70-foot dragon kicks off Tulsa's Asian-American Festival

More than 2,000 children and adults celebrated and explored the colorful cultures of Asia at Tulsa City-County Library’s fourth annual Asian-American Festival held June 3 at the Martin Regional Library.

Jane Hyun, author of “Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians,” headlined this year’s event. A native of South Korea, Hyun is a leading Asian-American career coach and diversity strategist to Fortune 500 companies.

Local martial arts studio Ten Tigers Kung Fu kicked off the festivities with a dragon dance, featuring a 70-foot dragon from China. The four-hour festival featured interactive, educational booths with crafts for kids, name translation, origami, henna painting, sari folding and other activities, plus authentic arts and crafts, and food booths.

Throughout the day, festivalgoers enjoyed martial arts presentations, an acupuncture demonstration, a Japanese tea ceremony, and Yogalates (yoga and Pilates) and belly dancing classes. Plus, Japanese exchange students from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., wowed the audience with a lively performance of the So-Ran Bushi (Fisherman) Dance.

The Tulsa Library Trust funds the annual festival, which is co-sponsored by more than 30 local organizations and businesses.

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

What a unique opportunity for all Oklahoma Librarians – we all have a chance to be a librarian when our State Association celebrates its 100\textsuperscript{th} anniversary! This is a bit like seeing Haley’s comet. We’ll be able to tell young librarians twenty years from now that we were here during the Centennial conference. Given that this rare opportunity comes only once every 100 years, we want it to be something to talk about. That’s what the leadership is working toward this year, a truly memorable experience for all of us.

With this in mind, leadership retreat was held May 25-26. During the retreat, officers and committee and division chairs learned about upcoming legislative challenges from June Lester. Stacy Schrank engaged members in hula-hoop exercises (team-building for the people who think hula hoops are just for kids). Four past presidents, Donna Morris, Kathryn Lewis, Debra Engel, and Anne Masters talked about their most memorable (good and bad) experiences being OLA presidents over the last few years. Joey Senat from OSU made us think hard about 1\textsuperscript{st} amendment issues; sometimes it was uncomfortable. And John Hinkle fascinated us with historic tales about Oklahoma librarians from the past.

Workshop attendees identified things OLA does best, in an effort to make sure that we focus on being great, not just good, at what we do:

- Sequoyah awards and stimulating reading among Oklahomans
- providing continuing education opportunities
- supporting intellectual freedom
- collaborating among different libraries and with non-library organizations that share our goals
- following and responding to legislative issues relevant to libraries and librarians
- providing opportunities to “share courage” in support of our ideals
- promotion of the profession within the state
- transmitting national library issues
- providing a safe environment to develop leadership skills
- sharing ideas so we aren’t reinventing the wheel

That’s value! I hope that you will join me in recruiting new members and letting them know that OLA gives participants moments of camaraderie, leadership skills and opportunities to prosper in our communities and our profession.

What a success we had on June 3\textsuperscript{rd}, when OLA held its first-ever statewide fundraiser for the OLA Centennial Endowment Fund. Four hundred fifty attendees crowded the Harkins Theatres in Bricktown to see the advanced screening of “Cars.” The VIP reception, held at the governor’s mansion after the screening, was a near capacity crowd for the Phillips Pavilion. Attendees were wowed by a classic car show displaying characters from the movie. A silent auction included many unique offerings and collected over $7,000 in bids. Michael and Suzanne Wallis told the best stories about Route 66, closing a perfect summer evening with sparkle and wit. After expenses, the event raised $33,631 for the endowment, making the total funds raised since the beginning of the campaign $110,791. $11,379 of the total raised is held in our building fund, while $99,412 has been raised for the endowment fund.

Most important, we made friends. Our sponsors included:

Our Sponsors

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Harkins Theatres
Joe Castiglione
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Michael Wallis and Suzanne Fitzgerald Wallis
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Special Thanks
Oliver and Clare Delaney
Chad Haney
McDonald’s Corporate, Oklahoma City
McDonald’s, Ardmore
Jeanette Ann Koenig, Route 66, 50 Penn Place, OKC
Ron Stahl

Personally, this event was a real challenge and I found that the Event Committee members and the Endowment Committee members blew me away. They all worked so hard. I have never had a more rewarding experience. The best part was working so hard and meeting the challenge with a group of dedicated friends who all contributed so much to insure the success of our event. In fact, this experience is a perfect example of the real benefit of being a part of the Oklahoma Library Association. You make friends, you achieve goals greater than your dreams, you get really scared, you finally succeed and you leave a lasting legacy. I can’t think of any better way to spend your time and energy.

