Oklahoma Department of Libraries Named 2009 Federal Depository Library of the Year

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) was named the 2009 Federal Depository Library of the Year at the Fall Federal Depository Library Conference and Depository Library Council meeting in Arlington, Virginia. Public Printer Robert C. Tapella presented the award to ODL’s Steve Beleu and Cliff Broadworth on behalf of the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Federal Depository Library Program.

“The Oklahoma Department of Libraries should be commended for their efforts in providing training, education and awareness to Government information resources and how to use them,” said Public Printer Bob Tapella (Bob is pictured at left in the picture, along with (left to right) Cliff Broadworth, Steve Beleu, and acting Superintendent of Documents Rick Davis). “Federal depository libraries have provided openness to the documents of our democracy since the early 1800s and are a vital link between the Government and its citizens.”

"It's quite an honor to receive this award, and it's a tribute to Steve Beleu and Cliff Broadworth in our U.S. Government Information Division," said Susan McVey, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. "Since 2003, the division has delivered nearly 200 library workshops to the people of Oklahoma, with occasional sessions in neighboring states. The division also tailors the workshops to highlight federal information relevant to particular communities, and that can make a big difference since it's all about connecting citizens with their government and its services."

ODL provides Federal Government information to people throughout the entire state of Oklahoma. As one of two regional libraries in Oklahoma, they are proactive and supportive of the libraries they serve in the state, providing excellent service, training and on-site visitations. Steve and Cliff have conducted over 200 workshops for library staff in all types of libraries in the state, teaching them how to provide their patrons with access to Federal Government information resources. In addition, ODL works with staff from Federal agencies to provide librarians with the latest information from agency Web sites and databases. Recently, ODL conducted a workshop for new employees in the U.S. Census offices throughout Oklahoma regarding information about U.S. Census.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Government Printing Office
It’s hard to believe that we’re approaching the end of the year, with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays looming on the horizon. It's a truism that “time passes quickly when you're having fun”, and it must be true since I’m having the time of my life serving as president of our association. The opportunity to observe so many different OLA groups in action has been a tremendous experience for me and I can’t tell you how deeply I appreciate the opportunity. We are truly blessed with some of the most gifted, enthusiastic and hard-working folks in the state.

I am happy to report that work on conference planning is moving forward rapidly in the Program Committee. There is little or nothing that Wayne Hanway, our chair, doesn't know about either OLA or MPLA conferences and everyone on the committee deeply appreciates his expertise and patience as we put together the 2010 conference. And I can pretty much give you an iron-clad guarantee that this conference will really be something special. Not only will you have the opportunity to attend some interesting and innovative programs, but the Local Arrangements Committee, led by Sarah Robbins and Beth Webb, are coming up with some ideas that will knock your socks off. Not to give anything away, but Tuesday night's All Conference Event is going to be a blast. YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS IT! (Hint: It will involve music, models, and huge numbers of books and will take place in a setting certain to leave every red-blooded librarian weak at the knees.) The conference date, if you don't already have your calendars marked, is April 19-21, 2010 at the Cox Convention Center in downtown OKC. Be there.

If you haven't visited the OLA website lately, please do so. It has undergone a complete top-to-bottom overhaul and now boasts many new features. Kudos to Webmaster Tiffany Benson and Roy Degler for lots of hard work in making the transition happen. If that weren't enough, Tiffany and Executive Director Kay Boies have set up an OLA Facebook page and an OLA Twitter account. So there are lots of new ways to keep up with the association's many activities and interests. More information is available right here in this issue of the Oklahoma Librarian.

The OKLAHOMA LIBRARIAN is the official bulletin of the Oklahoma Library Association. It is published bi-monthly. The inclusion of an article or advertisement does not constitute official endorsement by the Association. It is mailed to each member of the association upon payment of annual dues.

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The Oklahoma Librarian, 300 Hardy Drive, Edmond, OK 73013. Bulk mail postage paid at Edmond, OK 73034. Publisher's permit No. 61. Circulation 1200. Circulation We've had two highly successful workshops so far this fall. Public Libraries Division offered "Finding the Silver Lining: Funding Libraries in Difficult Times" on September 29 while the Leadership Institute Committee, University & College Division, IT Roundtable, and SMART offered "Working Together Apart: Using New Technology to Improve Organizational Communication". I had the opportunity to attend the latter and it was fantastic. The next day I was back at work, exploring the possibilities presented by what I had learned the day before. You just can't beat an OLA workshop: knowledgeable presenters, enthusiastic attendees, lots of networking opportunities, and all at an affordable price! Two more workshops are coming up: "Breaking Down the Walls: Improving Communications Between Technical & Public Services" from Technical Services Roundtable, and "Come On Down to Storytime!" from Childrens and Teen Services (CATS). Consider attending at least one of them. You will NOT be disappointed.

