The Oklahoma Library Association awarded $500 scholarships to three library school students at the Annual Conference banquet this year. According to OLA Bylaws, the scholarships are awarded annually to Oklahoma residents who are members of OLA and currently enrolled in a graduate program at an Oklahoma university or college that will result in either a library degree or certification. This year’s recipients are Diane Gordon, Kristal Sergent and Jennefer Sixkiller.

Diane Gordon (not pictured) is currently a classroom teacher in the Perkins-Tryon School. She is enrolled at Oklahoma State University in the Master’s in Educational Technology program with an option in School Library Media Certification. She has been a classroom teacher for sixteen years and states that she values the collaboration between the classroom teacher and the library media specialist. After graduation she intends to pursue a position as a library media specialist. Her personal statement asserted the importance of technology integration in the classroom and teaching ethical researching and information literacy skills. A past Teacher of the Year recipient, one of her references stated: “Diane has an amazing ability to connect with her students.”

Kristal Sergent (at right in the picture below) is currently a graduate research assistant at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa Library. She is enrolled in the OU School of Library and Information Studies and serves as the graduate student representative to the curriculum committee. Presently she is a 2007-2009 Diversity Scholar from the Association of Research Libraries and a 2007-2008 ALA Spectrum Scholar. Her personal statement described the development of a user needs assessment program in her graduate research assistant position. One of her references stated, “She is the only graduate student to have initiated her own library program evaluation project. Her successful research assignments have already made a contribution to the library.”

Jenneffer Sixkiller (at left in the picture below) is currently a part-time adult services librarian at the Stillwater Public Library. She is also an intern in the Visual Resources Library at the Art Department of OSU. She is enrolled in the OU School of Library and Information Studies with a focus on art librarianship. Her personal statement described “My coursework at the SLIS program has been extremely helpful in answering the ‘whys’ of day-to-day library work, and has given me a different perspective than I had before.” Jenneffer has presented at an OLA workshop and the Southwest Texas Popular Culture Conference. One of her references stated, “Jenneffer makes time to attend conferences, volunteer for community projects, and conduct research involving archival materials.”

The OLA scholarship committee is currently preparing the application forms for the 2009 OLA scholarships. The announcement will go out in late November, and the committee will meet in early spring to select the 2009 recipients. If you’d like to learn more about the committee, contact Kay Boies (kboies@sbcglobal.net), or this year’s co-chairs, Ginny Dietrich (gdietrich@ou.edu) and Kathryn Lewis (klewis@norman.k12.ok.us).

—Ginny Dietrich

**Big Read Grant**

The National Endowment for the Humanities announced 208 grantees for the 2008-2009 *The Big Read* program. In Oklahoma, Rose State College in Midwest City won a grant for *Fahrenheit 451*. 
PRESIDENT’S COLUMN
Libraries in 2008: Great Places to Be!

As president of the Oklahoma Library Association, it is my privilege and honor to serve OLA and its membership in the coming year. I am looking forward to working with you, and, in doing so, I express my gratitude to Jan Bryant and other past presidents whose vision has led a dedicated, talented, and active membership to remarkable successes and legends on behalf of libraries, library services, and librarianship in Oklahoma.

As OLA begins its current annual planning cycle in July 2008, there is one certainty in our uncertain times: libraries are great places to be. And, they are great places to work. A U.S. News and World Report survey identified librarianship as one of the 31 “Best Careers in 2008” (www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2007/12/19/the-components-of-31-top-careers.html). In a summary article, Marty Memko’s description of librarianship on the U.S. News and World Report web site emphasizes the high job satisfaction and notes:

Librarians these days must be high-tech information sleuths, helping researchers plumb the oceans of information available in books and digital records. . . . Most librarians love helping patrons dig up information and, in the process, learning new things. Librarians may also go shopping . . . , deciding which books and online resources to buy. They even get to put on performances, like children’s puppet shows, and run other programs, like book discussion groups for elders. On top of it all, librarians’ work hours are reasonable (http://www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2007/12/19/librarian-executive-summary.html).

