



# LIVING LIBRARY

A BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT



overview of the Living Library

look at the real value of intergenerational mentoring

snapshots of young teachers' electronic filing cabinets

quotes from students and mentors

2008

[www.livinglibrary.us](http://www.livinglibrary.us)



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## A WELCOME NOTE

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**W**ELCOME TO THE LIVING LIBRARY, a grass roots, inter-generational mentoring project started by the retired and student programs of the Illinois Education Association (IEA) in 2005. The goal of the Living Library is to help combat inequalities in America's education system by building an online professional support network for America's teachers. The project is part of a larger teacher-led mentoring and professional development initiative called Building Bridges.

2007 was a formative year for the Living Library. In addition to adding over 1,000 student IEA mentees from over 30 Illinois colleges and universities, we added 20 new mentors and formed working relationships with The Consortium for Educational Change and the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative.

Our goal for the 2008-2009 school year is to raise money to support the project's expansion into Illinois K-12 schools. This money will be used to support new Living Library mentors, recruit teachers to serve as "Web Coaches" to bring the project to their school and complete an upgrade of project technologies. In June of 2009, the project will be shared at the NEA's retired conference in Washington D.C. MindUniversity – an NEA member-owned leadership academy from Illinois – continues to donate technologies and training manuals to the participants

Along the way, we remain grateful for the hundreds of hours of volunteer efforts of our project team as well as input from members of the IEA student and retired programs.

Looking forward to a great year!



Steve Fouts  
IEA member



"The mentors in the Living Library provide you with many different lesson plans and ideas. Personally, I love to be creative with my lessons and looking at the profiles provides me with ideas."

-- **Tai Horton, student, Millikin University**

## WHAT IS THE LIVING LIBRARY

**M**OST OF US PICTURE MENTORING IN PAIRS – a more experienced individual offering guidance to a novice. But what if you could learn from 30 different people at the same time, and pick and choose the advice you want to take?

That's network mentoring. That's the Living Library. It all starts with an online file cabinet.

Practicing and retired teachers (mentors) set up online file cabinets with ideas, assignments and teaching tips. Education students and young teachers (mentees) access these resources and pose questions to a community of teachers.

The Living Library is a 21st Century professional support network that provides a platform for teacher collaboration. The project is grounded in the principle that the best way to enhance student learning is by connecting young teachers to the wisdom and high quality resources of seasoned professionals.

### THE LIVING LIBRARY OFFERS MENTORS

- A chance to give back to the profession
- The opportunity to build 21st Century skills
- A convenient way to help others



### THE LIVING LIBRARY OFFERS EDUCATION STUDENTS AND YOUNG TEACHERS

- Access to the wisdom of experienced professionals
- Communication tools for the classroom
- A new way to learn from your cooperating teacher or mentor
- A resource for planning classroom activities
- An advantage for your job interview

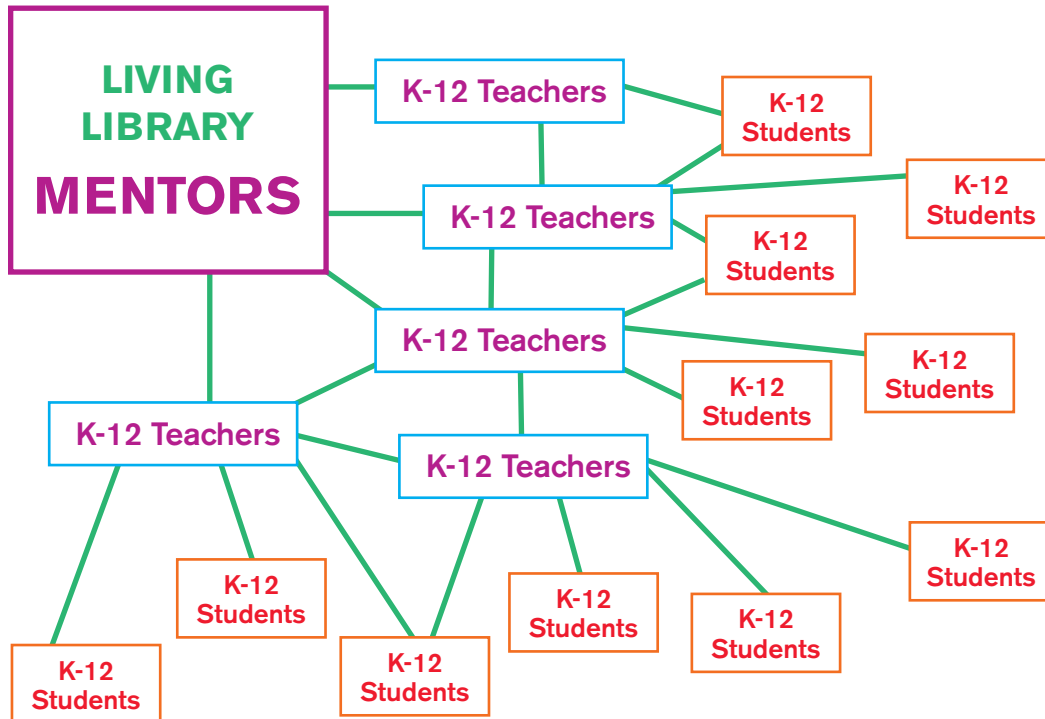
"As a retiree, you have a wealth of knowledge to share with an education major or new teacher. All those wonderful tips and ideas that you have already proven by your own experience in the classroom are bound to be of benefit to the mentees who access your cabinet. I have personally witnessed in our training workshops the enthusiasm of the student mentees that are thrilled to have the opportunity to access our cabinets!"

