

TLA 2011 Conference

Honors and Awards



Daniel A. Taylor Memorial Award: Missy Dillingham

Children's Librarian **Missy Dillingham** has celebrated 25 years of service to the Brentwood Public Library. Missy has worked tirelessly to share her love of reading with children, and to develop the Children's Library into the state-of-the-art facility that it is today. Her extensive volunteer work with library-related groups and other organizations shows her hands-on commitment to making our community a better place. **Missy Dillingham will receive the Daniel A. Taylor Memorial Award at the Children & Young Adult Author Talk on Friday.**



Frances Neel Cheney Award: Lindsey Patrick Wesson

Lindsey Patrick Wesson is the Continuing Education and Children's Services Coordinator at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Lindsey is the author of the 2009 Libraries Unlimited book *Green Reads: Best Environmental Resources for Youth, K-12* and co-author of the article "Turning Gamers Into Readers" (School Library Journal, April 2009). Lindsey's most recent project at TSLA is TN Book Talks, a webinar series bringing together Tennessee librarians to book talk their favorite books within a genre. Lindsey is also the administrator of the Statewide Summer Reading Program. Most recently, she has enjoyed introducing her one-year-old daughter, Penelope, to the love of books and reading.

Mother and daughter's current favorites are: *The Remarkable Farkle McBride* by John Lithgow and *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss. **Lindsey Patrick Wesson will receive the Frances Neel Cheney Award at the General Session on Thursday.**

Friend of the Year Award:

The Friends of the Art Circle Library of Cumberland County, Tennessee

The Friends of the Art Circle Public Library of Cumberland County, Tennessee, is truly a dedicated group of 400 library advocates. About a decade ago, the Friends members were inspired by the hard work and intricate plans spearheaded by the Art Circle Library Board of Trustees to build a new 34,000 square foot library facility. Since then, the Friends group worked hard to produce many successful fundraisers which netted upwards of \$100,000 for the new library facility! Part of their success was attributed to the excellent leadership with FOL Presidents John Nye, Joyce Baur, Marty McKnight, and Ginny Nixon all serving FOTL after their terms had ended.

During the last 15 months, FOL members Gary and Virginia Gardner methodically structured a "Circle of Friends Bookstore" within the confines of the new Art Circle Public Library, incorporating years of their retail management experience. On May 2, 2010, the new library opened to the public, and the Gardners, along with 30+ volunteers, raise an average of nearly \$2,000 a month in proceeds from the sale of gently used books from their bookstore!

The Friends also arrange for the sale of prepaid grocery vouchers from Kroger/Food City, sponsor annual luncheons with noted guest authors and their bestselling books, feature intriguing local speakers at all their monthly meetings and are a constant source of support and assistance to the Library Director and her staff. **The Friend of the Year Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.**



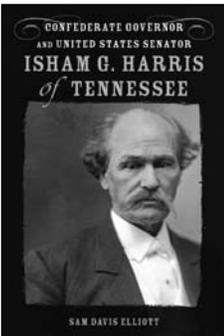
**James E. Ward Library Instruction Award:
Julie Adams**

Julie Adams serves as Associate Director of Tennessee Wesleyan College Library in Athens. In both her current position and prior positions at TWC, Julie has developed innovative and high quality instruction programs to serve all sectors of the student population from incoming freshmen to upperclassmen in specific disciplines. The instruction programs at the Merner Pfeiffer Library have grown exponentially under her leadership, culminating in a recent successful initiative to have Information Literacy incorporated as a basic pillar in the campus Quality Enhancement Plan for SACS accreditation. In addition to library instruction, Julie also coordinates interlibrary loan, serials and databases. A long-standing member of the TLA Instruction Roundtable, she holds a BA in English from Maryville College and an MSLS from the UT-Knoxville School of Information Sciences. **Julie Adams will receive the James E. Ward Library Instruction Award at the Intellectual Freedom Luncheon on Thursday.**



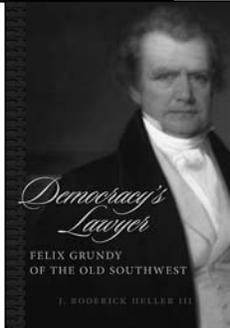
**Louise Meredith School Media Award:
Karen Haggard**

