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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

February-June 2005

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<http://www.usd.edu/mpla>

MPLA Listserv

To subscribe, contact
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You're Invited!

WLA/MPLA 2005 Conference Set for Oct. 12-15 in Jackson Hole

Preparations are well underway for the 2005 Wyoming Library Association and Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference to be held in Jackson Hole, WY this fall. Erin Kinney, WLA President-Elect, and Sharon Osenga, MPLA President-Elect, have crossed mountains and plains to meet and start planning the conference!



WLA/MPLA 2005 Joint Conference
Snow King Resort • Jackson, Wyoming
October 12 - 15, 2005

Jackson Hole puts on its best colors in October, and we'll also be vying for participants' attention with equally great conference programs. Presentations will include everything from collection development to Google and programs for schools, as well as many other topics. Web casting of the conference this year will provide an unprecedented educational opportunity for the MPLA region as well as more bang for the buck for conference attendees. Presentations will be archived for a month after the conference on the WLA and MPLA Websites, so participants can return home and see the presentations they missed.

A traditional opening event for WLA, Author's Night, will be held

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Ljackson@state.mt.us

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| | |
|-----------|-------------|
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| March 1 | September 1 |
| May 1 | November 1 |

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(Continued from page 1)

this year at the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Art and literature have long been a natural partnership and this event will showcase both. Tours of the museum will be offered before the program, with the opportunity to socialize with colleagues and meet new participants. The emphasis of the authors' presentations will be a little different this year featuring everyone's favorite - the movies. The challenges of writing and/or adapting material for the movies will be explored by four veterans in the field, lead by William Broyles, best known as the screenwriter for "Castaway" and "The Polar Express." Also, plan to join us at the "One Conference, One Book" session. Staff from the Natrona County Public Library will lead a discussion of Mark Spragg's *Where Rivers Change Direction*. (It would be helpful to read the book before the conference!).

For unique side trips, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks are both a short drive away, and weather permitting, offer wildlife viewing, hiking, and exploration of thermal features. Reduced rates has been negotiated at the Snow King Resort for three days before and after the conference to provide a "mini-vacation" opportunity for participants. Great restaurants, shopping, and nightlife will enhance an exceptional educational and networking conference opportunity.

Look for registration information in the August MPLA newsletter and please mark your calendars to join us in Jackson.



Conference registration forms available at
<http://wyla.org/2005conference/>

Conference hotel is The Snow King
<http://snowking.com/>

Room Rates

Single \$85/night plus taxes

Double \$85/night plus taxes

Triple \$95/night plus taxes

Quad \$105/night plus taxes

There are also great rates on the condominiums!

Call 1-800-522-KING (5464) and use Mountain Plains Library Association for the group ID.

Conference Call for Papers

The MPLA Academic Section has posted a "Call for Papers" for its Professional Forum, to be held at the WLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Jackson Oct. 12-15, 2005. The Professional Forum presents new ideas, innovations, and case studies in librarianship that benefit the profession. Research methodology is encouraged, but not essential. MPLA member academic, school, and public librarians are all invited to participate. Selected papers are peer reviewed for an award of a \$300 prize to the winning presenters. The submission deadline is Aug. 15, 2005

For guidelines see the 2005 WLA/MPLA Joint Conference Webpage at <http://www.wyla.org/2005conference/forum.shtml>.



MPLA President-Elect Sharon Osenga visited Jackson Hole in February and reports that it is a beautiful place and the "residents" (see above) are very friendly. At left is the unique antler arch gracing the town square in Jackson Hole.

MPLA Awards Committee Seeking Those Who Make a Difference

The MPLA Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the many MPLA awards that will be given at the awards ceremony in Jackson, WY during our joint conference with the Wyoming Library Association this October.

The MPLA Awards are a way to say “thank you” to special staff, volunteers, and library supporters. We have numerous awards to give, so please think about an individual, agency, organization, legislator, or author who has made a difference to your library. It could be that cheerful staff member who always comes up with great ideas, the media specialist who stood up for the freedom to read, a local newspaper or radio station that frequently features the library, or a helpful vendor who always responds when you call. These are the people who make our jobs easier and lend support to ideas, projects, and services. Please help MPLA say thank you by nominating one of our library heroes.

The following awards are provided by MPLA: Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award; MPLA Distinguished Service Award; MPLA Legislative Leadership Award; MPLA News Media Support Award; MPLA Literary Contribution Award; MPLA Beginning Professional Award; MPLA Youth Services Award; and MPLA Intellectual Freedom Award. Not all awards are given every year. A complete description of these awards and nomination forms are available at the following link: <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awardsindex.html>.

Nominations are due by July 15, 2005 and should be sent to Suzanne Taylor, University Libraries, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1019, Suzanne.Taylor@ColoState.edu, (p) 970-491-1880, (f) 970-491-5817.

**Remember to use MemberClicks
my.memberclicks.com/mpla**

President's Letter

By Beth Avery

In April I was pleased to represent MPLA at the Oklahoma Library Association Annual Meeting, in Norman. It was wonderful to meet so many MPLA members and to gain ten new members through our membership drawing. The members who staffed the booth were great representatives of what it is to be a MPLA member. That got me to thinking about using the MPLA acronym to describe the characteristics of our members. Here's what I came up with:

Marvelous: of the highest kind or quality: notably superior

Professional: characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession

Leadership: the capacity to guide along a way, especially by going in advance

Affable: characterized by ease and friendliness

I'm sure many of you have ideas about the qualities that exemplify our members. So send me your ideas and we will have a contest for the best portrayal of the qualities of a MPLA member with a prize to be given at our annual meeting in Wyoming.



Beth Avery and Oklahoma Ghost Ranch graduate Marla Roberson at the MPLA booth at the Oklahoma Library Association.

Speaking of outstanding members, it is with regret that the executive board has accepted the resignation

(Continued on page 5)

President's Letter ...

(Continued from page 4)

of Patti Butcher as the Chair of the Leadership Institute. Our loss will truly be South Carolina's gain as Patti becomes the state librarian of South Carolina, effective July 1. Marilyn Hinshaw has agreed to chair the Leadership Institute Committee. Marilyn was the guiding force behind the Leadership Institute through its startup. So while we are sad to see Patti leave, we are happy to welcome Marilyn back. We hope Patti will be back to visit often.

The committees are in full swing. The awards committee is busy getting nominees for the awards. I know most of us know at least one person that would be a good recipient for an award. Let's try to award all the awards this year (see Awards article on page 4 for more information).

Thanks to the hard work of the continuing education committee we now have an MPLA/Member States Continuing Education Opportunities Webpage at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/ce/index.html>. Thanks for the good work. The new long range plan has given all of the committees lots to do. So, if you are interested in serving on a committee let me know or if you want to serve next year, make sure you contact Sharon Osenga, sosenga@frontiernet.net soon.

Last November ALA President Carol A. Bery-Casiano asked each chapter to participate in her Presidential initiative to celebrate the diverse voices in the literature of our nation, the unique heritage of our states or regions, and the unifying role played by libraries in bringing these voices together. We were able to use the poll function of MemberClicks to vote on the selections to represent MPLA. Our winners were, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather as the adult reader selection and *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan as the children/young adult reader selection. To check out what other chapters selected you can go to the Website for the project, www.ala.org/manyvoices.

2005 Ghost Ranch Leadership Applications Have Been Received!

According to Mary Bushing, MPLA Leadership Institute Coordinator, approximately 53 individuals have applied for the 30 available positions at the 2005 MPLA Leadership Institute (applications were due May 20, 2005). This year's institute is geared towards those in mid-career with five to 20 years of experience since their graduate library degree. The applications will be sent to the state representatives for evaluation and ranking prior to the MPLA Leadership Committee's final evaluation to be completed in early July.

Below is a list of the number of applications for each member state:

AZ - 4
CO - 13
KS - 9
MT - 3
ND - 1
NE - 0
NM - 8
NV - 0
OK - 3
SD - 3
UT - 5
WY - 4



For further information
(and great photos)
on the
MPLA Leadership Institute, see
[http://www.usd.edu/
mpla/leadership/](http://www.usd.edu/mpla/leadership/)

The following individuals have agreed to serve as mentors for the 2005 Leadership Institute:

Jean Hatfield, Youth Services, Johnson County (KS) Library (former MPLA President)
Debbie Iverson, Director, Sheridan College (WY) Library (former MPLA President)
Dr. Jane Kolbe, Library Development Director, Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records (and former SD State Librarian)
Joe McKenzie, Director, Salina (KS) Public Library (former MPLA Board Member)
Mary Bushing, Consultant, and Institute Coordinator (MT)



Third MPLA Institute Cold and Snowy... but Warm on the Inside

The 2004 MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute was held in early December and the practical advice regarding warm clothes (gloves, hats, and boots) proved very important as the temperatures dipped to near zero and snow fell on more than one day. By the end of the institute the cold snap was fading and sunshine and melting ice and snow were evident everywhere. During the institute the warmth was generated by the lively activity and total engagement of the mentors and fellows rather than sunshine.

The institute participants arrived on Tuesday, Nov. 30 and the first formal session was held that evening. The 29 fellows, the four mentors, the coordinator, and the facilitator, Maureen Sullivan, filled the week with lots of energy and serious thought as well as laughter and even tears. (For a list of the 2004 participants, see the MPLA Website at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/leadership>). At the conclusion of the institute on Sunday morning, Dec. 5, everyone was exhausted, radiant, and ready to go home and face the library and their personal lives with some new understandings about themselves, their careers, and their goals—both personal and career-related.

