



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS ★ *School of Library & Information Sciences*

# Call Number

*Margaret Irby Nichols, Editor* Volume 66, Number 1, Spring 2007

## ***DISTANCE EDUCATION:*** REACHING BEYOND THE BOUNDRIES OF LEARNING



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Toby Faber &amp; Elena Vassilieva



The Era of Planning continues in SLIS, and after the SLIS Faculty-Student Council (FSC) Meeting in May, the faculty will have approved, adopted and submitted the final draft of the SLIS Five-Year Strategic Plan to the University's Office of Academic Affairs before the May 31, 2007 deadline.

As I mentioned in my last column, the SLIS Strategic Plan is to reflect the underlying themes (diversity, partnerships, and interdisciplinarity) of the University's Academic Plan, as well as the University's Five-Year Strategic Plan. You may also remember that SLIS faculty collaborated during its fall 2006 retreat to identify desired outcomes, determine a feasible timeline, and identify key strategic issues for SLIS.

## DEAN'S LETTER

After much consideration, I felt that the SLIS faculty for the 2006-07 academic year did not have the critical mass needed to take on a project of the magnitude of a 5-year strategic plan. The faculty was already burned out after spending the previous year working on the Program Presentation for the American Library Association (ALA) Committee on Accreditation (COA), and then immediately having to complete the Doctoral Program Assessment Project (DPAP) for the SLIS Interdisciplinary Information Science Ph.D. program. Consequently, with the faculty's advice and consent given during the fall 2006 retreat, the services of Mr. Guy St. Clair were procured to facilitate the writing of the strategic plan.

Mr. St. Clair, who has excellent qualifications to lead the faculty through the process, serves as president and consulting specialist for Knowledge Services at SMR International, a strategy consulting company, and is a past-president of the Special Libraries Association. His numerous publications include several titles in the Information Services Management Series (K. G. Saur) for which he also serves as editor. In his newest title, *Beyond Degrees: Professional Learning for Knowledge Services* (K.G. Saur, 2003), Mr. St. Clair identifies the coming new information profession as **Knowledge Services**, which he defines as the convergence of information management, knowledge management, and strategic (performance-centered) learning.

In September 2006, Mr. St. Clair received and reviewed the University's Strategic Plan, the SLIS Mission and Goals, the SLIS Vision Statement, the Program Presentation, the Accreditation Decision Document, and a copy of the DPAP. He then conducted telephone interviews with each member of the faculty before writing the first draft of the Plan. He submitted the first draft to SLIS two weeks in advance of the faculty's October 2006 Faculty-Student Council (FSC) meeting and then joined the faculty for the meeting to receive their input on the first draft.

Mr. St. Clair used the faculty's input to prepare a second draft, which was submitted two weeks prior to its December FSC meeting. He again joined the faculty in its December meeting where two days were spent working through the draft. After making additional modifications, the faculty approved the mailing of the third draft to the SLIS Board of Advisors (BOA) two weeks in advance of its February 2007 meeting. The BOA spent its entire meeting critiquing the draft and providing its input in writing. The BOA comments were reviewed by the faculty in its March FSC meeting where the faculty directed Dr. Linda Schamber, SLIS Associate Dean, to edit and revise the document for presentation as the fourth draft for the upcoming April FSC meeting.

After the April meeting, the fourth draft will be resubmitted to the BOA for the final critique. The critiqued final document will then be submitted to the faculty in its May FSC meeting where, as I said in the beginning of this column, the faculty will approve, adopt, and file the Plan with the University's Office of Academic Affairs on or before May 31, 2007.

The process for completing the Strategic Plan would have been completed before now, but was prolonged by another May 31 deadline, having four faculty positions in place for the 2007-08 academic year, one each in Academic Librarianship, Digital Knowledge Management, Information Security/Crisis Management, and School Librarianship. Like the Strategic Planning process, the process for hiring new faculty is very involved. SLIS is unique in that it does not use a search committee; the entire SLIS faculty serves as "a committee of the whole." To begin the search process, the faculty developed the four position descriptions and procured approval by the University. The faculty then determined the appropriate media and submitted the approved descriptions for advertisement.

Six members of the faculty conducted interviews at two major professional meetings, the fall meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) and the winter meeting of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE). After those interviews the faculty in attendance made recommendations to the total faculty.

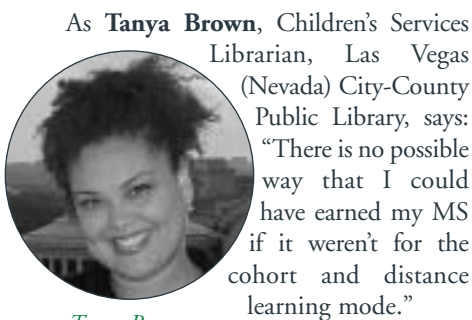
The entire faculty then created a pool of applicants from the recommendations, as well as from other applicants who did not attend the ASIS&T and ALISE meetings. From this pool, the entire faculty voted to determine which applicants would be invited to campus for interviews with the faculty and other LIS stakeholders. Eleven finalists were selected for campus interviews.

At the April FSC meeting, the faculty will choose four candidates to receive offers to join the SLIS faculty. You may recall that the hiring of these four faculty members is a part of my Vision 2020 for SLIS, and the SLIS expansion to include four new programs. It will be my pleasure to report these names to you in the fall 2007 column. I know you will agree that your School is, and will continue to be, the finest library and information studies program in the nation!

*Herman L. Totten*  
Herman L. Totten

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# THE CASE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AT UNT/SLIS



Tanya Brown

As Tanya Brown, Children's Services Librarian, Las Vegas (Nevada) City-County Public Library, says: "There is no possible way that I could have earned my MS if it weren't for the cohort and distance learning mode."

Linda McMillan, Library Administrator, Funding Information Center, Fort Worth, states: "I have nothing but rave reviews for distance learning. It allowed me to go after my dream while I worked almost full time."



Linda McMillan

These are typical statements from SLIS graduates who have earned their professional degrees in part or in whole through new modes of teaching and learn-

ing, particularly using web-based course delivery systems. Many graduates who have come through the program and those currently enrolled live at distances far from an ALA accredited library school, work full time, and often have family responsibilities as well. Without the distance education programs, these prospective librarians/information specialists would be deprived of professional training and the profession would be poorer for it.

Distributed learning, typically defined as a mode of education delivery using information technology and telecommunications that increase the range and reach of learning opportunities for students, is revolutionizing the field of library and information science education, along with higher education in general, in ways unpredictable even a few years ago. SLIS recognizes that developments in information and telecommunication technologies are changing higher education in fundamental ways, and that it must, therefore, discover and employ the best use of these technologies in the teaching and learning process. To accomplish this goal, the School provides high quality distributed learning opportunities while maintaining a high quality residential experience. Almost all current SLIS students are pursuing their degrees either partially or entirely in courses

offered through a web-based learning management system. SLIS is recognized nationally for its distributed learning programs and has served as a model across the UNT campus for development of courses using learning technology.

Courses at the School are offered in three modes: on site, in traditional classroom setting; blended in which students have some face-to-face meetings with faculty and the majority of course interaction takes place online; and online, with interaction using web-based software. The SLIS Web Institute format is one unique aspect of the blended teaching mode which few other library schools provide.

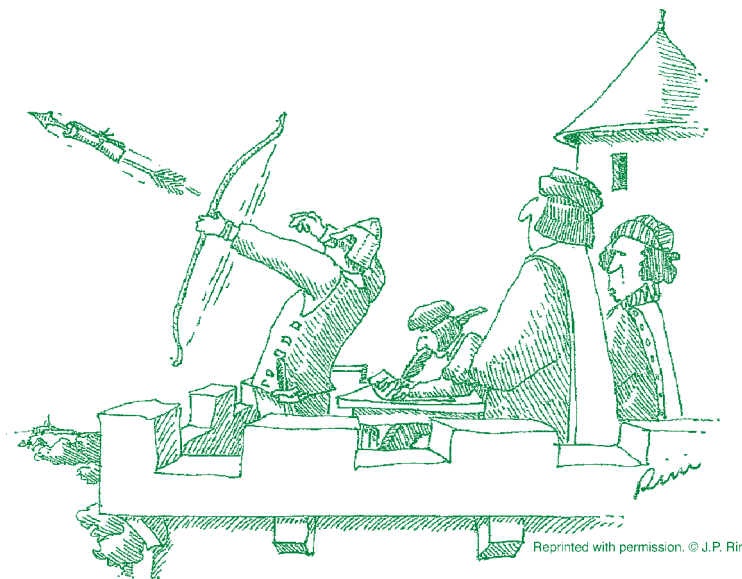
## The Web Institute

The Web Institute, an integral and required part of the learning experience for all students working toward the Masters degree at SLIS, consists of two three- or four-day sessions held at designated locations such as Denton, Houston, or Las Vegas, and El Paso in summer 2007. The focus of the Web Institute is on the core courses of the master's program. During opening day of student's first Institute, they begin SLIS 5000, Introduction to Information Professions, and the onsite meeting introduces the program, the School, software, procedures, policies, and UNT's learning management system, WebCT Vista. The remaining days of the Web Institute focus on students beginning SLIS 5600, Introduction to Information



Access and Retrieval. This arrangement is termed a blended delivery mode of instruction. Throughout the long weekend, faculty members present lectures and engage in discussions with the students; students do homework and take part in social activities which help them to get to know each other and to develop friendships and support groups, as well as get acquainted with faculty and teaching assistants, who provide course support throughout the semester.

At the second Web Institute, they begin SLIS 5200, Introduction to Information Organization, the third of the core courses. In addition, advising sessions with students are available to assist them in making degree plans and in deciding program specializations. Orientation to the profession, professional networking, and social activities are part and parcel of the Web Institute, but the primary focus is giving the students a foundation to be successful in these demanding core courses. The Web Institutes have proven to be an important and effective part of the distance learning programs. *(continued on p. 3)*



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*"It's called 'distance learning.' Very trendy, but I understand that they have trouble retaining students."*

# SLIS

ADMINISTRATION  
FACULTY & STAFF

## ADMINISTRATION

**Herman L. Totten**  
Professor and Dean

**Linda Schamber**  
Associate Professor  
and Associate Dean

## FACULTY

**Yvonne Chandler**  
Associate Professor  
Coordinator of the Las Vegas  
Program

**Chen Jiangping**  
Assistant Professor

**Ana D. Cleveland**  
Professor and Director of the  
Houston Program

**Donald B. Cleveland**  
Professor Emeritus

**John Corbin**  
Professor Emeritus

**Katherine Cveljo**  
Professor Emeritus

**Larry Enoch**  
Lecturer

**Elizabeth Figa**  
Associate Professor

**Shawne Miksa**  
Assistant Professor

**William Moen**  
Associate Professor and  
TxCDK Interim Director

**Margaret Irby Nichols**  
Professor Emeritus

**Brian O'Connor**  
Professor and  
Associate Director of the  
Ph.D. Program

**Guillermo Oyarce**  
Assistant Professor

**Carol Simpson**  
Associate Professor  
(modified service)

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## The Houston Program

The Houston Program, established in 1990, offers two face-to-face courses and two courses available in blended format each semester. The distance learning classes combine online learning with five to six face-to-face Saturday sessions or weekday evening sessions with SLIS faculty and/or highly professional practitioners from the area serving as adjunct faculty such as ones at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center & Research Library, the University of Houston Libraries, and Houston Public Library. The Houston Program also offers enriching and informative All School Day programs, field trips, workshops, and study groups, as well as social functions. The Houston Program, giving students a choice of learning formats, has been a highly successful extension of the Denton campus. (See also Houston LISSA program, p.11 )

## The Cohorts

Many students who pursue the MS in SLIS are members of a cohort, defined as a body of students who begin and pursue the degree as a group. Cohorts, some grant-based and others independent of common funds, are designed to enable the student to complete the MS degree in two years. The group begins at a Web Institute in which an attempt is made to blend the cohort into a community of learners in which students are able to support each other throughout the program. In addition to the Web Institute, some cohorts gather to hear guest speakers or to tour pertinent facilities. The Minnesota program has had four cohorts since fall 1999, Nevada four cohorts since fall 2002, and the Rio Grande Initiative, a grant-based group, began in fall 2005.

