President’s Message
OCULA President 2008
Cynthia Williamson, Mohawk College

I would like to start my first President’s Message by saying how wonderful it is to work with such an enthusiastic Council. I admit that there’s a lot of laughter at the table, but we do get things done and that’s a combination I recommend for any meeting! Now to the wider OCULA membership, I met some of you at Super Conference; I hope to meet more of you at upcoming events through the year. Please come and say hello when you see me out and about. There are a couple of exciting things coming your way this spring and the planning for a great fall event is underway but let’s talk about Super Conference before we talk about the future.

Super Conference was a great success yet again. We were just shy of setting another attendance record. Without that wicked snowstorm on the Friday, I’m sure we would have beaten the numbers for 2007. We encouraged OCULA members to blog the conference and I thank the intrepid bloggers who did so. Two lucky folks walked away with iPod nanos for their efforts: Dave Hudson from Guelph Humber and Sally Wilson of Ryerson.

I always enjoy the plenary speakers at Super Conference. They are such a great way to bring everyone together to share a common experience and they’re an excellent contrast to the more practical session offerings. Ethan Zuckerman really made us think about the digital divide in a global sense – and provoked a very thoughtful reaction.

OCULA Spotlight Speaker - Joseph Janes

Story and photos by Jennifer Peters-Lise, Seneca College

The picture is a lovely old wooden desk. The image evokes the smell of books and mahogany, ah yes, it’s a majestic old reference desk at which many in the audience could imagine working. In fact it may even be the sort of library we imagined working in when we were attending library school. The problem is the photo was taken in 1910 at the Northampton public library.

What wrong with this picture? The fact that many of the librarians in the audience, old and young, still see a library from 1910 as a current, functioning library. Would you daily ride a locomotive, drive a car or wear clothing from 1910? Would you seek information the way they did in 1910?

Old architecture is beautiful to look at but if we expect people to view librarians as experts in the new information economy we must update our image and our mindset.

Joseph Janes is issuing a lively reality check to the audience. Janes is not telling us to tear down all the old libraries but he is telling us that it’s not difficult to imagine a future where the library is not as viable as today.

“How do you beat free, easy, quick and good enough?” Janes asked. He suggests not trying to win a losing game. Librarians are not search engines, nor should we promote ourselves as such. Instead we need to play to our strengths.

Librarians know we have amazing resources. We know we have the authoritative guides on this and

2008 OCULA Librarian of the Year - Jenn Horwath

By Cynthia McKeich, Seneca College

The recipient of this year’s OCULA Librarian of the Year Award is Jenn Horwath from Mohawk College. Jenn is an exemplary practicing academic librarian at Mohawk College. Her many contributions to Mohawk, OLA and to the profession in general are highly commendable. Jenn has enriched the academic library profession through her dedication to the Ontario Library Association as President and Treasurer of OLITA, a Super Conference Planner and as a

continued on page 3
You should know that OCULA council really is all about you. We focus on event planning, both social and educational and we investigate opportunities for advocacy on your behalf. We try to learn about issues important to academic libraries and librarians and provide opportunities for communication about them in publications like Access, Inside OCULA or on our blog. We also keep you up to date on your colleagues around the province; check out our blog to see who has moved where. I encourage every academic librarian to submit articles for Inside OCULA, post to the OCULA mailing list or post to the OCULA blog — let us know what’s on your mind.

We’re currently reviewing the 2005-2010 OCULA strategic goals; check them out on the OCULA website. We’re updating the document, making sure we’re on track, working on accomplishing the goals as set out. We also want to look forward to the next strategic plan. To that end we’ll be developing a survey to be sent out to both our members and academic librarians who are not members. We want to gauge our relevancy to you, find out what you expect and then figure out how to meet those expectations.

OCULA Council is also involved in mentoring new academic librarians. Recently, Ryerson librarians, Brian Cameron and Cecile Famun attended the FIS job fair wearing both their Ryerson and OCULA hats. Jim Brett and Anne Fullerton have attended events at the library school at Western. Students really seem to be looking for help with their job hunts. OLA is developing a mentoring database that will connect mentors and new librarians in all aspects of librarianship. We’ll let you know when the database is up and running. I encourage everyone to spend time with library students and new librarians. It doesn’t have to be a full time mentoring relationship. Even something as simple as coffee, lunch or a day of job shadowing can make a difference for someone.

