

# Literacy Notes

Spring 2013

## We're Nuts ... About Reading Across Oklahoma

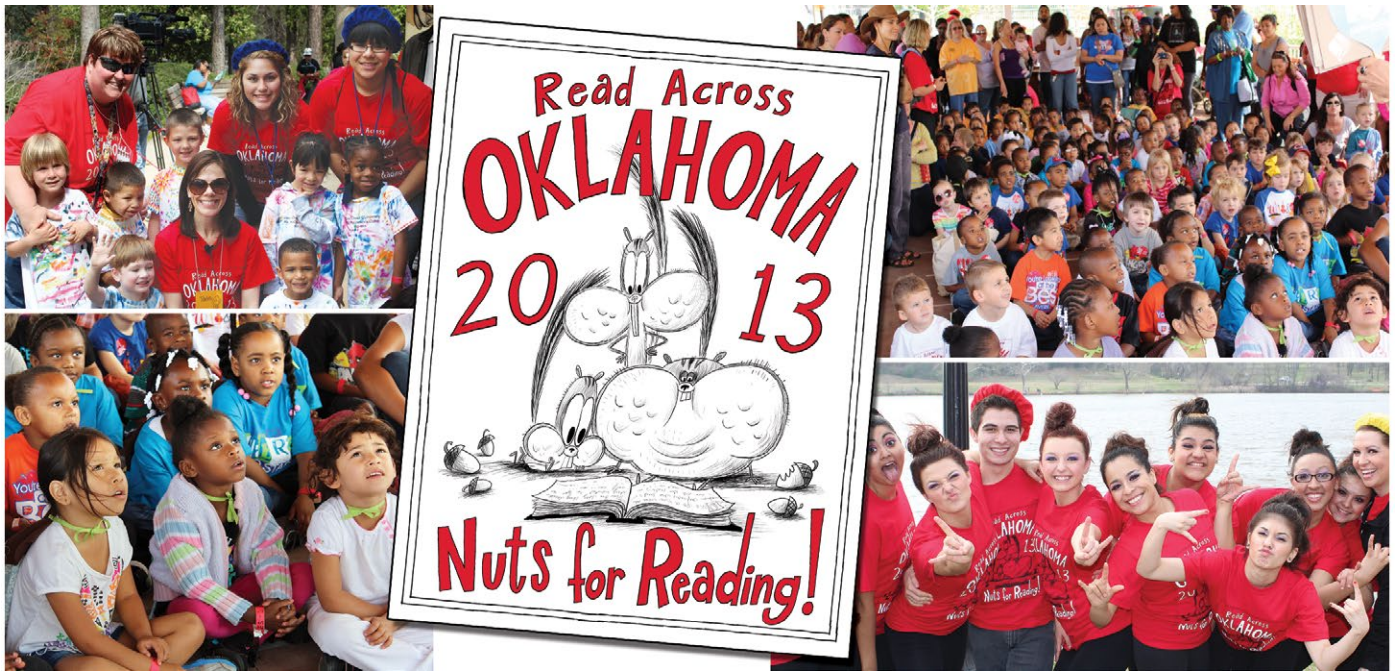
Despite a threat of severe weather, more than 4,200 children and parents gathered at the Oklahoma City Zoo for the 2013 Read Across Oklahoma celebration. Excited participants spent the morning meeting their favorite PBS characters Super Why, Curious George, and Word Girl;

*Nuts!*, a tale of three adventurous chipmunks who live at the zoo. Sauer read her story during performances at the Aquaticus Arena. As part of the event, more than 2,300 youngsters each received a book to take home.

A project of this size takes

library System, and all the volunteers, performers, and readers for a great (but nutty) day. To view the OETA story of the event to [goo.gl/lwxg6](http://goo.gl/lwxg6)

[Clockwise from top left] Author Tami Sauer with fans • children, parents, and teachers enjoy storytime • Capitol Hill High School student volunteers • children engrossed in reading • [center] 2013 poster art by Dan Krall, illustrator of *Oh Nuts!*



having photos taken with Bullseye the Target mascot; and visiting fun learning stations manned by volunteers. Adding to the fun were special musical performances by **Spaghetti Eddie** and story times presented by local celebrities.

