What a time to serve as Chair of SALIS. It's hard to believe it's been a year and a half since the fateful Chicago conference that Mary O'Brien and Laura Sklansky expertly convened. The location was superb, the presentations engaging, the food divine…and the suites! Those suites were luxurious. The laugh was clearly on Eric and me as we prepared to take on the roles of Chair and Chair-Elect while co-planning our first ever joint conference with our esteemed Elisad colleagues. What huge shoes to fill!

The past several months have been quite a learning experience. With a motivational and inspirational partner, a supportive boss and EDC colleagues, and a most understanding husband, I managed to play a part in pulling off a successful conference. As with every conference, though, the larger part was played by SALIS members and conference attendees. Joined by our passionate Elisad colleagues, we shared our considerable knowledge and skills and generated tremendous ideas which continue to invigorate us as we move through our work lives.

It's no secret that the substance abuse prevention and treatment fields currently face tremendous challenges. The most significant hurdle is the financial struggle many of our organizations are dealing with. I don't know that I could name one colleague at an organization near or far who hasn't had to deal with budget reductions, staff layoffs, or "restructuring" that makes getting a job done well an incredible challenge. Many of us are indeed feeling increased pressure to boost quality and performance despite a reduction in resources.

SALIS is, in many ways, struggling along with our home organizations. When our members take on more work and have less time to contribute submissions to SALIS News, can't find the time to get involved with reviewing changes to the website, or can't follow through with their commitment to lead a committee (ahem), the organization and her members suffer for it. Our biggest challenge as we move forward will be finding ways to maintain our motivation while being cognizant of these challenges and divining ways to overcome them.

(Continued on page 7)
Minutes from the 2005 Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report—Barbara Weiner
Our financial situation has improved due to: electronic publication of SALIS News; fewer employee hours at SALIS home; donations (one anonymous, one from a SALIS member); and, most important, a profit from last year’s conference. The profit was due to income from sponsorships and exhibits, plus the fact that our Chicago conference organizers kept costs very low. Although the 2003 conference lost money, mainly due to cancellations from the SARS scare, the 2004 and 2005 conferences made a profit which helped alleviate those 2003 losses.

We awarded two conference scholarships this year; funds for these came from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, not from our budget.

This conference, with attendance of 49 persons, should more than pay for itself. Income has included sponsorships totaling $3300, plus gifts in kind from the Education Development Center, Eric Helmuth, and JoinTogether. In addition, we have received $1250 for exhibits vs. $750 last year—kudos to Meg and Nancy who organized this.

Home Report—Andrea Mitchell
SALIS Home moved recently. The move raised the issue whether we should continue to hold onto old records. Our accountant, Pam Bayer advises that some records have to be kept for 7 years, some for 5. SALIS actually has everything back to 1978. From a legal standpoint this is not the recommended procedure: if you have something (even if you are past the date at which you may legally discard it), you are liable to produce it.

We still have paper stock with the SALIS logo, and Andrea would like to use it up, and print some issues since we now have a little money. Printing costs about $300 per issue and mailing about $100. Various suggestions were made: print enough copies to take meetings like Kettill Bruun and the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE); since our financial picture is better, maybe we should print to give us something tangible; perhaps we should have a final issue, with material that won’t date real fast, a promotional issue or we could do a special theme; we could give members the option of receiving an electronic or a print copy.

A motion was made and passed to give members the option of receiving a print copy of SALIS News, to begin with the promotional issue.

We discussed whether there might be an institution that would be interested in housing SALIS archives?

The Board discussed whether SALIS should affiliate itself with a larger library group such as SLA or MLA. Efforts at this in the past did not succeed. It may be worth trying again. However, as a general rule, a) it is difficult to qualify for affiliate status; and b) we wouldn’t want to be subsumed.

SALIS Home needs better technology. The Board agreed that SALIS Home should buy what it needs. Also, the Executive Director and possibly other Board Members, should get SALIS business cards.