## School Media Certification

SLIS was the first in Texas to offer the school media certification program entirely online. Eight Texas universities offer school certification, but over half of those receiving the endorsement are from UNT SLIS. Students entering this program are not required to attend a Web Institute. Faculty and teaching assistants, however, are available to assist students either online or via telephone. A mentor component is an important element of the program. Mentors are responsible for signing off on each item on the official proficiency checklist, which is based on State standards. (For information about the mentoring program, see <http://www.unt.edu/lre/index.htm>.) Students who decide to pursue the MS along with or after meeting certification requirements must attend a Web Institute to take the SLIS MS core courses.

## The Courses

Most SLIS courses are available in either online or blended delivery format. All faculty members conduct

some or all of their teaching online. Those who teach face-to-face augment their courses with web-based materials and communication, typically through UNT's learning management system. That system provides faculty with tools for email, discussion, and chat with students, along with presenting course lectures, streaming video presentations, and much more material to support student learning. The faculty report that online format is far more work intensive than face-to-face teaching. Some estimate they spend triple or quadruple the amount of time on online classes. Not only must the course content be converted to digital format, an intricate as well as highly creative process, but revision and updating is an ongoing procedure. With changes in technology and content, most faculty members update their courses each time they are taught. In addition, faculty members must be available for group and individual communication with students on a regular basis. Graduates surveyed reported that they usually got online answers to their questions promptly, sometimes the same day and often within hours.

Courses online utilize many different approaches—lectures, exercises, individual and group assignments requiring team work, presentations, live chats and other types of discussions, chats with guest lecturers (professional experts), message boards, blogs, wikis, self-tests and quizzes, and video presentations. Surveys of SLIS graduates and students indicate that the majority judge the quality of SLIS online courses as excellent to outstanding. One faculty member, Dr. Elizabeth Figa, received the 2005 UNT Outstanding Online Teaching and Course Award. One of 15 nominees and the first recipient of the new campus award, her courses were recognized for their artful design, extensive use of multimedia, and rigorous and rich course content.

An important aspect of online courses is the demand it makes on the students. They need to be good time managers to engage with online course materials and the discussions and chats, and most importantly, they need to be capable of working independently. Student experiences in online courses are different from face-to-face classes. In the traditional classroom setting, a student can sit quietly and never participate in discussions. No one is allowed this privilege in online classes; everyone must participate in order to pass the course. One faculty member pointed out that her students are able to discuss matters in greater depth since they must carefully think about the topic in composing statements posted on discussion boards rather than speaking "off the tops of their heads." There also is no such thing as missing a class since the class is really an ongoing interaction throughout the semester.

## Course/Student Support

Students in cohorts and in Houston and other locations provide support for each other either in online chats or, in instances where geographical locations make it possible, in support or study

groups. Much of the work, however, is done independently, which requires that the student possess a high degree of initiative and self-discipline. There also are equipment requirements such as a good computer, high speed broadband Internet connection, and the latest software.

The SLIS Village provides another means for bringing students closer to the School and each other and in enriching their educational experience. This online service, sponsored by LISSA, the SLIS student association, and administered by a student serving as manager, offers discussion forums, chat rooms, events calendar, and more. Membership and participation in the Village are encouraged and is available free to all students, faculty, staff, and members of the SLIS Alumni Society. Jennifer Lafleur, the current Village manager, says that “many students have told me they really enjoy the opportunity to come together with other students and feel a sense of community they do not otherwise have.”

UNT Libraries also offers outstanding support for online courses. Assigned periodical articles are made available online. When books are required, they are mailed free of charge to students on request along with a prepaid container for the return.

## Student Reaction to Distance Education

The statements from graduates and current students that follow are based on responses to a survey conducted by SLIS. Responses were predominantly positive and praised the variety and rigor of the online courses.

On technical and logistical aspects of the experience, there were many comments such as this one from **Dede Rios** (MS '04), Director of Library Services, Bruce A. Garrett Medical Library, San Antonio: “I would evaluate UNT SLIS distance learning mode of instruction as the best I have experienced. I have taken online courses through community colleges as well as private universities and experienced much less technical difficulties with the UNT program.” **Kathy Jones** (MS '04), Project Archivist, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, states, “Professors and staff made good use of technology, using everything from taped lectures and power point slides to live chats, message boards and blogs. No matter what your learning style, you will find something here that works for you.” Current student **Jean Mutschler**, library supervisor, University of Houston System Cinco Ranch, Katy, TX, says, “I thought I would be out there by myself and not as enmeshed in my classes as I was when in groups and in teams. You learn to love and hate teams, and then realize the importance of them. I'm sure there are distance learning modes that have less of this, but this is what makes

the UNT SLIS distance learning mode in my opinion superior.”

There were many who commented on the quality of the courses. **Mary Healy**, Anoka County Public Library System, MN, found “the UNT distance program to be very challenging, educational, and rewarding.” **Vicki Standing** (MS '06), Reference Librarian, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT, stated “I have to give the program high marks for creating such a unique learning environment.”



Vicki Standing

**Kathy Jones** said she found the program more demanding than her first masters in philosophy degree from George Mason University ten years ago. **Jennifer Hudson Connors** (MS '06), Research Librarian, Stark Museum of Art, Orange, TX, says “I found the classes that used detailed power-point lectures with self-tests and quizzes to be a very successful mode of learning. I was able to view and/or return to sections of the lecture at my own pace.”

The faculty received high praise. **Gail Harrison** (MS '05), school media specialist, Wharton (TX) ISD, said “faculty were always available for questions and help as needed.” **Dede Rios** says the professors who teach the online courses were more accessible than in some face-to-face classes. A number of others reported that they usually found a reply to their questions from an instructor or teaching assistant within hours and never more than a day later.

Many commented on having found the course work a rewarding experience. **Laura Boston** (MS '03) said, “I have even started to consider taking more distance courses because I miss the intellectual stimulation.” **Michele Delmar**, a current student, stated, “Because I enjoyed the classes so much, UNT SLIS will probably be stuck with me for awhile as I'm sure I'll continue taking classes even after I've completed the Masters requirements.”



Laura Boston

*\*This article is based in part on interviews with a number of SLIS faculty members and SLIS surveys of graduates and current students. The article also has been reviewed by Dr. Philip Turner, UNT Vice Provost for Learning Enhancement, Dr. Herman L. Totten, Dean of SLIS, and several members of the SLIS faculty. Special thanks go to Drs. William Moen, Ana Cleveland, and Barbara Stein Martin for their helpful suggestions.*

# SLIS

FACULTY & STAFF  
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**Barbara Stein Martin**  
Professor

**Philip Turner**  
Professor and  
Vice Provost for Learning  
Enhancement

**Maurice Wheeler**  
Associate Professor

## STAFF

**Betty Burch**  
Budget Director

**LeAnne Coffey**  
Admissions Assistant

**Jurhee Curtis**  
External Affairs Coordinator

**Toby Faber**  
Academic Counselor

**Diane Green**  
Associate Dean's Assistant and  
Ph.D. Assistant

**Paula King**  
Special Assistant to the Dean

**Alan Livingston**  
Graduate General Assess Lab  
Manager and Website Manager

**Gary Mathews**  
Computer Systems Manager

**Myrna Medina**  
Administrative Assistant

**John Pipes**  
Faculty Assistant

**Tisha Pipes**  
Academic Budget Officer

**Mike Pullin**  
Program/Project Specialist

**Charlotte Thomas**  
Web Institute Coordinator

**Margaret Yates**  
Development Officer

## HOUSTON PROGRAM ALUMS GATHER TO MEET NEW UNT PRESIDENT

The Houston Program Celebration Dinner, honoring UNT President Gretchen Bataille, took place at the Petroleum Club of Houston, February 24, 2007. **Dean Herman Totten**, **Dr. Ana Cleveland**, Director of the Houston Program, and **Dr. Donald Cleveland**, Professor Emeritus, welcomed the group of some 160 alumni. Three SLIS alumni, **Jerilynne Williams** (MLS '79), Director, Montgomery County Memorial Library System; **Shelly Lane** (MS '01), Children's Librarian, Georgia & Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library, Dobbin, TX; and **Devery Johnson** (MS '06), Reference Librarian, R.B. Tullie Library, spoke on the past, present, and future of the Houston Program. Mary Du Mont, mezzo-soprano, **Keith Chapman** (MS '01), piano, and the Alexandria Trio presented musical performances. Dr. Ana Cleveland provided an overview of the Houston Program and honored special guests. Dean Totten introduced President Bataille, who addressed the group. Following alumni tradition, **Jodi Philbrick** (MS '01), along with SLIS



Houston Alumni Association officers, handed out gifts to the lucky winners. **Barbara Shreffler** (MS '04), representing the SLIS Houston Alumni Association, closed the evening. This was definitely an event to be remembered!

Prior to coming to UNT, President Bataille, the University's first female president, was interim chancellor at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Since her arrival in September 2006, she has made a nationwide tour designed to meet alumni that included stops in Chicago, New York, Denver, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Antonio, and Houston. She says her goals for UNT are to bring greater visibility to the campus, not just regionally but nationally and internationally, and to increase enrollment from the current 33,500 to 45,000 in the next 10 years. She earned the bachelor's and master's degrees from California Polytechnic State University, both in English, and the Ph.D., also in English, from Drake University.

## RIO GRANDE INITIATIVE REACHES ITS GOALS

In 2005, SLIS received a \$790,000 Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) grant to recruit 20 bilingual students to complete a master's degree online, while serving as "professionals in training" in parent libraries. "Send us librarians who will stay" had been the cry of academic and public library directors along the 1300-mile Rio Grande River border between the United States and Mexico. From Port Isabel, Texas to Las Cruces, New Mexico, libraries faced the same problem, unfilled professional positions. At the time, each of the eight partner libraries in the grant had from one to six current professional vacancies that had remained unfilled due to the lack of qualified and interested applicants.

Fourteen of the fellows have already earned their degrees (two in summer 2006 and 12 in fall 2006). The final six of the original 20 fellows completed requirements for the degree in spring and summer 2007. The School organized a ceremony and celebration event to honor all of the fellows that was held in McAllen at the South Texas College (STC) Auditorium on May 5. Guest speakers included Gavino Sotelo, general manager of the Laguna Madre Water District in Port Isabel and a public administrations graduate from UNT; **Lucinda Wiley** (MS '06), a Rio

Grande Initiate fellow; Jose Cruz, STC vice president for information services and planning; and Armandina Sesin, director of the STC library.



