Greetings from Laura!

It’s a new year for SIG ED and as the new chair, I send you my warmest regards. It is my pleasure to introduce the new SIG ED officers, to share the plans for the upcoming year and to remind you of the ways to stay in touch and be involved with our SIG.

About SIG ED

SIG ED focuses on the education—at all levels—of those concerned with the handling of information. It is a forum for coordinating efforts of educators in a wide variety of information-oriented fields, including computer and communications science, librarianship and management.

Annual Meeting Recap

This was the 75th anniversary of ASIS&T with several special events to celebrate the milestone. The jubilee tone of the Annual Meeting has been tempered by unprecedented weather conditions – many attendees had to cancel their trips or leave the conference early due to mega-storm Sandy. Despite these emergency circumstances, all SIG ED sponsored events went on as planned, including the workshop and panel presentation focused on doctoral students entering the job market as well as a panel on online education efforts within ASIS&T. Several of SIG ED members presented posters on various education-related topics.

We were also able to hold the SIG ED planning meeting, complete with confirming new officers and drafting plans for the upcoming year. The goal is to sustain the momentum of the previous year which saw a which saw an increase in our SIG’s activities and services focused on providing valuable service to the ASIS&T members and other information professionals.

Due to our efforts over the past year, SIG ED has become one of the two winners of the ASIS&T 2012 SIG-of-the-Year Award (along with SIG MET). The award was presented at the Annual Meeting in recognition of our success in improving organizational infrastructure, use of social media for communications and member outreach, and service to the wider information science community through the series of webinars focused on pedagogy and technology in online education. The webinars will continue to be an important part of SIG ED activities with several exciting topics planned for 2013.

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Dear SIG ED member,

It’s a new year for SIG ED and, as the new chair, I send you my warmest regards. This year we have two co-chair elects: Chris Cunningham, a doctoral student from the University of South Carolina, and Mira Turcious, a master’s student from Simmons College. Karen Miller and Hassan Zamir will be reprising their roles as Program Coordinator and Communications Officer respectively. Because this newsletter is such an important means of communicating with you, we have created a new position this year to oversee the newsletter – Publications Officer – and Julia Khanova, formerly on our Program Committee, is filling this new role. I’d like to introduce Sarah Ramdeen, doctoral student at the University of North Carolina; she is our new Secretary/Treasurer.

This year we have four webinars planned. They are largely focused on online teaching and include specific topics around MOOCs (massively open online courses). These appear to be gaining popularity and so we’d like to stay ahead of the pack and provide you with the latest information on this. Additionally, we are planning a webinar specifically targeted toward master’s students who may be asked to assume instruction-oriented roles in their future careers as librarians. This webinar will center on how to provide short course instruction.

We also plan to increase our brand new student travel award to $400. We feel it is important to continue to help out graduate students who have little other means of support for their travel to the annual meeting.

And I’d like to close with a few reminders. Our website is http://asistsiged.wordpress.com. We also have a presence on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/191857337559701/). Our Twitter handle is @ASISTSIGED. And you can link to us on LinkedIn as well: http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ASIS-T-SIG-ED-4163506.

If you are not on our listserv, please subscribe (http://mail.asis.org/mailman/listinfo/siged-l). We send out announcements for webinars and other SIG ED activities on this listserv. It is not a high traffic list, so you will not be inundated with many emails.

All the best,
Laura Christopherson
Chair, SIG ED
Member Highlight:  
**Mirna E. Turcios**

Mirna E. Turcios, a Liberal Arts graduate from Eugene Lang College of New York with a liberal arts degree in Urban Studies and Education, is a first-generation college student in her family. Her own academic journey coupled with experiences working for AmeriCorps for nearly four years shaped her interests in the community service working with the underserved groups. She worked as mentor shepherding many high school students through their college application process. These real world experiences helped her identify the problem: mere availability of the technology is no good unless the process of finding information is clear to the users. According to Mirna, one of the real problems of information access is the complexity of the process itself. These observations have developed into a strong interest in the area of information literacy and eventually led Mirna to Library School.

Presently, she is in the MSLIS program of Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), Boston, MA and expecting to graduate in May of 2013. She entered into the Simmons College MLIS program with multifocal aspirations including shaping her information literacy training skills and building expertise into the presentation of information in the online platforms. In the future, she aims to build information systems for the historically underserved populations.
Member Highlight

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Mirna is currently working as a Library Assistant in Access Service at the Simmons College Library, where she helps patrons identify and use library services. Her research work includes a current project with a goal of analyzing the content of an entire year’s worth of periodicals to determine how much of it is research content. This research is carried out in collaboration with Dr. Naresh Agarwal and Linda Watkins, both of Simmons College. Mirna believes this project will definitely be of value to the profession of librarianship as it will provide a snapshot of the research trends.

Having joined ASIS&T in 2012, Mirna became immediately engaged with the organization, which attracted her with its members’ diverse approaches to research in the field of information science and technology. At her first Annual Meeting, she participated in a panel discussion and presented a poster on her current research. She also joined SIG ED as an active member and became a Co-Chair Elect. In this role, which she sees as congruent with her professional goals, she aspires to work with graduate students helping them, particularly through webinars, to develop their expertise in pedagogy and literacy instruction. Mirna hopes to contribute to reduction in barriers between information professionals and users through the use of technology.

Annual Meeting Recap

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The SIG-of-the-Year award also acknowledges SIG ED’s dedication to student engagement evident in instituting the Annual Meeting travel support for student members and in facilitating the connection between student chapters and advisors through online technology. We are grateful for the recognition and plan to continue to be an active and engaged SIG with many exciting plans for the upcoming year.

We are also very proud that one of our officers, Karen Miller, is the recipient of the SIG Member-of-the-Year Award. Karen was instrumental in transforming SIG ED into a vibrant and active award-winning SIG by coordinating many of the SIG activities, particularly the webinar series. The recognition of Karen’s leadership and hard work is well-deserved and we are excited that she will continue this year in her pivotal role as the Program Coordinator.

Congratulations to Karen and all of SIG ED members for the job well done!