# LSAA Meeting - April 27, 2007

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Call to Order/Attendees

Nanette Wargo-Donohue – Tech Services Manager at Champaign Public Library, President of LSAA

Mary Ellen Davis – Executive Director of ACRL, Vice President of LSAA

Mary Wilkes Towner – Reference Librarian at the Urbana Free Library, adjunct at GSLIS, Treasurer of LSAA

Stephanie Davis-Kahl – Illinois Wesleyan University, LSAA Secretary

Laura Barnes – Illinois Waste Management Resource Center at UIUC

Donna Dziedzic – Director of Naperville Public Library, Past President of LSAA

Barb Prescott – Naperville Public Library, Administrative Secretary

Jane Kauzlaric – Joliet Public Library

Diana Stroud – Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations at GSLIS

Sharon Johnson – Associate Director for Development at GSLIS

Melissa Zilic – GSLIS Masters student representative

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda approved.

Minutes for the following meetings we approved with the following provisions.

- April 2005 – approved with updates, Stephanie will update
- August 2005 – approved with updates, Stephanie will update
- November 2005 – approved with updates, Stephanie will update
- August 2006 – approved with updates, Melissa will update
- November 2006 – cancelled meeting, note in August 2006 minutes.

Would like to have a standardized format for the minutes.

Also noted that there should be a notes section for things that did not happen during the meeting but should go with the minutes, e.g. if a scheduled meeting was canceled or changed.

Dean’s Report

John Unsworth was not at the meeting, but Diana Stroud gave an update in his absence.

- GSLIS is in the process of hiring 6 new faculty: 2 replacements (for Leigh Estabrook & Betsy Herne, who are retiring) & up to 4 more permanently funded positions as a result of John’s work to get funding from UIUC. All new hires will be in one of the 4 current faculty areas of research, either as supplements or complements to current faculty. The break down could be as follows: 2 for children’s books, 1-2 in biomedical, 1-2 in technology areas.

- John Unsworth is also interviewing for the Dean of LAS in Nebraska. There would need to be a discussion between the faculty, chancellor, etc. of who is interim Dean and the timeline of replacement if John left (e.g. Linda was interim Dean for 2 years before they found John).

- Moving one section of NCSA (National Center for Supercomputing Applications) over to GSLIS – 5 people will be coming in that group. Headed by Michael Welge. They asked to come to our program – they feel it’s a better match. They have a large amount of contact with corporate funding. This change will be a huge growth and advancement for GSLIS – with some challenges, e.g. right now there is no space for the new faculty at GSLIS.

- CARLI will be moving. They are agreeable; GSLIS is trying to find space for them. They are not satisfied with current suggestions. GSLIS would like CARLI to move by August, but they can exercise a year notice.

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1 Melissa updated and sent to the LSAA listserv on 6/13/07.
2 Update after the meeting – John will be staying at GSLIS.
Alumni Relations and Development Report

Introduction of Sharon D. Johnson, Associate Director
Sharon started in January from the University of Illinois Office of Corporate Relations, most recently as the Coordinator of Systems and Processes. She has a rich background in corporate development work and brought in $50,000 gift the second week she was here. She will handle all annual fund activities – annual mail, telemarketing, major donor work (primarily Illinois, Diana will continue to do out of state), and corporate donors. See [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/2007/school_news_07.html](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/2007/school_news_07.html)

Graduation, student awards
There will be a brunch for graduation speaker. Student leaders, LSAA, and Leigh & Betsy are invited to attend. See [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/events](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/events) for May 13, 2007.

Student Groups
Diana held fall & spring meetings with the student groups (ACRL, ALA, ASIS&T, GSLIS Chinese, PLG, SAA, SLA, and Alternate Spring Break) to brainstorm ideas for collaboration, and to request help with development – e.g. student groups participated in the Thankathon (5 volunteers called 49 donors). Plan to meet twice each semester instead of once.

