



NEWS

December 1998



Greetings from the President

Welcome to another edition of the LISAA newsletter!

"The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things . . ." and one of these things is the expectation of our membership in regard to social events. In the past year and a half that I have been on the LISAA executive, attendance at most LISAA receptions has been less than overwhelming. Your membership dues pay for the food, refreshments, etc. for these events but few of you are coming out. Some people join LISAA in order to keep in touch by socializing. Others want to keep in touch but, obviously, do not have the time or inclination to socialize.

So, like Carroll's walrus, I think the time has come to ask YOU, the LISAA membership, what you want in the way of events. What do you think of the Champagne Breakfast on Reunion Weekend? How about the Calgary reception? What about receptions at library conferences like CLA and Jasper? Should we continue to host the "Welcome to the Profession" reception following the School's annual Professional Development Day? Last year it was very poorly attended and a lot of money and effort were involved. Should we continue to be one of the co-sponsors of the Partner's Day Reception in January? Last year it was our turn to co-host with GELA and it was very successful.

Whadaya think? Do you have any suggestions for alternative events or activities? What role, if any, should LISAA play in addition to funding scholarships and an annual equipment donation to the school? Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to lisaa@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca or mail them to LISAA in care of the School.

On behalf of the LISAA Executive Committee, Season's Greetings to you and yours!

Diane Tinnish, MLIS '95
LISAA President 98/99

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L.I.S.S.A.

Executive Committee 1998-99

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Professional Development Day

Crossing the bridge from theory to practice: How do we get there from here?

Mark your calendars!!

Professional Development Day is coming up on

Friday March 5th, 1999.

"Continue the Experience"

Have you been looking for Net-based information on LISAA but don't know where to turn? Need to contact an executive member, but don't know who's who, let alone their e-mail address? Your search is over!

LISAA is pleased to announce the debut of its new website and e-mail address. The site officially went online on August 30, 1998 at <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/lisaa/>.

The website has all you need in the way of information on LISAA, including a message from president Diane Tinnish, the association's objectives, information on LISAA scholarships, the names and e-mail addresses of executive members, upcoming LISAA events, newsletters back issues, and membership information.

We even provide a membership form in two formats: HTML, suitable for printing via your favourite web browser, and PDF, which can be opened and printed via free Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in (also available via a link on the site).

Got a question the website doesn't answer? A name or address? Need to contact LISAA? Simply send an e-mail to lisaa@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca and your request will be sent directly to the appropriate executive member for attention.

As with all websites, LISAA's is a work-in-progress. Be sure to visit regularly, and to send in your comments, questions and suggestions.

Adrienne Brown, MLIS '95
Secretary/Treasurer



Partners' Day 1998-99 Update

The Library and Information Studies Students Association (LISSA) and the School of Library and Information Studies would like to invite you to participate in our annual partnering events. These events involve pairing a MLIS student with a librarian for 2-3 hours. This gives students valuable insight into the profession. Past year's events have proved to be extremely successful and students are eager for another such opportunity (and you thought your job was dull!). The next Partners' Day is coming up in January (to accommodate for everybody's busy schedules, we have allocated the dates of the 25th to the 29th for this event). If you have not received a notice in the mail about Partners' Day, and would LOVE to participate, please do not hesitate to contact Robyn Skakey (rskaley@ualberta.ca) at the School of Library and Information Studies.

Don't forget that participants will be invited to a fabulous reception at The Timms Centre for the Arts on Friday, January 29th from 4:00 – 7:30 PM. As always, the reception is hosted by Partners In Education, this year's sponsors are CALL (Canadian Association for Law Libraries) and ELLA (Edmonton Law Library Association).

Champagne Breakfast

On Saturday October 3, LISAA paid tribute to the class of '73 at the annual champagne breakfast. Great food and chat were enjoyed by all!



