

New members named to Commission

Iowa Library Services (IaLS) is pleased to announce that Governor Terry Branstad appointed Dale VandeHaar and Betsy Thompson to the Iowa Commission of Libraries. They replace Monica Gohlinghorst and Jann Freed, whose terms expired April 30, 2013. The governor also reappointed Pat Laas. Dan Boice has become chair of the Commission.

VandeHaar has been Des Moines



Public Schools District Library Coordinator for the past 13 years. He was president of ILA in 2010

and 2011, and was president of the Iowa Association of School Librarians.

Betsy Thompson has been direc-



tor of the Sioux City Public Library since 1995. Thompson began her library career as a student working in the library archives at

Iowa State University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in sociology. She later earned a Master's Degree in library science from the University of Iowa.

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Additional funding for IaLS and libraries

Feelings of relief and joy were palpable around IaLS offices when staff learned that the Iowa General Assembly passed the Education Appropriations bill that included \$500,000 more for the IaLS operating budget, an additional \$350,000 for Enrich Iowa and \$250,000 in one-time money for the replacement of IaLS hardware and software equipment, and the purchase of online resources.

In addition, the legislature directed the Department of Workforce Development to provide \$150,000 for the Learning Express online resource for Iowa libraries.

These increases were badly needed this year to help IaLS recover from several years of sustained cuts totaling \$1.3 million that this year would likely have led to a major cut in services to Iowa libraries.

Iowa Library Association lobbyists Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson noted that the \$850,000 in additional funds in the two main line items that provide services to Iowa libraries still remain below FY09 levels, but is "a great step forward and hopefully demonstrates a commitment to libraries moving forward."

Said State Librarian Mary Wegner, "Our budget outlook for the coming fiscal year looks very positive. This is both a great relief and very exciting. While the \$500,000 is not enough to allow us to begin any big new initiatives, it does make it possible for IaLS to face a new year without the prospect of deep cuts and layoffs that have been hanging over us."

Council Bluffs youth win Teen Video Challenge

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) announced the winners of the 2013 Teen Video Challenge, a national competition for kids to get involved with reading and their public library's summer reading program. Winning videos were selected at the state level to be recognized as an official CSLP Teen Video Challenge winner for 2013.

A group of teenage boys from Council Bluffs were this year's Iowa winners. [View their video](#) along with other states that participated.

Each student received a check for \$55 and a certificate. The Council Bluffs Public Library received a check for \$125, a gift certificate from Upstart for \$50 and a certificate.

The video competition is in its third year of encouraging teens to get involved with promoting summer reading and public libraries with a focus on the CSLP 2013 slogan, "Beneath the Surface." Twenty-six states and over 100 teens participated in the creation of these winning videos.

CSLP plans to continue the Teen Video Challenge in 2014. Please check the [CSLP website](#) in early fall for more information. CSLP is a consortium of states working together, sharing ideas, expertise, and costs to produce a high-quality summer reading program for children, teens, and adults.

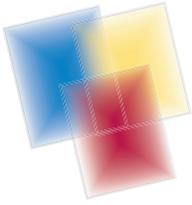


Merri Monks, Youth Services Coordinator, Iowa Library Services, presents checks and certificates to the 2013 Iowa CSLP winners, from left, Johnathan Ybay, Cruz Gusman, Matt Powders, Alex Powders and Dylan Montgomery.

Do ALISE, CLR or IFLA have you confused?

Tom Keyser, IaLS, was working the reference desk recently when a patron using the library's Live Chat feature wrote to ask if there was a specific site for library abbreviations. Within a few seconds, Keyser located the [American Library Association's listing](#).

It's a page librarians may want to bookmark for future reference, because you never know when you'll need definitions for ALISE (Association of Library and Information Science Education), CLR (Council on Library Resources), or IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations).