*Dean Herman Totten provides the greetings from UNT SLIS.*

**Dr. Ana Cleveland**, who developed the grant along with **Dr. Philip Turner**, says, "We gathered in McAllen to celebrate because we accomplished every goal we set for the Rio Grande Initiative. It has been a highly rewarding experience for all faculty and staff members involved in the effort."



*Mariachis from McAllen High School, McAllen Memorial High School, and Rowe High School in McAllen, Texas.*



*Dr. Philip Turner presents a certificate to Arnoldo Becho ('06), Rio Grande Initiative fellow.*

## ROSIE ALBRITTON KATHY ROYALL

### *Featured SLIS Board of Advisors Members*

The SLIS faculty chooses distinguished library and information scientists and persons from related fields to serve three-year terms on the School's Advisory Board. This group of about 50 members meets each spring to offer invaluable insights into preparation needs of students entering the profession. Two members of this eminent group, Rosie Albritton and Kathy Royall, are featured below.



**Dr. Rosie Albritton**, a new member of the Advisory Board, has served as University Library Services Director and Professor of Educational Media & Technology, Prairie View A&M University, since October 2005. She formerly held administrative posts

at Florida Memorial University and University of Missouri at Columbia and was a member of the faculty at Wayne State University, School of Library and Information Science. She is a member of the American Library Association Council, having been recently reelected to a second three-year term. Her honors include the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Dissertation Competition Award, 1994, and selection as a participant in the Frye Leader-

ship Institute, Emory University, 2003, for which she was awarded a full scholarship from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to attend. Dr. Albritton earned the BS degree from Tennessee State University, M.A. from Governors State University, M.A. from University of Chicago, A.M.L.S. from the University of Michigan, and Ph.D. from University of Illinois.

**Kathy Royall**, long time member of the Board of Advisors and a SLIS adjunct instructor, is School Library Media Specialist at H.F. Steven Middle School, Crowley (TX) ISD. Prior to moving to Crowley in 2006, she served as a media specialist at Mansfield (TX) ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Educational Service Center San Antonio, and at several other Texas locations, beginning in 1990. She earned the B.A. degree from Sul Ross University, the MLS from Texas Woman's University, and has done post-graduate study in educational technology at Texas A&M University-Commerce. She is a member of the District Library Technology Committee and served on the 2000-2004 Texas Library Association Library Standards Committee.



## DR. HERMAN L. TOTTEN NAMED PERMANENT DEAN

Dr. Herman Totten has been appointed permanent dean of SLIS beginning September 1, 2007. The appointment was made by President Gretchen Bataille and the UNT Board of Regents. Dean Totten is currently serving a two-year fixed term as Dean that began on September 1, 2005. He has been a member of the SLIS faculty since 1977 and was a Regents Professor from 1991 to 2005. From 2002 to 2005, he served as Faculty Executive Assistant to President Norval Pohl.

Dean Totten has been recognized by the profession at state, national, and international levels. In 2004, the United States Senate confirmed his nomination by President George W. Bush to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. He served as the 2001-2002 President of the Texas Library Association, which in 2006 honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. He was appointed trustee to the American Records Management Association International Education Board of Trustees in 2001.

In 2004, Dr. Totten was named a Barrier Breaker for the UNT 50th Anniversary of Desegregation. The American Library Association (ALA) presented him with its prestigious Melvil Dewey Medal for creative professional leadership in 2005 and the Black Caucus Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Library and Information Science Education in 1992. From the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), he received the Award for Teaching Excellence in the Field of Library and Information Science Education in 1999 and the Award for Professional Contributions to Library and Information Science Education in 1991.

Dean Totten earned the BA degree from Wiley College and the MLS and Ph.D. degrees in library and information science from the University of Oklahoma. In 1991, the Alumni Association of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies honored him with its Award of Merit as an outstanding alumnus.

## SLIS BOARD OF ADVISORS

**Fred Heath**, chair, Vice Provost & Dir. Of Gen. Libs., University of Texas at Austin.; **Rosie Albritton**, Lib. Dir., Prairieview A&M Univ.; **Adrian Alexander**, Dean of Libs., Univ. of Tulsa; **Jacqueline Allen**, Dir. of Libs. & Imaging, Srvs, Dallas Musm. of Art; **Martha Bedard**, Associate Dean & Dir., Med. Sci. Lib., Texas A&M Univ.; **Barbara Blake**, Admin., The Chinati Fndt.; **Renee Bougard**, Assoc. Dir., Nat'l Network of Libs. of Med.-S Central Reg., Houston Acad. of Med., TX Med. Cntr. Lib.; **Holly Buchanan**, Assoc. VP for Knowledge Mgt & IT Dir., Health Sci. & Informatics Cntr., Univ. of NM; **Sharon Carr**, Dist. Lib. Dir., El Paso ISD; **Margaret Carroll**, Doc. Teaching Fellow, former Mgr. for Microsoft, Corp.; **Johnny Carson**, Nat'l Acct. Mgr., Brodart Co; **Bobby Carter**, Assoc. VP for Info. Resrs. & ED of Lib., UNT Health Sci. Cntr.; **Lisa Castro**, Dir. of Lib. Svcs., Art Inst. of Dallas; **Colleen Cook**, Dean of Libs., TX A&M Univ.; **Elizabeth Eaton**, ED HAM-TMC Library; **Marcelino Estrada**, Dir., TX State Law Lib.; **Oscar Garcia**, Dean, College of Engr., UNT; **Teena Garvin**, Lib. & Media Svcs. Coord., Garland ISD; **Neomi Garza**, Ref., Brazosport College Library; **Debra Gibson**, Coord., North East TX Lib. Syst.; **Donald Grose**, Dean, UNT Libs.; **Sharon Gullett**, Lib. Media Conslt., Tyler, TX; **Sebastian Hammer**, CEO, Index Data; **Kathy Hoffman**, Ex. Dir., Univ. of TX M.D. Anderson Cancer Cntr.; **Joan Howland**, Prof.

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## SLIS BOARD OF ADVISORS

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of Law & Assoc. Dean of Info. & Tech., Univ. of Minnesota Law Sch.; **Joan Jarosek**, Dir. Lib. Svcs., Jones Day, Dallas; **Sarah Jones**, Division Admin. and State Librn., Nevada State Library; **Lynnette Jordan**, Global Inf. Mgr.Svcs. Exxon Mobil Global Svcs.; **Bonnie Juergens**, ED, Amigos Library Services; **Obidike Karau**, Dir., TX Southern Univ. Lib.; **Leona Kemp**, Virtual Librn., UNT-Dallas; **Jana Knezek**, Dir., Libs. & Textbook Svcs., Northside ISD, San Antonio; **Rhea Lawson**, Dir. of Libs., Houston PL; **John Leggett**, Dir., Cntr. for the Study of Digital Libs. & Prof. Computer Serv. TX A&M Univ.; **Kevin Marsh**, Network Svcs Librn., TX State Library; **Marilyn Mason**, ED Web-juction OCLC; **Kay McBride**, Coord. Of Lib. Svcs., Pasadena IDS; **Gilliam McCombs**, Dean & Dir. of Central Libs., SMU; **Sandra McLeroy**, Lib. Tech. Spec. ESC Region 6; **Joan Mitchell**, Ed.-in-Chief, OCLC, Inc.; **Susan Phillips**, Assoc. Dean, Dir. of Law Lib., and Prof., TX Wesleyan Sch. of Law; **Eva Pool**, Dir., Denton (TX) PL Syst.; **Judy Rasberry**, Ed. Coord., Medical Cntr of Lewisville, TX; **Dana Rooks**, Dean of Libs., Univ. of Houston Libraries; **Kathy Royall**, Lib. & Media Spec., Mansfield ISD; **Peggy Rudd**, Dir., TX State Library; **Ramiro Salazar**, Dir., San Antonio PL Syst.; **Susan Skyzinski**, Spec. Projects Coord., Greenberg Traurig Res. Ctr.; **Patricia Smith**, ED, TLA; **Laurie Thompson**, Dir. of Libs., Univ. of TX Southwestern Med. Cntr., Dallas; **Paul Thompson**, Assoc. Prof, Computer Sci., Dartmouth College; **Clarice P. Weeks**, Lib. Dir., Zale Library

## KATHRYN KITCHENS PRESENTS LECTURE

Kathryn Kitchens, 1998 SLIS graduate who was named Student of the Year that same year, presented a lecture at the School, March 5, 2007, titled "User Experience and Collaboration: The Balance of Design and Communication." She is currently Microsoft Corporation User Experience Design Lead for the User Experience (UX) team within Human Resources IT Group (HRIT). In her lecture, she discussed user experience design (UED), how UED encapsulates information architecture, usability research, and UI design. She also discussed the collaborative team work she manages and ways in which her team must

collaborate with other teams in the creation of designs for HR application development.

Kathryn began at Microsoft soon after graduation working as a research apprentice for the library. Six months later, she was hired full-time as a reference researcher. From that position, she has moved within Microsoft working as an information architect for Microsoft Web and site analyst for Human Resources Web before moving into her current role.



## DR. WILLIAM L. ANDERSON, GUEST SPEAKER

The Texas Center for Digital Knowledge (TxCDK) and SLIS sponsored a lecture by Dr. William L. Anderson on February 22, 2007. Dr. Anderson spoke on "Permanent Open Access to Data: New Promises, New Practices, and Old Problems," in which he looked at scientific and technical data for examples of what we say we want, what we actually do, and what can get in the way of permanent and open access to data and information. Dr. Anderson is a co-founder of Praxis 101, where his consulting practice focuses

on user-centered information systems architecture, participatory design, software engineering practice innovation, and organizational learning. Previously he worked for Xerox Corporation in distributed system architecture, technology strategy, and advanced product development. He pioneered co-development and customer collaboration on one of the first digital libraries, a joint project between Cornell University and Xerox. He holds the Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

## STUDENT RECEIVES FIRST ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

**Lauren Ko**, the first SLIS Alumni Society Scholarship recipient, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in computer science from UNT in May 2004. Since 2004, she has been employed in the Dallas Public Library Fine Arts Division where she provides arts related reference service and



organizes the photograph collection. She currently serves as secretary of LISSA, the SLIS student organization, and has redesigned the LISSA website (<http://orgs.unt.edu.lissa>). Her mother, **Ellen Ko** (MS '94), a SLIS graduate, is head of public services at the William T. Cozby Public Library, Coppell, TX. Lauren is a current SLIS master's student following the Information Systems program.



## YAVETTE WILLIAMS RECEIVES BUNNY WATSON SCHOLARSHIP



**Yavette Williams**, the Bunny Watson Scholarship winner, in the last semester of her study for the Master of Science degree in the Houston program, is interested in a career in academic libraries. She has a masters degree in public administration (MPA) and has had several years of library experience as a reference associate at the Ralph W. Steen Library, Stephen F. Austin State University. She also

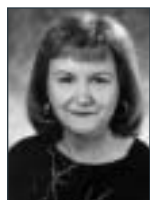
worked as a student library assistant throughout her undergraduate years. This background should prepare her well for a position

in the academic area. Yavette has spent the last year at home with her young son while attending school full time. She reports that he has basically been going to school with her since she began (while she was pregnant) in June of 2005.

