A person coming into Oklahoma on a major highway is greeted by a large sign of welcome. When I moved here ten years ago, I viewed the sign with some trepidation, especially when it was followed by a stern speed limits sign that proclaimed no tolerance. I was leaving many good friends I had made in my previous job and community and I was starting a new job in a new community and state.

Fortunately, the first sign was right and the second was an exaggeration. I have indeed found Oklahoma to be a welcoming place, made up of many welcoming communities. One of those communities is McAlester, where I live. As for the tolerance, the speed limits do have some reasonable flexibility, and any place that will put up with my sense of humor and my addiction to wordplay is pretty tolerant.

Another Oklahoma community that extended a warm welcome to me was the Oklahoma Library Association. From Kay Boies, OLA's sunny executive director who greeted me like a long-lost friend, to Carol Casey, who was president that year, and throughout OLA, I was welcomed and encouraged to get involved.

Now I am beginning a year as president of OLA. And what I can say is that OLA truly is Oklahoma's library community. Our members are from all parts of the state and a wide diversity of libraries, and we share both the geographic unity that ordinarily defines a community and a commonality of purpose and experience that any strong community has. We are librarians (of all types, professional, paraprofessional, support staff, students, volunteers, and retired), library trustees, library friends, and library vendors. We believe in the importance of libraries and we are committed to high standards of service. We also have many friends in the community and we care for each other, even those who live in other neighborhoods in the community, with whom we have little else in common and hardly ever see.

Like any sizeable community, OLA is made up of many neighborhoods. We have four divisions (LED, OASLMS, PLD, and UCD), 16 standing committees, four ad hoc committees, nine round tables, and at least one active discussion group. We tend to develop our closest ties with those in our neighborhood, but we know that many parts of the community offer services or experiences that can help us deal with problems, grow and develop, or just enjoy ourselves. We find that venturing beyond our neighborhoods benefits everyone.

One problem that many communities have but too often do little about is the homebound. They are people who are within the physical limits of the community but because of various limitations is not really a part of it. Good communities make an effort to reach out to these people and help them, because they know how important it is. The greater the number of active citizens, the stronger the community.

Another community group needing attention is newcomers. Not everyone has the outgoing personality or the experience to know where to go and how to get connected. Publications for newcomers, hospitality packets with introductory gifts and coupons, newcomers’ clubs, visits from neighbors, and special invitations to community activities are some of the ways that communities welcome newcomers and help them become part of the community more quickly.

I could go on and on with the community metaphor, but the point I want to make is quite simple. OLA has over 950 current members, but the number of librarians (not to mention friends and trustees) in Oklahoma is much greater than that. It is vitally important that each of us commit ourselves to reaching out a welcoming, helping hand. We must invite, involve, and befriend those among us who are not yet part of OLA or who belong but are not involved.

One good starting point is the new regional meetings. When one is planned in your area, make sure you go and that you encourage every librarian, trustee, and friend in the region to go. At both of this spring's regional meetings there were a number of librarians from the region who had not met others in their region. Get to know your
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BOARD ACTIONS
May 18, 2001
- Approved recommendations of the Archives Ad Hoc Committee and passage to appropriate committees for further action.
- The workshop “Inviting the Author: How to Do a Successful Author Visit” presented by CATS was approved for August 29.

July 20, 2001
- TSRT workshop, "Cataloging a la Carte" scheduled on October 12 at Stillwater Public Library, was approved.
- "Creating CyberSeniors" was approved to be repeated by the Refer-
ence Roundtable on October 2 at OSU-Tulsa.

GORDOT was approved for the workshop titled "History at Your Finger-tips" scheduled on September 11 at OSU.

A partnership between ALA and OLA for reduced membership fees for first time members of ALA and OLA was proposed by the Membership Committee. It was approved on a one year basis and will be re-evaluated.

Kay Boies’ ISP has given her difficulties recently. It was approved to authorize a change to a new provider.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Encyclo-Media XXI is Just “Around the Corner”

Encyclo-Media XXI, one of the largest and best-attended library and education conferences in our region, will be held in Oklahoma City at the Myriad Convention Center on September 27 & 28. The conference will open with a keynote by Clifton Taulbert, an Oklahoma author best known for his award-winning book, *When We Were Colored*. He has written *Eight Habits of the Heart* and has a brand-new picture book which is just hitting the bookstores, *Little Cliff’s First Day of School*.

