Jottings and DIGRESSIONS

Volume 42, No. 1 • Fall 2010

Save the Dates

May 5, 2011
Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting
All SLIS alumni are encouraged to attend. Check the SLIS website in the spring for time and location, an agenda and the Executive Board ballot.

May 12, 2011
Beta Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu annual meeting and initiation of new members at the Pyle Center, UW-Madison. Check the spring issue of Jottings for more details.

June 26, 2011
SLIS Reception and Alumni Reunion at ALA conference in New Orleans. Check the spring issue of Jottings for details.

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Students found REFORMA Chapter

SLIS REFORMA is a student organization based off REFORMA, the national association for the promotion of library and information services to Latinos and Spanish-speaking populations. A recent graduate of SLIS, Kristina Gomez, MA’10, established the UW-Madison SLIS chapter of REFORMA in fall 2009. Fellow SLISers Sam Boss, MA’10, and Cristina Springfield, MA’11, assisted Gomez.

Gomez said the primary drive for establishing a student chapter of REFORMA was based on statistics: Hispanics are the fastest growing demographic in the United States, and recent ALA research shows Spanish as the most-supported, non-English language in public libraries.

What these statistics mean for UW-Madison SLIS students is that many students will eventually work in an information setting serving Spanish speakers. Gomez, Boss, and Springfield saw the implementation of a SLIS REFORMA chapter as an opportunity for students interested in Spanish language services to unite and collaborate on service projects and professional development opportunities.

SLIS REFORMA is working to address major areas of library reform, such as more frontline staff fluent in Spanish, library staff who are representative of the community’s...
New Year Brings New Faces

Dear Friends,

As I write in late August, we are getting ready to welcome new members of the SLIS community. First, I want to introduce our new SLIS faculty member: assistant professor Alan Rubel, who brings to us considerable research expertise in an area of core interest in LIS — privacy. For the last two years, Alan has been Greenwall Fellow in Bioethics and Health Law Policy at Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University. Previously, he was law clerk to Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley for two years. He received his PhD in philosophy in 2006 and his JD in 2003, both from UW-Madison. His research focuses on bioethics and information ethics, with particular reference to privacy. He is author of several articles on topics that include genetic engineering, and the USA PATRIOT Act. Alan, whose appointment is 100 percent in SLIS, will be teaching two courses a year for SLIS, and two for legal studies. We are confident that students will much appreciate his dynamic and knowledgeable presence in the classroom, and are thrilled that he is joining us.

The largest contingent of new SLISers is, of course, the incoming master’s class. Over 100 students are entering as master’s degree candidates; 79 of these will take the program through on-campus delivery, 29 through our newly formatted distance program. Recruitment to the program in both delivery modes has been very successful this year: we received 260 applications to the campus program and 54 applications to the distance program. Two new PhD students are starting this semester.

While we are excited to meet new colleagues and students, we were sorry to say goodbye to visiting assistant professor Sei-Ching Joanna Sin (PhD 2009). However, we are delighted at her appointment as assistant professor at Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. We wish Jo the very best in her new job. We were also sad to bid farewell to our student and alumni relations coordinator, Andrea Poehling, who has moved “up the hill” where she will be working with the divisional committees, particularly on tenure cases and curriculum matters. The excellent news is that we have hired a new student and alumni relations coordinator, Tanya Cobb. Tanya received her MA from SLIS in 2004, and has many years of experience in student services at UW-Madison, most recently as the graduate program and research administrator in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology & Institute for Molecular Virology.

As you know, just maintaining the size of the faculty and staff is a continuing challenge for SLIS. I am very happy to let you know that SLIS is able to search for a faculty member during the 2010–2011 academic year, as part of a new Digital Studies program funded through the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU). The Digital Studies program, a cross-departmental initiative, prepares undergraduate students to critically analyze and creatively compose with new media and information technologies (see www.dighum.wisc.edu/).

Finally, let me thank you for your continued support of SLIS, whether through financial contribution, advocacy, or practical assistance. We rely on friends like you to help us keep SLIS strong in the face of dwindling resources. I’m sure that you will be as pleased and proud as we are that SLIS has again ranked in the top 10 schools of library and information in the 2010 U.S. News & World Report; that at UW-Madison, SLIS consistently ranks in the top five master’s programs in the number of graduates; and, most importantly, that SLIS students continue to get jobs. In the last five years, 413 graduated from the MA program; our research shows that 89 percent of graduates surveyed were employed (overall response rate 90 percent), and that 184 had jobs in Wisconsin. We feel that this is a very good achievement, and we are working hard to make it even better.

With very best wishes,
Christine Pawley
Curriculum Update: Digital Studies, Other Changes

SLIS has implemented, or is preparing to implement, several changes and additions to its curriculum that will broaden choices for students.

In the spring of 2010, the Digital Humanities Initiative at UW-Madison was awarded funding to offer an undergraduate Digital Studies certificate. The development of the Digital Studies curriculum is a collaborative effort, involving more than 30 faculty and staff in three colleges, the Libraries, and DoIT.

For SLIS, the Digital Studies program will offer increased teaching assistantship opportunities for master’s students through two undergraduate classes and provide a gateway to attract students to SLIS. Graduate students will benefit, too, from additional course offerings. The first courses would be offered in fall 2011.

Currently, “a sweet spot exists between casual computer use and computer science that the arts and humanities can best fulfill,” the faculty and staff, including SLIS faculty Kristin Eschenfelder, Greg Downey, Stephen Paling and Christine Pawley, wrote in their proposal. “At the highest level, it promises to make UW a leader in 21st-century education.”

