Your OLA Leaders in Retreat

Your new Oklahoma Library Association leadership group got together for a two-day training session June 6 and 7 at the beautiful Noble Research Center in Ardmore. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the luxurious facilities (even had a Chocolatier magazine in my room) and simply marvelous food. Special thanks to Patrick Brennen, librarian at the Noble Foundation Research Center Library, for organizing the event.

Thursday began with a re-presentation of College and University Libraries’ workshop on workshops. Ginny Dietrich from Oklahoma Department of Libraries spoke about generating ideas from the needs of the community. She stressed working as a group to develop ideas, and suggested using chat lines as idea-generating groups. Carolyn Warmann from OSU discussed ways to plan and present a successful workshop and suggested inviting co-sponsors and sharing duties, utilizing the Continuing Education Consultant from OLA, considering the composition of the committee to plan the workshop, the role of the chair, how the work should be arranged (time frames, speakers, facilities and, most important-- food! (It had better be good). Scott Carter, public relations director for the Metropolitan Library System, got the message across about marketing and advertising, giving us many ideas on how to market (tv spots, working with media, hand outs, etc.) Jane Carvajal then spoke about the importance of evaluating the workshop and how this will lead to improved workshops in the future. She stressed considering different types of evaluating tools (interviewing, telephone follow-ups, journals, observation, questionnaires, etc.) and spoke about examining your selected method of evaluation. Is it going to give you timely information; what are the advantages/ drawbacks of your method, etc?

After a marvelous lunch we returned to the conference room to watch a video about (food again) – FISH!!! The Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle, which has a rather innovative method of generating interest and sales by a sort of fish-football technique (you had to be there), was the centerpiece of a discussion on how to create interest in OLA. The fish place generated interest by involving the customers in their hilarious fish-passing technique, keeping comedy high and interest strong. People consequently buy more fish!! In small groups, we tried to relate those messages to OLA, to how we can generate interest in our organization. We were encouraged to bring our sense of humor to meetings and workshops, to be focused on our public, and to involve all in OLA.

Everyone got together for cocktails and a great dinner that night, and Friday morning we started in again.

Our morning speaker was Dr. Nancy O’Brien from the Oklahoma Professional Development Centers. Nancy kept interest up and used comedy to relax everyone and get them thinking about leadership and what it means in committee work. She stressed the leadership qualities of giving purpose and direction to a group, developing trust and openness, encouraging a sense of optimism when the group gets stuck on a problem, and getting results through a variety of methods, including encouraging ALL members of the group to participate. We learned methods of getting the ball rolling, keeping the ball rolling, encouraging participation and keeping the group on track. Participants were divided into groups. We learned about group dynamics and how a leader can keep the group moving towards an end, by solving conflicts within the group and dealing with certain types of non-participants.

Our afternoon session on Friday focused on how to provide legislative leadership. Anne Masters, Susan McCvey, Kay Bauman, Kathryn Lewis and Lynn McIntosh spoke about focusing the legislative activities of OLA. We learned to know who’s who in the state government, who our representatives are. We learned about Legislative Day and what we can do, speaking with our representatives and getting to know them before a crisis occurs. We learned to use such strategies as inviting legislators to our libraries for photo ops and on awards days, to offer commendations for actions supporting libraries, and to approach new legislators soon after their election.

In the second half of the session Senator Johnnie Crutchfield of District 14 spoke to us about the importance of building personal relationships with legislators, both formal and informal. He also noted that with the new Term Limit Law in Oklahoma, there will be many new, relatively inexperienced, members of the State Legislature, whom you will need to get to know. Be careful with your votes!

Kathryn Lewis, OLA President, ended the conference by encouraging us to use information we learned in the conference to help focus our committees and work towards a common goal for OLA. We all left with a recharged enthusiasm for OLA which we will hopefully pass on to all our committee members and to potential members of OLA.

Barbara Miller & Helen Clements
Still Retreating...

If setting, substance, and social interaction are the ingredients for a successful conference, OLA's Leadership Retreat 2002 was a gourmet meal. The dining analogy is particularly apt, given the array of delicious foods, the opportunity to relax and pamper our senses at the beautiful Noble Foundation Conference Center, the workshops which provided fuel for the work of OLA’s divisions, committees, and roundtables for the coming year, and time spent “breaking bread” with those of common interest.

Patrick Brennen, Librarian for the Noble Foundation Research Center Library, was our host for our two-day “banquet”, and deserves special accolades for making arrangements for our accommodations. More than one participant wished for an extended stay and everyone appreciated the Noble Foundation’s gracious hospitality.

One measure of a meal is the nutrition it provides. Our retreat “diet” consisted of workshops with perfectly balanced nutrients: from workshop planning and management, to interest generating and team building, to effective leadership, to cooperative processing, to working with legislators. Presenters Ginny Dietrich, Carolyn Warmann, Scott Carter, Jane Carvajal, Dr. Nancy O’Brian, Anne Masters, Susan McVey, Kay Bauman, Kathryn Lewis, Lynn McIntosh, and Senator Johnnie Crutchfield brought just the right mix of “vitamins and minerals” to the table. Participants received much more than the “yearly minimum requirement” of information and guidance for the coming year.

