ALA-SC earns national honor

The University of Hawai‘i at Manoa American Library Association Student Chapter was named the 2004 runner-up ALA Student Chapter of the Year in April. “We are very proud of all the improvements our student chapter has accomplished this semester,” co-presidents Mahate Osborn and Diane Todd said. “We appreciate the outstanding contributions of our executive board, committee members and faculty advisor.”

According to an ALA New Members Round Table press release, the UHM ALA-SC was “honored for its efforts in revitalizing the chapter and its creative methods to ensure the continuation of quality leadership.”

The award has been presented annually since 2000 by the ALA NMRT to recognize student chapters’ outstanding contributions to the association and the profession. The UCLA ALA SC was named the 2004 Student Chapter of the Year for its programming, outreach and fundraising activities. UCLA finished as runner-up in 2002.

Southern Lady, Library Scholar Internationale

By Diane Todd
ALA-SC Co-President

Born and reared in Georgia, Sarah Katherine Vann attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned her bachelor’s in library science in 1939. Inspired to teach, Vann enrolled at the University of Michigan and was granted her master’s in library science in 1944. From 1945-1960, Vann taught at the Carnegie Library School, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh. In 1958, Vann received her Ph.D. in library science from the prestigious University of Chicago Graduate Library School. In 1961, the American Library Association published her respected dissertation, “Training for Librarianship Before 1923,” which focuses on the Dewey to Williamson period of library school education. She

New service award to Knuth

Rebecca Knuth, who begins a two-year term as LIS program chair this summer, is the recipient of the inaugural ALA-SC Sarah K. Vann Professional Service Award.

Vann herself presented Knuth the award at the Hui Dui Graduation Dinner May 8. Knuth had been a student of Vann’s while pursuing her master’s at UHM.

“Sarah Vann is such a great role model,” said Knuth, who identified Vann as one of her library school mentors. “An award with her name on it was really pleasing right off the bat.”

Knuth created a special topics course specifically on intellectual freedom three years ago, the first of its kind at UHM. After successfully offering the course twice, the program is in the process of converting Knuth’s creation into a regular course.

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Looking back, looking forward

This May was special for us in the UH ALA-SC ‘Ohana. Jodie Mattos wrote us from the New Members Round Table that we were selected as “Runner-Up” Student Chapter of the Year. I think we should all be very proud. There are nearly 50 active ALA Student Chapters in the United States and Canada. Almost one-fifth of them applied for this year’s honor, so we did extremely well on our first try.

I would like to congratulate our current officers: Co-Presidents Mahate Osborn and Diane Todd, Vice President Lori Ann Saeki, Secretary Mona Kwon, Treasurer Jennifer Ogg, Public Relations Chair Jan Kamiya, Fundraising Maven Trent Reynolds and Membership Coordinator Lillian Nicolich for this honor. I also want to recognize and thank everyone who helped ALA-SC programs over the academic year, including past officers, speakers and our many friends who assisted us at the Internship and Job Fair.

You all demonstrated real leadership skills.

We on the faculty understand that everyone is busy balancing work, family — and yes, school — but are very pleased with our volunteers in ALA-SC, as well as asis&t/SLA student chapter, Hui Dui, Web Team, and Alumni Group members. You all serve very important roles within the LIS Program. Equally importantly, we are pleased that you are learning leadership skills, as well as the commitment to service that has guided librarianship for over a century.

Four of our ALA-SC officers will be graduating in May and August (Jan, Mahate, Trent, and Diane). We are sad to see you leave, but thank you for being such fine role models. I am confident that each of you will carry forward your vision of service into ALA, HLA, the Alumni Group and beyond. You each inspired us to continue, and to try again next year to be THE chapter of the year, but also to have fun doing so, while keeping the needs of our students as our primary focus.

Andrew Wertheimer
Student Chapter Faculty Advisor

After the Carnegie Library School closed in 1960, Vann joined the Columbia School of Library Service as a visiting associate professor. Invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to serve as a consultant to the president of the University of the Philippines, Vann helped to establish the Institute of Library Science there in 1961. The institute still operates today. After completing this assignment, she spent two years as an associate professor of library science as a visiting associate professor. Invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to serve as a consultant to the president of the University of the Philippines, Vann helped to establish the Institute of Library Science there in 1961. The institute still operates today. After completing this assignment, she spent two years as an associate professor of library science at the State University of New York at Buffalo. At Buffalo, Vann experimented with the curricula and introduced one of the first library school courses on intellectual freedom. In 1969, Vann joined the faculty of the newly opened Graduate School of Library Studies at the University of Hawai’i. She taught at UH for 17 years before retiring in 1986. Actively involved in the ALA and other professional associations throughout her career, Vann now volunteers for several organizations in Hawai’i.

