

2009 ASIS&T ANNUAL MEETING

SIG/III International Paper Contest

Muhammad Rafiq of Pakistan is the winner of the 2009 SIG/III International Paper Contest for his paper titled “[The] LIS Community’s Perceptions towards Open Source Software Adoption in Libraries.” Rafiq will be awarded a two-year membership in ASIS&T, as well as funding to travel to this year’s Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Second place honors go to Muhammad Arif and Saima Kanwal, also of Pakistan, for their paper titled “Acceptance of Digital Library among Female Students and Effects of Limited Access of Digital Library on their Performance in Research Work: A Case of International Islamic

University.” As principal author of the paper, Arif will be awarded a two-year membership in ASIS&T.

Rafiq will attend the International Reception at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 8 p.m. He will discuss his paper, which is to be published in the September 2009 issue of the *International Information and Library Review*, edited by Toni Carbo. Publisher Elsevier has generously donated copies of the IILR issue which will be available as long as the quantity lasts.

Other activities at the International Reception are the annual SIG/III InfoShare Silent Auction and a raffle. If you have

items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact InfoShare officers Abebe Rorissa (arorissa@albany.edu) or Sarah Emmerson (saemmerson@yahoo.com) and bring your items to the conference with you.

The prize in the raffle is a gift basket put together by the local chapter of ASIS&T with locally produced products and goodies.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction and Raffle Ticket Sale go to the SIG/III InfoShare Fund, which offers ASIS&T memberships to information professionals in developing countries for whom the cost of membership would otherwise be a financial burden. ■



Thriving on Diversity: Information Opportunities in a Pluralistic World

November 6-11, 2009, Vancouver, BC, Canada

The 2009 ASIS&T Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Make sure you’ve marked your calendar. Check your mailbox for a printed version of the preliminary program; or go online for an electronic version. Registration forms are available in both formats. Make your travel plans now. We all look forward to a large crowd in Vancouver. See you there.

ASIS&T Networks, Blogs and Tweets

The ASIS&T membership sure knows its interactions! The organization now invites interested information folks to stay in touch with the organization and the people through its presence at Facebook, Twitter and in the blogosphere.

The American Society for Information Science and Technology group at Facebook has more than 800 members. The group shares ASIS&T news and information, discussion boards and the ever-popular wall for open messaging.

As for blogging, www.asis.org/wiki/bits is a space where all those interested in ASIS&T-related news, events and issues can come together for discussion. Contributions to the blog are encouraged from any ASIS&T member and can take many forms. If you are interested in blogging (either as a one-time or regular contributor) please email Cassidy Sugimoto at csugimoto@unc.edu.

Twitter is another way in which the membership of ASIS&T can be more engaged. You can follow the latest happenings in the information world at http://twitter.com/asis_org. Twitter posts are also linked to the blog. Want to tweet for ASIS&T? Email Cassidy Sugimoto at csugimoto@unc.edu. ■

The International Calendar of Information Science Conferences (<http://icisc.neasist.org/>) is a nonprofit collaboration between the Special Interest Group/International Information Issues (SIG/III) and the European (ASIST/EC) and New England (NEASIST) chapters of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, with the additional support of Haworth Press.

News about ASIS&T Chapters

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The New Jersey Chapter of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (NJ/ASIS&T) has named **Nicholas J. Belkin**, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information, the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Lectureship Award. The award, established in 1985, honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of information science.

An awards ceremony honoring Belkin was to be held on September 25 where he would deliver a lecture entitled *Personalizing Support for Interaction with Information*.

In addition to teaching at Rutgers, Belkin is the author of numerous articles on topics such as information retrieval, human information behavior and human-computer interaction. He has presented at nearly 200 conferences throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe. Belkin is also past president of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, which bestowed him with its prestigious Award of Merit in 2003, its Award for Excellence in Research in Information Science in 1997 and its Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award in 1990.

Belkin also serves on the editorial board of *Information Processing and Management and Information Retrieval*.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (LACASIS) awards its 2008

Margaret McKinley Memorial Student Scholarship to **Shilpa Rele**, a student in the department of information studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Shilpa is currently completing a master's degree in library and information science.

The annual scholarship is the result of an essay competition open to all current library and information science graduate students. First established in 1992, and renamed in memory of the late Margaret McKinley in 1993, the competition is intended to encourage students in librarianship and information science programs to consider the benefits of participation in the activities of professional societies. The winner receives reimbursement funding up to \$1,000 for registration, airfare and hotel expenses to attend ASIS&T's Annual Meeting and a one-year membership in ASIS&T. Two runners-up receive one-year memberships in ASIS&T.

Shilpa's professional interests relate to the description and retrieval of visual and archival information and the management of digital image collections. With a previously awarded master's degree in art history from the University of Minnesota, Shilpa looks to combining her interests in art history and information studies while working with visual collections.

A runner up in this year's essay competition is Matthew Mayernik, also of the University of California, Los Angeles. Mayernik is currently a Ph.D. student in the department of information studies. He is interested in how scientific information is created, and how it can be made available through online catalogs and digital libraries.

News about ASIS&T Members

Barbara M. Wildemuth, professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author of the recently published *Applications of Social Research Methods to Questions in Information and Library Science* (Libraries Unlimited), a book that is described as a "first of its kind for librarians." Written in a conversational tone, the book describes several methods available for the conduct of a research study.

Gary Marchionini, Cary C. Boshamer distinguished professor and incoming president of ASIS&T, has been appointed chair of the Biomedical Library and Informatics Review Committee of the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The committee reviews and advises the NLM and the National Institutes of Health on grants in the areas of medical library resources, integrated advanced information management systems, training in medical library and other information sciences, research in medical and biotechnology informatics and biomedical scientific publications. Marchionini is serving the final year of a four-year term.

Microsoft's Dumais Earns Salton Award

Susan T. Dumais of Microsoft Research is the recipient of the 2009 Gerard Salton Award bestowed by the ACM Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (SIGIR). Dumais was cited for her innovative contributions to information indexing and retrieval systems that have

widely impacted the quality of search from the desktop to the Web.

Dumais was an early developer of innovative interfaces and algorithms that reflected an understanding of computer users as well as the context of their search and information retrieval efforts. Her focus has been to improve the lives of users by incorporating the context of their work into search applications.

Her current research focuses on personal information management, user modeling and personalization, tightly coupling search and browsing, and implicit measures of user interest and activity. She has contributed to both the theoretical developments and practical implementations of key search issues, many of which incorporate knowledge of users and their context to improve the search process.

The Gerard Salton Award is presented every three years to an individual who has made significant, sustained and continuing contributions to research in information retrieval. It is named in honor of **Gerard Salton**, developer of SMART (System for the Mechanical Analysis and Retrieval of Text) and a longtime member and former director of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. ■

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