



Katheryn Kirchmeir: alumni in the making

by Melody Burton

I met Katheryn Kirchmeir for lunch to chat about library school so far, to get an insight into the woman who is the first recipient of the LSAA Alumni Scholarship.

Katheryn graduated from the U of A with a BA with Distinction '88.

In spite of her solid academic qualifications, Katheryn is far from the "bookish" type.

Throughout her education Katheryn played cello in the school orchestra. This year she traded in her cello for an electric bass because she couldn't afford to buy her own.

Now she plays electric bass with her brother "for our own amusement."

Katheryn jokes that the only distribution the band had was when it split up - the drummer migrated to New York and the lead guitarist moved west.

Music is a familiar theme in the Kirchmeir household.

Katheryn laughingly discloses that she's "keeping up music as something steady to fall back on - in case library school doesn't pan out."

At least that's what she tells mom.

But library school is panning out for the 24 year old student.

Katheryn finds the practical aspects of librarianship a welcome change from her undergraduate studies. And although she's not sure how, she's convinced she's learning more "about" than "why" at FLIS.

One of her pet assignments was to observe public libraries in action.

(She immediately won my approval when she said she noticed that librarians don't sit down very often.)

Friends often ask her why she wants to become a librarian. Katheryn struggles with the answer but deflects their comments that it's always linked to books. Stressing the service side has only prompted her friends to solicit advice, especially what to read next.

Katheryn groans.

Not because of the tag, but because she inherited a biblio past.

Uncle Paul Morgan - Senior Assistant Librarian, retired, Special Collections, Bodleian - was recently in Edmonton to visit family and, well, address the Canadian Friends of the Bodleian.

Aunt Rosemary is an indexer for Oxford University Press.

Uncle John was a collector of children's books that made it to Australia.

Librarian Cousin Penelope, whose fiance was tragically killed, lives in a clouster at Hereford Cathedral. Katheryn has never met her spinster aunt, but wants to because relatives remark upon the close resemblance between the two women.

These are the skeletons in Katheryn's closet.

Paul Morgan is "uncle" to Katheryn, not a bibliographer. (He published his edition of the STC of English Books, 1475-1640 in 1984.)

Still close to home for Katheryn are world affairs. She's a founding and active member of U of A's World University Service that sponsors students from developing nations to attend U of A.

Katheryn sits on the Refuge Selection Committee, and helps to run seminars and events. The group recently hosted the Bruce Cockburn concert to help raise awareness about international

politics.

The group sprang from interest in an African history class.

This kind of extracurricular activity "is not like the Debating Club", laughs Katheryn.

"It's much less traditional and very political."

Katheryn confesses she comes from a political family. Dad's an active right wing, Mom's left wing and Gram is a socialist.

"No wonder I don't feel politically aligned, but I am left of centre and speak out," she confides.

On the merits of an alumni scholarship, Katheryn believes the award makes the alumni association a tangible thing for students.

And the dollar-value is preferred over a plaque.

"Thanks, it's very much appreciated."

Katheryn lives at home with her political family and two cats Isis (named after a Dylan song by her brother) and Genevieve (she named after Madelaine's dog).

Careers Day: hard work pays

FLIS sponsored their 3rd annual event on March 10. The headliners included Barbara Clubb, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Beth Barlow, Calgary Public Library and incoming President, CLA, BJ Busch, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, U of A and Marianne Scott, National Librarian.

The remainder of the program was devoted to student presentations of research.

Diane Kendall, Roman Harrison, Sandra Baker, Judy-Lynn Downey, Val Foots and David Barber took the podium to discuss every thing from gov docs to YA, subject to community analysis, bibliometrics to price indices.

Congratulations to all the participants.

Editorial: What's it all about anyhow?

Ever disappointed an eager wouldbe library science student by revealing that librarianship isn't *about* books, it's *about access* to books? Ever feel guilty about disclosing that reading (apart from professional literature) doesn't even rank on your job description?

Being a librarian implies literacy. And it isn't very surprising that our publics believe it's a compulsory component of our daily work routine. Imagine if you discovered that the folks in the clothing industry weren't inclined to wear clothes at home or at work? You'd be reluctant to call them experts about clothing. Wouldn't you?

Silly as it sounds the comparison is a valid one. Clothing isn't a luxury, it's a necessity and so are books. At least that's what we constantly tell politicians and administrators. Don't we?

Being literate isn't a thing, but an act. Not a book. Not a person. But a book and a person. Together. Alone. It's an intimate relationship. Think about what you keep under your bed.

If libraries are about books then what are librarians to books? To our publics, we are guilty by association. So we distance ourselves from our collections whenever possible.

And we do this for good reasons. As librarians, we act on behalf of someone else. The collection (and the service to it) belongs to our publics - that's why their house and pay for it right?

Disassociation from our collections is democracy at work. And I don't mean Patrick Watson. I mean Salamon Rushdie. For someone else.

But in a gentler, kinder era, a librarian *could* read. She read her collection or a good portion of it. But since the information explosion, it's impossible to keep up with publishing output. Professionally it's our business to read *about* collections. Feeling competent about *access* (and its many and varied points) is difficult enough.

