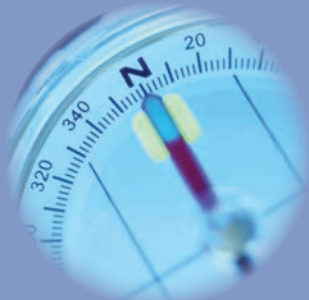




ShelfLife

STAFF NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

January 2009



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MLS and the Mayor's Office: Together Again

Recently DN librarian Buddy Johnson forged a new link with OKC city offices when he was asked to provide information about past OKC mayors. The OKC PIO department



Buddy Johnson

was working on a project to upgrade the City's website with photos of and information about past mayors when they noticed the lack of historical photos available for use on the website. The pictures they have of former mayors are

the formal portraits that hang in City Hall, but are too large to scan using a conventional scanner.

Buddy knew that he and talented DN tech assistant **Chris Larwig** were just the team to help them out. They decided to bring the portraits to the DN Library Oklahoma Room so Chris could take photos of these photos. The originals were in lousy condition and the images were in desperate need of

preservation. Chris took the new photos and Buddy went to work on them on the computer.

Enter Mick Cornett. The mayor was so impressed by Buddy's and Chris' work, he de-

cided to commission a time line of the city that would use the scans of the mayors along the line.

As a result of this collaboration, City staff has agreed to allow MLS to scan all of the City's historical photos for preservation and inclusion in our Oklahoma Images collection.

In addition, the city PIO department learned of the Oklahoma Voices project for the first time and now plans to have several long-time City employees sit down for interviews.

And that's how good things begin. Buddy and Chris rock!



Chris Larwig

MLS and the Media

"Last month, ShelfLife congratulated Development Specialist **Chris Carroll** for landing a gig with The Oklahoman to blog about books and reading. Several months ago we told you about the new book for children called *It Wasn't Much* by cataloger **Jana Hausburg**.

Now the two of them are together on *The Oklahoman* website in video form. Chris interviewed Jana about her book, and the two of them are terrific representatives of MLS.

A tip of the hat to Chris and Jana, and every member of our MLS family who carries the message of the library out into the community.

Keep an eye out for them on knowit.newsok.com/books



Annual Report 2007-08



Russell Pierce

A Pat on the Back

ShelfLife wants to congratulate Maintenance Technician II **Russell Pierce** for passing the exam and earning his Journeyman's license.

Russell is now certified by the State of Oklahoma as a Journeyman Heating and Air Conditioning Technician and Natural Gas Fitter.

"A Journeyman has to work for a contractor," said Director of Facilities Maintenance **Patrick Williams**. "I'm the contractor," he smiled.

But he's more than that. He's the supervisor who encouraged Russell to keep studying and moving up the ladder in the Maintenance Department.

Russell has gone from driver to Apprentice to Journeyman in just three years, a remarkably rapid rise.

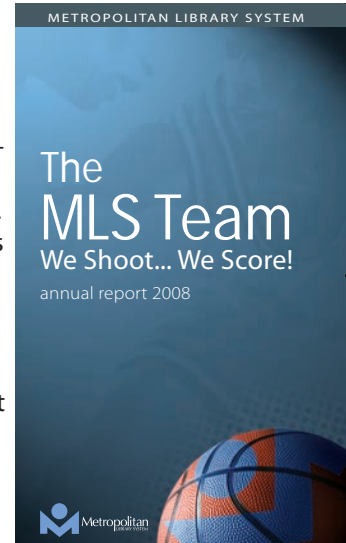
"There are no classes involved in this kind of work," Patrick said. "You can read books, but the only real way to learn is on the job. **Randy Knutson** and **Kerry Hubbs** have been mentors for Russell. Both of them have been very generous with their knowledge, and not every maintenance department has guys like that."

But for now, most of the credit for Russell's success belongs to Russell himself. "He's worked hard," Patrick said.

Would you like to have a capsule report on MLS' achievements in FY 2007-08? The Annual Report will come your way in January. It's loaded with facts and figures about the library system's doings, programming, and technological upgrades last year, and it makes a good handout to anyone applying for a library card.

