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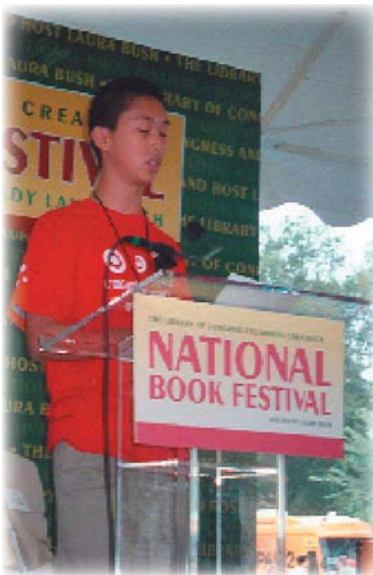
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Ames youth national winner in Letters About Literature contest



Edward Chen reading his letter at the National Book Festival in Washington, DC

Edward Chen, a recent graduate of Ames High School, was one of six national winners in this year's Letters About Literature contest.

Chen, his family and his teacher were invited to Washington, DC on September 24 where he read his letter to Albert Camus, author of *The Stranger*, during the National Book Festival.

This is the second year that the Iowa Center for the Book has participated in the Letters About Literature program. Students in grades four through 12 write to a favorite author - past or present - describing how that author's work changed the reader's view of the world or himself. Readers respond to the book they've read by exploring the personal relationship between themselves, the author and the book's characters or themes.

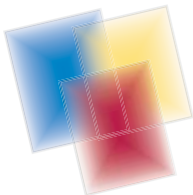
In his letter, Chen wrote, "I used to believe life, like seasons, passively changes the colors of hope. Life seemed to melt monotonously through my soul in alternating passages of dreary, white, darkness and vivid, green, contentment. Last winter, I came across a novel that would change my entire perspective on the way I must live. Your insightful book, *The Stranger*, presented the embodiment of my distorted concept of passive living. The turbulent yet listless life of the

main character, Monsieur Meursault, illuminated how deluded I was to see the world through blank eyes and has truly reformed my attitude towards fulfilling dreams, passions, and life itself..."

Chen, who began school at Harvard University this fall, said he likes to write and can turn out term papers quickly, "but I also enjoy inspired writing that takes thought and more time."

The Stranger was at one time required reading in his advanced placement European history class. Chen said the tone of the book was passive and that some thought it was boring. But it had special meaning for Chen, who lost two friends to suicide. Chen said he thought Letters About Literature is a good opportunity for aspiring writers and that they should take advantage of it.

"It helps you be more introspective and think about how you feel and look at things in a broader perspective."



Former state librarian reports on devastation from hurricane

Former State Librarian, Sharman Smith, now State Librarian of Mississippi, has graciously kept in touch with many people in Iowa, including State Library staff, since the devastating Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast.

The following are some comments she sent in an e-mail: "A team from the Library Commission toured public libraries in Harrison County on Friday {Sept. 23} from the east bay to the west bay along Hwy 90 documenting the damage in both video and photograph. There are no words or pictures that can describe what we saw. The coast as we have known it is gone. Every where you look there is total destruction. Entire neighborhoods no longer exist. It is difficult to get your bearings because there are no landmarks left. The majority of the public libraries in Harrison County have sustained major damage. This picture of the Pass Christian Public Library provides some indication of the situation, but not the full picture. The first floor of the Gulfport Library is gone. There is no evidence of a book, video, table, chair or anything left. The Biloxi Library is standing but with a foot of sludge inside so toxic that you can't enter the building without being suited in biohazard gear. The Division St. Library looks a lot like the Pass Christian Library with sludge everywhere and library materials, furniture, and computers tossed everywhere. The D'Iberville Library had four feet of water inside as well. The Long Beach Public Library has been condemned with walls blown out and the building appearing to have been moved on its foundation.



The Harrison County public library staff is amazing. They are already regrouping, figuring out what can be salvaged and in some cases putting themselves at risk, and planning for reopening the branches that were less damaged as soon as possible. This when at least a third of the staff have personally lost everything and all have sustained at least some damage to their homes and property.

