Hugo Opens New Library

On November 9, 2004, well over 200 people crowded inside to dedicate and celebrate the brand new Donald W. Reynolds Library in Hugo, the new home of the Choctaw County Public Library. In striking contrast to the library’s previous facility, a small, drab WPA building on a side street, the new 13,500 square foot library is an imposing structure right on Hugo's main street in the middle of town, where everyone will see it.

The building has already drawn high praise from everyone who has seen it, and because of the library’s great location, that’s pretty much the whole county and many more, said Wayne Hanway. Hanway is Executive Director of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma, of which the new library is a branch.

A focal point inside the new library is the children’s area, decorated to reflect Hugo’s rich history as the winter quarters for several small circuses. Looking to the left from the library entrance, the visitor’s eye is drawn to a pair of large sculptures that include a clown, a little girl in a wagon, boy with a baby elephant, and several books. The sculptures are a gateway into the children’s area, where one next sees a small circus ring, complete with overhead canopy, for story times. Off to the side is a colorful replica of an old circus wagon, painted by a retired circus painter, where kids can enjoy some privacy as they sit and read. On the wall is an antique circus poster. The circus theme is carried further by animal motifs on chairs and a display.

Of course, the library is not just for kids. Off to one side, there is a distinctly separate and different young adults area. And in the other direction, to the left of a long, arched center aisle, one sees public computers, browsing areas, reference materials, and the adult collection. With a separate heritage room, an Internet-connected meeting room, and an Internet-connected conference room, not to mention a good-sized staff work area, what more could one want? How about, on the other side of the building, a separate literacy center, with a large, Internet-connected classroom, an office for tutoring, and separate restrooms and storage.

Choctaw County turns up at or near the top of various lists of economic and social problems in

Continued on page 12
Lynn’s Spin

A New Spin @ our 98th Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for “A New Spin” to a resort destination for the 2005 OLA Conference March 30th – April 1st! Pack your bags and come aboard the OLA/NCED cruise ship! There will be many opportunities to make new connections at the fabulous, state-of-the-art National Center for Employee Development (NCED) in Norman. Program Chair Susan Dulaney Wright and your OLA Program Committee have been working hard to put together a dynamic agenda of programs and social events that will be informative, entertaining and energizing.

The atmosphere at the NCED Conference Center is both invigorating and relaxing. It is truly like being on a cruise ship! As the largest hotel complex in Oklahoma, it offers every amenity...an extensive health club facility, saunas, whirlpools, large heated swimming pool, tennis courts, jogging/walking trail, indoor track, racquetball courts, volleyball and horse-shoe pits, billiards, ping-pong and much more.

All food services are catered by Marriott and offer a wide variety of menu selections and “all you can eat” for three meals. Scrumptious snacks are also provided for afternoon breaks. No one will go hungry! Did I mention there is a cocktail lounge? The conference package is all-inclusive and covers registration, room (tax included), meals, snacks, parking and use of all conference recreational facilities. Check out the “best value” package for conference on pages 25 and 27 of the Preview.

After conference you may want to continue your stay in Norman to attend the popular Medieval Festival on April 2nd, or visit the world-famous Sam Noble Museum of Natural History or the expanded and renovated Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art with the fabulous Weitzenhoffer Collection. Special NCED hotel rates will be available on Friday evening for conference attendees.

A big “thanks” to Susan and the Program Committee along with local arrangements, co-chaired by Basha Hartley and Sally Bratton Rice. They have done an outstanding job of planning a conference that “Spins” -- balancing informative programs, fantastic speakers, timely exhibits and loads of fellowship and fun!

If you are attending conference for the first time, you will want to attend the Thursday morning “First Timers Orientation.”

Highlighted speakers include the world-famous Seattle librarian, Nancy Pearl; national award-winning author of breath-taking historical novels, Rilla Askew; Canadian Library Association President-Elect/Ottawa PL CEO, Barbara Clubb; President of the Mountain Plains Library Association/Colorado academician, Beth Avery; noted environmental biologist/adventure novelist, Richard Trout; Manager of Atomic Pop, Rob Vollmar; dynamic Oklahoma leader, Linda Edmondson; ALA’s Washington Office legislative expert, Patrice McDermott; noted fundraiser, Gemmy Brown; and the beloved former Associate Dean of Oklahoma State University Library, Ken Bierman. These are only a few. There are many more fascinating speakers and experts on the conference program from in and out of state.

