



# LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Greetings from the President

This is my first newsletter as President of LISAA. I am very excited to be involved with our alumni association. As mentioned by our now past-president Heather Sentes in the previous newsletter, there continues to be much change, both at SLIS and in our profession. One of my goals as president is to work on ensuring that LISAA is responsive to the changing needs and interests of our alumni, so I encourage anyone who has comments or suggestions to please contact me at [president@lisaa.ca](mailto:president@lisaa.ca).

Many alumni have personally mentioned to me that they are eager to hear about changes at SLIS. **I encourage everyone to read the update from Director Ernie Ingles.** Ernie has given us an in-depth overview of all the exciting things happening at the School as it continues through a period of renewal and transformation.

Change is also a constant with our alumni association. At the Annual General Meeting in May, we welcomed two new members to the executive: Hanne Pearce (Vice-President/President-Elect) and Thane Chambers (Treasurer/Secretary). We also said good-bye to Lesley Beaton (Past-President) and Alison Henry (Treasurer/Secretary). On behalf

of LISAA, I want to thank you both for your contributions to the association!

I also want to extend congratulations to our Alumni Award winners, Lori Walter and Mark Radosh. Lori is our Continuing Student Representative, while Mark is our Entering Student Representative.

The other big news is the **Celebration Pastry Brunch** on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Rutherford Library is also celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the same day, so the LISAA event will be from 11am-1pm, immediately following the Rutherford event. One of the highlights will be the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award to Anne-Carr Wiggin.

Best wishes to everyone in the upcoming year!

*Dale Storie*  
*LISAA President*

**Congratulations to Anne Carr-Wiggin** ('98), who is the winner of the **Distinguished Alumni Award!** Anne is being recognized for her notable contributions to the library community in Alberta, including work with Alberta Learning, the Library Association of Alberta, The Alberta Library, NEOS, and the First Nations Information Connection. Please join us at the Celebration Pastry Brunch, where she will receive her award! Full details on page 6.

### Fall 2011

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# News from the School of Library and Information Studies

By Ernie Ingles, Director



I am most pleased to make this **Report** to SLIS alumni for the second time. Last year was my first opportunity to bring 'News' to you from SLIS. I framed my remarks within the context of the learning curve upon which I had embarked. Well . . . I am

still on that curve. However, I have come to the inevitable conclusion that the condition is permanent—and rightly so! Each of you knows our profession is itself dynamic and ever-evolving. As you adapt to changes and adopt new approaches, technologies, etc., that are required to respond to the vicissitudes of the moment, so too does SLIS—except, we must be ever vigilant and cautious that changes are not fads, and that the foundation elements that we embrace into our pedagogy and curriculum are such that those destined for future practice are prepared as well as, or better, than those of you who are serving in the field. In short, we strive for continuous improvement.

First, as I did last year, permit me a few words about the 2011-2012 incoming class. This year forty-eight (48) students were admitted. Again, their undergraduate degrees were issued from nineteen (19) universities, situated in six Canadian provinces and several of which were from out-of-country. A number of these students also had other earned graduate degrees.

We continue to be proud of the accomplishments of our students. Some examples from the last couple of years, 2010-2011:

