



Message from the President

As I reflect on the year, I have come to understand that all alumni, students and friends have a strong love for the University of Alberta. Our goal as LISAA executives is to continue the work of connecting alumni to SLIS and strengthening ways for alumni to get involved. Whether attending an event, coming back for alumni weekend, volunteering your time, or making a gift to SLIS, these connections are very important to the School and for continuing the SLIS story by showing the value of our education.

SLIS alumni from all over the country consistently share the ways their alma mater has shaped their lives. The experiences we had during our time at SLIS taught us valuable academic lessons, but they also bonded us for life to our classmates, friends and professors. Staying connected provides us the opportunity to reflect on our time at the UofA and allows us to add new memories to the special ones we already have. Two ways to continue building your relationship with SLIS are these: participate in the events and update your contact information to receive invitations to them. All SLIS alumni are automatically members of the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association.

I hope that many of you will find your way back to the University of Alberta, to SLIS and LISAA and share the wisdom of your path with others.

As my tenure of 2015/2016 LISAA President comes to its end, I will leave you with this thought - students, professors, and staff will come and go, but you will always be alum of SLIS so embrace it, protect it and support your alma mater. I am honored to serve my alma mater and my fellow SLIS alumni!

Aleksandra
MLIS'93

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News from SLIS

The 2015-16 academic year is one of great reward and SLIS community spirit. We launched our new website in November. Deep appreciation is extended to Assistant Chair Aman Powar-Grewal and her project team (Christine Gamble and Michael Fulton from the Technologies in Education unit, and SLIS Web Content Developer, Samantha West). On February 5th, SLIS faculty, staff, sessional instructors, adjunct professors and many members of our professional community filled the house to support our annual student-run event Forum for Information Professionals (FIP) co-chaired by Alyssa Hyduk and Catherine Little. This auspicious day marked the 30th anniversary of what was formerly known as Professional Development Day. Keynote speakers included Annie Pho, an Undergraduate Experience Librarian from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Michael Gourlie and Braden Cannon from the Provincial Archives of Alberta. FIP and our longstanding Research and Scholarship Series are reaching new audiences, as we are archiving recordings of public talks on our website.

Seven students convocated in November and 46 students will convocate in June. Of the latter, 20 are online students and comprise part of the inaugural 2013 cohort in our online teaching and learning stream. We currently have six Indigenous students (three on campus and three online) and have recommended the Faculty of Graduate Students and Research admit four Indigenous applicants to the MLIS program (two on campus and two online) for fall 2016. Due to marked growth in our MLIS student population, which has grown 122.5 percent since 2012, the School is in the process of a tenure-track stream Assistant Professor search. The focus is on candidates with demonstrated expertise and scholarship in library and information studies in the context of communities and cultures in one or more of the following research areas: indigenous scholarship; digital youth, reading and literacy; and/or documents and archival studies. SLIS is also seeking a two-year Postdoctoral Fellow Position. Applicants should hold a PhD in library and information studies or a closely related discipline with a preferred scholarly focus on digital

humanities, information retrieval, or data science with an interest in the Canadian context.

There is no School without students and we are so proud of ours! Congratulations to Martha Attridge Bufton, an online student who has been accepted into the Association of College and Research Libraries' Immersion Program 2016, Teacher Track. We rely on our wonderful alumni to help us sustain the School's strong standing. This week, we took note of 2001 alum Laura Koltutsky, who has just been acknowledged for a major contribution to LIS literature. The Library Juice Press Handbook of Intellectual Freedom has been named 2016 Eli M. Oboler Award winner. Laura Kotultsky (an Associate Librarian, University of Calgary) co-edited this notable work alongside Mark Alfino (Philosophy Department, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington). The cheers have been plentiful and keep on coming. At the annual Faculty of Education Awards Gala on April 4, Dr. Ali Shiri (Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator) and Dr. Margaret Mackey (post-retirement contract) are being honoured respectively for the Faculty of Education Graduate Teaching Award and the Larry Beauchamp Senior Research Award. And Professor Emeritus Dr. Alvin M. Schrader was given the special honour of being chosen as this year's champion of freedom of expression by the Book and Periodical Council [of Canada].

The SLIS group (faculty, admin team, and sessionals) is exceptionally dedicated to student centred learning and quality education. I am in awe of the collective work ethic demonstrated on a daily basis at the School and feel enormously privileged to work alongside and learn from such a talented, diverse, and dedicated group of people. Finally, it is with great sadness we mourn the loss of William J. (Bill) Kurmey, former Professor and Dean of the School, who died November 15, 2015 in Edmonton. He was 75.