The Bunny Watson Scholarship was created by a group of students in the IMLS grant funded Ph.D. cohort. Eleven students gave a total of \$1,000, something none of them could have done individually at this time. **Wendy Stephens**, a high school librarian in New Market, AL, one of the contributors to the scholarship, said she was paying forward what had been done for her, both at the masters level and as a Ph.D. student. The name Bunny Watson was chosen because of a librarian played by Katherine Hepburn in the 1957 comedy *Desk Set*. The student group hopes to create an endowed scholarship in the future.

## FACULTY AND STAFF BITS AND BYTES

Faculty members participating in the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Annual Meeting in Austin, November 2006, included **Drs. Jiangping Chen, Elizabeth Figa,** and **William Moen**.



**Dr. Carol Simpson**, SLIS associate professor now serving on modified service, was speaker at the Special Library Association Texas Chapter spring meeting at the University of Houston's Rockwell Pavilion on March 23,

2007. Her topic was copyright law, recent court cases, and the importance of mitigating copyright liability.

A new book titled *Celebrating Diversity: a Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries* (Hein, Rothman, 2000) includes a chapter about **Dr. Yvonne Chandler**. The article contains biographical information along with a personal tribute to her: "A passion for one's profession, guidance, support and responsibility instilled from a caring mentor, and hard work and dedication are the ingredients that Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler has combined to become an outstanding professor and law librarian." Dr. Chandler is a past-president of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries.

**Dr. Ana Cleveland** has been appointed to the 2007-08 TLA Nominating Committee. She made several presentations at the annual meeting of the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color

in October 2006. This spring, she will be presenting at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association. Dr. Cleveland's appointments to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board and the Texas Healthcare Diversity Council have kept her very busy.

**Dr. Elizabeth Figa** has published an article titled "The Emergent Properties of Multimedia Applications for Storytelling Pedagogy in a Distance Education Online Learning Community" in *Storytelling, Self, Society: Interdisciplinary Journal on Storytelling Studies*, 3 (1) 2007, 50-72.

Dr. Elizabeth Figa's advanced storytelling class has launched an online storytelling concert titled "Creating Ripples...Making Waves: A Storytelling Concert about Transformation" in which 16 graduate student performers tell stories via digital video. This unique concert was created completely by the students who formed committees to manage all aspects of the program's development. The entire class worked together to select a theme, rehearse and record the stories, and design and develop the content for the website. The program includes a variety of historical stories, personal and modern tales, and timeless narratives as well as works of poetry and an entire section of spiritual quotes relates to the theme. While the concert is suitable for a general audience, teens and adults are likely to appreciate it more. Some value-added aspects of the concert include a description and age rating for each story and biographies of each student performer.

The Association of Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) is sponsoring a program titled "Informing the Future of

MARC: An Empirical Approach" at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference. The program focuses on the IMLS-funded Z39.50 Interoperability Testbed Project which is under the direction of **Dr. William Moen** with **Dr. Shawne Miksa**. Dr. Moen was a presenter at a Search and Retrieve by URL (SRU) workshop held at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission on November 9, 2006. SRU is a successor to Z39.50, the information retrieval protocol widely used in library applications.

**Charlotte Thomas**, SLIS Web Institute Coordinator, received the MS in Law Librarianship and Legal Information Specialist in December 2006. The staff and faculty honored her with a party, and many of her family traveled from New York to be here for the festivities.



*Charlotte Thomas (MS 06) celebrates with faculty and staff.*

On June 22, 2007, **Dean Herman Totten** will be the speaker for the 50th Anniversary of the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (COA). Dr. Totten, having served three terms on COA and three times as chair, will have some tales to tell.

## GARY MATHEWS

### *Featured Staff Member*



When Gary Mathews came to SLIS as Computer Systems Manager in 1998, he was the School's first full-time network manager. His first task was to replace an extremely outdated file and print server and

upgrade the lab and classroom desktop PCs, followed by upgrading the faculty and staff PCs and printers in the main office. After nine years, he reports that he is still trying to keep up with the latest technological advances. He recalls when it was exciting to receive a 486-based PC with 16MB RAM, a 420MB hard disk, and to have the ability to access Gopher sites and send electronic mail through a new communication tool called the Internet. "The fact that the USB flash drive in my pocket can hold more information than our entire file server could hold ten years ago is pretty impressive," he

says. "We take so much for granted now with our ability to access the World Wide Web for information on any subject at any time of the day or night."

In his spare time, Gary enjoys life with his wife and daughters aged 10 and 14. For the past three plus years, he has served as a volunteer coach with the Denton Soccer Association, coaching his older daughter's recreational team. He enjoys cooking and digital photography, and says he "spends way too much time surfing iTunes for hidden gems."

Gary earned the B.S. in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University and the Master of Business Administration from UNT.

## HEALTHLINE HONORS DR. ANA D. CLEVELAND



On February 22, 2007, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center,

Dr. Ana D. Cleveland received the Librarian of the Year Award from HealthLINE, an association of medical librarians in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The Award is given to an individual who has made outstanding accomplishments in medical librarianship. Dr. Cleveland was recognized for her contributions to educating future health information professionals, her visionary approach to medical librarianship/ informatics, and her long record of service to the organization. This was only the second time HealthLINE has given the Award. Receiving it was especially meaningful to Dr. Cleveland because so many of her current and former students were in attendance. She was presented a beautiful plaque by Bobbie Long, past chair of HealthLINE.

## DR. LINDA SCHAMBER

### *Featured Faculty*

Dr. Linda Schamber, who joined the SLIS faculty in 1991 and was appointed Associate Dean in 2005, has had several careers that are united by common themes of information, communication, and education. Before coming to UNT, she taught information studies and communications at Syracuse University, where she earned her doctoral degree, and communications at Ohio State University.

Dr. Schamber was one of the first UNT faculty members to begin teaching in an electronic distributed learning environment. Since 1998, she has designed and taught large and small courses and managed teaching teams to deliver instruction via combinations of web-based, video, and face-to-face methods. Her research interests include information and communication theory, human information behavior, information organization, research methods and design, and information skills development. She had long been intrigued by behavior models



and relevance criteria that help explain how people seek, evaluate, and use information in different formats and situations. She has conducted funded studies and published on a number of topics, including work on relevance research and on the impact of technology on library education.

Dr. Schamber's career as a professional editor predates her career as an educator and continues to the present. She is an editorial board member for the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* and past staff editor of the *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*. She is active in the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) where she served as conference proceedings editor for the 2004 annual meeting as well as Technical Program Committee Chair. Previously, she worked as a newspaper editor and as a freelance copy editor, writer/photographer, and publications designer.

## FEATURED STUDENTS

### Honored Students

Each calendar year, the SLIS faculty selects an outstanding student in library science and an outstanding student in information science. Kathryn Jones and Marco Zannier, chosen as honored students for 2006, were recognized at the UNT Honors Day ceremony on March 30, 2007.



**Kathryn Jones**, who received the MS degree in information science in December 2006, is Project Archivist at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). Prior to accepting her current position, she was a Rietz intern and fellow at MFAH where she created an Access database and recorded 2,500 books in the Masterson book collection, donated to the Museum in 1996. In her current position she performs all aspects of record processing including conservation, organization, and finding aids using EAD and MARC records. She holds the BA degree from University of Maryland, a Diploma of Theological Studies from the Lay School at Virginia Theological Studies, and the MA from George Mason University.

**Marco Zannier**, the MS library science honoree, is head librarian at Elsik High School, Alief ISD, Houston, where he serves as administrator of two libraries. After teaching English for a number of years, he entered the Houston Program and completed the MS in May 2006. His library career began in Killough Middle School, Alief ISD, in 2003, where he served for three years. His daily work focuses on research assistance and instruction and collaboration with teachers on lesson development and implementation at Elsik High School. He has started a new virtual reference service which allows students to interact with him via chat when they are researching from home in the evenings and on weekends. He has written a grant in hopes of furthering this service next year. Marco hosts brown bag lunches in the library which allow students to meet in a relaxed atmosphere to voice their opinions on controversial issues and current events. Next summer he will be facilitating workshops to show librarians how to update their library web pages and make them useful dynamic resources.



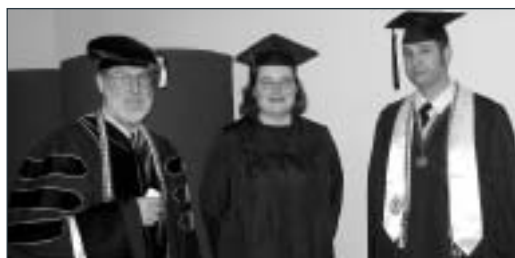
## COMMENCEMENT AND HOODING CEREMONIES

The commencement schedule was reorganized under the direction of the new UNT President Gretchen Bataille, who recommended that all schools attend joint ceremonies to be held in the Coliseum. On December 16, 2007, SLIS joined with the School of Arts & Sciences to recognize their graduates; two Bachelors, 119 Masters, and five Interdisciplinary Ph.Ds. The student address was delivered by SLIS candidate **Molly Dahlstrom**. (see article p.16)



Scott Klinger with Dr. Phil Turner

On the evening prior to commencement, the first hooding ceremony for



Undergraduates Nicholas Paulas, Lacy Cain with Chris Strauss, Ph.D.

Ph.D. students was held. The inaugural affair was well received. The following students and their committees participated in the ceremony of pomp and circumstance: **EunKyung Chung** with major professors **Drs. Shawne Miksa** and **Samantha Hastings**; **Scott Klinger**, with **Drs. Phil Turner** and **Samantha Hastings**; **Margaret Lincoln** with **Drs. Elizabeth Figa** and **Samantha Hastings**; and **Joseph Stedman** with **Dr. Brian O'Connor**. One additional Ph.D. candidate, **Christopher Strauss**, was hooded by **Dr. Linda Schamber** during the Saturday commencement ceremony.

### FALL 2006 GRADUATES

At fall graduation in December, SLIS awarded 2 Bachelors and 119 Masters degrees. Five graduates received the Ph.D. from the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program.

