

## New Officers and Directors Join ASIS&T Board

Each year at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting, a new administrative year begins, and the first official order of business is the introduction of new faces to the ASIS&T Board of Directors. In November in Vancouver, the annual changing of the guard took place, and new officers and directors took their seats on the Board.

Each of the positions filled through the summer balloting process is for three-year terms; in addition, one unexpired seat on the Board was also filled. Those elected are **Linda C. Smith**, president-elect; and **Karen Fisher** and **Prudence Dalrymple**, three-year terms as directors-at-large, and **France Bouthillier**, to the two remaining years left vacant by the resignation of Peter Morville.

As the new members took their seats, **Gary Marchionini**, elected last year as president-elect assumed the presidency from **Donald Case**, who continues on the Board as past president for one year.

**Linda C. Smith** is professor and associate dean for academic programs in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1977.



With support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, she has worked with colleagues to enhance curricular offerings

in digital libraries and data curation and to build a collaborative distance education model through initiatives of the WISE (Web-based Information Science Education) consortium. She received the ASIS&T Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award in 1987 and has served ASIS&T in many capacities since joining in 1972: SIG and chapter officer and advisor, award jury member and chair, conference program committee member and chair, member of various standing committees, and editorial positions with both *JASIST* and *ARIST*.

**Karen Fisher** is professor in the University of Washington Information School and chair of the Information & Society Center (ISC).



She teaches and conducts research on how people experience information as part of everyday life. Frequent author, she is currently studying the benefits of free access to computers and the Internet in public libraries, supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation. Karen holds Ph.D. and MLIS degrees from University of Western Ontario and a bachelor's degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Previously, she chaired the UW iSchool's Master of Library and Information Science program, was a visiting researcher at Microsoft Research and a visiting professor at Oslo University College, Norway. Her ASIS&T activities include leadership activities in SIG/USE, service on the search committee for the *JASIST* editor and on the program committees for two Annual Meetings.

**Prudence Dalrymple** is on the faculty of the College of Information Science and Technology at Drexel University where she



also directs the Institute for Healthcare Informatics. She holds a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in health sciences informatics from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She has also been on the faculty at the University

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.

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was the director of accreditation at the American Library Association and served as dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University. Pru attended her first ASIS&T meeting in 1976 as a student and has been an active participant in conferences, committees and SIG/HFIS. She has served on several award juries and standing committees. She is a member of the ASIS&T Task Force on the Information Professional where she is a key participant in the task force's activities.

**France Bouthillier** is associate professor and director of the school of information studies, McGill University. She received her Ph.D. from the University



of Toronto, her masters in library and information sciences from the Université de Montréal, and she graduated from the University of Quebec in Education and Business Administration. Her teaching areas are related to the management of information services, business information and competitive intelligence. Her recent publications and conference presentations deal with the information needs of small businesses, knowledge management, management of information services, training of information professionals and competitive intelligence. She has worked on program committees for several ASIS&T Annual Meetings and as a reviewer for *JASIST* for a number of years. ■

## ASIS&T 2009 Annual Meeting Coverage

As this issue of the *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* is being prepared for online access, ASIS&T members are at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Vancouver. Significant coverage of the meeting, including photographic montages, will be included in the February/March 2010 issue of the *Bulletin*, but in this issue we are able to offer a few peeks at the proceedings. First is this list of the winners of the 2009 ASIS&T Awards for which more details will be provided in the next issue. In addition, the articles in the feature package in this issue, including the Special Section as well as articles from the winners of both the ASIS&T Award of Merit and James M. Cretsos Leadership Award, are drawn from the Annual Meeting. Look for more Annual Meeting coverage in our next issue.

**Award of Merit – Carol Tenopir**

**Watson Davis Award – Edie Rasmussen**

**Thomson Reuters Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award – Diane Kelly**

**Best Information Science Book Award – *The Public Domain: Enclosing the Commons of the Mind*, by James Boyle** (published by Yale University Press)

**John Wiley & Sons Best *JASIST* Paper Award – Ofer Bergman, Ruth Beyth-Marom and Rafi Nachmias** for “The User-Subjective Approach to Personal Information Management Systems Design: Evidence and Implementations,” *JASIST*, 59(2), pp. 235-246

**James M. Cretsos Leadership Award – Cassidy R. Sugimoto**

**Pratt-Severn Best Student Research Paper Award – Katie O’Leary**, University of British Columbia, for “Information Seeking in the Context of a Hobby: A Case Study of a Young Adult with Asperger’s Syndrome”

