



Literacy Leaders Honored

A high school student and two organizations were honored by the University of South Carolina and the state's library community Tuesday, Sept. 13, for their work to improve literacy in South Carolina.

The fifth annual presentation of Annual Literacy Leaders (ALL) Awards was hosted by USC's [School of Library and Information Science](#) and [Time Warner](#) at the [S.C. State Library](#), with USC alumna Darci Strickland as emcee.

This year's recipients are the Spartanburg County Public Libraries' Children's Department for its "Real Mommies Read" program, Junior Achievement of Central S.C. and 17 year-old Sarah Katherine DeVenny of Lancaster.

The [Spartanburg County Public Libraries'](#) program encourages



ALL Award winner Sarah Katherine DeVenny. L-R: Susan DeVenny, Sarah Katherine DeVenny, David Goble, Director, SC State Library

teen mothers to develop their informational literacy as well as the literacy of their babies. It is funded by the Mary Black Foundation.

[Junior Achievement](#) was hailed for its work teaching students about financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship.

DeVenny was honored for having developed and implemented a sustainable literacy project with community organizations in Lancaster. Her efforts included the launch of a family read-

ing night and a book fair. She also worked with organizations to build bookcases, which were placed in a school, a food bank, a homeless shelter and literacy cooperative.

University Provost Michael Amiridis and Dean Charles Bierbauer spoke at the ceremony, and introduced [Dr. Michelle Martin](#), USC's inaugural Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy, who joined the university's faculty this fall.

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Director's Corner



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About Us

The South Carolina State Library is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries. The Library is a national model for innovation, collaboration, leadership and effectiveness. The Library's mission is to optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services. In 1969, as the result of action by the General Assembly, the State Library Board was redesignated as the South Carolina State Library and assumed responsibility for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped, and library service to state government agencies. Headquartered in Columbia, S.C., the Library is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and other sources. For more information, visit www.statelibrary.sc.gov or call 803-734-8666.

A colleague asked me what three or four issues occupied my thoughts. My first response was who has time to think. Although there was a great deal of truth in my first reply, the fact of the matter is there are a number of issues that continually come to mind in the quieter moments of the day. They vary from day to day, but here are today's concerns:

1. We must solve the South Carolina illiteracy problem. South Carolina Kids Count data indicates that 60 to 70% of children are not proficient in reading by grade 4. 15% of our adult population lack basic literacy skills. The implications for our economy and our society are serious. Our future is built on our ability to learn and that begins with reading. Libraries are uniquely positioned to help parents learn the importance of reading and how to provide their children with the tools they need to excel. Libraries are also uniquely positioned to collaborate with our schools to support reading efforts and to help adults with all their reading needs.

2. South Carolina's library community is divided. WE have spent too much time on individual concerns (School, Academic, and Public) and too little time on our common concerns. The current economic environment has made it increasingly difficult for us to collaborate or cooperate. I hold with Ben Franklin that "we must all hang together, or assuredly we will all hang separately." Our libraries are essential to the economic and intellectual future of South Carolina and its citizens, but many of our libraries are woefully underfunded. We must find ways to tell our story and we must join together in doing so. We know that on any given day more than 162,000 individuals visit South Carolina Libraries. We are stronger together than we are apart.

3. The ability of an organization to make good decisions, be it a state, a corporation, or a family, is in large measure based on the quality of information it has and how well it understands it. The State Library is positioning itself as the central focus of state information. Core strengths of the State Library are its ability to collect and or-

ganize information and then to deliver it in various formats. The State Library is politically neutral and understands and embraces the ethics of information.

4. Today's libraries exist in an ever changing technological environment with new formats and new access methods. Although downloadable eBooks are becoming increasingly more popular with our users, publishers are becoming increasingly skittish over digital rights management and pricing models. The environment causes substantial challenges for libraries in terms of operations and funding. Mobile apps are also challenging traditional library services. We must find ways to make the library easily available to patrons who are constantly on the move and in need of information.

