

Librarians in the News

by Shannon Roy, Editor

Kingman Library Director will Retire in March

Linda Slack, Kingman Library Director, will be retiring March 1, 2006. She has 24 years experience in the library field; 7 years at Scott County Library and 17 years as director in Kingman. "By policy, I worked with seven board members. But in reality, my board members were the 10,800 people of Kingman County."

Her commitment to community involvement in Kingman resulted in the Kingman Public Library receiving the first national award given to a public library for excellence by an overall program, special program or significant accomplishment serving a city population of 10,000 or less. "I was extremely pleased with this acknowledgement," Linda said, "not only for the library, but also for our community of 3,200."

Linda is a past president of Kansas Public Library Association, has served on several SCKLS boards, and the SCKLS grant study committee. She also worked on the 1995 revision of the Kansas Public Library Standards. She represented Kingman County on the board of the South Central Community Foundation.

Linda's future plans are unsettled. "I'm not a sitter, a TV addict or a crafty person so I will need to re-evaluate my options. I will miss the excitement, the responsibility, the planning and challenges associated with the director's position. The library was my playground as well as my workplace. I do feel confident that I'm leaving everything in good capable hands."

Grace "Gee Gee" Helm will be the Director at Kingman

Gee Gee Helm has worked at the Kingman Carnegie library for 16 years. She graduated from KPLACE in 1999. In 2003 she had the honor of being the first Kansas librarian to earn a General Library Certificate. She earned a Library Management Certificate and received a Level 5 LEEP certificate in 2004.

Gee Gee has been married to husband Dan for 32 years. He is an Agricultural Education instructor at Kingman High School and will be retiring in May after 32 years of teaching. Their daughter Amber lives in Kingman and teaches English at Chaparral High School. Their son Tim lives in Kansas City, Missouri and is a data analyst for the Sunflower Group.

Gee Gee's hobbies include genealogy, working with the elderly, and enjoying the outdoors. She

is a firm believer in life-long learning and loves working in library services in her community. She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve Kingman in her new role as Director of the Kingman Carnegie Library.

Kim Wiens is the new Director at Wellington.

Kim Wiens became the new director of the Wellington Public Library on December 15, replacing Donna McNeil. She was hired last October as an assistant to Donna. Kim was the business manager at Wellington Hospital before coming to the library.

“This is a beautiful library and I love all aspects of this new position,” Kim reported. She lives in Wellington with her husband Randy. The couple has two grown children and five grandchildren.

The Wiens enjoy camping and exploring the outdoors. In the past, Kim has done literacy tutoring, hoping to help other people enjoy reading as much as she does.