John Newman Olsgaard
December 29, 1953 - December 07, 2007

Obituary Notice

COLUMBIA - A memorial service for John Olsgaard, 53, was held Wednesday, December 12, at Rutledge Chapel on the campus of the University of South Carolina. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, assisted the family.

Dr. Olsgaard passed away Friday, December 07, 2007. He was born and raised in Jamestown, N.D. He graduated from a number of different universities, including receiving a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois(Urbana-Champaign) in 1984.

Dr. Olsgaard met his wife, Jane Kinch Olsgaard, while both were attending graduate school at the University of Iowa. They were married in 1978. They moved to Columbia in 1984 where he became a faculty member in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina. He served in a number of faculty and administrative capacities at the University, including fifteen years as associate provost.

Surviving are his wife of Columbia; daughter, Sarah E. Olsgaard of Columbia; son, Neal J. Olsgaard of Columbia; his mother, Doris E. Olsgaard of Jamestown, N.D.; sister, Nancy A. Whitmer of Billings, Mont.; sister-in-law, Nyla Schneeweis of Grand Rapids, Minn.; and numerous cousins and aunts.

Memorials may be made to the USC Educational Foundation, Attention: the John and Jane Olsgaard Scholarship Fund, School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

A page dedicated to remembering Dr. Olsgaard can be viewed on the SLIS web site: http://www.libsci.sc.edu/jo/tributes.htm
Three new officers have joined incumbent President Travis Ferrell in positions of leadership with LISSA for 2008. Margaret Hawes is LISSA’s new vice president, while Virginia Spell is the new secretary and Allison Read is LISSA’s treasurer.

Travis, Margaret and Allison all expressed their hopes that LISSA will build on the efforts begun last year to make the organization a venue for new and existing students to come together and get to know one another.

“I really want to continue to welcome new students into the group,” Travis said. “LISSA is only relevant if it meets the needs of our student body, and reaching out to the incoming students is the best way to make sure LISSA addresses real student needs.”

“Just before I started the SLIS program in summer 2007, our student leaders came together to create a stronger sense of community among students,” Margaret said. “Because of the efforts of those leaders, I was thrilled to experience an active community of students in the fall. I know we can do even more to enhance our community and create a ‘home’ for our students.”

(continued on page 5)
LISSA Students Add “Published Author” To Their Profiles
By Gene McClain

Mary Anne Hamblen was busier than many of her fellow SLIS students in 2007. In addition to completing her course requirements in time to graduate in December, and fulfilling her duties as LISSA’s secretary, and tending to five children ranging in ages from 3 to 20, she also undertook writing a book about Darlington County.

“I was ecstatic,” Mary Anne recalled when asked to describe how she felt when Arcadia Publishing gave the go-ahead for her book proposal. “Shortly thereafter it began to sink in that I actually had to write this book, and it seemed like a tremendous undertaking because I was a full-time student the whole time.”

Darlington County will be released in late spring or early summer by Arcadia Publishing. The company, which is based in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, has a catalog of more than 4,000 titles, according to its web site (http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/index.html). It is best known for its popular Images of America series, begun in 1993, which relies on local writers and historians to chronicle the histories of large and small communities throughout America.

Mary Anne said she knows people who have written similar books for Arcadia, so she pitched her idea for a book about Darlington County to the publishers.

“I simply contacted Arcadia with my idea and they sent me directions for writing a formal proposal,” she said. “I spent a lot of time completing the proposal, and it was eventually accepted.”

Despite not having any previous experience writing a

When she was growing up, SLIS student Kimberly Maughan “devoured every edition of Sword and Sorceress that my library had.”

When she was 15, she wrote to the editor of the book series, renowned fantasy novelist Marion Zimmer Bradley, requesting guidelines for submitting a story. Kimberly ultimately submitted a story, but was rejected.

“For which I can only be extremely grateful—it was not one of my better pieces,” she recalled.

But after ten years, Kimberly’s second attempt proved to be more successful. Her short story “The Ironwood Box” was published as part of Marion Zimmer Bradley’s Sword and Sorceress XXII last year.

In this latest addition to the fantasy anthology series, which has continued on despite Bradley’s death in 1999, Kimberly’s story is part of a collection that includes veteran science fiction and fantasy writers such as Deborah J. Ross, Dave Smeds, and Elisabeth Waters, who also edited this edition of the series.

“Sword and Sorceress is well-known for providing a launching pad for new writers, but familiar and established writers are just as welcome to submit,” Kimberly said.
Mary Anne Hamblen (continued)

book, Mary Anne was undaunted by the challenge of sifting through hundreds of photographs and nearly as many books and primary sources in order to find the right ones to tell the county’s story.

