

# Chapter News

College of Information American Library Association Student Chapter  
December 2008

## CI Students Attend ACRL Conference

by Michelle Demeter

Three students from FSU's College of Information were selected to comprise a panel at the Florida Association of College and Research Libraries Fall Program held November 7 at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. **Rose Petralia, Thomas R. (TR) Parker and Michelle Demeter** each wrote an essay about college libraries and their importance to students. For their efforts they were each awarded a \$150 scholarship to be used to cover expenses in attending the conference.

The panel discussion topic was "How to Keep Academic Libraries

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## Student Chapter Officers

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## An outgoing letter from our President



Greetings, College of Information ALA members!

As your outgoing president, I want to address you all and let you know how impressed I am with the progress our chapter has made. We have made such great strides in this group, and I am sure that our new officers will only continue this upward trend. During the past couple of semesters we have accomplished so many things, including the growth of our membership in Blackboard from only 50 members to more than 160!

One thing that made a huge difference was having social events to bring our members closer together. We instituted an Events Coordinator, and chose Alma Quinn to fill this position. She helped us put together

the amazing potluck for the fall orientation students.. The potluck was a huge success. In years past, students attended orientation and then were largely left to their own devices for lunch time. We thought it would be so great if we could provide a way for new students to interact in a casual setting, all while eating delicious food and promoting our ALA student chapter. Needless to say, this event could not have been better, and the feedback we received was all positive. Cosmic bowling night at Crenshaw Lanes was another hit. It offered our local group a chance to relax, have fun, and enjoy the company of other like-minded CI students - what could be better?

I couldn't be more proud of the quality of meetings we hosted this semester, as well. In September, we had two guest speakers from the Leon County Public Library come and discuss their career experiences with us, which was extremely beneficial for those interested in public librarianship. The head of LCPL circulation discussed how she ended up in her position, after serving as the director of a small, rural, public library first. She also discussed the great benefits and joys of being a circulation librarian, a position many of us had not truly considered before!

In October, we hosted two staff members of the College of Information to discuss Web 2.0, health informatics, and the impact both of these ideas have on libraries. Casey McLaughlin presented interesting open source applications that could be useful in a library setting. Professor Ebe Randeree discussed health informatics with our chapter, and the impact that this field has on libraries and librarians. Many members of our group expressed interest in the idea of learning more about health informatics, and Professor Randeree discussed the possibility of it being a "track" in our major in the near future.

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November brought us an extremely informative presentation about jobs in federal libraries. Our guest speakers had extensive experience working in federal libraries, and explained to us the process of getting hired and keeping a job in that field. Michelle Demeter, one of our student members, assisted Alma Quinn in putting together this presentation and did a truly outstanding job!

We also participated in a variety of other events and gatherings around campus as well. Our student chapter

joined with the Special Library Association to host a viewing of a webinar about wiki best practices in the Goldstein Library. We also teamed up with the Leon County Public Library to

raise awareness about Library Card Signup Month, in September. As our chapter president, I wrote a letter to the *Tallahassee Democrat* about the importance of signing up for a public library card, and it was published in their Opinions section! One of my favorite special events that we participated in, though, was Banned Books Week. Our student chapter helped to organize this event, and it was not only successful and even enlightening, it was a blast! Student members, as well as representatives from campus libraries and the English Department, read short passages from books that have been banned from libraries at one point or another in the United States. This truly opened many people's eyes as to the importance of the freedom to read. I can't tell you how many

passers-by were shocked to realize that works such as *The Diary of Anne Frank* have been contested in our libraries!

Another great thing the student chapter has worked on over the past few semesters is our monthly newsletter. Alice Platt has done an amazing job of writing, gathering and organizing the content for these newsletters, and I have heard nothing but positive feedback. By providing these newsletters, I know that our distance students have the chance to feel more involved in our

goings on, and we also have another arena in which to publicize our upcoming events.

Also on the communications front, we also launched a new website, designed by the students in

Dr. Kathleen Burnett's Design & Production of Multimedia course, who were also members of our student chapter. Launching the newsletter and the website together made a huge impact in how we communicate to our membership.

With all that the student chapter has done, I know that it will only keep getting better. I am sure that the new officers can take the work that we have put into making this a great organization, and persist with new ideas to continually breathe new life into this chapter. I thank you all for helping to make the College of Information ALA student chapter such a success, and wish the best of luck to our new officers! I know they will do a great job in leading our chapter.

Thank you all,  
*Amelia Anderson*

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at the Center of Campus Life." Each student focused on a different aspect of this theme. Rose discussed the use of new media and the role of the internet in libraries. She emphasized developing an online presence through blogs and other online social networking opportunities. TR focused more on the physical space of the library. He emphasized how the physical space of the library should be utilized to maintain a more socially welcoming environment. Michelle addressed the various ways that libraries can stay fresh and active in student lives outside of just offering books and a quiet place to study. She addressed the importance of social activities as well, thus reinforcing a common theme among all three panelists that libraries must become social centers on campus in order to remain viable and dynamic.

Each student panelist said the experience was definitely worth the effort. Each made connections with other librarians, engaged in meaningful discussions about future and current issues affecting the profession, and found it a positive experience to participate in an academic conference where their insight was as valued as their future peers'. In fact, all three panelists urge other students to attend and apply for scholarships for other conferences. As evidenced by the FACRL fall program, such experiences are invaluable because they allow students the opportunity to become involved in influential organizations and share ideas with other professionals within the library and information science field.

*Newsletter items and ideas are welcome! Please e-mail Alice Platt, [ajp07g@fsu.edu](mailto:ajp07g@fsu.edu).*

