

Literacy Links

Volume VII, Issue 4

March 2007

Coming Events:

- Best Practice Seminar
Sharon Kazee
March 20 2007
- Best Practice Seminar
Wendy Hoffer
April 26, 2007
- Best Practice Seminar
Tim Rasinski
May 3, 2007

For information about these programs, please refer to the articles in this issue of *Literacy Links*. This issue and past issues of *Literacy Links* can be found on the State Department's web page at <http://www.ed.sc.gov>.

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Final Approval Pushed to April *English Language Arts Academic Standards 2007*

The 2007 version of the South Carolina academic content standards in English language arts (ELA) will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for second reading and to the full Education Oversight Committee (EOC) in April 2007, rather than February 2007 as anticipated. Schedules for professional development, development of support documents, and classroom implementation will not be delayed.

The change from the anticipated approval schedule was necessary in order for the documents to be comprehensively edited. The time spent editing will result in a document that will be more usable.

The approved document will be posted to the State Department Web site as soon as possible after it is approved by both bodies.

It is premature to begin revising district curriculum documents until the standards are

approved by both the EOC and SBE.

Professional development for teachers and administrators regarding the understanding and implementation of the 2007 standards will begin in late summer. More detailed information regarding these opportunities will follow.

The standards will be available for teachers to use beginning with the 2007-08 school year, which will be a "bridge" year. PACT, HSAP, and EOCEP will be based on indicators that are common to the currently used standards and the 2007 standards. State-wide assessments will be based solely in the 2007 standards beginning with the 2008-09 school year.

Should you have questions regarding the English language arts standards or the support documents, contact Cathy Jones at cjones@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-0790.

Middle Grades to Start New Cohort of Literacy Coaches

The Institute of Reading at the State Department of Education announces plans to begin a new cohort of the South Carolina Reading Initiative—Middle Grades (SCRI-MG). SCRI-MG Phase 3 will begin training literacy coaches during the 2007-08 school year, contingent upon funding from the General Assembly.

Limited to approximately twenty-five literacy coaches, top priority will be given to middle schools having both an Unsatisfactory Absolute rating and an Unsatisfactory Improvement rating according to the current report card data.

The initiative will be open to

other district middle schools as space is available, based on the following prioritization:

Priority 1—districts that have not participated in SCRI and have middle schools with Unsatisfactory ratings (Absolute and Improvement);
Priority 2—districts that have not participated in SCRI and have middle schools with Unsatisfactory or Below Average ratings; and
Priority 3—districts that are interested in training a middle-grades literacy coach.

Districts with Priority 1 status should have received an invitation to attend an informational session on March 8, 2007. If representa-

tives from Priority 1 middle schools cannot attend this meeting, but would like to participate in SCRI-MG phase 3, they should contact Caroline Savage.

If space is available, based on the participation of the priority districts, an additional information session will be held at a later date for schools with Priority 2 or 3 status.

Any district interested in training a middle-grades literacy coach should contact Caroline Savage at csavage@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-4770.

Best Practice Seminars Continue in 2007

A series of seminars highlighting best practices continues in 2007 for South Carolina K-12 educators. The series is sponsored by the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the South Carolina International Reading Association (SCIRA).

The next session features Sharon Kazee, who will present a session on integrating the arts with all discipline areas. The session will look at current research on the

topic and will share strategies and lesson plans that all teachers can use.

Limited space is available for all of the remaining sessions, so register as soon as possible to ensure your participation.

Because Tim Rasinski's previous session on struggling readers was such a huge success, a date in May has been added to accommodate those who were unable to

attend the September session. There are a few spaces available, so please submit your information to attend the session.

If you have questions regarding your registration, contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have questions about the topics or presenters, please contact Caroline Savage at csavage@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-4770.

| Date | Presenter | Audience | Topic |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---|
| March 20, 2007 | Sharon Kazee | All Levels | <i>Interdisciplinary Connections and the Arts</i> |
| April 26, 2007 | Wendy Hoffer | Middle/High School | <i>Inquiry for Everyone!</i> |
| NEW DATE! May 3, 2007 | Tim Rasinski | All Levels | <i>Working with Struggling Readers: Effective and Engaging Strategies that Work</i> |

WIN and Other Workshops Offered for Teachers

Writing Improvement Network

Save the dates! The Fall WIN Writing Conference will be at the Palmetto Expo Center in Greenville November 7-9, 2007. This year's theme is *Finding Your Voice*. The deadline for conference proposals is April 16, 2007.

