



Alumni and CLA meet in Edmonton

by Melody Burton

When **Sharon Empey ('76)** and **Tina James ('71)** agreed to serve on the Conference Planning Committee (CPC) for CLA '89, they had no idea they would end up convening the national conference.

Peter Freeman, Director of Libraries at the University of Alberta stepped down as Conference Convenor following his appointment as Secretary of the Law Society of Alberta and subsequent resignation from the U of A.

Freeman's departure came late in the conference planning process and rather than introduce a new face to the CPC, CLA decided to choose a replacement from existing organizers.

Pairing Tina and Sharon for joint leadership was a logical step. Both Tina and Sharon have been intimately involved in conference details from the outset.

Well prepared to succeed

As Program Coordinator for the conference, Sharon had already completed a hefty portion of her sizable responsibilities - the development and scheduling of the conference's program.

With her Program Committee composed of representatives from CLA's Interest Groups and each of the association's divisions, over 160 events are scheduled, including 25 pre-conference activities and 139 sessions and social events.

Few and minor alterations to the program are expected in the remaining months.

In her spare time Sharon is Head of Database Management at U of A!

All joking aside, conference responsibilities entail exhaustive time commitments and fancy footwork to

coordinate time differences between Edmonton and Ottawa, understand a plethora of telecommunications delivery methods and unravel the inevitable scrambling that occurs when wires get crossed.

Job description misleading!

As Secretary of the CPC, Tina has handled conference details from Day One. CLA's guidelines define Tina's responsibilities as taking and distributing minutes, sending out notices of meetings and "other work as necessary."

And as you might have guessed, the "other" clause is 95% of the job and *undefinable*. Tina does more than take minutes.

She works closely with CPC members to synchronize their efforts and informs CLA Headquarters of progress and developments in Edmonton.

"Other" has ranged from proof-reading to fielding questions at a panel discussion to promote student participation in the conference.

In her spare time, Tina is Executive Assistant to U of A's Director of Libraries.

All in a day's planning

Conference planning is not without frustration and both Sharon and Tina confess that they have contemplated early retirement, but not seriously.

The personal rewards gleaned from organizing a national conference are significant.

CLA has initiated a new philosophy toward conferences and tighter budgeting has presented a greater challenge for the Co-Convenors.

"Despite all the changes, we've met all the deadlines. The conference is on schedule," smiles Sharon.

"The program people have adapted to a new program format and done so with

enthusiasm," she adds.

Both Tina and Sharon agree that it's the local people pulling together that make the planning experience worthwhile.

Watch for alumni

Serving on these conference committees are a number of FLS grads.

Program Committee members - the people responsible for the intellectual content of the conference - include **Jill Armitage ('76)** as Assistant Program Coordinator, CACUL representative **Leslie LaFleur ('71)**, CASLIS rep **Suzan Hebditch ('83)** and Interest Groups rep **Juliette Henley ('70)**.

CPC members perform the logistics of the conference. These are the people behind the scenes.

Apart from Tina and Sharon add in to the CPC - **Bettie Bayrak's ('75)** responsibilities for Meals and Entertainment, **Sharon Gee ('74)** for Registration and **Melody Burton ('86)** for Public Relations.

...Everywhere

The alumni mentioned are those who are working as committee chairpersons. Alumni serve as volunteers on a variety of local arrangements committees.

And don't forget that a host of alumni will appear during the conference as speakers, lending their expertise to conference delegates.

Get in touch

CLA will continue to issue conference updates, but anyone wishing more information can contact Tina or Sharon by telephone (403) 432-3790 or Envoy: CLA.CONF or FAX (403) 432-4327.

See you there!

Editorial: Things I never learned in library school

These are the sobering thoughts that hang over every New Year.

Each January I celebrate - while first year library science students endure research methods, I'm not.

Instead of research methodology, how about a course in stress management? Minimally, an annotated list of psychologists (not a bibliography) should accompany the course outline.

