

## OASIS: Observations of the American Society for Information Science & Technology

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Fall 2008

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### Chair's Column

Greetings LACASIS members and friends!

Early-October marked the start of the new LACASIS business year. At our last board meeting of the 2007/2008 year held in September, outgoing chair, Aura Lippincott conveyed her thanks to the outgoing board members and congratulated them on a job well done. And we aren't the only ones who think LACASIS did an excellent job! At the 2008 ASIST annual conference, the chapter was honored with a plethora of awards:

- Chapter of the Year
- Chapter Event of the Year for "Tag You're It: A Dialog Between Social Tagging and Traditional Classification" (Co-winner)
- Chapter Publication of the Year for the OASIS Newsletter

So many awards for such a wonderful job done by all the Executive Board and Advisory Council and folks who contribute for the sake of contributing! (Not to mention all the hard work done by Aura Lippincott and Christina Salazar to write compelling nominations) Congratulations to all! I would also like to extend a very special "congratulations" to Bo-Gay Tong Salvador who was recognized as the 2008

Chapter Member of the Year for her leadership as Hospitality Chair for LACASIS. You can read more about the awards at the ASIST website <http://asist.org/awards.html>.

In other award news, LACASIS announced the results of the 17th annual Margaret McKinley Memorial Student Scholarship Essay Competition. First place was awarded to Shilpa Rele, Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. Matthew Mayernik, Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles was selected as runner-up. Visit the LACASIS website to read Shilpa's bio and learn more about the competition [http://www.lacasist.org/announce/mckinley\\_08\\_winner.htm](http://www.lacasist.org/announce/mckinley_08_winner.htm). Congratulations to all of our McKinley winners!

I am also delighted to welcome the 2008-2009 LACASIS executive and advisory board members, a very enthusiastic, energetic and talented group of information professionals. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year!

Speaking of work, we have lots of interesting activities planned for the year. We'll end 2008 with our traditional SLA/LACASIS joint holiday party on December 13th. Our speaker will be Jenny Price, writer and environmental historian, who published works about the Los Angeles River and gives frequent tours. Next, we'll kick off the New Year with our annual CISTA program and later in the winter, we will host a full day program on accessibility and the web. Look out for announcements about these and other exciting programs!

Finally, I invite you...

To get involved! If you are new to the area, looking to extend your SoCal professional network, changed jobs or responsibilities, started an LIS program, or if you are just curious about LACASIS, pay us a visit at one of our programs, events, or monthly board meetings. We always welcome new faces!

Sharon Shafer, 2008-2009 LACASIS Chair

## Upcoming LACASIS Board Meetings

LACASIS board meetings are held monthly from 9:30 to 11:30 on the first Saturday of each month (with the exception of holidays) and are open to all members. During the summer months of June, July and August board meetings are held virtually via email.

Date	Location	Time
Nov 8, 2008	Sharon Shafer's home, Woodland Hills	9:30-11:30
Dec 6, 2008	Sharon Shafer's home, Woodland Hills	9:30-11:30

Jan 3, 2008

Sharon Shafer's home, Woodland Hills 9:30-11:30  
Hills

## Save the Date!

### December 4: SLA/LACASIST Joint Holiday Party

SLA SoCal Chapter and LACASIS invite you to the 2008

Joint Holiday Party at McCormick & Schmick's in Pasadena

Date: Thursday, December 4

Registration 6:30-7:00

Dinner 7:00-8:00

Program 8:00-9:30

\$50.00 members and their guests

10% (\$45.00) if two members (members only) carpool/register on the same RSVP form

\$60.00 for non-members

\$40.00 or students

RSVP by Nov 26. See attached form or website:

[http://www.sla-scc.org/web\\_pages/events\\_section/sla\\_scc\\_events.htm](http://www.sla-scc.org/web_pages/events_section/sla_scc_events.htm)

Speaker: Jenny Price

Jenny Price, writer and environmental historian, has written often about the Los Angeles River and gives frequent tours. Author of Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America, she has published in GOOD, Audubon, the Believer, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and Washington Post, and is a regular contributor to the "Native Intelligence" column on "LA Observed." She lives in Venice Beach, where she is working on her new book 13 Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A.

