1995 Leadership Conference

They laughed. Forty people from all over Oklahoma, the new leadership of your library association, drove in June to Bartlesville, which turned out to be closer than many had thought.

"Let your hair down and get to know each other." Harriet Fisher, a Tulsa social worker who specializes in training service groups, gave OLA's newest group of leaders permission to dig, "so you're not just a name, a geographic location, a library, and a place in the pecking order."

Fisher talked about the team process in effective groups. We are each much more than our jobs and locations. Getting to know each other helps you to work together in creative pursuit of common goals. That was the morning session.

The afternoon session continued the theme of letting your hair down. One car full of librarians disappeared en route to the Girl Scout camp near Woolaroc and went on to have their own bonding experience. The rest of your leaders showed decisiveness and ability to prioritize upon arriving at the camp, grabbing box lunches and migrating to the porch.

The lake dimpled with raindrops. Branches tossed in the wind. Knees began to get wet. People backed up against the wall. When the wind began throwing plum-sized drops past at 60 miles an hour, even the most intrepid and hard headed moved inside. Would we do the ROPES COURSE?!

The recently fed and fabulously mature group of librarians were not disappointed. Jan Sanders, OLA president, seamlessly went to Plan B or C. Beginning with a few innocuous stretches, we were soon sucking in air and laughing. Hoola hoops appeared. We had competitive hoop passing, culminating in seven people getting through one hula hoop, from head to toe, at once.

Blindfolded "cars" driven by seeing "drivers" were tearing around the room in a cacophonous madhouse, by the time Dr. Swisher, outgoing OLA President, cautiously looked in about an hour later. By the end of the afternoon, having yelled and laughed and cleaned out the cardiovascular system, your leaders were relaxed and trusting and ready to work together this coming year. They only needed directions. Friday morning directions on how to proceed were given by Jan and Kay Boies. First Jan explained the meaning of the round pins with KINNIKINNIK written circularly. It is from Cree and means "that which is mixed to form the greater." Your leaders come from large and small libraries, of all types, and from many geographical areas, even northwestern Oklahoma! Also this idea goes hand in hand with the President's theme for the year. The organization is stronger for its different parts.

After detailing her goals for the year, Jan said, "in this room is the active leadership of the state, with the honor and adulation to go along with it!" She reminded us that we all have the responsibility of mentoring others, encouraging new people

(continued on p. 49)
Welcome to yet another year of activity, excitement and participation in the Oklahoma Library Association. I know that each of you shares my enthusiasm for things to come and that we are all eager to get underway.

The 1995 Leadership Retreat, reported elsewhere in this issue, was a "bonding" (no, not "bondage") experience for all who were able to attend. Hardly anything went according to plan, but everything seemed to be accomplished despite the set-backs. Due to incredible downpours, we could not experience the ropes course, the event scheduled to provide that necessary team spirit we were trying to capture. Instead, we held an afternoon of participatory games and activities, which not only made us work and think together, but probably will lead to some of the Association's best stories in years! (Ask someone about playing sculptor or car-car.) Anyway, we were able to think about the activities of the coming year, learn the how's and why's of OLA participation, and glean as much as possible from our individual predecessors. I hope that each of you who were unable to join us will at least be able to sit down for a moment with past officers in your roundtable, division, or committees. We need to learn from each other.

Anyway, just what does this strange string of letters mean?? This is actually a word derived from the Cree and/or Chippewa which means "That which is mixed." It originally referred to the mixture of herbs, tobacco, etc, which tribal people used in their pipes. We have, however, taken it another step to mean not only things that are mixed, but things that are mixed with the added benefit of ending up better than the sum of our parts. We have a diverse membership: practicing librarians from schools, universities, and communities; retired librarians; members of Friends' groups; trustees; supporters; legislators; and others. This mixture of types, however, does not signal confusion. Rather, the divergent ideas, approaches, and interests work together to help us as an organization to be the best that we possibly can be. We get our unity of purpose, our concentration of progress from the very diversity that defines us. Thus, the theme for this year will be, "Unity Through Diversity."

I feel especially privileged to have attended a number of Chapter Relations events at this year's ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. This group of strong, active leaders has taken it upon themselves to ensure the knowledge and participation of each of the state "chapters," or state library associations. The programs these folks put together are truly outstanding; if you ever have an opportunity to participate, please do so. One of the most amazing features is that virtually ALL the ALA leaders, (Mary Somerville, Judith Krug, Jeannie Hurley Simon, Betty Turock, etc.) came to us. Chapter representatives were treated to the most up-to-the-minute reports from officers, advocates, and staff, giving us a real ownership in the Association and letting us know that ideas should flow in both directions. I have already given a number of you hand-outs, brochures, etc. to illustrate effective programs. Please share these with others in your committee. I am sure I will be referring to other materials as the year progresses.

