Colorful Cultures of Asia Come Alive at Tulsa City-County Library’s Third Annual Asian-American Festival

Tulsa City-County Library’s third annual Asian-American Festival was a huge hit with festival goers as more than 1,700 children and adults – Asian and non-Asian alike – celebrated and explored the colorful cultures, customs and traditions of China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam and other Asian countries at this all-day event held June 4.

From origami and henna hand painting to martial arts and cooking demonstrations, the day consisted of fantastic food and fun for the entire family to enjoy. Children had a blast picking up peanuts with chopsticks; adults were fascinated by an acupuncture demonstration; and everyone enjoyed the bright, beautiful artwork created by children from Kyoto, Japan. The festivities also included dancing, sari folding, name translation, and authentic crafts and food booths. The ceremonies kicked off with a dragon dance, featuring a 70-foot dragon from China, and wound down with an interactive tai chi demo for the audience.

Funded by the Tulsa Library Trust, the festival was sponsored by more than 30 local organizations and businesses, including Green Country Bonsai, Hmong of Oklahoma, India Association of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Tulsa Global Alliance.

For more information about the Asian-American Festival, contact Jackie Hill, festival chairwoman, at (918) 596-7974 or jhill@tulsalibrary.org.
Lynn’s Spin

As most of you know, my Mother, Maxine Livingston, recently passed away. Many of you met her as she sometimes attended OLA and Center for the Book banquets with me, and occasionally joined some of us for lunch or dinner. She was pleased and proud that I had taken a leadership role in our professional organization, and in promoting the value of Oklahoma Libraries. The other day I found myself mentally “talking” to her about my past year as President of OLA. This Lynn’s Spin is dedicated to my mother, via a letter to her.

Dear Mom,

There are many things for which I want to say “thank you,” and I hope I often did while you were still with us. But there is one thing that you did for me in my adult life for which I am deeply indebted to you. Do you remember the Sunday afternoon in 1995 when you called me in Princeton, NJ and emphatically said, “Lynn Ann, I have found the perfect job for you!”? Well, after considerable discussion, interviews, long distance calls and a big move across country, we both began to realize that you were (as always!) right. Had it not been for you encouraging me to return to Oklahoma and pursue my original chosen profession, I would never have had the opportunity to work with and get to know the dedicated, fantastic people in the Oklahoma Library Association, not to mention the wonderful staff and Trustees of the Chickasaw Regional (Public) Library System (CRLS).

What an incredibly fabulous whirlwind this past year has been as OLA President! It was a uniquely successful year for OLA and our outstanding Leadership Team (now known as the DRoCs). That is not to say we have not had to face some serious, daunting challenges. One of my most difficult was seeing you struggle as your health began deteriorating. But it was always comforting when my many OLA friends would, with genuine concern, ask how you were doing! While there have been many OLA successes and milestones this 2004/05 year, I want to share just a few of the highlights with you.

• Leadership – Thanks to the superb leadership of Kathryn Lewis, Rachel Butler and their talented Committee, OLA held its inaugural Gold Leadership Institute in November at the Noble Foundation’s Conference Center. Twenty-four (24) participants and six (6) mentors experienced this unique, special three-day symposium. These resourceful current and future OLA leaders continue to meet and share their leadership experiences, readings and discoveries. They are setting the pace for the next OLA Gold Institute to be held in two and a half years!

• Membership – Thanks to the guidance of Cathy Adams, Susan Standridge and a great committee and group of “Ambassadors”, we have many new members and have brought back some that “took a leave of absence” on the membership rolls. To date, we have 193 new personal members and 37 new institutional members.

• Endowment – Wow! What progress! With the strong leadership of Pat Weaver-Meyers and Patrick Brennen, the Endowment and new building funds are now over $63,000. An Advisory Board of outstanding Oklahoma leaders, with First Lady Kim Henry as the honorary chair, has been organized and had their first meeting during the OLA Conference. And, significant progress has been made towards a desperately needed OLA headquarters office!

