LISSA Wins ALA 2008 Student Chapter of the Year

Photo by Curtis Rogers

Congratulations are in order to LISSA officers and members. We are all very proud of LISSA winning the 2008 ALA Student Chapter of the Year! Those who were not able to be present at the conference or the awards ceremony can:

- View LISSA’s photos from the ALA conference on Flickr here: http://www.flickr.com/photos/slislissa/sets/72157606058747001/
- Watch the video of the awards reception here: http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2608977016386249864&hl=en

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Hello Everyone,

It has certainly been a great year for LISSA. We are the 2008 ALA student chapter of the year and we are continuing to work on many satisfying projects. Many of our students have won their own awards and fellowships — not to mention getting jobs! As the current LISSA president I would like to maintain our momentum into this coming school year. We have set the bar high for ourselves before; I believe that we can set it even higher this year.

I would like to talk about my vision for LISSA during my tenure as President:

- **Establishing Regional Branches of LISSA**
  
  Because SLIS students are located throughout the country, regional branches will provide great opportunities for distance education (DE) students to participate more in LISSA, and having regional branches will allow LISSA to become involved in more local service projects. This network of branches will also allow LISSA to coordinate and pool resources for larger projects and build a professional network for LISSA members. Sara Lagree is setting up a LISSA regional branch in Atlanta, and Jennifer Stanley is forming one in Charlotte. If you are in either one of these areas, contact them or me, and if you are not, set up your own regional branch!

- **New Community Outreach Projects**
  
  Outreach projects are at the heart of my vision for library and information services. I want LISSA to focus on serving the needs of underserved populations in our area and promoting information literacy by developing and supporting local community service projects. I would like each regional branch of LISSA to have its own projects, furthering our impact on learning and literacy. I firmly believe that this is the way to demonstrate — to the library and information science community, as well as to our local communities — that we are committed to learning and literacy.

- **Developing Innovative Fundraising Approaches**
  
  I want to continue LISSA's great fundraising work over the past year. At present, the LISSA officers and I have decided to create another calendar with a new theme and models and to do a 10K walk/run here in Columbia and in other towns. I think these efforts will help us raise enough money to provide financial support for LISSA members to attend professional conferences. In addition, I want to do other creative projects to promote public awareness of LISSA. Additionally, we will sponsor a design contest for a new LISSA logo and use the new logo to design a new LISSA T-shirt. The winner of the contest will have their design on the new T-shirt and a cash prize. LISSA will also pursue options with SLIS alumni and other groups for fundraising.

- **Utilizing Social Networks to Further Connect On-Campus and Distance Education LISSA Members**
  
  LISSA’s goal is to facilitate professional development and networking for its members. By using blogs, forums, wikis, electronic survey software, Second Life and other Web 2.0 applications we will be able to connect all our members regardless of their locations. The blogs and forums are great discussion boards for LISSA members to talk about what they want and need LISSA to do for them. The wiki will be used to disseminate information about grant opportunities, scholarships, jobs ads, a student survival guide, and workshops. Second Life will be playing a major part in LISSA activities. We will be using the SLIS Davis 2.0 Reference Center in Second Life to hold meetings. In addition, a new lounge for students is being created for hosting various kinds of events.

LISSA is a great organization that thrives on student participation. Setting up regional branches and using Web 2.0 technologies will help use strengthen and coordinate our organization. Participating in student government and continuing innovative fundraising like the calendar will promote public awareness of LISSA. Local literacy outreach programs and other service projects will provide LISSA with the opportunity to do fulfilling work for our local communities, and we will continue our support of the Haiti children’s project. Sending students to conferences and other professional development functions will further our students' immersion into the library and information science profession. I hope that these will be the pillars of LISSA this coming year.