Kansas Librarians Reflect on Ghost Ranch Experience

By Kate Capps (Olathe Public Library),
Connie Doeden (Eureka Public Library),
and Holly Mercer (University of
Kansas Libraries)

For the past three years, the Mountain Plains Library Association has selected a total of nine Kansas librarians to attend its leadership institute held at Ghost Ranch, NM “Ghost Ranch” offers a defining moment on the career paths of this handful of Kansas librarians. Could this institute be for you? Now more than ever before, you should ask yourself that question and perhaps the answer will be a resounding yes. Originally designed

to give new librarians insights into their leadership abilities and to provide them with a set of skills, Ghost Ranch will now focus on librarians in mid-career, those with five to 20 years of post-MLS experience, in an effort to further strengthen to the leadership core of our profession.

Why Ghost Ranch, NM? Out of the reach of cell phones, e-mail, radio, and television, the ranch allowed us to focus. We could get outside of daily duties to take a broader, deeper look at our current position. We experienced personal as well as professional development, discovering our

(Continued on page 21)

Institute Graduate Selected as Editor for PLA Column

Stephanie Gerding, graduate of the first MPLA Leadership Institute in 2002, has been appointed as the contributing editor for *Public Libraries* new “Bringing in the Money” column. Gerding is the continuing education coordinator at Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records in Phoenix, AZ and has in-depth knowledge and practical experience in fundraising, as both a grantor and grantee. She is the author of a forthcoming book on library grants, to be published by Neal-Schuman this year. The column will focus not only on fundraising and grants, but all approaches for bringing in money and increasing library budgets, including advocacy, support building in the local community, and communicating the need for increased local funding.



Business Sense

Jean Anderson
Business Librarian
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

(Note: This column is designed to be a handout for public library business patrons. I would be happy to share this column and previous columns with you - Word format. E-mail me at JAnderson@fcgov.com).

Franchises

Many business entry options are available to the entrepreneur. If you are interested in franchises, check out these Internet sites for valuable information.

Professional Associations

- American Association of Franchisees and Dealers (www.aafd.org). The AAFD is dedicated to the encouragement and support of high standards in franchising practices for both franchisees and franchisers. The association fosters a

peer to peer support network for franchisees and supports leverage for the franchisee network with respect to the franchiser, suppliers and vendors and ultimately with customers.

- International Franchise Association (www.franchise.org). The International Franchise Association, founded in 1960, is a membership organization of franchisers, franchisees, and suppliers. IFA serves as a resource center for current and prospective franchisees and franchisers, the media, and the government.

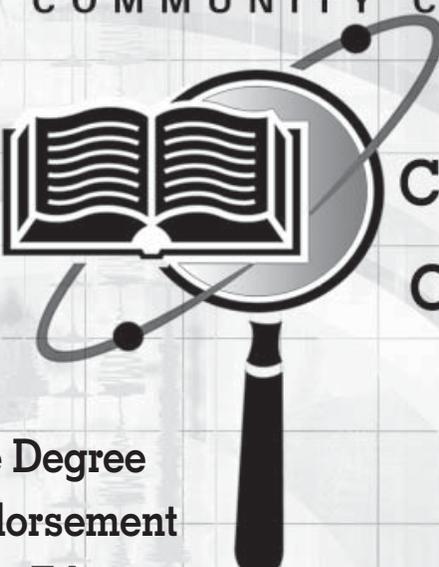
Government Services

- Federal Trade Commission – Franchise and Business Opportunities (www.ftc.gov/bcp/franchise/netfran.htm). This site is chock full of federal advisories, consumer education documents and legal rulings on franchises and business opportunities. For example, click on the “Before You Buy” and the “Franchise Rule Text.” Take some time to review these pages before falling for every “biz opp.”

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- Franchise Registry (www.franchiseregistry.com). The Registry lists names of franchise companies whose franchisees enjoy the benefits of a streamlined review process for SBA loan applications. Loan applications for registered franchisers can be reviewed and processed quickly and efficiently. Small business owners get better service and quicker loans. Participation in the Registry is voluntary.

Commercial Sites

- Bison – A Franchise Network (www.bison1.com)
- Franchise Equity Group (www.fegroup.com)
- Business N@tion – Franchise Database (www.businessnation.com/franchises/pages)
- Franchising on the Net (advocacy-net.com/franchisemks.htm)
- Franchise Opportunities (www.franchiseopportunities.com)
- Franchise Info Mall (www.franchiseinfomall.com)
- Franchise Doctor (www.franchisedoc.com)
- Franchise Works (www.franchiseworks.com)
- Franchise Handbook (www.franchise1.com)
- Every Franchise and Business Opportunity (www.everyfranchise.com)
- FranchiseAmerica (www.franchiseamerica.com)

Consulting Services/Advice

- Directory of Franchise Consultants (www.franchisedirect.com/consultants/directory.htm)
- Franchise Company (www.franchising-consultants.com)
- FranCorp (www.francorp.com)

Magazines/Newsletters (online directories, articles or editorials)

- Franchise Times (www.franchisetimes.com)
- FranchiseHelp (www.marytomzack.com)
- Inc. (www.inc.com, search the site using the keyword “franchise”)
- The Franchise Annual Online (www.infonews.com)

Annual Directories (Stop by your local library to search these print directories)

- *Franchise Annual*: covers over 5,000 franchisers with separate lists for those in the U.S., Canada,

and overseas. For each firm, it usually gives a description of operation, when it was established, the number of units, franchise fees, total investment needed, whether financing is available, and contact person.

- *Entrepreneur Magazine's Ultimate Book of Franchises*: Provides a descriptive listing of each franchise including type of business, number of outlets, cash investment required, qualifications, training, and support systems.

Jean Anderson is the Business Librarian for the Fort Collins Public Library. Suggestions for future columns are welcome: JAnderson@fcgov.com. Recent issues of Business Sense are available at: www.fcgov.com/library/adult.php

Looking for ... Continuing Education? Have We Got the Page for You!

Dan Stanton, Chair of the MPLA Continuing Education Committee, is pleased to announce that the Continuing Education Resource page is up and running at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/cc/index.html>. This page is an attempt to provide MPLA members with a manageable listing of resources for continuing education in the MPLA region. The current page is the start of an ongoing work in progress. The committee would appreciate your feedback with regard to usefulness of the site and other resources that may be added in the future. Please e-mail Dan Stanton at danton@asu.edu with any suggestions or comments.

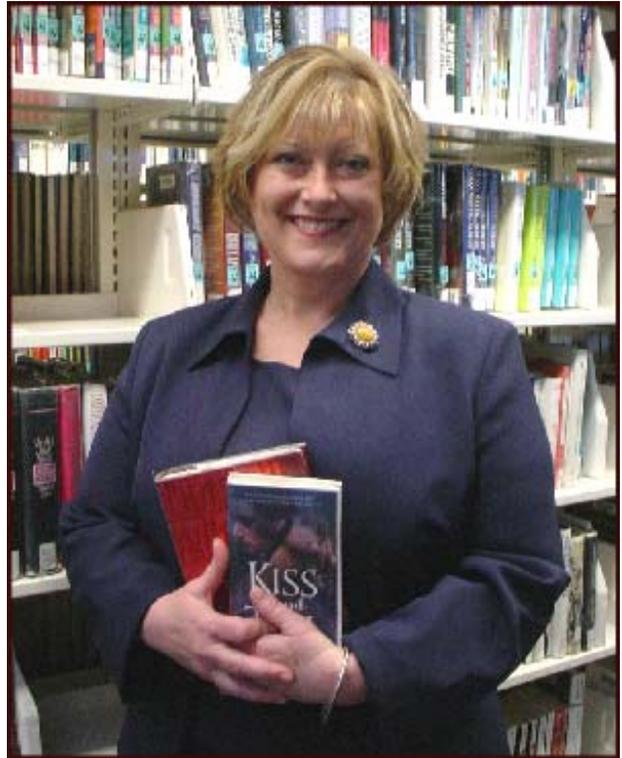
MPLA Reorganization Committee Seeks Your Input on Organization

The MPLA Reorganization Committee is looking at how MPLA could be organized to maximize the effectiveness of our organization. Please send any ideas you have to Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Librarian, at dmorris@utah.gov.

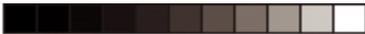
How Romantic!

Arizona Librarian Named Librarian of Year by Romance Writers

Scottsdale Public Library Collection Development Coordinator, Joanne Hamilton-Selway, received a very loving phone call from the president of the Romance Writers of America Association telling her she'd been named Librarian of the Year for 2005. The association grants the award to an individual who has promoted the romance industry and collection within his/her library. "This is a true honor" said Hamilton-Selway. "The romance genre is incredibly popular and I'm proud that our library has been recognized as having an excellent collection." She will be presented with the award in July at the annual conference in Reno, NV. Romance Writers of America is the professional association with 9,000 published and aspiring romance writers. Members of RWA write the novels that make up 48% of all popular paperback fiction and that generate more than \$1 billion in sales each year.



Joanne Hamilton-Selway



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left to right,
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Rahda Jayamangalam
Keith Baugher
Sheri Meares
Tim Cheek

New Director of Colorado State Library Appointed

On May 1, Eugene Hainer took over as the new deputy state librarian and director of the Colorado State Library replacing Nancy Bolt who is leaving the state library after 18 years of service.

Mr. Hainer has been head of library development for the state library since 2000, after working five years as the school library consultant at the state library. He has also worked for the Poudre School District as a library media specialist, and served before that as a classroom teacher and music instructor. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder where he worked in the music library, and received his MLS from the University of Texas-Austin.

As head of library development, Mr. Hainer supervised public and school library consultants and the CDE Web design and services unit. During his tenure the library development staff prepared information literacy guidelines for school libraries and districts; standards for public libraries; long range plans for the use of federal library service and technology funds; and developed a program to implement the school accreditation rule on educational technology and information literacy. Under his direction, the CDE Website has grown in both use and content.

Commissioner of Education, William Moloney, welcomes Mr. Hainer to this cabinet-level position within the Colorado Department of Education. He commented that, "Gene is a talented and dedicated librarian who will assist the State Library to continue growth in its service to Colorado's residents and librarians. His knowledge of Colorado's schools and libraries and their needs makes him an excellent choice as the new Director of the State Library."

