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Record number attend National Book Festival

An estimated crowd of 130,000 attended the [9th National Book Festival](#) in Washington, DC on September 26 according to the U.S. Library of Congress.

Iowa's delegation at the Pavilion of States included Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator Robin Martin, Iowa City Public Library Director Susan Craig, State Library staffer Annette Wetteland and Perry Public Library Friend, Julie Scheib. All took turns staffing Iowa's table in the Pavilion, which included literary information about the state.



Anne-Imelda M. Radice, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (second from right) had her "Geek" t-shirt with her for a picture with, from left, Martin, Wetteland and Scheib.



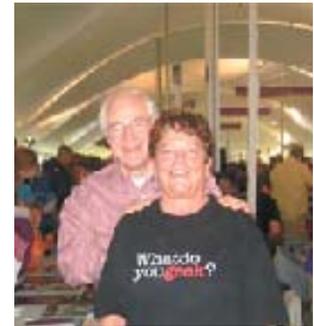
This visitor from the Washington, DC area said she "geeked" Iowa.



Susan Craig, above, was honored at a Centers for the Book reception in Washington, DC Friday, September 25. Iowa City was appointed the third [UNESCO City of Literature](#) in November 2008. Pictured with her is John Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Since 1955 graduates and faculty of the University of Iowa have won more than 25 Pulitzer Prizes in literature. Iowa City has been home to such acclaimed authors as Flannery O'Connor, Wallace Stegner, and Kurt Vonnegut Jr., and the world-famous Iowa Writers' Workshop.

The only other UNESCO Cities of Literature are in Melbourne, Australia and Edinburgh, Scotland.



Former Iowa congressman Jim Leach visited the Pavilion and said hello.



Washington Post writer and author Dan Balz and his wife Nancy stopped by the Iowa table to say hello. Balz was a featured speaker at the festival.



Lt. Governor Judge visits Iowa libraries on summer tour

With trips to 65 counties this summer, Lt. Governor Patty Judge set out to make the point that some of the best vacation spots in the country are right here in Iowa.

During her [Travel Iowa '09 tour](#), Judge stopped at public libraries in Oelwein and Charles City, and the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch.

Judge wrote in her blog that "We ended the tour [in Oelwein, Sept. 3] at the new library, which was funded as part of the streetscape project. It is a great addition to the community. Currently, they are hosting an exhibit from NASA called "Visions of the Universe" - one of only 40 libraries nationally to receive it. I checked it out while I was there and met some of the many kids that have come to see it."



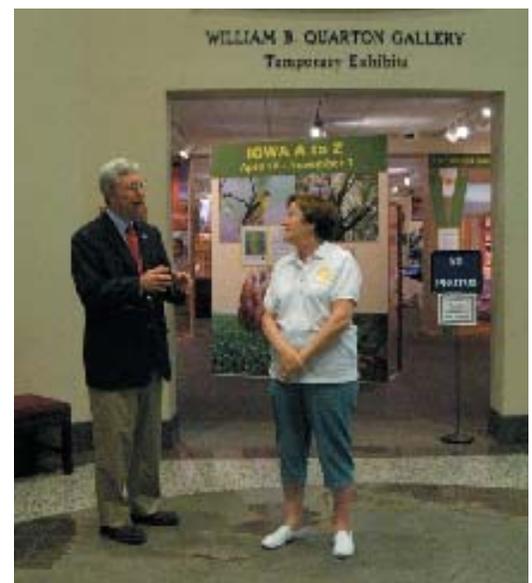
From left, two Upper Iowa University students who brought third graders to the library to see the exhibit. Third from left is Oelwein library director Susan Macken; on the right is Lt. Gov. Patty Judge



On July 8, Judge visited the Charles City Public Library. She noted that "Our second full day has ended with a visit to another of Iowa's hidden gems, the Mooney Art Gallery. There are works by Rembrandt, Dali, Benton, Picasso and Iowa's own Grant Wood. They are all in wonderful condition and are a rare treat to all of us in the Charles City Public Library."

Said library director Virginia Ruzicka, "[Judge] was extremely gracious and genuinely impressed with the quality of our collection and how it enhances the mission of the library to our community and to the entire state of Iowa."

