

2007



Oklahoma Book
Awards

A Celebration of Oklahoma Books and Authors

Welcome to the

18th Annual
Oklahoma
Book Awards

Ceremony

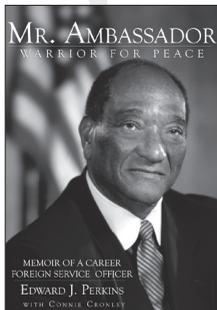
A Celebration of Oklahoma Books and Authors

2007 • Oklahoma Book Awards

Welcome	M.J. Van Deventer President, Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book
Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma	Susan McVey Director, Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Greetings from the Library of Congress	Maurvene Williams Center for the Book in the Library of Congress
Now Showing at a Theater Near You.....	Molly Levite Griffis Two-time Oklahoma Book Award winner
Master of Ceremonies	the Honorable M. Susan Savage Oklahoma Secretary of State
Ralph Ellison Award Presentation	Patricia Loughlin Assistant Professor of History, University of Central Oklahoma and recipient of the 2006 Directors Award for <i>Hidden Treasures of the American West</i>
Honoring Muriel L. Wright	Accepted by Bob Blackburn Director, Oklahoma History Center
Poetry Award Presentation	Richard Rouillard Professor of English, Oklahoma City Community College
Design/Illustration Award Presentation	Kay Boies Executive Director, Oklahoma Library Association
Non-Fiction Award Presentation	Bob Burke 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient
Children/Young Adult Award Presentation	Una Belle Townsend 2004 Oklahoma Book Award winner
Fiction Award Presentation	Diane Seebass Fiction editor, <i>Nimrod International Journal</i>
Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award	Thomas Bennett, Jr. Chairman and CEO, ONB Bank and Trust, Tulsa
Honoring Clifton H. Taulbert	
Announcements.....	Glenda Carlile Executive Director, Oklahoma Center for the Book

Music by Edgar Cruz

The book sale and signing continues after dinner. Best of Books contributes all proceeds to the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.
Please enjoy visiting with the book award medalists and finalists.

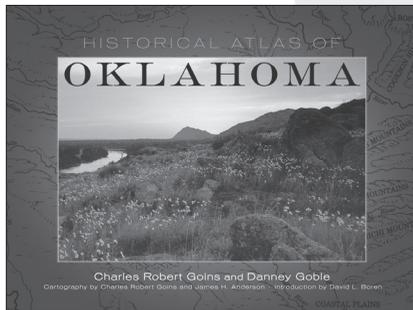


Mr. Ambassador Warrior for Peace

By Edward J. Perkins with Connie Cronley

Mr. Ambassador is the memoir of Career Foreign Service Officer Edward J. Perkins, the first black United States ambassador to South Africa. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan gave him the unparalleled assignment: dismantle apartheid without violence. This is the story of how one man turned the page of history.

\$39.95 Cloth · 978-0-8061-3767-4 · 576 pages



Historical Atlas of Oklahoma Fourth Edition

By Charles Robert Goins and Danney Goble

The Historical Atlas of Oklahoma has been an indispensable reference for longer than four decades. Issued on the eve of the Oklahoma Centennial, this fourth edition of the atlas is much more than an updated version. Oklahoma authors Goins and Goble are joined by seventeen contributing scholars and other professionals to present 119 topics. To explore each, one or more maps with explanatory legends, tables, and graphs are paired with an interpretive essay.

\$39.95 Cloth · 978-0-8061-3482-6 · 320 pages



Black Silk Handkerchief A Hom-Astubby Mystery

By D. L. Birchfield

In this fast-paced novel by D.L. Birchfield, a hard-luck Oklahoma Choctaw lawyer, Hom-Astubby, finds himself at the center of the biggest manhunt in Colorado history as he plays detective in a baffling murder. Hunted by Colorado's most powerful cop, Hom-Astubby must race the clock to solve the murder and keep himself from being arrested as the perpetrator. The first in a series of mysteries featuring this appealing character, *Black Silk Handkerchief* is sure to keep readers on their toes.

\$26.95 Cloth · 978-0-8061-3751-3 · 368 pages



Dreams to Dust A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush

By Sheldon Russell

Winner of the Langum Prize for Historical Literature, *Dreams to Dust* is a tale of high aspirations and broken dreams during the birth of a state. Russell takes readers back to the early days of Oklahoma Territory – a sometimes dangerous place filled with nefarious dealings, where violence lurks behind even casual encounters – to tell the story of frontier men and women gambling everything to find their fortune on the windswept southern plains.

\$26.95 Cloth · 978-0-8061-3721-6 · 296 pages

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

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Muriel L. Wright

Recipient of the **2007 Ralph Ellison Award**

It is fitting that Muriel Wright be recognized in the year of Oklahoma's Centennial. She has been acclaimed as both making and preserving the history of our state. She wrote or co-authored 12 books on Oklahoma, and from 1955 to 1973, she served as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, a journal published by the Oklahoma Historical Society, shaping it into a well-regarded publication.

She described her identity as thoroughly American: one-fourth Choctaw and from distinguished colonial ancestry. She traced her genealogy to descendents aboard the Mayflower in 1620. Wright was born in Lehigh, Choctaw Nation, in 1889. Her grandfather was Allen Wright, chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1866 until 1870, and the man credited with coining the name "Oklahoma" from two Choctaw words translated as "Red People."

