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## Innovative Central American Lending Library Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Jane Mirandette

*In an international library setting where sustainability is the ever-present buzzword and valid concern, this program merits notice.*

November 12, 2010 marked the 10th anniversary of the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca Movil, the first public lending library in Nicaragua. As part of the anniversary celebration, a photo reflections mural reviewed the accomplishments of the past 10 years. The following quote spoke eloquently of the way this grassroots, donation-funded program is received in this small town in southern Nicaragua.

*What began as a dream today is a great reality. In these 10 years the SJDS Biblioteca Movil has received more than 8,000 members, of which are today's engineers, architects, graduates, medicals, teachers and other dreamers so we just want to remember the past, and continue educating into the future. Join us today and help build the future. Thanks to each of those who have helped*



*Board members join Jane Mirandette for the 10th anniversary celebration.*

*along these 10 years. You have helped not only the Biblioteca Movil but also the town of San Juan del Sur to build a future of greater opportunities.*

The afternoon dedication included reading awards and announcements of the winners of the annual poetry, drawing and essay contests. Dignitaries included ANIBIPA (Asociación Nicaraguense de Bibliotecarios y Profesionales Afines) President Darling. A local teens' dance troupe, Mi Tierra (My

Land) offered its annual gift of dance and there were the customary piñatas and cake.

The presence of 36 seventh-grade students from Lincoln Middle School International Baccalaureate (Ft. Collins, CO) program greatly enhanced the anniversary activities. The students provided the materials for face painting, crafts and reading activities and ran the book and craft fair in the park.

The SJDS Biblioteca has

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## Message from the Editor

After ten years of hard work, it is time for a Fiesta! Jane Mirandette, Founder of the Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All Program, sends us this report on the accomplishments of the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca Movil, the first public lending library in Nicaragua. The celebration included reading awards, books, piñatas, and cake. I hope the cake was my favorite “tres leches.” Check out [http://www.pbase.com/cesar\\_junior/2011\\_nicaragua\\_biblioteca\\_movil\\_anniversary](http://www.pbase.com/cesar_junior/2011_nicaragua_biblioteca_movil_anniversary) for additional photos.

Katia Nuñez, past director of the Learning Resources Center of the Sistema Universitario/Ana Méndez University System describes the dual language program that is a collaboration of efforts serving the needs of students in Florida and Puerto Rico. Providing resources to students equally in both Spanish and English is both a challenge an opportunity. Nuñez describes the innovative ways in which this is accomplished in her article, “A Dual Language Journey into Higher Education.”

Book awards provide read-

ers the opportunity to recognize quality books about specific topics of interest. One such award is the Children’s Africana Book Award, announced annually by Africa Access and the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association. One aim of the Council is to share and disseminate resources about Africa. Find out which books won the 2011 award.

Speaking of children’s books, why not make your own? Self-published cloth books provide an age-old solution to producing first language materials in areas where there are few books. In a follow up to an article about the International Board on Books for Young People (International Leads, December 2010, pg. 7), meet Anne Pellowski, who provides workshops on just that all over the world.

Congratulations to my friend and former classmate, Jesús Lau, who received the Librarian of the Year Award at the International Book Fair of Guadalajara.

The schedule for Midwinter is featured. See you in Dallas!

~ Janet Lee

## Call for Submission

Do you have news about...

International library activities?

People in international librarianship?

Upcoming international conferences?

International partnerships between libraries?

Then why not submit it to *International Leads*?  
Send your news to [intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com](mailto:intl.leads.irrt@gmail.com)  
for consideration.

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been the very popular site of the Hester J. Hodgdon Program's (HJH) "Volun-tourism" skill share program that provides service-learning programs for students from middle school IB programs, college undergraduate Shoulder-to-Shoulder programs, and credit courses for graduate library science students. (<http://collaborativelibrarianship.org/index.php/jocl/article/viewFile/84/49>)

The San Juan del Sur Biblioteca Movil program has expanded over the years to include a mobile project serving 32 rural communities with books provided for loan to children, teachers and families. These are schools with no books and very few textbooks or teaching supplies. Many have multiple grades in the one school and few have running water or electricity. This project is the most popular of the volunteer opportunities available, especially among visiting librarians, library students, and educators. Seeing children have access to books for pleasure reading for the first time is a thrilling experience.