This newly publicized view of librarianship is a positive development for librarianship and for recruitment to the field. Libraries are great places to be—for literacy and for life—an idea portrayed in the OLA 2008-2009 circular logo and our conference theme. Public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries, and special libraries form a circle of support for each generation’s lifelong literacy and each generation’s reading for information and for pleasure. Together, Oklahoma libraries form a remarkable network of library services, the whole of which is greater than the sum of the parts. And, recognition of this network is a powerful message to all we serve—to our everyday patrons, to our friends, and to those who advocate for anyone of us: Oklahoma libraries serve the intellectual and economic infrastructure of the state and are positive forces for the state and for its individual citizens. OLA must advocate this message across universities, schools, cities, and counties: Libraries are for everyone, and they are virtually everywhere.

The library is a great place to be when economic times are difficult. When the cost of information (e.g., newspapers and magazines, online access, instruction in computer technology or English as a second language, an information book, or a DVD for Friday night) exceeds individuals’ financial resources, the mission of public libraries is greatest. The Friday night DVD from the public library is a gallon of gas saved; checking out three books could fill the tank. When the library is a good place to be because times are tough, it is especially important that the library is available at home, at the office, and at the local wifi. One can complete a job application when there is no car available if there is library virtually everywhere.

Libraries are great places to be—virtually all the time. And, so is OLA. For 101 years, the OLA membership has built an energetic and cohesive organization which recognizes each member’s voice to be an important voice for Oklahoma libraries. In our second century, we must reach out virtually in new and changing ways to everyone. With one strong, inclusive voice, we can deliver the message:

- Libraries champion information literacy, ensure a society’s information infrastructure, and enrich economies.
- Libraries must be funded.
- The concept that libraries contribute to societies, is embedded in our national culture.

Likewise, OLA understands and values libraries. Ours is a straightforward message for Oklahoma. Libraries support human endeavors; libraries must be funded. Each member of OLA has an important voice, a unique lens, and a special audience. This year, this century, let’s use voices and virtual voices to work and plan within OLA and to communicate with Oklahomans everywhere.

In closing, I would also like to add that libraries are great places to work because each time that we meet individual information needs in our libraries, we make a contribution to our shared knowledge, to our shared future in Oklahoma. Thus, our OLA memberships are not only an investment in our profession, they are also an investment in the state where we live and work. Oklahoma needs you, your ideas, your networks, and your voices; and OLA is our platform for strengthening libraries, library services, and librarianship in Oklahoma.

As we work together, I will appreciate your input and feedback, your suggestions and recommendations. Please feel free to contact me at kla-trobe@cox.net or 405-360-4285 (mobile).

—Kathy Latrobe
Serials Review: Northeastern State University’s Approach

The serials review process at Northeastern State University is a difficult and arduous task that is conducted in a team approach every year by the Reference/Resource Coordination Department with the assistance of the Technical Services and Access Services departments. The purpose of the review is to make the serials collection as effective as possible, because it comprises the majority of the materials budget. The serials list, which consists of both print and online titles, is examined to identify titles that could be changed to electronic format to serve our multiple campuses or titles that are no longer needed. With tight budgets, if databases or periodical titles are added, something of an equivalent value must be cut. Databases are also examined for relevancy and usage. The process has become more challenging at Northeastern State University, because most of the titles that can be cancelled have already been removed from the collection.

With the team approach to the serials review process, the resource coordination librarians are responsible for selecting the library materials that are needed for their academic units. Technical Services provides accurate lists of serials as well as their costs and online availability. Access Services identifies periodical titles with high interlibrary loan usage and provides usage figures for print periodicals. All of this information is used in analyzing the serials collection.

The department co-coordinator creates a timeline for the serials review process. Technical Services identifies the amount of money needed to be cancelled based on the anticipated serials inflation factor for the next fiscal year. The amount to be cancelled and the serials lists are given to the resource coordinators for review. The resource coordinators examine their subject areas as well as the reference and general serials lists. In determining the print titles to be cancelled, the resource coordinators examine usage figures, check to determine if the title is available electronically, and consider accreditation and core list requirements. They also consult with their faculty to determine which titles are most important.

In 2007, one resource coordinator contacted her faculty members by email and asked them to identify, by title, journals that were used in specific assignments or that the faculty member used. The faculty members were asked about currency requirements and format (print or electronic) preferences for each title in which they had assignments. The information gathered assisted the resource coordinator in identifying the essential titles and was a more effective approach than sending the faculty members serial lists and asking them to identify titles to be cancelled.