The OLA “Spin” begins Wednesday, March 30th with the Sequoyah book awards and four outstanding pre-conference workshops. Those who prefer a more physically active day can join the golf tournament at Cobblestone Creek Golf Course for the Ruth Brown Memorial Award fundraiser. Wednesday evening activities include a poetry reading and wine tasting at the Cobblestone Creek Club House. After dinner at the conference center, attendees will be invited to the historic Sooner Theatre in downtown Norman for The Music Man and a tribute to Donna Norvell.

As we “spin” into Opening General Session, Keynote Speaker Rilla Askew will bring a special and timely message to all of us who face the daily re-
wards and challenges of providing free and open access to all of our citizens. We will be honored to have Barbara Clubb bring greetings from the Canadian Library Association and some highlights of activities in Canada. There will be many surprises unveiled, as well as door prizes at the Opening General Session. You won’t want to miss it!

Start Thursday and Friday mornings with continental breakfast in the Exhibit Hall. Visit with the exhibitors to see what is new and let their representatives know more about your library and your special needs. Please thank them for their support and their generosity in helping make our OLA Conference a success. Our conferences would be a mere shadow of what they are without vendor participation and financial support.

Thursday and Friday are chock full of programs with outstanding speakers, authors and experts. Topics range from learning styles to “RFID”; from fundraising to planned giving; and from mediation to managing your work load to reduce stress. The OLA “spin” includes something for everyone!

Stay tuned for more news about Thursday night’s all conference event, medieval style! Amid minstrels, jugglers and dancers, there will be fun, entertainment and food for all. The OASLMS auction will feature delightful baskets, both large and small. Don’t miss the bidding!

Don’t forget the important membership meeting Friday afternoon. Your voice is important! Besides, there will be fantastic door prizes!

Something that will be of interest to all libraries will be the unveiling of the OLA Marketing Tool Kit Friday afternoon by the creative, hardworking Marketing and Publicity Committee. It has been designed with school, public, academic and special libraries in mind.

Everyone will want to stay for Friday evening’s banquet to hear world-famous librarian, author and speaker Nancy Pearl. She will be available to autograph her books and the “Librarian Action Figure” after the program.

As we ponder the future of OLA, we recognize the importance of the Centennial Endowment Campaign to the stability and longevity of our association. The Endowment Committee, so aptly co-chaired by Pat Weaver-Meyers and Patrick Brennen, reminds us that there will be many opportunities to donate to the Endowment at conference. One of the most timely and apropos will be a memorial fund for Donna Norvell (ODL) set up through gifts to the Endowment in memory of Donna, recognizing the significance of her work and the essence of her influence on the many lives she touched in Oklahoma.

It is going to be an outstanding conference! So, pack your bags and come aboard the OLA/NCED cruise ship as we “Spin New Destinations... Forge New Connections... Bridge Generations... and Discover Serendipity” while learning, sharing and playing!

Lynn McIntosh
OLA President 2004/2005

Help Select the Best Resources about Oklahoma

The OLA Centennial Committee has spent the last year compiling a list of books, music, movies, and electronic resources about Oklahoma. An official list of “46 Highly Recommended Resources” representing the best fiction, non-fiction and media for children/young adults and adults about the 46th state is the end goal of this project. Oklahoma’s librarians, as a group, will be recommending these resources and as such, the help of our OLA membership is requested.

From now until the OLA Conference, the Centennial Committee’s unabridged list of resources will be available for reviewing on the OLA website. From this list an official ballot will be constructed. The list and criteria for inclusion may be accessed at http://www.oklibs.org/BibIOLACentennial/

Please take a few minutes to review the list and, using the feedback email address provided on the website, inform the Centennial Committee if it has omitted a resource that should have been included, included a resource that really does not have an Oklahoma focus, or placed a resource in the wrong category.

