



## Message from the President

In Edmonton, we enjoyed a rather mild March and are itching to see green grass, leaves on the trees, and flowers blossom again. Not only do the seasons change this time of year, but we're also going to see a number of students changing their status to Graduates of the School of Library and Information Studies. Without a doubt, we will soon be joined by many excellent new colleagues.

I attended the student organized annual Forum for Information Professionals (FIP) on February 6th. FIP was a most excellent event and has grown tremendously since I attended SLIS, now having two keynote speakers and multiple streams of sessions. The number of sessions speaks to the amount of research the students are carrying out at SLIS and the session titles showed their creativity and variety in research. They included sessions from "Sex in the Stacks: Teenager Sex Education Information Seeking Behaviour and Barriers to the use of Library Resources" to "The Wonderful World of Disney Fan Art: Character Reinterpretation and Identity Creation" to "Walking With the Archives: Mapping Newfoundland Identity through Ghost Stories and Folklore," which were presented by very promising students in the SLIS program. I highly encourage the library community in Edmonton and surrounding areas to attend this successful event next year.

Another change we'll be seeing soon is the change in leadership at SLIS. Dr. Anna Altmann will be passing on the torch, one more time. A search was carried out for the new Chair of SLIS this past winter. Three candidates were selected for interviews and they each held public presentations, which all demonstrated the promising future SLIS has. The successful candidate, as you most likely will have heard by now, is Dr. Toni Samek, who currently holds a position as Professor at SLIS. These are exciting times for SLIS.

Lastly, even LISAA is not immune to the changes of the season. We are currently seeking individuals for the roles of Vice President/President Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Whether you've just graduated from SLIS or are looking

for an opportunity to reconnect with your Alma Matter, or would just like to give back to SLIS, please contact us. Your support is much appreciated and we're looking forward to your presence at our AGM and Biblio Dance Party!

CJ de Jong

### *In This Issue*

**Message from the President** Page 1

**Questions: With Toni Samek** Page 2

**Michael Silver Scholarship Finalized** Page 2

**Distinguished Alumna: Sandy Campbell** Page 3

# QUESTIONS

## With Toni Samek, Incoming SLIS Chair

Dr. Toni Samek will be taking on the role of Chair for SLIS in July. We thought it would be fun to ask Toni some random/fun questions to get her to know a little better. We hope you enjoy!

Q. What was the last fiction novel you read?

Toni: The House of Dolls by David Hewson

Q. Do you prefer ebooks or print?

Toni: It depends on context (e.g., print for bedtime reading).

Q. What is your #1 most played song on your music device (iTunes or other)?

Toni: N/A as I do not listen to music on my phone or other device.

Q. What is the last movie you went to see in the theatre?

Toni: The Imitation Game.

Q. What is your favourite outdoor activity?

Toni: Walking along a beach ankle deep in water while my feet get a natural massage.

Q. What time of day do you enjoy the most?

Toni: First thing in the morning.

Q. What is your least liked chore?

Toni: Cleaning the interior of the car.

Q. What is your favourite type of exercise?

Toni: Walking.

Q. Where have you traveled to for vacation (no conferences!) and would love to go back?

Toni: Newfoundland.

Q. If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

Toni: I would not want to meet a person in that manner for fear of disappointment.

Q. If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

Toni: I would make a pact with husband not to tell anyone I/we won. (And SLIS would receive an anonymous donation!)

## Class Notes: Michael Silver Memorial Travel Award Established

By Hanne Pearce

I am pleased to announce that on March 3rd I met with Heather Dyck from the gifts and donations office of the University of Alberta to finalize the Michael Silver Memorial Travel Award.

Alumni were saddened by the sudden death of Silver in the fall of 2014. Michael left a lasting impression on all of us in his graduating class and we all felt it was important to establish some type of tribute to continue the mentorship that we all were privileged to receive from Michael when we studied and worked with him.

Friends, family and colleagues of Michael raised \$8,325 enough to establish the travel award that will help fund or support student travel to present or take part in a technology or information technology related conference. Having now been approved by SLIS and the FGSR, the first award (up to \$1,000) can be awarded in the 2015-2016 school year. LISAA thanks everyone who donated to the fund



# Distinguished Alumna Sandy Campbell

by Gooneshwaree Beesoon

Sandy has been on the University of Alberta campus for quite a long time and started her professional career in the Science and Technology Library in Cameron and spent one year in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library before moving to the Scott Health Sciences Library in 2008. Sandy was born and raised here in Edmonton and now has children attending the University.

When I inquired about her academic background, Sandy revealed that like many MLIS candidates, she holds a first degree in English and completed her MLS (as it was called then) here at the University of Alberta. Sandy joked about the fact that she held half a degree in Geology which she did not complete due to the demands of raising a family.

