Summer Balloting Completed for Election of New Board Members

As this issue of the Bulletin of the Association for Information Science and Technology, was being completed and prepared for uploading to its publishing platform, the polls were closing on the Summer 2014 election of officers and directors of the association.

While the outcome of the election will be noted on the ASIS&T website and will be reported in full in the next issue of the Bulletin, here’s a report on the candidates who agreed to serve if elected to maintain the international excellence and presence of your organization.

President-Elect

Two candidates running for president-elect in 2015 and succeeding to the presidency in 2016 are Nadia Caidi and Jens-Erik Mai.

Nadia Caidi is associate professor at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto. Trained in linguistics and communication in France, she then obtained an MLIS and Ph.D. from UCLA. Nadia’s research interests focus on information policy and community informatics. Her studies of information post 9/11 and on diasporic communities have been funded by several grants from SSHRC (Canada). A longstanding and active member of ASIS&T, Nadia served as chair of SIG/III, co-chair of SIG/IFP and co-organizer (with Michel Menou) of the Global Information Village Plaza (2001-04). She received the James M. Cretsos Leadership Award in 2006. Nadia was the president of the Canadian Association for Information Science in 2010-11.

Jens-Erik Mai is professor at the University of Copenhagen, Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark. He was previously associate professor at the Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, where he also served as vice dean and acting dean. Prior to that he was assistant professor at the Information School of the University of Washington where he co-directed the Center for Human-Information Interaction. He earned his Ph.D. in library and information science from the University of Texas at Austin as a Fulbright Scholar and master and bachelor degrees from the Royal School of Library and Information Science, Denmark. Jens-Erik is currently an ASIS&T director-at-large; he has been chair of SIG/CR and a member of the SIG Cabinet Steering Committee.

Directors-at-Large

The top two vote-getters among the following four candidates will serve three-year terms as directors-at-large on the ASIS&T Board of Directors: Chirag Shah, Jamshid Beheshti, Fidelia Ibekwe-SanJuan and Boryung Ju.

Chirag Shah, assistant professor of information science and an affiliate member of computer science at Rutgers University, studies interactive information retrieval-seeking, especially in the context of online social networks and collaborations, contextual information mining and applications of social media services for exploring critical socio-political issues. He is also interested in theoretical and practical aspects of information as a dynamic construct and online information propagation. Shah holds degrees from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; IIT Madras, India; and University of Massachusetts, Amherst. An active ASIS&T member since his student years, he has held leadership roles in both student and geographic chapters; chaired Annual
Meeting tracks and sessions; served as reviewer for ASIS&T publications; and attended every Annual Meeting since he joined the organization. In recognition of his early active participation, he was awarded the 2013 ASIS&T James M. Cretsos Leadership Award.

Jamshid Beheshti holds degrees in mining technology, history and library and information science from various Canadian institutions. He has taught at the School of Information Studies at McGill University for more than 25 years, and is currently the Associate Dean in the Faculty of Education at McGill University. Jamshid has been the principal investigator and co-investigator on more than a dozen Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grants, and in collaboration with colleagues has obtained several million dollars in research funds over the past decades. He is widely published in leading journals of information science and technology. His expertise in designing information systems for children and young adults has been the topic of his contributions in his recently co-edited books, The Information Behavior of a New Generation: Children and Teens in the 21st Century (with Andrew Large, 2013) and New Directions in Children’s and Adolescents’ Information Behavior Research (with Dania Bilal, in press).

Fidelia Ibekwe-San Juan is professor of information and communication sciences at Jean Moulin University (JMU) in Lyon, France. Before joining JMU, she was associate professor at the University of Nancy, France. She earned degrees in French literature from University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, and Stendhal University, Grenoble, France, before embarking on a new career in information studies. She obtained a Ph.D. in information and communication studies from Stendhal University. Her research interests include using methods from computational linguistics, text analytics, information visualization and information retrieval to address information processing problems; the history and foundations of information and communication sciences; epistemology and the history of sciences. She has also been studying the impact of recent technological advances (open data, big data and web 2.0) on science and on the society. Since joining ASIS&T in 2009, Fidelia has served the association in many capacities, actively participating in SIGs and chapters, among other activities. She obtained the New Leader Award for 2012-2013.

Boryung Ju is an associate professor at the School of Library & Information Science, Louisiana State University. She received her Ph.D. in 2002 from Florida State University and a master’s degree from Indiana University. Her research areas include human-computer interaction and knowledge management. Some of her current research projects are on the impacts of collaboration technologies on knowledge sharing and interaction design for video digital retrieval systems. She co-chaired the 76th ASIS&T Annual Meeting and has actively participated in numerous scholarly and professional organizations. She currently is the managing editor of the Journal of Information and Knowledge Management and an editorial board member for the International Journal of Information Science Theory & Practice and the Journal of the Korean Society for Library and Information Science.
Two Keynote Speakers Help Shape Program for Upcoming Event

The 77th ASIS&T Annual Meeting, October 31-November 5, in Seattle, Washington, will be informed by the insightful presentations of two stellar speakers: Alessandro Acquisti, Carnegie Mellon University, and Kris Kutchera, Alaska Air Group. Operating under the general theme of Connecting Collections, Cultures and Communities, the conference committee, under the leadership of Jens-Erik Mai, selected the plenary speakers for their breadth of experiences in creating and managing connections between and among corporate units, academic specialties, customers and consumers.

