

## President's Message



### Modern Librarians, Under-rated and Under-valued

Anyone who agrees with my title should read the following article: "The Modern Librarian: A Role Worth Checking Out," Monica Hesse, Washington Post, June 24, 2007, Page D01.

The author of this article was discussing Anne Siedl, a young librarian who got tired of how librarians are often portrayed and decided to make a film showing her very positive view of librarians. Susan Turrell, a star of the film, is director of Tunkhannock Public Library, serving a community of 28,000 in rural Pennsylvania.

Susan noted some of her current duties: Providing tech support, plunging toilets, changing light bulbs, spraying for ants, browsing MySpace, dressing as Winnie the Pooh, proofreading résumés for library patrons, safeguarding against online porn, providing pro bono therapy -- and coordinating endless fundraising efforts that have included golf tournaments and square dances.

As a librarian who has done all of the above, except portraying Winnie the Pooh, I have great respect and admiration for today's librarians. Librarians are versatile and extremely competent... The most versatile career that I know with more multiple careers feeding into and from...

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Librarians are lawyers, teachers, techies, administrators, authors, and professors.

All of this leads up to the need for librarians to support each other and their professional associations. An example of this kind of support is shown by Suzi Holler from CLFC who every year provides LAB with interesting and fascinating programming. This year she introduced LAB members to the "invisible web." I always think that I am really knowledgeable about technology until Suzi proves otherwise.

Each year LAB offers a number of events besides the training program, and I would like to encourage people to attend. One of the events is Theater Night which is always fun and entertaining. See the enclosed reservation form and a membership renewal form is also enclosed.

Jack A. Newcombe

**~ Theater Night ~**  
**Saturday, February 7, 2009**  
**8:00 PM**

***Don't Dress for Dinner***

**starring our own  
Tori Smith**

**Theatre Company of  
Palm Bay  
Brevard Community College  
Palm Bay Campus Auditorium  
250 Community College Pkwy.  
Palm Bay, FL 32901  
(321) 723-3056**

**A reservation form is enclosed.**

## Important News



The library media specialists are a segment of our membership that has recently been under-represented. Thanks to the efforts of Media Resource Teacher, Sharon Reynolds, and Sonja Crisafulli of Brevard County Schools, we now have seven new members from the local school system and we look forward to the perspective they can bring to our group.

As is the case each year, a candidate for the position of Vice President/President Elect is needed. If you would like to volunteer to serve, or if you know someone who would make a great candidate, please contact a member of the LAB executive board via the e-mail links on the LAB Web site or by phone.

### Looking Ahead...

The spring general meeting will be held in March or April of 2009. If you and your library would like to host the 2009 meeting, then please contact Nate Hosburgh at [nhosburg@fit.edu](mailto:nhosburg@fit.edu).

Contact members of the LAB Executive Board with your ideas, requests, comments or concerns at [www.lib.fit.edu/lab](http://www.lib.fit.edu/lab).