Several other well-known authors and illustrators will be presenting at the conference, including Patricia Polacco, Neal Shusterman, Diane Bailey Beard, Kim Doner, Molly Levitte Griffis, George Edward Stanley, Mike Wimmer and Anna Myers. Programming is designed to be of interest to every librarian and every educator. There truly is “something for everyone” among the 125 breakout sessions. On Friday, the Territorial Tellers will have a lunch “Tales and Pails” story-telling round robin which is an alternative to the more-structured luncheons. The trade-show is not to be missed, with a display of materials which rivals those of national conferences.

To register: go to http://title3.sde.state.ok.us/encyclomedia. The registration fee is $15.00 and luncheon fees are additional. Parking arrangements have been made with a shuttle company to bring participants from a parking lot in the Bricktown area to the Myriad. Parking will be available in the Myriad Convention Center Garage, the Santa Fe Garage, as well as others. Maps will be available on the Web site as we near the conference. The conference hotel is The Oklahoma City Renaissance Hotel, 405-228-8000. Additional hotels are The Westin, 405-235-2780 and The Ramada Inn on N. Lincoln Boulevard, 800-741-2741.

Continuing Education credits and Professional Development Points will be given for attendance at the workshop. Call Jeanie Johnson at 405-521-2956 for additional information.

Technical Services Roundtable Workshop — October 12 at Stillwater Public Library

The workshop titled “Cataloging a la carte “ offers a variety of sessions designed to fill the appetite for knowledge & expertise in three areas of cataloging: subject analysis, classification, and description. *Sessions: subject analysis includes Sears, Library of Congress Subject Headings, and Hennepin; classification includes Dewey, Library of Congress, and Sudoc/OKDocs; and description includes video, websites, books, and audio.* Technical services librarians and staff from all types of libraries with different levels of expertise is welcomed. The cost is $45 for OLA members and $90 for nonmembers.

Oklahoma Literary Landmarks

On October 5, Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, FOLIO, will designate Broadway in Okemah as a Literary Landmark in honor of Woody Guthrie. It will be the first step in FOLIO’s official Centennial Celebration. Among the Literary Landmarks in the United States are the Thomas Jefferson building at the Library of Congress and the William Faulkner home in Oxford, Mississippi. The guidelines for Literary Landmark status come from Friends of Libraries USA, FOLUSA. FOLIO is a member of FOLUSA as local Oklahoma Friends are members of FOLIO.

The Oklahoma Literary Landmark Steering Committee consists of the Chair, Michael Wallis and members Bill Bernhardt, Dr. Bob Blackburn, Glenda Carlile, David Draper Clark, Eugene Earsom, Theresa Miller, Julia Brady Ratliff, Lynn McIntosh, Tom Terry, and Jim Tolbert. The committee selected Woody Guthrie and the community of Okemah in 2001 for his body of work and also because a Smithsonian Exhibit on Woody Guthrie will be at the Oklahoma Historical Society early in 2002. School children will be a part of the celebration in Woody Guthrie’s hometown. Guy Logsdon will sing Woody Guthrie’s Oklahoma folk songs and the children will join in. Michael Wallis will give an address on this Oklahoma folk hero. Each child will drink lemonade and eat an Oreo, a cookie created in 1912, the year that Guthrie was born. Following the designation of Woody Guthrie and the city of Okemah in 2001, FOLIO will name an Oklahoma Literary Landmark each year until the Oklahoma Centennial of 2007. One year, perhaps 2007, we hope to honor Will Rogers and the ranch at Oologah. It is possible that the Friends of California Libraries could honor the Rogers’ ranch outside Los Angeles at the same time. The following authors are also being considered: Angie Debo, Lynn Riggs, and Ralph Ellison.