It's going to be a good year. We have some challenges--SQ 669, the restructuring of ODL, the implementation of the certification plans, the study of existing committees for effectiveness--all are issues we will address. But we will also celebrate. And have some fun. And get to know and to support each other. Come, join the "mix."

btw: Kinnikinnik is also one of the longest (coming in at 11 letters) palindromes. Just a little tidbit of information.

--Jan Sanders
American Library Association Annual Conference-goers in June were a part of the largest attendance ever recorded for an ALA Conference. Paid registrations were at 13,172, but including exhibitors, guests, press and exhibits-only passes, more than 24,000 attended the Chicago expo. The 114th Annual Conference was a success in many ways. The influence of technology on libraries was quite evident. The Internet Room was a popular and busy place. Electronic mail access was available 24 hours a day. Additionally, a broad and diverse selection of program sessions covered everything from literature and censorship to preservation and prison librarianship. An abundance of conference social events as well as Taste of Chicago provided opportunities for leisure activities.

The Chicago conference also marked a new and exciting era for ALA as plans for progress were shared based on the recent membership vote for a dues increase. Executive Director Elizabeth Martinez reported numerous components of Goal 2000 already accomplished as a direct result of the dues increase. Andrew Magpantay has been hired as director of the new Office for Information Technology Policy in Washington. He spoke at numerous meetings during the conference and shared plans to provide policy analysis and development in support of the Washington Office's legislative efforts affecting technology and telecommunications. Additionally, permanent legal council has been hired, new technology at Headquarters continues to be added and ALA's new Internet node is on the horizon. An Internet coordinator has also been hired.

Executive Director Martinez continued her focus on "how to re-invent ALA Conferences." Using technology to assist in scheduling will hopefully eliminate duplications of program sessions with the same topics and in some cases the same speakers. Efforts are also underway to make ALA Conference programs and meetings easier to attend. Beginning with Annual Conference 1996 in New York City, the Javitts Center will host all the daytime sessions. Night activities will be scheduled away from the conference center in an attempt to cut the time lost traveling between meetings.

The Organizational Self Study Committee presented its last report to Council and recommendations generated lots of conversation both in council sessions and throughout the conference. Council did accept the final report and established a Structural Revision Task Force to oversee the implementation. A highly controversial plan to restructure ALA was presented, but the OSSC did not ask for approval. Additional study to the proposed plan will continue.

In other council actions, "Access to Electronic Information - An Interpretation of the Bill of Rights" was referred back to the Intellectual Freedom Committee for further considerations. The ALA Code of Ethics was passed and new copy will be forthcoming. An advisory committee for the Office for Information Technology Policy was approved.

The financial condition of ALA was reported sound and COPES predicted a modest balance at the end of FY95. The FY96 budget is in the process of being re-worked based on the dues increase.

The Washington Office is still watching and investigating ways to lessen the cost of delivering 4th class materials. Director Carol Henderson reported the hard work in trying to prevent this increase yielded no success, but shared continued commitment to not let the issue die.

Oklahoma continues to play an important part in the future of our national organization and the profession. Numerous state library leaders serve in key positions in the parent body and its divisions, committees, round tables, etc. President-Elect Mary Somerville shared classes and a degree with some of us from the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies. If you are not involved or not a member of ALA, I urge you to consider membership and more importantly, participation in the business of our profession.

--Bettie Estes-Rickner
The OLA Executive Board carries out the official business of the association. It meets monthly usually on the third Friday. Agenda items include reports from the president, treasurer, and executive director, as well as from division chairs, the ALA Councilor, MPLA and State Department of Education representatives and the Federal Relations Coordinator. The board authorizes expenditures and discusses and formulates action on current issues. To schedule an item on the agenda, notify the president or executive director ten (10) days before a board session. Highlights of recent board meetings appear in each issue of the Oklahoma Librarian.
OLA's 1995-96 Leadership
Roundtables, Committees

Roundtable Chairs

Administration
Francine Fisk
University of Tulsa
918-631-2871

Automation
Susan McVey
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
405-521-2502

Children & Young People's
Patricia Zachary
Walters Schools
405-875-3144

Government Documents
Suzanne L. Holcombe
Oklahoma State University
405-744-6546

New Members
Charles Brooks
University of Tulsa
918-631-3489

Reference
Elizabeth Romero
Moore Public Library
405-793-5100

Social Responsibilities
Fran Austian
Metropolitan Library System
405-235-0571

Support Staff
Mary Kirk
Rose State College
405-733-7403

Technical Services
Julie Ann Ligon
Western Oklahoma State University
405-477-2000

