



NEWS



April 2003

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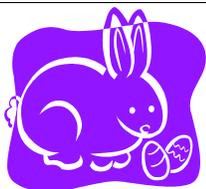
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LISAA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2003. Please join us!
- Mark your calendars for upcoming LISAA events:
 - Champagne Brunch, October 4
 - Netspeed Reception, October 24

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit here in the early morning (watching Barney with my wee lad-die), I swear I can hear birds outside the window. What a pleasure it is to know that Spring is finally here.

Our SLIS students will be happy to see signs of the changing season as well, with the 2002-2003 school year coming to a close. As a student I always felt a mix of relief and dread in the early Spring. On the one hand, I had an assurance that a day of rest was in my future. On the other hand, I knew I have a mountain of work to get through before that day arrived.

In recent months the LISAA executive has been working toward planning activities for the fall and has taken another opportunity to enhance the SLIS student experience. As you recall, the Special Projects Fund was used to purchase a second microwave oven for the student lounge. Since January, LISAA has contributed a heavy duty hole punch and stapler to the equipment available in Henderson Hall. I imagine both will be well used in the coming weeks. With your contributions to the Special Projects fund, LISAA is in a position to chip in and address needs that are not funded

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LISAA's Annual General Meeting for the 2002-03 membership year will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

This year's AGM will take place at Café Amandine, 8711-82 Avenue. While we do have business to attend to early in the evening, we encourage everyone to come out and enjoy a wonderful meal and good company. There'll be plenty of time for dessert!

Agenda items will include the election of new officers and activity reports from SLIS and current officers.

Please join us! Cost for the event will be the price of your dinner (à la carte), plus gratuity. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Virginia Clevette by May 10, 2003: vclevette@shaw.ca .

ALVIN SCHRADER RESIGNS AS DIRECTOR

Faculty, staff and students at the School of Library and Information Studies join Dean of Education, Larry Beauchamp, in expressing sincere appreciation to Alvin Schrader for his years of leadership and stewardship within the School of Library and Information Studies. Alvin elected to restructure his leave opportunities such that he resigned from his Directorship of SLIS effective February 1, 2003, with plans to complete his teaching in the winter term, and take an administrative leave over the following year. We all wish him continued successes as he has the opportunity to give his attention to his research and writing over the coming year.

“We all wish him continued success as he has the opportunity to give his attention to his research and writing over the coming year.”

Anna Altmann has agreed to serve as Director of the School of Library and Information Studies from February 1, 2003 until June 30, 2004.

A reception in appreciation of Dr. Alvin Schrader and his years of outstanding service as Director of SLIS was held on Friday, April 11, in the 2nd floor Carrell Room, Rutherford South. The well-attended fête featured tributes from Dean of Education Larry Beauchamp, EPL Director of Libraries Linda Cook, U of A Director of Library and Information Services Karen Adams, and SLIS Associate Professor Margaret Mackey. Alvin was presented with a scrapbook from SLIS celebrating his years as Director, and all present raised their glasses in a toast to Alvin’s past, present and future success.

CLA PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISIT SLIS

Students at the School of Library and Information Studies had the opportunity recently to meet with representatives of the Canadian Library Association. In early March, CLA President, Wendy Newman, and Executive Director, Don Butcher, made a special trip to Edmonton to meet with our MLIS students.

At a brown bag luncheon, the two CLA visitors spoke to SLIS students about the advantages of belonging to a professional organization, the role of CLA in advocacy and networking, and the various committees associated with the CLA. Students were encouraged to get involved. Following the presentation there was a question and answer period.

This visit marks a new policy direction for the Canadian Library Association. They have decided to make it a priority to meet with students from all six library schools across the country on a regular basis.

*Alison Faid
Entering Student Representative*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONT'D.

through traditional sources. Please continue to give the Special Projects Fund consideration as you contemplate how you might contribute to the further development of the School of Library and Information Studies.

I would like to take the opportunity to invite you all to mark your calendar for upcoming LISAA events:

Thursday May 29th 2003, 6:00 p.m. - Join us for dinner and LISAA's Annual General Meeting at Café Amandine, 8711 — 82 Avenue.

Saturday October 4th, 2003 – Champagne Brunch – held during the Reunion week festivities, the annual Champagne Brunch is a fabulous opportunity to meet and mingle with colleagues. Each year the LISAA executive selects a member of the library community as recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award who is honored at this event. I hope to see you there!!

Friday, October 24th, 2003 - Netspeed Reception – Catch up with your colleagues and friend's at the LISAA Open House held on the Friday evening of Netspeed.

If you are looking for a way to become involved in the library community, please consider participating on the LISAA executive. Our mandate is to support our Library School in its many endeavors and to offer opportunities for the library community at large to meet. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tracy Stewart, Chair of the Nominations Committee. See the call for nominations on page 6 of this issue.

Thank you for joining LISAA and participating in the growth and development the library school and the community as a whole.