Karen Haggard's library career began in the public library world, working as a children's librarian in Oklahoma, Connecticut, and Illinois. After staying home for a few years when her son was born, she started volunteering in his school libraries, which led to an assistant's position in an elementary school in Stillwater, OK. Her family moved to Tennessee in 2002, and she began her job as librarian at Arlington Middle (Shelby County) the following year. She loves working with this age group and learning new skills to share with teachers and students. In her spare time, she reads and pieces quilts, and she also loves to network with other librarians. Two years ago, after being inspired by a speaker at TASL, she invited other middle school librarians in her area to get together to talk about books. The group is still meeting about once a month and is fun and useful for members. She hopes the spirit of that group can carry over in her position as area rep for her region in TASL. **Karen Haggard will receive the Louise Meredith School Media Award at the Children & Young Adult Author Talk on Friday.**

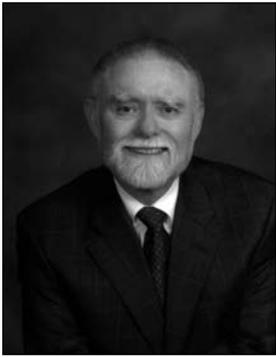


Tennessee History Book Award

Isham G. Harris of Tennessee: Confederate Governor and United States Senator, by Sam Davis Elliot. Published by Louisiana State University Press. Isham Green Harris is considered one of Tennessee's most controversial historic figures. He was a self-made lawyer, businessman and politician. Historians see Harris as a positive and negative influence on Tennessee political landscape leading up to the Civil War. Mr. Elliot's extensive research and interesting writing ability reflect both sides of Harris' career and life. It makes an interesting story also; from pioneer life to the highest lifestyle of pre-Civil War Memphis cotton "hay-days," from post-Civil War exile in Mexico to a long career as Tennessee's Senator in the 1880s. Mr. Elliot's biography tells the history of Harris and Tennessee during a most difficult era.



Democracy's Lawyer: Felix Grundy of the Old Southwest, by J. Roderick Heller, III. Published by Louisiana State University Press. Mr. Heller's new biography of Felix Grundy takes a new look at one of the most prominent but forgotten Tennesseans of the state's early history. Grundy was a prominent Kentucky lawyer and businessman who decided to make Tennessee his home. Grundy helped Tennessee develop and refine its court system as well as its legal defense system. He also played a significant role in Jacksonian era politics. Even after Andrew Jackson came home to the Hermitage, Grundy continued on the national level serving other presidents in a variety of official posts. Mr. Heller's biography tells the story of Tennessee, the frontier becoming Tennessee, the influence of the New West of the United States. **The Tennessee History Book Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.**



TLA Honor Award: J. Donald Craig

J. Donald Craig retired as Dean of the Library at Middle Tennessee State University in 2010 after 38 years of service. Before Don began at MTSU in 1972 he was Assistant to the Director of the Joint University Libraries on the Vanderbilt University campus after his graduation from the Peabody Library School in 1968. He has been an active participant in TLA activities for the past 42 years, as chair of several sections and roundtables, as a co-founder and first chair of the Mid-State Library Association, convention site selection chair, and as TLA President in 1986. He was also Treasurer of TENNSHARE, a member of the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries, and a delegate to the Governor's Conference on Libraries. **J. Donald Craig will receive the TLA Honor Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



TLA Honorary Membership Award: Jane Pinkston

Jane Pinkston has served the library profession for over thirty years in many roles, including a frontline staff member, a library manager and Assistant State Librarian for Planning and Development. Prior to retiring in 2010, she held numerous positions within state and national professional library associations, including serving as President of the Tennessee Library Association in 2007-08. In her position at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, she worked with government officials, library staff, trustees, and advocates across the state in developing support for public library services. It is in her role as champion of public libraries through the founding of the Public Library Management Institute in Tennessee and mentoring library directors that Jane is receiving recognition at this year's Conference. She has been instrumental in writing grants that have a direct impact on the services Tennessee libraries are able to offer and has trained library trustees to be able to better serve their libraries. One nominator wrote, "She is the most worthy person that I know for this award. Jane has always been just a phone call away for any director in times of crisis or just as a friend." **Jane Pinkston will receive the TLA Honorary Membership Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



