Congratulations to the 2015 SLS School Librarian of the Year—

Tina Laramie, VVS HS Librarian

Tina received her award at the SLS Administrators Breakfast. There are many reasons that Tina is deserving of this award including:

- Tina represents VVS on the SLS Communication Coordinators and CIS Advisory Committee. She diligently tries to attend all of these meetings.
- Tina has run a high-school summer reading program for many years.
- This past year she coordinated a High School Literacy Day with an author visit (Charles Benoit).
- She attends many professional learning activities and is now Treasurer for our Statewide Association—the Section of School Librarians of the New York Library Association.
- Tina regularly applies for SLS mini grants for programs and continuing education. She attended the SSL Conference in Tarrytown last month.
- Last summer, in addition to running a summer reading program, Tina participated in a week-long session—“Teaching Science Research in the High School” held at SUNY Albany
- Over the past year, Tina presented at the Leatherstocking Conference and at the regional Social Studies/School Librarian Conference.
- She has numerous collaborations running with classroom teachers.
- Tina participated in our Teen Book Festival trip again this year and coordinated the students’ t-shirts orders.
- This school year, she continued a formal school library review of her program.
- Tina is now Department Chair for all of the VVS Librarians.
- Tina nominated a teacher team for the SSL Teacher of the Year Award!
- **AND**—Tina was just notified on June 12 that she will be receiving one of the two 2015-16 NYS Educational Media Technology Association’s Media Literacy Project grants. Tina’s grant will support a project whereby students will be creating videos with the high school Marketing class to create video announcements as well as the College Concepts class creation of public service announcements. VVS HS will be receiving $1,000 for the purchase of a green screen, lighting and sound equipment, digital backgrounds and a video camera. Congratulations again to Tina!

(Watch SLS News for information on applying for this grant next spring.)
Thoughts on the Ending of One School Year and Plans for the Next – by Diana Wendell

**Final Report** – Very important - “Despite having accomplished a great deal, do not ramble in the report. Focus on the most significant achievements, identify a few problems you plan to address next year, and include as much numerical data as possible to showcase the school library program. A visual report is best. Not only does it demonstrate your technological skills, it is also more likely to be read.” [“Looking back, looking forward…” by Hilda K. Weisburg in AMERICAN LIBRARIES 2015 June:56-9] Try to have a meeting with your principal. Talk about visions for next year’s school library program. How can you be involved less in supplying resources and more in co-teaching inquiry skills. See Carl Harvey’s Annual Report on pages 2 and 3.

**Library Orientation** – Is it time to give it a fresh look or are you new in your building? Author James Patterson (recent generous giver of thousands of dollars to SCHOOL libraries) - “I think that for every school in the country, the first school trip should be to the school library. Not a trip where they hear all the rules, and ‘don’t do this, and don’t do that’.” It should be to get a sense of what’s there…. [Students can] visit every country. [They] can visit space, learn about every animal, learn about the universe… What are different ways to look at the world.” [AMERICAN LIBRARIES 2015 June:29] Perhaps think about making a short video – flip your classroom. Make your orientation positive and fun!

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**AASL 17th National Conference**—

**November 5-8, 2015—Columbus, OH**

**Please note**—Four SLS Mini Grants are being offered. The deadline for submission is June 30th. AASL is offering a free conference registration for an administrator with each school librarian registration. Think about discussing this with your principals!

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**New Empire State Information Fluency Continuum Website**

Check out this site that organizes the assessments by skill and inquiry stage.  

http://nycdoe.libguides.com/skills/skillshome

It is also linked on the main SLS webpage—”Links for School Librarians,” under IFC.
CNY Superintendent Supports School Libraries—
Diana Wendell

On May 29th, the Madison-Oneida BOCES School Library System held its 30th Administrators Breakfast and Annual Meeting in Vernon. Every year at this event, a Teacher of the Year and an Administrator of the Year from the region are recognized and celebrated. School librarians are the nominators. This year, Beth Geatrakas, MS/HS Librarian at Morrisville-Eaton nominated her superintendent, Michael Drahos, for the SLS Administrator of the Year Award.

Just in the past month, Mr. Drahos restored the second of the two school librarian positions in the district. For this and his continued support of school libraries, the Madison-Oneida SLS supports the nomination and award to Mr. Drahos, a highly-deserving educational administrator.

Following the event, Mr. Drahos e-mailed me his thoughts about the award and when asked, he gave me permission to share them. Below is the testimony of the impact that effective school librarians can have on the staff in their buildings:

“I am both moved and honored to have received this recognition from the Madison-Oneida School Library System. As I considered what I wanted to say, I found myself recalling 37 years of working with amazing school librarians/media specialists. However, after listening to the touching nomination from Beth Geatrakas, who will be retiring at the end of this year as our secondary library media specialist, I was too emotional to say everything I wanted to say.

It occurred to me that my Type-B personality and zest for bringing classes to the library for a variety of projects most likely ‘CHALLENGED’ the remarkable women and their aides over the years. That is because every librarian I have worked with had at least some Type-A personality when it came to their profession. Therefore, I realized that the context and honor that I received was much less about anything I did, but is a mirror reflection of the passion these people had for enabling students to become independent learners.

