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WINNERS

James Patterson announced the 34 winners of the 2005 James Patterson PageTurner Awards. The winners will receive cash prizes totaling more than \$100,000. Among the winners are schools, libraries, and other organizations, as well as individuals, that go to extraordinary lengths to promote the joy of books and reading across the country.

After reviewing more than 1,500 nominations over four months, Mr. Patterson is honored to recognize individuals who rally their students and entire communities around annual reading extravaganzas (thousands; local radio hosts who passionately promote writers and their books on the radio (she has her own action figure!); the mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, who made reading a central theme of his campaign; doctors and nurses who teach the importance of making reading a lifelong habit; individuals who mobilize the Hollywood community to celebrate reading; local libraries that offer reading programs and safe havens for underprivileged youth; and an NBA star who's returning to his hometown to promote the excitement of books and reading.

James Patterson says: "This is the proudest moment of my writing career, by a lot. I've received more nominations and was moved by so many of them. Next year, I promise, we'll make this event bigger and try to include any worthy cause we may have missed this time."

\$25,000 PAGETURNER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR WINNER

Dallas County Community Colleges | Dallas, TX

The Dallas County Community Colleges instituted and actively maintains an annual "City of Dallas American Read-In" for all schools – elementary and up – in the community. The Read-In program that has provided books, book bags, bookmarks, readers, and reading opportunities for more than 100,000 children and adults since its inception, with the ultimate goal of helping participants to develop the lifelong good habit of reading together as a family and as a community.

\$25,000 PAGETURNER OF THE YEAR WINNER

Litquake | San Francisco, CA

The annual San Francisco literary festival Litquake actively involves the entire population of the sixth-largest city in the country, highlighting the lively, wilder side of the literary world. Litquake is a literary version of San Francisco's other music, film, and cultural festivities and exists to help people – in an entertaining way – that reading truly is FUN!

\$5,000 PAGETURNER PAR EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Frederick Douglass Academy III | Bronx, NY

Frederick Douglass Academy III is a small college preparatory school. Its students, almost all of whom are from low-income families, enter the school several grade levels behind their peers in reading. FADA raises these levels by focusing on reading for enjoyment and turning their students from kids who struggle with reading into lifelong pageturners.

Augustus H. Burley Elementary School | Chicago, IL

In 1995 just 25 percent of Burley students were reading at or above grade level. In 2005, 77 percent or above grade level, thanks to Burley's emphasis on reading as a pleasurable and lifelong activity through out-of-the-classroom events and activities for students and parents alike, with a continuous focus on kids LOVING reading.

Family Literacy Foundation | San Diego, CA

The Family Literacy Program educates parents and caregivers about the importance of reading to children in their preschool years in order to establish the roots that produce successful and lifelong readers. Since 1989, the Family Literacy Foundation has helped more than 171,000 people experience the joy of reading aloud, with the help of youth and adult volunteers who have contributed more than 168,000 hours of service.

Perri Klass / Reach Out and Read | Somerville, MA

Reach Out and Read is dedicated to training doctors and nurses to provide information to new parents about the developmental importance of reading aloud to young children. Now, Reach Out and Read is a national initiative, with programs in all fifty states. Founder Dr. Klass once wrote: "When I think about children growing up in homes without books, I have the same visceral reaction as I have when I think of children without milk or food or heat: It cannot be, it must not be."

The Denver Public Library | Denver, CO

The Denver Public Library offers 1,500 preschool children from low-income families the opportunity to participate in "Outreach Storytime." DPL also offers 1,200 older children from low-income families the opportunity to participate in their "After School Is Cool" program. Both programs help children develop reading skills, foster a love of reading, and provide a safe place for children of all races to learn.

The Chris Webber Foundation | Detroit, MI

The pride of NBA star Chris Webber, the Chris Webber Foundation serves Detroit's troubled youth and highlights the entertainment value of reading through events with community heroes like the Detroit Department of Public Safety and Chris Webber himself. The Foundation donates thousands of books, and gives speeches to thousands of Detroit-area children annually, making the Chris Webber Foundation a hero.