The Colorado State Library is responsible for the Colorado Virtual Library and the popular AskColorado online reference service; the Colorado

Talking Book Library serving blind and print handicapped; the state publications library collecting and disseminating state documents; the institutional library program serving people in the state's correctional and health institutions; the library development office, helping libraries improve their service to local libraries; the library research service conducting research on issues of interest to libraries; and the community and library outreach service focusing this year on early learning skills of preschoolers.

What is Art of the Books?

Art of the Books is a project, conceived as a fundraiser for libraries across the country, predicated on the many events featuring the large, artist embellished fiberglass animals that have been displayed throughout the country such as Where the Buffalo Roam in Casper, WY and Trail of the Painted Ponies in Santa Fe, NM.

This project was conceived by Annette Chaudet, the publisher of Pronghorn Press in Greybull, WY. As an artist she participated in two of those projects—the Horse of Course in Billings, MT and Where the Buffalo Roam in Casper. Inspired by the buzz created by the events and the participation and excitement generated within the communities, she began to think about how the idea could be adapted to raise money for libraries who, large or small, are always strapped for funds.

The result is Art of the Books. It is the same basic premise as the animal projects but scaled down so that it can be managed by even the very smallest libraries and yet can provide a sizable fundraising opportunity. The project is based on a fiberglass book form approximately 20" x 30." The book was chosen as an apt symbol for libraries, literature and art.

The Art of the Books event is scheduled for the summer of 2006 but requires planning throughout 2005 so that you can be ready to start in the fall of 2005. See <http://artofthebooks.com> for more information.

A License to Read

Nevada Libraries to Benefit from Special License Plate

Nevada drivers may now get a “license to read.” A new *I♥2 READ* special edition license plate is now available to registered drivers through the department of motor vehicles. Funds raised by the plates will support summer reading programs and educational opportunities for librarians throughout the state.

“These plates are an exciting new way for Nevada drivers to show their love for libraries,” Nevada State Librarian Sara Jones said. “They will generate important revenues while serving as a consistent beacon for literacy.”

Design of the plate includes the phrase *I♥2 READ* in red over a stack of books. The plates are available for \$61 at initial registration and \$25 to renew. Thirty dollars from the initial registration fee and \$20 from each renewal will go to support libraries. For more information on obtaining the plate visit the DMV Website at <http://www.dmvnv.com>.

Libraries and Friends of Libraries throughout the state worked to gather the signatures needed to establish this special edition plate. Nevada law requires a minimum of 1,000 interested users before issuing a specialized license plate. Jones said library officials and volunteers stopped collecting signatures after the first 1,000. However, due to word-of-mouth and an overwhelming

show of support, nearly 500 more signatures were collected within a matter of days.

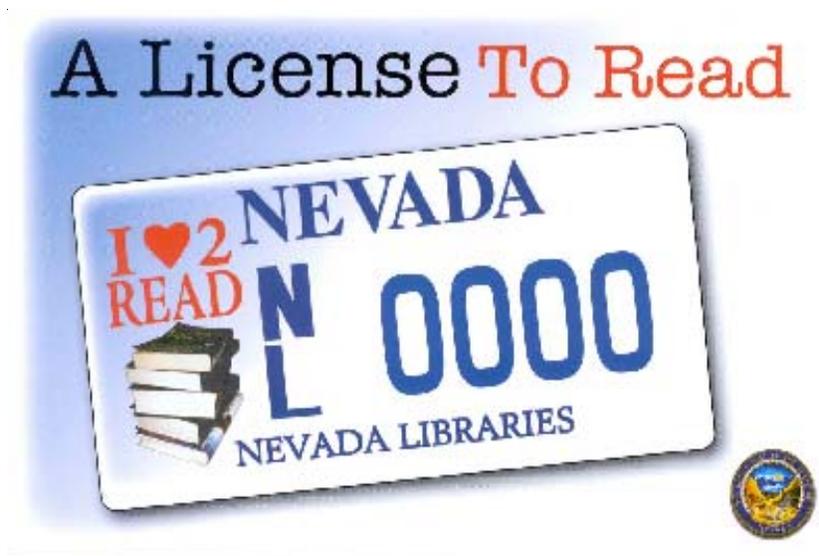
“We knew there would be support,” Jones said.

“But even those of us intimately involved with the process were surprised to see the amount of enthusiasm generated by the plate. It’s moving to see so many people get behind such an important project.”

Henderson Libraries Executive

Director Tom Fay led the effort to design the sample plate. After choosing a design, librarians took their signatures and concept to the state commission on special license plates. They worked closely with the department of motor vehicles to finalize the design of the plate.

The Nevada State Library and Archives is a division of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs. The department serves Nevada’s citizens and visitors through preservation and promotion of cultural resources, cultural and information management, and education. The department also includes the division of museums and history, state historic preservation office, Nevada Arts Council, Comstock Historic District Commission, and the commission for cultural affairs. For more information, please contact Bob Harmon at (775) 687-8323 or visit the department’s Website at <http://NevadaCulture.org>.



MPLA Members Recognized as Movers and Shakers!

Underscoring the central role of the nation's libraries in promoting literacy and building an informed citizenry, *Library Journal* named 51 outstanding librarians to receive the publication's coveted annual "Movers and Shakers Award." The honorees in 2005 were selected from among more than 150,000 librarians in the U.S. and Canada.

Congratulations to Tricia Suellentrop and Kathy McClellan, both from Johnson County Library, Kansas, and Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, Nebraska, for being selected as three of *LJ's* 2005 "Movers and Shakers." Kathy and Tricia were nominated for their work with troubled teens in the juvenile justice system. Siobhan Champ-Blackwell is the community outreach liaison, midContinental region of the national network of libraries of medicine at Creighton University Health Sciences Library/LRC in Omaha. She was recognized for her outreach to medically underserved populations.

Shelley Wins Sagebrush Award for Literacy Work

The 2005 Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)/Sagebrush Award for a Young Adult Reading or Literature Program was awarded to Amelia J. Shelley, the youth and outreach services division manager at the Laramie County Library System in Cheyenne, WY. Shelley won the award for her literacy work at the Wyoming Latina Youth Conference (WLYC).



Amelia Shelley

For the past two years, Laramie County Library System has participated in this statewide conference by providing books and bibliographies to all attendees. Library teens assisted in the selection of the books keeping an eye out for the most appealing, as well as books that addressed pertinent issues in their lives with an emphasis on Latino authors. By giving the books to the teen conference attendees, the library creates both a positive attitude towards reading as well as putting books into the hands and homes of at-risk teens.

The YALSA/Sagebrush Award provides \$1,000 to support the recipient's attendance at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference to be held June 23-29 in Chicago. Each year the corporation offers a maximum of two awards that allow the winners to promote reading or literature to teens in a significant, replicable program.

MPLA Professional Development Committee Awards June Grants

The MPLA Professional Development Committee awarded two grants at its June meeting. Judith Howard, media/distance education librarian, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD was awarded a \$600 regular grant to attend the 2005 ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Immersion to be held at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL from July 29 – Aug. 3, 2005. Erin Smith, children's librarian, Fargo Public Library, Fargo, ND was awarded a \$150 mini-grant to support her attendance and participation in the 2005 WLA/MPLA Conference in Jackson Hole, WY from Oct. 12 – 15, 2005. Erin will be presenting the program "Tried and True Programs for Gradeschool Boys and Girls!" You can experience her program on Friday, Oct. 14, 2005 at 10 a.m. at the conference to be held at the Snow King Resort conference facility. For more information on MPLA professional development grant opportunities, see <http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/profdev/grants.html>.



Around the MPLA Region



ARIZONA

New library directors selected -- Nancy Ledebuer joined the Tucson-Pima Public Library as director on January 24. She replaced Betsy Stunz-Hall who served as interim library director since the retirement of Agnes Griffen in June 2003. Ms. Ledebuer previous position was deputy director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, a position she held since 1999. Prior to joining Las Vegas-Clark County, she held a number of positions in Washington state including youth services coordinator and assistant director—public services at the Spokane Public Library and associate director for public services with the King County Library System. Nancy received her masters degree in library science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Deborah Tasnadi, AzLA's President-Elect, was recently named to be the library manager at the Peoria Public Library. Ms. Tasnadi was previously employed at the Maricopa County Library District where she served as the north valley regional library coordinator. Deborah has over 25 years of library experience. Originally from Wisconsin, she worked for nearly ten years for the Arizona State Library and the City of Scottsdale Library System. Ms. Tasnadi received her MLS from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Innovative young adult novel wins awards -- The Maricopa County Library District (Phoenix) was named the winner of the 2004 Highsmith Library Innovation Award for its "creative planning and imaginative execution" of the first online novel for children, *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive*. The district commissioned an award-winning children's author to write the mystery novel which gives teens an opportunity to solve a mystery using puzzles, ciphers, and critical thinking. The award, sponsored by the Public Library Association, was presented at the ALA annual conference and included a \$2000 check. *The Mystery Club of Luna Drive* was also honored as one of seven recipients of the 2005 John Cotton Dana Library Pub-

lic Relations award, which recognizes and honors outstanding achievement in library public relations. The John Cotton Dana honor has been awarded continuously since 1946 and is sponsored by the H. W. Wilson Company, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, and the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), a division of the American Library Association.

Teens have place to go in Scottsdale -- The Scottsdale Public Library has raised over \$400,000 in private funding for the construction of a new teen center in its main civic center library.

Q: How do you get teens to come to the library?