With the serials review process, titles considered for cancellation are sent to the department co-coordinator who compiles the titles and disseminates them to the resource coordinators through email. Several meetings are scheduled to discuss the changes to the serials list. These meetings are conducted through ITV to include the librarians at the Broken Arrow campus. The goal of these meetings is to identify, through discussion and consensus, the titles that could be cancelled or added to the collection to cover the inflation factor within the timeframe identified by Technical Services. During the serials review meetings, every resource coordination librarian has the right to comment on any of the titles on the drop/add list. If a resource coordinator objects to a title being dropped, it is removed from the cancellation list. If this places the total amount below the target figure, then the decision to keep or cancel a title is determined by majority vote. This year, after the serials review process was completed, the department co-coordinator disseminated an anonymous survey designed to identify the positive and negative aspects of the process.

Because it will always be necessary to analyze the serials collection, here are a few tips to help with the serials review process: (1) Include all of the librarians who are involved in the serials process; (2) Gather relevant data, including usage figures and interlibrary loan requests; (3) Start the process early and develop a timeline; (4) Explain the process to all involved and keep them informed; (5) Consider faculty and patron needs as well as format and accreditation requirements; (6) Conduct well organized meetings that include open and cooperative discussions that result in a consensus; (7) Assess the process, because this lets the participants know that the library is interested in their opinions and in improving working conditions.

―Sarah Brick Archer, Co-Coordinator, Reference/Resource Coordination Department

Tulsa City-County Library Presents Sixth Annual Asian-American Festival

More than 2,500 festival-goers delighted in the sights, sounds and tastes of Asia at Tulsa City-County Library’s sixth annual Asian-American Festival, held June 7 at Martin Regional Library.

The colorful cultures of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries in Asia came to life through Chinese dragon and lion dances; martial arts presentations; Japanese bamboo flute and drum performances, a traditional tea ceremony and manga exchange; belly dancing; hands-on educational, fun activities and crafts for children of all ages; authentic arts and crafts booths; and Asian cuisine.

Tulsa City-County Library inaugurated the festival in 2003 as a way to honor and recognize the diverse cultures in the Asian communities. The Tulsa Library Trust funds the annual festival. Admission is free. For more information about the Asian-American Festival, call 918-596-7977 or visit www.tulsalibrary.org. —Jackie Hill
Docs 101: Federal Agency Teacher's Guides

School librarians, help your teachers show students how to find quality information on the web!

Fall is nearly upon us, and with it the looming school year. School librarians, do not fear! Many federal government websites have provided teacher’s guides and lesson plans as curriculum aids to help school teachers find helpful information on their site and to show students how to access quality government information for all needs.

Perhaps the foremost leader among government websites is the American Memory site by Library of Congress (www.memory.loc.gov). Just link to TEACHERS to access special teacher-created plans plus links to information in the form of maps, videos, posters, oral histories and text. Topics include elections, inaugurations, immigrations, copyright, maps, and patriotic songs. Sound like anything you can use?

The Dept. of State has an excellent link, http://future.state.gov/educators/index.htm, which provides teacher’s guides to foster connectivity between schools in other countries and other parts of the U.S. There is also a model UN program and curriculum guides on terrorism, history of diplomacy, and the Vietnam War. Great for social studies programs!

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (http://erg.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/publists/edu.html) has an excellent series of teacher’s guides on map adventures, caves, volcanoes, global change, and other natural science topics. They also provide study guides for the Southern Appalachians and other geographic areas.

The Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) provides teacher’s guides on topics related to public health. There are excellent links to tobacco and smoking prevention, vaccines, importance of physical fitness, DNA, and disease. On the homepage you can search by topic keyword plus “teacher’s guide” to find out if there is a guide on your topic of interest, or simply put in “teacher’s guide” and survey the lists of topics. At a related website, http://www2a.cdc.gov/PHTN/schools/resource.asp, you will find a collaboration between the CDC and the Dept. of Education, providing teacher guides and lesson plans on topics related to response to terrorism. These include information on reacting and recovery from terrorist attacks. There are links to articles from FEMA and from the American Red Cross, and a link to a special guide for students grades 6-12 on terrorist recovery.