- Serena Boyte, Daniel De Castro, Sarah Dupont, Brianna Erban, Lynmara Hingston, Brian Jackson, Sarah Milne, Kathleen Reed, Julie Ruel, Michael Silver, and Laura Winton were awarded QEII Graduate Scholarships.
- Shannon Lucky was awarded the 2010 Saskatchewan Libraries Education Bursary.
- Laura Winton, Carla Haug and Daniel Sondheim were awarded the 2010 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (SSHRC), and in addition awarded a Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship.
- Sarah Augot, Amanda Derksen, Eric Forcier, Ali Grotkowski, Carla Haug, Shannon Lucky, Christopher Reimer, Daniel Sondheim, Maria Tan, Victoria Varga, Laura Winton and Jason Wong for scholarships awarded under the auspices of either the 2011 Alberta Advanced Education and Technology Graduate Scholarship Program, or as a QEII Graduate Scholarship recipient.
- Maria C. Tan who received the 2010 Alberta Association on Gerontology Student Award, and was recipient of the 2010 Medical Library Association Scholarship for Minority Students.
- Kathleen Reed was awarded a 2010 Provost Doctoral Entrance Award.
- Gayle Scuta was invited to present a paper at the International Poetry Conference at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- Brianna Erban received the 2010 University of Alberta Libraries Award.
- Michael Silver received the 2010 Mary Alice Scott Prize awarded by the Association of Professional Librarians at the University of Alberta, and was the winner of the **Sarah Rebecca Reed Medal** for academic excellence.
- Shelagh Genuis was awarded the 2010 Medical Library Association Thomson Reuters/MLA Doctoral Fellowship.
- Deborah Cryderman was presented with the 2011 Merle Harris Achievement Award for distinguished service in the library and literacy field in Alberta.
- Jason Wong received the **2011 University of Alberta Libraries Award**.
- Agnieska Hayes received the **2011 Mary Alice Scott Prize** (see above), and in addition was the winner of the **Sarah Rebecca Reed Medal** (see also above).
- In addition to the above, five (5) SLIS students earned, over the reporting period, coveted Smithsonian Internships.

Also, we were recently informed that Shelagh Genuis, a recent graduate of the doctoral program won the **2011 ASIS&T ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award**. The ProQuest award recognizes an outstanding recent doctoral candidate whose research contributes significantly to an understanding of some aspect of information science, and the prize is intended to encourage new Ph.D.s to participate in professional associations, through provision of travel assistance to the ASIS&T conference and an opportunity for the awardee to present the winning research. Sheila was chosen from 20 finalists, and her dissertation is titled: "*Making sense of evolving health information: Navigating uncertainty in everyday life.*"

This is an exciting time for SLIS, and a time spent looking forward. The University of Alberta, as articulated in **Dare to Discover: a Vision for a Great University**, aspires to be unambiguously, unequivocally and immediately recognized as a great university among a handful of peer, publically funded, worldwide institutions each and every one engaged in the "uplifting of the whole people". The University's "blueprint for greatness" is its academic plan: **Dare to Deliver 2011-2015: The Academic Plan for the University of Alberta** which builds on four cornerstones of substance.

SLIS embraces, without hesitation, the **Vision** and the **Plan**, and most particular finds comfortable place among the four cornerstones of substance:

- **talented people** who are invigorated by. . .
- **learning and discovery** and a desire to share their enterprise within the context of an expansive sense of **citizenship** drawing generously on their talents and enterprise to . . .
- **connect communities**, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, but recognizing that to be successful they must be . . .
- **transforming organizations**—both within, that is being an exemplar of an organization constantly evolving, continuously self-

reinforcing, and at a personal level supportive one of another—and without, providing leadership to those engaged in societal change by way of understanding the integrative and powerful relationships of people, technologies, information and the human record.

These cornerstones could not have found a more appropriate and embracing audience than within SLIS.

The School is blessed with talented students and talented faculty. Our teaching is exemplary—indeed award-winning—and our instructors are constantly striving to innovate and find new approaches to curricular challenges. Inherent in the very essence of the discipline of library and information studies is the intention to connect people with their communities through the exploitation of library and information services, and to similarly connect those communities one with another—locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. In addition, the School draws strength from the professional mandate of its host Faculty of Education, and recognizes the need to underpin its curriculum with unassailable values, while at the same time equipping students with appropriate and ever increasing competencies for the field.

To achieve its potential, however, the School must today be itself transformed before it can become the effective agent of transformation as should be its destiny. Such a process has begun. Administrative structures have been revisited and revised; office support has been renewed and reinvigorated; fund development capacity has been enhanced; and, the SLIS brand is being refreshed and refashioned. This latter initiative builds upon the solid foundations that are the hallmarks of the great libraries residing in our primary geographic catchment area.