Virginia Clevette

SLIS ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Last year, 2002, the School got a surprisingly large number of applications for admission—142 in total compared to 81 in 2001. While applications have been increasing steadily over the last five years, this was an unprecedented leap, and we wondered whether 2003 would see the same sort of jump. It has. At the end of February 2003 we had 109 applications for admission for 2003/2004. Last year 80 applications had come in by the end of February. Best of all, a large number of these applications are strong ones, with high grades, very supportive references, and good evidence of professional potential. We are delighted by this surge of interest in our MLIS program, and only wish we had more room and faculty to take full advantage of it!

Anna E. Altmann
Acting Director



LAA ANNOUNCES 2003 PRIZE WINNERS

Every year the Library Association of Alberta awards two prizes to graduating MLIS students on the basis of outstanding performance as a student, academic merit and an indication of potential contribution to the library profession. Fellow students and faculty members nominate eligible candidates for this award. This year's winners were announced by LAA Past-President, Rick Leech, at the School's Professional Development Day, February 7, 2003. The winners are Darcy Gullacher and Sandra Anderson.

Darcy Gullacher was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, and resided there until moving to Edmonton in May 1999. He is a graduating student in the MLIS program at the University of Alberta, and also holds a BA (Religion) from Rocky Mountain College in Calgary, and a BA (History) from The King's University College in Edmonton.

Darcy was inspired to pursue librarianship as a career while employed as the Assistant to the Librarian at Rocky Mountain College for two years after graduating from the college in 1997. Throughout his time as a student in Edmonton he has been employed in the library at The King's University College. Beyond his work commitments, he was also involved in both the Partner's Week Committee and the CLA Student Chapter while at the School of Library and Information Studies.

Darcy is particularly interested in theological librarianship, and is looking forward to pursuing a MA in Theology in the near future, when he is not busy cycling or cross country skiing.

Sandra Anderson is a graduating student in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. She holds an undergraduate degree in English Literature with a minor in Comparative Religious Studies.

Sandra is the Chair and Webmaster of the CLA Student Chapter and was also one of the organizers of a local student writing competition at the school. She has also been the webmaster of the Jobs Committee web site and was responsible for a redesign of that site in 2002.

For the past two years, Sandra has been a pioneer with the University of Alberta's Virtual Reference service. She has also worked as a graduate assistant, a research assistant, and a reference librarian. Sandra volunteers her spare time with the Internet Public Library, which is based in Michigan, and has trained many SLIS students as volunteer reference librarians with that organization.

Sandra's passion for libraries actually springs out of the ALC conference she attended in 2001. She attended a session on GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) and how the agreement may affect libraries and was inspired to become a librarian and a library advocate. Subsequently, she has created a web resource for librarians about GATS and is working to produce other material about this topic.

Both winners will be honored at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, which they are sponsored to attend as part of their prize.

REED MEDAL RECIPIENT SENDS THANKS

Editor's note: Margaret (Maggie) Shane was awarded the Sarah Rebecca Reed medal in 2002 and wrote the following letter of thanks to SLIS.

It is with great gratitude that I write this to my peers and professors at SLIS for the honour of the 2002 Sarah Rebecca Reed medal. Whenever I relate my experiences at SLIS to, well, to anyone who will listen actually, I emphasize the generosity of the faculty and classmates who supported me through the program. In my daily practice of this, my chosen profession, it seldom fails that I have occasion to draw directly upon a skill, insight, or theory gleaned from my research or coursework. Out here in "Library Land" (as Dr. Julien would say), I find myself well prepared for the diverse challenges posed by corporate librarianship and private consulting. I take great pride in being able to say I am a SLIS graduate. But more importantly, I feel I have roots in a superb program; a grounding in theory and practice that will continue to nourish and expand my perspective of librarianship in the years to come. Best wishes to the new and the graduating classes of 2002/2003. I look forward to welcoming you, as I have been welcomed, into our dynamic and rewarding profession.



With best wishes,

*Margaret Shane, BA, MLIS
Corporate Librarian, West Edmonton Mall
Research Librarian - Burke Consulting Inc.*

SLIS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL

This past winter, the students at SLIS have been busy with another fundraising campaign. This year's raffle offered a grand prize of a teeth-whitening package, as well as myriad other prizes. The students raised over \$1,300.00 with the funds going towards the Lois Hole Library Legacy Campaign at the Edmonton Public Library. The draw took place on March 27.

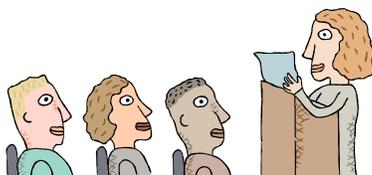
*Tracy Stewart
Past President*

At right, EPL Board Chair Dawn Fargey accepts a cheque from LISSA Vice-President Anwen Boyd. The funds raised through the raffle will go toward the purchase of reference materials at the Stanley A. Milner Library, via the Lois Hole Library Legacy Campaign.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2003 A HIT

The School of Library and Information Studies held its annual Professional Day on February 7th. The event is an opportunity for librarians and MLIS students to network and hear from members of the library community about various issues of interest.