Julia Ratliffe, FOLIO
Leading the Way

On June 6-7, 2001 new OLA officers, incoming and outgoing committee and divisions chairs, and our ever-faithful Executive Director Kay Boies traveled to the extreme southeast corner of the state to attend the 2001-2002 Leadership Conference in Broken Bow. The Broken Bow Public Library hosted the meeting and participants stayed at the scenic Lakeview Lodge in Beaver’s Bend State Resort. On behalf of association, we want to extend special thanks to Bee and David Norris (Friends of the Broken Bow Library), Donna Henry (Broken Bow Delphian Study Club), Doris Stevenson (Broken Bow Head Librarian), and everyone else in Broken Bow for taking us in and feeding us so well. They prove that hospitality is alive and well among the tall pine trees in Kiamichi Country!

The conference helped kick off this year’s theme, “Oklahoma Libraries: Where It’s @,” and gave the association’s leaders an opportunity to reflect on the direction OLA is taking and plan ahead for a successful and active year. The first day began with an informative and inspirational session on the nature and life of an association facilitated by Pat Smith, Executive Director of the Texas Library Association. Pat encouraged us to think what an association is and how an association can serve its different constituent groups. We came up with new ideas for how OLA can serve some of these different groups, some more serious than others (we decided we might hold off on the “Men of Oklahoma Libraries” beefcake calendar!). Among the suggestions discussed during that session were finding ways to encourage participation from library school students, staff, trustees and Friends, and other underserved populations.

Pat then had us take out our crystal balls and envision what OLA will look like in 2010 and what the association must do in order to remain successful in that brave new world. All of us agreed that OLA would need to find new ways in integrating technology into its mission and that other, non-“librarian” information professionals will need to find a place in the association. From there we began to discuss possibly including “Information” in the association’s name in addition to “Library” at some point in the future, a matter which will no doubt be debated in ours as well as all professional associations as it has already been debated in library schools during the previous decade. Kudos to Pat for giving us much food for thought and for helping us prepare for OLA’s future in the coming years!

Our first day ended with a delicious fish fry hosted by the Friends and an audience participation demonstration of Native American dancing led by Curtis Billy’s Choctaw dance group. Although we moved the festivities under shelter because of the threat of rain, the unusually cool, overcast weather actually made the evening quite comfortable (mind, this was
Leading the Way (cont. from p. 40)

the same time that tropical storm Alison was flooding East Texas and Houston to our south). We didn’t even suffer many mosquito bites, but we all brought our trusty cans of Off just in case!

Preparing for the 2001-2002 year and looking ahead to the next Annual Conference (at the Adam’s Mark Tulsa, April 17-19) occupied us on the second day of the conference. Incoming OLA President Wayne Hanway delivered his charges to the association in general and to the committees and divisions and introduced our new OLA logo and theme for the year. Julia Ratliff gave us an overview of FOLIO’s activities for the year and urged librarians to work with Friends to further their mutual goals. After Kay gave incoming chairs a rundown of the “nuts and bolts” of how to keep the organization going, incoming Program Committee Chair Anne Prestamo convened the first planning session for the year. Declaring this year to be the “Year of the Flamingo” (ok, inside joke: Anne has this thing for those big pink birds, and there were ways that librarians resemble them . . . ask her how!), the Program Committee began making a preliminary list of potential speakers and activities for the big event in Tulsa. In all, our time spent in Broken Bow was very productive, inspirational, and thoroughly enjoyable for all who attended. Now onward Oklahoma Flamingos and let’s make this a truly memorable year!

David Oberhelman
Affiliate Delegate report from ALA in San Francisco

As I attend meetings of Affiliate Delegate, I am reminded that Oklahoma libraries are OK! Yes, we all have issues in our areas, but rest assured we are not alone. The top three issues facing libraries across the United States are the same issues which challenge us:

1) Membership - how do we increase and keep membership?
2) Continuing Education - what do we offer to meet the growing needs of our profession?
3) Advocacy - what resolutions can we make to be an advocate?

The @your library campaign is one way we can promote our profession, continue to learn, and be an advocate. This five-year campaign, sponsored by ALA, is a chance for us to share the invaluable resources in our libraries, heighten awareness of our existence, and gain support. For more information contact the ALA Public Information Office (PIO) at 800/545-2433, ext. 5041/5044 or email pio@ala.org. Check out the PIO website at http://www.ala.org/pio/ for information on materials available. 3M has a great site to help in planning promotional campaigns. Check it out at http://www.3m.com/library/, click on @your library resources.

