

(Written by Susan Lieberthal and William Glenn)

The Stony Brook University Libraries Junior Faculty Retreat took place at the Child's Mansion, Tuesday, May 30, 2006. Aimee DeChambeau, William Glenn and Susan Lieberthal were the organizing committee. After coffee and set-up time, a full morning of presentations and posters ensued. Everyone attending gave a presentation or displayed a poster. After lunch, most of the attendees braved the mud and mosquitoes to walk through the salt marsh. It was very beautiful and the weather was fine. In the afternoon, William moderated a discussion on the role of junior faculty in the strategic planning process. This was a productive and enjoyable discussion (see recommendations below in description of the Moderated Discussion.)

Everyone filled out the online evaluation form about the retreat. This, in itself, shows the commitment of the group to their work, colleagues and profession. Attendees rated all aspects of the day, and here are the results in order of popularity:

Moderated discussion (10)
Presentations (8)
Socializing (7)
Venue (6)
Posters (5)
Recreational time (hike) (3)
Day off (1)
Food (1)

As you can see the Junior Faculty is a bunch of workaholic librarians! It is clear that as a group the Junior Faculty is deeply engaged in thinking about how the library can be a better place. Attendees also worked hard to provide knowledge of their specific field to their colleagues and enjoyed each other's company very much. Having a retreat offsite, especially at the beautiful Child's Mansion, enhanced our ability to get the most out of the day.

Presentations

Jason Torre and Kristen Nyitray: D-Space
Susan Kaufman: Plagiarism workshop components
Mimi Lee: Cataloging of Korean materials
John Andrus: The Future-of-cataloging brouhaha; or, The sky might not be falling after all
Janet Clarke: Resources for Asian American Studies: Negotiating the taxonomy of a young discipline
Cynthia Dietz: Providing Access to Geospatial Information

Poster session

Karen Kostner: Information Literacy and Outreach, and Changes to the Computer Science Library
Susan Lieberthal: New Point of Service for Reference
Aimee deChambeau: Dateline: Library
Dana Antonucci: The Weeding Equation. When Space \neq Infinity

Moderated Discussion

In the afternoon session, William led a moderated discussion entitled, “Strategic Planning: What Role Can Junior Faculty Play?” Since several of the Junior Faculty were not involved in the previous Strategic Planning process, Janet was asked to provide background on what took place in 2002-2003, and Dana talked about differences between that process and the current one. Everyone was asked to contribute one or two points they most wanted to see addressed in the Strategic Planning process, and the discussion flowed quite freely, remaining focused and positive throughout.

The most common theme to emerge in the discussion was the desire to see more professional and effective communication within the library, as well as between the library and the university at large. The five newest members of the Junior Faculty suggested that a more thorough introduction to the library would be useful to incoming faculty. The group also discussed ways in which Junior Faculty can play an effective and positive role in the library outside of the Strategic Planning process.

At the end of the session, the Junior Faculty reviewed the list of contributions made during the discussion and agreed on two recommendations to pass on to the Dean and the Strategic Planning Committee. Those two recommendations are included below, along with the original 15 contributions made during the discussion, and the list of additional ways that Junior Faculty can actively participate in the library.

Recommendations

The Junior Faculty recommends to the Dean and the Strategic Planning Committee that the Library:

- 1) Implement an effective web of communication
- 2) Foster creativity and encourage active participation.

Additional Contributions:

- 1) Reduce the division between Technical and Public Services
- 2) More cohesion between IT and the Library
- 3) More time allowed for important collection decisions
 - JSTOR
 - Offsite
- 4) Instruction be given a higher priority
- 5) That the Library be seen as more of an asset across the campus
- 6) Increase awareness of factors affecting the future of cataloging
 - Karen Calhoun Report and Thomas Mann Response
- 7) That the staff be better educated in teamwork

- 8) Better communication and accountability within the Library
- 9) That the Library's vision be better communicated
- 10) Action/Feedback on measurements
- 11) That the Library revisit the communication structure among entities
- 12) Hire a webmaster and digitization librarian
- 13) That the Library's information infrastructure work more smoothly for patrons
- 14) That what is NOT available in STARS be clearly defined
- 15) Revive Janet Clarke's Checklist for new faculty

Participating Beyond the Strategic Plan:

- 1) New faculty be more involved in committees
- 2) Development of a Library Staff Intranet
- 3) Have items placed on the agenda of Faculty Meetings
- 4) Go to Supervisor
- 5) Marketing ourselves more