Ann Ronald, Susan Palwick, and Ellen Hopkins were selected as the 2006 recipients of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame and Silver Pen awards by the Friends of the Library at the University of Nevada, Reno. They were honored at a special reception on Tuesday, October 3, at the Montréal Golf and Country Club in Reno, emceed by Michele Basta.

The Hall of Fame honors established writers with a long-term commitment to the craft, while Silver Pen awards recognize emerging or mid-career writers. To be considered for either award, the writers must demonstrate a Nevada “connection” either in their subject matter or by living in Nevada.

**Hall of Fame – Ann Ronald**

The 2006 Hall of Fame recipient was Ann Ronald, professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her work, which focuses on landscape, includes *Earthtones: A Nevada Album*, *GhostWest*, and *The New West of Edward Abbey*.

In *Earthtones*, a book of essays about the Nevada landscape, the selection committee lauded Ronald’s “artistry in the printed word” and “celebration of the natural landscape.”

“As a hiker, I was pulling out maps and finding all the places she wrote about,” one said. “It connects people to the landscape. Everyone should get a copy when they first move here.” Another found her newest work, *GhostWest*, which looks at the sense of place in the American West, “another amazing piece of work.” Her latest, *Oh, Give Me a Home*, was published in September 2006.

Ronald, who grew up in the Pacific Northwest and did her graduate studies in Colorado and Illinois, promised herself that she would never live east of the Rockies again. Fortunately, she has been at UNR ever since, both as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as a professor. She currently teaches a variety of upper division and graduate courses at UNR in British and American literature.

**Silver Pen – Susan Palwick**

Two Silver Pen recipients were honored in 2006. The first was Susan Palwick, an associate professor of English at UNR, who achieved immediate critical acclaim for her second fantasy novel, *The Necessary Beggar*. It tells the tale of a family who become refugees in a near-future alternate version of Reno.

The Hall of Fame selection committee found the novel unexpected and delightful. “It was really about the immigrant experience – coming from one place to another and trying to cope and adjust. It’s a wonderful parable for what’s happening in our time.” Another found “the local references charming.” The novel features scenes in many Reno locales, including the National Automobile Museum, Blue Moon Pizza, and the Pneumatic Diner.

Palwick herself has said that the novel’s premise allowed her to examine America “through the eyes of people who admire some aspects of our culture and find others shocking.” Her debut novel “Flying in Place” also won critical acclaim and she has two other works in progress – “Shelter” and “The Fate of Mice,” both due out in 2007.

(Continued on page 5)
Having fun on awards night

Above, from left are authors Susan Palwick, Ann Ronald, and Ellen Hopkins having fun at Montreux after receiving their Hall of Fame and Silver Pen awards. Below, Friends’ president, Janice Pine, helps match auction winners with their purchased items.

Silent Auction A Great Success

The evening included a wonderful Silent Auction, featuring such items as a Virginia City-themed gift basket from Barnes & Noble (at right) and an oil painting by Friends member, Anne Hall (at far right). Our sincere thanks to all who contributed to the auction (see a complete list on page 5).
Knowledge Center Construction: A Delicate Dance of the Cranes

Above, a photo from the University’s time-lapse camera caught a curved roof truss being lowered gently into place above the Knowledge Center’s central atrium. The Knowledge Center will become the University Libraries new home in Fall 2008. This photo also shows the five graceful arches of the building’s arcade.

Mounted on the parking garage across from the construction, the time-lapse camera captures a new photo every 7 minutes. To watch a fascinating time-lapse video of the construction to date and find a wealth of other information about the new building, go to the University’s Knowledge Center web site at http://www.knowledgecenter.unr.edu/ and click on the “Timelapse Video” link.

At left and below, campus photographer Theresa Danna-Douglas captured wonderful images of the courageous beam-walking ironworkers with stunning views of downtown Reno in the background.

She also took photos of the beehive-looking dome that will grace the top of the Knowledge Center Reading Room Tower, before and after being covered with sheet metal. Eventually, all metal on the building will be covered in a beautiful matching champagne color.
Spotlight on the Getchell Library Circulation Desk

There’s a lot more to Getchell Library’s Circulation Desk than merely checking in and checking out books. Just ask Marcia Ostrowski, supervisor of 3 full-time staff and approximately 15 students, who keep that very busy front desk humming over 16 hours a day on most days.

“Anyone can check in a book, but it takes a special person to provide consistent, positive public service,” she said. “All of our staff and students are extremely polite. No matter what comes in the front door, no matter how negative, they’re always polite and smiling. I am really proud of our staff and students. The whole interaction with the customer is what makes a person want to come back.”

A lot of behind-the-scenes work is done by Library Assistants Vicky Pascucci, Cecilia Medal, and Molly Mott, each of whom has a very different role.

- Vicky’s main charge is locating missing material, making sure student’s records are cleared in the Student Information System (SIS) when items are returned, and serving as a role model for the students. “Vicky displays a positive calm demeanor that students can model,” said Marcia.

- Cecilia’s main focus is course reserves, so she deals with a lot of faculty, making sure that the items they need are on reserve for checkout by students. Like Vicky, she has the right personality for dealing diplomatically with last-minute requests from faculty.

- Molly’s main function is cash deposits and Link+, a service that allows library patrons to request a book and receive it within 4 days. Again, diplomacy comes to the fore, as Molly interacts with many California libraries and a courier service. She also reconciles deposits from the main cash register, where multiple students work each day, and the “cashless” WolfCard register, which uses a code for transactions.