Please keep our colleagues and friends in your thoughts and prayers. Recovery is going to take a very long time and nothing will ever be the same."

Hurricane relief efforts

To date, libraries damaged in Mississippi are still not ready to receive books and other materials. The State Library will notify you when the situation changes. In the meantime, monetary contributions may be sent to:

Rebuild Mississippi Libraries Fund
c/o AmSouth Bank
210 E. Capitol St.
Jackson, MS 39201

Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Courtney D. Alfaro, West Des Moines
Martha J. Boyes, Clear Lake
Julie A. Courter, Tipton
Kimberly A. Femling, Cedar Rapids
Joan E. Nashelsky, Iowa City
Nicole M. Weber, Clive



Progress made on Gates “Staying Connected” grant

In January 2005, the State Library of Iowa was awarded a \$749,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s U.S. Library Program to sustain and expand public access computing in Iowa’s public libraries.

The “Staying Connected” grant will augment a \$3.7 million foundation grant to Iowa in 2003 which provided nearly 1,000 computers with Internet access in 382 Iowa public libraries and a \$139,950 training program grant implemented in 2004 and 2005. The new grant will allow the State Library to provide technical and consulting support to librarians in maintaining the computers, and to further train librarians in helping the public increase their computer searching skills. Teaching Iowans how to find and critically evaluate information is a unique skill that librarians bring to today’s information overloaded society.

The State Library will also use grant funds to aid public librarians in developing library web sites for public use. A vendor will be chosen soon to design the web site templates. The web hosting will be available approximately July 2006. Extensive training will be offered so library staff learn how to maintain and enhance their web sites.

Eighty percent of Iowa’s public libraries now have high-speed Internet access, thanks in part to the foundation’s investment. This “Staying Connected” grant will assist the remaining 20 percent of libraries in obtaining high speed connections. To date, five libraries have taken advantage of the grant to get high speed Internet connections. Iowa libraries bridge the digital divide by making computers and Internet access available, without charge, to all Iowans.

The grant will also allow eligible public libraries to replace public access computers through matching grants available in 2007. Libraries will be notified at a later date about how to request the grants.

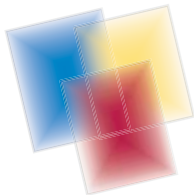
“Iowans use library computers to find employment, research health issues, complete school assignments, and stay in touch with distant family and friends. Adding computers to libraries has led to increased customer visits and has enhanced libraries’ standing in their communities,” said Mary Wegner, State Librarian. “We are delighted that the Gates Foundation has given us this opportunity to expand public access computing in Iowa.”

University of Iowa Libraries celebrate sesquicentennial

The sun was shining, the Hawkeyes were looking for a win and the crowd was cheering when the librarians took the field. To kickoff the University of Iowa Libraries Sesquicentennial, the first home football game celebrated Iowa libraries. Librarians from around the state were honored on the field in a short ceremony at the end of the first quarter. President David Skorton invited the librarians and UI Libraries Friends for a pre-game brunch and to watch the game from his box. The Hawks were victorious, the libraries were honored and the year was underway.

From left are Nancy Baker, University of Iowa; Aaron Wings, Kirkwood Community College; Mary Wegner, State Librarian; Kay Runge, Des Moines Public Library; Alison Galstad, Coralville Public Library; Susan Craig, Iowa City Public Library; and Lori Barkema, Cedar Rapids Public Library.





DMACC campus librarians honored

The Learning Resources Staff of the six Des Moines Area Community Colleges (DMACC) campus libraries received the Outstanding Department Service Award during DMACC's President's Day activities held prior to the start of the Fall semester. The recipients include: (left to right, front row) Cathy Lawyer, Lisa Stock, Donna Kelly, Mary Fuller, Shirley Petersen, Anita Davidson and Karen Messler, (left to right, back row) DMACC President Rob Denson, Jane Riley, Rebecca Funke, Maureen Perrine, DMACC Foundation President Lloyd Hill, Diana Messersmith, Prachi Mahajan, Polly Mumma and Thelma Hennessey. Those not pictured include: Cathy Bowen, Erin Feingold and Marilyn O'Brien. The award was presented by Foundation President Lloyd Hill and DMACC President Rob Denson.



