Readers Select *The Saints and Sinners of Okay County* for State One Book Project

*The Saints and Sinners of Okay County* by Dayna Dunbar has been selected as the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Book for 2006. The announcement was made November 23 at the State Capitol. Dunbar’s novel is the third book selected for the annual statewide reading and discussion program, an official Oklahoma Centennial project that aims to make literature and history a part of the Sooner State’s 100th birthday celebration. The project will continue each year through 2007.

Oklahoma readers vote for the title online and via paper ballot at libraries throughout the state each September and October. Readers are presented with a list of six nominated titles.

Almost 2,500 people voted in this year’s election, with 40% of them casting their ballots for *Saints and Sinners*. The novel tells the story of Aletta Honor, a hardscrabble heroine with a unique talent, who must overcome her own demons before she can reclaim her life and lay the past to rest.

Dunbar received the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma medal from Tim Tingle, author of the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Book for 2005, *Walking the Choctaw Road: Stories from Red People Memory*. Authors of the five other nominated titles were honored with Governor’s Commendations for their contributions to Oklahoma literature and history. Secretary of State Susan Savage represented Governor Henry at the event. In addition to *Saints and Sinners*, the other titles nominated this year were: *Whose Names Are Unknown* by Sanora Babb, *Mean Spirit* by Linda Hogan, *Agrarian Socialism in America* by Jim Bissett, *Taking Indian Lands* by William T. Hagan, and *Will Rogers: a Biography* by Ben Yagoda.

In addition to providing discussion guides and scholar-led programs, the project also coordinates an annual author tour of libraries. More than 2,400 people attended programs presented by Billie Letts in 2004. Letts’ novel *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon* was the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma Book for 2004. More than 4,000 people have attended library programs this year to hear storyteller and author Tim Tingle.

The Oklahoma Humanities Council and the Oklahoma Department of Libraries are lead sponsors for Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma. Sonic, America’s Drive-In and the Gelvin Foundation have provided additional funding.


For more information on the statewide reading and discussion program, Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma, visit [www.okreadsok.org](http://www.okreadsok.org). The *Saints and Sinners* Discussion Guide and plans for Dunbar’s author tour will also be announced on the website.
Jeanie’s Jots — What to Do with the Oklahoma Tax Rebate???

Many Oklahomans recently received a tax rebate from Governor Brad Henry and the state legislature. Many of us would have liked seeing that $81 million spent by the state for programs that impact us on a daily basis—like library funding! Since the folks at the Capitol did not see things in that way, what can we do about it now?

My check is lying on the kitchen cabinet as I write, awaiting deposit in the bank. When I spoke with Pat Weaver-Meyers, former chair of the Endowment Committee and the person who has spearheaded much fundraising for the Association, she and I had an epiphany! Why not use that refund money to help OLA in its effort to have an office outside the home of our Executive Director? Why not ask our members to send a donation equaling the tax rebate?

Here goes! Before we are all wrapped up in holiday and end-of-the year celebrating, let us consider donations that might help with taxes this spring. If you have received an Oklahoma tax return check, we hope you will consider donating these funds to the Association. Remember, we are a non-profit and your donation can be claimed on your tax return.

Please send your donation as a check payable to the OLA Endowment to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1146, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1146. To find information and a form, go to http://www.oklibs.org/~olacampaign/gifts.htm.

The Association is very close to securing an office space for lease. We are excited about this, as I’m sure you are, too!

On another note, some of you may not have yet renewed your membership in the Association. If you have not done so, this would be a good time. That is a deductible expenditure for most of us, as well. Membership forms are available at the OLA Web site, www.oklibs.org. On the left side bar select “Join OLA” to access the membership form.

We know 2005 has been a challenging year for many of us and that December is a particularly busy month. On behalf of the Executive Board, please accept our hardiest good wishes and our best hopes for the New Year as we approach our 100th anniversary. Thank you for your support and collegiality in 2005!

Jeanie Johnson
OLA President
Job Shadow Day Approaching

What will you see when you look over your shoulder on February 2nd? Most of us would prefer that our local groundhog not see his shadow, but hopefully many librarians will see a job shadow! February 2, 2006 is Job Shadow Day. Take the opportunity to allow someone to follow you during your work day. Let them in on the dirt (and paydirt) of real-life library work! Or, follow a librarian or library staffer through all or part of a typical work day, and discover the secrets that only those working in libraries know! If you know someone with a job you think you’d enjoy, contact that person and offer to be a shadow. If you know someone that would be good at a job like yours, invite that individual to shadow you.