Your Choice Of:

**A) SLOW-ROASTED PRIME RIB**

Horseradish Cream Sauce Au Jus, Herb Garlic Roasted Potatoes,  
and Chefs Selection of sautéed Vegetables

**B) ATLANTIC CEDAR SALMON**

Served on the Plank with a Berry Glaze, Au Gratin Potatoes  
and sautéed Vegetables

**C) GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST**

Artichoke Hearts, Garlic Herb Cream, Confetti Wild Rice  
and Chefs Selection of Vegetables

#### D) LINGUINI ROMA

Pasta sautéed in basil, garlic & wine butter

#### Dessert

Raspberry Cream Brule, fresh Raspberries in Vanilla Custard  
includes Fresh Baked Bread, Coffee or Tea

For more information including the RSVP deadline see the attached flyer or the SLA-SCC website  
[http://www.sla-scc.org/web\\_pages/events\\_section/sla\\_scc\\_events.htm](http://www.sla-scc.org/web_pages/events_section/sla_scc_events.htm)

## Student Chapter News

### Greetings from the UCLA Student Chapter!

#### News & Events

The Chapter is working hard to provide programming and community to informatics students at UCLA. We kicked off the quarter by sponsoring a Game Night in which the greater IS Community got to know each other by playing Rock Band, Wii and sharing a slice of pizza. Last week, we had our first Informatics Journal Group with speaker Julia Gosart, a Ph.D. student in Information Studies, who talked about

her research with sociology of knowledge and traditional knowledge. Our upcoming events will include a new officer election, technology workshops designed to coincide with curriculum and more informatics journal groups. Check out our website for more news and events:

<http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/asist/index.htm>.

#### Internships

UCLA's MLIS program offers second-years the opportunity to work internships for credit. We would like to put the call out for any informatics-related opportunities for the Winter and Spring quarters. Students must be supervised by people with an MLIS. Please email chapter Co-Chair Katie Shields (keshields@gmail.com) with opportunities.

## Other Event Reviews

### Fall Update from the ASIS&T at UCLA Student Chapter

By Sarah Buchanan (sarahab@ucla.edu)  
ASIS&T at UCLA Informatics Journal leader, 2008-2009

Student chapter website: <http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/asist/>.

The ASIS&T student chapter at UCLA is happy to begin the new school year with plans to bring several informatics-related topics to our fellow students. This year we hope to continue our rich slate of programming, including Informatics Journals and Workshops, both of which strive to introduce advanced informatics topics to students in a casual setting. One never knows, the student may one day become the instructor! To accomplish our annual goals, we have five continuing students returning as officers this year: co-chairs Katie Shields and Andrew Harris, Treasurer Mary Behshid, Secretary Holly Fisher, and Informatics Journal leader Sarah Buchanan. Some of our officers participated in the now-annual Information Studies Organizations Fair at UCLA on the afternoon of September 26. We were pleased to see so many first-year MLIS students express an interest in our activities, and we hope for their continued involvement as the year progresses. If our first event of the year is any indication, the ASIS&T member numbers will surely blossom, because who can resist the thrill of Game Night? ASIS&T officers co-sponsored with YACS (Young Adult & Children's Services group) the provisioning of Wii (Sports and Mario Kart) and Rock Band 2 consoles – on a Tuesday night, of course – for our collective enjoyment as we kicked off the school year in style. ASIS&T may have several budding entertainers waiting in the wings.

The student chapter's first Informatics Journal event was held on Friday, October 24. Students participated in a discussion with Ulia Gosart, a doctoral student in Information Studies, who is researching sociology of knowledge and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples. Ms. Gosart shared her experiences in the former Soviet Union and Ukraine, where she obtained her bachelor's degree. With others, Ms. Gosart opened a school library in the rural village of Zochiste (a municipality of Kosovo), and she currently represents the LIENIP organization ([www.indigenous.ru](http://www.indigenous.ru)). Her experiences, efforts and challenges in documenting indigenous narratives and history provided for a stimulating conversation among IS students.