Cameron to serve on two important youth initiatives

State Library Youth Services Consultant, Mary Cameron, has been invited to serve on two new programs, Communities for Literate Iowa Kids (CLIK) and the Family Literacy Project.

Communities for Literate Iowa Kids

CLIK will involve three pilot communities that will take part in a five-year, community-based effort to engage communities in learning how to create partnerships, alliances and supports around early literacy that ensure children, birth through age 8, develop their full potential as readers.

The Clinton, Nodaway Valley School District including the communities of Greenfield, Fontanelle and Bridgewater, and Grinnell-Newberg School Districts are part of this initiative and have begun work.

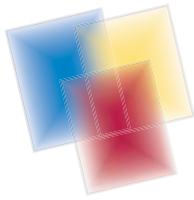


The Family Literacy Project

Despite the fact that Iowa is recognized as having one of the highest literacy rates in the nation, there are still many individuals in the State who need to attain English literacy. This fact is particularly true, and understandable, with populations that are new and growing in our state.

Iowa's public community colleges are committed to delivering literacy programs throughout the state and play a critical role in providing educational access to a diverse constituency. These literacy programs provide education and training to Iowans who aspire to secure employment or to continue their postsecondary education.

In November 2004, Iowa State University (ISU) was awarded a grant from the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to develop the Family Literacy Model for Iowa community colleges. During the grant period, (November, 2004-June 30, 2006), the ISU research team will work with DE officials in the Bureau of Community College and Workforce Preparation to carry out the objectives of the grant. This project will concentrate on systemic change by establishing a literacy model that promotes achievement and success within the most basic and appropriate institution: The Family.



Need Assistance with Government Information?

Do you need help finding facts for a customer about Iowa's government, economy, or statistics or a quick fact about Iowa's history? Are you having trouble locating a web site or government department for someone who will answer a question about a service of the state of Iowa? Does a customer need to do a patent's search or to find census data about Iowa? Are you finding it hard to locate state documents online? What should you do?

The information experts at the State Library's general reference desk can help make your job easier. The desk is staffed from 8-4:30 Monday through Friday. Call us for assistance at 515-281-4102 or toll free at 1-800-248-4483 or e-mail: is@lib.state.ia.us.

The staff at the General Reference desk is here to provide you with assistance. Give us a try!

Need ideas for your annual report?

Sioux City Public Library added "A Day in the Life" to their annual report, which chronicles activities in the library nearly every half hour beginning at 6 a.m. and ending at 11:30 p.m.

It's a great story.

Check it out at www.silo.lib.ia.us

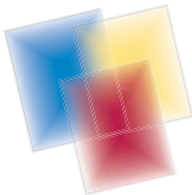
- Telling the Library Story
- Plot



And the winner is...

...Blairstown Public Library for the best float in the city's annual Sauerkraut Days Festival!

Using this year's summer library program theme, Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds, library staff made a huge tower for the parade. Shown waving from the tower window is library board president Bonnie Lueckenotto. The event took place over Labor Day weekend.



Town Meetings 2006

More than 445 Iowa library staff and trustees attended this year's State Library and Library Service Areas Town Meetings.

The morning session featured talk show host Sandy Dixon, (State Library) in "Library Talk." Video scenes of library staffers with problems were featured, followed by a question and answer sessions with "experts" Mary Wegner, State Librarian; Michele Leininger, youth service coordinator, State Library; and either Kate Martin, Iowa Library Association (ILA) President, or Susan Craig, incoming ILA President.

Afternoon breakout sessions focused on "What is 'Fair?' - Library Funding Issues"; "Marvelous MARC + Simple Standards = Super SILO Locator"; and "Can We Talk Books? Guiding Readers to their Next Books."