Andrea Mitchell gave a presentation at the ISAJE meeting on the need for a combined AOD database. ISAJE participants were very receptive, and several made offers of assistance.

SALIS needs a) a strategic planning document (our last 5-year plan was developed in 1989); b) promotional items, such as a new brochure.

Membership
Total stands at 117—about the same as last year. We made an extra effort not to lose members, but the sad truth is that organizations like ours are losing people. Money is going to mental health and general prevention, rather than addiction.

Jessica is reaching out to RADAR members to join SALIS as NCADI is no longer supporting RADAR (NCADI has also dumped its Library and decreased document distribution). ATTC funding has been reduced as well; 7 or 8 ATTC members are in SALIS now.

SALIS relationship with ELISAD.
This joint SALIS-ELISAD Meeting looks to be a great success. We have seven ELISAD members coming, plus two additional attendees from Portugal and one from Australia. Still, Jorunn Moen, Chair of ELISAD, thought more people would come to the U.S. Sheila commented it would be nice to have a future joint meeting in Europe. Perhaps we could develop a structure, e.g., a joint meeting every 4th year, alternating continents.

Jorunn said it is not realistic for SALIS and ELISAD to join together: better to have two separate, strongly linked organizations. Christine Goodair, who will be the next ELISAD Chair, believes we should not close the door on the possibility of the two organizations becoming one. One possibility would be to create an umbrella organization, a virtual umbrella, a named entity under which all regional groups, SALIS, ELISAD, etc., would fall.

Both SALIS and ELISAD should work to develop more

(Continued on page 5)
Highlights
General Business Meeting, Parts 1 & 2
September 27th and 30th, 2006,
Educational Development Center, Newton, MA.

Election Results—Forty-six people voted in the elec-
tions—a good turnout. The new officers are:
Chair-Elect: David Man
Secretary: Christine Goodair
Members-at-Large: Meg Brunner, Nancy Kendall, Tom
Krawczyk, and Diane van Abbe.
(Due to a tie, four members at large were elected this year
rather than three.)

Treasurer’s Report—Barbara Weiner. SALIS’ finances
are looking better, but we still have to be careful in spend-
ing. This year’s conference should show a profit, though
not as much as last year’s, which was outstanding.

SALIS Home moved from Berkeley to Emeryville in the
Spring. There is no storage space, and decisions have to be
made on what to do with 10 boxes of unpacked materials.
Chase Pearce, the SALIS Home assistant, works in the
office Mondays and Fridays. If you contact her, and it is
not an emergency, you may not hear back for a couple of
days.
Andrea and a small cadre continue to work on the possibil-
ity of creating a combined Alcohol and Drug database.

Last year, we eliminated printing of SALIS News to save
money and distributed it electronically only. Perhaps, as
our financial situation has improved, we should go back to
print. Andrea asked that those interested in a printed ver-
dition raise their hands, but only two hands were raised.
When asked how many read SALIS News, everyone raised
their hand. Andrea mentioned that Haworth offered to pro-
duce SALIS News and pay for half of the mailing cost. In
return they would get to advertise. There was little interest
in this proposal.

We discussed the need for SALIS to better promote itself.
It has been in existence for 28 years, but is little known.
We could do this by exhibits at other Library conferences,
by printing and distributing a promotional issue of SALIS
News (using up existing logo paper), and/or by developing
a SALIS presentation, which would be available to any
member to use.

Future Meetings
SALIS met in the Fall this year to accommodate ELISAD.
A Spring Meeting in 2007 would probably be too soon for
most members, so instead the Board will meet for a
Strategic Planning meeting in Reno in Spring, and the next
general meeting will be in Seattle in 2008.
The possibility of a shorter conference length for Seattle
was raised, and there were strong opinions on both sides.
We decided to do an online member survey.
Anyone who would like to host a future conference should
let the Board know. We are considering to continue meet-
ing jointly with ELISAD every 4th or 5th year.