Materials to help with Job Shadow Day are available at www.ala.org/ala/pla/projects/publiclibrecruit/jobshadowday.htm or www.jobshadow.org; or contact any member of the Career Recruitment and Retention Committee. More information will be forthcoming as the day draws closer!

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TABOR: What it is and Why it’s Bad for Oklahoma

Taxpayer Bill of Rights: it sounds so appealing. There is no more sacred expression in American law than “Bill of Rights” -- it is what sets our political system apart from all others. And the acronym, TABOR, sounds equally harmless, more like Babar’s younger brother than a proposal that would wreck Oklahoma’s finances and state services. Yet that is exactly what TABOR would do. TABOR is an innocuous name for an insidious program that would limit state spending to no more than the lesser of Increase in Population + Inflation Rate or actual revenues. In this formula, “inflation rate” is based on the consumer price index, which looks at the costs of housing, fuel and food – not items that are a big part of the state budget, like education, health care, roads and bridges and the correction system. “Population growth” means overall growth or loss of population, not taking into account the age or make-up of that population. Overall population may stay the same or decline, while the population of groups that are heavily dependent on state services – seniors or school-age children – increase. Colorado is the only state where TABOR has been enacted, and it has been such a catastrophe that in November 2005 Colorado voters approved a measure that will suspend the strict spending limits for five years while they try to address the problems TABOR has caused to their education system, transportation, and health services. For more information on TABOR and its implications for vital state services, go to http://okpolicy.org.

The great irony is that Oklahoma does not need TABOR; tax increases already require approval by ¾ of the legislature or a vote of the people. TABOR would only hamstring our state officials as they try to meet the needs of Oklahomans. The Legislative Committee will be tracking efforts to enact some form of TABOR in Oklahoma, and we will keep you informed of any action you need to take. Make plans now to attend OLA Legislative Day on March 7, 2006. This year it will be more important than ever to make your voices heard.

Cokie Anderson, OSU

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Apply Now for Conference Scholarships

The Career Recruitment and Retention Committee is once again offering scholarships to assist members of underrepresented groups with conference registration. If you are employed as a library paraprofessional or part-time staff member, or working on a library-related degree; and are a member of an underrepresented ethnic group, you are eligible for a scholarship toward conference attendance. Each scholarship provides free registration to the conference, plus a $100 stipend toward other expenses. Each scholarship winner must commit to attend at least one full day of the conference.

Applications are available from Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, on the Career Recruitment and Retention Committee page at the OLA website, or e-mail Pauline Boyer Rodriguez at prodriguez@metrolibrary.org. Deadline for applications is February 6, 2006.
Oklahoma Webpages

Web Atlas of Oklahoma--An Extensive Collection of Interactive Thematic Maps

http://www.okatlas.org

The Department of Cartography and Geography at East Central University, Ada, has created this new thematic atlas. It includes both human and natural phenomenon about Oklahoma, including these major webpage subject buttons:

- PHYSICAL — Weather and Climate, Terrain, Hydrography, Biota, Esoteric [webpage’s term for “other”]
- POLITICAL — Historical Boundaries, Contemporary Boundaries, Voting Patterns, Esoteric
- CULTURAL — Identity, Population, Education, Communication and Media, Religion, Esoteric

This website is designed to appear to the user as a hardbound book, with the user’s mouse “turning” the web pages, which are brightly colored maps that show features for each county. Here is a partial list of what is in each of the four major subject buttons noted above.