#### Bachelors

Lacy Cain, Nicholas Paulus

#### Masters

Mario Aguilar, Patricia Alford, Rosaura Alvarez, Charon Amaya, Jacqueline Bartha, Arnoldo Becho (4.0), Kristi Bell, Jill Bellomy (4.0), Chaney Bennett, Emily Bennett, Billy Bilbrey, Judy Binder (4.0), Linda Breslin (4.0), Sarah Buck (4.0), Julia Carlis (4.0), Michael Carlson, Harvey Castellano (4.0), Megan Charters (4.0), Amelia Chau, Joel Chirinos (4.0), Kimberly Clutter (4.0), Theodore Colvin (4.0), Deanna Constable, Maria Contreras, Alan Cutler (4.0), Molly Dahlstrom, Dennis Daily (4.0), John Davis, Teresa Domino (4.0), Erin Dorris (4.0), Deborah Dougharty (4.0), Monica Duke, Sara Dunn, Alexandria Eidenier, Jennifer Flores (4.0), Kent Forsberg, Jamie Furrh, Mary Garner (Stark) (4.0), Mayra Garza (4.0), Debra Goheen, Rebecca Gonzales (4.0), Devery Goss-Johnson, Gauri Govil (4.0), John Harvey (4.0), Mary Holbo, Monty Holcomb (4.0), Andrea Horn, Patricia Ibanez, Amelia Jacquez, Karen Johnson (4.0), Kathryn Jones (4.0), Kevin Jones, Holly Kane (4.0), Kami Komm (4.0), Karen Kronenberg (4.0), Justin Lawrence (4.0), Yadira Lopez (4.0), Jesse Loucks (4.0), Sarah Lovato (4.0), Tyler Manolovitz (4.0), Jennifer Marcantel (4.0), Teresa Martinez, Meta McDaniel, Kathy McDuffie, Cynthia Melenson (4.0), Elizabeth Melledy, Nicole Mitchell (4.0),

*continued on p. 11*

## FALL 2006 GRADUATES

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Kimberly Moore (4.0), Jana Morgan, Anne Neidinger, Kristine Nelsen (4.0), Kimerli Oliver, Megan Owen (4.0), Samuel Passey, Cynthia Peterson (4.0), Sandra Plumb (4.0), Sharolynn Pyeatt (4.0), Rebecca Quigley (4.0), Julie Ratliff (4.0), Donald Raymond, Christine Reed, Reka Reynolds, Sarah Rhodes (4.0), Julia Richards (4.0), Erin Rigby (4.0), Monica Rivero (4.0), Adria Sampson, Judith Sargent, Erin Settle (4.0), Gavin Sheaffer, Julia Sibaja (4.0), Melanie Sibley, Kelly Simms, Alexandra Simons (4.0), Anne Simpson (4.0), Anil Sitoula, Stuart Smith (4.0), Esperanza Sonnen, June Stafford, Janie Steele, Rebekah Stephens, Erica Stone (Brock), Marla Summers, Brenda Swinford (4.0), Charlotte Thomas, Jonathan Thorn, Annabel Trevino (4.0), Shannon Triplitt (4.0), Heather Turner, Renee Vander Veen (4.0), Sylvia Vargas, Darlene Vasquez, Cindy Wadsworth, Claudia Wayland, Carol Wayne, Denise Wessels (4.0), Alan Williams (4.0), Joan Wilton (4.0), Elizabeth Wood, Monena Wynne (4.0).

## Ph.D.

Eunhyung Chung, Scott Klingler, Margaret Lincoln, Joseph Stedman, Christopher Strauss.

## STUDENT NEWS

## Masters Students



**Margaret Carroll's** special libraries class toured three special libraries on April 19: Truett Memorial Library at the First Baptist Church in downtown Dallas, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Dallas Museum of Art. **Ruthie Turner** at the Truett Memorial Library is an alumni (MS '99) and **Fan Ying Kong** at the Federal Reserve is a member of the SLIS Advisory Board. **Susan Schmidt**, SLIS student who is an intern at the Dallas Museum of Art, spoke to the group about her internship at the DMA.

**Athena Jackson**, a student in the Houston Program and president of the Houston student organization, has been awarded a scholarship to attend ALA's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section preconference titled "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums." The preconference will be held June 19-22 in Baltimore Maryland, a short distance away from Washington, D.C., the site of the 2007 Annual Conference. Athena will be one of the 19 participants selected from 54 applicants for the scholarship.

**Cindy Oser**, who expects to graduate in December 2007, presented a contributed paper at the TLA Annual Conference in San Antonio in April. Her topic concerned libraries reaching out to mentally-challenged high school students.

Students **Tuan Nguyen**, **Skeetal Desa**, and **Vince Fausto** experienced library advocacy when they, along with **Dr. Yvonne Chandler**, attended the Texas Library Association Legislative Day, February 6, 2007, in Austin. They made several visits to legislative offices with their assigned group and delegate leader. During the visits, they had an opportunity to speak with legislators concerning funding for libraries and information organizations in the state.



left to right: Gloria Meraz, TLA Director of Communications, Vince Frausto, Skeetal Desa, Sue Compton (BS '82), Tuan Nguyen



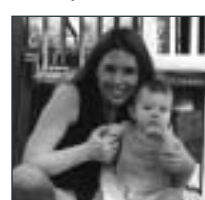
**Tessa Li Powell's** first article was published in the *Great Events from History: The 19th Century (1801-1900)* volume four published November 2006. Her article is entitled: "1832-1847 Abdelkader Leads Algeria Against France". After France began colonizing part of North Africa in 1830, Algerian tribes united in resistance under Abdelkader, who created an army to fight the French in a holy war that would last fifteen years.

A second article will be published in *Great Events from History, The 20th Century, 1971-2000*. The expected release is late 2007/early 2008.

Student **Elise Sheppard** is teen librarian and associate professor at Harris County Public Library, Cy-Fair College Branch, Cypress, TX.

**Joel Thornton** has been awarded the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Dr. E.J. Josey Spectrum Scholarship Mentor Travel Grant to attend the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in June.

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation and San Antonio Public Library received an IMLS grant for the Mejor Future/Better Future project, which offers individuals the opportunity to pursue the MS at an ALA accredited library school. Grantees attending SLIS include: **Sylvia Reyna**, **Tim Johnson**, **Derika Bailey**, **Karen Sebesta**, and **Camilla Vega-Willard**, as well as **Marisa Sparks**, who completed the degree in 2004, and **Monty Holcomb** who graduated in 2006.



**Kelli Wilder**, San Antonio LISSA President, has received a competitive scholarship from the Texas Library Association College and University Library Division.

## Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Students

Four Ph.D. students, **Toby Faber**, **Rowena Li**, **Jeanne Holba Puacz**, and **Wendy Stephens**, have published an article, title "Information Needs and Information-Seeking Behavior in an Academic Virtual Reference Environment: A Quantitative and Qualitative Study," in *Education Media and Technology Yearbook 2007*. The publication also includes an article titled "Spreading the Word about School Libraries: Using Webinars as Vehicles for Professional Development," by **Erin Drankwater Wyatt**. The yearbook, published in cooperation with the Association for Educational

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Communications and Technology, highlights major trends of the previous year which cluster around student-centered pedagogy, as well as advances in online learning.

Doctoral students participating in the American Society of Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Annual Meeting, Austin, November 3-9, included: **Pok Chin**, **Cheryl Lawson**, **Lei Li**, **Faith Oguz**, and **Xinya Yu**.



**Andrienne Jones**, who received the MS from SLIS in 2004 and is currently a doctoral student, was hired full-time at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth. She works as a business planner & analyst and supports the research endeavors and ventures of the Business Pursuits Department for future advancement of company success.

**Tami Sutcliffe** and Dr. John S. Gossett presented a paper titled "Determining Place Regula-

tions on the Internet: Burning the Global Village to Roast the Pig" at the Southern States Communications Association Annual Conference in Louisville, KY, March 2007.



She has been notified that she will present at The Connection at Drexel University. The Connection is a conference that provides doctoral students with the opportunity to present work to an open and friendly audience of peers.

**David Wachanga** published an article in the North Texas Daily, the UNT campus newspaper, concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., and how he transformed himself into an institution.

**Melanie White** is author of a chapter in a recently issued textbook, *Native American Prehistory to First Contact*, edited by R.P. Carlisle and J. Geoffrey Golson, for the Turning Points: Actual and Alternate Histories Series (ABC-CLIO, 2006). Her chapter is titled "California and the Intermountain Culture."



Selection for membership in the UNT SLIS chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information studies honor society, is by invitation of the faculty and is based on academic performance and professional promise. The UNT SLIS Beta Lambda Chapter extended invitations to three doctoral students and 28 masters students in fall 2006.

**Doctoral Students:**  
Eunkyung Chung,  
Scott Klingler,  
Christopher Strauss

**Masters Students:**  
Rosaura Alvarez, Arnoldo Becho, Sarah Buck, Harvey Castellano, Megan Charters, Joel Chirinos, Kimberly Clutter, Dennis Daily, Teresa Domino, Erin Dorris, Mary Garner (Stark), Mayra Garza, Debra Goheen, Gauri Govil, Karen Johnson, Kathryn Jones, Kami Komm, Yadira Lopez, Sharolynn Pyeatt, Monica Rivero, Julia Sibaja, Alexander Simons, Anil Sitoula, Brenda Swinford, Charlotte Thomas, Annabel Trevino, Alan Williams, Joan Wilton.

## ALL SCHOOL DAY



Stephanie Fulton, Adjunct Faculty, registering

### LISSA - Houston

"The Information Factor in Emergency Management" was the theme of the Houston All School Day, held March 10, 2007, at the University of Houston, M.D. Anderson Library, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion. Speakers included Margaret Anderson, University of Texas School of Public Health Library; **Kathy Hoffman**, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Research Medical Library; **Dr. Guillermo Oyarce**, SLIS faculty; and Jennifer Suter, Community Liaison, Harris County Homeland Security & Emergency Management. A luncheon for students and guests followed the program.

Many students commented that this was the best All School Day to date.

### LISSA - Denton

LISSA student's organization sponsored a highly successful All School Day, fall 2006. Speakers included **Eva Poole**, Director, Denton Public Library System; **Leora Kemp** (MLS '78) and **Cindy Batman** (MS '03), UNT Dallas Campus Library; **Julie Travis** (MLS '72), Dallas Public Library; Tracy Everett, Littler Mendelson, PC; and Glenn Jenson, UNT Career Center. Dean Herman Totten conducted a Town Meeting.



Student Mollye Fleschman is participating in the discussion.

"Playing the Field: Different Kinds of Libraries" is the theme of the spring Denton All School Day, planned for April 21, 2007. Speakers include **Lea Bailey** (MLS '76), Irving (TX) ISD; **Linda Snow**, University of Texas at Dallas; **Norman Howden**, El Centro College; **Sue Ridnour**, Flower Mound (TX) Public Library; **Connie Moss** (MS '92), Coppell Public Library; **Gale Harris**, Lockheed Martin; **Vanessa Perez**, American Heart Association, and **David Schuster**, Plano (TX) ISD. **Dr. Linda Schamber**, Associate Dean, will conduct the Town Meeting.



Speaker Tracy Everett and Patrick Callaghan (MS'05) demonstrates proper greetings.

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

### *LISSA - Houston*

The number of UNT SLIS students in the greater Houston area increases every year. Houston LISSA's previous officers have identified ways of successfully serving distance learning students in the area. The current LISSA officers decided to take the next step toward establishing a distance learning student community by making a concerted effort to increase membership and instill active participation in the organization. One of the first obstacles in achieving this objective was the vast geographic range of the Houston metropolitan area.



*Jan Brodhead, Jorie Nissen, and Sara Huffman enjoying breakfast.*

The solution was to reach students at the point of need. What better way to practice that fundamental tenet of librarianship than with an outreach program. After identifying areas that held the highest density of students, the organization planned five "mixers" or informal gatherings for students to meet and put faces with the names of classmates in online courses. Many students have availed themselves of these opportunities to get to know each other. LISSA officers include **Althea Jackson**, president; **Julie Mergele**, vice-president; **Dana Flinn**, secretary; **Art Spanjer**, member-at-large. **Dr. Ana Cleveland** serves as faculty advisor.



