



MAY 2003 SPECIAL ISSUE

# SLA Hawaiian-Pacific Chapter Association Newsletter

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of A. Kathleen (Kathy) Robertson as National Radio Astronomy Observatory Librarian. Kathy has been librarian at the Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai'i, for the past thirteen years. Before going to the IFA, she was a subject specialist for a range of science and social science disciplines at the University of Calgary, and had served as librarian at two engineering firms in Calgary. In addition, she has worked as a research affiliate at archaeological excavation sites in Sudan, Zambia, and Ghana. Active in various capacities in the Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division of the SLA, Kathy has served variously as President, Vice President, and Director of the Hawaiian-Pacific Chapter.

She will join us on June 6, 2003, and will be representing NRAO at the Special Libraries Association conference in New York, June 7-12; her first day in the library in Charlottesville will be June 16, and her new email address will be library@nrao.edu.

For those of us who have known her for thirteen years as Kathleen, the switch to Kathy may come as a surprise. NRAO already has a Kathleen on the library staff, and Kathleen/Kathy Robertson suggested she join NRAO as Kathy. "I was always called Kathy until I went to the University of Calgary," she notes. And if you have trouble switching names, she says she will answer to either Kathleen or Kathy! "

*Ellen Bouton, NRAO*

## "All the best, Kathleen," Presidents Announce

### BOARD INQUIRY TO FOLLOW



## 3 Signs I Knew I Had the Job, by A. Kath\* Robertson

Will let me be first through the Star Gate.  
Agree to year-round heating of the Potomac.  
OK to redecorate Monticello in Middle Kingdom hieroglyphs.

OK, so that explains the Kathy/Kathleen.

Now we want to know: what does the "A" stand for?

- |            |          |                    |           |
|------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Antoinette | Agnes    | Amber              | Alice     |
| Ambrosia   | Aurora   | Année              | Annabelle |
| Aquaria    | AquaKat  | Antigone           | Argenta   |
| Abigail    | Adrianna | Arriverderci (Not) |           |
|            | Aloha    |                    |           |

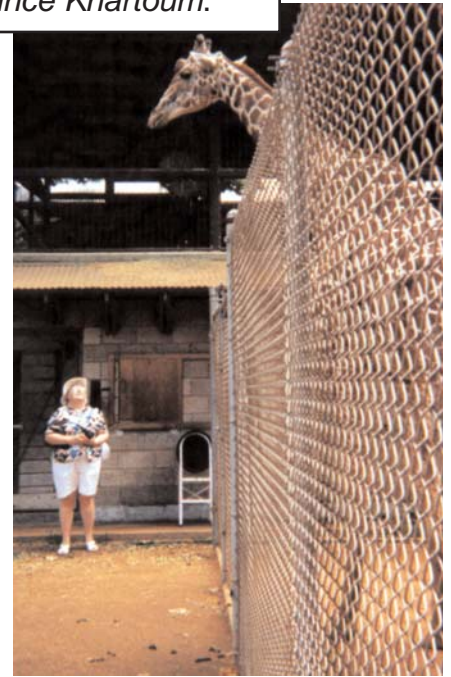
# Visions of Kathleen

*Yo, Kathy! Haven't seen you since Khartoum.*

Kathleen, as we all know, is the consummate professional. I first learned of her from some Canadian Petroleum & Energy Division librarians at SLA. They alerted me that someone exceptional had taken a job at IFA. Would I introduce her to the Hawaiian-Pacific Chapter? Although I was puzzled that an energy information specialist could land a job in the astronomy field, I got acquainted as soon as I could. I discovered this was her third “transformation”—from anthropological archaeologist in Africa, to petroleum librarian in Canada, to astronomy librarian in Hawaii! Come to find out Kathleen had studied astronomy for years as her own personal interest. Well, we were all soooo impressed we quickly elected her Chapter President. I believe she has been active on the board ever since.

She has planned programs, consortia, and whiz-bang field trips (remember the Imaginarium?). She has mentored numerous students and interns. She has been active in helping us all with professional and educational experiences. I substituted for her at the IFA Library a few years ago while she went to Ghana to help organize university libraries there, and I quickly realized what an expert presence she was for the astronomers at U.H.

On a personal level I think many of us can cite examples of generosity, sharing, and warm friendship. Six years ago I broke my ankle in three places. After I got out of the hospital she took me in because she had a spare bedroom and a condo with an elevator. We spent a memorable Christmas holiday—her pushing my wheelchair, planning outings, bringing in videos, etc., so I wouldn't go “stir crazy.” Later, when I came home from England for vacation, Terese, Stan, my son Robert, and I rented yurts by the ocean at Molokai Ranch. I remember lying on a bench at night, and listening to her describe the constellations. Other memories include riding on a catamaran off Ko Olina, and watching dolphins, turtles, and underwater schools of fish. I remember trying to keep up with her at the Tate Museum in London. I'll never forget a hilarious stay at a B & B in the middle of the lava fields for the Merrie Monarch Festival (she's been to every one since she arrived in Hawai'i). There have been so many excellent adventures this message would be as long as *Gone with the Wind* if I continued.