Before going to Library School, Sandy worked in the Extension Library in Rutherford South and then as a clerk in the government documents section of the Science and Technology Library. When she was a clerk in the Science and Technology Library, she quickly realized that what librarians were doing was fun and decided

to enroll in the Library School. As a librarian in Science and Technology, Sandy was responsible for many subject areas, including Animal Science, Forestry, Physics, Geology, Electrical Engineering and Computing Science. She supervised the Computer Science Reading Room until its closure.

When asked about how she dealt with the complexity of science subjects with a background in language arts, Sandy replied that librarians have a skill set that allows them to manage any subject area. No scientist, she stated, expects you to know his or her subject matter in depth. You, as a librarian, are expected to know how to find and manage information. Sandy has worked in government publications, as a collections librarian, a map librarian, a patent librarian and finally as a health librarian. Sandy was quick to point out



*“Make everything you do a work of art. Assume that your next employer is in the audience or among your readers.”*

that what was important in all this was the training in the overarching structure of information, how it is organized and how it functions, that the LIS degree gives you.

Sandy has witnessed the complete change in the landscape of librarianship brought about by technology and digitization. As a clerk at the start of her career, Sandy filed cards in the card catalogue. The best part of the switch to digital services, in her opinion, is that materials are available to users 24/7. Materials are so much easier to access now and more useable than the traditional print material or books on the shelves. Scientific and technological advances have changed the way research is carried out.

There are two things that Sandy appreciates about her work. The first is the excitement that exists in the users' world. In an academic setting librarians always get to work with researchers at the cutting edge of knowledge. The other thing that Sandy appreciates is being able to work with so many excellent colleagues, new and veteran. Sandy has supervised many academic librarian interns.

She believes that it is important that senior librarians extend helping hands to younger colleagues, helping them to achieve their goals and develop in the profession. This mentoring role, informal or formal, is key, she believes, to supporting younger colleagues.

Sandy's move to Scott Health Sciences library was a major milestone of her career. Work in an academic health library proved to be quite different from her previous experience in the other libraries on campus, because the way people use information is different. Sandy had to switch gears to cater for professionals who are focused on the clinical use of information. People in health disciplines are primarily looking for information that will, in the end, improve someone's health. Immediacy is an important aspect that needs to be taken into account when looking for information to promote people's health and save lives. Health science professions are now focussed on the application of evidence. Because libraries hold the evidence and create the pathways to the evidence, health library users are highly aware of their libraries and value the services highly.

Sandy has made significant contributions in publications

and presentations. Most of them are practical publications that grew out of questions that she encountered in her day to day work. Most recently she collaborated with Marlene Dorgan and Lisa Tjosvold in the area of creating search filters to find Canadian Aboriginal studies in Medline. Once a problem such as this one is solved, it makes sense to share the information with the rest of the community. Sandy has published in many venues and presented at national and international conferences including IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations), CLA (Canadian Library Association), EAHIL (European Association of Health Information and Libraries) and PLC (Polar Libraries Colloquy).

Concerning the recognition received from LISAA, Sandy is thrilled by her nomination and selection to be a recipient of this award. Usually she is on the other side, nominating other people, so it was exciting to be nominated by colleagues. Peer recognition is important because colleagues know the kind of work that you do, good and bad.

Librarianship, according to Sandy is the most diverse career that a person can have. With a Masters in LIS, you can go anywhere. She has witnessed graduates from SLIS working in the most unusual areas, anything from government policy development, new media creation and bioinformatics. There are a lot of opportunities out there and SLIS graduates need to make the most of them. Finally, Sandy's advice to students in the School of library and Information Studies is "Make everything you do a work of art. Assume that your next employer is in the audience or among your readers."

## New LISAA Website

LISAA has recently migrated its web presence to a new website. While some information will remain on the SLIS site, we can now be found at <http://lisaa.strikingly.com>. The website will list all of our up-coming events, provide information on awards and also provide a place for us to promote our fundraising initiatives. Please take look and let us know what you think - we welcome your feedback!

## LISAA AGM 2015 & BIBLIODANCE PARTY

The LISAA Executive is currently working on getting the Annual General Meeting and Biblio-Dance Party organized for the end of May. Be on the look-out for an announcement and Facebook group soon. This year Teddy's is being renovated so we are trying to secure another venue. Start working on your dance playlists and we will get back to you soon about the details!

## VP | President Elect and Secretary | Treasurer Wanted!

We are still looking for members interested in serving on the LISAA executive. The two positions open are the position of Vice President/ President elect. This is 3-year commitment and excellent for someone wanting to establish some leadership credentials. Our Secretary / Treasurer position is a two-year commitment and involves keeping us organized and doing a final financial report at the AGM each year. Please send your letter of interest to [hanne.pearce@ualberta.ca](mailto:hanne.pearce@ualberta.ca) Elections will be held our AGM.

### The LISAA Executive



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