Among Muriel Wright's literary achievements is the four-volume work *Oklahoma, a History of the State and its People* (1929) written with Joseph Thoburn. This was and still is the most comprehensive study of the state's history and biography. Three of her other books: *The Story of Oklahoma*, *Our Oklahoma*, and *The Oklahoma History* were adopted by the state textbook commission for the public schools. She also wrote *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma* and, with historian LeRoy Fischer, *Civil War Sites in Oklahoma*.

Upon her retirement in 1973, George Shirk, board president of the Oklahoma Historical Society, said, "The thought of the gap that would have been left in Oklahoma history, had it not been for her work, makes me shudder."

Her awards and honors include: Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Hall of Fame of Famous American Indians, Oklahoma Historical Society Historians Hall of Fame, the University of Oklahoma Distinguished Service Citation, and an Honorary Doctorate from Oklahoma City University. She was also named Oklahoma City Woman of the Year in 1951. In 1971, Wright was named Outstanding Indian Woman of the Twentieth Century by the North American Indian Women's Association.

The Ralph Ellison Award

From time to time, the Ralph Ellison Award, honoring a deceased Oklahoma writer, is presented. The award is named after the first recipient, Ralph Ellison, author of the ground-breaking novel *Invisible Man*. A list of Ellison Award recipients is listed on the Previous Winners page of this program.

2007 Oklahoma Book Award **Finalists**

Poetry

***Cosmic Rainbow: New and Collected Poems*—Mary McAnally**

Partisan Press, Norfolk, VA

McAnally is an activist, artist, pilgrim and poet. In living her life and creating her art, she is inspired by her Christian faith, her travels, and the struggles for social justice. The spectrum of *Cosmic Rainbow* includes popular works from her past; poetry on the dispossessed of the world; and poems occasioned by her return to Oklahoma and her spiritual awakening. McAnally has degrees from four institutions, and has held jobs ranging from Dairy Queen clerk to YWCA director to prison chaplain. Her poems have appeared in scores of literary journals. She is the proud mother of two children, grandmother of four, and person of six dogs.

***The Fork-In-The-Road Indian Poetry Store*—Phillip Carroll Morgan**

Salt Publishing, Cambridge, United Kingdom

This is Morgan's first collection of poetry, and it's an award-winner—recipient of the First Book Award for Poetry presented by the Native Writers Circle of the Americas. He divides his collection up into four parts, one each for the four cardinal directions of the Medicine Wheel—East, North, West, and South—that follow a path from birth to wisdom. Morgan is an enrolled Choctaw/Chickasaw bilingual poet who lives with his artist wife, Kate, on his family's original allotment. He has worked as a newspaper editor, business executive, building tradesman, guitar player and rancher. He is currently a PhD student in Native Literature at the University of Oklahoma.

***Travels Through Enchanted Woods*—Carl Sennhenn**

Village Books Press, Cheyenne, OK

Baltimore native Sennhenn has called Oklahoma home since 1951, and he "feels called to honor... the Severn and the Chesapeake of Maryland as well as the prairie and vast horizons of Oklahoma." This third collection by Sennhenn explores life, loss, and what can be restored through language, through enchantment. He teaches English and Humanities at Rose State College in Midwest City, and has presented readings and workshops nationally and statewide. In 2001, he was appointed to a two-year term as Oklahoma Poet Laureate.

***Native Son: American Poems from the Heart of Oklahoma*—Ron Wallace**

TJMF Publishing, Clarksville, IN

What it means to be an Oklahoman, the grace and magic of particular moments in our lives, and tributes to friends and inspirations are the themes of this first collection from Wallace. In his foreword to the collection, Choctaw Chief Gregory Pyle says Wallace “records the histories in the old way of father to son to grandson, and in so doing speaks for the universal nature of Oklahomans.” Born and raised in Durant, Ron Wallace currently teaches English classes at Colbert High School. He has spent 28 years teaching and coaching in public schools. He plans on making writing the next phase of his career.

Design and Illustration

***OKC: Second Time Around*—Design by **Carl Brune**—Full Circle Press, Oklahoma City, OK**

Brune weaves more than 250 photos with historic plans and modern graphics to help tell the story of a downtown lost and reborn. He received the 2002 Oklahoma Book Award in Design for the Philbrook Museum of Art’s *Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection*. The Enid native makes his home in Tulsa where he provides freelance graphic design services for publications, businesses and museums.

Crossing Bok Chitto*—Illustrations by **Jeanne Rorex Bridges*

Cinco Puntos Press, El Paso, TX

Rorex Bridges is an award-winning artist of Cherokee ancestry. She still lives on the land in eastern Oklahoma where she was raised. Here she paints and runs her successful art business with her husband James. She has become nationally known, winning many awards in Indian art shows. For several years, she has incorporated paintings depicting the shared history of Southeastern Indians and African Americans with her Native American work, making *Crossing Bok Chitto* a perfect fit for her first book illustration.