**Thomson Reuters Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship – Heather Piwowar** for *Foundational Studies for Measuring the Impact, Prevalence and Patterns of Publicly Shared Biomedical Research Data*

**ProQuest/ASIS&T Doctoral Dissertation Award – Luanne Freund** for *Exploiting Task-Document Relations in Support of Information Retrieval in the Workplace*

**Thomson Reuters Citation Analysis Research Grant – Cassidy Sugimoto** for *Measuring Interdisciplinarity: An Exploration of a Novel Metric Applied to ILS Dissertations*

**Chapter-of-the-Year – New England Chapter of ASIS&T (NEASIS&T) and Potomac Valley Chapter (PVC)**

News about ASIS&T Chapters

The **Central Ohio ASIS&T** chapter, with co-sponsorship provided by the **Northern Ohio Chapter of ASIS&T** and the Cleveland chapter of SLA, presented a live broadcast of *Geo Tagging Digital Photography for Learning, Research and Just Plain Fun!* from Kent State University. Presenter **Mace W. Mentch**, assessment specialist in instructional technology and academic computing for Case Western Reserve University, discussed the geo tagging of photographs. He also demonstrated geo tagging devices, such as GiSTEQ Phototracker and Trails, and their integration with Google Maps, Google Earth and Flickr. Examples of using the technology in research applications and for display of walking routes and points of interest were also included.

**Ann Roll**, a student in the LEEP Online Distance Education Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is the first-place winner in the annual **Los Angeles Chapter of ASIS&T (LACASIST)** Margaret McKinley Memorial Student Scholarship Essay Competition. Ms. Roll's interests lie in the areas of image retrieval and information visualization. Runner-up honors go to **Margaret A. Driscoll**, MLIS candidate at San Jose State University, and **Donna LaFollette**, recent graduation of the LEEP program at the University of Illinois.

ANNUAL MEETING COVERAGE, FROM PAGE 8

**Student Chapter-of-the-Year** – **University of Washington Information School Student Chapter**

**Chapter Member of the Year** – **Nicole Henning**, New England Chapter of ASIS&T

**Chapter Event-of-the-Year** – **Introduction to Content Management Systems Workshop**, Carolinas Chapter of ASIS&T, and **Mobile Mania**, New England Chapter of ASIS&T

**Chapter Innovation-of-the-Year** – **New England Chapter of ASIS&T** for the “TED Talks Film Festival

**Chapter Publication-of-the-Year** – Potomac Valley Chapter for the **PVC Blog**

**SIG-of-the-Year** – **SIG/International Information Issues (SIG/III)**

**SIG Member-of-the-Year** – **Ingrid Hsieh-Yee**, SIG/ED

**SIG Publication-of-the-Year** – **Visual Representation, Search and Retrieval: Ways of Seeing** in the *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, SIG/VIS

News from ASIS&T SIGs

The newly established history fund awards initiated by SIG/HFIS and overseen by the ASIS&T History of Information Science and Technology Fund Advisory Board were awarded for the first time this year.

The 2009 Research Grant Award was given to **Charles Meadow** to research the historical background of the digital divide. Meadow is professor emeritus, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, and the author of many books and articles relating to information science.

The 2009 Research Paper Award went to **Rachel Plotnick**, graduate student at Northwestern University, for her paper titled “Computers, Systems Theory and the Making of a Wired Hospital: A History

of Technicon Medical Information System, 1964-1987.” Ms. Plotnick is currently working on her Ph.D. in Media, Technology and Society in the School of Communication at Northwestern.

Both researchers are expected to present their papers at the 2010 ASIS&T Annual Meeting.

News about ASIS&T Members

**Denise A. D. Bedford** has been appointed the Goodyear Professor in the Information Architecture and Knowledge Management (IAKM) program, School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University. The professorship was made possible by the generous support of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. She had been senior information officer at the World Bank since 1997. ■

# ASIS&T Information Professionals Task Force: October 2009 Update

by Nancy Roderer

From the first White Paper circulated in 2007 to the current time, the key question for the ASIS&T Information Professionals Task Force has been, “How can we identify current information education programs so that the stakeholder communities will have information relevant to their needs?” Answers to the question must come from all the groups directly affected by those education programs, including those who design and manage information programs, prospective students who seek out programs to fit their needs, prospective employers who are looking for graduates with the right portfolio of knowledge, skills and understandings to do the kinds of work needed in their areas of the information world and professional societies that want to be certain that they are providing professionals with the kinds of support needed in their careers. To-date most of the planning and design of programs has been under the purview of the faculty of academic institutions. While this structure assures that the programs meet the academic requirements of their institutions, they may not have had the

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level of input from other stakeholders that might make the programs more directly useful to students, employers and professional societies. An aim of the task force is to broaden the opportunity for stakeholder input in order to assure that information programs meet the needs of those who rely on them to support their career objectives and meet the needs of the information organizations they will serve.

