OLA President Leslie Langley, together with most of the Southeastern Public Library System staff who attend the OLA Spring conference, was taken just after the opening general session by OU SLIS student Jaclyn Fulwood, who spent the day shadowing SEPLSO’s Executive Director, Wayne Hanway.

In the photo are (L-R): (front row) Ramona Goodrich, Poteau; Lee Toliver, Talihina; Linda Potts, Idabel; (second row) Lila Swink, Hugo; Glenda Stokes, Spiro; Leslie Langley, Wister; Margie Jump, Coalgate; Carol Burgess, Arkoma; Latoyah Pendergraft, Wilburton; (third row) Lola Hill, Stigler; Nancy Hamlin, Poteau; Jessica Brents, Valliant; Cathryn Tucker, Hartshorne; Carole Gill, Poteau; (back row) Wayne Hanway; Christine Sauro, McAlester.

SEPLSO staff who were also at the conference but not present for the picture included Christopher Elliott, McAlester; Kathy McGilberry, McAlester; and Sheila Reid, Wister.
This has been the year that the Oklahoma Library Association has recognized that libraries are the heart of our many and varied communities. Being at the heart of something is to be at the core or center and our libraries have consistently proven, year after year, that they are exactly that. Our school libraries are the pulse of each school and serve every child in attendance. Our academic libraries offer the riches and knowledge of the world to hungry students of all ages. Our public libraries provide books and other informational needs and technology to our citizens. And our special libraries provide a plethora of information and materials particular to their area of expertise. This information, service and technology has the feeling of a steady heartbeat, a quiet rhythm flowing through our communities touching and changing lives.

I’ve experienced a wonderful year as president of this association and have learned just how important and vital OLA is to librarians in the state. This past year brought incredible learning experiences for me and countless others as we’ve attended meetings, planned workshops, met authors, learned about new technology, created new leaders, taught young teenagers that library careers can be fun, met with legislators, and learned from each other. I must say, though, that the absolute highlight of the year for me was the 104th Annual OLA Conference that was held March 30 – April 1 in Tulsa. So much planning…so many things to do…...and the fun that was had by all! The pre-conference programs were a big hit and following on the heels of a fantastic day of continuing education was one of the best OLA Banquets I’ve ever attended, starring our very own Oklahoma author Billie Letts. 700 children and adults were present to see author Gary Paulsen accept his Sequoyah Award on Wednesday morning and then OLA partnered with the Tulsa City County Library System later that evening in providing a program featuring Sequoyah award winning authors Gary Paulsen and Neal Shusterman at a local library. American Library Association Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels spoke at our Opening General Session and author Hal Niedzviecki, keynote speaker, gave us pause when he spoke about how freely we share our personal information online. The sessions were amazing and well attended and the buzz from attendees about what they were learning was a constant. The lunches were excellent and there were many vendors from a variety of companies in the Exhibit Hall. The baskets, auctioned for the benefit of the OLA Scholarship Fund were beautiful and the Endowment booth was constantly busy with folks purchasing accolades and heart pins. All of these things combined created a perfect conference experience but the true icing on the OLA cake was Thursday evening’s All Conference Event sponsored by the Local Arrangements Committee and the Endowment Committee. As the audience waited for the Dewey Dance event to begin, noted author and special guest Michael Wallis began announcing the upcoming event when a flash mob broke out in the crowd and started dancing and the true fun of the evening began. The dance entries were incredibly entertaining and voting was heavy. It looked like everyone enjoyed themselves; danced to their hearts content and just plain ol’ had a blast. I think it will be hard to top this one next year!

Of course the conference just wouldn’t happen if it weren’t for the dedication and hard work of many, many people. First, I’d like to thank our Program Chair Sara Schieman for her hours and hours of work putting together the best program ever. Sara worked through several library catastrophes to create a perfect conference and for that I’m eternally grateful. The Program Committee, comprised of the OLA leadership brought us the wonderful programs and sessions. The Local Arrangements Committee chaired by Rita Howell and Buddy Ingalls were phenomenal. Registration was a breeze thanks to Charles Brooks and Lynn Wallace and R.D. Bell was a ninja equipment warrior who made sure that everyone had their everything exactly when they needed it. Lynn Wallace came up with the brilliant idea of the flash mob dance and Rita Howell choreographed it. The entire committee spent hours practicing the dance….and it showed! My special thanks go to Lynn McIntosh, Kathryn Lewis, Pat Weaver-Meyers, Beth Freeman, RD Bell, Michael Greenlee, Micah Wulfurs, Kristen Gettys, Anna Turner, Tina Platt, Emily Taylor, Sharon and Jon Douthitt, Andy Lupardus, Emily Tichenor, Charles Brooks, Lynn Wallace, Ann Blakely, Amanda Owens, Tim Anderson, Dr. Barbara Ray, Dr. Connie Van Fleet, Dana Belcher, Carolyn Mahin and Sarah Simpson who gave us the best Tulsa has to offer and saw that we had a wonderful time. The Endowment Committee helped us pay tribute to our mentors and leaders with accolades that, in turn, helped support the endowment fund of the association. And of course, there are countless others who spent many long hours preparing for this amazing event. Thank you all.
President, Con’t
So now it’s time to look forward to the upcoming year with excitement and anticipation as OLA moves forward. Our association will soon be under the guidance of President-elect Cheryl Suttles and in her very capable hands, we will move into the new OLA year and continue to grow and become stronger still. I encourage you to become more involved in the association, to ask questions to seek out where you fit best in this wonderful organization. I also encourage you to invite your colleagues to join OLA which will make us even smarter and stronger.