An official electronic ballot will be available for casting beginning the week of March 27, 2005 via the OLA website. Voting will continue through April 30, 2005. The Centennial Committee plans to have “polling stations” available at the OLA Conference to encourage as much participation as possible in this OLA centennial project. Once the ballots have been tallied, the list of “46 Highly Recommended Resources” will be released and will include tips for how to use this information to acquire (i.e., receive through donation) resources your library does not own.
Buy Books, Support the OLA Endowment

This year during National Library Week, OLA members will have the opportunity to buy books, music, and DVDs and at the same time support the OLA Endowment. OLA is partnering with Barnes & Noble at four of its six Oklahoma locations during National Library Week, April 10-16 for a “Voucher Bookfair.” During this week only, anyone with a printed OLA Bookfair Voucher who makes a purchase at a participating Barnes & Noble store will have a portion of their purchase go to support the OLA Endowment. The more we spend, the more we earn with a minimum of 15% of total sales going to the Endowment (for sales up to $2,000) up to a maximum of 25% (for sales over $10,000). Participating stores are: Oklahoma City — 13800 N. May Ave and 6100 N. May Ave; Norman — 540 Ed Noble Parkway; and Tulsa — 5231 East 41st Street. Unfortunately, bookfair vouchers will not be accepted at Barnes & Noble.com.

How Can I Help?
You can help by shopping at one of the four participating Barnes & Noble stores between April 10-16 and presenting your voucher at the sales counter at the time of purchase. All purchases with the exception of gift cards, Barnes & Noble membership cards, and café consumables will be counted. A voucher is printed below. Additionally, vouchers can be printed from the OLA website and vouchers will be available at the OLA Conference. Give vouchers to everyone you know and encourage them to support this event!

How Can My Library or Friends Group Help?
You can help by making vouchers available to patrons at your library’s service points. Vouchers can also be made available at events your library sponsors. Friends board members may also be willing to distribute them to their friends and families.

Are Any Special Events Planned at Participating Locations?
The Norman store and the Oklahoma City Store at 13800 N. May have invited OLA to have special events in their stores. These will include children’s story times and book signings. A complete schedule of events at these locations will be available on the OLA website as the date draws closer.

What if I Don’t Live Close to a Participating Store?
The Endowment Committee explored bookfair options with several chain bookstores with multiple locations in Oklahoma including Borders and Hastings. Barnes & Noble was selected for this first partnership because they appeared the most eager to work with us. In addition to exploring partnership opportunities with these other chains, the Endowment Committee hopes to work with Oklahoma’s independent booksellers on some local partnerships.

An FAQ document about our Barnes & Noble “Voucher Bookfair” is available at the OLA website at http://www.oklibs.org/bookfair/. Questions not answered there may be directed to OLA Endowment Committee member Jennifer Paustenbaugh (405) 744-6596 jpaust@okstate.edu.

Social Responsibilities Roundtable Hosts Golf, Wine, Cheese, & Poetry

The Social Responsibilities Roundtable this year has added something extra to its pre-conference agenda. Still here is the Annual Ruth Brown Memorial Golf Tournament, which benefits the Ruth Brown Memorial Fund, and still here is the Annual Poetry Reading, hosted that night by SRRT, but this year there’s an extra. SRRT will be holding a wine and cheese tasting the night of the poetry reading upstairs at the Cobble Stone Creek Golf Club, while the poetry reading is going on downstairs. As with the golf tourney, all profits will go to the Ruth Brown Memorial Fund.

To enjoy the wine tasting participants will have to purchase a specially designed wine glass for $5. This glass will allow you to taste all the wines from all the growers represented that night, as well as local cheese, salsa, and mustard producers in Oklahoma. Although at this time an exact number of vendors have not been identified, over twenty have been invited and many have reserved spaces already.

For more information on any of these events you may contact Gypsey Teague, Chair, SRRT, at gteague@lunet.edu or call (405) 962-1674. We hope to see everyone there for a day of golf, wine, cheese, and poetry.
Renowned historian and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough stepped in as the featured speaker for the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2004 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Series when playwright Arthur Miller declined the award due to illness. A former winner of the Distinguished Author Award, McCullough gave the keynote address at a black-tie dinner on Dec. 3 and gave a free public presentation on Dec. 4 at Tulsa City-County Library’s Central Library. Nearly 700 fans turned out for the public presentation.

While in Tulsa, McCullough praised libraries and librarians, crediting them for the material in his books.

