TULSA, Okla. --- A vibrant 70-foot Chinese dragon dance, a vivacious Japanese drumming performance and a vivid Bollywood presentation were among the many attractions at Tulsa City-County Library’s fifth annual Asian-American Festival, held June 2 at the Martin Regional Library. More than 2,000 festival goers enjoyed three hours of martial arts presentations; fun interactive, educational booths; authentic arts and crafts booths and Asian cuisine; and a variety of performances celebrating the colorful cultures of Asia. China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam were among the countries represented. The Tulsa Library Trust funds the annual festival. For more information about the Asian-American Festival, call (918) 596-7977.

—Jackie Hill

(Left, top to bottom: Children fold origami cranes for peace; Japanese exchange students from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah perform the So-Ran Bushi Dance; the Okii Taiko Japanese Drumming Group from Oklahoma City performs; children decorate their prizes from the Asian Treasure hunt.)
Hi, my name is Jan Bryant and I am OLA president for 2007-2008. I have been
told by experts that this will be the best (as well as the most fun) year of my career; so I
am excited. I look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you over the
course of the year. I know we will have a great year!

OLA leadership just held their annual retreat. We had a very productive time as well as fun, food, and
fellowship. We concentrated on learning how to be effective board members, getting new perspectives on
advocacy, reviewing the OLA Handbook and the OLA Long Range Plan, and beginning preparation for the 2008
OLA Conference. Clare Delany, the President of FOLIO, began the first day with an excellent presentation on
the responsibilities of board members. All of us who were in that session came away with a greater sense of
purpose and understanding of our role on the OLA Executive Board. The afternoon session began with Barbara
Staggs, former Representative to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, giving us some pointers on how to
effectively advocate library issues with our legislatures. One piece of advice was “cookies.” Barbara said
legislators appreciate the thoughtfulness of letting them know we are interested in issues they are passionate
about (not just library issues), offering to help, saying “Thank You,” and little things like taking cookies. She
told us to become acquainted with our legislator’s assistant and be thoughtful of them. Barbara was followed by
Stacy Schrank, Employment Development Coordinator for Metropolitan Library System, who made learning the
OLA Handbook into a fun treasure hunt. There was considerable competition to see which team knew the most
about OLA and would win the treasure. After our hard work, we relaxed with a great evening of poetry and
jazz.

On Friday we started the day working in groups reviewing the Long Range Plan. The groups had
wonderful ideas on how to accomplish the goals and objectives of the current plan as well as excellent
suggestions for the future. Following this working session, Leslie Langley, Director of Wister Public Library and
OLA Program Chair for 2007-2008, shared a delightful commentary on how to have a “perfect conference.” She
then led a discussion on ideas for the 2008 conference and ended with a unique time-line designed to keep her
sane while planning this year’s conference.

I then presented the theme for 2007-2008: “Keys to the Future.” Most often you will see the theme as
“Oklahoma Libraries- Keys to the Future” but I want you to keep in mind that there are many keys. Oklahoma
libraries are definitely keys to the future for our customers and communities. But librarians and library staff members are keys to the
future, OLA is a key to the future, each member is a key to OLA’s future, the information and technology in our libraries are keys to the
future, advocacy for libraries is a key to the future, Leadership Gold is a key to the future, the Library Matrix Camp is a key to the future,
and on and on. So let us work together using all of our keys, and then we will have a fantastic year. Remember we hold the “Keys to the
Future”!

—Jan Bryant
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PROFESSOR NAMED TO NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

NORMAN — Lotsee Patterson, professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, is one of three presidential nominees recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the National Museum and Library Services Board, a 24-member advisory body.

The board includes the Institute of Museum and Library Services director and deputy directors for libraries and museums, the chair of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and 20 appointed members of the general public, whose selection is based on their knowledge of and commitment to either library or museum science.

A professor at OU since 1991 and a member of the Comanche Nation, Patterson’s research interests include library and information services and resources for American Indian tribes. She has been a visiting scholar at the University of British Columbia and a visiting lecturer at the University of Maryland as well as presenting at symposia and conferences throughout the United States and in Sweden, New Zealand, Ukraine, Australia and Canada.

