

GAIT Connection

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Betsy Razza, Georgia's Media Specialist of the Year

I knew early on in life that I wanted to be a librarian and be surrounded by books. My undergraduate degree was in humanities from Florida Atlantic University. I received my masters degree in librarianship from Emory University in 1977 and my specialist degree in library media technology from Georgia State University in 1999. I also have teaching degrees in middle grades and ESOL.

I have experienced working in a number of types of library. I have worked in a public library, a law library, a university library, a corporate library, and in school libraries (both middle and high). These experiences have provided me with a basis for understanding the library world. I believe it is important to impart a global understanding and appreciation of libraries and their services to our students. Towards this end, I emphasize how libraries are networked to provide service and information such as interlibrary loan and the GALILEO databases. I also emphasize the services that our local public libraries offer to all of our

students. Every year, I take our developmentally disabled students on a field trip to the public library to teach them basic library skills as a life long skill.

I have had many roles in my current school, Druid Hills High School. For three years, I taught the TV news broadcast and web page classes full time. To fund my classes, I raised money through grants and received a grant of \$30,000 to purchase video equipment for my TV production classes. I chaired our school's Financial Planning Committee for four years, managing rentals, which brought in funds for our staff to participate in conferences and receive funding for special needs. For two years, I served as the Virtual High School site coordinator through the VHS program in Concord, Massachusetts which made it possible for our students to take an expanded array of classes online. I also manage a large school website which is geared towards communication. It is updated daily by students that work with me through an internship program. To involve our parents, I started a parent-

teacher book club. We meet monthly to read and discuss the same books that the students are reading in their English classes so parents, students and staff can have a common reading experience.

I believe it is important to take on leadership positions and be visible, so we can move our profession ahead in the eyes of others in our school and the education world, as well as our legislators. Towards that end, I have been active in the Georgia Library Media Association serving as grants chair since 2002 and as a district chair in 2004. I have also taught staff development to business teachers, foreign language teachers, gifted teachers, and my own staff in the areas of technology. By meeting teachers' needs, I have been able to also meet student needs and empower our students to be independent and successful.



30th Anniversary Georgia Student Media Festival

A Celebration of Success!



After months of preparation, the 30th anniversary Georgia Student Media Festival (GSMF) was

held on May 5, 2006 at the headquarters of Georgia Public Broadcasting in Atlanta.

Over 860 student produced projects from across Georgia were entered in the festival for judging. In anticipation of the projects over 130 folks agreed to serve as volunteers, judges, techs, and

runners.

Projects scoring Superior (96-100) advance to the International Student Media Festival, sponsored by AECT. Over 400 of Georgia's projects are eligible for judging at the International Festival.

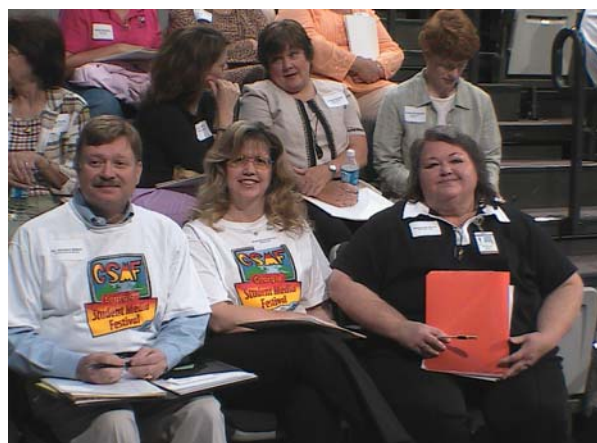
Volunteers for this year's Festival were treated to a continental breakfast, a pizza lunch, and a special 30th Anniversary celebration cake. Special thanks go to our corporate sponsors for their assistance in providing additional funding.

The GSMF event is co-sponsored by the Georgia Association for

Instructional Technology and the Georgia Library Association. In addition, Georgia Public Broadcasting is a partner in the event.

The 2006 Georgia Student Festival was co-chaired by Michelle Lenderman of Bibb County Schools and Deborah Gray of Gwinnett County Schools, with assistance from Dr. Gordon Baker of Clayton State University. The remainder of the GSMF Committee is composed of: Linda Flynn, GPB; Ann Grantham, Bibb County; Joni Jones, Greg LaHatte, Mary Tyner, Gwinnett County; Heidi Benford, Rhonda Boozer, and Kara Mullen of Clayton State University.