These are my top 4 issues today. They are the issues I am thinking about when I am not thinking about how to keep the lights on, the staff paid, and patrons happy with our current services. It's a great day to be a librarian.

Local Authors Featured at Writers Forum

By Jennie Redmond

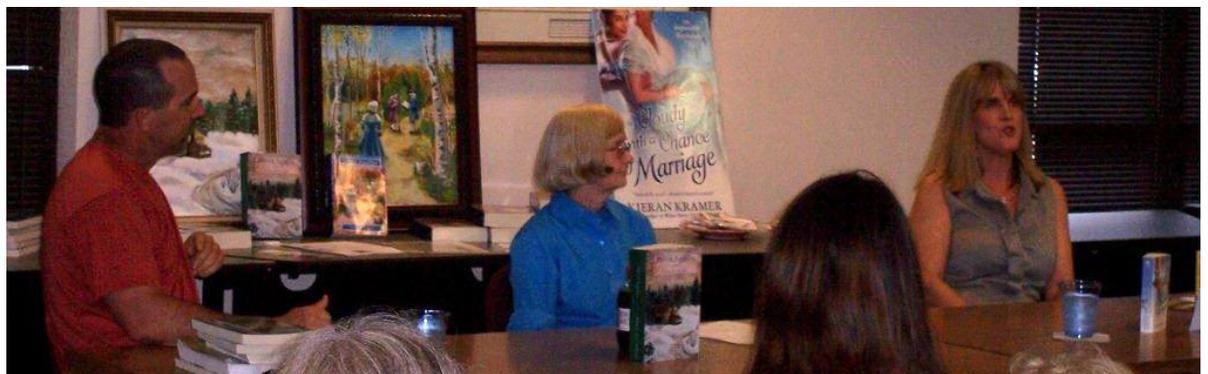
Dorchester County Library, partnering with the Summerville Writers Guild and the Friends of the Summerville Library, hosted a Writers Forum Sunday, August 7th, featuring three authors living in the Charleston and Summerville area: Tony Bertauski, author of two landscape design books; Beverly Jean DeCoodt, a writer of historic fiction; and Kieran Kramer, who

writes lighthearted re-gency romances.

Our panel of authors was moderated by Ellen Hyatt, a writer of non-fiction and poetry, who is a faculty member at Charleston Southern University and is Vice-Chair on the Board of Governors of the South Carolina Academy of Authors. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy the lively discussion.

The authors enter-tained the audience

with stories of their in-spiration, motivation and challenges on the road to publication. The library plans to host more forums in the future.



L-R: Tony Bertauski, Beverly Jean DeCoodt and Kieran Kramer

Three Tips for Conference Newbies—Or, what I learned at ALA Annual Conference 2011



Heather Bistyga is Reference/Adult Programming Librarian at Anderson County Library. She can be reached at hbistyga@andersonlibrary.org.

Have you thought about attending the ALA Annual Conference, but worried it might be too big and crazy? It *is* big and crazy – but also endlessly fascinating, as I learned on my first-ever visit this year. Thanks to a conference attendance grant from the State Library, I was fortunate to attend ALA in New Orleans in June. Here are the most important things I learned, formulated as tips for future first-timers.

Plan ahead

ALA is gigantic; in New Orleans, programs took place throughout the half-mile-long convention center and at 30 conference hotels, plus other venues. I used the Conference Scheduler on ALA Connect to plan a tentative schedule for the weekend. Out of numerous possibilities for each time slot, I was able to select the one or more I most wanted to attend. I still had to pick and choose. There were at least five things I really wanted to attend right after lunch on Saturday, so I had to pick the best one.

And I did. *Readers' Advisory Research and Trends Forum: What We Learn from Our Readers* was an all-star lineup of readers' advisors, including Nancy Pearl, Catherine Sheldrick Ross, and Joyce Saricks, moderated by Neal Wyatt. I'd read their work; it was amazing to hear them in person and I learned a lot to take back to my library, both for my own use and for training other staff members in readers' advisory.