Chickasaw: Unconquerable and Unconquered*—Photography by **David Fitzgerald*

Chickasaw Press, Ada, OK

This is the first book published by the new Chickasaw Press, and fittingly it tells the story of the tribe from Removal to present day. Its publication in 2006 marks the 150th anniversary of the Chickasaw constitution. David Fitzgerald’s striking photography captures the land and the people of this great nation. Fitzgerald has been named Oklahoma Photographer of the Year three times. He’s also an Oklahoma Book Award winner for his photographic work, *Bison: Monarch of the Plains*. His other books include *Ozarks, Cherokee, Oklahoma Crossroads*, and the new *Oklahoma 3*.

The Gold Miner's Daughter—Illustrations by **Jon Goodell**

Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, GA

Gracie Pearl is on a mission to save her and her father's home from the clutches of mean old Mr. Bigglebottom. During her adventure, she comes across a blond girl being chased by three bears, three little pigs tied to a railroad track, and a longhaired lass locked in a rickety tower. Jon Goodell has illustrated numerous children's books, including *The Alley Cat's Meow* and *Merry Christmas, Merry Crow*. He received the 2006 Oklahoma Book Award for his illustrations in *Mother, Mother, I Want Another*.

You Know We Belong to the Land: The Centennial History of Oklahoma

Design by **Skip McKinstry**—Oklahoma Heritage Association, Oklahoma City, OK

Historians Paul Lambert and Bob Blackburn tell the story of Oklahoma through the lives of 33 fascinating individuals. Designer McKinstry worked with the authors to incorporate biographies, sidebars and photographs to create this official Centennial omnibus. Skip McKinstry works by day as a marketing planner for a Fortune 50 health care technology company. By night he selectively pursues a 20-year calling to graphic design through freelance corporate identity, advertising, writing and book design projects. This is his fifth book project with Bob Blackburn, his second with Paul Lambert, and his first with the OHA.

Non-Fiction

Indian Yell: The Heart of an American Insurgency—**Michael Blake**

Northland Publishing, Flagstaff, AZ

One hundred fifty years ago, a young America fought a determined insurgent force of Indian warriors struggling to protect their way of life. How the country handled this "Indian Problem" became the defining factor in shaping how Indians live in America today. Blake weaves the factors involving twelve significant conflicts—from 1854 to 1890—into a narrative illuminating the undercurrents of hostilities between nations during America's westward expansion. Blake is author of the novel *Dances with Wolves*, which was turned into an Academy Award-winning film. *Indian Yell* is his first work of non-fiction, and reflects more than 30 years of research.

Historical Atlas of Oklahoma, Fourth Edition—**Charles Robert Goins** and

Danney Goble—University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK

This isn't just an update to a legendary reference source—it's a complete recreation. The authors are joined by seventeen contributing scholars (including natural and physical scientists) and other professionals to present 119 topics. To explore each, one or more maps

with explanatory legends, tables, and graphs are paired with an interpretive essay. The result is a work that is more valuable than ever to students of the state. Goins is Professor Emeritus in the College of Architecture of the University of Oklahoma. Goble, an OU Professor of Letters, received the Oklahoma Book Award for non-fiction in 1991 for *Little Giant*, the story of Carl Albert.

***Mr. Ambassador: Warrior for Peace*—Edward J. Perkins with Connie Cronley**
University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK

“Apartheid South Africa was on fire around me.” So begins the memoir of Career Foreign Service Officer Edward J. Perkins, the first black American ambassador to South Africa. Perkins story takes him from the cotton farms of Louisiana to the white elite Foreign Service where he would make history. Now retired as a U.S. Ambassador, he serves as Executive Director of the International Programs Center at the University of Oklahoma. Tulsa writer Connie Cronley has worked in newspaper, television, advertising and public relations. Her public radio commentaries are heard on KWGS, NPR 89.5.

***The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*—John Grisham**
Doubleday/Random House Inc. New York, NY

This is John Grisham’s first foray into nonfiction, and it sheds a frightening spotlight on the shaky justice system we would all like to believe in. The protagonist is Ada’s hometown hero, baseball prodigy Ron Williamson. After six-years in the big leagues, Williamson returns home a broken man, the victim of a bad arm and bad habits. Due to several brushes with the law, he becomes the town’s suspect after a ghastly murder. The book tracks the trail of injustices that the suspect and his family endure while consistently proclaiming complete innocence.

***Children of the Dust: An Okie Family Story*—Betty Grant Henshaw**
Texas Tech University Press, Lubbock, TX

“As I look back over the path my family has traveled—our journey from Oklahoma on Route 66; our life in the labor camp; the awful thirst in the overwhelming heat of the fields; our tired, aching bodies—I have come to look upon that path as a sort of Holy Ground, and I have carried a deep longing to write my memories down.” Betty Grant Henshaw’s memoir is a classic Okie story. Like many such stories, it is ultimately one of triumph. The author, now in her seventies, lives in Medford, Oregon

***White Man’s Paper Trail: Grand Councils and Treaty-Making on the Central Plains*—Stan Hoig**—University Press of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Hoig presents a poignant history of the U.S. government’s attempts to negotiate treaties with the tribes of the Central Plains in the nineteenth century. The author’s research shows how treaty-making, negotiated by peace commissioners and once the most promising method

for resolving conflicts without military involvement, degenerated into a deeply flawed system sullied by political deceptions and broken promises. Hoig is professor emeritus at the University of Central Oklahoma, and the author of 20 books. He is an Oklahoma Book Award winner in the children/young adult category for *A Capitol for the Nation*.