- Marcia herself schedules the 15 students and works a lot in CAIS (Campus Advanced Information System) to compare monthly revenue in various accounts for Getchell and the three branch libraries. She also acts as a backup at the Circulation Desk.

Students are actually the heart and soul of the Circulation Desk, according to Marcia. “We rely on them 100 percent,” she says. They help to open in the early morning, make sure the printers and copiers are operational, handle any situation that comes up in the evening, and are here until midnight most evenings. The department could not function without them.”

Marcia also noted that she and her staff are starting to use the SharePoint software and central server to post procedures and forms common to all the branch libraries.

“The Circulation Department is the first and last area that customers encounter at the library and we strive to make it a positive experience for everyone. So stop by and check out our friendly smiles!”

Photo Exhibit Now at Getchell Library

UNR photographer Ted Cook documented the deep and vivid fall colors found around campus this year in its trees, leaves, shrubs, and vines.

Please stop by and take a look at these evocative new photos through Feb. 26, 2007, in the Getchell Gallery, on the 1st Floor of Getchell Library.

Campus Autumn — Gorgeous fall images of the UNR campus are now being exhibited by University photographer, Ted Cook, in the Getchell Gallery.

— Photo by Ted Cook, TLT
Silver Pen – Ellen Hopkins

Ellen Hopkins, a Reno feature writer and novelist who published her first poem at 16, was the second Silver Pen honoree. She has since published 20 nonfiction books for children, but it was her debut young-adult novel, Crank, written in verse, that captured the attention of the literary world.

Within two weeks of its release in October 2004, it made the best-seller lists.

The selection committee found the novel “captured the alienation between parents and children,” was “structurally innovative and appropriate for delivering her message to the young reader.” They also described the book, which chronicles the turbulent relationship between a mother and her crystal meth, or ‘crank,’-addicted daughter,” to be “very courageous subject matter, since it is based on her own life.”

Hopkins’ latest young adult novel, Burned, came out in April, and explores another difficult subject – abuse issues.

The Selection Committee

Our thanks to the dedication and time put in by the 2006 Hall of Fame Selection Committee. It was chaired by Gailmarie Pahmeier, professor of English at UNR, and included Jim Roderick, professor of English at Truckee Meadows Community College, Sharon Honig-Bear, development officer at Washoe County Library, and Claudia Keelan, English professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

At the Hall of Fame reception, the program included the three authors reading from their works, a book signing, silent auction, and cocktail hour. The ASUN Bookstore from the University of Nevada, Reno provided books for purchase at the signing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The following individuals and local businesses contributed some wonderful Silent Auction items to our Hall of Fame event and we would like to thank them for their generosity!

Artists:
- Carol Pallesen
- Thomas Wilson
- Frankie Sue Del Papa
- Jan Jones
- Carol Johnson
- Connie Waldron
- Marilyn Melton
- Annie Hall
- Amy Mazza

Barnes & Noble: Virginia City-themed basket
Black Rock Press: 2 brochures and 2 books
Casale’s Half-Way Club: Dinner for 2
Dynasty China Bistro: Dinner Certificate
Fleischmann Planetarium: 4 tickets
Fred Holabird: Historic photos and books
Harvey’s Casino, Lake Tahoe: Dinner & show package
KUNR 88.7 FM: 25 On-Air Announcements
Luciano’s: $100 Dinner Certificate
Marla Bay Condo (Tom Cook): 2-night stay
Ed Martinez: Valentine prints
MasterWorks Chorale: Tickets to 2 concerts w/ CD
Casey McQuaid, Gallo Sales: 4 bottles of wine
Montreux Golf & Country Club: Gift Basket
National Automobile Museum: 4 tickets
Palais de Jade: 2 Shanghai Dinners
Peppermill Hotel Casino: 3-day, 2-night stay + dinner
Photography with Love: Three $800 Photo Sessions
Spa MonRiche: Massage
University Press: Selections from Ann Ronald
UNR Athletics (Cary Groth): Montreux Golf for 3 with UNR’s Athletic Director
Washoe Grill: Dinner for 2
The Friends of the Library welcomes Millie Mitchell, who became the University Libraries’ new Director of Development on Nov. 27, 2006. As such, Millie is also the new Director of the Friends group.

Millie will be coordinating fundraising efforts for various Library-related programs and projects and soliciting major gifts. She expects to be very busy with stewardship activities as we come closer and closer to the opening of the new Knowledge Center in Fall 2008.

For past 2½ years, Millie was the Volunteer Coordinator for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. During her tenure, the volunteer base grew to over 1400 people contributing over 6000 hours per year. She also worked closely with Marketing and Development staff on special projects, preparing for the a capital campaign to build a new Regional Food Distribution Center.

Millie, who holds a BA in Dramatic Arts from Whitman College and an MA in Arts Administration from Indiana University, has spent most of her career in marketing, public relations, fundraising, and general management of not-for-profit organizations—mostly in the performing arts. She has held senior management positions with the California Symphony, Oakland Ballet, San Francisco Symphony, Savannah Symphony, and Indiana University Auditorium.

A California transplant, Millie actually has Nevada roots going back to her great-great grandfather, a county surveyor in northern Nevada after the Civil War. She moved here 5 years ago to be closer to her brother and his family. In her free time, she enjoys tennis, travel, a good book, and playing with her dogs, Tally Ho and Sassy.

The Friends Welcome Millie Mitchell

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Millie Mitchell
— Photo by Ted Cook

You can reach Millie by email at mimitchell@unr.edu or stop by her office on the 2nd floor of Getchell Library.