Good meals deserve good company and conversation and opportunities abounded for participants to catch up on friendships, share tips, gossip and recipes, and even discuss library business!

All of us who attended the Leadership Retreat left feeling well fed, well rested, and well-prepared for planning, promoting, and organizing the many events and services of OLA for the coming year.

Julia Harmon
Kathryn’s Welcome

The past year has been an exciting and promising one for me. I took on several new roles. I accepted a new position with my school district, I became a college mom, and embarked on a new adventure as your President-elect.

I recently have spent a lot of time reflecting on why I became a librarian, and visioning, if you will, for the future. I’ve visited with many of you at the OLA conference and throughout the year at meetings and workshops about what made you want to part of the library profession. The commonality of those conversations staggered me.

Executive Board Actions

May 17, 2002
- Approved appointment of Pauline Rodriguez and Sharon Saul to represent OLA at the ALA advocacy workshop and attend training on advocating for libraries.
- LED proposed fee waiver/reduction for the Mini-Web Conference speakers. Board decision was for speakers to pay for attending date they were not presenting.
- Buffy Edwards, Ellen Lack and Jayme Seat of OASLMS proposed a poster campaign featuring prominent OK adults to promote reading to youth. Board approved the concept.
- Board approved a position statement (with editorial changes) regarding the impact of SB17 on public library systems.
- Kay Boies, Executive Director, was given permission to purchase a new computer.

July 19, 2002
- “Understanding Poverty” SRRT’s workshop, was approved by the board.
- SSRT’s workshop, “Lighten Up! How to Make Work Fun” was approved.
- The ad hoc Navigating the Information Future and the Centennial Committees were approved to continue.
- A new ad hoc committee was created on Leadership Training with Rachel Butler as chair. This committee will encourage leadership training particularly in outlying areas.
- Discussion of one-day conference registration was conducted. For various reasons, the board decided OLA would not offer a one-day registration fee for the annual conference.
- The board agreed to produce a resolution of appreciation for Rhonda of Rhonda’s Catering in Ardmore. Her company has catered numerous OLA functions and she has suffered a stroke.

To paraphrase your words:
- You are and want to be seekers and providers of information;
- You are and want to be stakeholders in and caretakers of your own communities, be it, the academic community, the school community, the research, medical, or museum community or the whole community;
- You are and want to be advocates and instillers of the joy of reading;

and
- You are and want to be champions of intellectual freedom.

Since our last conference, in one instant, the lives of all Americans changed profoundly. On September 12th last year, the day after 9/11, I drove to work very early because I wanted to start my day watching the sunrise over the field across from my office. The day was beautiful. The ball of fire coming over the horizon was magnificent. As I sat in my car and watched that spectacular sight, it brought home to me the fact that the role we play in our free society, our democracy, is paramount. So whether you are active in a library as a staff member, a friend of libraries or a trustee, I invite you to journey with me through the next year to strengthen Oklahoma libraries, to strengthen librarianship and to strengthen the Oklahoma Library Association.

When I look at my fellow OLA colleagues, I am awed by the power, the generosity and the goodness of the human spirit, if you will, our library spirit.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Kathryn Lewis

Oklahoma Library Association's Support Staff Roundtable Presents
Lighten Up! How to Make Work Fun!

Thursday, October 3, 2002
Stillwater Public Library
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Professional Motivator Lynn Baker Presents

"21 Ways to Make Work Fun!"

Also enjoy presentations by
Buffy Edwards with "Lighten Up" and
"Work Diversions" with Lori Radiff & Sammie Seeley

$40 SSRT members or $80 Nonmembers
Register with Kay Boies (405) 348-0506
or kboies@coxinet.net
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**MPLA Representative**
Ethics, a Top Priority for Trustees

Library trustees are frequently faced with ethical dilemmas. Is terminating a middle-aged library director age discrimination? Is granting a printing contract to a board member’s brother-in-law ethical? Should the board accept funds from a source, with whom the board does not agree philosophically? Should board members have library keys or credit cards? Is redirecting fine funds to a board member’s pet project that is not a set library policy ethical? Should library trustees get free personal copies on the library photocopier? Do trustees deserve extras, since after all “we’re volunteers?”

Some of these questions are black and white. They are clearly a conflict of interest or ethically wrong. Some of them are just what they should be, ethical questions that trustees should think about in the framework of their library. Each library has its own frame of reference (number of staff, variety of programs and services to fit community needs, size of building, board meeting time, and community to be served).

The answer is to deliberate diligently about your trustee responsibility and consider the library’s policy and code of ethics under which you operate. Other types of boards have confronted ethicial dilemmas by establishing an advisory ethics panel (a school board) or hiring a CEO (Corporate Ethics Officer). Issues of values and ethics come into question as trustees make decisions on personnel, finance and policy. Some are gray areas, and some are outright misdeeds that should be questioned. These ethical dilemmas are complex and often involve emotional responses, according to Sharon Anderson and Timothy Davies.¹

A policy governance model, developed for nonprofit boards by John Carver and Miriam Carver², directs a board to concentrate its energy on decisions in the following policy categories:

- “Ends” policies answer questions about the library’s operations. What good will be produced for which people and at what cost?
- Executive limitations policies provide parameters within which the library director is permitted to operate.
- Governance process policies state in writing the rules that the board has set for itself and how it has agreed to govern its relationships with outside interests.
- Board-staff linkage policies spell out the way in which the board will delegate authority to the director and monitor his/her performance.

