



# LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Greetings from the President

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2011! We are very excited to welcome you into the profession and we look forward to seeing you at future Alumni events.

There has been much change at the school this past year as the school, like our profession, continues to evolve. We bid farewell to Dr. Lisa Given and Dr. Heidi Julien and wish them the very best in the future. You have touched many students during your years at SLIS and you will be missed.

I am honoured to have served as the LISAA President this past year. I am very much looking forward to continuing my involvement with the Executive in my role as Past President. Dale Storie is the incoming President and I'm sure he will do a great job! A big thank you

to our outgoing past-president Lesley Beaton for her tireless efforts, mentorship and engagement with the alumni association. Also, thanks to Alison Henry as her term as Treasurer has come to an end. Both Lesley and Alison will be missed.

The LISAA Executive invites all members to consider submitting nominations for the upcoming Executive election held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at our Annual General Meeting. Please be sure to come out, reconnect and cast your vote to shape your LISAA Executive.

Best wishes to all of you – enjoy the summer!

- Heather Sentes, LISAA President

### Spring 2011

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## Upcoming LISAA Events

### Annual General Meeting

Please join us for our annual general meeting on **Wednesday May 25 at 5 pm** in **Henderson Hall** in the School of Library and Information Studies, Rutherford South.

We will be voting on two executive positions at the meeting. If you are interested in running for the positions of **treasurer** or **vice-president/president-elect**, please contact **Lesley Beaton** at [pastpresident@lisaa.ca](mailto:pastpresident@lisaa.ca). We look forward to seeing you there!

### Celebration Brunch

Save the date for our annual celebration brunch will be held on **Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. As in past years, we will be giving away our honorary alumni and distinguished alumni awards at the brunch.

Nominations are now open, so please consider nominating a deserving colleague for one of these awards. For more information, please visit <http://lisaa.ca/Awards.html>.

## David Jones – Our 2010 Honourary Alumni Award Winner

By Lori Walter and Bronwyn Hartman

David Jones was nominated by Sandy Campbell for the Honourary Alumni award because of his outstanding contribution to the library profession. He is recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for his kindness, compassion, and mentorship; commitment to map librarianship; extensive service in professional associations; and expertise in cartographic information. Scholars whom he has helped locate just the right cartographic materials for their books often acknowledge him in publications. The rare book *Abraham Ortelius and the First Atlas: Essays Commemorating the Quadricentennial of His Death, 1598-1998* was acquired by the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library in his honour.

David was pursuing a graduate degree in molecular biology at McMaster University in 1970, when he realized that he was “learning everything about a miniscule band of the spectrum of knowledge” and this type of scientific research was not his calling. David then completed an MLIS degree at the University of Western Ontario, after which his first professional position was at Humber College in Toronto. Nine years later, in 1980, he moved to the University of Alberta as the Assistant Science Librarian. He became Collections Coordinator and, finally, Map Librarian when the William C. Wonders Map Collection (WCWMC) was moved to the SciTech Library from the Geography Department in the mid-1990s. After retiring, December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, David currently works half-time in the Map Library in his new role as Map Cataloguer.

David believes that one of the most interesting aspects of his career as Map Librarian is “experiencing how graphic presentation can convey so much more information compared to simple text. A map, like a picture, is truly worth a thousand words—actually many more if one considers how many words would be required to describe the information on a map. Concepts, when visualized, become much clearer and easier to understand.” He notes that maps are a campus-wide resource used by students and scholars from many disciplines, and he celebrates how “the divides between Arts, Science, Engineering, etc. disappear as users encounter cartographic representation on maps.” He also enjoys working



David Jones with Sandy Campbell (who nominated him for the award).

*“A map, like a picture, is truly worth a thousand words — actually many more if one considers how many words would be required to describe the information on a map.”*

with off-campus clients such as historians, naturalists, ethnographers, writers, and filmmakers who also use and appreciate the resources. David said, “Everyday I learn something new, and most days I also meet someone new.

Helping identify a client’s spatial data needs and, in most cases, finding the appropriate map(s) in the WCWMC, or from other resources, is rewarding for both myself and the client.”