*Carol Rico and Tami de la Fuente being recognized as Houston Public Library Fountain of Youth fellows.*

### *LISSA - San Antonio*

LISSA San Antonio sponsored a mixer on January 3, 2007, at the Julia Yates Semmes Branch of the San Antonio Public Library. Some 30 attended the gathering, including a number of former students. Newly elected officers are: **Kelli Wilder**, president; **Chuck Tucker**, vice-president; **Marisa Sparks**, secretary; and **Leslie Stapleton**, treasurer.



*Current students Camille Vega Willard (l) and Sylvia Reyna take time to chat about classes with other guests.*



*Special guest 2007 TLA President and SLIS BOA member Jana Knezek urges students to get involved in their state library association.*

### *Houston LISSA Spring Mixer Dates*

The Houston LISSA organization was very busy planning Spring 2007 Student Mixers scheduled in different areas of Houston. They met at 6:15, enjoyed dutch treat and good conversation. Some of the dates and mixer locations this spring included:

#### **February 9**

Woodlands Mall  
The Woodlands

#### **March 8**

Rice Village  
Houston

#### **February 15**

Starbucks  
Pearland, TX

#### **March 13**

It's a Grind  
Sugar Land, TX

#### **February 20**

Memorial City Mall  
Houston



*Julia Mergele and Athena Jackson, Houston LISSA Officers, speaking about the Houston area mixers.*

### *LISSA Totebags are now available!*

**Totebags \$12.00**

The totebags are solid black and feature the UNT logo and the School of Library and Information Sciences name. The totes measure approximately 18"x10"x7" and have 20" shoulder straps. Additionally, they feature an exterior pocket, which is perfect for small items such as keys or your cell phone!



For questions or more information, please contact Adrienne Jones, at [ajones@lis.admin.unt.edu](mailto:ajones@lis.admin.unt.edu).

# ALUMNI SOCIETY

## SLIS @ TLA



Upper row from left to right: Kelli Wilder, Martin Shupla, Charles Tucker, Dr. Linda Schamber, Sarah Nelson (MS '07); Lower row from left to right: Julia Mergele, Regina Burgess (MS '07), Carol Bartz



TLA Booth Volunteers: Karen Snow, Kelli Wilder, Sarah Nelson, Arta Kabashi, Mandi Rhodes, Rebecca SeEVERS

### Volunteers who assisted at the SLIS booth at TLA included:

- Arta Kabashi • Camille Vega-Willard
- Chaney Bennett • Charles Tucker
- Christine Gaspard • Elena Vassilieva
- James Halsell • Jane Miller • Karen Snow
- Kelli Wilder • Mandie Rhodes
- Marisa Sparks • Mary Hope
- Rebecca SeEVERS • Regina Burgess
- Sarah Nelson • Sylvia Reyna • Tracey Knouse

Eva Poole  
Director of  
Libraries  
Denton Public  
Library,  
SLIS BOA  
Member with  
Johnny  
Carson,  
Brodart  
Company



Dr. Simpson with Regina Burgess (MS '07), Mary Hope (MS '07), Christina Gaspard



Drs. Stein Martin and Turner with students: Tracey Knouse, Jane Miller, Carolyn Bogardus, Camille Vega, Marisa Sparks



Toby Faber and Marisa Sparks



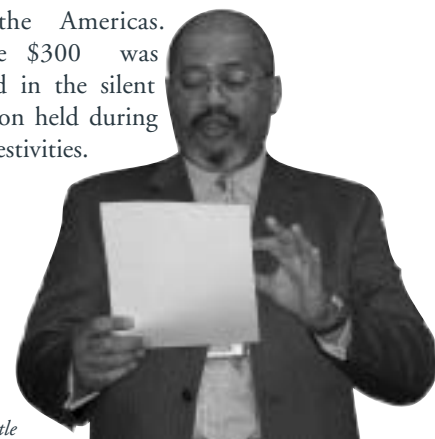
Speaker Michael Stephens

Some 130 alumni attended the Alumni Society Reception held April 12th, during the TLA Annual Conference, at the Tower of the Americas, San Antonio. Beverages flowed freely accompanied by the beautifully prepared Mexican hors d'oeuvres. The boisterous crowd mixed and mingled while enjoying the grand vistas of San Antonio from the observation desk atop the Tower. A repeating carousel of SLIS history slides played in the background. While the venue was wonderful for visiting with old friends and meeting new ones, it was not the best environment for a formal program. None the less, Dean Totten, with the force of a Baptist preacher in revival mode, called the rowdy crowd to order and began by recognizing the 2007 Distinguished Alumna **Miriam Rodriguez** (see p. 15). Program emcee **Dede Rios**, SLIS Alumni Society board member and Director of Library Services, Bruce A. Garrett Medical Library Health System, San Antonio, presented Miriam with a beautiful framed award.

**Dean Totten** and **Melody Kelly** (MLS '73) paid a special tribute to the five SLIS deans who have served through the years:

**David A Webb** (Director) 1953-1967, **C. Glenn Sparks** 1967-1972, **Dewey E. Carroll** 1973-1987, **Raymond F. Von Dran** 1987-1995, and **Philip Turner** 1996-2004. Those present included Drs. Phil Turner and Ray Von Dran, accompanied by his wife and daughter. Syracuse alumni residing in Texas were invited to the reception to share this special time with Dr. Von Dran, the former dean of Syracuse University School of Information.

Following the presentations, the cacophony of sound swelled and the 2007 Alumni Society gathering continued as the stars came out over the Tower of the Americas. Some \$300 was raised in the silent auction held during the festivities.



Speaker Joel Battle

## ALUMNI NEWS

### MIRIAM RODRIGUEZ NAMED 2007 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

When Miriam Rodriguez came to Texas from Havana, Cuba in 1983, one of the first places her mother-in-law took her was the Dallas Public Library. "I was amazed you could take so many things home," she recalls. And now, 24 years later, she is that library's Assistant Director for Public Services where she works with an array of local agencies, city departments and civic groups to help bring library services to the people of Dallas. "Since many immigrants come from countries with little tradition of public library service and the downtown main library can be intimidating, taking the library to a neighborhood is a priority," she observed.

Miriam held a bachelor's degree in library science from Havana University, but when she first came to this country, she worked as a baker while learning English. Her first library job was at Nicholson Memorial Library, Garland, Texas, where she worked mostly with Spanish-speaking patrons. After receiving the MS from SLIS in 1997, she accepted a reference position at Dallas Public Library. In 2001, she moved to Irving Public Library as the multicultural services



supervisor and returned to the Dallas Public in 2004 as the multicultural services administrator. Within six months, she was promoted to her current position.

Miriam has been a speaker on providing library services to limited English speakers at the American Library Association, Texas Library Association, Dallas County Community College District, Border Regional Library Association, and other organizations, and is currently teaching a course in multicultural librarianship at Texas Woman's University. She was selected to attend the TALL Texas Leadership Institute in 2001 and was named a 2005 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker. Miriam was honored at the SLIS TLA reception on April 12 (see p.14) and at ceremonies on

UNT Alumni Appreciation Day, April 20. A number of Miriam's colleagues from the Dallas Public Library were present at the luncheon where she received her award, including **Laurie Evans**, Dallas Public Library Director, also a SLIS graduate (1973).

### TLA PRESIDENT ELECT MELODY KELLY



Melody Kelly, who received the MLS degree from SLIS in 1974, has been elected to serve as president of the Texas Library Association in 2008-09. Melody, Associate Dean of UNT Libraries since 2001, is also

an adjunct professor in SLIS and has taught the course in government publications for the past 23 years. Melody was named Distinguished Alumna in 2001 and received the SLIS Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

Melody has been active in TLA for many years, most recently serving as 2003-2006 Representative-at-Large to the Executive Board, and co-chairing the TLA Conference Program Committee both in 2001-2002 and in 2003-2004. She is a charter member of the Association's Government Documents Round Table, and over the years has served tirelessly as an officer and frequent conference presenter. She was the first recipient of the Government Documents Round Table/MARCIVE, Inc. Knowledge is Power Award, which honors an individual

recognized by his or her peers as being an active supporter and advocate for the use of government information in education, research, and/or commerce.

Melody will become the tenth member of the SLIS family to serve as president of TLA, the fifth in the last seven years. Faculty members who have served include **Arthur Samp-ley**, **Robert R. Douglass**, **Margaret Irby Nichols**, and **Herman Totten**. Alumni who have served are **Maurice Gray** (B.A. '69), **Mary D. Lankford** (BA '52), **Linda Allmand** (BA '61), **Charles Harrell** (Ph.D '88), and **Gretchen Hoffmann** (MS '92). In addition, several Advisory Board members have served as president: **Eva Poole**, **Jana Knezek**, and **Dana Rooks**.



## CHARLES PACE, *LIBRARY JOURNAL* MOVER & SHAKER

Charles Pace (MS '90), director of Fargo (ND) Public Library since 2001, became director of the St. Louis County Library in October 2006. In the five years he was in Fargo, he opened the first branch library in North Dakota, conducted a library card campaign that netted 3000 new borrowers, increased circulation by 60 percent, and successfully campaigned for a temporary sales tax to raise \$12 million for a new library and two branches. He reports that he applies key lessons learned when he was employed at Houston Public Library where they conducted a powerful visual marketing campaign as well as a drive to give every child

in Houston a library card. When he was chosen by *Library Journal* as a Mover & Shaker in 2006, he stated that he sees his job as "being the creator of conditions that allow my staff to bring their natural talents and abilities to the forefront and to succeed." He says that he does not control but merely influences others. As *Library Journal* stated in the magazine's write up about Charles, "Judging by the record, [he does so] pretty effectively."



## MORE NONTRADITIONAL POSITIONS FOR SLIS GRADUATES

The fall 2006 issue of *Call Number* included an article about a number of graduates who hold nontraditional positions or work in unusual settings. Nontraditional refers to areas such as publishing, bibliographic utility, technical writing, indexing, and many other areas. Other graduates carry out traditional functions in nontraditional settings or nontraditional functions in traditional settings.\*

**Margaret Coleman** (MS '99), Detainee Base Librarian at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is unable to tell us anything about her work, but the position would certainly fit into the nontraditional careers category. A former classmate tells us Margaret enjoys the heat but can not stand the humidity. She has adjusted well, however, and is enjoying her work.



**Susan Michael** (MS '06) is the director of product design at Thomson Learning Solutions, a start-up within Thomson Learning that is charged with finding new ways to use technology in publishing products. She reports that she is applying what she learned in Drs. Enoch and Moen's classes about metadata and database each day in her position, which involves user-centered design of educational software. "SLIS grads have the opportunity to find new ways to

apply library and information science methods and principles," she says. "For example, the field of software design needs their insights and organizational skills as information architects, systems analysts, and database designers."

**Philip Montgomery** (MS '05), Archivist Special Collections Librarian, Rice University, Fondren Library Woodson Research Center, is doing interesting things with virtual 3-D environments. He is very active in a Rice project to create a virtual 3-D campus in Second Live to study how education and information systems work in a 3-D environment. He is also putting up an exhibit from the library archives using D-Space and Second Life. Philip says that he is very grateful to UNT/SLIS for giving him a good education and opening so many doors for him.