Another winning choice, *Progressive Program Promotion: Creative Media Use for the Digital Age*, was chock-full of ideas for free or cheap tools to create and promote library programs. Staff from Pasco County, Florida, didn't have the money for budget-busting software like Photoshop, but they had time and expertise to make free tools like Picnik, Picasa and GIMP work for them. They discussed options for using YouTube; offering streaming video on the library website; tools for animation, 3D modeling, file sharing, and free images; and library barcode apps that let pa-

trons save their barcodes on their smartphones and use them in lieu of their library cards.

And *Future of Libraries: Cutting-edge Services* featured the winners of ALA's Cutting-Edge Service Awards, including NCSU Library's website redesign, OhioLink's Digital Resource Commons, Buffy Hamilton's Media21 program at Creekview High School, and the Orange County (Florida) Library System's "Shake It!" app to recommend books.

Again, lots of neat ideas and ways libraries are being creative with technology.

Allow for spontaneity and go outside your daily sphere

Planning ahead is important, but it's impossible to identify all the interesting programs ahead of time. I took advantage of the variety available at ALA to learn about topics outside the sphere of my daily work in reference and adult programming. I attended both the ALA Emerging Leaders Poster Session and the YALSA Teen Services Mashup because my colleague Kate Walker was pre-

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senting at them. Kate rocked, and I learned about many new projects and ideas for partnerships and programs.

I also attended a showing of the documentary *Library of the Early Mind*, which featured many noted children's authors talking about the importance of children's literature to kids and our culture. It was followed by a panel discussion and reception with some of the authors, including Daniel Handler, Grace Lin and Jack Gantos. We all know children's literature is a Good Thing, and this experience helped reinforce why.

Spend plenty of time on the exhibit floor

The exhibits can be exhausting; I popped in at various times during the weekend, checking out a different section each time. I went to the exhibits-opening reception and found it was less busy than I expected, so

I was able to spend time talking to some interesting bigger vendors. That's also the best time to go if you want free books. I greatly appreciated the *Top 10 New Orleans* guidebook DK gave away, with its tiny folding map of the city.

On subsequent visits, I made a point to seek out the smaller vendors I might not have heard of from any other source. Be sure to check out the little guys, especially if your job title does not suggest purchasing power. They're happy to talk to you about their projects or products, and less likely to be looking around for a bigger fish. I also found lots of free resources available from government agencies like the FTC, VA and HHS.

Trolling the far end of the exhibit hall, I discovered bookmobiles like the new one owned by East Baton Rouge Parish Library, which can be

configured to provide a mobile computer lab, bookshelves or other programming depending on the day's needs (they regret only that a retractable roof for throwing beads in parades was impossible). I also stumbled upon the Library of Congress' fascinating mobile history exhibit, which gives an overview of the materials and displays available at LOC.

My advice, if you're thinking about attending your first conference? Go. You'll learn a lot and have fun, no matter where your professional interests lie. Many thanks to the State Library for the grant that made my trip possible.



With Children's author, Mo Willems

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Acoustic Jam Session in Laurens

On Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 7 PM the Laurens County Library will be hosting an acoustic jam session/song circle.

The jam session is helping set the mood for the upcoming Smithsonian exhibit, NEW HARMONIES; Celebrating American Roots Music. New Harmonies will be 800 square feet of Smithsonian exhibits that will be at the Laurens County Library from October 29 through December 10. Exhibits, musical programs, a music workshop and lecture are all on the agenda.

The jam session is going to be informal, with local musicians sitting in and

playing songs they enjoy. Anyone is welcome to attend. There will be no amplifiers or microphones. Only acoustic instruments will be allowed. Guitars, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, harmonica are the typical instruments for this type of jam.

Non-musicians can also feel free to come in and sit and listen. It is a great opportunity for musicians and music lovers to come together and have some fun.