Within the context of program, faculty and program renewal has also begun. First, there are regrets. Two of our distinguished faculty members are moving to positions elsewhere. Lisa Givens has taken a position in Australia at Charles Sturt University; and, Heidi Julien will be going to the University of Alabama.

However, the School is pleased to announce the term appointment of **Tami Oliphant** as an Assistant Professor. Tami earned her doctorate from the University of Western Ontario and she is a SLIS alumna having earned her MLIS from the University of Alberta in 2001. Dr. Oliphant has previously taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Western Ontario and at the University of Alberta. This winter she will be teaching 'Publishing', and 'Introduction to Research'. She has worked in academic libraries, public libraries, communications and planning, and as a researcher at the University of Alberta and the University of Western Ontario. Her doctoral research focused on how people use information and discursive strategies to justify, argue, or explain why they did or did not use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) to treat depression. Her current research interests include information behaviour, publishing and media, research methods, and user services. In addition to her instructional responsibilities and research, Dr. Oliphant will be involved in a number of SLIS strategic initiatives. She also will work with faculty to ensure that SLIS graduates achieve the intended student learning outcomes that are articulated at both the MLIS program and individual course levels; she will also engage employers in the review of those outcomes in terms that position SLIS graduates as coveted assets in professional practice.

SLIS will soon begin the process of two additional faculty members and hopes to have these positions filled by July, 2013, if not sooner.

Program renewal is also underway. Dr. Ken Haycock has been commissioned to assist the Director and faculty in the development of

appropriate strategic directions for the School, consistent with the University's 'Vision', 'Mission' and 'Academic Plan' as noted above. My next Report will make the alumnus community aware of the School's reconceived 'Vision' and 'Mission', as well as new academic program initiatives currently being taken through University of Alberta governance, as well as new faculty appointments.

Within that context, however, SLIS alumni should be aware that the School has embarked upon a significant evaluation of professional development needs in the western region. Our goal is to offer relevant continuing education programming, delivered at times and in formats that are convenient for you.

Finally I am also pleased to report that by way of a letter dated June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to the ALA Accreditation Office, I initiated a comprehensive review of SLIS as is the accepted practice. Thus, the School has just begun the two-year process of ALA-reaccreditation which itself will culminate in the preparation of a 'Program Presentation' (a version of self-study), and a site visit of an External Review Panel early in 2013. Preparations for these accreditation activities are underway.

To conclude, while there are new and exciting adventures in the future of the School, there are also challenges. Our attention must be less on canon, and more on conversation—getting to know ourselves and getting to know the requirements of our community of practice—all with an end to confirming our individual and collective academic aspirations, as well as building a **vibrant** School of Library and Information Studies—a School of which you will be proud.

### Connect with LISAA on Facebook

Like most organizations in this day and age, we're on Facebook. So if you're looking for alumni news and details about upcoming events, please add us:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/LISAA-U-of-A/117426714954484>

We'll try our best to keep it updated as much as we can, but we also try not to be annoying about it. That means we won't send you any "What kind of zombie are you?" quizzes.