“When you cross that threshold into a public library system you are crossing into a place where everything is available now for free to all. Any young person or middle-aged person or old person in our country could get a complete education – everything for free – coming here, right here or any library,” said McCullough at the Distinguished Author Dinner. “Every town, every city in this country has a public library. If you ever get down about the state of American culture or how we’re doing, consider that there are still more public libraries in this country than there are McDonald’s.”

As the featured speaker for the Distinguished Author Series, McCullough received a $25,000 honorarium, which he gave back to the Tulsa Library Trust to benefit the Tulsa City-County Library.

Since winning the Distinguished Author Award in 1995, McCullough has authored the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *John Adams*, one of the fastest-selling nonfiction titles in history. His biography *Truman* won him his first Pulitzer. He soon will release *1776* about America’s first year of independence.


For more information about the Distinguished Author Series, call Larry Bartley, Tulsa Library Trust manager, at (918) 596-7985.

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At right: David McCullough visits with fans following a public presentation he gave for the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2004 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Series.
Building Communities of Libraries

Whenever I am around librarians from different types of libraries, I am amazed at the abundance of resources available! At the OLA Gold Leadership Institute, Pat Wagner had us introduce ourselves by telling each other, one on one, what we could do for them. When librarians shared themselves and their talents, my wealth of resources included things I never knew I needed! Sometimes it is amazing how much we have to offer that we never thought to value. As we talk with others at conferences and professional meetings, we come away renewed and ready to try out new ideas. Energy abounds!

Since all types of libraries serve many of the same patrons in the community, it seems natural for us to pool our resources and explore possibilities to enrich the lives of our patrons. Unfortunately, many of the librarians that share the same patrons do not know each other. The Library Education Division and the Interlibrary Cooperation Committee, along with the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists, are sponsoring a workshop to help build community library partnerships. The workshop will explore problems encountered when working with students on research papers, talk about resources available to all types of libraries, and give suggestions on how to collaborate with other libraries in the community. Time is set aside for librarians to spend time with others who provide services in their geographic area. Two workshops are available; one on Friday, February 11 at Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow, and another on Friday, March 11 at Rose State in Midwest City. Registration forms may be found on the OLA web site at http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html. Registration deadline is February 4th for Broken Arrow and March 4 for Midwest City. We look forward to your participation and the chance to build library partnerships!

Barbara Ray
Chair, Library Education Division

Need help “Opening Doors” in your job?
Consider this OLA Pre-Conference

Join librarians and support staff as they learn about “Opening Doors; Improving Communications between Managers and Staff” during a pre-conference to be held Wednesday, March 30, 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. Come and hear these exciting speakers discussing these topics:

- Ken Bierman (keynote): Team Playing and Consensus-Building
- Debra Engel: Stuck in the Middle (Management) With You
- Linda Edmondson: Brown-Nosing, Sucking-Up, and other Stresses of Middle Management
- Earlene Piercy, Susan Stringer, Ken Bierman and perhaps a surprise panel member will answer participants’ questions about management
- Theresa Dickson: Evaluations, More than an Annual Chore, Making them Work for the Organization!

Speakers include librarians, managers, and support staff with experience and expertise in all types of libraries and all sizes of libraries. You may recognize some of them. All have Oklahoma ties although Ken now works in Nevada. They come highly recommended and each will provide a unique perspective on staff relationships.

Sponsored by the Support Staff Roundtable, SMART, and the University and College Division. Whether you’re affiliated with a public, school, academic, or special library we encourage you to attend so you can “open doors” to greater job satisfaction.

C. Evlyn Schmidt, UCD Chair
2005 Sequoyah Book Award Winners Announced

The Sequoyah Book Award Committees are pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 awards.

*The Stranger Next Door* by Peg Kehret is the winner of the 2005 Children’s Sequoyah Book Award and *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer is the winner of the 2005 Young Adult Sequoyah Book Award. Students across the state of Oklahoma read and voted for favorite books on the lists. The Oklahoma Library Association sponsors the Sequoyah Book Awards and has an excellent Web site at www.oklibs.org/sequoyah. Be sure to bookmark this site, since it contains links to other Sequoyah information.