Lastly, I want you to know that I’ve had an incredible learning experience working with so many gracious people. It has been such a great pleasure to serve as your president and the thing I will take away from this amazing year is that Oklahoma libraries will *always* be the heart of our respective communities and, of course, the Oklahoma Library Association will *always* be the heart of our own.

-Leslie H. Langley
President, OLA
U.S. Patent Librarians Hold Annual Meeting

Just as the U.S. Government Printing Office sponsors meetings for federal depository libraries, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office also sponsors an annual training seminar for the 80+ patent and trademark depository libraries in the United States.

Held by the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) at the new U.S. Patent and Trademark Office buildings in Alexandria, Virginia, usually in March or April, the week-long conference provides in-depth training for librarians from across the U.S. in order to assist patrons with patent and trademark research. An entire day is devoted to patents, another to trademarks. Most of the training is hands-on, and speakers include the Director of the USPTO and other officials that support the work that the PTDLP does. In addition to being a resource for inventors, patents are also a key source of technical information for researchers not found in traditional literature. Trademarks are need to identify a product or service in commerce.

The Patent and Trademark Depository Library at Oklahoma State University is the only PTDL in the state of Oklahoma. Staff assist researchers one-on-one by appointment with preliminary patent and trademark research, which use subject hierarchies and cannot be accomplished by keyword alone. Many questions can also be answered over the phone or by email.

To contact the PTDL at OSU or to find a listing of PTDLs nationwide, see the OSU website http://www.library.okstate.edu/patents/index.htm or call Suzanne Reinman for information 405 744-6546, suzanne.reinman@okstate.edu

Suzanne Reinman
Associate Professor and Patents Librarian
Oklahoma State University

(PHOTO OF NEW PATENTS BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C., COURTESY OF U.S. PATENT OFFICE)
Oral History in Libraries

Community Culture through Oral Histories

It has been approximately forty years since Eliot Wigginton and his students created the magazine Foxfire which became the well known Foxfire series of books documenting the traditional folk culture of the Southern Appalachians. Narrators shared aspects of everyday life and in the process helped preserve the cultural history of the area. Similarly, oral history collections add pieces to the historical record of a person, a community, or an event.

The Oklahoma Oral History Research Program (OOHRP) at the OSU Library continues to add to the historical record by documenting people, places, and events important to Oklahoma through various projects. The Oklahoma Centennial Farm Families oral history collection is documenting the agricultural history of the state and in the process gathers information about family traditions, early day schooling, and various other elements of rural life. Spotlighting Oklahoma oral history collection is documenting pieces of Oklahoma history such as memories of the 1930s, the African American community in Muskogee prior to the 1980s, and memories of Oklahomans such as Angie Debo and Henry Bellmon.

Oral histories can also be used as learning tools and in conjunction with written materials adding a multimedia aspect. Patrons can learn from and enjoy listening to oral histories. Oral history can engage patrons, young and old, in higher-level thinking, the pursuit of historical investigation, and the interpretation of data, for example. Libraries can engage patrons by involving them in conducting oral histories, thus contributing to recorded history. The art of conversation can be practiced helping to connect the community much like texting today engenders the feeling of connection. As libraries move toward more and more interactive environments, oral history can contribute by adding aural voices to the story.

Many resources exist to help guide you and your library down the oral history path. Start your research online or contact our office for more information via e-mail at liboh@okstate.edu. To explore oral history collections across the state, visit the Oral History Collections in Oklahoma Directory, http://www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/survey.htm, compiled in 2008 by members of the OOHRP, and routinely updated when new oral histories are discovered.

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program
OSU Library
OLA Handbook Changes: Everything’s in there now!

The new, completely revised OLA Handbook is now out, and it contains sections for all of the committees that have been created during the past few years, as well as several Constitution and Bylaws changes approved during the past couple of years. We hope this new revised version will really be helpful to the membership.

For instance, in the Constitution Article V, the wording was changed to:

The Executive Board shall consist of the officers, the American Library Association Councilor and the Mountain Plains Library Association Representative. Non-voting members shall be the Editor of the official journal of the Association, the Webmaster of the OLA Homepage, the Chair of the Marketing Committee, the Chair of the Communications Committee, the Executive Director, the Federal Relations Coordinator, and the State Department of Education Coordinator.