A: By giving them a place of their own. The Scottsdale Public Library has been working with teens and the community to develop just such a place. Scottsdale teens have named it:

Know + Oasis = KNOWASIS

The Knowasis Teen Learning Center will have:

- * Information resources, educational literature, and homework help from specially trained staff
- * Current technology tools
- * Career development resources
- * College information with links to Scottsdale Community College and ASU
- * Personal assistance & mentoring
- * Space for positive social interaction
- * Learning materials tailored to teen interests and needs

Knowasis Teen Learning Center status:

- * Feasibility study completed March 2003
- * Conducted two focus groups with 130 teens excited about a using a library teen center
- * A teen advisory council is working with staff and designers on space and service designs
- * Concept endorsed by mayor, city council, library advisory board, boys and girls club, chamber of commerce, *Arizona Republic*, and *Scottsdale Tribune*

-
- * Friends of Scottsdale Library adopted Teen Learning Center as fundraising priority

Donors are encouraged to help the library build a Teen Learning Center that will:

- * Provide valuable after school options and resources to teens
- * Help alleviate the problems with unsupervised blocks of time and coming home to an empty house. Teens engaged in positive after-school activities are more likely to stay in school and stay off drugs.
- * Encourage teens to develop into functioning adults who contribute to society

COLORADO

Collaborative virtual reference symposium set -- The Colorado State Library and the AskColorado virtual reference project are hosting a two-day symposium on July 13 and 14 specifically focused on issues related to collaborative virtual reference groups. Topics include managing cooperatives, sustainability and funding, marketing, staffing and participation, serving special audiences, and evaluation. Speakers include Stephen Abrams (VP for Innovation at Sirsi), and representatives from Maryland's AskNow, Bibliomation, Washington State Library, Australia's AskNow, AskColorado, Wisconsin Library Services, Library Research Service - and many more. The complete agenda and registration information are available at: <http://www.aclin.org/reference/symposium/>.

Crossroads built between cataloging systems -- On Nov. 11, 2004, the Colorado School of Mines became an official part of the Prospector union catalog and resource-sharing system. Why a milestone? The Prospector database runs on software from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., and the School of Mines uses Voyager, a system developed by Endeavor Information Systems. Although staff at the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries have had prior experience with building crosswalks between systems (the Denver Public Library uses CARL software), Voyager presented quite a challenge. Ultimately, however, the integration of Mines' records into the system was successful, making access to an even wider variety

of materials a few clicks away for patrons of member libraries.

Intellectual freedom issues in Colorado -- A delicate situation receiving plenty of national attention is the controversy surrounding tenured University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill, whose 2001 essay regarding the attacks at the World Trade Center and Pentagon has raised considerably more than eyebrows. Churchill's future at the University is unclear. Although not strictly a library issue, academic librarians and others in Colorado are following developments closely because of their potential chilling effect on academic freedom.

Further information and discussions on these and other Colorado intellectual freedom issues are housed at the Colorado WebJunction discussion forum: <http://webjunction.org/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=108>

MONTANA

Library of Congress Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole recently announced that Montana was one of the five affiliated state centers awarded the 2005 Boorstin Award for "innovative and creative reading promotion projects." The award, which includes a \$1,000 stipend, is funded by Ruth F. Boorstin, wife of the late Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin, who established the center for the book in 1977. The other four states honored this year were Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

"The annual Montana Festival of the Book, begun in 2000, successfully highlights the center's mission of promoting Montana literature, libraries, and literacy," Dr. Cole said in announcing the award. The Montana Center is a program of the Montana Committee for the Humanities, and the award also recognizes the successful transition of the center from the state library to the Lewis and Clark Public Library and finally to Montana Committee for the Humanities.

The Montana Center for the Book sponsors many

statewide programs including the Montana Festival of the Book (now in its sixth year, Sept. 22-24, Missoula) regional book festivals in Billings, Great Falls, Helena, and elsewhere in the state, the Letters About Literature reading promotion program for children and young adults, the One Book Montana statewide community reading program, and the OpenBook reading and discussion program.

“We are delighted with the national recognition brought to our Montana Center for the Book by the Boorstin Award,” said Montana Committee for the Humanities Executive Director Mark Sherouse. Dr. Boorstin was not only a visionary and innovative Librarian of Congress but a great humanities scholar in his own right.”

More information about the Montana Center for the Book and its programs is at the Center’s Website www.montanabook.org.

One Book Montana selection made -- The Montana Center for the Book and the Montana Committee for the Humanities announce the 2005 One Book Montana selection, *Letters From Yellowstone*, Diane Smith’s 1999 novel about naturalists and nature in Yellowstone at the turn of the century.

The One Book Montana program offers an invitation to all Montanans to read *Letters from Yellowstone* over the summer and fall. MCB will provide reading and discussion guides, suggestions for library, school and book group projects, and opportunities for reader comments and other tools on its Website, <http://www.montanabook.org/onebook.htm>. A limited number of copies will be available from MCB for short-term loans to book groups. Additional programming on the work will include programs on Montanas public radio stations, events with the author at the Montana Festival of the Book, and much more.

A scientific expedition in Yellowstone National Park in the summer of 1898 is the setting for this story told entirely through correspondence. Alexandria Bartram leaves New York and a career in medicine to study her true love, botany, in Montana, and

encounters a group of strong-minded strangers and even stronger forces of progress and culture. Throughout the novel, the characters’ letters touch on pressing issues of the era, many of which are still with us today, from conservation, to Native American displacement, to feminism.

Diane Smith has lived most of her adult life in Montana. She studied western and environmental history at the University of Montana, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in history at MSU-Bozeman. Before publishing *Letters From Yellowstone* and her second novel, *Pictures from an Expedition*, she worked as a science and travel writer. She lives in Livingston.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska books honored -- The 2004 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. This year’s winners are:

Children: *The Ring Bear*, N. L. Sharp.

Young Adult: *Free to Drink the Wind: A Misty West Mystery*, Ruth Foreman.

Cover Design/Illustration: *Road Trip: Conversations With Writers*, Randy Barger and Chris Bristol (cover).

Fiction: *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*, Jonis Agee.

Non-Fiction: *Restoring the Burnt Child: A Primer*, William Kloefkorn.

Anthology: *Road Trip: Conversations With Writers*, Shelly Clark and Marjorie Saiser.

Poetry: *Potato Soup*, Twyla Hansen.

Unique idea -- The community of Atkinson, NE, with a population of 1,244, went online in August in an attempt to raise \$20,000 with an eBay auction. More than 1,600 items were listed. Among the items that were donated by the folks in Atkinson were Husker football memorabilia, vintage toys, vintage cameras, Elvis records, and a 1901 Louis Wain print drawn for a popular English children’s book. All in all, 22 pages of items

(Continued on page 26)



MPLA Featured State KANSAS



Public Libraries Ranked Eighth in Nation

Kansas claimed the number eight spot in the overall state rankings in this year's *Hennen's American Public Library Ratings*. The latest HAPLR index is based on 2002 data filed by libraries in 2003. The scores are derived from six input and nine output measures, each of which is weighted and then scored. With them, libraries are compared to their peer institutions serving similar sized populations.

New Publication Highlights Military History of Sunflower State

A new publication is set to debut in the Sunflower State in 2005. According to their Website at <http://www.ksjournal.com/>, *The Kansas Journal of Military History* is committed to celebrating the adventurous spirit of the thousands of veterans who have called Kansas home. From Buffalo Bill and Robert E. Lee to Eisenhower and Gen. Richard Myers, everybody who is anybody in the armed forces has passed through Kansas since the early 1800s.

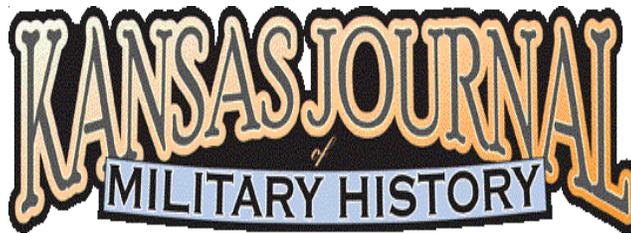
The debut issue was scheduled for release in late January with plans to publish quarterly thereafter. "A full-color, highly illustrated, durable publication, each issue of the KJMH will contain dozens of features from every era of Kansas' unique military heritage, written in terms the layperson can understand. We will go wherever Kansans have taken us—to the Little Big Horn with Custer, to the Philippines with Funston, to Normandy with Ike."

Promised for the premier issue was a section of stories about "Bleeding Kansas," the pre-Civil War per-

Four libraries also placed in the top ten in their service population categories. These include:

- ◆ Kansas City Kansas Public Library - #4 in electronic use in the 100,000 - 249,999 bracket.
- ◆ Johnson County Library - #2 in the general rankings for the 250,000 - 499,999 bracket.
- ◆ Morton County Library - #10 among libraries serving 2,500 - 4,999 people
- ◆ Seneca Free Library - #2 among libraries serving populations of 1,000 - 2,499

iod that witnessed battles between pro- and anti-slavery factions. Also featured was the scoop on Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allied commander during World War II and Abilene, KS homeboy, and his order for a Coca-Cola factory to be dismantled, shipped to Europe and rebuilt.



The new title is the product of two, transplanted Virginians, general manager Karen Erickson and publisher Deb Goodrich. Goodrich moved to Kansas to attend Washburn

University where she met her husband, Thomas Goodrich, at a meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of Eastern Kansas. He is the author of several books on the Civil War and the Indian Wars as well as a collaborator with his wife on *The Day Dixie Died*. Erickson recently moved to Topeka from California to join her high school friend for this venture.

The magazine is currently soliciting articles. For writers' guidelines or more information, visit the Website or call (785) 357-0510.

State Librarian Moves from Michigan to Kansas

Kansas snapped a salute to the new state librarian when Christie Brandau took the helm of the library mother ship on Feb. 1. “Kansas has gotten a real jewel in Christie Brandau,” said Governor Kathleen Sebelius when announcing the appointment. “She has done an incredible job in Michigan and understands that access to libraries and information brings strength to rural and urban communities. We are very fortunate that Christie has followed her heart to Kansas, where her children and grandchildren live.”

