



SIS INFO

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Vol. 19, No. 5

Sept./Oct. 2005

Next Meeting

When: Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2005, 5:30-8 p.m.

Where: CAE USA, Inc.
Library, MC-214
4908 Tampa West Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33634
813.887.1658



Directions: Directions and maps are posted at
http://www.tbhc.org/sis/meeting.htm.

What's Planned

"Current Issues in IT Systems Security": October 5, at CAE USA, 4908 Tampa West Blvd., Tampa, FL
The speaker will be Dr. Bruce Judd, VP for Information Technology, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa.

Dinner will be catered at CAE for \$10 per person.
RSVP to Betsy Kind on or before Oct 3, by emailing kingbet@tampabay.rr.com.

Upcoming Events

"Altered Books workshop": December 14, Safety Harbor PL, 101 2nd Street North, Safety Harbor, FL

Upcoming Events are still being planned. They are subject to change without notice.

For further information on meetings, please see the Meeting Schedule:
http://www.tbhc.org/sis/meeting.htm.

Minutes of Aug. 12, 2005, Meeting

A brief business meeting was conducted before the August 12, 2005, presentation by Dr. Joan Kaywell, whose lecture is described in this newsletter in the article, "Literature Is a Lifeline for Teens." President Paul Wetmore renewed his call for volunteers to work with him on the nominating committee. See the

"Opportunities to Help" section in this newsletter for details. Plans for the October meeting were finalized.

Additionally, Secretary Jean Andrews has suggested a newsletter photo feature, "Caught Reading," that would rely upon members' pictures of people "caught" reading, such as the one below. Send your photos for this feature to newsletter editor Sandy Hawes, [sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu](mailto:sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu).



## Toot Your Own Horn—Members on the Move



Have you moved to a new job...received some kind of recognition in your current job...or have some news to tell about your library or your life?

We want to help you toot your horn in **SIS-INFO**, our online newsletter. Please call Sandy Hawes, Editor, 1.352.588.8262, with your news or send an email to [sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu](mailto:sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu).



Key: Members names in **bold**; affiliates and non-members names in *italics*.

**Caroline Reed** reports that the Jane Bancroft Cook Library in Sarasota, where she works, hosted its 4th annual "Meet & Greet" function to welcome New College students to the library during the week of August 22 and USF Sarasota-Manatee students the week of August 29. "We provided students with maps and information about the library, directed them to classrooms and offered a friendly greeting to all who entered the library during these first weeks of classes" she said.

*Gail Donovan* joins the Jane Bancroft Cook Library as Evening Circulation Supervisor. Apart from Circulation duties, she will backup ILL and Electronic Reserves.

*Irene Stein* has accepted the position as part-time Instructor Librarian for Cook Library, effective the first week of October. Irene has been working for the library as an evening OPS Librarian. She has been a librarian for many years in different settings, most recently in Northern California.

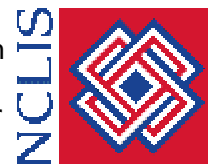
## Interesting Research and Resources

Sign up for a no-charge membership in the Social Science Research Network, <http://www.ssrn.com> and gain access to abstracts and some articles, along with contact information for authors researching in your special area of interest.

If you want to know what it is like to study abroad, check out the blogs of four college students (3 Americans and one New Zealander) at [www.blogabroad.com](http://www.blogabroad.com).

North County Regional Library in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, has announced that its "Mousing Around" tutorial (<http://www.pbclibrary.org/mousing>) is now available in Spanish: <http://www.pbclibrary.org/raton/>. "Please feel free to share this with others," writes *Carol Bean*, Computer Center Manager.

The State Library of Florida announced that the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science will present its first nationwide award for libraries with exemplary consumer health information programs. Libraries of all types and sizes are encouraged to apply and collaborations between libraries and other organizations are encouraged. Detailed information on the award and the judging criteria, along with electronic entry forms, can be found on the NCLIS Web site at <http://www.nclis.gov/award/award.cfm>.



Florida Publishers Association (a member of FLA) is offering listings for children's authors in its "Authors In Schools," a Florida schools speakers list, which will be handed out at the FAME (Florida Association for Media In Education) trade show for school librarians, October 19-21, Orlando, FL. Deadline for receipt of listing is Oct. 12. Details to help you create and submit a listing can be found at <http://www.flbookpub.org/FAME05.pdf> or by emailing [FPAbooks@aol.com](mailto:FPAbooks@aol.com).

According to the Florida Library Association, the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama Chapters of ALA are organizing relief efforts and need our help. Please consider making a donation to the 'ALA Hurricane Katrina Library Relief Fund' at <https://secure.ga3.org/03/alakatrina>. This site allows you to make a donation, large or small, to the reconstruction of libraries in the region, using your Visa or MasterCard credit card. Funds collected will go to the three Chapters for immediate relief and long term reconstruction projects.

