

Gala honors contributors to state's heritage

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To know our history is to better understand ourselves, and to engage the younger generation in its study helps ensure our tomorrow.

This is where the Oklahoma Heritage Association comes in. The association is a nonprofit organization that works to promote and preserve the unique heritage of our state.

Those whose efforts make this possible were part of the recent awards luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel that honored new officers, educators and history lovers.

Duane King, executive director of Gilcrease Museum, spoke about "The Life and Work of Willard Stone," the Oklahoma artist whose wood sculptures are the subject of a major exhibition at Gilcrease.

King also discussed upcoming exhibits at the museum and thanked former Oklahoma Sen. Charles Ford, whom he called "Mr. State Capitol," for his help in making an exhibit of art from the Capitol available for a Gilcrease exhibit.

Tom McDaniel, president of Oklahoma City University, was elected association president and praised outgoing Chairman Glen Johnson for the year's accomplishments.

One of the most notable of those is the success of the Oklahoma Heritage Gaylord-Pickens Museum in Oklahoma City, which will celebrate its second anniversary May 9.

Also recognized were donors and sponsors including Advanced Network Design, American Fidelity Foundation, Dell Foundation and Heritage Trust and the Payne Family, all of Oklahoma City and ConocoPhillips of Houston.

Also, ONEOK/Kyle Family Foundation, Bank of Oklahoma N.A., Roxana and Bob Lorton, Cy Elmburg of Afton, First National Bank of Okmulgee and RAM Energy.

Luncheon sponsors included Joe Cappy and Schnake Turnbo Frank PR, both of Tulsa, Pat Evans, Josephine Freede, Ike and Mary Beth Glass, Fred Harlan, Marland Estate Foundation, Tom Muchmore, Carl and Carolyn Renfro, and Chuck Thompson.

Awards committee members included co-chairs David Kyle and Leslie Paris and luncheon committee co-chairs were Joe Cappy and Becky Frank. Other committee members included David Kyle, Keith Bailey, Roger Collins, Vaughndean Fuller, Jim Halsey, Larry Lee, Suzanne O'Brien, Deane Oven, Leslie Paris and Peter Walter.

Also on the program were association President Shannon Nancy and Rabbi Charles Sherman.

Excellence in teaching awards went to Charlotte Smith of Oklahoma City, Thrissa Johnson of Fort Gibson and Bill Bryans of Stillwater.

The Editorial Award went to The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, and the Individual Award went to T.L. Walker of Ponca City.

Organization Awards went to the Marland Estate Foundation and to the Indian Territory Marshals.

Others in the crowd were Larry Lee, Dr. Munson Fuller, Jody Parker, Clay Bennett, Patty Cappy, Jana Shoulders, Brenda McDaniel, Linda and Stuart Price, Bill Burgess, and Lee Allan Smith, for whom a legacy award will be named next year.

Associate Images:



Tom McDaniel (from left), Becky Frank and Joe Cappy were among those who attended the Oklahoma Heritage Association awards luncheon March 31. MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

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