I also was pleased to attend the 2008 ASIS&T Annual Meeting, held in Columbus, OH this year. The opening plenary session led by Genevieve Bell of Intel's Digital Home Group touched on a fascinating range of issues she has encountered around the world related to internet access, ideas of personal and collective information, and participation versus consumption of virtual information. Later that day, in the panel "e-Research Crosses the Pond," Professor Christine Borgman of UCLA spoke about the activities of the CENS (Center for Embedded Networked Sensing), and Clifford Lynch of the Coalition for Networked Information addressed the different approaches taken in the U.S. and England towards funding humanistic inquiry. In addition to Professor Borgman (whose book *Scholarship in the Digital Age* received the Best Information Science Book award), UCLA's own Professor Clara Chu participated in a panel entitled "ICT-Mediated Diaspora Studies: New Directions in Immigrant Information Behavior Research." This panel focused on different research projects in Queens, NY; Mexico; and Los Angeles that study the effects and benefits of introducing technological developments in immigrant communities.

A very interesting panel, "Whither LIS Education," was led by Mr. Lynch and professors from University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University (Nancy Roderer, outgoing ASIS&T President). Dr. Ann Prentice, from UMD, shared a paper that found 900 distinct LIS graduate programs across the U.S.! The

panelists addressed the importance of lifelong learning (especially as systems evolve), “information colleges” situated in different university structures, accreditation, and various means by which students become interested in studying archives (“History Detectives” withstanding). Michael Buckland, an audience member, suggested that library science be taught as a new liberal art.

I joined other conference attendees in a visit to the Cartoon Research Library on the Ohio State campus, where founding curator Lucy Caswell led a tour of the university’s compelling collection of American printed cartoon art, the largest such collection in the country. She described the library’s adoption of the PastPerfect database and the challenges in maintaining biographical files on the artists and item-level records. I highly recommend an in-person visit to the Cartoon Research Library to see these visual materials, but for those not traveling to Columbus, do visit their finding aids and digital albums at <http://cartoons.osu.edu/onlineresources.php>.

At the Alumni Reception, UCLA was well represented by Mariana Afifi, Linda Rudell-Betts, Zorana Ercegovic, Kalpana Shankar, Shilpa Rele and GSE&IS Dean Aimée Dorr, among myself and others. I also participated in a meeting of the Editorial Advisory Board for the ASIS&T Bulletin publication as a student representative (as last year, UCLA was recognized as Student Chapter of the Year). I was fortunate to meet several members of LACASIS throughout the conference and I shared their cheer as they were recognized as Chapter of the Year at the Awards Luncheon. My fellow Bruin officers and I hope our 2008-09 academic year will be filled with new insights into “old” topics, revisiting of crucial technical issues, and exposure to multiple perspectives, both scholarly and practical, in the informatics field.

## ASIS&T Insider

### Summary: ASIST Business Meeting

Tuesday October 28, 2008

by Amy Wallace

The business meeting opened with a report from outgoing President, **Nancy Roderer**. This year many activities focused on the society's publications and communications. An RFP went out for a *Journal of the American Society for Information Science (JASIST)* publisher, and Wiley Blackwell was selected. The contract included Romeo Green status, which allows authors to post their final version of their article to their personal web page or their institution's repository. A publications planning meeting with Wiley Blackwell will be held in November. In addition to the new publication contract, Donald Kraft retired as JASIST editor after 24 years of service, and Blaise Cronin was selected as the new JASIST editor. The board also created an Interaction Manager position to solicit content and manage the society's web presence. If you are interested, or you know someone who might be interested, the position description is posted on the ASIS&T website (<http://www.asist.org>).

In addition to all the publications and communication news, there were two other large efforts detailed. First, the society engaged in a number of activities to promote the information professions, including CLIR sponsorship, a white paper, and a multi-society meeting that resulted in interest to better promote,

and establish a recognition program for, programs that graduate information professionals. The multi-society group also hopes that this meeting is the first of many. Second, the groundwork was laid for the formation of a global alliance for information societies. The society has long discussed ways to make ASIS&T more international and opportunities to partner with other information science societies around the world. This year the board, via Michel Menou, solicited interest from a couple dozen societies to form a global alliance based on common interests and invited their presidents to attend the ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

**Vicki Gregory** gave the ASIST Treasurer's Report. She reported that the society is in good shape financially. The 2009 budget projection shows an increase revenue due to the renegotiation of the publishing contract and revenue from continuing education, summits, and the annual meeting. Vicki also noted that the membership revenue was about the same, which was the result of a dues increase and not membership gains. The society continues to lose a few members each month. Last she explained that some revenue has been invested into CDARS account, which allows the society to buy CDs in multiple banks. The board is also exploring ways invest revenue back into the society.