When asked about the highlights of his distinguished career, David responded that while one tends to focus on the events of the past 5-10 years, his professional career spans four decades, so he includes some highlights that predate his evolution into Map Librarianship. At Humber College, he became heavily immersed in professional activities through membership on the Executive of the Canadian Technical and College Libraries (CTCL) section of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (CACUL) and in a political action group seeking full academic status and salary parity for librarians in the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts & Technology (CAATs). This involved becoming active in the union local, convincing the provincial union of the cause, and sitting with the Provincial Bargaining Team through a long negotiation/arbitration process that was, ultimately, successful. As Collections Coordinator he introduced the first broad spectrum approval plan for the selection and acquisition of monographs for the SciTech Library. More recently, as Map Librarian, David was convener for CARTO-2000, an international conference of three map and map library associations—the Association of Canadian Map

Libraries and Archives (ACMLA), the Canadian Cartographic Association (CCA), and the Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML).

David emphasized that promoting the map collection has always been a priority. He prepared and presented (with the assistance of Bess Sadler) a poster on the WCWMC's Austro-Hungarian Collection, one of the strongest in North America, at the 2005 International Conference on the History of Cartography (Budapest), thus publicizing this collection on the international stage. In addition, David spearheaded the acquisition of over 100 early maps of Hungary, from a donor in Vancouver, which greatly strengthened the Austro-Hungarian collection and provided the donor with much satisfaction in knowing that his beloved collection found such a welcoming home. Reflecting the WCWMC's status as the flagship academic map collection in Canada, David has been an active member of the ACMLA and has served on its Executive in a number of positions, including 2 years as President.

Another recent highlight is the 2006 completion of the conversion of the handwritten classified map catalogue, that came with the collection from the Geography Department, into a publically available online keyword searchable database, thus expanding access to the collection. There are over 30,000 records, including records for recently acquired and pre-1995 maps.

In 2010 David also curated a highly praised exhibition—*Journeys Beyond the Neatline: expanding the boundaries of cartography*—an exhibit of two artist/cartographers who documented their personal journeys through text and maps:

<http://exhibits.library.ualberta.ca/maps/homepagesfolder/homepage.html>

*“Librarians are in some ways like cowboys or shepherds. We try to create and maintain some order in the herd/flock of information.”*

When asked about future career ambitions and upcoming projects, David explained that he had recently taken on the role of Map Cataloguer, which he called “a new learning curve!” David looks forward to mastering the art of map cataloguing and continuing to provide research assistance to students and scholars. As for future projects, the digitization of parts of the map collection has already begun and presents exciting opportunities.

Finally, David considers it a highlight to work with students, faculty, researchers, and staff to develop knowledge and understanding of spatial data and the contribution it can make to a better understanding of the world around us. Moreover, he says that working with SLIS students over the years through guest lectures, the Partners program, and as a mentor/advisor for practicum projects, directed studies, and internships, and introducing maps and other aspects

of librarianship to new and future librarians have always given him great pleasure. He looks forward to continuing to work with students, especially SLIS students, during the next stages of his career.

When asked what advice he has for current SLIS students David replied:

“Librarians are in some ways like cowboys or shepherds. We try to create and maintain some order in the herd/flock of information. Traditionally the herd/flock was printed materials—books and journals. Now we must deal with information that comes in many other forms. Maps, spatial data, and other information media are just other species that need to be managed, herded, or shepherded. The principles that we learn in our library studies have applications with all these species. By the time current SLIS students reach mid-career the information landscape will be very different; but underneath it all, the principles of organization, access, preservation, and service to clients will likely be unchanged.”

### At the Celebration Brunch, September 2010



## Laurel Tarulli – Our 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

By Lori Walter and Bronwyn Hartman

Laurel Tarulli was nominated for the Distinguished Alumni Award by Martina King, for her contribution to the research and literature of cataloguing, and her overall dedication to the profession.

Laurel graduated from the MLIS program in the spring of 2004, and has been working for the last four years as a Collection Access Librarian at Halifax Public Libraries. She finds the relationship between cataloguing/access with technology and playing a part in the development of new technologies, as well as the role of research, to be especially rewarding aspects of her work.

Laurel's entrance to the library profession happened via her diverse interests: she had initially planned on working in public administration, researching and fundraising for non-profit organizations in the arts. When the U of A no longer offered that Master's degree program, however, she decided to pursue an MLIS, believing that the skills would be transferrable. Enjoying the marketing and management classes and cataloguing classes offered in the program, while still focusing on the arts, Laurel also found herself drawn to public libraries, thinking that this would be an interesting place to work that might offer the same challenge and fulfillment as other non-profit institutions in which she was interested. She also notes that she was attracted to the geographic location (Halifax) of her current position, as well as the opportunity to catalogue, and remarks, "It ended up being a perfect fit."

