OLA's New Leadership Jump Starts the Year in Stillwater

Introductions, Accelerated Planning for Coming Year, and Mexican Food

Things start happening when people get together to brainstorm and work toward common goals. People may bring out surprising facets of each other. Gerald Hickman, 1996/97 chair of the Bylaws Committee, introduced himself to the new OLA leaders and added, "If we have a revolution, you'll have to go through me!" Later he looked startled, and said, "It must've come from associating with Marty [Thompson, 1996/97 OLA President] too much."

On June 16-17, Marty and the current OLA team met in the Browsing Room of the OSU Library to get acquainted and start planning this coming year. Down to business—our most important activities are continuing education for the membership and legislative action.

"This is your year," said Marty, "I see myself as a facilitator." He emphasized the need for groups to provide enough continuing education opportunities throughout the state to provide for everyone, even those who choose not to go to the annual conference. "Try some different things," Marty said. He reminded people that, "what you are elected to do is your responsibility," but if you keep moving, everything works out, especially if you involve others.

Because of the combined MPLA/OLA annual meeting in Shangri-La, we have a wonderful chance to interact with librarians from out of state. Because OLA will be entertaining a lot of guests who don't know us and don't know Oklahoma, the conference will have more fun things to bring us all together. And we're already known around the country for our wonderful hospitality.

OLA Home Page

A year and a half ago, Bob Swisher put a home page up on the Internet. The Leadership Conference included discussion of the OLA home page and what should be on it, with the business of OLA a clear priority. The group continued brainstorming about potential audiences for the web page, and many policy concerns. Andy Peters, Pioneer Library System, has agreed to be Webmaster and leader of a home page committee. This new emphasis on electronic communication is a beginning—the paperless Association is not imminent. OLA's also continuing with all its current communication means.

Program Planning

Kay Boies highlighted OLA policies and procedures. Once the ideas have been hatched, people need to know how to make these ideas happen.

Wrapping up the Leadership Conference, Kathleen Todd, program committee chair, and Peggy Cook, her helper, led the group in its first conference program planning meeting—a month earlier than in most years. We brainstormed. What makes a conference? What makes a celebration? History and ritual are associated with them, opening and closing activities, colors, food. Many possible themes were tossed around, most playing on western or frontier ideas. In Stillwater, the new leadership got a great start for this next year.
As incoming president, I would like to thank all the members for their support and the elected officers and committee chairs who participated in the Leadership Retreat this year. Everyone appeared to be eager, willing, and excited about the upcoming year. The Association continues to build on the success of previous years and this year has all the signs of being successful. However, true success is in each of us and I encourage everyone to become involved and take an active role in the Association this year.

Many have been anxiously awaiting this year when the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) hosts a combined meeting with the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA). This meeting will provide an opportunity for each of us to meet new colleagues and share our individual areas of expertise. Any suggestions that you may have for this meeting should be communicated to the individual(s) representing you at Program Committee meetings. Through your involvement, this meeting has the potential of being the next highlight in the Association’s achievements and the best combined meeting in MPLA history. The Shangri-La Resort provides new surroundings and sets a different atmosphere for this meeting.

This is an election year and each of us should become involved in the political process in Oklahoma. I encourage you to work for candidates that represent your political philosophy and make library supporters out of these candidates. There is no question that our ability as an association to affect legislation is improved when the librarians making calls were also involved in the election of a legislator as well as being constituents. Because the Oklahoma budget is not increasing dramatically, each of us has a vested interest in seeking the support of elected officials to continue providing and hopefully increase the support for Oklahoma libraries.

The opportunity to thank the individuals who have influenced our careers does not always present itself. Therefore, I would like to take the liberty of doing that this year in each of my presidential columns. This will allow me to give special thanks to deserving individuals and to introduce the names of members who are no longer active in the Association to younger members. This month I would like to thank Francis Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy was the Director of the Oklahoma City University Library for many years, President of OLA, and a recipient of the OLA Distinguished Service Award. She influenced my decision to become a librarian which paved the way for me to become who and what I am today. I am not the only librarian whose career was influenced by this lovely, dynamic lady; these individuals are scattered throughout the country. Ms. Kennedy is a special person whose interests in libraries, the people who use them, and fellow librarians has improved Oklahoma libraries.

