

# TLA 2012 Conference

---

## Honors and Awards



### Daniel A. Taylor Memorial Award: Linda Ackerman

**Linda Ackerman** is Youth Services Manager at Portland Public Library, Portland, TN. Linda has been involved in providing library service to the children and young adults in Tennessee for 16 years at the Portland Public Library, inspiring people in children's services with her vivacious spirit and tenacious attitude about providing excellence in services for our youth. Linda is an active member of the C/YA community, and has presented numerous programs at the TLA conference. She has served on the Tennessee Summer Reading Committee many times. Linda has helped with the Tennessee Children's Librarians Summer Reading Workshops and always provided inspiration to the participants in the workshops. She has served as a leader of the Children's and Young Adult Services Roundtable. Linda is a graduate of the Tennessee Public Library Management Institute. She is a master of costuming and used this talent to promote and enrich the characters of a book or to bring to life the yearly Summer Reading Theme, to make a child's imagination soar! **Linda Ackerman will receive the Daniel A. Taylor Memorial Award at the Children's & Young Adult Services Luncheon on Thursday.**



### James E. Ward Library Instruction Award: Leslie Adebajo

As Undergraduate Student Services Librarian, **Leslie Adebajo** dedicates her time and efforts to serving a specific student population at East Tennessee State University. The majority of her work centers around outreach and library instruction to first-year students. Since joining Sherrod Library permanently in 2008, Adebajo has steadily and consistently produced scholarship and presentations at the national level regarding library instruction research, programs, and services at ETSU. Further, her innovations in using clickers (student response systems) in library instruction/information literacy sessions landed her the opportunity to present a paper at Turning Technologies User Conference, Harvard University in 2010. As far as clicker technologies go, she's ETSU's resident expert and she presented a program on using clickers in the classroom along with other faculty at a university-wide workshop in 2011. According to library instruction statistics for the 2010-2011 fiscal year Adebajo taught 30.6% of ETSU's library instruction courses. **Leslie Adebajo will receive the James E. Ward Library Instruction Award at the Opening General Session on Thursday.**



### Frances Neel Cheney Award: Rebecca Tolley-Stokes

**Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** is an associate professor and faculty outreach librarian at East Tennessee State University. She promoted a love of books and reading to the Tennessee Library Association membership while serving as book review editor of Tennessee Libraries from 2004-2012. She expanded the scope of the review section and incorporated a blog to market and promote available titles. She has served as co-chair of the Tennessee History Book Award Committee committee since 2010 which recognizes excellence in Tennessee historical writing. Since 2000 she has reviewed over 75 books for a variety of library periodicals, presented at the American Library Association on promoting leisure reading to academic library patrons, and co-presented at TLA on eReading devices. Her other publications include over 100 encyclopedia entries covering a variety of topics, as well as co-editing two books: *The Generation X Librarian: Essays on Leadership, Technology, Pop Culture, Social Responsibility and Professional Identity* and *Mentoring in Librarianship: Essays on Working with Adults and Students to Further the Profession*. **Rebecca Tolley-Stokes will receive the Frances Neel Cheney Award at the Opening General Session on Thursday.**



### TLA Honor Award: Suresh Ponnappa

**Suresh Ponnappa**, Director of East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine Library, has been a leader in Tennessee libraries for many years. He has promoted new technologies and has selflessly shared his technological expertise with other librarians at every opportunity. His involvement includes teaching, lecturing, consulting, and serving as a committee member and officer in local, state, regional and national library organizations. Mr. Ponnappa has consistently demonstrated leadership skills throughout his career, having served as president of TLA, president of the Tennessee Health Sciences Library Association and president of TennShare. His desire to present TLA to the world led to his development of the organization's first webpage and his service as webmaster between 1995 and 1998. As a leader in goal setting for TLA he organized an envisioning workshop which led to the development of the first 10-year strategic plan for the 21st century. Additionally, Mr. Ponnappa has been an active member of the TennShare board since 2003 and was a member of the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries from 1999-2005. In 2002 he was recognized by the UTK School of Information Sciences as the Distinguished Alumni for the Decade of the 1980's. Mr. Ponnappa is well known as a willing mentor to decades of students and young librarians. A colleague said, "Suresh's vision is not limited to health sciences libraries. Instead, he steps outside his comfort zone to work for common issues and values for all libraries." **Suresh Ponnappa will receive the TLA Honor Award at the Opening General Session on Thursday.**