The 2013 theme “Nuts About Reading” was inspired by Oklahoma author **Tammi Sauer’s** new book *Oh*

months of planning, great sponsors, and an army of volunteers. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries thanks Target, OETA, Krueger Charitable Foundation, Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma Zoological Society, Metro Tech, Capitol Hill High School FCCLA and ROTC students, Rotary Club of North Oklahoma City, Brendan Parker Music, Metropolitan Li-

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# Celebrity Event Supports Literacy

Community Literacy Centers, Inc. (CLC) in Oklahoma City hosted its fourth annual awards and fund raising luncheon to a sold out crowd. The *Survivor* themed event honored CLC's learners and was a great tie-in to special guest speaker **Lisa Whelchel**. Whelchel, best known as Blair on the 1979–88 NBC sitcom *The Facts of Life*, was the recent runner-up and fan favorite on 2012 *Survivor: Philippines*.

Luncheon participants got involved by bidding on silent auction items, purchasing plastic lizard eggs (one of which held the golden lizard and the prize of a pearl necklace), and having pictures



Adult Learner and CLC Board Member **Ray Verhoeven** with **Lisa Whelchel**

taken with Whelchel. Two brave souls even passed the worm eating challenge which luckily turned out to be gummy worms. The event raised more than \$33,000 for CLC programs.

Honored during the luncheon were: **Kathy Lippert**, Volunteer of the Year; **Kirkpatrick Foundation**, Benefactor of the Year; **Jack McDaniel**, Teacher of the Year; and **Balon Corporation**, Special Innovator of the Year. CLC also used the event to unveil a wonderful new video which can be viewed at [goo.gl/XoG3X](http://goo.gl/XoG3X)

## Visual Stress Syndrome Webinar

Adult learners, program directors, and literacy staff from throughout the state participated in a Visual Stress Syndrome webinar presented by Dr. Laura Weisel. According to Weisel, fifty percent of adult learners have vision function challenges, and nearly ninety percent have symptoms related to Visual Stress Syndrome (VSS). Learners with VSS often report headaches, distractibility, loss of comprehension, and sensitivity to black

print on white paper. As these are vision problems, no amount of reading instruction will help until the issues are identified and addressed. As part of the webinar, host sites provided participants with the opportunity to try color overlays and vision function screening tools. For more information on Visual Stress Syndrome, visit [powerpath.com/vss.html](http://powerpath.com/vss.html)



Opportunities Industrialization Center learners **Simona Gallegos** and **Sta-Rosario Gariby** watch mentor **Blair Lanning** use a spectrometer.

## 2013 *Celebrating Our Journey*, Volume 8

The Literacy Resource Office is pleased to announce that it will publish a 2013 edition of *Celebrating Our Journey*, a collection of adult learner writings. This opportunity is available to learners who are actively participating in an adult literacy program.

The aim of the book is to encourage learners to build confidence while also improving their literacy and critical thinking skills.

Adult learners and their tutors/teachers are encouraged to work together in writing, typing, editing, and submitting a written piece. We ask that completed stories, along with the completed release forms, be submitted electronically. The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2013. For complete instructions go to [goo.gl/vComw](http://goo.gl/vComw)

# Oklahoma Literacy Coalition Event Is a Success

The Oklahoma Literacy Coalition and Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office recently hosted a one-day mini-conference in Norman. **Nelson Lauver**, creator and host of the *American Storyteller Radio Journal*, kicked off the morning by sharing his personal struggle with undiagnosed dyslexia. Later, when he was able to understand why he had such difficulty learning to read, he found success in radio and hosted his nationally syndicated program for nine years. Now, his more than 300 broadcast short stories are used as effective tools for literacy instruction and can be downloaded at [americanstoryteller.com](http://americanstoryteller.com).

After the keynote presentation, Lauver spent the day with adult learners and helped them “discover” their unique stories. The Oklahoma Literacy Resource Office provided each learner with a journal to record their thoughts and experiences. While Lauver worked with adult learners, other attendees learned strategies for teaching phonics, fluency, and comprehension at the Phonics Intervention session.

During the luncheon, Oklahoma Literacy Coalition held its annual awards program. Receiving plaques and journals in recognition of their outstanding

achievements were adult learners: **Blanca Avalos**, Westcentral Oklahoma Literacy Coalition; **Lisa Burnette**, Literacy Council of LeFlore County; **Ethel High**, Great Plains Literacy Council; **Ural Miles III**, Opportunities Industrialization Center; and **Candy Williams**, Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service.