**Dick Hill**, ASIS&T Executive Director, gave a short report. He noted that there was much change this year. There is a new tab on the membership page that takes you directly to the ASIS&T Digital Library. He reiterated that the interaction manager position is posted on the website, and encouraged attendees to pass on this opportunity to those who might be interested. The ASIS&T Announce List was created to disseminate society information and materials. Three books were published by Information Today as part of the monograph series. The Information Architecture summits continue to be successful. The Annual Meeting is projected to be on budget, and attendance numbers appear to be about the same as last year.

The meeting closed with an inaugural address from **Donald Case**, the incoming ASIS&T President, followed by an open question and answer period. Donald has served on the board as an at-large member for several years. Membership continues to be a topic of concern, and he emphasized that the society continues to lose a few members a month. He noted that ASIS&T is not alone in this concern, and societies around world attribute membership lose to e-communication, competition, and decline in volunteerism. He believes that a portion of the society's revenue should go back to promote and support membership. The board implemented a free one year membership when paying the conference rate for this Annual Meeting, and hopes to retain some of these new members. The board, along with its international efforts, agreed to offer free memberships to presidents of other information societies around the world. The board also continues to look for ways to reduce costs for members outside the United States. Donald concluded by saying that we have the opportunity to make changes and improvements, and welcomed ideas from all members.

## **ASIS&T Insider: Heard around the Annual Meeting**

Submitted by Linda Rudell-Betts

Ethnographer Genevieve Bell of Intel started the annual meeting's first plenary with several anecdotes of technology use in developing countries. One of the most lasting tidbits I heard during the meeting was the story of the Maori people using the Treaty of Waitanga to claim their rights to a percentage of the

proceeds of the New Zealand government's sale of bandwidth. The Treaty of Waitanga gives the Maori claim to the land, forests, fisheries and clouds. And since signals are sent through the upper atmosphere or clouds, the Maoris' claim was honored.

Within the T.J. Watson Research Center, David Millen observed three ways tags are used internally

- company evangelists use tags as a strategic device to raise visibility of research
- publishers choose tags to drive users to a specific resource
- team leaders employ specifically formulated tags so other team members can easily find relevant research

During the second plenary session, Connie Yowell of the MacArthur Foundation related a research finding from MacArthur funded project site Futures of Learning <<http://futuresoflearning.org/>> The group is exploring changes in learning and new media, including mobile devices and game stations. It was found that there are two types of social platform participation by children and young adults:

- 1) Friendship-driven participation where there are very few adults and very few engagements with strangers
- 2) Interest-driven participation which reflects the social nature of learning. It is peer-based and may be intergenerational.

Yowell surmised that this is why your teenager's MySpace activities are private and she is more likely to share her magna collection blog with her parents.

Three days of posters sessions yielded many interesting conversations with researchers. If you find yourself at the Annual Meeting next year, be sure to put at least one poster session on your schedule.

Of course, many books were cited during the conference. Here are three that presenters mentioned:

- From Counterculture to Cyberculture by Fred Turner. Recommended by Andrew Keen during Sunday's plenary
- Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide by Henry Jenkins. Recommended by Connie Yowell during Tuesday's plenary.
- A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future by Daniel Pink. Recommended by Scott Simon at a Wednesday afternoon program by SIG AH.

And some captivating Internet sites:

- for tag cloud generation -- <http://www.wordle.net>

Type in or paste in a hunk of text and create a tag cloud display. To test, I pasted in the text of a favorite recipe and watched as new relationships became apparent with each randomization.

