

LILAC Conference: Perspectives from a Bogle Pratt Awardee

By Rebecca K. Miller

When most people think of Scotland, haggis, whisky, bagpipes, kilts, and castles may come to mind. After my experience at the Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC) 2012 in Glasgow, Scotland during April 2012, I now associate Scotland with great conversations, innovative information literacy ideas, and new colleagues.

As the information literacy coordinator at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, I have long been aware of LILAC and the prestige it has gained in the international library community. LILAC, which began in 2005, is sponsored by the Information Literacy Group that is part of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), the leading professional body of librarians in the United Kingdom; however, attendees (delegates) come from as far away as Africa, Asia, Scandinavia, and North and South America.

When the proposal that I submitted for LILAC 2012 was accepted, I was thrilled to be able to participate in an international conversation surrounding information literacy. The level of excitement was matched only by the level of gratitude that I felt when I found out that my travel to Scotland for the conference would be supported by the Bogle Pratt International Travel Fund. Because of this generous award, I was able to



Rebecca K. Miller @rebeccakmiller

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Presenting in the next round of parallel sessions at #lilac12 ... So excited to talk about my VT HNFE friends and our exciting work!

Speakers and participants tweeted throughout the conference.

participate in opportunities that would not otherwise have been possible: sharing my ideas with an international audience, gleaned new ideas from world-renowned leaders, and making new connections.

The paper that I presented was entitled, "Aligning Information Literacy with Curricular Standards and Engaging Students: A Case Study of Social Information in Dietetics." My paper detailed some of collaborative projects I have initiated with faculty and students in Virginia Tech's Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise. It will be submitted for a future issue of the *Journal of Information Literacy*, the journal associated with LILAC. I also had the great pleasure of hearing from international leaders in the fields of education and communication, including Dr. Megan Oakleaf, Lord Puttnam of Queensgate (known for producing *Chariots of Fire* and other award-winning films), and Dr. Tara Brabazon.

Finally, the friends that I made in Glasgow made the whole experience even more memorable. I connected with many Americans whom I had not yet met in person, but rather whom I met via Twitter prior to the conference. The formal dinner, held at Glasgow's Old

Fruitmarket in the Glasgow City Centre, offered another opportunity to socialize with librarians on a more casual level. My biggest takeaway from the conference, though, was the deep conviction that information literacy is a global concern—the librarians that I met from Sweden, Greece, England, and Africa all shared my desire to help today's students gain the skills and knowledge they need to function as global citizens.

As I return to normal life in Blacksburg, VA, I do so with many new professional connections and many new ideas for improving my teaching and Virginia Tech's information literacy program. I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the ALA International Relations Office and the 2012 Bogle Pratt International Library Travel Fund Committee for their valuable support.

More information about LILAC 2012 is available: <http://lilacconference.com>.

*Rebecca K. Miller is
Information Literacy
Coordinator at Virginia Tech
in Blacksburg, VA*