Dear Friends of the ECU MLS Program:

The spring semester has drawn to a close and summer term has started. We graduated 44 new MLS librarians on May 6. Like the rest of ECU, we may be facing some very painful budget reversals in the next fiscal year, but nothing is certain right now. It will be no surprise to you that the MLS faculty have refused to be stymied by negativity and have instead kept their energies focused on providing the very best teaching, scholarship, and service that they can muster.

The Community Oriented Librarian Recruitment Scholarship (COLRS) project will draw to a close at the end of summer. This $668,222 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provided full tuition scholarships, materials, and professional development experiences to 42 new MLS librarians. Drs. Larry White and John Harer collaborated to secure the grant. Drs. Ruth Clark and Diane Kester and Mr. David Vinciguerra worked diligently over a period of years to carry out the work and bring it to fruition. We are proud, proud, proud of this successful effort which will have “ripple effects” in education and culture throughout our state for years to come.

Many thanks and deepest gratitude to those of you who support our program financially. It is gratifying to see the breadth and depth of our support, particularly in these economic times. As we, along with all public-sector institutions, contemplate an even more difficult budget year ahead, your support at whatever level you can afford makes a significant difference for us.

On page 6 of the newsletter you’ll see this year’s scholarship recipients, which illustrates one use of your financial support. Donations to our foundations fund are used for faculty and department support that falls outside what can be supported within our state budget. One exciting example this year is Dr. Kaye Dotson’s attendance at the invitation-only School Library Journal Summit in Chicago this past October. Dr. Dotson brought back cutting-edge information that she has used to advance her students’ and colleagues’ understanding of emerging trends in reading and technology. Her presence and networking at the Summit emphasized ECU’s commitment to stay in the forefront of our profession. Your financial support at https://onestop.ecu.edu/onlinegiving/ will enable these and similar efforts to continue.

I invite you to be active in giving us feedback. Regular feedback from our stakeholders, which include current students, alumni, and employers, is of vital importance to us. We are seeking to find the most effective mechanisms for gathering and using your input. If you are willing to be an active participant, please let me know at yontm@ecu.edu.

Elaine Yontz
Aim for the Stars: An Article by Kevin Vickers—Sun Valley Elementary School

Libraries closed. Teacher assistants reassigned. Budget cuts. Yet expectations and responsibilities continue to increase. My grandmother always reminded me that the cream does not rise to the top unless things are shaken up a little. As service-oriented professionals, it is our goal to always strive for the best in ourselves and in others. “Aiming for the stars” was a phrase that Dr. Robert Cannon, the first principal I worked with, used repeatedly when I began my educational career. He explained that if you aim for the stars then at least you are aiming high enough to get off the ground.

As I complete my MLS program at ECU and continue my career as a media coordinator, I realize that educators must reinvent themselves in order to ensure that students “aim for the stars” in the 21st century. Technology, staffing, budget restraints, and even book fairs can deplete our energy and creativity; however, it is clear that 21st century media coordinators must lead the way when exploring accountability, access, and collaboration.

As an educator, I evaluate and coordinate programs to increase patron awareness. Because we are inundated with opportunities to embrace our communities in different ways, libraries across the state must develop creative strategies to encourage community involvement. If you are interested in promoting your school’s media center, I would suggest three strategies. First, convince your site administration that you want to be your school’s news media contact person. This person is responsible for writing news stories to your local newspapers, radio stations, etc. Second, it is important to be involved as your school’s Webmaster. This person is responsible for updating your school’s website. Third, if at all possible find a very strong person who has international connections. This person can be a parent of a child who attends your school or someone you know through professional organizations such as the American Library Association or the American Association of School Libraries.

At the beginning of the school year, I was very fortunate to meet a parent of a child who attends my school. Liz Benavides was a former international nanny. She utilizes Facebook as a tool to connect people worldwide. As we discussed introducing students at our school to globalization, Benavides and I were unstoppable. She provided the international connections; I provided school and technology resources through the media center. We also collaborated with another local elementary school in an effort to share resources. As a result of this collaboration, “Children Connecting the World” soon formed.

