The Book Banning session at AASL featured authors Sarah Brannen and Stephen Chbosky as well as experts from ALA. Sarah is the author of *Uncle Bobby’s Wedding* (one of the ten most challenged books in the country last year.) Stephen is the author of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (also one of the top ten most challenged books in 2008).

The discussion at the AASL session focused on how to deal with challenges and complaints, creating strong policies to protect media specialists, teachers, and students and resources available to those facing challenges.
Correction:
On page 7 in the November issue of Media Matters I misidentified KIM STRIPLING of Richmond County. My apologies Kim!

AASL in Charlotte, North Carolina

Above: Buffy Hamilton (Cherokee County) presenting to an overflow crowd at AASL. Buffy is under the arrow above.

Right: One participant (Donna Baratta of Yorktown Heights, New York) sat in the doorway and watched/listened through the small, clear pane of glass.

Rosalind Dennis, Susan Grigsby, Valerie Ayer

Amy Rubin (Richard Peck in background)
Georgia People at AASL

Wonderful conference, beautiful town....wish you all could have been there!

Kia Wansley – Hightower (DeKalb)

Media Daniels – Mays High (Atlanta City)
Kathryn Weaver – Carver High (Atlanta City)

Mary Ann Fitzgerald (UGA) and Stephanie Jones (Georgia Southern)

I have found that if you love life, life will love you back. ~ Arthur Rubinstein
My Favorite AASL Session

Cheryl Youse

While I enjoyed everything about the AASL conference, I have to admit that the gaming session presented by Christopher Harris and Brian Mayer of Genesee Valley, NY Educational Partnership, was my favorite. Not only because I won some games, but also because I’ve long been addicted to board games. We have a closet at home bursting at the seams with Risk, Ticket to Ride, Mille Bornes, Barbie—Queen of the Prom (I have daughters, though my husband generally wins that one) and a host of others. We also own thousands of lead soldiers my husband painted for gaming.

Chris and Brian have correlated many board games to 21st century learning standards in their book, Libraries Got Game: Aligned Learning through Modern Board Games. They offer concrete reasons for the use of board games in schools and have compiled suggestions for non-educational board games with goals that fit neatly into standards. Socialization, collaboration, math skills, foreign language study, and communications skills, are some of the standout reasons for using board games. Just plain fun is another. The vast majority of our students play some type of online game and are so transferring the interest to board games is relatively easy. We all know that when we can engage students and capture their interest, learning is optimized. I encourage you to find a copy of their books and to visit their website at http://sls.gvboces.org/gaming/.

The "Unconference" Side of AASL

Andy Plemmons

When librarians come together from across the United States (and even the world) incredible professional learning is created. Words cannot describe the inspiration that I received by being a part of the American Association of School Librarians Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. My professional learning network grew, and my belief in myself as an advocate for access to information strengthened.

It’s hard to narrow down to one session to show what I gained from this conference, but I will say that my wheels of creativity began to turn in the very first session I attended called Marketing the Media Center: How to Create a Plan to Rev Up Learning At Your Library. Even though this session offered intriguing insight into the business world of merchandising, it was the structure of the presentation that grabbed my attention the most. Cynthia Schmidt designed a presentation that invited the participants of the session to be active creators of the content of the session by contributing to a wiki (http://bit.ly/2WsEso) Immediately, I found myself volunteering to add my knowledge to the conversation by capturing the input of the group and documenting it on the wiki for the presenter. At the same time, I used twitter to send out a message to people not attending the session so that they could also contribute to the presenter's presentation.  

(continued on next page)
In fact, Twitter became a valuable resource to stay connected with the conference as a whole. Attendees were encouraged to tweet about their learning and tag their tweets with #aasl2009. As I sat in sessions, I opened up my Google Doc (http://bit.ly/2Bqqtm) notes side by side with my twitter account so that I could watch the learning that was going on in other sessions as well as share my own learning with others. Twitter helped me stay connected with the entire conference and expand my learning beyond the handful of sessions that I physically attended.

This thread of taking ownership of the conference and actively participating ran through most of the sessions that I attended. In Buffy Hamilton's session on participatory librarianship, I learned about how she created an environment for all students to take ownership of the media center space. She encouraged her own students to bring their cell phones to class and used texting and Twitter to poll her students on various topics. At the same time, she captured students' knowledge who did not have cell phones by charting their opinions on paper. This same participation was modeled in her session where we all sent tweets, texts, and written opinions in response to her questions about participatory librarianship.

During the One Book, One Conference session, conference attendees were invited to contribute their thoughts on a discussion board before and after the early morning session where the face-to-face discussion took place. In ways, I found myself participating online during this discussion more than face-to-face because it connected me with more ideas and opinions making the conversation richer.