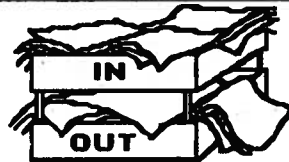
Personally, it's our responsibility to read what? e-mail? the newspaper? a novel a year? any book a month? to your child? I occasionally read the instructions on pre-packaged food.

Imagine my glee when a professor voiced the same observation. Not about librarians, but about teaching staff. He confessed some of his colleagues read books *about* books, instead of the original texts.

Levels of literacy huh? Insteading of reading a text, we're subscribers to the Bibliography-of-the-Month-Club. You know Ma Bell reads your favorite Dialog bedtime story.

Melody Burton

From the
President's desk



Greetings!

I'd like to thank all members who joined in the celebration on April 1 to welcome a new class of graduates into the field of library and information studies.

Mrs. Louise Nordin honored us with some inspired words and Dr Bertram accepted the plaque listing our association's honorary members to be hung in the faculty.

Thanks to all you alumni who renewed (or joined afresh), we were able to increase our scholarship fund by \$6,718 since April '88. This amount is a combination of \$668.25 deducted directly from out 88/89 membership fees, \$375 in donations plus matching grant money from the government.

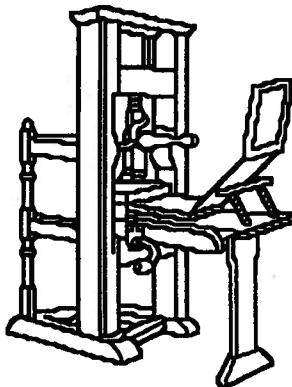
With this increase, we will undoubtedly be able to offer a larger scholarship to this year's successful candidate. It's great to see the amount growing!

Our next issue of *News* will keep you up-to-date on who has received our scholarship and the amount.

Another reminder, our next social function will be our "preconference AGM" wine-and-cheese held on campus at the revamped Faculty of Library and Information Studies on Wednesday, June 21 from 8 - 10 pm.

See you there!

Respectfully,
Kit Wilson
President



News is the official newsletter of the University of Alberta Library Science Alumni Association under the authority of the Publications Committee, chaired by the LSAA Secretary and is published at least twice yearly.

The mandate for *News* includes reporting activities of the LSAA and highlighting the accomplishments of members and individuals of interest to LSAA.

Submissions to *News* can be forwarded directly to the Editor, Melody Burton, at 10548 - 66 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6H 1X4 or telephone 437-2278 (home), 492-1409 (work).

Book Review

Strathern, Gloria M.

Alberta newspapers, 1880-1982: an historical directory. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1988. 568 p.

ISBN 0-88864-137-0 (bound), 0-88864-138-9 (paper)

by *Wanda Quolka-Stanka* (#81)

This long awaited and essential directory represents a major step in the preservation and documentation of Alberta's past. To date, studies of newspapers in Alberta ignored minor and ethnic papers and concentrated on larger newspapers published in urban centres and newsletters of important political bodies. Newspapers were, in fact, excluded entirely in other key bibliographies on Alberta such as Dew's **Bibliography of material relating to Southern Alberta published to 1970**, Artibuse's **Western Canada since 1870**, Peel's **Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953** and Strathern's earlier **Alberta 1954-1975: a provincial bibliography**.

Strathern's publication is the result of more than seven years of meticulous and pain-staking labor. Extensive data was gathered on the locations, holdings and name changes of newspapers published in Alberta from 1880 up to 1982. The author's methodology was as follows: First, a basic list of titles was created after checking various union lists, directories and newspaper indexes. Next, the records of the newspaper holdings of some 21 institutions were examined. Questionnaires were mailed to more than 300 informants and an extensive correspondence was conducted with librarians, archivists, publishers and editors.

Hundreds of small communities are included in this directory and are indicated on a convenient map inside the front cover of the book. Both English language and ethnic papers are listed as both are essential to the comprehension and study of Alberta's past.

The directory also contains a detailed user's guide which serves to explain the format and organization of each entry. The newspapers are listed by the place of publication and all the variant titles of every newspaper are given as well as the publishing history of each. Additional useful ethnic and subject indexes are provided. A bibliographical index of editors completes the volume.

This directory of Alberta newspapers is an invaluable historical, cultural and political resource that is an essential purchase for all libraries dedicated to preserving Alberta's heritage.

Wanda is Reference/Collections Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, U of Alberta.

The Person behind the press

by *Melody Burton*

Frances Halpenny is no stranger to the Canadian landscape. She visits most parts either to attend conferences or scout out authors. And although Frances is particularly fond of the Maritimes, she marvels at western skies and the abundance of sunlight that floods her borrowed quarters.

Hello.

While completing a two week stint as FLIS Distinguished Visitor, Frances has felt much at home in Catriona's office and even held office hours so that students could chat about projects and well, so she could be interviewed by me and the CBC.

