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G'Day LACASIS Enthusiasts!

At our Awards Program in late January we recognized four people for their significant contributions to our chapter.

The Membership Award was given to two officers: **Linda Rudell-Betts** is responsible for maintaining, updating and manipulating our membership database – so we know who we are. She's provided excellent support to us and has worked with the national organization to address some challenges. **Margaret Hogarth** has already worn several hats in LACASIS – she volunteered as Program Recorder, took on the electronic publicity position, wrote several articles for our newsletter and most recently was selected as our Programs Chair and Chair-Elect.

The Member of the Year Award was also given to two officers: **Marla Gunasegaram** joined us about a year ago – and did a very professional redesign of our website. She continues to maintain and update the site with our events and registration. And she has done all this with a little baby on the way and now into everything. **Belinda Beardt** has done a tremendous job as our Hospitality Coordinator. She's the one who receives program registrations, makes all the nametags and does the coordination for our programs. Congratulations and thanks to all four of these members!

We are looking forward to several upcoming programs. Vietnamese-Americans: Personal Information Archiving will be Monday evening, March 21, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Da Lat Bistro, 16525 Brookhurst Street,

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Fountain Valley, CA 92708, 714.839.8338. Join us at this authentic Vietnamese restaurant in Orange County's Little Saigon for this dinner program. Dr. Jeff Brody, Communications Professor at Cal State Fullerton, will present his research project in which Vietnamese-Americans were asked to document items of importance to them with a camera. Anne Frank, head of the Southeast Asian Archives at University of California, Irvine, will present the digitization project of the collection there. Check the LACASIS website for registration soon!

Linda McCann and Layna White are organizing a Bay Area program entitled The

Mind's Eye: Theory and practice of Digital Imaging in Cultural Heritage Institutions on Friday, April 22, 2005 at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. LACASIS will help fund part of this program, as there is not an active chapter of ASIS&T in the Bay Area. Watch for more details on this exciting program through the website and LACASIS-L listserv.

The spring ½ day workshop on Open Source will be held in May at the downtown Los Angeles Amateur Athletic Foundation. Several experts will present exciting and innovative applications of this technology.

LACASIS Board 2004-2005

<i>Archives</i>	Claude Zachary	<i>Nominations</i>	Linda Heichman
<i>Awards</i>	Amy Wallace	<i>OASIS Editor</i>	Louisa Verma
<i>Chair-Elect</i>	Margaret Hogarth	<i>OASIS Layout</i>	David Walker
<i>Hospitality</i>	Belinda Beardt	<i>Publicity</i>	Su Hui Ho
<i>Marketing Database</i>	Linda Rudell-Betts	<i>Student Chapters</i>	Aura Lippincott
<i>Membership Database</i>	Belinda Beardt	<i>Website</i>	Marla Gunasegaram

ASIS&T 2004 Conference

Annual Business Meeting Summary

By Amy Wallace

President Samantha Hastings opened the meeting with a summary of accomplishments for the past year, including the creation of a digital library of ASIST publications, an electronic job board, and a newly redesigned website. She announced that the digital library and job board were operational and that the website would be beta tested at the annual meeting in order for members to provide input. She also reported that the development of the new membership system had been delayed. She wrapped up her report by saying that ASIST tackled many valuable but costly projects in the past year which meant that the society had to dip into its reserve. She also noted that the board is very interested in establishing a foundation to support student travel and participation. As a result of these costs, the board voted to up membership dues and implement a new fee structure. Proposed dues would be \$ 140.00 for regular members and \$ 40.00 for student members.

Executive Director Richard Hill followed up with additional information on several key projects. He detailed the delay in the development of the membership system, and

was optimistic that a new system would be in place by early 2005. He thanked Access Information and Wiley Publications for their help in the swift creation of the ASIST Digital Library, and encouraged all to check it out. He reported that the launch of the new website is planned for early 2005. He also noted that in addition to the beta testing of the website at the annual meeting usability studies had been conducted and the membership survey conducted by Past President Trudi Bellardo Hahn had been used to help determine design and content.