School librarians will definitely be interested in the new publication, The Information-Powered School, which is packed with hands-on tools that were tested in actual Library Power sites. It offers ideas for implementing theories laid out in Information Power. There are tips on forming an INFORMATION POWER team, flexible access and scheduling, mapping curricula, and leading the charge to integrate information literacy and technology.

Contact www.alastore.ala.org or call 800-545-2433, ext 7. The cost of the book is $31.50 ALA members, $35.00 non-members.

Don't Forget! The 10th National Conference of the American Association of School Librarians will be held in Indianapolis on November 14-18. Check out www.ala.org/aasl/indy for information on early bird registration and preliminary programs.

If there are issues you would like presented at the next Affiliate Assembly during the mid-winter conference in January, let me know so that I can submit them in a timely manner.

Buffy Edwards
Affiliate Delegate

The Children's Internet Protection Act

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) went into effect on April 20, 2001. These new laws place restrictions on the use of funding that is available through the Library Services and Technology Act, Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and on the Universal Service discount program known as the E-rate (Public Law 106-554). These restrictions take the form of requirements for Internet safety policies and technology which blocks or filters certain material from being accessed through the Internet.

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALA LEGAL ACTION AGAINST CIPA

WHEREAS the recently enacted Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) mandates that libraries and schools install and use filtering software on public Internet computers as a prerequisite for receiving federal funds, including LSTA AND E-rate funds; and

WHEREAS the recently enacted Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (NCIPA) mandates the adoption of a prescriptive Internet safety policy that undermines local control for recipients of E-rate discounts; and

WHEREAS the federal commission appointed to study child safety on the Internet concluded filters are not effective in blocking all content that some may find objectionable, but do block much useful and constitutionally protected information; and

WHEREAS libraries and librarians are partners with parents and work to help their communities become information literate by teaching them to access, evaluate and use information; and

WHEREAS the Oklahoma library community strongly believes that educating children to use the Internet wisely provides children their best protection, now and in the future; and

WHEREAS the Oklahoma Library Association strongly encourages local libraries to adopt and implement Internet use policies in the same way they develop other policies, based on the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS the Oklahoma Library Association supports the decisions of local library boards to set their own access policies to library materials, and emphatically opposes attempts by federal and state governments to set local policy; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association has resolved to challenge CIPA and NCIPA in federal courts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oklahoma Library Association endorses and supports this legal action by the American Library Association.

Did you know that...

Federal spending on libraries totals only 54 cents per person-less than two postage stamps.

A 1998 poll conducted by Gallup for the American Library Association found that nearly all respondents expect libraries to be needed in the future, despite the increased availability of information via computer.

Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work.

Seventy-six percent of public libraries now offer access to the Internet Americans spend five times as much money on home video games ($4.8 billion) as they do on school library materials for their children.

If the cost of gas had risen as fast as the cost of academic library materials since 1980, it would cost $5.69 a gallon to put fuel in your car.

—ALA Office for Research & Statistics
People and Places

The Metropolitan Library System has made some changes. Donna Morris has been named deputy director of MLS for support systems with Judy Walden taking over as deputy director for public services. Dana Morrow is now director of Outreach including children's services and services to seniors. The director of information technology is Anne Fischer and Kay Bauman is director of planning. Denyvetta Davis has been named the new director of branch services. Public relations director is now Scott Carter and Randy Wayland is the manager at the Southern Oaks Library.

Adriana Edwards-Johnson and the Government Documents staff at the University of Central Oklahoma received a Certificate of Commendation from the Depository Library Council for its Browse Topics project.

John D. Berry of OSU's Student Academic Services at the Graduate College was elected an ALA Councilor-at-large.

Barb Pfrehm, formerly school librarian in the Durant Public Schools, has joined the State Department of Education as a Coordinator in the Library Media/ITV department.

Bonnie McNeely has been hired as the Executive Director of the Max Chambers Library at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Tulsa City County Library has received an award from the Public Relations Society of America. Its highest honor, a first place Silver Link Award, was received for the library's 1998-99 annual report "A Tie That Binds."