Finally, the conference offered an alternative side called the "unconference" and bloggers cafe where anyone could share their expertise, their learning, and their struggles in an open mic forum. This element of the conference allowed people who did not get accepted to present a chance to share their knowledge. It also gave individuals who had never presented at a conference a space to present without the need to fill the time and space of an entire session. This provided yet one more avenue for active involvement of all attendees.

This national conference was unlike any other for me. I've never attended a conference where I felt like a creator of information instead of a receiver of information. Instead of hearing from a small group of experts, we heard from "the room", which in Joyce Valenza's words, is the smartest person in the room. I'm coming back into my media center and asking myself questions about my own space. How can I create a space where students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members are creators of information instead of receivers? How can I support participatory librarianship and taking ownership of the media center? How can I reach out to my professional learning network and ask the important questions that will move me forward in my professional growth? How can I contribute my own knowledge for the good of other school library media centers?

If you didn't attend AASL 2009, it's not too late to contribute your knowledge and gain your own understanding from what took place in Charlotte. I encourage you to participate and visit the "B There" site (http://bit.ly/FfBko) as well as search for #aasl2009 on Twitter. How will you take ownership of your learning?

There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace. ~ Kofi Annan
One of my Favorite AASL Sessions
Rosalind L. Dennis

Margaret Sullivan presented attendees “food for thought” in the concurrent session, “School Library Space for the 21st Century Learner.” It is a fact that space planning for school libraries is changing. We must arm ourselves by studying models and understanding new design concepts. Ms. Sullivan urged attendees to participate in the discussion with architects and administrators, and to create new, inviting library spaces for our students and teachers.

During this session, attendees viewed floor plans and furnishings that provide for flexibility, collaboration, and integration. Participants also had the opportunity to examine library spaces and functions and to share their thoughts on layouts.

Knowing that many attendees would not be planning for a new facility any time in the very near future, Ms. Sullivan offered strategies and ideas on how to retrofit existing spaces for the 21st century learner. Move a wall or change floor plans and furnishings to provide for flexibility, collaboration and integration. It is imperative that our libraries include features that enhance the way our students consume library services, whatever those services or materials are. We must think creatively!

The closing night gala at ImaginOn: The Joe and Joan Martin Center, a joint venture of the Public Library of Charlotte Mecklenburg County and the Children’s Theatre of Charlotte, is a facility that includes examples of furnishings and spaces that provide for flexibility and collaboration. Rooms can be enlarged by removing flexible walls. All tables, chairs, and freestanding shelving units have wheels to allow areas to be configured for different activities. ImaginOn is certainly achieving its mission, “to bring stories to life through extraordinary experiences that challenge, inspire and excite young minds.”

http://www.imaginon.org/index.asp

There are two ways of exerting one’s strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up. ~ Booker T. Washington
Ever heard of an Exquisite Corpse?

It's not what you might think. An Exquisite Corpse is an old game in which people write a phrase on a sheet of paper, fold it over to conceal part of it and pass it on to the next player to do the same. The game ends when someone finishes the story, which is then read aloud.

The Library of Congress "Exquisite Corpse Adventure" works this way: Jon Scieszka, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, has written the first episode, which is "pieced together out of so many parts that it is not possible to describe them all here, so go ahead and just start reading!" He has passed it on to a cast of celebrated writers and illustrators, who must eventually bring the story to an end.

Every two weeks, there is a new episode and a new illustration. The story will conclude a year from now. To get biweekly updates with new Exquisite Corpse Adventure chapters, click on the subscribe link at the top of the LOC web page. "This story starts with a train rushing through the night...." No one knows where or how it will end!

http://www.read.gov/exquisite-corpse/
An email with additional information was sent to the GaDOE Library Media List Service on November 19th.

**THE MISTERY OF THE WHITE MAYAN PATHWAYS**

**Bicentennial of Mexico**

**GET ON YOUR WAY TO THE 2010 EXPEDITION TO MEXICO AND SPAIN!**

*Ruta Quetzal 2010* is a study and adventure scholarship package aimed at high school students born in 1993 or 1994. This program was created in 1979 at the suggestion of H.M. Juan Carlos I King of Spain, with the goal of strengthening understanding among 16 and 17-year-old students from all the Spanish speaking countries, along with many others that have joined in over the years, of the historical, geographical and cultural foundations of the present-day Latin American commonwealth of nations.

In the U.S. and Canada, Ruta Quetzal is run by the Embassy of Spain’s Education Office.