Carvers’ model includes these tips:²
- Board members should represent their entire constituencies, not just one or two groups. Each board member is responsible for representing all the people in the district.
- Board members should be prepared to participate responsibly; that is, to agree and disagree with the discussion at hand as their values dictate. It is not acceptable to hold strong opinions and not voice them. Board members are expected to operate with integrity and veracity.
- Board members should accept the group’s decision, even when it is counter to an individual member’s own judgment. Individual trustees hold no legal authority in their own right, only that of the board as a whole.

Anderson and Davies¹ propose this decision-making model for ethical dilemmas.

- Step 1. Identifying the ethical dilemma.
- Step 2. Gathering facts, self-monitoring and consulting.
- Step 3. Asking important questions, revolving around feelings, additional information, political concerns, and the ethics code.
- Step 4. Creating alternate courses of action.
- Step 5. Evaluating the alternatives.
- Step 6. Implementing the course of action and moral follow-through (developing the sequence of necessary) and virtue ethics (focusing on the individual’s character development).

Has your board developed and adopted an ethics statement? Below is the “Ethics Statement for Public Library Trustees,” developed by the ALTA-PLA Common Concerns Committee and adopted by many library boards.

**Ethics Statement for Public Library Trustees**

- Trustees must promote a high level of library service while observing ethical standards.
- Trustees must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the institution.
- It is incumbent upon any trustee to disqualify himself or herself immediately whenever the appearance of a conflict of interest exists.
- Trustees must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the board, even if they personally disagree.
- A trustee must respect the confidential nature of library business while being aware of and in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.
- Trustees must be prepared to support the fullest the efforts of librarians in resisting censorship of library materials by groups or individuals.
- Trustees who accept appointment to the library board are expected to perform all of the functions of library trustees.

Two new books are highly recommended — *The Good, the Bad and the Difference: How to Tell the Right from Wrong in Everyday Situations* by Randy Cohen, New York Times columnist, (Doubleday, 2002) and *The Good, the Bad & Your Business: Choosing Right When Ethical Dilemmas Pull You Apart* by Jeffrey Seglin, professor at Emerson College (Wiley, 2000).

Looking at a Board’s ethics and values before an ethical dilemma arises, will help the board deal with the situation in a rational manner when needed.


Sharon Saulmon
How Ready Are Libraries for Oklahoma's Centennial?

Both the state of Oklahoma and OLA will be 100 years old in 2007!! Are you ready for a rush of students asking for the pattern for making a stat bonnet? Oil industry history? Populist voting patterns in the 1920s compared to voting in the 1990s? Is your library ready to support the celebrations?

To get a jump start on this, the OLA Centennial Ad Hoc Committee was charged in July 2001 with developing a plan to help libraries be highly visible in state Centennial, PLUS to come up with plans for celebrating OLA's Centennial. With lots of preliminary ideas swirling about, we decided to survey libraries to determine what resources are already available, needs in preparing for Centennial, examples of partnering, and to invite interesting stories.

In February, surveys were mailed to Oklahoma academic, public & special library directors. 129 surveys were returned—88 from public libraries, reflecting the proportions mailed out—but also ones such as the OKC zoo library, a county law library, and small college libraries. Then in April 2002 1800 surveys sent to school librarians—those results are not included here.

Here are some preliminary results.

Libraries are partnering with other organizations, most popular schools (80), followed by civic clubs (55) and museums (37). Most popular “partnering” activities have been group visits to libraries (79) and special programs (70).

We asked about resources already available. Most librarians felt their collections of history and cultural materials were adequate to meet the needs of their users—especially for Oklahoma history and American Indian materials. Materials on ethnic groups other than American Indian were least able to meet user needs.

Libraries have a striking range of materials on local history and culture—from land records, Indian tribal language books to yearbooks. Notably there are many different town and county history books and newspaper columns in collections. One thing was clear—libraries across the state have many ephemeral materials. These include items of local history that were never published and all kinds of things that might not have wide appeal but are valuable. County historical societies also have treasures both physical and human.

What about human resources to go with the physical resources? Many people were identified as experts about local history or as particularly knowledgeable about the library’s history holdings. We need to make an effort to learn from these experts while they are with us. Who among us is doing oral histories? Case in point: my community college was started in the mid-1970s and was proudly experimental in many ways. A big wave of retirement is starting. Faculty and staff who were there at the beginning are retiring and with them goes their knowledge and stories.

It often comes down to money. The Centennial survey asked “what would most help you improve your library’s local history resources? The items ranked 1 or 2 were combined as “High,” 3 or 4 as “Med.,” etc. for this table.