Patterson has been the recipient of such honors and awards as the American Library Association’s Beta Phi Mu Award in 2001, for distinguished service to education in librarianship; the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science’s Silver Award in 1996, for noteworthy and sustained contributions to libraries and information services; ALA’s Equality Award in 1994, for outstanding contributions promoting equality in the library profession; American Indian Library Association’s Leadership Award in 1994, for outstanding leadership in library services for American Indian people and for founding the American Indian Library Association; and National Congress of American Indians’ Award of Appreciation in 1991, for outstanding service in the planning and conducting of the Native American and Alaska Native Library and Information Services Pre-Conference to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. She received the Oklahoma Library Association’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, in 1997, and also was named a Library Legend by the association. In 2005, she received the ALA’s highest honor by being named an honorary member.

Patterson earned her master’s and doctoral degrees from OU.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the institute, log on to www.imls.gov

LIBRARY ARCHIVES DIRECTOR NAMED HONORARY MEMBER OF MIAMI TRIBE

At the June 2nd Miami Tribe Annual Meeting, Karen Alexander, Director of the Library Archives for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, was named an honorary member of the tribe. Alexander said “no higher honor can be given. It was very humbling and certainly made me speechless. ... Truly, it was one of the best days of my life.”
Oklahoma Water Research Institute

http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/

The Oklahoma Water Research Institute is located in Oklahoma State University’s Environmental Institute at Stillwater. It conducts research, education, and training in state water issues, and is one of 54 such institutes in our nation. Their stated objectives are these: to support research into topics related to water resources in Oklahoma and their management; to train those who work with water resources; and to engage in water-related technology transfer to the water community in Oklahoma.

THE AQUAHOMAN
This is their quarterly newsletter presented in PDF format. They began publishing it in 2005.

RESEARCH SYMPOSIA
Each year the Institute conducts a statewide symposium about the state of water in Oklahoma. These are the conference proceedings of these symposiums. They consist primarily of abstracts and Powerpoint, but there are a few manuscripts. Also included are PDFs of posters, photographs, and the presentations or abstracts of speeches of their keynote speakers. You will find proceedings since 2003.

REPORTS
These are PDFs of their annual reports since 2000.

PROJECT FUNDING
The Institute has their own grant program. This web page contains their RFPs, guidelines, and forms. It also has a link to national grants from the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition it contains a log of the projects they have funded by fiscal year (note that this doesn’t include links to the actual reports).

ORGANIZATIONAL LINKS
This consists of extensive links to national and international sources about water resources.

OKLAHOMA COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN
http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/waterplan/index.asp
I’ve provided this link for the statewide water plan that the Institute is conducting, including a series of meetings around the state, because I haven’t found its link on their Institute’s home page. The Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan was first published, by the requirement of the Oklahoma Legislature, in 1980, and was updated in 1997. In 2006 they provided funds for this second update which is underway.

Reviewed on June 18, 2007
—Steve Beleu

Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival

A variety of stories were shared with over 100 storytellers and story listeners during the Friday night opening concert on June 8. Storms rolled through, allowing the group to gather at Mekusukey Mission for Ghost Tales. The concert was accompanied by creatures of the night, bird calls, and songs of coyotes. With flashes of lightning to the east and flute music, we marveled at the mystical beauty that surrounded us. Saturday workshops and story concerts kept all of us smiling. Story swaps were outstanding. Darla L’Allier was the Children’s story stage MC, sharing her Ozark Tale, Little Silver, along with four other state tellers; she also shared her original Prairie Dog tale, “Why Prairie Dog has a Black Tail," at the Nature story set. The festival ended with an evening concert, "History From The Heart," where tellers stepped back in time to honor women who helped build this great state.

Was it a lot of hard work? “You bet it was!” Was it worth it? “Without a doubt!” Next year’s festival is scheduled for June 6th and June 7th, 2008. See you there!

—Darla L’Allier
Need Library-Oriented In-Service Training at Your High School?

By Barbara Miller, David Oberhelman, and Helen Clements

Three Oklahoma State University Librarians are currently “on the road” with an in-service training module for high school teachers. The program, available to any Oklahoma high school, is designed to help high school teachers prepare their students for the transition to the rigors of college and university research.