Since 2007 the task force has

- commissioned a study to provide information on the number, location and particular thrust of existing graduate programs in information. The study, completed in April 2008 identified more than 900 graduate degree granting programs in information
- identified 60 key information organizations representing stakeholders and invited them to join our efforts
- convened a meeting of stakeholders at the Brookings Institute on September 9, 2008, to discuss ways in which information related to the existence of information programs could be made available to stakeholders.

Documentation on each of the above activities is available at

[www.asis.org/news.html](http://www.asis.org/news.html).

In February 2009 the Task Force, in response to comments and suggestions by

stakeholders developed a proposed solution to respond to the expressed need to provide information on available graduate information programs. An identification database is proposed that would identify programs thus making it easier for prospective students, employers and society at large to understand what is and what is not included under the umbrella phrase *information professionals*. Program identification would vouch for content but would make no statement about quality. The database will provide information on the content of programs, their geographic location and other information pertinent to decision making. The database will provide those responsible for academic programs a way of seeing what is out there and how one’s own program relates, or not, to other programs in the region, in terms of disciplinary content, research focus and other relevant data elements. It will also provide professional associations the opportunity to look at the data and identify those areas of the information professions that are not represented in their membership, which can serve as a useful recruiting tool and a means of providing support to practicing professionals. The database is a way to describe the information professions based on the content of existing educational programs. A factor analysis can serve to provide a benchmark of the content of existing programs. The database will be kept up to date and will be a means of

showcasing the evolving nature of the field as demonstrated by its academic programs.

Five task forces will work on specific aspects of database development:

1. A *database framework task force* will conduct a factor analysis of a representative sample of the 900+ information programs identified to-date to identify types of programs and develop a framework for describing them.
2. A *database content task force* will develop a list of specifications for information to be included about each academic program and will define the information items required to describe programs.
3. A *database specification task force* will develop specifications for a program database to include the information specified by the database content task force. Particular attention will be paid to building a front end that will support social networking activities.
4. A *promotional task force* will develop specifications for a promotional campaign to inform stakeholders of the database, how it will be of benefit, how it is used and how it can be accessed.
5. An *administrative mechanisms task force* will investigate the administrative mechanisms that will be required to put the identification program and database management in operation.

At each step of the process, stakeholders will be invited to participate in the work of the task forces and will be informed regularly of progress.

The task force continues to bring professional issues to information organizations in general and to ASIS&T in particular. Two task force sessions were held at the Annual Meeting in Vancouver. The first of the sessions was Stakeholder's Views on Information Education. It included presentations by Rachel Elkington, a recent iSchool graduate now working in an interaction design firm; Cynthia Fugate, associate director for research and instruction at the University of Washington Libraries; Deanna Morrow Hall, president of Corporate Information Resources, Inc., and Mark Greene, director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming, all representing professional societies. This presentation provided the opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the extent to which information about information programs has been available to them and how it might be more useful to their decision-making processes. It also provided a venue for educators to interact directly with stakeholders to discuss the above issues.

A second task force panel at the Vancouver meeting, System of Professions: Testing the Boundaries, addressed the information professions from a theoretical perspective. It included three speakers, Marcia Bates, University of California, Los Angeles; Prudence Dalrymple, Drexel

University; and Cassidy Sugimoto, a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. It was moderated by José-Marie Griffiths, also from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Drawing upon their published research and professional experience, the speakers addressed various aspects of the information professions: the structure(s) of the discipline and the profession(s), their evolving relationships to one another and their intellectual heritage and future.

The work of the task force continues. The proposal described above is being discussed with potential funding agencies, and we hope to begin some version of the work within the next six months. As task force chair, I will be leading a People-to-People delegation to China to take this topic international, talking with a spectrum of information-related education programs in that country. Groups represented at our 2009 meeting have been invited to participate in the delegation, and we are seeking funding so that task force members can participate as well.

The Information Professionals Task Force will continue to provide opportunities for dialogue among the various stakeholder groups with the objectives of making the academic programs in information as useful as possible to all involved and of making the path to an information professional career more apparent to all. The task force welcomes your thoughts and your participation. ■