Library Hotline reports that The University of Oklahoma is instituting a BS in Information Studies. The program is interdisciplinary and interdepartmental and will begin in Fall 2001. It will provide a broad-based, liberal arts and sciences approach to the study of information. The program is in direct response to expressions of need from Oklahoma's information industry.

Websites & Publications of Interest

The revised online version of Libraries & the Internet Toolkit can be found at http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/internettoolkit.html.

The Kids Count report on the well being of children in Oklahoma was released last July and can be found at http://www.odl.state.ok.us/kids/factbook/kidscopy2001. The report is sponsored by the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy. Copies have been distributed to Oklahoma public libraries. Other links to information on children-at-risk can be found at http://www.odl.state.ok.us/kids/factbook.

Steve Beleu of ODL and Adriana Edwards-Johnson of UCO collaborated and produced Forty-Six Important Federal Publications about Oklahoma-the 46th State. It is to be placed on the ODL website (www.odl.state.ok.us) soon, on both the home page and at the US Government Information page.

Judy Zarrow Kishner, TCCL and OLA

Judy Zarrow Kishner was presented the Oklahoma Library Association Special Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Conference in Oklahoma City on April 20. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual member of the Association who has demonstrated leadership and service to the profession above and beyond regular duties over a significant period of time.

Kishner, an invaluable supporter of the Tulsa City-County Library System, was first appointed to the Library Commission in 1984. She has served on every committee of the Commission, and has chaired the Budget & Finance, Personnel, Long-Range Planning, and Service & Collection committees. She chaired the Library Commission in 1990-91 and 1992-93 and served on the Executive Director Search Committee that brought Linda Saferite to Tulsa.

Kishner has served on the Tulsa Library Trust Board of Trustees since July 1993 and chaired the Trust in 1996 and 1997. Because she has vision, energy, impeccable judgment, common sense, and is skilled in her ability to work within groups to accomplish goals, her contributions to the Board have been outstanding.

Upon Kishner’s recommendation, her family endowed the Anne V. Zarrow Young Readers Award. This award includes a $5,000 cash prize to the honored author and brings a nationally known children’s author to Tulsa. The Friday night author presentation is the grand finale to the Library System’s Summer Reading Program and an inspiration to young readers who get to meet and hear their idol. Saturday morning the author presents the Young People’s Creative Writing Contest awards and encourages those young writers to persevere. Kishner sits on the author selection committee, actively reads books, and helps the committee make its selection.

With the Tulsa City-County Library’s recent focus on children, it has been a goal to establish an endowment for the replacement of worn and “loved” children’s books. Upon the death of her mother in January 2000, Kishner and her family made a challenge grant of $125,000 to make this dream a reality. The Anne V. Zarrow Library Books for Children Fund was established. Many of her family, friends and long time library supporters rallied so that this new fund met its challenge by year’s end. The new fund is in the newly formed Tulsa Community Foundation and gives the library broader philanthropic visibility. The fund now exceeds $260,000 and will soon begin spending the interest to buy early readers and picture books for libraries throughout Tulsa’s 23-library system.

Kishner gives with her time, her heart, and philanthropic dollars. Through her efforts, library service has improved in Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma.
All types of libraries are affected by distance learning these days, a fact made apparent by the attendance at the UCD/LED workshop, “Are You Being Served?” on May 15th. Representatives from academic, public, community college, and school libraries all made their way to OSU-Tulsa to find out more about the history of distance learning in Oklahoma, where it may be going in the future, and what others are doing to serve distance learners right now.

Dr. Phil Moss of the State Board of Regents was the opening speaker, addressing “Distance Education in Oklahoma.” His talk provided a broad overview of the history and possible futures of distance education in our state, starting with “talkback TV” in the 1970’s moving forward through the streaming video and two-way video broadcasts of today. In addition Dr. Moss discussed online learning -- where most distance education efforts are being focused right now -- and some of the larger policy and technological issues that face providers of online distance education.

