



NEWS

December 1996



President's Message *LISAA Makes a Difference*

Since last spring, the executive members have been working hard to ensure that LISAA is a dynamic organization making a significant contribution to our professional community. This year, LISAA is focusing on supporting the library school by assisting with the *recruitment of outstanding students*. In addition to donations, a portion of your LISAA membership fee goes into the scholarship fund. The school's healthy scholarship offerings *do* encourage outstanding students to choose our alma mater. We can eagerly look forward to the time when our fund is large enough to add a second annual scholarship.

Our fund raising project this year is also aimed at recruitment. We have received donations from our members to support the school's development of a logo, brochure, and poster. Many thanks to those of you that have already contributed to the creation of these marketing materials. **To ensure long-term continuing excellence, we must be recruiting exceptional people into our professional community. Your vision and support for LISAA do make a difference!**

Our autumn events (the Calgary Wine & Cheese, Champagne Breakfast on Reunion Weekend, and special lecture by Dr. William Birdsall) were a great success.

- Each year, our Calgary friends look forward to visiting together at the annual Wine & Cheese. This year, SLIS Acting Director Alvin Schrader engaged the group in an informal and informative discussion about 'what's new at the school'. The fine food, wine and conversation were enjoyed by all.
- The Champagne Breakfast proved to be a delightful addition to the Super Saturday events held on Reunion Weekend. Henderson Hall was decked out with balloons, linen table cloths, music and silver tea service. Attendees indulged in a smorgasbord of sweets and savouries with plenty of champagne and orange juice all around. The enthusiastic reaction to this event ensures that this bit of fun will be repeated!
- Dr. William Birdsall's lecture on 'The Myth of the Electronic Library' drew a large crowd to Rutherford House. This thought provoking lecture created lively conversation during the reception held in the lovely historic rooms. LISAA co-sponsored this event with the University of Alberta Libraries and the Greater Edmonton Library Association.

In the early months of 1997, we can look forward to the Partners in Education Reception (January 24) and the Welcome to the Profession Reception (March 7), both in Edmonton. LISAA also intends

to host receptions at the *Canadian Library Association Conference* in Ottawa this June, and the *Saskatchewan Library Association Conference*. Be sure to read the spring newsletter for details!

Wishing you and yours bright days and magic for the festive season and New Year.

Merry merry!!

--Della Jacobson,
LISAA President



Working in Partnership

Partners Day is another successful collaborative program initiated by the School of Library and Information Studies with members of Edmonton's professional library community.

This year on November 1, 1996, many of the first and second year students from the school paired with professional librarians to gain a sense of what being a librarian is all about! On January 24, another 51 students are scheduled to spend a half day in the field.

The Alumni Association is pleased to be an ongoing participant in the Partners Day reception. This year's reception will be held at the U of A Faculty Club on January 24, 1997 from 4 to 6 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Thanks for Making it Happen

Thanks SLIS Students...

Brenda Philip

Denise Koufogiannakis

Kim Clarke

Robin Bishop

For helping with this fall's mailout of LISAA membership forms and newsletter, many thanks.

Applause for...

Claudette Cloutier

Justine Wheeler

Michael Dudley

For helping to organize the Calgary Wine & Cheese in October. We couldn't have done it without you!

A Bouquet for...

Nadine Hoffman for helping the LISAA executive with the Champagne Breakfast during Reunion Weekend.

LISAA Under Construction

An exciting new opportunity to help your Alumni Association and gain valuable experience at the same time!

The Library and Information Studies Alumni Association is looking for students and/or alumni to help with the development of a LISAA website. If you are a student, it is a great opportunity to boost your resume. If you are an alumni, it is another way to help your Association and keep in touch with fellow graduates.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Ann Schielbein at anns@incentre.net or (403) 427-7849, or Della Jacobson at (403) 492-8348.



A Tribute to Dr. Sheila Bertram

On Saturday, June 22, 1996, Alumni House at the University of Alberta hosted a festive celebration of the career of Dr. Sheila Bertram. 120 people attended the casual gathering, enjoyed a tasty barbeque, mingled with old friends and colleagues and listened to speeches which highlighted Sheila's career and the history of the School - the two are very much entwined!