In the fall of 2010, we kicked off our first media center event—a Skype chat with Prince Khaled bin Al-Waleed bin Talal, the nephew of the Saudi Arabian King Abdullah. This was the first time Skype has been used in our county in an effort to connect three different participants in three different parts of the world. Since then, Skype has made some product enhancements that allow this type of collaboration to occur for a small fee.

As I continued to collaborate with Benavides, we planned a Skype session with Scotland before Christmas and celebrated Robert Burns Day with the National Trust in Scotland on January 25. The Kung Fu Academy presented a Chinese Lion Dance during Chinese New Year in our media center. English Second Language (ESL) students at Queens University and University of North Carolina at Charlotte introduced by Children Connecting the World followed. With the continued help from Benavides, Adilson Dezerto, a native Brazilian and a member of ESL, along with the Saudi Students Organization, joined the movement to embrace Sun Valley Elementary School.

Other events Benavides and I have planned for the school’s media center include: a presentation from NC Representative Craig Horn, a presentation about Ecuador, a local author storytelling event, and a Hawaiian dance. Now that Children Connecting the World completes a very successful year, the organization is seeking non-profit status. Currently there are several international groups that are interested in helping Children Connecting the World financially.

Collaboration is the key when “aiming for the stars” in a media center. Seeking community involvement and publishing your successes on your school’s website or submitting articles for your local newspapers is a great way to advertise your school’s creativity as we reach for student success.

When I began ECU’s MLS program, I never dreamed it would give me the tools to connect students to the world in such a profound way. I am proud to be a part of this program and proud to be an ECU Pirate!
Fall 2010 MLS Graduates

Katherine W. Allen  Tracy M. Gaines  Gretchen A. Parker
Brandi C. Anderson  Michelle E. Green  Windy Phillips
Kelly L. Ballard  Jodi L. Hall  John D. Pokrzywa
Victoria J. Blackshear  Wendy E. Hampton  Ellen H. Poppe
Lenna M. Boger  Joseph W. Hayes  Morgan B. Reecce
Kimberly J.Burr  April L. Heine  Allison V. Rose
Ruth M. Byrd  Lauren H. Hill  Sara B. Ruhl
Christie A. Canter  Meredith W. Hill  Elizabeth A. Sellers
LaTonya R. Coley  Jessica L. Klutz  Karen C. Sherman
Edie L. Crook  Kimberly A. Kovach  Katherine E. Shinn
Anna K. Darty  Victoria J. Landon  Sarah S. Slate
Emily B. Davis  Sarah W. Lee  Margie N. Smith
Jennifer L. Dickerson  Tabitha K. Long  Stephanie M. Souter
Alyssa H. Dodd  Maura K. Lorenz  Kelley J. Stanley
Jennifer B. Dry  Cynthia P. Mackiernan  Julie A. Stephenson
Kristen W. Edmundson  Victoria C. Mahoney  Lindsay L. Stetson
Christopher S. Fields  Teresa N. Muse  Robert H. Turlington

John W. Williams
Spring 2011 MLS Graduates

Aleisha A. Ainsworth
Rita N. Anderson
James M. Andrew
Cynthia L. Berry
Jillian M. Buck
Tonia L. Davis
Lisa S. Denning
Nancy A. Donaldson
Kimberly A. Fawks-Gugino
Gloria J. Frye
Tracy T. Gentile
Catherine W. Gibson
Annette B.. Heavner
Stacy J. Hersey
Janna E. Hoekema

Grizzelle B. Holderness
Priscilla W. Hollifield
Cathy W. Keys
Allen P. Kromer
Kathryn D. Lewis
Julie M. McKinney
Amanda M. Merrell
David R. Miller
Laura C. Molinario
Angela C. Morgan
Elizabeth H. Nance
Tammy M. Parker
Marianne S. Peters
Mary L. Phillips
Sophia C. Pinyan

Lisa L. Powell
Amy J. Rains
Diane K. Ross
Pamela A. Sands
Anna R. Sawyer
Julie A. Shoptaugh
Julie A. Sloup
Kimberly T. Stemple
Manda L. Thomas
Mitchell A. Tinko
Kevin B. Vickers
Denise K. Wilson
Angela H. Woehl
Cynthia T. Wood
Alumni News

Jill Bateman-Whitson, From refuse to refuge: Create a game plan for your library to encourage reading. Knowledge Quest, 39(4), 16-21.

