



University of Alberta
Edmonton

Library and Information Studies
Alumni Association

<http://www.slis.ualberta.ca/>

NEWS

October 1997

From the President's Think Pad

Suddenly Last Summer!

It seemed most fitting, when my handsome significant other (a.k.a. Andrzej, husband of 20 years) presented me with a set of tickets for Tennessee Williams' play under the above title. Just look what happened last summer:

SLIS has a new Director, Professor Alvin M. Schrader, who also won the Canadian Library Association's 1997 Award. Our association has a new constitution, revised job description for the executive members, and new people on the executive. I accepted a new position, in addition to my appointment on LISAA executive, and as a proper pioneer, have a back full of arrows.

Edmonton gained a wonder of acoustics, a new music center and a new program paradigm that is overshadowing the Rolling Stones visit. Last week, the new Winspear Center for Music opened its doors to lunch hour concerts, shamelessly borrowing OUR concept of brown bag lunches. The Citadel Theater successfully premiered with the above mentioned "Suddenly Last Summer!" Some other changes downtown include a new director at Edmonton Public Library, our own Linda Cook, and for the downtown branch - a new name and cappuccino bar.

Since I have taken over the mantle of presidency, we have had one executive meeting on September 8th. It was fun to get acquainted and do some planning. We are especially happy to welcome the new members, Barbara, Beth, and Diane, and to have Jill on the team again, now as a communications officer.

I had the honor and pleasure to congratulate Barbara Alvarez, the LISAA'97 scholarship winner. The short meeting with the incoming students was a bit nostalgic to me, with a sense of deja-vu and a pang of envy. Many of you were able to come and visit with the faculty and students during University of Alberta Reunion Weekend, and relived the very special memories. We toasted you with a glass of champagne on October 4th. Our guests of honor were the graduates of 1972!

Thanks to your dedication and financial contribution, all is all right with our association! Please take a minute to reflect on our motto "*continuing the experience*", and advise us in any convenient way, of your requests, ideas, comments. As our profession thrives through transition, as I am getting ready for the first Canadian conference of the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals, and as SLIS students are designing fantastic web sites, we are reminded again that the School needs our support to keep up with sophisticated technology. This year fund raising project is aimed at upgrading equipment necessary to acquaint the students with computerized presentations. We would like to help the school with financing a pull-down projector screen for the computer lab. Please take time to read the smaller print on the membership form. Every contribution counts, and you just never know - our children might enter the school, e.g. one first year students' mom was a classmate (or was it a college at the public library in Brampton?) of Dr. Schrader.

I really liked this newspaper headline: Remember Diana, do something good, contribute!

On this note,
Thank you for trusting me with the job of representing you in 97/98, and please stay in touch!

Aleksandra Nowacka, Class '93

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News from the School

I'd like to extend my congratulations to all of the graduates of the class of '97 and welcome them to their new profession - and to our very own Alumni Association, LISAA (this is the one with only one 's' in its name).

One of the ways in which university administrators measure the strength of academic programs - believe it or not - is levels of alumni support. So we hope that you will become active supporters of the School in whatever form you wish that support to take. Scholarship donations would be most worthy. So would serving on the alumni executive. And so would a donation to support the Alumni Association's annual School

project. Whatever you do, please consider that a strong School means a stronger profession.

I am delighted to welcome our newest full-time member of the faculty, Dr. Margaret Mackey, whose specializations are reading research, multi-media literacy, and collection development. I also want to welcome Professor Toni Samek back to full-time service after a term on leave pursuing her doctoral dissertation. She now has an oral defence date set, January 15, 1998, and we wish her well in that endeavour! Further staff news is that Paulette Massie, the School's student records administrator, has moved to Calgary to pursue new interests, and in her place we are very pleased to welcome Susan Scullion, who has had a very busy summer familiarizing herself with admissions procedures and the incoming class of students.

I had the great pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan Library Association's annual conference in Regina last April, and brought greetings from the Alumni Association and the School to the President's Reception on the Thursday evening, April 17th, after Marilyn Simonds read from her newly-published novel *The Convict Lover*. I had brought along a copy of Dr. Robert Brundin's history of the School to give to the earliest alum attending the Reception, and the winner was Marie Sakon, class of '70, who works for the Saskatchewan Provincial Library. I also had the pleasure of presenting a lively session at the conference on censorship issues.

