

# GAIT Connection

Volume 13 Issue 1

Spring 2008

## 2008 GAIT Technology Innovation Mini-Grant

The second annual GAIT Technology Innovation Mini-Grants deadline is fast approaching. Applicants should have all materials submitted to the chair by June 1, 2008. For additional information contact Michelle Lenderman ([mlenderman.Central@BIBB.K12.GA.US](mailto:mlenderman.Central@BIBB.K12.GA.US)) or Suzanne Mittenzwei ([suzanne.mittenzwei@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:suzanne.mittenzwei@henry.k12.ga.us)). A report of from one of last year's winners follows in this addition.

## COMO 2.0

The 2008 COMO Conference will be in Athens at the Classic Center, October 15-17. The theme for the conference is 2.0. Program proposals are being accepted electronically until May 31, 2008. The link for submitting a program proposal is: <http://www.georgiacomo.org/Proposals.htm>. Hotel information and exhibitor information is also posted at: <http://www.georgiacomo.org>. Registration information will be mailed out and posted on the website near the first of August. Please keep you registration brochure when you receive it...it contains your electronic registration number!



This will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> COMO conference. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this cooperative venture! Plans are being formulated for COMO 21. The site and date will be announced at COMO 2.0 in Athens.

## 2008 Georgia Student Media Festival



The 2008 Georgia Student Media Festival was a tremendous success! The statewide festival was held on Friday, April 25, 2008 at the headquarters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Over 120 excited and helpful volunteers and judges descended on GPB for the day's event. Interim GPB Director, Patrice Weaver welcomed the group and said what a positive partnership GPB had had with GSMF over the years. She hoped the partnership would continue indefinitely!

Over 960 projects were received for the State Festival. This represents the work of more than 3400 + students. The quality of projects continues to improve each year. The estimate is that more than half of the entries will likely advance to International Student Media Festival. GSMF is coordinated by Deborah Gray, Gwinnett County Schools, Michelle Lenderman, Bibb County Schools, and Dr. Gordon Baker, Clayton State University.

## **Reports from the 2007 GAIT Mini-Grant Recipients**

### **Mini-Grant Recipient #1**

#### **2007 GAIT Technology Innovation Mini-Grant Evaluation Report**

Grant Award: \$1000.00 for Playaway Audio Books for ESOL students

#### **Recipient Contact information:**

Kathi L. Vanderbilt, Media Specialist  
R.L. Osborne High School  
2451 Favor Road  
Marietta, GA 30060  
770-437-5900 ext. 299  
[Kathi.Vanderbilt@cobbk12.org](mailto:Kathi.Vanderbilt@cobbk12.org)

Number of students affected: 82

#### **Impact on student learning – teacher comments:**

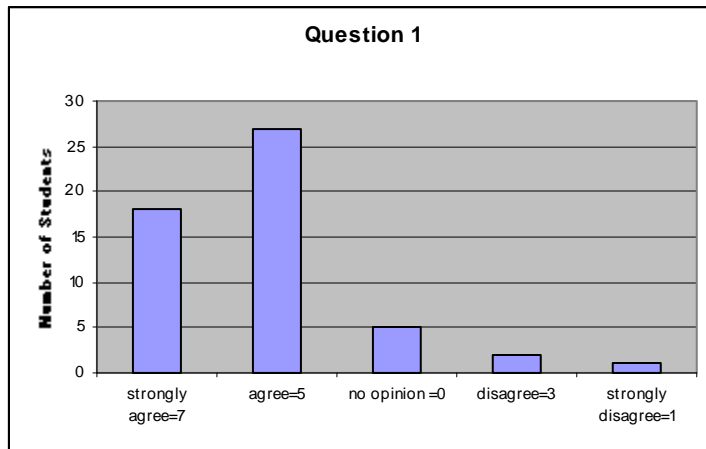
Students kept weekly vocabulary logs, summaries, and personal responses. These activities helped students monitor comprehension and make connections. As a culminating project, students created a PowerPoint, a storyboard or a book-in-a-box project, and included information about the characters, plot events and their personal responses to the story. Culminating projects allowed students to share their learning experiences with their peers and their teacher. Audio recordings of the texts aided students' reading comprehension and fluency. Playaways were a valuable tool for teaching independent reading skills. Students were encouraged to become actively involved and engaged readers.

