

# INSIGHT

*Jesse White - Secretary of State & State Librarian*

## Secretary White receives prestigious ILA award



Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White received the Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award from Karen Danczak Lyons, first deputy commissioner for the Chicago Public Library, at the ILA annual conference in Springfield. See page 2 for more photos from the conference.

One of the highlights of the Illinois Library Association annual conference in Springfield in October was the presentation of the prestigious Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award to Secretary of State Jesse White. Secretary White was honored for his support of libraries and the development of innovative programs benefiting libraries during his nine years as State Librarian.

"Secretary White has compiled a stellar record of support for the more than 4,000 libraries in Illinois," said ILA President Bradley F. Baker. "His accomplishments over his three terms as Secretary of State and State Librarian have benefited academic, public, school and special libraries throughout the state."

During his tenure as State Librarian, Secretary White has worked with the ILA and championed its agenda before the General Assembly, testifying on numerous occasions on bills affecting libraries. He has consistently supported the ILA's efforts to protect intellectual freedom and ensure local control of libraries.

"My goal is to build on our successes and to continue working to strengthen libraries statewide," said Secretary White. "The members of the ILA and the entire Illinois library community do an outstanding job of keeping our citizens informed, and I am proud to stand beside them in those efforts."

Secretary White's accomplishments as recognized by the ILA include:

- Development and enhancement of training opportunities and continuing education for librarians, including the revamping of LibraryU, a popular Web-based training initiative, and the recent development of WebJunction Illinois, an online community for librarians.
- Creation of Find-it! Illinois, the statewide digital library that brings Illinois information into one convenient Web site.
- Creation of the Statewide Illinois Library Catalog, a shared catalog of all library holdings in Illinois in one searchable entity.
- Implementation of OCLC group services in Illinois, a pricing system that helps libraries manage budgets more effectively.
- Creation of the Synergy Library Leadership Institute to develop future library leaders.
- Increased pursuit of grants available outside of state government, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Creation of the Illinois Digital Archives to help preserve important documents for future generations.
- Consolidation of State Library literacy programs to make them more efficient and effective.
- Moving the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Service into a new facility and increasing membership in the Talking Book program to 27,000. TBBS was named National Library of the Year in 2006.
- Creation of the Project Next Generation program, the first youth mentoring program to be operated by public libraries.
- Creation of the Ask?Away virtual reference program.

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## ILA Conference — Springfield, Oct 9-12



1. The State Library booth featured a ribbon cutting marking the launch of WebJunction Illinois, an online community for Illinois library staff from all types of libraries. In attendance were (left to right): Susan Singleton, CARLI; Bradley Baker, ILA president; Nancy Smith, Prairie Area Library System; Charlotte Johnson, SIU-Edwardsville; Jane Sharka, Illinois School Library Media Association; and Jan Ison, Illinois Library System Directors Organization.



2. Janie Dollinger (left), director of the Lanark Public Library, proudly displays her ceremonial checks representing two FY08 LSTA grants the library received. Joining her is Gwen Harrison, the State Library's consultant for the Prairie Area Library System.

3. The State Library hosted a reception for FY08 LSTA grant recipients in conjunction with the conference. State Library Director Anne Craig (left) presented ceremonial checks to librarians from libraries in the Lincoln Trail Libraries System.



## New Illinois library delivery service

The State Library has a new contract with the University of Illinois, on behalf of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), to speed the delivery of library materials throughout Illinois.

"In collaboration with the efficient, independent delivery services provided by our regional library systems, this new agreement aims to expedite the transfer of library materials among libraries statewide in order to more effectively meet the increasing information needs of Illinois citizens," said Secretary of State Jesse White.

Libraries participating in the statewide delivery network will have five-day-a-week, 24-hour turnaround delivery service. Lanter Delivery Systems, Inc., of Madison, IL, will operate the contractual delivery service managed by CARLI.

"More libraries will be participating in statewide delivery under this new agreement, and a coordinated effort among libraries and our regional library systems improves service for all libraries and users," said CARLI Executive Director Susan Singleton.

For more information, please visit [www.illinoisdelivers.net](http://www.illinoisdelivers.net).

### Ask?Away free trial extended into 2008

If your library has yet to try the State Library's Ask?Away virtual reference service, you can sample it free through Dec.15, 2007. In addition, a NEW free trial is being offered from Jan. 15 to May 15, 2008. For more information, visit [www.askawayillinois.info](http://www.askawayillinois.info), or contact Natalie Tagge at 217-557-6329 or [ntagge@ilsos.net](mailto:ntagge@ilsos.net).

# Blackburn College library to compile history of State Library

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded a grant to Lumpkin Library at Blackburn College in Carlinville to compile a comprehensive history of the Illinois State Library, which will involve the development of a special Web site and a printed document.

"As the official library of state government, the State Library has come a long way since 1839, when then-Secretary of State Stephen A. Douglas created a small, fledgling library next to his office," said Secretary White. "As current State Librarian, I am extremely proud to be part of the library's rich history, and I believe citizens will enjoy learning about the library's heritage, culture and traditions when this project is completed."

