



## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

# School of Library and Information Science

Volume 28 Number 2

Fall 2006

### Professor Lois Chan Receives Beta Phi Mu Award at ALA Annual Conference

*Jury commends her 'excellence' as teacher and 'visibility as role model and mentor for students'*

The 2006 Beta Phi Mu Award was presented to Professor Lois Mai Chan on June 27 at the ALA award ceremony and reception, during the Annual Conference in New Orleans. According to the news release, the "annual award, donated by the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honorary Society, is presented to a library school faculty member or to an individual for distinguished service to education in librarianship.

'In selecting Dr. Chan for this award, the jury commended her for her excellence as a distinguished teacher and her visibility as a role model and mentor for her students,' said Jury Chair Eric Johnson of Southeastern Louisiana University. 'We commend her very strong publishing and grants record, resulting in significant advances in the theory and practice of cataloging and classification; her authorship of standard texts that are later used beyond the classroom in the working lives of librarians; and her insight and leadership in such areas as subject headings and metadata.'

The jury echoed her current and past students' accolades for her support and guidance of future librarians and applauded her profound impact on the field of librarianship.

... During her career she has received seven major honors and awards, including two awards for excellence in teaching from the University of Kentucky (the University of Kentucky's Alumni Association Great Teacher Award and the College of Communications and Information Studies Excellence in Teaching Award), and the Margaret Mann Citation from the American Library Association's Association for Library Collections and Technical Services.

In 2004-2005, Chan, who is a widely sought lecturer and consultant in all parts of the world, was the Lazerow Lecturer at Simmons College. Chan is a life member of the American Library Association and a member of The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)."

### Professor Sharon McQueen Lands 2007 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture for Lexington

*Kevin Henkes to deliver lecture on March 4*

Professor Sharon McQueen submitted the winning application for the 2007 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. According to committee chair William Teale, "the committee was unanimous in its assessment that the Lexington proposal was outstanding." Professor McQueen provided links to sites from which we took the following.

According to information about the Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, "Each year, an individual of distinction in the field of children's literature is chosen to write and deliver a lecture that will make a significant contribution to the world of children's literature. The award is administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA)."

The lecture honors May Hill Arbuthnot, who graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, received her master's degree from Columbia University in 1924, and joined the faculty at what is today Case Western Reserve University in 1927. She and William Scott Gray created and wrote the Curriculum Foundation Readers – the "Dick and Jane" series – for children. She is best known for *Children and Books*, the first edition of which was published in 1947. Her other works include *The Arbuthnot Anthology of Children's Literature* and *Children's Books Too Good to Miss*.

Kevin Henkes, a celebrated author of picture books and novels for children, will deliver the 2007 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture. A Wisconsin native, Henkes published his first picture book, *All Alone*, when he was 19. He was awarded the 2005 Caldecott Medal for *Kitten's First Full Moon*. He received a Newbery Honor for the novel *Olive's Ocean* in 2004 and a Caldecott Honor for *Owen* in 1994.

"Henkes is one of the very few people in the field" who have "successfully written and illustrated books that appeal to readers ranging from preschool to middle school. He has been a scholar of literary and illustrative style, and a true innovator in his use of words, paint and ink. His characters are some of the most memorable in literature for children."

**Professor Emerita Anne McConnell died in April at 88. In this issue we publish tributes to her.**

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## Trudi Bellardo Hahn, Colin Magee, Megan Snyder, Honored at SLIS Annual Banquet

The 2006 Alumni and Awards Banquet was held April 28, once again at Spindletop Hall. We were pleased that Professor Emerita **Joy Terhune** was with us, and it was especially nice to welcome **Charley Seavey ('74)** back to Lexington for the occasion. **Trudi Bellardo Hahn ('76)** received the Outstanding Alumna/us Award, **Colin Magee** received the LISSO Leadership Award, and **Megan Snyder** returned to Lexington to receive the Melody Trosper Award.

A number of those in the graduating class were invited to membership in Beta Phi Mu, the international honorary society in library and information science, and the initiation of new members is a part of the banquet program each year. Those invited to membership who completed the program in August 2005 were Sally Bown, Sarah Duncan, Venus Fasce, Michelle Keyes, Steve Kottsy, Jill Mooney, Heather Prichard, Elizabeth Smith, Sarah Stohr, and Christian Trombeta. Those invited to membership who completed the program in December 2005 were Scott Condra, Tonya Head, Theresa McCarty, Erin Pappas, Emily Prather, and Megan Snyder. Those invited to membership who completed the program in May 2006 were Connie Burton, Karen Falkenstine, Vanessa Flannery, Catherine Foley, Charly Jackson, Shannon Lamkin, Colin Magee, Lindsay Midkiff, Dorie Raybuck, Shelley Schaberg, and Frank Somers.

## Faculty Activities and News

**Dr. Kwan Yi** gave two presentations at international conferences during the summer 2006. He presented "Boosting for Text Classification with Subject Headings" at the Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science in Toronto in June. Also, he presented "Challenges in Automated Classification using Library Classification Schemes" at the 72nd General Conference of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Seoul, Republic of Korea, in August.

In June **Professor Sharon McQueen** presented a peer-reviewed research paper at the annual conference of the Children's Literature Association. Her paper, "May Masee: Pioneering Editor of Youth Literature," focused on the life and career of the woman who formed the first separate children's divisions for the publishing houses of Doubleday and Viking Press. This biographical research explores May Masee's reputation as perhaps the greatest children's book editor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A number of titles on Masee's lists won top prizes in children's literature, and many titles that appeared under her guidance are considered classics, including *The Story of Ferdinand*, *The Story About Ping*, *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Madeline*.

The past academic year Professor McQueen gave a number of presentations to librarians and teachers around the country. She presented her dissertation research for the Multnomah County Public Library youth services librarians in Oregon, the Enoch Pratt Free Library youth services li-

brarians in Baltimore, the Maryland Library Association, and at the Rabbit Hill Festival of Literature in Connecticut. Professor McQueen was especially pleased to present her dissertation work here at home for the 2006 McConnell Conference. In addition, she presented her program, "Picture Books for Teens," at the 2006 Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi and her work on editor May Masee at the 2006 ALA annual conference in New Orleans.

Professor McQueen served on ALA President Michael Gorman's Library Education Initiative. The group met at ALA headquarters in Chicago several times during 2005, where issues were discussed and plans were made for several programs held at the 2006 ALA Midwinter Meeting. According to Professor McQueen, *The Forum on Education for Librarianship* held at Midwinter in San Antonio was the largest gathering of library educators and practitioners in many decades.

As the spring term was coming to a close, **Professor Jackie White** got the good news that she had been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

In "The Internet Has Changed, Like, Everything," which appears in the Spring 2006 issue of *Kentucky Libraries*, **Professor Joe Miller** examines the tremendous impact the development of the Internet has had on the world of information technology and the broader information environment in which we live. The Internet has driven much technical innovation as well as shifts in economic models, as described in Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat* and Chris Anderson's *The Long Tail*. The impact on libraries has been no less dramatic, and the article describes some of the ways these shifts have affected library services, the public's expectations of libraries, and the professional preparation needed for today's digital librarians.

## Will Buntin Succeeds Nicole Montgomery as Student Affairs Officer at the School

**Nicole Montgomery** got good news in the spring, that she was the choice of the selection committee for the position Justice and Safety Librarian at Eastern Kentucky University. It was better fortune than we deserve to have **Will Buntin** apply for the Student Affairs Officer position. Like Nicole, Will completed the master's-degree program in December 2004. Will had worked for the past eight years for Laura's Lean Beef in a variety of positions including customer service, marketing, and most recently their IT department.

While a student in the program, Will worked on an independent study with Joe Miller. For his independent study project, he started a website in August of 2004 [www.ukhoopsfans.com](http://www.ukhoopsfans.com) supporting the UK women's basketball team. The site has continued and has grown into an enjoyable hobby for Will. He has written articles for print and the web for Kentucky Sports Report ([kentucky.scout.com](http://kentucky.scout.com)), and his site was recently a feature story on the local CBS affiliate, Channel 27.

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## UK-SLIS Students and Faculty contribute to Joint OCLC/IMLS Research Project

Fifteen UK MSLS students, along with four UK Doctoral students in Communication and Education, helped with a research project headed by Professor Brenda Dervin of Ohio State University (OSU). The School's Professor Donald O. Case supervised the "UK Team" on this initiative. Also assisting with the project were several prominent scholars and students from other U.S. universities, including University of Washington, the University of Tennessee, OSU, and the University of Texas.

