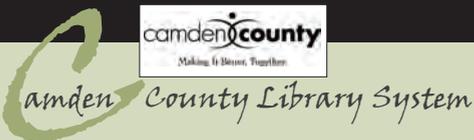


# DREAM



**2006 Annual Report**

## Library Interns Fulfilling Their Dreams

For more than 30 years the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) has worked to strengthen public libraries as an essential part of urban life. The ULC's programs are acclaimed for inspiring new organizational models that invigorate urban libraries and enrich the areas surrounding them.

Each year the ULC presents partner libraries with a scholarship to recruit library interns with leadership qualities. Students from diverse backgrounds are selected to work with the staff and experience all aspects of a public library system.



### ***Shyamoli De***

As a ULC Scholar I got the opportunity to explore my dreams. I always wanted to learn how the different departments and branches of the library system work. I got hands-on training in Technical Services, Reference, the Children's Department and the South County and Merchantville branches. I attended various community meetings that ordinarily I would not have had a chance to attend. I was fortunate to have Linda Devlin as my mentor; she gave me important advice and helped me every step of the way. I attended the ULC conference in Chicago, the New Jersey Library Association conference and many others. During my visits I met other librarians and had the chance to exchange

and bring back new ideas from other libraries. Being a ULC Scholar gave me the determination to fulfill my future goals as a librarian.

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### ***Christen Orbanus***

I was asked to write a short paragraph about my experience as a ULC Scholar, but I'm not sure I will be able to sum up the past year and a half in just a few sentences. Above all, I am grateful for my experience as a Scholar because it has helped to solidify my decision to remain in the public library setting. While with the Camden County Library System, I have had the opportunity to work with some great people who have helped me learn far more than I ever could have in a classroom. I have gained hands-on experience that I know will help me in all of my future endeavors. Most importantly, though, I have had fun!

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### ***Rachel Pekar***

I have had a really phenomenal experience as a ULC Scholar during my time with the Camden County Library System. I gained amazing work experience through the variety of tasks and projects I was given throughout the branches. This internship has provided me with a great opportunity to learn how all aspects of a library system work from a variety of perspectives. I feel as though I have a great advantage as I enter the working world because of the experiences. They have taught me so much more than simply what I learned in library school. Most importantly, I have met and worked with some amazing people in this system who have offered so much encouragement and have taught me so

much, all while having a lot of fun. I am truly thankful for all the support, warm welcomes, and friendly smiles I have gotten from everyone here at the Camden County Library System throughout my entire internship.

# Newsworthy

- **Another Successful “Books for Kids” Annual Holiday Drive**

Over 1,000 books were collected for our annual “Books for Kids” donation drive. They were delivered to the Division of Family Services in Lakeland for distribution to needy children throughout Camden County.

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- **The library website now features two blogs**

- a news blog (<http://blogs.camdencountylibrary.org/news>)
  - a redesign of our teen blog (<http://blogs.camdencountylibrary.org/teens>)
- 

- **New Additions**

The Technical Services Department added 50,370 print items and 11,657 audiovisual items to the Camden County Library System collection in 2006. Additionally, 950 volumes were purchased and 330 titles cataloged for our member libraries.

## Financial Report 2006

**Income:**

County Library Tax	8,600,738
State Aid Per Capita	285,752
Grants	209,727
Interest	53,305
Fines and Fees	212,318
Surplus	185,464
Miscellaneous	75,307
	<hr/>
	\$9,622,611

**Expenses:**

Salaries and Benefits	5,964,251
Library Materials	1,277,103
Operating Expenses	2,186,497
	<hr/>
	\$9,427,851

*Note: Figures are audited.*

### **CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Louis Cappelli, Jr., Freeholder Director • Edward McDonnell, Freeholder Deputy Director  
Riletta L. Cream, Library Liaison • Rodney A. Greco • Jeffrey L. Nash • Joseph Ripa • Carmen G. Rodriguez

### **CAMDEN COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS 2006**

Albert T. Magliano, President • Sharon J. Allen, Vice President  
Dr. William J. Gavin • James Jefferson • Phyllis J. Kline • Carmella McMurray • Lisa D. Moore