In addition to that, we've made it more fun than ever by tying it to a basketball theme in celebration of Oklahoma City's new sports obsession.

Take a look and spread the word.



Read About It — Eat About It!

Every December, MLS Television Programming Coordinator **BJ Williams** says "Thank you" to staff members who volunteer to appear on our weekly TV show, *Read About It*, to talk about recently enjoyed books, CDs or DVDs. Each taped discussion segment lasts about three minutes, and reviewers chat with either BJ or program co-host **Doug Bentin**.

The "Thank you" comes in the form of a catered lunch, and on Dec. 19 it was held once again at the home of MJ Van Deventer, former Director of Publications for the Cowboy and Western Heritage Hall of Fame, and regular interviewer on the show. After the lunch, the entire team of TV stars headed over to a nearby bookstore to select a present as proof of BJ's gratitude.

If you'd like to participate in *Read About It* tapings in 2009, contact BJ or Doug.



From left to right back row: Joyce McCauley-Johnson, Ruby Soutiere, Buddy Johnson, Kim Edwards, Emily Williams, Jim Nimmo, Laura Tallant, Elizabeth Kessler, BJ Williams, Julie Ballou, Glenda Carlisle, Doug Bentin and Leslie Jones. Front Row: Anita Roesler, Heidi Johnson, Pauline Rodriquez-Atkins, Kelley Riha, Jana Hausburg, Phil Tolbert and MJ Van Deventer.



Executive Director Q & A

From Executive Director Donna Morris

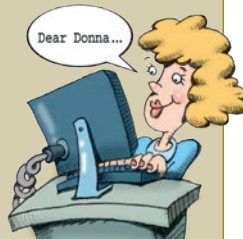
Instead of the usual question and answer in this space I just want to take a minute to wish every member of our MLS family a happy and prosperous New Year.

Every year brings its own challenges for us at work, but it seems like every year we all stick together and manage to come out on top. I know that 2009 will bring its own set of unique challenges, but I'm confident that once again we'll be able to keep on going and come out on the other side successful and energized.

I think that one of the great things about MLS is our ability to pull together. The system is made up of 17 libraries and many offices and departments. Each of those units is made up of teams responsible for specific tasks, and each team is composed of individuals wanting to do the best they can for themselves, their larger unit, and the library system as a whole. Of course there is individual achievement, and that's the way it should be, but each of those achievements not only binds with every other one to create the best public library service in the state, but also to provide inspiration to others.

So my hope for you, every one of you, is that 2009 will be a year of individual success as well as outstanding service to our customers and success in each one of our libraries and departments.

From my family to your family and our family, Happy New Year!



Libraries and Jobs

You may have seen a note sent out recently from Susan McVey, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Her agency received a request seeking information about how folks who are out of work are using their library in an attempt to land a job. The reason is that libraries have a chance to claim some of the money from the economic stimulus package, aka the bailout money.

If you have any solid data as to how your customers are using your library in their job hunting, or in their quest to start a small business of their own, Susan would like to pass it along to the agency that is asking her for information. Failing a collection of stats, which we don't usually keep, even anecdotal information would be helpful.

"Some of you," Susan wrote, "may subscribe to a test database that includes practice tests for occupations that require employees to pass an entrance or advancement test. If so, data on the number of searches conducted would be very helpful. If you have offered classes on employment, the number of attendees would be helpful. I appreciate your help."

Susan can be contacted at: smcvey@oltn.odl.state.ok.us



Lending Library Review:

Fish! Tales: Real-Life Stories to Help You Transform Your Workplace and Your Life

by Stephen C Lundin, John Christensen, Harry Paul, and Phillip Strand

Having written five books outlining and celebrating the FISH! philosophy of how to make your workplace a better one, Stephen Lundin and his collaborators apply the lessons they've learned to this clever and unexpected book.

It all began in the Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle when the employees realized that there was a lot of fun to be had in handling and selling fish. I mean, it's not an iron lung—it's a fish. People who wanted to buy a fish for supper could take it all very seriously if they wanted to, but the guys working at the market could push their fun to the point of putting on a show, if they wanted to.