*Ruta Quetzal BBVA* is a thrilling, unforgettable study and adventure package in which over 350 students from more than 100 countries participate each summer.

Four scholarships are available each year for candidates from the United States. The scholarship, valued at US $18,000, covers travel expenses and the study and adventure expedition.

*Ruta Quetzal 2010* will travel through Mexico and Spain for six weeks in June-July. The journey features a broad program of academic activities, with a curriculum designed by the prestigious *Universidad Complutense* of Madrid. Download a brochure for detailed information about this year’s Adventure from [here](#) (in Spanish).

To participate, candidates need to send an original project on one of the designated topics to our office in Washington, D.C. by **January 8, 2009** together with proof of U.S. nationality, an official [application form](#) and other documents.

Please visit our [website](#) for further information and details.

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**El Misterio de los Caminos Blancos Mayas**

**Bicentenario México 2010**

*Education Office*

Embassy of Spain
2375 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20037-1710

*Phone:* 202-728-2335
*Fax:* 202-726-3313

*E-mail:* consular.usa@educacion.es
*Website:* [www.educacion.es/embjador.us](http://www.educacion.es/embjador.us)
The title of my presentation at the recent COMO conference was entitled **A Case for Evidence-Based Practice: Using Data to Keep Your LMC Off Death Row!**

**Andy Spinks and I showed how to use** student pre and post assessments to show student improvement in information literacy skills.

A link to a wiki on Evidence Based Practice can be found at: https://georgiamedia.wikispaces.com/Evidence+Based+Practice.

At the bottom under "More Information" is a link to the presentation that we did at COMO.

Joanne H. Bates, Ed.S.
Tritt Elementary

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**41st Annual Children’s Literature Conference**

Registration for the 41st Annual Children’s Literature Conference, to be held in Athens GA, on March 19-20, 2010 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, is now available.

There are three ways to register:

Online at:  http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/conferences/2010/Mar/19/ child_lit.phtml

By Mail:  41st Annual Conference on Children's Literature (#68778)Attn: Conference Registration, Room 129 /Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center & Hotel /The University of Georgia /Athens, GA 30602-3603

By Phone: 706-542-2134 or 800-884-1381

You can also register through accessing the GCBA website at: http://www.coe.uga.edu/gcba/conference/attend.html
Each year GLMA and GAIT co-sponsor the Georgia School Library Media Specialist of the Year award to recognize K-12 library media specialists whose services have resulted in exemplary library media programs.

Each school system may select one library media specialist for this award. From those chosen for the system level award, one media specialist is chosen as the district Library Media Specialist of the Year. (Each district represents a different region of Georgia.)

The state Library Media Specialist of the Year is selected from the district winners and will be announced at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations conference.

Additional details and application can be found at http://www.glma-inc.org/

The GLMA Mable Wyche Underwood Grants are available for the 2009-2010 school year. You can find the application on the GLMA website under Awards and Grants (http://www.glma-inc.org). This is a great opportunity to fund an idea that will help you have an exemplary program in your media center. The grant application is only one and a half pages long.

Grants are judged on six criteria:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Innovativeness</th>
<th>Clear objective</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit of project to</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Evaluation plan</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Three grants will be awarded in the amount of $300 - $500. The deadline for submitting the application is May 15, 2010.

In order to apply for a grant, you must be a current GLMA member and have been a GLMA member last year as well. Grant recipients must agree to participate in a concurrent workshop along with other grant recipients at a COMO convention to share the merits of their projects.

We will lead the nation in improving student achievement.
Just Download It!

Cheryl Youse

A number of image sites are blocked in my school system (and possibly in yours). To enable access for students to a larger selection of images for projects, I contacted Discovery Streaming and asked if it was possible to have a student login. They enthusiastically agreed and set up a student account for my building. Students have access to videos, images, sound, and songs, but not to masters or quizzes. We created a poster with the login information and put it on our wall of posters and passwords in the media center. I worked with teachers to create lesson pathfinders incorporating Discovery Streaming for images and taught students how to use the site. As students became more comfortable with the site, they shared their discoveries with teachers. Now our social studies students and teachers are using video clips in presentations and projects, our science department is developing an assignment incorporating use of their editable video clips—students will remove the sound track and narrate the video in their own words. Our Language Arts department continues to utilize many resources. Unbeknownst to us, Discovery Streaming tracks usage and our school was recently honored by them for using the site more than any other high school in the state of Georgia. I had the privilege of meeting many of the people at Discovery Education at the celebration in Atlanta. They are great to work with and will be happy to answer questions. Just click on the “contact us” tab after you are logged in if you need help.