The conference features Dr. Ruth Culham, the author of *6+1 Traits of Writing* and Erin Gruwell, teacher and author of *Freedom Writers*. The resident South Carolina author and South Carolina Teacher of the Year will be announced at a later date.

In addition to presenting in a general session, Dr. Culham will present two pre-conference sessions: one for primary grades teachers and one for teachers of grades three and up. Erin's keynote topic is *Becoming a Catalyst For Change*.

The new email address for conference-related communications is winconf@gwm.sc.ed. The Call for Proposals form is on the WIN Web site at <http://www.winsc.org>. Users can now complete the form online, print it, and then mail it to the address on the form.

Adolescent Literacy and Learning

The South Carolina Center of Excellence for Adolescent Literacy and Learning is sponsoring a conference April 28, 2007, at the Madren Conference Center on the Clemson University campus.

The conference will feature Doug Buehl who has over thirty years experience teaching in high school. He has authored and co-authored professional books for middle and high school teachers. Mr. Buehl's interactive workshop provides participants with hands-on experiences across a range of teaching and learning strategies designed to increase student involvement in their own learning and increase effectiveness and efficiency of teaching. Mr. Buehl's session will be presented morning and afternoon.

Teaching consultants and consultant apprentices of the Center

will provide break-out sessions featuring best practices that have been used successfully across the curriculum. The sessions will focus on strategies appropriate for both middle and high school teachers in English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Registration information is available at <http://www.clemson.edu/ceall>.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Kindergarten through grade 12 educators are invited to apply to participate in "Race and Place: African Americans in Washington, DC for 1800-1954," a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for School Teachers offered by Decatur House Museum and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The workshop provides teachers with an in-depth understanding of four crucial periods in American history: pre-Civil War, Civil War, Reconstruction, and Segregation by studying the experiences of African Americans in the nation's capitol. Support from the NEH will provide a \$500 stipend and a partial travel reimbursement to assist with travel, lodging, and expenses. The workshop includes visits to "off the beaten path" historic sites in Washington, DC; lectures and discussions led by scholars and museum partners; pedagogical resource sessions; and analysis and curriculum development sessions.

Race and Place will provide primary and secondary source training needed to write and teach content-rich lessons. Each teacher will receive an educational package of books by workshop faculty, content-specific articles, and copies of primary sources.

The workshop application deadline is March 15, 2007. Fifty applicants will be selected for the Session 1, June 8-13, and fifty for Session 2, July 22-26. For guidelines, application instructions, etc., visit <http://decaturhouse.org/workshop/index.htm>.

Grant Writing Workshop Series Open to All Educators

The Grants Office at the State Department of Education has scheduled two more Grant Writing Workshop Series for 2007 on May 2-4 and September 12-14. All educators are eligible to attend. The series will be held in the third floor conference/classroom in the Office of School Leadership, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership on Forest Drive. The schedule for each day is 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This three-day series provides an introduction to grantsmanship, from seeking grant announcements to preparing a complete, effective grant proposal.

Dr. Gail Widner, director of the Grants Office will conduct each of the six sessions. She has participated in training sessions conducted by The Foundation Center, The Grantsmanship Center, and Management Concepts.

Session 1: Understanding the Grants Process, Program Planning, and Finding Funders

Session 2: Assessing the Needs, Exploring the Problem, Conducting Research, and Writing the Needs Statement

Session 3: Preparing Grants Budgets (within Federal and State guidelines)

Session 4: Comprehending a Grant Announcement, Review the RFP, and Organizing the Work

Session 5: Creating an Effective Project Description (goals, objectives, strategies, management, evaluation, and sustainability)

Session 6: Adding Supplementary Materials and Creating Other

Grant-related Documents

Certified educators currently employed in public schools/districts may earn one (1) recertification/renewal credit hour by attending all parts of each session and taking both the pre-test and the post-test.

Participants will receive course materials at the beginning of each session. No meals, beverages, or snacks will be provided (you may bring your own). The lunch break each day will be one hour.

