The Evangelical Lyceum is a bilingual (Slovak-English) school located in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava that has five grades for students ages 13-19. It was founded in 1606 as part of the Protestant Reformation, closed by the Czechoslovakian Communists in 1948, and reopened in 1991.

I am currently working to have a complete collection of Newberry Medal Winners. If you would like to participate in this book drive, then please contact me: Virengia Houston, at houstonv@mailbox.sc.edu.

While attending SLIS, I was fortunate to witness different people excited about books helping others share that joy. I decided to become a member of LISSA the day of orientation.

With attending regular meetings I decided to have a more active role in the organization and held the title of service chair. I became enthusiastic about coming up with ideas that would galvanize the organization and the community we serve. While at school I did not realize the spirit of service had such an impact on me, but one day found a posting for a librarian in Slovakia.

There have been a lot of growing pains for Slovakia since its separation from the Czech Republic on New Year’s Day 1993, and since it became a member of NATO and the European Union in 2004. Among their challenges is making the transition in their education system to adapt with other European Union members. I feel that my time working at the Evangelical Lyceum is assisting in that goal.

I am currently working to have a complete collection of Newberry Medal Winners. If you would like to participate in this book drive, then please contact me: Virengia Houston, at houstonv@mailbox.sc.edu.
President’s Notes
By Travis Ferrell

Happy Holidays, everyone.

A few reminders first:

Dec. 1st, LISSA is hosting a 10K Run/Walk to raise money to go to IFLA Conference in Quebec next August. If you are interested, please contact us at slis_lissa@yahoo.com or see Travis Ferrell, Grant David Keyes, Margaret Hawes, or Allison Read on campus. A donation sheet is up above the mailboxes next to Student Services if you would like to sponsor a runner.

LISSA will have an end of the semester dinner Dat., Dec. 8th. Please RSVP at slis_lissa@yahoo.com if you would like to attend. Our private room only seats about fifteen.

Coming Up Next Semester

Next semester, a lot of really exciting opportunities are coming up. I can’t talk about all of them, but I would like to focus on two opportunities coming up next semester: the Robert V. Williams Graduate Student Research Award and USC’s Grad Student Day.

The purpose of the Robert V. Williams Graduate Student Research Award, named after the longtime SLIS faculty member, is to encourage graduate students in the School of Library and Information Science to do research in the field of Library and Information Science.

Deadline for receipt of the submitted papers is Feb. 24, 2007. Papers submitted may use any type of research methodology, but must be research oriented.

Up to three awards (first place, second place, and third place) may be given annually to graduate students in SLIS. All currently enrolled students and previous semester graduates will be eligible to compete for the award. The awards (if any) will be given at the annual Dean’s Lecture.

All submissions for the Robert V. Williams Graduate Student Research Award will also be considered for recommendation (upon consent of the author) to the annual Graduate Student Day Competitive awards of the USC Graduate School, provided they meet the requirements for that competition. Certificates will be awarded to the winner(s) of the award and, as funds are available, a suitable monetary award.

For more information, please contact Carol Williams, Student Services Manager. Phone: 803-777-3887, or email, carolwil-liams@sc.edu. You can also visit this address for more detailed information: http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/2007/11/robert-v-williams-graduate-student.html

Graduate Student Day, sponsored by The Graduate School, provides graduate students an opportunity to present their scholarly and creative work. The University’s annual celebration will be held in the Russell House on Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

Over 100 students will compete for cash prizes. These students, recommended by their departments, will make oral research presentations or display posters. Panels of faculty and graduate students will judge the presentations and posters.

Winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony. Awards will also be presented, by academic units & organizations, to outstanding graduate students.

Details of the 2007 competition, including student guidelines, will be sent to colleges and departments by February 6, 2007. For more information, you can visit the following websites:

http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/gradu testudentday/index.html


LISSA encourages all interested students to apply for both awards. You will certainly have our support in preparing.

We will also host a number of other events next semester, including faculty and student colloquia, field trips to libraries (with an emphasis on special and business libraries next semester), and the LISSA Symposium. Expect a number of new service and professional opportunities involving the Lubuto Library Project as well. (We have a couple of big surprises involving Lubuto that we are very excited about).