At Oracle, **Mark Wilcox** (MS '96) serves as Principal Product Manager, Oracle Identity Management, world's largest developer of Enterprise Software. "Regardless of which organization you work for," he says "most likely it is using at least one of our software components." He is responsible for a number of different functions, but his primary

responsibility is to determine which new features should go into the company's products as well as communicating what those functions are and why they are useful to the sales force and customers. He also works with the sales team, supporting and consulting, to determine how to use the company's software to solve customer's business problems. Additionally, he writes documents to show how to use the software and maintains the product's internal and external web-sites and internal knowledge management resources. Mark has high praise for the preparation he received at SLIS which, he says, "gave me the opportunity to explore and learn new technologies mostly through active encouragement to explore." He also points out the he "learned to apply basic principles in organizing non-traditional materials and the process of conducting a proper reference interview, something I use every day." He adds that he "learned how to properly communicate in different 'mediums' such as in-person, phone chat, forums and email."

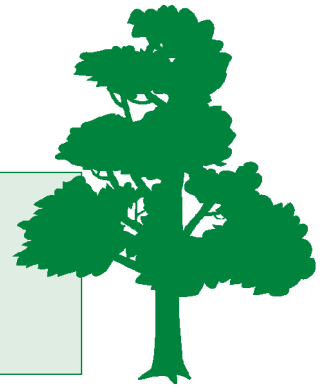


\*The editor would like to hear from others whose positions, like those above, fall outside traditional areas of library and information science. Contact: Margaret Irby Nichols, 940/382-9777 or at nichols2514@charter.net.

## FOLLOWING IN FAMILY FOOTSTEPS:

### More Legacies

*SLIS has had many legacies among its graduates—daughters and sons, grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews—who followed their relatives into librarianship; a number of them were highlighted in the fall 2006 issue of Call Number. We have begun our search for other legacies and call upon you to help us identify them.\**



**Margaret Burlingame** and her daughter **Ann** both received their MS degrees from SLIS. When Margaret came to the program in 1974, Ann, age 10, came with her. They had left family and friends in El Paso to enter into this new venture alone. Margaret says, "I loved the courses and, consequently, read and learned diligently. So did Ann. For her there was the fine and comprehensive SLIS library of children's fiction. When we returned to El Paso, she was the best read sixth grader in the school." Daughter Ann returned to SLIS for her MLS in 1988 and specialized in children's literature. She is Regional Library Supervisor, Wake County Public Library, Raleigh, North Carolina. Margaret, who lives in Santa Fe, has retired and is currently archiving the papers of John Crosby and the Santa Fe Opera. In a letter from Margaret, she says "Ann and I are equally grateful realizing what a difference a year at SLIS made in our lives."

**Molly Dahlstrom** (MS '06), who was selected by faculty as the spokesperson at the fall 2006 graduation ceremonies, is a "double legacy" since both of her parents are librarians. Her father, Joe Dahlstrom, is director of the Victoria College and University of Houston-Victoria Library; her mother,



Ruth Dahlstrom, a former school librarian, is currently on the staff of Victoria (TX) Public Library. Both received their degrees from the University of Texas. In her gradu-

ation ceremony speech, Molly said: "I never imagined myself wanting to go into the field of library and information science. My parents are librarians...and we ALL know, that NOTHING our parents did was cool...or interesting...or FUN!"

**Leah Hawkins** (MS '83) began her career as a youth services librarian at Bedford (TX) Public Library, moved to Hurst (TX) Public Library as assistant director after several years, and then decided to become a school librarian. After receiving teacher certification, she began her current career in school librarianship in Bedford ISD in 1993. Her daughter **Miranda** often helped her mother in the school library and also worked as a part-time assistant at the local public library before going to Stephen F. Austin State University where she



majoring in digital media. It seems only natural that Miranda would end up at UNT working toward the Masters degree in library and information science; she expects to graduate soon.



**Leonard McCown** (MS '77) and his wife Marge have a daughter and son-in-law who are librarians. Kristi Betts is librarian at Kinkeade Early Childhood School in Irving, and her husband Walter Betts is systems librarian at Texas Christian University; both are Texas

Woman's University graduates. Leonard says, "the first 5 years of Kristi's teaching career, she followed her mother and grandmother in teaching kindergarten, but then wised up and followed her father!" Walter is a feature in the 2007 TLA Calendar.



**Alexandra Sax** (MS '88), who has been employed by The New York Public Library since shortly after graduation, works at a very large branch across the street from the Humanities and Social Science Library, which she says the patrons call "the big one" but the library staff call "the home of the lions." As is the case in most branches, the staff carries out a number of functions, but Alexandra primarily serves as supervisor of the Job Information Center. In the aftermath of 9/11, the Center took on a vital role in providing material for job seekers displaced by the tragedy. In June 2003, the Trustees of the New York Public Library presented the Maher-Stern Award to Alexandra and her three full-time staff members. The Award recognizes exemplary leadership and excellence in community service. "We felt honored by all of this attention to what we felt was our duty not only to the citizens, but to our profession," she says. Alexandra's daughter **Athena Michael**, who received her MLIS from University of Texas at Austin, took postgraduate classes at SLIS. She also completed a professional certificate in book publishing from the University of Virginia. Although she has served in all types of libraries, she currently is working in the information industry as Library Sales Representative for John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

\*Contact information: Margaret Irby Nichols, 940/382-9777 or [nichols2514@charter.net](mailto:nichols2514@charter.net)

## TLA TALL TEXANS 2007

As in the past, SLIS will be well represented at the TALL Texans Leadership Institute that will be held June 3-7, 2007, at Highland Lakes Camp, Spicewood, Texas. Among this year's selected attendees who are SLIS graduates are: **Valli Hoski** (MS '01), Continuing Education Librarian, Amigos Library Service, Dallas; **Mary Milligan** (BA '75), librarian, Saint Luke's Episcopal School, San Antonio; **Janet Peri** (MS '06), librarian, Patient/Family Library, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston; **Kimberly Picozzi** (MS '02), librarian, Calallen High

School, Calallen ISD, Corpus Christi; and **Leah Rosson** (MS '04), librarian, Central High School Library, San Angelo (TX) ISD. Mentors serving this year include **Doug Ferrier** (MS '78), Library Director, University of Texas at Brownsville; **Melody Kelly** (MS '75), Associate Dean of Libraries at UNT and TLA President-elect; and **Kathy Hoffman**, Executive Director, Research Medical Library, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, a member of the SLIS Advisory Board.

## NEW MEXICO AND MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS JOINT CONFERENCE



**Dr. Yvonne Chandler** and **Toby Faber**, representing the SLIS faculty and staff, met with SLIS alumni at the SLIS booth during the New Mexico Library Association and Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference in Albuquerque, March 14-16, 2007. Among those in attendance were: (from left to right in photo) **Annie Epperson** (MS '03), instruction librarian and assistant professor,

University of Southern Colorado; **Jerry Hudson** (MS '03), reference librarian, Weld Library District, Greeley Colorado and cataloger at the Rocky Mountain Center for Health Promotion Education, Lakewood, Colorado; **Sarah Naper** (MS '93), business reference librarian and assistant professor, University of Northern Colorado; **Denine Parker** (MS '00), Juan Tabo Library, Albuquerque, NM.

## ALUMNI BREAKFAST AT OKLAHOMA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The UNT/SLIS Alumni Society held a breakfast at the Grandison at Maney Park, a lovely bed and breakfast, during the Oklahoma Library Association conference held in Oklahoma City, April 2-4, 2007. Attendees included alumni who were participating in the conference as well as Oklahoma alumni. The Oklahoma group decided to become a chapter of the SLIS Alumni Society. Kathy Huber agreed to serve as the representative to the Alumni Society Board. The group plans a reception during the 2008 Oklahoma Library Association

conference for all Texas library school alumni living in Oklahoma, UNT, TWU, and University of Texas at Austin. SLIS is grateful to Lynne Simpson-Scott for her efforts in helping to organize the breakfast.

Attendees included: **Janet Kravig** ('06), **Karen Neurohr** ('95), **Kathy Huber** ('91), **Joan Singleton** ('69), **Lynn Simpson-Scott** (Ph.D. student), **Victor Baeza** ('97, winner of the key chain drawing), **Jana Atkins** ('05), **Patricia Shirley** ('90), **Bonnie McNeely** ('82), and **Michelynn McKnight** ('04).



*SLIS Alumni Breakfast attendees at Oklahoma Conference*

## IN MEMORIAM

SLIS has received word that **Betty Secrest** (BA '63) of Lindale, TX, has died.

**Charlotte B. Doheny** (BA '48) died July 24, 2006.

SLIS Board of Advisors members **Kathy Hoffman's** father-in-law, Winston "Wink" Hoffman, died April 14, 2007

**Susan Kendrick** (MLS '73), law librarian at the Baylor Law Library for 35 years, died January 6, 2007 in Waco. Baylor named the Susan Kendrick/Della Geyer Reading Room at the Baylor Law Library in her honor.

Sidney A. Martin, Jr., 91, father-in-law of **Dr. Barbara Stein Martin** and father of **Dr. Robert Martin**, died on April 11, 2007. A memorial service was held at the Grant Catholic Student Center at Texas State University in San Marcos April 17.

**Daphne Griffith Wakeland** (MLS '71) died in September 2006 in Waxahachie, TX. She retired from the Waxahachie ISD after 30 years of service.

## LAURA HEINZ SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP TEXAS

Laura Heinz, Senior Director for Extramural Services and Outreach, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Libraries (TTUHSC), was recently accepted into Leadership Texas. The 25 year-old program is sponsored by the Foundation for Women's Resources. Ninety-eight women, diverse in their talents, knowledge, and backgrounds, began the year-long program in Austin, February 5-7. Each participant will not only broaden her perspective on Texas, but will also see, hear and experience the realities of her state. Participants will visit five Texas cities and be exposed to cutting-edge information presented by renowned



experts, educators, government officials, and facilitators.

Laura, who received the MS from SLIS in 1998, holds faculty associate rank in the TTUHSC Department of Communications. She is a graduate of the TLA TALL Texans Institute and Leadership Lubbock. She helped to establish the TLA Support Staff Interest Group, designed as a mechanism to foster professional development for non-librarian staff members. She also was selected by the ALA President to serve on the Task Force for Core Values, and was awarded membership in the Medical Library Association of Health Information Professionals.

## ALUMNI NEWS

## Pre-1970s

**Mary D. Lankford** (BA '52) is receiving kudos for her latest book, *Christmas USA* (HarperCollins, 2006). Her new title ranked #1 on the *Austin American-Statesman's* holiday best-seller list for children and young adults and received positive reviews in numerous publications including *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *The Advocate*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *School Library Journal*. One review stated: "You'll want to keep this book forever."

## 1970s



**Adrian Alexander** (MS '76) has been named director of the University of Tulsa library. He was formerly executive director of a Kansas City based research library consortium. Adrian is a new member of the SLIS Board of Advisors, and a new grandfather.

**Dale Fick Campbell** (MS. '76) has taken a library position in the Richardson (TX) ISD.

**Becky Kiel** (MS '78) was named library director at Cotty College, Nevada, MO, in November 2006. Her husband, Dyke, who earned his Ph.D. from UNT, is a professor of music at the college.

