



GREETINGS FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

TRISH CHATTERLEY

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as LISAA President this past year, and look forward to continuing with the Executive in the role of Past President. I'm sure Lesley Beaton will serve you well as the new President! At the recently held AGM, Heather Sentes was appointed Vice President/President-Elect and Alison Henry was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Kristen Holm, who has served on LISAA for the past two years as student representative, will be continuing on with the association as the newly appointed Communications Officer. Congratulations to the three of you! You will be a great asset to the LISAA team. Watch for their biographies in the next newsletter! Also, a great big thank you and a fond farewell to outgoing Executive members Erika Banski and Roxy Garstad. Your years of dedication to LISAA have been truly appreciated.

IN THIS ISSUE

Greetings from the President	1
Newsletter Changes	
Alumni Letters	2
News from SLIS	3
LISAA's Gift to the SLIS students	
Events and announcements	4

Congratulations to the 40th graduating class of SLIS, the Class of 2009!

Please join me in welcoming this year's 35 new SLIS alumni to the profession. We applaud your achievement and wish you all the best of luck in your careers and future endeavors!

CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER

Don't worry! The LISAA newsletter isn't nearing extinction, but it is evolving. Unfortunately, because of rising costs we will be unable to continue sending printed copies of the newsletter to all alumni. We will be moving as much as possible to electronic distribution, and appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transitional phase.

We encourage all alumni to sign up for Jerome-L, the listserv administered by the School of Library and Information Studies, over which we will send news of new issues. The list was created to foster communication among librarians, information professionals, and friends of libraries in Alberta. If you are not already a member, please visit this page to register:

<http://www.mailman.srv.ualberta.ca/mailman/listinfo/jerome-l>

The newsletters will also continue to be made available online from the LISAA website at <http://lisaa.ca/newsletter.html>

For those alumni who do not use email, we will be pleased to continue to send a print edition. You will, however, have to identify yourselves. Please send your name and contact details to:

Library and Information Studies Alumni Association
 c/o 3-20 Rutherford South
 University of Alberta
 Edmonton, AB T6G 2J4

Alternatively, you can call the School at 780-492-4578.

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause. We would continue as before if we could, and want to keep bringing news of fellow alumni and SLIS to our members. Thank you for continued support of LISAA and our newsletter!

Upcoming Events

CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Saturday, October 3rd 2009
 11:00 am—1:00 pm
 Place: Henderson Hall, SLIS

See page 4 for additional details!

NetPub 2.0

October 2009
 Date, time, and place TBD.

RESPONSES TO THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

RALPH NWAMEFOR, NIGERIA

I read Dr Bertram's 40th Anniversary speech chronicling the history of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, which appeared in the Winter 2008 Newsletter (LISAA) issue with a lot of interest. But I must state that I was disappointed. ...I strongly believe that one cannot write a balanced history or account about the School if one ignores the Betty Henderson years or the Betty Henderson contributions.

I must admit that I did not meet Sarah Rebecca Reed, the founder and first Director of the School for whom Dr. Bertram exhibited such an overwhelming admiration resulting from her image which was cast over the speech. I, however, felt her echo when I arrived at the School by September 1972 to begin my program after surviving a bout of malaria which forced me into the University of Alberta Teaching Hospital and nearly resulted in missing my first exam. If Miss Reed was as formidable as Dr. Bertram would make us believe, it means that the University of Alberta administration has a peculiar knack for fielding formidable ladies as directors of that School because Betty Henderson can hardly be said to be less formidable, though very amiable. What was more, she was a workaholic with such an even temper that would manifest no expression at all over, for instance, Dr Bertram's fad of wearing pant suits to work.

Betty Henderson so well stabilized the two programs I met in the School-The BLS and the MLS-that when she left the School on retirement, the University, in appreciation of her exemplary role in library education, named an important hall in the School after her. ...A well known University in Eastern Canada also awarded Henderson a professorship based on her exploits at the University of Alberta. And she was able to compete for and become the President of the Canadian Library Association (which the excellent work she did at Edmonton qualified her for) before she retired from public service.... Before she died she instituted the M.E.P Henderson Scholarship in Library and Information Studies each year which recognizes academic performance and professional promise of two entering or continuing MLIS students in the School.

ELLEN HEANEY, NEW WESTMINSTER B.C.

As a graduate of the "Class of 4", I was interested to read the reminiscences of some of the members of the early classes at the newly-minted library school in Edmonton.

I was disappointed that there was no mention in the newsletter of one of my mentors, the late great Harry Newsom, who joined the school at the same time I was there from the Saskatchewan Provincial Library. Who could take one of Harry's classes and not remember "Books, buildings and bodies" and "Do you see what I'm saying?" and the fact that he made a student cry by suggesting that libraries could lend books from bars and churches (yes, both!)?

I remember Kurt Jensen and Basil Pogue – but I can't recall Dracula showing up for class in the winter of 1972.

Speaking of professional promise, as Sheila Bertram did in her address, two early graduates of SLIS not mentioned, both from my class, were Phyllis Yaffe, who went from the Winnipeg Public Library to Algonquin College to the Canadian Children's Book Centre and is now CEO of Alliance Atlantis; and your own director, Ann Curry.

I personally have held Shirley (Ellison) Wright's old job as Head of Children's Services at the New Westminster Public Library in New Westminister, BC for the past 35 years, which has been professional reward enough. And you can tell Kurt that I do have a copy of the Frog'n'All if he is still looking.

ARE THERE OTHER RESPONSES?

