



ALISE News

Greetings from President Smith



**Linda Smith,
ALISE President
2009-10**

I am honored to serve as president of ALISE and look forward to working with the Board and the many other members who serve ALISE to advance the work of the Association. I joined ALISE as a doctoral student in 1977 and ALISE has been significant to me at every stage in my career including: doctoral student at Syracuse, beginning faculty member at Illinois, mentor for doctoral students, educator concerned with online pedagogy after teaching 20 years in a classroom, and associate dean for academic programs. With the introduction of the ALISE Academy at the 2009 ALISE conference under Trudi Bellardo Hahn's able leadership, ALISE has taken an important step in supporting professional development of our members at several different career stages.

The mission of ALISE is to promote excellence in research, teaching and service for Library and Information Science educators through leadership, collaboration, advocacy and dissemination of research. I feel that it is important for ALISE to involve many different members in the work of the association. To that end this fall we implemented a web-based form to identify a wider pool of volunteers, who in turn will contribute to the work of ALISE committees in the coming year. Others contribute as SIG conveners.

I would like to encourage all ALISE members to find ways to become involved through our award program, our conference, and our publications.

Review the descriptions of the awards on the ALISE web site: (<http://www.alise.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=55539&orgId=ali>); nominate a colleague for recognition with one of the ALISE awards or apply for an award related to your own research.

Respond to the Call for Participation in the 2010 Annual Conference, scheduled for January 12-15 in Boston (<http://www.alise.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=84121&orgId=ali>). The theme, **Creating a Culture of Collaboration**, will give participants the opportunity to explore a variety of dimensions of collaboration in LIS Education and research, such as identifying collaborators, working with collaborators, sustaining collaborations, the value of collaborations and barriers to collaboration.

The success of the ALISE journal, the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, depends on your submissions of papers. We are also looking for ways to enhance the ALISE web site, and welcome your suggestions for improvements.

In keeping with the theme of Creating a Culture of Collaboration, in the coming year the ALISE Board will be following up on recommendations emerging from the recent membership survey to explore building closer collaborations with other professional associations and with LIS education colleagues internationally.

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President Smith's Message (continued)

I also feel that we have a responsibility as the Association for Library and Information Science Education to more fully document the impact and to disseminate the findings of the many grants that have been made to our schools by the Institute of Museum and Library Services over the past six years. Exploring strategies for accomplishing this is one goal of my coming year as President of ALISE. Another initiative is to develop better access to and management of the archives of the association.

This is my third term of service on the ALISE Board. I was Secretary-Treasurer in 1988-1990, Director for Special Interest Groups in 2003-2005, and now it is my special privilege to serve as President. I have always been very impressed with the talent and dedication of my fellow board members. But we need your involvement as well if we are to fulfill the mission of ALISE. I look forward to collaborating with you over the next year and to seeing you in Boston in 2010.

Linda C. Smith

Board of Directors: ALISE Officers 2009-2010

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Linda Smith (lcsmith@uiuc.edu)

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Professor, Indiana University-Indianapolis

Director for Special Interest Groups

Andrew Wertheimer

Chair, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Director for Membership Services

Melissa Gross (mgross@ci.fsu.edu)

Associate Professor, Florida State University

Director for External Relations

Susan Roman (sroman@dom.edu)

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A LISE is a
 fully developed
 organization, which
 recognizes
 scholarship,
 teaching and
 professional
 service.

ALA Approves Core Competences at Midwinter

ALA Council approved the “Core Competences of Librarianship” on January 27, 2009 during the ALA Midwinter Conference. (See the statement at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/careers/corecomp/finalcorecompstat09.pdf>).

This is the product of a decade of discussions, following a proposal at the first ALA Congress on Professional Education in 1999 calling for the Association to formulate a statement of the core competences that should be possessed by all librarians. The Task Force on Library Education, appointed by ALA President Leslie Burger in 2006, finished work on the current statement of competences in 2008.

