



LAA and CLA Presidents never far apart

In mid-November, I had the pleasure of sharing a meal with Beth Barlow (72) and Rowena Lunn (75). These two Presidents share the spotlight on Alberta's library political stage and together they offer a unified voice for association politics at the federal and provincial levels.

Beth Barlow is CLA's President and Head of Calgary Public Library's Humanities Department. Rowena Lunn is LAA's President and Director of the Marigold Library System.

Rowena Lunn and Beth Barlow took time out of their busy schedules to visit the Faculty of Library and Information Studies.

Same old song?

Although the format looked familiar with the pair addressing FLIS classes, Beth and Rowena offered their first hand knowledge with a twist. First year students attended a session on library associations. Continuing students and the local library community were treated to a candid survey of the ins and outs of lobbying and advocacy in a special session of Robin Inskip's Marketing class.

Pairing LAA with CLA's experience added a special flavour to the lecture. The two associations provide a contrast in campaign strategies as well as significant differences between the structure and communities served.

I hear a symphony?

Listening to the joint presentation -- which went so smoothly, it smacked of choreography, -- I wondered if the lecturers had performed together before on the FLIS stage

or at the very least rehearsed the delivery.

Beth confessed that the pair share season's tickets to the Philharmonic Orchestra and used one concert as an excuse to divide up lecture content.

Music interests aside, Beth and Rowena are not strangers. They were librarians in Saskatchewan and in Beth's words, "All Saskatchewan librarians know each other." (Beth was at Saskatoon Public Library and Rowena was at Chinook Regional Library System in Swift Current.)

What's new?

Recently taking up new jobs, both librarians are busy. Beth has been with CPL since March '89 and is busy learning her new job. And although Rowena has been with Marigold since 1981, she became Director 2 years ago.

On the homefront, Rowena is in the midst of renovations featuring plastic wrapped workstations. Beth is presently in the planning stages of renovations at CPL.

Never out of step

Reflecting upon their association contributions to date, both have inherited organizations in the midst of transformation.

LAA, without the benefit of a Past President for three years, is "finding its feet." LAA's Board of Directors devoted a day and a half to a "Board Development Workshop" to consider future directions.

Meanwhile, CLA is starting over. Last year's AGM saw the fundamental restructuring of

CLA. And Beth believes that CLA has emerged from a turbulent 4 or 5 years and is beginning anew. She is working to establish new relationships with provincial associations as a result of CLAPCO.

On the horizon

The possibility of a national summit on information and libraries excites Beth. She believes that a decision to go ahead (or not) with the summit will soon be made. The session would resemble the "White House Conference" held in 1979 and solicit a wide range of opinions to deal with the future.

Librarians, publishers, booksellers and information providers of all description would meet to consider legislation at federal and provincial levels and the changing role of libraries within their political environments.

Still ongoing battles for the association Presidents are shrinking budgets, copyright and the proposed general sales tax. Although the GST is likely to affect libraries, it's still uncertain how the legislation will be framed with regard to non-profit organizations like CLA.

Beth is concerned that CLA, in its roles as publisher and education provider, may be subjected to new taxes with the passage of the GST. Other areas closely watched by the CLA President are membership issues and retaining a balance between programs of interest to new members and appealing to continuing members is always a "challenge."

Melody Burton

Editorial: whose politics?

I spent most of the summer thinking about politics and wondering if I have any. It's a rhetorical question because I know that I do. What colour is your political parachute? Does it ever land you in enemy territory?

This was a political summer. One Chantal Daigle would like to forget and one I would like to remember for boycotting a family reunion. Perhaps you read in LJ that a South African librarian is under house arrest or that dispensing Planned Parenthood addresses may be an offense under Missouri's new abortion legislation. I don't know if these images sound the political call to battle for you, but they do for me. These political issues affect me personally and professionally.

As librarians, what we do is highly political and we do it daily. Some people argue that office politics resemble diplomacy or negotiation. But make no mistake, sometimes political beliefs spell warfare. Understandably people get upset when their beliefs are challenged by or sacrificed for others. So I spent my summer thinking about politics and who I offend just by holding certain beliefs. Personal or professional.

Religion, politics and money. Remember these social no-no's? Mom and Ann Landers have been telling me (and you) that these topics are conversation killers. They violate laws of etiquette. If you want to start a fight just initiate a rousing discussion about pay equity, affirmative action, abortion ... Get the picture? The only time it's okay to raise these issues is when there's a merger on the table (sometimes called a marriage proposal). Then it's important to talk politics, religion and money - to make sure that they're in keeping with family tradition and don't violate any allegiances.

But these are political times and the words we mouth are either politically charged (for maximum effect) or politically neutral (to minimize effect). How can we ever speak without landing in hot water? Who are the silent people in your organization? Do you believe they have nothing to say?