"Candace Rutar (Class of '96) and Dr. Alvin Schrader"



"Diane Smith (Mc Gibbon), Dr. Robert Brundin (his first year at the U of A was 1973) and Joanne Kemp"

Scholarships & Awards

In our last newsletter we told you all about the **LISAA scholarships** where students are automatically considered by the School and the LISAA executive. The 1998-99 scholarships are \$1,250 each, **this year's winners are Carolyn Guinchard, and Barbara Alvarez**. Now take a look at the entire list of SLIS students who are scholarship winners!

1998 SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The School of Library and Information Studies is proud to announce the recipients of scholarships and awards in 1998. This year our students and graduates were awarded 29 scholarships, 12 academic prizes, and 11 travel awards. We are delighted that three of our students have full funding support, one continuing (the Commonwealth Scholarship Program) and two new: Barnabas Kapange by the World Bank, and Deborah Lee by the National Library of Canada Library Science Trainee Program Award, which is the third such award to go to a SLIS student. Our congratulations to all of them, and our deep appreciation and thanks to all those who have endowed and contributed to the School's scholarship and award funding.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP Program

Marios Socratous

Value: tuition, living allowance, and transportation

Award administered by the International Council for Canadian Studies for a two-year period to a foreign student in the MLIS program.

H.W. WILSON Award

Nicolle Lemay

Value: \$1000 (3)

Darcy Sharman

Ann Vanden Born

Acknowledges outstanding academic performance and professional potential of an entering or continuing MLIS student.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Scholarship

Barbara Alvarez

Carolyn Guinchard

Value: \$1250 (2)

Acknowledges outstanding academic performance and professional potential of one student entering and one student continuing in the MLIS program.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA Continuing Education Award

Bernice Polvi

Value: \$500

Awarded for continuing education activities to entering or continuing MLIS students.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA Scholarship

Uju Mollel

Value: \$1000

Awarded for academic achievement to a full-time entering or continuing MLIS student.

MARION SHERMAN BURSARY FOR CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

Nicole Petroski

Value: \$500

Awarded in support of studies in children's librarianship to entering or continuing MLIS students.

M.E.P. HENDERSON Scholarship in Library and Information Studies

Patricia Larkin-Lieffers

Value: \$1100 (2)

Robyn Stockand

Acknowledges academic performance and professional promise of an entering or continuing MLIS student.

**MISS LESLEY HEATHCOTE Graduate Scholarship in
Library and Information Studies**

Sharon Balazs
Uju Mollel

Value: \$5500 (2)

Acknowledges academic performance and professional promise of one entering and one continuing full-time MLIS student.

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA Library Science Trainee
Program Award**

Deborah Lee

Value: tuition, book costs, living allowances, summer training

Awarded for a two-year period to an aboriginal student to increase the representation of aboriginal peoples in the library field in Canada.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA Graduate Scholarship

Lindsay Johnston

Value: \$9300, \$6200 for September commencement

Acknowledges outstanding academic performance and research potential of full-time entering or continuing Master's students in all disciplines at the University of Alberta (a total of 37 were available for 1998-99).

**ROBERT AND GRETCHEN BRUNDIN Scholarship in Library and
Information Studies**

Tanya Voth

Value: \$1200

Acknowledges outstanding academic performance of a full-time entering MLIS student.

**SARAH REBECCA REED Memorial Scholarship in Library and
Information Studies**

Cara Bradley

Value: \$2200

Acknowledges outstanding academic performance of a full-time continuing MLIS student.

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA GRADUATE STUDIES
AND RESEARCH Tuition Scholarship**

Barbara Alvarez
Sharon Balazs
Julie Harris

Lindsay Johnston
Nicolle Lemay
Uju Mollel

Value: \$2732 in tuition and fees (10)

Gisele Hoskinson Gloria Tang
Rick Johnson Janice Varney

Acknowledges academic and scholarly achievement of outstanding scholars who are entering or continuing in the full-time MLIS program and hold at least \$7000 from other scholarships and awards or from other University of Alberta sources as outlined in the Academic Internship Model.

