

# **InULA President's Report**

**1995/1996**

The 1995-96 board decided on a goal and corresponding theme of "Advancing the Profession Through Support of the Individual." This indicated our belief that, as a librarians' association, our focus should be on the individuals who make up our membership.

The membership year officially began with the September 29 membership meeting at my home in Martinsville. We hoped that choosing a site equidistant from Indianapolis and Bloomington would encourage attendance by members and potential members from both sites. In fact, the majority of the group of 40 or so who enjoyed the beautiful fall afternoon, good food, and discussion of possible activities for the coming year were Bloomington-based. The objective of encouraging participation in InULA activities by our statewide constituents was one we would address throughout the year. Membership in the organization increased throughout the year with a final tally of 100 members. This did not meet our goal of 120, but does indicate the wide distribution of members throughout the IU system.

Much of what we hoped to accomplish centered around the new InULA World Wide Web site which Jian Liu, Chair of the Publications Committee, and Vice President Phil Bantin worked very hard to develop and populate. Thanks to them, we now have an established "home" on the web. In addition to membership information and application material, the site includes Research Incentive Fund updates and applications, SLIS scholarship information, InULA Notes in electronic format, committee reports and meeting minutes. One objective for this year, a resource guide of and for IU Librarians, did not take shape as quickly as we had hoped. Hopefully the idea will be carried forward by the 1996-97 executive board.

Linked to the initiation of the InULA World Wide Web site was the activity of the Constitution Committee, chaired by Marianne Mason. The committee conducted the membership voting which resulted in a change of name from Publications to Communications Committee. The constitution committee also promulgated the "new" preamble to the InULA constitution which had been approved in June 1994, but not distributed to the membership after the approval process was complete.

It is especially pleasant to note, particularly in view of our theme, that 100% of the Research Incentive Fund allocation of \$2800 was awarded to support the research activities of IU librarians. Members and others can look forward to reading reports on the various sponsored research projects on the InULA web site.

The annual \$1000 InULA scholarship award was divided between Cynthia Stokes and Hillary Byrn. Twenty-one SLIS students applied for the 1996 scholarship and their excellent qualifications made the competition a stiff one. Future scholarship winners can expect to see their statements of philosophy of librarianship/information provision published on the InULA web site.

The Book Sale Committee chaired by Lorraine Olley held the annual book sale on April 21 and 22. Although the sale garnered almost \$3000 for InULA, the volume of work and dearth of workers served to reinforce the recommendation of the 1994-95 board that InULA investigate additional or alternative fund raising activities. Pinning the organization's financial stability to a single activity is not the best way to ensure continuation of support for librarians' activities, much less seed an endowment for expanded security.

In addition to its constant role of support for other InULA activities, the Social and Program Committee headed by Becky Cape also staged an April 24 book signing of the IU Press-published "Midwest Gardener's Cookbook." InULA board members prepared several recipes from the cookbook which were served at an afternoon reception during which the cookbooks were sold and autographed by the author and the illustrator.

Under the leadership of Karen Nissen, the Continuing Education Committee planned a program on Research and Publication which was presented at IU South Bend on May 31 and at IU Bloomington on June 7. Attendees praised the organization and content of the workshop and expressed their hope for future programs of the same fine quality. In addition, Karen continued to maintain InULA-L, the listserv which has about 140 InULA members and friends as subscribers. Karen's move to I.V. Tech in Columbus will necessitate finding a new moderator for the listserv. We thank Karen for her years of faithful service to inULA!

The Business Meeting on May 23 saw six general members in attendance. In addition to the presentation of the slate of officers compiled by the nominating committee and opening for nominations from the floor, a lively discussion was held which produced good suggestions and ideas ranging from general, philosophic orientation to specific possible activities. The members present all recognize the difficulty of achieving participation by constituents from statewide locales. Interesting suggestions included allocation of financial resources to individual locations proportional to each location's membership numbers, making organizational grants similar to RIF grants to area groups based on competitive applications, these grants to act as seed money for activities a particular geographic area InULA group wishes to organize. In such a case, InULA becomes more of a facilitating group than the actual convener of activities. These and other ideas were recorded and will be considered by the 1996-97 board.

At IU Librarians' Day in Kokomo, Phil Bantin gave an InULA report and presented a check for \$400 for the dean's fund to Pat Steele. In addition, InULA sponsored a refreshment break during the day.

None of the above activities could have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the executive board members and the committee chairs and members. I thank each and every one of you, as well as every single member of inULA who participated throughout the year, for a most enjoyable and memorable year as your president!

As InULA embarks on the 1996-97 activity year under the leadership of Phil Bantin, the members of the 1995-96 executive board hope that, as the new board has retained the 1995-96 theme, they will also continue to advance and refine some of the initiatives we began. In addition we know they will put the IU Librarians' Association into their own distinctive perspective and,

hopefully, make it an even better advocate for the professional development of librarians at Indiana University.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Krutulis