



LIBRARY AND INFORMATION
STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

January 2006

NEWS



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Winter events:

- **Partners in Education Reception**
Friday January 27th, 2006
3:00 p.m.
Stanley A. Milner Library
Centennial Room
- **SLIS Professional Development Day**
Friday, February 3, 2006
University Extension Centre
Room 2-36
See page 3 for full details.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all alumni! I hope the holidays have treated you well.

I am pleased to present another newsletter full of stories of alumni young and not so young, from near and far. Keep up with the great updates! I hope you all have as much pleasure reading about them as I did.

Since I was one of the hapless thousands who lined up during the casting call for *The Assassination of Jesse James* movie, it was great to hear from someone who actually made it to the movie set, and was a librarian, no less!

The fall was another busy season with conferences and events.

Edmonton enjoyed a particularly busy October with the Access 2005 and Netspeed 2005 conferences back to back. LISAA maintained its presence at Netspeed, hosting a reception after the first full day of sessions. Thanks to all LISAA Executive who helped organize the event and to all alumni who stopped by our hospitality suite for a visit. Look for us again next year during Netspeed 2006 in Edmonton.

My thanks as well to the Executive for putting on an-

other great Celebration Brunch. Thanks especially to Vice-President Angie Mandeville for stepping in during my absence. And congratulations to our latest Distinguished Alumni winner, Karen Powell. Read more about Karen on page 2.

LISAA will also continue to support the Partners in Education reception on January 27th, and SLIS' Professional Development Day in February. We hope to see many alumni there!

Susan Dahl
LISAA President

CALLING ALL BLOGGERS!

Are you a budding blogger? Do you have a wonderful wiki or website? Then consider sharing your online creation with your fellow SLIS graduates. We are adding an "Alumni Links" section to the LISAA website (www.ecn.ab.ca/~lisaa), and would love to include your masterpiece in the list. If you would like a link to your personal blog, wiki or website to appear on the LISAA webpage, please email us at lisaa@ecn.ab.ca and provide us with your name, year of graduation, and the URL and name of your site. If you wish, you can provide a short annotation to accompany the link. Questions? Email Nicolle Lemay at nicolle_lemay@hotmail.com.

We're looking forward to seeing you online!

Nicolle Lemay,
Communications Officer

KAREN POWELL HONoured AT LISAA'S CELEBRATION BRUNCH

The 2005 Celebration Brunch was a success! This enjoyable morning was a wonderful occasion as alumni gathered on Saturday, October 1st to celebrate the latest recipient of the LISAA Distinguished Alumni Award, Karen Powell.

LISAA Vice-President Angie Mandeville presents LISAA's Distinguished Alumni plaque and certificate to Karen Powell



Ms. Powell obtained her MLIS from the University of Alberta in 1993, where she was subsequently elected to the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honours Society. Both before and after obtaining her MLIS degree, Karen has enjoyed a varied and distinguished career in the library field. She worked in the public library sector as a Bookmobile Librarian for the Halifax County Regional Library, and a Cataloguer at Edmonton Public Library. From 1971-1993, Karen worked at the Legislature Library as Manager, Cooperative Government Library Ser-

vices Section. In 1993, Karen was appointed Assistant Legislature Librarian and also Manager of Library Projects in 2005, all while retaining her position as CGLS Section Manager. Throughout her career at the Legislature Library, Karen has worked to promote cooperation among government libraries and research and development in the Legislature Library, in addition to assisting in administering the Library itself. She is also responsible for many Legislative Assembly publications, such as the Alberta Government Libraries' Newsletter and the Directory of Alberta Government Libraries, to name a few.



Karen was on hand to receive the award and took the opportunity to tell us more about her fascinating career and to thank those who have mentored her through her career, as well as her family. Her husband and son were there to support and congratulate Karen. Also in attendance were many of Karen's colleagues and friends. LISAA awarded Karen with a lifetime membership, and a book from the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library was purchased in Karen's honour. Congratulations Karen from all of us at LISAA!

And congratulations also to Karen Mah, the winner of our door prize—a gift certificate from Greenwood's Bookshoppe. Once again the Celebration Brunch proved to be a wonderful opportunity for SLIS alumni, faculty, and friends to reconnect and to welcome new members of the association. Thanks to all those LISAA executive members for their commitment and hard work. And a special thank you to Sophia Sherman from SLIS for all her help with the logistics of this event.



SLIS 20TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The graduate students' Professional Development Committee is pleased to announce the 20th anniversary of the University of Alberta SLIS PD day. The event will be held on Friday, February 3, 2006 at the University Extension Centre, room 2-36. This year's theme is "The Symbolic Library: Shifting Roles in the 21st Century."