Charles E. Brooks
OLA President
OKLAHOMA LITERARY LANDMARK DEDICATION

Please join us on November 17, 2009, as Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) dedicates a Literary Landmark honoring Osage writer John Joseph Mathews and the Osage Tribal Museum. November is National American Indian Heritage Month and the city of Pawhuska is declaring the week of November 16 – 20 as John Joseph Mathews Week. The Literary Landmark dedication at 2:00 p.m. will include speeches by Osage dignitaries and an address by humanities scholar Dr. Carter Revard. Author Michael Wallis, Chair Oklahoma Literary Landmarks, will emcee the event. Dr. Revard will also present a program about John Joseph Mathews the evening of Wednesday, November 18, at the Pawhuska Public Library. Both the dedication and the library program are free and open to the public.

John Joseph Mathews was born November 16, 1895 on the Osage Agency Hill in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. He authored five books: Wah’Kon-Tah: The Osage and the White Man’s Road (1932); Sundown (1934); Talking to the Moon (1945); Life and Death of an Oilman: The Career of E.W. Marland (1951); The Osages: Children of the Middle Waters (1961). Mathews grew up on his family’s land in the Osage Hills near Pawhuska. He was a veteran of World War I and resumed his education at the University of Oklahoma, graduating in 1920 with a B.A. in geology. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship and attended Oxford but declined the Rhodes Scholarship funds. In 1923, he graduated from Oxford University with a B.A. in Natural Sciences. After Oxford, Mathews continued his formal education at the University of Geneva, School of International Relations, earning a certificate in International Relations. After several years of travelling, he returned to his beloved Osage Hills to write and live. He served as a member of the Osage Tribal Council from 1934 through 1942 and was instrumental in establishing The Osage Tribal Museum, known as the nation’s oldest tribally-owned museum since 1938. He died in 1979.

The Literary Landmarks program is a longstanding project of the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF), formerly named Friends of Libraries USA. Literary Landmarks™ are designated for any special community location that is tied to a deceased literary figure, author or his or her work. Since 1986, over 100 sites have been dedicated throughout the nation. Oklahoma is proud to be one of the top states with seven Literary Landmark sites:

Woody Guthrie and Okemah (2001)
Ralph Ellison and Ralph Ellison Library in Oklahoma City (2002)
Lynn Riggs and Territorial Claremore (2003)
Angie Debo and her hometown Marshall, Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater (2004; 2 plaques and sites)
John Berryman and McAlester (2005)
Sequoyah and his cabin north of Sallisaw (2006)
Will Rogers and the Will Rogers Memorial (2007)

Organizations who are cooperating on this project include FOLIO, the Osage Tribal Museum, the Osage Nation, the OSU Library, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Center for the Book, Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, University of Oklahoma Press, and Pawhuska Public Library. Project partners include Dr. Carter Revard, Dr. Lindsey Smith from the OSU English Department, and Instructor Marsha Hayes from Independence Community College in Kansas. Other partners are being sought.

PHOTO: John Joseph Mathews at his “Blackjacks” home described in his book Talking to the Moon.
PHOTO COURTESY OSAGE TRIBAL MUSEUM

Submitted by Michael Wallis, Author, Chair, Oklahoma Literary Landmarks Committee and Karen Neurohr, Associate Professor, OSU Library and Co-chair Oklahoma Literary Landmarks Committee

Susan Feller with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, along with the Oklahoma History Center, the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board, the Oklahoma Humanities Council, the Oklahoma Museums Association, and Oklahoma State University’s Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, has pulled together an outstanding array of presenters for this two-day conference. Day 1 will take place at the Oklahoma City Zoo and Day 2 will take place at the Oklahoma History Center. The keynote speaker on November 12 is Donald Ritchie, Historian for the U.S. Senate and author of Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide, who will discuss the evolution of oral history from analog to digital recordings. A panel including Donald Ritchie, U.S. Senate Historical Office; Mary Larson, Oklahoma Oral History Research Project, Oklahoma State University; Wes Fryer, Oklahoma Voices; and Larry O’Dell, Director of Collections, Oklahoma History Center Research Department will discuss techniques and strategies for conducting interviews. Later Wes Fryer of “Celebrate Oklahoma Voices” will offer practical advice on recording techniques, introduce digital video editing software and techniques, show examples of sharing video interviews with others, and demonstrate a variety of documentaries. During the lunch break Ritchie will be signing copies of his book, provided with the registration fee.