Richard Rubin, Director of the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University and Chair of the Committee on Accreditation, offers the following perspective:

“Statements of professional competencies and value statements adopted by professional organizations are important policies. This would certainly include the Core Competences of Librarianship and the Core Values of Librarianship recently adopted by ALA Council. The Standards for Accreditation specifically include statements regarding the need to consider such policies when developing LIS program curriculum.

For example, the Standards state: ‘The Office for Accreditation provides educational policy statements from relevant professional organizations in the Educational Policy Statements area of the website at ala.org/accreditation. Reference to these materials by schools as they plan, develop, and evaluate their programs is essential’ (2008 Standards, p. 4). Similarly, the Standards related to curriculum include the observation that curriculum should ‘foster development of the competencies necessary for productive careers’ (2008 Standards, p. 10). The Standards further note ‘. . . Learning experiences are built upon a general foundation of library and information studies. The design of specialized learning experiences takes into account the statements of knowledge and competencies developed by relevant professional organizations’ (2008 Standards, p. 10).”

(See the related story in this newsletter about the recommendations of the Library Education Task Force).

COA to Respond to Library Education Task Force's Report and Proposed Changes to Accreditation Standards

The January 2009 Final Report of the Task Force on Library Education (appointed by ALA President Leslie Burger in 2006) included a number of recommendations for revision of the Standards for Accreditation. During the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in January, the ALA Executive Board:

"Voted to, support the report of the Presidential Task Force on Library Education and refer recommendations 1-10 to the ALA Committee on Accreditation and request a response by the 2009 ALA Annual Conference." The text of the report can be found at: http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/governance/officers/ebdocuments/20082009ebdocuments/ebd12_30.pdf.

In his May 2009 President's Message in *American Libraries* titled "Educating the Teachers," Jim Rettig enumerates the recommendations and states the following: "COA has well-defined responsibility and authority; however, as part of a member organization that values participation, it welcomes member comments on the recommendations. I have asked COA to engage members in conversation. Send your thoughts to ALA Office for Accreditation Director Karen O'Brien at kobrien@ala.org; type 'TF Recommendations' in the subject line. Let the discussion begin!

(This can be accessed by following the "current issue" link at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/online/onlineebRARY/onlineebRARY.cfm>; select the May 2009 issue and scroll to the 8th display page (p. 6 of the issue).

The American Society for Information Science and Technology has already issued a statement of concerns regarding the recommendations. The full statement can be found linked from: <http://www.asist.org/news.html>. Points enumerated include:

1. These changes represent a significant narrowing of the LIS field;
2. The requirements for faculty educated in LIS and library-centric curricula strongly restrict the diversity and interdisciplinarity of LIS programs;
3. The changes are prescriptive;
4. Many other groups are stakeholders in the LIS programs that ALA accredits.

The ALISE Board discussed the Task Force report at its April meeting, expressing concern that no opportunity was provided for ALISE to have input as the recommendations included in the report were being formulated. Input is being sought from deans, directors and program chairs in order to aid the Board in formulating a statement that reflects the perspectives of ALISE institutional members on these recommendations.

The Board also encourages individual members to provide input to the Board (e-mail ALISE President Linda C. Smith at lcsmith@illinois.edu), and to COA (e-mail Karen O'Brien at kobrien@ala.org).

Announcements:

Greenwood Publishing Group Award Recipient Named

The American Library Association (ALA) has named Jean Preer's *Library Ethics*, published by Libraries Unlimited, the winner of the 2009 Greenwood Publishing Group Award for the Best Book in Library Literature: an annual award to honor the best book published in library literature.

The book may help library professionals in the areas of management principles and practice, understanding and application of new techniques or furthering the education of librarians or other information specialists. The awardee receives \$5,000 and a 24K gold-framed citation, donated by the Greenwood Publishing Group.

