



March 1987.

## *Professional response to humanitarian need*

**Kathleen De Long ('79) and Viveka Janssen ('79)** aren't political activists. They are librarians with a social conscience.

In November, 1985, these U of A librarians joined the **Nicaragua Library Support Group**, an Edmonton-based organization. Formation of the small, informal group was prompted by a colleague's participation in librarianship in Nicaragua. **Maryon McClary**, a U of A librarian and close colleague of Viveka and Kathleen's, took a leave of absence to volunteer services at the National Cataloguing Centre of Nicaragua.

Maryon's subsequent correspondence with her Edmonton friends and colleagues served as first-hand observations of the difficulties of fulfilling professional duties in a country where resources are scarce. These observations coincided with US legislation prohibiting the transport of goods to Nicaragua effectively preventing the import of library materials.

What followed was a campaign to supply Maryon and her fellow Nicaraguan librarians with the professional tools and materials necessary to complete their work.

The Nicaragua Library Support Group began raising \$1,200 (US) for 6 copies of **Lista de Encabezamientos de Materia para Bibliotecas**, Spanish language subject headings published in 1985. Contributions for the effort were solicited directly from LAA, CASLIS and APLUA, (Association of Professional Librarians at U of A).

In three months the funds were raised. And in August, 1986, the copies arrived in Managua.

The success of the Nicaragua Library Support Group astounded Nicaraguan and Canadian librarians alike. Kathleen De Long asserts that the success was a professional response to a humanitarian need.

"No one expects international aid to give the acquisition of subject headings a high priority, but this was a need understood by librarians."

The next project the support group undertook was the construction of a library school at **Universidad Centroamericana**. Although a library school does exist, conditions are far less than adequate: 10 faculty and 120 students operate out of a single classroom. The target figure for the construction is \$12,000, yet McClary reported in February that the \$4,000 raised was sufficient to meet the goal. The funds

were matched by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency.

All projects have been initiated at the request of Nicaraguans. Needs are identified and ideas for implementation are developed locally. The Nicaragua Library Support Group functions as a work committee, mobilizing for specific tasks to help the Nicaraguans meet their goals.

With **Tools for Peace** the Support Group sent cataloguing supplies (like spine labels, catalogue cards and cabinets), many collected by Viveka.

To lend expertise, you don't have to travel to Managua. **Maureen Beristain ('85)** is translating professional reading for the library school.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund can send cheques payable to **Change for children - Library Project** c/o B. Clubb, 1901, 11135 - 83 Ave., Edmonton, T6G 2C6.

All donations are handled by outside agencies as the official receipting of financial awards through established agencies often benefits the group by qualifying for matching grants and subsidies.

### **LIBRARY BOOKS LONG OVERDUE**

It all started in 1982 when **Professor Andre Nitecki** was seconded to **Bayero University** in Kano, Nigeria.

Nitecki alerted the faculty of the great need for library books and materials at Bayero University. And when FLS's Collection Development Committee, chaired by **Professor Robin Inskip** began weeding the student laboratory, the discarded items were set aside for Bayero University.

Then **Dean John Wright** and Robin sought funding. U of A's **Fund for the Support of International Development Activities** and the **Alberta Agency for International Development** agreed to share the \$7,848 expense bill.

So the 2,000 items consisting of subject headings, library journals and textbooks were packed, weighed (6,000 lbs!) and Bayero bound in August, 1985. But when they arrived, the crates were held at Lagos port due to internal bureaucratic complications in Nigeria.

**U of A President Meyer Horowitz** requested assistance from the Canadian High Commissioner stationed in Lagos who intervened on behalf of the Bayero University/U. of A. joint venture.

On October 20, 1986, the **Vice-Chancellor Umar** of Bayero wrote a letter of thanks to the Faculty for the materials.

## Association Highlights

*The LSAA Executive met on January 24, 1987 in Edmonton. The following is an overview of the topics addressed at the meeting.*

A motion to accept Hazel Fry's resignation was accepted with regrets. Vice-President Jeannine Green assumes the role of President and has agreed to fulfil Hazel's term.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** President Jeannine Green has begun investigating the possibility of establishing a scholarship fund. Information received from Alumni Affairs details the options available to the LSAA should it decide to proceed with the scheme. If the association registers the fund with Alumni Affairs, the University will seek matching grants for every contribution received and handle all receipting.

The executive is committed to investigate the possibility of soliciting corporate donations to boost such a scholarship fund. Sandra Kereliuk, U of A Alumni Association Representative advised Jeannine that the Faculty of Business found a similar strategy to be a lucrative exercise. The Development Office is willing to help mount a campaign to solicit outside funding once candidates have been identified by the executive. (*Anyone wishing to assist is encouraged to contact Jeannine.*)

And although the financial outlook for the LSAA is less than ideal for the near future, the present balance is in excess of \$2,500. (The 2 for 1 sale of memberships was sufficiently successful to restrict an influx in membership fees for 1987-1988.) Some members felt that the a substantial portion of the bank account should be set aside for an initial deposit in a scholarship fund.