- From Connie Yowell, a second MacArthur funded project site

<http://www.id.iit.edu/ThinkingSpaces/> a program that seeks to update children's and young adult libraries through technological innovation

- And for more fun, a music recommender service -- <http://www.musicoverly.com>

Very colorful and fun to use

In association news:

- ASIST has an island on Second Life. Contact Headquarters for more information [asis@asis.org](mailto:asis@asis.org)
- The Society is in very healthy financial shape this year. We now need to invite more new members to share the wealth that ASIST provides!

## Subscribe to LACASIS-L Mailing List

Want to stay current with LACASIS activities and receive our quarterly newsletter "OASIS"? Join our mailing list, LACASIS-L. Send email to [listproc@usc.edu](mailto:listproc@usc.edu), no subject, first line of text: subscribe lacasis-l firstname lastname (leave your signature file off the message).

## Members in the News

Please send us your news! Have you (or another LACASIS member you know) recently been promoted, changed jobs, won an award or acknowledgment? We'd like to hear about it and publicize your successes! Email the OASIS newsletter editor Grace Lau [laughh@gmail.com](mailto:laughh@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, let's welcome the students and members who joined LACASIST this past quarter!

### Students

- Ryan Noble
- Katherine Shields
- Shilpa Rele

### Regular Members

- Annie Knight
- Chantal Bellemar
- Kirsten Medhurst
- Joshua Mix

## Want to Write for OASIS?

We are currently looking for content providers for the OASIS newsletter wiki! Do you have an idea for a column (it can be a one time article, ongoing or occasional column)? Do you want to write a short summary on a recent LACASIS event that you attended? Do you want to be an OASIS photographer? We are looking for all of the above and more! Want to write but don't have an idea of what to do, here are some new column ideas that might grab you:

- ASIST Insider: News from HQ - browse the ASIST website for news and tidbits from HQ, other Chapters or SIGS
- Student Chapter News - must be a student and involved with the UCLA or SJSU Student chapters; report on what your chapters are doing - events, gatherings, internships wanted, etc.
- Library/Technology humor - (ongoing or occasional column) - find humorous anecdotes about our profession and report on them
- OASIS Photographer - (must have a digital camera) take digital photos of LACASIS events and get permission from the people photographed to publish them in the newsletter

If you are interested, please email OASIS Editor, Grace Lau [laugh@gmail.com](mailto:laugh@gmail.com)



**LACASIS**

# Joint LACASIS/SLA-SCC Holiday Party



Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Information Science & Technology AND  
Southern California Chapter of the Special Libraries Association  
Invite You to Our Annual Event



## Thursday, December 4, 2008

An Evening with Jenny Price  
*writer and environmental historian*

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Registration**  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm **Dinner**  
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm **Program**



McCormick & Schmick's Fresh Seafood Restaurant  
111 North Los Robles Avenue  
Pasadena, California 91101  
<http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com/>  
Parking: \$4 flat rate after 5:00 pm

Please choose an entrée:

- Slow-Roasted Prime - Roasted Potatoes and *sautéed* Vegetables
- Atlantic Cedar Salmon - Au Gratin Potatoes and *sautéed* Vegetables
- Grilled Chicken Breast - Wild Rice and Chefs Selection of Vegetables
- Linguini Roma - Pasta *sautéed* in basil, garlic & wine butter

*Dinner entrées include salad,  
fresh baked bread, dessert,  
& coffee/tea.  
Cash bar will be available*

Registration fees (include dinner and program):

QTY	Fee	Type of registration
_____	\$50.00	SLA / LACASIS Members and their guests
_____	\$60.00	Non-members
_____	\$40.00	Students, Retirees, and those between jobs
_____	\$45.00	(10% Discount) for Carpooling members who register on the same form

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed – checks made payable to SLA-SCC

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

All payments must be received by the registration date indicated. Full refunds will be given for any cancellations prior to that date. SLA\_SCC reserves the right to invoice registered individuals who do not cancel within the specified time period. Please submit one form per person attending (unless carpooling)

Registration deadline is **Wednesday, November 26, 2008**.  
Please send RSVP form and check to:

William Lee  
558 Santiago Canyon Way  
Brea, CA 92821  
mmlee@flash.net  
Phone (714)9903049  
or contact Teresa Bailey at (818)354-9233 if you have questions.