In 1970, Dr. Sheila Bertram joined what is now the School of Library and Information Studies. During her 1/4 century of service as a faculty member, she has taught over 1,000 students, among whom many have counted her as mentor and model. In her role as academic administrator (Dean 1988-91, Director 1991-96), her full potential for creative leadership emerged. She has achieved significant faculty renewal at a time of decreasing budgetary resources, promoted and strengthened the School's relationship with the professional community, raised the School's profile in the academic community, and has acted as mentor and inspiration to her faculty. Under her guidance, the School has not only survived, but moved forward to provide first-class education in library and information services for the 21st century.

Dr. Bertram has always contributed to the status of women, at the U of A, and in science. She was a founding member of the AWA, a key figure in the establishment of the first university-affiliated daycare, and an active participant in Women in Scholarship in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WISEST). In her activities on a wide variety of key university committees, she has promoted the participation of women in university governance. In addition to her multifaceted contribution to the University over the past 26 years, she has also managed to raise a family and participate in local issues and activities in the community.

As a lasting tribute to Sheila, her influence on the School, its students and alumni, its curriculum and its vision, many people contributed generously to the Sheila Bertram 501 Book Prize. In all, over \$3000 was raised, \$1500 of which will be donated to the Scholarship fund endowed by the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association (LISAA), in order to shorten the time until a second scholarship can be offered to support students in the MLIS program at the University of Alberta.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to Sheila for her continuing support of the School.

**Profile: Alvin M. Schrader,
SLIS Acting Director**

Alvin has come full circle: a native Albertan, born in the Bentley hospital and raised on a farm near Rimbey, he emigrated to Carleton University for graduate studies in history and political science and then worked in Toronto for many years both before and after his MLS at the University of Toronto. He joined the School back here in Alberta in 1982 while completing his doctoral studies at Indiana University in Bloomington. His dissertation analyzed definitions of library science and information science over the last 100 years or so, and attempted to map out a theoretical framework for a more rigorous conceptualization of library and information studies as an academic and professional discipline.

His professional experience includes two years as a special librarian (information resources consultant!) in Toronto and two years as the manager of public library reference services for the City of Brampton (Ontario) Public Library and Art Gallery. While in Toronto, he co-authored a controversial monograph on library education with former U of T faculty member, Dr. Lloyd Houser, entitled *The Search for a Scientific Profession*.

He was elected last June for a three-year term to the Executive Council of the Canadian Library Association, and had just finished a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the Library Association of Alberta. He has served for many years on the intellectual freedom committees of both LAA and the CLA. A long-standing opponent of state censorship, Alvin has written several articles about freedom of expression and libraries. His latest work is

Fear of Words, a monograph published last fall by the Canadian Library Association that reports the results of his nation-wide study of censorship pressures on Canadian public librarians (see his Web page at <http://www.slis.ualberta.ca/nuhome/aschrader.htm>).

Alvin became acting director of the School on July 1, 1996, and gives the following report of news from the School.

News from SLIS...

As part of the perennial and on-going process of planning the School's future and reviewing the MLIS curriculum, we have adopted a vision statement for the School, grounded in a "multi-disciplinary focus on issues of information access and equity". A motto has been developed that reflects this vision:

UNDERSTANDING INFORMATION

- exploring issues*
- creating access*
- pursuing equity*

The sub-components of our motto correspond to theory, skills and values. We are working with Art and Design students on campus to produce an accompanying logo.

Another part of our vision is the decision to capitalize on our existing research and teaching strength in the area of library and information services for youth, which currently encompasses teacher librarianship (Dianne Oberg) and children's literature (Anna Altmann). We propose hiring a third faculty member with expertise in multi-media literacy of youth.

We see this initiative as complementing the School's existing research and teaching strengths in information equity issues that encompass such areas as applications of feminist theory to the problems of information management (Hope Olson), alternative publishing and social responsibility (Toni Samek), and intellectual freedom issues in all media (Alvin Schrader). All of these strengths reflect our enduring commitment to the delivery of a high-quality, generalist MLIS degree program at the University of Alberta that will continue to meet the needs of entry level practitioners, and that will continue, as well, to meet official educational standards as we plan for re-accreditation in the spring of 1999.

We are also exploring funding possibilities for upgrading our student computer facilities, to complement the strong focus on information technology and Internet access that is being developed for our curriculum by Dennis Ward. Over the past five years, we have experienced rapid (if not exponential!) changes in information technology - from MTS through DOS to Windows; from a 4 workstation LAN for students to a 35 workstation LAN for the entire School with more than 50 DOS and Windows software packages, several networked CD-ROM databases, more than 100 email account users, Internet access, and the School's own Web home page. These changes have forced constant revision of all of the information technology courses taught by Dennis.

