

## GSE&IS Celebrates 50 Years of Leadership In the Library and Information Studies Fields

by Megan Linford and Shaena Engle

For the Department of Information Studies, 2009 included the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Master's degree in Library Service (now the Master's in Library and Information Science) and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the PhD program in Information Studies. To kick-off the celebrations more than 200 alumni, faculty, students, staff, and friends of the Department of Information Studies gathered early in the year for a packed day on the UCLA campus.

Department Chair Anne Gilliland and GSE&IS Dean Aimée Dorr welcomed event attendees and offered remarks. The day began with a sold-out luncheon on the Fowler Museum Terrace, featuring a class honor roll led by Elizabeth Eisenbach MLS '62, a former professor and great supporter of the Department of Information Studies. Norman Powell, son of Lawrence Clark Powell, the founding Dean of the School of Library Service and for whom the Powell Library is named, spoke about his father's work and enduring legacy. Professor and Dean Emeritus Robert Hayes was the keynote speaker and his remarks covered the long and storied history of the program, as well as his thoughts on the future of the field.

Hayes cited Andy Horn as creating much of the original content for the School of Library Service. Additionally, he mentioned the importance of initial faculty members Seymour Lubetzky, Lawrence Clark



Information Studies Associate Professor Clara Chu, Ruth Bayhille, Ron Rodriguez, Giovanni Williams, Chisa Uyeki and Joseph Atkinson at the Diversity Matters panel



Dean Aimée Dorr, Dean Emeritus Robert Hayes, Norman Powell, son of founding Dean Lawrence Clark Powell, and Armena Powell, Norman's wife.

Powell, Frances Clarke Sayers, Betty Rosenberg, and Elizabeth Eisenbach. He shared memories of past students Libby Stevenson and Stanley Haley. Stevenson, when a student, entered his office in tears, complaining about having to take a course in data processing. "She didn't understand why she needed the course when she wanted to become a children's librarian," said Hayes. "After graduation, she created the Social Science Data Archives at UCLA and has run it ever since. This tells a lot about her and how things change," said Hayes. "Haley has had an accomplished career at Pasadena City College and is a good example of what our doctoral students can accomplish," said Hayes. He concluded by thanking Dean Dorr and Professor Gilliland for their support of the program.

Following the luncheon, attendees gathered in classrooms throughout Royce Hall for a variety of panel sessions, led by current faculty members, on hot topics in the world of library and information studies. Panels were comprised of alumni, friends, faculty, and current students who have played a variety of roles in a wide array of fields. Topics included *A Children's Library Bill of Rights*, *Archives and Special Collections in the 21st Century*, *Diversity*

*Matters: LIS Education (re)Considered, and Information Studies and Digital Culture: Ways Ahead.*

The afternoon concluded with *Looking Toward the Future*, a capstone panel discussion which brought together insights and ideas from each of the four earlier sessions. Chair Anne Gilliland led the discussion with panel moderators contributing their thoughts regarding what had been discussed in their respective panels, and the audience was given a chance to ask further questions and continue the stimulating conversations that began in the earlier panel sessions.

Guests departed Royce Hall across the quad to Powell Library for a special after-hours reception in the Powell Library Rotunda. Powell Library holds a special place in the heart of many alumni, as it was the original location for classes and administrative offices of the School of Library Service. Work from student groups was on display as guests enjoyed the reception. \*