“This is my first experience with a project such as this,” she said. “If I were to start over now, I would be much more efficient.”

Mary Anne said the book spans the county’s history, from 1737 up to the present, with the majority of the book’s images coming from the 1900-1950 period. It starts with a brief summary of the county’s origins and early settlers, and highlights significant events in the county’s development.

“I chose to arrange the book thematically” into six chapters, Mary Anne said: Darlington; Hartsville; Rustic Communities; Agriculture, Industry and Entrepreneurship; Worship and Education; and Festivals, Occasions and Associations. Each chapter has a brief introduction.

Mary Anne, who is hoping to find an archival position at an historical society or a university, plans to continue writing books—after a much-needed break.

“I will look for another project where I can use the immense amount of material I now have on Darlington County,” she said. “I do hope to continue publishing.”

Upon release, the book will be available through Arcadia Publishing’s web site, as well as at local bookstores and at museums and historical societies in Darlington County.

Kimberly Maughan (continued)

“Frequently, those established writers got their start in Sword and Sorceress, which I find incredibly encouraging.”

The first 21 editions of the series were published annually from 1984 to 2004, so this latest edition marks the return of the series after a three-year hiatus. The series was created by Bradley in order to provide a forum for writers of fantasy stories with strong female protagonists.

As the popularity of the series grew over more than 20 years, so have the number of submissions by writers for inclusion in editions of the series.

“The Ironwood Box” centers on Pansy, who along with her older sisters Lily and Rose has lived in exile for five years after being cast away from their home by their evil aunt. When Pansy begins to dream of the ironwood box, her sisters tell her the dreams are meant to draw them back home. Pansy reluctantly finds herself journeying back to the country of her birth in order to confront her aunt, her past, and the secrets of the ironwood box.

“Right now, fantasy is what I love to write,” Kimberly said, “but I’ve always enjoyed writing creative nonfiction and I love to read historical romances. So if I venture beyond fantasy, those two genres are probably where I’ll end up.”

Kimberly said that she had some brief works published in her college’s literary magazine when she was an undergraduate, but “The Ironwood Box” is her first professional publication. Her intentions are that it will not be her last.

“I have seven chapters and a prologue of a novel I started about six years ago that I’d really like to continue working on, but it needs a little more attention than I can give it right now as I’m finishing my L.I.S. degree,” she said. “So I’ll probably play with a few short story ideas for the time being.”

Kimberly will be in Dallas during the spring semester, as part of an internship at the Timberglen Branch of the Dallas Public Library System.

Marion Zimmer Bradley’s Sword and Sorceress XXII is currently available in hardcover and paperback from the web sites of Barnes & Noble, Books A Million, and Amazon.com, and is also available at these and other local bookstores.
New LISSA Officers (continued)

“The members enjoy spending time together,” Allison said. “We hope to continue our weekly Happy Hours, as well as adding other events.”

Travis said he would like to build on the LISSA 2.0 innovations that were added to the organization’s web site in the fall, in order to hopefully bridge some of the distance between students in Columbia and distance education students.

“I really would like the LISSA Forum to take off this semester. It is the best opportunity we have had so far to provide social and academic services to distance education students,” he said. “It is very user-friendly, and I hope that it helps everyone who isn’t in Columbia know that they aren’t alone out there.”

“In such a distance education environment, it is increasingly difficult to get to know our fellow students,” Allison added. “LISSA is here to help!”

Margaret said building a sense of community within LISSA is important to her because getting involved in LISSA helped her to adjust after moving to Columbia from Northern Virginia last summer.

“When I arrived with my moving van, I didn’t know a soul in Columbia. Now I am part of this community, and SLIS has become my second family,” she said. “I know there are other students in the same situation. LISSA is what keeps us connected.”

In addition to LISSA 2.0, Margaret mentioned events such as the faculty colloquia in the fall, which were jointly sponsored by LISSA and ASIST and which could be viewed by distance education students via Breeze. She also noted LISSA-sponsored events such as tours of libraries in the Columbia area that provide her opportunities “to explore career options and learn about different library environments,” as well as the opportunities LISSA provides to volunteer at and participate in various library conferences.

LISSA also provides students opportunities to attend, volunteer at and participate in library conferences throughout South Carolina and elsewhere. Allison said efforts have been ongoing since last semester to raise funds for students to attend the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference in Quebec City this August.

“This is a once-in-a-career occasion, so we are excited about it here at SLIS. There is much preparation that goes into such a large-scale event,” she said.