Some of the highlights of Laurel's career so far include: meeting and becoming friends with international librarians who are making a difference in the cataloguing world; being awarded the 2009 Esther J. Piercy Award by the American Library Association; the offer of two book contracts to write about the future of cataloguing in public libraries; the positive feedback that she gets from students and professionals for her blog, *The Cataloguing Librarian*; and working at Halifax Public Libraries, which she notes is "a great system with a lot of vision, talented individuals and open-mindedness to accept new ideas and explore possibilities for the future."

*"Look at your strengths and market those. Then, your passion will come through and you'll make your mark."*



Laurel Tarulli, the *Cataloguing Librarian*  
<http://laureltarulli.wordpress.com/>

Looking forward, Laurel is currently finishing the revisions on her first book, and has plans to begin a second in the next few months. She is also working on an OCLC/ALISE funded research project with Dr. Louise Spiteri (Dalhousie) focusing on the library catalogue as a social space, with results to be published and presented throughout this year, and research to continue over the one or two years. She notes, "As for the future, right now, I'm extremely happy with where I am and what I'm doing. What will the future bring? More opportunities I hope. But right now, I'm just enjoying what I'm currently working on and involved in."

Laurel offers the following advice for future library and information professionals: "Don't expect that a job is owed to you just because you have a masters degree. There are so many talented professionals entering our profession that it's important to focus on what makes you unique; memorable. Really take the time to consider what you bring to the profession and how you can make a difference. It may not be related to libraries at all, but your passion for the arts, ability to communicate or your background as, say, a writer. Look at your strengths and market those. Then, your passion will come through and you'll make your mark."

## A Librarian in the Middle East: An Interview with Kayo Chang

### Where have you worked overseas?

I worked as Reference & Instruction Librarian at Zayed University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 2008-2010. Currently, I am working as Information Services Librarian in Isa Town, Kingdom of Bahrain.

### Did you always know you wanted to work internationally? If not, how did you end up there?

No, I didn't know that I would be working internationally. In library school, friends of mine talked about jobs in Qatar, but I never thought I'd come to the Middle East. During my last semester at SLIS, I signed up for the International Jobs listserv through IFLA and saw a job posting from Dubai. I applied but didn't think much of it. Months after I graduated, after applied for positions in an academic library all over Canada, the only offer I received was the one from Zayed University in Dubai- so I packed up everything and went.

### What are the striking differences you have noticed between North American Library practices and those in the Middle East?

North American Libraries typically are more established than the libraries in the Middle East. When I first started at the Polytechnic six months ago, The Library Learning Centre (LLC) did not have a functional catalogue or a website. We have a room full of books that do not have call numbers and they are organized in ways I had never seen in a library (alphabetical by title, organized by department). Therefore, I think libraries in the Middle East are more chaotic than those in North America. Things are slowly getting better now- we have started to implement Millennium, Summon and LibGuides. We also started to order books from a

library vendor so our books will come shelf ready.

People have a serious misconception of the LLC and the people working in it. This may be common in libraries in North America as well but I think the situation here is quite severe. Due to the international context of the Middle East, people have different understanding of the library. In addition, there had been no formally trained staff (librarians or technicians) prior to August 2010. As a result, the

*I was told to 'colour in' a graphic novel and 'put some bikini or something' over naked breasts. I was appalled. There is no concept of intellectual freedom or social responsibility in this part of the world.*

LLC has been marketed as a book shop, where we ordered text and reference books for students and staff. The staff got upset when we announced that we are no longer responsible for ordering non library titles. I was hired as the first Public Services Librarian and people still do not understand what it is that I do. When I first started, I was treated like an administrative, clerical staff by the person who was in charge of the library previously. People have had very little understanding of libraries and librarians and it has been challenging trying to educate expatriates and local staff on the role of the library and librarians.

There is also a different view when it comes to censorship. At Zayed University, there was a "special collection", which is a room full of "forbidden" books. Students can access them with permission from their professors. Here at Bahrain

Polytechnic, I was told to 'colour in' a graphic novels and 'put some bikini or something' over naked breasts. I was appalled. There is no concept of intellectual freedom or social responsibility in this part of the world and I was accused for being a 'purist' because I refuse to destroy these books. To this day, we still do not have an official offensive material policy. To avoid situation where I might be forced to perform censorship, I do self-censor when ordering library materials.