TLA Support Staff Award: Amy Chinn

Amy Chinn is a Librarian Assistant at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library in Memphis, where she has been a member of the Children's department staff for the past eight years. Amy is a graduate of the University of Memphis with a degree in Elementary Education. Amy uses her education and previous experience as an elementary school teacher in the Shelby County and Memphis City Schools to create and present fun, enjoyable programs for the youngest patrons of the library. Her programs promote early literacy and a love of the library. Amy lives in the Memphis area with her husband Jeremy and daughter Abigail. **Amy Chinn will receive the TLA Support Staff Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



TLA Public Library Section/Tennsco Annual Conference Scholarship Award: Cynthia Carmack

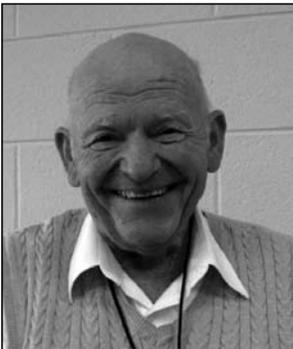
Cynthia Carmack was born and raised in Tampa, Florida and has always loved the arts, music and reading. After receiving a degree in Music Education at Florida State University, she homeschooled her children and lived in Georgia, Vermont, South Dakota, Ohio and Tennessee. In Tennessee, she worked in local government and was very active in supporting the county's library, Millard Oakley Public Library in Livingston. When the position for director became vacant, Cynthia jumped at the chance to work at something she felt so passionate about and was thrilled to receive the position. Now, a year and a half later, she is still excited to go to work every day and has been very encouraged by the support she has received locally, regionally and statewide to learn and improve library services for her community. **Cynthia Carmack will receive the TLA Public Library Section/Tennsco Annual Conference Scholarship Award at the General Session on Thursday.**



TLA Making a Difference Award: Dolly Parton and Phil Bredesen

An internationally renowned award-winning superstar with a career spanning five decades, **Dolly Parton** is one of twelve children who grew up in the impoverished East Tennessee hills. She began the Dollywood Foundation in 1988 to inspire children in her home community. In 1996 Dolly founded the Imagination Library as a gift to the children of Sevier County, hoping this program would inspire children to love books and reading. In 2001 she created a way for other communities to replicate the program and now, 31 million books later, the Imagination Library has become one of the most successful book gifting programs in the country. Now operating in Canada and the United Kingdom, the Imagination Library continues to inspire children to Learn More, Dream More, Care More and Be More. Dolly Parton truly exemplifies the spirit of everyone who desires to make a difference in Tennessee.

Phil Bredesen, Tennessee's 48th governor, created the non-partisan, not-for-profit Governor's Books from Birth Foundation (GBBF). This foundation was established in 2004 to serve as a catalyst for statewide fundraising, public relations and other support, as a tangible resource to help establish and sustain Imagination Libraries for all counties within Tennessee. The GBBF has raised over \$4 million in donations from private and corporate sectors which translates to more than 12 million books delivered to children from birth to five years of age. This program has also served as a template to assist other states in establishing a statewide Imagination Library program. Former Governor Bredesen is a leader with many accomplishments. His commitment to the citizens of Tennessee shines through with this program which will continue to instill the love of books, reading and life-long learning in children. **The TLA Making a Difference Award will be presented at the General Session on Thursday.**



TLA Trustee Award: John Nye

John Nye was selected the recipient of the "Outstanding Trustee of the Year" Award to be presented by the Tennessee Library Association at the Annual Conference in March. John served as Treasurer of the Cumberland County Library Board of Trustees and was a member of the Friends of the Art Circle Public Library and the Cumberland County Imagination Library. He was also a member of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and served on the board for several years. John was active in the building campaign for the Art Circle Public Library, and his dedication to this project was invaluable. John Nye passed away on December 27, 2010. Libraries have lost an outstanding advocate. Those that knew John have lost an outstanding friend. **The Trustee's Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.**

Tennessee Library Association 2011 Conference Honors and Awards

Honors and Awards Committee

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