## Alumni Spotlight: John Huck ('10)

### What is your role?

Metadata and Cataloguing Librarian for University of Alberta Libraries

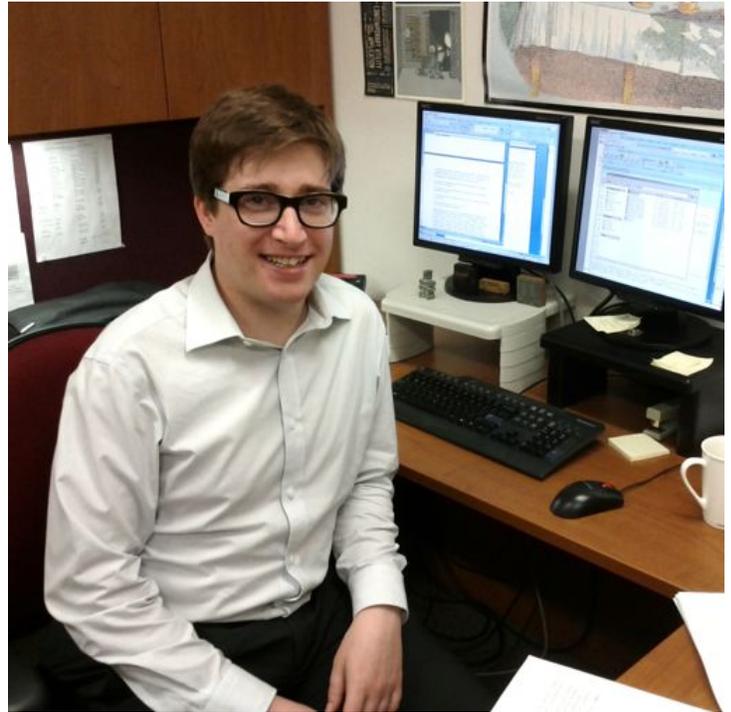
### What is the project you are working on?

The University of Alberta Libraries is participating in a federally funded project to establish a network of Canadian data centres called the Canadian IPY Data Assembly Centre Network. The role of the network is to preserve the research data created by Canadian researchers who participated in the International Polar Year and to facilitate the deposit of that data in the network's repository. The University of Alberta Libraries is one of the partners in this network and I have been assigned to help carry out the metadata work.

All aspects of the operation of the network have been determined through collaboration between the half dozen partners, from server design and governance structure to the selection of a metadata standard to describe the datasets. I quickly had to get up to speed on metadata standards used for geographic datasets, but then I realized that most of us were in the same boat, so the learning process itself quickly became collaborative too.

### Did you have an interest in this area prior to finishing your degree? When you were at SLIS, what area of librarianship did you expect to work in?

I definitely had an interest in metadata and cataloguing, but I also realized that coursework alone couldn't give you all the preparation you might need, so I was unsure whether I would find an opportunity to develop that expertise before necessity required that I follow a different path. Cataloguing is a very specific skill set, and even though metadata is conceptually the same thing (description of resources), sometimes it requires a lateral kind of thinking to figure out the appropriate requirement for a given project. I think the variety of courses that I took in areas like records



management and archives have helped me in metadata, because they introduced me to alternative approaches to organizing information and helped me understand how much norms like standards are a reflection of the nature of the communities they come from. Prior to my current assignment, I had not given any thought at all to the problems of describing scientific datasets, or to the kinds of ways scientists might want to search for datasets. As it happens, folks within the scientific communities are working on these problems too, and so it's been fascinating to discuss traditional library topics like controlled vocabularies with people who don't come from the library community but to discover we speak a common language.

### What's your favourite part about your job?

Working as a member of a team to solve problems, both with my colleagues at the University and those in the network team. Tackling the nitty gritty gives a certain pleasure too, of course.

*Do you know an alumni whose work deserves to be featured in our alumni spotlight? Let us know at [lisaa@lisaa.ca](mailto:lisaa@lisaa.ca).*

## Alumni News: Young Adult Book Group Turns Twenty

By Margaret Mackey

January 2011 marked a special anniversary for a group of SLIS alumni and a variety of other people with an interest in young adult literature. For twenty years, a book group devoted to discussing YA books has met at SLIS, starting off in the faculty workroom on the third floor and moving to Henderson Hall when numbers became too great. The group began in January 1991. The course LIS 515, Materials for Young Adults, had a particularly successful run in the fall of 1990 and members of that class, along with its instructor Anna Altmann, wanted to keep their conversations going. At first group members were all connected to SLIS, but word of the group got out and soon other people were asking to join.

Over the twenty years, the group has welcomed many public librarians and library assistants from several districts and branches, some local teachers and school

librarians, professors and graduate students from the Faculty of Education, students and a post-doc from the Faculty of Arts, a consultant from Edmonton Public Schools, and a bookseller. The result has created a strong cross-professional network of SLIS alumni and others with a deep interest in young adult literature that has been sustained for two decades.