### In what ways are your library technologies similar to Canada? Different?

I think the library technologies are pretty similar. Our library system is Millennium and our chosen discovery platform is Summon. We have started to implement LibGuides as the LLC website. In addition, I have created library avatars and they have Facebook and Twitter accounts. The avatars also co-author the LLC blog. The most exciting technologies we have in the library, although they are not technically considered 'library' technologies, are video games. We have Wii and XBOX 360 Kinect. Students and staff come and play at the library all the time. They are great for mingling and getting to know our students.

### How much does social media contribute to your library environment?

It's funny that you mentioned social media in my library environment. Classes at Bahrain Polytechnic had been cancelled over a month ago due to the political unrest in Bahrain. Today was the first day some of the students were allowed back on campus to resume their studies. I got to work this morning and was trying to check

our library's Facebook. When I typed the URL, my browser linked me back to the homepage of Bahrain Polytechnic. I was very confused and unnerved by the whole thing. I even changed a browser just to make sure that I was not going crazy. Then I found out that Facebook and Twitter both have been banned on campus to ensure that students are not using them for political means. As a result, those of us who are using Facebook for educational purposes have been affected negatively. I used to use Facebook, Twitter and the LLC blog to promote library services and events. Now I am only able to use the blog. It is extremely frustrating and upsetting.

### **Can you talk about your collection management policies?**

We don't really have any right now... working on it! Before my manager arrived in August 2010, there was no librarian working at the library. Since her arrival, my manager has hired me as a information services librarian working in public services and we have a web services and emerging technologies librarian working in technical services. Prior to our arrival, there were no policies about anything. We didn't even have a mission statement. It's a bit of an uphill battle because people really have no idea what it is we do.

### **Are you involved in faculty liaison both inside and outside of the classroom?**

Since I am the only public services librarian right now, I've been speaking to tutors about the resources we need to have in order to support the curriculum. There are no formal procedures- the tutors email me to tell me which books they need for their courses. I ask them for a course outline or an assignment and I order materials based on course materials.

At the Polytechnic, we have a

Problem-Based Learning model and the tutors are really keen on incorporating information literacy in the curriculum. Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff currently to make this a reality.

*One of the biggest benefits of working internationally in small libraries is that I have the opportunities to learn all aspects of librarianship.*

### **What has been your favourite thing about working overseas? What opportunities have been presented to you?**

Since I left SLIS, I've only had jobs overseas. One of the biggest benefits of working internationally in small libraries is that I have the opportunities to learn all aspects of librarianship. Had I stayed in Canada, I may have been pigeon-holed as a Reference Librarian or an Instructional Librarian. But in the Middle East, I adopted multiple roles and developed my skills quickly as a librarian. I have done work in both public and technical services, even though I am officially a public services librarian. I have done collection development in various areas, was trained in all modules in Millennium (cataloguing, circulation, acquisition, and serial). I am responsible for prompting and marketing library services, creating and organizing library events, creating and updating content on LibGuides, as well as teaching information literacy classes, help students and staff at the reference/circulation desk and doing whatever it is necessary at any given time (getting yelled at by the finance department because I didn't fill out paperwork properly for invoices, ordering textbooks for different departments... sometimes I get stuck doing things I am not really paid to do, unfortunately).

I have also been given a tremendous opportunity for professional development. I have been involved in many research projects. My manager and I conducted a study to investigate the information seeking behaviour of our female, English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students at Zayed University to determine which discovery platform is most suitable for them. We presented our findings in a conference in Melbourne, Australia in 2010. I have also conducted research projects in both my workplaces. For example, I conducted a project at Bahrain Polytechnic to determine whether or not the use of podcasts for teaching and learning will be effective within the community. Based on the findings, I implemented various social media and started to create podcasts with students and staff. (While the students were banned from campus for over a month, the LLC social media sites as well as the blog were the only places besides official e-mail to receive information. I posted pictures of various library events, asked them what they were reading, what video games they are playing and was letting them know that even though they are not on campus, we are still thinking about them.)

Needless to say, another major perk of working in this part of the world is that I get to travel all over the place. I have attended conferences in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Australia, and Oman. I also travel quite a bit for pleasure. During my annual leave, I take off to travel in other parts of the Middle East, as well as in Asia and in Europe. Living in the Middle East makes me feel like I live in the middle of the world and that it's easy to get to different places. That's mostly what attracted me to live in the Middle East in the first place, although lately, it's becoming very hard to justify living here...