There are presently 94 students in the MLIS program, of whom 42 were admitted to first year and 4 transferred into second year from other LIS programs in Canada. Students have come from all over the country - Victoria, Bamfield, Burnaby, Vancouver, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Strathmore, Whitehorse, Regina, Hepburn, Winnipeg, Brampton, Ottawa, Peterborough, St. Catharines, Grimsby, Springford, Montreal, Dartmouth, and Halifax. A full 30% of students are now taking the program on a part-time basis; this is up from 24% last year.

A total of 24 students convoked in the spring and another 8 will convocate this fall. We are delighted that many of them already have full-time jobs - congratulations to them, and good luck to those still seeking positions.

I must close on three notes of sadness, but ones that are at the same time full of admiration and

hope. Miss Lesley Heathcote, a distinguished librarian who last year endowed two \$4,500 scholarships for SLIS students, died this past summer in Vancouver. Penny McKee, a long-time supporter and former adjunct professor in the School, died on May 23, 1997. And we have just learned that Betty Henderson, who taught at the School from 1969 to 1982 and was its second director 1971-1976, died earlier this month on October 7. Dr. Henderson donated \$30,000 in 1994 to establish a new scholarship fund for SLIS students. I pay tribute to these three outstanding women librarians who have made a positive difference in all of our lives in one way or another.

Alvin M. Schrader, SLIS Director

Canadian Library Association - Intellectual Freedom Award, 1997

Dr. Alvin M. Schrader, Professor and Director of the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, received the Canadian Library Association's 1997 Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada, "in recognition and honour of his leadership and courage in defending and promoting the principles of intellectual freedom in Canada." Dr. Schrader regularly speaks at conferences about his research on intellectual freedom issues, most recently focusing on Internet censorship. His research into the climate of intellectual freedom in Canadian public libraries was published in 1995 as *Fear of Words*. This award has been given only four times in the last decade, and this is the first time it has been made to an individual rather than to a library.

Margaret Mackey Appointed Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies

Alvin M. Schrader, Acting Director, School of Library and Information Studies, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Margaret Mackey as assistant professor in a tenure-track position with the School, effective July 1, 1997. Currently serving as a sessional instructor in the Department of Secondary Education, she brings to her new position an exceptional record of international scholarly research achievement

and a wide range of school and university teaching experience.

Professor Mackey's long-term research interest is in the changing literacies of young people. A two-year post-doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada enabled her to work on two substantial projects about variants in many media of a single text. A survey of versions of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, combined with a consideration of the implications of such textual proliferation for child readers, is about to be published as a book by Garland Publishing in the series *Children's Literature and Culture*, edited by Jack Zipes. A study of young people aged seven, ten and thirteen, all exploring versions of *The Secret Garden* in a variety of media, is still underway. A new three-year research grant, also from SSHRCC, will permit her to continue and expand her work with young people's responses to texts in a variety of media.

Professor Mackey is the North American editor of *Children's Literature in Education*, one of the pre-eminent international journals in the field of children's literature. At a more local level, she is engaged with a colleague in ongoing in-service work with librarians and teachers to extend their awareness of contemporary literature for young people.

Professor Mackey's published work on the development of adolescent readers has appeared in several countries in journals dealing with children's literature, library and information studies, English teaching, and the specialist teaching of reading. Her article, "The New Basics: Learning to Read in a Multimedia World," which first appeared in the British journal *English in Education* in 1994, has just been selected as one of four articles to appear on the first Web Page of the National Association for the Teaching of English.

Margaret Mackey received her Ph.D. from the University of Alberta in 1995, and her MLIS in 1991. She has taught in secondary schools in Britain, and worked as a school librarian. At the university level, she has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in the School of Library and Information Studies and the Department of Secondary Education. She recently designed a distance course for Athabasca University entitled "Children and Media."

Professor Mackey's appointment furthers

dramatically the School's vision of developing a research and teaching specialization in the area of youth information services and needs, a vision that the School is confident will permit it to make an international contribution to the theory and practice of library and information studies.

News From Our Grads

Jennifer Lazzari (grad 1996)

"I moved back to Camrose last summer (1996) when I began working at Augustana University College. I have since bought a house in the college area and have settled back into the community. I am working for Nancy Goebel and with Paul Neff, both also graduates of the MLIS program at the U. of A. It's nice to have this common thread with my co-workers and to be able to share similar experiences."