So, I hope you will make an effort to participate this year. If you haven’t been appointed to a committee and would like to make a contribution, email a committee chair or division chair and volunteer. I’m sure they’ll be glad to hear from you. The committee and division chairs and their email addresses are listed on the OLA website.

Not only will it be an important year historically, it looks like we will have a challenging legislative year as well. We are definitely living in interesting times.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the conference and plan now to attend. Lots of people will be working hard to make this a truly memorable event in the history of Oklahoma librarianship.

Pat Weaver-Meyers
President
Dirt, Dust, Digital...& Documents?

As the people of Oklahoma prepare to celebrate 100 years of statehood in 2007, where can items ‘older than dirt’ concerning historical events in Oklahoma such as the Dust Bowl be found in the digital environment? Where are historical collections and are any of them accessible over the web? To answer these questions the Government Documents Roundtable, along with co-sponsors, Library Education Division, Reference Roundtable, and the Centennial Committee coordinated a very well attended workshop that was held at the new Oklahoma History Center on May 31, 2006. Speakers for the workshop included Rodger Harris, Manager of the Archives Section of the Research Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS); William “Bill” Welge, Director of the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS); Kitty Pittman, Oklahoma Collection Librarian with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL); and Steve Beleu, U.S. Government Information Director also with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL).

Rodger Harris began the program by reminding the attendees just how far we have come in reaching the ever growing world of digital collections. He went on to describe criteria for future digitalization projects: which collections are requested more often, what equipment do you already have, what can your staff already do and can they learn to operate any new equipment, what can you afford, and has anyone already completed the same project elsewhere. Harris then provided a virtual tour of the Research Center website (www.okhistory.org) as well as the Oklahoma Folk-life Center website (www.okhistory.org/folk/ flc1.html). The Center has an ongoing project to migrate collections that are presently in fiche, paper, and other formats to digital form so librarians should stay tuned. As an unexpected bonus, attendees were given a copy of The African-American Experience in Oklahoma, a CD Guide and a CD entitled Celebrating Oklahoma’s Centennial with Oral History Projects. The center is developing additional CDs for various other topics and hopes to have one completed by December which will feature such historical items as Oklahoma’s Constitution and the Dawes Summary.

Following the presentation by Harris, William Welge (above, right) was introduced. Welge has been associated with the Oklahoma Historical Society since 1977 and has been Director of Research since 1990. He has published a number of articles and has edited three books. Recently he has co-authored an update to Oklahoma: A Rich History and this resource literally brings the state’s history to life. Welge believes a resource of this type is particularly needed as the state approaches its Centennial, and it will be a good tool for public school courses focusing on Oklahoma history. Further, Welge spoke about the resources, such as the Oklahoma Almanac, that he used in researching the last 25 years of Oklahoma history and how it was a fountain of information. Some other resources he found helpful included the Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma, and the national records of the Cattleman Association. In researching for the book he noticed women’s roles, African-Americans, and Hispanic/Latinos are underfeatured in standard Oklahoma history books.

The historical society research center has unusual items such as the application testimony for four of the five main Indian tribes in Oklahoma. Over the years Welge has noticed 90% of patrons looking for Indian ancestry are looking for Cherokee information and there appears to be popular interest in materials having to do with early U.S. Marshals. Welge stated that April 19, 1995 was a pivotal event for Oklahoma but as a result of that sad, sad day the “Oklahoma Standard” was seen worldwide and viewed as a benchmark. Furthermore, the lessons learned and the positive after-effects have created a new view of Oklahoma as “a stop-over place rather than a pass-through place.” As for celebrating the state’s centennial, he suggests that we include the challenges Oklahoma has
faced even if the outcomes were not always good because they have contributed to the past, the present, and the future of this great state.