Before I close let me remind you of two coming evenings. The OCULA Spring Dinner is at University of Toronto this year on April 24th. Our speaker will be Kevin Stolarick, PhD. He is the Associate Director and Research Associate at The Martin Prosperity Institute at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. Kevin will speak to us about the creative class and what we mean when we say “prosperity”. Registration is open, please join us. On June 4th, we’ll be hosting a showing of the documentary Hollywood Librarian. Keep your eye on the website for more information.

In closing, again I thank my colleagues on Council for their participation and support. I also thank my colleagues at the Library@Mohawk for your support. All of you rock. Cheers.

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President’s message

continued from page 1

on the OCULA blog from one of our iPod winners, Dave Hudson. I encourage you to check out Dave’s post suggesting that there are probably other things more important to the developing world than Internet access. Carl Honore talked to us about the Slow Movement that is popular in cooking and eating. Slow is also about less hurrying in general and the environmental movement and ties in with local sourcing of food and resources. I recently heard Mark Leggott of the University of Prince Edward Island mention Slow in his Education Institute session about Open Source software. He talked about open source software and doing more in your own library – less contracting out. I’m with him on that one. Doing things for ourselves, whether it’s running our own ILS or maintaining our own library website, is a great way for a library to be a learning organization.

OCULA’s spotlight speaker this year was the always-entertaining Joe Janes. I think if he had to give up librarianship, he could go into stand up comedy. Who can’t love an American who loves Tim Horton’s donuts and the CBC? Intermixed in Joe’s humour is a message about where we’ve been with reference work and where we should be going. Food for thought indeed. There is still a link available to the 2008 Super Conference website, check it out for access to speakers’ presentations and handouts. Now is the time to catch up on whatever you missed or follow up on all those things that tweaked your interest during the conference.

We already have two OCULA council meetings under our belts at the publishing of this issue of Inside OCULA. If you’ve ever wondered what we do at OCULA council, I encourage you to read our minutes, available on the OCULA website.
OCULA Librarian of the Year
continued from page 1

many time speaker. Jenn was the recipient of the Community and Technical College Libraries (CTCL) Innovation Achievement Award in 2005 for the implementation of Mohawk College Library’s Library@Mohawk Brain blog. She is a member of the Ask Ontario Technology Task Force and the Metadata Working Group. MyHamilton Portal Project. Jenn models the kind of dynamism, dedication and enthusiasm that makes her an outstanding choice for this year’s award.

OCULA Spotlight Speaker - Joseph Janes
continued from page 1

that, but patrons don’t care. Patrons are happy using a search engine like Google because they find what they need “most of the time”. “Most of the time” makes them content and we should not judge them for being content. Because, as Janes warns, if everyone in the world stopped using Google and came to the library then we would really have something to complain about.

Instead of trying to out-shine our automated nemeses, we should do what librarians do best: improve access to reliable information and fight for intellectual freedom, privacy and literacy.

Janes offers these specific suggestions:

- **Wikipedia** - students are using wikipedia whether we like it or not. So instead of complaining about the inaccuracies, biases and unreliability, librarians should create and edit entries, cite sources and ensure quality in a source that is a favourite among our patrons.
- **Blogs** - create your own blog, participate in your community blogs, create a blog for your library. Get your knowledge about information out into the world.
- **Virtual Worlds** - multiple lives are not a new phenomenon; people have always led multiple lives with work, home, faith, etc. We have to serve their information needs in all of their lives, even the virtual one.
- **Become the information expert on campus** - market yourself to other departments, faculty and administrators.
- **Embed in courseware** - bring the library to students in a meaningful way.
- **Advocate reading and literacy** - focus on new and underserved members in your community.
- **Work together** - old and new librarians have much to learn from each other.
- **Play to your strengths** - education, instruction and literacy are our expertise and we must find a way to fit them into this new world of information.

Regardless of the tools we are using Janes suggests to learn, play, succeed, fail, share, and innovate. Janes says to put creativity at the centre of what you do and use “vision as a rudder for change”.

