



You are Invited ... To Share the Vision of a Learning Community



Learning Community Curricular Planning Retreat at Rainbow Lodge, April 2001
<http://learningcom-mons.evergreen.edu/>

The 2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries and Museums included a category for *Advancing Learning Communities*. The Request for Proposals (RFP) offered libraries and museums the opportunity to partner with community organizations in developing innovative programs that support educational, economic, and social needs of learners of all ages.

A library could partner with a museum to teach students to use online materials, to present classroom demonstrations, and to sponsor museum visits.

National Leadership Grants are funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Eligible libraries include: "...a library association that exists on a permanent basis..." If we develop ideas to promote literacy and learning now, SCLA could be ready to respond to the RFP for the 2006 IMLS funding cycle or be ready to explore alternate funding opportunities as appropriate.

Questions to ponder:

Q. What activities are needed to engage groups within the VI community in learning?

Q. Who should be the target audience for activities: children, families?

Q. Which agency would be the most amenable to a partnership: museum, public TV?

Q. How could library and museum content be delivered innovatively to promote learning?

Q. Do you have an innovative idea for a learning community program?

If you have answers to any of these questions, or if you have other ideas and want to explore a framework for promoting learning in our community, the Programs Committee needs you!

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Follow these links to stimulate your thinking on learning communities:

The 21st Century Learner

<http://www.ims.gov/pubs/pdf/pub21cl.pdf>

When School Is Out, Museums, Parks and Libraries Are In

<http://www.forumfyi.org/Files//OSTPC9.pdf>

Contact Gwen Hazard or Judith Rogers with your ideas.

President's Corner



Judith Rogers
SCLA President

“Our past accomplishments demonstrate what can be achieved if we dare to dream and work to realize the vision.”

Greetings All,

The business of librarianship is alive and growing on St. Croix! The 2004-05 year promises to demonstrate this growth in ways that encourages current members, renews former members, and invites the partnership of friends and associates from related professions. I commend the Immediate-Past President, Pat Oliver, for her steadfast commitment to SCLA ensuring that the organization remained alive through the challenges of her tenure.

As President, I intend to continue the growth of SCLA, with your support, to further the impact of the profession on St. Croix. My goals for developing a learning community as a framework for an annual library conference, for reestablishing the scholarship fund, and for producing a regular newsletter are ambitious but attainable over time and with perseverance, support, and commitment of the members. Our past accomplishments demonstrate what can be

achieved if we dare to dream and work to realize the vision. For many years I worked with members of this organization and my colleagues at UVI to develop successful programs that built technical expertise, expanded local collections, and enhanced access to library resources in the territory. It took three years for the discussion of recruiting and training librarians in the Territory to translate into a grant proposal, but it was done.

This inaugural issue of the SCLA News is a step on the path to achieving one of the goals of my administration. It will serve to document organizational activities that promote libraries and literacy, it will contribute to professional development, and it will serve to inform current members and recruit new ones.

Thanks to committee members who are rising to the challenge of building a vibrant, professional organization in the current climate of economic uncertainty and social

complications. SCLA was developed to stand with other community agencies in the gap between what is needed for the VI public good and what is provided by those empowered to meet those needs. If we remain focused and work together, this organization can continue to accomplish great things.

If you are not a current member of the St. Croix Library Association, would you consider joining your colleagues to extend the impact of our profession through activities that promote literacy and, ultimately, improve the quality of life for residents in the Territory? If you are a current member without a committee appointment, contact me to discuss how your expertise could support SCLA. I look forward to working with all of you during my tenure to do our part in growing the St. Croix community.

Sincerely,
Judith Rogers
President
22 March 2005

News Briefs

The Public Relations Committee organized a successful Book Swap during the 34th Agricultural and Food Fair in February 2005. Although executed without the benefit of extensive lead time for planning, promotion, and book solicitation, the event facilitated the exchange or sale of more than 1,000 items, the distribution of flyers promoting libraries and literacy, and a radio announcement for public awareness. Kudos to the members who participated in this event!

The Third Annual Reading Campaign will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2005, at UVI. SCLA is planning to include a workshop in this activity. Contact Gwen Hazard of the Programs Committee for further information.



On March 12, 2005, the St. Croix Council of the International Reading Association held a one-day conference on "It's All About Reading" at Pearl B. Larsen School. In addition to a talk by keynote speaker Susan Davis, workshops and exhibits were available to participants.

The March 2005 issue of *American Libraries* contains the following motivational article: "Fundraisers R' US," by Koren Stembridge. It describes the account of one library system's fundraising accomplishments and gives tips to others willing to brave the challenging waters to seek community subsidies.

Contact Jayne Edwards to have SCLA's copy of *American Libraries* routed to you, get it at the UVI Library, or access it online with an ALA membership password.



Customers crowd SCLA's booth to swap books during the 2005 St. Croix Agricultural and Food Fair.

Web Sites of Interest

Several years ago, in an effort to help frustrated USVI students with Black History Month research, Virginia Stevens began compiling resources for students to use. For example, many students would request access to Ruth Moolenaar's *Profiles of Outstanding Virgin Islanders*, of which most libraries had only one copy. In addition, many teachers required students to find information on famous people of African descent by profession. They were constantly asking for a spe-

inventor, politician, entrepreneur, and other fields. It was a monumental task for the librarians to fill these requests from the limited print resources available.

Recognizing the potential of the digital age, Ms. Stevens created a website that contains thousands of links to Black history resources. She also received permission to digitalize *Profiles of Virgin Islanders*, and now every student with Internet access can read and download biographies and pictures of these great people.

Students can now access information about literally thousands of famous and notable African Americans listed alphabetically by profession from this website.

Stevens also created additional web pages with links to African American biographical sites, landmark Black history events, and other Black history resources. Hosted on the Department of Education's Media Library Services website, these resources have proven to be an indispensable aid to USVI students.

Profiles of Outstanding Virgin Islanders

http://www.stx.k12.vi/MLS_WebSite/Profiles/ProfilesGo.htm

Other Notable Virgin Islands Residents

http://www.stx.k12.vi/MLS_WebSite/VIBio/VIBioGo.htm

African American Biography

http://www.stx.k12.vi/MLS_WebSite/AfroBio/AfroBio.htm



St. Croix
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Newsletter

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Improving library services
for the cultural enhancement of St. Croix

SCLA News

We'd like to be on the Web!
Do you have the skills to
put us there?

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Did you know ...?

... that the St. Croix Library Association was founded in December 1970?

... that approximately 100 people attended SCLA's first annual meeting?

... that our very own Pat Oliver was involved in the Charter Meeting held at the College of the Virgin

Islands, along with Sylvia Trout, Eileen Conlan, Ena Henderson, Athalie Peterson, Charles Emanuel, Joan Rengert, Eva Lawaetz, Edwin Golden, Jackie Wagner, Hortense Darrin, Carla Vauthrin, Marjorie Masters, Martha Cuthbert, Michelle Parker, Robert Vaughn, and Christiane Moravian.

... that SCLA released its first newsletter on February 27, 1971?

... that twelve works have been published under the series title *Studies in Virgin Islands Librarianship*?

Well, I didn't either!

Do you have an idea for an article or news for the SCLA News? You are also welcome to send comments, corrections, and other chatter on the revived SCLA newsletter.

Please send to:
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Relations Committee
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