

Library Society



Stephen Stigler



Philip Burno

Passing the Baton

This summer Philip Burno announced his retirement as Chairman of the Library Society, a position he has held since 1987. While Phil will remain an active member of the Library Society Steering Committee, he has decided that the time has come to pass the baton.

The Library Society is grateful for his many years of service. Phil quoted M. Llewellyn Raney, University Librarian from 1928 to 1942, in his retirement announcement: "It has been good to be a Friend of the Library, and good to have such friends." The feeling is mutual.

Stepping in as Library Society Chairman is Stephen Stigler, the Ernest DeWitt Burton Distinguished Service Professor, Department of

Statistics and the College and Member, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science.

Professor Stigler's connections to the University and the Library are longstanding. He is an alumnus of the Lab School, joined the faculty as a Professor in the Statistics Department in 1979, and has served on the Library Board. He and his wife, Visiting Committee and Steering Committee member Virginia Stigler, have been Library Society members since 1982. At such an exciting time in the history of the Library, we are delighted to welcome Professor Stigler as our new Library Society Chairman.

Professor Stigler is indeed a good friend of the Library, and it is good to have such leadership.

lib.uchicago.edu/e/libra/

Marianna Tax Choldin

Marianna Tax Choldin grew up deeply embedded in the life of the mind at the University of Chicago, yet also as a citizen of the world. Living in Mexico as a child, as well as Hyde Park, she has built on her international and intellectual foundations—and a special passion for libraries—to enable freedom of inquiry globally.

“Growing up in a professor’s family in Hyde Park, I took so much for granted: friends from many countries, awareness of social issues, unlimited opportunities to learn, and full freedom to explore anything and everything,” Marianna said. A four-time University of Chicago alumna (Lab’59, AB’62, AM’67, PhD’79) with her master’s in Slavic Languages and Literature and PhD from the Graduate Library School, she has dedicated herself to expanding scholars’ ability to connect with information and with each other.

“I came to know countries that lacked freedom of inquiry altogether,” Marianna writes. “My dream was, and is, that my colleagues all over the world, despite their difficult situations, could work toward the openness we enjoy at the University.”



The roots of this commitment run deep. Marianna’s dissertation focused on censorship in Imperial Russia. After graduation, as a professor and librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she helped to found the Summer Research Laboratory on Russia and Eastern Europe and served as the founding director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs. She traveled throughout the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Central America, South Africa, and Asia giving presentations

on censorship issues and speaking with librarians, writers, journalists, government officials and ordinary people of all ages about information on a global scale.

Having seen her father, the renowned Chicago anthropologist Sol Tax, bring together a global community of researchers to help solve social problems, Marianna says she was inspired to do the same thing with librarians. During the Cold War, she formed panels and pre-conferences with colleagues from around the globe at the International Congress of Soviet, Slavic, and East European Studies (ICSSEES). As the Cold War ended, she expanded her work to promote openness between former-Soviet librarians and those in the West, receiving the Pushkin Gold Medal in the Russian president’s Commission on Culture in 2000 for her work.

For her contributions to improved library services in more than 70 countries, for promoting new technology and freedom of information, and for exceptional service to promote Russian culture and cultural and education exchange between Russia and other countries, Marianna recently won a Public Service Award from the University of Chicago Alumni Association.



Library Society members toured the Mansueto Library and renovated Special Collections Research Center on June 15. See more photos of this event online at jasonsmith.viewbook.com/album/librarysociety

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November 30, 2011

LIBRARY SOCIETY PROGRAM
FEATURING

Robert Bird

Associate Professor

Department of Slavic Languages
and Literatures

Department of Cinema and
Media Studies
and the College