The project, entitled "Sense-making the information confluence," was initially funded with a \$480,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to OSU. OSU and OCLC more than matched that amount with in-kind contributions. The research team interviewed 82 international experts in three fields: library and information science, human computer interaction/information technology, and communication/media studies.

According to Dr. Case, the project's object was to better understand what obstacles face research on users of information systems and libraries, and what communication interventions might be applied to facilitate inter-disciplinary research. The interviews used Dervin's Sense-Making Methodology approach, recording lengthy, verbatim answers to questions such as these:

- What are the big unanswered questions about users?
- What are the biggest challenges the advance of electronic information systems present to serving users?
- How have the differences between practice and research hindered developments in information systems?
- If you could wave a magic wand and had no restraints on money, what would be your design for an ideal user study?

The interviews resulted in 850 pages of transcriptions. The analysts from the University of Kentucky each wrote summaries and comparisons of three or more of these lengthy transcripts, identifying themes that emerged from the interviews. Professor Case then summarized the findings and formatted the 20 individual reports for the OSU project. A few members of the research team will present some of the results of the project at the Annual Meeting of ASIST, held November 3-9, 2006, in Austin, Texas. The title of the joint presentation is: "Being user-oriented: Convergences, divergences, and the potentials for systematic dialogue between disciplines and between researchers, designers, and providers."

The MSLS student-analysts were: Granger Butler, Melissa Davis, Sarah Donaldson, Susan Finley, Betsy Law, Anne Ledford, Joy Mark, Nancy Marshall, Krista McManis, Jennifer Paul, Sarah Pratt, Latisha Reynolds, Kathryn Sexton, Roberta Shannon, and Sara Fowdy Strange. Doctoral students involved in the project were Robert Trader, Jennifer Robinette, and Gary Hughes, from the College of Communications and Information Studies, and Melissa Gardner, from the College of Education.

## Thirty-Ninth McConnell Youth Literature Conference to be Held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

### *Annual Event to be Held in Conjunction with ALSC 2007 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture*

The Arbuthnot Lecture, to be held March 4, will be the finale in a series of McConnell Youth Literature Conference activities that will take place March 2 and 3 at the Lexington Embassy Suites Hotel. Events will include presentations and signings by nationally known children's authors and illustrators, such as Susan Campbell Bartoletti and Loren Long. The McConnell Youth Literature Conference registration fee is \$95. For more information see <http://www.uky.edu/~smcqu2/mcconnell/confer/index.html> or call 859-257-5797.

## Professor Emerita Joy Terhune Reflects on Long Friendship with Anne McConnell

### *'we are blessed to have had her so long'*

Not long after Anne McConnell died, in April, her good friend of more than 30 years, Joy Terhune, put in writing her thoughts about Anne and their friendship. Joy has given us permission to print her reflections, and we thank her.

I decided to try to come up with adjectives which described her – beautiful, intelligent, gracious, compassionate, "bossy", loyal, joyous, steadfast, faithful friend, and I could go on. However, I think the best way to describe her is "friend". She epitomized the essence of what a true friend is – and that encompasses all the adjectives above. I could add another noun, "lady" but something tells me she might reject that. I think she held to all the attributes of "lady" which her mother instilled in her -- but I sense that a part of her did not want that to be her "identifying" characteristic. She was her own "person" or "woman" and, while she was indeed a lady in every sense of the word, she was much more than that!

There is a great hole in my inner being and a deep sense of loss – but there is also a sense of thankfulness that she was my best friend for over thirty years. That is rare – and a blessing to friends who have that relationship. We were so different in so many ways – politics, religion, etc – but we didn't allow that to interfere with the genuineness of our friendship. I knew that she was always there for me when there was a crisis in my life – as I was for her when she had trials. She always amazed me, however, with the courage and strength with which she handled the crises in her life. While I would weep and wail, she would stand tall, put on her three inch heels, and "deal with it!" Her favorite mantra for me was, "JT, learn to compartmentalize your life! When you get on this campus, you are Professor Terhune and your family traumas should stay at home!" Good advice and she practiced it – because her life had traumas which most of us could not have withstood – and she handled all of them with grace and courage and dignity. We will miss her, but we are blessed to have had her for so long.

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## Anne Young McConnell

September 17, 1917 – April 3, 2006

Anne McConnell, who taught here from 1968 to 1994 and was one of the most respected and loved persons ever to have been a member of the School's faculty, died on Monday, April 3, at Saint Joseph's Hospital after a short illness. According to her good friend and former colleague, Joy Terhune, Anne died as the result of double pneumonia and renal failure. She had celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 17, 2005, and had attended the McConnell Children's Literature Conference the end of February. Professor Sharon McQueen's Arbuthnot Lecture Application included a tribute to Anne McConnell. What follows is a lightly edited version of that tribute.

I'VE HEARD SO MANY THINGS ABOUT ANNE MCCONNELL," the student said, "that I wish I had known her. I know she used to teach here, but what, exactly, was she?" Indeed, what, exactly, was she? She was a product of the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky – a woman born to comfortable circumstances in Bourbon County, who spent much of her life in neighboring Fayette County, home to the University of Kentucky. But her influence extended throughout the state and reached many Kentuckians whose circumstances were far from comfortable. She reached some directly, initially through her several years as a public school teacher and librarian, and later through her greater number of years as a university professor. But she reached far more people indirectly, through the work of those she taught, encouraged, and inspired. Although Anne had only two children, she had countless professional offspring – the many children's librarians she sent out into Kentucky's counties and communities, large and small, urban and rural. And through the work of the men and women whom Anne prepared, she enriched the lives of many of Kentucky's children.

### Teacher

In a long and productive life, Anne was many things, but in her professional life she was first and foremost a teacher – a teacher students did not forget. "She taught with a passion,..." said a person who knew her well. At the University of Kentucky, she was a popular instructor who was known to be demanding. Her courses filled quickly, and her course evaluations consistently were at the top of the scale. She taught sections of the introductory children's literature course, as well as a seminar in the critical analysis of children's literature. And she was especially fond of the course in which she introduced future children's librarians to the principles of storytelling. **Terry Brackett ('83)**, a Kentucky school librarian and former student of Anne's, said of her:

*Whenever I think of the perfect teacher, I think of Anne. I was in two of her classes at UK. We launched the "Catch 'Em In The Cradle" program for area hospitals in one class. The other class was storytelling. Anne knew just how to make you feel like you were her most important student. Whenever Anne critiqued my "Little Match Girl" story I videotaped for her class, she was so generous with her praise...telling me that I was a "natural". She made me feel special.*

A person who teaches for a number of years, as Anne did, influences many people. She may become respected, perhaps even revered. Anne became more. She became genuinely loved by many of the large number of people who were her students over the years. This was brought home by the outpouring of emotion and sense of loss as people learned she had died. "She would invite her classes to her home at the end of the semester," Terry Brackett recalled. "I loved being in her house! The memories of those times bring tears to my eyes as I type."

### Advocate

The person who said of Anne, "She taught with a passion...." added, "...as she did everything else." She was a passionate advocate for the importance of library service to children. Anne McConnell was a woman with a mission, and though she may not have developed a mission statement, if she had, the language of the Association for Library Service to Children mission statement would have been in hers. More than to any other goal, she devoted her life to developing and supporting "the profession of children's librarianship by enabling and encouraging its practitioners to provide the best library service to our nation's children." Anne's mission statement would have read, "to Kentucky's children," for in spite of national work and recognition, she decided early to concentrate her efforts on Kentucky. She did not hesitate to criticize Kentucky, but when she did, she was quick to add that those



Anne McConnell  
February 24, 2006  
McConnell Conference Banquet

who criticize have an obligation to work to make things better. She devoted her life to making things better.

Anne was passionate also about children's literature. She served on the Newbery-Caldecott Committee in 1977 and on the ALSC National Planning of Special Collections Committee 1979-1983. Less than six weeks before she died, Anne attended the 38<sup>th</sup> annual McConnell Children's Literature Conference, which was named in her honor when she retired from teaching. Each year several hundred school and public librarians attend the conference, which for many years was the sole form of continuing education for Kentucky's librarians serving children. Soon after joining the University of Kentucky faculty, she established, at the School of Library and Information Science, what is one of her finest legacies, the McConnell Center for the Study of Children's Literature, a resource for Kentucky's librarians, teachers, and students.