There are four basic elements to the FISH! philosophy:

- * Play—have fun and create energy at home or at the office.
- * Make their day—how can you engage fellow employees, customers and make each other's day?
- * Be Present—How can you make sure you are fully available and aware during conversations with people? It is about create a greater sense of intimacy between individuals.
- * Choose Your Attitude—Each day you choose how you are going to act or on which "side of the bed" you wake up. The choice is yours and, the way you act, affects others.

This short volume relates the stories of four businesses that incorporated the FISH! way of doing things in their company plan.

See how it worked out. Go FISHing!





STAFF PROFILE

Fingerprints

Suzette Felton is an associate librarian at the Midwest City Library who graduated from OU in May and is a double degreed undergraduate of Anthropology and African/American Studies.

She travels a lot including visits to Kenya, Venezuela, Holland, Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Lucia and has driven across the US three times. (Suzette's a native Californian.)

She has a daughter, Taylor, and a son, Robert, a dog Pyper, and a blue Beta, Fireball.

Yes, she reads and watches movies. Her latest book is *Glass Castle* and latest movie is *The Tale of Despereaux*.

She also sings soprano and alto gospel, jazz and R & B, and is active playing volleyball.

Suzette loves serving the public by meeting the customer's needs by helping them with a variety of topics.

Little known fact about Suzette: She shaved her head on her 18th birthday.



• MYSTERY PERSON •

Here are the clues to this month's mystery person.

Fave Music:	Jazz, blues, rock, Christmas, praise and worship
Fave Sports:	NASCAR, tennis, football, basketball, high school and collegiate wrestling
Fave Vacation(s):	Durango, Colorado
Fave Movie:	<i>The God's Must Be Crazy</i>
Fave Food:	I see food and I eat it!
Fave TV Show:	Squawk Box on CNBC at 5 a.m.
Fave Season:	Summer
Fave Hobby:	Spoiling grandchildren
Family:	Large
Cell phone ring:	Never rings—always on vibrate
Fave pets:	"General"—a Schnauzer
Special Skills:	Grandparenting

What profession would you be in if you were not working in the library? *I would probably do the same thing over again.*

What do you want to do or accomplish before you die? *No, I'm ready to die!*

Answer on page 5.

Quiz Me on This

This month's ShelfLife Quiz tests how much you know about science. Or, in my case, if you know anything about it at all. The answers appear on another page.

Who was the first person buried on the moon?

What would bounce higher, a ball made of rubber, glass or steel?

How many combinations are there to make change for a dollar?

What is the one thing it is impossible to do with your eyes open?

And here's an old one:

If a penny were dropped from the top of the Empire State Build-

ing and it struck a pedestrian on the sidewalk, would the blow be fatal?

Answers:

1. Dr. Eugene Shoemaker The famed U.S. Geological Survey astronomer, trained the Apollo astronauts about craters, but never made it into space. Dr. Shoemaker had wanted to be an astronaut but was rejected because of a medical problem. His ashes were placed on board the Lunar Prospector spacecraft before it was launched on January 6, 1998. NASA crashed the probe into a crater on the moon in an attempt to learn if it contained water.

2. A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball of rubber. A ball of solid steel will bounce higher than one made entirely of glass.
3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
4. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
5. A penny isn't the most aerodynamic of weapons. A combination of its shape and wind friction means that, tossed even from the 1,250-foot Empire State Building, it would travel fast enough merely to sting an unlucky pedestrian.



HELLO TO

Karl Blankenship	MTC Tech II, MTC
JoAnn Walkup	Librarian, RE
Amanda Sawyer	Proj. Spc., OUT
Dawn Gehling	Page, DN
Tiffany Bonner	Page, VI
Katrina York	Page, BI
DaLeesa Flick	Assoc. Librarian, RE
Mary Jo Gigax	Proj. Spc., OUT

GOODBYE TO

Jennifer Canham	Circ Clerk, ED
Nathan Casteel	Page, DC

PROMOTION

Jeffrey Fredericks	From Page to Circ Clerk, ED
Russell Pierce	From MTC Tech I, to MTC Tech II, MTC
Joey Shelton	From Circ Clerk to Assoc. Librarian, MC

RETIREMENT

Libby Holshouser	Circ Clerk, ED
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SYMPATHY

To Lavetta Dent and husband Nelson, whose father Jack Dent, Jr., died Dec. 5 in Virginia.