Vann’s professional achievements have been recognized numerous times: Scarecrow Press Award, 1962; Distinguished Alumni Awards from Georgia College, 1966, and the University of Michigan, 1976; Hayes-Fulbright Award, 1972; Melvil Dewey Medal, 1982; Beta Phi Mu Award, 1987. Although Vann appreciates these honors and accolades, she is most proud of her 40-year teaching career, which she considers her most enduring contribution to the field of librarianship. She feels privileged to have been associated with several different library schools and allowed to teach so many talented students. Her students’ successes continue to delight her and she enjoys keeping in touch with them.

Although Vann expresses concern about the challenges that confront libraries today, she is confident that librarians will have a place in future libraries, whatever form they may take. While she was doing research for her dissertation, she read Library Journal articles dating back to its inception in 1876. When riding overhead-powered streetcars became a popular Sunday activity in the late 19th century, librarians worried that it would take people away from the library rather than bring them to it. Concerned that bicycles would also reduce library use, librarians advocated adding bookracks so that bicyclists could read. In the 20th century, librarians had similar misgivings about new media like radio and television. As we enter the 21st century, some librarians fear that rapidly advancing technology will replace them, but Vann believes that the profession, which has persevered despite the streetcar, bicycle, radio and television, will survive — and possibly even thrive — in this new millennium. It is living library legends like Dr. Sarah K. Vann that inspire us to appreciate our profession’s past and light the way to the future.

**Knuth**


“I felt like (the award) valued what I value about librarianship, and it’s always wonderful when there’s awards that value the humanistic aspects of librarianship,” said Knuth.

“I believe information has to do with human rights, and access to information has a lot to do with what kind of a democracy we have.”

The ALA-SC developed the Vann Award this year to recognize UHM librarians, information specialists and LIS educators who embody the ideals and goals of librarianship, particularly those whose work focuses on intellectual freedom, advocacy for libraries and librarians, professional education, and international relations.
Congratulations, graduates!

Many of those graduating this spring and summer pose with outgoing LIS program chair Diane Nahl at the Hui Dui Graduation Dinner at the Hale Koa Hotel May 8.

ALA-SC to help sponsor auction

Blotter Staff

ALA-SC and the UH LIS Alumni Group have been selected to co-sponsor the silent auction at the 2004 Hawai‘i Library Association Conference. The auction serves as one of the organization’s main fund-raisers and will benefit future ALA-SC programming as well as Alumni Group scholarships for LIS students.

ALA-SC previously co-sponsored the silent auction at the 2002 HLA Conference.

The organization needs your help to find items for the silent auction. If you have an idea for a potential donor or have gifts, such as gift certificates, artwork or library paraphernalia, please contact silent auction coordinator Andrew Wertheimer at 956-5839 or wertheim@hawaii.edu.

The 2004 HLA Conference will take place at the Turtle Bay Resort on Oct. 23 and 24.

National News

ALA elects new executive officers

Blotter Staff

Michael Gorman, dean of library services at Henry Madden Library at Fresno State University, has been elected ALA president for the 2005-06 term. Gorman will become president-elect in July 2004 and assume the presidency in July 2005 following the ALA Annual conference in Chicago.

“I am thrilled to have been elected and look forward very much to being ALA’s vice-president/president-elect,” Gorman said in a press release. “Running for this position has been a most interesting experience, particularly meeting and listening to so many and such a wide range of librarians.”

Gorman beat out Barbara Stripling, director of library programs at New Visions for Public Schools in New York City, for the 2005 presidency. Both Gorman and Stripling are current members of the ALA Executive Board.

Carla Hayden is the current ALA president and Carol Brey-Casiano, director of libraries at the El Paso Public Library, will serve as president for 2004-05.

ALA members also re-elected Teri Switzer, assistant director for human resources and budget at the University of Colorado’s Auraria Library, as treasurer for the 2004-07 term.

Coming Soon ...

The new ALA-SC Web site

http://www2.hawaii.edu/~alasc