**PHYSICAL**

Weather and Climate—monthly average and annual average temperatures, rainfall, snowfall, heating and cooling days, and severe weather (thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hail maps)

Terrain—elevation (by contours, 3D, and shaded relief), geology (an interactive “Age of Surface Rocks” feature), and soil types

Hydrography—surface water, subsurface water (aquifers), watersheds

Biota—ecoregions, vegetation patterns, and hunting and fishing “take” maps

Esoteric—includes average high and low temperatures, and locations of dams

**POLITICAL**

Historical Boundaries—from the Pre-European years through statehood; includes an animation of how our state grew

Contemporary Boundaries—includes state legislative districts, House of Representative districts, judicial districts, state planning areas (ACOG, EODD, SODA, etc.), and 30 tribal areas

Voting Patterns—2000 Presidential election voting by county

Esoteric—Red River boundary dispute with Texas, the Trail of Tears route, and land runs from 1889 through 1906

**CULTURAL**

Identity—tribal areas

Population—population by Census year from 1907 through 2000, ethnicity/race, Hispanic population

Education—school districts by name, private schools by name, education attainment levels

Communication and Media—zip code areas, phone area codes, newspaper, radio, and TV locations, and Internet server locations

Religion—church locations by these divisions: Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and other Christian. Includes maps of denominations within each division, such as Mennonite or Anglican Orthodox. I believe this to be a unique feature.

Esoteric—Historic Route 66, locations of murals on and in public buildings—and popular names for soft drinks by county! Example: in some counties, residents call every type of soft drink a “coke” even if it’s a Dr. Pepper. Another unique feature?

**ECONOMIC**

Agriculture—crop types (including acres planted and acres harvested), livestock types

Energy and Mineral Resources—oil, gas, coal, and other minerals such as gypsum, pumice, and mica

Commercial and Financial—maps of these Oklahoma-based businesses: banks, household income, and store/station maps of these Oklahoma-based business: Sonic, Braums, Lowes, Phillips

Transportation—highways and toll roads, Route 66 map, mile distances between county seats

Recreation and Tourism—state and national parks, museums

Esoteric—prisons and vineyards/wineries

Be aware of these navigation buttons that you will find at the top of screens: “Table of Contents,” “Next Topic,” and “Previous Topic”. As you may have summarized, this will be a useful source for libraries, schools, and colleges and universities to use not only now but as a resource for Oklahoma’s Centennial in 2007.

Steve Beleu, ODL
Author/Illustrator Janet Stevens Celebrates Children’s Book Week with Tulsa City-County Library

More than 350 children and their parents celebrated National Children’s Book Week with author and illustrator Janet Stevens at Tulsa City-County Library's Books to Treasure, held Nov. 18 at the Hardesty Regional Library.

Funded by the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, Books to Treasure is an annual event promoting the beauty of children’s literature and introducing the community to popular book illustrators. The goal of Books to Treasure is to sign up every second-grader in Tulsa County for a library card. This fall, more than 4,000 second-graders signed up for library cards and received a customized card with an illustration from Stevens’ “Cook-A-Doodle-Doo!”

In conjunction with Books to Treasure, Tulsa City-County Library gave out more than 10,000 paperback copies of “Cook-A-Doodle-Doo!” to second-graders at all public and private schools in Tulsa County.

For more information about Books to Treasure, call Lana Voss, chairwoman of the Books to Treasure Planning Committee, at (918) 596-7971 or click on http://kids.tulsallibrary.org/services/.

John Grisham Aficionados Turn Out in Droves at Tulsa Library to Hear the King of Legal Thrillers

Nearly a thousand fans of best-selling author John Grisham flocked to the downtown Tulsa City-County Library to hear the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2005 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award winner at a free public presentation held Dec. 3. Though the event did not start until 10:30 a.m., some admirers got there as early as 6:30 a.m. to ensure front-row seats.

The previous night, Grisham captivated the audience with his wit and Southern charm at the sold-out black-tie Distinguished Author Dinner.

While in Oklahoma, Grisham combined his Tulsa appearances with field work for his latest work, a nonfiction book about Ron Williamson, an Oklahoma death-row inmate who was exonerated of murder charges only days before his scheduled execution in 1999. The book is due out in 2006.

