

Louise A. Stephens Memorial Scholarship

Background:

Louise Stephens, a graduate of SIRLS, worked for Glendale Public Library for 30 years, retiring in January 2007. During that time she served as a children's librarian and library manager. Throughout her career, Louise was active in the Arizona Library Association, serving as its Association President, Public Library Division President, and Awards Chair at various times. In 2001 she was named the association's Librarian of the Year, and in 2007, she received the Rosenzweig Award for distinguished service. Louise advocated for libraries as a centerpiece of a community as well as the need to network with other librarians as the forces to keep those institutions running. Louise passed away in July 2007, and a scholarship fund was established in her memory. The Arizona Library Association is charged with administering the scholarship fund.

Purpose:

To support students enrolled in the University of Arizona's School of Information Resources and Library Science M.A. program.

Amount:

\$3,000, awarded August 1, 2008. Scholarship is non-renewable. \$2000 applied toward tuition and fees, distributed through UA Financial Aid office. \$1000 awarded in a check directly to the recipient.

General Eligibility Requirements:

- Arizona Resident
- Student in good standing enrolled or admitted to the SIRLS M.A. program for a minimum of 6 credit hours in a semester
- **Current Member of the Arizona Library Association at any level (student, full, etc.)**

Criteria:

- Submit a statement of no more than two (2) pages, stating why you chose librarianship as a career, outlining your career goals, and describing the importance of involvement in professional associations as it relates to librarianship.
- Submit evidence of admission and enrollment to SIRLS/UA (acceptance letter and unofficial transcripts, if applicable)
- Undergraduate transcripts (unofficial is acceptable)
- 2 letters of recommendation, speaking to the applicant's ability and promise as a future library professional.

Terms of Scholarship

- The recipient will commit to continued membership in AzLA throughout SIRLS program.

- The recipient will commit to attend the AzLA Conference, December 8-10, 2008. The recipient will be recognized at the annual conference's awards function.

Deadline for application:

May 15, 2008. Submit completed applications electronically to the Arizona Library Association, admin@azla.org . Write "Stephens Scholarship Applicant" in the subject line. Supporting documentation can be mailed to AzLA, 1030 E Baseline Rd, Suite 105-1025. Tempe, AZ 85283. Attn: Stephens Scholarship Applicant. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Scholarship Award Committee:

The scholarship award committee will review all applications and make a recommendation to the AzLA Board. The AzLA Board will approve the candidate for the scholarship annually at its July Board meeting.

The scholarship award committee is comprised of:

- One Stephens/Fanchaly Family Member
- Two AzLA Executive Board Members
- One AzLA-SIRLS Advisory Committee Member
- One Glendale Public Libraries Librarian

The scholarship award committee will evaluate the candidates based on the following rubric:

Items to Evaluate	Poor 1 Point	Satisfactory 2 Points	Excellent 3 Points	Total Points
Written Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not outline career goals • Does not give reason why profession was chosen • Does not address the relationship of professional associations to librarianship • Contains more than 1 misspelling or grammatical error 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially outlines career goals • Gives partial reason why profession was chosen • Partially addresses the relationship of professional associations to librarianship • Contains 1 misspelling or grammatical error 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly outlines career goals • Gives clear reason(s) why profession was chosen • Clearly addresses the relationship of professional associations to librarianship • Error free and grammatically correct 	
Academic Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic record is problematic and does not indicate potential of a satisfactory career path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic record is sound and indicates potential of a satisfactory career path. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic record is outstanding and indicates potential of a excellent career path. 	
Letters of Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of recommendation indicate more weaknesses than strengths in the applicant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of recommendation indicate an average applicant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of recommendation indicate a promising applicant . 	