November 13 will feature specific oral history projects. The keynote speaker will be Mary Larson of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the Oklahoma State University Library, and later in the day she will also talk about an oral history project that included the creation of a cookbook. Later Larry O’Dell, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center and Jennifer Day, Oklahoma Museum of History will discuss exhibit development and marketing, methodology for collection of artifacts and oral history interviews, intellectual property licensing issues, and ways to engage the public. Juliana and Tanya along with Jennifer Paustenbaugh will highlight projects of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at OSU. Patricia Loughlin, University of Central Oklahoma, will discuss collecting oral histories from past presidents, retired faculty, and alumni of the university. The concluding session will feature a discussion of new approaches to capturing oral histories in Oklahoma, with Ann Thompson with the Oklahoma Humanities Council, the noted author Bob Burke, and several other speakers from the day’s sessions. Lunch will be provided and there will be time for a self-guided tour of the “Another Hot Oklahoma Night” exhibit.

Registration is $65, or $40 for one day, lunch included. The symposium is funded in part by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Go to http://www.odl.state.ok.us/ for a registration form, or register online at http://oralhistory.eventbrite.com. Continuing education points are available for librarians. For more information contact Susan Feller, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, at 405-522-3259.

Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn—Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, OSU Library

Looking for Library Patrons to share 1930s Library Experiences

As the Great Depression hit the U.S., Oklahoma was nearing only 30 years of statehood and was experiencing the Dust Bowl. During this time the WPA and other New Deal programs impacted libraries through new buildings, additions, book repairs, and travelling libraries. I am interested in developing snapshots of Oklahoma libraries in the 1930s and seek individuals who can recall their library experiences during that time period. What were Oklahoma libraries like in the 1930s?

If you have patrons in their eighties or older who may have firsthand accounts of Oklahoma libraries in the 1930s please contact me at tanya.finchum@okstate.edu, or by phone 405 744-7942. Also, if your library has records, artifacts or stories from this period you think would be of interest, please contact me regarding these as well! - Tanya Finchum, Oklahoma State University
RUTH BROWN AWARD INVITES APPLICATIONS

The Ruth Brown Award Committee of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable of the Oklahoma Library Association invites applications for The Ruth Brown Memorial Award, recognizing Oklahoma libraries, groups or individual efforts to provide library services to underserved populations or programs addressing important social issues within libraries and their communities.

The award commemorates Ruth Brown, a legendary Oklahoma librarian who fought to improve conditions for African Americans, which led to her firing as a librarian in Bartlesville in 1950. The winner receives a $500.00 grant and a copy of a book about the life of Ruth Brown.

Last year’s winner was the Lawton Public Library, for Guys & Girls Day Out, a program providing activities and a place for elder men and women to socialize and be a part of the local community. Other past winners include the Chickasha Public Library, for its Food & Fun Program; Positive Tomorrows, providing a library for homeless children; Allied Arts and Humanities Council of Bartlesville and the Bartlesville Public Library, for a three-year series of programs on the First Amendment; Anadarko Community Library, for an outreach program for seniors, which included book talks, discussion groups, and crafts; and Spiro Public Library for Child Fest, a summer day camp.

All nominations must be received by **January 15, 2010**. The winner will be announced at the OLA annual conference to be held in Oklahoma City April 19-21, 2010. This year, in an effort to streamline the application process and make it more environmentally responsible, the nomination form and application instructions are available online at [http://www.oklibs.org/modx/Organization/Roundtables/Social-Responsibility-Round-Table/srrt-about-ruth-brown/srt.htm](http://www.oklibs.org/modx/Organization/Roundtables/Social-Responsibility-Round-Table/srrt-about-ruth-brown/srt.htm). All materials related to the application should be submitted via email.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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IT Roundtable Resurrected!