-- **Linda Walcher, retired elementary teacher**



VISION

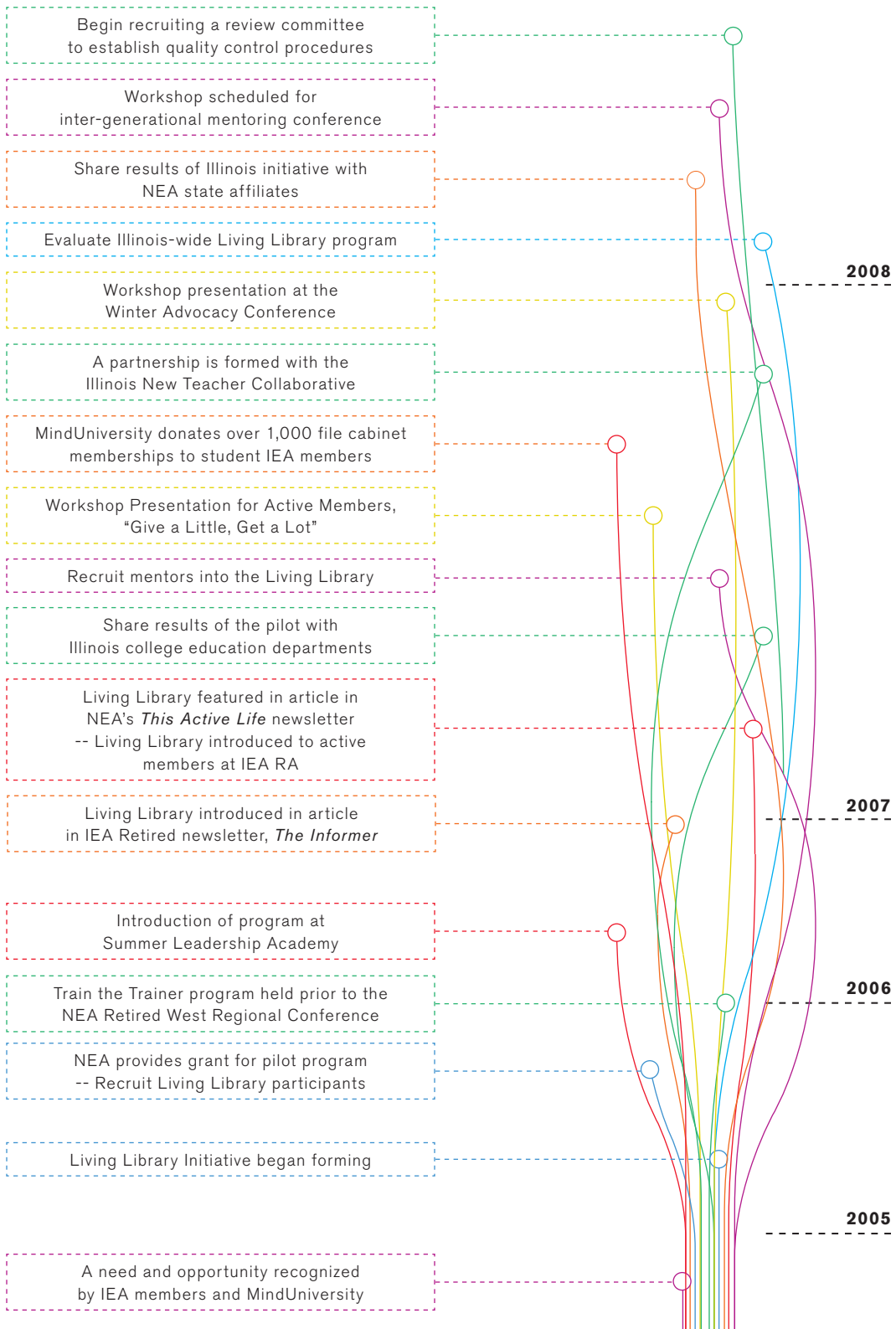
**A** SUSTAINED ONLINE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT NETWORK OF TEACHERS CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING.