--Marty Thompson

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Editor:
Rachel Butler
Oklahoma City Community College
Circulation Manager:
Kay Boies
(405) 348-0506

Circulation and Advertising Office:
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OLASCHEDULE/HOLIDAYS

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Best Wishes to Pat!
by Jan Keene

Pat Woodrum recently announced her retirement effective October 31 and her intention to run for State Senate in District 35. We wish to say thanks for all she has contributed to OLA and libraries in our state during her 32-year career.

Pat began her career with the Tulsa City-County Library System in 1964, as the first branch librarian of the Woodland Hills Branch. In 1966 she was promoted to head the Reference Department at Central Library. Following the birth of her son Clay, she returned to direct the Extension Division until 1970, when she took on all public services. In 1973, she became Assistant Director, and was appointed Director in 1976, following the death of Allie Beth Martin.

She has served OLA in many ways, chairs the following committees: Sequoyah, National Library Week, Nominating, Legislative, Program Planning, Budget, and Standards; and serving on numerous others. She served as Chair of the Public Library Division and President of the Association in 1979. Pat’s efforts in library election campaigns are perhaps her most important contributions to the state—S.Q. 507 to raise the millage cap from 2 to 4 mills, S.Q. 666 to permit single county library development and extend the cap to 6 mills for some districts, and in the defeat of S.Q. 669.

OLA honored Pat with the Distinguished Service Award in 1982 and a Special Meritorious Service Award in 1996.

ALA has benefited from her leadership as President of PLA, Chair of PLA’s 2nd National Conference and Chair of ALA’s Development Advisory Committee. She has also served on the Boards of Directors of PLA and LAMA, and on the ALA Committee on Accreditation.

She has served higher education as a member and Chairman of the Board of Regents for the University Center at Tulsa (now Rogers University), as a member of the Advisory Committee to the President of the University of Oklahoma School of Library Science, and on the Advisory Committee to the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Oklahoma.

Pat has been active with the Oklahoma Public Library Directors Council, and has assisted ODL by serving on LSCA and other advisory committees.

During her tenure as Director of TC-CL, she has overseen the construction of 11 new libraries and the expansion of four others. The staff has grown from 169 FTE to 220, and circulation has increased from 3.6 to 7.4 per capita. In 1982, she undertook an ambitious development program to build the Tulsa Library Trust from its meager beginning of $14,000 to its current $6.5 million. She was the fourth Librarian in Tulsa, preceded by Alma Reid McGlenn (1913-1939), James Gourley (1939-1962), and Allie Beth Martin (1962-1976).

Beyond her outstanding career, many of us count Pat as a dear friend. She’s known for her sense of humor, calm manner, tact, and ability to organize projects and motivate people. At home, she’s an energetic gardener, generous hostess, and a gourmet cook. These days, she gains much pleasure from being grandmother to Clay III (Trey), now one, and looks forward to having more time to show him the world.

We all wish her the best with the upcoming election. We know she will make an outstanding State Senator.
OLA’S 1996-97 LEADERSHIP
Executive Board

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Clinton M. (Marty) Thompson, Jr.
OU Health Sciences Center Book Library
405-271-2672

MPLA Representative
Peggy Cook
Norman Public Library
405-321-1481

Vice-President/President-Elect
Susan Wright
Oak Hall Episcopal School, Ardmore
405-226-2341

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Jan Sanders
Bartlesville Public Library
918-337-5363

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Karen Marriott
Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City
405-231-8622

Federal Relations Coordinator
Donna Skvarla
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
405-521-2502

Treasurer
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Northeastern State University Library
918-456-5511

