

# Chapter News

School of Library and Information Science American Library Association Student Chapter  
September 2009

## ALA Student Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, September 8,  
4:30-5:30 p.m.

**"Welcome!"**

Please join us for the first ALA student chapter meeting of the semester. We welcome back all returning & new students. Come share with us your summer adventures & any ideas you have for the chapter.

Visit us in person at the Goldstein Library, or view the webcast any time from our **Blackboard** site. Have a question during the meeting? Go to **Blackboard**, click "Open Meeting Chat / Septemeber 8 Meeting."

### Student Chapter Officers

President	Sara Duff sed08@fsu.edu
Vice President	Michelle Demeter med08c@fsu.edu
Secretary/ Newsletter Editor	Karen Doster kcd04d@fsu.edu
Treasurer	TBA
Events Coordinator	TBA
Webmaster	Kate Vilches lkh08@fsu.edu
Faculty Advisor	Dr. Christie Koontz ckoontz@ci.fsu.edu

## Bon Voyage!

If you're reading this, then I am already gone. Oh relax, I've only gone to London for an internship! Because the ALA President must be an on-campus student, in accordance with our constitution, I stepped down from my post this summer. Michelle Demeter, as Vice President, was eligible to move into the position but respectfully declined. Straws were then drawn among the other officers, and it was determined Sara Duff would be President for the Fall 2009 term. Elections will be held again this December when the current officers' terms are up. If you're interested, be on the lookout for announcements about running towards the end of the Fall semester! I had a great experience in my short time as President, and I thank all of you for helping to make our ALA chapter a success. Continue to get involved whenever and however you can: you only get out of it what you put in. Cheers!

Ginger Williams  
Former ALA chapter president,



Photo:  
Ginger attending the BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall.  
Photo Credit: M. Brent H. Williams

## Welcome, President Sara

With Ginger leaving Tallahassee for the greener pastures of London, I've taken over as President of our student chapter. I've been serving as your treasurer, and I'm looking forward to switching roles my last semester in the Master's program. We have a lot of great things in store for the Fall semester -- from professional development discussions in our meetings to social events in Tallahassee - and I hope you'll join us in person or online. With Tina Brigham as our new Distance Liaison Coordinator there are new ways for everyone to get involved. As always, feel free to contact me at sed08@fsu.edu if you have any questions or comments about the ALA Student Chapter.



Thanks, and have a great semester!

# ADVENTURES IN CHICAGO

2009 American Library Association Annual Conference



*An important part of our professional development as LIS students is becoming involved with organizations in our field. Attending conferences is a great way to start getting involved. This past summer several of our members attended the 2009 ALA Annual Conference and offered to share their experiences. Enjoy!*

## **Annual Meeting Whirlwind**

by Alice Platt

This summer, I represented the College of Information as our Student-to-Staff member at the American Library Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. Forty library schools across the nation may send a student; conference registration, hotel, and a per diem are provided by the ALA. Most schools, including FSU's College of Information, also provide travel assistance. In exchange for the opportunity to attend the conference, students are expected to work 16 hours for a particular organization within the ALA. I was lucky to be able to work with the Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP).

The ALA conference exceeded its reputation as a whirlwind of events. I considered myself lucky that I am focused on a particular area of librarianship (digital libraries), since it would have been impossible to attend all the programs that looked interesting. The meetings about digital preservation, collecting for digital repositories, and digital library hardware were definitely worth getting up early in the morning to attend. I was excited to meet other librarians in my field, and even had the opportunity to meet the author of an influential journal article about repositories – Dorothea Salo, author of "Innkeeper at the Roach Motel".

I also talked to one of the presenters of the digital library hardware program, and it turned out that she works closely with my former supervisor in the Digital Library Center in the Strozier Library.

It is fascinating that such connections can be made at conferences where thousands of librarians are in attendance. I found other librarians were eager to lend their words of advice learned from their years of service.