### TLA Public Library Section/Tennsco Annual Conference Scholarship Award: Renae Powell

Renae Powell is the Director of the Perry County Library System in Perry County, TN, which has a main library located in Linden and a branch in Lobelville. She worked at the Lobelville Library for six years. Later promoted to Branch Manager, there were online classes offered at that time from Jackson State Community Classes at which time she took the opportunity to continue her education in librarianship. In May of 2009 she received a Certificate of Completion from the Public Library Certification Program at Jackson State Community College. Two years later in May of 2011, she was promoted to Director of the Perry County Library System. Renae said, "In the past five and a half years I have had the opportunity to learn much about the library world whether it was an In-Service, the ARSL Conference, book talking, Christy Judging, every day workings in the library and currently PLMI (Public Library Management Institute). In May 2012, I and other Directors and Managers will graduate from PLMI. I appreciate the opportunity to now be a part of TLA and attend this conference where I know that there will be much information to glean and utilize each and every day." **Renae Powell will receive the TLA Public Library Section/Tennsco Annual Conference Scholarship Award at the Opening General Session on Thursday.**

### Friend of the Year Award: Kodak Branch of Sevier County Public Library

On December 2, 2001, the Kodak Branch of the Sevier County Public Library system opened in a modular building purchased by the Friends of Kodak Library (FOKL). The Friends' support of their library, their cooperation with other libraries in the Sevier County Public Library System, and their leadership in the community of approximately 4,000 are exemplary. FOKL has provided major funding for Children's Story Time by purchasing materials for the craft projects and snacks for 200 preschool and kindergarten children. The Friends sold children's books at the Summer Reading Program for 50 cents each so families could have books in their homes to read for the program. Although the Kodak Branch is the smallest unit of the Sevier Public Library System, it sees the largest participation in the Summer Reading Program, which is funded by FOKL. Additionally, FOKL has purchased six pieces of furniture to equip a new teen area, sponsored a successful "Twilight New Moon" Party for approximately 75 teens and tweens, and sponsored a monthly Literary Classics Book discussion group. In an effort to preserve the history and culture of the area, FOKL sponsors Kodak Heritage Day and they also created a special collection, "Kodak Heritage Handcrafted Collection," which focuses on crafts practiced by pioneers to ensure survival of skills that are quickly vanishing. The group purchased over 100 books, videos, DVDs and CDs to establish the collection. The FOKL has also made an important appeal to the Sevier County Board of Commissioners regarding the need to preserve funding for the Sevier County Libraries and they have supported the formation of a new Friends Group for the King Family Library. Friends of Tennessee Libraries is honored to present the Friend of the Year Award to the Friends of Kodak Library. **The Friend of the Year Award will be presented at the Trustees and Friends Luncheon on Friday.**



### TLA President's Award: Penny Frere

**Penny Frere** is the founding director of Tenn-Share, a group that has been an incubator of great ideas for libraries in Tennessee. She has been inspiring and connecting librarians across this state for many years, figuring out the best way for all of us to share our resources. At times Penny's dedication and dogged tenacity have accomplished things others considered impossible. Tennessee enjoys the fruits of her labors, including the Tennessee Electronic Library and the forthcoming statewide courier system. As Penny moves on to the next chapter in her life, please join TLA President Wendy Cornelisen in honoring her achievements with the TLA President's Award. **Penny Frere will receive the TLA President's Award at the Closing General Session on Friday.**



### TLA Honorary Membership Award: Martha Gill

**Martha Gill** has led and sustained the Friends of Tennessee Libraries for the last three years as President. She has written a newsletter which won national awards, and she has helped plan and implement several State and National Library Legislative Days. Additionally, she has written a presentation for TLA on the importance of friends groups, which highlights specific examples of how groups across the state have written, called, and visited state and local senate and congressional representatives to advocate for strengthening libraries. She also maintains the Friends of Tennessee Libraries web page and Facebook page. Martha is a tireless supporter of libraries, emphasizing the positive effect libraries have within our communities and their contribution to lifelong learning. She is a kind and affirming person who encourages participation by the high standard of her own example of enthusiastic service to the organization. **Martha Gill will receive the TLA Honorary Membership Award at the Closing General Session on Friday.**