Additional expansion has provided mentoring for other grassroots lending programs through the HJH Program's "Library in A Box" program with mentoring and a seed collection of books provided for new lending programs. There are currently 46 lending programs functioning in Nicaragua using this model. Some of

these are also sites that welcome volunteer opportunities.

Additional expansions over these 10 years include collaboration with the Nicaraguan Library Association ANIBIPA and participation in their "En Tu Biblioteca" campaign and the HJH Program's support and mentoring of the campaign annually.

The board and members of ANIBIPA are librarians and library staff members from universities and various government ministries, i.e. Ministries of Education and Transportation libraries.

In 2010 at the annual anniversary of the "En Tu Biblioteca" campaign, Jane Mirandette was awarded recognition for excellence in library programs and for introducing and mentoring successfully the lending model (see blog spot <http://anibipanicaraguaentubiblioteca.blogspot.com/>)

The board members of ANIBIPA are a dedicated group, often functioning with very little resources. They are always willing to attend and present seminars and workshops and to participate in the workshops provided by MLS students, who receive course credit for their presentations. Through this shared experience, the students and board members develop lasting relationships. (<http://umdnicaragua2011.blogspot.com>)

The board members are also willing to participate in activities and the anniversaries and festivities of the San Juan

del Sur Biblioteca. They were particularly delighted with the invitation to the 10th anniversary festivities with over 25 board and program members traveling from Managua to attend.

The SJDS Biblioteca Movil program is unique as the director is not a degreed librarian and the program is donation based, without either funding from US or Nicaraguan government sources. Jane Mirandette, director of the SJDS Biblioteca Movil and founder of the Hester J Hodgdon Libraries for All Program, the funding arm of the Biblioteca is a member of ALA, IRRT, and ISLD. On July 13, 2009, The Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries for All Program was the recipient of the ALA Presidential Citation for International Innovation at the International Librarians Reception held at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, by James Rettig, ALA President 2008-2009, for significant innovative international contributions.

Many IRRT and ALA members are aware of the SJDS program through the ALA Annual Poster session presentations, 2004-2010. (<http://www.lib.jmu.edu/org/ala/abstracts/>)

**Jane Mirandette,  
Founder,  
Hester J. Hodgdon Libraries  
for All Program**

## A Dual Language Journey into Higher Education

By Katia Nuñez

As a pioneer librarian who works for an innovative organization, I wish to describe a program that is especially important to the Hispanic adult population in the U. S. I am referring to the Discipline-Based Dual Language Immersion Model ® that AGMUS Ventures, Inc. introduced to Florida in 2003. I became a part of the South Florida Campus university team when they opened their second campus through the Ana G. Méndez University System in Broward County in 2006. The Ana G. Mendez University System originated in Puerto Rico. Its founder, Ana G. Méndez, a respected educator and entrepreneur, also founded an educational television station and a foundation that grants scholarships to outstanding students. The program was definitely a ground breaking initiative to the country, the state and the city. The Dual Language Model pedagogy provides high quality higher education degree programs conducted equally in two languages, English and Spanish. Students can choose from bachelor's and master's degree programs such as Educational Leadership, Guidance and Counseling or Criminal Justice. These are offered to adult students in an accelerated format.

This concept is definitely an American innovation in



*Students at the South Florida Campus attend a Cultural Nights event at the Learning Resources Center. Dominican author Conchie Fernandez presented her first novel, "Undrawn."*

respect to higher education for adults. Adult students have new opportunities available to them that they did not previously have in more traditional colleges or universities. They now have the advantage of finishing their degrees at least a year sooner than had they been enrolled in more traditional settings, and they can accomplish this while developing their English and Spanish language proficiency necessary for advancing in their particular careers.

The Learning Resources Center on the South Florida Campus, for example, is equipped with academic resources that were selected specifically based on the dual language model and curriculum for the campus. The modules or class guides are in both English and Spanish and include required textbooks. Students

do not need to purchase these, as there are enough copies available at the Learning Resources Center to supply the demand for each class and are considered a privilege of every registered student.

Other resources available at each campus include supplemental print texts, a reference and general collection, and academic journals. Similar resources can also be found in Ana G. Méndez University System's online library. It is worth emphasizing that these materials are a great bonus, especially for low-income students who benefit from not having to purchase textbooks when attending classes. Students have access to extensive collections of electronic textbooks including some by discipline and some that are

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multidisciplinary. They can take advantage of thousands of electronic journals, aggregated into databases that allow translation of the articles into different languages including Spanish. Research and writing guidelines are available, as are tutorials, and the library catalog. The facilities are also conducive to learning, providing students with a quiet study area, access to computers, wireless internet, study rooms, and color printers and copiers.

