Two plenary speakers will join the ASIS&T throngs in St. Louis for the 78th ASIS&T Annual Meeting, November 6-10, according to the latest information from conference chair Lisa Given, Charles Sturt University, Australia. Under the broad conference theme of Information Science with Impact: Research in and for the Community, the speakers will bring their unique perspectives on information research and its impact on our societies.

Sarah Morton, co-director of the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR), University of Edinburgh, Scotland, leads the center’s knowledge exchange team, facilitating ways in which research on families and relationships can be widely used. She has been working in knowledge exchange for more than 10 years and is interested in all aspects of research use and knowledge to action, particularly social research, and issues in the co-production of research.

Aaron Doering, associate professor in the LT Media Lab at the University of Minnesota, currently holds the Bonnie Westby Huebner Endowed Chair in Education and Technology. His research involves the design, development and evaluation of online and mobile teaching environments; technology integration in K-12 settings; and the innovative use of technology to support teaching and learning.

More information on the plenary speakers and their topics will be available in the coming months in the Bulletin and online at the ASIS&T website.

New Conference Focus
This year’s conference theme gives information science researchers – including academics and practitioner researchers – the opportunity to discuss the impact of their research on industry, government, local/national/global community groups, individuals, information systems and other practice contexts. The theme highlights the introduction of a new conference focus on applied research, which recognizes that basic research in information science is also inspired by and/or connected to information practice contexts.

Papers, Panels, Workshops and Tutorials
Authors of paper, panel and poster submissions are asked to identify one or more “impact” topics that best fits their submission and to identify whether the research is primarily applied, theoretical or a balanced mix of both. Deadlines for most submissions is April 30, 2015. Please visit the meeting website for more details.
Nominations Season Underway for Prestigious ASIS&T Awards

It’s nomination season for a full range of ASIS&T awards presented annually to honor outstanding people, ideas, events and activities in the fields of information science and technology. While some awards are open only to ASIS&T members, most of them reach beyond organizational boundaries to find the best representative of the award’s purpose.

**ASIS&T History Fund Awards**

The ASIS&T history awards, both the research and best paper honors, provide cash awards to their winners. Complete proposal packages must be in the hands of the history fund officials by April 30, 2015.

The ASIS&T History Fund Research Award honors the best research proposal on any topic relevant to the history of information science and technology. The ASIS&T History Fund Best Paper Award goes to the best previously unpublished paper on any topics relevant to the history of information science and technology. The winner is expected to present the paper at the 2015 ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

The ASIS&T History Fund was established by the ASIS&T Board of Directors in June 2000 for the purposes of supporting and encouraging research and publication in the history of information science and technology. The Fund is supported by donations (including book loyalties) from ASIS&T members and others. The Fund Advisory Board encourages further donations from anyone interested in supporting historical study of information science and technology.

**ASIS&T Annual Awards**

The prestigious ASIS&T Annual Awards are presented each year at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting. Deadlines and nomination requirements vary among the awards. Details are available at http://asis.org/awards.html.

Nominations due in June are for the ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award; Research in Information Science Award; and Pratt Severn Best Student Research Paper. In July, nominations are due for Award of Merit; Best Information Science Book; James M. Cretsos Leadership Award; Thomson Reuters Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship; and the New Leaders Award. In August, complete nominations are due for Thomson Reuters Outstanding Information Science Teacher.

**Chapter and SIG Awards**

Nominations for chapter and SIG awards, administered by their respective organizing bodies, are due in July and August. Full details for these awards are also available at http://asis.org/awards.html.

**SIG/III International Paper Competition**

ASIS&T Special Interest Group/International Information Issues (SIG/III) is conducting its 15th annual International Paper Competition to encourage scholarship throughout the developing world. The annual contest uses the theme of the Annual Meeting to solicit original, unpublished papers from librarians, information and network specialists, educators and others involved in the creation, representation, maintenance, exchange, discovery, delivery and use of digital information.

The theme for this year’s paper contest is Information Science with Impact: Research in and for the Community. Papers could discuss issues, policies and case studies on specific aspects of the theme from a global and/or international perspective.