Helen Clements, Barbara Miller, and David Oberhelman are seasoned instruction librarians who have a lot of experience teaching incoming freshman and other undergraduates about the often complex information literacy skills required for college-level research. Because they know it is difficult for college freshmen to absorb so much new material, these librarians are going to the high schools, hoping to give teachers tips on how better to prepare their students for research at any college or university library. In these modules we help high school teachers and librarians learn how to incorporate information literacy instruction into their lesson plans as well as create assignments that stress library research skills. We also encourage increased cooperation between faculty and school media specialists in the high schools as together they help students prepare for the future.

Barbara has given two EncycloMedia presentations on this topic, and has received several calls from high school librarians resulting in these in service sessions, which have been well received by the faculty. David, Helen and Barbara have all taught OSU’s one-credit class in library and information competencies, and David has also inaugurated an online version of the class. All three have also taught the infamous one hour “BL” to new undergraduates.

It is important to note that we will work ahead of time with the school media specialists in the high schools to assess what most needs to be addressed at each institution. For example, at one session we discovered a greater need to teach the basic search strategies using the EBSCO Digital Prairie databases, and at another we spent more time on how to use the Web as a research tool to find quality information.

The typical in-service module takes about two hours, and is divided into three parts. The first part covers vocabulary of information literacy, such as “controlled vocabulary,” “peer-reviewed journals,” “bias,” etc. Most high school students are as unfamiliar with these terms as we “oldies” are with the “text speak” they use every day. Here we try to help high school faculty feel at ease with library jargon and processes so that they will pass terms on to their students as part of their assignments. Thus their students will already be able to “speak the lingo” when they attend freshman library orientation sessions. We also introduce concepts such as critical thinking, totally new to high school students who are used to composing papers consisting of facts garnered from the Web, but required of college freshmen for their papers.

The second part discusses how to segue from Web search engines and other forms of online searching known by students to database search strategies, and focuses on how to incorporate journal article searching into high school assignments. We explain the kinds of searches high school students use every day (“tags,” social networking sites, iTunes, eBay, online retail, etc.) and give teachers some handy tips on how use that familiar search behavior when they look for research information in the catalog or databases.

The final part discusses how to use the web for research, and also touches on such important topics as plagiarism and citations for online sources. Most new freshman are unaware of how easy it is to get caught plagiarizing, or unaware of what exactly is plagiarism in the highly collaborative, online environment the Web has fostered today. They are shocked to realize they can receive an F for a class without knowing they were in trouble.

If you are interested in having our “Information Literacy Road Show” come to your high school to give your teachers ideas, please contact one of us (addresses below), and we will be glad to arrange a time to come. We do not charge any fees, but if you are in the Panhandle or other far corners of Oklahoma and want to give us a room for a night, that is most welcome!

Helen Clements, helen.clements@okstate.edu
Barbara Miller, barbara.miller@okstate.edu
David Oberhelman, d.oberhelman@okstate.edu
In this year of the Oklahoma Centennial, with the focus throughout the state on Oklahoma’s rich history, we knew *The Grapes of Wrath* would be a great selection for Stillwater’s Big Read program. The timing was perfect! This novel allowed our community to read, discuss and learn about a significant time period in our state’s history, to examine our feelings about our state’s image and the impact of literature in our lives, and to deepen our appreciation of a beautiful masterpiece—what an incredible book!

Ten public events with guest speakers and/or performers and nearly fifty book club/discussions were offered. All together several thousand people participated by attending a program or book discussion or learned about The Big Read from a speaking engagement to their group. We applied for and received official Centennial status from the Oklahoma Capitol Complex and Centennial Commemoration Commission.

The kick-off event on March 5 was a great success. It began with a mayoral proclamation encouraging all citizens of Stillwater to read and discuss *The Grapes of Wrath*. Following were two outstanding lectures:

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**AASL selects 2007 NSLMPY Award winners**

CHICAGO - Norman (Okla) Public School District, Harpeth Hall School in Nashville, Tenn., and North Elementary School in Noblesville, Ind., will receive this year’s prestigious National School Library Media Program of the Year Award (NSLMPY) from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The award is sponsored by Follett Library Resources. The honor will be presented at the AASL Awards Luncheon at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on Monday, June 25, 2007.