Kris Kutchera, who will deliver the opening keynote address on Sunday, November 2, is vice president, information technology and strategy management for Alaska Air Group. She is responsible for managing and developing computer systems, information systems and voice and data communication for Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air. Alaska Airlines is the latest step in Kris’ career, following stints that began at Boeing Computer Services and Capgemini America and moved through leadership positions at Washington National Gas, Fluke Corporation and F5 Networks. Kris holds a bachelor of science degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from University of Washington, where she also serves on the Founding Board of the iSchool.

On Monday morning, November 3, Alessandro Acquisti, associate professor, information technology and public policy, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University, will address a plenary crowd. Alessandro is also co-director of the CMU Center for Behavioral Decision Research. His primary research interests are economics and behavioral economics of privacy and privacy in online social networks. His findings have been featured in numerous leading journals, edited books and conference proceedings, as well as in popular and business-related media outlets such as the Economist, NPR, CNN, New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Alessandro holds a Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley, and master’s degrees from Berkeley, London School of Economics and Trinity College Dublin. In a previous life, Alessandro was a classical music producer and label manager, freelance arranger, lyrics writer and soundtrack composer for theater, television and independent cinema productions.

Pre- and Post-Conference Workshops and Seminars

Information professionals once again have the opportunity to brush up on

Pre- and Post-Conference Workshops and Seminars

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Rethinking SIG/Management of Information Activities (SIG/MGT) – SIG/MGT members and others have an opportunity to help recast this special interest group for continued relevance in changing corporate and governmental environments

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Connecting Seniors with a Digital World – Learn new ways for your library and librarians to help seniors interact with technology

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subjects that are changing at rapid paces or to learn something entirely new with an array of pre- and post-conference offerings at the Annual Meeting in Seattle. All workshops require separate registration and payment of fees; workshop attendees need not attend the Annual Meeting. See sidebar for the days, times and brief descriptions of courses that will be available this year. See the ASIS&T website for more details or look for the printed version of the preliminary program to arrive at your home or office in September.

And for Students Only

For the fifth year running, all students attending the ASIS&T Annual Meeting have an opportunity to participate in the student design competition in which groups of interested students are formed and given a design challenge to complete in less than 48 hours. Though the competition is intense and rapid, the reward is worthwhile: Each member of the winning design team receives free registration for the next ASIS&T Annual Meeting. For a report on last year’s exciting competition, see the article by Candy Schwartz and Rhiannon Gainor on page 10 of this issue of Inside ASIS&T.

Conference Venue

All formal conference sessions and events will be held at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Special discount rates are available until October 9 or until the block is sold out, whichever comes first. Contact the hotel directly (206-621-9000) for more details or to book your room.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, CONTINUED

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Digital Management – Many library and information professionals are now being asked to plan, initiate and deliver digital projects. For those with limited experience in such projects, this session will provide a solid foundation upon which to build and help determine the right approach and methodology for a successful project.

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Trust & Information Policy in the Age of Data (Big or Small) (SIGs/III and IFP) – Join researchers from an array of disciplines to address the moral, legal and policy questions raised by information creation, access and control in modern society.

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
User Experience Research to Improve Access to Your Collections – Librarians, archivists and other professionals with responsibility for providing digital access to collections will learn how to use methods and tools developed by the field of information architecture to improve access to those resources.

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Understanding Web Search Engine Users – Researchers from academia and industry will discuss methods and results regarding research on web search engine use and user behavior, aiming for establishment of a research agenda for the future.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
The Discipline of Organizing in iSchools: Collaborative and Digitally Enhanced Teaching of a Core Subject – This half-day workshop focuses on the digital-enabled teaching of Information Organization and Retrieval, a core course in the information studies domain, using the book The Discipline of Organizing (TDO).

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
10th Annual Social Informatics Research Symposium Connecting (Epistemic) Cultures and (Intellectual) Communities (SIG/SI) – SIG/SI continues its research symposium to disseminate current research and research-in-progress that investigates the social aspects of information and communication technologies across all areas of ASIS&T.

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
25th Annual SIG/CR Workshop: Universal Classification in the 21st Century (SIG/CR) – Featuring research papers, position papers and lightning talks, this workshop will bring classification schemes, in all their history and complexity, into a fresh relationship with emerging information infrastructures and articulate new and exciting roles for these schemes to play in the years ahead.

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Pnina Fichman, previously director of the MLS program and co-director of the Rob Kling Center for Social Informatics at Indiana University (IU), is the new chair of the Department of Information and Library Science at IU. She takes over from Debra Shaw, who retired at the end of May.