Both the Sequoyah Children’s Award and Sequoyah Young Adult (YA) Award will be held on March 30, 2005 in Norman at the National Center for Employee Development in conjunction with Oklahoma Library Association’s (OLA) Annual Conference. Information about reservations and times for the award ceremonies will be announced on OLA’s Sequoyah Web site after the winning authors have been contacted and arrangements have been made.

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Oklahoma Webpages: The Oklahoma Mesonet

http://www.mesonet.ou.edu/

The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University jointly operate The Oklahoma Mesonet, which is a network of over 116 environmental monitoring stations throughout Oklahoma—at least one in each county. Each station consists of a 10-meter-tall tower, takes weather observations every 5 minutes, and transmits them to a central point every 15 minutes. The Oklahoma Climatological Survey receives this data, verifies it, and provides to us via the Mesonet website. Their turnaround time for data is no more than 20 minutes from the time they get it, so there is no more current source of weather data for every county of Oklahoma than Mesonet. Mesonet in fact recently won an award from the American Meteorological Society for being a state-of-the-art system. Every library should have this website bookmarked.

The first time that you access the website you will need to download a viewer. You will see a button on the left side of the screen that is named “View Mesonet Data”. Click this button and you’ll see information about a “WxScope” plug-in” that you can easily download. Do this. Now you are ready to access some data.

The homepage has a map of Oklahoma with all of the Mesonet weather stations located on it. Click on any of these dots and you’ll get the most current weather observations for it, including temperature, dewpoint, humidity, rainfall, and wind direction and wind speed.

The buttons at the top of the homepage feature an introduction to Mesonet and its history; a scroll-down alphabetical directory of Mesonet stations so that you can search stations by their name; system buttons about the weather instruments Mesonet uses and the quality of their data; and a button that allows you to access and work directly with Mesonet data in these categories: “Current maps,” “Interactive Products,” “Radar,” “Public Safety,” “Weather Trends,” “Statistics,” “Meteograms,” “Ag Models,” and “Summary Products”. These are not difficult to work in because they are “canned-data” products, and are worth exploring. A few examples: in “Current Maps” you can call up a state-wide map of soil temperatures or solar radiation; in “Weather Trends” you can call up a state-wide map of 24-hour temperature changes; in “Statistics” you can call up a table of “day-in-progress” weather data for Ardmore or any of the other Mesonet stations; in “Meteograms” you can call up a graph of wind speed and wind gusts for the last 24 hours; and in “Ag Models” you can call up a “Cattle Stress Map” that shows the bad weather that can hurt cattle.

Above these buttons you will find a few miscellaneous buttons, the most useful being that of “Press Releases” which contains the press releases of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey.

As we Oklahomans know, the weather can change as we’re looking at it. With Mesonet providing weather data that can be as current as 10 minutes ago, your library needs to know and use this website.

Steve Beleu, ODL
Oklahoma Library Association
Legislative Network Registry
2005

Please complete this form to let us know your contacts among state and congressional delegates, and your interest in joining the NETWORK.

Your name, address ________________________________

Your email address ________________________________
Your community (REPEAT)__________________________

Oklahoma Librarians are supportive and informed constituents. OLA would benefit from your willingness to use your time and your talent for information sharing to contact legislative and congressional delegations when important library issues are in play. Please let us know who you know and how well.

U.S. Congress - Name of office holder
______________________________

How well do you know them?
__ Donated to campaign
__ Relative or very good friend
__ Well acquainted, known by first name
__ Known through the news, can talk with

OK State Senate - Name of office holder
______________________________

How well do you know them?
__ Donated to campaign
__ Relative or very good friend
__ Well acquainted, known by first name
__ Known through the news, can talk with

OK State House - Name of office holder
______________________________

How well do you know them?
__ Donated to campaign
__ Relative or very good friend
__ Well acquainted, known by first name
__ Known through the news, can talk with

Other office holders (such as governor, attorney general, etc.)
Name AND position of candidate(s):

______________________________

How well do you know them?
__ Donated to campaign
__ Relative or very good friend
__ Well acquainted, known by first name
__ Known through the news, can talk with

When you have completed this registration form, send it to:
OLA Legislative Committee, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013.
Test your IPQ (*Influence Potential Quotient*)

If you answer YES to the following questions, give yourself the score at the end of the sentence (right column). Give yourself zero if your answer is NO. Add down the left column after you have completed the "test" to total your points for influence-seeking activities.

