



# NEWS

February 1995

## From the President's Desk

*Kerri Calvert*

I know it is a little late but I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year. According to the Chinese lunar calendar 1995 is the Year of the Pig. Believe it or not, the Year of the Pig is supposed to be a time of prosperity and good things. At least some good news! In Alberta, 1994 was a time of rapid change, and libraries were especially hard hit by reduced budgets and down sizing. At such times, it can be difficult to value the service we provide, and continue to be positive about the profession. However, we are not out there alone! We are fortunate to be in a profession that has a wealth of library associations, and membership in these associations allow us to show support for our profession, and to also receive personal support in difficult times.

A quick way of accessing information on library associations in Alberta is through the Edmonton FreeNet. The Edmonton FreeNet can be reached by telnet [freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:freenet.edmonton.ab.ca) or 198.161.206.2, (or use your modem to dial 428-3929 and type GUEST at the login prompt). Under the Associations and Organizations menu, select the Librarians, Information Professionals and Technicians option to find information on the purpose of the association, membership rates, and its contact person.

Two events to look forward to this winter are a workshop sponsored by the Greater Edmonton Library Association on "Responding Positively to Workplace Change" (February 25th), and the School of Library and Information Studies 9th Annual Professional Development Day followed by a Welcome to the Profession Reception (March 3rd). I hope to see everyone at these events.

## Reunion Weekend

The University of Alberta holds a Reunion Weekend for its Alumni on the first Saturday in October. In conjunction with Reunion Weekend, LISAA has sponsored an Open House Reception at the School which all Alumni were invited to attend. As the School has now reached its 25th anniversary, LISAA would like to hold reunions for each class as it celebrates the 25th anniversary of their graduation. We will be asking a member of the graduating class to be a contact person for the reunion. This individual will be responsible for writing a letter inviting all members of the class to their 25th reunion, and for organizing a display of memorabilia from the class. LISAA would be responsible for mailing out invitations. If any members of the Class of '70 would be interested in being a contact person for their reunion, please contact Caron Rollins (492-1448) or the School (492-4678).

### **3rd Annual Calgary Wine and Cheese Reception**

The Calgary Wine and Cheese Reception held on October 20th at the Nose Hill Branch of the Calgary Public Library was a great success. The reception was attended by 25 people with many "new" graduates in attendance. We were having such a great time that we lost track of the time and had to be told that the library was closing, and it was time to leave! The library staff said that they hated to put an end to the reception as "everyone was enjoying themselves so much!" Thanks to the Nose Hill Branch for offering us the use of the room, and special thanks to Angela Jones who did a superb job of organizing the reception. If any Calgary Alumni would be interesting in coordinating the "4th Annual Calgary Wine and Cheese Reception" to be held in the fall, please inform Caron Rollins at 492-1448.

### **SLIS News**

*Dr. Sheila Bertram*

There are currently 96 students enrolled (74 full-time and 22 part-time). In 1994 there were 37 graduates at spring convocation and two at fall convocation. The 1994/95 U of A Graduate Student Association President, Vice-President (Academic), and Social Convenor are all MLIS students.

**Catriona de Scossa** is away on sick leave. **Robert Brundin** will retire at the end of June 1995. **Dianne Oberg** will join the School 2/3 time starting 1 April 1995. Dianne is moving from the Department of Elementary Education and will bring the School Library Diploma Program with her. She is exploring the possibility of providing the program entirely though

distance delivery. **Toni Samek**, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, spent the fall term with us and will do so again for the fall 1995 term.

The LAN continues to grow. Current developments include putting *Library literature* on the LAN disk so that it is widely available; dialup from home; desktop publishing with a scanner and OCR software in place (purchased with some of the 25th Anniversary donations); direct communication on the campus backbone; running Netscape (a WWW browser). Money continues to be insufficient to provide all the latest technology to students and faculty.

### **LIS Students News**

*Jill Cerezke and Erika Radenovich-Banski*

Everyone had a great and much needed Christmas break. Now, we are back with some "new" energy that we hope will last at least until Reading Week.