Janes assures that all this work is worth it, even if it does not last. Nothing lasts anyway, not the card catalogue, not Google, not even Wikipedia will endure. Everything progresses and evolves, so do not be afraid of change.

Most importantly Janes tells us that it is okay to be librarians. Sometimes we are made to feel embarrassed by the conservative image of our profession. But librarians have to be conservative to a point, we have the whole of the human record on our shoulders! But we should not become mired down in this tradition.

Always keep in mind that libraries improve other professions, and they make humanity more human. Libraries keep a record of the world’s mistakes, triumphs, and knowledge so that we can all learn and improve for the future. But even though our intentions remain the same throughout time our methods should evolve.

Canadian Learning Commons Conference

Fredericton N.B. June 8-10, 2008
http://www.lib.unb.ca/CLCC3/

Registration is now open!

Sessions will offer a blend of panel discussions, formal presentations and idea swaps on significant aspects of Learning Commons enterprises, with an emphasis on maintaining the momentum and success of the Learning Commons approach.
Neither Rain, nor Sleet, nor Dark of Night…but Snow, lots of Snow…New Librarians Experience an ARL Institute

By Carol Perry & Robin Sakowski
University of Guelph

As new academic librarians settling into the job, we are beginning to explore opportunities for professional development which will help us in our new careers. Our first, and very positive, recent experience with an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) skills institute prompted us to write and share our experiences with others new to the field.

On March 11-13, 2008 (despite approximately 51 cm of new snow) Carleton University hosted 33 librarians and library staff, including 6 members of the University of Guelph’s Library & Learning Commons, for the Association of Research Libraries intensive workshop Library Management Skills Institute I: The Manager (LMSI). Carleton University Librarian Margaret Haines welcomed us to the institute which was held at the Albert at Bay Hotel due to the high participation rate and introduced us to our ARL facilitators: Julia Blixrud and DeEtta Jones. Both Julia and DeEtta are old pros at this institute, having facilitated it many times. We knew right away that we were in good hands and that the next three days would be a challenging, rewarding and fun learning experience.

This was a highly participatory workshop. It began with an overview of management in context – how the changing workplace demands changes in how we manage. We then examined behaviour and learning styles. Several personal assessment tools were implemented, including the DISC Dimensions of Behavior\(^1\), in order for participants to determine their own styles of working. By understanding our own preferences and work styles, we can use this knowledge to enhance our effectiveness when working on teams and committees. We also examined participatory decision-making and influencing skills, with a number of scenarios being worked out in small groups. The final day dealt with coaching techniques to enhance working relationships. Once again scenarios helped participants work through real-life situations which commonly confront managers in the library workplace.

The structure of the workshop enhanced learning by having groups discuss methods of dealing with management actions and decision-making through the use of scenarios. By drawing on personal experiences, groups worked towards consensus-building in determining a course of action to be taken. While some scenarios posed difficult questions, other activities proved to be highly entertaining while managing to instill new management techniques to facilitate the decision-making process.

As new librarians, we were immediately struck by how well organized and thought-out the structure and presentation of the workshop materials were. Each skill and topic was introduced to us and then we were given the opportunity to discuss and practice that skill in a small group which helped to cement the learning process. We were encouraged to sit with a new group of people every day, which allowed us to meet fellow library staff from other institutions as well as have the benefit of a new perspective on the learning and topics at hand.

We are in agreement that the facilitation skills we learned on day two were the most helpful techniques we took away from the workshop. While neither one of us is in a management position as yet, we believe that our experiences at LMSI have given us great insight into how we can work effectively in teams and with our manager as well as helping us to build skills that we will take into future roles at the library.

The coaching sessions on day three also provided us with useful tips and techniques to take away from the workshop. Concrete methods were offered which can be employed in a variety of circumstances, including diffusing potential confrontations. The different scenarios used challenged our groups to find appropriate techniques to confront issues head on while working to resolve them. It was extremely helpful. The package of reading materials will also act as a great refresher once the memory of the sessions fades.

ARL offers a number of other Sponsored Institutes including such topics as Library Management Skills Institute II: The Management Process (4 days), Leading Change Institute (2 days) and Facilitation Skills Institute (2.5 days).