Retirement picnic/Retirements
Betsy Herne & Leigh Estabrook’s retirement picnic ([http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/events](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/oc/news/events)) is May 13, 2007. All LSAA members are invited & can contribute to a scrapbook for them. Both will continue to do work with the school after leaving (development and research).

Boyd Rayword retiring in Dec. and moving to Australia; he will continue connections with GSLIS.

DC Alumni Network
Diana met with Irene Hoffman in March. 14 people came to dinner & discussion and named themselves the DC Capital Region Alumni. This will appear on the website that they will finalize. They have a mailing list and will communicate via email. They will help host the LSAA alumni event at ALA annual and will help people with information on the city or places to go, etc.

Wiki: [http://alumdc.lis.uiuc.edu](http://alumdc.lis.uiuc.edu)
Listserv: [https://mail.lis.uiuc.edu/mailman/listinfo/gslisuiuc-capitalregion](https://mail.lis.uiuc.edu/mailman/listinfo/gslisuiuc-capitalregion)

Alternate Spring Break
Alternate Spring Break program was initiated at the request of a student who had heard about a spring break program at the University of Michigan. Linda Smith & Diana Stroud set up the program with guidance from students.

The program was very successful. 12 students job shadowed over spring break in an alternate library setting. The focus was on Chicago (4 people), DC (7 people) and Springfield (1 person). During the application process, students gave ideas for placement; Linda and Diana then worked to match them with placements using alumni contacts.

GSLIS covered costs for students – partly through student fundraising. Students and GSLIS found places to stay – focusing on less expensive environments. Students covered food and local transportation. Anticipated costs $500/student; actual approximately $350/student.

They had a great response from alumni. The Washington alumni group hosted a reception for them. Students enjoyed their week and summaries will be posted on the web, partly for promotion of the event in the future.

The program will continue next year. There was a lot of interest. The goal in the future is to have some corporations/organizations sponsor students.

GSLIS Campaign
The new GSLIS campaign will become public June 1 and it will be over $2 billion campus wide by 2011. The original goal of $7 million was met. Our goal this year was $9 million and was met.
We met the LSAAA challenge and got the provost match. We added 6 new fellowships last year, but we’re still only meeting 50% of the need. We were $25,000 short for scholarships this fall. Cuts in state funding have cut money available for scholarships. John’s been working hard with the campus to increase those state dollars. Our funding is substantially lower than most other schools of our caliber.

We have been issued 2 challenges:
Challenge 1: a $50,000 match this year and next year for first time donors; each dollar will be *double* matched. It was introduced in the telemarketing last week.
Challenge 2: $75,000 challenge for a fund that will support student travel and is matched.

**New Programs**

**Midwest Book & Manuscript Studies**
Fashioned after Virginia’s program, it will highlight resources and bring in high profile people. The response rate is huge. See [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/mbms/](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/mbms/)

**Virtual Librarianship**
Second Life program, see [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/cpd/Second_Life.html](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/cpd/Second_Life.html)
The first 2 classes sold out in 2 days. Looking to offer 2 more classes. Most of the enrolled students are not librarians or library students. Second Life is touted to be the next newest hottest marketing tool for corporations & businesses. PhD students are helping to set up the program. GSLIS had to get a waiver from UIUC to do the program. UIUC won’t support or allow anything to be done in Second Life.

**Paseo Boricua, Community Informatics Corps**

**Sao Tome**
Alum of GSLIS is in charge of the airport and is the Interior Minister for Sao Tome, a very small, poor Portuguese-speaking island country in Africa with few services. This alum worked on a project in a GSLIS class to develop of computer sites in low-income areas of East St. Louis and asked Paul Adams to come and do something similar in Sao Tome. See [http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/news/current.html](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/news/current.html) April 11, for news on the initial trip and [http://saotomeproject.wordpress.com/](http://saotomeproject.wordpress.com/) for a blog of the initial trip.
This is a cross-campus collaboration. GSLIS staff & students will set up a computer & internet system on the island. Architecture students are designing the airport. GSLIS hopes to send 8 students in late June with faculty to help create wireless systems. A lot of coordination is required, e.g. GSLIS will have the Department of the Navy set up to transport computers, etc.