Among the fundraisers LISSA has conducted are a 10K run/walk in December and the “Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS” calendars.

Calling All Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the 2008 South Carolina Book Festival, which will take place February 22-24 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. For more information about the event, go to http://www.scbookfestival.org/. This page has a list of positions available, FAQs, and a link to the Volunteer Registration Form, which is also available at http://www.scbookfestival.org/index.php?c=volunteers.

Volunteers will also be needed to assist at the South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) conference on March 11-12 at the Columbia Convention Center. For more information about this event, please contact LISSA President Travis Ferrell (ferrellt2@mailbox.sc.edu).
President’s Notes

By Travis Ferrell

Looking Back

2007 was a year of major growth for LISSA, and I want to recap some of the more memorable events of the year, particularly for our new students this semester.

Last year LISSA was runner-up for ALA’s Student Chapter of the Year Award. Five LISSA members went to Washington, DC, to accept the award at the annual American Library Association (ALA) Conference, and that was a wonderful experience. Encouraging attendance at professional conferences is a major part of what LISSA does, and we attended a number at both the state, regional, and national levels. I strongly recommend you take advantage of these opportunities. You will get a great deal out of them.

LISSA’s biggest accomplishment in the last year was “LISSA 2.0.” We have completely redone our electronic infrastructure. We have a revamped website, as well as a blog, a professional development wiki, and a forum. The forum is our message board, with threads specific to different fields of LIS and to geographic locations. If nothing else, please take a look at the forum. For distance education students, this is the best way to meet and organize with your fellow students in your home states and cities. You can use the forum to plan get-togethers or just talk. It is much easier to earn your MLIS with friends and future colleagues than alone.

2007 also saw the beginning of the new SLIS and Student Colloquia. The SLIS Colloquia are designed to allow professors and LIS professionals to present on their research or their jobs, and the Student Colloquia is designed to help SLIS students learn how to present professionally in a relaxed environment. Three SLIS Colloquia were held, as well as one Student Colloquium. You can download the Colloquia on the following site: (http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/presentations.html)

Service projects in 2007 were definitely a highlight as we established a number of relationships with very worthwhile LIS service groups.

I cannot mention all of them here, but I would like to mention two in particular. First, LISSA has been working with Drucilla Carter to create a card catalog for a school library in Haiti. The library cannot afford to buy or maintain an electronic system, so this is a really wonderful activity we have been able to be a part of. The library also functions as the de facto public library for this community, so it really is a wonderful thing.

The Lubuto Library Project is the second service project I want to mention. LISSA is very proud to have participated with this project, and you can read more about it on the following page.

Looking Ahead

In 2008, LISSA will continue the SLIS and Student Colloquia, three of each this Spring semester. Distance education students are invited to participate in the Student Colloquia. We plan to use the Adobe Acrobat program to allow all students to participate. (Please contact LISSA at slis_lissa@yahoo.com for more information). The Student Colloquia are also an opportunity for interested students to prepare for USC’s Grad Student Day, in which Graduate Students competitively present their research for a cash prize. The Student Colloquia is also an opportunity to prepare of SLIS’s Robert V. Williams Graduate Research Award.

The most ambitious project for the upcoming New Year is LISSA sending five students to the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conference in Quebec this August 2008. IFLA is the main international LIS Conference, and it is not held in North America very often, as it is one a different continent each year. The students who attend IFLA will write articles on what they learned in SLISten UP! as well as present what they learned to the SLIS student body via the Student Colloquia.

We have held and are going to have a number of fundraisers to send students to the IFLA Conference. One of these efforts is the aforementioned Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS Calendar, so please check those out if you haven’t already. They are very funny, and they go for a good cause.

The most exciting event of this semester is the LISSA Symposium. For the Symposium, LISSA invites LIS professionals of note to present on LIS topics of their interest or specialization. The Symposium is LISSA’s contribution to ICOMM week, our College’s showcase week of events. This year, Jane Meyer’s, the director of the Lubuto Library Project, will present on her work in Africa building libraries. We are all very excited about Ms. Meyer’s upcoming visit.

We are also planning five LISSA Field Trips to libraries in the Columbia-area, continuing the Field Trip program we started last semester. A number of students have expressed an interest in Special Libraries, and this semester all the libraries we visit will be Special Libraries to meet this growing interest.

You can find more information about LISSA-sponsored events on our web site.