Eileen Abels, dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College; Linda Smith, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Lynne C. Howarth, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, have received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for Educate to Innovate: Re-visioning Library and Information Science Education. The project will focus on the importance of leadership and cutting-edge skills in LIS education.

Ali Shiri, formerly assistant professor, has been promoted to the rank of professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alberta. The promotion recognized his research, service and teaching contributions to the school, its students and the library and information field at-large.

The Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science adds two new assistant professors to the faculty for this fall. Chaoshun Ni, whose research interests sit at the intersection of science policy, science and technology studies and scholarly communication in the context of data-intensive science, is completing her doctorate at Indiana University. Amber Stubbs, with a Ph.D. in computer science from Brandeis University, teaches courses in data structures and algorithms, programming and theory of programming languages and information retrieval.

Special Interest Group/Social Informatics (SIG/SI) seeks nominations for two best paper awards to be given this fall. The Best Student Paper Award honors the best paper written by a doctoral student on a topic informed by social informatics. Nominations may include a published paper in a peer-reviewed journal during 2013 or a conference paper presented in 2013. The Social Informatics Best Paper Award honors the best paper published in a peer-reviewed journal on a topic informed by social informatics during the 2013 calendar year. The winning authors will be invited to present their papers at the 10th Annual SIG/SI Symposium at this year’s Annual Meeting in Seattle. The deadline for nominations for both awards is August 15, 2014. For more information and full submission rules and guidelines, please visit the SIG/SI website at http://asistsigsi.wordpress.com
Soon it will be time for the 5th annual ASIS&T student design competition at the Annual Meeting in Seattle. I hope this recap of what happened in 2013 will encourage students to participate and others to come and cheer them on. The design competition is intense but fun. Each year teams are formed on the first day of the meeting (Sunday), and a design challenge is presented. Two days later, the teams come together to present their ideas to a distinguished panel of judges. Each member of the winning design team receives complimentary registration to the next ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

Last year, after several rounds of matching up (group speed-dating), four teams emerged:

- **The Fabs** (Rong Hu, Nathan Lowrance, Nada Naji, Esperanza Pacheco, Afroza Sultana)
- **Go Canada** (Rhiannon Gainor, Petronilla Muirithi, Zhen Yue, A Yusuf, Qing Zou)
- **Gryffindor** (Nicole Alemanne, Katie Chan, Guillermo Galdainez, Xiao Xie)
- **Flaming Squirrels!!!** (Kate Dillon, Wei Jeng, AJ Million, Philippe Mongeon, Fei Shu)

They were presented with the 2013 challenge, “All the Things”:

Today’s researcher has (synced) folders of full-text files; citation management systems packed with references (and more full-text); clipping tools containing yet more items to follow up on; and “read it later” and “favorite” collections stored by browsers or RSS readers. This personal collection and any public persona information (blogs, Twitter, etc.) are ignored during the process of discovery in the massive open or subscription-based scholarly databases.
from a close contest as the winner (appropriately for a conference held in Montreal). Member Rhiannon Gainor was kind enough to describe her team’s design for this report:

[They] interpreted “enhanced discovery” as having two aspects: personal information management and information retrieval. Their goals were to propose a way to improve (simplify, make more relevant) large database searches, improve user time management (automate searching, make retrieval and discovery quicker) and decrease information fragmentation of search results. Several user features were proposed for the interface, including click-and-drag tagging and graphical clustering of files by assigned tags and scraped subject terms assigned by the scholarly databases, to reduce re-finding. A user-controlled search display provided side-by-side comparison of the enhanced searches with standard searches of scholarly databases. However, the most innovative aspect of the system design was the attempt to combine a recommendation algorithm for learning the researcher’s online persona and personal collection and a relevance ranking algorithm for bringing disparate information elements together in a way that could be controlled by the end user for building and tailoring not only external database searches, but also internal searching of the user’s own computer.

First, to capture the researcher’s online persona, Yahoo! Pipes was recommended since it provides a graphical user interface for building data mashups of Twitter feeds, blogs, CiteULike, etc. The personal collection of the researcher would be captured with elasticsearch, an open source search and analytics engine that permits the indexing of text items such as Portable Document Format (PDF) and HyperText Markup Language (HTML) documents. Lastly, the system would permit users to enter personally developed user factors, such as weighting certain items or terms more heavily than others, or filtering out results that already exist in the personal collections. These three elements, the online persona, the user-built personal collection and user factors, would inform the recommendations and relevance rankings of the proposed system. The team members were thrilled by their win and would like to express their appreciation to the organizers and the judges and to ASIS&T for sponsoring their awards.

For my part, I would like to give my thanks to all the students, the judges and especially my fellow committee members Michelle Kazmer, Florida State University, and Rong Tang, Simmons College, with assistance on the opening day from judge-to-be Sanda Erdelez, University of Missouri. Drs. Kazmer and Tang will carry the competition on in 2014.

Resource Mentioned