Someone may hear a song they like and then want to learn how to play it. People can break away in pairs or small groups and go outside for personal tutori-

als. A person could find themselves teaching a song to someone one minute, later they might learn another song from someone else. The theme of "Teach an old song, learn a new song" certainly applies to this type session. It really is all about fun and fellowship and the love of music.

This event is free and open to the public

For more information:
Laurens County Library
1017 West Main
Laurens, SC. 29360
864-681-READ
www.lcpl.org



Author Sharon Draper to visit Orangeburg

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 1st, as the Orangeburg County Library welcomes Award-Winning Author Sharon Draper.

Middle School Program:
3:30-4:30

An Evening with Sharon Draper:
6:00-7:30
(Young Adults/Teachers/
Book Lovers)

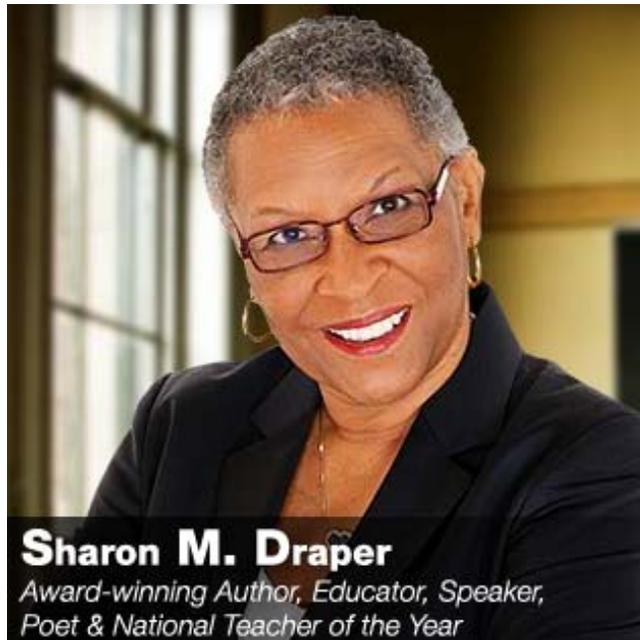
*Books will be available for purchase/author signing during the evening program.

Sharon will welcome middle school students between 3:30-4:30 to discuss writing and her books. She encourages students to read one of her books before attending her visit to enrich participants experience and discussion.

Sharon Draper is a five-time winner of the prestigious Coretta Scott King Award. This National award recognizes outstanding African American authors and illustrators of literature for young adults and children. The Coretta Scott King Book Award titles promote understanding and appreciation of the culture of all people and the realization of the American dream.

"I love to write; words flow easily from my fingertips and my heart beats rapidly with excitement as an idea becomes a reality on the paper in front of me. I'm a learner and a seeker of knowledge, and I try to take my readers along on my journey. I am truly passionate about what I do."

~Sharon Draper



This program is free, however, space is limited.

For more information contact the Orangeburg County Library at 803-531-4636 or visit the library at:

[http://
www.orangeburgcounty.
org/ocl/](http://www.orangeburgcounty.org/ocl/)



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State Library to Offer Fall Classes

south carolina
STATE LIBRARY



The State Library is pleased to announce free classes that are open to state employees, library staff, and to the public.

Finding a Funder for Your Nonprofit Organization ([October 18](#)) will help individuals locate information on grants available from private foundations and corporations using the State Library's electronic and print resources.

Getting Connected with Government Information ([November 1](#)) is designed to help citizens take advantage of state and federal legislative websites to keep up with the current sessions. It will also include a review of websites and print resources for tracking bills and regulations, contacting legislators, and searching databases of legislative materials. County and city administrative websites will also be reviewed.

Introduction to the Foundation Directory Online ([November 15](#)) will include basic and advanced search tech-

niques for using the Foundation Center's grants database to find potential funders for your nonprofit.

Proposal Writing Basis ([December 6](#)) will focus on what needs to be included in all your grant proposals.