The business meeting closed with the inaugural address of President Elect Nicholas Belkin. In his address the president elect mentioned several goals that he is interested in pursuing, including boosting the society's international appeal, increasing membership of students in undergraduate and master's level information science programs, adding a student member to the board, improving communication within the organization and among the chapters and special interest groups, and providing members with current and accurate membership information.

Amy Wallace is Head of Public Services, California State University at Channel Islands University Library

Blogs & Wikis Session Summary

By Linda Rudell-Betts

One had an inkling that blogs and wikis would be a running thread during the ASIST 2004 conference when the opening plenary speaker, JC Herz, stated that it is inevitable that someone will get tenure for a blog: the numbers of links will easily tell reviewers the depth of the tenure-seeker's influence. Social influence and links were addressed later in the conference and are mentioned later in this piece. She also discussed combining conference calls with wikis, resulting in multi-author documents.

A couple of days into the conference, there was a technical session devoted to knowledge management blogs or k-logs. A "k-log" is simply a knowledge management blog. Jessica Baumgart of Harvard University's Office of News and Public Affairs detailed how content feeds can enhance an organization's k-blog. Feeds can be had from traditional news organizations like the New York Times, from other weblogs and even from buoys (see The Buoy Reporter).

Topics of interest within an organization can be pulled from feeds in the form of a search. From there, the feed can be pasted into the k-log without monitoring by the blogger, continually updating the topics. Among the aggregator feed sources mentioned were feedster.com, technorati.com and daypop.com. Of special interest was a caution regarding feed storage: copyright and licenses may apply to usage of any feeds, so one is reminded to read the fine print. Ms. Baumgart's professional blog is j's

scratchpad.

Next, Garrett Eastman of Harvard's Rowland Institute focused on science feed resources and how he enhances the library blog from them. He often augments news from Rowland with complimentary information from other sources as a value-add for researchers. General feeds he uses include syndic8.com and newisfree.com. The latter has a helpful topical arrangement. Among the scientific sites he uses are sciencedaily.com, wirednews.com and hubmed.org

Christina Pikas of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory explored the concepts behind personal knowledge management and how organizations might support such by encouraging staff to maintain blogs. Her presentation outline, a blog itself, has a very good bibliography for further exploration of this topic. Her professional blog is Christina's LIS Rant.

The following afternoon, two presenters discussed how wikis and blogs are being used to build communities and what each technology has to offer in this pursuit. Sunir Shah of the University of Toronto gave a bold presentation on his creation, MeatballWiki. He detailed how MeatballWiki has been "barnraising" an online community where social issues are freely discussed. MeatballWiki community members must use their real names to foster humility, trust and accountability amongst its

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contributors. Members create, edit and discuss postings, all to the end of "building rational consensus." MeatballWiki is a far different animal than Wikipedia, and worth traversing to see online community building in action.

Cameron Marlow of the MIT Media Lab explained blogosphere tracking done with Blogdex, a Media Lab research project. Bloggers may submit their weblogs to Blogdex for indexing. In turn, Blogdex compiles all active links and ranks them by frequency of appearance to show how fast and how

heavily an idea, a news event or an opinion is spreading across the blogosphere, or what "the most contagious information" is. Mr. Marlow distinguished between popularity of a blog and its influence. Popularity may be gauged by blogrolls, collections of links to other blogs, often made up a blogger's friends or associates. Influence may be gauged by blog permalinks, set URLs that are a more precise citation than a link to a blog homepage. Overstated.net, Mr. Marlow's blog, is a good example to compare the two concepts.