Happy Holidays,
Travis
LISSA Service Notes  
By Mary Anne Hamblen, LISSA Secretary

Leaves are falling, there is a chill in the air here in Columbia (well, sometimes), and I realize that Fall 2007 is quickly drawing to a close. As I reflect on the various service projects that have been accomplished this semester, there is plenty of reason to be proud of the generous volunteer time and effort put forth by our USC School of Library and Information Science students.

Here is a sampling of causes and projects that LISSA currently supports:

- **Haiti Service Project**, primarily involving cataloging donated books for needy children at a Catholic school in Haiti
- **Lubuto Project**, creating libraries for the numerous street children in Africa with the goal of providing safe spaces to develop literacy and other crucial life skills
- **Reach Out and Read** annual fundraiser supporting pediatricians’ efforts to promote literacy during pediatric well-visits
- **Carolina School for Inquiry**, Richland County School District One’s nascent magnet school
- **South Carolina Center for Children’s Books and Literacy (SCCBL)**

LISSA extends a heartfelt thank you to all who have given so magnanimously of their time and talents.

The Haiti Project accepts material donations for the children’s school on an ongoing basis. Requested items are new packages of boys’ underwear and socks (all sizes), blue ink pens, scarves and bandannas, hair ribbons and fasteners, and Matchbox cars. Donated goods can be left in a marked box in the Davis College computer lab, room 110.

For more information on LISSA’s service projects look for the Weekly LISSA Update in your e-mail inbox, consult the LISSA blog at http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/blog.html, or email LISSA directly at slis_lissa@yahoo.com.

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Running to Quebec

**LISSA 10K Run/Walk**  
December 1, 2 p.m.

SLIS students are planning to attend the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference in Quebec City, Canada in August 2008. To raise funds for the trip, LISSA will hold a 10K Run/Walk at Columbia’s Riverfront Park on Saturday, December 1 at 2 p.m.

Donors can pledge an amount of money per completed kilometer (for example, 1 dollar per 10 K = $10).

For information on participating see http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/2007/11/help-lissa-run-to-quebec.html. If you would like to sponsor a LISSA member, there is a pledge sheet above the mailboxes next to the Student Services office in Davis College. Or please contact Travis Ferrell, Margaret Hawes, Allison Read, or Grant Keyes. LISSA thanks you for your support.
State Library’s Talking Book Services Seeking Volunteers
By Gene McClain and Travis Ferrell

South Carolinians with sight impairments depend upon the South Carolina State Library’s Talking Book Services for library services that many of us may take for granted, and the Talking Book Services program depends upon volunteers to help to deliver those library services to people who need them.

The Talking Book Services program provides books, magazines, and other informational and recreational reading materials in formats that can be utilized by those who are blind or suffer from other conditions that have affected their sight and make their use of printed materials difficult or impossible. Any South Carolina resident, regardless of age or income level, who either temporarily or permanently cannot read or use standard print materials is eligible for this service.

Naomi Bradey, volunteer coordinator for the Talking Book Services program, told SLISTen Up! that there are numerous opportunities for volunteers interested in assisting the program.

“Our recording program is where we have the greatest need for volunteers. These volunteers will help record and produce recorded books and magazines for” program participants, Bradey said.

Volunteer opportunities in the recording program include:

- **Volunteer Narrators**, who record books and magazines about South Carolina or written by South Carolinians. Narrators must have an acceptable reading style, have a pleasant voice and pass an audition.
- **Volunteer Monitors**, who operate the recording equipment while the narrator is reading/recording and provides quality control for the recording session.
- **Volunteer Reviewers**, who check for mistakes in the recorded material and make edits and corrections to the recordings.

“All volunteers working with the recording program receive training on how to use specialized digital recording software,” Bradey added.

Other volunteer positions within the Talking Book Service department include:

- **Production Assistants**, who use professional high speed tape duplication equipment to make copies of audio books and magazines that will be added to the program’s collection and circulated to patrons.
- **Receptionists**, who greet visitors, answer the phone and route calls to Talking Book Services and other State Library staff.
- **Book Inspection volunteers**, who check cassette books to ensure that tapes are in good condition, books are complete and all cassettes are rewound before they are mailed to patrons.