Each three-day series costs \$95 (non-refundable) per participant. Registration and payment must be received in the Grants Office by 5:00 p.m. the day of the deadline. The registration deadline for the May dates is April 20, 2007, and the deadline for the September dates is August 24, 2007. If registration forms are received without payment attached, the forms will NOT be processed. Late registration (\$125 per participant) is possible if space permits and seats are available.

For more information, call 803-734-5810 or email questions to grants@ed.sc.gov. Download the registration form at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/grants/2007GrantWritingWorkshopSeries.html>. Mail the completed registration form and payment to Grants Office, SDE, 1429 Senate Street, Room 1101, Columbia, SC 29201.

Opportunities for Students to Showcase Their Talents

South Carolina Young Writers

The South Carolina Young Writers' Conference will be held on Saturday, March 24 at Ballentine Elementary School. The conference is sponsored by the South Carolina State Council of Teachers of English, the South Carolina Association of School Librarians, the South Carolina Arts Commission, the South Carolina State Department of Education, the South Carolina Writing Project, and the South Carolina Middle School Association.

Students have the opportunity to hear and work with at least two professional writers during the conference. Some of this year's authors include Rebecca Kai Dotlich, Charles Ghhingn, David Harrison, Will Hobbs, Kimberly Johnson, Margo Raven, and Chris Soenpiet. Elementary, middle, and high school student groups follow their own schedule during the day. Each group has its own session with the authors to talk about books the authors have written and the craft of writing.

Every public school district in South Carolina is invited to send students to participate. The number of students eligible to attend from each district is determined by the student enrollment of the district. Approximately 400 students attend the yearly conference.

If you have questions about the conference or would like to volunteer to help at the conference, contact Caroline Savage at csavage@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-4770.

SC Writers Contest for High School Juniors and Seniors

The South Carolina Writers workshop is sponsoring a free writing contest for high school juniors and seniors. The first place winner in both poetry and fiction will receive \$100. All entries must be post-marked on or before April 1, 2007.

For rules and entry forms, contact contest chairperson, Amy Mercer at amy.mercer@comcast.net.



Making Media Literacy a Part of the ELA Classroom

By Frank Baker
Media Educator

Appalachian State University Media Literacy Courses

Appalachian State University's Media Literacy professor David Considine sends along new information about course offerings designed to help educators get up-to-speed on integrating media literacy in the classroom.

Instructional Technology
Saturdays in May and June 2007
Media: Image and Influence
July 15-20, 2007
Media Literacy & Curriculum Development
Fall 2007

For more information, go to http://www.frankwbaker.com/david_considine.htm.

Newspaper Use Loses Out to Internet; Changes Ahead?

Teachers are using more online sources to discuss news-related issues in the classroom, with less use of newspapers—particularly local publications—according to a new survey from the Carnegie Knight Task Force at Harvard University.

The findings, drawn from surveys of both newspaper executives and classroom teachers, could have sharp implications for the many Newspapers in Education (NIE) programs sponsored by newspapers nationwide.

"In America's schools, local newspapers are losing out to the Internet," said Alex S. Jones, director of the of the Shorenstien Center and a member of the Task Force. "We need to rethink how the NIE program can be most effective and how to bolster local media in the classroom.

For more information, go to http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eandp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003538628.

Summer 2007 National Media Ed Conference Information

All of you who are hungry for more detailed information about the 2007 National Media Education Conference June

23-27, in St. Louis, will be pleased to know that the conference brochure is now online. Renee Hobbs, author of *Reading the Media: Media Literacy in High School*; Douglas Rushkoff, author and host of Frontline's *The Persuaders*; Henry Jenkins, MIT's comparative media studies and author of *Convergence Culture*; and Robin Blake, media educator in Australia, have been named as keynote speakers.

Visit <http://www.amlainfo.org> for details about sessions, schedules, accommodations, travel, and more.

Professor Sees Film as Important Teaching Tool

"Films have powerful narratives, and are potentially interesting ways for students to develop historical empathy with people," said UCONN Professor Alan Marcus, author of the new text *Celluloid Blackboard: Teaching History with Film*. A news story about Marcus's new book says, "While Marcus says there are challenges in using film, including Hollywood conventions such as distortion of time and an emphasis on good versus bad, he says it is an important tool in the classroom."

Read more about the book at <http://www.advance.uconn.edu/2007/070129/07012910.htm>. To link to the book, go to <http://www.infoagepub.com/products/series/titles/978-1-59311-573-9.html>.