Notes from State Librarian Mary Wegner

In May, I participated in National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C. and visited the offices of our Iowa Congressional Representatives and Senators with Iowa librarians Mary Heinzman, Duncan Stewart and Alison Ames Galstad. We talked to our elected representatives about the importance to Iowans of federal Library Services and Technology Act funding, the key role of teacher librarians in Iowa k-12 education and the significance of broadband to Iowa libraries.

It was my pleasure to attend the White House ceremony where Michele Obama presented the National Medal for Museum and Library Service to Sarah Rosenblum from the Marshalltown Public Library and Gail Naughton from the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. These two fine institutions represent our Iowa libraries and museums very well.



Mary Wegner
State Librarian



From left, state librarians Susan McVey, OK; Mary Wegner, IA; Lesley Boughton, WY; and Rod Wagner, NE

While in Washington, I also joined other library leaders in a meeting at the White House with President Obama's Domestic Policy Council staff. During the meeting, which was coordinated by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, the group discussed the

key role of libraries in (1) early childhood learning and parental engagement, (2) exposure of young people to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); (3) services to immigrants, and (4) health information services, including information about the Affordable Health Care Act.

I am always proud to represent Iowa libraries, and to share information about your programs and services, when I meet with library colleagues from other states. Thanks for all that you do for Iowans!

Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through [Iowa Library Services' Certification Program for Public Librarians](#).

Erika Binegar - Coralville
Denise Forehlich - Story City
Jennifer Goulden - Altoona
Jeffrey Meyer - Mount Pleasant
Leslie Noble - Des Moines





Karen Burns retires as IaLS SW consultant



Since August 13, 1984, Karen Burns has shared her extraordinary knowledge and talents with librarians in southwestern Iowa as a consultant for the Library Service Areas and then IaLS. Karen retired on June 28th.

Karen moved back to Iowa after working in Lake Geneva (WI) as a reference librarian. She got her start in libraries working at the Ames Public Library during high school and college. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Iowa State and her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Denver (CO) in 1978.

In a letter to her librarians in southwest Iowa, Karen said "It's truly been an honor to work with - and for - you for the past 29 years. I have never ceased to be amazed and grateful for your unfailing dedication to serving the people of your communities, through all the budget cuts and constant technological changes and increased demands large and small that are part of being a librarian. Your willingness to tackle anything that will serve your patrons well is a testament to your professionalism and commitment, and to how much you care about your libraries and communities."

Needless to say it is Karen who will be missed for her unwavering dedication to the libraries not only in her district but the entire Iowa community. We wish her the best in retirement.

To see photos from Karen's retirement party, visit the [IaLS Facebook page](#).

"The instructor's knowledge was fantastic!"

This is a quote from a student who took part in IaLS classes during National Library Week in April.

IaLS offered two new classes this year: "An Introduction to the Pioneer History of the Law Library's Special Collection" (instructor Cory Quist, law library, IaLS, and "Exploring Iowa's Cultural Heritage Online" (taught by Pam Rees, IaLS). Both classes drew historians and researchers, in addition to state employees.

177 students attended 14 classes, some of which were online this year. Said one student, "As a citizen interested in history, it was very interesting to know more of the history of the state through the acquisitions of the state library."

Twelve other classes were also taught by IaLS and state government staff.

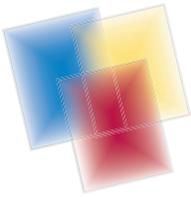
Students wrote on their evaluations:

"This was a very practical course on what to do to preserve your important documents and photos."

"The class was very applicable to my current job responsibility. The instructor thoroughly explained the legislative website."



Cory Quist, behind table, had a good crowd for his program on the pioneer history of the law library's special collection.



News from the Iowa Center for the Book

Wintry weather did not keep 18 students, their parents and teachers from celebrating May 3rd. Student winners of the 2013 Letters About Literature reading and writing contest came from all over Iowa to the Des Moines Public Library to celebrate their successes. Seventy guests heard the winners in each level read from their letters to authors who changed their world views. The audience responded with tears and laughter as the young writers shared their work. Award-winning author Delia Ray, whose latest book is *Here Lies Linc*, spoke about how letters have been at the heart of her writing.