Libraries are doing great things and there is never too much good PR! Oklahoma libraries are actively involved in

- building or remodeling projects
- creating or re-doing web pages
- reading / discussion programs
- new or updated automation systems
- upgrading equipment & materials
- helping establish additional libraries
- providing English as a Second Language & literacy programs
- ongoing newspaper columns

There are some wonderful stories, such as Babette the Alien canvassing local businesses in Beaver in support of summer reading and causing a “library” husband and his work crew to jump up during lunch and leave to avoid being seen with the crazy library people. A few other “good stories”...

“Can’t tell the best stories—people involved still alive.” Great time hosting OLA activity in the Panhandle. “Every day we’re involved in patient care decisions, sometimes even providing the

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information that saves a patient’s life”

Where are we now?

Libraries are just beginning to talk about Centennial activities. OLA is starting to plan ways to help libraries meet the upcoming demand for history materials of all kinds.

Developing ideas include:
- Level-appropriate bits on Oklahoma history
- Doing an updated history of Oklahoma libraries (since 1937!)
- Reprinting some popular titles
- Web pages with featured library of the month, suggested celebrations, lists of presenters, OLA award winners and officers, etc.
- Oklahoma Library Association Hall of Fame
- Workshops on what libraries should be keeping in the way of local history
- Regional gatherings for community leaders & librarians to discuss Oklahoma Centennial ideas

We need to think big. We need to share ideas. We need to link with other groups at all levels. What now?!

Rachel Butler & Wiliita Larrison
CELEBRATING THE WEB!

As keynote speaker, Dr. Bob Swisher from OUSLIS got us fired up with his discussion of the structure and process of the Internet:

- how large it is estimated to be;
- delineating some of the services it is replacing, such as snail mail;
- the fact that search engines now cover only about 16% of the indexable web and are more likely to access those with the most links to them;
- in which languages the web may be surfed, English being the most common;
- only approximately 1.5% of the web contains pornographic material, while 83% contains commercial content, and the remaining 6% is for education and research;
- "The simple HTML "keywords" and "description" metadata tags are only used on the homepages of 34% of sites. Only 0.3% of sites use the Dublin Core metadata standard" (Lawrence & Giles, 1999);
- usage of the web extends to all facets of our lives;
- some of the changes involve the inclusion of media, IP telephony, IP video conferencing, etc.

Dr. Swisher then turned our attention to the trends and issues particularly as it affects libraries:

- For some, the Web doesn't need to be used in the library;
- search engines and directory services don't do it all;
- one-way > asynchronous > synchronous;
- users don't know how to access the worth of the web site and how do libraries build organizational support to users needs?

Dr. Swisher then moderated a panel discussion by Terri Street, Norman Public Schools; Jane Carvajal, consultant; Suanne Wymer, Tulsa City-County Library, and Anne Prestamo, OSU on the technological future of libraries. The main theme of both Jane and Terri was training. They emphasized that the biggest mistake libraries make is not making time/allowing staff to attend training. Jane also provided a list of very useful sites including (www.skokie.lib.il.us/info/readyreal/education/html) which provides online practice examinations for the SAT, ACT, ASVAB, GED, and Civil Service careers. Terri discussed cooperative planning with teachers and teaching evaluation skills. Suanne discussed the role of, and problems for, librarians in public libraries. Anne talked about http://www.ts.mivu.org which has "illuminating articles that will assist educators as they face the challenge of integrating information technology tools into teaching and into managing educational organizations." She also talked about metadata, that online searching is less about "command" line searching, and more like Google, wireless networks: "libraries becoming wireless islands of connectivity", and security issues.

Robin Leech of OSU-Tulsa, led the breakout session on Electronic Collections. Her two main topics were electronic journals and electronic books, especially netLibrary. There are four basic types of systems: high mainten-ance html model, low maintenance html model, catalog model (with MARC records), and the database driven model. OSU-Tulsa's library created their own database-driven ejournal list patterned after one by Anne Prestamo. Robin had looked at several com-mercially-available systems, but found Anne's to be the best match to their purposes. She did state that Serials Solution was good, but did not yet have the capability to search journal titles by subject. The ebooks, and cataloging were purchased from netLibrary, and bulk loaded into the OPAC. Patrons have access to them from the Library's home page as well as, from the netLibrary site.

Browsers: best kept secrets, presented by Anna Moore of the Pioneer Library System, delineated the difference of capabilities between Internet Explorer and Netscape; and of Opera. She also explained things such as toolbars, offline viewing, privacy, fun tips, Kiosk mode, setting default browser, frankenbrowsers, extra programming, and how to "make" it your browser.