Brandau received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Iowa, including her masters of arts in Library Science from the University of Iowa in 1988. In the early years of her career, she served as the assistant state librarian of Iowa and as the assistant administrator for the North Central Regional Library System. In 2000 she was named the state librarian of Michigan

During her tenure in the Wolverine State, Brandau initiated a statewide one-book project called “One Book, One State,” a program that focused on reading to preschoolers and highlighted the importance of libraries and reading to young children. She also launched the Michigan eLibrary (MeL).



Christie Brandau

ing for libraries, continuing education and youth services.

MeL was the first statewide online union catalog in Michigan and included e-books, online genealogy information, and online employment tests. Brandau also worked with library professionals on statewide resource sharing, enhanced fund-

In a statement to the library community, Brandau said that she believes that “the state library works for the libraries of the state, and should be responsive to the needs of the Kansas library community. She also said that he is “a firm believer in the future of libraries and in the value of partnerships” and that “working together we can do much to enhance library service for the residents of the state.”

MPLA Representative Attends International Conference

Susan Moyer, director of the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library in Junction City, and Kansas representative to MPLA, was invited to attend the Oxford Round Table on Freedom of Speech and Press on March 20 - 25. Held at Pembroke College in the University of Oxford, England, the event featured five days of keynote addresses and round table discussions on such topics as



Susan Moyer

national security interests and access to library records, government’s restraint and filtering of information, the librarian and the U.S. Patriot Act, books as an aid to terrorism and Internet control and the flow of information. Forty people participated in this international event including representatives from Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Peru, Poland, Spain, and Turkey.

JCL Librarian Chosen to Attend Serving the Underserved Training

Tricia Suellentrop, young adult librarian at the Johnson County Library, was one of 40 young adult librarians selected to attend the fourth “Serving the Underserved: Improving Customer Service for Young Adults in School and Public Libraries Training Seminar.” Those who complete this training will join the ranks of the serving the underserved trainers who make presentations in schools and libraries and at conferences on such topics as adolescent development, reading interests, behavioral problems, youth participation, facilities, and computer services for teens.

Librarians Talk with Legislators on Issues Important to the Profession

The highways and byways were filled with librarians (carpooling, of course) on Feb. 17 as they make their way to the Kansas State Capitol for Legislative Day. Sponsored by the Kansas Library Association, this event provides the opportunity for librarians to meet with the members of their state delegation and talk about the issues and concerns they face. These include the five priorities identified by KLA’s Legislative Committee as the hot-button issues for this session.

- ◆ Enhanced state support of public library budgets. The goal is to increase the level of state support to equal 10% of library costs in order to continue to provide high quality collections and services for families, students, and businesses in local communities.
- ◆ Include school libraries in the definition of a “suitable” education. The goal is to raise awareness of and secure the role of school libraries as providers of learning resources as well as to highlight the need for licensed teachers/librarians to help students develop information skills that can be used throughout their lives. No definition of education can be complete without the inclu-

sion of school libraries and school library media specialists!

- ◆ Support ongoing funding of Kan-Ed. The goal of this project is to provide a statewide private network to which constituents may connect for video collaboration and data sharing, a portal for constituent access to online collaboration and instructional tools, a help desk to support members in the effective use of all collaboration tools as well as grant opportunities to enhance content delivery and premise hardware acquisition.
- ◆ Maintain current open records exemptions. The goal is to renew the exemptions for patron and circulation information in Sections 7 & 23 of the Kansas Open Records Act.
- ◆ Continue the success of the Kansas Children’s Campaign. The goal is to endorse the Smart Start program which gives much-needed support to local early childhood initiatives across the state.

Going “Buggy” at Johnson County

Project InSECT’s creator, Jessa Huebing-Reitinger, concluded her month-long artist-in-residence stint at the Johnson County Library in the first week of June. Watching “Courtne the Honeybee” from the first lines to completion could be accomplished either in person or via the library’s Website, where the progress was chronicled daily. School groups and individuals came to see in person and to learn about the nature of scientific observation and artistic expression. Inspired by Jessa, one class submitted their own “bug art”—which can still be seen on the Website at www.jocolibrary.org/projectinsect.

In its first online public program, the Johnson County Library (KS) hosted nine people from around the nation who interacted – via voice or text chat – utilizing OPAL (Online Programming for All Libraries) software. The program, “Project InSECT: Setting up Artists-in-Residence Programs at Your Library,” featured James Reitinger, hus

band and business manager of Jessa Huebing-Reitinger. Throughout the month of May, Jessa created a painting of “Courtne the Honeybee” as the public watched. JCL is one of only a few public libraries beta-testing for OPAL.

Hays Board Receives National Intellectual Freedom Award

The Hays (Kansas) Public Library Board of Trustees have been named the recipients of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for Intellectual Freedom for 2005, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT).

The Immroth Award honors intellectual freedom fighters in and outside the library profession who have demonstrated remarkable personal courage in resisting censorship. The award consists of \$500 and a citation.

The Immroth Award Committee recognizes the Hays Public Library Board of Trustees because, in the words of Chair Laurence Miller, “The Board persevered long after many others would have been discouraged and defeated. The result has been a series of victories that have made Hays Public Library a role model for other libraries throughout the country.”

Starting with an effort to remove Jennifer Aho’s *Learning about Sex* in 1981, to a controversy in 1998 over *Daddy’s Roommate*, to the current pressures to limit access to the Internet, the board has resisted and defeated censorship efforts that “call the roll” of major censorship issues of the last quarter century. The board also has fought off organized efforts to “pack” its membership with censors.

The Immroth Award will be presented Saturday, June 25, 2005, at a special awards reception at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

For more information on the award, visit <http://www.ala.org/ifrt>.

“Literature for Disabled” Program Earns Award for JCL

Johnson County Library, Shawnee Mission, KS is the 2005 recipient of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)/Keystone Library Automation System (KLAS)/National Organization on Disabilities (NOD) Award for its “Literature for the Learning Disabled Adult” program.

Donated by Keystone Systems, Inc., the \$1,000 award and certificate is given to a library organization that has provided services for people with disabilities. The award is presented by ASCLA, a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

“The ‘Literature for the Learning Disabled Adult’ program of the Johnson County Library represents a model demonstration of a collaborative effort to provide meaningful participation in literary and educational program,” stated Barratt Wilkins, ASCLA Award Committee Chair. “Working with the local community college, a non-profit agency serving seniors, and the county’s developmental supports unit, the coordinator, C.J. Sullivan, provides reminiscing programs, poetry classes, and current events programming to adults with learning disabilities and it is to be commended.” In the 2004 Presidential campaign, C.J. was also asked to make a non-partisan presentation about the candidates’ platforms on social services issues to the students.

The award will be presented June 26, 2005 at the ASCLA President’s Program and Award Ceremony, “Advocacy Is Not Enough – Using Evidence-Based Outcome Measures to Demonstrate Library Impact,” during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Grant Will Help Liberal Library Preserve History of KS Immigrants

Liberal Memorial Library has received an \$8,000 Kansas Humanities Grant to record the immigration stories of immigrants to Southwest Kansas. The Grant entitled “Crossroads of Commerce, Culture, and Community” will record and preserve the sto-

ries of 40 individuals and/or families who immigrated to Seward County from a foreign country.

According to Kristen Becker, director of Liberal Memorial Library, "The grant dollars from the Kansas Humanities Council will allow the library to record the interviews with both video and audio equipment and then take the information and disseminate it through our Website and DVD recordings. Individuals and families who wish to participate may elect to use an alias and have their faces blurred by the camera to maintain anonymity. This may encourage people whose immigration status is questionable from fearing they will be deported back to their native country. Preserving the stories of immigrants to Southwest Kansas is important for many reasons, and if we do not begin to record them soon, the stories will be lost as families move or individuals die."

The project will be a collaborative effort between Liberal Memorial Library and the City of Liberal Diversity Council. Duplicate copies of the interviews will be offered to Adelphia Communications for the community channel as well as copies sent to various repositories around Kansas, such as the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the Kansas State Historical Society. The project will begin immediately and will be completed by the end of the year. Interviews will be conducted between March and September.

Miguel Giner, co-chair of the diversity council said of the project, "History is being written every day, in every community, by ordinary people. The history of Southwest Kansas, Liberal included, has been changing very rapidly, especially due to the influx of immigrants, like in the old pioneer days, and we do not want to miss the opportunity to record it, so that the future generations of Kansas learn it firsthand. I invite every one in Liberal to be part of this project."

Principle funding for this program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization promoting understanding of the history,

traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

Distinguished Service Award presented to former Kansas Librarian, Marilyn Miller

Former Kansas librarian, Dr. Marilyn Miller, past president of ALA, American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), was recently chosen as the recipient of the ALSC Distinguished Service award.

Dr. Miller has been actively working in the field of library service to children since the 1950s..

Highlights of her professional career include serving as school library consultant for the Kansas Department of Public Instruction, educator in library science at Western Michigan University, and professor and chair of the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of North Carolina Greensboro until her retirement in 1996.

Throughout her career in academia, Dr. Miller has personally and directly influenced the development of her students and indirectly the lives of the children they would ultimately serve. This influence carried over into her work with ALA, AASL, and ALSC and with NCATE, the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education, where she made sure libraries stayed on the agenda.

Mark Your Calendars Now! Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library will once again be hosting "Celebrate the Book: A Regional Readers' Advisory Conference" on Nov. 4, 2005. The conference will be from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and science fiction author Connie Willis will be the featured speaker. Contact Deb Bryan or Valerie Reif at (785) 580-4552 for more information. Keep your eyes open for more details; you won't want to miss this exciting celebration of reading!

Ghost Ranch ...

(Continued from page 6)

strengths and identifying our opportunities to develop new leadership skills.

Individual and small group exercises challenged us to look honestly at the way we operate and taught us new, more effective approaches in the areas of teambuilding, risk taking, managing differences, and leading change. The primary presenter, Maureen Sullivan, masterfully balanced lectures with activities. The institute faculty was composed of highly experienced librarians, who served as mentors and contributed throughout. It was a blend of intense learning and light-hearted breaks; working hard was never so much fun!