One volunteer who has found the experience of working with the Talking Book Service to be “both gratifying and enlightening” is Dean Charles Bierbauer of the College of Mass Communications and Information Studies.

“When I came to South Carolina in 2002, I'd thought I'd left my microphone behind at CNN in Washington,” Bierbauer said. “But now I have my Talking Books recording sessions at the State Library to look forward to.”

Bierbauer has recorded such books as Roger Pinckney's "Signs and Wonders," William Price Fox's "Satchel Paige's America," and "Flabbergasted" by Ray Blackston. “What a pleasure,” he said.

Talking Book Services is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Almost all volunteer work is done during normal business hours, and volunteers can establish a flexible schedule to work as much or as little as they wish. Potential volunteers will be interviewed to discuss their interests, experience and time availability.

For more information, contact Naomi Bradey at 803-734-4616, or go to http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/volunteer-opportunities.html. A volunteer application can be found on the web site.
LISSA Volunteers Assist and Learn at SCLA Conference
By Marshall Green

The South Carolina Library Association held its annual conference October 31 thru November 2 in Columbia, SC. The title of this year’s conference was “Library 2.0 Taking South Carolina’s Libraries to the People.”

Students from the U.S.C. School of Library and Information Science were offered complimentary attendance in exchange for a few hours of volunteering. The event provided a great opportunity for students to network with an eclectic range of librarians and learn about dynamic issues facing South Carolina’s libraries.

LISSA volunteers worked at the conference entry hall passing out name tags and badges to attendees. Upon entering the Radisson Hotel on Bush River Road we directed event goers to various workshops and exhibit booths and provided conference programs along with a nifty blue tote bag.

I was lucky enough to volunteer the opening day at “Library 2.0” and attend the first general session commenced by SCLA President Quincy Pugh. Mr. Pugh welcomed SCLA members and outlined the parameters of the conference. Shortly thereafter SC State Library Director David Goble introduced via YouTube video the first keynote speaker at “Library 2.0,” Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director of the American Library Association. Mr. Fiels presented a captivating exposition of the major issues and challenges currently confronting American libraries.

The central theme at this conference was the digital library world. Expansion into the digital realm is creating numerous possibilities and new mediums of engagement for librarians and library patrons. Slogans juxtaposed on the SCLA conference program cover proclaimed: “the library is everywhere, the library invites participation, and the library has NO Barriers”. The main goal of “Library 2.0” was to articulate the challenges of the digital library world and assist the state’s librarians, as stated by President Pugh, “in planning for the future”.

Here is a glimpse of workshops and lectures that took place during the three-day conference.

Thursday November 1 at “Library 2.0:”
Using Freely Available Resources to Enhance Your Library Web Pages….SC in Second Life….Reference 2.0….Photographs, Maps and Newspapers: Opening a Digital Window to the past in Georgetown County.

Friday November 2 at “Library 2.0:”

For a complete list of sessions and speakers please visit: www.scla.org/AnnualConference2007/HomePage.

On behalf of all the volunteers from Davis College at U.S.C. I’d like to thank SCLA conference organizers for the chance to volunteer at and attend this dynamic event.
The 27th Annual Charleston Conference was an exciting opportunity for students in Heidi Hoerman’s Academic Libraries class. Heidi strongly encourages students to attend and arranges for us to serve as conference interns at a much-reduced registration rate of only $45. SLIS also provided a house at Folly Beach for free student lodging which made the event even more affordable for SLIS students. Ten students attended the conference, with five of us staying at the beach house and the other half arranging other accommodations. The ten student interns were: Elizabeth Ann Blake, Amanda DiFeterici, Beth Dyer, Blair Hinson, Michael Kaltwang, Angela Kleinschmidt, Alana Lewis, Allison Read, Jason Reed, and Rholanda Thomas.