**Informatics Center**
An Informatics Center will be set up in Research Park at UIUC. GSLIS is currently working with corporations in Research Park & outside. There is a lot of faculty & student involvement – much of that is coming from the department that is joining us from NCSA.

**Wednesday Morning Club**
At the Wednesday Morning Club, Betsy Herne presented to raise funds the Center for Children’s Books.

**Conferences**
Diana was present at ACRL and is planning to go to ALA, SLA, MLA this year. In addition, will be expanding more this year, especially to California to increase contact with California alums.
**Annual Report**

Coming soon with a letter requesting stories about library school/campus experiences. We’re looking for stories about events, activities, etc. alums participated in, including fun stories outside the classroom.

**Outreach**

Will also release a flash video for the first time in August 2007 for the campaign. There are also plans for a video. The alum who put together March of the Librarians will work with students to create a video encouraging others to stay connected to GSLIS.

**Committee Reports**

**Awards – Mary Ellen Davis**

Need to work on the process of how to notify the winners/LSAA. Determined that they will report to LSAA first then notify winners. The Awards Committee has the final say in awards.


Distinguished Service Award Winner – Mary Wilkes Towner

Distinguished Alumni Award – Kathryn Harris, currently Director of Library Services at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Leadership Award – Robin Brenner, of the Brookline Public Library, Mass., in reference and teen services for her work with graphic novels, YA services committee, publications, and presentations.

Student Award – Helen Linda.

Graduation Speaker – Cliff Haika from Michigan State

**Bylaws – Laura**

Revised by-laws at last meeting, therefore there is no update.³ The website needs to be updated with the new by-laws once they are approved at ALA.⁴

**Communications/Membership**

Made the following decisions about the Orange postcard this year.

- LSAA is still funding the Orange card. Add challenges, award winners, slate of candidates, upcoming events, and thank you for meeting the last goal.
- Add URL with return address on the address side; and URL on the footprint of the “letterhead” portion on the content side of the card.

In addition, we will add a section to the website about successes—funding the fellowship, challenge, contributions, etc.

**Fellowship**

No report. Met challenge.⁵

**Finance – Mary Wilkes Towner⁶**

There are zero expenses for this year.

Encumbrances from last year have not shown up as expenses. There may be a communication issues. Diana will check. No requisition forms have been sent yet. No invoice has been received yet for Orange Postcard last from year – about $2500 that we owe and haven’t been billed for yet.

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³ Later in the meeting a motion passed to dissolve the By-laws Committee until needed again.

⁴ After the meeting, the bylaws were loaded to [http://lsaa.lis.uiuc.edu/bylaws_revisions_2007.pdf](http://lsaa.lis.uiuc.edu/bylaws_revisions_2007.pdf) until they are approved, when they will then replace the current bylaws.

⁵ Later in the meeting, a motion passed to dissolve the Fellowship Committee until needed again.

All we have budgeted for this year is the $200 award we sponsor for graduation. The rest can be used to promote fellowship and funding. We have no purpose for the money, therefore we should discuss goals before moving forward. Discussion tabled until the Objectives of LSAA part of agenda.

We haven’t moved forward in consolidated finances yet. Still drawing interest, just needs to be organized. Need to get appropriate groups all together at once to discuss.

Plan: Take $2000 of stock to reimburse the Endowment Fund and let it reinvest until reaches $15,000. Consolidate other funds to create a working endowment to give us an annual income to be deposited into Busey account administered by the Alumni Association.

This year: expected income of $2700 from sources, $1600 from dues (ahead – now $1800), planned $60 for incentives (now $180 – which is high), low on CDs.

We have $100 more in the budget than what we had expected for the year and we’re only at the third quarter.

There was some confusion about the difference between incentives and dues. Diana will get some clarification.

Networking and Receptions
LSAA is doing networking and receptions at almost every event there is. The GSLIS website has a continual list of where they’re going.