In the Bylaws, Article V, Section 6, “Directors” have changed to “Division Chairs”. In Bylaws Article VI, Section 3, we have added descriptions for the new Communications, Leadership Institute, Marketing, and Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books Committees. And in lots of places like Article VII, Section 4, we have changed “OASLMS” to OKSL (Oklahoma School Librarians Division), to reflect the Division’s name change.

Under “officer duties”, we added a section for the new position of Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries Coordinator. The duties of the Treasurer have also been tweaked. There are entire new sections for our several new Committees. The Communications Committee also has attached the Association’s Communication Guidelines, including guidelines for use of all social media, to its section on p. 46-49. The revised Intellectual Freedom Handbook was added to Intellectual Freedom Committee section, on p. 68-98, including reporting forms for all kinds of challenged materials.

Check out the new section for the Leadership Institute on p. 99, the section for the Marketing Committee on p. 105, the Membership Committee on p. 105-106, the Festival of Books Committee on p. 106-107, and the Vendor Relations Committee on p. 113-114.

The Scholarship Committee has changed its section to reflect new eligibility criteria. The Budget & Finance Committee and Technical Services Round Table have also revised their sections to update officer duties and responsibilities. Check the new Handbook out at: http://ola.oklibs.org/ola-home/AboutOLA/leadership/introduction.htm. And, many thanks to all the members of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee this year, who helped update the Handbook to make it more relevant and useful.

Michele Seikel
2010/2011 Chair
OLA Constitution and Bylaws Committee
Associate Professor and Cataloging Librarian
Oklahoma State University
Need E-books? Stillwater Public Library goes into Overdrive!!!

At the Stillwater Public Library the questions about when we would begin to provide downloadable ebooks were becoming more and more frequent. It became such a common question from our patrons that we knew that we would have to take a serious look at ebooks. And soon.

Our director approached our Friends of the Library for assistance and in the late summer of 2010 I was given the go-ahead to contact Overdrive about the possibility of providing downloadable materials to our patrons. At the outset we had two options available to us: go it alone and pay upwards of 10K a year or start a consortium with other Oklahoma libraries and pay about 60% of that cost. We opted for the more cost-effective approach. Once we decided on the service, preparation involved such fun things as deciding the name, which resulted in a long list of variations and easily rejected suggestions. (“Ebook Superhighway” was shot down with no regrets).

Also included in this process was deciding on the settings and limits that would be attached to our collection. Most of the responsibility on our end included decisions as to how the website would look, the wording it would use, and other variables. When we began we were not sure how many, if any, libraries would be joining us in the consortium so we made the settings as general and user friendly as possible. Because we were unsure of what the user response would be and how many items our initial collection would include we set a limit of two checkouts per patron. They would have the option of a 7 or 14 day checkout for their items. The default checkout would be for 7 days. We figured that way if the patron checked out a Ken Follett book, for example, they would only have to average about 500 pages a day to finish it in time.

When all of our forms were completed and submitted we were then free to wait until our launch date. In that period we had four other libraries join us: Mustang, Watonga, Miami and Ponca City. Making sure that Overdrive had working SIP2 access to each library delayed us some as did a couple of January blizzards. But the delays were slight, our tech services wiz, Jay Criswell, handled all the ILS issues and we were up and running. All in all, it was a pretty straight-forward process. The original estimates were that we would be able to go live in mid to late January. We actually launched on February 10. Given the fact that we added four libraries during the run-up to the launch, that five different ILS systems had to be accessed by Overdrive, and that January was a pretty crazy month weather wise there really were very few hiccups.

Two months into our consortium we already have over 1400 titles available for download. We are averaging close to 1000 checkouts a month with nearly 500 unique users among the 5 libraries. Those numbers are growing exponentially. Six additional libraries are joining us in May. An additional 10 libraries have expressed varying degrees of interest. Our consortium is shaping up to be a tremendous cooperative effort among Oklahoma libraries.

If you are interested in learning more about the Oklahoma Virtual Library Consortium, than please do not hesitate to give me a call or email. I can be reached at sfreeman@stillwater.org or (405)372-3633 x127. I look forward to hearing from you.

Scott Freeman
Reference Librarian
Stillwater Public Library
Mining and Oil and Natural Gas Extraction

The federal government has divided the responsibilities for collecting and publishing information about mineral production in Oklahoma into two divisions: the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects and publishes data about the fuel minerals of oil and natural gas, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects and publishes data about other minerals.