Thomas Moran's West: Chromolithography, High Art, and Popular Taste

Joni L. Kinsey—University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Both a visual feast and an authoritative treatise, this book sheds new light on how artistic portrayals of the West contributed to our national identity. Joni L. Kinsey is associate professor of art history at the University of Iowa and author of *Thomas Moran and the Surveying of the American West*. Kinsey was raised in Tulsa, home of the Gilcrease Museum, which holds the largest collection of works by Moran.

***OKC: Second Time Around*—Steve Lackmeyer and Jack Money**

Full Circle Press, Oklahoma City, OK

In writing this work, Lackmeyer and Money have made the transition from deadline journalists to thoughtful chroniclers of a city's commitment to recreate itself. The narrative pulls together the almost serendipitous combination of circumstances that resulted in today's growing, vibrant, downtown Oklahoma City. Money is assistant city editor at *The Oklahoman*, while Lackmeyer writes a weekly column, "Main Street," for the paper's business section. These award-winning journalists have followed Oklahoma City's rebirth pangs since they were lads.

***From the Blue Devils to Red Dirt: The Colors of Oklahoma Music*—John Wooley**

published by Hawk Publishing Group, Tulsa, OK

Commissioned by the Oklahoma Arts Institute, this is a sweeping history of the major musical trends and genres that have come out of Oklahoma to the world. Wooley has been writing about Oklahoma music for more than a quarter of a century, and he is the only writer inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. He is a journalist, novelist, scriptwriter, historian, and ... you got it! ... a musician. Wooley's novel *Dark Within* was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award.

Children/Young Adult

***Chuck's Truck*—Peggy Perry Anderson**

Houghton Mifflin/Walter Lorraine Books, Boston, MA

When too many barnyard friends climb in to go to town, Chuck's truck breaks down—but handyman Hugh knows just what to do! Anderson has written and illustrated several picture

books for children, including those featuring the indomitable Joe the frog. Her book *We Go in a Circle* was a 2005 Oklahoma Book Award finalist. She is a full-time elementary school art teacher and mother of three living in Owasso, Oklahoma.

Golden—Jennifer Lee Barnes—Random House Children’s Books, New York, NY

At Emory High School, there are two kinds of people: those who matter... and those who don’t. When Lissy James moves from California to Oklahoma, she finds herself in the middle of a teenage nightmare: a social scene to rival a Hollywood movie. It soon becomes apparent there is something more evil than the A-crowd lurking in the classrooms. A native Oklahoman, Barnes is a graduate of Yale University. She wrote *Golden* at the age of nineteen. Her second novel is due out this year.

Trash—Sharon Darrow—Candlewick Press, Cambridge, MA

Boy and Sissy are accustomed to feeling like trash: their mother discarded them—never even bothered to name them—and a foul wind blows them from one foster home to the next. In this unique narrative of poems, Boy and Sissy tell the world who they really are. Darrow is the author of picture books, young adult novels, creative non-fiction and poetry. She is on the faculty of the MFA in Writing program at Vermont College. She received the Oklahoma Book Award for children/young adult in 2004 for *The Painters of Lexieville*.

Paradise on the Prairie—Molly Levite Griffis—Eakin Press, Austin, Texas

Griffis’s tribute to the Centennial is a blend of historical facts and fiction. New York orphan Johnny Pickett is put on a train and brought to the wilds of the Twin Territories. As Johnny struggles to find a home, Oklahoma and Indian Territories struggle to become a state. A two-time Oklahoma Book Award winner, Griffis is the author of eight books. She has taught school in every level from third grade through college, has owned and operated a bookstore, and is a favorite speaker at schools across the state. She lives in Norman.

H is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet—Devin Scillian

Published by Sleeping Bear Press, Chelsea, MI

This picture book pays respect to the United States Military from A (for American Armed Forces) to Z (for Zulu, a word used in radio communication). Author, musician and Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist, Scillian is the son of a career military officer. He grew up all over the world but considers Oklahoma home. Formerly an anchor for KFOR-TV in Oklahoma City, he now anchors the news for WDIV-TV in Detroit. His book, *S is for Sooner: An American Alphabet* was a 2004 finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award in the children/young adult category.

***Knights of the Hill Country*—Tim Tharp**

Random House Children's Books, New York, NY

Welcome to Kennisaw, Oklahoma, where Friday night football ranks next to God and country and sometimes comes in first. The Kennisaw Knights are going for their fifth-straight undefeated season and if they win they will be legends. This is the story of a boy who must decide for himself the true meaning of sportsmanship and loyalty. Tharp grew up in Midwest City, home of the Bombers. He teaches in the Humanities Department at Rose State College. His first novel, *Falling Dark*, was awarded the Milkweed National Fiction Prize and was a finalist in the fiction category for the Oklahoma Book Awards.

***Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom*—Tim Tingle**

Cinco Puntos Press, El Paso, Tx

A river called Bok Chitto cuts through Mississippi. In the days before the War Between the States, the river formed a boundary between the Choctaw lands and the plantations. If a slave escaped from the plantations and made his way across Bok Chitto, he was free. Tim Tingle is a popular presenter at storytelling and folklore festivals across America. He is especially well known for his stories about his native Choctaws. Tim was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award in 2004 for *Walking the Choctaw Road*, and the book was the second title selected for Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma.

Fiction

***Black Silk Handkerchief*—D. L. Birchfield**—University of Oklahoma Press

In this fast-paced novel, a hard-luck Oklahoma Choctaw lawyer decides that doing things on Indian time just isn't compatible with practicing law. He tries his luck as a photographer and finds himself at the center of the biggest manhunt in Colorado's history. Birchfield, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, won the Western Spur Award for his novel *Field of Honor*. He is a professor of Native American Studies at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

***Everlasting*—Carol Johnson**—Hawk Publishing Group, Tulsa

Forced into marriage to a man twenty years her senior, Vada Priddy finds herself at odds with her new husband, his children, and the hardscrabble existence she has to endure. In spite of the adversities, she manages to forge a decent life, and she grows into a strong Oklahoma woman. This warmhearted novel gives readers the inspirational experience of mid-twentieth century Everywoman and her daily struggles. Johnson teaches writing at Tulsa Community College and lives in Mounds. This is her first novel.

***Magic Time*—Doug Marlette**

Sara Crichton Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, NY

In this page-turner, a 1991 visit to his Mississippi hometown forces a New York City newspaper columnist to re-examine events of the Freedom Summer of 1964. The story moves between New York City, the New South of the early 1990s and Mississippi's civil rights revolution of 1964. Marlette is a Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist and is on the staff of the *Tulsa World*. The Southeast Booksellers Association gave his first novel, *The Bridge*, its 2002 Book Award for Fiction.

***The Piano Man*—Marcia Preston—Mira Books, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada**

Looking for meaning in the tragic death of her teenage son, Claire O'Neal seeks out the person who received her son's heart. When she finds the heart recipient, she discovers a cynical, chain-smoking, divorced man with no will to live. Claire is driven with a purpose that borders on obsession to help the aimless young man. As two lost, lonely people find hope, they learn that life's most beautiful music comes from the heart. Preston is the winner of the 2004 Mary Higgins Clark Award for Suspense Fiction and the Oklahoma Book Award in fiction for *Song of the Bones*. She lives in Edmond.

***Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush*—Sheldon Russell**

University of Oklahoma Press

Readers of Russell's latest work return to the early days of Oklahoma Territory where frontier men and women gamble everything to find their future. In recounting the rise and fall of the jerrybuilt city of Guthrie, the author immerses us in the lives of his characters, whose ambitions echo the taming of the frontier. Russell grew up on a cattle ranch in the Gloss Mountains of northwestern Oklahoma. He resides in historic Guthrie, where he and wife Nancy, a sculptor, own and operate the Double Starr Studio and Gallery.

***The Limehouse Text*—Will Thomas—Touchstone Books/Simon & Schuster, New York, NY**

British detective team Cyrus Barker and his Welsh assistant Thomas Llewelyn join up again to take readers through the gritty streets of turn-of-the-century London in this exciting mystery. This time, the adventure centers on an ancient Chinese book on martial arts. Some parties are willing to kill in order to gain its secrets. Will Thomas's first book, *Some Danger Involved*, received the Oklahoma Book Award in 2005. A scholar of the Victorian era, Thomas and his wife, Julie, live in Tulsa, where he works as a librarian.

The Tulsa Library Trust salutes

Clifton Taulbert

Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award honoree
and all of tonight's finalists and honorees.



Congratulations
Skip McKinstry

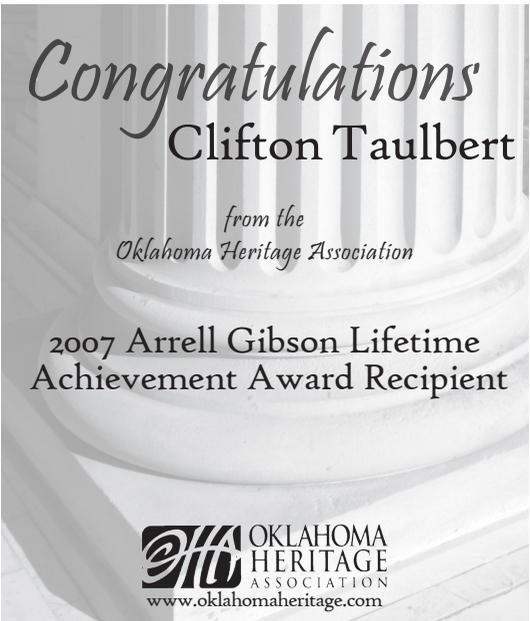
Design Finalist
*You Know We Belong to the Land:
The Centennial History of Oklahoma*

Oklahoma Heritage Association
THE LEADER IN PUBLISHING OKLAHOMA'S HISTORY



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Congratulations
Clifton Taulbert

*from the
Oklahoma Heritage Association*

2007 Arrell Gibson Lifetime
Achievement Award Recipient



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Clifton H. Taulbert

Recipient of the **2007 Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award**

Clifton Taulbert is probably best known for his memoir *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, about his experience of growing up in the racially charged Mississippi Delta during the civil rights movement. In his picture of tiny Glen Allen, Mississippi, Taulbert focuses more on the bonds of family and community—"the front porch people"—rather than the growing conflict between black and white. The work is also a love song to the family that nourished him and protected him from a world of hatred and segregation. *Publishers Weekly* described the book as a "funny, sweet, touching memoir." *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored* was made into a popular motion picture.