The first year students feel that they established themselves in the program as well as in the field. They enjoyed having the option to choose some of the courses and feel less stress this semester. Some of them are already actively searching for summer jobs, while others decided to try to finish school as soon as possible and will remain full-time students during the summer. Not many students can afford a real summer vacation.

The second year students are putting in their last efforts to finish the program by April. They have a very heavy workload. This, combined with having to look for a "real job" makes this term even more hectic. Everyone is looking forward to their graduation party on April 13 - it is so close yet so far!

## Snowbird Leadership Institute

*Pilar Martinez*

I was selected to be a participant at the Fifth Annual Snowbird Leadership Institute in Snowbird, Utah, at the end of July 1994. The Leadership Institute is an experimental learning opportunity for 32 librarians, who are at a relatively early stage in their professional careers. Participants explore their leadership styles, meet and listened to some of the finest library leaders in the nation, and tested their own limits. Snowbird is less than 30 minutes east of Salt Lake City, set in the Wasatch Mountains. This beautiful ski resort is truly one of the most stunning settings in the world, and it certainly provided the ideal retreat environment. The Institute is made possible through the generous support provided by Dynix Inc., an Ameritech company.

The process begins when leaders in the library profession are invited to nominate participants who show leadership potential and have been employed between one and three years as a professional librarian. Librarians from 22 states and three countries were represented at the 1994 Institute. There were two participants from Canada, including myself.

It was an exceptional week. Our first assignment was to form into four "learning groups" of eight participants and two mentors. We were then instructed to name our group, and afterwards introduce our group to our peers. Our group, which spontaneously became "The Enthusiasts", consisted of individuals with various backgrounds and experience.

The next four days were spent on various team and individual activities too complex to discuss in detail. Nonetheless, I will

mention some activities to give you a sense of what I experienced. Before the Institute began, participants completed a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. We explored personal leadership styles using the Myers-Briggs. This exercise allowed me to gain a greater realization that other people do think, feel, understand and react to things differently than I do. I'm now trying to approach my co-workers and others with that in mind. Also, I have become more self-assured about my strengths and less anxious about my shortcomings. Part of becoming a leader is recognizing your strengths and weaknesses. As Warren Bennis states in his book, On Becoming a Leader:

*[Leadership] is based on the assumption that leaders are people who are able to express themselves fully. By this I mean that they know who they are, what their strengths and weaknesses are, and how to fully deploy their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. (Bennis, p.3)*

Building on MBTI, we participated in a vision exercise and discussed why vision is so important in leadership. A vision statement, as opposed to a mission statement, is where we **want** to be or "...a clear, compelling picture of the desired future." As one of our facilitators said, "If you don't have a clear vision and you don't communicate that vision, you cannot possibly get there."

We participated in an exercise called "Critical Issues for Library Leaders", learning about creativity and expanding on the vision exercise. Each "learning group" was assigned the task of creating a problem statement that described a major issue facing libraries today. We were then asked to describe how we, as library leaders, would approach this challenge.

What I found very interesting during this process was the discover that **all four** groups came up with the same problem, although stated differently. The common problem was that people do not realize what libraries can do for them and that libraries are undervalued. This activity had a great impact on me. It made me realize how important it is for me to express my passion about regional libraries and how critical it is that we make people realize what libraries can do for them.

We explored other major factors in effective leadership: physical and emotional risk-taking and its importance in leadership; chaos and change and our personal responses to change; power and influence and how leaders can empower others.

One activity which was particularly enjoyed by both participants and mentors as "My Practice, My Passion". Each day, one hour was set aside for participants to choose one of the eight mentors with whom to visit. Mentors, renowned library leaders from the U.S., Canada, and Australia, took the opportunity to talk about values, pivotal decisions, and critical issues.

The Snowbird Leadership Institute was not all work. It did allow time for reflection, and, of course, for some fun. We went on early morning walk-about up the mountain; we rode up the chair-lift and on top were entertained by musicians. We even learned the Electric Slide, taught by Hardy Franklin, Past-President of American Library Association. Finally, some of my most cherished memories are of the evenings we gathered in the hot tub to talk and sing and relax.