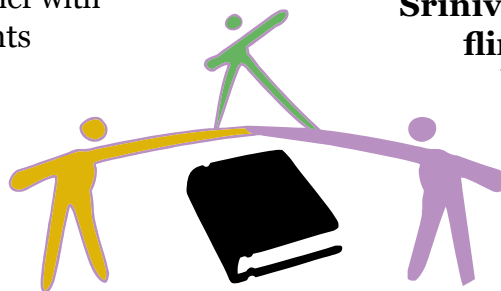


**Cassie Spindle** (left), president Oklahoma Literacy Coalition, and **Kacie Mach** (right), representing Tinker Federal Credit Union present a plaque and \$100 to adult learner honoree **Patricia Schaffner**, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

**Kacie Mach**, representing Tinker Federal Credit

Union presented awards to: **Sun Chung**, Great Plains Literacy Council; **Ann Davis**, Ponca City Area Literacy Council; and **Patricia Schaffner**, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

Bill and Carol Krueger Awards were presented to **Srinivasan Subbarao** and **Terry Terflinger**, both with the Bartlesville Public Library Literacy Services.



## More Coalition News

The Oklahoma Literacy Coalition has its own website. Check it out at [okliteracycoalition.okpls.org](http://okliteracycoalition.okpls.org). Member organizations are invited to apply for online subscriptions to either *News For You*, *Easy English News*, or *NewsCurrents*. These great teaching resources are being made available thanks to funds from Tinker Federal Credit Union. Application must be made by November 30, 2013. Contact Ida Fay Winters at [literacy1@spls.lib.ok.us](mailto:literacy1@spls.lib.ok.us) for more information.

For a limited time, the Oklahoma Literacy Coalition is also offering financial assistance to Oklahoma adult learners who pass their GED test. To be eligible for reimbursement of the test fee, learners must be associated with a member program of the coalition. For more information about this project, or to become a member of the Oklahoma Literacy Coalition, contact Angela Spindle at [oklitcoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:oklitcoalition@yahoo.com)

## Great News from Ardmore

New Dimension Literacy Council in Ardmore, Oklahoma, was recently visited by **Jane Hugo**, Senior Project Director with ProLiteracy of Syracuse, New York, as part of a planning effort to expand the program's capacity to serve English-language and basic literacy learners through:

**ProLiteracy**—the largest adult literacy and basic education membership organization in the nation—is committed to creating a world in which all adults are literate. It works with local, state, and national organizations to help adult learners gain the reading, writing, math, computer, and English skills they need to be successful. Go to [proliteracy.org](http://proliteracy.org) to find out more.

- ▶ Recruiting and training 10 new tutors
- ▶ Recruiting and serving 30 new students
- ▶ Training tutors and students to use technology for teaching and learning
- ▶ Offering ESL classes
- ▶ Increasing community awareness about the literacy council

New Dimension will receive \$10,000 from ProLiteracy to implement its capacity-building plan over the next 12 months. A project team at New Dimension has already started recruiting and training current and new volunteers for the LEEP (Learning English Expansion Program) program. The council will offer an ESL class in September 2013.

Thanks to grant support to ProLiteracy from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, New Dimension Literacy Council has been working with ProLiteracy for several months as part of ProLiteracy's Expanding Access to Adult Literacy Services Project.

According to program director **Carolyn Pirtle**, "We are very excited about the future of this program and are hopeful that these new partnerships will have a far reaching and long lasting impact to this community and to this region of the state."

## Dia de la Hispanid in Duncan

The Duncan Area Literacy Council and the Friends of the Duncan Public Library recently hosted a special outreach effort to the Hispanic community by sponsoring "Dia de la Hispanid" at the Duncan Public Library. More than 250 participants celebrated the day enjoying music from a Mariachi band, munching churros, and drinking Augua de la Hortcha. The Duncan Area Literacy Council gave away free books and shared information about their services.



## D.E.A.R. Day at the State Capital



State Representatives **David Perryman**, **Jason Nelson**, and **Joe Dorman** prepare to read to children during the D.E.A.R. celebration

According to OKC Metro Literacy Coalition director **Mary Surbeck**, the 2013 D.E.A.R. Day (Drop Everything and Read Day) was a huge success. The OKC Metro Literacy Coalition celebrated the day by inviting 400 area second graders to a celebration at the state capitol. Children were treated to story times with several state representatives who shared *The Wild Adventure of Oklahoma Joe's Ten Gallon Hat*. Each child received a new book to take home thanks to Feed the Children. Classroom sets of Magic Tree House books were provided compliments of the coalition.

Thanks to Coalition board members **Susan Donchin** and **Scott Butcher**, and to United Way's **Sandy Bean** for volunteering. Thanks also to Oklahoma City Public Schools' **M. Taylor McLawhorn** and the coalition for providing funds for transportation.

