



Message from the President

Greetings fellow Alumni,

I am honoured to be taking on the role of President of the Library and Information Studies Alumni Association (LISAA). It gives me great pleasure to be representing such an incredible community of hundreds of alumni on the eve of 50th year of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta.

The Alumni Association is a group of passionate alumni who are committed to providing opportunities for alumni to engage with SLIS and to involve current students as future stakeholders of LISAA. All graduates of the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at the University of Alberta are members of LISAA.

SLIS alumni clearly have a stake in ensuring that the value of a MLIS degree continues to remain strong. The Association is looking forward to a year marked in celebration of our alumni's achievements and planning for SLIS 50th anniversary in 2018.

I hope you will connect with us during the upcoming year whether it is by attending one of our events or networking opportunities, by volunteering with SLIS or through our social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn). By getting involved, the Association will be able to better represent your interests as a SLIS graduate.

Thank you for your continued support,
Aleksandra Nowacka, MLIS 93
LISAA President

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News From SLIS

Since late June 2015, significant events at SLIS engaged us in a lively retirement party for Professor Margaret Mackey and an elegant thank you lunch for our leader Anna Altmann (who completed her term as Chair). Dr. Jennifer Branch, who served in a joint appointment between SLIS and Elementary Education for a few years, has returned to her home department and SLIS thanks her for her contributions to teaching and learning.

SLIS is actively renewing in exciting ways. After an open and international search process, I began a five-year term as Chair July 1 – what a privilege. And SLIS is truly delighted with the appointment of Dr. Adam Worrall as an Assistant Professor who joined the School on August 1. Dr. Worrall earned his PhD (2014) and MLIS (2008) from the Florida State University School of Information. His research looks at the relationships between information-centric communities, information and communication technologies (ICTs), and the information behavior of their users. “I incorporate social informatics and information behavior perspectives to focus on the boundaries that may exist between communities, especially online,” Adam said, “and the roles that individual boundary spanners and ICTs can play in supporting information and knowledge sharing in these contexts.”

As of September 2015, SLIS is home to 267 graduate students, an almost even balance of on campus and online students. Five on campus students are international (USA X 2, China, Iran, St Kitts); one online student is international (Japan). Meanwhile, several Canadians are studying with us

online from home bases in Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Japan and the United Arab Emirates. SLIS is also the proud home to six Aboriginal students (three on campus; three online).

Our 2015 exit survey, generously undertaken by Professor Emeritus Dr. Alvin Schrader, affirms great confidence in the quality of education and educational experience at SLIS. With an 81 percent response rate, 100 percent of respondents (who convoked in either November 2014 or June 2015) reported they would recommend our MLIS program. This is a new height for the School! Tremendous thanks are owed to our stellar faculty and staff, whose contributions put the School in such excellent standing with our newest of alumni. Our faculty and staff continue to go strong, having shown, for example, a dynamic collective presence in June in Ottawa at the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and the Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS) conferences. Faculty also engaged in teaching and learning communities internationally over the summer months, keeping SLIS on its toes with informed intercultural perspectives on the global information professions.

SLIS is ever mindful there is no school without students and we continue to recruit and retain the best. For example, Gianmarco Visconti won the 2015 CLA Student Article Contest for his paper entitled “Queer Muslim Users: Intersectional Spaces in Libraries”. SLIS is thriving!

SLIS Professor and Chair, Toni Samek

Our Legacy through Endowed Scholarships

There are visionaries among us! Thank you to our many alumni who have made generous personal donations to create a lasting legacy for SLIS students and the continuity of our profession.

As of March 31, 2015, our endowment fund has a book value of over \$73,000. This principle balance is endowed and will support the disbursement of LISAA scholarships for generations to come. Each year, the interest earned from this endowed fund is allocated and expended on LISAA scholarships. Together, we award two \$1,500 scholarships to students each year. Our scholarship recipients have achieved high academic standing and have demonstrated professional potential. This is spectacular support for our students and future alumni—congratulations to us!