The experience left me very inspired and feeling like I could change the world! But

we were warned about that on the final day, and I am gradually learning to have what Bennis calls "courageous patience". I am grateful to Dr. Bertram and the Yellowhead Regional Library for supporting my nomination. Snowbird '94 was truly an inspirational path to self-discovery. It was the most memorable experience I have had, and it has left an indelible imprint in my mind.

I am very pleased that Ernie Ingles has spearheaded a similar initiative in Canada. The 'Northern Exposure' to Leadership Institute was held at Emerald Lake, B. C. in the Fall. Librarians need opportunities like this to assist in developing and enhancing individual leadership skills. These experiences ultimately benefit the entire library community.

### **National Library Award-winner Attending SLIS**

*Diane Tinnish*

Deborah Pelletier, like many librarians before her, took a less that direct route to library school. But now that she is here, the path appears well lit and straight ahead. Pelletier is in full time attendance in her first year of the MLIS program as a recipient of the Library Science Trainee Award from the National Library of Canada. The award covers tuition, books, and a living allowance for a two-year program, plus on-the-job training during the summer at the National Library and a guarantee of employment at the National Library upon successful completion of the program. The criteria for the award include a knowledge of French, an undergraduate degree, an academic average up to graduate studies standards, and aboriginal ancestry. The purpose of the award is to increase aboriginal representation in the library field.

Pelletier was encouraged to apply for the award by former supervisor John Murray, Library Coordinator at the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research in Regina. After an interview and written examination in Ottawa, Pelletier felt confident about her performance and her chances. When notified that she had been selected for the award, she applied to the U of A. She chose it because of its geographic proximity to her family and friends in Saskatchewan and because of the positive reports of alumni John Murray and Keith Turnbull, the latter formerly of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and now head of Public Services and Edmonton Public Library.

Pelletier grew up on the prairies in a multilingual home. Her father spoke several languages and both parents spoke "Mischief Cree", a dialect comprised of French, English, and Cree. After 11 years as a government clerk stenographer, she enrolled in 1985 in the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program at the University of Regina. While a student there, she worked as a library clerk in the Gabriel Dumont Institute Library and also spent time in Quebec pursuing French language studies. During her undergraduate education she received a number of awards.

After graduating in 1991, Pelletier taught for the Regina Public School Board for three years. While she enjoyed teaching, she wanted to expand her horizons and further her ambitions for the Metis culture.

While at library school Pelletier intends to maintain her focus on the library and information needs of aboriginal people. In addition she plans to concentrate on library management and public service.

Pelletier sees a number of options in her

future library career. She is obligated to work for the National Library for a period equivalent to the time she spends in the school program. She envisions the possibility of consulting and/or contractual work for school divisions or public library systems. When discussing the Albert Branch of the Regina Public Library and the exciting things they have been doing with programming and outreach, Pelletier concluded that managing a similar library would be one of her dream jobs.

### **LISAA Membership List 1994/95**

Many thanks to the following people for showing their support for LISAA by taking out a membership. Your support allows us to sponsor an annual scholarship for a student entering the program, and provides us with funds to sponsor various events throughout the year to keep Alumni in touch with each other, and the School.

Altmann, Anna  
Anderson, Dixie  
Armstrong, Mary Lou  
Arnison, June  
Barber, Jeff  
Barlow, Beth  
Bayrak, Bettie  
Beristain, Maureen  
Bertram, Sheila  
Brayford, Susan  
Brockmeyer-Klebaum, Donna  
Brooks, Helena  
Bruce, Bob  
Buckle, Joanne  
Burns, Tiina  
Burriss, Mike  
Burrows, Barbara  
Calvert, Kerri  
Carter, Kathy  
Chang, Lucy  
Christie-Milley, D. Kim  
Cloutier, Claudia