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## Mentor

Anne McConnell was friend, mentor, and at times nag. At one time or another she said to many of those who knew and loved her, “you can do that,” or, “you should do that,” or, “you can do better.” And if we didn’t always succeed at whatever it was, we always tried – because of Anne. When **Denise Newbolt** (’81) learned Anne had died, Denise, an elementary school librarian in Kentucky, wrote:

*When I was in graduate school, Anne was my advisor. Poor Anne. She received a young woman who was coming out of a bad divorce and a home where her mother had been diagnosed with a form of a terminal illness. Anne patiently listened and encouraged me to continue my education. She listened when some people would have kindly set me on the door of their office and told me to “come back later.”*

**Tres Seymour** (’91) is a Kentuckian and children’s book author and one of many former students whom Anne influenced greatly. Soon after her death, he wrote:

*I learned this afternoon with shock and sadness of my mentor’s passing. One didn’t question Anne; one just did as she said if one had any sense. One day when I was in her office, she said, “Tres, you need to write a picture book.” I replied, “No, that wouldn’t work for me. I only do novels.” She had a way of pointing her finger when she was determined to be heard and understood, something like pinning a beetle to a piece of cardboard. She pointed at me. “No,” she said, “you’re going to write a picture book.” Anne had spoken. Within a week’s time, I penned *Hunting the White Cow*, which is still in print in paperback. When I showed it to her, she just said, “See? I told you you could do it.”*

Children’s book author **George Shannon** (’76) is another former student on whom Anne made a lasting impression. George lives in the state of Washington, but through Anne’s network of friends word of her death reached him quickly, and it prompted him to write:

*Puget Sound felt especially far, far away yesterday. I spent the day working with teachers and their students so in many ways it was a good way to honor Anne. But still ... far, far, away. And oh how fortunate we were to have known her so long. I can honestly say that I am me because she was Anne.*

## Inspiration

Anne McConnell was determined, persistent, uncompromising, and inspiring. She caused those she influenced to be better than they would have been otherwise. She made people believe in themselves. She made those who talked about what they were going to do stop talking and produce. She made those who doubted themselves become believers in themselves. Although she said many things to many people over the years, she had one, central message: Kentucky’s children deserve the best we can give them, and we have an obligation to give them nothing less than our best. **Susan Moore** (’93), Manager of Children’s & Young Adult Services at Louisville Free Public Library, is one of Ken-

tucky’s many public librarians whose commitment to children’s services reflects Anne McConnell’s influence. Soon after Anne’s death, Susan wrote:

*She helped me to know what education could be and to have experiences that tremendously influenced my ideas of what a librarian and libraries could be. She believed in the greatness in all of us. She is one of those I look to for inspiration and think of often. She gave me something special by believing in me and just knowing what I might do.*

Denise Newbolt, the woman who in graduate school had the good fortune to have Anne McConnell as her advisor, and whom Anne encouraged to continue her education at a time when personal problems would have made it easy to drop out, has been a school librarian for 27 years. This past spring semester, in addition to her work as a school librarian, Denise taught a college-level course in children’s literature at Northern Kentucky University, filling in for an instructor on leave. She wrote about the experience, and about Anne McConnell’s influence:

*When I walked into room 525 in Founder’s Hall, I thought of Anne, and I smiled. She would have been surprised to see me in that room, no doubt. But there I was, and have been for a whole semester, reading all those stories that she loved and some new ones. I have managed, at times, to make my students laugh, and snifle. Slyly, I am hoping to pass the love of reading to young teachers.*

But surely Denise is wrong to think that Anne would have been surprised to see her in a university classroom, teaching children’s literature. We believe Anne would have said that is as it should be – those she taught succeeding her, to teach and inspire another generation. “Anne gave me the courage to continue to love books all that time ago in her small office,” Denise continued, “and I am listening to another young woman with domestic problems and a young father with a just-born baby. I am looking at a pregnant young mother in my class. We are reading children’s books, together, every Tuesday evening.” Nothing could have pleased Anne more or seemed to her more natural.

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To return to the student’s question, what, exactly, was Anne McConnell? She was teacher, advocate, mentor, inspiration – and more. She was someone on whom we could depend for wise counsel. “Of all her virtues,” Tres Seymour wrote, “it’s her wisdom I most valued, and will most miss.” And she was a beacon, whom we assumed would always be among us, showing us the way. Professor Joe Miller spoke for many of us, when he said of Anne, as word of her death spread, “when a light such as hers goes out, we are all the poorer.”

But the final word, in our effort to answer the student’s question, belongs to Wilbur. According to E B White, who of course would know, Wilbur’s attitude toward Charlotte was, “She was in a class by herself.” That’s what Anne McConnell was, in a class by herself.

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## Larry Oberc Files Report from Chicago

In May, Tim Sineath received a nice report from **Larry Oberc ('84)**, and we thank Larry for granting permission to reprint it.

*I just received your latest newsletter and thought I'd give an update. As you may recall, after graduating I worked at the Trenton Free Public library, the Cambridge Public Library, Boston University, and finally moved to Chicago. I taught ESL and supervised a language lab for the City Colleges of Chicago, then became Head of Circulation at Columbia College Chicago, an art school. These days I am Collection Management/Preservation Librarian at Columbia, but I also am very active in setting up art shows in the library (there was an article about Art of the Library in American Libraries a few years ago). I coordinate around ten art shows a year in the library these days, which ties in well with my creative interests.*

*At the time I graduated from your program I was involved in writing. That interest continued for another 20 years and I had a lot of poetry chapbooks published, and wrote a lot of reviews, fiction, etc. I got a second masters degree at Columbia in Interdisciplinary Arts and became interested in the book arts, which basically means I make very unusual popup books. These books are in library collections around the country, and I exhibit them on the west coast as well as Minneapolis. I also am interested in music these days which accounts for the dozen guitars in my bedroom, and the 15 synthesizers in my living room. Fortunately I'm not any good at playing drums or there would be a serious space problem.*

*Anyway, this 50 year old will be sending out demos this year to labels that handle Industrial and Indie music (who says I'm too old to rock and roll) to see what happens next. So I've stayed active in the library world, and have had a great time having it complement my creative interests. I've talked several creative people into going into the library world so don't be surprised if you see a lot of eccentric, brilliant artists, writers, musicians, and even cartoonists in your ranks. For a person involved in the arts a library is a great place to work. If students have any questions about how to get art shows into libraries, or how to set up readings, events, receptions, etc., feel free to pass on my email address—loberc@msn.com. Marketing and Public Relations has become second nature these days. Anyway, hope things are going well.*

## Dr Janet Barr Receives New York State SLSA 2006 Distinguished Service Award

**Lisa Richland ('89)**, Director of the Floyd Memorial Library, Greenport, NY, (which she asserts is the last library before Portugal), let us know in early May that **Dr. Janet L. Barr ('65)** received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library Systems Association of New York State (SLSA). The information in Lisa's e-mail read:

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to a School Library System Director whose work exemplifies six areas of consideration: professional leadership, professional service, information sharing, collaboration, quality programs and creative service. The award was presented by Allison Wheeler, SLSA President, at the SLMS Conference in Rochester.

Beginning in July 1986 with only a small office and a full-time secretary, Dr. Barr began a twenty-year career that would

span the automation of 220 public school buildings, the merger of Suffolk 1 and Suffolk 2 School Library Systems, the development of a Virtual Reference Collection serving students and staff in 46 school districts, ongoing advocacy for quality library service to students, and active participation in professional organizations. She served as President of the School Library Systems Association of New York State, and as Long Island's Regional Representative to the Resolutions Committee for the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services.

Those nominating Dr. Barr for the SLSA Distinguished Service Award noted that her influence has spread far beyond the Eastern Suffolk School Library System. She is known as an active champion of school libraries and School Library Systems, a calm and reasoned thinker, and a mentor to both school library media specialists and School Library System Directors.

## KDLA Director Judith Gibbons Receives Outstanding Public Library Service Award

The following was originally published in *Kentucky Public Library Newsletter*, May/June 2006. We thank Michael Jones, Editor, for permission to reprint it.