Cheers,

Grant David Keyes
Reflections on the Past Year, from the Past President
Contributed by Travis Ferrell

This past school year has been filled with a great deal of surprises and good memories: we initiated two colloquia series, The Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS calendar sold through two runs, and the Pimp My Bookcart competition was one of the best times I think of lot of us in LISSA ever had. The most pleasant and welcome surprise, of course, is that LISSA won the ALA Student Chapter of the Year (SCOTY) award. As I am no longer LISSA president and this is most likely the last article I will write for SLISten Up!, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly discuss all the wonderful things that happened that went into winning the award.

The SCOTY committee said that we won for the following reasons: “The chapter made excellent use of Web 2.0 technology, developed original and successful fundraising activities and offered an excellent variety of programs and services for its students, including assistance and marketing for a Second Life Mentoring event, initiating two colloquial series and hosting an annual symposium. Their commitment to community service was also laudable and included working with several children’s literacy events, conducting bibliographic research to help the Lubuto Library Project in their collection development efforts and helping clean out and organize the library of a local community center.” That is in the official press release. At the award’s ceremony, it was added that the The Mildly Attractive Men of SLIS calendar is up on the office of the committee spokesperson who presented the award and she still gets a good laugh out of it.

This demonstrates that LISSA developed an excellent sense of service and of community over the last year. I am very proud that the David Goble, the State Librarian of South Carolina, agreed to speak in the SLIS colloquium and that LISSA is going to sponsor five students to attend the IFLA conference in Quebec this summer, but I am equally proud that of all the little ways that the Columbia group came together to get things done and how we have begun to reach out to distance education students in the program as well. We have done a great deal of outreach over the last year and performed a great many good deeds, but we also came together as a team. There are a few times in life when you work with good people who earnestly care, and LISSA has been one of those times for me. I will always remember my time in LISSA warmly. I have never worked nor laughed so hard before in my life, and I think that is true for many people in LISSA. Rather than rethank all the people I have already thanked for their contribution to the award or write a list of all the things we accomplished over the last year, I would like to say that we won the award because we became a team.

Also, thank you everyone who came to cheer us on at the award ceremony June 29th: Dr. Sam, Dr. Tu, Dr. Zimmerman, Nonie Price, Ellen Shuler, Curtis Rogers (of the South Carolina State Library), Jane Meyers (of the Lubuto Library Project), and all of the alumni who came as well.

All my best wishes to LISSA over the next year and the best of luck winning next year’s award.

Top Ten Highlights of ALA 2008
by Margaret Hawes

10. The lack of humidity in Anaheim.
8. Having a table reserved for us at Dr. Zimmerman’s award luncheon.
7. Getting to chat with librarians from all around the country.
6. “I’m a student” is an opening to a conversation with almost any librarian.
5. NMRT throws a good party.
4. goofing around in the exhibit hall.
3. Meeting up with librarian friends from other states (such as recent SLIS graduate Deb Green from Idaho and Jane Meyers from Washington, D.C.).
2. The waffle maker at the Quality Inn.
1. Having so many friends from home cheer for LISSA when we accepted our award.
Davis 2.0 Reference Center a Big Hit at MLA ‘08
Contributed by Patrick McLaughlin

Just after the spring semester ended, SLIS Second Life team members, Dr. Feili Tu, Paul Keefner, and I, attended the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting. The meeting took place at Chicago’s Hyatt Regency, which was fairly large but seemed cramped with approximately 2,500 librarians taking over the place. The theme for this year’s conference was “Connections: Bridging the Gaps,” which was reflected in outgoing MLA President Mark Funk’s plenary session talk on the use of new technologies to decrease isolation. The two other plenary session lectures followed a similar theme, with futurist Andrew Zolli describing the future of information networks for health professionals and patients, and Tom Basler, Director of Libraries and Learning Resource Centers at the Medical University of South Carolina, discussing the shift from individual health librarians frequently making big impacts in the field to the need for collaborations and connectivity among librarians, health professionals, and patients.

Because of their inherent collaborative nature, Web 2.0 technologies were frequently discussed at the conference and were demonstrated by a panel during the final plenary session. One of these technologies, the Second Life virtual world, was especially present at the conference, with four session talks dedicated specifically to this topic. Second Life, a virtual world with millions of inhabitants across the globe, is a hot topic in the library and information science field, as well as other specializations, for its potential as an instructional tool.

