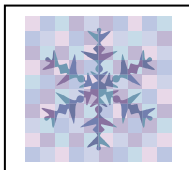

December 2007**Issue 18**

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Caroline Williams, former Director of the Master of Archives and Records Management (MARM) course and of LUCAS, left the University in July to take up the post of Head of Collections and Research at the National Archives. We would like to thank Caroline for all her hard work at LUCAS and to wish her every success in her new role. In September we welcomed Dr Alexandrina Buchanan as Lecturer in Archive Studies. Alex will also be Co-Director of LUCAS alongside Margaret Procter who takes over as Director of the MARM course.

Our major event over the summer was the celebration for the 60th anniversary of postgraduate education in Liverpool and this is reported extensively inside. 'Pop in the Archives' continued the successful 'in the Archives' series in November, and an open day for prospective students attracted almost 50 potential applicants.

We welcomed 20 new MARM students in September along with a new cohort of distance learning students. Our congratulations go to last year's MARM students who are now working in locations as diverse as Sheffield, Cumbria, Buckinghamshire (local record offices), the General Medical Council and the National Gallery. At undergraduate level, 22 students on the Records and Information Management programme exited with either a Certificate or a Diploma and were presented with their certificates at the National Archives conference held in Manchester in October. Congratulations to all of those who have achieved one of these awards!

And finally we wish all students, colleagues and friends a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!



D/CPS: Records and Information Management students who successfully completed the distance learning programme over the summer

60 years of postgraduate education at the University of Liverpool

To celebrate sixty years of postgraduate archives and records management education at the University of Liverpool a reunion was held at the Carnatic halls of residence on 12th to 14th July. Around seventy current and previous staff and students attended. The course began in 1947-8 and over 600 students have taken the course in its various incarnations. The current programme is still based in the School of History and is a Masters in Archives and Records Management. There is also an international pathway offered for overseas students. The programme also has links with Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies (LUCAS) which is a non-academic body set up to promote archives and to strengthen archival links within the University and beyond.



Four of our 2006/7 students welcoming arrivals at the reunion

The reunion began with an informal buffet lunch which gave people the chance to catch up with old friends and meet others attending the event. In many cases people had not returned to Liverpool since they were on the course. All those attending received a welcome pack containing a copy of *From Calendar to Continuum: A Celebration of*

Sixty Years of Archives and Records Management Postgraduate Education at the University of Liverpool.

This commemorative booklet contains recollections from staff and students, photographs and other information relating to the course. It was made possible thanks to Adrian Allan, University Archivist who undertook much of the work involved in producing it and the Friends of the University who made a grant towards the cost of printing.



Course director Dorothea Oschinsky and the class of 1973/74

Generous sponsorship was also received from Deepstore (who funded the tea party and provided small gifts), Railex (who produced the reunion folders), the Alumni Office (drinks reception), the School of History and the Business Archives Council.

A brief welcome session was followed by the cutting of the 60th anniversary cake by Cynthia Short, who attended the course in its first year (1947-8) and Michael Ewen, one of the 2006-7 students. Sparkling wine (and tea and coffee) were served for the birthday tea. Jonathan Pepler,



Caroline Williams, Cynthia Short and Margaret Procter

County Archivist of Cheshire Record Office, proposed a toast to all those who had been and still were involved in the course and also to the next sixty years.

Ken Hall, who taught on the course in the 1980s, chaired an "in conversation" session. The audience was encouraged to contribute and some lively discussions ensued. Dame Stella Rimington spoke about her time on the course in 1958-9 and how her knowledge of archives and records management theory contributed to her later career in MI5. Cynthia Short said a few words in tribute to Geoffrey Barraclough who was responsible for setting up the course.

As the commemorative booklet states: "Much is owed to those successive lecturers (Dr Dorothea Oschinsky, 1946-76, Miss Elizabeth Danbury, 1977-97, and since 1997, Ms Caroline Williams) who... have fostered and overseen the development of the course".

It was therefore appropriate that Elizabeth Danbury spoke about her time at Liverpool and reminisced about her predecessor Dorothea Oschinsky and that this was followed by Caroline Williams (who had recently taken up a post at the National Archives),

reflecting on her time as Director from 1997 to 2007.

More reminiscences were provoked throughout the event by the exhibition and message board. Photographs on display showed students and staff enjoying the now traditional garden party and croquet match, going on trips both in the UK and abroad and at the graduation ceremonies. There were also emails and letters from those who could not attend but who wished to pass on their best wishes to those at the event. In the evening dinner was followed by a keenly-contested Diamond Jubilee quiz and raffle where the main prize was a copy of *Liverpool 800* which was kindly donated by Liverpool University Press.

