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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

## Secretary White awards grants for school libraries

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded FY11 School District Library Program Grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to 679 Illinois public school districts. More than 1.8 million students will benefit from the grants.

"Our school library media programs are more important than ever in helping students learn and prepare themselves for the future," said Secretary White. "Several studies in recent years have shown conclusively that students perform better in the classroom in school districts that have strong library media programs. Illinois was the first state to implement a school district grant program, and I'm pleased that we can continue to provide school

libraries with some of the financial resources they need to produce well-educated students."

The grants can be used for such things as the acquisition of library materials to support reading for academics and enjoyment, library subscriptions, electronic resources and improved technology to support student research.

"As a former public school teacher and administrator who has worked with young people for nearly half a century, I'm delighted that I can award these important grants each year to enhance library resources and services for the benefit of Illinois students," White added.



**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH** — Secretary of State Jesse White celebrated Black History Month in February with a reception at the Thompson Center honoring Chicago blues legend Buddy Guy. Also honored were former Chicago Bears player Otis Wilson and Ariel Investments CEO, John W. Rogers, Jr.

March/April  
**2011**

# Illinois leads in Letters About Literature participants

Once again, Illinois is the highest participating state in the annual Letters About Literature contest for students. Every year Secretary of State White promotes the contest and hosts a ceremony for the winners. This is the fourth year in a row that Illinois has led the nation in the number of participating students. Nearly 6,700 students submitted entries this year; 300 more than last year, and 2,300 more than the next-highest state.

## ILLINET Government Depository Council

The ILLINET Government Depository Council advises the Illinois State Library on government information issues related to the federal and state depository library programs. Four new members have recently been added to the council and will serve two-year terms:

- Barbara Levergood, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville;
- Karen Perrin, Illinois Department of Transportation Library;
- Jocelyn Tipton, Eastern Illinois University; and
- Linda Zellmer, Western Illinois University.

The new members join the following current members:

- Paulette Harding, Poplar Creek Public Library in Streamwood;
- Karen Hogenboom, University of Illinois at Urbana;
- Kevin McClure, Chicago-Kent College of Law Library;
- Jane Treadwell, University of Illinois at Springfield; and
- Geoffrey Swindells, Northwestern University Library in Evanston.

## “The Big Read in Central Illinois”

For the past few months the Illinois State Library has joined other libraries as well as educational and cultural institutions throughout central Illinois in participating in “The Big Read in Central Illinois,” a campaign in which participants read, discuss and celebrate a book and promote reading. This year’s Big Read featured *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, the classic 1940 debut novel by author Carson McCullers.

“I was proud to join my fellow librarians in showcasing and promoting the joy of reading as we marked our second Big Read in Central Illinois,” said Secretary White. “Two years ago we highlighted Ray Bradbury’s classic novel *Fahrenheit 451*. This year’s Big Read featured book discussions, movie screenings, trivia nights, book giveaways and other events spotlighting another classic American novel, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. We thank all book lovers in central Illinois who took part in Big Read activities and celebrated the magic of reading.”

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* explores the isolation of misfits and outcasts of the South. It was the first in a string of works by McCullers to give a voice to the rejected, forgotten, mistreated and oppressed. Participants examined a few of the themes covered in the book, including communication, the Great Depression, isolation and music. The themes were interwoven into various programs and events taking place at different venues throughout central Illinois.

Joining the State Library and the library’s Talking Book and Braille Service as partners in The Big Read in Central Illinois were: Charles E. Becker Library, Benedictine University, Springfield; Chatham Area Public Library; Illinois Center for the Book; Jacksonville Public Library; Lincoln Library, Springfield’s Public Library; Prairie Skies Public Library District, Ashland/Pleasant Plains; Quiddity International Literary Journal and Public Radio Program; Rochester Public Library; Sherman Public Library District; Brookens Library, University of Illinois Springfield; Williamsville High School Library; and Williamsville Public Library.

The Big Read is a nationwide initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with *Arts Midwest*, and with different community partners across the country to provide engaging educational resources for discussing outstanding literature.



State Library Director Anne Craig (right) and Bonnie Matheis (center), coordinator of the Illinois Center for the Book, joined Amanda Binder, visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois Springfield’s Brookens Library, at a UIS reception kicking off “The Big Read in Central Illinois.”