EIA - State Energy Data System (SEDS) for Oklahoma
http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/states/_seds.html  Choose “Oklahoma” in drilldown that’s labeled as “Select a State”.
You will find data for: 1. fuel consumption, which includes residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and electric power consumption data for 1960 to 2008; 2. prices and expenditures for different types of energy, which is data for these same categories, for 1970 to 2008; 3. production, which includes data for fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and crude oil) and renewable energy (ethanol) for 1960 to 2008; and 4. estimates by energy sources, which updates some of the preceding data with 2009 data. It additionally links to some national-level reports that include tables for states if those states produce enough of a fuel; for example, the link for Annual Coal Report includes data for Oklahoma, but not for every state.

USGS – 2007 Minerals Yearbook, Oklahoma
This pdf is 8 pages long. Oklahoma’s non-fuel mineral production in 2007 was sizeable: $731 million, most of it being crushed stone (gravel) mining ($294 million). Our other substantial minerals include clay, gemstones, gypsum, and iodine. In 2007 Oklahoma was the only state that produced iodine, and was first in our nation for gypsum mining.

Steve Beleu
Federal documents Coordinator
Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
The Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) has honored Representative Lee Denney of Cushing and State Senator Jim Halligan of Stillwater with the Bill Lowry Library Champion Award for their sponsorship of a bill that would increase Internet speeds in the state's schools, libraries and hospitals. The award was presented on April 12 during Library Legislative Day activities at the State Capitol.

"Thanks to Representative Denney and Senator Halligan, more public buildings in our communities will be able to upgrade to much faster Internet connections if this bill becomes law," said OLA President Leslie Langley of Wister. HB 1460 increases telecommunications reimbursements for educational and medical facilities, which will spur efforts to bring in higher connections to communities. The proposed law will allow reimbursements for fast T-1 level connections, which may inspire some communities to reach even higher with fiber connections, according to Langley. Currently, these institutions can only receive reimbursements from the state e-rate fund for a 56 kbs level. "The higher reimbursement can have an enormous impact in upgrading Internet speeds across the state," Langley said. "I know in my small community, it's difficult for many people to get high speed access. Some areas are barely able to get DSL connections."

Langley said Wister area residents depend on their public library when they need to go online for business, e-government, employment or educational needs. "HB 1460 means more of our communities would be able to bring faster and better services to citizens." Denney introduced the bill prior to session, and Halligan signed on as Senate co-sponsor. "Our hats are off to these Payne County legislators," Langley said. "The future of public online services in our state is much brighter thanks to their efforts."

The OLA Bill Lowry Library Champion Award is named for the founding director of the Pioneer Library System, who worked with the association's legislative efforts for many years.

Bill Young
Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Senator Halligan, President Emeritus of OSU, is pictured with five OSU Librarians who attended Legislative Day. Left to right: Nicole Sump-Crethar, Kevin Drees, Kiem Ta, Senator Halligan, Barbara Miller, and Lynne Simpson Scott. (courtesy of Capitol Hill Photographer).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival Features Librarians from Far and Near

Description: 5th Annual Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival returns to Seminole, OK with stories to make you laugh, cry and think again. Information and downloadable registration form available online at www.territorytellers.org.

Seminole, OK – June 3-4, 2011 – If you hanker after tongue-in-cheek yarns of bygone days, long for starry nights and spooky tales, want to experience stories from Native cultures or from all the myriad people who settled in Oklahoma, or maybe want to take a turn at telling yourself, then the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival is the place for you! The Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival, returning June 3-4 for its fifth year to Seminole State College, will offer the best of all kinds of storytelling. Storytellers and listeners are both welcome.

Nationally and regionally known storytellers: Gay Ducey (children’s librarian), Tom McDermott, Donna Ingham, Jeanette Harjo (school library media specialist), Rodger Harris and David Titus will perform at the festival, sponsored by the Territory Tellers of Oklahoma, the statewide storytelling organization, in partnership with the Seminole Tourism Council, Seminole State College, the Seminole Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma Arts Council.

The featured storytellers each bring something different to the stage:

**Gay Ducey** travels the country teaching and telling stories through performances and workshops, then returns home to the children who know her best as their librarian. Gay grew up in New Orleans and moved to Berkeley in 1967. The Bay Area’s shifting social landscape and New Orleans sense of play have created an artist who relishes diversity and honors the importance of stories in family life. Her performances of contemporary and traditional tales have been described as full of wit, but aimed directly at the heart. Named one of Berkeley’s Distinguished Women, Gay has told stories from the Smithsonian Institution to San Quentin and has appeared at the National Storytelling Festival and on Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood. She will also present a workshop entitled, “George Washington Slept Where?”
A retired English professor turned storyteller and author, Donna Ingham has won local and national awards for her stories, including the John Henry Faulk Award for “outstanding contributions to the art of storytelling” and the dubious title of the Biggest Liar in Texas. From the Exchange Place stage at the National Storytelling Festival to Ireland, Dr. Ingham has performed at every major festival in her home state of Texas, and at festivals or conferences in Missouri, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Wisconsin, New York, Massachusetts, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Drawing from folklore, history and her own life, Donna’s stories all have a unique Texas twist—and that’s no lie. She will also present a workshop entitled, “Color It Local: Celebrating the Regional in Storytelling.”