Blogs *The Buoy Reporter* www.iath.virginia.edu/~luoma/code/buoy/ • *j's scratchpad* blogs.law.harvard.edu/jkbaumga/ • *Rowland Insitute Library Blog* blogs.law.harvard.edu/rihlib/ • *ASIST K-blog Panel* asistkblogpanel.blogspot.com/2004/11/christinas-slides-in-outline-form.html • *Cristina's LIS Rant* christinaslibraryrant.blogspot.com • *Blogdex* blogdex.net • *Overstated.net* overstated.net **Aggregator Feed Sources** *Feedster* feedster.com • *Technorati* www.technorati.com • *Daypop* www.daypop.com **News Feeds** *Syndic8.com* syndic8.com • *NewsIsFree.com* newsisfree.com **Science News Feeds** *Science Daily* www.sciencedaily.com/subscribe/newsfeed.htm • *Wired News* www.wired.com/news/rss • *Hubmed* www.hubmed.org **Wikis** *MeatBall Wiki* www.usemod.com/cgi-bin/mb.pl?MeatballWiki • *Wikipedia* en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Chapter Assembly Summary

By Linda McCann, Chapter Advisor

Beata Panagopoulos, the newly elected Chapter Assembly Director, conducted the Chapter Assembly meeting on Sunday morning for the Annual Conference in Providence, RI. I counted fourteen chapters represented, a number similar to previous years. Beata recognized the outgoing Director Karen Howell from LACASIS and later introduced Amy Wallace,

incoming Deputy Director, of LACASIS.

Some of the topics that were discussed were funding for chapter events, the new online START conferencing system that ASIS&T used this year for awards committees, and the first chapters breakfast that was held later in the week.

Chapters presented their highlights for the

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year. A couple reports of interest to many in attendance were efforts on the part of Michigan Chapter for a successful revitalization and a new Student Chapter of the Europe Chapter-ASIS&T is being established. The New Jersey Chapter had received funding from Chapter Assembly to create survey instruments to poll its membership online and they provided a description of this project.

The ASIS&T Board announced a new digital library for the ASIS&T website that was being demonstrated at the meeting and also user testing for a major ASIS&T web redesign.

LACASIS awards that were previously announced and given out at the meeting included the Event of the Year Award that LACASIS shared with Potomac Valley and

Electronic Publication of the Year that LACASIS shared with SOASIST.

Karen scheduled a new event for Chapter Assembly, a breakfast that took place the following Tuesday, though she was not able to attend the conference this year. Beata ran the breakfast meeting, which began at 7:00 a.m. Amy Wallace and myself were the LACASIS members in attendance. The breakfast was well attended and chapters found they had a number of topics of common interest and concern. Beata presented these to the ASIS&T Board at the meeting later in the week. One topic of note was that many chapters had outdated membership lists and were interested in having current information from ASIS&T as soon as possible.

Leading Successful Volunteer Projects Session Summary

By Bo-Gay Tong Salvador

This is a summary of the Leadership Development Program presented by Stacy Surla, MITRE Corporation and sponsored by the Leadership Development Committee at ASIS&T 2004.

Stacy Surla, who recently led a very successful team of volunteers to propose a redesign of the ASIS&T website, conducted an inspiring, well-attended workshop on leadership principles and practices for successful volunteer-

based projects. Ms. Surla provided guidance and sound advice for leaders of volunteer projects as well as for anyone who becomes a volunteer, whether or not in a leadership position.

Important principles to keep in mind

1. Contrary to conventional thought, as leader you should not consider yourself the "master" of the project. Rather, you need to

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regard yourself as the “servant” to the project. Your focus should be on serving the volunteers as well as the project, rather than focusing on yourself and whether you are a successful leader. In this way you will leave your ego at the door, so to speak, and have more energy to focus on the most important goal: to get the job done well.

2. Leadership should not be regarded as “ownership.” Just the opposite - it should be thought of as “giving away ownership.” Give ownership away by letting volunteers take control of parts of the project they want to do. A key point to remember is that volunteers are not serving you (the leader); rather, they, too, are servants to the project itself. “Giving it away” can be hard to do, but as long as everyone understands and is in agreement with the goals of the project, most volunteers will thrive and create successful results if they are given responsibility for the success of a specific aspect of the project. You must trust that things (probably) will work out.