The Award committee chose *Library Ethics* from a large and strong field of nominated books and praised Dr. Preer's comprehensive approach to an issue that pervades every aspect of modern library life; her exhaustive coverage of all aspects of the topic; the enduring relevance of her work; her combination of readability and thorough scholarship; and the fact that this book fills an important lacuna in modern library literature.

Dr. Preer is a professor in the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science-Indianapolis. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College, and an MLS degree from the University of California-Berkeley and a J.D. and a Ph.D. in American Civilization from George Washington University. Before joining the Indiana University faculty in 2002, she taught at the library school of Catholic University of American in Washington, DC where she also served as associate dean. Her teaching and research interests concern topics related to library science, history and law. She currently teaches Perspectives on Librarianship; Collection Development and Management; and Library Philanthropy. She received the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award in 2005 and the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Award for Teaching Excellence in 2006. Her essay, "Promoting Citizenship: Librarians Help Get Out the Vote in the 1952 Presidential Election," won the Justin Winsor Prize awarded by the Library History Round Table of the American Library Association in 2007.

The annual award will be presented at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in July.

New College approved for University of North Texas

The University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences has joined with the academic department in the College of Education, the Department of Learning Technologies, to become the College of Information, Library Science and Technologies – the eighth college at UNT.

By combining the research and educational expertise in the school and department, UNT will now be able to offer its students a comprehensive experience with hands-on training in conducting and applying cutting-edge research that focuses on both information science and technology. UNT is the only university in Texas, and one of only two in the nation, to have a college with "information" and "technologies" or "technology" in its name.

Alternative Spring Break at Michigan places 94 students at sites

University of Michigan School of Information master's students got a good look at what goes on in major libraries, cultural institutions, and nonprofit organizations during Alternative Spring Break program trips this year. In all, 94 students went to Chicago, New York and Washington, DC in February for intensive training under the eyes of mentors at 58 organizations such as the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library and the Shedd Aquarium. Kelly Kowatch, career counselor in the School's Careers Services office, coordinates the ASB program, which is open to students in all nine of the SI master's degree specializations.

"Some were a little nervous before they left, but that was a good thing because it shows they were approaching this seriously as a work experience," Kowatch Said. The program is impressive for its size alone, considering that the 94 students are part of a total master's population of 357.

ALISE Newsletter Submissions

Susan Roman

Dean and Professor
Dominican University
Graduate School of
Library and Informa-
tion Science (GSLIS)
7900 W. Division St.
River Forest IL
60305

708/524-6850
708/524-6657 (fax)

sroman@dom.edu

“Reflections on My Year as ALISE President

Serving on the ALISE Board has been pleasurable and rewarding. I have served on other boards but there are two things that make ALISE distinctive: the dedication of the board to continually improve the organization, and the large number of ALISE members who serve on committees and thus also contribute to ALISE’s success.

A few years ago, ALISE was on rough footing; today we are on *terra firma*. To take the metaphor further, my immediate predecessors took steps to assure that ALISE would have strong foundation. The current board has continued to solidify ALISE and we have moved forward.

Here are some of the past year’s highlights.

- *JELIS* celebrated its 50th anniversary – with a cake, of course – at the annual meeting. Two new editors took over the journal this year: Kathleen Burnett and Michelle Kazmer, professors at Florida State. They have changed the look of the journal and will be introducing some new features.
- The Linworth Youth Services Paper award was established.
- We gave out the first Norman Horrocks Leadership award.
- We launched the first membership survey in many years. Recommendations from the survey are being implemented. For example:

We developed an online volunteer form to make it easier for members to get involved;

We hosted booths at ALA and IFLA to reach out to our members as well as to make new friends;

Representatives from ALISE and ASIST Boards met to discuss ways in which we can collaborate;

In early 2008, we renewed for three years the contract with the Medical Library Association (MLA). Kathleen Combs will continue as our executive director;

In spring 2008 we issued an FRP for the *ALISE Statistical Report*. The Board selected Danny Wallace, who holds the EBSCO Endowed Chair of Library Service at the University of Alabama, as the first ALISE Statistical Data Manager. During his three-year appointment, Danny and his team at Alabama will ensure we are caught up with the *ALISE Statistics*. He will also evaluate the gathering, storage, analysis and presentation of the ALISE statistical data so that we have state-of-the-art processes and practices.; and

At the 2009 Annual Conference we launched the ALISE Academy, a continuing education opportunity for ALISE members at specific stages throughout their careers.