Norm Friesen (grad 1996)

"I'm very busy".

Mary Bennett (grad 1996)

"I am still living in Edmonton, working part-time for Edmonton Public Library at the Millwoods branch until the end of the year. I was previously working at the Jasper Place branch as children's Librarian. I really like working for EPL and hope to get on permanently. I will also be working at the new Chapters bookstore on the south side when it opens. I think it will be fun, and I hope to learn a lot and buy a lot of books!

Natalie Chute (grad 1996)

"I seem to do a lot of work in the library - for no pay! Actually, I am back at the U. of A. working on an MA in music. I am spending the summer reading and researching in hopes of proposing a thesis topic in September; currently I am examining issues of commodification of traditional music in Atlantic Canada. My library skills will be put to good use in September when I begin assisting Dr. Adam Krims with his research on Afrodiasporic music in Alberta."

Michael Taft (grad 1996)

"I am a folklorist and archivist, presently the Sound and Image Librarian at U. of North Carolina. My main task is archivist of the Southern Folklife Collection - one of the largest folklore collections in North America. My job is a busy one with a lot of responsibilities, but I am enjoying the challenges. I do, however, miss

Canada, and would eventually like to find a position north of the border."

Maureen Pelensky (grad 1996)

"Shortly after graduating, I obtained a position with Edmonton Public Schools as a Learning Resources Consultant. My main duties were to inservice library staffs and advise them about selection, organization, programming and design and integration of technology. The job was interesting and challenging, but I missed having my own library and my own kids! I'm going to Minchau School in September as teacher-librarian and looking forward to it!"

Sherry Bell (grad 1996)

"I am currently Library Director of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society (a volunteer position). The library is located in the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre. Please drop by for a visit and a tour!"

In Memoriam - Penelope McKee

Penelope McKee, who had recently retired as director of the Edmonton Public Library, died May 23, 1997 of breast cancer. She worked in the library field for 30 years, and as the director of the Edmonton Public Library since 1990. During her career, she was particularly concerned with issues of information access and library service, and the development of a partnership between the library and community, business and government groups. This partnership resulted in the creation of the Edmonton FreeNet. She was a leader in the library profession, and will be sadly missed by her colleagues and friends.

In Memoriam - Lesley Heathcote

Miss Lesley Heathcote died this summer. She leaves behind a legacy of a scholarship fund created in her name almost a year ago. Her scholarship honors academic achievement by students enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Studies program at the University of Alberta.

Lesley Muriel Heathcote was the youngest of the seven daughters of Henry and Annie Heathcote. She was born and raised in Edmonton and attended the University of Alberta where she earned a B.A. in

Honors French and German in 1924, and an M.A. in Philology (Historic Linguistics) in 1928. The following year she earned a B.S. in Library Science from the University of Washington, where she served as serials librarian for 15 years. In 1946 she began work in the Montana State University (then Montana State College), eventually achieving the position of Professor and Director of Libraries in 1965, retiring in 1970. During her tenure as Director, she oversaw the expansion of the University Library collections from 75,000 to nearly half a million volumes, as well as the construction of two library buildings.

Dr Heathcote's generosity to the School and to Alberta librarianship is deeply appreciated by students and faculty and by the library community of the Province.

SLIS Holds Teaching Colloquium

On August 26, 1997, 14 sessional and full-time faculty of the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, met for a full morning of discussion and exchange of information about instructional practices and the MLIS curriculum. Alvin Schrader, Director of the School, described the colloquium as "an opportunity to discuss teaching practices, tips, strategies, policies, concerns, questions, issues, and anything else on your mind."

The Colloquium began with a welcome from the Director and brief introductory remarks in which he said:

"Our School culture is to take pride in our teaching accomplishments and to pursue policies and practices that will facilitate or maintain excellent teaching. To further these goals, we've done a variety of things:

"- we developed a model of information elements that need to be included in all course outlines;

"- we instituted an informal mid-term feedback session in every class, with a model script of the rationale and guidelines for introducing the sessions;

"- we have produced comparative student ratings for all LIS courses, by term, in order to monitor our teaching effectiveness;

"- as Director I tried to observe most of the courses offered last year - and was most impressed with the diversity in approaches, styles, and methods;

"- we adopted a course grade analysis form that is now submitted with final grades, which quickly shows the overall GPA distribution;

"- we instituted a system of regular liaison between full-time and sessional staff.