The 2007 School District award goes to Norman Public Schools in Norman, Oklahoma, with 21 schools serving 13,000 students. The Norman library media program is aligned with the overall district plan of instruction, resulting in numerous opportunities for creative and innovative collaboration. There is evidence of strong support from central administration, and the library media program is an important component of the district’s long-range strategic plan. The program is further strengthened through ongoing, cooperative relationships with the local community, including the Pioneer Library System and the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies.

"The common component these programs share is the seamless integration of the library media program into every aspect of teaching and learning," said Kathleen McBroom, chair of the NSLMPY Award Subcommittee. "Library media specialists are equal partners in the educational process. Library media staff participate in curriculum development, lesson planning, delivery of instruction, and assessment of student learning. In each instance, students, colleagues and administrators cite numerous examples of how the library media program has made a profound difference in their educational experience."

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Karen Neurohr (l) and Lynda Reynolds hold The Big Read banner at the Red Dirt Rangers performance on April 15.
Michael Wallis, who is an award-winning author, Route 66 expert, and Pixar consultant, gave a stirring talk on Steinbeck and Oklahoma, and historian Jennifer Collins examined the image of Oklahoma from the 1930s to today. Both speakers provided in-depth information on the novel and how it relates to the history of Oklahoma.

Another successful program was “The History of Oklahoma Music from Woody Guthrie to Red Dirt.” Sheerar Museum hosted this program in their historic auditorium and helped greatly with promotion. We had two speakers at this program: Dr. Hugh Foley discussed Oklahoma music and the significance of music in the novel. One college student who attended commented, “If you were not interested in reading the novel before this program, you certainly were after!” Author John Wooley spoke on the history of music in Oklahoma from Woody Guthrie to “Red Dirt.” Yes, there really is red dirt in this part of the state! “Red Dirt” music originated in Stillwater and it was great to see the connection. Both speakers provided wonderful insight into the significance of Oklahoma music and musicians.

On the day of the film screening led by David Kipen, we were under a tornado watch. Torrential rains didn’t keep over a hundred hardy Oklahomans from braving the weather to see the film in the OSU Student Union Little Theater. The film was sub-titled and we had interpreters there for the deaf community. International students also appreciated the sub-titles.

Stormy spring weather affected our closing weekend, as well. It was selected to coincide with the Stillwater Arts & Heritage Festival April 14-15, and April 14 just happens to be the anniversary of “Black Sunday,” the darkest day during the Dust Bowl. The outdoor concert by The Red Dirt Rangers, a popular band, had to be re-scheduled for April 15. But hundreds of people were at the concert in the park; the weather was warm and sunny, so everything turned out fine!

Another program featured Timothy Egan, Pulitzer-prize winning reporter and winner of the 2006 National Book Award for The Worst Hard Time: the Untold Story of Those Who Survived The Great American Dust Bowl. Egan’s program was held in the beautiful browsing room at the OSU Library. Egan offered a different perspective of the time period we had been discussing with The Grapes of Wrath. He told us the story of those who stayed in Oklahoma and how they survived. Everyone appreciated how he spoke so highly about Oklahomans and our state’s rich history.

Our community has been very enthusiastic about The Big Read. The evaluations that we received are very positive. Everyone especially appreciated the collaboration between the city and university for this project. Many people have commented that they want our libraries to have another Big Read program or at least another community-wide reading event. They feel it is very beneficial for our community. The Big Read also opened doors into the community for the library and created new partnerships that can be further developed. One aspect of the publicity effort this time involved explaining what “The Big Read” is to the community; we have no doubt that, if offered again, many Stillwater residents are going to know what we are talking about when they see “The Big Read.”

The experience of participating in The Big Read and bringing it to our community as one of only two communities in the state to receive the grant continues to be very rewarding. It brought together the public and university libraries and the public schools in a unique way, which we hope to continue to develop. It took many people to make it all work, and it was definitely worth the effort.

We are planning to present a program at the Oklahoma Library Association annual conference in the Spring of 2008 to share our experiences and encourage other librarians in our state to apply for the grant. Karen will present a program on our experiences with The Big Read at a regional library symposium for academic librarians. Lynda, Karen, and the high school teachers are hoping to team up again to present a program at a statewide conference for school librarians in the fall. The National Endowment for the Arts should be prepared for more applications from this region!
Party Pics from the OLA Centennial Ball are posted at