The conference took place in the historic district of Charleston. The main conference venue was the Francis Marion Hotel though “lively lunches” and concurrent sessions were also held at nearby Embassy Suites Hotel. This year for the first time, concurrent sessions were held at the College of Charleston’s Addlestone Library and also the Jewish Studies Center. Though pre-conferences were held all day Wednesday, students did not attend those. Most of us did get to peruse the vendor showcase that day, where representatives from a wide range of library vendors, publishers and services had booths. Our intern duties began Wednesday evening with the Juried Product Development sessions. We were each assigned to check-in registered participants, guard the doors, and collect evaluations after the sessions. Thursday morning we attended the plenary sessions. There were close to 1,000 conference registrants, so the Carolina Ballroom and overflow Gold Room were both jam-packed with many people standing in the back. The throng of attendees was comprised of an interesting mix of librarians, vendors, publishers, aggregators, consultants, and others. Though the subtitle of the Charleston Conference is “Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition,” the conference topics apply to librarians from many sectors of libraries beyond acquisitions, including reference and instruction, collection development, serials, technical services, e-resources, and systems. The majority of librarian attendees did, however, clearly represent academic libraries.

Aside from our Juried Product Development duties on both Wednesday and Thursday, interns also helped at lunchtime with the distribution of boxed lunches on Thursday and Friday. Both days there were enough leftover lunches for students to grab one and head to a lively lunch session. After lively lunches, there were many
2007
XXVII Annual Charleston Conference
Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition
Charleston, South Carolina
November 7 – 10

concurrent sessions covering a wide range of topics to choose from on Thursday and Friday. Several of us had to head home Saturday morning but a few hearty souls trudged forward into the final Saturday sessions. Perhaps our major duty was to act as reporters for sessions, and we all need to write brief summaries of a couple of sessions for submission to Against the Grain. It will give us a byline and a little something to add to the resume.

It would be impossible to summarize the content of the presentations. Besides the 21 speakers we could hear in the plenary sessions, there was a choice of 27 lively lunches, 86 concurrent sessions, and 15 innovative sessions. Some of the sessions were more stimulating than others, some speakers more dynamic than others, and some subject matter clearly over our heads. But just being there surrounded by the energy, ideas and confluence of bright minds talking about issues related to libraries and information was a thrill. The conference had a cutting-edge feel to it, like this was the place to be to know about the future of libraries and how information will be discovered, disseminated, accessed and evaluated. Common themes running across the sessions were: focusing on the user, e-books, digitization, and open access. Words that seemed to pop up a lot were: serendipity, discoverability, authority, and of course Google, and Wikipedia. Though some presenters lamented the direction of publishing, collecting and reference, the general feeling was one of optimism and opportunity that there will always be a place for librarians in the increasingly virtual world of information. The conference reinforced the importance of staying current and being proactive in the continually changing library world.

Unfortunately Heidi Hoerman became ill just before the conference and could not attend. We were well taken care of by Dr. Jennifer Arns at the beach house though, and by Leah Hinds at the conference, a conference organizer who directed our intern duties. The conference was especially fun for me and the other distance education students who attended, as we finally got to meet some of our Columbia-based classmates in person, and share with them a great educational and social experience. All conference attendees were treated to a BBQ and oyster roast Thursday evening at the Charleston Visitor Center, where we all had a chance to sit together and socialize. Then Friday night the SLIS students ate dinner together at a great local place called Five Loaves. All in all it was a wonderful learning and networking opportunity and I think all of us who attended would encourage other SLIS students to attend future Charleston Conferences. Next year’s dates are November 6-8, 2008….same place, hot new topics.

LISSA Web Site Enhanced Following SCSLA Meeting
By Matt Landau

The South Carolina chapter of the Special Libraries Association held its winter meeting at the Columbia Museum of Art on November 9. Approximately thirty professionals and students gathered there on a bright Friday morning to learn, to interact, and to be inspired.

The educational substance of the meeting consisted of a presentation by Amy Duernberger (State Library) on the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries (PASCAL), and a presentation on emerging technologies by Gordon Cochrane (Clemson University). Ms. Duernberger provided insights into the operation of PASCAL by asking such questions as, how do you verify that a patron is a South Carolina citizen? She broadened our perspective on these practical issues by showing best practices from around the country.

