



NEWS

September 1998

Greetings from the President

We are pleased to announce the "birth" of our LISAA website at <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/lisaa/>. We are indebted to Adrienne Brown, MLIS '95 and LISAA Secretary/Treasurer and Rick Johnson, Continuing MLIS Student for applying their creative technologically inclined minds to the task.

We are also pleased to inform the membership that, with the 1998-99 academic year, LISAA is now able to award two one-thousand dollar-plus scholarships to entering or continuing MLIS students! These scholarships, as well as all LISAA events and projects are solely funded by your membership fees.

The executive committee realizes that in the past couple of years, our membership list has not been as accurate as it should have been and we apologize to any of you who missed newsletters or event notification. Hopefully, now that the database is housed at the library school our membership list will be easier to maintain.

In this newsletter you will find a list of the current executive committee members and their contact information. Please feel free to keep in touch.

Diane Tinnish, MLIS '95
LISAA President 98/99

Library & Information Studies Alumni Association Executive Committee 1998-99

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*All School of Library &
Information Studies graduates
are invited*

to

*LISAA's Annual
Champagne Breakfast*

On

Reunion Weekend

Saturday, October 3

10:00 am to 12 noon

Henderson Hall

The class of 1973 will be honoured



Have you been looking for Net-based information on LISAA but don't know where to turn? Need to contact an executive member, but don't know who's who, let alone their e-mail address? Your search is over!

Lisaa is pleased to announce the debut of its new website and e-mail address. The site officially went online on August 30, 1998 at <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/lisaa/>.

The website has all you need in the way of information on LISAA, including a message from president Diane Tinnish, the association's objectives, information on LISAA scholarships, the names and e-mail addresses of executive members, upcoming LISAA events, newsletters back issues, and membership information.

We even provide a membership form in two formats: HTML, suitable for printing via your

favourite web browser, and PDF, which can be opened and printed via free Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in (also available via a link on the site).

Got a question the website doesn't answer? A name or address? Need to contact LISAA? Simply send an e-mail to lisaa@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca and your request will be sent directly to the appropriate executive member for attention.

As with all websites, LISAA's is a work-in-progress. Be sure to visit regularly, and to send in your comments, questions and suggestions.

Adrienne Brown, MLIS '95
Secretary/Treasurer

**Attention
School of Library & Information Studies
University of Alberta
Grads
living in the Calgary area:**

LISAA's annual

Calgary Reception

is TENTATIVELY planned for

**Thursday, October 29
7:00 pm
at the
University of Calgary**

**Check LISAA's website for details
or
contact Claudette Cloutier at
Ccloutie@ucalgary.ca**

LISAA SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, the LISAA Scholarship Endowment fund has grown so much this year that, for the first time, two scholarships can be offered. The scholarships are awarded annually, the first to an entering student and the second to a continuing student. In each case, the recipient serves as a student representative on the LISAA executive. Any recipient is eligible for a maximum of two awards.

The first scholarship is awarded on the basis of outstanding academic performance and professional potential to a student entering the

MLIS program who enrolls in at least four courses during the regular academic year (fall and winter terms combined).

The second scholarship is awarded annually to a student continuing in the MLIS program who enrolls in at least four courses during the regular academic year (described above). It is granted on the basis of the completion of at least four courses and satisfactory academic progress.

The recipient of the entering student scholarship is eligible for consideration, subject to the recommendation of the executive committee of the Alumni Association (president, past president, and vice-president/president-elect). Their approval will be based on satisfactory performance of duties and obligations on the LISAA executive during the first year.

Eligible students for both scholarships will be considered automatically by the School and the LISAA executive. The 1998-99 scholarships are \$1,250 each.

This year's winners are Carolyn Guinchard, entering student, and Barbara Alvarez, continuing student.

Ms. Guinchard and her family have relocated from Calgary in order for her to attend the MLIS program. No stranger to relocation, Carolyn completed a Bachelor of Home Economics degree and did coursework towards an MBA at Dalhousie University, before moving to the West Coast. There she established and managed a home-based business while raising a family. She devoted a great deal of time as a volunteer tutor at 'Project Literacy Victoria', and developed a keen interest in public libraries, adult literacy and information as a means of empowerment. Ms. Guinchard is also an aspiring novelist.

Barbara Alvarez won the LISAA Scholarship in 1997-98 as an incoming student to the MLIS program. Barbara entered the program with a Master's degree in Hispanic Literatures, which she began in Poland and completed at the University of Alberta. Her plans are to use her MLIS degree in an academic setting. While excelling in the first year of her program, she also continued to receive outstanding reviews as a sessional language instructor in the Dept. of Modern Languages and Comparative Studies. This past summer she worked on the 'Orlando Project', Dept. of English, responsible for the construction of a thesaurus that will be used for information retrieval in the electronic publication of the project, *Integrated History of Women's Writing in the British Isles*.

