CONFERENCE UPDATE

Make plans now to join us at the 24th Annual SALIS Conference in Washington, DC! The conference will kick off with an opening reception at 7pm on Tuesday, April 16th and will conclude with training opportunities on Saturday, April 20th. Dr. Ruth Sanchez-Way, Director of the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, will be the opening speaker. The conference planning committee has arranged for other local experts to speak on AOD policy issues, club drugs, and issues related to specific populations. The conference will also include professional activities, such as tours to the National Library of Medicine and the Library of Congress. Conference hotel is the Radisson Barcelo in Dupont Circle. Early-bird Registration Deadline is March 8. After that the registration fee will go up, so please don’t delay. Registration forms will be available online, and will also be sent directly to your e-mail address. Room reservations for the Barcelo can be made by phoning (800) 333-3333. Deadline for SALIS rates $119.00 single, $139 double, $159 triple (plus tax) is March 16, 2002. Further details are available at www.salis.org. Additionally, scholarship applications are due no later than Monday, February 4, 2002.

Election 2002

Nominations chair, Leigh Hallingby, solicits nominations for chair elect, secretary, and members at large. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Leigh at lhallingby@sorosny.org. Watch email for more information.

SALIS Home & Member News


Farewell to Chelsea Whelan— another goodbye to a SALIS Administrative Assistant. It’s really hard to keep students with us, especially when they are graduating seniors! A grateful goodbye and wishes for the best in the future.
WEB SIGHTS

By Samantha Helfert, MLS
Row Sciences, Rockville, MD

This column of Websights will highlight the European Internet Gateway on Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD), a project being developed by the European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ELISAD). The information on this project was provided by Susanna Prepelieczay, the librarian at ARCHIDO. She will be providing an update on the project at the 24th Annual SALIS Conference in Washington, DC in April 2002.

The idea to create a subject gateway on alcohol and other drugs (AOD) originated at the 1999 annual ELISAD meeting in Lisbon. Information specialists and librarians decided there was a need for a tool to recognize valuable and reliable information resources on the web, because of the vast mass of web sites that sometimes provide non-balanced information or private opinions, especially in the alcohol and drugs field. An experimental workgroup was established in 2000 to work on this objective.

Preliminary work on the gateway project was voluntary by project members. In January 2001, in an effort to acquire financial funding to secure its performance on a more elaborate level, an application for funding for the project, "ELISAD Gateway on Alcohol and Other Drugs," was submitted to the European Commission (EC) by ARCHIDO in close collaboration with ELISAD gateway group members. In June 2001, the EC stated approval for the ELISAD gateway project. The official project start was planned for September 2001, but due to the complex administration process of the EC contracting procedure, there is a delay of the starting date – now planned for January 2002.

The goal of the ELISAD gateway is to identify and collect web sites from all European countries (including non-European Union states), to evaluate their content, and to create a database with this "meta-information." A portal web site will be created to provide basic information about and access to each web site. Users will be able to find the resources by geographic location (i.e., by country) and by thematic ordering (e.g., by prevention, policy, etc.), as well as by searching the content of fields. Each AOD web site included in the gateway will be described in English and original language. A link to the preliminary portal web site is available on the ELISAD web site (http://www.elisad.org/gateway/index.htm). Gateway project members will be assessing this draft web site in terms of its organization and structure, in comparison to

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VIDEO VIEWS

By Gary Bell
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Toronto, ON Canada

When Helping Hurts: Sustaining Trauma Workers
1998; 50 min. Distributor, USA: Gift From Within.
www.sourcemaine.com/gift Camden Maine 04843
Cost: $95.00 Distributor, Canada: Canadian Learning
Company. www.canlearn.com Woodstock ON N4S 6E3
Cost: $195.00

Audience: health professionals; trauma workers; students in professional programs

Dr. Frank Ochberg M.D., an expert in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), hosts this program aimed at trauma workers and introduces each of the main areas covered. Ochberg asks, who is the trauma worker? Counsellors dealing with traumatised clients come to mind first, but there are also ambulance attendants, police, fire fighters, international aid workers, or anyone, such as neighbours, who provide help at natural disasters. The relevance of this kind of program is obvious in the wake of the horrifying assaults of September 11. In that context the widely based definition of the trauma worker shows that not only the grief counsellor or therapist can benefit from the information in this program.