Given annually by the Tulsa Library Trust, the Helmerich award gives formal recognition to internationally acclaimed authors who have written a distinguished body of work and made a major contribution to the field of literature and letters. The award consists of a $25,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book. Grisham donated the prize money to Rebuild the Coast Fund Inc., benefiting the victims of the recent Gulf Coast hurricanes. For more information about the Distinguished Author Award, call Larry Bartley, Tulsa Library Trust manager, at (918) 596-7985.
Oklahoma School Libraries Well Represented at the American Association of School Librarians National Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania October 5-9, 2005

- (Right) Kathryn Lewis, Norman Public Schools Director of Media Services, Dr. Kathy Latrobe, OU SLIS Professor, and 14 Norman Public Schools Library Media Specialists presented “Extra, Extra! Read All About It @ your library.” The presentation demonstrated the importance of creativity and group interaction to strengthen the reading experience, emphasizing students’ application of a broad range of higher level thinking skills. Using a newspaper theme, the presentation was structured around writing, performance, the visual arts, and special events highlighting literary awareness and curriculum integration while demonstrating creative and shared responses to literature.

- (Left) Lynne Tilley presented “The Chisholm Trail Experience” during the AASL Exploratorium. Conference attendees learned how Comanche Schools integrated technology and history in a school-wide project that captured the spirit of the Chisholm Trail.

- UCO Professors Dr. Jill Rooker, Dr. Pat Patterson Couts and Dr. Judith Wakefield presented the program, “Do you ever feel inadequate when adapting information literacy instruction to various learning styles?” The program shared results from current research done by the presenters that shows many recent LMS grads lack the ability to adapt teaching to various learners. The presentation focused on instructional design possibilities through presentation of current vs. suggested practice through role play and audience participation.

- Ellen Duecker, Mary Ann Robinson, and Barb Pfrehm presented “What the Heck Do We Do All Day? Measuring Practices that Lead to Student Success.” The presentation discussed the results of the recent OASLMS Time Task Analysis conducted in Oklahoma that identified and measured precisely what professional and clerical staffs do to promote student achievement.

- (Left) Dr. Barbara Ray, Ellen Duecker, Dr. Nancy Miller discussed OASLMS’s Time Task Analysis during Treasure Mountain.
This fall I attended my first 1st Amendment Congress at the University of Oklahoma in Norman on November 10. The opening speaker was Gene Policinski, director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Policinski said that challenges to our 1st Amendment freedoms are often insidious, rather than obvious. He then identified five subtle threats to those freedoms:

- ignorance (only 3% of Americans can name all five freedoms guaranteed by the 1st Amendment)
- fear (we live in a “post” world – post Oklahoma City, post 9/11, post Columbine)
- apathy (liberty not exercised is liberty lost)
- inconvenience (even one person’s voice deserves to be heard, no matter how much of your time it takes up)
- seeking simple solutions to difficult issues (democracy is a messy process)

The second part of the program was a panel of librarians and library educators, with a lawyer thrown in for good measure, who fielded questions about how libraries tackle 1st Amendment issues. Very little in this section was new to me. The questions (mostly from journalism students, I believe) centered around the process of challenging materials, how libraries deal with challenges, and finally the dreaded question – what’s the difference between selection and censorship? Dr. Danny Wallace, Dr. Connie Van Fleet, Theresa Dickson, and Marilyn Hinshaw did a great job of explaining how librarians defend the “marketplace of ideas.” But what was most interesting about this part to me was the reminder that most people still have no idea what librarians do every day, what education and training is required, and the fact that we have professional standards that dictate how we do our jobs.

Having started out in college as a journalism major and continuing to cultivate an interest in the subject through publications like this one, 1st Amendment issues are near and dear to my heart. I am appalled at the fact that we as citizens seem so willing to give up our rights in order to feel a little safer, when so many men and women have given their lives that we might call those precious liberties “rights.”

Christine Dettlaff
Redlands Community College
OASLMS Luncheon at Encyclo-Media

At right: Children’s author Patricia Reilly Giff was the keynote speaker at the OASLMS luncheon on Sep. 20 in Tulsa. Far right: Chair of OASLMS, Deborah Maehs, Kingfisher Public Schools. Bottom right: Ellen Duecker, Director of Instructional Media and Library Services for Tulsa Public Schools, recognized library media specialists in the state who had taken part in the Time Task Analysis conducted by OASLMS during the 2004-2005 school year. Bottom left: OASLMS Awards Chair and 2003 Polly Clarke Award winner Audrey Grambling presents the OASLMS Administrator Award to Stephanie Treadway of the Putnam City School District in Oklahoma City. All photos taken by John McGrath, Multimedia Specialist, Putnam City Schools.

Oklahoma Library Association 300 Hardy Drive Edmond, OK 73013

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