**Judith Gibbons ['78]**, Field Services Director at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) for the past eight years, has been honored with the 2006 Outstanding Public Library Service Award from her peer professionals in the Kentucky Library Association (KLA).

**Virginia G. Fox ['69]**, Secretary of the Education Cabinet, said, "As a former elementary school librarian, I know the importance of the work that all librarians do for our state. I appreciate Judith Gibbons' dedication to her profession and to her community. It is a tremendous honor to be recognized for outstanding work by your peers."

Gibbons has worked in the library field for 28 years, having been director of the Woodford County library for more than 13 years before coming to KDLA. As Field Services director at KDLA, she oversees the agency's work with all the Commonwealth's public libraries through a network of regional consultants and other agency professionals. The Versailles resident also serves as the president of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA), a coalition of librarians from 13 southern states.

**James A. Nelson ['69]**, state librarian and commissioner of KDLA, applauded the award to Gibbons and said, "Judith has done much to strengthen our public libraries and to improve our services for blind readers. She is well recognized for her professionalism at the state, regional and national level, but this prestigious award from her peers is especially impressive. We're lucky to have Judith in this agency and in this state."

In presenting the award, Lisa Rice, assistant director of the Bowling Green Public Library and chair of the Kentucky Public Library Association, said, "Judith Gibbons has a passion for libraries and library advocacy that is unequalled. More importantly, Judith is a mentor to many of us across the state, inspiring us to achieve the excellence she models."

Gibbons, who is noted for her contributions to public library advocacy, has been named incoming chair of the American Library Association (ALA) Public Awareness Committee. She is a member of the board of the Kentucky Book Fair, and chairs its grants committee. She earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Kentucky, and a master's degree in public administration from Kentucky State University.

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## 100 Years of LIS: View from the Middle

Trudi Bellardo Hahn

**Trudi Bellardo Hahn (\*76)**, who received the Outstanding Alumna/us Award for 2006 at the School's Alumni and Awards Banquet in April, delivered the Cobb Memorial Lecture at the Banquet. Trudi provided the text of her lecture, which we are pleased to make available to readers of the Newsletter.

Thank you, everyone. I deeply appreciate the work of those who made possible this unusual and wonderful day for me.

### Introduction

Viewing the field of Library and Information Science from the middle of 100 years—basically, what I want to do this evening is look back to 1956 and ahead to 2056, from our perspective at the 50-year mark.

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library Services Act (LSA). When Congress passed the LSA in 1956, the law was intended to expand public library services for the unserved and underserved residents of rural areas. LSA was an important step toward bringing library services up to par through federal legislation and its success paved the way for broader support for public libraries.

The LSA was superseded in 1964 by the LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act), and the LSCA was superseded by the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act). LSTA has gone a long way to provide that boost to help libraries connected to the Internet. The most recent survey of libraries in the U.S. shows that over 98% have public Internet access.

So, using the 1956 date, and also my own graduation date—1976, as well as some other dates, I'd like to take a long view backward, for inspiration about thinking about the future.

In addition to giving a little historical perspective about how libraries and information services in our country have changed since 1956, I'd like to share with you why I'm so proud to have been part of our profession for the past 30 years and outline what we have given to the world and what we stand for, and what the institution of libraries stands for.

I also want to use the vantage point of the 50-year mark to make a few observations of what I see around us today. I will share with you two of the initiatives that the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science is dealing with today and then I'd like to close with a few personal reminiscences.

Throughout I will try to highlight what I believe are the strengths of our profession and our institutions that will carry forward through the next 50 years. I will try to be like Janus—looking back and looking forward.

To begin I want to look back in order to get oriented about the future.

### History of Information in Our Society

In so many ways the world of information in the United States and around the globe has changed dramatically in the 50 years since LSA, and even in the 36 years since the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science was established in 1970. In 1956, most people obtained their information via personal contacts, books, journals, magazines, newspapers, audio and visual materials, and broadcast media such as television and radio.

Even by 1970 when NCLIS was established, only a few large mainframe computers provided storage and retrieval of highly specialized information to a handful of users who were mostly in the defense and scientific research communities. Computer storage was extremely expensive. Even in these automated systems, retrieval turnaround was slow—measured in hours or days or even weeks. Even in 1976, when I was earning my master's degree from the University of Kentucky, we were in the infancy of online retrieval services using 30 cps dial-up terminals that spooled bibliographic citations out at an excruciatingly slow rate. Yes, we were thrilled that we could do it at all, but we knew then that it was slow, with lots of down time, the databases were very small, and we never got the full text of articles, much less books—only bibliographic citations, and sometimes, if we were very lucky, an abstract.

How incredibly different is the world today. While books and other types of information resources available in 1956 still exist and are still heavily used, information is increasingly being created, stored, distributed or published in a variety of electronic media and formats and delivered quickly—sometimes instantaneously—to a huge, far-flung population.

The most striking development has been the phenomenon of the Internet, and more particularly the World Wide Web in 1993. The Web promises (some would say *threatens*) to revolutionize the publication and distribution of information and has the greatest potential to impact, for a variety of reasons, some positive, some negative, on the ability of citizens to gain information relevant to their daily lives and to participate in democratic government.

Nonetheless, in spite of this information technology revolution, in many ways Americans'

basic needs for information and information services have not changed fundamentally since 1956. As was recognized then, and is still true today, and will be true I am sure in 2056—people's information needs and preferences *vary*—they vary by age, ethnic origin, educational achievement and literacy level, work assignment, and geographic location, as well as whether we use information for commerce, entertainment, health, academic studies, personal security, or other spheres of our lives.

Nonetheless, everyone is still—and will be—absolutely dependent on the availability of accurate and useful information. "Information is the currency of democracy" said Thomas Jefferson. And now, 200 years later, to function in American society, everyone needs information literacy skills. Increasingly, information comes to us in unfiltered formats, raising questions about its authenticity, validity, and reliability. The sheer abundance of information will not in itself create a more informed citizenry if we do not have the skills to use it effectively. It is *librarians* who teach those skills—to students, small children, the elderly, immigrants, and to the illiterate, and to a lot of people in between. Librarians serve those who are drowning in too much information as well as those who are information poor.



Trudi Bellardo Hahn

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Our society and our technologies will change rapidly in the next 50 years, but these fundamental truths about people and information—that we will still be overwhelmed by too much information and misinformation, that we will still need help in learning to cope with it, that each one of us will have individual and unique information needs will still be true. Take my word for it and let me know in 50 years if I am proved to be wrong.

### What Our Profession Has Contributed to the World

I am proud to be a part of this profession for many reasons—one of them is because our profession has given much to the world. When I was president of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIST), I was asked by the Council of Scientific Society Presidents to compile a list of the major contributions of my field to the world. I identified a list of five major categories of accomplishments that I believe can be attributed directly and solely to researchers, developers, and practitioners in the field of library and information science:

We have all heard about the information explosion of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, especially after World War II. People in our field *measured* the information explosion. We created the field of bibliometrics – the study of published literature and its usage and impact, including studies of the diffusion of innovation, citation and co-citation patterns, and other statistical regularities in scientific and scholarly productivity and communication.

We not only measured it, we *contained* the information explosion. We pioneered innovations in indexing systems that were very different from traditional subject cataloging for books in libraries—automatic indexing and abstracting, KWIC and KWOC indexing, citation indexing, keyword indexing and natural language searching systems. We also developed thesauri and taxonomies for thousands of disciplines and specialties. And this part of our history and contributions is not just 50 years old—it is at least 900 years old. Bella Hass Weinberg has traced the origins of the earliest Hebrew citation indexes back at least to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Weinberg has also found other evidence of indexing of religious materials that are over 2000 years old. These may or may not be the very earliest instances of professional information work, but we have every reason to believe that the collecting, organizing, preserving, retrieving, and disseminating information has been around for a very long time. I do believe it is true that ours *is* the *second* oldest profession. When outsiders ask about our field and assume there is no future for us in the digital age, they have no idea about all the behind-the-scenes work we do to organize information and contain the information explosion.

Our third contribution was applying computers to manipulating documents and document records in information storage and retrieval systems. This began almost as soon as computers became available in the 1950s, but really took off with third-generation computers in the 1960s. The development of online database systems was accompanied by related telecommunications and networking technologies and specialized search functionalities. All of this set the stage for the modern Web search engines like Google and Yahoo that we all use today.