As a profession we celebrate difference and choice. Is this a polite way of saying that we sit on the fence? What common political stripe colours librarianship? Do you look for the green and gold to know which team you belong to? What colour is the jersey you hang in the back of your closet? How many of you - when in doubt - wear plaid?

Herb White talks about politics. He talks about boards, memos, luncheon engagements and his LJ colleagues discuss the managerial politics of hair styles and body odor. Y'know, solveable stuff!

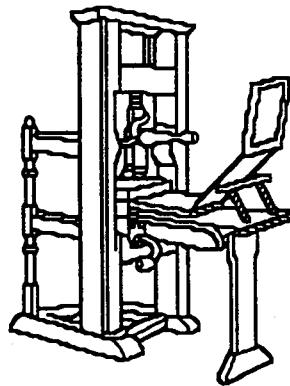
When I say politics I don't mean the pressing demands of shrinking budgets, I mean the other stuff. The messy stuff.

The stuff that we all say we support philosophically, but don't know how to incorporate into a daily work credo. Even for issues like intellectual freedom. We know what we're supposed to say and do, but usually, we sigh with relief when we finesse our opponents by avoiding situations of potential conflict. Do collection policies ever substitute for hard decisions? Do procedures prevent confrontation or are they convenient defense mechanisms when it's too hard to muster convincing arguments?

But that's our public persona. How do we deal with collegial differences? And if Herb White prescribes strategic luncheon engagements and paper warfare, do you honestly believe that any caesar salad combined with the most carefully worded memo could fix more than one personnel rift? Two? Three? How many caesar salads does it take to mend a labour dispute? Cookies and coffee may go a long way to diffuse situations, but they don't remedy them.

The worst thing about politics is that they consume a lot of energy, usually without the promise of a positive result. Most of us sensitive librarians don't have the excess energy or time to suffer the major (or minor) theoretical crisis of the day. We're too busy getting on with it. A part of me fears that even if we win individual battles we're losing a war. The budgets will be cut - only the amount is negotiable. And if you win this year, what about next year? The next county? It's gonna be somebody's backyard.

Melody Burton



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

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

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).

Faculty Notes

First PhD in process

FLIS has won approval for its first individual PhD program. **Dianne Oberg ('84)** will pursue the degree "jointly" with the Education Administration Department within the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta.

Dianne promises to hold the first PhD in Library and Information Studies at the the U of A.

Bob Brundin in the news

Western alienation took a new twist when Bob Brundin took on the **Globe and Mail** in defense of librarianship.

Appearing in the August 3, 1989 Letters section of the **Globe** was a rebuttal by Bob ...

"May I ask what a retired librarian is supposed to look like? Or an athlete for that matter (Canadian Team Coming of Age for International Games - July 25)?

"As a librarian rapidly approaching retirement age, I am concerned lest I not fit the image. True, I am not much of an athlete, but I do carry the garbage out to the back lane and mow the lawn, and last summer I even bicycled from Jasper to Banff with my then 26-year-old son, so I am not totally inactive as I enter my dotage."

According to Bob, the letter was edited and the best part left out.

Who's on first?

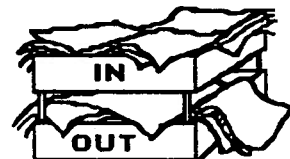
Back in the classroom is **Robin Inskip** after a two year stint at OISE working toward her PhD.

Robin is teaching Marketing and the introductory course.

And yes, she's writing.

Catriona de Scossa is on a term sabbatical to write too.

From the
President's desk



Greetings!

LISAA Executive members kept busy over the summer by submitting a proposal for a Canada Council grant. We received affirmation from the Council in mid-October and are pleased to announce that our first author reading was held on the evening of November 16th, 1989.

The Executive felt this was an event that would be attended and enjoyed by students, faculty and alumni. Stephen Hume (author and journalist) read from a selection of his works in the cozy surroundings of Athabasca Hall's Heritage Lounge. A reception followed the event.

For all alumni who were unable to attend the AGM wine and cheese reception last June, I would like to reiterate my thanks to outgoing Executive members Marion Safran (Vice President), Maureen Beristain (Secretary) and Judy-Lynn Downey (Student Representative).

Welcome to our new members of the Executive - Ila, Alison and Heather. Below is the complete list of our Executive. Please contact any of us with your questions and/or suggestions concerning LISAA matters.

Kit Wilson President
Ila Scott Vice President/President Elect
Laura Beswick Treasurer
Alison Nussbaumer Secretary
Sheila Bertram Faculty Representative
Barbara Chaffey Alumni Association Representative
Christina Andrews LISAA representative to Alumni Association
Katheryn Kirchmeir Student Representative
Heather De Armond Student Representative
Melody Burton Newsletter Editor

The LISAA Scholarship was awarded this year to incoming student Heather De Armond. Once again LISAA was fortunate to have the recipient volunteer as our student representative. Executive members look forward to working with Heather over the course of the next two years.

