Megan Griffin

ACRL honors the 2007 award winners

The final installment

Gilchrist wins ACRL/IS Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award

Debra L. Gilchrist, dean of library and media services of the Pierce College District, is the winner of the ACRL Instruction Section’s (IS) Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award. The award honors Miriam Dudley, whose efforts in the field of information literacy led to the formation of IS. The honor recognizes a librarian who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment.

The award is sponsored by Elsevier on behalf of its library and information science program. A check for $1,000 and a plaque will be presented to Gilchrist during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., during the IS Program, June 24.

“Through the Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award, we recognize Debra Gilchrist, dean of library and media services for Pierce College District in Washington, for her leadership in advancing instruction through information literacy assessment,” wrote Lisa Hinchliffe, chair of the IS Dudley award committee.

“Debra’s example has inspired instruction librarians throughout North America to ask key questions about student learning and to improve their instruction programs with the results. Her approach to assessment-as-learning is refreshing and offers a manageable process for instructional and programmatic improvement.

“The professional development Debra has provided through the ACRL Immersion Program, an ACRL online course, and her numerous consultancies and speaking engagements has offered assessment tools, ways of thinking like a teacher, and perspectives on student learning to librarians,” said Hinchliffe. “Debra’s work has impacted hundreds of librarians who are improving learning for thousands of students each year.”

Gilchrist has served as an ACRL Institute for Information Literacy Immersion faculty member since 1998, and has been dean of the faculty since 2001. She currently serves as cochair of the ACRL 13th National Conference Virtual Conference Committee, a position she has held since 2005. Gilchrist was chair of the ACRL Appointments Committee from 2001 to 2002, and during that time was also a member of the ACRL Task Force on the Future. She served on the ALA Council as councilor-at-large from 1995 to 2001.

Gilchrist has written extensively on information literacy assessment and is currently editing a volume on assessment for the ACRL Information Literacy series.

Gilchrist has been dean of library and media services of the Pierce College District since 1991. Prior to that, she was assistant professor at the Pacific Lutheran University Library (1987–91), where she was granted tenure in 1990. Gilchrist served as assistant

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Binh P. Le, associate librarian at Pennsylvania State Abington, has been named this year’s recipient of the ACRL Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Marta Lange/CQ Press Award. The award, established in 1996 by LPSS, honors an academic or law librarian who has made distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science.

CQ Press, sponsor of the award, will present the $1,000 award and plaque during the LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Press Award Reception, June 23.

“Binh was selected for his distinguished career as a political science librarian at Penn State; for his outstanding scholarship including bibliographic work on ‘Vietnam’s Economic Transformation, 1986-2000’ and his research on ‘Asian Gangs’ in the United States; for his service to the profession in LPSS; and for his outstanding work for the Library and Education Assistance Foundation for Vietnam (LEAF), dedicated to improving libraries and librarianship in Vietnam,” said Brian E. Coutts, chair of the Marta Lange Award Committee.

Prior to his current position, Le served as senior assistant librarian/reference librarian at Pennsylvania State Abington from 1988 to 1998. He was reference and instruction librarian at the Purdue University Undergraduate Library from 1987 to 1988.

ACRL announces RBMS Leab Exhibition award winners

There are seven winners for the Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Awards. These awards, funded by an endowment established by Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab, editors of American Book Prices Current and sponsored by the ACRL Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS), recognize outstanding exhibition catalogs issued by American or Canadian institutions in conjunction with library exhibitions as well as electronic exhibition catalogs of outstanding merit issued within the digital/Web environment.
In Division One (expensive), the cowinner is “No Other Appetite: Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and the Blood Jet of Poetry,” by Stephen C. Enniss and Karen V. Kukil submitted by the Grolier Club.

“In a deep red binding, this memorable volume brings together two significant collections of 20th-century literature,” said Marcia Reed, chair of the RBMS Exhibition Awards committee. “Mirroring the poets’ marriage, the beautifully designed and well-illustrated catalog succeeds admirably in publishing a book that conveys the weight of its subjects’ lives and works in both text and image.”

The next Division One cowinner is “Half-Life: 25 Years of Books” by Barbara Tetenbaum and Triangular Press, submitted by the Multnomah County Public Libraries, John Wilson Special Collections Room in Portland, Oregon.