CSPAN's National Student Documentary Competition

What matters to your students? CSPAN is asking middle and high school students to create a ten-minute video documentary exploring an issue that matters to them. The deadline is March 30, 2007. Twenty-five thousand dollars in prize money will be awarded.

For more details, go to <http://studentcam.org>.

Media Literacy: A Vital and Underserved Need in Schools

In the fall of 2006, *Cable in the Classroom* surveyed educators with questions like: How important are media literacy skills and are they being taught?

Download the survey results as well

as some excellent classroom and home resources at <http://www.ciconline.org/reports>.

Project on First Amendment Targets Students, Teachers

(reprinted from *Education Week*, Feb. 2007)
Channel Once, the for-profit news network for schools, this month launched a three-year program to promote awareness of the First Amendment. Supported by a 2.25 million dollar grant from the Miami-based John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the "IVoice" campaign will be featured in Channel One's broadcasts, as well as online at the student-oriented <http://www.channelone.com> Web site and its teacher site <http://www.channelonenetwork.com>. The student site aims to make the First Amendment relevant to students, with such features as a version of the U.S. Constitution that they can download to their iPods.

Media Education Kit Published by UNESCO

"Media Education: A Kit for Teachers, Students, Parents, and Professionals" has been published in English and French by UNESCO. The kit is partly a product of the MENTOR project initiated by UNESCO and sponsored by the European Commission. Some of the questions addressed by the kit are what should media education be like? Who should provide it? How should it be included in the curriculum? Beyond schools, do families have a say in the matter? Can professionals be involved and how? What strategies can the public adopt to deal with the benefits and the limitations of media?

The kit proposes a prototype of media education curriculum for the basic qualification of secondary school teachers, but it also extends its modular approach and key concepts (production, language, representation, public) to adults outside of the school system, be they parent, media professional, or decision maker. In addition to a teacher's manual and accompanying student handbook, the kit also contains a manual for parents as well as a handbook on ethical relations with professionals and one on internet literacy.

Go to http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23714&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

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STANDARDS
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DEPARTMENT OF
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The Office of Curriculum and Standards provides statewide leadership and services to schools and districts to ensure the implementation of grade-level standards-based instruction for all students.

We accomplish this by:

- developing and revising academic standards and expanding support materials;
- promoting the use of effective evidence-based instructional practices by schools and districts; and
- facilitating the implementation of programs, projects, grants, and activities that support standards-based instruction

Literacy Links is published by the
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The newsletter will be posted to the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the English language arts Web pages the first week of every other month.

If you have questions about *Literacy Links* or have a comment or concern, please contact Allison Norwood at anorwood@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-2469.



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and Standards

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Best Practice Seminar Series 2006-2007 Registration Form

A series of seminars highlighting best practices will be offered during the 2006-2007 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the Office of Curriculum and Standards at the State Department of Education (SDE) and the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA). A schedule of the sessions, dates, audiences, general topics, and locations is included with this registration form. Each session will be held in Columbia from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. **Please use this form to register for any sessions you are interested in attending.**

Instructions: To register for any of these seminars, please complete this form and mail it and a **check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00 for each session for which you are registering** to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. Directions to the session locations will be posted to the State Department of Education website. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net or fax at 803-329-1952. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Caroline Savage at 803-734-4470 or csavage@ed.sc.gov.**

Please indicate with an "X", beside the SESSION column, the session you wish to attend.

| Session | X | Session Date | Presenter | Deadline | Location |
|------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Session 1 | | September 20, 2006 | Quality Quinn | September 8, 2006 | The Cotton House |
| Session 2 | | October 24, 2006 | Carol Jago | October 9, 2006 | Seawell's |
| Session 3 | | November 17, 2006 | Tim Rasinski | November 1, 2006 | Columbia Conference Center |
| Session 4 | | November 29, 2006 | Joyce VanTassel -Baska | November 10, 2006 | Brookland Baptist Conference Center |
| Session 5 | | December 6, 2006 | Frank Baker | November 20, 2006 | Brookland Baptist Conference Center |
| Session 6 | | December 7, 2006 | Frank Baker | November 20, 2006 | Brookland Baptist Conference Center |
| Session 7 | | January 11, 2007 | Carl Anderson | December 18, 2006 | Columbia Conference Center |
| Session 8 | | February 14, 2007 | Bruce Morgan | January 29, 2007 | Columbia Conference Center |
| Session 9 | | March 1, 2007 | Janet Angelillo | February 19, 2007 | Columbia Conference Center |
| Session 10 | | March 20, 2007 | Sharon Kazee | March 5, 2007 | Brookland Baptist Conference Center |
| Session 11 | | April 26, 2007 | Wendy Hoffer | April 9, 2007 | SC Archives and History Center |
| Session 12 | | May 3, 2007 | Tim Rasinski | April 13, 2007 | Columbia Conference Center |

Please provide the following information.