The Vice-Chancellor for Information Technology and Telecommunications, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Kurt Snodgrass did a very fast presentation on OneNet and addressed security and privacy issues affecting libraries connected to it. Some of his points were:

- OneNet's unique public/private partnership;
- OneNet is a major test-bed for future technologies;
- OneNet doesn't scan or monitor activities or communications unless their Abuse Team is notified;
- OneNet's history, organization, and utilization;
- OneNet services;
- OneNet's goals;
- The Abilene Project and Internet2;
- Privacy and security issues, protections, and sources;
- Impact on, and responsibility of libraries;
- Peer to peer (P2P) applications;
- Digital millennium copyright act;
- Network address translation (NAT)

Anna Moore of Pioneer Library System and Charles Brooks of the University of Tulsa were the presenters for the session on Twenty-first century skills. Anna spoke about when "predicting" the future, to speak in fairly general terms instead of specifics such as, "personal robots would be in the home in 2001". Her predictions were that libraries would be doing many of the same traditional services such as: finding and evaluating print and digital information, creating navigational tools, educating users, and connecting children and technology. She also discussed: creating the virtual library today, ebooks, linked databases, 24/7 reference, other online services (book catalog, account tracking, etc.), new visions, digital preservation/ archives, business environment of libraries, virtual appeal, buildings design, and budgets/funding. Charles provided a list of resources such as:

- Web4Lib electronic discussion (http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Web4Lib) (http://www.w3schools.com)
- Web developers virtual library (http://wdvl.internet.com)
- the Barebones guide to HTML (http://webbach.com/barebones/barebone.html)
- XHTML overview (http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/00/05/ index2a.html)

Others covered such topics as: language and scripts, interactivity with databases, graphics, colors, and style sheets.

Wireless networks was presented by Scottie Seger from Bishop McGuinness High School, and Robert Baca from Cameron University. They discussed the technologies of wireless from 1980 when credit cards and personal computers became common to the present. They discussed the problems, improvements, basic system, standards, and benefits of going wireless.

The "Closing note" by Dr. Phil Moss, of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education was on Oklahoma libraries and Internet2: new resources, new connections. He began by discussing the Abilene Project and SEGP (Sponsored education group participants). Other topics of his presentation included application attributes, digital video application, grid projects,middleware, and digital libraries.

BJ Vinson
A Family Place @ the Library

In October of 2001, six Metropolitan Library System staff traveled to Centerreach, New York to attend a three-day training so MLS could become the first library in Oklahoma to participate in the Family Place Project.

**Just what is the Family Place Project?**

The Family Place Project is a major national initiative to promote family-centered services in public libraries. It is modeled after a project developed at the Middle Country Library in Long Island, New York and Libraries for the Future. The public library as a "Family Place" takes a holistic and developmentally-informed approach to services in which libraries become centers of family support, life-long learning, emergent literacy and family information literacy.

Traditionally, public library service to children has focused on children ages 4 years and above. But in the past decade, brain research has taught us that children begin developing emergent literacy skills as early as birth. In response to this as well as new family structures, cultural diversity and economic issues, the Family Place Library broadens the range of children's services to include infant, toddler and parent services.

The core program of the Family Place Library service philosophy is the "Parent Child" workshop. This is not actually a workshop in the formal sense but is a five-week program where parents spend time with their children ages 1 to 3, interact with other parents and children, meet community resource professionals and learn about local resources.

If you visited one of these workshops you wouldn't realize the learning that is taking place. First, the room is alive with toddlers and parents in all kinds of activities. Second, there are no chairs, so parents are down on the floor with their children. In one corner, a library staff member guides a parent and child in an art activity. To the right, a parent and child put together a puzzle or read a book together. In another corner, three children play with a toy kitchen range while two mothers converse with a child development specialist from a local agency. Toddlers play with toys, listen to tapes and look at books, oblivious to your presence.

**But what is actually happening here?**

Parents are gaining the following benefits: knowledge of library services and materials; awareness of community agencies and resources available for advice and support; reduced sense of isolation; increased knowledge of their child's development, needs and abilities; increased social and verbal interaction between parent and child; support in the "parent as teacher" role; and encouragement to read aloud to their children early and often.

Children are gaining the following benefits: Social and verbal interaction with other children; and increased attention span and readiness to read as a result of their parents reading to them, playing with them in a stimulating way and doing creative activities with them.

The Family Place Library is not just the Parent Child Workshop. The Family Place is an attitude. It is a shift in priorities toward family centered services and programs within the library. It promotes literacy and focuses on services to families, with a particular emphasis on early childhood programs. These goals are achieved through Family Place's six core elements: 1) Programming, 2) Environment, 3) Collections, 4) Staff Development, 5) Coalition Building and, 6) Outreach. The Metropolitan Library System began offering Parent Child workshops in March at the Midwest City Library and in April at the Edmond Library. Next fall, the Ralph Ellison Library and the Capitol Hill Library will begin offering the Parent Child workshops Plans are for additional libraries to provide this core program of the Family Place Project each spring and fall. In preparation for becoming a Family Place Library system, the System is providing child development training for librarians and other staff.

The system has increased purchases of parenting and family-related library materials and increased networking with community organizations. Children's spaces in libraries will be developed with an increased awareness and knowledge of children's and family needs. Metropolitan Library System plans to be a model for the Family Place Library in Oklahoma.

Judy Walder-MLS

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**Passages**

Thomas W. Biggs, a librarian at the University of Tulsa, passed away on May 29, 2002. He had been in poor health for some time, but had been active in OLA during the mid to late '90s, serving on several committees.