The Best Of Luck This Year,
Travis
The Lubuto Library Project (LLP) is a national organization that was begun to give the growing numbers of street children in Africa the opportunity for non-formal education. The goal is to save these children from lifelong destitution by improving literacy, language skills, general knowledge and participation in society. Street children have been orphaned, often because their parents have been killed by HIV/AIDS. They are avoided by their society, so no one will take them in or buy them uniforms for them to go to school. They live and sleep on the streets and spend their days begging for money and food, as opposed to doing what all children should be able to do: get an education. There are currently 14 million street children, and in four years, the numbers are projected to grow to over 25 million.

Talia Corley founded the USC chapter of this organization in November. This chapter, the first college chapter in the United States, focuses on holding fundraisers and writing petitions to publishers asking them to donate books to the organization. Funds raised are sent to the LLP headquarters in Washington, DC, along with the books that publishers donate. This is done so that the books can be organized and catalogued for placement inside libraries built in Africa. These libraries are based on traditional African architecture in order to be culturally appropriate and comfortable for the children. Even the name is appropriate – Lubuto is an African word for enlightenment and hope. Jane Kinney Meyers, the founder of the organization, chose this name because she believes that “hope for a better future is a necessity, just like food.”

These libraries give the street children free access to books, who otherwise could not afford to get an education. They also offer story and poetry time, theater, art, and much more. The first library was officially opened in Lusaka, Zambia on September 21st of 2007, and is already making a huge difference in Africa. It houses 4,000 books that range from picture books to science fiction and reference books, and include both texts in English and local African languages. Many important figures were present for the opening ceremony, including former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who read “Caps for Sale” to the children.

LISSA has assisted the LLP by fundraising, by compiling a bibliography that Lubuto uses to identify and request books from publishers, and by requesting books from vendors at the annual American Library Association conference. More information about the Lubuto Library Project can be found on its web site: http://www.lubuto.org/.

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The College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, consisting of the sister Schools of Library and Information Science and Journalism and Mass Communications, will celebrate I-COMM WEEK 2008 the week of March 31 – April 4. Save the dates now for a week of informational and entertaining programs and presenters.

This year’s theme is “Telling Our Story!” Each day of the week will be themed, and some of the programs are already confirmed.

With USC celebrating Graduate Student Day on Wednesday, April 2, it’s a natural that the LISSA Symposium has been scheduled with guest Jane Kinney Meyers (pictured at right), director of the Lubuto Library Project. Brian Lamb, President and co-founder of C-Span and moderator of Booknotes will be in Columbia on Thursday, April 3, for the Deans’ Lecture. Friday, April 4, is Alumni Day, and we are looking forward to welcoming alums back to campus for several activities ending with a Celebration of Storytelling with alumni storytellers Brian McCreight, Amanda Brewer and Bill Corder.

Event co-chairs Dr. Pat Feehan (SLIS) and Bonnie Drewniany (SJMC) are working with committee members: Terry Dixon, Susan Hipp, Pat Jackson, Patty Kornegay, Liz Qunell, Shawn Ruork and Elaine Taylor. Travis Ferrell and Margaret Hawes are representing LISSA. The committee reports to Dean Charles Bierbauer and Directors Dr. Sam Hastings and Dr. Shirley Carter.
You’ve heard about them, now own one for yourself!

“The Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS” calendars.

You can order via PayPal by way of the link on the front page of LISSA’s web site: [http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/](http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/).

The calendar is now in its second printing, and LISSA wishes to thank Copy Pickup, located at 1830 Rosewood Drive in Columbia, for its assistance and expertise in producing the calendars. For more information about the variety of services they offer, go to [http://www.copypickup.com/](http://www.copypickup.com/).

From the Editor

The adage “time flies when you’re having fun” has never been more apt than in describing my time as editor of SLISten Up! I’ve so enjoyed writing for and editing the newsletter that I was permitted to produce this January edition, even though I am now an alumnus of the SLIS program after graduating last month.

But, to recall another adage, the only constant in life is change, and so I am leaving SLISten Up! in the capable hands of Grant David Keyes, a.k.a. “Mr. January” of that runaway best-seller “The Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS” calendar. Grant will bring a great deal of creativity and enthusiasm to the newsletter, and I thank him for permitting me to take one more crack at creating an edition of SLISten Up!

As you may have noticed at the beginning of this newsletter, change is a running theme in this month’s newsletter. There is change in the leadership of LISSA, as three new officers have joined Travis Ferrell in the elected positions of the organization. Sadly, change also came to the SLIS program last year with the illness and ultimately the passing of Dr. John Olsgaard.

