



SLA Europe

Early Career Conference Awards 2009

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (6 April 2009)

The Board of SLA Europe is delighted to announce the four winners of the SLA Europe Early Career Conference Award (ECCA) 2009. The winners, who will attend the annual SLA Centennial Conference in Washington, DC 14-17 June, 2009, are Sara Batts, Annie Richens, Bethan Ruddock, and Laura Woods.

Announcing the winners, SLA Europe President **Géraldine Clément-Stoneham** said: “Our Award winners are part of a new generation of information professionals who are endorsed by their professors and managers for combining solid library science skills with great knowledge of new technologies. They are embracing and driving changes in the library domain, and we are delighted to be able to recognise and encourage such talent.”

Sara Batts graduated from City University in 2006 with an MSc Information Science (Distinction) and is now a Senior Research Librarian with the law firm Reed Smith. She is also working part-time on a research degree in the Department of Information Science at Loughborough University. Annie Richens has been working in the library and information science (LIS) field for three years. In 2008 she earned her MA Library and Information Studies from University College London (Distinction) and joined the Communities and Local Government Department this February as Assistant Librarian.

Bethan Ruddock earned her MA Library and Information Management from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2008. Working out of the University of Manchester, she is the Challenge Fund Support Officer for Copac, a national union catalogue, based at Mimas, the national data centre supported by the Joint Information Systems Committee and the *Economic and Social Research Council*. Laura Woods is currently a student at City University and will earn her MSc in Library and Information Studies in 2009. She works as an Information Assistant at the library of City University during the day and at the Honourable Society of Gray’s Inn in the evening.

Three SLA Divisions are co-sponsoring the four Award winners with SLA Europe - Business & Finance co-sponsor Sara Batts and Annie Richens, Insurance and Employee Benefits Bethan Ruddock, and Leadership and Management Laura Woods.

The Award covers all expenses, including Conference registration, transportation, food, lodging and incidental expenses, as well as one-year membership in SLA. In return, the Award winners participate and assist in their co-sponsoring Division's events during the Conference and report on their experience in Division and SLA Europe newsletters.

The SLA Europe ECCA 2009, now in its third year, is given to LIS professionals who have been working for less than five years or are enrolled in a European graduate-level programme in the LIS field. Applicants must have excellent English language skills and not previously attended an SLA annual conference. The application process involves three steps: writing an essay, securing a recommendation from their line manager or a current faculty member in their programme, and providing an up-to-date résumé.

Application guidelines for the SLA Europe Early Career Conference Award 2010 will be published on the SLA Europe website at the end of 2009.

About SLA

The Special Libraries Association is a non-profit global organisation for innovative information professionals and their strategic partners. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, the SLA represents over 12000 information professionals in 83 countries, including corporate, academic and government information specialists.

<http://www.sla.org>

About SLA Europe

SLA Europe provides information professionals in Europe with unique networking and learning opportunities through its newsletter, regular seminars and social events. The group recognises outstanding achievement in the information profession with its annual SLA Europe Information Professional Award (SLA Europe IP). SLA Europe also engages with young information professionals through its Early Career Conference Awards (ECCA) and the SLA Europe Dissertation Prize programme.

<http://www.sla-europe.org>