The Information Technology Round Table has been quiet for a couple of years. Recently Charles Brooks, OLA President, has encouraged us to become active again. We have big ideas and we want to help the OLA membership navigate the rapid changes in technology. We’re looking for members who want to keep up with new library technologies. You don’t need extensive knowledge of the latest technological advancements, just curiosity and a desire to learn. Some of our upcoming projects include a workshop in the spring on Open Source software and conference programs on Library 2.0 and Open Journal Systems (OJS). We are also planning a mini-technology conference for August as a kick off for what we hope will be a biennial Technology Festival to run on years opposite the Festival of the Book. If you are interested in being a part of our fun, dynamic group, or if your division, round table or committee has a problem you think could be helped by technology, please contact me and we will try to find a way to help. Think of us as a resource you can call on when technology becomes fiendish. We’ll help make it friendly again.

**Nicole Sump-Crethar**, Digital Services Librarian  
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NEW OLA WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

After months of planning, the new OLA website (http://oklibs.org) was revealed to the public on the first of September. The site features a new design as well as layout and has been built within the Modx Content Management System, which empowers each DROC to create and maintain its own web pages. Functionality has also been added to the site in the form of a Facebook feed, a Twitter link, an upcoming events feed, a login box to access the Oklahoma Librarian, and a contact form. OLA is actively updating its new Facebook and Twitter feeds with current OLA and Oklahoma library news. People may follow these posts by going to the OLA website and clicking on the links under Socialize. The Upcoming Events feed highlights OLA workshops as well as registration deadlines; further information about each workshop can be found on the Workshops page under Events.

Gaining Access: a login is still required to access the Oklahoma Librarian. Look for the sign in box on the right column, enter the appropriate User and Password information (if you are a current OLA member and do not know the login information, please contact Kay Boies or the current OLA Webmaster). Once signed in, select Oklahoma Librarian from the center of the page. The Contact OLA form has been added to encourage OLA members to express their opinions about the website. Members are encouraged to utilize this tool to help the website continue to evolve or simply to ask for aid in using the website The website was developed with OLA members in mind, so please take a look at the site and don’t hesitate to provide your own input.

Tiffany Benson, Univ. of Tulsa Library, OLA Webmaster

Further Communications....

The newly formed ad hoc Communications Committee of the Oklahoma Library Association has met the charge of OLA President Charles Brooks. The ad hoc committee formed in August and immediately began assessing the ways in which OLA communicates with members and further explored members’ personal preferences in receiving association news. Communications methods were defined and strategies and proposed guidelines discussed. Ad hoc Committee members will meet with the OLA Executive Board at the November 20 meeting and request that this become a standing committee within the association.

Leslie Langley, ad hoc Communications Committee Chair

MPLA Leadership Institute—April 25-30, 2010 –Estes Park CO

Ask anyone who has attended an MPLA leadership institute and they will tell you what a great experience it was. MPLA works hard to fulfill their mission of providing educational training and growth opportunities for all persons engaged in library activities in the region and to enhance their skills and professionalism. The 2010 MPLA Leadership Institute will again be facilitated by nationally known organizational development consultant Maureen Sullivan, who also helped establish the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute. Four additional mentors have been selected for their professional expertise and demonstrated leadership! MPLA has made a great effort to keep costs at the level of previous institutes. What are you waiting for! Deadline for applications is December 1, 2009. See the MPLA Leadership Institute web site at http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html for further information and to register. For more information contact Judy Zelenski at mpla_execsecretary@operamail.com.

Dean Stanton, Chair, MPLA Leadership Institute Committee
Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education and the Public Good. By Ed D’Angelo. Duluth, MN: Library Juice Press, c2006. (http://libraryjuicepress.com). Ed D’Angelo is a philosopher. In Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library, he presents a series of provocative positions and makes a logical and reasoned argument for each. He is clear that the worlds of science and religion are irreconcilable. Throughout the book, Dowd suggests that humanity should move from a scientistic view of each of the 42 tribal groups currently residing in Oklahoma: their origins, histories, and antecedents as well as their activities within each tribe to prosper and preserve their cultural heritage in context. Each tribal entry begins with statistical data, the who, where, what, and how of each group, but these facts are rendered in lucid prose, and each is followed by brief essays summarizing the complex histories and current conditions found within the groups. But this guide also provides an eye-opening view of just how wide-ranging and important the economic activities of the tribes have become within the state of Oklahoma. Each entry includes names of important modern tribal persons, descriptions of the current governmental structures in each group, summaries of tribal business dealings and cultural endeavors, and their tribal website addresses. There is also a bibliography of recent reference works appended to each tribal entry and following the Introduction. All of these points make Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: a Guide an important resource for Oklahomans, researchers on Oklahoma, historians, and observers of the American West. —Valerie Kimble, Pioneer Library System

Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: a Guide. By Blue Clark. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, c2009. xv + 413 pp. 9780806140605. This long-awaited work will update the last edition of Murial Wright’s estimable Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma, which was published in 1986. The author holds the David Pendleton Chair of American Indian Studies and is Professor of History and Law at Oklahoma City University. His work provides a succinct and thoroughly modern bird’s-eye view of each of the 42 tribes currently residing in Oklahoma: their origins, histories, and antecedents as well as their activities within the state. The guide begins with an introduction that summarizes the history of Native Americans in the continental United States and places the efforts within each tribe to prosper and preserve their cultural heritage in context. Each tribal entry begins with statistical data, the who, where, what, and how of each group, but these facts are rendered in lucid prose, and each is followed by brief essays summarizing the complex histories and current conditions found within the groups. But this guide also provides an eye-opening view of just how wide-ranging and important the economic activities of the tribes have become within the state of Oklahoma. Each entry includes names of important modern tribal persons, descriptions of the current governmental structures in each group, summaries of tribal business dealings and cultural endeavors, and their tribal website addresses. There is also a bibliography of recent reference works appended to each tribal entry and following the Introduction. All of these points make Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: a Guide an important resource for Oklahomans, researchers on Oklahoma, historians, and observers of the American West. —Michèle Seikel, Oklahoma State University

Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Public Land Rush by Sheldon Russell. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. 285 pp. 9780806140438. $19.95. Dreams to Dust is the story of the grittiness of people determined to make a living or a fortune on a new frontier. The realities were harsh. Many who came to stake a claim in the newly opened land ended up selling out and moving back home. But for those who stayed, and knew how to take advantage of the opportunity, fortunes could be made. In Russell’s fictionalized version of the settling of Oklahoma, a half-breed Kiowa man rides into Guthrie station and territory and leverages the profit into an empire of building materials and land. He is aided by a newspaperman bent on controlling the flow of information in the Territory, who burns down his competitor’s operation, and steals the wallpaper which is the only paper available to print the news on. As these two men build monuments to themselves and their greed, Guthrie station quickly grows into a thriving city. All is dependent, though, on Guthrie becoming the capital of the new state of Oklahoma. There is a tendency, I think, to idealize historical time periods and make heroes of those who came before us. Russell does not succumb to this. He makes Guthrie a result of conniving and exploitation. His characters and their actions have little to redeem them. If there is a hero in Dreams to Dust, it is the land itself. Even after the “settling,” large sections of Oklahoma were untamed. And for those hardy souls who remained, the land didn’t belong to them; they belonged to the land. —Christine Detlaff, Redlands Community College

Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library: How Postmodern Consumer Capitalism Threatens Democracy, Civil Education and the Public Good. By Ed D’Angelo. Duluth, MN: Library Juice Press, c2006. Ed D’Angelo is a philosopher. In Barbarians at the Gates of the Public Library, he provides a series of provocative positions and makes a logical and reasoned argument for each. He is clear that capitalism is not democracy, education is not entertainment, and customer service is not librarianship. If, as public librarians, we do not realize this, if we succumb to the prevailing cultural attitudes, then we allow barbarians entrance to our libraries, worse we become the barbarians. This is a dark vision. By presenting an extreme view, Dr. D’Angelo is successful in making his reader think, in making her react, in making her engage in the self-examination beloved of the Greek philosophers he quotes. As a public librarian, Ed D’Angelo has begun a serious discussion of the place and value of his institution and his profession. I encourage others to read this book, to assess their own values, and to begin their own discussions. —Valerie Kimble, Pioneer Library System

Mr. Ambassador: Warrior for Peace. By Edward J. Perkins and Connie Cronley. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009. 576 p. 9780806140490. $19.95. This is the memoir of the military service, education, and Foreign Service work of Edward J. Perkins, the first black U.S. Ambassador to South Africa. Perkins was appointed U.S. Ambassador to South Africa by President Reagan, and was charged with the mission to assist in dismantling apartheid within the country. Perkins provides a first-hand account of his role in the American diplomatic effort to end apartheid. His political role in the anti-apartheid movement is rendered largely from his experience as a public truth that our world is revealed through evolutionary science and psychology, while maintaining our faith in our religious heritage. With sound science and deeply spiritual theology, Thank God for Evolution invites us to revise our idea of religion to reflect a cosmic evolutionary perspective. A well-written and thoroughly researched work, Thank God for Evolution will appeal to Christians as well as audiences of other religious traditions or of no tradition at all. Recommended for general readers, public and academic libraries. —Hui-fen Chang, Oklahoma State University