**Shirl Kennedy** reminds us to donate only to legitimate relief organizations. She recommends checking <http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/katrinadonations.shtml> for vetted links. Additionally, she recommends <http://www.disasterpsych.org>, the Disaster Psychiatry Outreach site.

The Librarians Index to the Internet, LII, has added a new featured collection, <http://lii.org/search/file/hurricanekatrina>. There are more than 20 categories.

*David Dillard* has posted "A Bibliography and Webliography of Disability Bibliographies," which can be read at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Net-Gold/message/8394>.

TBLC is inviting nominations for its third annual Library Champion Award and would like to hear from member library directors. The TBLC Board will review the nominations, make final selections, and announce the award at the Annual Meeting, November 4, at the Mote Marine Laboratory. Please complete the form at <http://www.tbhc.org/champaward.shtml> to place your nomination. Thanks!

SPARC E-News, an open-access publication distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, announced that the "Salvador Declaration on Open Access: The Developing World Perspective" has been posted at <http://www.icml9.org/channel.php?lang=en&channel=91&content=439>. It urges governments to make open access a high priority in science policies including:

- requiring that publicly funded research is made available through open access;
- considering the cost of publication as part of the cost of research;
- strengthening the local open access journals, repositories and other relevant initiatives; and,
- promoting integration of developing countries' scientific information in the worldwide body of knowledge.

**Webology** is an open-access scholarly journal in English devoted to the various fields of Library and Information Science. It also serves as a forum for discussion and experimentation. So far, there are four issues. You can read them on the Web at <http://www.webology.ir>.

The Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division has released a new American Memory collection: "The Hotchkiss Map Collection: Confederate Army Maps." On the Web at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/maps/hotchkiss/>, the collection consists of 341 sketchbooks, manuscripts, and annotated printed maps, the originals of which reside in the Library of Congress' Geography and Map Division. Please direct any questions to the Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-geogmap2.html>.

Shirl Kennedy, base librarian at MacDill AFB, recommends the CRS report, "Military Service Records and Unit Histories: A Guide to Locating Sources," on the Web at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secretary/RS21282.pdf>. It covers the American Revolution to the present.

**Dan Hood**, a new SIS member, obtained his MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh in August and was appointed librarian at Hillsborough Community College, Plant City Campus, where he has been working as a paraprofessional technician and as a temporary librarian until he received his degree. He has a library-related blog at <http://longhairedlibrarian.blogspot.com>. Welcome, Dan.

**Shirl Kennedy** also found this site where an artist has transformed books into shelving and other gift items. <http://www.thisintothat.com/secondeditions.html>.

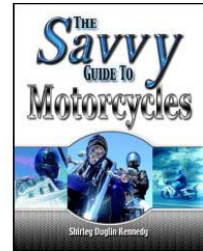
Librarian *Bhojaraju G.*, of India, seeks feedback on a project, "KM Cyberary: A Gateway to Knowledge Resources." It gives links to various e-resources. The URL is

<http://www.bhojarajug.freesevers.com/cyberary.html>. The blog can be read at <http://www.digitaldivide.net/blog/bhojarajug>.

The Savvy Guide to Motorcycles by **Shirl Kennedy** has hit the book stores. Congratulations, Shirl! You can find it on sale through Amazon.com at

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0790613166/>

"Get your motor runnin'. Head out on the highway..."



If you have an interest in selecting and evaluating materials for and/or about children with disabilities, then take a look at the Linda Lucas Walling Collection Website at <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/facst/walling/bestfolder.htm>.

## Literature Is a Lifeline for Teens



Alcohol, drugs, rampant sex, gangs and violence, eating disorders, suicide.

Know any young people who have turned to these as an escape from their problems? As an adolescent, did your life look so hopeless at times that you contemplated any of them yourself, or maybe even turned to one or more?

All too often, says Dr. Joan Kaywell, these are the unhealthy, even disastrous, "quick-fix" solutions that troubled adolescents choose as a way to escape from the pain of their lives. And there are more of these than you may think: enduring adolescence is bad enough in even the best of situations, but more than

25 percent of teenagers, says Kaywell, also carry "inordinate emotional baggage" ranging from experiences of dysfunctional families; emotional, physical and sexual abuse; neglect; identity issues; poverty; deaths of loved ones, and a host of other problems. Among the sobering statistics she cited: 27 percent of high school seniors have been abused in some way.

But Kaywell, the guest speaker at the August 12 SIS meeting, advocates for a much better way to cope with and survive a time of life that few, if any, adults would want to repeat. Her solution is brilliantly simple— using literature, also known as bibliotherapy. While the options listed at the beginning of this article are unfortunate real-life choices, an author's skillful treatment of them and the of issues that drive some young people to choose them can be a valuable tool for therapy.