Carolyn and Barbara are both extremely worthy scholarship recipients, who can be counted on to contribute much to the School, the Alumni Association and the profession. We wish the every success in their academic programs!

News from the School

"Seasons of Love" in the hit Broadway musical *Rent* poses the question, "How do you measure a year in the life?" Is it measured in daylights? sunsets? midnights? cups of coffee? inches? miles? laughter? strife? minutes? - "five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes," as the song says, to be precise?

There are so many ways, but in the working life of a faculty member there are two immediate measures of a year. For an educator, the crucial measure is teaching and learning. This past year 34 of our students earned the MLIS degree and another 59 were continuing with their studies. Congratulations to all of the new graduates! And welcome to LISAA! I hope our new graduates will become strong

supporters of the School and future generations of students.

As teachers we can also measure our year by the number and quality of new students that we have been able to attract to the School. Welcome to our 34 new students entering the MLIS program this fall! They have come from all over the country (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, the Maritimes, and Inuvik, besides Alberta) - and indeed all over the world (Tanzania, Ghana, Germany, and Poland). All of them have their own measures of what a year means - academic achievement, work experience, School activities, family and other personal responsibilities - and, I hope, fun. About one-quarter of our student body is now taking the program on a part-time basis; last year it was closer to 30%.

As a researcher, the crucial measure for a year is discovery and dissemination. This past year Dr. Hope Olson and Dr. Dennis Ward obtained research funding in the amount of \$76,000 over the next three years from SSHRC, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This represents both achievement and potential. So also does Dr. Dianne Oberg's funding over the past three years of more than \$82,000 to develop a Web-based diploma program in teacher-librarianship by distance learning. Other faculty members also received research funding support of various kinds.

Toni Samek completed her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January, and so for the first time in the history of the School, all full-time faculty members hold a doctoral degree - surely another measure of the past year.

But discovery is hard to measure compared to dissemination. This past year faculty members have given presentations at conferences in (in no particular order) Winnipeg, Regina, Ottawa (2), Washington, D.C., Lille, Jasper (2), Banff,

Jerusalem (2), Tel Aviv, Amsterdam (2), Edmonton (2), Paris, and Victoria.

Measures for continuing students are similar to those for entering students, one supposes, and those who graduate next spring will have their own special measures too - sending out resumes, finding a job upon graduation, attending conferences, and I hope also gaining satisfaction and confidence as they venture into their professional careers.

For Toni Samek and Bert Howell, I am sure the measure of this past year was the birth of their first child Rudy on April 12th at 12:14 a.m., seven pounds thirteen ounces. Congratulations to the Samek-Howell family!

How do you measure a year in the life? Though there are countless ways, the Broadway song urges us to remember a year through friends and love, and I can think of no more fitting measures.

Alvin M. Schrader,
Director

September 1998

SLIS Faculty in Israel

At the beginning of July 1998, Dr. Dianne Oberg and Dr. Alvin Schrader attended the annual conference of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) held in Ramat-Gan, Israel, near Tel Aviv. Dr. Oberg spoke about the school principal's role in developing information literacy, based on findings from an international research project that she and colleagues in Australia are conducting. She is also editor of IASL's refereed journal School Libraries Worldwide and a member of the IASL executive.

Dr. Schrader was keynote speaker for the conference, the opening day of which was a

joint session with the Israel Library Association (ILA). Some 550 librarians and faculty - 150 members of IASL and 400 members of ILA - attended his talk on censorship and Internet access in schools and school libraries.

Pictured here are Dr. Schrader and Dr. Snunith Shoham, conference co-organizer, in Jerusalem. Dr. Shoham was scholar in residence at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta, during the summer of 1997. She was appointed Chair of the Department of Information Studies and Librarianship at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, earlier this summer.

Dr. Schrader also spoke at the Jerusalem Conference on Canadian Studies held June 28-July 1, 1998 at the Mount Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Some 125 scholars from around the world addressed a variety of Canadian and Israeli issues touching on the theme of the conference, Canadian higher education. The conference celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies.

Alvin M. Schrader
Director

September 1998



Liza Chan: Associate Fellowship Program Winner



Liza Chan, a Spring 1998 graduate of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, has been awarded an Associate Fellowship from the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

The National Library of Medicine is the world's largest research library in the biomedical sciences, and offers a one-year postgraduate training fellowship program. The Fellowship is designed to prepare librarians for future leadership roles in health sciences libraries in the United States, and introduces a wide range of technologies and skills used in managing information at a national library. The National Library of Medicine accepts only one applicant annually from outside the United States to participate in the Associate Fellowship Program.