The amount of the scholarship awarded for '89-'90 was \$750, a substantial increase over last year's \$400. Although we all want to see the amount continue to increase, our membership forms will no longer be providing a space for contributions to the scholarship fund.

We regret this, but it is in keeping with the University's policy regarding Project Leadership Dialog. The University is consolidating all fund raising efforts. However, please remember that if you are contacted by a Project Leadership fund raiser, you can still request that your donation go to the Library and Information Studies Scholarship Fund. Your donation will then be earmarked for our account. And as always, \$10 of your membership fee goes directly to our scholarship fund.

Kit Wilson



Who's doing what where

Attention Class of '85!

Join us for a Pre-Christmas Reunion on December 1, 7 pm at the Mandarin Restaurant on Whyte Avenue. Come early for cocktails at the Power Plant (remember that solemn spot?) between 5 and 7 pm.

For more information, telephone Anna Bombak (492-5212) or Susan Mowers (423-7371). See you there and Ho, Ho, Ho.

Correction: to the Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies press release of June 16, 1989. Our sister Maritime school claims **Gwendolyn Creelman ('74)** as their own! Gwendolyn is the head of the cataloguing department at the Ralph Picard Bell Library, Mount Allison University. She becomes Dalhousie's library school's first researcher-in-residence. Okay, okay, so she got her MLS at Dal, Gwendolyn received her BLS at U of A and there is no mention of our alma mater.

Conference cahoots: **Grant Birks ('69)** and **Carrol Lunau ('76)** are busy planning the upcoming CLA '90 conference to be held in Ottawa this June. Carrol is the conference Convenor with Grant heading the Program Committee. The conference theme "Exploring the myths, Rediscovering the Magic" is guaranteed to be "fun" say the alum. CLA President Beth Barlow reports that there's a "great dance band" booked for the Saturday night banquet. Bring your dancing shoes and wear something red!

Honoured: **Thora Howell ('74)** as the Roy Britnell Bookseller of the Year of Award. Thora was chosen by the executive committee of the Book Publishers Professional Association. Thora and husband Jerome, operate The Book Store on Bastion Street in Nanaimo, BC. Thora attributes the success of the store to the town's support of literary events. The store works with many community agencies to sponsor events like the Children's Book Festival and readings by local writers including Anne Cameron.

Promoted: **Robin Minion ('81)** became Chief Librarian of the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies Library located on the University of Alberta campus. As of August 1, 1989, Robin took over from **Nita Cooke ('70)** who retired as Chief after serving 19 years. Robin has been a librarian at the Boreal Library since 1982. Robin was featured in **Folio**, (5 Oct 1989), complete with photo.

Moving up!: **Sharon Gee ('82)** from Director, Alberta Research Council Information Services to the ARC's Director, Administrative Services.

Congratulations: **Jane Starr ('82)** and **Marcel**

Chichak on the birth of their son. Jane and Marcel were married in '85. Jane is presently technical services librarian at Alberta Agriculture.

Congratulations: **Helene Proteau ('84)** on the birth of her son in April, 1989.

Congratulations: **Anna Bombak ('85)** is the Data Librarian at the University of Alberta.

Congratulations! to **Susan Mowers ('85)** on her summer marriage to Nick ("I'm not a librarian!") Stowe. Best wishes.

A winner: **Yvonne Slemko ('85)** of Barrhead won a Creative Librarianship Award at the Library Association of Alberta conference held in Jasper, 1989. Yvonne won the award for her Babes and Reading Week programs. Because of the program, every child born in the Barrhead hospital receives a book. The award is sponsored by the Alberta Library Board.

Back in town: **Lance Nordstrom ('86)** as Reference Librarian at the Alberta Research Council Library. Lance leaves his job as Librarian at the Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville.

Congratulations: to **Pat Jobb ('87)** on her appointment as Director, Peace Library System. Pat has served as Acting Director since mid-March. Pat joined the Peace Library System in September 1987 as Public Services Consultant.

Moving on: **Marinette Jones ('88)** from Assistant Curriculum Librarian at U of A's Herbert T Coutts to become Teacher Librarian in the Strathcona County School System. Marinette writes she will "miss all the wonderful people (lots of alum) at Curriculum, but not the long drive!"

Promoted: **Sharon Siga ('88)** has been appointed Coordinator of Technical Services with the Peace Library System. Sharon had been Coordinator of Retrospective Conversion since May, 1988. In her new position, Sharon adds acquisitions and cataloguing to her coordinating activities.

Moving in!: to Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism's Historical Resources Library is **Judy Downey ('89)**. Judy will be based at the Reynolds Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin presently under construction and expected to open in 1991. Judy will develop the library program for the new museum which features preservation, study and interpretation of agricultural, industrial and transportation technology.

In Memorium: **Irina Singh ('89)** passed away on July 9, 1989. Contributions can be made to FLIS.