The language laboratory is another great asset where students can complete their language requirements, receive tutoring and where they first take their placement tests. This study space is equipped with software such as NetTutor, Wimba Voice, and Rosetta Stone. The latest acquisition, TellMeMore, allows students to complete their laboratory hours from anywhere they have internet access on or off campus. This software allows the facilitators to align their class content to online tutoring, which is so important for this model. They can also use it to track the hours that their students spend using this virtual language tool. The resources seem endless.

That is where my position as a professional librarian comes to play a crucial role. I am in charge of ensuring that the academic resources required for these programs

are available for the students at the South Florida Campus in Miramar. It is certainly a bit challenging, as the program requires that a full range of academic resources must be available in both of the languages in question. The Learning Resources Center honors this criterion, but not without experiencing some tough challenges. It is well known that while the population of Spanish speakers grows every day in this country, the growth of Spanish academic resources does not keep pace. One of the biggest accomplishments during my tenure was to identify a collection of academic textbooks that could reinforce the program's academic requirements and its desire to keep up with the modern technology. We needed electronic textbooks in Spanish to complement those great collections already available and popular in English such as Ebsco-Ebooks. The task was not easy, as these textbooks are certainly not abundant. After doing extensive research and having conversations with different vendors, we were able to come into an agreement with E-libro. This new collection has undoubtedly met our needs, and has increased and balanced our electronic resources in English.

AGMUS Ventures Inc. as the visionary corporation that it is, has always worked hard to reach to the underserved communities, especially to the Hispanic population. Their unique model has gained such strength that AGMUS Ventures Inc. re-

cently worked with Regis University to expand to the western U.S. The new Dual Language Campus in Thornton Colorado opened its doors on August 25th of this year. To help with this mission, the campuses in South Florida helped with its establishment there, especially during its inauguration. Classes began on Monday August 29th. The site is centrally located and major building renovations accommodated state of the art technologies in each of the classrooms.

These educational institutions have identified a crucial need for Hispanics in this country, whose population now exceeds 50 million, to obtain a bilingual education degree. Since its first opening in 2003 in Florida, AGMUS Ventures Inc. Discipline-Based Dual Language Immersion Model ® has graduated more than 1200 students. AGMUS is also scheduled to open a new campus in January of 2012, which will be located in Maryland. Very rapidly, these entities are transcending into the hearts and minds of those underserved communities. That is one of the many reasons why I feel proud to be a part of an endeavor that is definitely making history and helping those who like me, come to this great country looking for opportunities and progress.

Katia Nuñez  
Past Director  
Sistema Universitario  
Ana G. Méndez -  
South Florida Campus

## Call for International Papers Session: Expecting the Unexpected

The International Relations Roundtable, International Papers Committee, invites proposals for presentations during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA. Presentations will be delivered at the International Papers Session scheduled for Saturday, June 23, 2012.

The International Papers Program provides librarians with an opportunity to exchange information about library services, collections and projects throughout the world. The program also serves to stimulate the interest of U.S. librarians in international library matters. The 2012 International Papers Program theme is:

### **Expecting the Unexpected: Libraries Respond to Profound Change**

Increasingly, economic, political and human crises,

along with natural disasters, constitute a recurrent reality around the world. The effect of large-scale disaster and economic disruption are being felt far and wide and impacting libraries in diverse ways. Libraries are casualties of natural disasters, from earthquakes to hurricanes, as well as civil unrest and wars. Sudden cuts in library budgets have resulted in severe staff reductions, privatization and even closures.

The committee invites librarians from around the world to discuss how they have prepared for or coped with profound change. Possible topics may include--but are not limited to:

- Organizational responses to extraordinary change in political environments
- The role of libraries during financial crises or uncertain

economic circumstances

- Planning and/or responses to natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies

Presenters are encouraged to consider the theme from diverse angles.

Submission guidelines may be found at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/iro/iroactivities/papersession.cfm>

Presentations should run about 20 minutes each, followed by a Q&A session. PowerPoint presentations are common, but speakers who want to read a paper or refer to it are welcome to do so. In either case, presenters are encouraged to submit a formal paper (5,000-10,000 words), to be published on the International Papers Committee Website. The deadline is December 23, 2011.

