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October 5, 2002

Oklahoma Library Association Representative

Basha Hartley

OLA President 2002-2003

Our new OLA President, Kathryn Roots Lewis, has hit the ground running to make this a great year for OLA. Kathryn's theme this year is Building Library Communities because "Not only do all of you live your passion for building library communities within our own organization, but you exhibit that passion as you work with your students, patrons, clients, colleagues and local communities". Kathryn is Director of Media Services and Instructional Technology for the Norman Public Schools.

Building Library Communities Conference, March 26-28, 2003

This year's conference will be in Oklahoma City at the Cox Communications Convention Center. Check out the Oklahoma Library Association's website at www.oklibs.org for continuing updates. Oklahoma Library Association Workshops

*August 7, Way Cool YA Programming Stillwater Public Library

*September 27, A Framework for Understanding Poverty. Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

*October 3, Lighten Up! How to make work fun! Stillwater Public Library

*October 25, Creating Information Literacy Programs Fall Conference of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Association of College and research Libraries.

*October 25, Acquisitions: Do we have a deal for you! Midwest City Library

*November 7-8 First Amendment Congress, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond.

Attendance at all OLA workshops has exceeded expectations this year.

OLA Regional Meetings

OLA has been holding a series of seven meetings in rural and remote areas of the state so that librarians and library staff can meet each other and network. The meetings offer information about professional activities, continuing education and scholarship opportunities and the opportunity to meaningfully cooperate with peers. The next meetings will be in Enid on October 1, and Weatherford on November 19.

Report from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

All state budgets have been cut in Oklahoma as the legislature has struggled with a 214 million dollar budget shortfall for FY2003. ODL's budget was cut 5% in January and again cut 5.5% in July. The Department has not filled open positions and cut out all out of state travel for employees. Materials for all state library collections have been cut 5.5%. State aid for libraries has been cut 5.5%. Other state agencies have had to make more drastic cuts (the Department of

Corrections employees will be taking 23 (unpaid) furlough days this fiscal year), and ODL is hopeful that they can avoid any similar drastic cost cutting measures.

University of Oklahoma Athletics Department, University Libraries Create Historic Partnership

According to OU Athletic Media Relations, "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.

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."

University of Oklahoma School Of Library and Information Studies

The OUSLIS enrollment in the MLIS program this year is between 170 and 180 students at the Norman and Tulsa campus reports Maggie Ryan, University Student Program Specialist from the school. In addition, OUSLIS is offering a new program, a Bachelor of Arts in Information Studies designed to meet the growing needs for information workers.

Danny Wallace, Director University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies, is planning to attend the MPLA Tri-Conference in Fargo!