**WORLD BANK-TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH PROJECT Fund**

Barnabas Kapange

Value: tuition, living allowance, and transportation

Award funded by the World Bank in cooperation with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Project for a two-year period to a foreign student in the MLIS program.

**WORLD BOOK Graduate Scholarship in Library and
Information Studies**

Ann Vanden Born

Value: \$2500

Awarded for study leading to a degree in library and information studies.

PRIZES and AWARDS:

BAKER AND TAYLOR COMPANY Prize in Technical Services

Sona Kothari

Value: \$50 and plaque

Recognizes outstanding academic performance and professional potential of a student in the MLIS program specializing in technical services.

BERTRAM LIS 501 Prize

Ann Vanden Born

Value: \$100

Recognizes outstanding academic performance and professional potential of an MLIS student enrolled in LIS 501.

BETA PHI MU International Library Science Honor Society

Value: qualification for election to the Society (10)

Recognizes outstanding academic performance and professional promise of students graduating from the MLIS program with GPA of 8.2 or better on the 9-point scale (3.75 on a 4-point scale). Ten students were nominated for membership in Beta Phi Mu this year: Michael Brundin, Anne Carr-Wiggin, Anke Eastwood, Darlene Holowachuk, Diane Lamoureux, Heather Morrison, Michelle Preston, Gabriella Reznowski, Donna Sikorsky, Elaine Simpson.

BRUNDIN LIS 503 Prize

Margaret Shane

Value: \$100

Recognizes outstanding professional potential for reference services of an MLIS student enrolled in LIS 503.

CLA STUDENT ARTICLE Contest

Kerry Anderson

Value: \$150 and registration, accommodation, and transportation to the annual conference, publication of paper in *Feliciter*

Best MLIS student paper in the 1998 competition.

DAVID AND RHEA JENKINSON Prize in Young Adult Literature

Anne Carr-Wiggin

Value: \$100

Recognizes outstanding academic performance of an MLIS student in young adult literature.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA Prize Michael Brundin

Value: \$200 and conference expenses (2) Anne Carr-Wiggin

Acknowledges outstanding performance as a student, academic merit, and potential contribution to the library profession of two students graduating from the MLIS program.

MARY ALICE SCOTT Prize, Association of Professional Librarians: University of Alberta

Elaine Simpson

Value: \$150

Acknowledges outstanding academic performance and professional potential of a student in the MLIS program specializing in academic librarianship.

OLGA B. BISHOP Award, Access to Government Information Interest Group, CLA

Anne Carr-Wiggin

Value: \$100

Best MLIS student paper on government information or publications.

SARAH REBECCA REED Medal in Library and Information Studies

Anne Carr-Wiggin

Value: gold medal, one-year membership in CLA

Recognizes the graduating student with the highest academic standing in the MLIS program.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES Award, University of Alberta

Value: \$150 (2)

Acknowledges outstanding academic achievement and professional promise of a student graduating from the MLIS program.

Anke Eastwood

Donna Sikorsky

TRAVEL AWARDS:

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION Graduate Student Travel Award,
University of Alberta**

Value: \$500 (2)

Travel assistant to participate in conferences.

Christine Jack

Uju Mollel

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA Conference Travel Award

Value: \$200

Travel assistance to a student presenting a research paper at the 1998 Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, Alberta.

Kerry Anderson

MARY LOUISE IMRE GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta

Value: \$300 (3)

Travel assistance to participate in conferences.

Stephen Green-Dowden

Richard Johnson

Lori Van Rooijen

MARY LOUISE IMRE GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Alberta

Value: \$400 (3)

Travel assistance to participate in conferences or a continuing education program.

Christine Jack

Uju Mollel

Bernice Polvi

CACUL CONFERENCE GRANT

Canadian Association of College and University Libraries, CLA

Value: \$1000

Travel assistance to a recent graduate to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Library Association.