In light of this achievement and the upcoming 50th Anniversary of SLIS in 2018, the LISAA Executive Team is reflecting on the future of our scholarships. Is it time to increase the value of the scholarships we are disbursing? Would our alumni be receptive to a fundraising initiative focused on topping up the endowed fund to a level of \$100,000+ so that we can increase the amount of interest available to disburse? What is our vision and legacy going to be for the next 50 years?

Think about it! Let's do great things. Give today at www.ualberta.ca

Della Paradis

Distinguished Alumna Linda Slater

by Liz Dennet

I am so thrilled that Linda Slater is this year's Distinguished Alumna. As part of the group that nominated her, I feel honoured to be able to share with you today what makes Linda such a deserving recipient of this award.

Linda graduated from School of Library and Information Studies in 1988 and started working in the John W Scott Health Sciences Library in 1989. And she has worked there ever since and is currently the Public Services Manager of the library and the supervisor of the libraries' associate staff members.

At the Scott Library, Linda is quite simply the expert's expert. The rest of us know a lot about the ins and outs of all the health sciences database but she knows more. She has helped me numerous times to figure out why a database was doing something unexpected and how to fix it or work around it. She does the same for our health science library colleagues, both locally and nationally by providing advice to queries on expert searching listservs. Of course Linda's knowledge and skill does not go unnoticed by our faculty and students either. Linda has a strong reputation, particularly in her liaison area in the Faculty of Nursing for being extremely helpful with

difficult searches, technological glitches and help with citation management programs.

Linda has made significant contributions to librarianship through her work with CHLA (Canadian Health Libraries Association). She has served as President and is currently serving as Treasurer. With the NAHLA (Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association, Linda just wrapped up being Past- President and has been Secretary of the association several times. She was also President of the Association of Professional Librarians of the University of Alberta (2004 – 2005).

Linda has also authored or co-authored thirteen peer-reviewed publications and has made numerous presentations locally, regionally and nationally, many of them to provide her expert search knowledge to other librarians.

Linda has also given back to the School of Library and Information Studies. In 2011 and 2015 Linda and her colleagues taught LIS 520, which is Health Sciences librarianship. This term, Winter 2015, Linda has been course coordinator for LIS 520. Last year she also taught a 1 credit course through SLIS on Systematic Review Searching. For several years, Linda also taught Library Automation in Public Services for the library technician program at Grant MacEwan.

Linda has even had an impact internationally. In 2000, Linda visited a nursing school in Ghana to help improve their library collection. Since that time, many groups of nursing students have visited the UofA from Ghana. Linda has provided instruction to these groups and her Nursing LibGuides are heavily used by these groups.

Linda is a wonderful colleague, who is extremely modest and rarely thinks she does anything of note but is highly productive, intelligent and generous with her time and knowledge. Her colleagues hold her in their deepest respect and we admire her for her straightforward and logical approach to solving problems.

As I said at the beginning, we are thrilled that Linda's hard work and service to the profession is being recognized by this award. Thank you so much to LISAA and please give a big hand for this year's distinguished alumni, Linda Slater.

Liz Dennett
Public Service Librarian, J W Scott Health Sciences Library



Honourary Alumna Sandra Shores

by Marlene Dorgan

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present Sandra Shores with the LISAA Honourary Alumni Award for SLIS non-Alumni. I also want to note that this nomination for Sandra includes two colleagues – Liz Dennett, and Sandy Campbell, as well as myself. This award recognizes an individual who is not a graduate of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, but who has made a significant contribution either to the library profession; the School of Library and Information Studies at the U of A, or to the advancement of knowledge. Sandra has contributed in all three areas.

Sandra received her MLS degree at UBC in 1984, and began working at University of Alberta Libraries in the same year. She began her library career at the Scott Health Sciences Library, first as a public services librarian, and later as Site manager. In 2002, Sandra left health sciences to successfully coordinate and lead the implementation of the new Integrated Library System for the UA Libraries and the NEOS Library Consortium. Two years later, Sandra moved into managing operations for ITS, responsible for day to day operations of the unit, including supervision of 15 technical staff, developing and supporting the Libraries network and workstation infrastructure.