## Congratulations to Randy Reichardt!

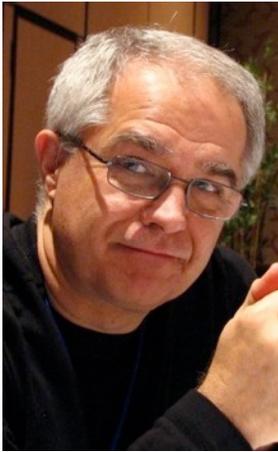


Photo by Deryl Murphy © 2008

Sincere congratulations to Randy Reichardt, who has been recognized as the **2011 Engineering Librarian of the Year** by the Special Libraries Association Engineering Division. As a Research Services Librarian at the University of Alberta, Randy has worked with the Faculty of Engineering for almost three decades. He is very widely respected by colleagues and students.

"My work as an engineering librarian at the University of Alberta Libraries has been incredibly rewarding on numerous levels. I

am very grateful to so many people, not the least of which include many of my co-workers who are also graduates of our library school."

The following articles have also reported on his award and the impact that his work has had on faculty and students:

<http://www.folio.ualberta.ca/article.cfm?v=100462&i=102486&a=10>

<http://tinyurl.com/3toff4g>

## More Brunch!




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## Alma Libre Bookstore in Puerto Morelos, Mexico

By Terry Donovan

*Not surprisingly, SLIS alumni are big fans of literature – some alum even actively seek out literary culture while on vacation! Terry Donovan, Public Services Librarian at Portage College in Lac La Biche, Alberta, submitted this piece about a Canadian-run bookstore he found while travelling in Mexico.*

Alma Libre Bookstore in Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, Mexico is not just the area's best bookstore, but also a good source of information about rental accommodation in this laid-back Yucatan fishing village just south of Cancun. Robert & Joanne Birce of Calgary (yes, that Calgary) run the store from roughly the end of October till the end of April. According to

their business card, they have over 20,000 books in stock with a huge selection of used fiction & non-fiction books in English, Spanish, German and French. Local interest publications are a specialty, with many travel guides, maps, Maya history books, field guides covering birds, wildlife and sea life, and Spanish dictionaries. This year I picked up an English translation of Friar Diego de Landa's contemporary 16<sup>th</sup> century manuscript *Yucatan Before and After the Conquest*. In previous years, I have purchased guides to the Maya ruins at Chichen Itza and Tulum, both within a couple hours drive of Puerto Morelos.

Robert & Joanne also rent out two floors of their 3 story house and feature

extensive rental listings on their website:

<http://www.almalibrebooks.com>

They ask, "Why rent from strangers? We live & work here. We know the owners and the places." Some very nice places are available at weekly rates. Their extensive website has their newsletter, Beachreads, with lots of information on Puerto Morelos.

The Birce's and their staff know more than just rentals and are a font of knowledge of all things local. They weren't around the day I came by this year. Miki was minding the store and while I was there she fielded a question from someone looking for a

## LISAA Executive, 2010-2011

### President:

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### Continuing Student Representative:

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### Entering Student Representative:

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room for a student for “no more than 3000 pesos” (about C\$250). Miki said she’d seen a sign above the Notary Public on her way into work. She also pointed out La Aldea del Mar Café, at the end of the dock, to me. I saw her there on her siesta break after I went snorkeling at the spectacular offshore Parque Nacional Arrecife Puerto Morelos. There are many companies that will pick you up in Cancun or Playa del Carmen and take you snorkeling at the reef here, but to me the best way to go if you can is to just show up and hire a local, accredited guide at the pier. The standard rate is US\$25 per person, then refresh yourself after at La Aldea or nearby Los Pelicanos. If you’re early enough you can catch the great 70 peso breakfast (about C\$5.50) at the latter. This was a great tip from Joanne several years ago. I wouldn’t have guessed. This is one of the most expensive restaurants in Puerto Morelos, with prices range from 150 to 450 pesos after breakfast. Like I said, the Birce’s and their staff are a font of information.

Alma Libre is open daily from 10 AM to 3 PM, then wisely closed for siesta, and open again from 6-9 PM.



## Hey Alumni! Keep in touch, okay? We like to hear from you.

Over 1400 individuals have graduated from SLIS over the past forty-three years, and unfortunately the School has lost track of some of its graduates. The School’s administrative staff are in the process of updating the database of graduate addresses and would like your help! If you haven’t heard from SLIS in awhile, maybe you forgot to notify them the last time you moved? Please send your updated contact information to Sophia Sherman in the SLIS office at [slis@ualberta.ca](mailto:slis@ualberta.ca). Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated!

LISAA is always looking for newsletter submissions. If you have news or events that you want to share with the alumni community, please send them to [communications@lisaa.ca](mailto:communications@lisaa.ca)!