## IRRT and IRC Meetings and Programs at Midwinter

### **Friday, January 20, 2012**

International Relations Committee I  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Location: Dallas Convention Center (DCC) Room D174

Reception for International Librarians  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Location: Invitation Only

### **Saturday, January 21, 2012**

IRC/IRRT All Subcommittee Meeting  
8:00 am - 11:00 a.m  
Location: DCC D162-164

IFLA Update  
11:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Location: DCC D162-164

### **Sunday, January 22, 2012**

Executive Committee Meeting  
8:00 am - 11:00 am  
Location: DCC D173

### **Monday, January 23, 2012**

International Relations Committee II  
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
Location: DCC D175

## 2011 Children's Africana Book Award Winners Announced

Africa Access and the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association have announced the 2011 Children's Africana Book Awards. The Best Book for Young Children was awarded to *Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace* by Jen Cullerton Johnson and illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler. The Honor Book for Young Children was awarded to *S is for South Africa*, written by Beverley Naidoo with photographs by Prodeepta Das.

*Seeds of Change* is a portrait of the life and work of the late Wangari Maathai, Noble Prize Winner and Founder of the Greenbelt Movement. Despite great odds, Wangari Maathai was educated, traveled to the U.S. and returned to her native Kenya to defend environmental and women's rights issues. *S is for South Africa* is arranged alphabetically and conveys information about

### Best Book for Young Children, 2011



*Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace.*

South Africa.

The Children's Africana Book Awards are awarded annually by the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association. Since 1992, more than sixty awards have been presented to authors and illustrators for their work in publishing accurate, balanced children's materials on Africa. The books nominated are suitable for children ages 4-18 and a significant portion of the books content is about Africa. The books must

### Honor Book for Young Children, 2011



*S is for South Africa.*

be available for purchase in the U.S. and published in English or bi-lingual with English as a major language.

The aims of the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association are to share and disseminate resources about Africa and to facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and research findings on Africa.

For more information about the award, link to <http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/awards.html>

## IBBY Workshops on Cloth Books in Ethiopia

Anne Pellowski, an original member of the International Board on Books for Young People, recently traveled to the Segenat Children and Youth Library, Mekelle, Ethiopia, to present two back-to-back workshops on producing cloth books in local languages. Each participant had an opportunity to create three cloth books: a word book in Tigrigna and a second language (English or Amharic); a concept book such as a folk tale; and a third of his or her own design.

These initial books are made of cloth because cloth is an easy medium in which to work and cloth is easily available in most communities. At the end of this workshop, the participants chose two of the finest cloth books among the participants. Funding has been received to photograph these selections and turn them into printed books for further distribution to home, school, and community libraries.

Ms. Pellowski has written extensively on storytelling and



is in fact a gifted storyteller. Her list of writings include children's stories as well as sourcebooks on publishing and storytelling. As a representative of IBBY, she travels to two or three countries each year to present these workshops to future authors and illustrators.

## International Book Fair of Guadalajara Honors Jesús Lau



During the International Book Fair of Guadalajara (FIL), the largest fair in the Spanish-speaking world, Dr. Jesús Lau, received the Librarian of the Year Award. Dr. Lau is a Professor-Researcher of the Universidad Veracruzana and a long standing ALA-IRRT member. This award is in honor of his life-time contributions to libraries in Mexico and abroad. The ceremony took place on November 30, 2011.

## In Memory

**William Landram Williamson**, age 91, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison, died on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011. Dr. Williamson was born in Lexington, Ky. He received degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Emory University, Columbia University and the University of Chicago. He worked as a librarian at Baylor University, Montclair (NJ) State College and at Columbia University, where he served as Nicholas Murray Butler Librarian from 1954 to 1964. He was Professor of Library Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1966 until his retirement in 1987. He was library consultant in Indonesia on three occasions, from 1960-62, in 1970, and in 1986. Author of a biography of William Frederick Poole, he also wrote about international library relations. He served for four years as editor of *International Leads*, a publication of the International Relations Round Table.

## Call for International Poster Sessions

Proposals for the International Poster Session to be presented at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim are now being accepted. An application form is available on the poster session website, at <http://www.lib.jmu.edu/org/ala/howto.aspx>, and the dead-

line for submission is January 6. This is a forum for librarians from around the world to highlight their libraries and to share their successful ideas with colleagues by presenting a research study, a practical problem-solving effort or an innovative library program.

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