



MSLA 2009 Award Recipients

Kathy Lowe: Service Award

**Feature articles from these members in this issue*

INNOVATOR AWARD

Dr. Mitchell Chester, MA Commissioner of Education

ADVOCATE AWARD

Janet Allison, New England Association of Schools & Colleges

ADMINISTRATOR ADVOCATE AWARD

Southbridge Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dale Hanley
Nominated by Lynn Loftus & Lynda Shoup

Prospect Hill Academy Charter School, Liz Murray
Nominated by Mary Kelleher

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

- * Carolyn Markuson
- * Doris Smith
- * Valerie Digs

MSLA SERVICE

- * Kathy Lowe

M.S.L.A. [Massachusetts Super Librarian Accolade]

- * *MetroWest Area:* Robin Cicchetti, Concord-Carlisle High
Central Area: Diane Libbey, Westborough High
Southeast Area: Laurie Belanger, Freetown Lakeville Middle
- * *Northeast Area:* Mary Melaugh, Marshall Middle, Billerica

WEB SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Lynnfield High School - Janice Alpert:
<http://www.lynnfield.k12.ma.us/>

* Avon Middle/High School - Tricia London:
<http://www.avon.k12.ma.us/librarymedia/ahlibraryhome.htm>

* Fay School - Suzanne Levasseur and Laura Beals D'Elia:
<http://library.fayschool.org/>

* Watertown Middle/High School - Linda Picceri:
<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/wms/library/splash.html>

* Austin Intermediate, Freetown-Lakeville - Lisa Ryder:
<http://www.freelake.org/AIS/library.php>

AUDREY FRIEND SCHOLARSHIP

Alexis Brown, Simmons College GSLIS student

I was honored to receive the MSLA service award at last year's conference. It was gratifying to be acknowledged for my years of work with the Executive Board in several capacities from Secretary, to listserv founder and moderator, to President, and finally, Executive Director.



I have enjoyed my work for MSLA, all the experiences I have had and relationships that have developed over the years. When I accepted President Audrey Friend's invitation to join the board in the early 90s, little did I know how much giving to the organization would pay back in terms of my professional and personal growth. I know for sure that at that stage in my career, I didn't perceive myself as a leader. I was fairly new to the profession and had attended a few MSLMA and NESLA events, which is probably what caught Audrey's attention. You know what they say, "Showing up is half the battle!" As soon as I started attending Executive Board meetings, I realized how much I could learn from these school library "movers and shakers." I found out what was going on in our state and region, who was doing what, and what new initiatives were on the horizon. I was hooked!

Since then, I've become a conference presenter and mentor for my colleagues, learned how to be an effective advocate for school libraries, served on the NESLA board, attended national conferences all across the United States, chaired and served on AASL task forces and sat as a member of the Affiliate Assembly, met and worked with school library leaders, presenters, and authors from all over the country. My MSLA experience paid off in a big way when I landed my dream job as founding Director of the AASL National School Library Media Program of the Year (2004) Award-winning library program for Boston Arts Academy and Fenway High School. Currently, I hold what I consider to be the best job in world as MSLA's Executive Director. It allows me to continue to apply my professional expertise and maintain contact with my colleagues here in Massachusetts and around the country while enjoying the flexibility and lack of interruptions that working from home provides.

I honestly believe that I wouldn't have had any of these opportunities if I hadn't become actively involved in MSLA early in my career. I have made life-long friends that I would never have met otherwise. In short, I've received a lot more from MSLA than I have given, which is why I urge YOU to look for opportunities to get involved yourself.

MSLA Service Award Recognizes MSLA members who have made significant contributions to MSLA. This individual has demonstrated service to the profession of school librarianship through leadership at the state and possibly at the national level.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: The nominee will have a long-standing record of service to MSLA, and have demonstrated leadership of school librarians within the state or nationally. This nominee has represented MSLA members in areas of advocacy, public relations, or other public forum and worked to make MSLA an organization that leads the profession of school librarianship.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: A current MSLA board member may write a letter of nomination for consideration by the Board. Up to three awards may be given each year. The MSLA Executive Board will make the final decision. **2010 Nomination are due by 8/31**