Sonya Beckham, Promoting the joy of reading without killing it. Knowledge Quest, 39(4) 50-54.

Ellen Bryson of Kitty Hawk Elementary School was part of a three-person team to receive the NC Technology in Education Society 2011 Media Specialist Technology Innovation Award at the March NCTIES Conference in Raleigh.


Dorothea Rogers has written two children’s books under the name of Dorothea Potter. Her first, Merry The Rabbit was released in May 2010. The sequel, Merry’s Adventures in the Loft was just released in March. Both books are available through Amazon.

Marian Dillahunt received the 2010 Vance-Granville Community College Faculty of the Year Award. Marian has also been named as the recipient of the 2011 R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching Award by the NC Community College System.

Ellen Schnur is working at the Naval Postgraduate School as an Outreach and Instruction Librarian. In keeping with her position, she had submitted an article Library meets needs of distance learning students through unique outreach methods for an internal campus publication.

Stephanie Souter had the article, Doing a bunch with not much in the December 2010 issue of NC Alliance for Public Charter Schools.
Student News

Heather Blackwell was named NC Middle School Association Teacher of the Year for Region 2 for 2011.

Elizabeth Duggins was names Johnston County Media Coordinator Employee of the Year.

Erin Glover’s Battle of the Books team at Jacksonville Commons Middle School won the Onslow County District-level competition.

Kelly Hewes Elementary Battle of the Books team won Johnson County’s EBOB Competition. It was the first time Johnston County has held an EBOB competition.

Joy McCracken is a recipient of a Bright Idea Grant to promote the use of her school’s greenhouse, purchase a web-based weather station, and hardware to help create podcasts about Earth and Sky activities.

Colleen Pinyan wrote a proposal for a One School, One Book event using Molly’s Pilgrim and her school was awarded $900.

Julie Sellers and Nakina Middle School in Columbus County is the recipient of a $2,000 grant sponsored by Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation. Nakina Middle School has been awarded a grant each year for the past three years. In 2008-2009 Julie used the money for the purchase of new books for “Battle of the Books” competition; in 2009-2010 the grant money allowed for the purchase of a listening center and audio books; this year the grant will be used to purchase of laptop computers and carrying cases for students to “check out.”

Julie Sellers also reports that Nakina Middle School students came in 2nd place in Battle of the Books for the 2nd year in a row (this is Nakina Middle School’s third year in existence and their third Battle of the Books competition).

The following students were the 2011-2012 recipients of department student awards:

Angelia Messick received the Emily S. Boyce Fellowship Award.

Sally Hanchett was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Aimee Riordan received the Mildred Daniels Southwick Scholarship Award.

Aimee Riordan also received the Dr. Suzanne Wester, MD Scholarship through the College of Education.

Julie A. Sloup was awarded the Diane Kester Innovator Award.

Welcome to the Profession!

Paul Goodson has just been hired a Evening Supervisor for Circulation as Joyner Library.

David Miller has been promoted to Acting Assistant Head of Reference at the Kinston-Lenoir County Public Library.

Teresa Muse has joined Joyner Library full-time in Special Collections Cataloging.

Anna Sawyer was hired as media specialist at Randleman High School.

Jean Vollrath has been hired as a Knowledge Services Associate at Ipas in Chapel Hill, working as their technical services librarian.
Dr. Ruth Cox Clark, “Readicide—Killing the love of reading in our schools.” Knowledge Quest, 39(6), 8-11

Dr. Ruth Cox Clark, “Reversing Readicide: An interview with author Kelly Gallagher.” Knowledge Quest, 39(6), 12-13

Dr. Ruth Cox Clark, “Poetic perspective: Verse novels and life stories.” Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), 34(1),

Dr. Kaye Dotson and ECU MLS student Rita Anderson presented a session on “Leadership, Vision and Partnerships” at the NC School Library Media Association Tenth Annual Conference, November, 2010 in Winston-Salem.