The keynote speaker for this year's event is Catherine De Rosa, Vice President of Marketing & Library Services for OCLC. Ms. De Rosa will be presenting OCLC's 2003 Environmental Scan. We are also pleased to

announce our other confirmed speakers for the day: Peter Schoenberg, Manager of the Information Services Division at the Stanley Milner Branch of the Edmonton Public Library; Leslie Latta-Guthrie, Alberta's Provincial Archivist; and Ted Bishop, professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta, whose book "Riding with Rilke: Reflections on Motorcycles and Books" was short-listed for the Governor General's literary award.

There is no charge for the event

and breakfast and lunch are provided. Registration begins at 8:30. Please RSVP to Sarah Mead-Willis (smm3@ualberta.ca) by January 26, 2006. Details of the event can soon be found at <http://www.ualberta.ca/~lissa1/pdday.htm>.

The students sincerely appreciate the support we have had in the past for this event and hope that many of you will be able to come out this year as well.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT CLA

Yes, I admit it. I was a CLA conference virgin. I had no idea what to expect coming to a library conference in Calgary, Edmonton's rival town. As a lowly library student I wondered, "Would I be accepted as one of them?" "Would there be sessions of interest to library students?" And something on the mind of every student, "Would there be free food?" I am happy to report an enthusiastic "yes" to all of my questions.

One of the best things I did was go to the First-Timer's Breakfast. It put me at ease and it was a great way to kick off the conference. The room was full of excited, yet nervous-looking people and it was nice to know I was not alone. As I wandered the almost full banquet room, a lady with a big smile beckoned me over and asked me to join their table. Who could refuse such a nice request? It turned out to be one of the people in charge of putting on the breakfast, Angie. She was probably the most bubbly, enthusiastic person I met at the conference. It was a great way to begin.

The CLA president, Steven Abram, gave a short

speech and told us to not be shy, walk up and meet everyone we could, and get the most of our experience. I decided to take him up on his advice and did just that. It was really fascinating to meet other librarians from across Canada and ask them about their experiences. It was a great opportunity to pick their brains and to find out what life was like out in the "real" world. I ended up having a few conversations that were quite eye opening.

After looking at the hotel prices and suffering a minor heart attack, I decided to find a more economical place to stay. I ended up at the Hostel International in downtown Calgary. It was great! It was mere blocks away, a short jaunt down the road. For a third of the price, it was well worth it! I even met others there who had come for the conference with the same idea.

Something I thought was a completely brilliant idea was the Internet Café. Ten computers offered free access to the Internet. I was thrilled! (Are you getting the feeling I am on a budget

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"Yes, I admit it. I was a CLA conference virgin."

LIGHTS! CAMERA! LIBRARY?

One of the biggest local news stories this past fall was the filming of the Hollywood movie *The Assassination of Jesse James* at Fort Edmonton Park. While some of us may have followed the media stalking of the film's star, Brad Pitt, or perhaps even staked out West Edmonton Mall ourselves in hopes of seeing the handsome actor in the flesh, SLIS graduate Donna Zuk managed to gain legitimate access to the film set and even see Mr. Pitt at close range. Not bad for a retired librarian!

Donna graduated from the School of Library and Information Studies in 1988. Prior to attending library school, she worked for several years as the public librarian in Spirit River. She also served as chair of the steering committee which formed the Peace Regional Library System. Earlier in her career, she worked as a research librarian in New York City.

Although always maintaining an active interest in theatre, music and singing, it was not until she retired and moved to Edmonton that Donna was able to pursue an acting career in earnest. She began taking acting classes from William Davidson, of Great West Canadian Talent, who became her agent and referred her to auditions for film extras. Now, at the age of 75, she has an acting resume complete with an official portrait and enough film work under her belt to qualify as an apprentice member of ACTRA, the Alliance

of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists. This means she gets priority in auditions over non-members, and earns more than a regular extra does.



Donna Zuk's acting resume photo

Donna has done some work in commercials, such as for local radio stations and Western Canada Lotteries. She even appeared in a Painting Daisies music video. She has worked on such locally shot films as *Intern Academy*, a comedy starring Dave Thomas filmed at the vacant Charles Cam-sell hospital in Edmonton; *Catching the Chameleon*, a docu-drama chronicling the hunt for an elusive pedophile; *Waking Up Wally: The Walter Gretzky Story*, which aired on television in November; and most recently, of course, *The Assassination of Jesse James*.

Donna's biggest role to date, though, and the most fun, was in

2004 when she auditioned for and won a speaking role in a Hollywood comedy/horror movie called *Santa's Slay*. It premiered on October 25, 2005 on the U.S. specialty cable channel Spike TV, and was released on DVD on December 20, 2005, just in time for the Christmas season.