Pictures from the 2006 Georgia Student Media Festival





2005 Goen-Sloan Scholarship Recipient Lauri English

Lauri English is the media specialist at Mary Persons High School in Forsyth. This is her seventh year in this position. Prior to being media specialist, she was a French teacher at the same school for eight years. She has also taught media production, journalism, economics and humanities.

Lauri holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with a minor in French from Georgia Southwestern State University. She obtained her Master of Education in Instructional Technology from Georgia College and State University. She is currently enrolled in the Instructional Technology Specialist in Education program at Valdosta State University.

Professionally, she holds membership in GAIT, the Georgia Library Media Association, and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.



The International Student Media Festival will be held in Dallas, Texas October 10-12, 2006.

The purpose of this gathering is to recognize the excellent media projects created by students in the 2005-2006 school year. We will offer workshops for all ages covering a wide range of educational media topics. Participants will also have the opportunity to view and showcase winning media projects. The festival will culminate with an awards ceremony, honoring the work of both students and teachers.

All ISMF entrants (winning and non-winning) are invited to participate in the ISMF Celebration in Dallas. The festivities will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas near the Historic Arts District. Basic registration will only be \$20.00 per person. Full registration is \$79.00 per person and includes the chance to add to your skills through workshops. We are offering more workshops this year! Come one! Come All!

International Student Media Festival Winners from Georgia (a partial list)

School	# of Entries
Arthur Williams M.S.	2
Barnwell E.S.	1
Berkeley Lake E.S.	1
Brookwood H.S.	4
Carver E.S.	2
Central Gwinnett H.S.	1
Charles Ellis E.S.	1
Collins Hill H.S.	1
Creekland M.S.	1
Crews M.S.	3
Downtown E.S.	1
Early Co. E.S.	3
Early Co. M.S.	1
Fort Daniel E.S.	1
Frank Long E.S.	2
Goodyear E.S.	2
Gwin Oaks E.S.	7
Hampton E.S.	1
Hannan Academy	6
Heard E.S.	14
Hephzibah E.S.	1
Hephzibah H.S.	1
Hesse E.S.	9
Howard M.S.	3
Hull M.S.	1
Jesup E.S.	1
Joseph Martin E.S.	4
Knight E.S.	1
Largo-Tibet E.S.	8
Lyman Hall E.S.	4
Marlow E.S.	1
Marshpoint E.S.	6
May Howard E.S.	6
McBean E.S.	2

School	# of Entries
McConnell M.S.	1
Midland Academy	1
Midway M.S.	2
Mt. Carmel E.S.	2
North Gwinnett H.S.	1
Northside E.S.	1
Oak Vista E.S.	1
Ola E.S.	1
Peachtree E.S.	8
Phoenix H.S.	4
Pike Co. E.S.	1
Pike Co. Primary	1
Pinckneyville M.S.	4
Rincon E.S.	1
Riverside E.S.	1
Riverwood H.S.	2
Screven E.S.	2
Shiloh H.S.	1
South Effingham E.S.	2
Southwest E.S.	3
Southwest M.S.	3
St. Luke's	1
St. Mary's Magnet	2
Taylor E.S.	1
Thomson H.S.	3
Unity Grove H.S.	1
Upson-Lee H.S.	1
Upson-Lee North	1
Upson-Lee South	1
Vineville E.S.	1
Warren Road E.S.	1
West Chatham E.S.	1
Windsor Forest E.S.	6

**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION FOR
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(GAIT)**

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GaCOMO XVIII

*September 20-22, 2006
The Classic Center
Athens, GA*

*We're on the web!
<http://www.gait-inc.org>*



Pictured above, Gordon Baker and Greg LaHatte cut the 30th Anniversary Cake.

Pictured below, the 2006 Georgia Student Media Festival Committee. From left to right: Heidi Benford, Rhonda Boozer, Linda Flynn, Deborah Gray, Greg LaHatte, Ann Grantham, Michelle Lenderman, Gordon Baker, and Joni Jones.