We returned with as much practical knowledge as personal insight and enthusiasm. For Connie, one pivotal moment was the session on mentoring, during which we did some role-playing while discussing real issues from our own libraries. For Kate, learning about leading from the middle was inspiring and encouraging. For Holly, the impromptu lunch discussions for academic librarians were particularly worthwhile; topics of conversation grew out of the formal morning sessions and fellows shared strategies for working with faculty, etc.

One surprise was an extended conversation between two extraordinary librarians in the field—Richard Akeroyd, New Mexico State Librarian, and Rick Luce, director of the Los Alamos National Laboratories Libraries—who offered candid reflections on leadership challenges, risks, and accomplishments of their careers. As their time with us illustrated, sharing our stories is important. The conversations we had with peers and mentors provided new perspectives on what we as individuals are doing in our respective jobs. Each of us had at least one opportunity to meet one-on-one with a mentor as well.

Ghost Ranch is a unique experience--for Kansas librarians--and all other librarians in MPLA.



South African Library Grateful to Wyoming Volunteer

Mary Gen Davies, an employee of the Laramie County Library System in Cheyenne, WY recently spent two years in South Africa as a volunteer teacher through Jesuit Volunteers International.

As part of her teaching responsibilities, she helped augment that library's sparse collection through the help of her connections in the United States. Marshak's House of Fantasy in Fort Collins, CO, the library's comic book supplier, donated a collection of comic books and the Wyoming State Library sent a number of small, easy-to-read books for the students. Shown above, several students sent a "thank you" to everyone who gave the library a boost. Their weekly library sessions included storytime and independent reading, which the students truly loved. "Even if all of them couldn't understand English, they loved to look at the books," Davies said. The Paxana Primary School serves about 430 students from grades K to 7. The school is just outside the city of Polokwane in the Limpopo Province.



Arizona

Jana Bradley
School of Info. Resources & Lib. Sc.

Suzan Brown
The Art Center Design College

Stacie Fowler
Scottsdale Public Library System

David Gunckel
Sierra Vista Public Library

Nichole Ney
City of Phoenix – Ironwood Branch

Derek Terry
Mohave Community College Library

Gladdysann Wells
Arizona State Library

Rebecca Welsch
Phoenix Public Library – Yucca Branch

Colorado

Jim Agee
Emporia State University – SLIS

Christine Baker
Colorado School of Mines

Susan Boyd
Vail Public Library

Malcolm Brantz
Arapahoe Community College

Charlyn Canada
Eagle Valley Library District

James Connor
Jefferson County Public Library

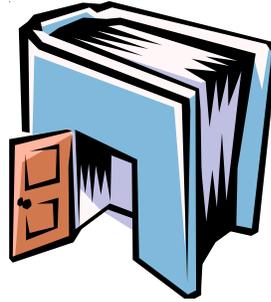
Valerie Cortelyou
Arapahoe Community College

Jennifer Cotton
Denver Public Library

Roberta Depp
Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Lib.

Patricia Froehlich
Colorado State Library

Welcome to MPLA



New Members

Mary Garnar
Regis University

David Gleim
Auraria Library

Amy Greenland
Arapahoe Library District, Sheridan

Sandra Hackbarth
La Veta Public Library District

Alea Henle
Colorado State University

Lynda Hoffmann
Rocky Mountain High School

Wendy Highby
University of Northern Colorado

Elizabeth Huber
Student

Barbara Keiser
Pikes Peak Library District, Rockrimmon

April Koebert
Cherry Creek Schools

James Larue
Douglas County Libraries

Sue Lathrop
Clear Creek County Library District

Michelle Lerman
Denver Public Library

Roberta Marks
Emporia State University – Student

Joann Perko
Mountain View Elementary School

Christina Poliseo
Douglas County Library
Kirstaine Smith
Lone Tree Library, Douglas City Lib.

Sid Stanfill
Pikes Peak Library District

Carl Stewart
University of Colorado - Boulder

Corinne Swanson
Arapahoe Community College

William Thompson
Telluride Library

Judy Van Acker
Clarion U. of Pennsylvania - student

Molly Wagner

Kansas

Angela A. Allen
Kansas Wesleyan University

Carol Barta
Northwest Kansas Library System

Edys Cacy
Johnson County Library

PJ Capps
Atchison Library

Connie Doeden
Eureka Carnegie Library

Trish Downey
Johnson County Library

Aileen Finney
Topeka & Shawnee City Public Library

Jennie Hall
McPherson Public Library

Cindy Hittle
Morton County Library Rolla
Donna Hobbs
Manhattan Area Tech College

Erin Howerton
Hays Public Library

Marilyn Keating
Hamilton County Library

Robert Kelly
Hutchinson Community College/AVS

Andrew Mangels
Johnson County Library

Mary Markwalter
Coffey County Library

Sara McFarland
Cimarron City Library

Cara Negaard
Great Bend Public Library

Sandy Norman
Sedgwick Public Schools

Kathleen O'Leary
Olathe Public Library

Mandy Olney
McPherson Public Library

Debra Reynolds
Emporia State University

Kathleen Rippel
Central Kansas Library System

Denise Roebkes
USD 382

William Rogers
Hays Public Library

Rosanne Siemens
Kansas Library Association

Heather Smith-Collins
Washburn University

Terri Summey
Emporia State University

Kathryn Talbot
Kansas State University
Sandy Unruh
Cimarron City Library

Diana Weaver
Northeast Kansas Library System

Jana Werner
Ottawa University

Montana

Mary Allen
Roberts School

Kim Crowley
Flathead County Library

Terri Dodd
Bozeman Public Library

Dorlie Ebner
Wolf Point Jr/Sr High School

Roberta Gebbardt
Montana State Library

Darlene Hert
Montana State University – Billings

Cheryl Hoover
Montana State University – Billings

Jill Jackson
Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation

Susan Marshall
Montana State University

Elaine Peterson
Montana State University

Nebraska

Joan Chesley
Keene Memorial Library

Scott Childers
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Sandra Elton
Lincoln Correctional Center

Susan Franklin
Republican Valley Library System

Patrice L. Hughes
Hastings College

Marvel Maring
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Linda McElvain
Goodall City Library

Claire McKibben
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Elaine Nowick
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Joann Prout
Omaha Public Library

Ramona Ratliff
York College

Rosemary Schinker
La Vista Public Library

Carol Swanson
Lincoln City Libraries

Nancy Swetland

Susan Thornton
Omaha Public Library

Nevada

Iris Dumuk
Las Vegas Clark County Library District

Dani Porter
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Chris Ward
LVCCLD – Whitney Library

Mikki Winslow
Las Vegas Clark County Library District

New Mexico

Richard Akeroyd
New Mexico State Library

Jennifer Brown
Navajo Middle School

Leslie Chamberlin
The University of New Mexico

Kristen Clark
New Mexico State University

Dana John
New Mexico State Library

Kimberly Miller
New Mexico State University

Ann Moore
New Mexico State Library

Christina Otero
Sandia Pueblo Learning Resource Cntr.

Cindy Pierard
New Mexico State University

Rosemary Shafer
Carrizozo Municipal Schools

Mildred Walters
Pecos Independent Schools

Stephanie Wilson
New Mexico Supreme Court Law Lib.

North Dakota

Mary Bintz
Ward County Library

Virginia Bjorness
North Dakota State Library

Stella Cone
North Dakota State Library

Mary Drewes
University of North Dakota

Celeste Ertelt
Lake Region State College

Mary Fuka
Lidgerwood Public School

Jennifer Jenness
University of North Texas - Student

Agnes R. Jenson
Stutsman County Library

Christine Kujawa
Bismarck Public Library

Cathy Langemo
North Dakota Library Association

Andrea Lindorff
Warwick Public School
Diane Lindseth
Grand Forks Public Library

Joann Newman
Trustee-Ward County Library

Todd O'Connor
North Dakota State Library

Patricia Riddle
Dickinson Public Schools

Erin Smith
Fargo Public Library

Alan Vandelinder
Minot Public Library

Kathy Vandervorst
Bismarck Public Library

Toni Vonasek
Grand Forks Public Library

Oklahoma

Cathie Andersen
Tulsa City – County Library System

Parker Atkins
Oklahoma City University

Lisa Bradley
Metropolitan Library System

Adri Edwards-Johnson
Southwestern Oklahoma State U.

Fran Harbert
Metropolitan Library System

Jane Janzen
Western Plains Library System

Jaymie Lang
University of Oklahoma

Janet Lee
Ada Public Library

Anna Meeks
Metropolitan Library System

Kathy Megli
Western Plains Library System

Bethia Owens
Muldrow Public Library

Louisa Payne
Oklahoma State University

Louisa Rankin
Chicasaw Regional Library System

Marla Robertson
University of Central Oklahoma

Susan Ryals
Vinita Public Library

Jeri Smalley
University of Oklahoma

Alicia Smith
Purcell Public Library

Aiden Street
Moore Public Library

Melissa Weathers
Midwest City Library

South Dakota

Eric Abrahamson
South Dakota State Library

Heather Rae Bakeberg
Alexander Mitchell Public Library

Vicki Carlson
Wegner Health Science Info. Center

Linda Daugaard
South Dakota State Library

Katherine Eberline
Brookings Public Library

Michele Howard
South Dakota State Library

Jennifer Irwin
Rapid City Public Library

Carl Kitchin
Tiospa Zina Tribal School

Pamela Kringel
South Dakota State Library

Rachel Lindvall
Sinte Gleska University
Kristen Monroe
Vermillion Public Library

Robert Russell
Northern State University

Roberta Sago
Black Hills State University

Colleen Smith
Huron Public Library

Karen Stacy
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Patricia Weiss
National American University