A second memoir, *The Last Train North*, continues his experiences after high school, when he left Mississippi and traveled to St. Louis for "the good life." This book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Rounding out the trilogy is *Watching our Crops Come In*, which covers Taulbert's time in the United States Air Force, and a revealing return trip to his Mississippi home town.

Other non-fiction books include, *Eight Habits of the Heart*, *The Journey Home: A Father's Gift to His Son*, and *Eight Habits of the Heart for Educators*.

Taulbert has also written three children's books: *Little Cliff and the Porch People*, *Little Cliff's First Day of School*, and *Little Cliff and the Cold Place*.

He also is the founder and director of the Building Community Institute located in Tulsa. A popular lecturer and motivator, he speaks throughout the world on the need to create an environment branded by respect, affirmation, and inclusion.

The Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

The Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award is presented each year to recognize a body of work. This award was named for the Norman, Oklahoma, historian who served as the first president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

Previous

Fiction

- 1990 • **Robert Love Taylor**, *The Lost Sister*
1991 • **Linda Hogan**, *Mean Spirit*
1992 • **Robert L. Duncan**, *The Serpent's Mark*
1993 • **Rilla Askew**, *Strange Business*
1994 • **Eve Sandstrom**, *Down Home Heifer Heist*
1995 • **William Bernhardt**, *Perfect Justice*
1996 • **Billie Letts**, *Where the Heart Is*
1997 • **Stewart O'Nan**, *The Names of the Dead*
1998 • **Rilla Askew**, *The Mercy Seat*
1999 • **Billie Letts**, *The Honk and Holler Opening Soon*
2000 • **William Bernhardt**, *Dark Justice*
2001 • **Carolyn Hart**, *Sugarplum Dead*
2002 • **Douglas Kelley**, *The Captain's Wife*
2003 • **Diane Glancy**, *The Mask Maker: A Novel*
2004 • **M.K. Preston**, *Song of the Bones*
2005 • **Will Thomas**, *Some Danger Involved*
2006 • **David Kent**, *The Black Jack Conspiracy*

Non-Fiction

- 1990 • **Leonard Leff**, *Hitchcock & Selznick*
1991 • **Carl Albert** and **Danney Goble**, *Little Giant*
1992 • **David Morgan**, **Robert England**, and **George Humphreys**, *Oklahoma Politics & Policies: Governing the Sooner State*
1993 • **Henry Bellmon** and **Pat Bellmon**, *The Life and Times of Henry Bellmon*; and **Daniel Boorstin**, *The Creators*
1994 • **J. Brent Clark**, *3rd Down and Forever*
1995 • **Dennis McAuliffe Jr.**, *The Deaths of Sybil Bolton*
1996 • **William Paul Winchester**, *A Very Small Farm*
1997 • **Annick Smith**, *Big Bluestem: A Journey Into the Tall Grass*
1998 • **John Hope Franklin** and **John Whittington Franklin**, Editors; *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*
1999 • **Bob Burke**, *From Oklahoma to Eternity: The Life of Wiley Post and the Winnie Mae*
2000 • **Michael Wallis**, *The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West*
2001 • **David LaVere**, *Contrary Neighbors: Southern Plains and Removed Indians in Indian Territory*
2002 • **Lydia L. Wyckoff**, Editor; *Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection*
2003 • **Michael A. Mares**, *A Desert Calling: Life in a Forbidding Landscape*
2004 • **Eric R. Pianka** and **Laurie J. Vitt**, *Lizards: Windows to the Evolution of Diversity*
2005 • **Ed Cray**, *Ramblin' Man: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*
2006 • **Timothy Egan**, *The Worst Hard Time*

Children/Young Adult

- 1990 • **Helen Roney Sattler**, *Tyrannosaurus Rex and It's Kin*
1991 • **Stan Hoig**, *A Capital for the Nation*
1992 • **Jess** and **Bonnie Speer**, *Hillback to Boggy*
1993 • **Anna Myers**, *Red Dirt Jessie*
1994 • **Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith**, *Cherokee Summer*
1995 • **Russell G. Davis** and **Brent Ashabranner**, *The Choctaw Code*
1996 • **Anna Myers**, *Graveyard Girl*
1997 • **Barbara Snow Gilbert**, *Stone Water*
1998 • **S. L. Rottman**, *Hero*
1999 • **Barbara Snow Gilbert**, *Broken Chords*
2000 • **Harold Keith**, *Brief Garland: Ponytails, Basketball, and Nothing But Net*
2001 • **Joyce Carol Thomas**, *Hush Songs*
2002 • **Molly Levite Griffis**, *The Rachel Resistance*
2003 • **Darleen Bailey Beard**, *The Babbs Switch Story*
2004 • **Children—Una Belle Townsend**, *Grady's in the Silo Young Adult—Sharon Darrow*, *The Painters of Lexieville Young Adult—Joyce Carol Thomas*, *The Gospel Cinderella Young Adult—Molly Levite Griffis*, *Simon Says*
2006 • **Anna Myers**, *Assassin*