Nominations
Email Patti, pgrove@uiuc.edu, to volunteer for the Nominations Committee. We are looking for a Vice President, two Directors and a Secretary this year. People must be GSLIS alums and UIAA member to serve on LSAA board.

We discussed limiting nominations to Illinois residents in order to have in-person meetings or expanding and allowing teleconference meetings. All thought expanding would be a good idea especially in light of the success with Alternate Spring Break and the new enthusiasm of the DC group. Large communities of alums should be involved and have representation in LSAA. It was suggested to have a Director position that could be a non-Illinois resident – encourage nominating a member from the DC group.

Student Outreach
All approved speakers bureau idea, but there has been no work on this idea. Nanette will get publicity out at ALA Annual Conference. Laura is interested in being part of the speaker’s bureau

Old Business

Membership Committee—do we still need this?
Diana suggests we don’t delete the committee
Issues:
• Membership funds our organization and helps cover the cost of what we’re doing. Over 6500 alumni, only 700 are members.
• LSAA and GSLIS have tended to provide services for all alumni, so there’s no incentive for joining. Benefit to members – can access library.
• There is a benefit to the school for LSAA to have members.

Suggestions for what the committee can do:
• Manages constituent groups
• Publicizing to join LSAA by joining UIAA but specifying code.
• Tangible task for membership committee could be to take on retention – e.g. develop welcome letter, how to get connected, activities, etc.

Mary Ellen suggests we talk about goals first. Determine what we want to do and they create committees to support that work. We can create adhoc committees.
New Business

Objectives and Goals of LSAA for next year
Come up with some direction so we know how to proceed. Over the last couple of years we've have the fellowship as a goal and driving force. This year without the fellowship we lacked direction.

Mission statement – The Mission Statement needs to be stronger, shorter, with more vitality.

Objectives/Goals Brainstorming – Nanette will summarize.7

Renaming Committees – The Communication/membership committee is now Member Relations.

Dissolve Committees – The following committees were dissolved with a motion, second, and passing vote: Fellowship, & Bylaws

Electronic Forms of Meetings

Concerns about LSAA constituent groups
The advent of the DC Capital Region Alumni group raised some concerns:

- Do we need to receive reports from the regions?
- What are the legal/liability issues with these constituent groups?
- What is the relation between LSAA and the new constituent groups?
- Does anything need to be added to the bylaws as a result? E.g. legal, relationship, reporting, etc.
- Where should the responsibility for handling these concerns reside? E.g. Is it part of the Membership Committee? Networking Committee? Another committee?

Next Meeting
Date in August, but TBD, once we know the new board.

Adjourn
Moved, seconded, and passed.

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7 See Appendix for Nanette’s summary of the notes, sent to the LSAA listserv on 5/4/07.
Appendix – Nanette’s Notes on New LSAA Objectives/Goals

BRAINSTORMING: WHERE DOES LSAA GO FROM HERE?
April 27, 2007

- Fundraising/development
- Support GSLIS
- Alternative Spring Break support
  - Recruiting
- Connecting alumni with students
  - Mentoring
  - Volunteer experiences
  - Practica
- Continuing education/programs for alums
- Virtual space for LSAA on Moodle
- Personal contact with individual alumni via phone/e-mail
- Homecoming event
- Invite alums to meet new students
- Increase membership by X% (10? 15?) each year
- Develop a sense of community
- Networking events
- Research what other schools/alumni groups are doing
  - Models
  - Benchmarking
  - Best practices
- Learning how to lead from within
- Bridging school-to-job transition
- Student-alumni cross-promotion
- Recruitment of students
- Helping people decide on professional organizations
- How to be a good mentor
- Dine-arounds/"speed dating"
- Contact informal alumni groups (DC group, etc.)
- List of outstanding alums/people doing exciting things
- Communicating that we are active and engaged
- Alumni/student blog list
- “Meet the members” page a la ACRL
- Develop a communication plan
  - Welcome e-mail
  - Blog
  - Social networking (Facebook, Ning, etc.)
- Member incentives
  - Lapsed members
  - Member for X consecutive years