Interested in natural history and conservation? Try the National Parks website (www.nps.gov), which has a link for “kids and teachers” that links you to several curriculum guides for various national parks, as well as to lesson plans for incorporating primary sources, archaeology, museums, and historic places into your lessons.

Progressing from the humanities to the arts, the Smithsonian website (http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators) provides numerous lesson plans on any topic related to art, science, music, language arts or cultural heritage. You can refine your search by grade level, keyword and/or subject and then get a list of plans which show the exact topic plus grade levels. Topics include life in a Japanese internment camp, campfire stories of famous nineteenth century Indian portraitist George Catlin, and Mayan culture. And you thought the Smithsonian was just for art!

Finally, the NASA website (http://NASA.gov) has a great deal of space science information for teachers. When you get to the main page you will see links to many videos to get you started. Then use the keywords “teacher guides” in the search box. This will pull up dozens of lesson plans on topics related to space research, including various shuttle trips, planets, relative gravity, space missions such as the Genesis mission, as well as links to posters and other guides available on the website. Your future space scientists will find all they need here, and hesitant teachers can sound like experts by following the guides.

These links are just to get you started! To find more of these sites, go to www.firstgov.gov and put in a search for “teacher’s guides” or “lesson plans” and you will link to many more sites than I have mentioned. You have unlimited possibilities at your fingertips, all from government websites!

—Barbara Miller, OSU

Conference Session Report: Legislating Away Intellectual Freedom

At the 2008 Oklahoma Library Association Conference in Tulsa, Carrie Gardner discussed legislation and intellectual freedom. Starting with the legal foundation of freedom of speech in the United States, this wide-ranging discussion touched on educators acting in loco parentis, barriers to access to information (physical, psychological, and economic), privacy and confidentiality (and the effects of the PATRIOT Act), and major current issues like filtering and social networking sites. Gardner made the point that one must always be aware of legislation which is designed to protect the citizens, since often it is so broadly written that it denies too many of their rights. One example she gave was about one State which was about to pass a law that one could not have sex in a public building—until it was pointed out that then the governor and his wife could not have sex in the Governor’s Mansion!

—B.J. Vinson, Rose State
The Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma is a well-known resource to Oklahomans and historical researchers. Their digitization of these materials is a tool that your library will find useful.

Doris Duke Collection – this consists primarily of the typescripts of interviews of hundreds of Oklahoma Indians organized by tribe. There are also some other types of materials here, not all of which are available online, such as recordings listed for the Caddo nation. The search engine includes a drilldown tool for choosing to search by these categories: “Full text,” “Tape number,” “Interviewer,” and “Interviewee.” You can use the “Interviewee” option for searching by the names of those who were interviewed so that library customers can use this tool for genealogical as well as historical research. You will also find primary sources on Indian ceremonies, customs, their society and beliefs, and how they lived.

Indian-Pioneer Papers – this consists of the typescripts of interviews of Oklahomans conducted from 1861 to 1936. These interviews were conducted during the 1930’s as a New Deal project by government employees, and deal with the non-Indian settlement of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory, and the statehood that followed. The search engine includes a drilldown tool for choosing to search by these categories: “Title,” “Subject,” “Interviewer,” and “Interviewee.” As with the Duke collection, you can use the “Interviewee” option for searching by the names of those who were interviewed so that library customers can use this tool also for genealogical as well as historical research. This collection consists of 80,000+ entries in 116 digitized volumes. These are also primary sources.

Native American Manuscripts – this doesn’t actually include any digitized primary sources, but consists of online finding aids organized by these Indian nations: Cherokee, Cheyenne-Arapaho, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and “others.” These guides will give your library customer an idea about the range of the 200+ manuscript collections that Western History holds about Oklahoma, Indian Territory, and the southwest U.S.

Photograph Archives – Western History’s photo archives are one of the gems of our state. This links to a web page dedicated to the photo archives that explain how to use the actual collection at Western History. The only digitized photos you will find are included in the “Gallery” option, but there are many of these, including many historic photos of the OU football team in action under the topic of “Football, University of Oklahoma,” and the cover pages of eighty-eight “Buffalo Bill Wild West Novels.”

