

Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) President's Report 2012

While the activities of ALISE, its elected Board members, its numerous volunteers serving on committees, its conference planning group, and its Executive Director and Management Services come under the spotlight of the President's Report once a year at annual conference, the actual work continues throughout the year and in alignment with the Association's Strategic Directions. The energy and enthusiasm generated by the 2011 San Diego conference propelled ALISE into another positive and very productive year. It is my responsibility and distinct pleasure to report what, together, we have accomplished during 2011.

Expanding our Horizons: ALISE Strategic Directions, 2011-2014

Following a Town Hall meeting in San Diego, the ALISE Board incorporated feedback from the 40+ members in attendance to ensure that the new strategic plan, *Expanding our Horizons: ALISE Strategic Directions, 2011-2014*, adopted July 2011, reflected member priorities. The ALISE Board is guided by the mission and four key strategic directions as articulated in the full planning document posted on the ALISE website: http://www.alise.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=494 Two areas targeted for *strategic development* are more effective outreach to the Association's core membership and affiliated Associations, and greater collaboration with a broader constituency of cognate disciplines in North America and internationally. Two areas that continue as *core strategic activities* are a focus on the scholarship of teaching and learning and the promotion of outstanding research, and an emphasis on providing sound fiscal management, fostering administrative best practice, and advancing effective communications strategies for ALISE and its members.

While the 2011-2014 plan came into effect mid-year, I am pleased to report that we have already made progress on a number of aspects articulated within each of the four strategic directions.

Strategic Direction 1: consolidating and expanding the membership base by positioning the Association as an organization of members

Contained herein are commitments to develop programs and communication tools (1.1), and organize regular conference sessions (1.2) *that target members at every stage of the career cycle and level of appointment*. With the theme, "Extending our Reach: Expanding Horizons, Creating Opportunity," the 2012 ALISE Conference (ALISE'12) has been crafted to offer sessions engaging the lifecycle of the academy (from PhD to Emeritus and everything in between), and inclusive of full-time, part-time and adjunct faculty. These sessions include:

ALISE Academy: At ALISE '12, with the financial support of the H.W. Wilson Foundation, we are presenting the fourth ALISE Academy, a continuing education opportunity designed to provide support and inspiration to members at all stages of their careers. Academic leadership is an issue that has gained greater prominence with demographic trends and the changing nature of program focus and faculty appointments within the information domain. The 2012 Academy will address the leadership development needs of members in three critical areas: teaching leadership, leadership for professionals, and leadership as a career choice. Co-conveners, **Connie Van Fleet** (Oklahoma) and **Melissa Gross** (Florida State) have assembled three workshops that will be led by recognized leaders in the academy. Asking the question, *How can I develop new leaders*, **Peter Hernon** (Simmons) will conduct **Leading from the Classroom: Teaching Leadership** for those wishing to exchange ideas with the goal of empowering leadership in students. For faculty who are interested in leadership, but not administrative positions, **John Bertot** (Maryland) will offer **Leading from Where You Are: Modeling Leadership**. Co-facilitators, **Elizabeth Aversa** (Alabama), and **Cecelia Brown** (Oklahoma), will conduct the

workshop, **Leading from Administration: Choosing Leadership**, for faculty who are considering administration, and administrators who want to develop new leaders.

The **Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Doctoral Poster Competition** is one of the most anticipated events at the ALISE conference, showcasing the research of doctoral students. With a first round submission of 48 proposals, this year's poster session promises to offer leading edge topics, methodologies, and interpretations from our PhD members.

For early-career faculty, **Andrew Dillon** (UT Austin) and a team of senior faculty will offer a personalized **Curriculum Vita and Portfolio Review**.

In addition to the session, **Teacher, Professional, and Colleague: Supporting Adjunct Faculty in LIS Education**, being presented by **Sandra Hirsh** (San Jose State University), and the invitation-only lunch and discussion for Adjunct and Part-time Faculty, ALISE will have available on-site at ALISE '12, and as a new initiative, an adjunct résumé binder.

Also underway are plans for showcasing member accomplishments on the ALISE website (1.1d), and a review of how we can more effectively customize web content for different member communities (1.1c). External Relations Director, **Louise Spiteri** (Dalhousie), is overseeing the ALISE Facebook presence, initially launched over the summer.

The ALISE Vision states that, "By 2014, ALISE will be known as the international leader in Library and Information Science education with strong links to schools and faculty around the world." As we continue to build on that vision, and in concert with the ALISE '12 conference theme, there is strong representation in both programs and attendance from North American and international members, including a juried papers session showcasing **National/International Perspectives**, and the **International Library Education SIG** program.