All executive members agreed to keep administrative costs to a minimum.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Jan Roseneder reported that the membership has risen to 111. 16 alumni joined since December.

A cheque of \$100 was received by the LSAA from the Faculty of Library Science as a donation to assist with the costs of mailing the last newsletter.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:** Nominations for the executive offices of Vice-President and Treasurer of the University of Alberta Library Science Alumni Association are presently being accepted. The terms are two years in duration.

Interested parties should forward nominations to Past President Sandra Mikalonis, at FLS, 3-20 Rutherford S., U of A., Edmonton, T6G 2J4.

Elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 4 - 6:30 during the CLA conference. *A reception follows the meeting, so come out and meet the executive and all your fellow classmates.*

## Student Report

Gene Topolnisky has been selected as the FLS representative in the Send-a-student-to-CLA program. The program invites a student from each of Canada's library schools to participate in CLA's annual conference.

Participants receive a \$25/day allowance and accommodations, and are expected to assist conference organizers 4 hours daily. Transportation costs are not included.

The program was adopted by the CLA executive following a recommendation of the New Librarians Interest Group and is modelled after a similar scheme offered by ALA's Junior Members Round Table.

Selection of the successful participant is made independently from faculty members. Gene was chosen by his peers. When he returns to school next fall, Gene is charged with the responsibility of presenting an overview of the conference to his colleagues.

Gene is the third FLS student to take advantage of the program since its introduction in 1985. Liz Ball ('87?), President of the FLS Students Association attended last year's conference in Quebec City.

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## Honorary Members Considered

*The following criteria and procedures were accepted by the Executive at the January 24, 1987 meeting. These criteria and procedures will appear on the agenda of the upcoming Annual General Meeting for ratification by LSAA membership.*

**Criteria.** The following individuals may be awarded the status of Honorary Member of the University of Alberta Library Science Alumni Association:

1. An individual awarded an honorary degree by the University of Alberta (Faculty of Science)
2. An individual awarded the status of "librarian emeritus" by any academic institution. The individual would normally be a graduate of U of A.
3. An individual who has made a significant contribution to the Library Science Alumni Association.
4. An individual who has made a significant contribution in the field of librarianship. The individual would normally be a graduate of U of A.

**Procedures.**

1. Nominations are requested from the membership and/or are recommendations of the Executive.
2. Nominations are submitted to the Executive by March of each year. Nominations must be supported by the signatures of two personal members of the Association and documentation outlining the reasons for selection.
3. The Executive votes on the submission(s) and presents its recommendation(s) to the general membership at the Annual General Meeting.
4. Honorary members are elected for life by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.
5. The Executive shall determine a suitable acknowledgement of the award of Honorary Member.

# FUNDING CUTS THREATEN FACULTY STATUS

On October 20, 1986, Uof A's VP Academic, **Peter Meekison**, met with the Faculty of Library Science to announce his decision to establish an ad hoc committee to "review alternative proposals for an administrative structure for FLS, with particular reference to a possible merger with another unit within the University of Alberta."

The announcement was made in view of the general reduction in the University's funding for the next fiscal year.

Meekison assured the faculty that the university remains committed to maintaining the standards of the MLS program and its ALA accreditation.

The committee is chaired by Associate VP Academic **Amy Zelmer** and consists of three other members, U of A Chief Librarian **Peter Freeman**, **J. McGregor** (Chairman of Dept. of Statistics) and **Dr. Sheila Bertram**. The committee met during December and January to consider some 10 proposals. Six were rejected.

The Faculty continued to compile background information about ALA standards and the administrative structure of existing accredited programs in North America and Canada.

From the Faculty's point of view, the issue is the nature of the change, not the change itself.

Initial options preferred by the Faculty were to remain a separate faculty, but failing that to become a separate school within Graduate Studies or report directly to an Associate VP or join a cluster of units (a new faculty) with common interests.

The committee was unable to reach a consensus, feeling that there was no clearly defined problem to resolve other than the faculty's size relative to others on campus. The committee's final report suggested four possible options for further exploration: mergers with the Faculties of Arts, Business, Education or to remain as a separate faculty.

A special meeting of the Faculty Council was called February 11, 1987 to study the final report. **Dean Wright** expressed faculty concerns as to the impact a change of status might have on faculty identification (its name and the name of its degree), the public perception of its program focus if it becomes a unit within another discipline, its continuing ability to attract students from all disciplines, and its future growth as an interdisciplinary unit.

There were also concerns about altered accreditation status, budget vulnerability, admission requirements and the criteria for the

selection and promotion of faculty members.

The Faculty Council forwarded a resolution to the VP Academic reiterating these concerns and urging due consideration of them before a decision is made and implemented. The Council also directed **Dean Wright** to inform the professional community and the Deans of other faculties about these events.

Professional library and information associations have since received a letter from the Dean inviting them to write to the VP Academic about the importance of the library school to the library community and about its continuing administrative capacity to be able to respond to the changing nature of the library and information professions.

A decision about the matter should be announced shortly.

