

High achievers

ALIA student awards

Congratulations to the following outstanding recipients.

TAFE NSW (Sydney Institute)

Thanks to Kevin Dudeney (Group convenor, National Library Technicians) for presenting the awards.

Stephanie Ryan and Susan Sturgess, joint winners – for academic distinction in the Diploma of Library and Information Services. Susan Sturgess was the recipient of the award for academic achievement in stages 1 and 2 of the DLIS in 2004!

Joanne Perry, for academic achievement in stages 1 and 2 of the Diploma of Library and Information Services

UNSW

Thank you, Wilma Norris (State Library of NSW) for presenting the award.

Niall Clugston, highest achieving graduating student in the Information Management Specialisation of the Master of Commerce

University of Technology, Sydney

Sara Haynes, most outstanding student in the Bachelor of Arts in communication (Information Management)

Institute of TAFE Tasmania (Hobart Campus)

Thank you, Chris Seaman (Group convenor, ALIA Tasmania) for presenting the award.

Jan Burge, Outstanding graduating student in the Diploma of Library/Information Services

Queensland University of Technology (Gardens Point)

Thank you Dr Gillian Hallam (chair, ALIA education reference group) for presenting the award.

Sofie Falkenbach, for being a part-time student who completed the course in the time period appropriate for normal progress

and achieved the highest aggregate result in the Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies

University of South Australia

These awards were presented at the ALIA Board of Directors meeting, Adelaide.

Lorien Delaney for academic excellence in the Bachelor of Arts (Information Studies)

Maureen Spiers for achieving the highest grade point average in the Graduate Diploma (Information Studies)

Victoria University of Technology – (TAFE division)

Thank you, Margie Anderson (ALIA local liaison officer, Victoria) for presenting the award.

Christine Bennet, highest achieving graduating student in the Diploma of Library/Information Services

Box Hill Institute

Thank you to Gail Schmidt (State Library of Victoria), who presented the award.

Constance Brand and Jane Cousens: Joint winners – Outstanding Student, gaining distinctions in all subjects of the Diploma of Library and Information Services

RMIT

Thanks again to Margie Anderson (ALIA local liaison officer, Victoria), who presented the awards.

Blanca Pizzani, graduating student with the highest achievement performance in the Master of Business Information Technology (Information Management Stream)

Laura McKenzie, graduating student with the highest academic performance in the Bachelor of Business (Information and Knowledge Management) ■

Blooming in Japan

Graeme Johanson, Monash University

With the aim of assessing the impact of the internet on libraries, a group of international educators met on 9 March at the University of Tsukuba in Japan. It was an appropriate context in which to chart new directions for information science education in networked societies. As the plum blossoms unfolded imperceptibly in the manicured public gardens near the university, the bullet train shot by between megalopolises.

Speakers from US universities joined those from the Asia-Pacific region at the annual symposium at Tsukuba of the Research Centre for Knowledge Communities. Eighteen US schools of librarianship have formed a community of practice to improve understanding of the uses and users of information, as well as information technologies and their applications (<http://www.ischools.org/oc/>). Student demand for US courses in information science is increasing, in the midst of a long-term decline in related IT courses.

In Japan, Korea, Thailand and Taiwan, there is extensive regional collaboration, but several countries are struggling: de-

clining student numbers, policy development difficulties, the low status accorded librarians, ageing professional cohorts, and diminishing government resources for university education and professional jobs. It is hard to find qualified library educators in Taiwan and Thailand.

There is no doubt that our international colleagues value Australia's contributions in international forums, and appreciate the worth of many innovative projects here. The 'i-schools' community is interested in continuing collaboration.

At Tsukuba I presented a paper by the staff of the Centre for Community Networking Research (ccnr.net.au) and the Information and Telecommunications Needs Research group (<http://www.sims.monash.edu.au/research/itnr>) on 'Discerning the future of information science education through community networking research and practice'. The paper covered five of our main themes: collaborative technologies and e-research; user-centred design and the knowledge commons; social network analysis and community-based organisations; community knowledge, civil

society, development informatics and e-democracy; and study of human information-seeking, communication, and telecommunications behaviour.

Official measures of the number of plum blossoms on show around Tsukuba estimated 30 per cent of trees in full bloom. (The progress of the flowers is plotted like the weather forecasts). By analogy it is possible to think that library education – harnessing the power of computer networks fully – is on the verge of display as well. Sharing news of recent international trends and strategies, understanding the importance of related research, and continuing discussion with committed institutions, led us to a positive, collaborative, emergent and appealing image of the future. ■



l-r: Professor Schubert Soo, Singapore, Professor Shigeo Sugimoto, host of the symposium, University of Tsukuba, Dr Graeme Johanson, Monash University.