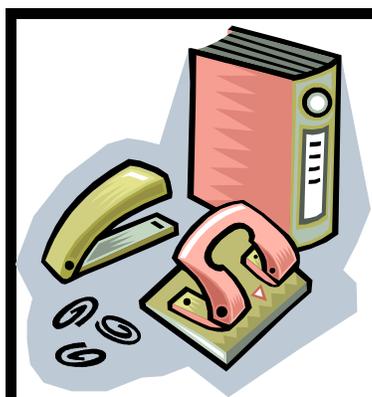
The keynote speaker this year was Cate McNeeley, Deputy Chief Librarian of Richmond Public Library and Adjunct Professor at UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Cate gave a fascinating presentation on the Ironwood Branch of Richmond Public Library and its approach to harnessing technology and automation so that staff can have more freedom to serve their patrons. Ironwood Branch serves a particularly diverse community and offers self-checkout services in Chinese as well as English. Cate's experience in developing the so-called "Library of the Future" has made her a sought-after speaker across North America.

Other speakers at PD Day included Punch Jackson, Director of Strategic Information and Libraries Branch, Alberta Community Development, and Linda Goyette, a journalist and historian who is writing a book in honour of Edmonton's upcoming centennial. As well, three current or recent SLIS students gave presentations on their research interests.

Coffee breaks and a wonderful selection of door prizes were provided by generous sponsors, including local libraries and bookstores as well as national publishers and library organizations. Professional Development Day wound up with a reception sponsored by LISAA and a poster session of student's work.

Next year's Professional Development Day is already in the planning stages – watch for it next winter!

*Alison Faid
Entering Student Representative*



YOUR DONATIONS COUNT!
LISAA's Special Projects Fund supports SLIS.
This year's endowment?
See the President's Message, page 1

GAIL DE VOS RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

The School of Library and Information Studies is excited and pleased to report that once again, an instructor at SLIS has been awarded one of the prestigious teaching awards from the Faculty of Education. This time it was in the outstanding sessional undergraduate teaching category and the award was given to Gail de Vos.

Gail de Vos received her MLS degree in 1988 and has developed a career as a freelance writer and storyteller. She began teaching classes for the School in 1990 and since that time has taught 1,027 undergraduate students in 44 courses. Her gift for teaching has more recently benefited students in BEd programs in Grande Prairie and Red Deer, as well as students enrolled in distance learning for teacher librarians.

Gail developed and taught for the first time in 2001 a distance delivery course on Comic Books and Graphic Novels. The course was featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Learning Education* and on the front page of the *Edmonton Journal*, as the first such course in North America, breaking new ground in exciting ways. Gail teaches Canadian Children's literature for Young People, which she recently modified to emphasize Aboriginal literature for the Blue Quills program, offered through the Faculty of Education.

For many undergraduate students, Gail's courses are their first exposure to the School and what it offers. She has inspired many of them to fix their sights on an MLIS degree.

Gail believes that true learning results from active thinking; that relevant and enjoyable learning is a process of students making connections between their experiences and the subject matter and formulating new insights, explanations, skills and self-awareness. Students respond to her approach, and over and over, they use superlatives to describe the quality of their experiences in Gail's courses. The School considers Gail one of its most valued instructors - so valuable in fact, that she was appointed Adjunct Professor several years ago and continues to hold that distinction. She contributes a great deal to our reputation for excellent teaching and for that she is richly deserving of the honour of this teaching award.

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*Anna Altmann
Acting Director
March 17, 2003*



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Looking for a challenge and the opportunity to give back to SLIS? Become involved in your alumni association!

We have one opening on the LISAA Executive for 2003-04: the position of **Vice-President**. This is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and organized individual to develop professional networks and leadership skills, while making a significant contribution to his/her alma mater. The time commitment averages between two and five per month. It's also a lot of fun! This is effectively a three-year commitment as the Vice-President serves as President-Elect, automatically becoming President at the conclusion of the year, and Past President in the subsequent year. Interested candidates should be alumni of the University of Alberta SLIS program.

To put your name forward as a candidate for the position of Vice President, please contact Tracy Stewart by e-mail at tracy@ualberta.net or by phone at 439-7327.

LISAA STUDENT REP GETS A GREAT START

LISAA would like to extend its congratulations to Denis Lacroix, our Continuing Student Representative, on his new position as *Public Services - Romance Languages Librarian* at the University of Alberta!

Denis has been an enthusiastic and reliable student representative and we know he will find great success in his new role. When asked about his upcoming job, Denis said, "I feel very fortunate, grateful, and honoured to have obtained this position, and I very much look forward to exploring all the learning and professional possibilities that it has to offer and to serving the learning community."

*Tracy Stewart
Past President*

NETSPEED RECEPTION: JOIN US IN OCTOBER!

Netspeed may be several months away, but we know it's important to get into librarians' calendars and daytimers early! With the success of our LISAA Netspeed Reception in 2002, we're going for a repeat performance. This year's LISAA Netspeed Reception will be on Friday, October 24 from about 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Watch the Netspeed programme and JEROME-L for details in the fall.

*Tracy Stewart
Past President*