Good afternoon! On behalf of the Library School Alumni Association, I congratulate you and extend an especially warm welcome to the newest members of our profession. We hope you will enjoy your career and we are confident that you will go forth and advance the profession in new, exciting, and imaginative ways.

Since this is my first opportunity to address a graduating class, I consulted with a few board members to see what encouragement they thought I should share with all of you. First and foremost, we want to thank all of you who have so generously purchased tassels in honor of your teachers, mentors, and professors. This is a wonderful way to thank those who introduced you to the profession and I am certain that the recipients of your tributes will be deeply grateful to know that they have made a difference in your life. We applaud your efforts to strengthen GSLIS for future generations by contributing to the LSAA Endowed Professorship. Your contributions will ensure that the school can continue to attract the best and the brightest teachers and scholars who, in turn, will attract the best and brightest of the next generation.

At this time, it is my pleasure to present the 2011 Library School Alumni Association awards.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award goes to Dr. Arlene G. Taylor and is presented by Dean Unsworth. This award is given in recognition of an individual alumnus of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of library and information science. Dr. Taylor’s great influence on the teaching of organization and information, cataloging, and classification in many LIS programs through her textbooks, as well as outstanding professional achievements in these areas through publications and service, have helped countless students and practicing librarians over the years of your career. Congratulations, Arlene!

The Distinguished Service Award goes to Associate Professor Emeritus William (Bill) T Henderson and is presented by Dean Unsworth. This award is given in recognition of a friend of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library School Alumni Association, or the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, including faculty, staff, alumni and non-alumni, who has served the LSAA or GSLIS in an exceptional way.

Dr. Henderson’s significant contributions to the field of library science over many years through his professional work and teaching, including many years of service in the University Library and teaching in the GSLIS program, have made a lasting impact on the profession and on countless GSLIS graduates. Congratulations, Bill!