Poetry

- 1990 • **William Kistler**, *The Elizabeth Sequence*
1992 • **Carol Hamilton**, *Once the Dust*
1993 • **Jim Barnes**, *The Sawdust War*
1994 • **Carter Revard**, *An Eagle Nation*
1995 • **Joy Harjo**, *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*
1996 • **Francine Ringold**, *The Trouble with Voices*
1997 • **Renata Treitel**, translation of Rosita Copioli's *The Blazing Lights of the Sun*
1998 • **Betty Shipley**, *Somebody Say Amen*
1999 • **Mark Cox**, *Thirty-Seven Years from the Stone*
2000 • **N. Scott Momaday**, *In the Bear's House*
2001 • **Carolyn Wright**, *Seasons of Mangoes and Brainfire*
2002 • **Ivy Dempsey**, *The Scent of Water: New and Selected Poems*
2003 • **Joy Harjo**, *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*
2004 • **Laura Apol**, *Crossing the Ladder of Sun*
2005 • **Francine Ringold**, *Still Dancing*
2006 • **Leanne Howe**, *Evidence of Red*

Winners

Design/Illustration

1990 • **David E. Hunt**, *The Lithographs of Charles Banks Wilson*

1991 • **Carol Haralson**, *Cleora's Kitchens*

1992 • **Joe Williams**, *Woolaroc*

1993 • **Design—Carol Haralson**,
Will Rogers: Courtship and Correspondence
Illustration—Kandy Radzinski,
The Twelve Cats of Christmas

1994 • **Deloss McGraw**, *Fish Story*

1995 • **Mike Wimmer**, *All the Places to Love*

1996 • **Kim Doner**, *Green Snake Ceremony*

1997 • **Carol Haralson** and **Harvey Payne**,
Big Bluestem: A Journey into the Tall Grass

1998 • **Carol Haralson**, *Visions and Voices: Native American*
Painting from the Philbrook Museum of Art

1999 • **David Fitzgerald**, *Bison: Monarch of the Plains*

2000 • **Carol Haralson**, *Glory Days of Summer: The History of*
Baseball in Oklahoma

2001 • **Lane Smith**, *The Very Persistent Gappers of Fripp*

2002 • **Carl Brune**,
Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection

2003 • **Murv Jacob**, *The Great Ball Game of the Birds and Animals*

2004 • **Design—Scott Horton** and **Jim Argo**, *Family Album: A*
Centennial Pictorial of the Oklahoma Publishing Company
Illustration—Kandy Radzinski, *S is for Sooner*

2005 • **Carol Haralson**,
A History of the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion

2006 • **Design—Carol Haralson**,
Home: Native People in the Southwest
Illustration—Jon Goodell,
Mother, Mother, I Want Another

Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award

1990 • **Daniel Boorstin**—Librarian of Congress Emeritus—native of Tulsa

1991 • **Tony Hillerman**—award winning mystery writer—native of Sacred Heart

1992 • **Savoie Lottinville**—Director of the University of Oklahoma Press for 30 years

1993 • **Harold Keith**—Newbery Award winning children's author—Norman

1994 • **N. Scott Momaday**—Pulitzer Prize winning Kiowa author—native of Lawton

1995 • **R.A. Lafferty**—Hugo Award winning author—Tulsa

1996 • **John Hope Franklin**—historian—native of Rentiesville

1997 • **S.E. Hinton**—author of young adult novels—Tulsa

1998 • **Jack Bickham**—novelist, teacher and journalist—Norman

1999 • **Michael Wallis**—historian and biographer—Tulsa

2000 • **Bill Wallace**—writer of novels for young people—Chickasha

2001 • **Joyce Carol Thomas**—children and adult fiction author, and playwright—native of Ponca City