—Steve Beleu, ODL

RE VIEWS

Brehm-Heeger, Paula. Serving Urban Teens. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. xviii + 229 pp. 978-1-59158-377-6. $40.00. Although we have all spent time as teenagers, once we leave those challenging transitional years many adults find teens mystifying, frustrating, or even frightening. This may be particularly true in urban public library settings where teens may be perceived as a problem to solve rather than as a significant base of current and future library support. Brehm-Heeger brings her expertise to this topic as a fifteen year provider of library youth services and YALSA president for 2007-2008. She provides a historical context for library youth services, and then launches into a reasonably comprehensive overview of all aspects of teen services, addressing the need for specialized youth services, staff training, collection development, programs, and facilities. Unique needs of urban settings are highlighted including security, individuals and groups spending large blocks of time in the library, and collection development and programs that address contemporary urban interests. Her current material lists and information on manga and urban or street literature will be particularly helpful in developing these collections. While other books provide information geared towards youth specialists, Brehm-Heeger emphasizes that all staff in a public library will likely interact with teen users and should be given training in teen development and positive approaches to interactions. She also places a significant emphasis on teen involvement in planning and running teen programs and spaces. Although specifically geared towards urban settings, this book has applications for any public or school libraries serving teens. It will serve as a strong complement to more general works such as Connecting Young Adults and Libraries, 3rd ed. by Patrick Jones, Michele Gorman, and Tricia Suellentrop. —Peggy Kaney, Northeastern State University

Reviews continue on next page
**REVIEWS**

**Herald, Diana Trixler and Kunzel, Bonnie. Fluent in Fantasy: the Next Generation. Westport: Libraries Unlimited, 2008. xvi + 312 pp. $52.00.** This newest entry in the Genreflecting Advisory Series divides the vast fantasy genre into chapters covering its popular subgenres, to help fans and their librarian reader advisors drill down to the kinds of fantasy literature that will interest them most. Each chapter begins with a short essay describing the subgenre that the chapter covers. Some of the topics are so large and varied that they have been subdivided within chapters. The chapter on magical animals, for instance, “A Bestiary,” is subdivided into sections on Dragons, Uncommon Common Animals, and Shape shifters. A strong feature of modern fantasy is its numerous popular series, and the bibliography usefully lists both series titles and all volumes in each series. Although many of the entries for individual titles are only brief plot summaries rather than reviews, the appendices include lists of award-winning titles, an additional bibliography of history and criticism, reference books, and a wide variety of other supplemental resources, both online and in print. Finally, there are author, title, and subject indexes to aid the search for specific titles. Like many of the other entries in the series, this bibliography is a good starting point for the librarian confronting a young reader who is interested in a particular aspect of fantasy, or is unsure of where to dive in first. —Michele Seikel, Oklahoma State University

**Eason, Cassandra. Fabulous Creatures, Mythical Monsters, and Animal Symbols: A Handbook. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2008. 978-0-27599425-9. 181 pp. $45.00.** Cassandra Eason, a former Honorary Fellow at the Alistair Hardie Research Center for Religious and Spiritual Experience in Oxford, provides an entertaining and informative, if somewhat cursory, overview of mythical beasts, animal symbols, and other “weird creatures” in this 181-page handbook. The volume consists of nine overview essays on topics such as “Dragon Power” and “Animals and Prophecy” which contain some fascinating historical and religious facts and analysis of animal iconography across many cultures. The organization, however, makes it difficult for readers to pinpoint information on specific creatures in specific cultures or belief systems. No one creature is discussed in great detail, so those seeking an encyclopedic reference guide to minotaurs or harpies or thunderbirds will be disappointed. The index is only six and a half pages long, and is somewhat inadequate given the array of different traditions and time periods covered in the essays. The absence of a glossary is particularly disappointing. Those interested in specific topics, however, will find extensive research into the different beasts. Although Eason’s handbook will be of great interest to students studying mythology and other related topics, it is not a must-have reference book for libraries seeking a good, comprehensive bestiary for their collection. —David D. Oberhelman, Oklahoma State University