The Davis 2.0 Reference Center, created by the SLIS Second Life team, was designed to serve as an instructional aid and to connect on-campus and distance students, as well as alums and other information professionals. In Chicago, Dr. Tu and I presented our creation to a roomful of our LIS peers. Being the only presenters to actually demonstrate the virtual world with a recorded tour of our facility, we were well received by the audience. Dr. Tu and I fielded numerous questions about the Davis 2.0 Reference Center and its usage in her reference courses. Following the session, we engaged with and received praise from more professionals interested in our work.

Our presentation, which fit perfectly with the conference theme of making connections among librarians, health professionals, and consumers, was a big success.

Spring Meeting of SCSLA
Contributed by Margaret Hawes

On April 18, Patrick McLaughlin and I represented the student chapter at the South Carolina SLA (Special Libraries Association) meeting. The meeting was held at the Rivers Communications Museum at the College of Charleston. As we waited for the meeting to begin that morning, we were treated to silent films made by French stage magician Georges Méliès projected onto a large screen. The meeting’s speaker was David Lehman of the USC School of Law, who gave a presentation about copyright law for libraries and museums. Mr. Lehman said, “Copyright is about balancing of equities between parties.” We learned that “orphan works” (in other words, the rights holder cannot be found) probably comprise the majority of the record of twentieth century culture. We had lunch at a restaurant on King Street, where I brainstormed with SCSLA President Anne Orange about the new SLA student chapter we are starting this year, then it was back to the museum for the business meeting. After the meeting the curator, Rick Zender, gave us a fascinating tour of the Communications Museum.

There is a link to David Lehman’s presentation slides on his website: http://law.sc.edu/faculty/lehmann/. Click Copyright - Museums & Archives at the bottom of the page.
Notes From the LISSA Social Chair  
Contributed by Glenn Dickson

Hello fellow LISSA members. I’m Glenn Dickson, your social chair. My ideas for fall 2008 include 5 after 5 - a free outdoor concert in 5pts on Thursdays, an election night shindig in November, happy hour at the consensus bar-of-your-choosing, and perhaps a basketball game at the Colonial Center.

I am open to suggestions from all of you. Please shoot me an email if you have any. Basically I want to schedule events that you guys are excited about, so please, don’t be shy.

~dickson3@gmail.com

Good News From SLIS Students and Alumni

**Janet Blood** has accepted the Associate Dean of Library Services position at Eastern Maine Community College. Janet was in the Lobster 3 Cohort (Maine).

**Jessica Ellibee** is a Youth Services Assistant Librarian at the South Charleston Public Library in South Charleston, West Virginia.

**Melanie Griffin** is doing a fellowship at the Library of Congress’s Record Books Department.

**Suzanne Shurtz** will be the Instructional Services Librarian at Texas A & M University’s Health Science Library. This faculty position (Assistant Professor) will be a combination of instruction, technology, reference, and library services promotion.

**Manju Tanwar** is the winner of the 2008 MLA Scholarship for Minority Students.

Opportunities for Distance Education Students to Participate in LISSA Activities

Contributed by Sara Lagree, Atlanta, GA

Distance students voiced the desire to be more involved with the activities of our student organization and LISSA listened. I am very pleased to announce that informal student gatherings and activities outside the immediate range of the Columbia campus are leading to the formation of regionally-based LISSA branches. One such branch will cover the geographic area of North Georgia, namely the metropolitan area of Atlanta and Athens. Students and alumni in this area have met previously to meet, greet, eat, and tour various library settings in the Atlanta area.

As a Regional Branch, we’ll continue to coordinate opportunities to meet with classmates, colleagues, and professionals working in the field, but also hope to act as local LISSA contact and network of SLIS resources that are closer to home. Look to the LISSA forum for upcoming opportunities starting back up this Fall and please feel free to share your ideas of places to go and people to see.