Tom McDermott is a first generation Irish-American storyteller, singer, musician, author, comedian, percussionist and speaker who, since 1991, has wandered about the country sharing stories, songs, laughter, inspiration, noise and mayhem with over 50,000 kids and adults each year. Accompanying himself on guitar, ukulele, hurdy gurdy, theremin, bodhran, lyre, flutes or drums, Tom combines original music and instrumentation with original and adapted traditional stories to engage his listeners in laughter, critical thought and creativity. An award-winning storyteller (John Henry Faulk Award) and musician, Tom performs at festivals and conferences all across the U.S. He also facilitates drum circles and “found sound” workshops for businesses, churches and camps with a focus on team building, community development and personal wellness. Tom has several recordings and published books for children and adults.

You may find Jeanette Harjo wading in Blue River, delivering a new foal, skeet shooting or conducting classes at a local university, but wherever she’s found you can bet she is gathering, writing, listening to, or sharing stories. This “country girl with attitude,” who can’t live on concrete, is busy with storytelling activities and workshop presentations that range from trail rides to national and state-level conferences and festivals. A Past President of Territory Tellers and one of the original co-founders of the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival, Jeanette has promoted storytelling as a teacher and librarian. If you ask her when she first started telling stories she might reply “at the kitchen table with Grandma and the button jar.” But whatever story Jeanette tells, whether funny or touching, it always comes straight from her heart. Jeanette will also present Storytelling 101, a class for college credit through Seminole State College in conjunction with the festival.
Storytelling Festival, Con’t.

**Rodger Harris** is from Oklahoma. He was born in Duncan, raised in Marlow, and has lived in Seminole, Lawton, Stillwater, Edmond, and Oklahoma City. He’s been in every county, every county seat, most towns, driven on most roads, eaten in half the cafes, roadhouses, and Dairy Queens, bought gas when it was 21¢ a gallon for Ethel, and 35¢ a quart for oil. He’s seen hail stones as big as softballs, snow up to his waist, 2 inches of rain in less than an hour, and eaten eggs cooked on a hot sidewalk, as well as lived through a bad drought or two. Rodger performed in the Falderal String Band, or told stories, or made speeches, or gave talks in most of these places. He says he was often invited back but rarely fed. He spent 20 years as the Oral Historian and Coordinator of the Oklahoma Folklife Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Rodger has been known to take his tongue out of his cheek long enough to say, “My stories are about my travels and are all true, more or less!”

**David Titus** has traveled around the world on a piece of string and thread of story. David has made it to six continents so far—from the Arctic to the Sahara—collecting and sharing stories. He has collected string tricks from Tibetan refugees in Nepal, Pakistani refugees in Cairo, and a traveler in the Seoul airport. He has shared them in England, Mexico, Mongolia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Belize, South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, Papua New Guinea. “The String Man” told stories to children and adults in libraries, schools, churches and at conferences and festivals in Oklahoma and other states since 1968. David will be in Seminole in June at the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival—with a whole tangle of string and a mess of yarns. David will also present a workshop entitled, “String Storytelling: Using Simple String Figures to Enhance Your Story.”

These storytellers and others will perform at the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival. Story concerts, story circles, story swaps—where anyone can sign up to tell a story-- workshops and exhibits will run for two days and evenings at the state-of-the-art Enoch Kelly Haney Center, 2701 Boren Blvd., on the Seminole State College campus. Ghost tales will be told under the stars nearby. Ghost tales and parking are free.

For more information, the schedule of events, or to print a brochure, visit [www.territorytellers.org](http://www.territorytellers.org). Register for the festival before May 20 for discounted rates. Special discounts for seniors and students are available. Single program tickets will be sold at the door. Stories are family-friendly, but not intended for small children. Contact Valerie Kimble, kimblevalerie@yahoo.com, 405-366-8915 with any questions.

Contact: Valerie Kimble, 405-366-8915
kimblevalerie@yahoo.com
4001 Sparkle St., Norman, OK73072
(Photos: Donna Ingham courtesy of Reid Horn; Roger Harris courtesy of Chester Weems, other photos courtesy of the artists.)
The Deadline to submit a proposal for iCon 2011 is May 13th!

iCon, a day-and-a-half conference focused on information technology, will be held August 4-5 at Rose State College in Oklahoma City. The keynote speaker, Bill Handy, is a professor in School Media and Strategic Communications at Oklahoma State University. He recently headed up the iPad Pilot Program at OSU, putting iPads into the hands of students and faculty to facilitate learning and research. iCon 2011 will also feature vendors sharing information and opportunities to try various technologies.

