

Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) President's Report 2013

The work of the ALISE Board is guided by the association's vision and mission statements and is given shape by its strategic plan, which is reviewed annually and reconsidered every three years. It is my duty and pleasure to report to you the achievements of the ALISE Board, the Conference Planning Committee, and the wide variety of ALISE volunteers since we were together in Dallas, Texas last January.

The document, *Expanding our Horizons: Strategic Directions, 2011-2014*, presents four directions that describe the goals and objectives of the association. **The first Strategic Direction** calls for consolidating and expanding the membership base by positioning the Association as an organization of members. In response to this objective, this year's conference targets members at every career stage in a variety of workshops, programs, and presentations.

This is the fifth year of the ALISE Academy, which has been supported financially since its inception by the H.W. Wilson Foundation. The 2013 Academy was chaired by John Budd (University of Missouri) and is the first ALISE Academy focused on the development of research method skills. The workshop, *The Quality Behind Qualitative Research*, was ably led by Lisa Given (Charles Sturt University), Diane Neal (Western University), and Marie Radford (Rutgers University). This year also saw another WISE Pedagogy Pre-conference Workshop: *Inquiry Across Time and Space*. This year's WISE preconference was led by Nicole Cooke (University of Illinois) and Michael Stephens (San Jose State).

The Works-in-Progress Poster session continues to grow in popularity. Jennifer Campbell-Meier (University of Alabama) coordinated the session and fielded a record 90 submissions. The Jean Tague-Sutcliffe Doctoral Poster Competition, one of the most anticipated events at the ALISE conference, showcases doctoral student research. This poster session was the result of the efforts of Bharat Mehra (University of Tennessee), Lenese Colson (Florida State University), and Tammy Mays (University of Wisconsin, Madison) with the help of twenty-seven volunteer judges. Both poster sessions offered beautiful questions and leading edge topics, methodologies, and interpretations from our members. This event was sponsored by twenty-one of our institutional members.

To support doctoral student mentoring, we continue to provide feedback on doctoral posters and to provide personalized resume reviews. This year the Curriculum Vita and Portfolio review was organized by Caroline Haythornthwaite (University of British Columbia) and included a team of senior faculty who offered students and new professionals personalized feedback. The Doctoral Student to ALISE Award this year was expanded due to the generous support of John Bertot (University of Maryland).

We continue to promote greater diversity and inclusion in our membership. This year the Diversity Task Force, chaired by Clara Chu (University of North Carolina at Greensboro) will bring forth an ALISE Diversity Statement Proposal for a vote in today's assembly. After the business meeting today: please remember there will be a Special Session: *What of Diversity? (Always the Beautiful, and Essential, Question): An Ignite Session on Ideas You Can Use To*

Advance Diversity, presented by the ALISE Diversity Statement Task Force & Multicultural, Ethnic, and Humanistic Concerns special interest group.

Also under the topic of diversity, ALISE was a supporter this year of the Librarians of Color Conference and has proposed new membership categories to facilitate the transition from student to professional status. We also continue to reach out through IFLA and other venues to expand the international presence of our institutional and personal membership.

The second Strategic Direction requires our annual conference to focus on areas of concern for LIS and related disciplines. This year's conference theme, "Always the Beautiful Question: Inquiry Supporting Teaching, Research, and Professional Practice," accomplished this under the care of co-chairs Don Latham (Florida State University) and Heidi Julien (University of Alabama). They were ably assisted by Lisa Given (Charles Sturt University) who, with her team of reviewers, chose our juried papers and by Connie Van Fleet (University of Oklahoma) who instituted a peer review process for this year's panel presentations. Kathleen De Long (University of Alberta) rounded out the schedule by overseeing submissions for SIG programs. In addition to the conference activities already mentioned, members with common interests connected with each other in the ever popular Birds of a Feather event chaired by Stephen Bajjaly (Wayne State University). I would like to thank our key note speaker, Ann Curry (University of Alberta), for opening the conference with a stimulating and thought provoking presentation on our conference theme.

The third Strategic Direction focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning and asks us to continue to promote outstanding research in our field and to provide opportunities for building leadership skills among the ALISE membership.

This year 33 juried paper proposals were accepted out of 82 submitted for an acceptance rate of 40%. There were 32 submissions for juried panels, seven were accepted, resulting in an acceptance rate of 22%. The ALISE/Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Competition committee received a record number of 46 submissions.

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, which applauds outstanding research and service, award winning research is presented in two sessions of ALISE awards papers, as well as the OCLC/ALISE Grant Papers session moderated by Lynn Silipigni Connaway (OCLC). Research award committees have committed many 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 2013. Congratulations to all our award winners, and to all who submitted and reviewed, for supporting the ALISE commitment to outstanding research and scholarship!

This year, for the first time, we have designated select conference presentations as Featured, based on reviewer scores and comments. Also new this year is ALISE@ALA where a subset of juried papers and panels will be presented in a special session at ALA midwinter. This will take

place Saturday morning at ALA Midwinter from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., in the Washington State Convention Center (WSCC) room 604.

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 2012 Best Conference Papers which appeared in Volume 53, number 4, fall, 2012.