Friday presented a choice of activities. A visit to the Williamson Tunnels was a chance to explore a bizarre set of tunnels under Liverpool constructed as a 1830s job-creation exercise. At the University's Special Collections and Archives (SCA), Director Maureen Watry gave a tour of the department and displayed some of the more interesting items from the collections. Others delegates chose to remain at Carnatic for a series of talks. Mike Riordan spoke about the development of the archives of several of the colleges at Oxford University; Joseph Sharples reflected on the work he undertook when producing an architectural guide to Liverpool bringing Pevsner's work up-to-date; Paul Booth spoke about Liverpool's letters patent and Chris Lewis summarised his current work on seaside house names in the 1920s and 1930s. In the afternoon

delegates again split into two groups, one enjoyed a tour of Liverpool on the 'Yellow Duckmarine' (an amphibious WW2 landing craft). The Carnatic-based group heard John Belchem, the editor of *Liverpool 800*, speak on the theme of celebrations in Liverpool's history and then Pat Starkey from the School of History shared her experiences of preparing an exhibition of manuscripts. Pre-dinner activities concluded with a splendid film show compered by Marion Hewitt of the North West Film Archive which took a light-hearted look at Liverpool and Lancashire history.



Elizabeth Danbury, Gowri Thangaya (Malaysia), Alex Modisenyane (Botswana) and Michael Cook

The culmination of the event was the gala dinner which was attended by almost seventy people. Those attending were amused to find that on their place card was the photograph taken for their old student record card. Fortunately most managed to recognise their previous self! After an excellent meal Margaret Procter, Director of the MARM course and of LUCAS introduced Liz Slater, the Dean of Arts and Bruce Jackson, County Archivist at Lancashire Record Office who both said a few words. Dinner was followed by a very lively disco.

On Saturday morning it was time to depart although several took the opportunity to pay a visit to nearby Sudley House, a nearby C19 merchant's residence, before setting off.

Despite the incessant rain, the event was a huge success and there was a clear demand for more alumni reunions:

"It was all absolutely excellent - trips, venue, catering, publication... everything..."

"I shall remember it for a long while (and it is all recorded in my diary so that I can retrieve these memories when the 75th anniversary pops up - if I am still around then!!)"

"I thoroughly enjoyed myself. It was lovely to see old friends, but the whole event was relaxed and friendly and very well organised."

"It was great fun and a marvellous opportunity to reconnect with old friends and colleagues."

We'd like all alumni who we and anyone else involved with the course to get in touch so that we can contact you about future news and events.

Looking for a Christmas stocking filler?! The 80 page 60th anniversary commemorative booklet is available at a cost of £5 including p&p from LUCAS.

To provide your up-to-date contact details, to let us know about any reunion events that you are planning or to order a copy of the reunion booklet contact Michelle Alexander (contact details on page 1).

More Photographs from the Reunion



Pop in the Archives

This event followed on from previous events "Crime in the Archives", "Death in the Archives" and "Sex in the Archives".

This year took the theme was popular music. The event was held in the Rodewald Suite in the Philharmonic Hall and attracted over 80 people. Marion Leonard from National Museums Liverpool and the University of Liverpool spoke about NML's 2008 exhibition "The Beat Goes On". She described the process of putting the exhibition together and of how relevant archive sources were found.



Students at 'Pop in the Archives'

Jan Hargreaves spoke about Factory Records and the Hacienda Nightclub records held at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and Mike Jones from the University's Institute of Popular Music explored what makes a collection relating to popular music valuable. Finally Marion Hewitt from the North West Film Archive showed some footage relating to the cultural context of Liverpool and the emergence of Merseybeat. It was wonderful to have such a large and enthusiastic audience (including some who'd actually seen the Beatles perform!) who contributed their questions and recollections.



Marion Leonard and Mike Jones

MARM Open Day

The second MARM postgraduate open day was held on 14 November 2007. Almost fifty people attended to find out more about the course and how to apply and also about the archives and records management profession and how to get relevant work experience. Six of those who attended last year went on to make successful applications and are now on the MARM course. All the visitors rated the event 'excellent' or 'very good'.

Future Events

**7 February 2008
10th LUCAS AGM**

The 10th LUCAS AGM will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 7 February 2008 in Lecture Theatre D, Science Lecture Block, University of Liverpool. A short business meeting will be followed by a talk and refreshments. Dr Luciana Duranti will speak on "It's All About Trust: the Reliability, Accuracy and Authenticity of Digital Records". All are welcome to this free event. If you would like to register, contact Michelle Alexander on 0151 794 2414 or email m.alexander@liv.ac.uk

**Would you like to join LUCAS? If so, please complete this form and send to:
LUCAS, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 7WZ**

I wish to join LUCAS and enclose cheque/postal order for £10 payable to the 'University of Liverpool'

Name (Block capitals):

Address (Block capitals):

For information on institutional membership, contact Margaret Procter on 0151 794 2411