Don’t live in Atlanta and want to help set up a regional branch in your area? We’d love to hear from you and help make it happen!
It was my pleasure to nominate Dr. Nancy P. Zimmerman for the American Association of School Librarians’ Distinguished Service Award this year. The award, first given in 1978 and sponsored by Baker & Taylor, is to recognize an individual member of the library profession who has, over a significant period of time, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development. It is the highest award given by AASL to a member. Previous winners include AASL greats Mary V. Gaver, Marilyn Miller, Ken Haycock, Blanche Wools, Lucille Thomas, Frances Henne, and Dianne McAfee Hopkins, and Virginia H. Matthews.

Dr. Zimmerman now rightfully joins that list.

Since beginning on the 1986 Membership Committee of AASL and continuing until today, Nancy P. Zimmerman has contributed to the organized profession, including: Membership Chair, conceiving and initiating “Celebrate Conference” in 1987-89 to her current work as Chair of the ALA Council Committee on Professional Ethics. This committee is undertaking a review of the ALA Code of Ethics and drafting a Pledge of Personal Responsibility to be unveiled at the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the ALA Code of Ethics at a celebration in 2009. As a leader in professional ethics education Dr. Zimmerman will conduct ethical fitness training for the joint spring meeting of the IFC and COPE in March 2009.

Dr. Zimmerman served three years as AASL Treasurer and then was elected as AASL President in 2002-2003, culminating in 6 years on the AASL Executive Board, during which time she led the establishment of an Endowment Fund to secure the financial well-being of the association. During her tenure, AASL joined the Partnership for 21st Century Schools as a full Board Member. Dr. Zimmerman made it a point to acquire positions for other AASL members on ALA-wide committees, expanding the division’s visibility and influence as well.

Elected to office in Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Science Honor Society, Nancy’s service will include president-elect 2005-2007, president 2007-2009, and past president 2009–2011. Beta Phi Mu is an ALA Affiliate Association founded in 1948 dedicated to professional service to others. She has been an active member since graduate school.

Dr. Nancy Zimmerman continues to serve AASL through her position on ALA Council since 2000. She previously served as AASL Representative on the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly Advisory to BARC, 1996-1999, and as AASL Chapter Relations Liaison, 1999-2000. She has represented school librarians well in her many committee roles in the Library Research Round Table, LAMA, ALISE, Beta Phi Mu, ALSC, and YALSA. She was elected to the Steering Committee/Board of Governors, Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM), National Library of Education, 1998-2001, and served as AASL Representative to the GEM Project Board of Governors, 1998-2004. She served on the School Library Media Committee for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards in 1997-2001. Wherever Nancy is, she is promoting school librarians and professional involvement.

Dr. Nancy Zimmerman’s Ph.D. dissertation was “The Attitudes of School Library Media Specialists in New York State Toward Multi-type Library Networking and Technology.” That research had a positive impact on the development of the 48 school library systems in New York State. Her current research includes: “Education and Training Needs of Information Professionals in Public, School, and Medical Libraries for Virtual Reference Services,” “Library and Information Science Curriculum Development,” and “Critical Teacher Interventions in the Direct Instruction of Reading Comprehension Strategies Using Children’s Literature.”

(continued on page 7)
Nancy Zimmerman Wins 2008 Distinguished Service Award (continued)

Grant funding sought by Dr. Zimmerman has been used for the following:

- Scholastic Publishers to provide 5500 books to the Rachel’s Reader, Reading Initiative of the First Lady of South Carolina, developing a reading program targeted toward unwed teen fathers and their children. $53,850 in program materials was funded in 2001.


Dr. Zimmerman has received research awards from the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)/Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), 2004, and the School Library Media Section of the New York Library Association, 1994-95. In 1994, she received the ALISE Research Grant Award.