We highly recommend these workshops as a great vehicle for the ongoing professional development of librarians.

\(^1\) 2001 by Incorpe Publishing Inc.
Join us for this year's OCULA Academic Librarian's Spring Dinner and Networking Event!

**When:** Thursday, April 24th at 5:30pm

**Where:**
University of Toronto's Faculty Club.
41 Willcocks Street
Toronto, M5S 1C7

Meet and mingle with your colleagues and hear a talk from Dr. Kevin Stolarick:

Kevin Stolarick, PhD, is the Associate Director and Research Associate at The Martin Prosperity Institute at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. He combines a depth of knowledge with an appreciation of the importance of finding and sharing the knowledge or “pearls of wisdom” gained from his comprehensive understanding of the Creative Class and the Creative Economy. Kevin provided quantitative research and analytical support to Richard Florida during the development of his books *The Rise of the Creative Class* and *The Flight of the Creative Class*. He continues in collaboration with Richard and other researchers. Kevin will speak to us about the creative class; what we mean when we say “prosperity”, what the goals are and how we can achieve them.

**Please register here:**
http://www.accessola.com/ocula/bins/content_page.asp?cid=456-790

Your OCULA Spring Dinner Committee

Julie Hannaford
Sandra Langlands
Don McLeod
Marian Press

See you there!

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**Ryerson Wins 2 Be Innovative! Awards**

**By Cecile Farnum, Ryerson University**

Ryerson Library has been honoured two years in a row by the Innovative Users Group (IUG) with a Be Innovative! award, as part of its annual awards program for libraries using the Innovative integrated library system. In 2007, Ryerson received the first-place award in the Patron Empowerment category for “Simplified Citation Links with RefWorks.” Sally Wilson, Web Services Librarian, developed a script which allows users, in one mouse click, to save citation information from a bibliographic record in the library catalogue to the RefWorks web-based bibliographic citation manager software. This has allowed for a more seamless transfer of bibliographic information from the catalogue to RefWorks for library users.

With the addition of Multimedia Programmer, Graham McCarthy, the Library has enhanced its ability to integrate social software with Library applications. In 2008, Graham McCarthy’s work developing a Library application for Facebook also won a Be Innovative! award for patron empowerment. This application allows Facebook users to search the Library catalogue and e-resources from within Facebook.

Mary Chevreau, Innovative's VP of North American Sales, presenting the award and cheque to Sally Wilson and Madeleine Lefebvre, Chief Librarian.
“Either this is madness or it is Hell” Jonathan Bengtson from the University of Toronto ponders the fate of the book in the digital age

“Either this is madness or it is Hell”—so exclaims the main character of E.A. Abbott’s Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions (1884) when he is transported out of his two-dimensional world into one with a third dimension, and so must both intellectualize and make a leap of faith in order to visualize a new reality. This is a situation not dissimilar to what universities and academic libraries face in planning for the digital age of the book.

The advent of online publishing and the ascendancy of digital texts can be compared to the invention of the printing press and the subsequent domination of the printed book over the manuscript. We are living in revolutionary times, in which the book is being challenged as never before as the primary vehicle for the transmission of culture and ideas. For 500 years, the printed book has been dominant and, for well over a millennium before the invention of moveable type, the manuscript book endured. The transition from an oral to a written culture took many centuries, during which our way of thinking was transformed fundamentally, from repetitive, oral, memory-based knowledge to visual and spatial memory predicated on the physical book. A decade ago, a new process of change commenced, the impact of which will have profound consequences. We need only reflect on the past few years to understand how quickly and radically the ways in which we write, communicate and learn are altering.

Already most of us have become accustomed to using electronic journals and reference texts in preference to print. Indeed, the electronic format allows these resources to develop in far more expansive and flexible ways than is possible in print. Take, for instance, the Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, which was originally published in print and on CD-ROM in 1998, and which has won accolades for its breadth of coverage and quality of scholarship. Routledge subsequently released an online version that quickly rendered the print and CD-ROM editions irrelevant. The online version is a much more organic entity: new articles are added as needed (such as on recent debates surrounding genetics) and old articles are updated as new research dictates. There are annual site redesigns and links to other relevant online sites. The Web version includes audio-visual material, e-groups, journal abstracts, information about current research and so forth. Sites such as this eventually may combine teaching and research functions and so alter the learning process in ways we are only beginning to fathom.

