

## Jane Kinney Meyers honored as University of Maryland's College of Information Studies Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for 2008

On Saturday, April 12, 2008, the Maryland Family honored and celebrated the achievements of 20 individuals at the University of Maryland's Ninth Annual Alumni Association Awards Gala. More than 400 alumni and friends attended the black-tie event held at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center.



**Above:** This year's 2008 Alumni Association Award recipients are trailblazers, advocates, educators, scientists and artists; they have improved lives through their work across the disciplines. The professional endeavors, accolades and humanitarian efforts of the awardees make them worthy ambassadors for the university.



**Left:**

Jane Kinney Meyers M.L.S. '78, receives the award for Distinguished Alumna for the College of Information Studies from Jesse Chen '08.

**Right:**

Distinguished Alumnus for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Bruce L. Berlage '56, and Distinguished Alumna for the College of Information Studies and president and founder of the Lubuto Library Project, Inc., Jane Kinney Meyers M.L.S. '78, with Gail Yeiser '75 (left) and Katherine Faulkner '94 (right).



Source: University of Maryland Alumni Association website, [http://alumni.umd.edu/gallery/gala\\_2008/index.htm](http://alumni.umd.edu/gallery/gala_2008/index.htm)

### **Jane Meyers' Acceptance Speech**

Thirty years ago, an assistantship from CLIS made possible my graduate studies at Maryland. Throughout my career, I have remained profoundly grateful for this. My work for the founding Dean, Professor Paul Wasserman, who was at the center of the world of international librarianship, broadened my geographic and cultural perspectives. I left Maryland inspired, and with solid training in both the information technologies that were emerging at the time and in the theory and good practice of library science. Most importantly, I left with the firm conviction that knowledge is power.

My international career began in earnest in early 1986 with an assignment in Malawi, Africa. At that time, *Science* magazine noted my pioneering implementation of CD-ROM as a means of pre-internet information delivery for African scientists. My work in Malawi gave me a new perspective on access to knowledge and the role technology can play in changing the power equation in information isolated areas.

Twenty years on, I am working to bring knowledge and education to Africa's most vulnerable youth through Lubuto Libraries. I have come to understand that, in an unstable world, the power of knowledge lies not in the access-enabling technology, but in the empowerment of humanity. Kenneth Kaunda, the founding President of Zambia, toured our first, beautiful library serving his country's most marginalized members – orphans, street kids. On viewing a shelf full of poetry books, he remarked: "So we're still holding on to humanity here." That is the power of knowledge.