Committee Chairs

Audit
Annette Duffy
Oklahoma School of Science & Mathematics
405-521-6436

Awards
Donna Morris
Metropolitan Library System
405-231-9654

Budget & Finance
Jan Sanders
Bartlesville Public Library
918-337-5363

Constitution & Bylaws
Michael Havener
OU School of Library & Information Studies
405-325-3921

Continuing Education
Linda Levy
Metropolitan Library System
405-231-8612

Ethics
Jan Keene
Tulsa City-County Library
918-596-7880

Governor's Mansion Library
Beverly Joyce
University of Oklahoma
405-325-1903

Intellectual Freedom
Theresa Dickson
Pioneer Library System
321-1481

Interlibrary Cooperation
Wilbur Stolt
University of Oklahoma
405-325-2611

Legislative
Katherine Hale
Southern Prairie Lib. Sys.
405-477-2890

Local Arrangements
Anne Masters
Norman Public Schools
405-366-5976

Long Range Planning
Marty Thompson
OU HSC Library
405-271-2672

Membership
Kathleen Todd
Ardmore Higher Education Center
405-223-1441

Nominating
Donna Skvarla
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
405-521-2502

Program
Peggy Cook
Norman Public Library
405-321-1481

Resolutions
Andrew Peters
Pioneer Library System
405-321-1481

Scholarship
Carol Casey
Edmond North High School
405-340-2875

Sequoyah Children's Book Award
Jolene Singletary
Chickasha Public Schools
405-222-6524

Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award
Beth DeGeer
Bartlesville Public Library
918-337-5335

Sites
Wayne Felts
Muskogee
918-682-8111
The strength of the organization is in the individual personalities and experiences its people have had.

Getting to know each other in order to better be able to fulfill OLA goals.

One of the rewards for being willing to take on some of the responsibility and work and give it your best professional shot.

It was fun! even though we did not get to do the ropes course. Maybe later ... for a truly bonding experience.

Librarians, both newer and "older", coming together, being inspired, pursuing food, getting to know each other, and engaged in organizational games -- a very, non-threatening experience!
Incoming and outgoing treasurers receiving serious marching orders from Jan.
A successful conference!
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Notes from Attendees:
Special Libraries Association Annual Conference
Montreal, Canada - June 10-15, 1995

For me, SLA is a conference par excellence and this year in beautiful Montreal was even better. Montreal intermingles historic, cultural and modern business interests. My hotel was 1/2 block from Chinatown, 1 block from the ultramodern convention center and 4 blocks from Old Montreal on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Even though I was centrally located, I found walking tired my feet quickly because the concrete IS HARDER! It is made that way to stand the cold, wet winters.

The conference explored from diverse viewpoints its theme, "Power of Information: Transforming the World." The days started with breakfast meetings, often sponsored by vendors and free or very inexpensive. Conference program meetings as well as those marvelous exhibits were primarily in the Convention Center which made it easy to attend 4 to 6 meetings each day. I usually pick a theme to follow at a large conference like this one. This year I focused on standards and metals and materials. In meetings and exhibits the arrival of the telecommunications era was evident in the e-mail, bulletin boards, home pages and electronic services promoted.

Social activities in the evenings were fabulous—you could easily have 5 receptions from which to choose. Those sponsored by vendors ranged from a reception at the Montreal Botanical Gardens in the Japanese/Chinese garden to one at the Musee d'Art Contemporain. There were also many opportunities to meet colleagues in division hospitality suites.

--Patsy Stafford, OSU Library

As a first time SLA conference and a new member of Physics Astronomy Math (PAM) Division, I tried to attend all of the PAM roundtables and many programs sponsored by the divisions. My top five programs were the Astronomy and Mathematics roundtables, "Webbed for Life," the STN Users meeting, "Why the Web? Library benefits of home page development," and the exhibits.

The most disappointing program (MAJOR RIP OFF) that I attended was a field trip to the Biodome and Botanical Gardens. I paid $18.00 for a 1-1/2 hour field trip instead of the 4 hours promised. Then, I had to find my own transportation back to the hotel! I will never pay for another field trip.