I am firmly convinced that a strong School means a stronger profession, and thank the professional community for continuing support and contributions that take many forms, from donations and endowments to curricular suggestions and participation in focus group reviews. If I may make a

couple of closing observations: By all means expect us to have inspiring goals and ambitions for the School, but expectations must be tempered in light of our staff complement - there are only six of us full time right now and that includes me! My other observation is that, with the outstanding faculty, adjunct, sessional, and support staff that I find myself working with on a day-to-day basis, and with a dedicated and enthusiastic student body, many of my initial concerns about how to be a director have quietly disappeared. More clearly than ever, I see that the quality of staff and students is the School's greatest strength, and the support of our alumni is an equally important asset.

-- Alvin Schrader, SLIS Acting Director

SLIS Teachers Tops

Last year a basic set of 5 student ratings became mandatory for all courses taught at the University of Alberta, including both undergraduate and graduate.

The results show that MLIS students thought the School's courses and instructors were tops! Students rated LIS courses in both the fall and winter terms, 1995-96, better than 75% of all University courses on:

- overall instructor effectiveness
- overall course effectiveness
- instructor respectfulness of students
- instructor accessibility outside of class.

They placed us just below the 75th percentile on one other question, how audibly and clearly the instructor spoke.

Congratulations to all those faculty members, full time and sessional, who take such pride in their pedagogy - and in their students. We've got a first-class act!

Congratulations to Hope Olson...

We congratulate Hope Olson on the completion of her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The title of her dissertation is *The Power to Name: Marginalizations and Exclusions of Subject Representation in Library Catalogues*. In it she uses feminist deconstruction to examine unquestioned presumptions underlying subject access tools, particularly the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* and the *Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC)*. Her current major research project, with Dennis Ward and initiated at the request of the editor of *DDC*, applies her theoretical findings to create a prototype for making *DDC* friendlier to marginalized subject areas. She is also working on the image of women on the Web with Anna Altmann and on ethical perspectives on authority control. Hope has presented her research to conferences in Canada, the United States and Denmark, and will be giving papers at Jasper, The Learned Societies in Newfoundland, an international classification conference in London and the American Library Association conference in San Francisco in the coming year. Hope was recruited from the University of Alberta Libraries to replace Professor Andre Nitecki in 1990 as a visiting professor and in 1992 as assistant professor. She teaches organization of knowledge and information, cataloguing and classification, indexing and abstracting, and feminism and library and information studies; this year she is also team-teaching a course on intellectual property for the School and the Faculty of Law with Lillian MacPherson. Students may dread a course in cataloguing and classification, but somehow, Hope manages to make AACR2R and MARC palatable. Now that's a great achievement!

... and to Dennis Ward

Dennis Ward has been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Alberta, effective July 1, 1997. Dennis has had a varied career, with a PhD in astronomy from Cornell University and an MSc in computing science as well as an MLS from the University of Alberta (graduating class of 1980). His work experience has ranged from development of library systems to building a computer monitoring system for a biotechnology pilot plant. His research activities are directed toward applications of computers and related technologies, and currently are focussed on the Internet and World Wide Web. Dennis has developed and taught a number of computer-related courses since his arrival in the School in 1991, and he is presently constructing a new course on current applications of computer technology in libraries which will be offered in the winter term. He is also responsible for the School's computer systems, an activity which has steadily consumed more and more of his time as the School has moved from standalone PC XT clones and MTS terminals to a Novell LAN with Internet connections, electronic mail, networked CD-ROM's and a Web server.



Coming Events

You're Invited to...

Partners in Education Reception

Friday, January 24, 1997

5 - 7 p.m.

University of Alberta Faculty Club

Bring your student partners and your colleagues to this popular event!

Mark Your Calendar!



Professional Development Day
Friday, March 7, 1997

For more information see insert in this newsletter.

Contact: Brenda Philip,
Chair PD Day Committee
(403) 492-4578
bphilip@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

and drum roll please . . .

LISAA's Annual Welcome to the
Profession Reception
4 - 6 p.m., Friday, March 7, 1997
10th Floor, Education Building Lounge

Everyone is encouraged to welcome the students into our professional community and to come enjoy fine food and drinks!