"Improving literacy increases the chances of emotional health," says Kaywell, likening the experience of Helen Keller, who described her world before she acquired language as "one swirling mass of

emotion," to that of an illiterate or literature-deprived young person trying to make sense of his or her life. "By offering books to children to help them momentarily escape the pain of growing up, teachers offer teenagers a constructive way to survive the crisis, find hope, and know that



they are not alone," says Kaywell, who held her audience spellbound for more than an hour and a half as she shared information,

advice, personal experiences, and emotional anecdotes, as well as her passionate views on this very important topic.

Kaywell, who "teaches teachers how to teach English to middle and secondary students," is also a nationally known expert in the field of young adult literature and literacy. Among other publications, she is the author of *Adolescents at Risk: A Guide to Fiction and Nonfiction for Young Adult, Parents, and Professionals* and is the editor of the six-volume series "Using Literature to Help Troubled Teenagers" published by Greenwood Press. Each book deals with a particular type of problem, such as family issues, health, or abuse, and provides selected works of fiction that can be used as therapy, along with analyses and commentary by YA literature experts and psychologists on how to use them. Kaywell is a former president of ALAN (the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English) and of the FCTE (Florida Council of Teachers of English), and the recipient of numerous awards for service and teaching. (For more about Joan Kaywell and a list of the books she has published, visit her website at <http://kaywell.org>.)

As you would expect, Kaywell speaks from the perspective of a teacher, but her message is one that resonates with librarians and school media specialists, who

also have the opportunity to introduce teens to literature that might help them make sense of—or temporarily escape from—the problems they face every day. "Once you get them literate, you know they've got a chance," she says. "You can wow kids with literature." She's always thrilled when she hears the words, "I didn't know books could be so cool." And as to the value of literature, she speaks with the voice of experience: Kaywell herself was abused as a child.

Actually, says Kaywell, there are also other potential healthy escapes for young people in pain—for example, she cites arts and crafts, music, a belief in a higher power, athletics, and "doing for others," or service learning. However, she goes on to say, schools don't require art or music (and many such courses have been eliminated to focus on the tested topics of math and reading), prayer is not allowed in schools, athletics requires the meeting of certain academic standards, and service learning is often engaged in only by "high-end" students—those who are less in need of an outlet.\* The kids who may be most in need of these options are denied them.

Unfortunately, says Kaywell, literature is more and more being shoved aside by an educational system that is obsessed with high-stakes testing and often relies on a scripted curriculum that is



stripped down to the basics. "The canon of literature is *not* alive and well in our schools today," she says.

"There's a plethora of YA literature that teachers are unaware of or don't know how to teach," she adds. Teachers are being forced to spend classroom time preparing students for tests such as the FCAT (which Kaywell adamantly opposes and against which she has even led protests). "Real educators" (as opposed to mere "technicians" who are informed only by government, business, and the media—rather than by professional development activities and the experience

and expertise of other educators) she says, are fighting hard for the teaching of literature to be retained in our schools. They're being opposed, often successfully, by those who see education as a business and who are attempting to privatize public education.

In addition to the teachers who connect teens with literature, Kaywell sees the authors of YA literature themselves as key players. "Teachers and authors are often the unsung heroes of children on the brink of self-destruction," she says, and as evidence of the important role of the latter, she cites the many letters authors get from young readers who have found their books to be a lifeline.

That phenomenon of feeling a connection with an author has inspired Kaywell's newest book, titled *Letters of Hope*, which will be out in 2007. In it she has compiled and, to protect identities, made composites of actual letters that young readers have sent to their favorite authors and paired them with answers from those authors. Among the well-known YA authors who have contributed are Joan Bauer, T.A. Barron, Ellen Witlinger, Sue Ellen Bridgers, Chris Crutcher, Adrian Fogelin, Laurie Halse Anderson and Ed

Bloor. (If you're looking for recommendations on some superb YA authors, start with these.) As a preview, Kaywell read a couple of letters and the responses, leaving several members of the audience in tears. The kids have written heartfelt letters, some of them heartbreaking, and the authors' replies are empathetic, caring, and uplifting. *Letters of Hope* will be a must-read for anyone who works with young people, not to mention the kids themselves.



Jean Andrews

## Opportunities to Help

Hello everyone,



In a recent officer's meeting, we decided to form a nominating committee to recommend next year's officers.

Volunteers are needed and your assistance would be appreciated. You will gain some valuable experience and time commitments would be at a minimum, since we plan on doing this online.

It is crucial that we have some volunteers for the nominating. If you are interested, please contact me at [adltest\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:adltest_2000@yahoo.com).

Thank you for any assistance you might provide.

Paul Wetmore, SIS President



Do you have an idea for a presentation? Do you know someone who would be perfect to speak at a meeting? Would you like to volunteer your services? If so, please contact us by calling 813.622.8252 or 352.588.8262, or by sending an email message to [sis@tbhc.org](mailto:sis@tbhc.org) or [sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu](mailto:sandy.hawes@saintleo.edu).

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