Mr. Cochrane spoke of emerging web technologies in use at Clemson. In particular, he demonstrated Google Analytics, a method for visualizing website traffic. As a result of Mr. Cochrane's demonstration, LISSA vice-president Patrick McLaughlin implemented Google Analytics on the LISSA site, and we now have a better understanding of the impact of LISSA 2.0.

Over a catered lunch, there were numerous opportunities to meet new people and to talk about our profession. I saw students talking to established professionals and established professionals interacting with students. As I departed that afternoon, I had a new appreciation for the intellectual and social vitality that SCSLA fosters, and I knew that with such resources, the libraries and library and information professionals of South Carolina have a chance to be brilliant.
I would like to express to my fellow students how important it is to attend professional conferences and take part in associations that are (and are not) our specific interest area in the information community.

Although I work in a public library, I have eagerly participated in SC Association of School Librarians events, the SC Association for the Education of Young Children, and now -- thanks to the generosity of the Medical University of South Carolina -- the conference of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. My experience in Charleston was marked by Southern courtesy. Everyone who staffed the event was friendly, helpful and importantly, easy to approach. Initially, I felt like an outsider … perhaps because I was an outsider. I am neither a member of the organization, nor am I familiar with their work environments. That was of no consequence to the people who literally walked me to the exhibit hall and introduced me to colleagues as I sought a good place to sit for the first General Session. It also was nice to see Dr. Feili Tu, who even took time to sit and talk with me about how the semester was going, the conference and my plans for the future.

At the Session, I discreetly pulled out a small notepad in case something was said that went over my head. To my joyful surprise, these dedicated information professionals were "speaking my language" for the most part. After a few moments, it was clear that the numerous Library settings that exist are more alike than they are different. We face similar challenges (emerging technologies, increasing costs of materials, training and maintaining staff), concerns (defining reasonable service capabilities within our resources, competition with the Internet & bookstores, increasing demands of a changing client base) and significantly- the same purpose, to put the right resource in the right format for the right user at the right time.

I also attended the Easy to Read Health & Wellness Materials for Consumers class on the last day of the conference. The rest of the group was a diverse set of individuals that worked primarily as patient educators or hospital librarians. The class had an appropriate mix of lecture, small group sharing, large group discussion, and the viewing of an informative video. The instructor was extremely organized and her handout--a Manual full of various types of reproducible resources, samples and the PowerPoint she presented—is now my consumer health information bible.

Kim Odom, in addition to being a SLIS student, is the branch manager of the St. Paul’s Library in Hollywood, South Carolina.
From the Editor
Following the release of the previous newsletter, I communicated in person and by e-mail with readers about the size of the most recent newsletters. I could not figure out why the number of pages in the newsletters has doubled since I became editor, and wondered if my editing skills needed to improve.

The consensus reached in all of the conversations I had was that the newsletters have grown because there are so many good things going on with LISSA, and within the School of Library and Information Science in general. As Helen Fellers might say, there is a lot to "crow about" these days at Davis College (thanks to faculty member Elizabeth Miller for that line!).

Certainly, this is a testament to the LISSA leadership and the dynamic group of students who coordinate and participate in LISSA's activities. Expect much of the same next semester, as Travis Ferrell will continue as LISSA president. Two new officers, Margaret Hawes and Allison Read, were recently elected, and they will infuse LISSA's leadership with new ideas and enthusiasm.

And may I add my best wishes for you and yours that this will be your happiest holiday season yet!

Gene

SLIS Students Continue Participation in VRS Program
By Andrea Wright

Virtual Reference Services (VRS) have become a necessary component of reference departments, especially in public and academic libraries. The School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina (SLIS) is proud to be enhancing the education of reference librarianship by offering a real-world VRS internship and practicum to current students and recent graduates.