COMMITTEE & SIG REPORTS
Education and Outreach did not find an opportunity to
meet at this Conference. Jessica Desmarais will circulate
the minutes from last year on the listserver. Last year we did
better at member retention by making an effort to contact
members who did not renew.
The International Committee is very pleased with the attend-
ance of ELISAD members at this conference, and will
work on planning future joint meetings.
Bette Reimer will become Chair of the CANADIAN SIG.
The Technology Committee identified the following priori-
ties: exploring ways to work with Inmagic; setting up a
blog on salis.org, utilizing a Wiki format; and doing a post
Conference survey.

Radar
Although SAMHSA and CSAP support has disappeared,
the RADAR network still exists, with most States still
funding it. RADAR members will continue their activities
and will create a listserver to share resources. SALIS will
offer technical support to the listserver. In addition, a motion
was made and passed that SALIS will formally endorse
the RADAR network’s efforts. SALIS and RADAR have been
allies for a long time, and if external support to RADAR
continues to decline, SALIS membership could be a way
for RADAR members to access vital resources.

ELISAD
Jorunn Moen reported that ELISAD attendees had met the
night before and agreed that their experience at the confer-
ence was perfectly positive.

Special Award to George Marcelle
A special award was given to George Marcelle for his
extraordinary service to SALIS and the AOD information
field in general. He was given an honorary MLIS. See
page 7 for a picture of George receiving the award.

Thank You
Andrea Mitchell presented a token of appreciation to our
two hosts, Jessica Desmarais and Eric Helmuth, for doing a
wonderful job.
Conference Edition—October 2006

I am pleased to report that we had coast-to-coast representation at the first ever joint SALIS / Elisad conference in Boston: from the east, Ruth Hart (Nova Scotia Dept. Mental Health) from Halifax, NS and from the west, Dan Reist (CAR-BC) from Vancouver, BC. We managed a few in betweens as well: Bette Reimer (CCSA) from our capital, Ottawa, Diane van Abbe (OTRU) and myself (CAMH) from Toronto, ON. We missed Ed Gregory, a committed SALIS conference attendee from the Brewers’ Association in Ottawa, who had registered but was unable to make it. Although many Canadian members were unable to attend, it is encouraging that there were at least enough of us to have a bit of a discussion around the dinner table. Isn’t that a great part of conferences – the socializing and networking?

The big news is that Ruth Hart has offered to host SALIS in Halifax in 2009. Like Boston, Halifax is one of the older North American cities, beautifully situated along the heavily indented, rocky Nova Scotia shoreline. The other news is that Bette Reimer is the new Chair, Canadian Special Interest Group (SIG), a position that I have held for many years. A change is well overdue. Bette will be taking over this column for the next issue of SALIS News.

In addition to getting caught up, we discussed the recently published report Out of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada, also referred to as the Kirby Report, after Senator Michael Kirby, the Chair of The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology which coordinated this huge, national effort. The committee examined mental health needs and services in Canada. The report offers a blueprint for reform and entrenches the significance of the burden of mental health and addiction problems and the need to integrate and mainstream treatment services. The report is not without its critics. There was criticism about the lack of addressing women’s needs both as clients and care givers as well as the issue of violence against women and children, which increases risk and vulnerability to both addiction and mental health. There has also been criticism that addiction was short changed. Some of the criticism was in response to the interim reports and was taken into consideration when the final report was written. Out of the Shadows at Last is available free online; the easiest way to find it, is to search the title using a search engine such as Google.com.

(Continued on page 8)
international contacts, especially in Asia and South America. At the very least, we need a statement of vision of international cooperation, need to share stories about this conference.