Frances describes herself as a "book person and a learned person." She feels fortunate to have had a longterm involvement with a major reference project and knows it afforded her many unique opportunities. The diversity of her career is as coloured as Canada's mosaic is brilliant.

What Frances refers to as "interrelatedness" is firmly rooted in her career as librarian/publisher. The creative network to which she belongs is a stimulating one and she never feels like a stranger. She's always at home and among friends wherever she is.

Toronto is home and has been since Frances was 10. But she reminds me that she grew up in the country and thinks of herself as a rural person. Toronto's vibrant arts community keeps her busy with theatre, music and ballet. But Toronto can't keep Frances.

"There's lots going on in Toronto, but there's lots happening elsewhere too."

That's why Frances travels so much. Canadiana extends beyond national borders too. She has completed exhaustive European tours with the Ontario Art Gallery and is presently preparing to head for California to examine the Huntington and Getty Collections. Not all travel is work-related - each year Frances takes time out to holiday in Scotland's lake district.

With the completion of the twelfth volume, her role with the DCB finishes. The prospect of turning 70 in May has prompted a desire to retire.

Frances isn't stopping. She's starting new things. She wants to "focus" and travel while she can. She wants to write a "humanities piece."

Smiling, Frances confesses that she has a shelf of books that she would like to sit down and read.

Despite all the changes in publishing that she's weathered over the years, Frances is confident that the book is still "a handy bit of technology that hasn't been superseded yet."

Goodbye.



Who's doing what where

Making (air) waves: Linda Smith ('70) when her story "Finding her way" was broadcast on CBC's Alberta Anthology on March 12, 1989. Linda is currently employed at Grand Prairie Public Library.

"Cataloguing blind, but with faith": Laurette Miller ('76, '78) writes "Although I am at home raising three kids I somehow am still involved in libraries. I am helping to organize a church library (500+ vols) and could really use a discarded set of Dewey schedules, also subject headings. Can anyone come to my rescue? (Write 5131 - 37 Ave., Edmonton T6L 1V6 or telephone 463-1108)

Unfairly represented: Darrell Baillie ('86) in the last issue of News. Darrell reports that marathon running is a "stroll through the park" and that he's currently training to qualify for the Iron Man event. Darrell is scheduled to graduate with an MBA this spring and says hello to class mates.

Climbing the corporate ladder: Pat Job ('87) is Acting Director, Peace River Regional Library System. Pat was doing all the politic stuff at LAA, but stopped to say hello.

Congratulations: Pamela Sutherland ('87) is Children's Librarian at Saskatoon Public Library.

Busy: Gail de Vos ('87) preparing to speak at upcoming LAA conference and various other workshops and professional development sessions. Gail's a fulltime freelance storyteller and a parttime library assistant.

In the money: Tim Elliott ('88) as a librarian with Encor Energy Corporation, Inc in the heart of downtown Calgary.

Employed: Marilyn Ewald ('88) as a reference librarian with the Alberta Department of Labour Library.

Working: Ivan Gaetz ('88) as a social worker with Alberta Social Services in St. Albert while he finishes off an M.Ed.

Employed: Jill Griffith ('88) as a Library Technician at Lacombe Composite High School.

Working: Bill Glaister ('88) as a consultant with Parkland Regional Library based in Lacombe.

Relocated: Mun-Jung Lim ('88) to Pinawa, Manitoba to be Supervisor of Information Services, Whiteshell Nuclear Research

Establishment.

Rumours true! Guy Michaud ('88) is Photo and Reference Librarian at the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.

Employed: Maureen Myers ('88) as Collections Librarian, Red Deer College Library.

Temporarily settled: Peter Ng ('88) as a Photo Cataloguer at Interprovincial Pipeline Co., Edmonton.

Back to work: Judy Osbourne ('88) recently appointed Director of Library Services, Charles Camshell Provincial General Hospital. Judy writes that she is working with the Planning Committee as (ironically) Hospitality Chairman for the CHLA conference to be held in Edmonton in 1990.

Employed: Margaret Roderman ('88) as a librarian at Buchanan Resources Centre, Lethbridge Community College. Margaret is working with MultiLIS, the library's new automation system.

Having fun: Joseph Stribany ('88) as Head of Support Services, Prince George Public Library. Joseph writes that he's still involved with the newspaper index and "thinks of you often". He sends his best and envoy address: pg.library.

Headed south: Sharon Dormier ('89) has accepted a position as Japanese cataloguer at the University of Oregon. Sharon completed one year at FLS, then spent 2 years in Japan enrolled in a library program and returned in fall of '88 to finish her MLS. Congratulations.



Sheila's all smiles these days. The PACCR Report has been submitted. The President's Advisory Committee on Curriculum Review is a comprehensive study that requires a detailed history of the faculty and an indepth examination of where the faculty is headed.

Copies of the final report are available through the FLIS office. (Vitaes are not publicly available.)

An onsite visit is scheduled for September.

Alumni reps will meet with the visitors and ads will appear in Folio inviting submissions from interested persons.

And if that wasn't enough, accreditation is soon up, and the faculty must gear up for another inspection. All of that beginning in 1991.