The Young Georgia Authors Competition 2009-2010 information is posted on the GaDOE ELA page. To access the information, please use this link:

Then scroll to the bottom of the page, and you will see the following documents:

- 2009-10 Official Rules Booklet
- Winners of 2008-09 School Year
- Young Georgia Authors Winning Entries 2009

Please note the deadline for entries this year is in March 10, 2010. We look forward to your participation.
South Forsyth High School in Cumming Georgia celebrated Teen Read Week with various activities. The media center window displayed photos of English teachers with their favorite books. Bookmarks and candy were given away for returning books and borrowing books.

One day there was free printing in the media center. Students returning or borrowing books during the week filled out forms with the titles of their favorite books. The forms were used as entry forms for a raffle in which the prizes were a donated Barnes and Noble gift basket and $10.00 gift cards to the school cafeteria, school store and media center. The student entry forms were added to the window display.

Jolyann Mangham Cichocki
South Forsyth High School

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**Fine Arts Education**

The draft standards will be presented to the State Board of Education for consideration for approval on February 11, 2010. If the Fine Arts GPS are approved, a series of webinars for each of the four content areas of the Fine Arts will be scheduled beginning in the Spring of 2010.

[https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Pages/BrowseStandards/FineArts.aspx](https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Pages/BrowseStandards/FineArts.aspx)

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The better part of one's life consists of his friendships. ~ Abraham Lincoln
I would like to suggest a wonderful resource especially for media specialists and teachers of English? It is www.60secondrecap.com Not only is this a wonderful tool, it is a great model for media specialists and all teachers for designing short vodcasts (I’m planning to make one outlining the Big 6 model for research).

Debra Bailey
Columbus High School

Tech Tips

The wonderful Chattahoochee Flint area Library Media Specialists participating in a story with Josie.

Storyteller Josie Bailey telling the Brer Rabbit story (aided by Fred Causey of Dooley County)

Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there. ~
John Wooden
New Moon Mania!

Over 65 Twilight saga fans gathered in the Mill Creek High School Library Media Center after school on November 13th to celebrate the upcoming release of the movie, New Moon, based on the best-selling book. Students enjoyed playing trivia, games, watching clips from the movie, and good food. Many students walked away with great door prizes such as t-shirts, posters, calendars, book marks, and buttons. Everyone had a wonderful time, and left even more excited than ever about the movie premier!

Julie Hatcher & Mary K. Donovan
Mill Creek High School

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion. ~
The Dalai Lama
In February, UGA will begin admitting prospective media specialists to our fall M.Ed/Ed.S. cohort program leading to SLM certification. They will continue admitting qualified candidates until they have a healthy-sized group of 25 or so. This cohort begins study in the fall.

Over the years, UGA has found that practicing media specialists are the best marketing tool to encourage people to enter the profession. Many people never think about becoming a school librarian until someone mentions to them, “I think you would make a great media specialist. Have you ever thought about that?”

If you’re already SLM-certified and seek other routes to career advancement, UGA offers a non-cohort Ed.S. degree with S6 SLM certification. An Ed.S. is also available through their "sister" area in Instructional Design & Development, which is a new cohort plan offered out of the UGA Gwinnett campus. It focuses on technology integration and leadership. (Both SLM and IDD are part of the Learning, Design, and Technology program.)

All of the SLM programs are based at Gwinnett and combine face-to-face classes (mostly on Saturdays) with online courses. The typical SLM student attends class on 7 alternating Saturdays per semester and takes another course online.

If you know someone, pass this info along. Interested candidates should explore the admission requirements and procedures at our program web site (http://www.coe.uga.edu/epit/slm/), and follow up with questions to slmedia@uga.edu. Information about the "other" IDD/LDT program can be found here: http://www.coe.uga.edu/epit/idd/.

MaryAnn Fitzgerald, SLM chair
University of Georgia

I long, as does every human being, to be at home wherever I find myself. ~ Maya Angelou
The Elementary Superstars: Amy Rubin, Stacy Buckalew, Cindy Brooks, and Joanne Bates presented at the recent GaETC.

Exemplary Winner Pam Murphy also presented at GaETC and shared her wonderful techniques and ideas.

High School Exemplary Winners: Jennifer Lund, Adria Whitworth, Ashley Siegal, Jo Zarzeka, Heather Kindschy, Kelly Paynter, and Jane Roberts.

Sprayberry High School Dr. Seuss fans...Ashley, Jo, and Kelly.
### Georgia Department of Education

#### December 2009

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1963: Berlin Wall opened for first time</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Curie’s discovered radium~1898</td>
<td>22</td>
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*A good conscience is a continual Christmas. Benjamin Franklin*