SLIS Research Seminar Series

Continuing its theme of "Celebrating Library Services and Materials for Youth", the School of Library and Information Studies announces its winter term series of Research Seminars. An additional session will be offered in July 1997 by Dr. Snunith Shoham of the Department of Information Studies and Librarianship at Bar-Ilan University (Israel), who will be joining the School on a summer sabbatical.

Jan. 15, 1997 Dr. Anna Altmann
"Today's Foundations for Tomorrow's Literacy: Language Arts Materials Currently Used in High-Schools"

Feb. 12, 1997 Dr. Margaret Mackey
"The Secret Garden: Versions, Media, and Children's Responses"

Seminars will be held in **Room 117-B** in Rutherford South, noon to 12:45 p.m. For more details contact the SLIS general office at 492-3932.

LISAA Scholarship Fund

Donations keep the LISAA scholarship fund alive and will enable SLIS to develop a brochure, poster and other marketing materials for the recruitment of outstanding students to the programme.

Many Thanks to our Generous Contributors this fall:

Anna Altmann
Christina Andrews
David Barber
Beth Barlow
Maureen Beristain
Kathy Carter
D. Kim Christie-Miller
Linda Cook
Kathleen DeLong
Judy-Lynn Downey
Jeannine Green
Karen Hamilton
Mary E.P. Henderson
Colleen Schalm Mares
Rita Murray
Diane Oberg
Linda Payne
Alvin Schrader
Sharon Siga
Fred Ziegler

Thanks!!!



Student Scholarships & Awards

LISAA wishes to extend congratulations to the SLIS students who received scholarships and awards in 1996. This year SLIS students and graduates were awarded 26 scholarships, ten academic prizes, and three travel awards. Our congratulations go out to every one of them! For a full list of recipients contact the School of Library and Information Studies at (403) 492-2430. 4578



News is the official newsletter of the University of Alberta Library and Information Studies Alumni Association. The mandate for NEWS includes reporting the activities of LISAA and highlighting the activities of members and other individuals of interest to LISAA.

The next issue of LISAA will be produced in the spring. Submissions are welcome and may be sent to any of the Executive.

It's never too late to join...

LISAA... *Continue the Experience*

For information on joining LISAA or volunteering to help with our activities contact one of the executive listed below or write to:

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Libraries: Approaching 2000

The School of Library and Information Studies
is pleased to announce

Professional Development Day 1997

March 7, 1997

10th Floor Lounge, Education South
University of Alberta

This year's conference will include a mixture of
external guest speakers and student
research presentations.

Of particular interest to LISAA members will be

**"Using Your Information Skills Outside
the Traditional Library Setting"**, a
presentation from SLIS graduate (1991)

Suzie Levesque

Suzie currently works as a research associate for O'Callaghan Honey, one of Calgary's premier executive search firms. Her presentation will include possible careers outside of libraries, understanding and marketing your skills, and the relevancy of library skills in the Information Economy.

Also, please plan on attending the **LISAA-sponsored**
"Welcome to the Profession Reception"
which will wind up Professional Development Day

Keep current on PD Day activities by checking our conference homepage:
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~calonso/pdday.htm>

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

SPRING/SUMMER 1997 Continuing Education Opportunities

SPRING SESSION

LIS 202 May 6 - Jun 10	Storytelling 6:30 - 9:40 pm TR	Gail de Vos Rutherford South
LIS 587 May 5 - Jun 11	Library Buildings and Facilities Planning 6:30 - 9:40 pm MW	Robert Brundin Rutherford South
LIS 598 May 6 - Jun 10	Special Topics: Advanced Archives 6:30 - 9:40 pm TR	David Leonard Rutherford South

SUMMER SESSION

LIS 517 Jul 7 - Aug 13	Government Publications 6:30 - 9:40 pm MW	Valerie Footz Yvonne Footz Rutherford South
LIS 594 Jul 8 - Aug 12	Records Management 6:30 - 9:40 pm TR	David Leonard Rutherford South
ED ES 445 Jul 7 - Aug 13	Canadian Literature for Young People in Schools and Libraries 6:00 - 9:00 pm MW	Gail de Vos Rutherford South
ED ES 501 Jul 7 - Jul 24	Multi-Media Texts for Children and Adolescents 10:00 am - 12:15 pm M-F	Margaret Mackey Education
ED ES 546 Jul 7 - Jul 24	School Library Information Materials 7:30 - 9:55 am M - F	C. Husen Education

** For further information, please contact the SLIS office at 492-4578 **