Future Meetings
Since we are “off schedule,” i.e., meeting this year in the Fall rather than Spring, we will wait until Spring 2008 for our next Conference. The 2008 Conference will be held in Seattle, hosted by Nancy Sutherland and Meg Brunner. Seattle offers a great location, reasonably priced hotels, and low airfare. Nancy and Meg have approval from their organization, ADAI, to host it.

In Spring 2007 we will hold a Strategic Planning meeting, in Reno, NV, hosted by Stephanie Asteriadis, probably in early May. Length will be two days. We need to keep the group small—Board members, committee heads, and invited others. We would like to have an ELISAD representative attend. Goals for the meeting will include developing a 5-year plan. A specific agenda will be developed before the meeting. Potential topics are: SALIS’ relationship with other organizations (RADAR, ELISAD, etc); and possibly changing SALIS’s name (e.g., changing “substance abuse” to “addiction”).

Conference Length
Continuing a discussion from previous meetings, the Board debated the pros and cons of longer vs. shorter meetings. Eric commented that preparing for a conference of this year’s length is very hard. Suggestions for shortening a conference without decreasing opportunities for member participation include: concurrent sessions (most of us felt this wouldn’t work); shorter talks; more posters; more panel sessions; making the final day an optional training day. Some Board Members feel strongly that a longer conference is better. We agreed to survey members.

Periodical News
The Journal of Studies on Alcohol, better known as the JSA, will become the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs beginning January 2007. The JSA is the oldest and longest running alcohol research journal in the field of alcohol studies. Effective also beginning with the 2007 issues, the journal will be available in an online format so that subscribers will have access to full text pdf’s of the journal back to 1995.

To note: Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health, Haworth Press, mis-dated both of the first two issues of 2006. They were dated 2005.

A View from Australia on the Joint Meeting
By Jane Shelling, Manager, Resource Centre Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia Woden, Australia

The National Resource Centre (NRC) of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) has been a member of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists (SALIS) group for some years, keeping in touch via the SALIS electronic list. Therefore it was very satisfying for me to be able to attend this international conference for the first time, as a participant and speaker, to be able to personally meet some well known names and as an added bonus meet some members of the ELISAD group.

I found the conference well paced and organised with a friendly, professional and open atmosphere. The programme was diverse, giving a good mix of alcohol and other drug (AOD) research and policy information and specific library related AOD information management issues. In addition to hearing from the speakers, participants got the opportunity to ask questions, discuss issues and participate in informal networking. All this coupled with great food (I especially appreciated the Boston themed lunch) reflected very favourably on SALIS and on the hardworking conference hosts Jessica Hinkson and Eric Helmuth. With speakers from: USA, Canada, Ireland, England, Italy and Australia, an international mix of participants, and a broad range of topics, this conference reflected it’s theme of “Information without Borders”.

Every paper that was presented had merit, from the insight into AOD policies in Ireland by Louise Farragher, through to Anara Guard’s paper on the issues of statistics and suicide and Juan Carlos Vega’s discussion on the role of information in marginalised communities’. My notepad was littered with questions and thoughts after the conference, so now I am back at work I am doing my homework to try and address them.

Conference delegates who were encouraging a more international co-operation between our information services such as Andrea Mitchell’s paper on a combined AOD database have my full support and I hope in the future to be able to participate in such projects.

Following the conference I was fortunate to be able to visit Sheila Lacroix at the CAMH library in Toronto which rounded off a particularly successful and informative trip for me, so thanks to everyone involved. I will be passing some of this information on to my ADCA colleagues, other Australian AOD librarians and to my local group of medical librarians.
Information Without Borders: Italian Impressions
by Federica Ugaglia, Librarian
Association Gruppe Abele, Italy
and
Mariella Orsi, Librarian
Centro Studi e document. Dipen. e Aids, Italy

The first SALIS/Elisad Joint Conference, held in Boston Massachusetts from 26th to 30th September 2006, was an important and fascinating experience for the Italian representatives of documentation centers on addictions. First because the knowledge exchange with Canadian and American universities and information services gave us new ideas for our work, and second because we had the opportunity to introduce Acadia, the Italian network of Documentation Centers on Addictions, which represents one of the best results of the collaboration among documentation centers in five Italian regions.