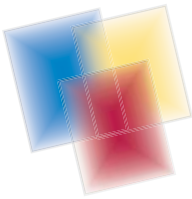


Top left, Dale Vande Haar; left, Susan Craig; above left; Mary Wegner; and right Beth Marie Quanbeck



Left, Steve Cox and Marie Harms; below, the crew in Urbandale - Susan Craig, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Marie Harms, Mary Wegner and Michele Leininger





MINUTES
IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES

August 9, 2005 Location: Hotel Pattee, Perry, Iowa
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Retreat: Discussion of statewide library funding issues

Present: Dale Ross, Monica Gohlinghorst, Jann Freed, Frank Sposeto, Pam Bradley, and David Boyd
Staff: Mary Wegner, Sandy Dixon, Gerry Rowland, Steve Cox, and Carol Simmons
Guest: Roy Kenagy

Wegner and Dixon presented an overview of public library funding in Iowa. Kenagy outlined possibilities for addressing funding inequities. Case studies were discussed. A handout covering city and county funding support of Iowa public libraries by size code, average public library operating budgets by size code, and average public library director salaries by size code was distributed. Wegner thanked Sandy Dixon for helping facilitate the retreat and Roy Kenagy for his presentation. At the conclusion of the funding discussion, those present toured the Perry Public Library and Carnegie Library Museum.

August 10, 2005 Location: Hotel Pattee, Perry Iowa
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Commission Meeting

Present: Dale Ross, Monica Gohlinghorst, Jann Freed, Frank Sposeto, Pam Bradley, and David Boyd
Staff: Mary Wegner, Sandy Dixon, Annette Wetteland, Beth Henning, Steve Cox, and Carol Simmons
Ross called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

1.0 Set Agenda

Wegner requested an addition to action items and the Commission agreed to add 7E, a statement on public library funding and contracting for library services. Agenda was set with the one change.

2.0 Approve Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes as submitted.

3.0 Financial Report

Cox provided a handout of the end of year expenses and provided new fiscal year information. Federal and state appropriations are on budget. Cox said that as a result of the 28.5% cut to the State Library operating budget in 02-03 and the continuing status quo budget from the state, there will be less than \$30,000 in state funds available in FY06 for purchase of library materials for the State Library collection. Wegner pointed out that in 2001 the State Library had \$400,000 to buy materials; this year there is nearly nothing. Boyd explained to the new Commissioners how the state is now charging services back to agencies and how they calculate the charges. Bradley moved to approve the financial report; Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

4.0 Communications

A. Commission Reports

Bradley reported that Southeastern Community College is renovating the old Carnegie library in Mount Pleasant.

Gohlinghorst reported that the Council Bluffs Public Library is celebrating its seventh anniversary in the new building. All Iowa Reads will decide the 2006 selection in late August.

Sposeto said Collins is hoping to expand its small library. He was able to get a Friends of the Library web site up and running.

Freed reported on the orientation she and Sposeto received from Wegner and Dixon.



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Ross reported on the annual ALA conference which he attended in June. He also said that he will be a keynote speaker at the New Jersey Library Trustee Association conference. In addition, he said that Gina Millsap, the Ames Public Library director, has resigned to accept a position as director of the public library in Topeka, Kansas. .

B. State Librarian's Report - Mary Wegner

1. Library Development report - Sandy Dixon

Dixon reported that preparations are being made for this year's Town Meetings. She invited commissioners to attend one of the meetings. Dixon said that a new staff person, Toni Blair, has been hired in Library Development, and that she will work with the State Library's databases. Dixon also reported that the new continuing education consultant, Michele Leininger, has visited all seven Library Service Areas as well as several public libraries, to help her establish a relationship and learn more about their needs. Dixon said this is a very busy time of the year for Library Development: Agreements for Open Access, Direct State Aid and Access Plus are going out and reports from the past year are coming in. She reported that she is writing a final report to the Gates Foundation on the \$140,000 training grant. She said a goal was to train staff from 55 percent of the public libraries in the state, and that the State Library reached 50 percent. Dixon said there will be an ICN program for trustees on public library funding issues from 4 to 6 p.m. November 10.

2. State Data Center report - Beth Henning

Henning reported that an Economic Census Workshop featuring representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau will be held August 11 and 12 in Des Moines and Iowa City. Henning said she and Gary Krob are collecting data from nursing home populations and college resident hall populations. The information is then provided to the U.S. Census Bureau. Krob is working on a fact sheet about Iowa's Latino populations for the Commission on Latino Affairs. Henning said that in June and July she had three meetings with the Census Bureau, and hosted a 2010 redistricting meeting at the State Library in July. Henning said she has recently written two articles about the State Data Center and the census for CityScope, the magazine of the Iowa League of Cities. Henning recently met in Washington D.C. with members of the National Steering Committee for the Estimates Coop Program, which for the first time included Congressional staffers. The meeting focused on the 2010 census. In addition, Henning and Krob met with their counterparts from Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas in Kansas City to discuss census issues.