Fourth, we studied users' information seeking, needs and preferences, as well as related areas such as relevance and utility assessment. The sociologists got us started, but we quickly developed our own body of research in the second half of the last century.

And last, people in our field contributed to formulating national information policies related to issues of privacy, security, regulating dissemination and access, intellectual property, ac-

ceptable use and others. They contributed to developing standards for the processing and communication of information, all to ensure that information systems and services related to the public interest would always be maintained. Again, a lot of this is taken for granted by the general public, but it is vital to national interests as well as to each and every citizen.

### Professional Ethics and Self-Perceptions

I am proud of our profession not only because of our contributions and accomplishments, but also because of our codes of ethics and professional conduct. The fundamental marks of our profession are upholding users' right to privacy and confidentiality, treating all users fairly, providing the most reliable and accurate information, resisting all forms of censorship and supporting intellectual freedom, promoting open and equal access to information, and striving for excellence by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills.

Another thing that has remained constant in this field—at least as long as I have been a part of it—is our concern about how to define ourselves as professionals. What constitutes professional work that puts our knowledge, talents and skills to work in a meaningful way? You may have heard an old joke that goes: How many librarians does it take to change a light bulb? Five. One to change the light bulb while the other four form a committee and write a letter of protest to the director—because after all, changing light bulbs is *not* professional work!

### Where We Are Today

In order for those of us in the field of library and information studies to ensure the prosperity and well-being of future generations, we need not only to sustain the relevance of library collections and services today but to help transform the institution of libraries that were created for the world of yesterday into modern, relevant institutions serving tomorrow's needs.

We will need to expand the *concept* of librarianship and the public perception of who we are and what business we are in—and here I don't just mean digitization of library collections and offering them via remote access. In fact, in talking about the future, there seems to be much debate these days over digitization—computers vs. books. I think we would be impoverished if we had to do without either one.

Libraries are not only important as cultural and educational institutions, but also *libraries in the United States are good for the economy*. The simple fact is that libraries contribute to the well-being of their communities. Studies in Florida; Seattle, Washington; and Phoenix, Arizona, all concluded that libraries directly or indirectly affect the economies in which they are situated and the success of local business. All of them showed substantial returns exceeding taxpayer investment—they all showed a \$5 to \$10 return for every \$1.00 invested.<sup>123</sup>

In addition to these economic studies, we can observe the *indirect* value that people receive from libraries—

- The child who learns to read, learns to love books, and not only learns to read, but *reads to learn*.
- The high school or college student who gets better grades because of the homework help, research, and other opportunities for reading, reflection, or group study available at the library.

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<sup>1</sup>McClure, Fraser, Nelson, and Robbins, "Economic Benefits and Impacts from Public Libraries in the State of Florida," November 2000.

<sup>2</sup>Jose-Marie Griffiths et al., "Taxpayer Return on Investment in Florida Public Libraries: Summary Report," September 2004.

<sup>3</sup>Glen Holt and Donald Eliot, "Cost Benefit Analysis: A Summary of the Methodology," *The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances*, 15(4), 2002, pp. 154-158.

- Retirees who find investment advice, recreational reading, hobby, and do-it-yourself materials.
- The enterprising individual who learns how to start and maintain a small business by finding relevant material in business databases available in the library.
- The individual with a disability who can read materials in specialized formats or using adaptive equipment.
- The recent immigrant from Honduras who gains access to the Internet and finds health information from the National Library of Medicine in Spanish.

It is our job—all of us—to identify these basic needs of people for library and information services—whether those needs are related to their economic well-being, or are grounded in educational, social, cultural or other needs.

After all, as someone very wise said, "Libraries will get you through times with no money better than money will get you through times with no libraries."<sup>4</sup>

### What Is the Commission Focused on Today?

NCLIS is not a funding agency, but it does care very much about supporting libraries and ensuring adequate library and information resources for the American people. Today the Commission is focused on how to make libraries *relevant* in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and communicating that to legislators and policy makers. Two examples:

#### I. The Role of Libraries in Health Information Literacy.

Since 2004, the goal of this initiative has been to encourage all libraries in the U.S. to support Americans' health information needs. The Commission believes that the successful implementation of this initiative will result in a healthier population, including a healthier workforce. It has been established that if people would make even small improvements in their lifestyles, there would be less illness, less suffering, more energy, fewer lost workdays, and the nation's economy would be strengthened simply because the huge percentage of the economy now spent on health care would be significantly reduced.

In 2004 the Commission created awards to recognize those libraries that excelled in meeting the consumer health needs of American citizens. NCLIS presented awards to thirty-seven libraries in 2004 and we sent a document with detailed descriptions of those thirty-seven winners to the President and Congress.

In 2006, a second round of awards will again recognize outstanding library programs in each state, but will also narrow down nine finalists for \$1000 prizes and one grand-prize winning library that will receive \$20,000. A forum will be held at the National Library of Medicine on May 3, followed by an awards reception. The forum will feature speakers from each of the ten top programs who will explore challenges and solutions in providing consumer health information in effective, efficient ways, especially to at-risk or underserved populations.

Here are brief summaries of 2 out of the 10 finalists for the 2006 awards:

#### 1. Olive Hill Adult Learning Center & Library (KY). Get Real Get Fit!

The Olive Hill Adult Learning Center/Library is located in a very rural area of northeastern Kentucky. This is the only county in the state of Kentucky without a tax supported library. Their library is totally staffed by volunteers. They applied for and were awarded a grant to educate the teen population in the

area who have no recreation center, such as a YMCA, and if there were one would not have the money to attend, so the library established the Get Real Get Fit Program!. They had targeted 60 families in four sessions. As it turned out, the total number of families served in the four sessions was over one hundred. They now have a new library that was completely built by volunteers. They hope in the future that the community will now support a library because now they see just how much it is needed and all the people it can help.

#### 2. REACH 2010 Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition's Library Partnership (South Carolina)

The REACH 2010 Charleston and Georgetown Diabetes Coalition's Library Partnership expands Internet access at 5 community sites and trains people to use high quality diabetes information through libraries and the Internet. This library-community-campus partnership is a Coalition of public librarians, health sciences librarians, grass-root diabetes advocates, community centers' directors, faith leaders, IT experts, and volunteers. The Coalition aims to eliminate disparities for more than 12,000 African Americans diagnosed with diabetes. Activities cover 1,600 square miles, along 150 miles of coastal South Carolina, and happen where people live, work, worship, play, and seek health care.

**II. Emergency Preparedness and the Role of Libraries.** This initiative is based on the assumption that local libraries have a role to play as community information distribution centers for helping communities to prepare for a terrorist attack or natural disaster, respond quickly during a disaster, and recover afterwards.

I don't need to tell any of you about the devastation wrought by the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast early last fall and what a terrible toll they took on people and libraries. Some of you may have a personal connection to people and institutions that were directly affected in Alabama, Mississippi, or Louisiana.

Through these storms, librarians and library workers throughout the region braved floodwaters to rescue collections. After the hurricanes and the resulting flooding in the Gulf Coast, thousands of evacuees fled into the areas not directly affected, seeking such basic commodities as water, food, shelter, and emergency medical assistance. The displaced had another critical need as well: information. Where were their missing loved ones? How could they find a job? Where could they file claims? Where was their pet? How could they tap into all of the volunteer assistance, donated goods, and public services that were supposed to be available, but were of no help if people did not know about them or who to contact?

As the towns and cities in the Gulf Coast struggled to recover, one public institution suddenly became the destination for people seeking refuge and information, and it performed with distinction. The public libraries in the region reinvented themselves as they became first responders and took action immediately.

- With most other forms of communications down (even cell phones failed), they served as vital information centers.
- They rounded up extra computers from libraries across the country to serve people queuing up to file FEMA claims, file for unemployment, seek employment, send e-mail to family and friends, contact their insurance agents, and check Web sites for finding loved ones and missing persons.
  - Not only did the public libraries serve as "information central," they were a source of comfort and refuge to the evacuees.
    - Each was centrally located in their towns and offered

<sup>4</sup> Paulette Dickerson, Speech for the Montgomery County [MD] Council, 1 April 1991.

open, safe space in the meeting rooms. In many communities, the library was the only air-conditioned public place for those needing to escape from the oppressive heat.