## PlayAway Audio Book Survey Student results

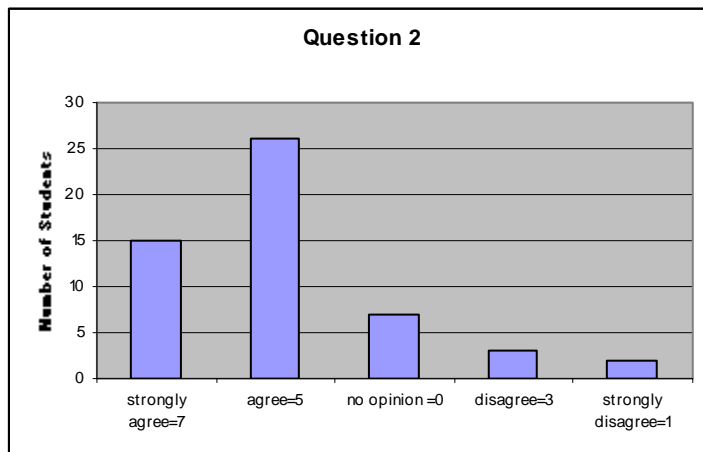
(based on surveys completed by 53 students)

strongly agree=7	agree=5	no opinion =0	disagree=3	strongly disagree=1
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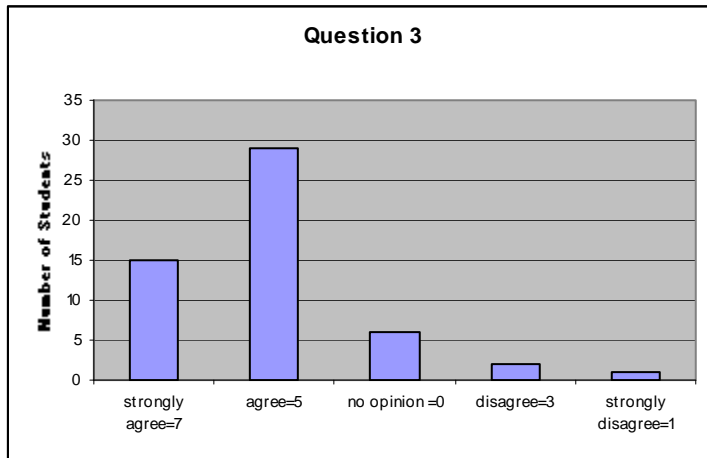
1. The audio book was easy to use.  
(Mean response = 5.06)



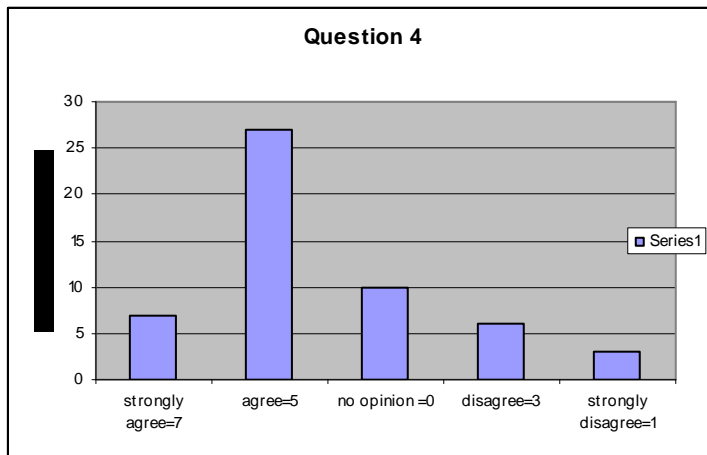
2. It was easy to listen to the audio book and follow in the printed book.  
(Mean response = 4.64)



3. The audio book helped me understand the story.  
(Mean response = 4.85)



4. I would enjoy listening to more audio books in the future.  
(Mean response = 3.87)



## 5. Student comments

What I liked best about using the audio book was...	QTY
because I just listen to it and follow along in the book	1
book is the best	1
bookmark didn't work	1
don't read a lot	1
easier to learn more	1
Easy to read faster with audio books	1
easy to use playaway	2
I liked best when it saved the place I were in the book.	1
It kept me thinking and it was interesting	1
It made me improve my English and my understanding of storys	1
just had to listen	3
like audio book/playaway	9
like the story	4
nothing much	1
prefer just to read	10
that I don't have to read. I just see where the reader is reading.	1
that I learned how to say other words I didn't know and now I know them because I was listening to the audio	1
that is wasn't as boring as reading the book alone	1
that you can listen to the audio book without reading the book	2
understood story/book better	11