*Here's to you, Kathleen.*

*We're all just thrilled about you leaving for a new job.*

We must all plan to visit her in Virginia (not all at once of course). I am sure she will quickly show us all the historical, cultural, academic, and recreational points of interest in the entire south.

Auwe! I am really going to miss this lady. The only consolation I have is that she will continue to keep in touch with a long trail of friends around the globe.

So a sweet aloha to our beachwalker, star gazer, underwater explorer, museum maeven, wine taster, festival goer, and great companion!

*Robin Kenny*



*Ever since we heard you were leaving, we've had these strange pains in the backs of our necks.*





## Kathleen through the Years

Wow, what can I say? Kathleen has been an integral part of our social & professional scene for so many years, it's hard to think what she HASN't done.

I first met Kath in the early 90s, before she moved here. I was looking for a renter for the apartment downstairs in my house. She turned up as a prospect and we talked. What a surprise to meet her later at our SLA chapter event! Over the years she, Robin Kenny, and I became the three musketeers on many adventures:

An HLA zoo tour when she was taking pictures as the giraffe reached down to eat Ruth Marie's hat

Ihilani Resort snorkeling trip & a Shark's Cove snorkeling trip with the Waikiki Aquarium—times when she was in her element, diving and taking photos

Walking through the magnificent Egyptian exhibit at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, with Kath pointing out highlights and explaining goddesses and gods

Eating ribs at Dixie's Grill too many times to remember

Kanikapila in Andrew's at UHM, sitting on mats on the grass listening to Peter Moon Band and friends—even seeing Frank Hewitt do the hula!

Waikiki Aquarium summer evenings with the Casimero's, celebrating with birthday cake and good food

Merrie Monarch Hula Festival in Hilo, not only sitting through the hula marathon but also SHOPPING!! and visiting the volcano (Kath on vacation: "Only three museums today? More time for shopping!")

Walking around and through the telescopes on top of Mauna Kea on an SLA tour that Kath and her ALOHA group of astronomy librarians had arranged

Workshop after workshop after workshop originating and arranged by Kath while she was both on and off the Chapter Board—more often than not held in the auditorium at the Institute for Astronomy, but also a statewide one held at the Honolulu Academy of Arts

Plays, musicals, Hawaiiiana events, movies (Kath on Vin Diesel: "Nice butt")—and always making time for a little bite to eat and social discussion

Advice, Encouragement, Sympathy, Friendship—that's what Kath means to me.

I'll always think of Kathleen as a "seeker" of knowledge—whether academic, cultural, historical, or geographical. She's always aspiring, seeking . . . . and that's a Good Thing. Good Luck, Kathleen!!

*Terese Leber*

*If you'll stay, we'll give you all this great stuff.*



I would like to thank Kathleen for her kindness and generosity in sharing with me her wide-ranging knowledge of consortia, space planning and bookshelves, and tropical flowers! I will miss the enthusiasm and spark she gave to the local library scene these past many years.

*Phyllis Tabusa*

## WOW Kathleen!



The ALOHA Group (Astronomy Librarians of Hawai'i): Kathleen Robertson, Gaila Vidunas (Onizuka Center Library at Hale Pohaku), Peggi Kamisato (W. M. Keck Observatory), Liz Bryson (Canada France Hawai'i Telescope), Emiko Tsang (Suburu), and (kneeling in front) Ruth Kneale (Gemini/JAC Library).

we would chat on the phone often, with her helping me learn about the local chapters of SLA and HLA, and putting me in touch with librarians.

When I took a federal job in Honolulu for four years, she helped me scout out the situation in advance, and was always there for advice or assistance.

Kathleen is a promoter of consortia and I laud her activities in that realm, for collaboration is the essence of professionalism in librarianship.

Gosh, I will miss her presence here in Hawaii.

Kathleen will be a star performer in her new position—we will just have to look in our HI telescopes from time to time and see her twinkle and shine from Charlottesville.

God Speed, Kathleen!! Aloha,

*Ruth Corn*

. . . and double Wow! If the new employer sent her business cards in advance . . . 1) they know they've got a prize in Kathleen, and 2) National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a Quality Organization (reminds me of Boston Consulting Group, my former L.A. employer).

Gee, I'm so proud of her!

My fondest memories are many of Kathleen, and hard to choose, so I'll mention several things.

My first memory of Kathleen is how she and I met when I visited Elaine Schultz at the bank library, and she, in turn, introduced us.

Of course, Kathleen went out of her way to make me feel welcome, because I was on Maui and not used to an island state with its distances from Honolulu.

She hosted me in her home when I had to come to Honolulu for conferences, and



*Don't tell her I tied a bunch of balloons to her necklace.*



*Kathleen has been my "number one" outside library consultant, and I will sorely miss her. She has been a confidante, consultant, and sounding board extraordinaire, besides being an outstanding librarian colleague. I will miss our lunches at Mānoa Marketplace, where we've commiserated over similar problems, and shared our personal stories and interests. Hawai'i's great loss is Virginia's gain.*

— Ginny Tanji



— K. Tut