"I believe that the Living Library will be a valuable tool for me as I enter the teaching profession. Being able to access resources from seasoned teachers is something that can benefit me. It will make me more prepared for the first year."

-- Ashley Damm, student, SIU Edwardsville

## LIVING LIBRARY TIMELINE



## THE MENTORS

**T**HE HEART OF LIVING LIBRARY is its online mentoring community. Master teachers share practical wisdom that can be immediately integrated into the K-12 classroom. Experienced and retired teachers give back to the profession's next generation by electronically posting tried and true classroom lessons, assessments, project ideas, bellringer activities. Young teachers search and access these resources and put them into action in their own classrooms. The Living Library not only preserves the knowledge of master teachers who are leaving the classroom, but also instantly transfers it to a rising class of new teachers.

"The Living Library gives you the opportunity to leave a legacy that will be appreciated and used by new teachers as they begin their new journey in a great profession."  
-- David Bishop, mentor teacher



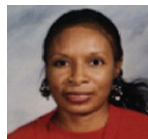
David Bishop taught high school English and speech for 37 years and was very involved in theater and speech team.

David has filled his Living Library file cabinet with words of wisdom on everything from classroom management to using films as educational resources. He also offers guidance on setting up an American Studies program, where to find free reading guides, and plenty of rubrics.

**Dear Mr. Bishop,**

After reading your "Words of Wisdom" in your "Discipline" folder, I felt relieved that I had some strategies to call upon when faced with an oppositional student. Your tips have definitely pulled me through my student teaching semester. Thank you so much for sharing your expertise!

-- Ashley Jones, education student,  
Southern Illinois University



Brenda Foster teaches 5th grade at Dr. Howard Elementary School in Champaign, Illinois.

Brenda's file cabinet is a favorite stop for new teachers aiming to bring diversity curriculum into their classrooms, with her ideas on celebrating different cultures and even creating a classroom newspaper. She also shares lessons integrating technology across all the subject areas.

**Dear Ms. Foster,**

I just wanted to thank you for the Diversity activities I found in your Living Library file cabinet. These projects are excellent! I am not a teacher yet, but I am working on my certification and Master's degree as a career changer. Any ideas I can get are so helpful! Thank you!"

-- Kimberly Fortner, graduate student,  
Northeastern Illinois University

## SUPPORTING YOUNG TEACHERS AND EDUCATION STUDENTS

**B**ECAUSE THE MENTORS in the Living Library are housed on a public web site, teachers and education students can visit whenever they want to access quality resources. The Living Library will continue to build its mentor population to serve all K-12 subject areas. MindUniversity hosts the Living Library website and partners with other Building Bridges stake holders to promote the Living Library to education departments and K-12 schools. Here's how three young teachers are using their Living Library file cabinet.

### PATRICK SWANSON

Teachers can use the file cabinet technology to create internet-based lessons for their students. Creating a virtual field trip allows the teacher to pre-determine credible websites about a topic of study and organize the links and additional information into tours which students can follow at their own pace. Clicking on a hyperlink in the file cabinet document takes the student immediately to the website the teacher has identified.



Pat Swanson is a senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, majoring in secondary science education. In preparation for his student teaching in physics, Pat created a virtual field trip about projectile motion that takes his students through a tour of websites he selected with explanations and videos demonstrating this concept.

**Projectile Motion VFT**

- Getting ready
- Tour 1: What is Projectile Motion?
- Tour 2: Paths of Motion
- Tour 3: Gravity
- Tour 4: Launching projectiles!

### Tour 4: Launching projectiles!

Posted by Patrick Swanson

Now it's time to start launching projectiles! Hooray!  
Click on the following applet:  
[http://galileoandstein.physics.virginia.edu/more\\_stuff/Applets/ProjectileMotion/jarapplet.html](http://galileoandstein.physics.virginia.edu/more_stuff/Applets/ProjectileMotion/jarapplet.html)

Try launching a projectile with an initial velocity of 50 m/s. Try adjusting the "angle" bar to 0 degrees, 30 degrees, 45 degrees, 60 degrees, and 90 degrees.

Which projectile went the highest? The farthest?

I want you to try and figure out what factors affect the range of a projectile. How do initial velocity, angle of launch, and mass affect projectile motion?

**SUPPORTING YOUNG TEACHERS AND EDUCATION STUDENTS (CONTINUED)**

**ROBERT BINDEWALD**

Because the Electronic File Cabinet is online, teachers can use it for communicating with students and parents outside the classroom too. Teachers can customize their file cabinet with “bulletin board” notes that parents and students can access from any Internet-connected computer simply by visiting the teacher’s site. Students can even download file attachments from their teacher’s file cabinet.



