

For Immediate Release  
May 1993

From: Pamela Goodes  
Linda Wallace  
312-280-5043, 5042

**AASL/Highsmith Research Grant winners announced**

Judy M. Pitts of Tallahassee, Fla., and the team of Julie I. Tallman and Jean Donham van Deusen of Iowa City, Iowa, are the first recipients of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL)/Highsmith Research Grants.

The grants, up to \$2,500 for each project sponsored by The Highsmith Co., Inc. of Fort Atkinson, Wis., are for one or more school library media specialists, library educators, library information science or education professors to conduct innovative research aimed at measuring and evaluating the impact of school library media programs on learning and education.

Pitts will receive \$2,098.90 for a project, titled "Intuitive Understandings and Mental Models of Information: A Qualitative Study of Factors Associated with the Information Seeking and Use Behavior of Adolescents."

She will explore how students learn by attempting to discover the effect of prior knowledge on decision-making processes related to information seeking and use. The results will be designed to aid educators in developing teaching strategies to improve information seeking and use behaviors in students.

- over -

**AASL/Highsmith Research Grant winners announced -- add one**

Pitts is currently completing her doctorate in the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University. She previously was school library media specialist at Fayetteville (Ark.) High School. Pitts served a three-year term as co-editor of the AASL journal, School Library Media Quarterly (SLMQ), with Barbara K. Stripling.

Tallman and van Deusen will receive \$2,500 for a project titled "Scheduling Impact on Curriculum Involvement and Information Skills Instruction: Should We Switch to Flexible Scheduling?"

The project will investigate flexible scheduling in terms of curriculum involvement of the library media program, integration of library skills into the content areas and accessibility to students to determine whether a relationship exists between individual versus team planning.

Tallman is assistant professor, School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa. Van Deusen is the district-wide library media and technology coordinator for the Iowa City Community School District.

The grants will be presented on Saturday, June 26, at the AASL Research Forum during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans.

Winners will present the results of their projects at the 1994 AASL Research Forum during the ALA Annual Conference in Miami. Winners will also publish a summary of their findings in an upcoming issue of SLMQ.

Members of the 1993 selection committee were: Jane Bandy Smith, chair, Montgomery, Ala.; Kenneth Haycock, Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Carol C. Kuhlthau, New Brunswick, N.J.; Mary Jane McNally, Bloomfield, N.J., and A. Jeanie McNamara, Columbia, S.C.

For more information, contact Marie-Louise Settem, 800-545-2433, ext. 4381.

AASL is a division of the American Library Association.