1. I am a registered voter. 2
2. I vote in the General Election. 4
3. I vote in the Primary Election. 8
4. I belong to an organization that studies issues and takes positions. 8
5. I belong to an organization that endorses candidates. 4
6. I have worked in a candidate’s campaign. 6
7. I have been named to a candidate’s campaign committee. 8
8. I donate money to a candidate or political party. 8
9. I can name: my State Senator, State Representative, U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senators 1 each
10. I have worked on a state or local political issue. 4
11. I have written to an elected official. 1
12. I have phoned a legislator’s office or sent a handwritten letter; or sent a telegram 4 each
13. I have visited a legislator’s office. 8
14. I have been appointed to a public or party office. 4
15. I have been elected to a party office. 6
16. I have run and been elected to public office. 10
17. I have attended a workshop on political action. 12
18. I have signed up to work in the OLA Legislative Network. 8

_______ TOTAL POINTS, IPQ

Key  
90 - 100 points A solid resource person!  
80 - 90 points A political groupie? Great!  
70 - 80 points Good, keep it up.  
60 - 70 points Get with it!  
Below 60 points Legislators love quiet, agreeable constituents like you. Wake up! Make 6 goals to do 6 of the above in the next 6 months!

More than 100? Wow! Outta sight!

**Oklahoma Library Association’s 2005 Legislative Goals**

- Help public libraries meet recognized needs for new and improved services through increased state aid.
- Support the Oklahoma Department of Libraries’ budget priorities and vital services.
- Fund at least two percent of the $50 million plus in library construction needs statewide.
- Ensure quality school library programs staffed by certified Master’s-level library educators.
- Urge construction of a long-overdue expansion of the state archives facilities.
Executive Board Actions

August

- Bylaws were amended to read that “No elected member of the Executive Board, with the exception of OLA treasurer, who has served a full term may succeed her/himself. The OLA treasurer may succeed her/himself for a second term.”
- Approved the Technical Services Roundtable Workshop “E-lectrify your E-resources!”
- Approved the Children and Teen Services Roundtable Workshop “Spoken Arts for Teens @ your Library.”
- Approved the 2004-2005 budget, which included the following recommendations from the Budget Committee:
  -- using a portion of a MetroNet donation for the OLA Gold Institute
  -- hiring a CPA firm to perform an independent audit for the purpose of obtaining grant funds for the OLA Centennial Endowment
  -- purchasing a new laptop for Executive Director Kay Boies
- Approved renewal of Oliver Delaney’s contract to serve as OLA’s legislative liaison for 2004-2005.

September

No actions.

October

- Approved a resolution on E-Rate Solution proposed by the Legislative Committee, as follows:
  “The E-rate program makes affordable Internet access possible for hundreds of Oklahoma public libraries and schools serving many thousands of Oklahomans. The Oklahoma Library Association strongly urges Oklahoma’s senators and congressmen to insist on immediate resumption of funding for the E-rate program by the Federal Communications Commission.”
- Approved the University and College Division Workshop “ILL Doesn’t Mean You’re Sick: Interlibrary Loan for Everyone.”
- Authorized President Lynn McIntosh to enter into a contingent contract for the purchase of a building at 308 NE 27th St., Oklahoma City, to provide office space for OLA.

November

Approved Library Education Division workshop, “Building Communities of Libraries: Making Connections between Academic, Public and Schools.”

December

- Approved a proposal to consolidate OLA’s telephone and Internet charges under Southwestern Bell’s “Custom Bizsaver” program.
- Approved a project between Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Humanities Council to develop new themes connected to the “We the People” initiative.
- Approved entering into contracts for two fund-raising arrangements proposed by the Endowment Committee, as follows:
  -- OLA will receive 25% of the sales from anyone presenting a discount voucher at Barnes & Noble during National Library Week, if total sales from the vouchers during that week reach $25,000.
  -- OLA will receive a percentage of the sales of Oklahoma-related books purchased through an Amazon.com link on the OLA website.
- Approved a JSYK (Just So You Know) statewide publicity campaign to promote all Oklahoma libraries.
- Authorized the Marketing and Communications Committee to pursue co-sponsorships for the JSYK campaign.
FOLIO Offers Scholarships

FOLIO’s Lillian Born Norberg/Mary Lu Atkinson Staff Support Scholarship program offers four $250 scholarships to library employees in any type of Oklahoma library. Full or part-time employees are eligible with priority given for education for a master’s degree, however applicants may enroll in credit coursework, seminars, or workshops that accomplish educational goals.