Barbara (Rather) Schaefer died from cancer on July 1, 2002. Barbara, a school librarian at Union Public Schools, was a very active OLA member in the '80s including serving as OASLMS chair and on the Legislative Committee.
OU Athletics Department, University Libraries Create Historic Partnership

To promote reading and improve academic achievement, the University of Oklahoma's Athletics Department and University Libraries have formed a new partnership that is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States. Athletics will assist the Libraries in establishing a $1 million endowment by making a leadership gift of $250,000 toward the endowment, using royalties derived from the sale of athletics merchandise.

OU President David Boren said, "This unique partnership between the Athletics Department and the University Libraries symbolizes the shared commitment to excellence of our entire university family. It underlines our goal of encouraging our student athletes to fully participate in the academic life of the institution, which is the central focus of the university experience."

To begin the venture, the two entities are co-presenting the 2nd Annual Books That Inspire Exhibit on the OU campus. The exhibit will feature 52 books recommended by OU faculty, coaches and staff. Athletics department representatives submitting books included athletics director Joe Castiglione, baseball coach Larry Cochell, women's basketball coach Sherri Coale, men's basketball coach Kelvin Sampson, football coach Bob Stoops, women's golf coach Carol Ludvigson and wrestling coach Jack Spates. "The Athletics Department views this exhibit as an opportunity to create a strong and enduring partnership with the university's academic sector," Castiglione said. "By choosing the University Libraries, which is central to the university's mission, the Athletics Department's contribution will benefit students and faculty of all disciplines."

Sul H. Lee, Dean of University Libraries, said, "Success in sports has been a rewarding goal of the University of Oklahoma for many years. I am confident that the Athletics Department will be equally successful in its effort to promote reading and academic success. I am proud to have the OU Athletics Department join the University of Oklahoma Libraries in promoting reading and academic achievement."

Dean Lee added, "This partnership is unprecedented in Oklahoma and the nation. It is an exciting time for the University Libraries. Those gaining the most will be future students and faculty. I congratulate the Athletics Department on its foresight and willingness to support such a worthwhile endeavor."

OU Athletic Media Relations

Academic Friends Groups

A Year 2001 Amigos Fellowship Award enabled Cameron University Library to host a workshop focused on academic library friends groups. Tom Mendina, Assistant to the Dean of Libraries at University of Memphis and Coordinator of the Friends of Libraries USA academic initiative, presented "Building a Successful Academic Friends of Library Group" at Cameron in September, 2001. Workshop participants included library directors, librarians, library staff, and Education and History Department faculty.

During Mendina's presentation, motivation and attention to practical considerations emerged as two major themes related to successful library support groups. Library and school administration must be motivated to organize and provide direction to a group, while members need to be motivated to join the group and to support and participate in its activities. Practical considerations include availability of library staff and community members to devote time and energy to the group, existence of on-and off-campus support for the group, and availability of start-up funding. Motivational factors and practical considerations can compliment one another to help enable the establishment and existence of a successful academic library support group.

A group's organizers and members must be motivated to direct constructive energy toward the group. This motivation can stem from a sense of personal fulfillment or gain, which in turn can result from a sense of accomplishment. Support group leaders can help encourage group participation by providing members and prospective members information about the library's contributions to scholarship and to the community. Such information helps enable supporters to value their contributions and increases their desire to make additional ones. Thus, it is important that organizers and members understand the library's accomplishments and needs. Those who perceive themselves as contributing to an important cause will find themselves motivated to begin and continue to support the library through its friends' group. Like a sense of accomplishment, feelings of belonging and recognition can encourage support group participation. A sense of belonging is encouraged by opportunities for members to meet together and to participate in group activities. Recognition of members and their accomplishments motivates them to retain their membership and participate in group activities. In order to obtain supporters, the library must have or must establish satisfactory relationships with community members. Additionally, the existence of a library support group must meet with the approval of the administrators of the college or university.

Careful attention to motivation and practical considerations that influence the success of a friends group can provide a library an important source of financial support and advocacy. Mendina's presentation succeeded in providing participants with enhanced understanding of the motivational factors and practical considerations that exert positive influences upon the successful library support group.

Sherry Young-Cameron University
Donna Skvarla was awarded OLA's Distinguished Service Award on April 18 at the Annual Conference in Tulsa. The highest honor OLA bestows on its members, this award is given to a professional librarian in recognition of inspired leadership, devoted service, and unusual contributions to Oklahoma libraries and to the profession of librarianship. The recipient shall have effectively demonstrated for a period of five years or more a valid, thorough and imaginative concept of librarianship in Oklahoma, having expressed that concept in actual practice.

As Administrator of the Office of Library Development for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and in her positions with the Oklahoma Library Association, Donna has always been supportive whenever and wherever needed. She goes above and beyond in her efforts of assistance towards the improvement of Oklahoma libraries. With her quiet leadership, she has had a significant impact on the development of libraries and exerted a positive influence on the professional lives of librarians, library personnel, trustees, and friends.