(continued on next page)
• **Marketing and Communication(s)** – Oklahoma Libraries share and profit from the many successes of this Committee. Thanks to the creative energy of Buffy Edwards and Gary Kramer, we have a beautiful new OLA logo, an energizing “Just So You Know” marketing campaign and a third outstanding “Read Y’All” poster featuring Kristen Chenoweth! It just doesn’t get any better than this!

• **Support Staff Roundtable** – All the members of this group eagerly took on leadership roles that enabled them to sponsor an outstanding Support Your Support Staff Workshop this year. Immediately afterward, they began planning another workshop for fall 2005. In spite of being spread all over the state, they have formed friendships and bonds that represent “support” in its truest sense!

• **Legislative Committee** – OLA has faced numerous challenges this year! But with the astute, watchful leadership of Committee Co-Chairs Cokie Anderson and June Lester, we have made progress and achieved successes for Oklahoma libraries. We all recognize that little of this would have been possible without the acumen and quiet, behind the scenes work of Oliver Delaney, our Legislative Liaison!

• **OLA 2005 Conference** – We said a lot about this year’s conference in our last Oklahoma Librarian through photographs and articles. Kudos, again, to Susan Wright, Kay Boies, Basha Hartley and Sally Rice, the Local Arrangements Committee and our entire DRoC Team for their time and energy in planning and executing our enormously successful conference! Having the Annual Conference at a new and unique venue like the NCED called for more than double the work, in addition to, expert leadership. Hats off to the entire Leadership Team!

I might note that many of the workshops being planned for the near future are a result of the quality of Conference speakers and programs this year. I am also grateful that the OLA Leadership has brainstormed and implemented changes that reflect the goals and future directions of our organization. We have sponsored six excellent workshops and are planning many more based on professional and continuing educational needs and interests of our members. One of our challenges this year was to address the declining participation in the Administration Roundtable. Thanks to the leadership and ongoing efforts of Peggy Cook, this group has been revamped and reenergized and is actively planning for the future with a new (soon to be official) name, “SMART”!

Well, Mom, though I could fill a book about OLA’s successes this year, I know I should sign-off now. But in closing, I want to thank you for getting me back to Oklahoma so I could make many new friends and share the opportunities and challenges of promoting Oklahoma’s libraries...school, academic, public and special!

Much love,
Lynn Ann

**Many friends/colleagues honored my mother (and me) with charitable donations to the OLA Endowment/Building Fund; some of you sent donations to CRLS and TCCL as memorials. I cannot thank you enough for your thoughtfulness and caring messages. I look forward to working with each of you and incoming President Jeanie Johnson, as we continue to tell our positive “library stories”, “spin to new destinations”, “forge new connections” and “open the doors” to Oklahoma Libraries!**

Thank you for a fantastic year!
Lynn McIntosh
El Reno Carnegie Library Celebrates 100 Years

On May 5 the El Reno Carnegie Library celebrated its centennial with an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. About 50 people, including former librarians and long-time library patrons, were in attendance. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the oldest Carnegie building in Oklahoma still being used as a library. In 1904 the city of El Reno received $12,500 for a new library building from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and the building was completed on May 5, 1905.

The ribbon cutting was part of a series of events with which the Carnegie Library is commemorating its 100th year. The library has held contests for children and given away prizes such as a Hastings gift card. The Friends of the Carnegie Library published a book of recipes and remembrances, which has been on sale since February. A visiting professor from the Oklahoma Arts Council gave a talk on the history of POW camps in Oklahoma. Also, the library will host Choctaw storyteller and author Tim Tingle on July 13.

Christine Dettlaff

At right: Librarians Penny Beals and Debbie Elmenhorst traveled to the State Capitol for the announcement of a joint resolution in honor of the El Reno Carnegie Library’s 100th birthday and its service to the community.