I fondly recall my friend, July Busch, who worked with me in Norwich and passed away far too soon. Whether if was my regular classes, summer school, or even my SUNY Morrisville courses, she was a remarkable partner in strengthening the learning experience. She was also incredibly forgiving, as in not strangling me when I spilled coffee all over the cards from books that had been checked out of the library at the main desk. Hopefully, she is looking down at this recognition as a type of redemption for me.

And then there was Jan Marcy at Sherburne who endured 17 years of my ‘creative’ projects. I know we both laugh about the time that I used one of her research rooms to bring my Current Events class in and then role played Muammar Gaddafi. Poor Phyllis Raville (who was working in the library at the time) had no clue what was going on, and I am afraid I nearly caused a coronary when Gaddafi went into a screaming rant about the American imperialists. Jan brought resources into my classroom, helped classes as they worked on research projects, worked independently with students, secured periodicals and resources to enrich the social studies curriculum, and assisted me as I looked for primary and secondary sources for class. We also enjoyed spirited political debate with her advocating the ‘left’ and me the ‘right’ side of an issue. I know she smiles (but does not gloat) at the fact that I have increasingly moved closer to her take on political and social issues today.

What I did get a chance to do and say when receiving this plaque was to acknowledge the two amazing library media specialists who have been such a key to the Morrisville-Eaton Learning Community. Jessica Jacobs-Broedel is not only the elementary librarian, but she is also the instructional technology leader for both teachers and students. She has worked hard to bring in renowned authors and speakers who share a passion for reading and writing. Beth Geatrakas teaches courses in library skills which are now a graduation requirement for all Morrisville-Eaton teachers. She is also the teacher-mentor coordinator which means she truly exemplifies the characteristics of a teacher-leader. With this honor they make me look good, but far more importantly, with their passion they enrich and enable the lives of our staff and students.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank them and all the librarians who have been my educational partners for the past 37 years.”
Briefly summarize one collaborative project you started this school year.

This year was much of transition. With many new staff members and several changes in mandates, our traditional projects have had some adjustment. This year we decided to keep our President’s Project, but in the end we did a culminating activity where we matched up students who had the same President and had a discussion about whether he was a good President or not and why. The kids said it wasn’t very easy, but I think it had some of the best discussion we’ve had all year.

What connections has the library media program made to the building school improvement plan?

This year we continue to be focused on literacy. The library continues to look for resources that can support our teachers as they work with their guided reading block. The library media specialist attended the sessions provided by our literacy coach so that, when appropriate, those strategies can be used in instruction in the library. We used our new technology tools of podcasts, wikis, and blogs to provide another format for our students to share their writing and reading. Our flexible access schedule as well as liberal check-out limits makes it possible for us to have our students checking out (and in turn reading) many books all year long. Our collection has taken some dramatic changes as I have added significant resources for 5th grade curriculum.

What role has the library media program played in professional development?

This year I did little one-on-one sessions with teachers, modeled using technology as part of my lessons, at a few staff meetings during our early release days. My role this year has focused heavily on receiving or being part of professional development as part of various state and national conferences. Plans are already under way to focus next year going back to the PLC model for our professional development and focusing heavily on 21st Century Skills.

What were some of the major highlights from this school year?

We began to recover from the year of half staffing. We still have some room to improve and grow. Circulation was amazingly high which could explain why we are always behind and really could use additional support. Parent volunteers have been amazing for us, but there are many things we’ve left undone from this year.

Author visit from Candace Fleming was amazing! She was probably one of the best we’ve had in the 10 years I’ve been in Noblesville.
The other highlight was moving into our expanded space. The additional seating and shelving will help us greatly next year as we add 5th graders back to the building.

**What plans/goals are planned for the library media program?**

I need to focus and work to redesign our reading promotion program. It has grown stagnant and needs some new juice. I anticipate a book review club with 4th graders and celebrations of special days throughout the year.

The professional development model of using the PLCs will come back and we are going to focus on 21st Century Skills.

We will have to begin to design/plan projects for 5th grade. This will be a new adventure.

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**Example of an Infographic Report**

### North Elementary School Library Program 2011-2012 in Numbers

#### Circ Stats
- **Items Checked Out**
  - 2010-11 – 40,196
  - 2011-12 – 52,362
  - 23.2% increase!

#### Instruction/Classes
- **2010-2011**
  - 271 classes
- **2011-2012**
  - 390 classes

#### Leveled Library
- 10-11 – 2,614
- 11-12 – 2,976

#### Database Stats

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<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Only District Stats available</td>
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<td>Groller Online: 4016 hits</td>
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<td>102,534 documents</td>
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<td>1,421 documents <em>Since Mar.</em></td>
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<td>6,436 searches</td>
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<td>133 searches <em>Just got this one</em></td>
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**Goals for next year:**
- 21st Century Skills PD through PLCs
- Reading Promotion / Connecting to the Fun of Reading
- Connect with 5th Grade and build projects based on new configuration of staff
More Thinkers, Explorers and Citizens: Engaging Elementary and Middle School Students with the Empire Information Fluency Continuum

The Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (IFC) was adopted by all New York State school library systems to provide school library benchmark skills for grades K-12. The framework is based on three standards that are essential for students to become independent readers and learners.