My duties with the OITP were not particularly demanding, but provided valuable insight to the inner workings of the group. I videotaped one of their panel sessions, helped distribute handouts and giveaways, and assisted with setting up and taking down materials for their business meetings and public presentations. They encouraged me to attend their meetings, and I particularly enjoyed the sessions about copyright. Their Copyright Subcommittee meeting opened my eyes to the various issues involved with educating all different types of librarians about how to interpret the gray areas of copyright law; the questions that might confound a K-12, public, or digital librarian are all very different. A program about "frequently asked copyright questions" the following day was very well attended, and the new "Copyright Help - 5¢" booth on the exhibit floor received very good feedback.

It was no surprise that many librarians have a lot of questions about copyright, and the OITP is working hard to help educate everyone. The Copyright Advisory Network website is just one tool I learned about as a result of working with the OITP that I'm certain will be very helpful for my work.

The ALA conference can be viewed many different ways. It can be an educational forum, an opportunity to network, an opportunity to visit old friends, a place to get free stuff, and a chance to meet famous authors (my roommate, a student from Mississippi State, got to meet Judy Blume!). Different people will experience ALA in many different ways; other student-to-staff members and fellow students and colleagues at the conference did completely different things but had an equally rewarding experience. I'm very grateful that the College of Information and ALA gave me this opportunity to experience my first annual meeting – it will definitely not be my last.

*Alice received her degree from the College of Information in August 2009. She is currently the Digital Initiatives Librarian at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.*



Photo:

*Alice enjoying Millennium Park in Chicago, just a few blocks from the hotel.*

Photo Credit: CI alumni Leo Lo.

## **V.P. Presents at FAFLRT ALA Event**

This summer, Student ALA Chapter Vice President Michelle Demeter was invited by the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Roundtable to speak at an American Libraries Association pre-event in Chicago. On July 10, she gave a brief talk about how universities can host their own mini-career event at their schools. The Careers in Federal Libraries event included speakers from various federal and military library positions. Some spoke about the process of applying for a job while others gave resume tips. Most interesting perhaps was the panel of professionals who offered their advice for job seekers and fielded questions from the audience.

The FAFLRT event was held in the Chicago Public Library Harold Washington Center. More than 200 people attended this event in an effort to learn about job prospects and how to make themselves more viable in this tough economy.

Michelle's presentation stemmed from a Student chapter event held last November wherein she picked up where former Secretary Alma Quinn left off when she moved. The two ladies arranged two speakers and Michelle gave a career PowerPoint slideshow with the help of FAFLRT President Nancy Faget.

Michelle enjoyed presenting at ALA and meeting so many librarians who are passionate about their work. In addition, she also attended the FAFLRT awards ceremony held at the Pritzker Military Library in downtown Chicago where she was awarded the Cicely Phippen Marks scholarship.



*Photo: Michelle presenting at the Chicago Public Library Cindy Pritzker Auditorium.*

*Photo Credit: Karen Doster*

## **ALA Outreach: New Distance Liaison**

Event Coordinator Tina Brigham has moved from Tallahassee to Orlando, and she intends to continue serving the ALA Student Chapter as a distance liaison.

Helping to create a sense of community among students is the Event Coordinator's main focus. Since our program largely serves an online population for the Master and Specialist degrees, bringing students together can be challenging. "The officers organized several Tallahassee-based events last year that were well-attended," says Brigham. "We always wished that our distance students could participate in some way."

Now that Tina is a distance student herself, she plans to work harder to create networking opportunities for students who live outside the Tallahassee area. Please send your suggestions to Tina at [klp08c@fsu.edu](mailto:klp08c@fsu.edu).

## **Join the SLIS ALA Chapter!**

- Sign into Blackboard
- Click the Organizations tab
- In the Organization Catalog field on the right hand side, click Student Organization / Other
- In the Name - Contains field, enter ALA Student Chapter
- The ALA Student Chapter should come up as a search result
- Click Enroll

*Welcome!*

*Newsletter items and ideas are welcome! Please e-mail Karen Doster, [kcd04d@fsu.edu](mailto:kcd04d@fsu.edu)*