## 2011 ILEAD U participants announced

The State Library is pleased to announce the team members, instructors, mentors and apprentices who are taking part in the second year of ILEAD U (Illinois Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover), the 21st Century Technology Tool Institute for Illinois library staff. ILEAD U is designed to help library staff understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools and the creation of an easy-to-replicate model program. For the second year of ILEAD U, a new component has been added where “apprentices” — out-of-state state agency library employees — will participate. The second year of ILEAD U kicked off February 28 at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Funding for ILEAD U is provided through a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant awarded to the State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

**Team Members:** Janine Asmus, Leyden High Schools District # 212; Reilly Belli, Wood River Public Library; Heather Beverley, Cook Memorial Public Library District; Amy C. Brokaw, Payson CUSD 1; Kerry Bowden, Danville Area Community College Library; Carolyn Browne, Leyden High School District #212; Tallin Curran, Six Mile Regional Library District; Melissa DeVerger, Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing; Lindsey Dorfman, Lisle Library District; John Fischer, Bloomington Public Library; Paul Foxworth, Niles Public Library; Keshia Garnett, Indian Trails PLD, Steven Giese, Des Plaines Public Library; Christina Giovannelli, Franklin Park School District 84, Hester Jr. High Library; Joanne Griffin, Des Plaines Public Library; Alicia Hammond, Schaumburg Township District Library; Cary Harvengt, Edwardsville Public Library; Amy Holcomb, Fremont Public Library District; Tom Huber, Illinois State Library; Robert Jones, Illinois State Library; Jeanette Kampen, Six Mile Regional Library District; Portia Latalladi, Chicago Public Library, Garfield Ridge Branch; John Lavalie, Des Plaines Public Library; Janet McAllister, Glen Carbon Centennial Library; Kate Niehoff, Arlington Heights Memorial Library; Briana Perlot, Berwyn Public Library; Michelle Petersen, Glen Carbon Centennial Library; Susan Peterson, Leyden High School District #212, East Leyden High School; Sharon Sample, Brenner Library, Quincy University; Tammy Sayles, Western Illinois University Library; Lynda Seegert, Six Mile Regional Library District; Judy Thompson, Edwardsville Public Library; Paula Tretter, Bethalto Public Library District; Cheryl Walker, Illinois State Library; Sarah Beth Warshauer, Forest Park Public Library; and Tyler Works, Northlake Public Library District.

**Instructor Corps Members:** R. David Lankes, Syracuse University; Kevin Becker, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, Springfield; Andrew Bullen, Illinois State Library; Katrina Burns, Rockford Public Library East Branch; Tara Caldara, Zion-Benton PLD; Thomas Dorst, Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois; Mikael Jacobsen, Skokie Public Library; Karen McBride, Des Plaines Public Library; Tom Peters, TAP Information Services; Sarah Sagmoen, Brookens Library, University of Illinois Springfield; Alyce Scott, Illinois State Library.

**Mentors:** Tiffany Amschi, Crete PLD; Terry Cottrell, University of St. Francis Library; Amber Creger, Chicago Public Library, Woodson Regional Library; Patricia Genardo, National University of Health Sciences; Allen Lanham, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University; Elsie Martinez, Zion-Benton Public Library; Anthony Molaro, Messenger Public Library, Aurora; and Gwyneth Stupar, Northbrook Public Library.

**Apprentices:** Alan Harkness, Georgia Public Library Service; Christine Kreger, Colorado State Library; David Lisa, New Jersey State Library; Donovan Mays, Arkansas State Library; Sarah McHugh, Montana State Library; Matthew McLain, Utah State Library; Edwina Murphy, Library of Michigan; Alysia Peich, State Library of Iowa; Kathryn Sabol, State Library of Ohio; Elizabeth Schoettle, Indiana State Library; David Sniffin, South Carolina State Library; and Lindsey Wesson, Tennessee State Library and Archives.



## 7th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Applications are available for the 7th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition at [illinoiscenterforthebook.org](http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org). The competition was created by Secretary of State Jesse White to recognize new literary talent in the state. The competition features the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and the James Jones Short Story Award.