The judging criteria are originality of paper in the developing world and global information ecosystem (originality of the project described, etc.); relevance to the paper contest theme; and quality of
argument, presentation and organization. Only papers by a principal author who is a citizen of and resides in a developing country are eligible. Winners in the 2009-2014 contests are not eligible. The papers should be original, unpublished and submitted in English.

Up to three winners will be selected by a panel of judges: Maqsood Shaheen, IRC, U.S. Embassy Islamabad; J.K. Vijayakumar, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; and Innocent Awasom, Texas Tech University.

Each winner will receive a two-year individual membership in ASIS&T. In the case of multiple authors, the principal author will be awarded the ASIS&T membership. In addition, depending on SIG/III fundraising for this competition, the first place winner will be rewarded a minimum of $1,000 toward travel, conference registration and accommodations while attending the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, November 6-10, 2015.

Deadline for submission of full papers is June 30, 2015.

News About ASIS&T Members

Jaime Arguello, assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science (SILS), has received a National Science Foundation career award to support his research for the next five years on a project titled “Making Aggregated Search Results More Effective and Useful.” The project has three main goals: to further understand how users interact with aggregated search results; to develop aggregated search solutions that are better informed by real user behavior; and to test the generalizability of the algorithms developed on two additional domains: digital library search and news story aggregation.

Access Innovations, Inc., digital data organization whose founder and president is former ASIS&T president Marjorie M.K. Hlava, has for the fourth time been named one of KMWorld’s Top 100 Companies that Matter in Knowledge Management. Access Innovations joins Oracle, Google, IBM and Microsoft, among others, on the list for 2015.

News from ASIS&T SIGs

ASIS&T Special Interest Group/International Information Issues (SIG/III) has announced the winners of the InfoShare Awards for 2015. These awards offer a one-year ASIS&T membership to information professionals from developing countries where the cost of membership would be a burden. The memberships are funded by the SIG through its fundraising activities at the Annual Meetings. Based on the success of the efforts at the International Reception in Seattle, the SIG is able to award memberships to five professional candidates and two students.

The professional awardees are Dwaynian Brissette, Jamaica; Elsabé Olivier, South Africa; Olufunmilayo Iyabo Fati, Nigeria; Shima Moradi, Iran; and Vesna Vuksan, Serbia. The student members are Amjid Khan s/o Lakhkar Khan, Pakistan, and Jiban K. Pal, India.

The International Calendar of Information Science Conferences (ICISC) is available through ASIS&T (Association for Information Science & Technology). Available in multiple languages.

https://www.asist.org/Conferences/calendar/
ASIS&T members Emil Levine and Songphan Choemprayong, chairperson of the Asian-Pacific Chapter, discussed the supporting role of ASIS&T to students and professional librarians at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, on January 23, 2015.

While visiting Bangkok, Levine was able to conduct a workshop, “How to Design a Digital Library – What I Did Not Learn in Library School,” often referring to relevant experiences gained through participation in ASIS&T. He gave three personal case studies in developing digital libraries at the United Nations, Vienna, over the past decades. The presentation discussed the importance of courses in administration, budgeting, systems analysis, management and leadership that were not previously included in library school curricula. He noted and gave examples of current curricula that now do include these subjects, including the curriculum at the Chulalongkorn University.

Choemprayong, a Ph.D. graduate from the School of Information and Library Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and lecturer at the Department of Library Science, Chulalongkorn University, explained the member benefits and fee requirements for ASIS&T, emphasizing that both regular and student members from Thailand now receive especially low registration fees. He also reported the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Chapter, of which he is the chairperson. He shared his personal experience with ASIS&T and how ASIS&T influences his professional and academic career.

As part of the visit, Levine was given a detailed tour of the central library by its director, Pimrumpai Premsmit, a Ph.D. graduate from the School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College. They were accompanied by Somsak Sriborisutsakul, head of the department of library science, and Saifon Taokaew, manager of collection development and of the Information Resource Analysis Center.

Dr. Premsmit noted that the entire library has recently undergone extensive renovations, including a large snack bar on the first floor. She also noted that patrons were encouraged to talk aloud on that floor. Levine noted this was perhaps the most user-friendly library he had ever visited.