Considerable time is spent on the idea of compassion fatique, which is the major focus of the video. It is suggested that compassion fatigue can be thought of as PSTD through empathy. Much effort has been made to distinguish compassion fatigue from "burnout" and countertransference reactions, though these states may be the consequence of unmanaged compassion fatigue. The symptoms seem similar to clinical depression and may initially include loss of a sense of humour, but later include resentment, decreased libido, sleep problems and psychosomatic disorders. Several commentators state the loss of humour as being the first indicator of something wrong. The worker may become isolated and demoralised, lose confidence in one's work, or drink too much alcohol. How do you help someone who doesn't want help? Self-recognition of compassion fatigue may be complicated by the denial of feelings and detachment, but intolerance, impatience and lack of judgement are indicators to an observer. A counsellor, Dr Ochberg points out, who uses a personal anecdote may recognise in themselves that they have become passionate rather than compassionate. Not being alert to work stress can lead to countertransference reactions; getting over-involved or becoming avoidant and remote from clients.

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New Books

Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, CA


(Continued on page 4)


Raine, Pamela. Women’s Perspectives on Drugs and Alcohol: the vicious circle. Aldershot; Burlington, VT Ashgate, c2001. $64.95 (h) ISBN: 0754614298


PERIODICAL NEWS

Journal of Substance Abuse has ceased publication with Vol 14 No. 4 2001. This was posted in an editorial announcement from D. Jones, Elsevier Science Ltd. d.jones@elsevier.co.uk

IN REMEMBRANCE . . .

With great sadness, it was announced that ELISAD/SALIS member Greet van der Spek died in early December, after a "fierce struggle with an incurable illness". Greet was Librarian for the Trimbos Institute in the Netherlands, and fought very hard to keep the library from closing.
other gateway web sites.

Gateway project members are currently working on methodological questions, such as indexing and comparison to European and international metadata standards. Two policies have been developed to guide the selection of resources on the gateway: 1) the Gateway Scope Policy and 2) the Selection Criteria. The Scope Policy outlines the range of resources to be included on the portal in terms of content, type of resources, type of publishing organization, geographic constraints, language, and cost of access. If a resource falls within the scope, it will be evaluated in terms of content, form, and process as outlined in the Selection Criteria. To facilitate the collection of standardized data to evaluate each web site, an online form was created based on the scope and quality criteria. A test run of the form will be made to examine its user-friendliness and functionality.

While all ELISAD member organizations will be involved in the networking process, 11 partner organizations will take responsibility for concrete tasks to be performed in the gateway development. Together, the aim is to realize an user-friendly information tool for professionals that will be implemented on the ELISAD web site. The project will continue for 18 months, future maintenance is intended to be secured by trainings for AOD professionals. More information on the ELISAD gateway, including documentation, can be found at the ELISAD web site, and the ELISAD Electronic Journals issues, as well as on the ARCHIDO web site (www.archido.de).

Happy New Year! I hope the beginning of 2002 has given you the boost that it has me. Last year will not be forgotten, but I am glad to have my energy back.

On the newsletter front, the masthead is currently being redesigned to incorporate the SALIS logos from the website. Debut will be the Spring issue. In the near future, we will be doing an evaluation of the newsletter to consider other important issues, such as electronic access, ideas for new features, etc.

SALIS Administrative Assistant, Chelsea Whelan, is leaving (per front page) and the shower of applications for this position (all 175 plus) must be in part, an indicator of the current economic situation. When a selection is made, we will announce to the list.

Thanks to all of you who responded so quickly to our “Training” choices questionnaire for the SALIS Conference. It looks like another great meeting on the horizon. And as the sun begins to linger just a little bit longer, I’m looking forward to DC, our forthcoming 24th annual, the cherry blossoms, and the award winning chef at the Radisson Hotel.

-A.M.
Deadline for next Issue of SALIS News, Vol. 22, No. 1, Spring 2002 is:

March 1, 2002

We're on the web!
http://salis.org

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