Staff and visitors at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum were honored to welcome Judge on Saturday, July 11. Library director Tim Walch provided a tour of the Hoover galleries as well as the Library's current exhibit, "Iowa A to Z" which continues through October 31.





Public libraries introduced to new State Library annual survey

One-hundred fifty-five public library staffers attended one of 16 workshops in nine Iowa cities to learn more about the new, improved [annual survey](#) of Iowa public libraries. Scott Dermont, State Library consultant, provided the training in July.

Attendees learned about changes to the shortened survey, the correct way to fill it out, and section by section overviews.

Scott Dermont, left, trains at the Southwest Community College in Creston.



Help unemployed in your community - attend ICN session

The State Library and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) are co-sponsoring "Library Partnership with Iowa Workforce Development" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 13 over the ICN. Representatives of IWD will inform library staff about unemployed Iowans and the services IWD provides to them. Several library directors will share their experiences with serving unemployed Iowans. The purpose of the session is to give IWD and libraries an opportunity to learn more about each other in order to better serve unemployed Iowans. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/cgi-bin/cecat>. Use the search term "workforce."

Important request from State Library to Iowa libraries

Like any conscientious organization, the State Library strives to improve the environment by using less paper. That is why it is imperative that at least one person in every library takes the time to join the lowalib mail list and check it daily.

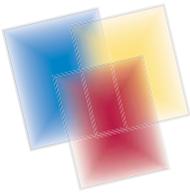
Critical information that was once mailed is now sent electronically via lowalib and the public library directors mail list. Examples include information on deadlines (like accreditation), Enrich Iowa agreements, new funding opportunities and more.

In the same vein, it's essential that libraries keep their e-mail addresses updated on the State Library's [online library directory](#). Please check it regularly to be sure it is correct and call [Toni Blair](#), State Library, if changes are required.

Interesting answers to State Library questions

The State Library learned in a recent e-mail questionnaire to all public libraries that of the 423 who responded to the question, "Do you provide wireless access?" a total of 335 replied "yes." That information is now available on the State Library's online Public Library Directory.

The State Library also learned that 75 percent of Iowa's public library staff have attended a State Library program.



State Library welcomes Alysia Peich and Robin Martin

Peich will cover continuing education; Martin hired as Iowa Center for the Book Coordinator

The State Library welcomed Alysia Peich this summer as continuing education consultant. Many have already met her during library visits or at this year's Town Meetings.

Peich was previously assistant professor, Library Instruction Services, at the University of Illinois in Springfield. In that position, she taught information literacy skills and an online library research methods class. Before that, she worked at public, special and academic libraries. Her positions have included public services librarian at a small public library in Minnesota; reference librarian at an art library in Minnesota; manager of the information services department at a branch of a county library in North Carolina; and reference librarian at a community college in Delaware. Peich has a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Iowa. Her work assignments will include coordinating Public Library Management 1 and 2; helping plan and carry out Town Meetings; overseeing the online Continuing Education Catalog; coordinating the College of DuPage teleconferences; and providing public libraries with training and consulting on library services for Iowa's growing adult population and on information literacy.



Robin Martin is the new coordinator of the Iowa Center for the Book. She served as director of the Geisler Library at Central College, Pella, from 1987 to 2007 and is currently librarian emeriti and a consultant to the library. Her strong leadership skills and commitment to libraries and literacy have served her well as the founder and director of the Geisler Library Writers Reading Series program, member of the Iowa Center for the Book Advisory Council, president of the Iowa Library Association in 2000, and a member of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Advisory Council, to name a few.

"Robin Martin's rich and deep experience with the Iowa library and literacy communities will make her a wonderful Center for the Book Coordinator," said State Librarian Mary Wegner. "I have long admired her leadership abilities and am very excited about working with her on Center for the Book programs."

Said Martin, "Anyone who cares deeply about books, reading, literacy, and libraries will appreciate how honored I am to be named Coordinator for the Iowa Center for the Book. I look forward to building on the successes made possible by my predecessor and mentor Katherine Von Wald, and the extraordinary staff of the State Library."