Deb Fyfe

STUDENT-TO-CLA Award, Canadian Library Association

Value: airfare, conference registration, and living expenses

Travel assistance to the president of the School's Library and Information Studies Students' Association for attendance at the 1998 annual conference in Victoria, British Columbia.

Dena Heilik

For further information, contact

Dr. Alvin M. Schrader, Director

October 1998



Calgary Reception

Thanks to Claudette and all who participated to make the Calgary Reception (October 29th, 1998) a great success!!



Carole Sinanan, Georgie Facey, and Hazel Fry
(Class of '5")

What the '97 Grads Think about their MLIS Experience

Again this year, the School's placement survey included an open-ended invitation to graduates to provide us with feedback on how well the MLIS program had prepared them for a career in library and information services. They were also asked on this survey to assign a numerical grade to the quality of their educational experience. These graduates were students in the U of A's MLIS program from 1995-97 if they were full-time; part-time students would have started the program somewhat earlier.

All but one of the 24 respondents to the 1997 survey gave a grade assignment and 18 provided written comments, some quite extensive. The detailed commentaries that are attached were edited slightly to protect the identities of respondents.

Overall, the '97 graduates were very positive in their comments about the MLIS program, ranging from "excellent general preparation", "great program", "good comprehensive overview", and "overall good preparation", to "taught me to look at the big picture", "learned a lot about theory and 'higher' ideals", "theoretical underpinnings for good service more and more evident every day", and "theories and principles became second-nature". Others

were a little more qualified in their responses, suggesting that they felt "fairly well prepared" or that "most aspects were covered", had received a "satisfactory introduction to LIS", or found it "easy to find a job". The graduates' overall quantitative rating was a grade of 7.8 on the U of A's 9-point scale, ranging from 7 to 9 (nobody gave us a 6).

While most graduates' comments consisted of overall impressions, a few made references to specific courses, instructors, and related program aspects that they had found particularly useful. Most frequently mentioned were the practicum and the field placement in the advanced reference course (6 times) and computer related and technology courses including the Internet and online searching (6 times). Research and advanced research were mentioned twice, and mentioned once were indexing, distance learning courses, Dr. Dave Leonard's courses, lunch with a librarian, and partner's days.

Graduates also suggested a number of areas for program improvement:

- BI course (2 mentions)
- two practicums in the second year
- more information about acquisitions
- government documents in the regular session
- more hands-on technical experience/application
- departmental and library resources: lack of online databases, limited hours of U of A Library operation especially in intersession
- too focused on the Alberta library field
- not enough on finding alternative employment with LIS background
- more about job searching.

The comments by '97 graduates indicate that some of the School's recent program improvements have alleviated concerns expressed in last year's survey. One example is the fall 1995 introduction of a practicum option offered in both terms that, together with the opportunity for hands-on reference experience through LIS 525, addresses more satisfactorily the earlier concerns about work experience in the program.

Information technology is an area of even greater expansion in the MLIS program. While it is always difficult for the School to keep financial pace with advances in this area, three Internet and software courses have been offered for the last two or three years by other departments in the Faculty of Education, and these courses have always been

accepted for credit in the MLIS program. There is also Dr. Dennis Ward's advanced information technology course option for which basic Internet skills are a prerequisite.

Exposure to automation is also being achieved through continuous incorporation into other parts of the MLIS curriculum. Our commitment to enhanced technology options in the program is further underscored by the School's current search for a new full-time faculty member with teaching and research interests in the general area of information management.

I want to thank all of the '97 graduates who took the time to respond both to the placement survey itself and to the invitation to comment on their MLIS educational experience.