For a full list of State Library offerings and to **register for classes**, visit the list of upcoming events at our web site www.statelibrary.sc.gov.

Can't get your state agency employees to

us? Let us come to you! Library Services Librarians will come to your state agency with a program to familiarize the state employees to the new online catalog, SCLENDs, and to other online resources available statewide.

State Government employees can schedule a program at your agency for staff training. Call the Information Services Desk (803-734-8026) to schedule a program.



One Book Charleston County

Charleston County Public Library presents *Daughters of the Dust* by Julie Dash.

Charleston County residents celebrated the importance of reading and explored the rich history of a Gullah family living on a South Carolina sea island through Charleston County Public Library's One Book Charleston County, which ran throughout September.

This community-wide effort was designed to promote literacy, celebrate diversity and recognize the significance

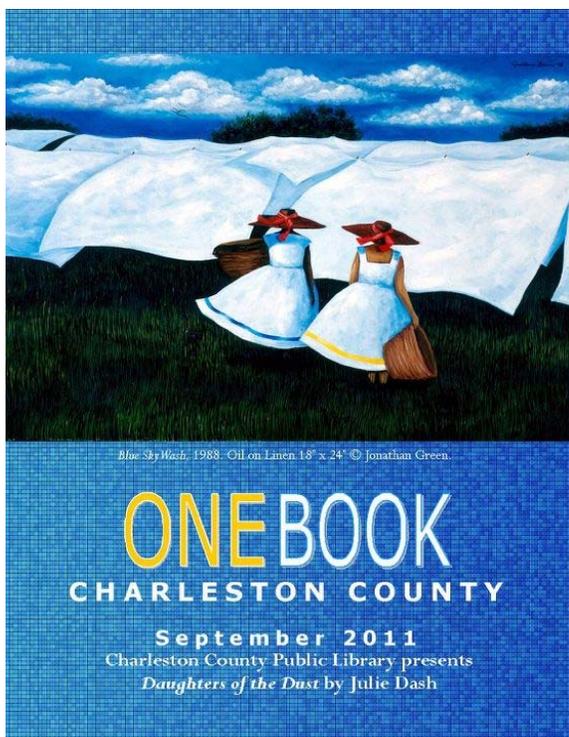
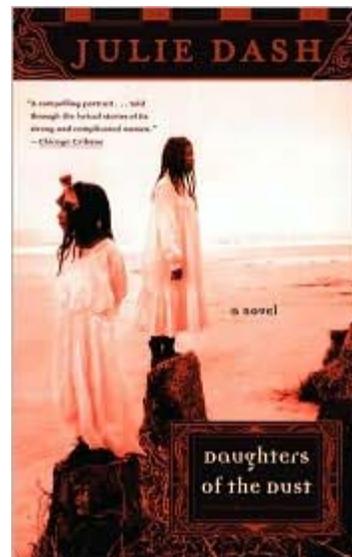
of community connections by bringing people together to read and discuss a single book – *Daughters of the Dust*, the book and award-winning cult film classic by producer-writer-director Julie Dash.

To bring the community together to read and discuss the same book, the Library hosted numerous events including book discussion groups, musical performances, storytellers, film screenings and several lectures. Dash attended and spoke at several of the events.

Through the generosity of the Sue Metzger Estate, CCPL purchased 4,000 copies of the book to give away.

The goal was for residents to read the book and pass it on to a friend, relative, neighbor or co-worker. Book clubs were able to check out CCPL Book Club Kits, each with 15 copies of the book plus suggested discussion questions.

For more information, visit the [Charleston County Public Library website](#).



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New Harmonies

CELEBRATING AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC



Walhalla Library September 10 - October 23, 2011

The OCPL welcomes The Smithsonian Institution and Museum on Main Street to the Golden Corner of South Carolina. New Harmonies celebrates the roots of American Music. From September 10th through October 23rd, the OCPL hosts this exciting traveling exhibit that explores Americans' creative expression through music--music known by names like blues, country western, folk ballads and gospel.