Within Strategic Direction 1 is a commitment to develop a plan for promoting greater diversity and inclusion within ALISE membership (1.2). In this regard, a special 2-hour Roundtable Discussion, **Extending ALISE's Reach: Expanding our Diversity Horizon**, will be held immediately following the ALISE business meeting. Co-sponsored by the ALISE Diversity Statement Task Force, the Assistant/Associate Deans & Directors (A/ADD) SIG, and the Multicultural, Ethnic, and Humanistic Concerns SIG, this session will solicit member input to inform an ALISE Diversity Statement currently under development by the Task Force chaired by **Clara Chu** (UNC Greensboro).

Finally, the commitment to develop an advocacy policy that articulates the role and responsibilities of ALISE in supporting socio-political issues and activities of interest to members (1.3), was completed with the approval by the Board of a new policy, "Statement of Position on Issues." Related to this advocacy initiative was the release by the ALISE Board of Directors, of a statement regarding actions taken by colleagues in Wisconsin seeking to protect the right to collective bargaining. This statement was likewise shared with ALISE members on March 14, 2011.

Strategic Direction 2: enhancing collaboration and extending ALISE membership to scholars in cognate disciplines and affiliated organizations, nationally and internationally

As part of this second strategic direction, ALISE has committed to its promotion and advocacy through greater collaboration with national and international affiliates (2.2). A number of activities have aligned with that initiative.

ASIS&T In May 2011, the Board received an invitation from ASIS&T to appoint a member to the ASIS&T Information Professional Task Force (IPTF), created in 2007. In October 2010, the task force determined that one of its goals for the year would focus on including representatives of other relevant information professional societies. This would involve identifying a member from each society contacted to represent his or her society on the task force, and to have the same or a different member speak on a panel on the information professions planned for the 2011 ASIS&T annual conference in New Orleans. External Relations Director, **Louise Spiteri** (Dalhousie), was appointed the ALISE representative to IPTF, speaking on behalf of the Association at the panel session in October.

ALA Several ALISE institutional member schools collaborated on staffing the ALISE booth that anchored the LIS Education Pavilion area of the exhibit hall at the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, in June. ALISE also coordinated the popular Cooperative Library School Reunion at ALA Annual.

IFLA For the fourth year, **Kathleen Combs** (ALISE Executive Director) organized a dinner for ALISE members attending the 2011 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in August. In addition, a number of ALISE members attending IFLA generously took a turn at staffing the ALISE table. Situated immediately inside the entrance to the exhibits hall, the ALISE presence attracted steady traffic and interest in membership opportunities (2.2a; 2.2b). ALISE continues to seek opportunities to partner with the IFLA Sections on Education and Training (SET) and Library Theory and Research (LTR), and has initiated discussions on a possible joint session on Innovations in LIS Education to be offered at the IFLA 2013 conference in Singapore (2.2c). The Board is also exploring mechanisms for encouraging and supporting ALISE members who wish to seek election to an IFLA Standing Committee. ALISE will be represented at the IFLA Conference in Helsinki in August 2012.

National Digital Stewardship Alliance In June, ALISE responded to an invitation to participate in the National Digital Stewardship Alliance – a program initiated by the Library of Congress through its National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program. The NDSA and its Outreach Committee are interested in making connections with the many different communities of practice in library and information science, and particularly LIS students, “... because they are our next generation of leaders and could have a lasting impact on digital preservation issues.” (NDSA communication, 6/3/2011). ALISE membership on the NDSA will allow for input on initiatives, such as a "Digital Preservation in a Box" product that will be shared with students and faculty in terms of development, curriculum integration, student projects, etc.

With the support of Board members, Past-President, **Lorna Peterson**, registered ALISE as a member of the **Coalition on the Academic Workforce**. The Coalition listserv will keep the Association apprised on academic workplace and workforce developments of interest to ALISE members.

Strategic Direction 2 includes a commitment to plan conference sessions that focus on areas of common interest or concern for scholars and educators in LIS and cognate disciplines (2.1a). We are delighted to welcome **David S. Ferriero**, Archivist of the United States, as the keynote speaker for our annual conference. Also included in ALISE '12 are juried programs “Extending our Reach Across Disciplines: Informatics Education”, and “Convergence Among Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM),” and the Archival/Preservation Education SIG program, **Cultural Heritage Preservation**. The **President’s Program on Indigenous Knowledge** will bring together educators and a practitioner from LAM who will share best practice regarding preparing information professionals for serving indigenous communities. Finally, the conference will be bookended by two engaging sessions “extending the reach” of disciplinarity. **Marcia Bates** (UCLA) will present on **The Information Professions: Knowledge, Memory, Heritage**, while a special panel session, moderated by **Andrew Dillon** (UT Austin) will ponder

the question, “Where do we go from here? Potential Collaboration among ALISE, ASIS&T, and iCaucus.”