We will use the Empire IFC and the Common Core as a springboard to create engaging and meaningful learning activities. We will explore a variety of strategies, from song to board games to research projects. Participants will leave with several ready-to-go-activities and ideas for many more.

Author of the book, Wiser the Owl, Mary Zdrojewski incorporates the cycle of inquiry and learning for elementary students.

“There is a big change in how we think about learning. It used to be content-based. We have shifted things from what students can do, to benchmarking what students want to be. We want them to go into the world using the skills they learned and be digital citizens.”

Date: August 18, 2015
Time: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Place: Costello Conference Room
       1136 Freedom Drive
       Oneida, NY
Cost: None
Audience: School Librarians
           Classroom Teachers
           Library Supervisors

Registration: www.mylearningplan.com
Deadline to Register: August 5, 2015
Retool the Secondary School Library Program for the ESIFC

The Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (IFC) was adopted by all New York State school library systems to provide school library benchmark skills for grades K-12. The framework is based on three standards that form the basis for the skills and strategies that are essential for students to become independent readers and learners.

Is there a particular lesson that you dread teaching each year? Do students find a certain concept difficult to understand? Well now is the time to change that around! Bring that challenging lesson and spend a day blending it with some steps of the inquiry process using the Information Fluency Continuum. Bring a teacher partner if possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning Session</th>
<th>Build a lesson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afternoon Session</td>
<td>Focus on putting the lesson together with technology or non-technology! You will need to choose. Both provide an assessment of student learning.</td>
</tr>
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**Presenter:**

Cecelia Fuoco  
Cattaraugus-Allegany School Library System

**Date:** August 19, 2015

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Place:** Costello Conference Room  
1136 Freedom Drive  
Oneida, NY

**Cost:** None

**Audience:** School Librarians  
Classroom Teachers  
Library Supervisors

**Registration:**

[www.mylearningplan.com](http://www.mylearningplan.com)

**Deadline to Register:** August 5, 2015

**Note:** If your school uses iPads, please bring one to use for the technology portion in the afternoon.
Our annual meeting was held on May 29, 2015 at the Vernon Downs Hotel. The keynote speaker, Carl Harvey II, spoke on *Your School Library Program and the Common Core*.

During the meeting, we took time out to recognize our retirees:

- **Beth Geatrakas**—Morrisville–Eaton MS/HS
- **Pam Ossont**—Wettel Elementary
- **Lorraine Storey**—Camden Elementary

Congratulations and best wishes to each of you! You will be missed!

We also recognized the outstanding efforts from our 2015 Calendar winners. Congratulations to all of you, and we hope we see you again next year!

**Grade K-2 Category**

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<th>Place</th>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>Michael Palkovic</td>
<td>Peterboro Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Ella Winders</td>
<td>McConnellsville</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Todd Willson</td>
<td>Annsville Elementary</td>
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**Grade 6-8 Category**

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<td>1st</td>
<td>Savannah Cook</td>
<td>Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>McKenna Brazie</td>
<td>Camden Middle</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Meilyn Schwartz</td>
<td>Camden Middle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Sven van Hoesel</td>
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<td>Staley Upper Elementary</td>
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**Grade 3-5 Category**

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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sarah Hofmeister</td>
<td>Stockbridge Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Jones</td>
<td>Ridge Mills</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jayden Miers</td>
<td>Madison Central</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Kylie Wright</td>
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<td>E. A. McAllister</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>Isaac Prezeau</td>
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<td>North Broad Elementary</td>
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**Grade 9-12 Category**

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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Faith Harosia</td>
<td>Camden High School</td>
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Lastly, congratulations to the following 2015 SLS winners: Your ongoing efforts throughout this past year have made a huge impact in our schools. Thank you for all that you do!

**Teachers of the Year**

- Darren Barone, VVS
- Jolene Vanderhoof, VVS

**Administrator of the Year**

- Mike Drahos
  Superintendent, Morrisville-Eaton

**LMS of the Year**

- Tina Laramie, VVS

*Check out more pictures from the event on our Facebook page and at [www.moboces.org/Page/313](http://www.moboces.org/Page/313).*
Listed below are the newest additions to the SLS Professional Collection:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Teaching to Complexity — A Framework to Evaluate Literacy and Content-Area Texts</th>
<th>Teaching with Text Sets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Cappiello</td>
<td>Mary Ann Cappiello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erika Thulin Dawes</td>
<td>Erika Thulin Dawes</td>
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If you wish to check out these additions or any other books in this collection, please contact Linda Pendorf, 361-5663, lpendorf@moboces.org

**New SLS Webpage — “Webinars”**

Diana Wendell has created a page to post recorded webinars. Currently, there are three from TEACHINGBOOKS.net:

http://moboces.schoolwires.net/Page/805

This page is listed under the “Databases.” If you have some free time, it’s a great opportunity for a refresher or to learn something new!