

## **2007 Kansas Summer Institute for School Library Media Specialists Held in Emporia**

by Mirah Dow, Institute Coordinator and Assistant Professor at SLIM

Kansas teacher-librarians, classroom teachers, technologists, and school administrators “rolled up their sleeves” and explored the rapid information and technology changes occurring in today’s schools. Digital literacy, the school library media programs and learning in an information-rich world was the focus of the two-day

Institute held June 13-14, at Emporia State University (ESU), in the Jones Conference Center for Educational Excellence.

Through a combination of lecture and “how-to” sessions on topics such as blogs, wikis and podcasting, 143 participants learned from David Warlick how technology can be used to support collaboration among library media specialists, technologists, and classroom teachers to help students to learn and achieve. Popular authors Susan Stevens Crummel and Sharon Draper shared methods for using literature to inspire students to develop reading, writing, and research skills.



***David Warlick Discusses Changing Schools with the Kansas Summer Institute Participants***

David Warlick is a 30 year educator and staff consultant with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. Warlick’s web site, Landmarks for Schools, has more than ten million visits a month and has some of the most popular teacher tools available on the Net. Warlick is also the author of three books on instructional technology and 21st century literacy. He has spoken to audiences throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and South America.

Susan Stevens Crummel, a mathematics teacher for 31 years and award-winning picture book author has, since 1997, collaborated with her sister, Janet Stevens, on *Cook-a-Doodle-Do*, *Jackalope*, and *And the Dish Ran Away With the Spoon*.

Sharon Draper is a young adult author, educator, poet and National Teacher of the Year. She has won many awards, including the Coretta Scott King Award, and many honors from the American Library Association and the International Reading Association. Her titles include *Tears of a Tiger*, *Forged by Fire*, *Darkness Before Dawn*, and her latest, *Copper Sun*.



***Author Sharon Draper Talks with Librarians and Teachers***

Session instructors also included Northeast Kansas Library System technology consultants Brenda Hough, Heather Braum and Liz Rae and ESU Instructional Design and Technology Instructor Janet Holland. Carmaine Ternes, Emporia School Librarian, and Heather Wade, Emporia State University Archivist, hosted evening library tours and discussions of collections and facilities.

Mirah Dow, Institute coordinator and Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Management, said, "We are fortunate to have approximately 1,200 out of 1,400 total school buildings in Kansas with fully licensed school library media specialists. Professional development events like this make it possible to continue to move forward with the information and technology skills necessary to see that all Kansas students experience access to many resources for learning and become literate adults."



***Mirah Dow Makes an Announcement to a Recordbreaking Crowd***

The Summer Institute for School Library Media Specialists is an annual event sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, the School of Library and Information Management, the State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Association of School Librarians. The purpose of the Institute is to provide current information on best practices related to school libraries, education resources and information literacy instruction.