To say Dr. Olsgaard will be missed is an understatement, judging by the fond recollections that have been left on the page dedicated to his memory on the SLIS web site ([http://www.libsci.sc.edu/io/tributes.htm](http://www.libsci.sc.edu/io/tributes.htm)). I was a student in two of Dr. Olsgaard’s classes, as well as an advisee of his, and I wholeheartedly second the sentiments expressed by those who encountered him here at USC.

There is so much more I’d like to say, so many more observations that I’d like to leave you with. But the time has come for me to pass the torch, to make way for new ideas and approaches … to find a job.

With best wishes and fond recollections, I remain,

Gene
“The Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS” aren’t the only SLISsers in a 2008 calendar. **Kim Williams-Odom**, who graduated from the program in December 2007, is featured in the Aetna 2008 African American History Calendar.

This is the 27th African American History Calendar produced by Aetna, and the focus of this year’s calendar is on health literacy.

Williams-Odom (pictured at far right) is the manager of the St. Paul’s Branch of the Charleston County Public Library System in Hollywood, South Carolina. She believes that libraries play an important role in helping people to access health information.

“The library is a place you go to for information,” she said on Aetna’s web site. “Here you can find everything from A to Z. So why not use the library to learn how to manage your health?”

She told Aetna that she helps people learn how to use the computer at her library in order to access the Internet and library catalogs and databases. She also goes to health fairs to demonstrate uses of the Internet and library resources to individuals and organizations. In addition to her work at the library, she also works with the REACH Charleston and the Georgetown Diabetes Coalition.


**Susan Ujka Larson**, a December 2006 graduate, has completed the nine-month training and been selected as a Docent at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. As a docent, Susan volunteers at the museum’s visitor information desk, conducts tours of the permanent collection and special exhibits, and assists at education events.

Susan focused on special libraries while in the MLIS program, and plans to pursue museum librarianship in the future. She is currently a school library media specialist at Flint Hill School in Oakton, Virginia.

**Amanda Fleming**, the librarian at the South Carolina Attorney General’s office, offered her first person account of how she was able to discover her niche while at SLIS:

“While a student in SLIS, my focus was in law librarianship. I was a bit disappointed when I found out we didn't offer much as far as classes in law libraries, but I was encouraged by my advisor to find an internship and use it as an independent study.

“I was fortunate to receive an internship at the South Carolina Attorney General's (S.C.A.G.) Office Library for two semesters. Not only was it a fantastic learning experience but my predecessor was retiring and as a result I was hired based on my internship relationship with the office. A month before graduation I became the S.C.A.G. Librarian.

“I feel very fortunate for the opportunity I was given and made the best use of it. **The fun part is now I am seeking an intern at the school.**”

If you are interested in an internship in the S.C.A.G. Office Library, Amanda’s e-mail is Afleming@ag.state.sc.us
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last year was such a bitter sweet year here at SLIS. So many exciting initiatives are going so well but our hearts are heavy with the loss of Dr. John Olsgaard. I know he is safe now and free but I sure miss him! Liz Qunell has done a lovely tribute on the school website and we so appreciate everyone's kind words of remembrance.

Our literacy initiative continues to gain momentum. Our first class of doctoral students is ready for their second semester of courses, our undergraduate program in Information Science is ready to launch next fall AND our MLIS and School Library Media Specialist programs continue to win awards! Add to that that we are the talk of the blogosphere with the launch of the hot-selling “Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS” calendar! LISSA ran a second printing and everyone is talking about the great photos and fun expose of our students hard at work . . . You can get your copy at http://students.libsci.sc.edu/lissa/!

Dr. Feehan has the Augusta Baker Chair search committee up and running and we all have a feeling that we just might find our chair this time!

Nonie Price led the work to produce the SLIS Faculty, Staff and Student Diversity Plan with help and guidance from the African American Leadership Group. It is a grand plan and a model for many others to use in their recruiting and retention efforts.

We interviewed 18 candidates for our faculty positions at ALISE in Philadelphia, January 9 and 10. We will be making our choices for who to bring to campus for onsite interviews soon. We want to find the best possible new members of the academy!

We have a nominating committee in place for Annual Literacy Leaders Award so watch for the next gala celebration in the fall. It is so rewarding to honor the ones that help eradicate illiteracy in South Carolina!

One of our Maine graduates, Barbara Keef was named Maine’s Librarian of the Year! She embraces technology but says that even in the face of change, one thing is constant: “you always need to know how to be a good researcher.”

These are just a few of our accomplishments last year and we look forward to many more to come.

All of us send each of you our very best wishes for a wonderful new year, filled with all of your favorites things!

Be safe,

Dr. Sam