“An artist’s book with text in both English and German serves as a retrospective catalog to an exhibition with a focus on the artist and her work,” said Reed. “Addressing the world of books and readers energetically and with humor, Tetenbaum transcends her own production and concludes with a stirring contemporary manifesto: ‘To create books out of passion, to give self-will a form and thus to stimulate the reader’s and observer’s every sense, this is where we share common ground.’”

In Division Two (moderately expensive) the winner is the New York Public Library, Dorot Jewish Division for its piece entitled “Letters to Sala: A Young Woman’s Life in Nazi Labor Camps,” by Ann Kirschner.

“Elucidating the biography of Sala Garncarz and the genesis of the archive, this volume tells the story of the young woman’s five years in a Nazi labor camp in Poland,” said Reed. “Illustrations, letters, and related documents from the collection support the somber account of a Holocaust survivor who came to start a new life in New York City.”

In Division Three (inexpensive), the cowinner is “Maxwell did it! Photographing the Atlantic City Boardwalk, 1920s–1950s,” submitted by the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising and Marketing History in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University.

Reed commented, “Highlighting photographs from Duke’s R.C. Maxwell Collection of billboards and electric signs in the New York metropolitan area, the period design and commercial format of this booklet showcase a bygone era of advertising signage, featuring Atlantic City along the boardwalk and the Miss America pageants. The exhibition and its catalog present a unique kind of special collections material that sheds light on mid-century American popular culture.”

The next Division Three cowinner is “Ezra Pound in His Time and Beyond: The Influence of Pound on Twentieth-Century Poetry,” submitted by the University of Delaware Library.

“A catalog from the University of Delaware Library’s strong 20th-century literary
royal weaponry, and other related activities that would appeal to all age groups.

As the final requirement for the grant, the project coordinator/principal investigator is required to write a report giving information on the events and number of people attending these events and enclose copies of any publications created for the exhibit and any newspaper articles written about the exhibit or events. This report not only fulfills the grant requirement, but it also allows your library staff to evaluate the effectiveness of some of your programs and marketing efforts.

From a marketing perspective, the report can be used to guide future marketing efforts. Several questions can assist in this effort: Were the evaluations from participants favorable? Did you reach your target audiences? and Did you raise your patron’s awareness of your library and the resources available to them through the library? It would also be worthwhile to bring your committee back for a debriefing meeting to discuss their feedback, their students’ feedback, and whether applying for this type of grant in the future would offer value to them as faculty, to their students, and to the community.

Since the Elizabeth I initial grant, three additional grants have been awarded to LRTS, including grants related to Isaac Bashevis Singer “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature” and “Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America.” The Isaac Bashevis Singer grant has been completed and the Elizabeth I and “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature” were completed at the end of 2006. From these grant experiences, a possible first-year experience and/or honors courses are being explored and a campuswide committee is being formed to emulate and improve events and other marketing efforts for the upcoming Alexander Hamilton traveling exhibit that will be in the LRTS in fall 2007.

Note
1. If you are interested in applying for these grants, you should go ALA’s PPO Web site at www.ala.org/ala/ppo/publicprograms.htm.

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special collections celebrates the recent acquisition of the Robert A. Wilson Ezra Pound Collection,” said Reed. “Modestly illustrated with titles and pages from modernist publications, the volume provides a well-rounded discussion of Pound’s singular production and his impressive circle of friends and contacts.”

In Division Four (brochures), the winner is the Getty Research Institute brochure entitled “A Tunultuous Assembly: Visual Poems of the Italian Futurists.”

Reed noted, “The tabloid format of Futurist manifestos used for this brochure reproduces the ‘words-in-freedom’ of the original avant-garde publications featured in the exhibition, pairing the images of the works and helpful translations with a thoughtfully written text on the history and context of Italian Futurist production.”

In Division Five (electronic exhibition), the winner is the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at the Cornell University Library for “Vanished Worlds, Enduring People: Cornell University’s Native American Collection,” nac.library.cornell.edu/exhibition/introduction/.

“Utilizing Cornell’s well-designed template to present a clear and readable overview of the exhibition design and principal objects, the electronic resource provides more than a catalog’s worth of information and images attractively and effectively,” said Reed. “The exhibition and its electronic version herald the transfer of the Huntington Free Library’s Native American Collection to Cornell University in 2004.”

Certificates will be presented to each winner during the RBMS Program at the ALA Annual Conference, June 24.