's programming; develop, maintain children's collection. Salary based on education, experience. Excellent benefits. Send resume, references to Allen Cunningham, Director, Livingston Parish Library, P.O. Box 397, 13986 Florida Blvd., Livingston, LA 70754 (acunning@state.lib.la.us 225/686-2436).

Librarian

South LA Community College – New Iberia

Requires MLS or equivalent; customer service orientation; knowledge of applicable print, electronic resources; excellent communication skills; knowledge of current issues, methodologies in library instruction; supervisory ability; knowledge of copy cataloging. Requires some evening, weekend work and travel between Lafayette & New Iberia. Salary \$36-38,000. Send application letter, resume, 3 professional references (with email addresses) to Director of Library Services, South LA Community College, 105 Patriot St., Lafayette, LA 70508.

Temporary Cataloger (2 jobs)

South LA Community College – New Iberia

Full-time, temporary (6 months). Requires MLS or equivalent; experience in original, copy cataloging using OCLC and SIRSI. Perform original, copy cataloging in all formats; check accuracy of bibliographic records added to on-line catalog; monitor student workers. Send application letter, resume, references (including email addresses) to Director of Library Services, South LA Community College, 105 Patriot St., Lafayette, LA 70508.

Genealogy Librarian

Shreve Memorial Library – Shreveport

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; knowledge of library practices, principles, procedures. Supervise Broadmoor Branch genealogy department; collaborate with branch manager, assistant branch manager; assist patrons; oversee interlibrary loan of genealogy materials; plan, organize, teach genealogy computer classes. Occasional weekend, evening work. Salary \$2,374/month with benefits. Send application letter, resume, 3 professional references to Jennie Paxton, Human Resource Coordinator, Shreve Memorial Library, P.O. Box 21523, Shreveport, LA 71120-1523; (jpaxton@shreve-lib.org 318/226-4789; fax 318/226-4780).

Cataloger

South LA Community College – New Iberia

Full time. Prefer ALA-accredited MLIS or equivalent. Requires experience in original, copy cataloging using OCLC and SIRSI. Submit application letter, resume, 3 professional references (including email addresses) to Director of Library Services, South LA Community College, 105 Patriot St., Lafayette, LA 70508.

Asst. Librarian – Business/Patents Reference

LSU Middleton Library – Baton Rouge

Requires ALA-accredited MLS; 12 undergraduate hours in business, economics or 1 year experience; knowledge of traditional, electronic reference sources; strong computer skills, including web page creation. Work at main reference desk; participate as member of Outreach Committee; provide collection development services; serve as faculty liaison for College of Business Administration and Agricultural Economics; administer Patents Depository collection; serve as representative to U.S. Patent and Trademark office. Salary \$34,000, negotiable. Excellent benefits. See web site (<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/lib/jobs/index.html>) for info. Submit application letter, resume (with email address), 3 references to Dawn Zaske, Personnel Coordinator, LSU Libraries, 295 Middleton Library, LSU, Ref #019471, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; (dzaske@lsu.edu 225/578-2217; fax 225/578-6825).

Library Associate – Lower MS Valley Collection

LSU Middleton Library – Baton Rouge

Requires bachelor's degree from accredited institution; 1 year library or relevant experience. Prefer experience in technical services, special collections and/or preservation of library materials. Perform database management, stacks management, preservation tasks, copy cataloging; supervise student workers; work with public; update serial records for additions to special collections; apply knowledge of MARC format, local policies; search, prepare materials for curatorial review. Salary \$17,867. Submit application letter, resume (including email address) to Dawn

Zaske, Personnel Coordinator, LSU Libraries, 295 Middleton Library, LSU, Ref #029865, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; (dzaske@lsu.edu 225/578-2217; fax 225/578-6825).

Librarian

St. Tammany Parish Library

Full-time, entry level position. Requires ALA-accredited MLS; valid LA driver's license; management skills; strong computer skills; professional demeanor. Position may be subject to work at any branch; serve as branch manager, supervisor in absence of others; train other staff; answer reference questions; perform all library branch activities. Some weekend, evening work. Salary \$30,142 - \$39,328. Send resume to Janice Butler, Director, St. Tammany Parish Library, 310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433.

Librarian – Reference & Instruction

Nunez Community College – Chalmette

Part-time. Requires ALA-accredited MLS or active pursuit within 12 hours of completion; experience in reference, teaching; experience with database, OPAC online search; strong communication skills. Prefer experience with SIRSI Unicorn iLink. Work with faculty to provide course-integrated library instruction; provide library orientation via class presentations, tours, individual instruction. Salary \$17/hour; no benefits. Send application letter, resume to Lisa Muilenburg, Head of Public Services, Nunez Community College, 3710 Paris Rd., Chalmette, LA 70043 (lmullenburg@nunez.edu).