State Dept. of Education Coordinator
Paula Walker
State Department of Education
405-521-2956

OASLMS
Sue McAllister
WestMoore High School
405-691-8000

Oklahoma Librarian Editor
Rachel Butler
Oklahoma City Community College Library
405-682-1611

University and College Division
Sharon Saulmon
Rose State College LRC
405-736-0259

WebMaster
Andrew Peters
Pioneer Library System, Norman
405-321-1481

Library Education Division
Kathleen Haynes
OU School of Library and Information Studies
405-325-3921

FOLIO Representative
John Harkey
Eufaula
918-689-5286

Public Libraries Division
Janet Brooks
Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City
405-231-8622

Executive Director
Kay Boies
Oklahoma Library Association
405-348-0506

ALA Councilor
Jan Keene
Tulsa City-County Library
918-596-7880

The OLA Executive Board conducts 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 10 days before a board session. Highlights of board meetings appear in the Oklahoma Librarian.
OLA'S 1996-97 LEADERSHIP
Roundtables, Committees

Roundtable Chairs

Administration
Laura Bottoms
Rogers State University
918-343-7717

Automation
Pam Maxwell
Moore High School
405-793-3159

Children & Young People's
Martha Evans
Bridge Creek Secondary, Blanchard
405-387-3981

Government Documents
David Snider
Lawton Public Library
405-581-3450

New Members
Debra Spindle
Metropolitan Library System
405-231-8650

Reference
R. D. Bell
University Center at Tulsa
918-594-8136

Social Responsibilities
Shari Clifton
OU Health Sciences Center
405-271-2036

Support Staff
Jill Vessels
Metropolitan Library System
405-631-1149

Technical Services
Bea LeValley
Northwestern State University
405-327-8571

Committee Chairs

Ethics
Dannelle Hall
OCU-Dulaney-Browne Library
405-521-5072

Governor's Mansion Library
John Rosenhamer
Oklahoma City Community College
405-682-1611

Intellectual Freedom
Holly LaBossiere
Ponca City Library
405-767-0345

Interlibrary Cooperation
Jan Sanders
Bartlesville Public Library
918-337-5363

Legislative
Debra Engel & Donna Morris
Pioneer Library System
405-321-1481

Local Arrangements
Jennifer Goodson & Patricia Davis
OU Health Sciences Center
Enid Public Schools
405-271-2670
405-249-3530

Long Range Planning
Susan Wright
Oak Hall Episcopal School, Ardmore
405-226-2341

Membership
Patricia Zachary
Walters Public Schools
405-875-3144

Nominating
Beverly Jones
Southwestern State University
405-774-7081

Program
Kathleen Todd
Ardmore Higher Ed. Center Library
405-223-1441

Scholarship
Yvonne Hinchee
Shawnee Public Library
405-275-6353

Sequoyah Children's Book Award
Terri Street
Lakeview Elementary School, Norman
405-368-5899

Sequoyah Young Adult Book Award
Rosemary Moran
Tulsa City-County Library
918-596-7931

Sites
Bettie Estes-Rickner
Edmond Public Schools
405-340-2207
**Oklahoma Legislative Report 1996**

by Oliver Delaney, OLA Legislative Liaison

The 1996 legislative session began on a positive note with the realization that there would be additional funds in certain categories. Of those monies the largest expenditure was given to education, a total of $212M in new money. Higher education will receive an additional $71.4M (+12.6%), common education will receive $116.5M (+8.1%), vocational education will receive an extra $9M (+9.6%), and, for the first time, a permanent solution to the mid-term funding problem was found. Growing school districts will receive $42.7M.

While the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) did not actively solicit any of the 3,000-plus pieces of legislation that were introduced in this session, OLA was involved in four specific bills relating to libraries, and monitored a number of other proposals of indirect interest. In addition, OLA supports legislation which increases electronic access by creating telephone networks and databases.