The years ahead promise to be particularly challenging as the current recession affects our universities finances as well as our own. How much professional support will faculty receive from their universities over the next three years? I am sure that my successors will take whatever steps are necessary to assure that ALISE remains vibrant.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president.

Michele V. Cloonan

ALISE Immediate-Past President

“ . . . Today we
are *terra firma*.”

A Welcoming and Positive Experience: A Doctoral Student's Reflections on ALISE 2009

By Marc Kosciejew

Receiving the 2009 Doctoral Student to ALISE grant was a real honor. To be recognized as a promising LIS doctoral student by the ALISE board and the ALISE annual conference has been a positive, yet humbling, experience. Many of my peers are also conducting exciting and innovative research and they all provided a strong presence at the annual conference; consequently, to be a representative of this group of accomplished doctoral students is a privilege.

The ALISE annual conferences present doctoral students with a fantastic opportunity to engage with their peers, scholars and practitioners, thus opening up new avenues for further and future research and professional collaborations, networks and friendships. This event expands and enriches each individual's LIS perspectives and knowledge, introducing them to new and unique ideas, projects and initiatives. It is therefore an ideal place in which to interact with one's peers in a positive environment, discuss and debate current and controversial research, and foster new personal and professional relationships. Indeed, in addition to the many chances to develop new professional relationships, I made a number of strong friendships that have left me with a very rewarding ALISE experience.

The doctoral student poster session provides an informative and helpful venue in which to present and promote the fresh, innovative and rigorous research currently being conducted by some of the LIS field's brightest minds. Presenting my academic poster, for example, gave me the change to get my own research interests and work known to a wider audience. But, even more importantly, it allowed for my peers, fellow scholars and practitioners to provide their input, suggestions, and encouragement into my (future) work. I was grateful to have many diverse and interesting people with whom I could discuss ideas and potential research directions, and, above all, meet. I received some great advice and shared a number of laughs with a receptive audience.

The ALISE awards ceremony was also a memorable affair because of its welcoming atmosphere. The awards ceremony – a beautiful affair in a grand ballroom – was impressive insofar as the feelings of camaraderie are concerned. I was impressed and immediately put at ease by the many supportive individuals who attended. Everyone was enthusiastic and excited to share in the positive experiences of recognizing the contributions of their students, mentors, peers, and colleagues. Indeed, it is not only the award recipients who should be recognized, but also the ALISE members and conference attendees for creating such an inclusive, affirmative, and joyous place.

On behalf of all doctoral students and candidates I must therefore officially express gratitude to ALISE for including us in this illuminating and insightful experience. Thank you.

ALISE Committees

ALISE is fortunate to have many volunteers contributing to the work of the association through their service as committee members or chairs. Committees perform important functions in such areas as awards and honors, development and advancement, conference program planning, membership, recruitment, publications and research.

The ALISE website provides a full list of committees their members (<http://www.alise.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=86452>) as well as resources for committee chairs.

Each committee has a board liaison to ensure effective coordination and communication with the ALISE Board of Directors. The ALISE Board looks forward to collaborating with ALISE committees in the coming year.

More thoughts on ALISE 2009

By Shelagh K. Genius

In January 2009 I was honored to attend the ALISE conference as a winner of the 'Doctoral Student to ALISE' award. As an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Candidate this proved to be an exceptional experience. I was thrilled to meet and interact with academics in the field as well as other LIS doctoral students. I also listened to many very interesting and thought-provoking presentations which ranged from reports on current research to presentation about life in the academy.