SLIS has been participating in the “Ask-A-Librarian” Online Chat Reference Service (AAL) for the 2007-2008 year. The program is supported by the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) to provide more timely and cost-effective research-library quality information to users than can be provided by any individual ASERL library. Since September, SLIS students have been providing quality, professional reference service to the students and faculty at eight ASERL AAL schools: the College of William & Mary, Mississippi State University, University of Alabama, University of Central Florida, University of Memphis, University of Mississippi, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Feili Tu, Assistant Professor at SLIS, is the Primary Investigator (PI) for this project, and the PI oversees the project development and implementation of procedures. “It is a great opportunity for our students to gain experience with the provision of real-world virtual reference services (VRS),” said Dr. Tu. “In addition, research will be conducted to examine how effectively students provide VRS, as evidenced by application of knowledge and skills learned from the SLIS/USC curriculum.” Andrea Wright, an MLIS candidate for December 2007, is the Project Coordinator and handles day-to-day operational needs. Eight Master’s-level LIS students and/or recent graduates were selectively recruited for the student staff this semester.

The ASERL AAL service is staffed for more than 100 hours per week. The SLIS students provide VRS through this service during evening and weekend hours. Patrons from each participating university can log onto the service via their library’s website to ask reference questions. On average, the service receives approximately 650 patron questions per month. Profiles, FAQ’s and other resources are provided to help librarians answer questions about the services of other institutions. SLIS has even created a social bookmarking account through del.icio.us so student workers can quickly access the many sites needed for the service.

The students are also benefitting, gaining confidence in their own knowledge and reference skills through a unique experience that will serve them well in their careers. As Dr. Samantha Hastings, Director of SLIS, noted, “In these days of emphasis on evidence-based learning, it is critical that we provide our students with hand-on learning opportunities.” This program does just that. A plus of the program is that students can provide reference service from anywhere, even their own home, making the project accessible to both Columbia-based and distance students. Also, the evening and weekend hours allow students to take other classes and work at other jobs while participating in the project.

The student workers are continuing their stellar service as the schools enter the end of the term, a busy time for reference. As Dr. Hastings stated at the beginning of the fall, “We are proud of our students' abilities, and this project will demonstrate that our pride is quite justified.” And so it has. Dr. Tu and Ms. Wright are currently preparing for the Spring semester with a new group of SLIS’s best students and recent graduates that will surely continue to provide high-quality, professional reference service to faculty and students across the southeast.
Director’s Corner
By Samantha Hastings

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The recent SC Library Association conference was here in Columbia and it was so much fun! Our faculty and students were there to help with the conference and to present papers and panels. The Alumni Tea was spectacular and it was so very good to see everyone again. Dean Charles Bierbauer welcomed all and gave a brief update on the College and SLIS. We were very pleased to have him join us.

We had a beautiful booth shared with the SC Center for Children’s Books and Literacy. Dean Fred Roper and Nonie Price welcomed all and I got to talk with many of our alums. Helen Fellers and Ellen Shuler kept us all entertained and focused on literacy.

In addition, Ellen and Helen keep rockin’ with wonderful outreach programs and a collaborative, coordinating service for all the state literacy initiatives. Dr. Pat Feehan continues to inspire us all with her talent and great storytelling sessions. She has also been running the Early Childhood Literacy Center with wonderful success and many great programs.

Liz Qunell also helped with the SCLA conference. She has kept our website current and modern and has added a feature called “photo of the week.” It is linked at the bottom of the front page at http://www.libsci.sc.edu.

Our National Advisory Council meeting went well and we now have a draft of an employers’ survey that we will distribute soon. Thank you dear NAC members for your good work and support!

We have been very busy and very happy with our new doctoral students! Our faculty are involving them in their research projects and they will be presenting posters at the Association of Library and Information Science Educators’ conference.

Check out our new technology courses from open source software, to Web 2.0, to LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP) to XML Extreme Markup to … well, you tell me. What do you want to brush up on, what do you want to know about new technologies?

LISSA, Dean Bierbauer and I are hosting a Town Hall meeting for students on Thursday, November 29, in Davis 219 from 5-8 p.m., with a live webcast. This is an opportunity for our students to get to know the Dean and to discuss issues related to SLIS or to the profession in general. Don’t be shy - come one, come all!

Check out the blog at http://www.fridaymatters.blogspot.com and in the meantime, here are your five things to do or read:


In closing, keep up the great work, feed the birds and hug a librarian!

Yours,

Dr. Sam