**Itemized expenses**

<b>Purchased with Grant Funds</b>				
QTY	AUTHOR	TITLE	COST	EXT COST
2	PATERSON	PLAYAWAY BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA	\$39.99	\$79.98
2	REICHE	PLAYAWAY GHOSTSHIP	\$44.99	\$89.98
2	LOWRY	PLAYAWAY The GIVER	\$34.99	\$69.98
2	WELLS	PLAYAWAY INVISIBLE MAN	\$59.99	\$119.98
2	IRVING	PLAYAWAY LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW	\$34.99	\$69.98
2	GOLDING	PLAYAWAY LORD OF THE FLIES	\$44.99	\$89.98
2	LOWRY	PLAYAWAY NUMBER THE STARS	\$34.99	\$69.98
2	HINTON	PLAYAWAY OUTSIDERS	\$34.99	\$69.98
2	CRANE	PLAYAWAY RED BADGE OF COURAGE	\$34.99	\$69.98
2	LUBAR	PLAYAWAY SLEEPING FRESHMEN NEVER LIE	\$44.99	\$89.98
2	LONDON	PLAYAWAY WHITE FANG	\$49.99	\$99.98
2	LENGLE	PLAYAWAY WRINKLE IN TIME	\$39.99	\$79.98
<b>24</b>		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$999.76</b>
		<b>Purchased from local/state funds</b>		
1		PLAYAWAY EAR BUDS - PKG of 50	\$39.50	\$39.50
4		ALCOHOL Swabs - to disinfect earbuds	\$2.00	\$8.00
24		Books to match with audio books	\$15.00	\$360.00
				\$407.50

**Recommendations for improvements:**

1. One problem that I encountered with two titles was the print version of the book that I purchased did not match the Playaway audio book edition. If your intent is to have students listen to the audio and read along in the print copy then make sure your editions match.
2. Purchase cataloging with the audiobooks.
3. Purchase a package of extra earbuds for use when the original sets wear out.
4. Purchase alcohol pads for cleaning the earbuds.
5. Inspect and make sure each audiobook works correctly when it arrives. We had one that was defective upon arrival.
6. We received two styles of Playaways and the training we designed for students only covered one of the styles. Check the style prior to planning/implementing training.
7. Teachers who implemented the grant project indicated that they need to create a greater variety of activities for students to complete while reading the book. For example, students reading the same novel could create a booktalk or students could create a blog and post weekly comments and also invite other students to comment.

## **Mini-Grant Recipient #2**

Dear GAIT Grant Committee,

Thank you for awarding this technology grant to benefit our students. The grant money was used to purchase two computers to set up and promote a college and career center for our students. This entailed multiple activities:

### **1. SAT Online**

Becky Thomas from the Georgia Department of Education was asked to come out to our school to inservice our entire faculty on the Georgia SAT Online program. The teachers were trained and introduced to the program during their training periods in one of our computer labs. I assisted Ms. Thomas with the training and the teachers became familiar with the program, printing off access codes for their students. The Media Center followed this up by offering teachers the opportunity to sign up their individual classes to come to the library so students could become acquainted with the SAT Online program.

### **2. Scholarship Club and Resources**

Originally, I had written my GAIT grant to use the computers for setting up a career and college area to be promoted and used by a college advisor, Ms. Smiley, with our students in the library. The PTSA had previously funded her services to help counsel the students individually in understanding their options and making college choices. This service was discontinued by our PTSA at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. Ms. Smiley still had an interest in continuing her work on a volunteer basis in the Media Center, however, by establish a scholarship club that met after school in the Media Center. Working with Ms. Smiley, I purchased college guides as requested by Ms. Smiley so we could promote these resources to the club and other students. Ms. Smiley provided me with scholarship information to go up on our school's website which I updated frequently. This website provided links which were promoted to the scholarship club in meetings that were held bimonthly in the library after school. Approximately 25 students attended each club meeting.

### **3. Career/College Center Marketing**

The counseling office and our head counselor provided me with resources to set up a display for our career/counseling center. Dr. England, our head counselor, tutored me on the important websites to promote. I set up displays around the computers using tiered racks with books and information sheets for the students to use. The computers were designated for using these specific sites; USATestprep, SAT Online, GAcollge411, CareerCruising, FastWeb, the Occupational Outlook Handbook, SAT/ ACT registration, and browsing college websites. The displays helped to promote the site as students often came before school, during lunch time, and after school to use the computers to register for SAT/ACT, USA Test Prep, college applications, etc. The Counseling Department also sent students down to use these computers as their own computers were tied up for use by students taking online courses throughout the day.