**Applications are due June 30.**

Baird Harper, first-place winner in the 2009 competition in the James Jones Short Story Award category, was recently named winner of the *Chicago Tribune* Nelson Algren Short Story Award. The award honors the best-submitted unpublished fiction of less than 10,000 words. Harper and three finalists will be honored at the Printers Row Lit Fest in June in Chicago. To read Baird's entry, "My Thoughts While Cooling Down on the Hotel Veranda," in the *Tribune's* contest, visit [www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/books/chi-books-algren-thoughts-while-cooling-down,0,6453862.htmlstory](http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/books/chi-books-algren-thoughts-while-cooling-down,0,6453862.htmlstory).

## ISL outreach continues

Last year the State Library appointed Debra Aggertt to the new position of reference outreach coordinator. Debra began an aggressive campaign with the assistance of other staff members to inform state employees of the many services the State Library offers that can help them in their jobs.

From July to December 2010, 43 state agencies were contacted and 15 programs were presented by the Reference staff, focusing on such services as how to obtain a library card, remote access to databases, reference assistance and the map library. Nearly 200 state employees attended the programs and nearly 400 new state employee library cards were issued, a 150 percent increase from the same period in 2009.

Interlibrary loans for state government employees increased slightly and there was a 40 percent increase in circulation to state government employees. Inquiries in the Map Department from state employees increased 144 percent.

Congratulations to Debra, Kathleen Bloomberg, Sandra Fritz, Robert Jones, Raymond Collins and Tom Huber for their roles in making the outreach effort a success.

## State Library staff news

Three State Library employees recently marked state service anniversaries:

- **Lisa Clay**, contract administrator — 25 years
- **Diane Manning**, Literacy Office — 20 years
- **Michelle Schorfheide**, Technical Services — 10 years

**Brian Tober**, a part-time scanning technician in the Automation & Technology Division, has become a full-time library technician.

**Jill Heffernan** has been reassigned to the Library Development Group from the Library Automation and Technology Division in order to address operational needs.

## ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Statistical Survey

The FY2011 ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey is available at <http://collect.btol.com>. Data submitted should cover **July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011**. The survey will be closed on **September 30**. If you have questions, please follow these guidelines:

- **Username/password:** Contact Becky Hunter, [bhunter1@ilsos.net](mailto:bhunter1@ilsos.net), 217-557-7259; Gwen Harrison, [gharrison@ilsos.net](mailto:gharrison@ilsos.net), 217-785-7334; or Ron Winner, [rwinner@ilsos.net](mailto:rwinner@ilsos.net), 217-785-1168; or call 1-800-665-5576, ext. 1.
- **Content/subject matter:** Contact Gwen Harrison, [gharrison@ilsos.net](mailto:gharrison@ilsos.net), 217-785-7334; or Ron Winner, [rwinner@ilsos.net](mailto:rwinner@ilsos.net), 217-785-1168; or call 1-800-665-5576, ext. 1.
- **Software or technology issues:** Contact Bibliostat at 1-866-785-9935.

## Veterans History Project update

The Illinois State Library encourages Illinois war veterans of any conflict to join Secretary of State Jesse White's Illinois Veterans History Project. The project is designed to create a permanent record of the names and remembrances of war veterans and civilians who served. More than a decade ago, the federal government passed a law authorizing the Library of Congress to collect and preserve the war histories of American veterans and civilians. Secretary White remains strongly committed to furthering that effort to ensure that the contributions of Illinois veterans will not be forgotten.

To participate, veterans or family members can complete and return the Illinois Patriot Information Form at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats\\_new/veteransproject.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/veteransproject.html). Remembrances can be shared either on the back of the form or on a separate sheet of paper. In addition, any veteran who would like to have an in-person, recorded interview conducted should contact either Suzanne Schriar at 217-785-1533, [sschriar@ilsos.net](mailto:sschriar@ilsos.net); or Lynda Maddox at 217-524-0044, [lmaddox@ilsos.net](mailto:lmaddox@ilsos.net).

## SAVE THE DATE

**April 10–16**

National Library Week

**April 13**

"Snapshot: One Day in the Life of Your Library."

Learn more at [ila.org](http://ila.org)

**April 14**

Illinois State Library Advisory Committee  
Videoconference

**April 28**

System Presidents and Directors Meeting  
State Library

**May 11**

Spotlight on Achievement and Service  
Literacy Awards Ceremony  
State Library



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