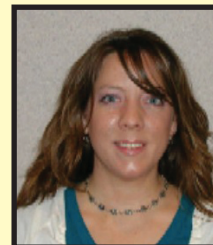
Sympathy also to Amy Laminsky, ED, whose nephew Coleman, age 19, passed away Dec. 20 in Germany after an acute illness. He served in the war in Iraq.



Karl Blankenship



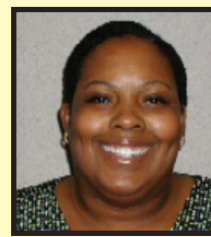
JoAnn Walkup



Amanda Sawyer



Dawn Gehling



Tiffany Bonner



Katrina York



Daleesa Flick



Mary Jo Gigax

MYSTERY PERSON IS:
Jim Welch,
Deputy Dir.
of Info. Tech.,
IT.

2009 Holiday Schedule

Of course, we'd all rather be at work than be anywhere else on Earth, but sometimes we are forced to take time off for a holiday. For those of you who want to make plans now for those days off work, here is the holiday schedule for 2009 as approved by the Library Commission.

The book says: "full-time and designated full-time equivalent staff members nine paid holidays per calendar year plus two "floating holidays" to be scheduled by the individual staff member subject to rules listed in the leave policies under floating holidays. The proposed holiday schedule closely follows the federal holiday observance calendar. The number and the days remain unchanged."

Days and/or times MLS will be closed in 2009:

January 1 for New Year's
January 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday)
April 12, for Easter (Sunday)
May 24 and 25 for Memorial Day (Sunday and Monday)
July 3 and 4 for Independence Day (Friday and Saturday)
September 6 and 7 for Labor Day (Sunday and Monday)
October 12 for Columbus Day – Staff Development Day
November 25, close at 6:00pm for Thanksgiving
November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving
December 20 for Christmas period
December 24 and 25 for Christmas
December 27 for New Year's period (Sunday)
December 31 at 6:00pm (5:00pm for Downtown)
January 1, 2010 for New Year's

And may ShelfLife be the first to wish you Happy New Year, 2009. (We'll do almost anything for a glass of champagne.)



January Birthdays

RONALD HARRISON	1/2
LAURIE MACK-CLARK	1/2
JERRY C. NANCE	1/3
RANDY E. WAYLAND	1/4
URSULA A. WARD	1/5
BRADLEY S. MCCOY	1/5
RENA M. GIBSON	1/6
SALLY K. PHILLIPS	1/7
DENISE A. LUKES	1/7
CAROL MOODY	1/8
CECIL L. PEADEN	1/9
LI WANG	1/10
PATRICIA WHISENHUNT	1/10
PETER L. ROBERSON	1/12
LYNDSIE RAE DOYLE	1/12
KYNDALL OVERSTREET	1/14
STEVEN B. JENKINS	1/14
ANNE OLIVIA MOTLEY	1/15
JUSTIN HERWIG	1/15
TODD S. OLBERDING	1/18
BEVERLY K. PHILLIPS	1/18
RONNA C. DAVIS	1/19
JOE J. POE	1/19
HELEN J SHELTON	1/19
GLENN E. WEBB JR	1/19
JOHN LEROY HILBERT	1/21
DANA M. PHILLIPS	1/21
NICOLE E. BURESH	1/21
KATHY S. MARQUIS	1/22
JOSHUA LEWIS	1/24
NGOC KIM NGUYEN	1/24
KIARA SHANIELLE CALIP	1/24
JESSICA L. MINTER	1/24
ALBERT H. BOSTICK, JR	1/25
JOAN G. KENDALL	1/26
JOY THIEN DUONG	1/27
ROBYN LYNN ICKS	1/29
SUSAN M. MONROE	1/30
LLOYD LOVELY	1/31