Librarian/Desegregation Liaison

Grambling State University Lewis Library – Grambling

Prefer ALA-accredited MLS. Requires bachelor's degree; experience in automated environment; supervisory experience. Participate in acquisition of all resources acquired via 5 desegregation programs; review book orders for completeness; work with all components of desegregation program; keep statistics, prepare reports. Salary negotiable. Send application letter, resume, official transcripts, 3 professional references to Dr. Rosemary Mokia, Acting Director of Library Services, A.C. Lewis Memorial Library, P.O. Box 3, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA 71245 (318/274-3353; fax 318/274-3268).

Librarian

Baton Rouge Community College – Baton Rouge

Part-time. Requires ALA-accredited MLS. Assist with reference, circulation, bibliographic instruction, cataloging. Must work maximum 20 hours weekly; some nights, weekends. Salary \$12-16/hour. Application on web site (www.mybr.com). Send cover letter, resume, official transcripts, application, 3 references to Human Resources, BRCC, 5310 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

**Seeking a La. library job?
Have a job opening?**

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lalibjobs> to learn more and subscribe to the only electronic mailing list concentrating on La. job openings. Post librarian or paraprofessional vacancies free via email (vnestin@bellsouth.net).

Viewpoint

by State Librarian Thomas F. Jaques

We may still be in the middle of a gubernatorial election but one election that affects the State Library and, ultimately, other libraries as well, is over. Mitch Landrieu was elected in the first primary to serve as Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor for the next four years and, in that position, has responsibility for the entire Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Last week, Mr. Landrieu held a full staff meeting of department employees to meet everyone and to speak of his vision for the department. An enthusiastic and thoughtful speaker, he spoke of the need for the department to think of its programs and activities in terms of economic development as well as improving quality of life opportunities. Mr. Landrieu clearly challenged all of us, including libraries, to provide irrefutable evidence of our positive impact on the state's economy.

By way of introduction, I am including the following brief excerpts from his biographical sketch...

For the past 16 years, Mitch Landrieu has served in the Louisiana Legislature. He is recognized throughout the state as a reform leader who has championed fiscal reforms and fought tough battles. In 1994, *Gambit Weekly* wrote the following:

"Mitch Landrieu is committed to genuine reform. His legislative record attests to that fact overwhelmingly. Landrieu has been at the forefront of every major reform battle of the past 15 sessions. He took the lead in organizing the 'New Young Turks' last year, and his efforts resulted in significant budget cuts. He also pushed for lobbyist disclosure, fiscal and ethics reform campaign finance reform, health care, education and environmental reform and streamlining of local political offices... Mitch Landrieu's career is a study in the fight for reform."

Mitch Landrieu runs his own law firm and is the president of International Mediation and Arbitration Ltd. Landrieu is a member of the

Supreme Court Task Force on Alternative Dispute Resolution, which was responsible for developing the pilot mediation program in Orleans Parish. Landrieu is trained in mediation/negotiation by the Harvard Law School Negotiation Project, the American Arbitration Association and the Attorney Mediator's Institute. Landrieu also teaches alternative dispute resolution as an adjunct

professor at Loyola University Law School. Landrieu attended Catholic University of America and got his law degree at Loyola.

He received the Chamber of Commerce Business Champion Award (2001, 2002); the Legislator of the Year Award from the Alliance for Good Government (2002); the Legislative Leadership Award from the Orleans Parish Medical Society (2002); and the Friends of the

Parishes Award from the Louisiana Police Jury Association (1998).

Landrieu is married to the former Cheryl P. Quirk, who is also an attorney. They are the parents of five children.

Mr. Landrieu has been a supporter of libraries for years, and a strong advocate of reading. We look forward to working with him, and wish him well as he leads the department for the next four years.



Lt. Gov.-elect Mitch Landrieu

Tom

Communiqué is published bi-monthly by the Library Development Division of the State Library to provide information to Louisiana libraries and people with an interest in libraries. Correspondence regarding public libraries should be directed to the Library Development Division. People with visual or physical handicaps who need a large print or audiocassette version of Communiqué may contact the Library Development Division at (225) 342-4931.



STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

701 N. 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232
(225) 342-4923
fax (225) 219-4804

www.state.lib.la.us

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.