The first place winner in Level I (grades 4-6) asked not to be identified. Second place winner, Ethan Rognes, shown with Robin Martin, Coordinator for the Iowa Center for the Book (left) and author Delia Ray. Ethan wrote to author Mike Lupica about his book *Two Minute Drill*. He is a student at Prairie Trail Elementary School in Ankeny.



Pam Chander was the first place winner in Level II (grades 7-8). She wrote to Suzanne Supple, author of *Artichoke's Heart*. She attends Stilwell Junior High School in West Des Moines.

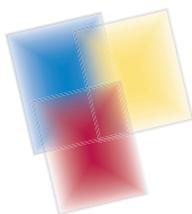


Gabrielle Hartman won first place in Level III (Grades 9-10) for her letter to author Kahled Hosseini who wrote *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Gabrielle is a student at Muscatine High School.

Read all the students' letters - first, second and third place winners, as well as honorable mentions here.

The 2014 LAL reading/writing program opens again in the fall. Visit the [Iowa Center for the Book](#) for more information.

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News from the Iowa Center for the Book

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Dr. Sidney Huttner, retired head of the University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections, was celebrated as he completed his service to the Iowa Center for the Book (ICB) Advisory Council. Huttner was appointed at the inception of ICB 11 years ago. He served as chair of the council from 2010-2012 and spear-headed the [Book Artists & Craftspeople list](#) on the ICB's website.

Also completing their terms were Charlotte Wright (managing editor, University of Iowa Press) and Shannon McClintock Miller (teacher librarian, Van Meter Community School District).

Photo: Robin Martin, Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator, and Dr. Sidney Huttner

Obama unveils ConnectEd Initiative to bring America's students into digital age

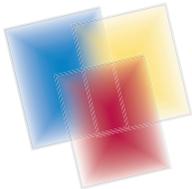
On June 6, President Barak Obama unveiled a new initiative called ConnectED to connect 99 percent of America's students to the Internet through high-speed broadband and high-speed wireless within five years, calling on the FCC to modernize and leverage its existing E-Rate program to meet that goal.

The President also directed the federal government to make better use of existing funds to get Internet connectivity and educational technology into classrooms, and into the hands of teachers trained on its advantages. And he called on businesses, states, districts, schools and communities to support this vision. The initiative does not require Congressional action.

"We are living in a digital age, and to help our students get ahead, we must make sure they have access to cutting-edge technology," said President Obama. "So today, I'm issuing a new challenge for America – one that families, businesses, school districts and the federal government can rally around together – to connect virtually every student in America's classrooms to high-speed broadband Internet within five years, and equip them with the tools to make the most of it."

Preparing America's students with the skills they need to get good jobs and compete with countries around the world will rely increasingly on interactive, individualized learning experiences driven by new technology. But today, millions of students lack high-speed broadband access and fewer than 20 percent of educators say their school's Internet connection meets their teaching needs.

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ConnectED will bring high-speed Internet within their reach, with a particular benefit for rural communities that have lagged behind in connectivity.

Said Jay Peterson, Iowa Library Services e-rate specialist, “This announcement is great news for Iowa libraries. There should be a push at the local level for faster Internet connectivity speeds. I hope it leads to more focus on public libraries as vital community hubs for civic engagement, job finding and lifelong learning.”

IaLS held a Broadband Advocacy class on June 27 to discuss the topic further.

In addition to connecting America’s students, ConnectED harnesses the ingenuity of the American private sector to get new technologies into students’ hands and support digital learning content.

ConnectED also better invests existing federal funds to ensure that every educator in America receives support and training in using education technology tools to improve student learning. For more details on the ConnectED initiative, click [here](#).

FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel on the ConnectEd Initiative

The FCC is including libraries as well as schools in the drive to get 1 GB per second broadband for all those locations in the next five years

In response to President Barack Obama’s announcement of the ConnectED initiative to connect 99 percent of America’s students to high-speed broadband and high-speed wireless within five years and calling on the FCC to reform its E-Rate program to meet that goal, FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel stated:

“President Obama’s ConnectED initiative recognizes that access to adequate broadband capacity to our schools and libraries is not a luxury—it’s a necessity for America’s next generation of students to be able to compete. Through the E-Rate program, the nation’s largest education technology program, we have done great things to connect schools and libraries. But year-in and year-out, the demand for E-Rate dollars is double the amount the Commission makes available, and our surveys suggest that 80 percent of schools and libraries believe their broadband connections do not meet their current needs. It is time to answer the President’s call to upgrade the E-Rate program for the 21st Century. It is time for E-Rate 2.0. We need to protect what we have done, build on it, and put it on a course to provide higher speeds and greater opportunities in the days ahead. This initiative is an exciting effort that has my wholehearted and enthusiastic support.”

News from around the state

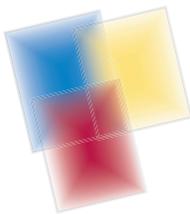
The **Musser (Muscatine) Public Library’s** Facebook page ranks 72 in the world according to library director Pam Collins.

Collins was referring to a ranking by well-known library blogger Matt Anderson. The Iowa City Public Library was ranked 56th and was the only other Iowa library to make Anderson’s top 100 list.

Anderson said he based the rankings on several factors, including the library’s number of Facebook fans (Musser Public Library recently had 4,317 on a Tuesday morning), how quickly library staff answers Facebook inquiries and the creativity exhibited on the page.

While Collins and assistant director Bobby Fiedler contribute their share of Facebook posts, the main contributors are children’s librarian Betty Collins and library assistant Saren Black, according to a story in

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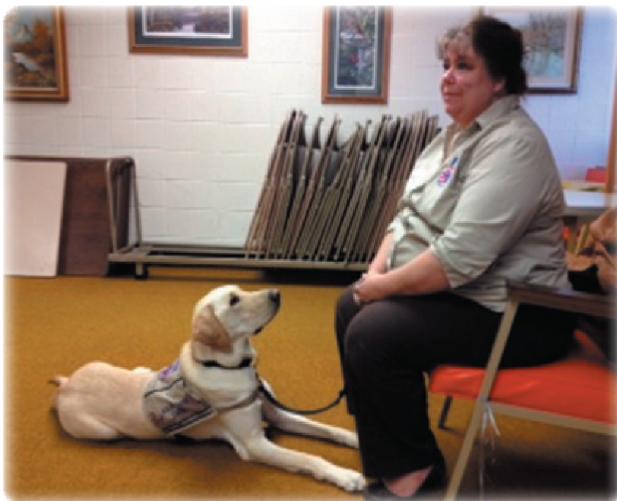
the *Muscatine Journal*.

So how does it feel when your library is compared favorably with the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library and the British Library?

“It’s nice,” Musser Public Library director Pam Collins said Tuesday. “It’s something we’ve worked really hard on.”

Matt Anderson’s list of the nation’s 100 best library Facebook pages can be found [here](#).

Take a look at the [Musser Library Facebook page](#).



The Forest City based Family Alliance for Veterans of America (FAVA) approached Ellen Petty, director of the **Garner Public Library**, about bringing their first helper dog, Honor, to the library for a program. Attendees learned about what helper dogs can do, how they are trained, and how one should act around them (no petting). Petty said those in attendance really enjoyed the event. More information about FAVA can be found [here](#).



The **Elkader Public Library** Friends hosted a tea party for little girls and a book fair on May 11. Tea, juice, finger sandwiches and sweets were served and Julie Duff gave a presentation on American Girl Dolls. Attendees were invited to bring their special doll and wear hats and gloves. Pictured is library director Jill Sanders with one of the younger guests. [Photo by

Merri Monks, Iowa Library Services youth consultant.]