Representative Randy Erwin and Senator Jack Bell attempted to bring to a public vote a constitutional amendment creating a new taxing district for public libraries, one based on a school's transportation district (*HJR 1065*). The bill passed the House of Representatives but failed to receive a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee. OLA expressed serious concerns about the bill as being unnecessary. Current library legislation already provides that counties or parts of counties may join with an existing library system when both parties agree.

Access by children to obscene materials through telecommunications was much debated in both the federal and state governments. In Oklahoma, Representative Fred Perry introduced legislation essentially directed at computer generated child pornography. *HB 2506* amended the criminal statutes relating to obscene materials by adding to the definition of obscene materials both CD-ROM and magnetic disk tape/memory which are considered pornographic.

The new law is effective November 1, 1996.

Coming on the heels of *HB 2506*, late in the legislative session, and specifically directed at the OU situation, was *HCR 1097* by Representative Bill Paulik and Senator Trish Weedn. Now law, *HCR 1097* directed all state agencies and all institutions within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education to remove immediately all obscene material from their computers and computer systems. Every member of the State House and State Senate signed on as author.

Oklahoma is still not ready to create its own Telecommunications Authority. Legislation introduced in 1995 and in 1996 in both the State House and State Senate attempted to create a separate unit to oversee the various entities involved in telecommunications. One piece of legislation which did make it to the floor of the Senate in the final days of the session was soundly defeated. Members objected to creating a Commission and particularly to giving the Governor more power. The Governor's budget did include additional funding for telecommunications in libraries and schools.

One more piece of legislation deserves your attention. *HB 2530* by Representative Jim Hamilton and Senator Ed Long will permit a library board member who has served a partial term of membership (up to eighteen months) to now serve a full term of office. The law is effective April 3, 1996, on the signature of the Governor.

Two issues of particular interest to librarians in the coming years are ad valorem reform and telecommunications. Ad valorem tax reform continues to be a high priority among certain groups. As the life blood of library and school support, librarians must be "at the table" when the subject of property tax reform is discussed. Telecommunications also will continue to be a major goal for libraries and schools with or without a statewide authority. Essentially what is needed is free basic access for every school and every library.

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**Exhibit Draws Public Reaction**

By Peggy Cook, Branch Manager, Norman Public Library

A recent exhibit at the Norman Public Library by the University of Oklahoma chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) drew much public attention. In this article, I will address some background events, policy issues we faced, special training sessions we conducted, and some of the lessons we learned in hopes you can benefit from our experiences.

**Background**

Library staff members were contacted by members of the OU NORML Chapter in November 1993. Students requested use of the display case, and I asked them to prepare an exhibit proposal and present it to the library board at their next meeting. At the February 1994 meeting, the students had a proposal, but rather spoke to many issues of concern to them, including marijuana legalization and, in their view, a connection between increased hemp growth and the salvation of the rain forests. After hearing this discussion, the Board declined to bring forward a motion to approve placing the exhibit in the library and the issue died for lack of a second.

**We Had a Policy for Everything but This**

The Norman Public Library Advisory Board (appointed by the city to deal with building issues and to represent the interests of the community) did have some concerns about how to deal with this situation. Up to this point, the library had no policy for use of exhibit cases. Previously, the only displays had been local artists, clubs, and youth organizations, who showed their items for the standard one-month term. Consequently, I began work with an employee (who was also completing law school) to draft reasonable, fair, and clear exhibit case policies. That policy was approved and implemented when presented to the board.

OU NORML once again petitioned to book the display cases, and in accordance with the new policy, an exhibit time was set for February 1996.

**Training and Preparation**

Now the issue became one of training and preparing our staff for anticipated comments. The fair use of our exhibit cases by community organizations in Norman was emphasized during all discussions. The Pioneer Library System board passed official statements noting that the library did not advocate the statements or policies presented in any display cases. These notices were posted in all exhibit areas.