### **LINDA A. DEVLIN, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Lisa Bicking, Business Office • Lauren Callahan, Human Resources  
Janice Masud-Paul, Information Technology • Lisa Derfler, Technical Services

## A Dream Come True for Mother of the Bride Joan Valdez



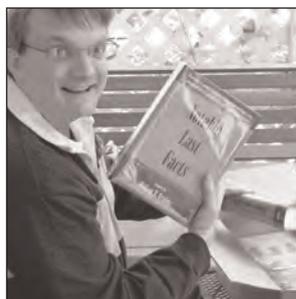
Last fall Joan Valdez's only daughter, who lives in Las Vegas, was getting married. Joan was unable to travel to the wedding. Faced with missing her only child's wedding, Joan turned to her local library.

On November 27, 2006 at 3 p.m., in her best clothes, Joan went to the South County Branch, where Maureen O'Rourke and other staff members helped her view her daughter's wedding on a library computer. "My daughter is the most beautiful bride I've ever seen," said the proud mother.

Since the wedding, Joan has kept in contact with the South County staff and is pleased to report that Genny and her husband Timmy are very happy.

# DREAM

## Dream of Writing a Book? *Every Last Thing You Need is at the Library*



Many aspiring writers don't know where to turn to make their dreams reality. Bill Brahms, Voorhees Branch Manager, found all of the resources at the library. Every detail, from incorporating and operating a business to technical printing, design and copyright questions, were at the library. "The answers were right under my nose," says Bill. So now, in addition to being a librarian, Bill is president of Reference Desk Press, Inc.

Last year Bill's fifth book, *Notable Last Facts*, was released. A "notable last" is any significant event, person, place or thing that marks the end of its kind or era, such as the last speaker of an extinct language; the last work by a major artist, performer, or author; or the last remaining example or occurrence of just about anything. Ironically, Bill's book on "lasts" was the first comprehensive book of its kind.

Within a year *Notable Last Facts* had become a core library reference work. In 2006, the American Library Association touted it as "an achievement in reference publishing." Bill adds, "The book really took off. We soon had worldwide distribution--thousands of libraries were buying it: from small public libraries to universities like Harvard, to agencies such as the Smithsonian and CIA, to organizations like ABC News, National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. I'm still amazed."

Bill is proud to say, "Not only did the resources at my library give me the information on how to publish and market books, but all of the information in my books comes from libraries and online library resources."

## Sophie Brookover Named “Mover and Shaker”



Every year for the last seven years, *Library Journal*, the foremost magazine for library professionals, has identified emerging leaders in the library world. *Library Journal's* Movers and Shakers are selected for their innovations, creativity, and proven ability to make a difference to the communities they serve. The Camden County Library System is delighted to have had two of its employees selected to be *Library Journal* Movers and Shakers in the last two years: Director Linda Devlin and Senior Teen Librarian Sophie Brookover.

Sophie, who works at the Vogelson Regional Branch in Voorhees, weaves together her passions for teen services and pop culture. Whether she is co-hosting a book discussion program at Eastern Regional High School's Media Center, establishing an anime and manga club for local teens, or emceeding a clam milkshake drink-off at a Food Fear Factor Challenge, Sophie's enthusiasm for teens shines through. "I want teens in our community to see me as a resource person, a shoulder to cry on, a role model, and a friend wrapped up in one."

An active member of the New Jersey Library Association's Young Adult Services Section, Sophie is also co-writing a book, *Pop Goes The Library: How Libraries Can Use Popular Culture to Connect With Their Whole Communities*. The book has grown out of her professional blog, *Pop Goes the Library*, ([www.popgoesthelibrary.com](http://www.popgoesthelibrary.com)) which she co-writes with four other pop-obsessed librarians. "Pop culture is a huge part of what drives people, young and old alike, to their libraries. They want to see that we take their interests seriously: that we have books about NASCAR, that we have *Grey's Anatomy* available on DVD, that we host financial aid workshops, and that we carry multiple copies of cookbooks by popular chefs like Rachael Ray and Jamie Oliver." Congratulations, Sophie!

