

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

April 22, 2008

The committee announced the awards which will be given at the ULA/MPLA Conference Awards Banquet, May 1, 2008.

Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award to Mary Bushing for the impact she has had on the MPLA region through her many programs to train staff at all levels in libraries of all kinds; her many years of service to MPLA on the Executive Board, numerous task forces and committees, and conference presentations; and especially for her continued efforts in making the MPLA Leadership Institute one of the premier library leadership training institutes in the country.

MPLA Distinguished Service Award to Debbie Iverson as past president of MPLA laid the ground work for a strong professional development emphasis in MPLA which continues today. She has given 32 years of outstanding service to the profession through her work in the Wyoming Library Association and MPLA.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award to Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear the authors of dozens of international bestsellers, which have been translated into seventeen languages including The First North Americans series, Anasazi Series, Forbidden Borders Trilogy, Genetic Thriller Series, and Spider Trilogy. Michael has published twelve novels under his own name and co-authored another seventeen with Kathleen. His work runs the gamut from historical, to prehistorical, to science fiction, to modern thrillers. All of his work deals with some aspect of anthropological theory. His Morning River was nominated for the Pulitzer prize in fiction, and the National Book Award in 1998.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award to Bryan Tronstad, University of Wyoming received his MLS in 2003 and has worked at the University of Wyoming since 2004. Bryan has embraced information literacy as an effective method for developing lifelong learning skills. He has had a significant impact on library services and instruction at the University of Wyoming, which is influencing library instruction efforts in the region as well demonstrating a potential for continued influence on our profession for years to come.

MPLA Unsung Hero. The first year this award has been given, it will be presented to two projects:

- 1) Rosanne Siemens for leadership the Kansas Library Association after years of volunteer leadership and guided the KSA to successfully operate with clear financial records, developed policies, presented information issues to legislators, and reorganized the organization, and
- 2) Roger Carswell and Liz Turner of the Southeast Kansas Library System for funding and creating a showcase library that could inspire other libraries to do their own min-makeovers.

Board Choice Award Winners –

Cheryl Walters, Head of the Digital Library Program at Utah State University (By-Laws and

Procedures Representative's Award)

Sharon Morris, Director of Library Development and Innovation at the Colorado State Library
(State Representatives Award)

Chris Hauser, Library Systems, Weber State University Stewart Library (Committee
Representative's Award)

Susan Stringer, Manager of the Tecumseh (OK) Public Library (President's Award)

Marjorie Harrison, System Coordinator of the Panhandle Library System, Scottsbluff, NE (Past
President's Award)

Dr. Gwen Alexander, Dean, School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State
University, Emporia, KS (Recording Secretary's Award)

The Gears will be the speakers at the Awards Banquet.

Press releases to local papers and the library community will go out the week after the
conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Avery
Chair