Following Dr. Moss, there was a panel discussion on “Library Services for Serving Distance Learners” which offered four different pictures of the services offered through Oklahoma. The speakers were:

**Academic:** Tom Thorisch, OSU-Tulsa
**Public:** Charles Shannon, Tulsa City-County Library
**School:** Paula Walker, Weatherford Public Schools
**Community College:** Melissa Huffman, Rose State

Tom discussed OSU-Tulsa’s efforts to provide library services to their off-campus users. These include proxy server access to databases, as well as ensuring that all library instruction sessions include information on remote access and online research guidance. He then mentioned a few of the technologies and services that are currently under consideration.

Charles brought up the topic of home-schooling and TCCL’s support for that population. Their statistics are indicating that web visits are increasing, even as walk-ins are decreasing. Because of this, shuffling staffing assignments to reflect the changing service points is being considered in current and future planning.

Paula started by saying that 98% of school librarians would deny that distance education has affected them. But with the recent grants providing infrastructure to school districts, distance learning is starting to increase in K-12. Responsibility for coordination of programs and equipment is often falling to the librarians.

Melissa introduced us to Rose State’s “alternative delivery” services and the support for them. Rose State is very heavily involved in distance learning, and support for it is provided throughout the institution. This includes online enrollment, a required WebCT orientation for online classes, and course-specific online Learning Resource Center orientations.

Following lunch, we heard from Carol Fox of the...
Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL). She discussed the history of the Statewide Cooperative Database Project and provided some information about the current move to EBSCO for the statewide databases. After Carol answered questions about the transition between InfoTrac and EBSCO, we moved into some breakout sessions.

The first breakout sessions included "Creating Distance Learner Friendly Web Sites" mediated by Jon Wolz of Southwestern State University, "Free Web Resources for Distance Learners" mediated by Dr. Robert Swisher of University of Oklahoma, and the one I chose to attend, "Building Library Networks for Distance Education Programs," mediated by Sheila Johnson of OSU. The session was animated, as representatives from all types of libraries interacted with each other, answering and posing questions for the group. By the end of the session, we had two suggestions for further research and action:

• Creating a directory of libraries including the name of someone at each institution to be contacted when a student from that institution asks for help somewhere else. This suggestion stemmed from the difficulty encountered by librarians who are not familiar with the assignments students need assistance with. Having a contact name at the student's home institution might make it easier for the librarian to gain understanding of the information need, and possibly access services available to the student that can be reached remotely.

• Beginning discussion throughout the state about creating and sharing a 24/7-reference service staffed by librarians scattered across Oklahoma.

In the second breakout group, Jon Wolz and Dr. Robert Swisher offered their sessions again. In addition, Tom Thorisch mediated "Promoting Services to Faculty and Students," which I attended. Tom started out by presenting some of the methods being used at OSU-Tulsa as well as other methods and questions he has encountered while researching the topic. His number one rule: Put your contact information on everything! One innovative way he found to promote services to students is through peer pressure. Everyone in the room offered suggestions on how to promote their services to faculty; some were tried-and-true, while others are going to be tried for the first time this fall.

"Are You Being Served?" was a valuable experience for anyone who participates in distance learning. In addition to gaining an overarching view of library support for distance education in Oklahoma, it gave everyone an opportunity to network with their counterparts in many other libraries. Many thanks to UCO and LED for holding this workshop!

Welcome from OLA President Wayne Hanway (cont. from p. 37)

library neighbors and help OLA find ways to support these regions as active neighborhoods within the OLA community.

And just as communities do with the homebound, we must look for and work to remove the barriers that keep people from getting out in the community. Besides regional meetings, there are other things that we can do to remove the barriers of cost, distance, time, newness, lack of administrative support, lack of transportation, etc. that keep people from joining and participating. Look for them. Discuss them. Report them. Help to change them. Let's all pitch in so that no one can miss the sign that says, "Welcome to OLA --- Your Community."

Yours in community,
Wayne
Congratulations, Buffy!

Good news came all in one week to Buffy Edwards, school library media specialist in the Norman Public School System. During one week in April, Buffy received calls that she had been awarded the Oklahoma Education Association’s Instructional Excellence in Education Award - Teachers Teaching Teachers, as well as the American Association of School Librarians’ 2001 Information Technology Pathfinder Award.