### Intellectual Freedom Award: Devon Hicks

**Devon Hicks** has worked tirelessly to champion opposition to SB049, Senator Stacey Campfield's notorious "Don't Say Gay" bill, which would prevent any materials about or discussion of human sexuality other than heterosexuality in Tennessee public schools in grades K-8. The potential repercussions of this bill for school libraries and the students they serve would be devastating.

Devon has received both local and national media attention for his work on this issue, which formally began when he, as a 17-year-old Knoxville resident, organized a rally/protest in Nashville on May 1, 2011, and another in Knoxville on May 20, 2011. He has consistently placed himself at the front of this controversy as the face and voice of opposition in several interviews with print and television media, and continues to use every avenue available—from advocating for social media as a

tool for protest to his own work and financing of a documentary film in progress about SB049 and LGBT discrimination—to keep the dangers of limiting access to information about LGBT issues at the forefront of public consciousness in Tennessee. Devon has been maintaining a Facebook group for "Don't Say Gay" protest organizers and a Facebook Non-Profit organization page called "It's Ok to Say Gay". He also has his own website devoted to using information technology to foster positive social change. **Devon Hicks will receive the Intellectual Freedom Award at the Closing General Session on Friday.**



### TLA Making A Difference Award: Ride for Reading

Ride for Reading, a non-profit organization founded in 2008 and based in Nashville, promotes literacy in low-income neighborhoods throughout Tennessee. The group has organized an ingenious system of collecting new and gently used donated books at various locations, and then distributing them to low-income neighborhoods. And they do it all on their bikes. There are no age restrictions; no sign-up is required. Volunteers pick up donated books, sort them, and head out to local schools, shelters and community groups to talk to kids about the importance of literacy and healthy living. As they celebrated their third year, they have given away more than 75,000 books. Founder Matthew Portell is accepting this honor. **The TLA Making a Difference Award will be presented at the Closing General Session on Friday.**



### TLA Library Support Staff Award: Barbara R. Thomas

Barbara Thomas has been with the University Libraries at the University of Memphis since 2002. She is currently a Library Assistant III in the Instructional Services Department, where she is the only paraprofessional teaching in the Department. In addition to scheduling 300-400 instruction sessions each year, she plans the details of and organizes the many non-University groups who visit McWherter Library (the main library at the University of Memphis)—from elementary school students to those enrolled in International Baccalaureate programs at local high schools. Her pursuit of knowledge, including completion of a bachelor's degree in history while working full time, is inspirational. Her favorite part of her work is when she gets to interact and share her knowledge with colleagues and users directly—working at the Research and Information Services Desk,

attending campus outreach activities, teaching freshmen about library resources, and giving library tours. She plans and manages the Libraries' presence at campus outreach activities, including new student and faculty orientations, information fairs, and conferences. She serves on the Libraries Staffing Pool, Facebook Committee, Web Team, Publications Committee, LibGuides Editing Group, Library Support Staff Association, and a current Search Committee. As her picture suggests, she has a great sense of humor and contagious laugh that make her a great face for the Libraries and a treasured member of the Instructional Services Department. **Barbara R. Thomas will receive the TLA Library Support Staff Award at the Closing General Session on Friday.**



### Tennessee History Book Award

*Confederate Outlaw: Champ Ferguson and the Civil War in Appalachia (Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War)*, by Brian McKnight. Published by Louisiana State University Press (April 8, 2011) ISBN 0807137693. Brian D. McKnight is associate professor of history at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. **The Tennessee History Book Award will be presented at the Closing General Session on Friday.**

---

*Please note that the TLA Trustee Award and the Louise Meredith School Media Award will not be presented this year.*



TENNESSEE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

---

P.O. Box 241074 • Memphis, TN 38124-1074