

2016 Annual Conference Wrap-up

By Tisa Davis, ILF Communications Manager

Over 770 attendees and 76 exhibitors participated in the 2016 Annual Conference.

Pre-conference was held on Tuesday afternoon only, to give attendees a chance to vote in the election before arriving. The excitement was definitely brewing as attendees anxiously awaited Tuesday's Keynote Speaker, James Patterson.



Patterson's presentation was very well received by many attendees. One even stated him to be the best keynote to date. During his presentation, Patterson emphasized the importance of getting books that are fun to read into the hands of children and how critical it is for children to be able to read books that they enjoy instead of just textbooks.

Both the Children and Young People's Division (CYPD) luncheon and the Indiana Public Library Association (IPLA) luncheon were held on Tuesday. Children's book author April Pulley Sayre gave a wonderful speech during the CYPD Luncheon.



Shanika Heyward gave an inspirational presentation during the IPLA luncheon that left many in tears. Shanika spoke of the importance of getting to know your community and reaching out to people where they live.

After Shanika's presentation, ILF hosted its first 3x3 Competition. Seven applicants sent in proposals on an inventive way to increase community

engagement in their libraries. The Awards and Honors Committee chose three to give the opportunity to give a three-minute, – three-slide presentation about their idea. Winners were Jonathan Gaskill, Allen County Public Library with his *Feeding Hungry Minds* idea, Theresa Horn, St. Joseph County Public Library with her *Rocking Readers* presentation, and Trina Evans, Kokomo-Howard County Public Library with her *Outdoor Classroom* idea. Audience members voted to decide a winner, who will be granted \$1,000 to help achieve their idea. The winner of the first annual 3x3 Competition is Trina Evans with the Outdoor Classroom proposal. Kokomo-HCPL will use the grant to purchase binoculars, exploration nets, nature houses, garden tools, watering cans, and more for children to use at an outdoor pavilion on the library property. Congratulations, Trina and Kokomo-Howard County Public Library!



Tuesday evening was a flurry of activity with the Indiana University ILS Alumni reception, the Follett President's Wine and Cheese Banquet and the Young Hoosier Book Award (YHBA) Banquet.

Speaker for the YHBA Banquet, children's book illustrator Peter Brown showed the audience how he came up with the ideas for his illustrations in the picture book category winner, *Creepy Carrots*. Drawing on his love of classic creature movies and *The Twilight Zone*, Brown developed award-winning illustrations.



On Wednesday, Keynote Speaker and past ALA President Barbara Stripling spoke on *Finding the Leader in You* and focusing on your leadership skills. Barbara also gave a follow-up breakout session on Nurturing the Leader in You.

The Awards and Honors Luncheon was held on Thursday in place of an evening banquet. Luncheon speaker and storyteller Sally Perkins kept the audience entertained. ILF presented 12 awards and six scholarships this year. [See a list of award winners.](#)

Along with all the wonderful keynotes and events, 113 breakout sessions were presented on topics ranging from library budgets and outreach services to e-libraries and MakerSpaces.

ILF staff would like to thank the annual conference committee, speakers, exhibitors, and attendees for your time and encouragement during this year's conference. The ILF Board and Staff will incorporate feedback and suggestions from evaluation as we plan the 2017 conferences. [Check out the photo gallery.](#)

Mark your calendars for next year's conference to be held November 13-15 at the Marriott East. Young Adult author [Maggie Stiefvater](#) will be the Tuesday Keynote Speaker.