The Oklahoma Education Association’s award recognizes individual OEA members for outstanding contributions in instructional excellence, both with students and colleagues. The award was presented during the annual OEA Awards Banquet held in conjunction with OEA Delegate Assembly on Friday, April 27, 2001.

The AASL Pathfinder Award recognizes and honors a school library media specialist demonstrating vision and leadership through the use of information technology to build lifelong learners. The award will be presented at the American Library Association Annual conference in San Francisco, on Monday, June 18th, 2001 during the AASL Awards Brunch.

Anyone who has attended OLA, Encyclo-Media, or other professional workshops will recognize Buffy. She has been very generous with her time and knowledge in helping to teach others. One of the programs highlighted in applying for the awards was the “Compute this @ your library.” Parents and grandparents from Edward’s school community were invited to learn more about computer basics during a six-week course. Edwards also serves on OLA committees as well as being the AASL Affiliate Assembly Delegate for OASLMS.

Sybil Connolly

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AL HARRIS LIBRARY DAY

April 25 was a special day for the Al Harris Library at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Governor Frank Keating proclaimed the day “Al Harris Library Day” in the State of Oklahoma in recognition of the library’s being an official federal and state depository for government publications. The Al Harris Library became an official federal depository on July 24, 1958, and an Oklahoma depository on July 1, 1994. The Al Harris Library was also selected for the honor in recognition of Southwestern celebrating its Centennial in 2001.

Steve Beleu, director of the U.S. Government Information Division at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, and Vicki Sullivan, administrator of Government Information at the ODL, were on the SWOSU campus to present the proclamation.

Others at the presentation were Sheila Hoke, retired Library Director; Linda Pye, Interim Library Director; T.J. Williams, Documents Technician; Sara Harris, wife of former Dr. Al Harris, President of Southwestern from 1960-75; SWOSU President Joe Anna Hibler; and Carolyn Torrence, Reference Librarian.

Linda Pye-SWOSU

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OU Professor Wins ALA Award for Distinguished Service in Library Education

Lotsee Patterson, professor of library and information sciences in the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences, has been named the 2001 recipient of the American Library Association Beta Phi Mu Award. Sponsored by the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society, the award, along with $500 and a citation, is presented annually to a library school faculty member for distinguished service in library education. The award was presented to Patterson June 19 during the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

Patterson, a member of the OU faculty for 10 years, focuses her research on library and information services and resources for Native American tribes. She has travelled throughout the United States as a volunteer consultant to help Native Americans establish new tribal libraries. She also has written numerous books and articles and given conference presentations on the importance and value of tribal libraries.

"Dr. Patterson was selected to receive the 2001 Beta Phi Mu Award for being the foremost proponent of Native American libraries through training programs, for securing funding through the Library Services and Construction Act, for co-chairing the second Native American pre-conference to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and for consulting with tribal libraries," said Bill Wilson, chair of the Beta Phi Mu Award jury. "Dr. Patterson is one of the founders of the American Indian Library Association and was its president from 1981 to 1984."

Patterson is an active member of ALA, serving on numerous committees and as a member of the ALA Council, the governing body of the American Library Association. She also is a member of the American Association of School Librarians and the Library Administration and Management Association. She has won several awards for her work in library education, including the ALA Equality Award in 1994 for outstanding contributions in the promotion of equality in the library profession and the Silver Award from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science in 1996 for her sustained contributions in the field.

Patterson, a native of Apache, graduated with her bachelor’s degree in 1959 from the Oklahoma College for Women. She later earned both her master’s degree in library science and her doctoral degree in educational technology from OU.

OU Public Affairs
ALA in San Francisco was a huge success, so successful, in fact, that it may be the best or second-best attended ALA annual conference in history. From the vendors' perspective, it was even more successful. The number of vendors compared to the previous annual conference in Chicago was up by nearly 20 percent, clearly a record. One only had to visit the exhibits briefly to see how huge they have become.