Since the early years of her career, Donna has been active in OLA, starting with chairing the National Library Week Committee in 1978-79. She has held numerous leadership roles with OLA, including serving as President of the Association in 1986-87. Since 1989, she has been the Federal Relations Coordinator to the OLA Executive Board. In this position, her knowledge and the information she shares with the leadership and committees is invaluable. In addition, Donna has served since 1997 as OLA Executive Board Liaison to the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma group, an important position that requires a broad perspective, good communication skills, diplomacy, and tact.

Since 1987, Donna has served on various committees of the American Library Association. Currently she is a member of the prestigious John Cotton Dana Award Committee.

Over the past few years, Donna has shared her creative work, personal time and energies by making quilts for OLA for special fundraisers and/or to give as special gifts. These efforts have been “above and beyond the call of duty.”

Donna’s work and dedication to improving libraries for the citizens of Oklahoma speaks for itself. Her genuine, friendly attitude has been a beacon for all of us. She shows her support for all of us associated with “librarianship” and libraries by finding the right answer, if she does not have it, and by sharing positive advice and leadership. The Oklahoma Library Association is a much stronger and more effective organization because of the work and dedication of Donna Skvarla.

Linda Pye

Elizabeth Neff, Director of Buckley Public Library in Poteau, was awarded the Oklahoma Library Service Award for 2002. The award is granted to individuals working in Oklahoma libraries in recognition of significant achievements or outstanding service delivery at the local level. The purpose of the award is to celebrate expertise and creativity in the provision of library service.

Buckley Public Library is a branch of the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma. Elizabeth began her distinguished library career in 1968 in Poteau as the bookmobile driver. This was the perfect job for Elizabeth, since, at that time, she held her commercial drivers license and was a long-distance truck driver with her husband. She has always believed strongly in providing library services to the public and maneuvered the bookmobile in and out of the rural LeFlore County wilderness with ease. Elizabeth became Director of Buckley Library in 1975 and served briefly as the Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma’s Interim Director in the 1980s. Since that time she has consistently managed Buckley Library, her staff, and the exceptional library collection at Buckley with a skilled hand even as the use of the library has grown with the continued development of Poteau. She has worn many hats in her career and has worked through adversity with grace overcoming a library catastrophe in 1990, when Buckley’s flat roof collapsed during a severe rainstorm, with skilled determination. Always active in her community promoting library advocacy, Elizabeth was named Poteau’s Woman of the Year in 1982 for her advocacy efforts. She is noted for providing a high level of library service to her customers and their proven leadership skills have helped her successfully mentor many others in the field of librarianship.

Elizabeth has provided outstanding library service to her community during these past 34 years and is most deserving of the Oklahoma Library Service Award.

Linda Pye
**AWARDS**

Public library on winning the 2002 Ruth Brown Memorial Award. This award, presented at OLA's annual conference in April, carries a monetary award of $500 donated to the library and a plaque.

The Ruth Brown Memorial Award was created in 1996 to encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concerns as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities served by these libraries. Ruth Brown

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**Spiro, SRRT and Ms. Brown**

The Social Responsibilities Round Table, of the Oklahoma Library Association, would like to congratulate Glenda Stokes and the Spiro Public library on winning the 2002 Ruth Brown Memorial Award. This award, presented at OLA's annual conference in April, carries a monetary award of $500 donated to the library and a plaque.

The Ruth Brown Memorial Award was created in 1996 to encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concerns as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities served by these libraries. Ruth Brown was a public librarian at Bartlesville Public Library who helped form the inter-racial Committee on the Practice of Democracy in 1946 to improve conditions for Bartlesville's African-Americans. Because of this and other activities, the library eventually fired Miss Brown.

Spiro Public Library won for the project Child Fest 2000. This project was conceived as a month-long project in two parts: one part was focused on "day camp" time and the other was focused on the actual library. During the day camp, the children were provided with cultural activities, story hours, crafts, and introduction to computer technology. During the library time, 18 special programs were presented.

Ms. Stokes has said that she will use the $500 to buy more children’s books for the library.

For more information on the award and previous winners, please visit our web page at http://www.osuokc.onenet.net/library/SRRT.

Marla Roberson

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**SPECIAL MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

Julia Ratliff was awarded the Special Meritorious Service Award by the Oklahoma Library Association on April 18 at the Annual Conference in Tulsa. The purpose of the award is to recognize leadership and service to the library profession above and beyond regular duties over a significant period of time.

Julia served on the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board from 1993 to 1999. Julia has served as President of the statewide friends of libraries organization (FOLIO) for the past two years. Also, she has been active in the Tulsa Friends group for many years. She has been Recording Secretary for the Tulsa Friends group and has chaired the Distinguished Service Committee, the Volunteer Recognition Committee, the Legislative Issues Committee, the Newsletter Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Distinguished Author Pre-Programming Committee.