Complete information and application form are found at the FOLIO website, www.okfriends.net. Applications must be received by March 25, 2005 and will be awarded at the FOLIO meeting on April 1, 2005, during the OLA annual meeting. Please be sure that support staff in your library know about this opportunity for assistance.

FOLIO has added a second annual Oklahoma Best Friends Award this year. One $500 award is for Friends groups in cities with a population over 10,000. The new John Harkey Memorial Best Friends Award of $500 is for groups in cities with a population of less than 10,000.

Criteria for entering the competition is found on the FOLIO website, www.okfriends.net. Deadline is March 19, 2005. Awards will be announced at the annual meeting. Please check with your Friends officers to be sure they know about this opportunity.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2005 Award of Merit

The Alumni Association of the OU School of Library and Information Studies is seeking nominations for the Award of Merit for 2005.

The recipient’s name will be engraved on a plaque kept in the OU School of Library and Information Studies. A certificate of award will be presented to the recipient, and a $50 donation to the Irma Tomberlin Scholarship Fund will be made in the name of the recipient.

Criteria for nomination are:
- An M.L.I.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies
- The nominee has generated an active interest in the School AND/OR
- The nominee has made an effective and innovative contribution to the library profession AND/OR contributed to the professional literature.

Send the name of your nominee for Outstanding OU School of Library and Information Studies Alumnus and the reason(s) why she/he deserves the Award of Merit to either of the addresses listed below. Thank you for your help in locating an outstanding alumnus to honor. Nominations must be received by February 28, 2005 to be considered for this year’s award.

OU/SLIS/AA Secretary
Carolyn Mahin, MLIS, MBA
Director of Public Services
University of Central Oklahoma
Max Chambers Library
100 North University Drive
Edmond, OK 73034
405/974-2595
405/974-3874 fax
cmahin@ucok.edu

OU/SLIS/AA President-Elect
Gwen Dobbs, MLIS
Librarian, Development and Reference
University of Central Oklahoma
Max Chambers Library
100 North University Drive
Edmond, OK 73034
405/974-2877
405/974-3806 fax
gdobbs@ucok.edu
Continued from page 1

Oklahoma, including poverty, teen pregnancies, illiteracy, child abuse, and infant mortality. It is decidedly not a rich county. So how did they manage to build such an attractive $2.5 million new library?

Need and determination had a lot to do with it, but the main reason the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation provided the grant that paid most of the building’s cost is that providing and maintaining the library facility in Hugo is the responsibility of a unique local board, Choctaw County Library, Inc. (CCLI) With its members appointed by various local organizations, CCLI is independent of the city and the county. This met one of the Foundation’s key criteria.

The process that led to the new library started eight years ago, when then-Head Librarian Sharon Swift, on behalf of the CCLI board, asked Hanway to work with them in preparing a written building program that could be used in grant-seeking. Then the grant-writing and fund-raising process started. It was slow going for several years, and among other things, thousands of fried pies were made and sold, but CCLI persisted and scraped together enough money to purchase a first-rate site for the proposed library. The site was tangible evidence of CCLI and the community’s determination, and was undoubtedly one of the factors that led the Reynolds Foundation to seriously consider CCLI’s application for funding.

The grant process was competitive, and in July 2002, when Hanway and CCLI President Marilyn Custer made the final presentation to the Foundation board in Las Vegas, Nevada, theirs was one of twelve applications, only six of which would be funded. A condition of the grant, after it was awarded, was that CCLI still had to raise a local match of over $400,000. A three-year sales tax for this purpose was approved by voters in December 2002.

The new library has already seen a big increase in the number of library cards issued. CCLI board members and Head Librarian Sharyl Braddock are certain that the library will be heavily used and will be a source of pride for Hugo and Choctaw residents for decades to come.

Wayne Hanway