Oklahoma Librarian to Serve School Librarians Nationally

Barbara Ray, Assistant Professor of Library Media at Northeastern Oklahoma State University, has been elected to Director-Elect Region IV (Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and New Mexico) of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). In her candidacy statement, Barbara said, “I believe it is imperative that we promote school libraries. Budgets are scarce and too many believe the Internet holds all the answers without a school librarian guiding teachers and students.” In the past Barbara has been a school media specialist at Jenks High School, Central Middle School, and Jenks West Elementary. Congratulations, Barbara!
Dear Lynn & Members of the OLA Executive Board,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the OLA Awards Committee and to each of you for bestowing on me OLA’s highest honor - the 2005 OLA Distinguished Services Award. This honor came to me as a complete and totally unexpected surprise. I felt deeply honored, excited, and yet humbled by this award. For me, there is no higher honor in life than being recognized by your peers for the work and contributions that you have made to your profession and your organization over the years. There are many of you that are also worthy of this award and in my heart I share this honor with you. Today, that Award plaque sits proudly on a table in my family room at home.

Many of you may know that on April 29th, I will retire as Library Director at the Noble Foundation. This will bring to a close over 35 years working as a professional librarian, the last 8 of which were at the Noble Foundation. As I look back at my career, my only regret is that I did not come to Oklahoma 35 years ago for the start of my career. These years in Oklahoma and working with my friends and colleagues in the Oklahoma Library Association have been among the very best in my life. I have been a member of several State Library Associations over the years (South Dakota Library Association, Wisconsin Library Association, Massachusetts Library Association, and the Texas Library Association) and no one shines like OLA does. We are truly a unique, united, and vigorous organization that actively serves the people of Oklahoma. This year, with Lynn McIntosh at the helm, we have an outstanding talented President who brought to the table years of skilled leadership that has served to propel the organization forward. Backing up our President is our long-standing Executive Director, Kay Boies. Kay is a skilled politician, has strong leadership qualities, and yet has a soft touch - like a mother hen to all of us. Kay has served the organization a little over 20 years. The Executive Board today and in the past has stellar qualities of leadership and year after year they go about the business of directing the affairs of OLA in a quiet, deliberate, intelligent, and consensual manner.

OLA has a distinguished record of serving the intellectual and educational needs of the people of Oklahoma for almost 100 years. We will soon be entering our 2nd century of service to Oklahomans. In the last 15 years we have witnessed the winds of change impacting the library & information world. We see a paradigm shift in the way information is being managed. The transition from a print environment to a digital world is with us today, yet we continue to have information available in both tracks for our users. This can be a tricky and difficult challenge to effectively manage these changes so that we remain a viable and effective player in the information world. As a librarian it will be our responsibility to strike a proper balance between electronic holdings and traditional print resources so that we meet the needs of our younger users who are entering the workforce in a digital world. As a member of the Oklahoma Library Association each of you are equipped and ready to meet that challenge. Finally - as we approach our Centennial, the OLA Centennial Endowment Campaign will be a great new challenge for each of us as we seek out a permanent facility to house the organization and an opportunity to enhance our financial stability. I am now and will always be a proud member of this great organization.

Again, I thank each of you for this singular honor and I extend to each of you my best personal and warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick W. Brennen, MLS
Library Director
The Noble Foundation
Ardmore, Oklahoma
The Value of MPLA

While volunteering at the Mountain Plains Library Association booth at the Oklahoma Library Association conference in Norman, many librarians asked me “What does MPLA membership give me that OLA or ALA doesn’t?” That gave me a chance to think about the unique values of this regional organization.

As we enter the long months of summer heat and humidity, you could be looking forward to a wonderful October conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Each year, MPLA co-sponsors a conference with the state association; and it’s great to get away while not paying those national conference prices (MPLA members pay in-state rate). The joint conferences provide more training choices than many state associations and provide more opportunities for professional involvement than ALA.

I love meeting librarians from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. There is a more manageable pace to these conferences; time to meet and learn is part of the benefit.

Though our twelve states have many differences, I am impressed and encouraged by how similar our “library stories” are. Discovering how much we librarians have in common is another reason to join. I’ve actually gotten to know Oklahoma members even better through MPLA.

Finally, MPLA also offers professional development grants, so you can attend those conferences and other trainings – for members of course. So belonging to this dynamic network of librarians is simply a great idea.

Check out the MPLA web page for more information – or give me a call! See you in Jackson Hole!

Theresa Jaye Dickson
Pioneer Library System
MPLA PR/Membership Co-Chair

Kudos to Marketing and Communications!