### **4. Career and College Booklet**

Again, working with the advice of our head counselor, we created an attractive booklet for our career center. The booklet was intended to provide a guide to the websites that were recommended by Ms. Smiley and our head counselor. Each page in the booklet described a specific website, providing passwords, and other pertinent information to guide our students. (It also helped the media staff as it provided a quick reference guide which we could refer to as needed, so we could become familiar with these sites and promote them!)

## 5. Registering on FastWeb

In order to learn FastWeb, I registered myself for scholarships on the FastWeb website. By putting in my criteria, I got a sense of the site and what it offered our students. I now receive emails tailored to my criteria on scholarship opportunities that I can avail myself of if desired. The emails are helpful to me as they continue to remind me to recommend this service to our students and classes.

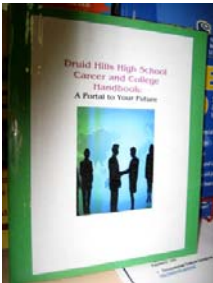
### Pictures of the Grant in Action



Staff Training for SAT



Online Computers and Tiered Book Rack Display



Career & College Handbook



Scholarship Club

Once again my thanks!

**Betsy Razza**

**Druid Hills High School, 1798 Haygood Drive, Atlanta, GA 30307**

**678/874-6333**

**betsy\_razza@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us**

**2008 GAIT Officers**



President: Michelle Lenderman



Michelle Lenderman was raised in Morrow, Georgia. She moved to Macon, GA in 1986. Michelle currently works at Central High School in Macon, Georgia. This is her fifth year there. She has worked in Bibb County for a total of thirteen years, ten as a media specialist, and three as an elementary teacher. Her professional memberships include GLMA, GAIT, and AECT. She received her Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from Georgia College and State University.

President Elect: Giselle Escobar

Giselle Escobar currently works as the media specialist at Morrow Elementary School in Morrow, Georgia. This is her third year there. Giselle grew up in DeKalb County, Georgia and received her Master of Library Media from Georgia State University. She also attended Mercer University in Atlanta and Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville where she received a Bachelors of Science in Biology and teaching degree for Science in grades 7 – 12. Giselle is a member of GAIT, GLMA, and GLA.

Secretary: Dr. Dianne Dees



Dr. Dianne Dees taught 17 years at the elementary level having taught remedial reading and math, Kindergarten, first and third grades. She then worked 16 years as a school media specialist at the elementary and high school level and retired in 2005. Beginning in 1999 she became an adjunct professor at Valdosta State University in the Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology Department. In 2006 she began working as an assistant professor in the Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology Department. Dianne is a former recipient of the Goen-Sloan Scholarship. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma: Sigma Chapter, Beta Phi Mu: Gamma Chapter: FSU, Literary Guild of Valdosta, ISTE, GLMA, and GAIT. My husband Kelly and I have one son, Layton. Layton and his wife, Robin, have blessed us with a beautiful granddaughter, Gentry. My hobbies include reading, painting, baking, gardening, and spending time with my granddaughter.

Treasurer: Leslie Wantland



Leslie Wantland currently works a Stockbridge High School in Henry County, Georgia. This is Leslie's ninth year at Stockbridge as the media specialist. Before that she taught Honors English for eight years. This year Leslie is also working as one of the school coordinators for the school's Special Olympics Field and Track events. She is also an avid gardener. She is a member of GAIT and GLMA.

At Large: Wanda Dunn

Wanda Dunn is currently the media specialist at Pate's Creek Elementary School in Henry County, Georgia. This is her fifth year as the media specialist at Pate's Creek and her eleventh year at the school. She has twenty years in teaching. She has also served as a presenter at COMO. Wanda has received her National Board Certification as a Library Media Specialist.

At Large: Dr. Melissa Allen



Dr. Allen is the current media specialist at Glynn Academy in Brunswick, Georgia. She has been the media specialist at Glynn Academy for four years and has been in education for ten years. Dr. Allen has received her National Board Certification as a Library Media Specialist. In 2007 she received her Doctorate in Curriculum Studies from Georgia Southern University and is a part time professor at Georgia Southern. She was the 2007 SE GA District Library Media Specialist of the Year.

