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

Secretary White applauds Gates Foundation

Secretary of State Jesse White applauded the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for providing Opportunity Online Hardware Grants that will allow 128 Illinois public libraries to upgrade and buy new computers. The program focuses on libraries that are not yet able to adequately serve their patron's technology needs and are serving high-poverty communities with limited access to computers and the Internet.

Libraries receiving the grants were chosen based on economic need and aging computers. The State Library will administer the funding to the participating libraries.

"Public libraries have been leaders in helping bridge the 'digital divide' in Illinois and throughout the country," said Secretary White. "Our libraries enable thousands of people in our state

to find important information online, find jobs, and benefit from technology tools they would not be able to access elsewhere. The Opportunity Online grants will help Illinois libraries build the support and momentum to sustain high-quality technology services for all our community members for many years to come."

The program requires a local funding match of 25 to 50 percent over a two-year period. The requirement provides an incentive for libraries to engage the community in raising funds and communicating the value of technology in libraries. It also seeks to motivate local governments to commit long-term local funding to computer services in public libraries.

A list of libraries receiving grants is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/press/2008/July/Gatesgrants.pdf.



ISLAC MEMBERS HONOR SECRETARY WHITE — At the August meeting of the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, members approved a resolution honoring Secretary of State Jesse White for his support of library funding, including efforts to increase funds for public library per capita grants and creating the Barack Obama license plate to help raise funds for library summer reading programs. ISLAC chair Chad Raymond read the resolution to Secretary White.

September/October
2009

State Library at the Illinois State Fair



On the day before the State Fair each year, Secretary of State Jesse White holds a picnic at the State Library for students and mentors involved in his Project Next Generation program, a popular mentoring and technology program administered through Illinois public libraries. Among PNG participants attending this year's picnic was a group from the Helen Matthes Library in Effingham.



Regina Korthals (left) and Cheryl Walker welcomed Secretary White to the State Library's booth in the Secretary of State's tent.



Sharon Ruda, director of the Talking Book and Braille Service, visited with Secretary White at the TBBS booth in the Senior Building.

Additional \$50 million earmarked for new construction grants

Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation this summer authorizing the Secretary of State's office to award \$50 million in new grants to public libraries for permanent capital improvements. This program is in addition to the \$810,000 appropriated to the Secretary of State for grants under the State Library's annual Live & Learn Library Construction Grant Program.

The steps to bring this new program to fruition are under way. Initial activities include the development and administration of a statewide survey of all Illinois public libraries; drafting of administrative rules to govern the program; determination of eligibility based on a mathematical formula included in the legislation; and the state's offering and sale of bonds to finance the program. As soon as plans are finalized, information will be distributed to the 10 regional library systems and public libraries statewide. Look for updates on the construction grant program in the State Library's weekly electronic newsletter at www.librarynewsletters.org/isl/archives.aspx.

ISL receives Laura Bush 21st Century Grant

The Illinois State Library is one of 33 institutions nationwide selected to receive a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant to develop an institute where Illinois librarians can enhance their technology and leadership skills.

The State Library will use the nearly \$420,000 grant to develop ILEAD U (Illinois Libraries Explore, Apply and Discover). Similar to the State Library's popular Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Institute, the new institute will consist of team- and project-based learning, combining intermittent face-to-face meetings and online sessions. Participants will explore new forms of participatory Web 2.0 technology, hone their skills, and use the newly acquired skills to address the needs of their users. To participate in ILEAD U, please visit il.webjunction.org.

"The Illinois State Library is proud of its strong commitment to continuing education, and providing librarians with the tools and resources necessary to address the ever changing needs of their patrons," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Nowhere is the need for continuing education more important than in the area of technology. Librarians need to constantly enhance their skills to keep up to date with the latest technology, and ILEAD U represents an exciting, innovative new program to build technology and leadership skills among Illinois librarians."

The grants were awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and named after former First Lady Laura Bush, who holds a master's degree in Library and Information Science and was employed as a librarian. Secretary White also congratulated the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign for receiving a Laura Bush grant to offer scholarships aimed at developing more youth services librarians.



ISL HOSTS CHINESE LIBRARIANS — Several groups of Chinese librarians visited the State Library this summer where they met with map librarian Tom Huber. The State Library has the nation's second-largest state map library, with more than 185,000 maps. Only New York has a larger state map library.

2010 Letters About Literature Contest Deadline December 12, 2009

Secretary of State Jesse White is urging students in grades 4-12 to enter the 2010 Letters About Literature contest, a national reading and writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Illinois Center for the Book in partnership with Target.