Gary Kramer, co-chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, received a letter from ALA that the Toby Keith Read Y’all poster is a 2005 Best of Show winner. The letter reads, in part:

“Congratulations! The Oklahoma Library Association is one of the winners of the 2005 Best of Show competition in the Services Available/Orientation Materials/Policy Materials category for your submission titled “2004 Read Y’All poster. We received almost 360 entries in the 2005 Best of Show competition and our judges were very impressed with the high caliber of your work.”

Congratulations goes to the entire Marketing and Communications Committee, but especially to Gary and Buffy Edwards (the other co-chair), and to Bill Young, who worked so hard to make this happen.

Kay Boies
The University of Oklahoma operates the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, which is an Oklahoma state agency. Although they maintain a good website, it has some information buried in it that can be difficult to locate. We’ll find and examine everything.

HOME PAGE AND FROM THE HOME PAGE
In addition to linking to the major buttons we’ll examine below, it also has these buttons: “New in Oklahoma Archeology” and “Timeline of Oklahoma Prehistory”. “New in Oklahoma Archeology” is the website’s “What’s New” page, and features new information that may or may not be available in other sections of the website. “Timeline of Oklahoma Prehistory” features a list of dates from “? years before present” to “12,000 years before present” to “Present”. Click on any of them to read about how people during that era lived, their climate, and archeological sites in Oklahoma associated with them.

RESEARCH
Here you look at a map of Oklahoma and click “Southern Plains Adaptations,” “Cross Timbers,” or “Caddoan Origins” to read about the three major archeological research areas that The Survey has identified in our state.

EDUCATION
This tells about the University of Oklahoma’s degree programs in Archeology and their outreach activities in our state’s schools. But most importantly it contains a link to the Oklahoma Archeological Survey’s publications, with ordering information for titles that are still available, and a link to an order form. At this time none of these publications are available online.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
This features FAQ’s on historic and archeological preservation, a link to an FAQ webpage from the State Historic Preservation Office, federal laws about archeology, blank archeological forms for printing out, filling in, and reporting information about finds to the The Survey, and a list of archeologists who work in Oklahoma.

ACTIVITIES
This is a “What’s New” page for archeological activities in Oklahoma. It does not duplicate the “New in Oklahoma Archeology” webpage noted above! But most importantly it contains a link to the current and archived issues of The Survey’s newsletter, beginning with the January 1997 issue, all of which are available online.

STAFF
This listing of staff has occasional links to informational webpages associated with specific teachers, such as Dr. Lee Bement’s 2005 Field School at the “Certain Site Late Archaic Bison Kill, Western Oklahoma” near Elk City, or William Neals’s collection of “Kubik Site Photos”.

OKLAHOMA’S PAST
This features a map of Oklahoma. Click on any county to view archeological information about that county, including information about specific dig sites. This button also features “Oklahoma Artifacts on the Web,” which is the full-text web version of a 1980 book by Robert E. Bell. Once inside the book you will find links to each of its chapters, and can use page-turning software to read the book page by page. Finally, you will find links to related websites, including Oklahoma websites, and a link to “Play Dig It! The Archaeology Game”.

This website needs to have buttons on its homepage that links to their publications and newsletters, rather than having them buried where they currently reside. But you will not find such specific archeological information for Oklahoma from any other website, so you need to spend some time learning it. The amount of time you spend here will be a good investment.

Steve Beleu, ODL
The Oklahoma Library Association has a new look *and* a new attitude! OLA’s new logo, new Read Y’All poster, the *Just So You Know* campaign and a new Marketing Toolkit were unveiled during annual conference.

The new logo is a fresh, professional look for OLA. The light illuminating through the “L” illustrates the universe of information and knowledge available through Oklahoma libraries. The logo will be printed on stationery, envelopes, business cards, and used for correspondence conducted on behalf of the Oklahoma Library Association.


The 2005 Read Y’All poster features Kristin Chenoweth, a 1991 graduate of Oklahoma City University. The poster was sponsored by Oklahoma City University.

*Buffy Edwards & Gary Kramer*