In addition to 900 square feet of interactive exhibits at the headquarters library in Walhalla, the Oconee Heritage Center hosts a companion exhibit on the history of early radio in Oconee County, South Carolina.

Branch libraries will host programs and displays on exhibit themes, and the OCPL will host several musical programs featuring local and regional artists and musicians.



Colleton Library Wins Author Visit

The Colleton County Memorial Library is one of three schools and libraries in the country to win the contest to have author Kwame Alexander visit the Library free of charge.

Kwame Alexander has written 14 books, owned several publishing companies, written for the stage and television (TLC's "Hip Hop Harry"), recorded a CD, performed around the world, produced jazz and book festivals, hosted a weekly radio show, worked for the

U.S. Government, and taught in a high school...

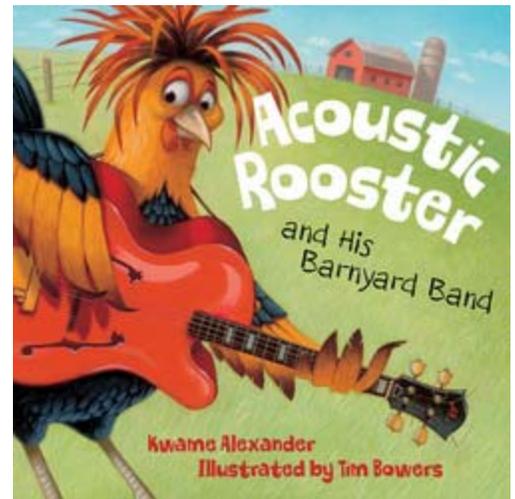
But, what he loves to do most, is watch his two daughters become smart and beautiful women, listen to his brilliant and wonderful wife laugh, and sit in his library reading and writing poems about both of them.

He resides in the Washington, DC area, where he is the Founding Director of Book-in-a-Day (BID), a program that teaches and empowers teenagers to write and publish their own books.

His new children's book, which he wrote during a summer in Tuscany, is about a jazz playing Rooster.

The date for his arrival and book signing in Colleton is November 10, 2011 from 1 pm - 2:30 pm.

For more information, contact the library at 843-549-5621.





FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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October 4&5—DISCUS: Culture-Grants and SIRS Resources

October 6—DISCUS: Locating Health & Medical Information in DISCUS & PubMed

October 6—WORKSC: Regional Career Assessment Tools & Test Workshop

October 13—Library Development Services: Teen Exchange

October 18—Information Services: Grants Research: Finding a Funder

October 18—DISCUS: New to DISCUS? Start Here!

November 1—Information Services: Getting Connected With Government Information

November 8—WORKSC: SC Library and Workforce Exchange Meeting

November 10—DISCUS: Locating Health & Medical Information in DISCUS & PubMed

November 15—Information Services: Introduction to the Foundation Directory Online

November 15—DISCUS: New to DISCUS? Start Here!

November 16—Library Development Services: Branch Managers Exchange

November 30—WORKSC: Being a Workforce Development Liaison/Point Person for your library

December 6—Information Services: Proposal Writing Basics

December 7—Library Development Services: Adult Programming Exchange

December 7—DISCUS: New to DISCUS? Start Here!

December 13—WORKSC: How to be a dynamic workshop presenter

VISIT WWW.STATELIBRARY.SC.GOV FOR MORE CALENDAR INFORMATION

About the S.C. State Library

The South Carolina State Library is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries. The Library is a national model for innovation, collaboration, leadership and effectiveness. The Library's mission is to optimize South Carolina's investment in library and information services. In 1969, as the result of action by the General Assembly, the State Library Board was redesignated as the South Carolina State Library and assumed responsibility for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped, and library service to state government agencies. Headquartered in Columbia, S.C., the Library is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and other sources. For more information, visit www.statelibrary.sc.gov or call 803-734-8666.