In 2012, Sandra was appointed as Acting Associate University Librarian for Bibliographic and Information

Technology Services (BITS), and was permanently appointed to that position in 2014. Sandra is recognized within the UofA Libraries for her calm and practical leadership. Her expertise and knowledge in technology applications supports improvements to library services and staff productivity. She is well known throughout the NEOS Consortium for her ability to operationalize new systems and processes during times of continuous change.

Throughout her career, Sandra has been also been active in service to the profession both within the University and externally. As a health sciences librarian, Sandra was involved in professional associations including the Medical Library Association and the Northern Alberta Health Libraries Association, serving as both Treasurer and President. She also served as President of APLUA (Association of Professional Librarians of the University of Alberta), and on the Executive and Council of AASUA (Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta). Sandra contributed to many UA Libraries committees and more than a dozen University-wide committees such as GFC, Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), and the Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee (OSAAC).

Sandra has also been active in librarian and library technician training. Within SLIS, Sandra taught LIS536, Digital Reference and Information Retrieval, and has been a regular guest lecturer for LIS506, Information Technology, and LIS598, Managing Vendor Relations. She was also a sessional instructor at the MacEwan University Information Management and Library Technology Program in the early 90's. Sandra is known for her collaborative style of work, her professionalism and the leadership she provides in all of her undertakings. She is highly regarded by colleagues and staff across the university.

On a personal note, I am most fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Sandra as a colleague in the Scott Library. We share many memories of that time. We've always viewed Sandra as a role model - for her extremely competent approach to all things, her graciousness, kindness, wit, and quick sense of humour.

Her contributions are noteworthy and she is well deserving of this award. I am very honoured to present the 2015 LISAA Honourary Membership Award to a colleague and friend, Sandra Shores, congratulations!

Marlene Dorgan, Head, JWS Scott Health Sciences Library



SLIS Faculty Members Research: Shiri and Rathi Building a Digital Library North

By Sandy Campbell

Imagine living in Sach's Harbour on Banks Island and wanting to show a child a photograph of your grandfather, but the only known image is 500 km away in Inuvik. You could write or telephone Cathy Cockney, Manger at the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Center (ICRC) and have her make a copy and mail it to you, or you could go to Inuvik. The Inuvialuit Settlement Region includes parts of the Mackenzie River Delta, the Beaufort Sea, the Yukon North Slope, the Northwest part of the Northwest Territories and the Western Canadian Arctic Islands. While the ICRC in Inuvik holds a great deal of information about the Settlement Region and its people, little of it is accessible on-line.

SLIS faculty members, Ali Shiri and Dinesh Rathi, along with a number of collaborators, including Cathy Cockney and Sandy Campbell, received a 3 year SSHRC research grant in 2014 to oversee the development and launch of a digital library infrastructure for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Canada's north. Other project team members include Sharon Farnel and Elaine Maloney.

Work so far has been focused on getting to know the information needs and information seeking behaviour of the people in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Shiri and Rathi visited Inuvik in February to experience the work of the ICRC first-hand and to visit other information services in Inuvik.

Over the summer, a field team composed of research assistants Robyn Stobbs and Christine Adams, worked in Inuvik and the surrounding area collecting data to complete an environmental scan of information needs. This phase of the project focused on community partnerships, attending numerous community events and festivities and inviting community members for interviews and to complete a survey for identifying their information needs.

Once the scan is completed, a variety of research projects to support the development of a Digital Library North will begin. Among these will be the development of a culturally appropriate metadata framework, development of a multilingual interface that will support the local dialects, creation of sustainable processes for the digitization of locally held material, creation of a prototype digital library for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and training of local project participants in information management.

While the rigorous research is an important part of the project, the team is equally focusing on ensuring that the Digital Library North meets the practical information needs of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and will be sustainable into the future.

For more information see the Digital Library North web-site at <https://www.ualberta.ca/~ashiri/DigiLibNorth/> or find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/digitallibrarynorth?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

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