- While parents were conducting their business, librarians read stories to amuse and distract the children.
- They served sandwiches and iced tea and helped distribute food stamps.
- They carried library books and DVDs to the shelters.
- They lent their computer searching expertise and local knowledge to link people with sheriff's departments and other services.
- They turned the libraries into a volunteer coordination center, registering volunteers and those requesting help, and creating a database to match volunteers' skills with individuals' needs.
- At Kiln Public Library in Hancock County, Mississippi, the Army used the facility to distribute blue tarps for temporary roof repairs and FEMA set up a satellite connection at the library to ensure telephone and Internet connections. They also set up portable showers in the library parking lot.
- At many libraries in the region, the availability of books—

all types of books in which you might lose yourself for a little while—proved to be a source of tremendous comfort to those devastated by the storms. The libraries became quiet oases in which to retreat—even for just a little while—from the destruction and chaos.

This is not the first time that libraries have been on the front line during a horrible disaster. Staff of the Arlington County Public Library in Virginia performed in a similar manner after the horrible attack on the Pentagon on 9/11. That library, too, became “information central.” Librarians from all around the surrounding area worked for a week around the clock to keep the library open. They developed and coordinated databases of materials, volunteers, and more. The same was true of libraries in Manhattan and the other boroughs right after 9/11.

These examples demonstrate that libraries today and in the future can be many different things—a community space, a place of refuge and renewal, a useful place for conducting business via computer, a place for study and reflection and connection. Thus we cannot afford to say... “We are not in the business of....” As our world changes in the next 50 years, we may find ourselves in many different businesses.

### Some Personal Reminiscences

When I started in library school in 1975, like many of you, I was already working in a library and I continued to work full-time throughout my two years in the program. I like to think that the practical skills I brought to the program were helpful—but sometimes it felt odd to be theorizing about everyday work in a library. Professor Tom Waldhart taught me to think about ordinary library tasks from the perspective of a systems analyst. What Dr. Waldhart seemed to be saying, “Well, yes, it works in practice, but does it work in theory?”

I'd like to pay tribute to some of the people at Kentucky who helped me broaden my skills and to grow as an individual when I was a student and later as a member of the faculty. Some of them are no longer with us, either through death or retirement.

For example, Dr. Robert Cazden, who taught collection management and who carried his class notes around in a wastebas-

ket so he could turn it upside down and use it as a podium in the classroom where he taught—somehow podiums were in short supply or often went missing. What a tragedy it was when one night he tucked his notes inside the wastebasket and left it on top of his desk. By the next day the cleaning crew had helpfully emptied the basket and thrown his notes—compiled over many years of teaching—into the incinerator. I don't think Bob ever recovered from that.

Kudos to Tom Waldhart, a gifted lecturer who helped me get over my natural shyness and stage fright by telling me that in the first year he taught at Kentucky, he had to go into the men's room right before every class to throw up. I saw then that if Tom could get over his fear of public speaking, so could I.

Larry Allen taught me a lot about loosening up when you lecture and having fun with students. Larry bounced around the classroom as he interacted with students, engaging every one of us, long before active learning was a fashionable pedagogical technique. Larry taught me management principles and practices that, even though the theories and labels have changed over the years, have proven useful in every job I've had.

Lois Chan! Dr. Chan was my advisor. She was then—30 years ago—already an internationally-known scholar in cataloging and classification research and plenty intimidating. As my advisor she suggested that if I hoped to be a decent reference librarian—which is what I aspired to then—I needed to be thoroughly grounded in basic theory and practice of organizing information. Because Dr. Chan is so formidable and persuasive, I of course took four cataloging courses! And of course she was mostly right, but...I do recall spending a huge amount of time hunkered over a Selectric typewriter, typing and destroying stacks and stacks of catalog cards—figuring out where all the bibliographic elements, the slashes and spaces properly went, which are skills I've never actually used. But they probably did make me a better person—or at least a more disciplined person.

Other members of the faculty who were not my professors but who contributed much to my growth and who inspired me and who became my colleagues and my friends—Anne McConnell (I was so saddened to hear about her recent death), Joy Terhune, Jim Nelson, JoAnn Rogers, and of course Tim Sineath, Dean of the College then, when it was still a College ... and who is still leading the school with distinction.

Summing up, I've talked about some of our history, made a few pretty safe predictions about the future, talked about our contributions to the world, our professional ethics, where library services are today and two of the initiatives of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science related to health information and emergency response, and I've indulged in some personal reminiscences.

I'd like to close with one piece of advice for those who are finishing your master's degrees now: Believe me, it is not too soon to start thinking about this moment—20 or 30 years from now when *you* are named the Outstanding Alumna or Alumnus of the Year—and to start doing the kinds of things you will be proud to look back on and tell about here. Funny things, crazy things, wonderful things. You are going to need some good stories to tell, so start having those adventures now! Your memoir – you can invent it!! Alan Kay said, “The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” That's *your* job, starting right now.

Thank you all for this great honor!



*Dr. Sineath presents  
Trudi Bellardo Hahn with the  
Distinguished Alumna Award*

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## University's Terry Birdwhistell Honored for 'Pioneering Work' in Oral History

We are indebted to **Rob Aken ('83)** for passing along information from which we take the following:

At the two-day celebration of the Kentucky Oral History Commission's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, "Kentucky Conference on Oral History: Accomplished Past. Challenging Future," held in Louisville September 8 and 9, **Terry Birdwhistell ('78)** was honored "for his pioneering work in this field." During the conference Terry also participated in panel discussions "on issues facing oral history in Kentucky and internationally." The information from Rob continued:

"Birdwhistell has been a champion of oral history in the state for many years. An associate dean for UK Libraries' Special Collections and Digital Programs, he is credited with building UK's Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History into one of the nation's top programs. He is a past-president of the national Oral History Association and is co-general editor, along with James C. Klotter, of "Kentucky Remembered," an oral history series published by the University Press of Kentucky. Currently, Birdwhistell is also serving as a member of Kentucky's State Archives and Records Commission. Birdwhistell earned a master's in history and a second master's in library and information science, as well as a doctorate in educational policy studies from UK."

At the Friday evening banquet, Terry and five other Kentucky oral historians, "early leaders in Kentucky's oral history efforts," were honored "as pioneers in the field."

### 'meta | morphosis: a university of kentucky film-to-digital institute' Conducted at UK

We thank **Becky Ryder ('92)**, UK's Preservation Librarian, for making us aware of an institute held at UK September 6 and 7. Becky also passed along the URL for the University of Kentucky News September 6 article, from which we take the following:

"In 2005, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Library of Congress acknowledged the University of Kentucky Libraries' Preservation and Digital Programs for their work when they bestowed one of only six grants to UK for the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). UK continues to display prowess in this arena as the only institution selected doing the process in-house. Today, UK Libraries welcomes 25 representatives from other institutions, as well as leaders from both the NEH and Library of Congress NDNP offices, to campus for "meta | morphosis: a university of kentucky film-to-digital institute." The institute will educate others on the process UK is utilizing in the digitization of microfilm resources."

The institute was described as "an intensive two-day workshop designed to help other programs in transforming content from microfilm into digital objects." The UK News release continued: "Those attending will learn how to: determine if digitization is a plausible option for reformatting

microfilm; evaluate microfilm's appropriateness for digitization; strategically select content; decide if project needs to be addressed in-house or outsourced; make good images; write an RFP; select vendors; explore outside partnerships to the institution's advantage; and seek appropriate funding sources."

## Jim Nelson Retires after Twenty-Six Years as KDLA Commissioner, State Librarian

We heard some time ago that **Jim Nelson ('69)** had decided to retire the end of September, but we never saw a press release. However, a news story in the KDLA Kentucky Public Library Newsletter for July/August 2006 confirms it.

In the spring 2005 issue we reported that Jim had concluded 25 years as State Librarian and KDLA Commissioner. The KPL newsletter notes that Jim is the second-longest serving state librarian, second only to Maine's Gary Nichols. We also reported, in the spring issue, that the Colorado native came to Kentucky following a stint in the Peace Corps, in the Philippines. Skip Graham, then Director of Louisville Free Public Library, hired Jim, and working at the library caused him to enroll in UK's library school. Following graduation he was Director of the Hardin County Public Library.