“I plan to cut and paste topics and procedures from my lesson plans into a daily log that parents and students can view, and attach the documents that I hand out in class. I think it would be nice for parents to be able to access this in order to get a feel for what we are doing in class.” -- Rob Bindewald, student, Northeastern Illinois University

<p><b>Chicago History</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Board</li> <li>What you are looking for, and how to find it</li> <li>Assignment and Lesson Plans</li> <li>Chicago History Fair</li> <li>History Fair Eval Sheet</li> <li>Suggested Topics</li> <li>Rubrics and Scales</li> </ul>	<p><b>What you are looking for, and how to find it</b></p> <p>Posted by Robert Bindewald</p> <p>Students: You are encouraged to check this site when absent or in need of additional help. If you’ve lost an assignment, it can be found here.</p> <p>Parents: You can use this site to help stay abreast of your child’s academic progress. No personal information will be posted, but at least you will know better what questions to ask of your child or me if a concern arises.</p>
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**ASHLEY EVETT**

The Electronic File Cabinet also serves as an online file organization system that allows teachers to create subject “drawers”, topic folders, and individual documents that can be filed, saved, and accessed from any computer.



“I use my Electronic File Cabinet to compile resources that I found from other teacher-mentor’s cabinets, and also as an online filing source for materials I have created as well.” -- Ashley Evett, senior in elementary education at Illinois State University and Vice-President of the Student IEA

AEVETT	
	Education class work
	Resume and Philosophy of Teaching
	Math lessons
	Reading lessons
	Other resources
	Student teaching

## PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

**O**RIGINALLY FUNDED THROUGH A GRANT from the National Education Association, the Living Library continues to grow thanks to a dynamic public-private partnership of organizations and businesses working together to support the next generation of teachers. IEA volunteers and the retired and student programs of the IEA continue to provide leadership for the project.

**ILLINOIS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (IEA) IEA Teachers** continue to provide project leadership to the Living Library and volunteer to give promotional workshops at conferences and other IEA-sponsored events. The IEA is association of 128,000 members composed of Illinois elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty and staff, educational support professionals, retired educators and college students preparing to become teachers. (<http://www.ieanea.org/>)



**IEA RETIRED PROGRAM** provided seed funding for the Living Library in 2005 and 2006 and continues to help organize the recruitment of new mentors. The program continues to aid project leaders in publicizing the Living Library to other states and has requested that the project be shared at one of two inter-generational mentoring conferences this spring or early summer. (<http://www.ieanea.org/retired.aspx>)

**IEA STUDENT PROGRAM** continues to help publicize the project at two IEA student conferences in November and April, work with project leaders to provide mentee training and take on leadership roles in focus groups that will make recommendations on project technology enhancements. (<http://www.ieanea.org/student.aspx>)



**FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT ILLINOIS COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES** is incorporating the Living Library into its work with the Teaching With Primary Sources grant project-- a federally funded program designed to help teachers use the Library of Congress's rich reservoir of digitized primary source materials. (<http://www.federationedu.org/>)



**THE CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE** is a network of Illinois school districts and professional organizations – enhancing student learning by creating educational organizations that collaborate and learn from best practice. (<http://www.cecillinois.org/>)



**PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS (CONTINUED)**

**THE ILLINOIS NEW TEACHER COLLABORATIVE (INTC)**

hosts synchronous technologies for project participants that help foster real-time collaboration of mentees and mentors. The INTC provides statewide leadership to create a resource for educators in supporting new teachers through induction and mentoring activities. (<http://intc.ed.uiuc.edu/>)



**HORACE MANN INSURANCE** provided seed funding for the current Living Library pilot. Horace Mann was founded by two Springfield, Illinois, teachers to provide quality, affordable auto insurance to teachers. This mission has grown to provide educated financial solutions to educators and their families. Our professional agents offer insurance and financial products to the educational community across the United States. (<https://www.horacemann.com/>)



**MINDUNIVERSITY, INC.** will continue to host the Living Library homepage, administrate access to the software platform and provide on-going technology support to project participants. MU will also be responsible for tracking usage statistics for project assessment and ensure sustainability of the project. MindUniversity is a leadership academy started by Illinois K-12 teachers that specializes in the mentoring and professional development of K-12 educators in the use of Internet technology. (<http://www.minduniversity.com>)



**DIGITAL STRUCTURES CORPORATION (DSC)** developed the current software being used by project participants in and will manage the software upgrade for the project. DSC is based in Chicago and has provided custom software development services for ten years to companies large and small including leaders in their field such as CIGNA Healthcare, The Northern Trust, Caesars Entertainment, Bell South, and Jays Foods. DSC offers a variety of software development and IT-related management consulting services but specializes in producing user-friendly, data-driven applications for the Inter and Intranet. (<http://digitalstructurescorp.com/>)