Unlike e-journals and reference texts, the tipping point for the domination of the electronic over the printed book may depend on the introduction of an electronic device that combines the ease of use of the printed book with the advantages of the electronic format. Various e-book readers have been tried—Sony released one this past summer—with little success. However, electronic paper technology is improving. Not only is this e-paper technology able to mimic the appearance of ink on paper, but it also uses negligible electricity and can be bent and folded like a sheet of paper. Instead of a single, fixed screen, like the Sony device, future e-books may well imitate the structure of a printed book, but allow for the downloading and simultaneous storage of hundreds or thousands of titles. What the iPod and mp3s have done to music CDs, a viable e-book will do to printed books. Yet, even if the ink and paper become electronic, the physical, iconic structure of the book may endure.

Besides technology, another barrier to widespread adoption of e-books is the relatively limited availability of collections. While monograph digitization projects in libraries have been around for a number of years, massive digitization projects, such as Google Print and the Open Content Alliance (which has a major scanning centre based at the University of Toronto), have started up only recently. Making the full text of libraries’ holdings available digitally is, without question, a natural step in widening the access to the world’s academic collections. However, only works that are out of copyright, or works with the rights released, are freely available to take full advantage of technology. These, combined with licensed e-books, constitute a relatively small proportion of the world’s printed heritage.

There are other questions. How do we preserve digital books? How do we index, retrieve and cross-search e-books in a meaningful way? How do we reduce or eliminate duplication of digitization efforts? How do we improve ease and stability of access? How, indeed, do we use the digital text?

There are advantages to overcoming these barriers, particularly in the area of the machine analysis of large datasets of digital texts. For instance, the Kelly Library at St. Michael’s College is coordinating an international project to create a comprehensive digital collection of the writings by and about John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801–90). In alliance with other libraries, non-profits and corporate partners, the library is scanning various collections of Newman’s works in order to create a virtual collection of every one of his lectures, newspaper articles, sermons and variant editions. The scanned text will be analyzed by

continued on page 7
The Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library

The Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library opened to the public in January, 2008. The facility features a unique research collection on Canada-Hong Kong studies, quiet study space, and seminar areas. It provides resources and space to accommodate the continuous growth of research interest in Hong Kong, and its relation to Canada and other regions in the world. Services include reference consultation, tours, presentations, exhibitions, and a Hong Kong seminar series.

The collection of approximately 50,000 volumes, includes 2,500 periodical titles, 940 reels of microfilm, 7,000 newspaper clippings and an expanding collection of audio & visual materials. The Richard Charles Lee Library collection is the largest research collection for Hong Kong and Canada-Hong Kong studies outside of Hong Kong. The collection focuses primarily on Hong Kong, Canada-Hong Kong relations, and Hong Kong Canadians. Notable features of the collection include the newspaper clippings on microfilm produced by the Hong Kong Catholic Social Communication Office and 100 titles of Chinese periodicals published in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg. Fully indexed, the collection of newspaper clippings covers fifteen Chinese and English newspapers daily since 1980, totaling more than half a million frames.

Library Hours
10:00am-5:00pm: Monday to Friday
130 St. George St., 8th floor
Director: Jack Hang-tat Leong
(jack.leong@utoronto.ca)

“Either this is madness…”

continued from page 6

by sophisticated data-mining software to explore subtle changes in Newman’s thought over time. When the project is completed, it will be one of the first times such technology has been used to capture and analyze the complete corpus of one of the world’s key intellectual figures. The project will serve as a model for the future application of new, 21st-century, digital scanning technologies to academic library book collections.