In the early 1970s he was speechwriter for Kentucky Governor Wendell Ford. He then returned to the School of Library and Information Science, as Director of Continuing Education. Next, it was off to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an appointment on the library school faculty. In 1980 he returned to Kentucky as State Librarian and KDLA Commissioner.

Woody Allen is supposed to have said eighty percent of success is showing up. Someone in Jim's position, if the person is going to carry out the responsibilities of the two positions at a high level, has to do a lot of showing up. We met Jim in the mid-1980s, and over the years one of the things that have impressed us about how well and how tirelessly he has served has been his showing up. Wherever he needed to be, not as Jim Nelson but as State Librarian and KDLA Commissioner, he was there. There must have been times when the last thing he wanted to do was get in the car and drive to yet another meeting or conference or whatever, but if ever he acted on that impulse not to attend, we were not aware of it. For the way he served as Commissioner and State Librarian, he deserves our credit and our thanks.

## LTC Charlie Harris: from 4<sup>th</sup> and York in Louisville to Tikrit in the Sunni Triangle

Some time after we got the spring newsletter on its way, we received the back cover in the mail, with the following information: "**Charles Harris, '86**, left his position as the Manager of the Main Library (Louisville Free Public Library) for an Antiterrorism Planner position with the Kentucky National Guard. He is currently on his way to Iraq with the 149<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team." Charlie, whose rank is lieutenant colonel, included his e-mail address, and so we

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got in touch with him, in July. He replied: "My unit, the 149th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), mobilized a small section of personnel in January 2006. We trained for several months at Camp Shelby [MS] and then went on to Iraq. I reached Iraq at the end of June, a little behind the rest, for I broke my ankle during training at Camp Shelby. We are an operations center, helping to manage troops and logistics on a base in the northern part of the Sunni Triangle!" When we checked back with Charlie in September, he said he'll be in Iraq until the spring of 2007.

## President Todd Provides Funding for Next Phase of Work for School's New Home

In September, just as we were about to turn over the Newsletter to the printer – a happy occasion twice each year – Director Tim Sineath got the good news that President Todd had made available funding for the next phase of the work at what is to be the home of the School of Library and Information Science. It is the third floor of what many alumni remember as King Library North, now Little Fine Arts Library (which occupies the first two floors).

Except for restrooms and a lounge, the third floor was a vast open space. Working with Director Sineath, the architect the University retained to lay out the floor divided the work into three phases. The first phase comprised improvements to the restrooms and the construction of several classrooms and faculty offices. That work was done in time for us to begin using the classrooms spring semester 2003.

Phase 2 will comprise essentially offices – administrative and faculty. Although it's early in the process to predict, it is conceivable that phase 2 would be completed by the start of the fall semester 2007, and if not by the start then sometime within that semester.

Phase 3 comprises two major elements, a new home for the McConnell Center and a computer lab for student use. Funding has not been made available for the final phase, and there is no projected date for its completion. However, following completion of phase 2 the School will relocate to its new home, more than 20 years after the "temporary" move from the Office Tower to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of what was then King Library South.

## Alumni Activities

When **Martin F Schmidt ('68)** wrote earlier this year, he commented that when he completed the master's-degree program, he "was well into middle age, a Larry Allen product!" He wrote, too, he had been retired since 1983, following a career in which he had worked at Louisville Free Public Library and Filson Historical Society. "When the Kentucky legislature decided to name the History Center in Frankfort for Dr Thomas D Clark, whose name had been on the library there, Dr Clark and the KHS leaders decided to put my name on the library! I had given KHS a collection of materials and some money! Not nearly approaching the stature of Tom Clark, it is certainly a fine honor!"

**Virginia Fox ('69)**, who retired in 2002 from her position as Executive Director and CEO of Kentucky Educational Television and the following year was appointed Secretary of the Education Cabinet in the administration of Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher, in August announced that she would retire from that position, effective September 1.

**Mary Sanker ('75)** earlier this year was appointed Manager of the Avondale Branch of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. In prior positions she was Reference Librarian at the Pleasant Ridge and Hyde Park branches.

**Anita R Casey ('76)**, who earned a JD at West Virginia University in 1982, is in private practice in Charleston, WV, with the firm of MacCorkle, Lavender, Casey & Sweeney, PLLC. She currently serves as President of the West Virginia Chapter of the American Inns of Court and was selected to *Best Lawyers of America* for 2005 and 2006. Anita is married to James Garvin, who also earned the JD at WVU in 1982, and has two children. Tara is in her sophomore year at UK and Casey is a junior at Charleston Catholic High School.

**Trudi Bellardo Hahn ('76)** resigned as the Executive Director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, effective June 30 of this year. Trudi had held the position since 2004.

We learned that **Trina King ('76)** is with the H. W. Wilson Company, and we asked her what she does there. She replied: Having been at the H. W. Wilson Company for over 29 years, I have had a number of positions. Right now I shifte as departments need me. I don't even have a title. Generally, I suppose it would be Editorial Services. My workday is divided between the Names Authority Department (verifying proper names) and the Bibliographic Index where I do books and periodical articles. In addition, as backup, I assist in training new indexers in our WIN system and handling troubleshooting for editorial problems with the system.

We thank **Faith Yoman ('77)** for letting us know, earlier this year, that she has a new position, as Southwest Librarian, New Mexico State Library.

**Judith Gibbons ('78)** is chairing the 2006 – 2007 American Library Association Public Awareness Committee.

**Catherine C. O'Hara ('79)**, who had been Media Specialist at Middlebrook Middle School, Wilton, CT, is now Media Specialist at Cider Mill School, also in Wilton. Catherine let us know that Middlebrook School has grades 6-8, whereas Cider Mill School comprises grades 3-5.

The end of July **Nanette Eichell ('80)** retired from Lexington Public Library, where she had been Head of Public Services, based at the Central Library.

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**Ray Nienaber ('82)** wrote earlier this year to tell us he recently retired as Director of the Lebanon Public Library, OH. Ray had been in Lebanon 20 years, following 14 years in Kentucky public libraries.

**Charlie Harris ('86)** a while ago left his position as Manager of the Main Library, Louisville Free Public Library, for an Antiterrorism Planner position with the Kentucky Army National Guard. He is stationed in Iraq.

Earlier this year **Sally Kramer ('86)** was promoted to Collection Development Manager at the Main Library, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Sally joined the PLCH staff in 1986 as a Subject Cataloger, and immediately prior to her new position she was Adult Collection Development Coordinator.

We learned that, contrary to the expectations of those who knew him when he was at UK, **Dan Barkley ('87)** remains employed. He is Associate Professor, University Libraries/Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. We wager even Dan is surprised.

Near the end of April, we received a nice e-mail from **Kandace Owens Rogers ('89)**. She wrote: I've recently returned to Kentucky after 2 years in the United Arab Emirates working as the Head of Public Services for the UAE Federation Library at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. (whew!) The expat experience was one I thoroughly enjoyed and would recommend highly to anyone with a little wanderlust. Am now working at Sullivan University and struggling to again acclimatize to cold weather. Have found that life overseas lends itself well to anecdotes and tidbits that are occasionally useful at parties – at least until you start repeating yourself.

Kandace is Director, Library and Learning Resource Center, Sullivan University, here in Lexington.

**Cynthia Nibert Groover ('91)** is a Reference Librarian at the Harris County Library in Spring, TX, a suburb of Houston. When she wrote, early in April, Cynthia noted she had recently helped many "Katrina refugees." Cynthia was also working at Barbara Bush Library in Houston on weekends.

Near the end of July, **Cheri Estes Dobbs ('92)** brought us up to date: I am still in the same job at Detroit Country Day School, but I've added the title of Coordinator of Library Services for grades PreK3-12. Two years ago, we formed the Library Media Services department in an effort to better coordinate and streamline library services among our four campuses. Thank goodness for Larry Allen's library management course! I had the opportunity to lead the group in the formation of mission and vision statements, policies and procedures and a scope and sequence of library and information skills for our students. We have also completed a self-study for our school's accreditation, and we are currently working on writing job descriptions for librarians. The school has operated in a relatively laid back way in the past, but we're trying to formalize operations.

I've been busy with ALA/ALSC/AASL as well. I served on the 2006 Robert F. Sibert Award committee for the best informational book for children, and I'm currently on AASL's Web Resource Guides committee and ALSC's Notable Software for Children committee.