2002 • **World Literature Today**—The University of Oklahoma, Norman

2003 • **Joy Harjo**—poet and member of the Muscogee Nation—native of Tulsa

2004 • **Carolyn Hart**—award winning mystery writer—Oklahoma City

2005 • **C.J. Cherryh**—Hugo Award winning author—Oklahoma City

2006 • **Bob Burke**—Oklahoma historian—Oklahoma City

Ralph Ellison Award

1995 • **Ralph Ellison**
National Book Award winner—Oklahoma City

1997 • **Angie Debo**
"First Lady of Oklahoma History"—Marshall

1999 • **Melvin Tolson**
poet, journalist, and dramatist—Langston

2000 • **Jim Thompson**—novelist and screenwriter—Anadarko

2002 • **John Berryman**
poet, biographer, and editor—McAlester

2004 • **Lynn Riggs**—playwright and screenwriter—Claremore

2005 • **Woody Guthrie**
author, illustrator, and songwriter—Okemah

2006 • **John Joseph Mathews**
Osage novelist and historian—Pawhuska



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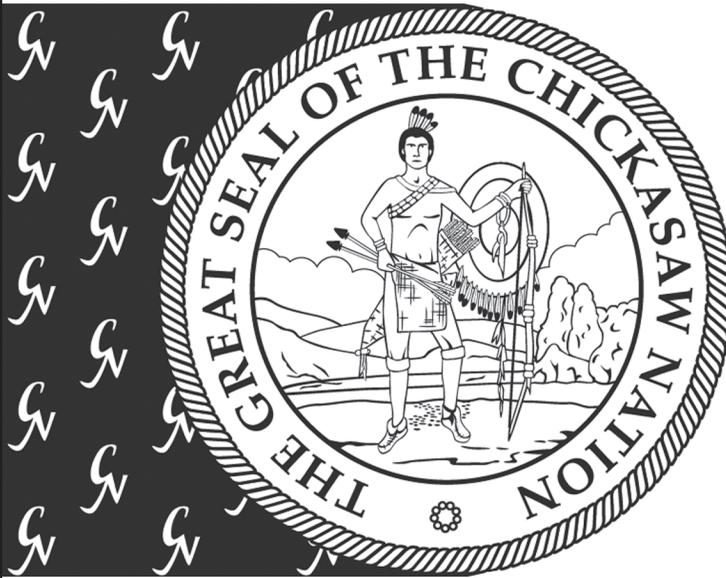
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Project Highlights

The Oklahoma Center for the Book (OCB) in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and its Friends support group have participated in several events in the last year. Many exciting events are anticipated in the coming months.

Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma—The Center is proud to be a sponsor of this statewide reading and discussion program. Rilla Askew is looking forward to meeting readers across Oklahoma, and discussing her book *Fire in Beulah* throughout 2007. As a Centennial project, this will be the final year for Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Author Database—At long last, Oklahoma author information is being collected in a database and is available for use by libraries, schools and individuals. Log on to www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us, and click “collections” and “authors” to see this work-in-progress.

Authors in Libraries—The Center has been awarded a grant by Inasmuch Foundation to send book award finalists to libraries in rural communities during the Centennial year.

Letters About Literature is a contest co-sponsored with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Target Corporation where students write a letter to an author, living or dead, telling how a book has influenced his or her life.

Kids Caught Reading is an annual event that the Center has been pleased to participate in for several years. Friends of the Center will again give \$25 prizes to ten students from across the state who are “caught reading” in their spare time.

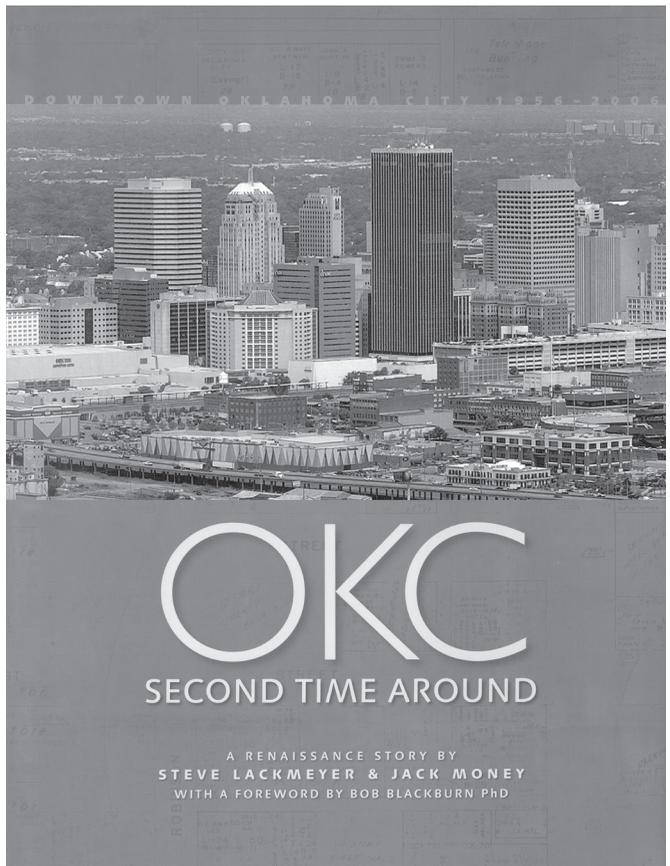
For the last five years the Center has participated in the **National Book Festival** in Washington, D.C. Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book president **M. J. Van Deventer** and OCB executive director **Glenda Carlile** were fortunate to attend the festival last fall, promoting our state and the its authors.

The Friends of the Center for the Book provided funds to sponsor a speaker at the 2006 **Oklahoma Library Association** annual conference and plan to participate again in 2007.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book is pleased to participate in the **Red Dirt Book Festival** in Shawnee from November 2–3, 2007, and in the **Oklahoma Centennial Book Festival** to be held at Oklahoma City University on May 19, 2007.

Information is available for membership to the Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book—please call 405–522–3575.

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The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book is a non-profit, 501-c-3 organization. The Friends is a cultural and educational corporation to advance and promote the role of the book and reading in Oklahoma. The Friends of the Oklahoma Center for the Book supports and further enhances the programs and projects of the Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. A volunteer board of directors from across the state governs the Friends.

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