--Dan Tan, OSU Library

Leadership Conference (continued from p. 41)

to participate and bring their ideas. Kay seconded that, saying, "mentoring is a way to leave a legacy. Be a player in life—that's the way you make a difference." They reminded us that most effective committees are the ones where you leave knowing your assignment before the next meeting. We reviewed OLA's excellent handbook so that everyone knows what's expected and when they happen. Kay said, "we can't work together unless we know what's going on out there." Both Kay and Jan said, "don't hesitate to ask for help." It works because so many people are involved. "The real goal—why we're all here, is to improve libraries and librarians in the state of Oklahoma."

--Rachel Butler

Banned Books Week

Get your 1995 Banned Books Week (Sept. 23-30) packet of materials from ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom! For information call 800-545-2433, ext. 4223. The Resource Kit has posters, bookmarks, and an idea book on how to create displays and organize events, with an annotated list of challenged or banned books, quotes, puzzles and camera-ready art. The kit is $28, plus s&h.

Using the kit, Oklahoma City Community College Library made a display using books from our collection, each labeled with a note on when, where and why that title had been challenged or banned. We left the display intact much longer than the week, because it generated intense interest among our customers. Very gratifying to the librarians! And the Resource Book has been very useful to students doing research papers on censorship.

16th Annual Mildred K. Laughlin
Festival of Books for Young People
October 14, 1995

Award winning authors and illustrators Lois Ehler, Floyd Cooper, and Walter Dean Myers! Call OU College of Continuing Education, 800-522-0772, x5101 or 405-325-5101

If you have any thoughts at all of going to MPLA, call Patsy Stafford, 405-744-6309. People are thinking of coordinating travel plans.

What you'll get...

Programming in three focus areas: Management, Information Technology, and Children's and Youth Services.

An Internet Room.

Pre-Conferences on Grantsmanship, Leadership, Government Information on the 'Net, and Consumer Health Information Services.

Notable speakers including Betty Turock, ALA President; Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, author of Shiloh; and Pat Wagner of Pattern Research.

A 3-ring binder with handouts from ALL sessions!

If you can only attend one conference this year, Sioux Falls is the place to be. Grab your pencils and your drafting paper to design YOUR blueprint for the future!

For additional information, call 800-356-7820. After the recording starts, depress 1 and leave your name and address. MPLA will send you a conference program, registration form, and any special information you have requested.

MPLA-NDLA-SDLA Tri-Conference
October 4 - 7, 1995 Sioux Falls, SD

Libraries: Blueprint for the Future
Position of the
Oklahoma Library Association
on State Question 669
"The Oklahoma Library Association sees the
results of State Question 669 as devastating to
government agencies supported by property
taxes, including libraries. This question re­
moves local control of these property taxes and
would not provide the necessary increases in
the future required by governmental agencies
funded from property taxes. The Oklahoma
Library Association joins other groups in op­
posing State Question 669."
Affirmed by the 1995-96 OLA Executive Board, July 21, 1995.)

OLA Members Join Forces With Other Groups
Several OLA members are participating in the Task Force
to Move Oklahoma Forward.
Strategies to defeat State Question 669 when it appears
on the March 12, 1996, ballot are being developed by the Task
Force whose membership includes representatives from the
State Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma Vocational Associa­
tion, Association of County Commissioners, Oklahoma Edu­
cation Association, Oklahoma PTA, Oklahoma State School
Boards Association, Oklahoma Association of Realtors and
many other business and non-profit groups.

Friends of the OU Library School!
Here's your opportunity -- a challenge grant has been made
by Charles R. (Chuck) McClure, recipient of the 1994 Out­
standing Alumni Award from the University of Oklahoma
School of Library and Information Studies Alumni Associa­
tion.

After being honored at a reception during OLA's 1995 Annual
Conference, McClure surprised the assembled throng by an­
nouncing his pledge to match, at the rate of 50 cents on the
dollar, all contributions up to $3000 made to the Alumni Asso­
ciation's scholarship funds before Nov. 1, 1995.

Let's get into Chuck's pockets! You can donate to any of these
funds:
IrmA R. Tomberlin Scholarship Fund
Okla. Student Librarians Assn, #40722
Floy Elliott Cobb Library Science
Scholarship Fund, #40402
Mildred Laughlin Scholarship Fund, #40920
Native American Scholarship Fund, #41031

Make your check out, large or small, to: O.U. Foundation
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JANET AHRBERG joined the OSU library as assistant professor in the Catalog Department. Prior to joining the OSU staff, Ahlberg was a cataloger and reference librarian for the Stillwater Public Library. She enjoys the analytical nature of cataloging. Future special duties will include cataloging agricultural experiments and Internet resources.