Norman library staff were trained in conflict and confrontation situations by Theresa Dickson to prepare them for angry comments by customers. Further, staff members were asked to write down their greatest concern or fear about the exhibit and those concerns were discussed at Branch meetings.

The Public Information Officer, Bob Tormey, prepared a fact sheet for board members and the staff to use to give quick answers about why we had an exhibit from this group. The exhibit creators were listed on this form so staff could refer comments to them, as the responsible party. Staff members also emphasized that the library did not create or endorse the exhibit—it was the property of the organization.

**The Library Does Not Advocate or Endorse**

We waited for the exhibit to go up on February 1. It did not
arrive, however, until February 5th. Exhibit coordinators brought articles of clothing, underwear, shoes, and bags made from hemp. The main portion of their display consisted of several large poster boards covered with 8-1/2 x11" text pages with lengthy descriptions of their organization, their struggle to get their message out, and the virtues of using the hemp plant for farming and rope making. The main graphic on the eye-level display was the liberty bell, with a marijuana leaf overlaid. The large logo read, "Let Freedom Ring".

Our first comment about the exhibit came that evening when a couple called back after visiting to complain that we had allowed it, but they finished their call by adding that they understood that we had to have it. Their main concern was that it was inappropriate for children to see. Throughout that week, we had a few comments, both pro and con. Most people were glad that we allowed free expression of differing opinions, and others were concerned that children were able to see this information. One individual even wanted information on how to order the clothes on display.

**They Did Their Own Publicity**

The NORML group conducted its own publicity plan, we discovered. The OU student newspaper had been notified of the exhibit and ran a photo of a student looking at the exhibit. The OU campus student TV crew also responded to the press release and contacted our PIO to do a story. The PIO and I responded with our prepared statements, and referred the news crew to the exhibit coordinator for specific comments about the contents of the exhibit.

Later in the month, we learned that the OU chapter of NORML had communicated with the national NORML organization and then added comments about the Norman exhibit on their Internet Web page and on national weekly fax distribution to members. We received several calls from people across the country who had read the Internet comments.

**I'm Going to City Council!**

In anticipation of comments to city officials, we sent our position paper to key City of Norman officials such as the Mayor, City Attorney, Manager, and Clerk. A citizen did write letters to the OU student paper and attended the City Council meeting to complain about the exhibit being allowed. The Mayor listened to his comments and thanked him, but essentially the city's legal staff decided the city could not deny the group because of their first amendment right to a public display. He added, while the marijuana reform group has a right to the display, (he thought) they used poor judgment placing it where many children would see it in the library.

**How an Unrelated Event Impacted the Library**

During the third week of February, a national news story was released concerning the wide availability of drugs to teenagers, especially marijuana. The local city newspaper, The Norman Transcript, asked for and received permission to take a picture of the exhibit to use in conjunction with their Sunday lead story based on that press release. Even though our PIO had faxed the newspaper with details about the exhibit and the library's position, they were not used and the picture alone ran with the story.

We then received many calls from concerned citizens who hadn't seen the exhibit but called the library to complain anyway. Each call required a time consuming discussion of what was actually happening with the exhibit and the library's position. Many people told me that they didn't care about the rules, they just didn't want this group to be allowed to use the exhibit cases.

**What Did We Learn?**

Communicating with city officials, sharing ideas about fairness and our rights as citizens, and our rights to discuss issues, even unpopular ones, was an important part of helping officials speak knowledgeably when citizens called them to complain about the exhibit. It was a great benefit to work with the City government in this process.

It was important to have a board-approved exhibit policy and statements prepared in advance of our position on this exhibit. Just as important was sharing this information with staff and holding special training sessions to prepare them for angry customers.

We could not have foreseen that a national study about teen drug use would be released during this month, and would re-define people's view of the exhibit. The library did not endorse the viewpoint expressed in the exhibit, but many people could not separate displaying and endorsing the exhibit. Many people expressed support for our willingness to let the group express a "counter" opinion. Until the second newspaper article ran, connecting the exhibit photo with the drug story, our comments were running 50-50, pro-con.