The project, called "The Illinois State Library: A Heritage of Information and Learning," was made possible by a special \$76,398 Library Services and Technology Act grant. The proposed Web site, to be integrated into the State Library's current site, will document the State Library's chronology, locations, profiles of State Librarians and directors, and publications, as well as the library's leadership roles in such areas as library development, creation of the state's regional library systems, and the 4,300-member Illinois Library Information Network (ILLINET).

The Web site also will demonstrate the State Library's value to libraries, benefits to Illinois citizens and services provided to state government. Included in the project will be photographs, audio and visual materials, interviews with living State Librarians, and images and histories of all the buildings that have housed the State Library. All documentation will become a special collection in the online Illinois Digital Archives, and copies of the related print document will be distributed to libraries throughout Illinois.

"We are delighted that Lumpkin Library and Director Carol Schaefer have been awarded this prestigious grant," said Blackburn College President Mim Pride. "Tom Emery, a Blackburn College alumnus, will serve as author and project manager. Tom combines meticulous research and attention to detail with a storyteller's gift for telling the tale. I'm confident the final product will be both good history and a good story."

Well-known Central Illinois historians Edward Russo and Curtis Mann of Sangamon Researchers will serve as consultants and collaborators on the project.

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## Secretary White awards FY08 LSTA grants

Secretary of State Jesse White recently awarded FY08 Library Services and Technology Act grants totaling \$3.9 million to 241 Illinois libraries, library systems and museums with libraries.

"LSTA funds encourage our libraries to be creative and innovative," said Secretary White. "These grants help provide our libraries with some of the financial resources needed to remain our state's most reliable sources of information."

LSTA funding is awarded to states by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Through a competitive grant program, the State Library administers LSTA grants for projects that focus on library service, new initiatives and library activities. All types of libraries — academic, public, school and special — as well as regional library systems and museums with libraries, are eligible for funding. This year's grants were awarded in the following categories: The Safety Grant; Libraries: Innovate, Create, Collaborate (LINCC); Digital Imaging; Developing a Statewide Technology Toolkit; and The Emerging Grant Writer.

## ISL Training Grants awarded to 15 students

Fifteen future librarians have been selected to receive \$7,500 scholarships from the State Library to help pay for the cost of obtaining their Master's of Library and Information Science degrees. The Illinois Library and Information Science Training Grant Program annually provides grants to college graduates who possess exceptional academic achievement and an interest in becoming librarians. Scholarships may be used for full- or part-time studies at an American Library Association-accredited graduate library school. Recipients are required to work the equivalent of two years in Illinois library service within the first three years following graduation.

### 2007-08 Training Grant recipients

#### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Emily Margaret Conradt, Geneva  
Lindsay Michelle King, Chicago  
Kindree Jeanne Knoepfle, Arlington Hgts.  
Erica Jayne Laughlin, Washington  
Marielle Martinique McNeal, Chicago  
Megan Elizabeth Ower, Zion  
Heidi J. Rhea, Abingdon  
Lora Lee Smallman, Granite City  
Richard Carlon Stokes, Decatur  
Mary Eileen Yockey, Naperville

#### Dominican University in River Forest

Blanca Estela Bahena, Chicago  
Ekaterina Elgayeva, Chicago  
Katharine Ella Johnson, Channahon

#### University of Wisconsin at Madison

June Jacob, Rockford  
Elizabeth Ann Ryan, Crystal Lake



The State Library will be closed on the following state holidays:

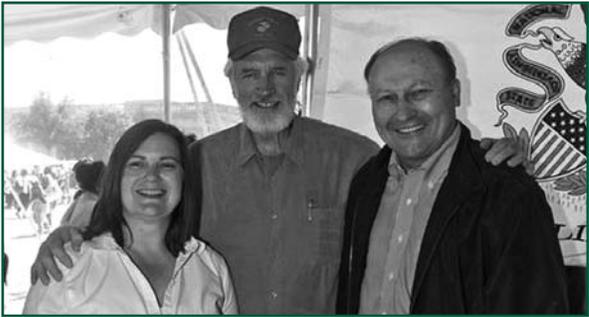
December 24-25, Christmas  
January 1, New Year's Day



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — Secretary of State Jesse White presented his office's September Employee of the Month award to Donna Mayberry of the Illinois State Library Automation and Technology Division.



CHINESE LIBRARIANS VISIT ISL — A delegation of Chinese librarians recently visited the State Library. Welcoming the group were Director Anne Craig (standing, center); Joe Natale (standing, left), administrator of the Automation and Technology Division; and Alyce Scott (kneeling, third from right), Digital Imaging program manager.



NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL — Bonnie Matheis (left), coordinator of the Illinois Center for the Book, represented the State Library at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., in September. Joining her are ICB board member Ray Elliot (center) and Egils Milbergs of the Illinois State Society.

**WINTER**

*Secretary of State and  
State Librarian Jesse White  
and the staff of the Illinois State Library  
wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a  
happy, healthy and prosperous 2008!*



Insight  
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Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian.  
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.  
Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. November 2007 — 11M

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #93  
Springfield, IL