Let’s Speak Chickasaw: Chikashshanompa’ Kilanompoli’. Pam Munro and Catherine Willmond Normand: University of Oklahoma Press, c2008. xviii + 393 pp. 9780806139265. Chickasaw teacher and writer Catherine Willmond and linguist Pamela Munro of UCLA collaborated to produce this primer of the Chickasaw language. It is the first complete textbook of the language, and its first complete grammar. Its text has grown and been revised over a number of years of classroom experience, both in Oklahoma and in Los Angeles, where Chickasaw was taught by the authors as an endangered language. The book provides not only the basic structure and vocabulary of Chickasaw as spoken today in southern Oklahoma, but a number of traditional tribal narratives as readings. It is written in a conversational style, and addresses Chickasaw as a living language. There are extensive appendices containing more readings, advanced linguistic concepts, a glossary and a basic dictionary of Chickasaw-English and English-Chickasaw. In addition, the text is accompanied by a CD-ROM containing pronunciation of words, phrases, and sentences from each of the units, as well as recordings of entire stories from several of the units, for as complete a linguistic experience as possible. The spelling system used in the book was developed by the authors based on earlier orthographies used for both Chickasaw and Choctaw. It is intended for use in Chickasaw classrooms, but also can serve as a resource for scholars of American Indian languages. —Michèle Seikel, Oklahoma State University

Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion will Transform Your Life and Our World. By Michael Dowd. New York: Plume, 2009. xvii + 413 pp. ISBN: 9780452295346 (pbk.) $16.00. In Thank God for Evolution, Michael Dowd does a masterful job of bridging the worlds of science and religion. Given his background as a Christian minister, Dowd demonstrates his open-mindedness in seeing that there is no real reason to maintain that science and religion are irreconcilable. Throughout the book, Dowd suggests that humanity should move from a scripturally based ‘flat-earth faith’ towards the ‘evolutionary faith’ that integrates mainstream evolution with spirituality. He eloquently articulates that we can accept as a public truth that our world is revealed through evolutionary science and psychology, while maintaining our faith in our religious heritage. With sound science and deeply spiritual theology, Thank God for Evolution invites us to revise our idea of religion to reflect a cosmic evolutionary perspective. A well-written and thoroughly researched work, Thank God for Evolution will appeal to Christians as well as audiences of other religious traditions or of no tradition at all. Recommended for general readers, public and academic libraries. —Hui-fen Chang, Oklahoma State University

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FROM ALA TO OKLAHOMA— - 
Loleta D. Fyan Grant call for proposals

CHICAGO – The American Library Association’s Office for Research and Statistics is now accepting applications for the Loleta D. Fyan Grant. Fyan, ALA president in 1951-1952, believed that every individual, regardless of residence, is equally entitled to high quality library service and that librarians must be adept in using the political process to acquire this "right of citizenship". The grant, up to $5,000, is to be used for the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide. The project(s) criteria: must result in the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide; must have the potential for broader impact and application beyond meeting a specific local need; should be designed to effect changes in public library services that are innovative and responsive to the future; and should be capable of completion within one year. Applicants can include but are not limited to: local, regional or state libraries, associations or organizations, including units of the ALA; library schools; or individuals. Deadline is Dec. 1, 2009. For more information about the grant, submitting proposals and requirements of the recipient(s), please visit http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ors/orwards/fyanloletad/fyanloletad.html

PLA 2010, Portland OR, March 23-27

Pulizer Prize winning author Nick Kristof will kick off the Opening General Session, and authors Scott Turow and Luis Urrea will headline the author luncheons at this conference! Virginia Euwer Wolff and illustrator Kadir Nelson will speak at the Young Adult author luncheons. Essayist Sarah Vowell will highlight the Closing Session. Other authors scheduled to appear include Nancy Pearl, Chelsea Cain, Sue Grafton and Marcia Muller. Preconferences include the PLA Leadership Institute’s Changing Course: Leadership for Navigating the New Library, run by Northwestern University’s Adam Goodman and designed for public library administrators who want to increase their capacity to lead. For more information, see the conference website at :http://www.placonference.org.

- Brendan Dowling, PLA Communications Assistant