This report offers brief considerations on the most interesting presentations. A very important issue was the strength and the weakness of new technologies. Lots of information is available on-line, and the role of specialized documentation centers becomes even more important when it introduces users to specific evidence-based documentation. The role of open access websites and the availability of full text scientific articles are fundamental in promoting the training of professionals and students. As for NGOs, which often face financial problems or work in marginalized communities, the Internet is an essential tool in disseminating information and providing documentation. However, since everything can be downloaded without any protection, there is the risk of underestimating the process and the work that has produced such documentation.

Another challenge is to become activists in creating alliances, both at a national and an international level, by informing all the organizations working in this field about the attempts of closing down important resources due to cuts in funding. Andrea Mitchell, director and head librarian of the Alcohol Research Group Library, and Juan Carlo Vega, information specialist for the Information Resource Center at The Praxis Project, stressed the importance of outliving shutdown, because “culture goes by memory” and networks can preserve the work done.

Another interesting presentation was given by Anara Guard, Associate Director for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center. She focused on the problem of suicide in the United States, noting that deaths by suicide are twice as many as the deaths by AIDS and a great majority of those deaths involve alcohol problems. To remedy this situation prevention is a fundamental issue and SAMSHA has funded a national project which involves both psychologists and addiction experts in such an effort.

Dan Reist, Director of the Communication and Resource Unit at the Center for Addictions Research of BC, stressed the importance of capacity and infrastructure in supporting knowledge exchange. On one hand, he warned that the quantity of information often appears more important than its quality; on the other hand, he explained that a wide knowledge shared by few people means power for those few who tend to create obstacles to knowledge exchange due to their fear of losing it. In order to face this problem, Mr. Reist thought of a model which focuses on the creation of spaces for dialogue with the awareness that this requires time, an element quite difficult to get in our society. New technologies can support the dissemination of knowledge but they can’t replace it, and peer reviewed work can help in preserving the quality of information.

Another quite important issue in the United States is tobacco prevention. Shirley Dellenback, Chief of the Library and Information Services Unit, California Department of Health Services - Tobacco Control Section, introduced the audience to PRIMO, a portal for resources and information management online which promotes the dissemination of tobacco information and strengthens tobacco control. Diane Van Abbe, Information Coordinator with the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, showed a new online tobacco control course made up of three modules of thirty-three hours each to support protection, prevention and cessation of use.

The Joint Conference was also the opportunity for European representatives to stress the fundamental role of documentation centers in Europe. Christine Goodair, Head of Website and Information Services at Drugscope (UK), gave an overview of the epidemiology on addictions existing in Europe, pointing out an increase in the use of cocaine, especially among young adults, and in polydrug use. As for heroin, the major change is in the pattern of consumption, from injection to sniffing. On the other hand HIV sexual transmission has tremendously increased in Eastern European countries and tobacco is the single largest cause of avoidable death. In this situation joining forces becomes necessary to change people’s minds and create a culture that could promote health and harm reduction.

As for alcohol, Europe is the heaviest drinking region in the world but the governments’ policy in promoting risk awareness is still inadequate. Louise Farragher, the Irish representative from the National Documentation Centre on Drug Use (HRB), reported on the tremendous increase in alcohol consumption, especially among young adults, and presented the National Drug Strategy (2002-2004) to minimize and prevent alcohol-related consequences. She also showed how public health objectives come into conflict with the policy of promoting competition within liquor companies.

(Continued on page 7)
In their report about Acadìa, the Italian network of documentation centers on addictions, Federica Ugaglia and Mariella Orsi, the Italian representatives, focused on the Italian set of rules which cause a general increase in penalties for soft drugs use and presented the network as an instrument to strengthen the collaboration between centers and their social role in the field of addictions.