Some people believe everything in the library is safe for children, and complained bitterly that their children were exposed to the exhibit. Our staff members took time to talk to these people about the variety of topics in the library and the need to discuss their family's reading with their children.

In the future, with controversial exhibits, I would consider exhibiting both the pro and con displays concurrently.

During our research and during the exhibit, which we considered a local fairness issue, our staff members sought advice from other libraries in the state. We got good advice from Bartlesville, Tulsa City-County and Metropolitan Library System concerning previous exhibit issues they had faced.

The exhibit closed on February 29th when group members came and collected their belongings. The next exhibit, by a Girl Scout troop, went up that evening and we all promised to buy extra Girl Scout cookies this year.
David Snider, Beverly Jones, Jeanette McQuitty try to avoid the camera, while Karen Marriott and Peggy Cook talk in the back.

Above: Sharon Saulmon, Buffy Edwards, and Karen Marriott, accompanied by one of the renowned La-Las from the Annual Conference.

Right: Peggy Cook and Holly LaBossiere.

Above: Kathleen Todd and Bob Swisher.

Above: John Corbett and Janet Brooks during a break in the action.

Right: John Rosenhamer and Andy Peters talk as Jennifer Goodson passes by. At the tables are Jane Taylor, Danelle Hall, Paula Walker, Bea LeValley, and Kathleen Haynes in varying states of readiness.
Above: Carol Ihrig, Debra Engel, Becky Kirkbride, and Laura Bottoms paying attention while beyond the Browsing Room window, the OSU campus steams under the June sun.

Right: Gerald Hickman and beverage midst the hustle.

Above: Let's get this going! Becky Kirkbride and Chuck Perry (front), and Bill Cunningham and R. D. Bell.

Right: Susan Wright and Bob Segal.

New faces, old faces building bridges Commitment our gift, our reward.

Debra Engel and John Harkey
Interlibrary Loan Discussion Group Meeting

The second meeting of the newly formed interlibrary loan discussion group met on June 13, 1996 in Weatherford, OK at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). Those in attendance included Carolyn Mahin and Pam Acree from the University of Central Oklahoma; Tracy Schickedanz, Edwin Willes and Retha Robertson, Oklahoma City University; Mary Hardin, Kitty Pittmann and Melecia Caruthers, Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL); Marquita Vincent, Enid Public Library; Bev Newby, Western Oklahoma State College; andCarolyn Torrence, Mary Roberson and Audrey DeFrank, SWOSU.

This was an open discussion meeting so a number of topics and concerns were considered. The Oklahoma Union List of Serials was one topic. If you have questions concerning the union list you may contact Vicki Sullivan at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (1-800-522-8116). Other items discussed included management programs such as Savaie and AVISO, email requests, fees, overdue books, security strips, IFM, etc.

Everyone was interested in and had questions about Autographics, the new vendor for the online and CD-ROM Oklahoma Union Catalogs (OLTN-CAT). The online version will be available through the Internet with weekly updates, and the CD-ROM version is for those libraries without Internet access. If you have access to the Internet, logon to Autographics as ODL would like to have input on it. The Internet address for Autographics is http://www.auto-graphics.com/cgi-pac/mm/odl. There will be a training session in September for Autographics—time and date to be announced. Questions? Contact Susan McVey at ODL.

On Oct. 28-30 there will be an interlibrary loan workshop with guest speaker Virginia Boucher, author of several books on interlibrary loan. Also scheduled in the spring of 1997 is a workshop on copyright (date TBA). All of these workshops are being provided through ODL.

Join us for our next meeting and voice your questions, complaints, or suggestions. The next meeting is tentatively set for Dec. 5 in Tulsa. Call Carolyn Torrence or myself for information on our next meeting (405-774-3031).