*Interested parties can forward written submissions to VP Academic Peter Meekison, 3-5 University Hall, U of A, Edmonton, T6G 2J9.*

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## FACULTY UPDATE

The Faculty of Library Science is wearing a new face these days. During the winter term **Lillian MacPherson** is teaching **Legal Bibliography** and **Lorne Buhr** is leading **Government Publications**. **Sieglinde Rooney**, **Alan Rowe** and **Janet LeBlanc** are team teaching **Financial Management**. And the trend continues.

FLS has released a schedule of 8 course offerings for the spring and summer sessions. **ED CI 543: School Library Programs** will be offered during both terms by **Judy Gray** and **Barry Eshpeter** of the Calgary Board of Education. The spring class will be held in Red Deer.

Curriculum Librarian **Faye Maxwell** ('82) will teach **LIB S 589: Managing Audiovisual Collections**, **Diane Oberg** ('84) of the U of A Faculty of Education will teach **ED CI 546: School Library Reference Materials** and **ED CI 443: School Librarianship** will be taught by **Gerry Maguire** of the Edmonton Public School Board.

*Full details concerning admission requirements and registration procedures are available from the Office of Special Sessions, University of Alberta.*

**Professor Gloria Strathern** is on study leave for the academic year '86-'87 to complete a bibliographical guide to Alberta newspapers. The project began in 1982 with a \$5,000 grant from the U. of A.'s Small Faculties Committee Endowment Fund for the Advancement of Scholarship. Funding from the Western Canadian Publications Project and Alberta Culture continued the project which will be completed with the aid of a \$69,331 grant from the Canadian Studies Research Tools Program, a division of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

# WHO IS DOING WHAT WHERE?

**PUBLISHED:** Mary Jane Starr ('74) "The preservation of Canadian newspapers," in *Microform Review* 15 no. 3 (Summer, 1986): 162-4. Mary Jane completed her MLS at SLIS, University of Western Ontario and is currently employed as a Special Assistant to the Associate National Librarian. Mary Jane's work entails coordination of the National Library's newspapers and collections inventories programmes.

**PUBLISHED:** (Joan) Sigrid Johnson ('75), "The Icelandic collection at the University of Manitoba," in *Readings in Canadian library history* edited by Peter F McNally, Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1986, pp. 175-180. Sigrid is presently a special collections librarian at the University of Manitoba.

**HONOURED:** The Manitoba School Library Audio Visual Association presented its highest award of **Honourary Life Membership to Sister Odile St. Pierre ('75)** in recognition of her significant contribution to library development in rural Manitoba. She was commended for her vision, courage and foresight.

**Erin Douglas ('75)** writes that she is a children's librarian at Medicine Hat Public Library and has been for almost 12 years. She still loves it and she enjoys hearing about her classmates via NEWS.

**Madeleine Bailey ('78)** is keeping busy! Madeleine is a public services librarian at Okanagan College's Learning Resource Centre and recently returned from a year long study leave at the University of Sheffield Department of Information Studies in Sheffield England. In her spare time, Madeleine is a regular arts columnist and reviewer for the Kelowna Daily Courier and arts editor for The Road to Entertainment. Madeleine has just completed a romance novel which she hopes to have published by Harlequin. And yes, it features a librarian as the leading heroine.

**ELECTED:** **Mary Lou Veeken ('83)** as President of the New Librarians Interest Group at their annual meeting held during the CLA conference.

**Suzan Hebditch ('83)** is Administrative Librarian at U. of A.'s Faculty of Extension, Legal Resource Centre. Suzan is Program Coordinator for CASLIS (Edmonton).

**Linda Harris ('84)** is Departmental Librarian for Alberta Advanced Education and a volunteer librarian at Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame.

**Laura Beswick ('86)** was recently appointed librarian at Stony Plain Public Library. Laura replaces **Tricia Brown ('85)** who is taking some time off to have a child.

**Margaret Herring ('86)** is a librarian at Willow Creek Composite High School in Claresholm, Alberta.

**Jann Lynn-George ('86)** is a parttime sessional librarian at H.T. Coumts Education Library at the University of Alberta.

**MISSING:** **Ken Jensen ('73)**. Jensen might be head honcho of Canada's largest library association, but he hasn't found time to join its newest, the LSAA. Maybe we could encourage Ken to remember his U. of A. roots at CLA's annual general meeting. How about a resolution to the effect that "Be it resolved that no candidate be permitted to stand office without proof of membership in his/her alumni association." OK, but maybe a little friendly persuasion from the class of '73 is in order.

Mail News items to the editor, **Melody Burton**, 11123-75 Ave., Edmonton, T6G 0H1 or telephone 437-2278.

*the University of Alberta Library Science Alumni Association  
invites you to attend  
a wine and cheese reception  
held in honour of  
the Faculty of Library Science Class of '87  
to be held on  
Saturday, April 4, 1987  
at the University of Alberta Faculty Club  
between 1 and 3:30 pm.*

*A guest speaker will  
toast the graduands.*

*Please join us as we welcome  
the Class of '87  
to the better half of librarianship.*

*Admission is \$10  
This fee covers the cost of one alumni and sponsors a graduand.  
Anyone wishing, but unable, to attend may forward \$5 to  
sponsor a graduand.*

*RSVP  
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