Cooke, G. A. (Nita)  
DeLong, Kathleen  
Donoff, Danusia  
Downey, Judy-Lynn  
Eastwood, Anke  
Evans, Patricia  
Ewanchuk, Sylvia  
Flood, Sylvia  
Frey, Dean  
Fry, Hazel  
Goebel, Nancy  
Graham, Heather  
Hamilton Dennis, Karen  
Heaney, Ellen  
Hebditch, Suzan  
Hughes, Sheila  
Jacobson, Della  
James, Norene  
Jenkinson, Dave  
Jones, Angela  
Jones, Elaine  
Kemp, Joanne  
Knor, Frank J.  
L'Hirondale, Paula  
Ladouceur, Laura  
MacCallum, Linda  
Martin, Sylvia  
Martinez, Pilar  
McDougall, D. Blake  
Mikalonis, Sandra  
Ming, Marilyn  
Minion, Robin  
Mortimore, Marlene  
Murray, Rita  
Oberg, Dianne  
Olcen, Karen  
Penner, Elfrieda  
Quoika-Stanka, Wanda  
Redford, Marcia  
Roberti, Damien  
Roberts, Marlyn  
Rodermond, Margaret  
Roe, Brent  
Rollins, Caron  
Roseneder, Jan  
Schmidt-Lorberg, Marlice  
Schrader, Alvin

Shaw, Jeanne M.  
Sheedy, Paula J.  
Siga, Sharon  
Slemko, M. Yvonne  
Smith, Arthur  
Storie, Ilona  
Swanson, Marnie  
Taylor, Darlene  
Tong, Josie  
Turnbull, Keith  
Valli, Gilda L. F.  
Walford, Gale (nee Rolley)  
Walker, Gail  
Ward, Dennis  
Watson, Lisa-Jane  
Wilde, Brenda

**Invitation to all SLIS Alumni &  
Supporters  
Welcome to the Profession  
Reception  
March 3, 1995**

All Alumni and supporters are invited to attend the **Welcome to the Profession Reception** following the 9th Annual Professional Development Day March 3rd. LISAA sponsors this reception to be held in Henderson Hall (1-17 Rutherford South) beginning at 4:00. Please join us to eat, drink, and be merry, but most importantly to meet and welcome the profession's newest graduates.





University of Alberta  
Edmonton

School of Library and Information Studies

Canada T6G 2J4

3-20 Rutherford South  
Telephone (403) 492-4578 Fax (403) 492-2430  
E-mail: [USERSLIS@UALTAMTS.BITNET](mailto:USERSLIS@UALTAMTS.BITNET)  
or: [USERSLIS@MTS.UCS.UALBERTA.CA](mailto:USERSLIS@MTS.UCS.UALBERTA.CA)

### **NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT U OF A - M.E.P. HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIP**

The School of Library and Information Studies is pleased to announce the establishment of a new scholarship fund in the name of Dr Mary Elizabeth Park (Betty) Henderson, who has generously donated \$30,000 to honour academic achievement and profession potential among students in the Master of Library and Information Studies program at the University of Alberta. The first scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to a full-time continuing student in the program but as the fund appreciates, a second scholarship will be established for entering students.

Dr Henderson, professor emerita, taught at the University of Alberta from 1969 to 1982. She was the School's second Director and first Dean (the School became a Faculty in 1975), serving from 1971 to 1976. During her tenure, the two-year Master of Library Science program as the first professional degree was planned and implemented. Dr Henderson was born in Saskatchewan and raised there and in Scotland. She obtained a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of British Columbia in 1943 and the next year a Bachelor of Library Science degree from the University of Toronto. She received an Honourary Doctorate from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1975. In 1974-75, she also had the honour of serving as president of the Canadian Library Association.

In addition to her extensive professional and academic activities, Dr Henderson has been a long-time activist in the women's movement and in the social democratic movement in Canada, having contributed to the founding of the CCF and ND Parties.

In 1985, the Canadian Library Association recognized Dr Henderson's commitment to the profession by awarding her its Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award.

Dr Henderson's generosity to the School is deeply appreciated by both students and faculty.

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