## Funds Raised for Libraries Devastated by Katrina



Hurricane Katrina brought devastation along the Gulf Coast. Throughout 2006 Camden County Library System employees and patrons donated money to help restore and rebuild libraries in the South. Coordinating with Gloucester Township, funds were first sent to Ocean Springs Library in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Later, funds were collected for the Westwego Branch of Jefferson Parish Library in Louisiana.

A variety of fundraisers were held including the selling of bottled water to remind donors of the shortage of drinking water during the hurricane recovery. Over \$3,000 was sent to libraries in the affected areas.

**W**ho doesn't have dreams? Everyone, even the smallest child, holds dreams and promises for the future. I am proud that the Camden County Library System has the power to make many of these dreams come true through our collections and services.

Countless people have used our libraries as a starting point to fulfilling dreams. How many students have used our print and online resources when applying for college or a first job? How many children have discovered a world of wonder and imagination when reading the books in our collections or attending a story time at a local branch? Our resources and knowledgeable staff help our customers achieve many life milestones, such as planning for weddings or buying a home. Others fulfill personal dreams, such as finding out how to navigate the Internet at our free classes or learning the English language through the Literacy Volunteers of America Camden County program.



Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." At The Camden County Library System we take pride in creating the future for our customers. Let us know what your dreams are. We will help make them come true.

Linda A. Devlin  
Director



I am particularly excited to be the Freeholder liaison to the Camden County Library System as it continues to be a pioneer of new and exciting services for all its cherished customers. Please join me in celebrating Claudia Sumler, who after more than 16 years of dedicated service, retired as the director of the Library System. Our new director, Linda Devlin, brings her passion and expertise to the forefront as she leads the staff at all our branches into the future. Our library system continues to work together flawlessly to personify the concept of teamwork, or as this year's theme indicates, Dreamwork!



Where else can one disappear into a world of wizards and dragons then be transported in an instant to colonial America or the surface of the moon? Only in a dream... or a library! Whether it is research for a school assignment, an effort to land your dream job, or daydreaming while listening to your favorite music on a Saturday afternoon, the library is the perfect escape.

Increases in computer sign-ups, website hits, and circulation are a testament that our customer base is always expanding. As the numbers continue to climb, they paint a very clear picture – that strong communities need strong libraries. We can all enrich ourselves personally, professionally, and educationally with the over 200 services that are

available. As future generations continue to utilize our library system, the most important number of all will continue to increase - the number of satisfied customers.

The people that make all this possible are truly the stuff that dreams are made of, and it is these same people that make me so very proud to be Freeholder liaison to the Camden County Library System.

Freeholder Riletta L. Cream

# Camden County Library System Branches and Hours

## Anthony P. Infanti - Bellmawr Branch Library

35 E. Browning Rd., Bellmawr, NJ 08031 (856) 931-1400

Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



*Debbie Stefano,  
Branch Manager*

*Anne Ackroyd,  
Branch Manager*



## Gloucester Township-Blackwood Rotary Public Library

15 S. Black Horse Pike, Blackwood, NJ 08012 (856) 228-0022

Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Merchantville Public Library

130 S. Centre St., Merchantville, NJ 08109 (856) 665-3128

Monday and Wednesday, 2 - 9 p.m. • Tuesday and Thursday, 2 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



*Eve Brown,  
Branch Manager*

*Nancy Bennett,  
Branch Manager*



## South County Regional Branch Library

35 Coopers Folly Rd., Winslow Township, NJ 08004 (856) 753-2537

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays during the summer

## William G. Rohrer Memorial Library-Haddon Twp. Branch

15 MacArthur Blvd., Westmont, NJ 08108 (856) 854-2752

Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



*Nan Rosenthal,  
Branch Manager*

*William Brahms,  
Branch Manager*



## M. Allan Vogelson Regional Branch Library

203 Laurel Rd., Voorhees, NJ 08043 (856) 772-1636

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

Closed Sundays during the summer

Camden County Library System is governed and supported by the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Camden County Library Commission.



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Pat Dempsey

Editorial Staff:

Chris Entwisle, Jeanne Sevast,  
Debbie Stefano, Rhoda Schmulowitz,  
Maureen Wynkoop

[www.camdencountylibrary.org](http://www.camdencountylibrary.org)