Ruth Westling
Alcester-Hudson Schools

Elizabeth Wild
Holbrook Library

Utah

Denis Brunke
Utah State University

Deborah Ehrman
Salt Lake City Public Library

Britt Fagerheim
Utah State University

Sue Hill
Brigham City Library

Scott Lanning
Southern Utah University

Hikmet Loe
Salt Lake City Public Library

Britton Lund
Salt Lake County Library System

Marie Paiva
University of Utah

Sarah Pitkin
Utah State Library For The Blind

Leslie Schow
Salt Lake City Public Library

Linda St. Clair
University of Utah

Susie Woodward
Salt Lake City Public Library

Wyoming

Cindy Angell
East Junior High

Dale Collum
Uinta County Library

Elizabeth Cuckow
Laramie County Library System

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University of Wyoming

Tamsen Hert
University of Wyoming

Ruth Hitchcock
Albany County Public Library

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University of Wyoming

Karen Kitchens
Laramie County Library System

David Kruger
University of Wyoming

Deb Lanthier
Wagonwheel El. & Recluse School

Janie Leath
University of Wyoming

Angel Mann
Sheridan Fulmer Public Library

Deborah McCarthy
University of Wyoming

Sharon Mikesell
Laramie County Library System

Cindy Moore
Sweetwater County Library System

Patty Myers
Campbell County Public Library

Betsy O'Neil
Natrona County Public Library

Jennifer Rife
Laramie County Library System

Kyan Rios
Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

Julie Saffel
Sheridan Fulmer Public Library

Jan Segerstrom
Jackson Hole High School

Tekla Slider
Laramie County Library System

Janet Stout
Campbell County Library – Wright Br.

Heather Thams

Joann Winkel
Sweetwater County Library

Cheryl Wright
Park County Library

Welcome to
all new
MPLA
members.
We're glad
to have you
join us!

Around the MPLA region ...

(Continued from page 15)

were listed along with their displays. All bids began at 99 cents. Money raised went to the Atkinson Community Foundation to help finance several projects, including a new library.

Grant will help recruit librarians -- The Nebraska Library Commission has been awarded a \$343,682 grant by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Applying for the grant was a result of the work of the recruitment and retention task force created by the commission in 2002. The task force was established for the purpose of recommending strategies and actions that would attract new workers to library careers and train and support current library workers.

Because of the grant, the Nebraska Library Commission will be able to develop a marketing campaign and resources to raise awareness of and identify prospects for library service careers. High school and college students will be recruited, matched with mentors and educational opportunities, and provided with stipends, grants, or scholarships to support the pursuit of pre-professional and professional education.

A multi-media campaign, "Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the Movies," will be developed in both English and Spanish to encourage diversity in library professionals in Nebraska. The campaign and its resources will be made available to K-12, post-secondary, and public library staff and to library supporters and advocates.

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator at (402) 471-3434, (800) 307-2665, e-mail mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.

New librarian at U of Nebraska, Omaha -- Nora Hillyer is the information science, technology & engineering/reference librarian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Library. Hillyer received her MLS from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Hillyer also

brings a background of computer programming and systems analysis to her position.

Improving quality of public access to computers -- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently awarded \$250,960 to the Nebraska Library Commission, supporting efforts to help libraries sustain and improve the quality of public access computing and access to the Internet in Nebraska public libraries. The Gates Foundation will match every dollar of federal, state, and local funds with two dollars. This funding will help public libraries across Nebraska improve technology training for library staff and customers, upgrade to faster Internet connections, and increase access to technical support. Additionally, the Gates Foundation has determined that libraries in three communities in Nebraska (House Memorial Library, Pender, Lynch Public Library, and Walthill Public Library) will receive computer upgrades. These communities were selected by the Gates Foundation using foundation methodology to determine poverty levels.

NEVADA

Maps, map, a kingdom for my maps -- The historic map collection housed in the UNLV Libraries' Division of Special Collection dates from the 17th century to the present, including significant collections concerning the exploration of the American West, the American Southwest, Nevada, and southern Nevada. This collection contains the original published reports of the great 19th century U.S. government surveys of the West, as well as the series of maps and atlases

by Fremont, Emory, Beckwith, Warren and Wheeler

that accompanied the published accounts. Special collections also houses historic state highway, geological, and topographical maps, and USGS maps from the state of Nevada and bordering quadrangles in Cali-



ifornia and Arizona, as well as private collections created or annotated by individual geologists, surveyors and engineers. The map collection contains a comprehensive series of Las Vegas city street maps, maps produced by Clark County agencies and departments, the original U.S. Land Office survey maps of Clark County, copies of plats from the County Recorder's Office, and plat and site plans created by the Union Pacific Railroad and later real estate developers. <http://www.library.unlv.edu/maps/>.

New Digital Collection: Just Passin' Through; The Lincoln and Victory Highways in Nevada -- In September 1912 Carl Graham Fisher began promoting the idea of a transcontinental graveled highway, the Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway. By 1928 the Lincoln Highway, as it came to be called, and the parallel Victory Highway, a memorial to those who served in World War I, were marked across Nevada. The images selected for this site document places and activities along the highways in Nevada, eastern California and western Utah, and Reno's 1927 Transcontinental Highways Exposition of 1927 celebrating the completion of the roads. See <http://www.library.unr.edu/specoll/photoweb/lincolnhwy/>.

"Free Minds, Free People" -- The Nevada Library Association announces its annual conference will be Oct. 19-22, 2005 in Reno. This year's theme is "Free Minds, Free People." Conference headquarters are at Harrah's Reno. More information will be posted on <http://www.nevadalibraries.org>.

NEW MEXICO

Lasting Impressions -- The IMLS has awarded a national leadership grant in the library & museum collaboration category worth \$425,453 jointly to the Museum of New Mexico, New Mexico State Library, and Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe. The joint project is called *Lasting Impressions* and will be a journey across two centuries of literary history. It is focused on the people of New Mexico's private press movement, their work, and their tools. The grant will allow exhibits for museums and libraries throughout the state. Volunteers will work with the state li-

brary and palace staff to incorporate Spanish and bi-lingual English/Spanish reading curriculum and family-centered activities into the overall project.

Library of Congress Grant Award -- Los Alamos National Laboratory's Research Library was recently awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Library of Congress to support research and development of tools that will help address complex problems related to collecting, storing, and accessing digital materials. The research library is part of Los Alamos' Science and Technology Base Programs Office. Items in the library's holdings are of national interest. The digitization project will help expand the use of the library's materials.

People Notes -- **Anne Lefkofsky** was elected NMLA Vice-President/President-Elect. Anne has been very active in NMLA for many years and is the collection development manager at the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System. **Leslie Monsalve-Jones** is one of *Library Journal's* 2005 Movers and Shakers. Leslie is active in REFORMA and works to promote library paraprofessionals in New Mexico and nationwide. She serves on the ALA Pay Equity committee and the ALA Council. **Teresa Y. Neely** was named the new director of Zimmerman Library on the University of New Mexico main campus in March. Neely comes from the University of Maryland, where she was the head of reference at the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery. Prior to that she was an assistant professor and reference librarian at Colorado State University Libraries where she held several positions.

NORTH DAKOTA

Norwegians can study heritage in bygdeboks -- The Family History Room in the Chester Fritz Library Department of Special Collections at the University of North Dakota offers those seeking their Norwegian heritage a unique opportunity. Genealogists may study an extensive collection of Norwegian farm and family history books known as bygdeboks. The library's collection presently totals 986 books. It usually requires several volumes to chronicle a particular Norwegian farm community

or parish, called a kommune or a sogn. The first volume of a set often recounts the economic, political, and cultural history of a farm area. Subsequent volumes detail personal information about the people who lived on each of the farms, such as birth, marriage, death dates and locations. Frequently, the books indicate immigration and where people settled in the United States.

The library is looking forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the bygdebok collection in 2005. This is the same year that Norway will celebrate the centennial of its dissolution from Sweden. The library's goal is to reach the 1,000 volume mark by 2005. It is confident that milestone will be achieved, further enhancing the library's bygdebok collection as one of the finest in the United States.

Former MPLA rep. retiring -- Melody Kuehn, 34 year member of MPLA and former representative from North Dakota retired this spring. Melody was librarian at Minot High School Central Campus in Minot from 1981-2005. She was a member of the Minot Education Association, North Dakota Education Association, and NEA. Her involvement in NDLA included chairing both SLAYS and the professional development grants committees, and presenting at numerous conferences. An MLS graduate of Denver University, Melody was an MPLA representative for eight years. Her 35-year library career began at the Minot Public Library where she was reference librarian, information and referral specialist, and assistant director. Congratulations and best wishes, Melody.

Former MPLA rep. planning conference -- This year's annual NDLA Conference is scheduled for Sept. 21 – 23 in Grand Forks. The conference theme is "Providing Excellence in Information Access @ North Dakota Libraries." Jeanne Narum, jnarum@ndak.net, is the conference planning chairperson.

Electronic newsletter -- Take a look at NDLA's all electronic newsletter, *The Good Stuff*, at <http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/ndla/gsmarch05.pdf>.

Session was positive for libraries -- The latest session of the ND legislature was good to ND's libraries. The legislature increased state aid to public libraries by \$155,693 and provided funding of \$200,000 for additional databases available statewide. Another bill that passed allows city and county libraries to become a joint library, yet allows each library to have its own mill levy structure.

OKLAHOMA

"A New Spin" at the OLA Annual Conference -- Highlights from the 98th annual conference of the Oklahoma Library Association, held March 30 - April 1 at the National Employee Development Center in Norman, included:

- MPLA President Beth Avery arrived a day late because of a Colorado snowstorm, but she presented her excellent program "Ecology or Feng Shui: Creating Positive Relationships Between Patrons and the Library" to a full house and was a wonderful diplomat for MPLA at the booth and throughout the conference.

- The keynote address by author Rilla Askew (*Fire in Beulah*) was outstanding, reminding librarians that "Oklahoma's libraries' only responsibility is to spin the truth — all sides of the truth, all viewpoints. To be the gatekeepers of intellectual freedom, the keepers of the resources, the archives, the books."