However, even if digitizing an older text provides an alternative and flexible means of access, the digital surrogate will never permanently replace texts that were not “born digital.” The Modern Language Association of America’s statement on the significance of primary records summarizes the situation well: “the advantages of the new forms in which old texts can now be obscure the fact that the new forms cannot fully substitute for the actual physical objects in which those earlier texts were embodied at particular times in the past” (http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/byor/g/mla/mlaprim.html). In other words, scrolling down a computer screen (or flipping through a future e-book device) to read a 19th-century novel is not the same cognitive experience as consulting the original: it alters the context and so removes the possibility of interpreting the physical object itself as a cultural artifact. It, thus, becomes easier to “miss the point” of why a text was transmitted in a specific physical format at a specific time if all one has to go on is text on a screen.

Even so, the digitization of books is breathing new life into old tomes. For at least a decade, for example, the first edition of Flatland, quoted at the beginning of this article, was never requested from the rare books room in the Kelly Library. In the first five months after digitizing the volume and making the files available on the Web, it was downloaded over 2,200 times (http://www.archive.org/details/flatlandromanceo00abbouoft).

Books tell us about ourselves. They tell us what we know, what we do not know, what we need, what we value. The question is not whether, but rather for how long, the printed book will survive as the central medium for the dissemination of knowledge and what digital form will emerge to supersede our cultural bias towards traditional print. In Flatland, the response to the statement “Either this is madness or it is Hell” is “It is neither, it is knowledge.” Just as, in Flatland, where the move from two to three dimensions brings new perspectives and an occasion to reassess one’s view of reality, so, too, will the evolution from printed to digital books provide the same opportunity. The passage in Flatland concludes: “Open your eye once again and try to look steadily. I looked, and, behold, a new world!”
Scenes from Super Conference 2008…

It was all about the ribbons!
*from left* - Cynthia Williamson, Jenn Horwath, Don Kinder and Cynthia Mckeich

Dalia Smith - OCULA Graduating Student/New Professional Award Winner 2008

The calm before the snow.
OCULA Super Conference Coordinators for 2009
Kristin Hoffman and Caroline Stewart

Handing over the reigns…
2007 OCULA President Don Kinder and 2008 Vice President/President Elect Nathalie Soini

And of course, there was eating to be done…

OCULA Luncheon

Robin Bergart and Jennifer Peters-Lise stocking up on carbs!

Photos by Jim Brett, Robin Bergart, Mark Bryant and Jennifer Peters-Lise
Sophia Apostol sharing how to approach students on their own turf in “Coming Up to Their Level: Engaging Students on their own Terms During Library Instruction”

Amanda Ross-White from Queen’s University was one of the presenters for Dalia Smith’s award winning proposed session “Success in the Job Hunt: Stories from the Trenches from New Academic Librarians”

Tanis Fink making a grand entrance to her session “Demystifying the Librarian Technician/Librarian Dilemma in the Digital Age”

Robin Bergart sharing her “Facebook wall”

Joseph Janes telling us why he really came to Canada!

Photos by Caroline Stewart and Jennifer Peters-Lise
Meet your 2008 OCULA Council...

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Caroline Stewart,
University of Guelph-Humber

OCULA Editors
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Ryerson University

Jennifer Peters-Lise,
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Brian Cameron,
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Confessions of a Former OCULA Board Member

By Daniel Phelan
Senior Librarian Emeritus
Kingston, Ontario
Email: dphelan@ryerson.ca

Having just left the OCULA board and formally retired from Ryerson University Library in August 2007, I wondered how my new life in Kingston would unfold. Would I be bored? Would I miss the challenges of work and professionally-related service?

I am pleased to report that I cannot miss these things because I have replaced them with others.

In addition to the challenges of moving and renovating a new house and adjusting to a new community, I have kept very busy in “retirement”.

- I have been attending The Canadian Club of Kingston monthly Luncheons and met two other retired librarians there.
- I am doing some consulting work on a contract
- I have joined Ex Libris (the retired librarian group) and am trying to organize a Kingston group or chapter
- I have an article in the works for an OLA publication
- I attended a meeting of the Ottawa Valley Health Libraries Association last month
- I am presenting a workshop with a colleague in Halifax at the Canadian Health Libraries Association conference
- I have a proposal for a book also in the works
- I am hoping OCULA may hold a workshop or social/networking event in Kingston and I can help organize it

So you see retirement is not about stopping work and forgetting about the profession. It is about taking advantage of free time to go in new and exciting directions.

2008 OCULA Council

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