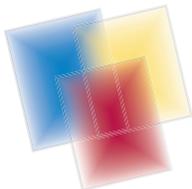
Friends of the **Eldon Carnegie Public Library** celebrated the library’s 100th anniversary recently. Shana Stuart, director of the Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project, spoke of the Eldon library’s significance.

Library director Suzanne Streeby said “There are a lot of Carnegie libraries that are no longer in use. People have moved on to bigger libraries, so the fact that we are actually still standing, in good condition, and being used is a real milestone.”

Attribution: Heartland Connection

On April 17, the Clarinda Chamber of Commerce bestowed its female and male employees of the year awards. Marissa Gruber, children’s librarian at **Lied Public Library**, was one of this year’s winners.

“Marissa was chosen for her exemplary service as our children’s librarian. She goes way beyond the call of duty,” said library staffer Linda Warrick.



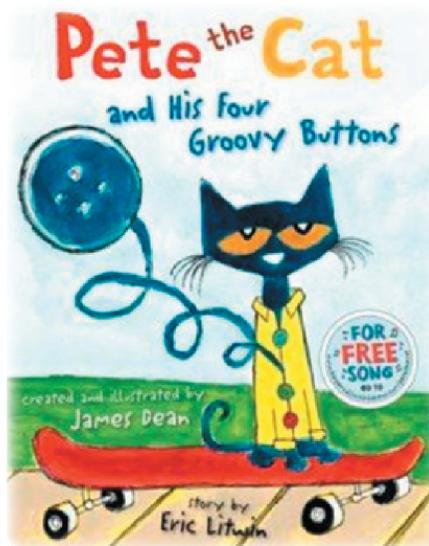
The **Burt Library** is the first Iowa library to house a new Village Post Office (VPO). According to library director Trisha Hicks, a grand opening was held in April for the public and representatives of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Hicks said the Burt Library Board began the process of gathering more information when they were told that the town's post office would be cut to part-time hours beginning February 2013. The board then approved the contract offered by the USPS, said Hicks, "where they pay us a monthly stipend, and we are able to sell stamps, prepaid items, and accept small boxes to send. They supplied the display stand, the Village Post Office banner for the outside of our building, the necessary training, and the ongoing support. We keep track of the postage we sell on an Excel spreadsheet."

More than 80 people attended a grand opening on April 17th. There were representatives from the Hawkeye District office of the USPS (Des Moines), a regional director for USPS, and Jet Kofoot, consultant of the North Central District office of Iowa Library Services.

"The people of Burt expressed their appreciation that we are offering this service," said Hicks. "People who did not use the library prior to this are now coming in."



Celebrating the new VPO at the Burt PL are, from left, Sue Chihak, library substitute; Trisha Hicks, director; and Sonya Harsha, library assistant

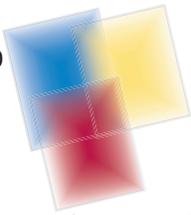


The winner of the first Bridge to Reading Dubuque Picture Book Award is *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* by Eric Litwin (2012). More than 1,800 kindergarten and preschool children voted between February 1 through April 30 for their favorite picture book.

The award's mission is to promote early literacy and reading to children through the introduction to high quality picture books. The books are chosen based on quality and characteristics of a good "read aloud."

The award was formed as part of the Campaign for Third Grade Reading through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and is administered by librarians, teachers and early literacy leaders.

For more information, visit www.bridgetoreading.com.



The **John and Louise Hulst Library** at Dordt College in Sioux Center has celebrated its “Dordt Reads” program since 2006. Sheryl Sheeres Taylor, director of library services, said each year they pick a campus “celebrity” and have a poster made of him or her holding their favorite book.

“During National Library Week we unveil the year’s celebrity,” said Sheeres Taylor, adding that cookies, coffee, and trading cards featuring the celebrity draw people to the event. Past celebrities have featured the former college president (holding “Go, Dogs, Go!”), a biology professor holding a book on rattlesnakes along with a live snake, and the college electrician in front of his Harley Davidson motorcycle holding a travel book. See photos of events [here](#).