"Every year students across the nation write letters to authors, living or deceased, describing how a book positively impacted their life," said Secretary White, who serves as honorary chair of the Illinois Center for the Book. "Anyone who has read these letters can see how literature inspires and touches the lives of our young people. Students truly enjoy this contest, and I hope thousands of Illinois students will participate this year."

There are three levels of participation: Level I — grades 4 through 6; Level II — grades 7 and 8; and Level III — grades 9 through 12. A winning letter will be chosen for each competition level. The three Illinois winners will receive a \$50 Target gift card, a plaque and a cash award from the Illinois Center for the Book. They will advance to the national competition where two winners and four honorable mentions will be selected for each competition level. The six national winners will receive a \$500 Target gift card and a \$10,000 grant for their school or community library for reading promotion for children and young adults. The 12 honorable mention winners will receive a \$100 gift card and a \$1,000 grant for reading promotion at their community or school library.

The deadline to enter the competition is December 12, 2009. State winners will be announced in April 2010. For more information, please contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or visit illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

Target sponsors Letters About Literature as part of its national reading initiative, "Ready. Sit. Read!," aimed at fostering a love of reading among children at an early age. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

No LSTA grants for FY10

The State of Illinois' ongoing financial crisis has forced the Illinois State Library to shutter the popular Library Services and Technology Act program for fiscal year 2010, which began July 1. LSTA grants scheduled for this fall will not be awarded.

In a message to the Illinois library community, State Library Director Anne Craig said, "As you know, the State of Illinois is facing a multi-billion dollar budget deficit. Cuts and short-falls have become part of every Illinois constitutional officer's fiscal year 2010 budget package. The Office of the Secretary of State is no exception. Secretary of State Jesse White's long-standing commitment to excellent service to the residents of our state remains a top priority. In fact, Secretary White's original FY10 budget request included an increase of approximately \$1 million to the Illinois State Library. Unfortunately, the General Assembly's budget process resulted in substantive cuts to library programs such as the public library per capita, school library per capita and library systems per capita grants.

"In order to minimize the impact of these cuts to longstanding library programs such as delivery, our office will use LSTA grant funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide some relief to libraries.

"Secretary White's priority remains preserving the landmark program of delivery of library materials to the citizens of Illinois, and to maintain critical resource sharing services. I hope you will join with me in thanking the Secretary for his leadership in this most difficult time."

Craig encouraged FY10 LSTA grant applicants to hold on to their grant applications, saying it is too early to predict what will happen to LSTA funding beyond this year, but that there may be an opportunity to apply again in the future.

State Library staff news



Patent & Trademark Depository librarian **Margaret Collins** retired September 1 after more than 33 years with the State Library. Since 1977, Margaret had worked as a library program specialist in many capacities in the Library Development and Library Operations Divisions. She started as a cataloger in May 1976. Margaret was named librarian for the Patent & Trademark Library in 2002. Margaret was the first African-American librarian hired at the State Library with a Master's of Library and Information Science degree.

Reference librarian **Raymond Collins** marked his 20th anniversary with the State Library. Literacy programs specialist **Beth Paoli** marked 10 years with the library and the Literacy Office.



In Memoriam

Jane Rishel, 62, a longtime State Library employee remembered by many in the Illinois library community, died July 30. Jane began working at the State Library in 1971 in the State Government Report Distribution Center. She was later promoted to coordinator of Illinois Documents and eventually became acquisitions manager until her retirement in 2003.

Alphonse F. (Al) Trezza, 88, former director of the Illinois State Library, died July 15 at his home in Tallahassee, Florida. Trezza was instrumental in establishing Illinois' system of multitype libraries that is recognized as one of the best in America. He provided leadership and attracted funding to support library education, resource sharing and development of a sound research program, and the recruitment of minorities to librarianship.

SAVE THE DATE

October 6-9
Illinois Library Association Annual Conference
Peoria

November 4-6
Synergy Leadership Conference
Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel
Lisle

November 19
Family Reading Night
Statewide

March 15-17
"On the Front Lines" Conference
University of Illinois at Springfield

The State Library will be closed:
Monday, October 12, Columbus Day



TBBS DISTRIBUTES DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS — The State Library's Talking Book and Braille Service has begun receiving digital Talking Books to distribute to its patrons. TBBS employees Cheryl Johnson (left) and Jodi Miller compare the new smaller digital Talking Books in the blue mailing containers with the old audiocassette books that are mailed in larger green containers.



Insight
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