We have learned that in April the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the appointment of **Susan Ralph ('93)** as director of Bainbridge College Library.

As summer was getting underway, we received a nice e-mail from **Tracy Babiasz ('94)**: I am now the collection development librarian for adult and young adult fiction for Wake County Public Libraries in Raleigh, NC. I came to this position after three years in one of the branch libraries. The position is one of three selectors in a newly created centralized collection development department. I'm enjoying the work a great deal, and it's been especially exciting to come in as we develop opening day collections for three branches set to open this year. We're extremely busy with both selection and developing procedures for the new department, but I'm loving every bit.

We appreciate the e-mail from **Angela Reynolds ('94)** in early May. Angela wrote: I am now living in small-town, rural Nova Scotia, and my new job is Head of Children's and Young Adult for the Annapolis Valley Regional Library. I love being able to walk to work and living in a small town is so quiet and cozy. Canada is a great place, and the winters here are not much more severe than a Kentucky winter. I'm serving on the "Notable Recordings for Children" committee this year, so I'm still in the loop of US libraries!

On the last Friday in August, which also was the first Friday of the new semester, we had a delightful visit from **Steven Schwengel ('97)**, who stopped in Lexington on his drive from Charleston, SC, to Indianapolis. Steven, who was a librarian at Enron for a while, in 1999 moved from Houston to Charleston, to join the staff at the Charleston County Public Library, SC.

**John Schlipp ('00)** is now Assistant Professor and Extended Collections Librarian at Steely Library at Northern Kentucky University. In addition to traditional ILL duties, John will continue his extensive work with intellectual property community awareness, while monitoring NKU library copyright compliances. Previously, as Patent & Trademark Librarian at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, John worked closely with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in developing many highly successful inventor patent programs, ranging from educating young inventors and artists about patents and copyright to inventor marketing and patent searching classes for college students and adults. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *InventorFest* will be held in Cincinnati on October 14<sup>th</sup>. A nationally recognized library program reported in *LibraryJournal.com*'s December 10, 2004 newsletter, this event brings together hundreds of in-

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ventors, entrepreneurs, experts, and curious-minded from across the country. See <http://www.cincinnati.library.org/inventorfest/> for details.

**Larry Richmond ('01)** is now Serials Acquisitions Librarian at Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

In June, **Karen Higdon ('02)** wrote: I finished my MSLS in 2002 and I am very happy to be able to *finally* announce that I have a library position! I am the new Library Media Specialist at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School [in Lexington] (working alongside **Lynda Short ['92]**). I have been a math teacher for 24 years, the last 16 at Dunbar. So I am really looking forward to using what I learned in all of those classes from UK as I get promoted from the classroom to the media center!

Early this year **Jason Buydos ('03)** was appointed Director of Technical Services at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Jason joined the PLCH staff in 2003 as Manager of the Acquisitions Department.

**Mike Crumpton ('03)** is president of the North Carolina Community College Learning Resources Association, and his school hosted the NCCCLRA annual conference in July. Mike is Director of Library Services, Bruce I. Howell Library, Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh.

**Cara Sparks ('03)**, Medical Librarian at Saint Joseph Hospital here in Lexington, has been admitted to UK Medical School and will enroll in the fall.

On July 12, **Karen Buntin ('04)** went to a new position at a new (for her) institution, Electronic Resources Librarian at Texas Tech University, Lubbock. Karen had been Coordinator of Technical Services at New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs. We assume that in her new position Karen will continue to benefit from and take advantage of her brother, Will's, considerable knowledge and infinite patience.

When Nicole Montgomery abandoned us in April, **Will Buntin ('04)** came to our rescue by accepting the offer to become the School's Student Affairs Officer.

**Nicole Montgomery ('04)** is Justice & Safety Librarian at Eastern Kentucky University.

**Brian Reynolds ('04)** let us know that in January of this year he was promoted to Branch Manager of the Shawnee Library in the Louisville Free Public Library system. "Public libraries are changing rapidly," Brian wrote, "and it's exciting for me to be a part of this."

#### Among Recent Graduates

**Mary Brown** is on the staff at Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia.

**David Bryant** is a Reference Librarian at Jessamine County

Public Library, Nicholasville, KY.

**Cheryl Covert** is on the staff at Lexington Public Library.

**Erin DeWitt** is Channel/Content Manager, Sirsi Dynix, Huntsville, AL.

**Jim Dorton** is School Media Specialist, Thomas Edison Elementary School, Covington, KY.

**Sarah Duncan** is Oral History Archivist at the Kentucky Historical Society.

**Kelly Ellert** is Public Services Librarian, Boone County Public Library, Union, KY.

**Karen Falkenstine** is Media Specialist, Assumption High School, Louisville.

**Catherine Foley** is Project Manager at MATRIX: The Center for the Humane Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences Online, Michigan State University. More information is available at <http://matrix.msu.edu/>

On July 3 **Katie Foran** began work as Instructional Services Librarian at Berea College, KY.

**Julie Grannis** is a member of the Reference Services staff, Camden-Carroll Library, Morehead State University, KY.

**Leslie Hammann** is on the staff at Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University.

**Joe Hardesty** is a member of the reference staff at Louisville Free Public Library's Central Library.

**Colleen Harris** was admitted to two UK doctoral programs, one in Sociology and the other in the College of Education's Department of Curriculum and Instruction's Information Systems Design program, and "I have decided that it provides a better supplement to my reference-and-instruction geared MLS than the Sociology PhD, so I will be taking that route instead. College of Education's department of Curriculum and Instruction."

**Jeanne Langsdale** is a teacher at Erpenbeck Elementary School, Boone County, KY.

Early in September we learned that **Jennifer Matthews** had resigned from her position in UK Libraries to accept the position of Music Librarian at Oklahoma City University. Jennifer worked as a student assistant in the Lucille Little Fine Arts Library 1997-2002, became a Library Technician in Special Projects in December 2002, and joined the Acquisitions Department in 2005. She has a master's degree in musicology in addition to the MSLS.

**Theresa McCarty** is a Children's Librarian at Lexington Public Library's Beaumont Branch.

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**John Merritt** is Director, Ira M Boswell Memorial Library, Louisville Bible College.

**Lindsay Midkiff** has joined the staff of King Library, the main library at Miami University, Oxford, OH.

**Emily Prather** in February was appointed to the position Catalog Librarian at Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA.

**Sarah Pratt** is on the staff at Lexington Public Library.

**Julie Reinhart** is a teacher at Caywood Elementary School, Crestview Hills, KY.

**Latisha Reynolds** is a member of the Reference Department staff, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville.

**Jason Sowards** is a reference librarian at Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville.

**Brickaek Sparks** is Library Media Specialist, Hatcher Elementary School, Ashland, KY.

**Sarah Stohr** let us know in August she accepted the position as Library Resident in Research and Instruction Services at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

**Michael Thornton** this summer began a year-long residency faculty position at University of Louisville Libraries. U of L Dean of Libraries Hannelore Rader informed the

Newsletter she saw the residency as a way for Michael “to gain practical experience for a possible appointment to a tenure track position in the future.”

**Julie Trame** is Literacy Teacher, Goodridge Elementary School, Hebron, KY.

**Graham Troop** is on the staff at Oldham County Public Library, KY.

**Carolyn Vetter** is a Children’s Librarian Assistant, Louisville Free Public Library’s Central Library.

We regret to report the death of several alumni:

**Anne Young McConnell** (’67) died in early April, at Saint Joseph Hospital here in Lexington. Anne had been admitted to the Hospital less than a week before she died.

**Dr. Michael Kelley** (’71) died on May 17 in San Antonio, TX. Michael had retired after a number of years as Dean of Libraries and the University of Texas San Antonio.

We have learned that **Susan Poynter** (’90) died in September 2005, at age 40, after a long battle with breast cancer.

**Dee Wood** (’93) passed along the sad news in August that **Carol Parris** (’95) died after a courageous battle with cancer. Carol was a former University of Kentucky Law Library Reference Librarian, and at the time of her death was State Law Librarian for Kentucky.

*“Massive information overload is placing librarians in an ever more important role as human search engines. They are trained and gifted at ferreting out and vetting the key resource material when you need it. Today’s technology is spectacular – but it can’t always trump a skilled human.”*

William R Brody, President  
The Johns Hopkins University  
December, 2004