Shot in the town of Wetaskiwin, the film stars professional wrestler Bill Goldberg as Santa, who actually turns out to be the son of Satan. Donna plays the role of Mrs. Talbot, a crazy old woman who likes to swear and smoke. It is a far cry from her other big role several years earlier as Mother Abbess in a Grande Prairie community/college

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"Although always maintaining an active interest in theatre, music and singing, it was not until she retired and moved to Edmonton that Donna was able to pursue an acting career in earnest."

HOLIDAY CHEER AT SLIS

The School of Library & Information Studies wishes to thank all Friends, Students, and Alumni who attended our "Holiday Cheer" Open House on December 2, 2005. We had a great turnout and a lot of fun catching up with everyone. We hope everyone had an enjoyable, relaxing break and now are ready for the new year. Happy New Year everyone!



TERRY DONOVAN LAC LA BICHE BOUND

Terry Donovan (MLIS '03), who has lived in Edmonton for several years, has recently accepted a job north of the city. Here is what he had to say about his new position:

"I am the Public Services Librarian at the Portage College Library in Lac La Biche, Alberta. I provide reference services, bibliographic instruction and interlibrary loans. I also compile statistics and provide suggestions for collection development. Right now, I am in the midst of choosing our children's purchases for the year - what fun. I serve as acting head of the library when Barbara Palmer, the College Librarian, is away."

Terry noted that Lac La Biche is not large but adds: "it serves an area 3 or 4 times the population that lives in town (about 2700), so the level of services is higher than you might expect for a town this size, and for those things you can't get here, Edmonton is only a 2 1/2 hour drive away. I'm closer than Calgary! Lakeland Provincial is less than a half an hour away and last Sunday I drove out there and listened to whale-like sounds as the ice on Shaw Lake continued to freeze. It was too cold to go for much of a hike, but when it warms up, I'll be back. Maybe I should get

some cross-country skis on one of those trips into big E."

Terry is getting to know his new environment and all it has to offer:

"I attended the AGM of the Lac La Biche Mission Historical Society. Their Collections Manager was excited about finding some old print blocks in some tobacco tins and had a letter from Dr. Merrill Distad at the U of A with his evaluation of their origins. They need help managing their book collection, some of which is in a local lawyer's safe."

"One thing I like very much here is there is a swimming pool right next to the college and because I work 945-1800h Monday to Thursday, I can swim before work on those days, although this month the pool is closed for repairs. I live 'across the tracks' from the main part of town, with industrial lots and a railyard across the street beside my apartment, but only 2 blocks from the college. I usually walk home for lunch."

Much congratulations to Terry and his new life in Lac La Biche!

Nicolle Lemay,
LISAA Communications Officer

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS 2005/06

NEW AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The School of Library and Information Studies is proud to announce the recipients of scholarships and awards. Our congratulations to all recipients, and our sincerest thanks to all scholarship donors and award supporters.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

"Our congratulations to all recipients, and our sincerest thanks to all scholarship donors and award supporters."

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE Achievers Scholarship

Value: \$5000

Administered by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

Kenneth Gariepy

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY Next Generation Grant

Value: \$500-\$1500 (3)

Recognizes commitment to public libraries, commitment to life-long learning, potential for a successful career in public libraries, and current involvement in the broader library community.

Cameron Hoffman

Renee Morrissey

PROVOST DOCTORAL ENTRANCE AWARD

Value: \$4000

Recognizes academic and scholarly achievement.

Kristie Saumure

CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARDS:

INFORMATION LITERACY IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES Workshop

Value: Free registration

Awarded to raise SLIS student awareness of the workshop, and the relevance of Information Literacy to today's academic librarian. Held at Augustana College in Camrose, December 12-13.

Karyn Goodwillie

*For further information, contact
Dr. Alvin M. Schrader, Chair
Scholarships and Awards Committee
December 9, 2005*

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yet?) This was a service I found to be a most wonderful surprise. I mean, who knew Calgary even had computers, let alone Web connections? (Just kidding, Calgarians!) It was a fantastic service that I heard everyone raving about and the conference would not have been the same without it.

The sessions were very well organized and ran smoothly. In the opening address, Gary Mar, Alberta's Minister of Community Development had an interesting remark. (I know... a politician with something interesting to say? Crazy, but true.) He thought a library card was not just a library card but also a "passport" to the world. I liked that. A session I just loved was "The Great Debate: Be it resolved that we teach them nothing – library instruction doesn't work". Melody Burton and

Nancy McCormack were brilliant in stating their case. Hilarious and convincing throughout, I thought they made some excellent points. There were other good sessions as well, and at times I wished I could be in two places at once! A complete bonus that topped it all off were the free sandwich wraps and beverages at lunch time in the trade show. If I wasn't won over already, the conference had my vote then.

The only thing I would change about my experience at the CLA conference was not going on the pub crawl. I heard they had a great time and it sounded like a fun, informal way to meet some people in the profession. I guess that will be on my list for next time!