We are looking for presentations on technology at all levels of expertise and in all kinds of settings. iCon 2010, the first of these conferences, featured an array of programs including staff training, virtual libraries, instruction, and even creating an iPhone app. We had presenters from a variety of libraries, and we hope to have even more variety this year. The deadline for applications to present at the 2011 conference is May 13th. Fill out the conference proposal form at http://bit.ly/ixmggp or go to http://www.ola.oklibs.org and click on Organizations>Roundtables>ITRT>iCon 2011 Call for Presentation Proposals. We need your help to make iCon 2011 a success!

Nicole Sump-Crethar
Digital Services Librarian
Oklahoma State University
Winners Announced in 2011 Oklahoma Book Awards

Novelist Rilla Askew Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Muskogee writer David Gerard expressed astonishment Saturday when his book was announced as the winner of the fiction award during the 22nd annual Oklahoma Book Awards banquet at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City. Gerard, 57, a freelance writer who was formerly an editor for the Muskogee Phoenix, accepted the award amidst gleeful shouts from his family. “This is amazing! ‘God’s Acres’ is about our family and loosely based on them. And like a lot of American families, we were pretty good but mostly dysfunctional,” he said. Told from the vantage point of a 6-year-old boy, Gerard’s novel describes life on a small Missouri farm outside St. Joseph, where the writer spent much of his boyhood. The author, who earned a master’s degree in literature from the University of Tulsa in 1992, has said that he worked on the novel for about 20 years. “I’d put it down for awhile, then pick it up and start on it again,” he said in an interview last year when the book was published.
Oklahoma Book Awards, Con’t.

The awards reception and banquet drew a crowd of more than 200 that included authors, publishers, librarians, book editors and people who simply love to read. Former Lt. Gov. Jari Askins served as the evening’s emcee. The event was sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for the Book, part of the state Libraries Department and a state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The awards recognize books written the previous year by Oklahomans or about Oklahoma. This year 122 books were entered in the competition.

In addition to the literary awards, Oklahoma-native novelist Rilla Askew received the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to Oklahoma’s cultural heritage, along with a standing ovation from the banquet audience. The award is named for the Norman historian who served as the first president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book. “When they called me about the award, my first thought was ‘but I’m not done yet,’” said Askew, a fifth-generation Oklahoman who grew up in the oil company town of Bartlesville, where she first encountered the complex forces of race and class that she continues to explore in her fiction. “I’m still writing about Oklahoma, and still asking the questions writers have grappled with over the centuries. Who are we? Why are we here?” added the author, who also said she is now working on her fourth novel, which will be set in modern-day Oklahoma.

Askew graduated from the University of Tulsa with a degree in theatre performance. In 1980 she moved to New York to pursue an acting career, but soon turned to writing. In 1989, she received her master’s degree in fiction from Brooklyn College. Askew is married to actor Paul Austin, and the writer divides her time between Oklahoma, where she serves as artist-in-residence at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, and the couple’s home in upstate New York.

To date, all of Askew’s books have been set in Oklahoma. Her collection of stories, “Strange Business,” received the Oklahoma Book Award in 1993. Her first novel, “The Mercy Seat,” was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and received the Western Heritage Award and the Oklahoma Book Award in 1998. “Fire in Beulah,” Askew’s 2001 novel about the Tulsa Race Riot, received the American Book Award, the Myers Book Award and was Oklahoma’s One Book, One State selection for 2007. Her most recent novel, 2007’s “Harpson,” received the Oklahoma Book Award, the Western Heritage Award, the Willa Cather Award from Women Writing the West and the Violet Crown Award from the Writers League of Texas.

Edmond writer Tammi Sauer won her second Oklahoma Book Award in the children’s category for “Mostly Monsterly.” Accepting the award, Sauer said, “My son, who is 10, wanted me to tell everyone that he is the inspiration for the book. Yes, Mason gave me the idea.”

Also honored during the evening was Kitty Pittman, head reference librarian at the state Libraries Department. Pittman, who also maintains the Oklahoma author database, received the Glenda Carlile Distinguished Service Award for her years of service to the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

In a rare addition to tradition, a special Director’s Award was presented to “Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture,” a finalist in the non-fiction category. The book was edited by Dianna Everett of Edmond; Larry O’Dell of Newcastle; Jon May and Linda Wilson, both of Oklahoma City. It was published by the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.
Book Awards: Con’t.

Winners of this year’s literary awards are as follows:


Design: “Building One Fire, designed by Carol Haralson of Sedona, Ariz., and published by the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah.


Fiction: “God’s Acres,” by David Gerard of Muskogee, and published by PenUltimate Press, St. Louis, Mo.

Non-fiction: “Empire of the Summer Moon: Quannah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History,” by S.C. Gwynne of Austin, Texas, and published by Scribner, New York City.

Former Lt. Governor Jari Askins presents the Oklahoma Center for the Book’s Distinguished Service Award to Kitty Pittman of the Department of Libraries. Pittman was honored for creating the Oklahoma Author database and for her years of service to the Center and the Book Award program.