Alvin M. Schrader, Director
October 1998

Accreditation Review at SLIS Update

The School of Library and Information Studies is currently planning for the on-site visit of the MLIS Program Review Panel on March 22-23, 1999. The process leading up to that visit has been an interesting one and one that I have been pleased to be a part of. In the Fall of 1997, an Accreditation Steering Committee and working committees were established to create and vet the School's *Program Presentation* document. This document will serve as the main source of information for the Review Panel when they conduct their on-site visit in March. I was asked to join the Steering Committee because of my position as liaison between the School and the Library Association of Alberta.

The purpose of the *Program Presentation* is self-assessment of the MLIS Program's goals and objectives, resources, and strengths and limitations. This self-assessment document includes chapters on Mission, Goals and Objectives; Curriculum; Faculty; Students; Administration and Financial Support; and Physical Resources and Facilities. The faculty members of the School each chaired a working committee with membership consisting, variously, of adjunct professors, sessional instructors, full and part-time students, library

association representatives, alumni, employers, and members of the Faculties of Education and Graduate Studies and Research.

The Steering Committee and the SLIS School Council were called together on November 6, 1998 to review the draft *Program Presentation* document prepared by these working committees. Members were invited to critique one of the chapters prior to the joint meeting. I found the document interesting enough however, that I read nearly the whole thing!

At the meeting, small groups were formed to give closer examination to each chapter. When the groups reconvened, recommendations were made by each group for the final draft of the *Program Presentation*. These recommendations were minimal and it was generally agreed that the document was well written and clearly answered each of the COA "Standards". The final document (due in February, 1999) will serve as a draft strategic plan for the next three to five years of operation in the School of Library and Information Studies.

The process of arriving at the final draft of the Program Presentation should be important to every practitioner. I was amazed at the amount of work that went into completing the document. Each chapter was thoroughly covered and left little room for questions although we did make minor suggestions for clarity.

By participating in this exercise, I realized how much the School is evolving while continuing to meet the needs of its students. More technology courses have been added to the curriculum while the Lab continues to gain new upgraded equipment. The faculty are publishing books and articles, speaking at events and conferences, and applying for and receiving research grants at an unprecedented rate.

As alumni, we should be following the changes at SLIS and giving faculty members our encouragement, input, and financial support. This will help them to continue to provide improved courses and to keep abreast of employers' needs. Things are changing at SLIS; they are not the same as when we were in library school!

Lisa-Jane Watson
Treasurer, LAA



SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

University of Alberta

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position in Information Management in the School of Library and Information Studies. The appointment will be at the Assistant Professor level with a minimum salary of \$45,000. The date of appointment will be July 1, 1999.

Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to research and should have a research agenda that will promote the School's multi-disciplinary focus on issues of information access and equity. Candidates considered will possess a doctorate, or be able to demonstrate the likelihood of early completion of one. A commitment to high quality teaching is essential. The major area of teaching will be information management including several of the following: information retrieval, indexing, electronic reference, database construction and design, library consortia (both technological and organizational aspects), electronic publishing, the Internet, multimedia, library automation, information policy, and management. Effective interpersonal skills for participation in an academic environment and an interest in student advising are also required. The successful candidate will supervise research at the master's and possibly doctoral levels.

The School is a small, collegial unit with an articulated vision for teaching, research, and service "understanding information: exploring issues, creating access, pursuing equity". As part of Canada's second largest university, the School benefits from a progressive research library and excellent computer facilities. The School also enjoys extensive connections with other units on campus and well-established relationships with the professional community. More detailed information about the School, its ALA-accredited masters program, and current faculty is available on our web page: <http://www.slis.ualberta.ca/>

Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, an example of published work, and any other supporting materials, and arrange for three confidential letters of reference to be sent to: Dr. Alvin M. Schrader, Director, School of Library & Information Studies, Room 3-20 Rutherford South, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J4 by February 15, 1999.

The University of Alberta is committed to the principle of equity in employment. As an employer, we welcome diversity in the workplace and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities

Parting Shot



"SLIS Associate Professor, Anna Altmann, discusses children's literature with adjunct expert, Rudy Howell, son of Assistant Professor, Toni Samek".