Two years ago when Julia became President of FOLIO, she stepped in and revitalized the organization. Some of her many accomplishments include:

- FOLIO personal members increased 79%.
- Friends organization memberships in FOLIO increased 92%.
- Corporate memberships in FOLIO increased 133%.
- Library memberships in FOLIO increased 800%.
- Fund raising from the Kerr, McCasland, and Schusterman Foundations.
- Finding the right person to create and maintain the FOLIO web page.
- Finding the right person to be the newsletter editor so that the FOLIO members are aware and connected to the work of the organization.
- Convincing the PSO company in Tulsa to donate the printing costs for the newsletter.
- Bringing the Literary Landmark award to Oklahoma, forming a steering committee to select recipients and overseeing all the myriad details for the first ceremony in Oklahoma.

- Julia is now serving the first year of a 3 year term on the National Friends of Libraries USA Board and is the national chair of the Literary Landmark project.

Julia was Teacher of the Year in Tulsa and was a finalist for the Teacher in Space program.

Julia would be the first to say that she has accomplished few of these achievements by herself, since she believes that the FOLIO members have worked together to dream dreams and make those dreams come true. However, without Julia, much of this would have taken longer, if at all, to be realized. Saying no to Julia is very hard, since she is so positive and energetic that it is just easier to participate. Julia gets people energized and makes them realize how much we can accomplish for a cause that is so important. Julia has no fear – she will ask anyone for money or help to make libraries and Oklahoma a better place. She truly believes that libraries change lives and that every community no matter what size should have a library because of the children.

Linda Pye
People and Places of OLA

Beta Phi Mu - Lambda Chapter
The Lambda Chapter of Beta Phi Mu held its annual initiation and banquet on April 27, 2002, at the OU Norman University Club. Initiates included Sharon Bish, Holly Denny, Robin Ewing, Dawn Hall, Sarah Robbins, Robert Roddy, and Jenny Stenis.
W. Michael Havener, Director of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and Beta Phi Mu national Vice President/President-elect, spoke on Recruitment: Finding the Next Generation of Librarians.
The Alumni Association Paper Award was presented to Doug Valentine for his paper, Gender and Its Role on Effective Management. Dr. Danny Wallace presented the Irma R. Tomberlin Scholarship to Karen Antell. Past Tomberlin recipients were recognized and an honorary display was set up in memory of Irma Rayne Tomberlin who passed away on December 30, 2001.
In addition, Lambda Chapter officers for 2002-2003 were announced as follows:
Karen Cozart, President
Audrey DeFrank, Vice President/President-elect
Robin Insalaco, Secretary
Cokie Anderson, Treasurer
Karen Cozart

American Association of School Librarians
Buffy Edwards and Jayme Seat, Oklahoma elected representatives to the Affiliate Assembly of the AASL, a division of the ALA, successfully negotiated the Assembly's support for a formal statement that certified school library media specialists are teachers and should hold the full privileges of teachers, including participation in state and national teacher of the year award programs. Congratulations to the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists and thanks to Buffy Edwards and Jayme Seat.
Kathy Latrobe, AASL Board, Director-elect, Region VI

Congratulations Enid and Kathy!
The Children's department of the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County and Child Care Finders of CDSA has received the Viburnum Family Literacy Grant from the Center of the Book at the Library of Congress. Kathy Logan, Children's Librarian and Amanda Anderson, Child Care and Community Outreach Specialist, authored the grant. The Viburnum Foundation, is a family foundation based in New York and Virginia. The grant is intended for literacy improvement and enrichment for the adult, and emerging literacy activities and opportunities for the child, with emphasis on the preschool and primary age child. This is the tenth year that the grant has been funded and it is the fifth year with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress as it's joint sponsor. This is the first year that the grant has been awarded in Enid. A workshop will be held for grant recipients in Scottsdale, Arizona in the fall. For more information contact Kathy Logan at 580-234-6313 x103.

Guyla Houston, OSU Librarian, retires after 39 years
Guyla Houston has devoted her entire professional library career to Oklahoma State University. She received her Masters of Library Science degree from Louisiana State University in June of 1963. The next month, she started work as an Assistant Acquisitions Librarian in Serials at the OSU Library. Edmon Low, the man for which the building is named, hired Houston. Twelve years later in 1975, she accepted her current position as Head of the Acquisitions Department.
A lot has changed since Houston started at OSU. She has been most impressed by the benefits of automation. According to Houston, "It has enabled us to be more productive and provide more information for our patrons. Things are more precise and easier to access. It alleviates some of the patrons’ angst. Not all, of course, they still have to read it."
Houston has plenty planned to keep her busy during retirement. "First we're going to visit our son and his family in Augusta, Georgia. He is stationed at Fort Gordon". When she returns, Houston has multiple research projects planned. She'll be working on four topics: nuclear submarines, Lawrence of Arabia, World War II, and the Flynn Collection Bibliography. In addition, she and her husband are planning to go back to Europe to visit friends.
Houston says the greatest job satisfaction has come from working with such wonderful people: students, staff and other faculty. Her employees, obviously, feel the same way about her. Houston's entire department nominated her for this year's Outstanding Library Employee Award. The Award was presented to Houston at the Spring Edmon Low Library Staff Association meeting.
During her career, Houston has supervised over 200 student assistants and several dozen support staff. She says, "They are scattered all over the world now."
Bonnie Richardson-OSU

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