Four members have attended for all twenty years, and several more have belonged for nearly that long. The age range of the members also spans a number of decades and occasional new recruitment has kept discussions fresh. There is no complete record of group members over the years, but one of the original members has kept an informal record of the books discussed since the beginning, and her list (definitely incomplete) runs to 324 titles discussed.

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## Upcoming LISAA Events

### Library and Information Studies Alumni Association Celebration Pastry Brunch

Date: Saturday, September 24

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Henderson Hall at the School of Library and Information Studies, Rutherford South

Cost: FREE!

We invite you to take in the Rutherford Library 60th Celebration and then join us for our alumni-only Annual Celebration Event. This is a great opportunity to reminisce with faculty and friends, hear the latest news from the School, and meet current and future colleagues. Pastries and coffee will be provided and the Distinguished Alumni Award presented to **Anne-Carr Wiggin**.

**The event is free for SLIS alumni, students, and staff, but please RSVP by September 19, 2011, to Sophia Sherman at [slis@ualberta.ca](mailto:slis@ualberta.ca) or 780-492-4578.**

### NetPub at Netspeed

Once again, LISAA is co-sponsoring the NetPub event at Netspeed 2011, along with the Greater Edmonton Library Association and Foothills Library Association. Netspeed is in Calgary and runs from Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Stay tuned to our Facebook page or Jerome-L for more details.

## Other Events of Interest to Alumni

### SLIS Research Colloquiums – Fall 2011

#### **The Information Practices of People Living with Depression: Constructing Credibility and Authority**

Tami Oliphant - Sept. 28, 2011, Wednesday 12-1 PM, Rutherford South 2-09

A wide variety of treatment options for people with depression have been developed by both the conventional and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) sectors. Using data collected from three online newsgroups and 10 in-depth interviews, I analyze how people conceptualize themselves as competent information-seekers and users; how people discursively build-up or undermine information sources; and how people use information when making or justifying claims, or making decisions about, treatments for depression.

#### **Creating a Digital Library for a Virtual University - The University of the Arctic**

Sandy Campbell - October 05, 2011, Wednesday 12-1 PM, Rutherford South 2-09

The University of the Arctic is an international, distributed, consortial post-secondary project, comprised of about 140 institutional members. While it does offer some courses, much of its activities are in the coordination of Arctic programs offered by member institutions enabling students to study in the Arctic and building post secondary infrastructure in the Arctic. While many of the students have strong information resources in their home institutions, many others, even some of those in Canadian institutions, do not have easy access to the resources they need for their studies. Work has been ongoing on developing a digital library for the University of the Arctic to meet the institutional and student information needs.

For information about upcoming speakers, please go to <http://www.slis.ualberta.ca>.

### Alberta Eugenics Awareness Week

The **Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada** is sponsoring Alberta Eugenics Awareness Week **October 14 - 23, 2011**. Scheduled events include student presentations, speakers and receptions, panel discussions, video and discussions, a play and an art show featuring the Collective Memories of Eugenics survivors and individuals who have survived institutions. Details can be found at: <http://eugenicsarchive.ca>

### Rutherford Library Celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> Open House Brunch

Saturday, September 24

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Rutherford Reading Room, 2nd floor, Rutherford South

To celebrate the long and rich history of one of the U of A's most beloved libraries, ALL are invited to our Open House Brunch . Visit anytime during Alumni Weekend to take a self-guided tour and view our exhibit looking back at memorable moments over the last 60 years.

For more information, visit our website or call the Office of the Chief Librarian at 780-492-2659.

### Librarians Run for the Cure

It may be too late to join the librarian team for this year's Run for the Cure, don't forget to support alumni and fellow librarians by donating to a team or an individual. More information is available at:

[www.runforthecure.com](http://www.runforthecure.com).