The Fellowship Program provides extensive training in all components of health science libraries. Computer-based skills, collection building, bibliographic control, and biotechnology information resources are but a

few facets of the Program. Individualized projects are assigned to create a self-directed course of study to meet the challenges of interpreting results for decision-making in a library environment.

Liza, who completed an undergraduate degree in physiotherapy at the University of Alberta, views her rare opportunity with great anticipation and eagerly waits the beginning of the Fellowship Program in September. "This program fit into my picture of what I would like to learn. Medical training never ends, and medical librarianship requires the same level of continuing education".

Liza credits her instruction at the School of Library and Information Studies as paramount in attaining her prestigious award. "While taking physiotherapy I was not comfortable with computer technology in general, and that is what prompted me to apply to the Library School Program in the first place". Instruction in computer automation, cataloguing, online searching, and especially a practicum with a health sciences library, provided Liza with her own unique skills set that appealed to the National Library of Medicine. Liza also credits the approachable faculty at the School of Library and Information Studies in helping achieve her goals.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Liza on earning the Associate Fellowship, and wish for a fulfilling experience with the National Library of Medicine.

Rick Johnson
Second Year Student

Marios Socratous: Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Award Winner



Marios Socratous was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Award in 1996 to support his enrollment in the MLIS program at the University of Alberta for the academic years 1996-98. The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Award, established in 1960, is funded by Commonwealth governments to enable students of high intellectual promise to pursue studies in Commonwealth countries other than their own, so that on their return they can make a distinctive contribution at home while fostering mutual understanding within the Commonwealth.

Marios, who was born on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, was elated when he was awarded a scholarship for a Master's degree at a Canadian University. "I chose the MLIS program at the University of Alberta because I read a lot of positive reviews about the City of Edmonton, the School has an appealing curriculum, and most of all, the administration was so helpful in providing all the necessary documents that I felt I was truly welcome."

Before coming to Canada, Marios earned a Bachelor of Arts in History at Jersey City State College, New Jersey. His decision to study Library and Information Studies was an easy choice due to his passion for books, and his

conviction that librarianship is an interesting and personally fulfilling field of study. "In Cyprus there are only a few professional librarians, and those librarians are highly regarded." Marios worked in two private academic libraries in Cyprus. In one of those, he helped implement the Dewey Decimal system. In sharing his library experience from Cyprus, Marios has enriched the education of his fellow students.

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Award Program allows Marios the opportunity to improve librarianship in Cyprus. "I would like to thank the administrators of the Fellowship Program for granting this scholarship. My plans to study abroad were always a burning desire in my heart. I am glad I chose a wonderful country to come to, and it is my privilege to have the opportunity to study at such an outstanding library school program."

We all wish Marios a successful career and look forward to outstanding contributions to the profession.

Rick Johnson
Second Year Student

SLIS U of A Placement Survey, 1996

In 1996, 35 students graduated with the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree from the University of Alberta, of whom 28 responded to this survey (an 80 per cent response rate, similar to the year before). The survey, our 9th annual, was conducted in May and June 1997, just over a year after the students had graduated.

Summary

The rate of placement of MLIS graduates from the University of Alberta has remained relatively stable over the past four years, with 23 out of 28 graduates (82%) this year

reporting employment in library and information services at the time of the survey. As in earlier years, however, only half of those working full-time were employed in permanent positions. Also as in earlier years, the survey shows that three out of four graduates had worked in one or more temporary positions at some point since graduation. Almost all graduates obtained their first job within six months of graduation.

The most frequent employers of currently employed 1996 graduates were post-secondary libraries, accounting for a third of all placements, with another third employed by government libraries, school libraries, and public libraries. For the first time in the history of the School's annual placement surveys, the information industry was a substantial source of positions, accounting for close to a fifth of placements. The majority of graduates continued to find placements in Alberta, with a somewhat higher proportion than the year before staying in the province.

The most common way in which graduates learned about available positions was through word-of-mouth (networking), with a quarter mentioning it, followed by newspaper advertisements and the School's job board.