**Martha Tarlton** (MS '79), formerly UNT Libraries head of reference and information services, retired December 2006. She has not, however, retired from the field; she is serving on the 2008 TLA Conference Program Committee and continuing other professional activities.

In June 2006, four 1972 SLIS graduates got together for a reunion in Florida at the home of **Judie Fouts**



**Patrick**. They have had occasional gatherings previously and are planning to make this an annual event. The group pictured includes: **Judie Patrick, John Ruth, Bonnie Capito**, Judie's husband Charles, and **Julie Travis** (in front).

## 1980s



**Thomas Craig** (MS '85) became Director of Library Services at the Watson W. Wise Medical Research Library, University of Texas Health Center at Tyler on October 1, 2006. He had served as Assistant Director since 1986 and was named Interim Director in February 2006.

*Alumni News continued from p. 19*

**Kathy Pole** (MS '82) earned a PhD in reading education from the TWU/UNT federated program in May 2006, and is now an Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies, College of Public Service, Saint Louis University, MO. One of her courses is children's literature, which she reports is her favorite to teach.

## 1990S

**Monica Antonelli** (MS '92) became librarian at Minnesota State University at Mankato on March 19, 2007. She was formerly a member of the UNT Libraries staff.



**Victor Baeza** (MS '97) is currently Director of Library Graduate and Research Services, Oklahoma State University Law Library, Stillwater.

**David Bigwood** (MS '93), cataloger at Lunar & Planetary Institute, Houston, spoke at the Special Libraries Association Texas Chapter spring meeting at the University of Houston's Rockwell Pavilion, March 23, 2007. His topic concerned ongoing marketing to users and how the Institute's library has generated an outreach program that requires little support.

**Mary Crocker** (MS '95) retired as Assistant Coordinator of the Houston Area Library System in August 2006.

**Mary Durio** (MS '98) is now associate librarian and head of the Preservation Department at the University of Delaware. Her department includes four units: conservation, digitization and brittle books, binding and sorting, and shelf preparation.

In a February 19, 2007 interview on KERA, Dallas/Fort Worth/Denton PBS, **Cathy Hartman** (MS '91), Assistant Dean of UNT Libraries, discussed UNT's Cyber Cemetery, the nation's only storehouse for documents produced by federal agencies that have closed.

**Shelly Lane** (MS '93), Children's Librarian/Supervisor at George & Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library, The Woodlands, TX, is chair-elect of the TLA Children's Round Table and also continues to serve on the Texas Media Awards Committee. Her grant proposal was selected by the Texas Book Festival, resulting in a \$5,000 grant

for her library's Every Child Ready to Read program.

**Sarah Naper** (MS '98) and **Annie Epperson** (MS '03) are delighted to work



together at the University of Northern Colorado Michener Library, located in Greeley. In the picture shown, they proudly display their UNT col-

ors at the University's convocation in September 2006. Sarah previously worked at North Harris (TX) College and Houston Public Library, while Annie began her library career at Colorado State.

**Sandra River** (MS '90), architect and humanities librarian at Texas Tech University Libraries, has been selected as the 2007 winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women's Studies Section (WSS) Career Achievement Award. The award, sponsored by Greenwood Publication Group, Inc., honors significant long standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career. A cash prize of \$1,000 and a plaque will be presented to Sandra on June 25, during the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

**Karen Neurohr** (MS '95) is Associate Professor, Assessment Librarian at Oklahoma State University.

**Pam Spooner** (MS '92), formerly at Sul Ross University, Alpine, TX, is now head librarian at Austin (TX) Community College Cypress Creek campus.

## 2000-2005

**Douglas Dunlop** (MS '04) is metadata cataloger at University of Central Florida Libraries.

**Edward Feldman** (MS '04) is acquisitions and bibliographic services librarian at Henderson (NV) District Public Library.

**Cynthia Hansen** (MS '05) has accepted a position with the Los Angeles Public Library as an adult services librarian at the Robertson Branch Library, a new 10,000-square foot building in Westwood. Cynthia holds the SLIS Graduate Academic Certificate in Advanced Management in Libraries and Information Agencies.

**Martha Hood** (MS '04) is a library staff member at San Jacinto College Library.



**Ella Jones** (MS '03), teen specialist, Fort Worth Public Library, has recently completed a book to be titled "Start-to-Finish YA Programs," that is being published by Neal-Schuman Publishers. In her position at Fort Worth Public Library, she is partnering with dozens of community organizations and setting new trends in adult and teen services.



A chapter about **Michelle Lucerno** (MS '04), Legal Information Manager at Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP, Houston, is included in *Celebrating Diversity: a Legacy of Minority Leadership in American Association of Law Libraries* (Hein, Rothman, 2006). She is quoted several times throughout the book and has been named one of the "New and Emerging Leaders."



**Michelynn McKnight** (Ph.D. '04), Assistant Professor, School of Library & Information Science, Louisiana State University, has received a two-year research grant from IMLS to fund her project titled "Investigating library and information services during community-based disasters: preparing information professionals to plan for the worse."

**Annie Neidinger** (MS '05) has taken a position at the Tomball College/Harris County Public Library in the children's services department.

**Melissa Rathlefsen** (MS '04), Education Technology Librarian, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Learning Resource Center, Rochester, MN, published an article titled "Chief Thingamabrian" in *Library Journal*, January 15, 2007. See [www.libraryjournal.com:80/article/CA6403633.html](http://www.libraryjournal.com:80/article/CA6403633.html)

The National Council of Teachers of English Assembly on Literature for Adolescents has awarded **Stephanie Reynolds** (MS '03 and current Ph.D. student) a grant for her research in the field of young adult literature. She has taken a new position as

*Alumni News continued on p. 21*

Alumni News continued from p. 21

Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science, College of Communications and Information Studies, University of Kentucky.



**Dede Rios** (MS '04) is now library director of the Bruce Garrett Medical Library that houses resources for the five Baptist Health System Hospitals and their Health Professions School, located in San Antonio. She will be involved in designing space for the library's new location, only 10 minutes from her home. Dede is a member of the SLIS Alumni Society Board.

## 2006

**Amelia Chau** (MS) is system administrator/webmaster at Moore Memorial Public Library, Texas City, TX.

**Maria Contreras** (MS) is librarian at Riverside Middle School, El Paso, TX ISD.

**Michael Crispin** (MS) has accepted a position as Sound Recordings Librarian in the University of Washington Music Library. He says the library is attempting to

create a more efficient digital media distribution system for their music and video collection and to modernize their preservation process.



**Monty Holcomb** (MS) has been hired full time at the San Antonio Public Library.

**Amanda Pape** (MS) is a special services librarian at Tarleton State University Library, Stephenville, TX.

**Devery Johnson** (MS) is a reference librarian at Montgomery (TX) County Library, Houston.



**Sarah Buck Kachaluba** (MS) is Humanities Librarian at Florida State University Libraries. Her work focuses primarily on collection development.

**Margaret Lincoln** (PhD), the first Ph.D.

cohort to graduate from the online/week-end cohort classes, is library media specialist at Lakeview High School, Battle Creek, MI. She, and **Linda Swarlis**, current doctoral student, have been asked to teach courses in an emergency certification program designed to train classroom teachers as library media specialist in the San Francisco Unified School District.

**Levi Miller** (MS) is information technology coordinator at Roanoke (TX) Public Library.

**Janet Peri** (MS) recently joined the staff at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Medical Center, Dental Branch Library in Houston.

**Jonathan Thorn** (MS) has a position in the UNT Libraries Music Library

**Melissa Van Dusen** (MS), Reference and Research Services Librarian, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, reports that her "first six months as a librarian has been somewhat of a whirlwind experience, but in a good way." She has taught library instruction classes to students in the freshman orientation course and other courses, helped implement an instant message reference service, co-presented sessions at the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference and at the Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, both in Albuquerque, as well at Western Carolina University.



**Rebecca Weng** (MS) and **Peter Zhang** (MS '01) were married in August 2006. Rebecca is a librarian at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Peter is a librarian at University of Texas at Arlington.

**Shui Zachary** (MS) is librarian at Wandu Park Elementary School, Anchorage, AK.

## LE@D

University of North Texas' Library Education @ Desktop (LE@D) has designed several new online courses for library staff. Written by library subject matter experts and **totally on-line**, these self-paced courses take only 1.5 to 2 hours to complete. The tutorials, individually priced at \$19.95, are:

- Communication Skills
- Computer skills
- Youth Leadership
- Facility Management

*(especially good for branch managers)*



register by credit card at  
[www.leadonline.info](http://www.leadonline.info)

For more information contact:  
Arlita Harris, Senior Marketing Manager  
UNT Center for Distributed Learning  
940-565-2942

**Pauline Eng** (MS '05) of Tyler was the winner of the SLIS keychain at the NETS Vendor Fair.

UNT Dallas Campus moved into the first building on its permanent campus the week of December 18, 2006.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

An active alumni organization provides the UNT School of Library and Information Sciences avenues to assist future and current students and meet the professional needs of SLIS alumni. Your **membership matters** by providing fun and delightful opportunities to meet other alums and network within the profession.

### Your Alumni Society membership

- continues to support SLIS scholarships.
- will afford the organization to meet its 2007 goal of broadening its outreach to host SLIS alumni events in conjunction with national and state professional conferences around the country.
- provides alumni opportunities to attend sponsored local events.
- contributes towards expenses incurred in the yearly recognition of the School's distinguished alumni award.
- gives you access to SLIS Village.
- encourages you to vote in Alumni Society elections and to serve on its Board.

The number of active members points out to current students the loyalty of the School's past students and their interest in seeing that the School's programs meet the future needs of the profession.

Please fill out the form below and mail it along with your payment to:  
 UNT SLIS Alumni Society, P.O. Box 311068, Denton, TX 76203-1068

If you have any questions, please contact me at (940)565-3565.

Your **membership matters** very much to the future growth of the organization. Thank you on behalf of the Alumni Society for your loyalty to SLIS.

Jurhee Curtis, External Affairs

## UNT/SLIS ALUMNI SOCIETY • MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – JOIN TODAY!

### Membership Benefits:

- All lifetime memberships (\$250) and \$15 of the annual membership (\$25) supports the Lady Kate Medders Alumni Scholarship. The remainder of the annual membership (\$10) and the \$10 student membership supports the work of the Alumni Society.
- You receive advance notice for all alumni events.
- You are eligible to vote - Alumni Society Board and Distinguished Alumni elections and serve on the Board.
- You receive 10% off on individual registration for non-degree continuing education programs. (Watch for new affordable Library Education @ Desktop programs at [www.LEADonline.info](http://www.LEADonline.info))
- You are eligible to participate in SLIS Village, our electronic communication venue.

*Don't lose touch with UNT SLIS – join or renew your membership today!*

### Type of Membership:

- Annual \$25.00 (\$10 if you join before graduating)       Lifetime \$250.00 (list dates below for installment payment)

Date 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Business E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### Are you interested in serving on:

- Alumni Board     SLIS Board of Advisors     Host local events     Mentor student

### Method of Payment (Choose one):

Cash     Check     Credit Card  
 (Make check payable to UNT Foundation) and mail to: UNT SLIS Alumni Society, P.O. Box 311068, Denton, TX 76203-1068.

Type of card:  Visa     Mastercard

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of card holder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# S@ TLA in San Antonio



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

### CALL NUMBER

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