Dr. Nancy Zimmerman has mentored countless professionals in a variety of ways; through her teaching that was recognized by the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998; her inclusion in Who’s Who in America, 1995-2004, and Who’s Who in American Women, 2000-2004; her service as Faculty Advisor, SILS Student Chapter, ALA, 1997-1999; and Faculty Advisor to the Beta Phi Mu, Beta Omega Chapter, 2001 to the present.

Nancy has always promoted new professionals to active positions within our associations; she makes it a point to introduce people, seek ways to involve minority members, and encourages each member to contribute to the organization. I have personally witnessed her mentoring others through appointments, invitations to events, programming to attract and involve members, and even personal inclusion in social situations. Dr. Zimmerman guided countless students through their school library practicum in New York and now in South Carolina, always networking and seeking the best practicing professionals as placements for her students. She encourages recent grads to become active in state and national associations, continuing their professional development. Nancy leads by example and invites others to join her in the journey. Her commitment to the National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards is an example of her efforts to promote excellence in school librarians. Dr. Nancy Zimmerman is most worthy of the AASL Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to school librarianship and school library development.

The Award Ceremony was a luncheon held during ALA in Anaheim, California, this year. After a delightful meal, Dr. Zimmerman received her award and spoke to the assembled group. She thanked many mentors and peers in the library profession as well as her family and expressed her belief in the library profession. Three tables full of friends, colleagues, and students celebrated with her. The award was a fitting tribute to a woman who has spent her career in the service to students of all ages, including elementary students in Virginia, high school students in Alaska, and graduate students in New York and South Carolina. Congratulations to Dr. Nancy P. Zimmerman!
Director’s Corner
By Samantha Hastings

Dear Students,

Summer is here and "the time is right for dancing in the streets!" After being in California for ALA, I was so happy to come home to South Carolina. The conference was great with more than 25,000 librarians but California moves too fast for me.

Seeing our students received their Best Student Chapter award with about 20 of us cheering them on was the best thrill of all. They had a reception afterwards with party decorations and a DJ and dancing – I believe that great fun was had by all.

The AASL luncheon was lovely with our own Dr. Zimmerman glowing with pride for receiving the achievement award. Our Alumni Tea was well attended and again, Nonie Price made it the best! Our booth had lots of traffic and I spend an afternoon in the "Leaders Wanted" session recruiting faculty candidates and doctoral students from the diversity fair.

I am delighted to welcome two new associate professors to SLIS. Dr. Paul Solomon and Dr. Kendra Albright will be joining us this fall. You can read more about them at http://www.libsci.sc.edu/announcement.html They are looking forward to working with the best students in the universe!

We'll be in Maine on August 3 at the Maple Hill Farms in Hallowell to celebrate our graduates from Lobster 3 cohort. This promises to be a lovely occasion, organized by Dr. Pat Feehan. Dr. Arns, Dr. Tu and Dr. Walling will also be in attendance as well as Dean Bierbauer. I can't wait to meet everyone in person!

We are already planning a great graduation celebration for our August grads on August 9 so please try to join us. Details will follow.

I'm off to Florida for some beach time. I am so looking forward to putting my toes in the sand and watching the dolphins swim by. I hope you get a break to do something you love and let the breeze coax you into a hammock!

Let me know if there is anything you need!

Dr. Sam

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Editor’s Notes

Greetings! One of the first things I did after Grant asked me to fill the Newsletter Chair position was to re-read the back issues of SLISten Up! on the LISSA web site. I was reminded of two things. First, Rae, Gene, and Grant have produced outstanding publications, and one of my goals for this newsletter is to maintain that standard. Second (and this is no surprise), the SLIS community is doing great things! Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni have a myriad of accomplishments of which we all should be proud. In that spirit, I invite each and every one of you to keep me updated on your achievements and accomplishments. Conferences, new jobs, internship experiences, publications, presentations, outreach, service and more -- all of these have a place in this newsletter. Moreover, SLISten Up! is your newsletter -- if you have comments, critiques, ideas for the newsletter, article suggestions, or articles you would like to see published, I can always be reached at roxanne.spray [at] gmail [dot] com.