Once I became gainfully employed, I learned that library research is a synonym for librarian-bashing. I was stunned to learn that at my reference peak, I could *aim* for a 50% success rate with questions. *And this includes directional queries on the location of washrooms and photocopiers?*

For anyone who harbours the goal of being or becoming competent, the effects of this revelation range from disheartening to traumatic depending upon your emotional threshold.

That's why the stress management course is a compulsory survival tactic. *(The psychologist helps with the accompanying guilt.)*

Do you suppose the medical profession funds research to discover the percentage of doctors performing surgery *incorrectly*? And if they did would the results be broadcast publicly?

Does the legal profession reveal win-loss rates as a level of incompetency or as a cumulative measure of the difficulty of *individual* cases? Luck of the draw so to double-speak?

It's my impression that "serious" library research is a backlash, an overcompensation for more traditional "how-I-done-it-good" research. Unfortunately, as a profession we frown upon this genre of research.

To feel good about my profession, I decided to speculate upon how other professionals (READ: experts) might solve my dilemma.

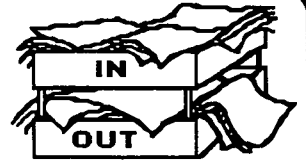
A lawyer might advise that to avoid a nasty court case it is wise to qualify all reference answers with "I don't know."

A statistician would confirm that this is an obvious method of increasing a reference librarian's success rate. *Because it's accurate!*

Ironically, a consumer advocate might insist that our clients right to know is being violated unless a warning or disclaimer is posted beside information desks.

I wonder if a half-time librarian scores correctly 0%, 25%, 50% or 100% of the time? I guess it depends upon her success rate at home

From the
President's desk



Happy New Year!

Since this year will undoubtedly be as busy as last year for us all, we've set the dates for our two social functions so everyone can reserve them in their new calendars early.

This year's LSAA reception for the graduating class of '89 will be held on April 1st. Louise Nordin will be formally recognized as our first honorary member so we hope many past graduates will join in the celebration.

On the evening of Wednesday, June 21 from 8-10 pm, we will kick-off CLA with a wine and cheese party and hope that all graduates (and friends, spouses, significant others) attending the conference will join in launching CLA.

Our executive has expanded since the last issue of News. Two students representatives, one from each year's class, were elected to the LSAA Executive this fall.

Katheryn Kirchmeir, the first recipient of the LSAA scholarship is the 1st year representative and Judy Lynn Downey is our "voting" representative from second year.

Once again we urge all of our members to renew their memberships if they haven't already done so and to pass along their copy of News to any graduates who haven't joined LSAA.

Remember that 40% of your membership fee goes directly to our scholarship fund so it is money well spent.

Last year we were able to grant a scholarship of \$400. Let's keep the amount growing!

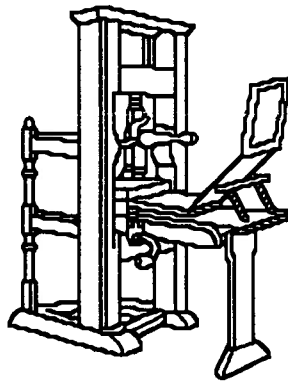
More again in April ...

**Kit Wilson
President**

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

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

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), 432-5972 (work).



Faculty Notes

Librarian-publisher visits

FLIS announced that **Dr Frances Halpenny** will be visiting the Faculty of Library and Information Studies, February 27 to March 10, 1989.

In addition to lecturing during regular classes, Halpenny will present several lectures open to the public and co-sponsored by CASLIS, the Greater Edmonton Library Association, the U of A Library, the U of A Press and the Department of Canadian Studies.

Halpenny's presence in the Faculty has been made possible by Faculty's successful application to the Distinguished Visitor Fund.

Halpenny is the Faculty's second Distinguished Visitor. (Margaret Beckman was the first last year.)

And distinguished she is! Anyone unfamiliar with Halpenny's list of credits will soon agree that she brings a wealth of expertise to library studies students.