"I see this meeting, then, as an opportunity to expand our dialogue about excellence in teaching and how to attain it - or, how to maintain it. For me personally as an instructor, a central question is: How does a teacher keep fresh, when they're teaching the same course year after year? While our meeting won't necessarily provide definitive answers to everything, we can at least identify areas where more background work, reflection, or policy needs to be developed."

The morning session began with a sharing of success stories from each of the participants about a teaching problem or concern that they had had - and had solved to their satisfaction. The second part of the morning focused on exploring a variety of teaching concerns, questions, and issues for more detailed discussion, as well as getting feedback on individual teaching practices.

The School-sponsored lunch at Rutherford House

was a further opportunity to talk about teaching - as well as an enjoyable conclusion to the Colloquium. Feedback was very positive, and some sort of annual or biennial meeting was recommended by participants.

SLIS Student Evaluations of Courses and Instructors: Comparisons for 1995-96 and 1996-97

In 1995, a policy was adopted mandating that all students at the University of Alberta, graduate and undergraduate, must have an opportunity to evaluate their courses and instructors based on a set of five standardized questions.

Like the year before, students thought SLIS courses and instructors in 1996-97 were above average. Students rated LIS courses better than 75% of all University courses on "overall course effectiveness" and "instructor accessibility". And they placed us above the median on the other three mandatory questions: "overall instructor effectiveness", "instructor respectfulness", and "instructor speech".



SLIS Colloquium Attendees, from left to right
front row: Pat Waterton, Margaret Mackey, Gail de Vos, Jeannine Green, Val Footz
back row: Hope Olson, Linda Cook, Dennis Ward, Toni Samek, Anna Altmann, Dianne Oberg, Dave Leonard, Yvonne Footz
missing: Alvin Schrader (the photographer)

	1996-97 fall / winter	1995-96 fall / winter
Speaking	3 / 3	3 / 3
Accessibility	4 / 4	4 / 4
Respectfulness	4 / 4	3 / 3
Instructor	3 / 3	4 / 4
Course	4 / 4	4 / 4

4 = above 75th percentile

3 = 50th to 75th percentile

Research Seminar Series: "Intellectual Freedom and Censorship"

Oct. 21, 1997 Dr. Malinda Smith
"Censorship and Political Correctness"

Dr. Smith is a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. She teaches in the area of international relations and recently held a post-doctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Seminar Location:

Room 3-01 Rutherford South, 12 noon to 12:45 p.m. For more details contact the SLIS general office, 492-4578.

We would like to announce the arrival of the NEOS Homepage!!

NEOS is a consortium of 20 academic, government and hospital libraries in central Alberta who have collaborated to create and maintain a shared on-line catalogue and a shared patron file. The homepage provides information regarding each member library and the policies and documents concerning the consortium. Access to the on-line catalogue, called "The GATE: NEOS Libraries' Catalogue" is provided via the homepage and is available through both:

telnet sessions (telnet://gate.library.alberta.ca - username: gate), and
world wide web access (<http://gate.library.ualberta.ca>).

NEOS is anticipating exciting results from this new electronic venture, allowing the consortium to communicate both with its own members, as well as with people around the globe.

Please visit our homepage at <http://www.augustana.ab.ca/neos>

For your information, here is a list of the NEOS member libraries:

Alberta Agriculture and Public Works Library
Alberta Research Council Library System
Alberta Economic Development Library
Alberta Education Library
Alberta Energy/Alberta Geological Survey Library
Alberta Environmental Protection Library
Alberta Health Library Services Branch
Concordia University College of Alberta Library
Augustana University College Library
Justice Canada Law Library
Cross Cancer Institute Library
Canadian University College library
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Library Services
Grey Nuns Community Health Centre Health Sciences Library
The King's University College Library
Misericordia Community Health Centre Weinlos Library
North American Baptist College/Edmonton Baptist Seminary Library
Royal Alexandra Hospitals
Red Deer College Library
University of Alberta Library System

Yours truly,

Nancy Goebel
Head Librarian
Augustana University College