- Librarian action figure model and reader's advisor extraordinaire Nancy Pearl spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about reader's advisory service and entertained the awards banquet with her tales of the perils of being a bibliophile.

- Patrick Brennan, about to retire as director of the Noble Foundation's research library, was presented OLA's Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his many contributions to OLA and to the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO).

- Choctaw storyteller and author Tim Tingle presented two programs to help librarians prepare local discussions of his book, *Walking the Choctaw Road*, which is the 2005 Oklahoma Reads selection.

- Congratulations went to Pat Weaver-Meyers, director of technical services for the University of Oklahoma's Libraries, on her election as vice president/president-elect.

- On Thursday night, librarians stepped from the Information Age back to the Middle Ages, with entertainers from Norman's annual medieval fair and costumes and food to match.

Legislative issues -- The Oklahoma Library Association's annual Legislative Day, on April 13, drew librarians and trustees from across the state to the capital, reminding legislators that Oklahoma's libraries need their piece of the state pie by serving pie to them and their office managers. A point of special concern was HB 1715, which would exempt oil and natural gas production equipment from taxation, and would seriously hurt county library revenues in several parts of the state.

OLA finds gold -- The Oklahoma Library Association's first-ever leadership institute, OLA Gold, was held Nov. 3-6, 2004 at the conference center of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, in Ardmore. Twenty-four participants, selected from a larger pool of applicants, joined six mentors for three days of instruction, motivation, reflection, and networking, under the leadership of Pat Wagner. Evaluation comments from the participants included remarks like, "...the conference exceeded my expectations," "[I was] made to feel as if I can be a leader," "I learned a lot, but it will take a while to process it all," and "This conference has given me so much confidence that I want to be the next president of OLA." Planning for the institute began in 2002, and the plan is to offer one every three years.

SOUTH DAKOTA

2005 South Dakota Children's Book Award Winners -- *Penny Lee and Her TV*, written and illustrated by Glenn McCoy, is the winner of the 2005 Prairie Bud Award. *Double Fudge* by Judy Blume is the winner of the 2005 Prairie Pasque Award.

Sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association, South Dakota Children's Book Awards encourage students in grades K-6 to read and vote for their favorite book of the year. The Prairie Bud Award is designed for students in grades K-3, while the Prairie Pasque Award is for fourth, fifth, and sixth grad-

ers. Both awards challenge students to read and vote for their favorite book from a list of 15 nominated titles. Children who read at least five titles from the list for their grade level qualify to vote. Each award is given to the book receiving the most votes from students throughout South Dakota. 6,473 students in grades K-3 voted for a book nominated for this year's Prairie Bud Award; 1,943 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders took part in the Prairie Pasque Award voting. The Prairie Pasque Award was first given in 1987 to Ivy Ruckman for her book, *Night of the Twisters*. Other winners include Phyllis Reynolds Naylor for *Shiloh*, David Pateneau for *Someone Was Watching*, and Louis Sachar for *Holes*. The Prairie Bud Award was created by the Prairie Valley Reading Council and has been given annually since 1998. The Prairie Bud Award was first given to Patricia Rae Wolff for her book, *Toll-Bridge Troll*. Other winners include Bill Grossman for *My Little Sister Ate One Hare* and Joan Steiner for *Look-Alikes*.

SD Newspaper Digitization Project awarded a DAR Planning Grant and a SD Community Foundation Grant -- The Friends of the Huron Public Library was awarded an \$8,000 planning grant to support the South Dakota Newspaper Digitization and Indexing Project. Grant funding for the SD Newspaper Digitization Project was provided by the Mary Chilton Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution through the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation of Sioux Falls, SD. The Friends of the Huron Public Library will provide the match needed for this grant project.

For more than a century, South Dakota newspapers have offered historical insights into the settlement of the state, the local significance of cities and counties, and the personal highlights of area residents. That historical detail has been buried in the pages of local newspapers for more than 100 years. Unless you know the exact date of an event, finding that event in South Dakota newspapers has been nearly impossible. The South Dakota Newspaper Digitization and Indexing Project would make that search possible, fun, and easy.

OCLC Digital Collection Services, Dublin Ohio, will provide digitization consulting services for the project. When digitized and indexed, the South Dakota newspapers would be available over the Internet for public use.

The South Dakota Community Foundation Grant funded the creation of a South Dakota Newspaper Digitization Sample, including 1917 papers from the Howard, Huron, Pierre, and Rapid City newspapers.

SDLA and USD to host library marketing workshop -- The Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) Regional Institute program will offer a one-day workshop on "Using Marketing to Enhance Library Performance." This LAMA session takes place on Friday, Aug. 5, 2005 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the University of South Dakota's Al Neuharth Center in Vermillion. This institute is for both academic and public librarians.

The full-day institute will take participants through a library marketing planning process. Participants will create a marketing plan that meets the needs and desires of their clientele. Anyone who has looked at, worked on or simply has having an open mind about using marketing techniques in their libraries should consider attending.

The presenter, William Sannwald, was director of the San Diego Public Library for approximately 20 years (1979-1997). Sannwald is presently assistant to San Diego's City Manager. He also possesses a MBA degree and is a frequent adjunct professor of marketing courses for San Diego State University.

To register and learn more about this Aug. 5, 2005 workshop, contact Stephen Johnson, business and distance education librarian, at the University of South Dakota (605) 677-5629 or sjohnso@usd.edu.

UTAH

Ogburn selected as new director of university library -- The University of Utah has selected Joyce Ogburn as its new director of the J. Willard Marriott Library. Ogburn comes to Utah from the University of

Washington where she was associate director of the libraries, resources and collection management services (RCMS). She takes over for Sarah Michalak who left to become university librarian and associate provost for university libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Besides her latest position at the University of Washington, which she has held since 1999, Ogburn has served in similar posts at Old Dominion University, Yale University, and The Pennsylvania State University.

In accepting the position, Ogburn pledged to work closely with the campus community to ensure the library is meeting all educational needs. "Being named director of the J. Willard Marriott Library is an enormous honor. The University of Utah is justifiably proud of the library and its great staff. I am attracted to the collaborative spirit on campus and the prospect of building exemplary integrated services for the university. The renovation project underway presents a tremendous opportunity to shape the services and directions of the Marriott Library for many years to come, and I look forward to joining this effort in the fall." Ogburn will begin her duties Sept. 1.

WYOMING

Paraprofessional of the year named -- Library Journal has named Trish Palluck, library specialist at WYLD (Wyoming Libraries Database) office at the Wyoming State Library, paraprofessional of the year for 2005. Palluck celebrated her 26th anniversary at the library this year.

Former MPLA rep. moving to SD -- Mary Coffin has resigned from her position at the Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, WY. She has been a reference and instruction librarian for the past 15 years. While in Wyoming, she served as MPLA representative and chair of the academic section. She was honored with the first non-classroom faculty excellence award in 2002. She previously was the director of the Custer County Library, SD, from 1977-1988 and is planning to move back to the Rapid

City area next winter.

Author visit part of One Book event -- The Fremont County Wyoming Library System, in partnership with Central Wyoming College and Sky People Higher Education at the Wind River Tribal College, was awarded a grant from the Wyoming Council for the Humanities to fund a One County, One Book project.

Fremont County hosted One County, One Book in March and April 2005. They read *Killing Raven*, a murder mystery set on the Wind River Indian Reservation, by Margaret Coel. Through community support they were able to purchase nearly 1,400 copies of the book that were available to the public free of charge in mid-March. On March 21, they held open houses in libraries across the county for people to pick up books, have some coffee, and chat with neighbors. Community members then had over a month to read the book and were encouraged to attend one of 14 book discussions being held throughout the county during the last week of April.

One County, One Book culminated in a visit from Coel. On April 28 she attended a special question & answer event exclusively for county high school students in Lander. The Wind River Tribal College then honored Coel with a brunch on April 29 in Ethete. In the capstone event Coel talked about her writing and signed books at Central Wyoming College in Riverton on April 30. All events were free and open to the public.

Natrona Public opens two new additions -- The Natrona County Public Library of Casper, WY officially opened its two new additions — the Tech Center and Teen Zone — on Feb. 1, 2005. The Teen Zone, which was designed with input from local teens by GSG architecture, has a coffee house feel with funky furniture and a color palette of muted oranges, greens, and purples. Teens have quickly developed a sense of ownership of their new part of the library, dropping by after school and on the weekends to study, play games, watch movies and just hang out with their friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Sept. 21-23 | North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Grand Forks |
| Sept. 28-30 | Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference, Lincoln |
| Oct. 5-7 | South Dakota Library Association Annual Conference, Pierre |
| Oct. 11-15 | Arizona Library Association Annual Conference, Mesa |
| Oct. 20-22 | Nevada Library Association Annual Conference, Reno |
| Nov. 10-13 | Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Conference, Denver |
| April 5-7 | Kansas Library Association Annual Conference, Wichita |
| May 2-7 | Montana Library Association Annual Conference, Missoula |

UPCOMING MPLA CONFERENCES

2005: (Oct. 12-15) Jackson Hole, WY
(joint with Wyoming Library Association)

2006: No conference
(transition year to spring conference)

2007: Albuquerque, NM
(joint with New Mexico Library Association)

2008: (April 30-May 3) Salt Lake City, UT
(joint with Utah Library Association)

2009: Overland Park, KS
(joint with Kansas Library Association)

2010: Oklahoma
(joint with Oklahoma Library Association)

The Tech Center features 16 new state-of-the-art computers, all which are equipped with Internet connections and complete suites of Microsoft applications. Patrons can access the computers with their library card number and PIN.

Funding for these two significant library additions was provided by the Natrona County Recreation District, Natrona County Commission through Optional One Cent, Friends of the Library and grants from the Tate, Tonkin and Daniels Foundations.

MPLA Newsletter

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- Support of regional library efforts

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