Strategic Direction 3: focusing on the scholarship of teaching and learning and the promotion of outstanding research

Presented as the primary strategic direction in the 2007-2010 plan, this focus continues as one of two *core strategic activities* for ALISE. In aligning with the commitment to promote the scholarship of teaching and learning (3.1), ALISE '12 programming will address all sections of 3.1. The **ALISE Academy**, described earlier, will provide opportunities for building leadership skills among ALISE members (3.1a). Pedagogical innovation (3.1b) will be showcased in several juried programs and papers, and SIG sessions. Programs focusing on differing modes of delivery of scholarship relating to teaching and learning (3.1c) will include the WISE Pedagogy Pre-conference Workshop, **Extending our Reach in Teaching Online**, juried papers on **e-learning, Formal and Informal**, and the **Distance Education SIG** program, among others.

The commitment to provide a greater range of opportunities to encourage and recognize outstanding research and scholarship in LIS (3.2) has been addressed this year by putting greater emphasis on quality and innovation as cornerstones of the ALISE '12 conference. Thirty-two Juried Paper proposals were accepted out of 106 submitted for an acceptance rate of 30%. Likewise, Conference Co-Chairs issued a call for juried sessions with one criterion for acceptance requiring “... demonstration of creative approaches to presenting the session and moving beyond the usual lecture format”, and a goal “... to have fewer, but higher quality, sessions that cross boundaries and engage participants.” The Works-in-Progress Poster session has encouraged a record number of submissions for 2012, and promises to generate buzz around innovative research ideas. A number of cross- and multi-disciplinary research sessions (3.2d) at ALISE '12 have been mentioned previously, and an initiative to fully revamp the ALISE website to include a section showcasing member successes with research funding and external awards is on the agenda for the upcoming ALISE Board meeting in Dallas (3.2a).

The promotion of outstanding research and scholarship in LIS research continues through the recognition accorded to winners of prestigious ALISE research awards. In addition to the celebratory **Awards Reception** that will be held again at the 2012 annual conference, ALISE '12 will present two sessions of ALISE Awards Papers, as well as the OCLC/ALISE Grant Papers session moderated by **Lynn Silipigni Connaway** (OCLC). Research Awards Committees have committed hours of their time reviewing, in many instances, an especially large number of submissions. We thank volunteer Chairs and members for their commitment, and strongly encourage ALISE members to heed the call for submissions across 2012. Congratulations to award winners, and to all who submitted and reviewed, for supporting the ALISE commitment to outstanding research and scholarship!

JELIS Under the leadership of editors, Kathleen Burnett and Michelle Kazmer (Florida State), the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science (JELIS)* has published a number of research articles, brief communications and discussions of research in progress, and the ALISE 2011 Best Conference Papers. The journal will continue to showcase outstanding juried papers presented at each Annual Conference. Articles developed from the 2011 ALISE Best Conference Paper Award Winners appeared in Volume 52, no. 4, published in October 2011. The winners are, with our congratulations:

Kafi Kumasi and Renee Frankin Hill, *Are We There Yet? Results of a Gap Analysis to Measure LIS Students' Prior Knowledge and Actual Learning of Cultural Competence Concepts*

Bharat Mehra, Kimberly Black, Vandana Singh, and Jenna Nolt, *What is the Value of LIS Education? A Qualitative Study of the Perspectives of Tennessee's Rural Librarians*

Susan E. Searing and **Alison M. Greenlee**, *Faculty Responses to Library Service Innovations: A Case Study*

Linda R. Most, *Hands on from a Distance: The Community-Embedded Learning Model Contextualizes Online Student Coursework*

Strategic Direction 4: providing sound fiscal management, fostering administrative best practice, and advancing effective communication strategies for ALISE and its members

The second of two ongoing *core strategic activities*, I am particularly pleased to report on a number of activities that were either completed or initiated this past year in response to Strategic Direction 4.

ALISE Centennial Campaign Consistent with pursuing an aggressive plan for the development of varied streams of revenue for the Association (4.1), and guided by the commitment to use the ALISE Centennial Campaign to raise significant funds for the ALISE endowment (4.1a), the Board is delighted to have enlisted **Elizabeth Aversa** (Alabama) to lead the Centennial Campaign, along with Committee volunteers, **Lynne Bowker** (Ottawa), **Stephen Bajjaly** (Wayne State), **Sam Hastings** (South Carolina), and **Diane Barlow** (Maryland). Elizabeth Aversa will be making an announcement about the campaign at ALISE '12. **Michele Cloonan** (Simmons) has generously agreed to chair the Centennial Celebration Committee which will assist with the major conference event for the 100th anniversary of ALISE in 2015. She will meet with the Board in Dallas to begin planning for the Centennial.