Finally, George Marcelle, a substance abuse information – communication professional, reported on myths and facts in methamphetamine use, refuting the arguments put forth by media that promote an “epidemic” perception of the drug in the general public and among professionals. Bearing in mind that health consequences of regular use are unquestioned, very few studies deal with health consequences in occasional use; according to recent data the average user is male, homosexual and middle aged and uses occasionally to improve his sexual performances. In short, promoting individual awareness about drug use is fundamental but assuming that methamphetamine is the most dangerous drug for young people is not correct. The facts are that alcohol is the drug which causes the most problems.

In conclusion this conference was “our space” for knowledge exchange with lots of actors bearing different knowledge and it provided plenty of time to meet each other in the wonderful frame of the City of Boston.

(From Italian Impressions page 6)

The board is planning a retreat for the spring during which we plan to walk the walk that many of us encourage in our own organizations: engaging in strategic planning and goal setting! We'll examine the overall mission and role of our organization as well as critical issues such as membership retention, the website, how to improve communications, and the like. Any input you can offer now will help to ensure that we consider every possible angle as we contemplate and plan for your organization's future.

As past SALIS chairs have done, I encourage you to contact me and tell me your concerns and suggestions for improvement. SALIS is a unique organization whose members are genuine, wise, and extremely talented. Together we will continue to strategize and discover new ways to serve our members. I am proud and feel blessed to be Chair and I look forward to serving you over the next 18 months. (See page 8 for a picture of Jessica)
We also briefly flagged the need for a means of accessing policy documents, in particular those from organizations in the health treatment system. There is a resistance to sharing internal documents due to risk management issues.

Bette informed the group that the 10 year progress review of the 1998 UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs will take place in Vienna, 2008. Coinciding with this will be an International NGO Committee Forum. Michel Perron, the CEO of CCSA, will Chair the international forum. There is potential for SALIS and Elisad involvement and Bette will keep us informed.

Christine reported that Elisad has been approached to take a slot in the Information stream of the International Harm Reduction Conference, http://www.harmreduction2007.org/. This is an opportunity for highlighting the value of our information services as well as promoting Elisad and SALIS.

We covered a lot of issues in a short time. To summarize, action items of a more immediate nature:

- Writing about our Joint Conference while it is still newsy – possibly in Addiction to capture the research world.
- Preparing for the SALIS Planning meeting which will involve looking into Webrings.

Get into Action - A New Board Game

GET INTO ACTION is a new board game designed to teach people about the disease of alcoholism and the process of 12 step recovery. It can be used by individuals or institutions such as sober living houses, recovery homes, treatment facilities, hospitals and other institutions, to facilitate an understanding of what recovery is all about. Intended for educational and entertainment value, it is also a tool which can help families, ages ten and up. Plans are underway to translate into other languages, and to make a web based version. For more information getintoactiongame@yahoo.com.

Member News

Congratulations to SALIS’s new secretary, Christine Goodair, Library Manager of DrugScope (UK) who has just been selected as one of fifteen non-US librarians to attend Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community. This leadership program will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, USA from February 18 through February 20, 2007. As a chosen participant, Chris will be joining fifteen Arizona librarians to explore leadership issues affecting librarians worldwide regardless of country. Sounds like a very challenging experience.

Norah Elizabeth Dever was born on October 7, 2006 weighing in at 8 lb. 10 oz, and 21.5 inches long. Her new mom is former SALIS Chair, Samantha Helfert. Congratulations to the new parents!

Mary Johnson, former SALIS Board member and Library Director of the Missouri Institute of Mental Health will be retiring on Feb. 2, 2007 after 28 years. Congratulations!

We also briefly flagged the need for a means of accessing policy documents, in particular those from organizations in the health treatment system. There is a resistance to sharing internal documents due to risk management issues.
New Books

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


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