## The Buzz on Spelling Bee Success

Food, fun, and bribery were all found at the Spell-A-Round spelling bee recently held in Sapulpa. Guest emcees **Laura Moss** and **Bud Ford** of Tulsa's KTUL kept things moving for the crowd of more than 100, at Freddie's BBQ & Steakhouse. Judge **Cynthia Holtwick** handed out her own brand of justice by throwing unsuspecting guests into jail and allowing them to be bailed out "for a price."

This year's theme, "I Want to BEE a Star," inspired some great costumes with participants dressed as their favorite movie star. The *Best Costume Award* went to Arvest Bank's

"The Depps," while the loud, rowdy and fun-loving Sapulpa Library's "The Wanna-BEEZZZ" rightfully took home the *Team Spirit Award*. Other awards were

presented to Arvest Bank for the Bank Division, Sapulpa High School for School Division, Sapulpa Public Library for Civics & Clubs Division, Sapulpa Daily Herald for Businesses Division, and Sapulpa Arts for Public Service Division.

This popular annual event raised nearly \$12,000 for the Creek County Literacy Program.

PS—The winning word was *lagniappe*.



**Melissa Muncy**, Creek County literacy director (left), with winners **Katy Bergstrom**, **John Brock**, and **Heather Morgan**—*"The Good News Crew"* from the *Sapulpa Daily Herald*.

## Things Were Buzzing in Altus, Too

"The Harley Bees," decked out in biker gear, won the top honors in Altus by correctly spelling the word *rasorial*, beating out eleven other teams who were vying for bragging rights. The entire community was involved in the annual spelling bee hosted by the Great Plains Literacy Council. Words were called out by Col. **Anthony Krawietz**, Commander for the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base, and there to keep order among the teams were judges **Mack**



"The Spel Chekkers"—Lt. Col. **D.W. Schmidt**, sponsor **Nub Smith** (with Smith and Smith Agency), Col. **Ted Detwiler**, and Lt. Col. **Jeff Nelson**—were recognized as the top spelling military team.

**Powers** and **Joan Wilcoxen**. KWHW Radio Programmer and past Oklahoma Poet Laureate **Eddie Wilcoxen** was the official time keeper, and former State Representative **David Braddock** kept things moving as master of ceremonies. When the "pollen had settled," more than \$4,300 was raised for local literacy efforts. Thanks to the teams, volunteers, sponsors and contributors for making the event such a success.

## Learner Successes

With the help of Northwest Oklahoma Literacy Council in Woodward, **Silvia Flores** passed her US citizenship test, became a citizen, and was able to vote for the first time in her life.

The Great Plains Literacy Council in Altus celebrated the accomplishments of several new U.S. citizens assisted

by the program. Congratulations to **Erika Aburto**, **Gessica Briones**, **Soknan Oeum**, **Kimly Pang**, **Lina Penagos**, **Elvia Ramos**, **Aurelio Toledo**, and **Estela Toledo**. **Pete Aldape** passed the citizenship test and is waiting for the next ceremony. **Kelsey Pierce** worked hard and passed the GED test.

# The Art of Literacy

## Great ESL Resources



Ponca City tutor **Pat** (left) and adult learner **Maria** create collage bookmarks. The pair have worked together ever since Maria came to Oklahoma from Romania.

The next literacy interactive event is planned for October 11. For more information, email the literacy program at [pcarealiteracy@yahoo.com](mailto:pcarealiteracy@yahoo.com)

The Ponca City Area Literacy Council and The Ponca City Art Center hosted an “Eat, Make, and Take” event to bring art to adult learners. Board members, tutors, and adult learners had supper at the taco bar and then created a collage bookmark with local artist **Ann Powell**. Powell is well known for her work in multi-media art. Eighteen people attended the event. The next literacy interactive event is planned for October 11. For more information, email the literacy program at [pcarealiteracy@yahoo.com](mailto:pcarealiteracy@yahoo.com)

If you need a wealth of ideas for ESL learners, check out a lead from students at Westwood Youth Group. As part of a class assignment, the class searched the Web and found this great resource that links to some 50 other ESL websites—“hidden” inside a furniture store website. Check it out at [goo.gl/a8jze](http://goo.gl/a8jze)

## Welcome

**Doreen Doyle** was named new director of the Literacy Council of LeFlore County in Poteau;

**Michael Sullivan** is TCCL’s new family literacy specialist.

## Please Help Us Save Our Resources for Literacy

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OK 73105-3298

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