Management Services Review and Contract Renewal As part of the commitment to continue to review, update, and foster administrative best practice (4.2), and having undertaken a careful review of management services at the end of 2010, the ALISE Board successfully negotiated another three-year contract with the Medical Library Association. With additional hours allocated for her responsibilities as ALISE Executive Director, we welcome the continuity provided by g Kathleen Combs. The ongoing, and annual review of management services by the Board, committee chairs, and ALISE members as a whole, was recently completed for discussion at the January Board meeting in Dallas. There we will meet with MLA Executive Director, Carla Funk, to report on areas of strength, and those requiring some remediation (4.2b).

A long overdue overhaul of the *ALISE Policy and Procedures Manual* was initiated in earnest with assistance from **Judy Dunn** (Toronto), and oversight from the Governance Committee, chaired by **Lorna Peterson** (Buffalo). An initial draft will be brought forward to the ALISE Board meeting in January, with revisions to continue for the first quarter of 2012. This is an enormous undertaking which should bring into alignment a series of policies and procedures essential to supporting administrative best practice (4.2a).

Consistent with the commitment to provide structured and useful leadership training sessions for school representatives and committee chairs (4.3a), Vice-President/President-Elect, **Melissa Gross** (Florida State) will oversee the **ALISE Leadership Orientation** at ALISE '12. The Board has also determined to offer a more intensive orientation for incoming Board members, which will involve not only the initial introduction at the January 2012 meeting, but a second, half-day session at the April 2012 Board meeting to ensure greater continuity and a deeper understanding of responsibilities associated with each position. These were areas identified in the annual Board self-assessment (reviewed during the September 2011 Board teleconference) as requiring particular attention consistent with meeting the commitment to develop and implement a formal plan for Board mentoring (4.3b).

As part of ongoing discussions with Carla Funk (MLA), who is responsible for overseeing management services as contracted with ALISE, the Board has communicated its intention to undertake a formal and

comprehensive plan to improve the Association website (4.3a) and to explore the feasibility, costs, available products, and opportunities for implementing conference management software (4.4c). These will be discussed at the January 2012 Board meeting in Dallas and remain priorities for Board action over the coming year.

Other Initiatives

While this report has focused on outcomes from 2011 contextualized within the *Strategic Directions 2011-2014* framework, there are two other initiatives which I would like to highlight.

ALISE Statistical Database ALISE Statistical Data Manager, **Danny Wallace** (Alabama), has worked diligently with a small but effective team to develop the database that will not only support publication of the annual *Library and Information Science Education Statistical Report*, but also include retrospective data for all years since 1980. A further intent of the project is to provide for customized outputs of key information to address member requirements and interests. While an IMLS grant to support the project was not successful, institutional members committed at the San Diego 2011 conference to pay a one-time only fee to move the project forward. A survey was designed to closely model the spreadsheets that had been used to gather data in recent years, and data collection for the 2012 *Report* launched October 17, the first working day after the target date of October 15. An open meeting will be held at ALISE '12 inviting input on the nature of the ALISE Statistics, this year's change in the process of submitting data, or anything else that will help to improve the database project overall. Sample "core data" output will be made available at the session. The ALISE/Alabama agreement contracting services for the *Library and Information Science Education Statistical Report* was successfully renegotiated by the Board in fall 2011.

Given that the contract with the current editors of **JELIS** will be expiring at the end of calendar year 2012, and with the Board committed to reviewing the feasibility and costs of, and opportunities for, online publication of the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, an ALISE Task Force will be recommending options for proceeding.

It has been a privilege to serve as ALISE President over the past year. I am particularly grateful to Board colleagues, and to Kathleen Combs, Executive Director, all of whom have made the experience a collegial and highly productive one. Their sense of responsibility, responsiveness, and good humour have added to my own conviction that ALISE is the beneficiary of a talented and committed collaboration of its elected Board, its volunteers, and its membership as a whole. I look forward to supporting the ongoing strategic direction of the Association under the leadership of incoming President, Melissa Gross. I would also like to offer my deepest gratitude to ALISE '12 Conference Co-Chairs, Toni Carbo (Drexel) and Andy Dillon (UT Austin), and key conference team members, Don Latham (Florida State), Linda Lillard and YooJin Ha (Clarion), Deborah Barreau (UNC Chapel Hill), Eileen Abels (Drexel), Stephen Bajjaly (Wayne State), and Lorna Peterson (Buffalo), who, by their efforts, "make the magic happen".



Lynne C. Howarth
ALISE President, 2011-12