### Organize & Assemble: The PLG Edmonton Symposium - REGISTER TODAY!

The Edmonton Chapter of the Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG) invites practitioners, scholars, activists, students, and community members interested in library, archival and allied information services to attend its first Edmonton symposium, Organize and Assemble.

This one-day refereed event will provide an interactive forum for the exploration of contemporary issues of access, equity and social justice as they connect and disconnect from the rhetoric and reality of library and archival studies and services.

The symposium is on **Saturday, October 1st** from **8:30am - 4:00pm** at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, located at 8555 Roper Road, Edmonton.

Registration fees: \$30 for information workers; \$20 for students and underemployed. Refreshments and lunch

*PLG Symposium, cont'd.*

are included in the cost of registration. Register online at

<http://plgedmonton.blogspot.com/p/symposium.html>

Symposium Presentations (abstracts online at <http://plgedmonton.blogspot.com/p/symposium.html>)

- The Canadian Disease: Re-Thinking Libraries/Archives/Museums Convergence. Presented by Braden Cannon, Archivist, Provincial Archives of Alberta/University of Calgary
- Lord Save Us From the Et Cetera of the Notaries. Presented by Raymond Frogner, Archivist, British Columbia Archives
- LGBTQ - Gender Identity. Presented by Moyra Lang, Project Coordinator, Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada, University of Alberta.
- Connecting with our Communities: the Community-Led Service Philosophy at Edmonton Public Library. Presented by Kim Bewick and Amanda Bird, Community Librarians at Edmonton Public Library.
- Books Behind Bars: Community Development Librarianship in Prison Libraries. Presented by Tanya Driechel (St. Joseph's College), Moyra Lang, Liz Fulton-Lyne (Manager of Library Operations and Services, Yellowhead Tribal Collage), Kim Bewick (Community Librarian, Edmonton Public Library).
- Knowledge Mapping of Social Responsibility in an Information Intensive Society: A Proposed Taxonomy. Presented by Toni Samek (Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta) and Ali Shiri (Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta).

Questions? Comments? Email us at [plg.edmonton@gmail.com](mailto:plg.edmonton@gmail.com)

The Edmonton Chapter of the PLG thanks the Archives Society of Alberta for its sponsorship of the Symposium, and thanks the Provincial Archives of Alberta for sharing its facilities to host this event.

## Meet the LISAA Executive

Meet our two new executive members and our entering student award winner!

### Hanne Pearce

Vice-President/ President-Elect



Hanne Pearce has worked for the University of Alberta Libraries since 2004 and graduated from SLIS in November 2010. Since graduation she has presented at both the Alberta Library Conference and NEOS mini conference on her practicum experience at the National Library of Finland. She continues to work in her position as a Public Service Assistant at the Rutherford Library, while seeking a professional position. Hanne is looking forward to working with LISAA in representing alumni interests and promoting the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta.

### Thane Chambers

Vice-President/ President-Elect

Thane graduated from SLIS in 2007. She holds a joint position with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta and the J.W. Scott Health Sciences Library. As the Research Librarian at the Faculty of Nursing, she provides research support as it relates to information and research literature to faculty members within the Faculty of Nursing. She has also provided the catering for the LISAA Celebration Brunch for the last three years.



## LISAA Executive, 2011-2012

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**President:**

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**Continuing Student Representative:**

Lori Walter

**Entering Student Representative:**

Mark Radosh

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## Congratulations to Mark Radosh, winner of the Entering Student Alumni Award!

Mark graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Music Degree and played the Double Bass with Opera Nuova for several seasons. He found himself with an increasing interest in the library field after gaining some practical experience working for the Edmonton Public Library. He looks forward to the new challenges this change of direction will present, and he is excited to join not only LISAA, but the greater community of library professionals.



## Congratulations to Lori Walter, winner of the Ongoing Student Alumni Award!



Lori is now entering her second year of the MLIS Program. She has a BA and MA in English Literature from the University of Victoria. She also works as a Library Assistant at the Centre for Reading and the Arts, Edmonton Public Library.

## 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)!