(photo courtesy of Oklahoma Center for the Book)

For more information Contact:

Connie Armstrong Director,
Oklahoma Center for the Book

Karen Klinka, 405/341-4534
OLA Tribal Libraries Committee – Updates!!

Our committee was created by OLA several years ago to help OLA to promote the growth of tribal libraries in Oklahoma, to encourage tribal librarians to become more active in OLA, and to encourage Oklahoma libraries and librarians to reach out to American Indians among their patrons. We’ve had a good year this year, and our committee continues to grow.

We have had several regional meetings around the state; our major one this year was at the Chickasaw Nation’s Cultural Heritage Center, near Sulphur. For most of us, this was our first opportunity to experience the beauty of the Center and the graciousness of the Center staff. If you’re looking for a wonderful location to visit in Oklahoma, it’s located near Sulphur, adjacent to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Amanda Hudson, a member of our committee, is on the staff of the Center’s Holisso Research Center. She reports they are gathering a selection of primary research materials and other resources on the Chickasaws and other Southeastern tribes many of which have previously been in several different locations. They plan to open the Holisso Research Center soon, probably in May. The website for the Cultural Center can be found at http://www.chickasawculturalcenter.com/.

We had two exciting programs at Conference! Dr. Rhonda Taylor of the OU SLIS presented principles and techniques for building library collections focused on serving American Indian patrons, and those who want to know more about Native Americans. Our other program involved a panel of three librarians who are working collaboratively with tribes in their vicinity on programming or services of interest to the tribes. They identified areas which have been quite successful, as well as learning opportunities they have encountered. Our speakers were Dr. Barbara Ray, Northeastern State University; Marcia Johnson, Miami Public Library, and Martha Stalker, Sapulpa Public Library. The Committee also provided draft guidelines for libraries that wish to reach out to tribal communities we will have materials from both these sessions on the OLA Website soon.

Helen Clements
Associate Professor and Social Sciences Reference Librarian
Oklahoma State University

hbk. 9780806138459 $29.95, pub. 9780806138466 $19.95.

This concise volume—just 226 pages—is a compilation of brief, edited selections from anonymous interviews with women who came to Oklahoma before statehood. They were culled from the 11,000 interviews in 112 volumes of the Oklahoma Indian Pioneer Papers from the 1930s Works Progress Administration (WPA) project directed by Grant Foreman.

A clear historical context is provided by the editors through chapter introductions, historical photographs, a map and ample endnotes. A rich, historical record of day-to-day struggle and startling adventure, *Women Who Pioneered Oklahoma* brings the time and the people to life in their own words:

“...In 1891, my husband and I left Texas and started to the Chickasaw Nation... Our first stop was Ardmore. There was a blacksmith shop, a wagon yard, two stores, and a few homes which made up the town. The hogs were bedded in the streets until you could hardly get through.” (Anglo from Texas, p. 23)

“...Our chimney to the house was built of sticks and dirt and there were many holes between the logs and chimney. I was sitting there spinning, barefooted, one evening when I heard a rattling and looked up to see a large rattlesnake that was ready to spring on me. I ran for a hoe and killed it.”(Chickasaw, p. 63)

Recommended for academic libraries and the local history collections of public libraries in OK.

*Valerie Kimble, Pioneer Library System*

Henderson’s memoir paints a vivid portrait of the period of extremely rapid social change of the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. There have been many other biographies and histories describing the civil rights protests in the United States, or written from the protesters’ point of view. This book, however, provides the unique perspective of someone who clearly had a foot in both camps, the University of Oklahoma’s foot-dragging, sometimes bewildered administration and the often angry black students.

George Henderson was a fine scholar who rose to become the first black dean in OU history, and founded the Human Relations Program. He was the faculty member whom the students expected to represent them, and the faculty member that the University of Oklahoma presidents chose to be their go-between from 1967 through 1971. His account describes the thoroughly human individuals on both sides, feeling their way toward solutions while trying to avoid the violence that frequently erupted on other campuses and in the streets all across the country in 1969 and 1970.

Walking us down the tightrope he walked, he takes us from a college town which in the 1960’s allowed black students very few places to live, then forward to a campus with a desegregated dormitory, additional black faculty and administrators, diverse organizations, and scholarships. Dr. Henderson’s honest, self-effacing account describes the beginnings of social justice in central Oklahoma, where the University of Oklahoma’s example helped to begin changing the behavior of the cities all around it.

*Michele Seikel, Oklahoma State University*
Shooting in Oklahoma chronicles Oklahoma’s previously untold cinematic history. It ranges from the first film shot in Oklahoma by inventor and film studio pioneer, Thomas Edison, filming on the famous 101 Ranch near Ponca City in 1904, to the filming of Michael Winterbottom’s The Killer Inside Me, in Guthrie in 2010.