At Larger: Chris Stadler

Chris Stadler currently works as a corporate instructional designer in Atlanta, Georgia. He has a Master of Science in Instructional Technology and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, both from Columbus State University. Chris enjoys designing innovative training programs and is interested in instructional design, adult learning, training evaluation, and learning simulations. In addition to being a GAIT member, he is also a member of ASTD.

Business, Industry, and Government: Brett Eaker

Brett Eaker is President of Hart, Inc. an instructional technology company specializing in instructional management systems and networked programs to help improve student's learning and test scores. Brett is located in Asheville, NC.

K-12: Catherine Olivier

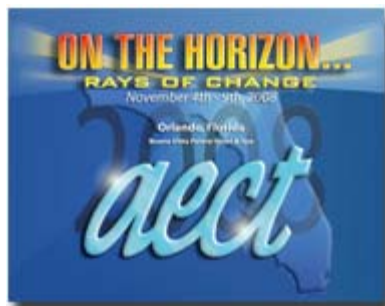
Catherine Olivier is the media specialist at Sol Johnson High School in Savannah, Georgia.

Higher Education: Dr. Gordon Baker



Dr. Gordon Baker is Director of Libraries at Clayton State University in Morrow. He assumed this position on July 1, 2006. Dr. Baker has worked at CSU for 29 years. In June 2003, Dr. Baker retired from the Henry County School System after 29 years of service. Gordon worked as a classroom teacher and media specialist in both Spalding and Clayton Counties. In Henry County, in addition to serving as media specialist, he also developed, organized and opened the library/media centers at Eagle's Landing High School, Union Grove High School, and Luella High School. He also served Henry County Schools for many years as the System Media Contact Person, and was the Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Media Services. He has served the Georgia Library Media Association, the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, and the Georgia Library Association as president. He has served as editor of the GAIT Connection for several years. In addition, he is a Life member of GAIT. He has coordinated the Georgia Student Media Festival for many years.

News from AECT...



### On the Horizon: Rays of Change

Share the view over the horizon! The 2008 AECT International Convention where hundreds of sessions offer you the opportunity to immerse yourself in information that will offer the glow of both professional and program development. Convention workshops offer multiple rays of in-depth, hands-on experiences guided by some of the top experts and vendors in the field. AECT division, affiliate, Graduate Student Assembly and committee meetings are the beams of energy on the AECT horizon that keep the association basking in the rays of change. To share in the glow of these rays, we invite you to attend

these leadership opportunities.

Three nights of evening activities will offer the glimmering opportunity to illuminate professional and personal pursuits. The International Student Media Festival will have its own program track highlighted to attract students and teachers involved in student media production.

A message from our President:

As I write this my mind is full of lists of tasks I must complete in order to close down the school year here at Central High School in Macon, GA. There are inventories to complete, materials to track down, reports to write, equipment to be stored, and much, much more. Then, I must begin plans for the 2009 school year, our three year media plan must be updated, orders for the next fiscal year must be addressed, and activities must be planned out and scheduled. The summer break gives me a chance to scout out new resources online, learn to use new forms of technology, and plan for research lessons that will include the widest variety of resources available to our students. Each year the lessons change to include the both traditional materials and newer resources. Will we use MP3 players in our media center this year? Will we have access to a variety of print and online subscription databases? If so, who will pay for them? Our student must be exposed to traditional resources as well as newer resources in order to prepare them to use the ever changing technologies of the future in a humane and ethical manner. There will be times when it is best for students to use both traditional print resources, and new forms of information resources. As a media specialist I am in a unique position because I work with both teachers and students to insure that all are aware of the most productive and ethical ways to use the resources available to them.

As I reflect on the GAIT goal of "improvement of instruction through the systematic development, utilization, and management of learning resources, which include people, processes, and media in educational settings" and the AECT mission statement of providing "international leadership by promoting scholarship and best practices in the creation, use, and management of technologies for effective teaching and learning in a wide range of settings," I am struck by the awesomeness of our task. As professionals and educators, we must balance the traditional with the non-traditional and provide a panoramic view of the resources available and clearly show students what is best for their needs. By doing this we will help them develop the ability to look at all available resources and selectively choose the best resource for their needs now and in the future, as they become independent users of information.

Michelle Lenderman



President Michelle Lenderman (L) and her Mom, Ann Grantham, former GAIT Treasurer (R).