Current Placement Status	Number	Percentage
Full-time permanent	10*	43%
Full-time temporary	9	39
Part-time permanent	2	9
Part-time temporary	2	9
TOTAL	23	100%

* includes 2 self-employed

Sector	Number	Percentage
Post-secondary libraries	7	30%
Computer industry	4	17
Government libraries	3	13
School libraries	3	13
Public and regional libraries	1	5
Non-profit organization libraries	1	5
Other	4	17
TOTAL	23	100%

Source of Information	Number of Jobs (Current & First Positions)	Percentage
Word-Of-Mouth	6	25%
Newspaper	4	17
SLIS Job Board	3	13
Offered Position	2	8
Referral	2	8
Internal Position	1	4
Self-Employed	1	4
Other	5	21
TOTAL	24	100%

Position Secured	First Position		Current Position	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Before entering program	7	32%	-	
Before graduation	6	27	-	
Within 3 months of graduation	3	14	4	20%
3 to 6 months after graduation	4	18	6	30
More than 6 months after graduation	2	9	10	50
TOTAL	22	100%	20	100%

Library Experience	Number (n=28)	Percentage
Either before or during MLIS	23	82%
- before	11	39
- during	19	68
Neither before nor during MLIS	5	18

The age pattern of all 1996 graduates was comparable to the norm for recent years, which has ranged between 29 and 34 years of age at graduation. In 1996, the typical graduate was 33; in 1995, just under 34.

Academic patterns with respect to degrees earned prior to the MLIS by 1996 graduates in the survey were consistent with earlier years: 75% of respondents reported holding only an undergraduate degree and 25% also a graduate degree or postgraduate diploma. Fourteen of the 1996 graduates held the BA, 5 the BEd, 1 the BSc, 1 the BMus, 4 the MA, 1 the MSc, 1 the Ed Dip, and 1 the PhD.

by Alvin M. Schrader, Tim Haysom, and Michael Brundin

August 1998

News from our grads

Debbie Fyfe (grad 1998)

"I am currently employed as Reference/Instruction Librarian at the Science & Technology Library, University of Alberta."

Aidan Meegan (grad 1998)

Appointed as Branch Librarian, Swift Current Public Library, Swift Current, SK.

Kim (Alspach) Christie (grad 1992)

"... have just started working (July '98) as Librarian at the Slave Lake AVC Library (formerly the position of another SLIS grad, Geoff Owens). I look forward to seeing more of my former classmates and Alberta colleagues after my six years on Vancouver Island!"

Lori Heppner (Tolppanen) and Brad Tolppanen (grads 1997)

Got married and moved to Louisiana.

Erja Kajosallo (grad 1997)

"I am a librarian at MIT – responsible for chemistry and chemical engineering. My work has been very rewarding, but I am still adjusting to life in the States, though."

Angela Robertson Mills (grad 1997)

"Very lucky – got a job right after graduation. I have worked at EPL for 8 years and when I graduated, someone retired - opening up a position for entry level librarian. I'm planning to work out a job share if possible for 1999 due to my family commitments – full time work too demanding at present."

Fu (David) Zhuo (grad 1997)

"I remembered when I first had our reference course in the fall of 1995, our professor Toni asked us to play a game. Each of us was asked to write something about ourselves. And then we exchanged the slip of paper and read out what we wrote to figure out who we were and what we wanted to do in the Library School. What I wrote was 'a tall and basketball fan, willing to help people and find a job with my library and info. skills.' Thanks to all of my U of A profs and my supportive classmates I did find a job and I am helping people in NY. I miss the white snow and the warmth of my Canadian professors. The open-door policy is wonderful! It opened the door of library profession as well as human hearts."

Anne Marie Barter (grad 1997)

"After graduation in April 1997, I returned to Ottawa, ON. I was employed at Natural Resources Canada (Federal Government Library) as a Reference Librarian in August 1997. From Sept. 1997 – June 1998 I was employed by the Ottawa Board of Education as a School Librarian at a Secondary School. I have returned to work at Natural Resources Canada as a Reference Librarian and am currently in this position."

Library & Information Studies Alumni Association

"Continue the Experience"

Membership Features:

- Receive *newsletter* reporting on the School, professional issues, and people
- Support outstanding students when 37% of your membership fee is transferred to annual *scholarships*
- Develop your professional network at Reunion Weekend *Open House*, The *Calgary Reception*, *Partners Day Reception*, *Welcome to the Profession Reception*
- Exercise your vote at the *Annual General Meeting*

Membership Application:

Last Name

First Name

Mailing Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone

Membership Year:

September 1st to August 31st

Membership Category:

\$25 Full member - SLIS graduate

\$15 Friend of SLIS - Non-UofA SLIS graduate

\$5 Student member

In addition to my membership fee, I have enclosed:

\$ _____ as an added contribution to the scholarship fund

\$ _____ towards LISAA's annual fund raising project

Tax receipts will be provided for all charitable donations.

Please make your cheque or money order payable to:

Library & Information Studies Alumni Association

I am interested in serving on the LISAA executive:

Yes

No

For the **Distinguished Alumni Award**, I nominate _____

For an **Honourary Membership**, I nominate _____

Please mail form with membership fee to:

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