Name _____

Position/Content Area _____ Grade _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

2006-2007 Best Practice Seminar Series

| Presenter | Topic | Audience |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Quality Quinn | Formative Assessment and Differentiation: The Missing Link After third grade, the achievement gap with minorities, second language learners, and low-income students widens substantially. This session will examine literacy's role in bridging this gap through formative assessment and differentiation. How can administrators and teachers in all content areas work together to prepare for early success and keep students from falling further behind each year? | All Levels Administrator Strand |
| Carol Jago | Cohesive Writing: Handling the Paper Load through Improved Student Writing This session offers practical help with teaching students to write effective essays both on demand and through revision. Participants will learn how to help students focus, organize, and develop their ideas for writing. Particular emphasis will be given to revision strategies. The workshop will also offer practical techniques for handling the paper load. | Middle/ High School |
| Tim Rasinski | Working with Struggling Readers: Effective and Engaging Strategies that Work Based on his work with struggling readers, Dr. Rasinski will share strategies that have been proven to help students who find learning to read difficult. Strategies in the areas of phonics, vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension appropriate for any content area will be shared. | All Levels |
| Joyce Van Tassel-Baska | Differentiation and Working With the Accelerated Learner in All Classrooms This session will emphasize successful strategies for working with advanced learners in classrooms at all grade levels. It will provide key teaching and learning models that can be applied to meet differentiation requirements for this population, using a variety of curriculum. Strategies for differentiating curriculum will also be featured along with criteria for selecting reading materials. | All Levels Administrator Strand |
| Frank Baker | Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: A 21st Century Literacy Skill Many of our young people are media savvy, but they are not media literate. Frank Baker helps participants understand "media literacy" and its place in all content area standards. What are the skills you need in order to help your students be critical thinkers and viewers in the 21st century? | Elementary |
| Frank Baker | Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: A 21st Century Literacy Skill Many of our young people are media savvy, but they are not media literate. Frank Baker helps participants understand "media literacy" and its place in all content area standards. What are the skills you need in order to help your students be critical thinkers and viewers in the 21st century? | Middle/ High School |
| Carl Anderson | How's It Going? Conferencing With Students Anderson will lead participants through the challenging but essential terrains of learning to confer with students. This session will examine the teacher's role in conferences, strategies for teaching students to take an active role, ways to weave text, mini-lessons, classroom management strategies, and responses to the most frequently asked questions about conferring. | Elementary/ Middle |
| Bruce Morgan | Writing Through the 'Tween Years Bruce Morgan will share how teachers can get back to the joys of teaching writing in a literature-rich, thoughtful environment. Strategies will be shared on how to develop a writing program that involves integrating insights from reading strategy instruction with a renewed emphasis on the basics of writers' workshop: student choice, teacher modeling, revision, and using quality mentor texts. | Elementary/ Middle |
| Janet Angelillo | A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation: Helping Writers Use Conventions with Precision and Purpose Through mini-lessons, partner and small-group activities, students catch on to the power of punctuation by looking at how authors use it and by noticing it in advertising, newspapers, and other kinds of text. Janet Angelillo will share ideas for using a variety of text and more for learning about punctuation. | Elementary/ Middle |
| Sharon Kazee | Interdisciplinary Connections and the Arts This session will focus on making interdisciplinary connections through arts integration. Topics will include defining arts integration, exploring current research, accessing resources, and looking at sample units and lessons that effectively integrate the arts with other academic areas. Strategies will be shared to make these connections through active participation. | All Levels |
| Wendy Hoffer | Inquiry for Everyone! Evoke students' curiosity. Challenge students' thinking. Organize students' learning. Assess students' growth. This session will touch on each of these essential building blocks to successful inquiry-based learning experiences across content areas. | Middle/ High School |