Bill Tevendale / Reading Up to Par | Hoover, AL

Bill Tevendale is an active reading warrior in his community. Bill personally delivers and donates books to five schools in his community every year. He also creates events with local celebrities to offer more testimonies about the fun and importance of reading.

\$1,000 PAGETURNER AWARD WINNERS

John B. Gorrie Elementary School | Tampa, FL

John B. Gorrie Elementary School has an endless list of unique reading/book programs that incorporate entertainment mediums as well as the community. Some are: "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" – a life-size art installation of the book and display it in the school; create costumes; recruit actors to ultimately put on a school-wide performance. "The Birthday Book Club" – students purchase books at local bookstores and donate them to the school library in honor of their birthday.

Esme Raji Codell | Chicago, IL

For the past eighteen years, Esme Raji Codell has independently worked to show children and adults that "reading is more than a skill; it's a lifestyle." From traveling to over 60 cities in the country to appearing on National Public Radio, Esme tells anyone (and everyone) who will listen to promote the excitement of reading. She even created The PlanetEsme Bookroom, a literary salon which gives the entire Chicago area a place to go to experience the great joys of books and reading as a community.

Screen Actors Guild Foundation's Florida BookPALS | Orlando, FL

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation's Florida BookPALS is a unique and wildly successful community program that makes a difference by using the power and influence of television, stage and screen to promote reading.

a consistently high level of commitment and infectious passion to his work. A known "discoverer" of authors, Victor works closely with his buyer colleagues to actively promote their titles in unique ways. But his influence reaches beyond the strict parameters of his job; Victor goes above and beyond to spread his own infectious joy about books and reading.

Nancy Quinn, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop | Milwaukee, WI

Nancy Quinn is a true dynamo in the bookselling community. She heads a nationally recognized appearance program called Live at Schwartz, hosting about 250 authors a year (up from 40 a year at five stores). Nancy really thinks outside of the box when it comes to presenting fun, interactive, author events, partnering with local businesses and restaurants, and continues to reach more authors in her community.

Mary Gay Shipley – That Bookstore in Blytheville | Blytheville, AR

Mary Gay Shipley has been promoting books, authors, and reading in Small Town America for a little over twenty-nine years. Even though Blytheville is not exactly a literary Mecca, Mary Gay's ceaseless passion about books and reading has created a thriving book community in a relatively poor state with a high unemployment rate. Her boundless determination and her countless programs to help children and adults catch up on books and reading is infectious.

Suzanne Beecher and DearReader.com | Sarasota, FL

Suzanne Beecher is an online bookseller for Books-A-Million and dearreader.com. In today's market saturated with technology, where people spend more and more time online, Suzanne Beecher has found a way to use the cyber-space to spread the "virus" that is her excitement about books and reading. The mission of DearReader.com is to find fun and easy ways to get people back into the habit of reading.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA

The Carnegie Library has celebrated the start of summer reading for children of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with an exceptional event they call the Summer Reading Extravaganza. With over 26,000 children, this year's theme was Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds. Children were invited to dress up, read terrific tales of daring and adventure, and enjoy summer library activities filled with music and merriment, dragons, castles, knights, and fun.

Kim Charlson / Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library | Watertown, MA

Kim Charlson is the only library director with a Master's degree in Library Science in the United States who happens to be totally blind. She is an advocate for access to printed information through the wide use of special formats, including tape, braille, large print, adaptive technology, the internet, ebook, audio, and other emerging technologies. Serving on several committees for the Library of Congress, she distinguished herself as a recognized national and international expert on library and information access for people with disabilities, braille literacy, adaptive technology in libraries, and information access.

MEDIA PAGETURNER MERIT AWARD WINNERS

Oprah Winfrey
Chicago, IL

**The Leonard Lopate Show, WNYC,
New York Public Radio**
New York, NY

Don Imus
New York, NY

Good Morning America, ABC
New York, NY

Nancy Pearl, KUOW-FM
Seattle, WA

Terry Gross, National Public Radio
Philadelphia, PA

Today, NBC
New York, NY

The Early Show, CBS
New York, NY

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