3. Wegner reported that Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa have purchased EBSCO-host through the State Library for their students. Wegner reminded Commissioners that the Iowa Library Association Conference will be held October 19-21 in Dubuque. A federal program officer from the Institute of Museums and Libraries will visit the State Library on August 23-24. His visit will focus on how we use LSTA funds in Iowa. He will meet with the State Librarian and State Library consultants, and will visit the Winterset Public Library. Wegner provided an outline of the orientation session for Sposeto and Freed held August 22, which listed the basic services provided by the State Library. Wegner said that the University of Iowa Libraries are celebrating their sesquicentennial this year, and that Nancy Baker, the library dean, will be introduced during the September 3 University of Iowa football game and has invited a small group of Iowa librarians, including Wegner, to be recognized with her. .

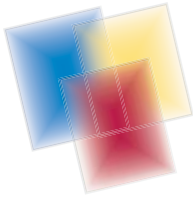
5.0 Public Comment

None

6.0 Discussion Items

A. Next steps after OCLC task force - Improvements to the Locator

Wegner reported that the OCLC task force came to the conclusion that the State Library cannot afford to provide the statewide OCLC database at this time. Instead, she said, improvements should be made to the SILO Locator, the electronic catalog already in existence. Wegner said the State Library and Library Service Areas will work with



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public libraries to improve the quality of cataloging records that are input into the Locator.

B. Curtis North American Indian books

Wegner said the State Library is working with a rare books dealer concerning a set of books and photographs by Curtis about North American Indians. This set has been withdrawn from the State Library collection because it is no longer in scope for the collection, and no Iowa library is interested in purchasing it. The University of Iowa has a facsimile set, and the books are now available in digitized form over the internet. She noted that the State Library has the authority to sell the books and will work with a rare books dealer to do so. Discussion of the collection followed.

7.0 Action Items

A. Election of Commission chairperson and vice-chairperson

Bradley nominated the re-election of Ross as chair and Gohlinghorst as vice chair. Ross asked for further nominations; none were submitted. Ross moved to close the nominations. Bradley moved to accept the nominations; Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of State Library budget request for FY07

Wegner reported that the State Library will make two offers in its budget request to the governor. One will be for Enrich Iowa funding, including Direct State Aid for public libraries, Open Access and Access Plus, and the other will be a requested increase in the State Library's operating budget. The Library Service Areas will also ask for an increase in their operating budgets. Discussion followed. Boyd moved to empower the State Library's budget subcommittee to act for the Commission in any action Wegner needs prior to the next board meeting; Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

C. Approval of plan for distribution of RIIF funds to libraries

Wegner asked the Commission for formal approval for using up to \$200,000 in new FY06 Enrich Iowa money (from the infrastructure fund) to offer libraries a one time opportunity to purchase high quality cataloging records. She said training on new cataloging products would be offered to librarians over the next year. Librarians will learn about the opportunity during Town Meetings in September. Gohlinghorst moved to approve the distribution funds; Boyd seconded. Motion carried.

D. Appointment to Northeast Iowa Library Service Area board of trustees

Dixon reported that a new board member for the Northeast Iowa library Service Area has yet to be found. She asked Commissioners to contact her if they had suggestions.

E. Statement on public library funding and contracting for library services

The following statement was discussed: The Iowa Commission of Libraries strongly endorses the principle of adequate compensation for library services to all Iowans. Toward that end, the Commission encourages library boards to adopt policies regarding contracts for library services that assure equitable tax support for libraries by all jurisdictions. Ross will draft a letter for Commission approval. Ross moved to approve the statement; Sposeto seconded. Motion carried.

Simmons was asked to make arrangements to have next year's retreat in Perry before August 14, 2006.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 25, 2005, State Library, Room 300