

Saskatchewan School Library Association Executive Newsletter



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2007 Saskatchewan School Library Association (SSLA) Award Winners

It was a special treat to behold the surprise and satisfaction on the faces of the award winners at the recent SSLA conference! This year the SSLA had the privilege of welcoming four individuals to its community of award recipients. The John G. Wright Distinguished Service Award was presented to Deanna Gruending of the North East School Division. Deanna was commended for her exemplary contributions to school librarianship at Tisdale Middle and Secondary School and for being the very successful “engineer” behind the Tisdale Community Library – a joint facility shared by the school, the public library and the Cumberland Regional College. Violet Smotra-Cook of Regina Public Schools was the recipient of the Connie Acton Award of Merit. Violet was praised for her commitment to quality school library programs and her years of service to the SSLA. The Alixe Hambleton Bursary was offered to Donna Des Roches, a Computer Resources Consultant in the Living Sky School Division. Donna is currently enrolled in the Educational Communications Technology Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Intended to “recognize the responsible and influential role that administrators perform in promoting effective school library programs,” the Art Forgay Award of Recognition was presented to Lois Smandych, a trustee of the Good Spirit School Division. Lois was celebrated for her “fierce support” of school libraries when she served on the Multitype Library Board as the representative of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association

(SSBA), and for “creating a climate which will foster the availability of the professional services of a teacher librarian for all students in the province.” The SSLA Executive along with members of the school library community extends bouquets of appreciation to all award winners. Congratulations!



SSLA Elections

The SSLA elected new officers to the Executive at its Annual General Meeting on April 30, 2007. The following is a list of the new SSLA Executive for 2007-2008:

President

Joan Miller
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Welcome aboard everyone! Involvement in the SSLA offers a great opportunity for service and professional development. The SSLA Executive joins teacher-librarians, library technicians, clerks, and other members of the school library community in thanking the out-going Executive members for their considerable contributions to the SSLA.



Wellness for Girls and Boys

In the May 2007 issue of *School Library Journal*, Gail Union-Metz featured several web sites that focused on issues related to girls' health. They included:

Center for Young Women's Health

www.youngwomenhealth.org

GirlsHealth

www.girlshealth.gov

Girl Power Bodywise

www.girlpower.gov/girlarea/bodywise/index.htm

The UCL Institute of Child Health has an eye-catching site that has a special section on boys' health. Please visit:

<http://www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk/teens/life/boys/>



Book Blogs for You

Book blogs are alluring sites that offer the opportunity to participate in rich discussions about books as well as provide reviews that help with collection development.

Book Moot

<http://bookmoot.blogspot.com/>

A pleasant place to go to talk about books, find reviews, and connect with authors.

Bookshelves of Doom

<http://bookmoot.blogspot.com/>

At this site you will find frank reviews of books and discussion about those that are banned.

Cynsations

<http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/2005/03/in-my-grandmothers-house-award-winning.html>

Rated as one of the best book blogs, a trip to this site is definitely worth the time. You will find a wide array of information.

Just One More Book!

www.justonemorebook.com

A great site where you will be treated to a three times per week pod-cast offered by two Canadian librarians. The files of this engaging site can be down-loaded to an MP3 player.

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Wand and Worlds

www.wandsandworlds.com/blog1

At this site you will find interesting reviews of fantasy and science fiction for elementary and high school students by Sheila Roth. Not to be missed!

The above blogs were excerpted from a list created by Elizabeth Burns in *School Library Journal*, February, 2007.



Poetry for Teens

The April 2007 issue of *School Library Journal* had much to share about poetry for teens. Here are some of the fabulous sites that were featured by Gail Junion-Metz:

Wordsmiths—A collection of writing by teens on the Web

<http://teenlink.nvpl.org/WordSmiths-Current.cfm>

Write It—Poetry

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/poetry/>

Do not miss this teacher-friendly and informative site that offers practical tips to help students write poetry.

Young Poets

www.youngpoets.ca

This super Canadian site is a must for all lovers of poetry. It features piles of poems and related resources. My students love it!

New Videos/DVDs and Software

Just in time for teacher-librarians, technicians, and, other library workers looking for new videos/DVDs, recordings, and software are the lists compiled by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). To locate the lists please visit:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/childrensnotable/notablecvidlist/currentnotable.htm>

Willow Award Winners

The winners of 2007 Willow Awards were announced recently. The Shining Willow went to: *A Team Like No Other* by Georgia Graham, the Diamond Willow was awarded to *Walking With the Dead* by L. M. Falcone, and the Snow Willow presented to *The Gravesavers* by Sheree Fitch. For more information, please visit the Willow Awards site at: <http://www.willowawards.ca/>. We offer our felicitations and appreciation to the authors, the organizers, and the sponsors of the Willow Awards. To the students, teacher-librarians, library technicians, library workers, and others who participated in the Willow event, we send our deepest gratitude. Bravo to all!



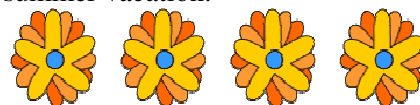
Reading and Loving It

Readers, I am quite excited about a resource that came across my desk recently. It is from the *Gotcha* series and the one that is particularly useful to me right now is: *Gotcha for Guys: Nonfiction Books to Get Boys Excited About Reading* by Kathleen A. Baxter and Marcia Agness Kochel (Libraries Unlimited, www.Lu.Com) This monograph is filled with great titles for middle-grade boys (and is useful for high school boys as well).



Summer is Calling

With more than a hint of inspiration, summer beckons us all and so it is, with much pleasure, that the SSLA Executive extends best wishes for a safe and happy summer vacation.



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