Dr. Kaye Dotson is presenting “School Librarians Prepared to Lead” at the Delta Kappa Gamma Student April 29, 2011.

Dr. John Harer and Dr. Kaye Dotson presented “Emerging Technologies and Reading: A Librarian’s Perspective” at Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference, February 7, 2011 in Greenville.

Dr. John Harer and Dr. Kaye Dotson will be presenting a session at e/Book/eReader Expo on eReaders from a librarian’s perspective—practical information, concerns, and benefits of eReaders for librarians and teachers will be shared, March 22 in Greenville.

Dr. Jami Jones has been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Dr. Jami Jones is the College of Education’s recipient of the ECU Scholar Teacher Award for 2010-2011. Her presentation is scheduled for April 7 at Mendenhall Student Center.

Dr. Jami Jones was named Secretary/Treasurer of the Research, Education, Information and School Libraries SIG of the American Educational Research Association.

Dr. Barbara Marson presented a session on “How To Catalog Video and Sound” at the NC School Library Media Association Tenth Annual Conference, November, 2010 in Winston-Salem.

Dr. Gail Munde had Considerations for managing an increasingly intergenerational workforce in libraries published in Library Trends, 59(1-2), 88-108.

Dr. Gail Munde presented “A method to identify areas for faculty development using faculty self-assessment and student opinion of instruction in an online MLS program” at the Association for Library and Information Science Education in San Diego, California in January 2011.

Dr. Patrick Valentine presented “Community Analysis for Public Librarians” at the NC Library Association Resources & Technical Services Section Workshop, October, 2010.

Dr. Patrick Valentine presented a session on “Analyzing Your School Community for Collection Purposes” at the NC School Library Media Association Tenth Annual Conference, November, 2010 in Winston-Salem.


Dr. Larry White has been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Dr. Larry White’s article, “Aligning library assessment processes to the library’s service environment: A conceptual mode” has been selected for inclusion in Emerald Reading ListAssist, Emerald’s free, peer-reviewed reading list service provided to all Emerald subscribers.

Dr. Larry White was invited to travel to China in March 2011 as part of a delegation of eastern North Carolina residents representing the Greenville Chamber of Commerce in an exploration and information exchange with local Chinese business leaders. Dr. White toured several factories (jade, silk, and rugs); farms (pearl and tea); and many local businesses in Beijing, Suzhou, Zhengzhou, and Shanghai.

Elaine Yontz, Jami Jones, and Beth Briggs facilitated an interactive workshop on creating the nurturing school library on January 29, 2011 at the 6th Annual Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit at Joyner Library.
DONOR HONOR ROLL

The Department of Library Science would like to thank the following people for their generosity in donating to our various funds during the Fall Semester 2010.

Emily Boyce Fellowship
Janice Hardison Faulkner
Patrick Valentine

Library and Information Studies Graduate Student Award
Ruth Clark
Patrick Valentine
Larry White

Library Science Professional Society
Jenny Collie Beddingfield

Library Science Fund
Joann Martone Absi
Linda Anne Barefoot
Jacqueline F. Barnes
Kathryn Elaine Birke
Emily S. Boyce
Nelle Altman Boyce
Cathy Mae Bruno
Emily Burbella
Lisa Carol Driver
Margaret Joan Elliott
Maureen Zurn Fiorello
Paula Gabriel Futrell
Barbara Ilse Glick
Carliss McPherson Gordon
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Mary Craven Poteat
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Karen Sue Rowe
Francis John Scalzi
Rejeanor H. Scott
Sharon Holder Shehdan
Ruby Anne Smith
Cherie James Taylor
Nelson N. Thomas
Nancy Fischer Thomason
Nancy C. Thuringer
Mary Catherine Walters
Betty Jean Williamson
Amy R. Wilson
Iola Hofler Winesett
Elaine Yontz

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Karen Mathis—Editor