**Association News**
## 2007 VRA Nancy DeLaurier Award: Norine Duncan

Please accept our nomination of Norine Duncan, Art Slide Librarian at Brown University, for the 2007 Nancy DeLaurier Award. We believe that Norine's exceptional work with the development of the Image Resource Information System (IRIS) and its integration with professional data standards and sources represents distinguished achievement in the field of visual resources and has provided the VRA membership with a superb example of a successful, grass-roots cooperative effort among visual resources professionals. Norine has served tirelessly for ten years as the principal developer and marketer of IRIS, continually adapting IRIS to changes in systems, software and standards, while at the same time serving as the point person for its distribution and use.

Norine, along with Trudy Jacoby and a small group of visual resources professionals in New England, began to develop IRIS in 1997 out of the need to migrate to new cataloging software and the desire that the catalog structure be compliant with the newly released VRA Core Categories. The group set their goal as the eventual sharing of cataloging data. Norine's leadership provided the momentum for this group, as she hosted meetings, introduced a colleague, Kathleen Brown, who would serve (and continues to serve) as an invaluable technical consultant, and convinced her institution, Brown University, to provide the support needed to develop IRIS. Without Nori's determination, aptitude at learning the intricacies of FileMaker Pro software, and great diplomacy at her institution, IRIS would not have evolved so expediently. The IRIS user group today is comprised of twenty institutions nation-wide.

The continual release of new and revised standards by the Visual Resources Association and issues of interoperability with the advent of digital asset management systems (DAMS), have placed a huge burden on Norine to respond with revisions to IRIS. IRIS was revised first to reflect the release of VRA Categories 2.0 and most recently to reflect the many substantive changes in the use of metadata with the release of Cataloging Cultural Objects. With the introduction of Luna Insight and MDID, Norine responded quickly by creating an export option in IRIS. With the release of VRA Core 3.0 changes were needed to accommodate the conflation of work and image records into one element set. Currently, IRIS is undergoing yet another revision to adapt to the new VRA Core 4.0. With these changes, Norine has spent countless hours in the evenings and on weekends working to make IRIS compatible with our professional standards. Norine has accomplished all of this work through consistent communication and collaboration with other IRIS members and with members of the visual resources profession. None of her work has been accomplished in a vacuum. Rather, all revisions to IRIS have included group discussion and testing on a volunteer basis. She has hosted annual meetings at Brown University to introduce new revisions to IRIS. All revisions have been fully documented with clear instructions for their use and shared with all users. Nori has answered endless questions from both users and non-users as the default moderator of IRIS-L, and through the VRA listserv, as well. Collaboration outside the group has been ongoing including work with Susan Williams and Elisa Lanzi, both developers of their own cataloging systems. She has served on many professional projects and committees including the VISION project, and the VRA Data Standards Committee, where her work with IRIS was highly valued.

Many VRA members know Norine personally and are familiar with her modest, self-effacing nature. She is not one to acknowledge her own achievements but is readily on hand to celebrate others. Her ability to focus her energy and work tirelessly until her mission is reached and thereby inspire others to do the same, is truly what makes her a distinguished VRA member. With IRIS, Nori dedicated herself to the same mission as the VRA Core: "to facilitate the sharing of information among visual resources collections about works and images." Without her leadership, IRIS could not have been born, let alone mature into the sophisticated system that it is today, a system now in full bloom.

Johanna Bauman, Bard College
Karen Bouchard, Brown University
Kathleen S. Brown, FileMaker Pro consultant
Trudy Jacoby, Princeton University
Betsy Peck Learned, Roger Williams University
Linda McRae, University of South Florida
Susan Passman, Wesleyan University
Mark Pompelia, Rice University
Ann Whiteside, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Association News**
## *2007 VRA Annual Conference*
### 2007 VRA Nancy DeLaurier Award: Duncan Remarks

None of us imagined when we conceived IRIS almost ten years ago that we were embarking on a project without end. Except for one break of approximately one year, we have worked steadily to keep pace with changes in visual resources standards.

From the beginning, IRIS has been a collaborative effort, initially of seven institutions. Now it has expanded to include more than twenty institutions. We have a listserv for communication, in addition to user group meetings at VRA and in the summer at Brown University.

I more or less fell into the leadership position because of my proximity to our developer, Kathy Brown, whom I recruited to the cause at a point in her life, fortunately for us, when she preferred to do freelance work. We have become her major client, and she has traveled around the country to assist with installations and upgrades. Kathy's FileMaker expertise has made IRIS possible. We tell her what we want to be able to do, and she makes it happen.

Besides Kathy, there are many other colleagues I would like to thank, and who should share this award with me. The original members of the IRIS co-op, in addition to myself at Brown University, were Trudy Jacoby at Trinity College, Susan Passman at Wesleyan University, Sherry Poirrier at Smith College, Debra Kruse at RISD, Betsy Peck Learned at Roger Williams University, and Linda McRae at University of South Florida. We have Sherry to thank for naming IRIS, which stands for Image Resource and Information System. All of the above contributed ideas to the first and subsequent versions of IRIS.

I am also grateful to Susan Jane Williams and Elisa Lanzi, who freely shared their solutions to implementations of visual resources standards. When Kathy Brown and I commenced our work in 1997, we did not start with a blank new file, but with Susan Jane's free template. It soon disappeared from view as we made changes to layouts, but it was at the root of IRIS. Much later, when Elisa developed Snapdragon out of IRIS, she too was generous in sharing her ideas and innovative solutions.

Of course I would also like to thank Johanna Bauman for developing and maintaining the IRIS Web site, and for volunteering to be the beta tester for IRIS 2006.

Early implementers of IRIS 2005, our most ambitious revision of all, were immensely helpful in identifying problems and helping to find solutions. They were Christin Ronolder of Wheaton College and Sheryl Brittig of MIT. Finally, my colleague at Brown and consummate IRIS cataloger, Karen Bouchard, has my gratitude for tolerating our constant

*NDA Co-nominator Linda McRae reads the nomination letter for NDA recipient Norine Duncan.*

tweakings and for offering training sessions to new adopters of IRIS.

It is especially poignant to receive this award in Kansas City, where Nancy DeLaurier mentored so many of us in my generation. I only wish she could be present this evening. I recall so fondly my experience assisting her with compiling two editions of *T_h_e_ _S_l_i_d_e_ _B_u_y_e_r_s_'_G_u_i_d_e_*.

Finally, I would like to thank the VRA for allowing time and space for our user group meeting at the annual conference. All attendees are welcome to join us for this year's meeting on Friday morning. Questions and comments from colleagues who are not IRIS users have challenged us to solve problems we had not considered.

I am also grateful to have been a member, or at least a listserv lurker, on the Data Standards Committee off and on over the years, which has helped the IRIS group to anticipate forthcoming changes as we developed new versions. I hope that the imminent release of VRA Core 4.0 will enable us to bring IRIS into compliance with both the Core and CCO by the end of this calendar year. Then perhaps it will be time for another break!

Norine Duncan
Brown University

*NDA recipient Norine Duncan*