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theatre production of *The Sound of Music*. In Donna's words, Mrs. Talbot is "a tough old bitch," a character about as far removed as you could possibly get from Donna's real life role as a minister's wife and a mother of four children with degrees in psychology, the history of Christian thought, and library science. Alas, Donna's role in the film is short-lived, as Santa runs her off the road and kills her (!).

According to Donna, she has been successful at landing roles because when a film is shot locally, most of the people who show up to audition are young. Donna has a decided advantage being what she terms "an old lady." There is much less competition when the production requires seniors.

Apart from the role of Mrs. Talbot, Donna's movie roles have all been non-speaking. And more than once Donna has seen her work in the background scenes lost on the editing room floor. She will have to wait for the final version of the Jesse James film to be released in theatres before she knows whether or not she actually appears in it. (Watch for her as a passenger on the train, and walking across a Fort Edmonton street.) It is one of the realities of being an extra.

The work is also irregular and unpredictable. Donna certainly isn't getting rich. But the experience of witnessing the film industry up close and the fun she has doing it make it worthwhile. Her acting experiences have given her a unique per-

"...Donna did manage to get a very good look at Mr. Pitt with his dark hair as he passed by her from about two feet away."

spective on the film industry, from the director to the camera people to the costume people to the man whose job it was to keep a freshly lit cigarette in her hand during several takes of a scene in *Santa's Slay*. Donna says it is a very disciplined field. Everyone has a strictly defined role to play and no one is allowed to interfere with someone else's job. Extras are there for a very specific purpose and expected to follow instructions very closely. Disruptions and disturbances are not tolerated and contact with the actors is not permitted. Hence no Brad Pitt autographs. However, Donna did manage to get a very good look at Mr. Pitt with his dark hair as he passed by her from about two feet away. Always professional, she is very matter-of-fact about the encounter, although I am sure there are at least a few librarians out there who would be unable to maintain their composure.

Donna Zuk is an energetic, enthusiastic person committed to lifelong learning. She has led and continues to lead a very full and interesting life, maintaining a wide variety of interests. She is living proof that you are never too old to try something new. Even if she wasn't acting in Hollywood films, you can be sure she would be doing something to engage her mind and keep herself active. So if you find yourself wondering what comes after librarianship, remember Donna Zuk and be inspired. Think: Lights. Camera. Action!

*Judy-Lynn Downey,
LISAA Secretary/Treasurer*

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ed Devine for his donation of travel support funding for a student to attend the conference. It was a wonderful opportunity and a fantastic experience. I am very grateful! I would also like to say a big Alberta, "Hey there!" to all the people I met and chatted with. It was great to meet so many dynamic, interesting people from across Canada. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. To the CLA, keep up the great work!

Shawna Manchakowsky is an Information Management and Library Technology student at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, AB. Shawna was the recipient of Mr Ed Devine's travel support award of \$250.00 last year while enrolled in the MLIS program at the University of Alberta.



ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Dev Yadav, Class of 1989, has transitioned out of libraries and now works as the heavy oil supply coordinator for BP Canada. He describes the work as "fast paced, extremely interesting but very stressful at times." He lives in Calgary with his wife of almost 14 years and their two children, a 7 year old girl and a 5 year old boy. When not working, he and his family enjoy travelling and scuba diving. Dev and his family went to Australia and New Zealand for 6 weeks last year and received their scuba certification at the Great Barrier reef. His home email address is dyadav@shaw.ca. Feel free to drop him a note and say hello!



Sharon Thompson provided this update on her post-SLIS activities:

I am currently the Librarian for the Boys' Campus of a school in Kuwait. I get to work with students from grades one through twelve, which brings an amazing amount of variety to my job. Living in Kuwait also allows me to travel the world – last year: Sri Lanka and Thailand, next year: African Safari! I can't wait!



Do you want to share your news with fellow SLIS alumni? Contact LISAA at lisaa@ecn.ab.ca and let us know what you've been up to!



Library and Information Studies Alumni Association

c/o School of Library and Information Studies
3-20 Rutherford South
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J4
Phone: 780-492-4578
Email: lisaa@ecn.ab.ca
Website: <http://www.ecn.ab.ca/lisaa/>

President:
Susan Dahl
susan.dahl@ualberta.ca

Past President:
Betsy Hamid
rehamid@telus.net

Vice President/President-Elect:
Angie Mandeville
afm1@augustana.ca

Secretary/Treasurer:
Judy-Lynn Downey
Judy-Lynn.Downey@just.gov.ab.ca

Communications Officer:
Nicolle Lemay
LemayNO@macewan.ca

Faculty Representative:
Dr. Anna Altmann
anna.altmann@ualberta.ca

Continuing Student Representative:
Cameron Hoffman
cameronh@ualberta.ca

Entering Student Representative:
Lisa Kapiniak
kapiniak@ualberta.ca

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