—Mary Roberson

I'd Sooner Read Reporting

Don't forget to send in your numbers for Oklahoma's "I'd Sooner Read" program, totals to be contributed to the national campaign. In counting for the program Anne Masters says Oklahoma libraries can go back to January 1995. Please fill out a copy of this form and return it to:

I'd Sooner Read Book Count
4100 N. Flood
Norman, OK 73069
or call (405) 366-5862

We have read ________ books!

This count is for the period beginning ________ and ending ________.
Contact person: ________________________________
Library: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: __________ State: ____ Zip: ________
Effective July 1, JULIE BROOKS has been promoted to Director of the Library at Western Oklahoma State College.

Eleanor Roosevelt both had lunch and attended a reception in her honor in the Library at Northwestern State University in Alva in 1937, when she was on campus to dedicate a building. This library tidbit was uncovered during research for a cookbook done by the Library staff in celebration of the University’s centennial year. BEA LEVALLEY says, "We’re really excited about it." Along with the 900 recipes from 500 current and former faculty, staff, and student contributors, there are line drawings of campus buildings, many fun trivia items about the University, and information about contributors. One recipe is from the granddaughter of a man in the first graduating class in 1901. Two thousand copies have been printed, with all proceeds going to the Library endowment. It also turns out that Anna L. LeCrone, president of OLA in 1916 when OLA had its first joint annual conference (with Kansas Library Assn.), was a librarian at Northwestern.

SUE MCALISTER was named Teacher of the Year at Westmoore High School in Moore this spring.

Just before summer session, librarians at Oklahoma City Community College, including DONNA DENNISTON, JOHN ROSENHAMER, and RACHEL BUTLER, with the help of many others from our Physical Plant and Library Bureau, moved the Library from its old surroundings of shag-carpeted walls to our brand new building under the clock tower. We have space! We are gradually ironing out computer glitches arising from a new online system, more layers of different software, running everything through the campus network etc. Come and visit us!

Picture Book Comes to Life—Children’s Librarian SANDY SHROPSHIRE, Moore Public Library, brings Lynn Cherry’s The Great Kapok Tree to life with a puppet theater she designed. The set, complete with puppets and rain forest music, traveled to branches of the Pioneer Library System as part of summer reading program activities for children. Librarians read the book to children as different puppets begin to move about on the jungle stage. Collaborating with Shropshire on the project are Desiree Webber, Dee Dee Corn, and Elaine Harrod of the Moore library’s Children’s Department.

Bomb sniffing dog and handler work their way over the OLA Registration booth under the fascinated eyes of Donna Dennistin and Beverly Sprehe, preparing for President Clinton's visit, early Friday morning of the Annual Conference, April 5, 1996. Photo by Wendall Fields, Follett Library Resources rep.

WILLA COMBS, long-time ODL Board member, recently died. She was first appointed to the Board in 1983, serving under four governors, and helping ODL through major changes, including budget cutbacks, automation and implementation of the NOTIS system, development of OLTN plan, formation of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, and voluntary certification for public librarians. She was a great friend of libraries and the people who work in them.

Festival of Books for Young People

The 17th annual Mildred K. Laughlin Festival of Books for Young People, sponsored by the School of Library and Information Studies, will be at the University of Oklahoma in Dale Hall on October 26. The theme of the 1996 Festival is Creative Journeys. Guest speakers are Joseph Bruchac, Sharon Creech, and Barry Moser.


Creech is a teacher of American and British literature in Thorpe, Surrey, England. In 1995 she won the Newbery Award for Walk Two Moons, a work also recognized by the NCTE Notable Trade Books in Language Arts, ALA Notable Children's Books, School Library Journal's Best Books, and BCCB's Blue Ribbon Books. Her most recent book is Absolutely Normal Chaos (1996), and Pleasing the Ghost is forthcoming in August 1996.


For registration, contact Kathy Latrobe, University of Oklahoma, SLIS, 401 West Brooks, Room 120, Norman, OK 73019. (405) 325-3921 or klatrobe@uoknor.edu
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