**The Best of Covered Wagon Women. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. 978-0-9061-3914-2. 304 pp. $19.95.** This volume, condensed from Kenneth Holmes’ original eleven volume series, presents the stories of several pioneer women, each in eight chapters. The account of their lives on the trek west is sometimes funny, often touching and very often sad. Each chapter includes an introduction which is extremely useful in learning about each woman and her family. When available, follow-up material is also included, detailing the lives of these women after they settled in their new homes. The stories of Margaret Frink and Amelia Knight are accompanied by pictures of these hardy women, which help bring them to life. A map of the westward trails travelled by these women and their families is helpful, and readers will find themselves referring to it numerous times, monitoring the progress of these brave people. The women’s original writing is preserved as much as possible, spelling errors included! You often get the feeling that exhaustion, at the end of their long days, contributed to many shortcomings, food shortages, encounters with Native Americans (almost always friendly), dust, rain and hail storms; all come to life in the original words of these women. The reader will hate to come to the end of each chapter; every woman, in her own way, will pull the reader into her life on the trail. —Robin Leech, Oklahoma State University

**Guzzetti, Barbara, ed. Literacy for the New Millennium. Westport: Praeger, 2007. 1036 pp. $300.00.** This set includes four volumes: Early Literacy, Childhood Literacy, Adolescent Literacy, and Adult Literacy. A cogent explanation of the political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental issues provides the reader with a broad-based understanding of the many forces that impact literacy at each stage. Terminology is accompanied with explanations and more complex issues are explained via case studies. The discussion of the impact of the digital age on literacy is very helpful to understanding literacy as a whole. The contributors are proven researchers, practitioners, or educators. They provide a complex look at each stage of literacy, giving historical insights and current best practice. Literacy programs, popular culture, assessment, technology, motivation for learning, and gender differences are just a few of the topics explored. Every chapter includes references to validate the information given. Each volume has an annotated bibliography and an extensive index to provide the reader with additional resources for further study. This set is a highly useful resource for educators, preservice teachers, teacher educators, librarians, policy makers, researchers, and individuals interested in providing developmentally effective literacy opportunities for learners of all ages. I would recommend this set for an academic library. —Barbara Ray, Northeastern State University

**Doctorow, Cory. Little Brother. New York: TOR, 2008. 0-7653-1985-3, $17.95.** Seventeen-year-old Marcus Yallow is in the wrong place at the wrong time. In this highly plausible near-future science fiction tale, he and his friends are caught up as suspects in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, and detained and tortured in a secret prison by the Department of Homeland Security. Released only to find his familiar city transformed into a police state, Marcus determines to fight back. This rousing techno-adventure story is a sound bet for the elusive teen boy audience (though by no means unappealing to girls), but more than that, it’s an eye-opening education in the dangers of letting our rights be undermined by overzealous security. For librarians, the issues of privacy, security, and free access to information central to the book will certainly resonate deeply. Yes, it’s a little disquieting to read detailed instructions on how to fry the RFID chip in a library book, but then, if I knew my library’s chips were being used by a third party to track my patrons, I’d say fry away. Doctorow releases all his books as free electronic downloads simultaneously with paper publication, so sample Little Brother at http://craphound.com/littlebrother/. —Janet Brennan Croft, University of Oklahoma
An outreach program to help Spanish-speaking families with English literacy has been honored by the Oklahoma Library Association with the Ruth Brown Memorial Award.

The Families Learning Together Program was recognized at OLA’s annual state meeting April 22. Presenting the award was the OLA’s Social Responsibilities Roundtable (SRRT).

The program is a partnership with Kendall Whittier Inc.’s Youth Mentoring Program and the Ruth Hardman Adult Literacy Service at the Tulsa City-County Library. The outreach effort helps Hispanic parents in learning to read in English to their young children in order to help them reach their educational goals. Once a month, these families meet together for a meal. Afterwards, the parents attend classes on parenting and English education, while the children participate in literacy enrichment activities.

“The Ruth Brown Award is named for the Oklahoma librarian who courageously fought to ensure libraries were open to all peoples,” said Phillip Fitzsimmons, president of SRRT. “The Families Learning Together Program, like other previous Ruth Brown honorees, follows in Ms. Brown’s footsteps in providing important services to a special segment of the library public.”

Accepting the plaque and the $500 grant at the award presentation were Tulsa City-County Library staff members Rebecca Howard, literacy coordinator; Heather Bankson, English as a Second Language Literacy Specialist; and Cassie Tudyk, Children’s Literacy Outreach Specialist.

