

Winter 2011

SELA News

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The Southeastern Librarian

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SELA NEWS:

Southeastern Library Association Names Outstanding Authors

The Southeastern Library Association has named its 2010 Outstanding Southeastern Authors for Fiction and Non-Fiction. The association announced the awards at its biennial conference held September 25-28, 2010 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ron Rash was the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Southeastern Author Award for Fiction. Rash is the Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University. His latest collection of twelve short stories, *Burning Bright*, was released this past March, and all of the stories are set in Appalachia.

“Ron Rash is a southern writer enjoying well-deserved praise for his work, and we have reason to look forward to more yet to come,” said librarian Jim Cooper,

Chairman of the Outstanding Author Awards Committee. “He is especially worthy and suited to the Southeastern Library Association Outstanding Author Award for Fiction.”

Neil White was the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Southeastern Author Award for Non-Fiction. White received the award for his first book, *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts*, a memoir about his experience in a Carville, Louisiana federal prison that shared quarters with the only Hansen’s disease (leprosy) colony in the continental United States.

“Neil White joins an elite list of distinguished Southern writers recognized by the Southeastern Library Association,” Cooper said. “He certainly is a deserving recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Author Award for Non-fiction.”

The Outstanding Southeastern Author Award recognizes authors in Southeastern states for current works of literary merit.

A listing of previous award winners can be found at: <http://selaonline.org/about/OutstandingSoutheasternAuthor.pdf>

SELA Mentoring Program

The SELA Membership and Mentoring Committee is looking for individuals who are interested in participating in the SELA Mentoring Program (<http://selaonline.org/membership/mentoring.htm>) as a mentor or mentee.

The SELA Mentoring Program was developed to assist librarians, library paraprofessionals and library science students with their library careers.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee for the SELA Mentoring Program, please contact Hal Mendelsohn, hmendels@mail.ucf.edu, Chair of the SELA Membership and Mentoring Committee.

NON-SELA NEWS:

HBCU Library Alliance Awarded \$70,000 Mellon Foundation Grant

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance announces a \$70,000 grant award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the Alliance's "Preserving Our History" project. The two-year project will document and disseminate the history of the HBCU Library Alliance and highlight member success stories. This is the first grant awarded directly to the Alliance.

"We are thrilled to receive the grant, which represents a major step forward for the sustainability for the organization," said Sandra Phoenix, HBCU Library Alliance Program Director, who will serve as Project Manager. "The historical

documents will serve to spread the successful message of cooperation and collaboration not only nationally, but also internationally to developing countries."

A professional writer will be hired to document the history and accomplishments of the HBCU Library Alliance. The grant deliverables will contribute to the literature about libraries and HBCUs.

The Alliance plans to present the documents at upcoming conferences including the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Annual Conference, providing a model of collaboration for other libraries, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean.

Seven member success stories will be featured in the project to serve as models and learning tools for the larger library community. Examples of innovative HBCU projects include a partnership between The Inez Moore Parker Archives at the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University (NC) with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to make materials available online through Digital NC; and the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library (GA), which used HBCU Library Alliance's "The State of Libraries at HBCUs" report to gain project approval and funding for the library's first phase of renovation, completed in May 2010.

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