Community partnerships

continued from page 1

Other partners helped expand the library's serials collection. **Edward Jones** investment representative **Shawn Daily** donated seven magazine subscriptions; **State Farm** insurance agent **David Haymon** donated eight.

The **Bienville Parish Library** received a similar gift. **Gibbsland Bank and Trust** purchased eight subscriptions.

The **East Baton Rouge Parish Library** and **Baton Rouge Coca-Cola Bottling Co.** teamed up to promote reading by co-sponsoring *It's the READ Thing*. The program offered coupons for free Coke products to encourage reading and library use. Each patron who visited any of the 13 library locations received a coupon, which was stamped each time materials were checked out. With six stamps, the coupon can be redeemed.

The **Sabine Parish Library** received \$500 from Central Louisiana Electric Co., better known as **CLECO**, to support children's reading programs. **Pizza Hut** in Many donated \$356 to the library's building fund through a nationwide company initiative to aid non-profit organizations. The library received 20 percent of purchases made by customers who presented special coupons, available there and at the library.

Officials in the **City of Carencro**, recognizing the role of libraries in community development, donated four acres to the **Lafayette Public Library** to construct a new branch library to replace a small existing facility near City Hall. The site, located on University Ave. next to a planned 10,000-square-foot community center now in the works, includes room for expansion.

Cabot Corp. donated \$7,500 to the **St. Mary Parish Library** through the company's corporate giving program. The money was used to purchase new computers for public use at all six branches. The **Bayou Vista Garden Club** provided landscaping to enhance the exterior of the library's Bayou Vista Branch, along with books, interior plants and benches.

The **Beauregard Parish Library** teamed up with the **Beauregard Health Unit** and the **Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office**, enabling the agencies to use facilities at the library's six branches to better serve the sprawling rural parish. The partnership offers convenient service to residents who need immunizations, assistance with pest control or copies of birth or death certificates, bringing patrons to the library who might not otherwise visit. It makes the library's phones and computers accessible to law enforcement officers, which also benefits the community.

The contributions of some library partners are large; many others are smaller. Some donors provide a one-time windfall, while other volunteers offer ongoing involvement. The value of their contributions is often difficult to measure. However, their generous gifts of time, talent and resources all add up to one thing: better library service for Louisiana residents.



COMMUNIQUE

Vol. 19, No. 6

November / December 2003

Community partnerships enhance public library programs, services, facilities

"If you want to be like me, then read like me," **New Orleans Saints** quarterback **Aaron Brooks** (below) told children at the **New Orleans Public Library's** East New Orleans Regional Branch. Brooks, who served as a reading ambassador for NOPL's 2003 Summer Reading Program, made special appearances at library branches to read to kids and encourage them to *Read to Pass*. He also appeared in TV and radio spots promoting summer reading.

It takes a village to raise a child, according to traditional wisdom, and the same premise holds true for libraries. Brooks is only one of a number of individuals, companies and government agencies who generously give their time, talents and resources to support Louisiana public libraries. Such partnerships translate into more diverse library programs, enhanced facilities, expanded collections and improved services for various segments of the population.

"Community involvement is very important in leveraging local tax dollars and state and federal funding for Louisiana public libraries," notes State Librarian Thomas F. Jaques. "Regardless of the size of the donation or the duration of the effort, these partners play a vital role in helping libraries create a culture of literacy."

The community partners who support public libraries throughout the state are as varied as the libraries they serve.

The **Iberia Parish Library's** 75 summer workshops for children and teens are in such demand that participants are selected by lottery. The program's popularity is due to the wide range of topics not typically associated

with libraries. Offerings include fly-tying; bubble making; blueberry picking, cooking and canning; astronomy; worms; knitting; photography; woodworking and much more, reflecting the diverse expertise of dozens of volunteer instructors. The **New Iberia Optimist Club** has sponsored the workshops for the past 19 years. Other partners include **Teche Federal Savings Bank**, **Cox Communications** and the **Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office**.

As part of a corporate initiative to improve literacy levels across America, **Wal-Mart Stores Inc.** awarded

grants totalling \$95,000 to Louisiana public libraries, schools and other organizations for literacy efforts. Eighteen public libraries around the state received a total of \$13,000.

Wee Read, a collaborative effort by the local **Head Start** program and the **Natchitoches Parish Library**, helps parents understand how

to pick an age-appropriate book for a child and how to read books to make them attractive to kids. The program pairs each parent with a mentor, who demonstrates reading books to children and help parents who have limited reading abilities. Each parent then reads a book to his or her child or children, as the mentor watches and assists if needed.

continued on page 2

