



SLA Europe Information Professional Award 2009

Sponsored by Dow Jones



WINNER ANNOUNCED

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (June 2009)

The Board of SLA Europe is delighted to announce Gimena Campos Cervera as the winner of the SLA Europe Information Professional Award 2009 (SLA Europe IP 2009).

Announcing the winner, SLA Europe President Géraldine Clément-Stoneham said: “Gimena is an example of a highly motivated information professional who continually finds way to give back to the profession”.

Gimena currently works in Rome at the United States Embassy to Italy, where she is the Senior Information Researcher and Deputy Director of the Information Resource Center of the Office of Public Affairs. Originally from Paraguay, Gimena’s career in the field of library and information sciences spans a variety of national and international organizations, including the Paraguayan Centro de Documentacion y Estudios, the Italian ENAIP, the United Nations Agency International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Health Organization. She has a Masters degree in Library and Information Sciences from the Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen, Scotland), accredited by the ALA.

Gimena is recognized as SLA Europe IP 2009 in particular for her instrumental role in the organization of an annual international conference on libraries in the 21st century, which has helped create and strengthen an American-Italian library network in Italy. The conferences reflect trends and topics of interest to librarians in Italy with an international discussion level and a 21st century perspective. Special attention is given to young professionals and students, to whom university credits are given for their participation at the conferences. The event uses innovative technologies to reach remote audiences: the whole event is transmitted on the Internet through live streaming, and includes a special live web chat session, during which remote audiences can actively participate. The conference aims also to reach Italian populations that have fewer opportunities for professional training, and this year was held in two important Italian cities, Rome and Naples, with the involvement of the local chapters of the Italian library association Associazione Italiana Biblioteche .

The Spring Event social network (<http://springevent.ning.com>) was created as a web 2.0 communication tool for the first Spring Event annual conference, and is one of the first social networks for the Italian information professional community of library professionals.

The Award covers all appropriate expenses for Gimena’s attendance the SLA Centennial Conference in Washington, DC 14-17 June, 2009 where a dinner was hosted by SLA Europe Board and where Clare Hart formally gave the Award at the International Reception on Monday 15th June 2009 at the Zambian Embassy. Clare is Executive Vice President at Dow Jones, which has kindly sponsored the Award for its 16th year. The Award winner will represent SLA Europe for the year that they are in office; this may involve attending key meetings, including the Soiree in July, and giving a number of presentations, as well as writing for the SLA Europe Newsletter.

The call for nominations for the SLA Europe IP 2010 will be made at the SLA Europe Breakfast at Online Information on 2nd December 2009 and guidelines for applying will be published on the SLA Europe website shortly thereafter.

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. In 2009 SLA celebrates its Centennial. <http://www.sla.org>

About SLA Europe

SLA Europe provides information professionals in Europe with unique networking and learning opportunities through its newsletter, 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 (DP) programme. <http://www.sla-europe.org>