3. Volunteers need to get more than they give. Volunteers don’t owe you anything. Find sincere and thoughtful ways to give back to volunteers, to say thank you. Show appreciation

in the form of rewards, perks, and recognition. This is a recipe for self-perpetuating success.

4. Keep your eye on the goal. Be conscious that goals will change - so make sure that you regularly re-evaluate the direction of the project.

Some practical advice

1. Invite new volunteers constantly. Ask people to give in their areas of expertise.

2. Be bold. Have a big vision.

3. Lead from your strengths.

4. Communicate constantly. Be the team’s muse of communication. Set up a workable means of communication. Give and exchange information in a timely manner - don’t procrastinate!

5. Make plans and schedules.

6. Devise measures of progress, track specific tasks and create effective ways to collaborate.

7. Celebrate milestones and meeting of goals. If champagne and chocolate work for your group - keep them nearby!

LACASIS/SLA-SCC Joint Holiday Dinner 2004: Guest Speaker Kevin Starr

By Dale Stieber

LACASIS and the Southern California Chapter of the Special Library Association hosted a joint holiday party on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, at "The Grand" Event Center in Long Beach. Following cocktails and dinner, SLA-SCC chair Jay Springer and newly elected LACASIS Chair Rachael Clemens shared the podium for announcements and holiday raffle gifts. Dr. Kevin Starr was introduced by his USC colleague and librarian, Shahla Bahavar, LACASIS Treasurer.

"I am here as your fellow librarian," said Dr. Kevin Starr, California State Librarian Emeritus, current professor of history at USC and noted author of California history, to open his talk to 89 members and guests at the LACASIS and the Southern California Library Association Holiday Program. His six volume series --more than 30 years in the making-- titled *Americans* and the *California Dream* captures the enigmatic blend of dreams and hardscrabble reality that defines California.

Dr. Kevin Starr, who holds the Master of Library Science degree from UC Berkeley, described the relationship of librarians and the life of the mind. "The core of the library profession is bibliography around which all other disciplines swirl," said Dr. Starr. "There is a dangerous tendency to detach librarians from ideas...from subject matter as if we are

just organizing materials." Inspiration for his life's work took place in the library as a graduate student at Harvard.

At Harvard University where he took his MA degree in 1965 and his PhD in 1969 in American Literature, Starr was browsing the stacks in the Widener Library in preparations for his graduate thesis. In the Widener stacks, he came upon a collection of historical materials relating to California—ironically located near the Dante section, Dr. Starr added. The California collection had grown out of a bequest by Horace Davis, Harvard class of 1849. Dr. Starr observed that each of our nation's regions – the south, the north, and the west -- is encoded with a specific DNA that influences its character and gives it distinct power. Then Starr asked, "What was California's [DNA]? What is true or false for California? What is debilitating or energizing its power?" This browsing would determine the next 30 years of his professional life, as Starr said, "I never lost the force of libraries as an institution."

Appointed by Governor Pete Wilson, Dr. Starr is the seventh State Librarian of California since the beginning of the 20th century and has served three administrations – those of Wilson, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Although there are limitations on what an agency head can write, Dr. Starr described wanting to

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exploit a side of his role as State Librarian, the cultural voice, so that his access to the political 'buzz' was not wasted. The 72 mini-essays that comprise *Coast of Dreams: California on the Edge 1990 – 2003* are the outcome.

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Dr. Starr State Librarian Emeritus after his retirement in April 2004, a position that now enables Starr to continue to observe the bustle of the government in Sacramento while he researches his next volume on California history about the 1950s.

In his closing remarks to his fellow librarians, Dr. Starr reinforced his belief that information managers, as librarians, are the "midwife of the intellectual life of others": "The librarians' challenge is to hold the world together."

Dr. Starr stayed after his talk to sign copies of his book *Coast of Dreams: California on the Edge 1990 – 2003* which was made available at a special low price to attendees.