The library’s latest program, which promotes the concept that libraries are as much about knowledge creation (in this case writing) as they are about knowledge consumption (reading, for example), is called “Dordt Writes.” It’s a monthly event held in the library and sponsored by the library in partnership with the Office of the Provost. The “Dordt Writes” series celebrates books by Dordt College authors. The campus and broader community are invited to share a cup of coffee and a cookie, and to hear the author talk briefly and answer questions about the book.

They also hold a drawing at each event and give away a copy of the author’s book to someone in attendance.

The **Urbandale Public Library Art Gallery** is a collaborative partnership between the Urbandale Public Library, the Urbandale Public Art Committee and the Urbandale Community Action Network. The mission of the partnership is to encourage and facilitate public art of high aesthetic quality that celebrates the uniqueness of Urbandale, enhances the quality of life, makes art more accessible to the general public and provides diverse resources for life-long learning and enjoyment.

Click [here](#) to visit the Art Gallery website.

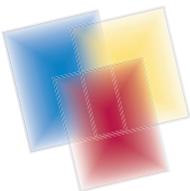


Annette Murphy, **Menlo Public Library**, posted the following on the lowalib mail list, but wasn’t able to share the photo.

“While I was sitting at the reference desk, a mom and her 3-year-old daughter came in from the library’s courtyard and walked over to me. The mom encouraged her daughter to ask the question, but the little girl froze and went into the hide-behind-mom’s-leg defensive position.

So the mom asked, ‘We were outside and noticed the bird bath was dry. Do you have a watering can so we can fill it up, because she feels bad that the birds can’t get a drink.’ ”

“I was sure we had a watering can but I had no idea where it was,” said Murphy, “so I went into the staff room and grabbed a pitcher. Both of their faces lit up when I came back out to the desk. They filled it up and took it back into the courtyard.”



From left, Library Board Trustee Jason Grinstead, City Council Member Skip Moore, Mayor Frank Cownie, Library Board Trustee Jule Thorsen, Library Board President Kevin Techau, Library Board Trustee Ellen Hubbell, and Library Foundation President Tom McKlveen.

Library users, neighbors, and dignitaries gathered at the **Franklin Avenue Library** in Des Moines on Saturday, June 1 to unveil the newly-installed LEED plaque. The recently renovated library was awarded LEED Platinum status by the United States Green Building Council, making it one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in Iowa.

LEED Platinum is awarded to buildings with scores of at least 80 points. The Franklin Avenue Library achieved a score of 85, an especially significant award for a renovated building due to strict requirements for re-using and recycling materials. Library users can enjoy viewing a touch-screen monitor that provides visual feedback on energy and other sustainable methods. Additional energy efficient features include a solar thermal collector, thermal storage, roof-based photovoltaic solar panels, double-paned windows, and carpet made from recycled materials. Native landscaping materials have been planted outside. The library continues to offer many fascinating green programs throughout the year.



Congratulations to the following librarians on their retirement

After 32 years as director of the **North English Public Library**, Jane McCartney is retiring. An open house will be held on June 29 at the library.

A retirement party for Maxine Shear, who was director of the **Marcus Public Library** for 21 years was held on May 31.

For nearly 26 years, Rhonda VanEs was the circulation desk assistant at the **Sioux Center Public Library**. She retired on April 17.

March 29 was the last day as director of the **Marengo Public Library** for Peggy Walton. Peggy served the community for more than 32 years.

Nola Waddingham retired from the **Clarion Public Library** in May after serving 17 years as the director.

Villisca Public Library Director Pat Means is retiring on June 28. Pat has been active in the Iowa Small Library Association and has been a presenter at the conference for the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. She has worked at the library for 22 years.

Congratulations are extended to Sue Maule, who is retiring as director of the **Mondamin Public Library** after more than 10 years.