Although Halpenny "graduated" to the rank of Professor Emerita at U of Toronto in 1984 after a long association with the Faculty of Library and Information Studies and even serving a stint as Dean, Halpenny is far from retired.

Her achievements include General Editor of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, a reference project of mega-proportions that has been ongoing since the late 50's and saw Halpenny join the staff in 1969.

Halpenny most recently completed editing volume 8, the 11th offering of the DCB.

Dr. Halpenny will be a featured guest at the Student's Association's Annual Careers Day on March 10, 1989.

In good company

Joining Halpenny are prominent panelists **National Librarian Marianne Scott** and **CLA's First Vice-President, Beth Barlow ('72)** of Saskatoon Public Library and **BJ Busch** of U of A's Humanities and Social Sciences Library and Past

President of PNLA.

Six students will present their research projects and Careers Day winds up with a GALA in honour of all the guests.

Careers Day is a popular event among students who have awarded it annual status. This is the third time Careers Day has been scheduled.

By inviting librarians into the faculty, students and prospective employers conduct interviews in a non-threatening, but informative manner.

Sheila urges that you **all** plan now to attend.

Free trade nets one for US

Dr Alvin Schrader is on leave from FLIS until September '89, but isn't inactive.

Alvin is Visiting Scholar at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Heather-Belle Dowling former Head of Strathcona Public Library is teaching Public Libraries (LIS 541) in Alvin's absence.

FLIS dips into research pot

Dr Anna Altmann has just received \$3250 from U of A's Central Research Fund to complete a database of Canadian fiction for children.

Gail de Vos ('88) will be assisting Anna during the project.

Dr Sheila Betram also received \$3500 from the same fund to do a bibliometric analysis of the Shroud of Turin.

Teresa Richey ('89) will be working with Sheila.

(Let's hope the results of Sheila's research lends a new meaning to "bible-o-metrics." Remember the search for roots and meanings in Research methods?)

Alberta newspapers published

Professor Gloria Strathern's monograph Alberta newspapers, 1880-1982: An historical directory has been published

by the University of Alberta Press.

Professor Strathern promptly organized the **Alberta Newspapers Symposium** held in Edmonton in mid-December.

The workshop was followed by a reception hosted by the Faculty to celebrate the launching of the book.

(Rumours abound that Gloria plans to retire on the proceeds from the sale of the movie rights.)

CD-ROM collection grows

Recent acquisitions to the FLIS students resources include SCI Index (a 3-month sample set), PAIS from 1972-1988 and the Serials Directory.

Bowker has just announced that they will provide all library schools with Books in Print Plus and Ulrich's Plus.

The Faculty continues to purchase Library Literature and hopes to add LISA in the future.

Courses in the offering

For any alumni wishing to upgrade that BLS, finish off that MLIS or simply update their expertise, here are the coming attractions...

Business Resources (LIS 598) with Kathy West and Susan Powelson of U of A's Business Reference.

Records Management (LIS 594) with Dr Anna Altmann **Canadian Literature for Young People in Schools and Libraries** (ED CI 445) - Sandra Mikalonis

Special Collections Librarianship (LIS 544) with Dr Robert Brundin

Storytelling (LIS 412) - Sandra Mikalonis

More information is available by contacting 492-4140.

And in case you hadn't noticed...

It's the Faculty of Library and Information Studies.

Oh and please give this some thought ... would you like the alumni association name changed too to reflect the change in faculty?

Think about it for our upcoming events.



Who's doing what where

Attention all alumni

With CLA '89 not far off, be sure to reserve a spot on your calendar to unite with your class.

To help any of you plan a reunion with your classmates, U of A's Alumni Office will assist with the financial costs of a mail-out. They can also provide names and addresses of classmates by year of graduation.

Any class president who wishes to pursue a special gathering should contact our liaison Barbara Chaffey, Administrative Assistant, Alumni Association, 430 Athabasca Hall, U of A, T6G 2E8 or telephone 492-3224.