I chose to attend sessions on areas of longstanding interest and to explore topics that were novel to me. Presentations ranged from social networking, to those focusing on a diversity of contexts where LIS is practiced, to innovative research being conducted by current doctoral students. In addition, I listened to a number of provocative discussions related to teaching in the online environment, tenure, and evolving roles of faculty in the 21st century. As a result of attending these sessions I have gained a greater appreciation for the dynamic and diverse research work occurring in LIS, and I have also been led to more focused consideration of the expanding ways in which researchers and scholars manage their careers.

Further to the formal sessions, the ALISE conference provided many opportunities to meet and chat with experienced and novice LIS scholars. The 'Birds of a Feather' lunch allowed me to listen in as experienced researchers discussed the challenges of research and practice in the area of information literacy. Coffee breaks and receptions provided valuable opportunities to follow up on formal sessions and chat personally about research projects. And, although still too early in my doctoral program to participate in the Doctoral Poster Session, I was fascinated by the depth and breadth of research being conducted by my peers. Because of my interdisciplinary program I have limited exposure to other LIS doctoral students and am grateful that I had this opportunity to view and discuss doctoral research from across North America.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the ALISE board for providing me with the opportunity and support to attend my first ALISE conference. I am also grateful to Dr. Ann Curry, who called my attention to this opportunity and nominated me, and to my supervisor, Dr. Heidi Julien, who provided financial support for travel and accommodation.

OCLC/ALISE Library & Information Science Research Grant Program (LISRGP)

OCLC and ALISE seek applicants for research grants. The OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant program awards up to \$15,000 to foster quality research by faculty in schools of library and information science. Projects should be completed within one year, and the findings published in the public domain. Application materials are available on the OCLC website: <http://www.oclc.org/programsandresearch/grants/call.pdf>

Submission deadline for the 2010 awards is September 15, 2009.

For more information contact:

LCOC Programs and Research, ResearchWeb@oclc.org

Executive Director, Kathleen Combs Says . . .



Dear ALISE Member:

2009 is gearing up to be a fantastic year for ALISE. The Annual Conference in Denver was quite the success with 479 attendees, 35 panel and juried paper sessions, 32 doctoral student research posters, 60 work-in-progress posters, and lots of good food, good friends and good times.

What a great way to start the year!

Here are some other items you should be watching out for in 2009:

2009 Membership Drive

The Drive Has Begun! If you still need to renew your ALISE personal or institutional membership, please do as at ALISE.org (<http://www.alise.org/mc/page.do>) look for the “2009 Membership Drive” link.

ALISE/LIS Cooperative Education Pavilion

ALISE and several of its member schools will host a joint exhibit booth at the American Library Association’s 2009 Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The exhibits will be held July 11-14, 2009. If your school would like to be part of this booth, please complete the Booth Reservations Form located on ALISE.org – look for the “ALISE at ALA” link.

Cooperative Library and Information Studies Alumni Reunion

ALISE will be hosting the Cooperative Library and Information Studies Alumni Reunion on Sunday, July 12, 2009 from 5:30-7:30 pm during ALA’s Annual Conference. If your school would like to have a table at the reunion, please complete the Reunion Participation Form located on ALISE.org – look for the “ALISE at ALA” link.

2010 Annual Conference Call for Participation

It’s never too late to start planning for the ALISE Annual Conference. 2010 in Boston is sure to be special. The call for participation and awards is located on ALISE.org – look for the “2010 Annual Conference” link.

If you have any questions about the above services or any services from ALISE, please feel free to contact headquarters at: 312/795-0996 or contact@alise.org.

Headquarters:

ALISE
Suite 1900
65 East Wacker Place
Chicago IL 60601-7246
USA

Phone:
312/795-0996

Fax:
312/419-8950

Email:
kcombs@alise.org

If you have any questions, concerns or praise, please feel free to contact the ALISE Headquarters.