This conference, perhaps more than most in the last several years, had its ups and its downs. On the upside, besides record attendance, there were some outstanding programs. Former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich opened the first general session with an excellent speech amusing the crowd by relating that he “did not have the personality to become an accountant” so he became an economist. Three Dog Night entertained ALA’s aging baby boomers on Saturday night. (I tried to give away a couple of tickets to some younger colleagues who were not in the least interested!) Robert Putnam, author of Bowling Alone: the Collapse and Revival of American Community was the featured speaker at the well-attended President's Program. He was extraordinarily impressed by the community involvement and service commitment of the librarians in attendance. Another program “highlight” was Nicholson Baker’s passionate and entertaining event sponsored by the Social Responsibilities Round Table. Baker, you probably know, is the author of Double Bind: Libraries and the Assault on Paper, a controversial criticism of library preservation programs. He got a lot of people in attendance to think about our sacred cows and stimulated a vigorous discussion.

On the downside was the controversy over the conference hotel's ongoing labor dispute with some of its local restaurant employees. While there was not a strike as such, there were demonstrations in front of the Marriott and a number of prominent ALA members refused to attend any event at the hotel. Mitch Freedman, the newly elected President-elect refused to attend the President's inaugural banquet because of the dispute. Three Dog Night's concert was moved to the Hilton and numerous other events in the Marriott were moved or cancelled. The Coretta Scott King breakfast, for instance, was cancelled, almost at the last minute because Mrs. King did not think it appropriate for it to be held in the Marriott. Several prominent librarians joined the union demonstrators on occasion.

Needless to say, Council vigorously debated the Marriott situation and a period of intense questioning of William Gordon, the Executive Director, elicited details about ALA’s contracts with hotels and the potential costs of canceling events on short notice. ALA, for example, has committed to meeting sites until 2012! The thorny issue is that ALA’s standard contract includes a strike clause but does not mention the Association’s position in case of a labor dispute. Several motions were introduced, almost all of which had long term implications for the organization’s plans and costs so they were referred to the appropriate committees for further analysis. There was a fair amount of rancor on the part of some Councilors that has continued passionately on the Councilors’ listserv. In the end, ALA leaders and administrators have to balance social conscience with fiscal responsibility and it is not always an easy task.

Council addressed a number of other issues besides the labor dispute at the Marriott. We heard a report on the continuing discussions regarding changing the process by which ALA handles accreditation of library schools. There were extensive debates about the cause of low attendance at membership meetings and how to improve it. Council received a recommendation on the privatization of publicly funded libraries. After lengthy discussion we adopted a policy that "ALA affirms that publicly funded libraries should remain accountable to the publics they serve. Therefore, the ALA opposes the shifting of the authority to determine policy from the public to the private, for-profit, sector." It was also reported to Council that ALA is progressing toward adopting a voluntary postmasters certification program. All these issues have been hot topics in Council for several years.

It has been my pleasure to represent Oklahoma to the ALA Council for a year now. As my predecessors can attest, it is an interesting experience. Council sometimes reminds me of the Faculty Senate meetings that I have attended over the years. An enormous amount of time and intellectual energy is devoted to some issues, many of which seem to the casual observer as routine or not of the highest importance. Everyone wants to wordsmith resolutions and recommendations from the floor. Then, time runs out, the agenda is still lengthy, the weightier earth-shattering issues are rushed through, commitments are made to large expenditures of money without thorough discussion, and in the end the quorum walks out the door before business is concluded thus leaving many important issues unresolved. As other observers before me have commented, democracy is not always a pretty thing to watch but it is the best form of governance we have.

Ed Johnson
The Papers of Will Rogers, Volume Three: From Vaudeville to Broadway, September 1908-August 1915
EDITED BY Arthur Frank Wertheim and Barbara Bair

This third volume of The Papers of Will Rogers documents the evolution of Rogers's vaudeville career as well as the newlywed life of Will and Betty Blake Rogers and the birth of their children. During these years, the Rogerses moved to New York City, and after many years of performing with Buck McKee and horse Teddy, Rogers began a solo act in vaudeville as a talking, roping cowboy. He appeared on the same playbill with such performers as Fred Stone, Eddie Cantor, and Houdini, and his stage career expanded to include an appearance in the Broadway musical comedy, The Wall Street Girl. Volume Three ends with Rogers's successful transition from vaudeville to Broadway, on the brink of his breakthrough as a star of the Ziegfeld Follies.

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BY Louise S. Robbins

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