If you think someone should have been mentioned who wasn't, please let us know! Your anecdotes could be included in our next (primarily) electronic edition of the newsletter!

Send your stories or comments to lisaa@lisaa.ca or to LISAA c/o SLIS.

NEWS FROM SLIS

DR. ANN CURRY



We at SLIS have always emphasized excellent teaching, and this focus was celebrated with the Faculty of Education Graduate Teaching Award that Professor Toni Samek received on April 8, 2009 at the Awards Gala: A Celebration of Research and Teaching Excellence. Dr. Kent Den Hayer, who presented the award to Toni, said that he "had come to know Toni as a passionate advocate for scholarly engagement with the pressing issues of our time. In her teaching dossier, students write of the passion as igniting their interest to pursue further study and advocacy. I think that there is a strong link between a commitment to human betterment and Toni's teaching excellence." Congratulations, Toni.

Another recent SLIS award winner is Dr. Margaret Mackey, who was awarded a Killam Professorship in early May, one of only six such awards given each year at the University of Alberta for "outstanding contributions to scholarship and to the University community." Margaret's research and teaching concentrate on contemporary patterns of literacy, and her courses on Contemporary Theories and Practices of Reading and on Multimedia Literacies remain two of the most popular and highly-praised of all SLIS courses. Congratulations, Margaret.

SLIS is pleased to offer again the Archives course after a short hiatus and to offer some new courses this spring/summer. The provincial archivist Leslie Latta-Guthrie and her team of archivists are teaching the Archives management course in May/June, and Leslie has included tours of four Edmonton archives and several hands on preservation exercises in the course. The spring brings the first offerings of our new one-credit weekend courses, designed to bring more curriculum options to SLIS students and to provide professional development opportunities for practicing librarians. The 1-credit Legal Resources and Services course offered May 8-10 had an enrolment of 20 SLIS students and librarians seeking to increase their knowledge of libraries and the law. People commented that they really appreciated being able to take a course that fit so well around their home, work, and other course commitments. Other 1-credit weekend courses to be offered in spring/summer include Aboriginal Resources/Services, Emergent Literacy, and XML Programming.

As a joint venture, LISAA and the School hosted a 40th Anniversary reception on April 30th at the Saskatchewan Library Association Conference in Saskatoon. A personal mailed invitation was extended to our 104 SLIS alumni now residing in Saskatchewan, and we were very pleased that 30 alumni were able to join us to celebrate the School's anniversary. Director Dr. Ann Curry and faculty member Dr. Lisa Given (a speaker at the conference) welcomed the alumni members at the reception.

LISAA'S GIFT TO SLIS STUDENTS

Each year, the LISAA Executive chooses a special project for either the Library School, or the Library School students. You can designate funds for these special projects on your membership form, or you can donate to the Special Project fund at any time of the year!

Two complementary works by local artist Loren Chabot were purchased with the 2008 alumni funds, both of which are to be hung in the 3rd floor reception area just as one enters the School from the elevator foyer. One painting shows a daytime summer view of the downtown city skyline with the North Saskatchewan River and the Riverboat Queen in the foreground. The second painting is a nighttime winter view of the same skyline, with the lights of the Macdonald Hotel and various office buildings reflected in the snow of the frozen River. Chabot is a U of A graduate, and exhibits his work every Saturday at the Old Strathcona Farmers' Market.

This year, upon request by the Library and Information Studies Students' Association, the funds were used to purchase two Olympus DS-40 digital voice recorders. The recorders will be readily available for students, who will be able to use them to record interviews for various classes or lectures given by guest speakers.

LISAA EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ALVIN SCHRADER

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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**Publication Agreement
#41060512**

Dr. Alvin Schrader, longtime Professor and at one point Director of the School of Library and Information Studies, will be leaving the School to take on a new position within the University of Alberta Libraries System. With his wealth of experience in conducting research on such subjects as intellectual freedom and censorship, foundations of LIS, and library services to sexual minorities, he is highly qualified to take on the new role of Director of Research. His responsibilities, as stated by Chief Librarian Ernie Ingles, will include "advising, assisting, and encouraging librarians in all phases of research projects and activities, with a view to promoting a culture of applied research in the institution, and with a view of supporting a strong evidence based culture placing research as a foundation of our strategic operational decision-making." Congratulations, Alvin! The U of A Librarians are extremely fortunate and will benefit greatly from your expertise and guidance.

ANNUAL CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Save the date for this year's brunch!

WHEN: Saturday, October 3rd 2009

WHERE: Henderson Hall, School of Library and Information Studies

TIME: 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Please join us for food, fun, and festivities as we celebrate another year of SLIS history! Lunch will be provided, and Distinguished and Honourary Alumni awards presented.

CALL FOR LISAA DISTINGUISHED AND HONOURARY ALUMNI AWARDS

The LISAA Executive invites all members to submit nominations for the LISAA Distinguished and Honourary Alumni Awards. Please present the candidate's name and current contact information, year of graduation, and a brief description of the candidate's accomplishments. Additional information about the awards, and a list of previous award winner, may be found on the LISAA website at <http://lisaa.ca/awards.html>

Please forward your nominations by June 15, 2009 to: lisaa@lisaa.ca

OR by mail to:

Library and Information Studies Alumni Association
c/o 3-20 Rutherford South
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2J4

Awards will be distributed at the Celebration Brunch this fall. Recipients will have their name engraved on the plaque that hangs on the third floor of SLIS, and will have a book donated in their honour to the Bruce Peel Special Collections at the University of Alberta.