After a lunch break, Kitty Pittman discussed the use of CONTENTdm, a digital collection management software, for the digitalization projects she has been involved with at ODL. This software package provides various tools dealing with organizing to publishing to searching digital collections online. Selected digital ODL collections spanning more than 100 years of Oklahoma history can be easily accessed online through a new service, Oklahoma Crossroads: Documents and Images (www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us). These collections include documents, photographs, newspapers, reports, pamphlets, posters, maps, and an author database ranging in dates from the late 1800s to present. Resources that are currently online through the Oklahoma Crossroads service include: Territorial Governors Reports, Gazetteer of Indian Territory, Oklahoma Red Book (Volume 1 with Volume 2 coming soon), 100 Years of Oklahoma Governors, African-American materials (including Blacks in Oklahoma from the Oklahoma Images series), and Tulsa Race Riot documents. In the very near future, digitalization of Oklahoma Libraries 1900-1937 and the Oklahoma Image book series entitled “Newcomers to a New Land” will be completed and added to Oklahoma Crossroads. Visit the website and spread the word about this resource that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere via the web.

Following the presentation by Pittman, Steve Beleu presented Oklahoma resources contained within the Library of Congress’s American Memory (http://memory.loc.gov). American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience. The material from the collections of the Library of Congress and its partner institutions serves the public as a resource for education and lifelong learning. Beleu has received 40 hours of training at the American Memory office of the Library of Congress, and his library was a test site for the program in 1992. Beleu provided a whirlwind virtual tour of the site and showed attendees how to narrow searches within the vast electronic collection to access information unique only to Oklahoma and its history.

Many of the resources within American Memory can be downloaded and/or printed. Beleu recommended that searchers employ various approaches when looking for Oklahoma information such as browse by topic, by place, by time period, and by free association in part due to the database not using controlled terms. When looking for information on Indian tribes, Beleu made the suggestion to search by the particular name of the tribe and by specific geographic location. In the very near future “Voices of Civil Rights Movement” and “Voices of Veterans” will be retrievable on American Memory as more oral history projects are completed. The ability to actually hear interviews, rather than simply reading transcripts, will enable researchers to learn even more. According to Beleu, the Library of Congress’s American Folklife Collection (http://www.loc.gov/folklife/) is also an excellent source with 28 of its collections having something to do specifically with Oklahoma. Collections include various Oklahoma items from Woody Guthrie to the African American Perspectives to the American Environmental Photographs 1891-1936 to America from the Great Depression to World War II to Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier. Check back from time to time to see and hear what has been added to this great resource and when you have the opportunity to attend Beleu’s three hour workshop on American Memory at a library near you, you will not be disappointed.

State documents can be found in various formats these days and many historical documents have been unearthed, dusted off, and digitized to make them more accessible to citizens across the state of Oklahoma. This workshop provided a venue for over 50 librarians to learn about some of these Oklahoma resources. Actual websites and databases were presented that can be used by libraries and their individual patrons. This was the first event the Oklahoma Library Association has held at the Oklahoma History Center, and attendees had the pleasure of visiting the wonderful exhibits at the end of the workshop. Those who were interested were also given a guided tour of the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center by Rodger Harris. The workshop planning committee would like to thank the speakers, the staff at the Oklahoma History Center, the co-sponsoring organizations, and all attendees for making this a very successful workshop. We hope Oklahoma, and its libraries, will continue to be ‘stop over places’ rather than ‘just passing through’ places.

Verna Graybill & Tanya Finchum
Dr. Jennifer Paustenbaugh wears many hats, and she has just added one more: Chair of the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women (OCSW). Jennifer was recently elected by the Commission to serve as their leader for the upcoming year.

Jennifer is the Associate Dean of OSU Libraries for Planning and Assessment, Executive Director of the Women’s Archives at OSU and Puterbaugh Professor of Library Service. She is also the co-author and co-editor of the recently published Oklahoma Women’s Almanac. In addition to her many leadership positions in the American Library Association and the Oklahoma Library Association, Jennifer is a wife and mother of two.

As Chair of OCSW, Jennifer will oversee much of the Commission’s administration. Her most noteworthy duty, though, will be as the Commission spokesperson.

According to Jennifer, the mission of the OCSW is to improve the quality of life for women and families in Oklahoma. Jennifer said, “It’s exciting to be a part of something like this.”

“Our most recently completed project concerned the incarceration of women. Oklahoma leads the nation in incarcerating females. We helped fund a legislative study to investigate why so many Oklahoma women are imprisoned and the impact on their families and society. We hope this information can inform future policy makers, and spur the development of programs to reduce this trend.”