Happy Pride Week!
Dr. Toni Samek, Professor and Chair, SLIS



An Interview with Sandra Shores

Honorary Alumni Award Winner 2015

By Rachel Cardillo

Sandra Shores is this year's recipient of the honorary alumni award, and I had the pleasure of sitting down with her to talk about her work. Sandra describes her professional self as a user-focused librarian who now works behind the scenes. Her first priority is to the user, and that is what she focuses on every day. Sandra did her undergraduate degree here at the U of A in English Literature and the classics, describing the experience as one she thoroughly enjoyed. She then went on to earn her MLS at The University of British Columbia. Much of her career has been spent at the U of A serving in various capacities. Her first library job was working in circulation at the Cameron Library as a student. At the same time, she was also working in the Provincial Courts Library system.

After graduating with her MLS, she started working at the U of A and has held many positions since then from working public services in the health science library to IT, and then administration management. Next, I asked Sandra about the advice she would give to all of the aspiring librarians that are currently in the SLIS program. She encouraged the students to always hang on to their passions and make time for them. Combine that with the drive of lifelong learning and curiosity, she added, and you will be the best librarian you can be while working at your dream job! Furthermore, she reminds all future librarians to always focus on the user and how they can make his or her experience as pleasant and productive as possible. She also advised aspiring librarians to remain eclectic and never let go of who you are as a person.

Every one of us in the library science program has a story about the first time we realized that we wanted to be

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librarians. For Sandra, there were many factors that ultimately culminated in this decision. Sandra is a lifelong library user who remembers going to the library with her mother when she was still a small child. She told me the story of how her mother would take her down to what was then called the Centennial Library (Now called Milner). She remembers the children's library and what a great experience she had every time she visited. She also grew up with a friend whose mother was a librarian, so the idea of working in a library was always present in her life.

When she was deciding on an undergraduate major she knew she wanted to pursue a degree in the arts. She thought perhaps she would eventually move on to teaching, but she slowly came to the realization that the library was where she truly belonged. Currently, Sandra is working with a "great team of developers." This group of dedicated people is working on the ERA system and creating a new Community project which has just gotten it off the ground. Thankfully, there have been no major issues with the project thus far.

This is something which she is quite happy about given the complexities and challenges of technology. Sandra says being innovative yet cautious is how they avoid major problems. She still enjoys focusing on "contributing to the broader community" and making the library an open and welcoming place. Sandra Shores is a distinguished member of the U of A Library faculty and is well deserving of the Honorary Alumni Award.

The LISAA Executive



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1st Year Student Representative
Rachel Cardillo



<http://lisaa.strikingly.com>

Planning for SLIS's 50th Birthday!

If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six hours sharpening my ax. -- Abraham Lincoln

In 2018, our very own SLIS will be turning 50 years old. This school has changed and grown! As alumni, we have much to be grateful for and we need to celebrate where we've come from and plan for where we are going. In the coming weeks and months, we will be calling on YOU to participate in planning the 50th Anniversary of SLIS and the future our association. First, we will be reviewing LISAA's current program (i.e. Alumni Awards, Scholarships, Homecoming Brunch, and communications) and exploring areas for growth and improvement. (N.B. We have a growing digital community who are attending SLIS online. We must reach out and embrace our far-flung friends!) Next, we will be visioning a bright future for LISAA with enhanced engagement and new strategies in support of SLIS. All this energy and creativity will converge in our 50th Anniversary celebrations. You will want to be involved...

To get in on the action, please contact Della Paradis (LISAA Vice-President, Class of 1991) at della.paradis@telus.net or text/phone: 780.940.1874. Physical and virtual participation in upcoming focus groups is available to you simply by reaching out today.

Call for Nominations

LISAA is currently looking to fill two positions on our executive;

Vice President / President Elect (3 year commitment)
Communications Officer (2 year commitment)

Please send nominations to our communications officer, Kirk MacLeod (bookmonkey00k@yahoo.ca) by Wed April 13, including the position you are interested in.

GELA and LISAA
invite you to
**an AGM
double feature**
April 20, 2016
at the
Stanley Milner Theatre & Edmonton Room
a showing of the classic film
DESK SET
will follow at 7:00 pm

For More information on Annual General Meeting go to: <http://lisaa.strikingly.com/#events>