Author John Wooley commences by giving a very brief history of American films in general and advances into a thorough telling of the history of filmmaking in Oklahoma. As a result of extensive research and interviews, Wooley is also able to discuss all-black films shot in Oklahoma’s African American towns and lesser-known films starring American Indian leads. From humble beginnings shooting western films lasting only minutes, such as Bucking Bronco and A Brush Between Cowboys and Indians, to feature films as diverse as Twister, My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys, Elizabethtown, Rainman and The Outsiders; Oklahoma has a rich film history that has endured the test of time. Included in this book are vintage photographs and a comprehensive filmography of over one hundred movies shot in Oklahoma.

-Misty Smith, Oklahoma State University Library
Does Your Library Provide e-Government Services?
GODORT needs your input!

Recently several Oklahoma libraries have begun offering e-government services: helping patrons connect to FEMA, unemployment forms, social security, etc. Are you one of these libraries? Then OLA GODORT needs you for a new project. We plan to create a blog where Oklahoma libraries can discuss best practices, problems, difficulties with agencies or with funding, you name it!

Over the course of the next few months we will be compiling data on what works best in Oklahoma for e-government. We will be setting up a survey monkey questionnaire soon, followed by a blog, but if you have any questions, comments or other information you wish to share in the meantime, please contact

Robbie Sittel
Tulsa City County Library
rsittel@tulsalibrary.org

Or

Barbara Miller
OSU Library
barbara.miller@okstate.edu

Tell us what services you offer, and any services you find too hard to offer. Do you have trouble with privacy issues, legal issues? Are there state agencies you help? Do you need help convincing your local government that you should offer these services? Do you have trouble providing these services for those who speak poor or little English? Can you determine costs for adding these services to your library? We hope the results of our survey and subsequent blog will help other libraries in the state who hope to offer these services, and will try to publish our data in the Oklahoma Librarian. As we are setting up the survey, if you have any questions you would like included, please let us know! This project is to help you, the librarians in Oklahoma who offer e-government service!

Let us hear from you!
2011 OLA Graduate Scholarship Winners Announced!

Scholarships of $500 each were awarded at the Annual 2011 OLA Conference Banquet held in Tulsa on March 30, 2011. The OLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year’s scholarship winners:

Kristi Carter is enrolled at East Central University in Ada and will graduate within the next two years. She has been a teacher for 23 years and currently teaches at Sequoyah Elementary School in Shawnee. Upon graduation, Kristi plans to become a library media specialist.

Karen Harmon is a student at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa and will graduate in the Fall of 2013. She currently works at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa as a Library Technician III in the Serials Department. Upon graduation, she hopes to work in an academic or special library and plans to apply for cataloging, metadata, and technical services librarian positions.

Teresa Lansford is currently enrolled in the M.L.I.S. program at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and plans to graduate in the Spring Semester of 2012. She has taught 2nd grade at Kennedy Elementary School in Norman since 2005. She plans to be a library media specialist.

Shereen Rasor is enrolled at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and plans to graduate in 2011. She has been an elementary school teacher for the past 17 years and plans to be a library media specialist when she graduates.

Congratulations to these winners!

Submitted by Linda Pye
Head of Technical Services
The Al Harris Library
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
GODORT Congratulates its ALA Election Winners!

GODORT would like to congratulate two GODORT members who won national ALA elections last week!

Robbie Sittel of Tulsa City County Library won the position of Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the ALA GODORT State and Local Document Task Force. This is actually a two year position, with a year as chair elect and a year as chair. Robbie also won the OLA election as chair elect of OLA GODORT.

Barbara Miller won the position of Chair Elect of ALA GODORT. This is a three year position with a year as chair-elect, a year as chair and a year as past chair.

Oklahoma Depository Librarians continue to make an impact on the national scene in government information!

Steve Beleu
Federal Depository Coordinator
Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
2011 Election Results for 
2011-2012 Officers

Oklahoma Library Association Officers
Vice-President/President-Elect          Sarah Robbins
Secretary                                Jane Long
Treasurer                                Tim Miller

Oklahoma School Librarians Division
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Earon Cunningham
Treasurer                                Michelle Robertson

University and College Division
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Shonda Brisco
Secretary                                Nicole Sump-Crethar

Library Education Division
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Nicole Sump-Crethar
Secretary                                Hui-Fen Chang

Public Libraries Division
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Elda Moore

Children and Teen Services Roundtable
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Rhonda Lee

Government Documents Roundtable
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Robbie Sittel

Information Technology Roundtable
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Tim Anderson
Secretary                                Tim Spindle

Supervisors, Managers and Administrators Roundtable
Chair                                    Michelle Mears
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Victoria Swinney

Social Responsibilities Roundtable
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Kelley Riha

Technical Services Roundtable
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect                   Aaron Killough
Secretary                                Linda West
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