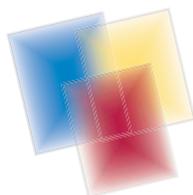
Certification Update

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

Jann Arends, Spencer
 Rita Bantam, Woodbine
 Rhonda Brown, Wilton
 Jennifer Byer, Sibley
 Dawn Byers, Minburn
 Kathy Carlson, Wellman-Scofield
 Cathy Crawford, Columbus Junction
 Danielle Day, Dubuque
 Deb Halverson, Leon
 Susan Hassman, Eldora
 Rebecca Kammerer, Davenport
 Cynthia Kay, New Hampton
 Susan Kearney, Lakota

Katherine Kemp, West Des Moines
 Angela Kintzle, Swea City
 Rebecca Knoche, West Branch
 Jill Miller, Colfax
 Kyle Neugebauer, Algona
 Emily O'Sheridan-Tabor, North Liberty
 Bethany Reineke, Estherville
 Susan Ricchio, Oelwein
 Theresa Snyder, Garner
 Melanie Stewart, North Liberty
 Donna Walsh, Creston
 Amy Wilhelm, Dyersville





Barrett named 2009 MacArthur Fellow

Tim Barrett, a member of the Iowa Center for the Book Advisory Council, and a research scientist and professor at the University of Iowa's Center for the Book, has been named a 2009 [MacArthur Fellow](#), one of 24 recipients of the annual award. Barrett is an internationally renowned papermaker. The award gives recipients \$500,000 over 5 years and frees them to pursue their craft, art, and research agenda.

Barrett is a master craftsman and paper historian who has worked on preserving and developing hand-papermaking. At the UI Center for the Book, he has researched traditional Western and Japanese styles of papermaking. In a digital age, his work is valued by historians and publishers for items including special edition prints, restoration of works of art and preservation of books. He and his co-workers developed the archival paper used to re-house the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution as part of the "Charters of Freedom Re-encasement Project" in 2002.

In an article in the *UI Press Citizen*, Barrett said he was surprised to learn Sept. 14 that he was named a winner of the fellowship. He said he was unsure on exactly what to use the award money for, but was considering writing a book on Western papermaking.

The Iowa Center for the Book and the University of Iowa's Center for the Book are separate entities with different missions. At the University of Iowa, the center specializes in the art of papermaking. The Iowa Center for the Book's mission is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries.



Congressman Latham honors Iowa Letters About Literature winner

In the July 31, 2009 *Congressional Record*, Iowa Congressman Tom Latham honored Kelsey Dennis, a 2009 Iowa winner in the Letters About Literature program. Following are some of his comments.

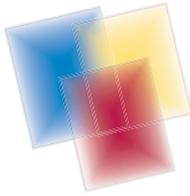
"Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kelsey Dennis, a student at Ames Middle School...on being selected as a winner of the Library of Congress's 2009 Letters About Literature Competition [in Iowa].... Kelsey's letter was one of approximately 55,000 entries nationwide selected from students in grades four through twelve. Her letter was written to Jerry Spinelli, the author of *Stargirl*.

"I consider it a great honor to represent Kelsey Dennis and her family in the United States Congress, and I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her. I wish Kelsey continued success in her future education and career."

For more information on Letters About Literature and the 2010 competition, visit <http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org>.

Don't forget.....
We're here for you!





News from around the state



This billboard was located near the Iowa State Fair this August.

Remember to Get Your Geek On!
<http://www.geekthelibrary.org>

Library receives special recognition

The James Kennedy Public Library in Dyersville is proud to announce it was named the best library of its population in the nation by the Hennen's American Public Library Ratings. In the library's last budget presentation to the city council, as other agencies were getting a flat budget, the mayor, reflecting on the library's ranking as number three in the nation in its cohort, asked the board president what they had to do to be first. The city met the library's budget request and everyone was very pleased with the ranking.

Williamsburg library receives Vision Iowa funds

The Williamsburg Public Library recently received \$600,000 in Vision Iowa funds to build a new library. Construction is scheduled to begin next spring and will take approximately two years to complete. According to the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, library director Loretta Hanson said, "We've worked for a long time, and it's just all finally coming together."

In Memorium

Ken Davenport
 September 29, 2009

Ken will be missed by his many friends and colleagues who worked with him in his role as consultant of the Northeast Iowa Library Service Area.