Employee's January Date-of-Hire

CAROL L. PROVINCE	1/6/1975
KATRINA B. PRINCE	1/6/1985
NANCY J. LYTLE	1/22/1985
LIBBY HOLSHOUSER	1/21/1987
SYLVIA A. LAWSON	1/24/1989
ERIC G. KING	1/9/1990
JAMES E. NIMMO, JR	1/18/1993
LOVINIA M. NICHOLS	1/5/1994
GREGORY W. BENNETT	1/21/1997
DENISE A. LUKES	1/5/1998
TIMOTHY D. FISHER	1/26/1998
LARRY G. JOHNSON	1/26/1998
LISA L. WALKER	1/26/1998
VICTORIA E. DIXON	1/26/1998
KATHY L. FRITSCH	1/27/1998
CHRISTINE R. BASSETT	1/25/1999
TIMOTHY D. HANNA	1/16/2001
JENNIFER ADKISSON	1/7/2002
SHARON G. BISH	1/7/2002
LAURA MCMURTRY	1/23/2002
KELLEY E. HOFFMAN	1/21/2003
CHESTER L. LOVELY	1/12/2004
PATRICK D. WILLIAMS	1/20/2004
KIM ELLEN MACARTY	1/1/2005
BETH K. STEELMAN	1/18/2005
JONATHAN E. WILLIS JR	1/4/2006
JONITA NORMORE	1/4/2006
LYNDA G. TONEY BAHR	1/4/2006
LIANA C. MICH	1/30/2006
MARK DANIEL VANCE	1/30/2006
ANNA N. TODD	1/31/2006
MATTHEW G. COTTER	1/2/2007
NATHAN I. CLYMER	1/29/2007
GERALDINE E. ADAMS	1/2/2008
JENNIFER L. CANHAM	1/3/2008
DEBORAH AUSTIN-MUNDEN	1/14/2008
ADELAIDA H. MADISON	1/28/2008
LINDA J. MORPHIS	1/28/2008



February Birthdays

KAELI M. DUNN	2/1
FRANK C. RAY	2/1
JOANNE SCHNEIDER	2/3
HECTOR L. MATA	2/6
CAROL L. ROBERTS	2/9
KAREN L. LITTERAL	2/9
ANN L. MEEKS	2/9
DEVON D. MCDANIEL	2/10
STEFANIE TALLEY	2/11
CHARLA AUCONE	2/15
KRISTIN LYNN HILL	2/17
ERIC G. KING	2/18
CAROL S. HUNTER	2/18
KATHRYN SHEESLEY	2/19
KATHLEEN LAUGERMAN	2/20
DANIEL E. FIELDS	2/20
DALEESA J. FLICK	2/22
JULIANNA LINK	2/23
ERICA J. GOLDMAN	2/23
LARRY G. JOHNSON	2/24
JERRY LEO O'HARE	2/24
JOAN D. PORTER	2/25
ERNESTINE F. CLARK	2/28

Employee's February Date-of-Hire

RIC REA	2/16/1982
DENESA C. BENNETT	2/28/1986
LINDA J. JAMESON	2/26/1990
SARAH J. KELLUM	2/14/1994
SUSAN M. MONROE	2/12/1996
DARLENE BROWERS	2/12/1996
ROY S. BALLOU	2/8/1999
GEORGE MARSHALL	2/15/1999
SHAHIN S. ASGHARI	2/16/1999
SUSAN K. BECKETT	2/7/2000
TERI L. REDENBAUGH	2/16/2001
KATHRYN M. DUNN	2/19/2001
CAROL S. HUNTER	2/19/2001
CHERYLL R. SMITH	2/3/2003
GLORIA J. TURNER	2/2/2004
TAMERAT ATLABACHEW	2/2/2004
CHRIS CARROLL	2/17/2004
LAWANA MORGAN	2/23/2004
JAMES B. GORDON	2/2/2005
RIKKI D. MARTIN	2/5/2007
JENNIFER L. PEERY	2/4/2008
DAVID RUSHING	2/4/2008
DAN W. HOLMAN	2/11/2008