A special invitation is extended to the Class of 1. (Those brave souls who went the distance, survived uncharted waters and paved the way for the rest of us.)

The Class of 1 will be celebrating - as we all will be - the 20 year anniversary of their graduation and the Faculty.

Be sure to take the opportunity to congratulate these graduates, the original FLS BLSers.

Bravo Class of '69!

Gone to the dogs!: John and Shirley Wright added a dog to their household (Jasper, a Jack Russell Terrier) and Dr. Bob Brundin is the proud owner of Shade, a Terri-poo.

Graduated: Anne Stang ('69) with an MLIS at the University of Western Ontario. Anne recently moved from a high school to an elementary school and is "thoroughly enjoying the change."

Moved over: Nancy Jones ('81) to Alberta Culture from Stony Plains Westerra Institute of Technology.

Blessed: Edith Parsons ('81) with a daughter, Ellen born August 22, 1988. Edith was on leave from Yellowhead Regional Library, but has returned to work following her maternity leave.

At home: Suzan Hebditch ('83) as librarian with the Department of Justice Library in Edmonton and in her newly renovated home.

Congratulations: Janet Walker ('84) on the birth of Molly, November 15, 1988. Janet is employed at North York Public Library as a reference librarian.

Congratulations: Diana Guinn ('83) starts off the new year with a new job as an instructor in the Library Technician Program at RRCC. Diana leaves her job at Manitoba's Department of Environment Workplace, Safety and Health to teach.

Congratulations: Keith Hart ('85) now Assistant Production Manager with AGT's Marketing and Research Division. Keith is working as documents librarian and reports he's building his own classification scheme from the "ground up."

Busy: Theresa Shaw ('85) writes she is living in

Oshawa since November '85, working as Deputy Chief Librarian at Ajax Public Library. Theresa has three children - Erin (9), David (3.5) and Zoe (18 mo). Theresa says "life is full!"

Training: Darrell Bailey ('86) for the Boston Marathon. Darrel is working out at UBC doing an MBA part-time, working in a business library part-time and running 25 km daily. The svelt Bailey is a shadow of his former self and fit as a fiddle.

Moving: Laura Beswick ('86) with her library in Stoney Plain to a strip mall. Forget the storage problem indoors, look outdoors at the parking lot. It's short on stalls. Anyone investigated "compact parking"?

"Writing madly": Carol DeBoeck ('86) in England trying to finish off a PhD in Librarianship at the University of Wales, Aberystwith.

Proud author: Theresa Hiebert ('86) of "Prevalence of illegal motor vehicle driving among visually impaired elderly patients" in the Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology, 23no.7 (1988).

Lost: Anna-Marie Pamela Wheeler ('87). If anyone knows how to get in touch with Anna-Marie, please contact the office at 492-4140.

Still computing: Ross Sherwin ('87) at the U of A as Bibliographic Instruction Librarian. Ross co-authored with Doug Poff a guide unraveling the mysteries of U of A's DOBIS entitled Teach yourself the on-line catalogue. The guide also includes tips for dialing-in to the catalogue from remote locations.

History: Guy Michaud ('88) is working in Ottawa with Museums Canada.

Congratulations: Beth Cook (Muir) who you remember from the FLIS office on the birth of Danielle Maria Elizabeth on January 8, 1989.

Jana Lamont ('75, '82), 1939-1988

Jana passed away on December 27, 1988 after a long battle with cancer.

Jana was born in Czechoslovakia and studied law at The Charles University of Prague before emigrating to Canada in 1968.

During 1970-75, she completed her BA and MA in Linguistics (Russian) and an MLS.

Jana worked for the Faculty of Extension as a library assistant before becoming a programmer/analyst with U of A's Department of Computing Services in 1977.

She was responsible for providing information services to the Data Library and especially fluent with SPIRES and CANSIM databases.

Jana will be sadly missed by her classmates and colleagues.