Howard said the program was begun after a survey of Tulsa Hispanic families indicated that many had difficulty researching their educational goals due to language, immigration status, cultural issues, or pressing financial needs. One way to address this issue is to assist children with early childhood education through an intergenerational family literacy program. “These programs have proven to be effective in increasing the activities that support academic success for children,” Howard said.

Each Families Learning Together meeting has a theme that is carried throughout activities for both parents and children. “Literacy skills are the foundation for all activities, and participants see how everyday activities like cooking can include literacy instruction,” Howard said.

In related news, the SRRT raffled a stained glass panel made by Phillip Fitzsimmons at the OLA annual conference. The winner of the raffle was Lana Voss who works at Tulsa City-County Library

Every dollar raised went toward the $500.00 grant annually awarded to the winner of the Ruth Brown award. The award honors the memory of pioneering Oklahoma librarian Ruth Brown who was fired from her job during the 1950s after 30 years of impeccable service. She was accused of distributing communist literature, but the real reason she was fired was for allowing African American children to participate in story time and for providing library service to adult African Americans. The purpose of SRRT and the Ruth Brown award is to encourage and to provide library and literacy services to the underserved and overlooked.

The glass contains over 200 pieces. “When I start these projects I always underestimate how many pieces are in a pattern unless I draw it myself,” the artist said. “I thought there was between 60 to 90 pieces. When I worked and worked on the thing and it seemed not to be finishing up I counted and discovered my error. That is all right, it is a labor of love, both because I like building stained glass and because I love libraries and anything contributing to literacy.

“The thing about stained glass is that it takes lots of time and work with the hands but there is very little to do with mind. For that reason I listen to audio books while cutting, grinding and foiling the pieces. The number of hours it took to do those things for your window was the time it took for me to listen to all unabridged productions of: Go Down Moses by William Faulkner, Roots by Aldous Huxley, The Education of Henry Adams by Henry Adams, and the complete Old and New Testaments of The Bible.”

—Philip Fitzsimmons
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Book Festival Set for October 2008

Save the date: Thursday, October 30, 2008. Find directions to the Stillwater Public Library. Watch the OLA web site for the downloadable flyer. Prepare to celebrate. The Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books for Young People is back!

The 2008 festival features an awesome list of authors and illustrators including Jacqueline Woodson, Susan Campbell Bartoletti, and Eric Rohmann. Ms. Woodson is the winner of the Margaret A. Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award from ALA, among many other honors. She has written picture books, books for the middle grades, and is especially noted for her young adult fiction. Susan Bartoletti is a noted author of nonfiction, for which she has won the Sibert Award. Eric Rohmann is the Caldecott winning author of My Friend Rabbit. All three presenters have bodies of work of exceptional literary quality, with new titles published in 2008.

Books will be available for purchase and autographing on site beginning at 8:00 am and continuing through lunch. Order forms for titles available for purchase will be posted on the OLA web site in advance of the festival. Purchase orders, credit cards, personal checks, etc. will all be accepted. Cost of the event will be $80.00, including lunch, the same for OLA members and non-members, to encourage teachers, library school students, and other guests to attend. Parking is free. However, due to space restrictions, registration is limited to 250. Be sure to sign up early! Tell all your friends!

Formerly an event sponsored solely by the OU School of Library and Information Studies, the 2008 Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books will be a joint project of OUSLIS and OLA, with OLA assuming sole sponsorship in future years. OLA plans to change the frequency of the festival from annual to biennial, but retain the name, which memorializes Library Legend Dr. Mildred Laughlin. OLA has received a $5000 challenge grant from the Robert S. Kerr Foundation to assist with start-up. This grant requires OLA to raise matching funds of $5000 from individuals by March 2009. Anyone who wishes to contribute matching funds, or make a pledge for matching funds, should contact Kay Boies. Contributions should be made payable to OLA, with a handwritten notation “The Kerr Foundation, Inc. Challenge.” Pledges should be similarly annotated.

An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed by outgoing OLA President Jan Bryant to manage the 2008 festival; Sara Schieman and Valerie Kimble are co-chairs with Dr. Kathy Latrobe advising. Questions about the Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books for Young People should be directed to the co-chairs at saras@yukon.lib.ok.us or kimblevalerie@yahoo.com.