Looking to the future, Jennifer would like to see the Commission examine women’s health issues. “By the year 2020, women over 55 will represent 35% of the growth in the state’s population, and this will have a significant impact on our health care system. It’s a potential crisis. This is an example of one area where the Commission’s work could provide valuable insight for our legislature.”

Jennifer was originally appointed to the OCSW by Governor Brad Henry in January 2003 to complete an unexpired term. She was reappointed in July 2005 for a full 5-year term. The Commission is comprised of 30 members, 10 appointed by the Governor, 10 by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and 10 by the Speaker of the House.

Announcing the new Read Y’all poster featuring Norman native James Garner! The OLA Marketing and Communications committee wishes to thank Friends of the Norman Public Library for funding the project, Emily Dutcher (freelance photographer on assignment for National Geographic) for taking the photo, and Ellen Lack for asking James Garner to sit for the picture while he was visiting her library at the elementary school in Norman that he attended. What a great promotion tool for reading and Oklahoma!
Oklahoma Webpages

*Oklahoma Images* from the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System

http://webinfo2.mls.lib.ok.us/okimages/okimages.asp

*Oklahoma Images* is a collection of historic photos with some essays, works of art, and primary source materials that document the history of central Oklahoma. It is a product of Oklahoma City’s Metropolitan Library System. You can either search through the entire collection via a search engine, or browse through these topics (each is given with examples of what you’ll find). Of course many of the buildings, institutions, etc. included in this list no longer exist.

**Churches and Temples** – Zion Lutheran Church in 1956, Maywood Presbyterian Church in 1910

**Commerce and Industry** – the Alamo Hotel in 1903, cowboys at what would later become Stiles Park in 1889

**Culture** – the State Fairgrounds entrance in 1907, the Oklahoma Building from the 1904 World’s Fair as moved to El Reno

**Disasters** – the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995, the May 3, 1999 tornadoes, photo of an 1896 tornado

**Education** – Epworth University in 1903, Oklahoma Holiness College in Bethany in 1919

**Entertainment and Recreation** – Belle Isle Park and lake in 1909, a parade of the Oklahoma National Guard in 1904

**Events** – the NAACP National Convention of 1952, the Billy Graham Crusade of 1956

**Government** – the first Post Office on West Main in 1889, the Oklahoma City Oil Field from the State Capitol steps in 1936

**Library** – the Carnegie Library on West 3rd Street in 1902, “Judy the Elephant” visits the library in 1951

**Medical Facilities** – the Bone and Joint Hospital in 1955, Children’s Convalescent Hospital in 1954

**Neighborhoods, Northeast** – historic Bricktown in the early 1900’s, the Douglas High School football team in 1910

**Neighborhoods, Northwest** – Mesta Park from as early as 1910, “Automobile Alley” as early as 1910

**Neighborhoods, Southwest** – the Oklahoma City Stockyards, “Community Camp” (a Dust Bowl era camp) in the 1930’s

**Oklahoma County Communities** – planes destroyed by the 1948 tornado at Tinker Air Force Base, the famed Round Barn in Arcadia

**Panoramic Views** – Oklahoma City in 1890, Seventh Day Adventist Camp with Del City in 1956

**Residences** – the Colcord Mansion in 1903, the Archie Dunn Home in 1910

**Transportation** – the first bridge over the North Canadian River in 1889, street car “barns” in 1910

Essays and other materials supplement the photographs. You access them by accessing subdivisions of the collection; for example, in the *Churches and Temples* collection, when you click the link for *Catholic* you will find three essays about some of the Catholic churches included. Likewise in the *People* collection, when you click the link for *Native Americans* you will find three essays, including one on Will Rogers and another titled “What was here before? Oklahoma City before The Run”. Remember that photos will first appear in thumbnail format, and that you can make them larger by clicking on the photo and also get such bibliographic information as the date of the photograph. This is a wonderful collection of materials. You will find it useful.

*Steve Beleu, ODL*
Freedom: What is it Good For?

Join your OLA colleagues and other defenders of free speech at the

8th Annual First Amendment Congress

November 16 and 17, 2006
The Student Union
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK

Watch for more information at:
http://www.foioklahoma.org