JOHN BERRY is a new assistant humanities and social sciences librarian with the OSU library. His duties include providing general reference services and enhancing the collections in the history, philosophy, music and Native American areas. Berry has worked as an archeologist in Israel, social sciences librarian at St. Mary's College of Maryland, head of technical services at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and HIV/AIDS specialist at the FDA Medical Library in Maryland.

KEN BIERMAN has been re-elected to the AMIGOS Board of Trustees. In another part of his life Bierman is Assistant University Librarian for Technical & Automated Services at OSU. He has also just turned over the electronic books with "sweet sorrow" as his 3-year term as OLA's Treasurer ended.

In August the OSU–OKLAHOMA CITY library, directed by VICKI BUETTNER, is moving to the 4th floor of the new Learning Resource Center, instead of the expected 3rd and 4th floors. Buettner says, "I think I've reached my full potential as far as floor design goes!" The 3rd floor will be used for college administrative offices.

DAN CHANEY, Assistant Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, OSU Library, BETH DEGEER, Youth Services Librarian at the Bartlesville Public Library, ANNE HARRIS, Children's Librarian at the Norman Public Library, and JULIE LIGON, College Librarian at the Western Oklahoma State College Library, will attend the Snowbird Leadership Institute in August. Four Oklahomans out of a total 32 participants! The Institute, sponsored by Ameritech Library Services, is a five-day residential program of leadership training for people who are at an early point in their library careers.

BILLIE CURRY recently joined the OSU Library as a visiting assistant Patent and Economic Development Librarian. She has been a school librarian for the Butner school system and served as research assistant at the University of Oklahoma Law Library. Her duties include patent and trademark searches.

LINDA FIDLER, who recently completed her Ph.D at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Library and Information Studies, joins the School's faculty in August as a Visiting Assistant Professor. She headed the Music Library at Bowling Green University, and while pursuing her degree worked as a Research Assistant with the Public Library Data Service Project and taught in the master's program. Dr. Fidler will be teaching Introduction to Information Science in both Norman and Tulsa in the fall 1995 semester. She will teach Information Uses & Services, and an undergraduate honors course in spring 1996.

KATHY LATROBE, Associate Professor, OU School of Library & Information Studies, has been elected to the Newbery Award Committee by ALA's ALSC membership. Her term will begin next year.

CHRIS MUELLER, assistant systems librarian, OSU library, will administer the library's online system. Her first library position was as a cataloger for a Chicago school system, and she has been librarian for a Tulsa law firm.

JENNIFER PAUSTENBAUGH is the new Director of Library Development and Outreach at OSU. Until recently she was the librarian at OSU's Patent and Trademark Library. Paustenbaugh will work closely with the OSU Foundation.

MARY SHERMAN, Director of the Pioneer Library System, recently completed her term as head of Norman's Chamber of Commerce with a big, fun-filled bash, and has now assumed the reins of power as president of the Norman Rotary Club.

MARY SOMERVILLE, graduate of the OU Library School, and director of the Miami–Dade (FL) Public Library System, is ALA president-elect, and also was awarded the OULSIS Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumni Award for 1995.

RHONDA TAYLOR and LOTSEE PATTERTON, School of Library and Information Studies, directed a week-long workshop attended by 15 tribal librarians from nine states. The librarians learned to plan and implement school readiness programs for Native American children. Workshop consultants from Oklahoma were SANDRA LONG, Tsa La Gi Library, Cherokee Nation; DEBRA ENGEL, Pioneer Library System; and DESIREE WEBBER.

DESIREE WEBBER, Children's Services Manager, Moore Public Library, was one of nine recipients of the American Library Association EBSCO ALA Conference Sponsorship Awards. EBSCO's reimbursement of up to $1,000 in actual expense allowed Webber to attend ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Chicago this summer.

"We never knew how much it meant to Ben," Said CAROLYN FRANKS, Director of the Ardmore Public Library after receiving a large bequest from frequent library user and long time Ardmore resident Ben Curtis. The estate will fund the Ben E. and Maria Delores Curtis Research & Study Room, an addition to be built on the Ardmore Library. Curtis also specified that materials include but not be limited to journals in the geology and petroleum industry area.

One thousand people attended a July 15th celebration honoring the completion of sidewalk and parking improvements at the HOOKER, OK, PUBLIC LIBRARY, directed by Rachel Sides, and city hall. A barbecue, melodrama, and street dance brought out the town, which officially has only 1572 residents. With the labors of Main Street program volunteers and the Friends of the Library, supported by a matching grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Hooker's library is now handicapped-accessible. GARY PHILLIPS, consultant at ODL says, "If they'd told me ahead of time, I'd have been there—I LOVE street dancing."
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