

Chapter News

College of Information American Library Association Student Chapter
May 2008

Brianna Frank selected for ALA Conference

Congratulations to Brianna Frank who has been selected to serve as this year's FSU "Student to Staff" representative at the ALA Annual Conference this summer in Anaheim, California. Brianna was chosen for the strength of her essay detailing the reasons she wants to be a part of this year's ALA Annual Conference.

In her winning essay, Brianna stated, "As a Student-to-Staff participant at the ALA Annual Conference, I will take a major step forward in my educational and professional goals. Digital libraries interest me greatly, but I have not yet acquired the necessary knowledge and experience base I need. I will overcome this deficiency by taking LIS 5916 Digital Libraries in the spring. Yet attending the ALA conference will supplement and reinforce my classroom experiences by exposing me to the latest trends in digital librarianship. The opportunity to network with others in this growing field will allow me to better achieve my professional goals of fully embracing new roles of twenty-first century libraries."

In being chosen to serve in the "Student to Staff" program, Brianna's conference registration has been paid, she has also been awarded a housing and transportation stipend, as well as a small per diem in exchange for a total of 20 hours of work during the conference. We are excited that such a great candidate (not to mention a wonderful person) has been selected to represent us in Anaheim, California, and we know that it will be a great conference for everyone who attends.



Going to Anaheim?

Join us at FSU table at the
ALA ALISE Reunion

2008 Cooperative Library &
Information Science
School/Program Alumni Reception

Sunday, June 29, 2008

5:30-7:30 PM

Disneyland Hotel

Please RSVP Mafe Brooks
mbrooks@ci.fsu.edu

~ Also ~

Connect before and during the
conference via Blackboard:

- Click Organizations tab
- Click ALA Student Chapter
- Click Discussion Board button
- Click ALA Annual Meeting 2008 (Anaheim).

Student Chapter Officers

President	Amelia Anderson ama07c@fsu.edu
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Events Coord.	Alma Quinn adg07@fsu.edu
Faculty Advisor	Dr. Christie Koontz ckoontz@ci.fsu.edu

Why join ALA or any other professional organization?

By Dr. Christie Koontz
ALA Student Chapter Advisor

I asked myself this question at the tail end of my student days, and the answer was at that time--'well the dues are cheaper now than if I wait till I am working!!' Not an inspired answer, but a good one.

Little did I know that decision would lead me into a successful professional organization which continues to offer me opportunity to share my research, ideas, and my passion for equity and diversity. The latter are the pillars of the American Library Association. After two decades of conferences including midwinters and annual get-togethers, I look back and see a rich trail of friendships, travel and networking which support projects and lifelong work. I could not have accessed these experiences any other way. Join, and join us this year on campus or through webcasts--see what kind of trail you can create with your ALA membership.

Students enjoy attending April FLA Conference

Last month, the Florida Library Association held their annual conference in St. Petersburg Beach's Tradewinds Island Resort from April 22-25, 2008. Several graduate students in the FSU ALA Student Chapter were able to attend and offered to share their experiences.



Alice Platt

I really enjoyed the array of programs offered during the conference. While I attended a few of them, I believe my favorite was a program about how GIS technology can

service libraries. While the planned speaker was unable to attend because his flight from California was cancelled, Florida Library Association Executive Director Ruth O'Donnell and FSU's own Dr. Christie Koontz gracefully took the reins. I was unaware of how GIS mapping can show such detailed information in so many different ways about our local populations. Dr. Koontz pointed out that this information is invaluable when, for example, making a presentation to city council about the need for a new library branch in a specific location; the GIS data could show where the library users are in a community. It was very good information that opened my eyes more to the business perspective of library work.

Leo Lo

First, let me just say I was very excited to be able to go to the Florida Library Association conference with my fellow graduate assistants (all five of us!), and I would like to thank Strozier library for their financial support. Since my assistantship at Strozier, I have become quite interested in becoming a reference librarian in an academic library, so my plan was to try to learn more about working in such an environment.

I went to several sessions at FLA 2008. Two in particular stood out. One was When Junior Librarians Find Themselves in Charge, paneled by five young University of Florida librarians, from which I learned that UF hired over 20 librarians in the last few years - up until the state budget cuts and the hiring freeze. Since



then, I think they have hired only one. The other session was President's Program: The Future of Academic Libraries, presented by Joseph Branin, the director of

Ohio State University's libraries. In that presentation, I learned that Ohio State was in the process of a \$100 million+ renovation of their libraries. They seemed to be doing well up there. Just as I was trying to convince myself that sunny weather was overrated, and six months of winter would... toughen me up, Mr. Branin informed us that they were gradually

cutting down on the number of reference librarians. The new direction was to train student workers to provide the majority of general reference services. The dream of relocating to Columbus was quickly dashed.

On the positive side, it was great to meet some other FSU students and faculty face to face. It was also the first time I have been to St. Pete, and it was gorgeous. (Now, that's what Florida looks like in movies!) I did learn more about librarianship from the panels and presentations, so overall, it was a very good experience.



Alma Quinn

The most enjoyable part of my trip to the 08 FLA spring conference was by far the exhibits rooms. Not to mention the expected public

and academic book vendors, there were representatives and companies ranging from professional storytellers to library designers and movers.

Cruising the exhibits really gave me a better sense of the whole industry surrounding the field. In addition, I found the FLA conference to be a great place for a greenhorn librarian like me to get my feet wet without being overwhelmed. I'm glad that it was my first professional conference. I believe it has better prepared me for the national ALA conference this June.

Newsletter items and ideas are welcome! Please e-mail Alice Platt, ajp07g@fsu.edu.