Given that the contract with the current editors of JELIS will expire at the end of calendar year 2013, and with the Board committed to reviewing the feasibility, costs of, and opportunities for online publication of the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, an ALISE Task Force is currently interviewing candidates for the position of Editor in concert with plans to move JELIS to an online format.

At ALA Annual the ALISE booth, which anchors the LIS Education Pavilion area, was staffed by volunteers from eighteen of our institutional members. ALISE also coordinated the popular Cooperative Library School Reunion at ALA Annual in which twenty-one of our institutional members participated.

At the IFLA conference, Kathleen Combs (ALISE Executive Director) again organized a dinner for ALISE members attending the 2012 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Finland, in August 2012. In addition, a number of ALISE members attending IFLA generously took a turn at staffing the ALISE table. ALISE continues to seek opportunities to partner with the IFLA Sections on Education and Training (SET) and Library Theory and Research (LTR), and is looking for ALISE members who are interested in seeking election to one of these IFLA standing committees.

The fourth Strategic Direction relates to responsible fiscal management of the association and the promotion of effective communication for ALISE and its members. As you will hear in the Treasurer's report, the board is managing our funds in a fiscally responsible way. However, in response to the strategic objective to develop varied streams of revenue and to support new initiatives, the ALISE Centennial Campaign to raise significant funds for the ALISE endowment continues under the guidance of Elizabeth Aversa (University of Alabama) with the help of committee volunteers, Lynne Bowker (University of Ottawa), Stephen Bajjaly (Wayne State University), Sam Hastings (University of South Carolina), and Diane Barlow (University of Maryland). Michele Cloonan (Simmons College) is the chair of the Centennial Celebration Committee which will assist with the major conference event for the 100th anniversary of ALISE in Chicago in 2015.

The effort to keep association policies, procedures, and documentation current is ongoing and I am happy to report that the Governance Committee, chaired by Lynne Howarth (University of Toronto) will provide the board with a final draft of the updated ALISE policy and procedures document this April. This has been a major undertaking that will bring into alignment a series of policies and procedures essential to supporting administrative best practice. This year also saw improvements in leadership training and mentoring for new board members.

Improvements in communications are also underway. Particular emphasis has been placed on enhancing the ALISE Website and the association's use of social media. We have begun showcasing member accomplishments and our award winners on the ALISE website and through our social media outlets. Louise Spiteri (Dalhousie University), Director for External Relations is facilitating our presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. I hope you have been making good use of the conference hashtag! The newly updated Policies and Procedures manual will include newly developed social media policy and acceptable use statements. In order to further improve our association website, the board passed a motion to hire Imaginary Landscape to conduct an evaluation and usability study of the ALISE website. This year under the guidance of conference co-chairs Don Latham (Florida State University) and Heidi Julien (University of Alabama) we have adopted the conference management software, Easy Chair, which has simplified the handling of conference proposals.

Other Initiatives

While this report has focused on outcomes from 2012 contextualized within the *Strategic Directions 2011-2014* framework, there is another initiative that I would like to highlight.

ALISE Statistical Data Manager, Danny Wallace (University of Alabama), has continued to work diligently with a small but effective team to further develop the Statistical database that supports publication of the annual *Library and Information Science Education Statistical Report*. This work resulted in 2012 in an earlier publication date of the Statistical Report and an earlier and longer window for data collection. The 2013 Statistical Report will be dedicated to the memory of Jerry Saye (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), who co-edited the *Library and Information Science Education Statistics Report* from 1996 to 2008. Moving forward, the plan is to further facilitate the collection of data, to move up the publication of the ALISE Statistical Report, and to provide on demand reports. A two-hour meeting on the statistical database was held during this year's Annual meeting to collect feedback and to determine further improvements and enhancements needed for the statistical data base and reporting. We are also discussing collaboration on data gathering with ALA, the iCaucus, and CRA.

I want to express my appreciation to the ALISE membership for giving me the opportunity to serve the Association in a second term on the board, this time in the role of president. I suspected that this experience was going to stretch me and I am thankful for the opportunity to grow, to learn, and to know all of you better. I am very grateful to have served with such a distinguished and committed board. Lynne Howarth (University of Toronto), Eileen Abels (Drexel University), Ann Weeks (University of Maryland), Louise Spiteri (Dalhousie University), Steven MaCall (University of Alabama), and Kathleen DeLong (University of Alberta) have all been my counsel and my help over the course of this year. I feel very proud to stand among them. I would also like to thank Kathleen Combs, the ALISE Executive Director for her support. On the basis of my experience, I wish to encourage all of you to consider participation on the Board as well ask you to nominate your colleagues for these positions. It is a rewarding experience.

My deep appreciation goes to conference co-chairs Don Latham (Florida State University) and Heidi Julien (University of Alabama) who have been indefatigable in their commitment to conference planning. Many thanks also to the entire Conference Planning Committee (my dream

team), our hard working ALISE volunteers, and to our vendors and institutional sponsors. I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of ALISE under the leadership of President Eileen Abels. Here's to an extraordinary annual meeting and a productive new year. As the poet e. e. cummings implores us, let us move forward and remember "never to rest and never to have: only to grow."

Melissa Gross
ALISE President, 2012-13