A new double degree program with the School of Music and a similar program in the works, through the Department of Art History, also will allow students to cross disciplines. The idea behind the programs is to reduce the course load required for those who would like to pursue graduate studies in music, art history and Library and Information Studies, giving “students more options to specialize in their area of interest,” said SLIS Director Christine Pawley. The art history double degree offering may begin as early as spring 2012.

SLIS has also retooled its Archives and Records Management program. The revamped curriculum, which launches in the fall of 2011, is essentially the same as the previous track with the exception of the course sequencing and broader practicum choices. The familiar 977 class will now include an EAD component and 40-hour practicum; in addition students will take the 620 class and 120-hour practicum or equivalent internship at an archives of their choice.

“It’s more open and more flexible,” said Pawley.

Reforma continued from page 1

demographics, increasing diversity within the LIS profession, expanding outreach to recent immigrant populations, cultural sensitivity training for library staff, more funding for Spanish language materials, and bilingual early literacy programming.

Members of SLIS REFORMA are focusing their efforts on public library services, reflecting the interests of its current members. While some of the issues facing public and academic libraries are quite different (e.g., ESL programming), there are multiple parallels between public and academic services, such as increasing the diversity of library staff and creating collections representative of the library’s user population.

During the 2009–2010 academic year, SLIS REFORMA members visited the Milwaukee Public Forest Home branch, where they met with foreign language selector Eric Johnson and acquisitions librarian Tom Olson to learn about developing and maintaining a Spanish collection. The Forest Home branch is home to Milwaukee’s largest Spanish collection and is in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. Group members learned about changing community demographics and the importance of keeping a collection relevant to community needs. They also learned about what types of books and programming are most popular for the Forest Home Library and what vendors were useful for hard-to-find, but popular, Spanish language materials.

SLIS REFORMA provides practical experiences for SLIS students by encouraging them to develop skills they can use directly in their work as librarians. One example is a recent workshop conducted by SLIS alumna Tammy Pineda, MA’08, for students interested in learning basic Spanish vocabulary related to the library environment. Students focused on Spanish computer terms, terms and phrases for getting a library card, checking out books, and phrases applicable in the youth services department. Gomez believes that having a basic grasp of these words is a solid start to establishing a relationship with Spanish speakers at the library.

SLIS REFORMA is open to all SLIS students regardless of language abilities. Of the 2009–2010 officers, a non-Spanish speaking member was active with programming and activities and participated in the Spanish workshop. For more information about SLIS REFORMA, please visit its blog at http://slisreforma.wordpress.com/.
Featured Scholarship Recipient: Toni Streckert, Olive C. Koch Rowe Memorial Scholarship

Many incoming SLIS students have already accomplished much in library work. Their hard work is acknowledged in part through SLIS-funded awards, grants, and scholarships. The following profile is the first in a series to highlight the achievements of SLIS scholarship recipients. Toni Streckert, Outreach Coordinator at the Monona Public Library, was awarded the Olive C. Koch Rowe Memorial Scholarship for Fall 2010.

By Toni Streckert

My educational background includes studies in English literature and special education (learning disabilities), with additional training in school library and media programs. I have worked as a copy editor, a grant writer/fundraiser, and a substitute teacher/school librarian. I have also been a freelance writer and authored a book on Wisconsin community cookbooks, which involved interviewing some remarkable women on their community and immigrant heritage. I began working as a library assistant in youth services for the beautiful Monona Public Library two and a half years ago and this position has expanded to include teen and some adult programming. Currently, I work as the outreach coordinator for the library, which is very gratifying because it involves a little bit of everything.

One of the highlights of working at the Monona Public Library for me is working with teens and involving them directly in program planning. They have wonderful ideas such as a Lego-building contest held on March 14, which is also National Pi Day, so they competed for homemade pies as prizes. I’ve had the privilege of mentoring our Teen Advisory Board, which last year won a mayoral award for their work in promoting teen literacy, green activities, and library use. We also have a strong community partnership with the Monona Grove Alternative High School and co-host book discussions and projects with them, which has been (and continues to be) a rich and illuminating experience for me.

I am closely involved with an exciting new initiative from the Madison branch of the Susan G. Komen Foundation to develop a comprehensive special collection of materials focusing on breast cancer and women’s (and men’s) health. This includes developing a core of materials for youth from pre-K through teens who have a relative, caregiver or friend with cancer, a topic which is often overlooked in this area. Learning how to promote library services and collections is another area of interest for me.

I think there is a great wellspring of community support of public libraries, if we can tap into it through programs, marketing and activities, so it is an exciting challenge to figure out how to make this possible. From my previous work in development, I have learned the importance of mission and values statements to distill the philosophy of an organization and one of the reasons I’m excited to be enrolled at SLIS is in being able to see (and learn) how to realize this, and in particular the following statement: “We believe in the core values of service to our clients and the importance of intellectual freedom to a democratic society. We believe that information grows more valuable as it is used to create new knowledge and understandings.” In addition, the reputation and wonderful work of the CCBC has been a significant influence on my growth and ongoing interest in the profession.

I am very interested in how our profession is changing and adapting to the economic, technological, and cultural climate, and its intersection with areas that previously might be ascribed to social services (job hunting, health care research and options) or education (pre-K and adolescent literacy, particularly for at-risk populations). I think the outreach aspect of a librarian’s job — making other business, institutional, community, and personal connections and partnerships — are vital for both the continuity (and survival) of library services. Getting the support for additional training and certification to follow these areas will help me become a better advocate for our patrons and our library. I am quite grateful for this opportunity which will help allow me the means to be able to pursue my greatest interest, which, with two children currently in college, would not be otherwise possible. I cannot envision working in an occupation that offers greater job satisfaction or personal fulfillment and I am enthralled with the prospect of being able to progress in this field.

Monona Public Library was the 2010 SCLS Library of the Year and WLA 2010 Wisconsin Library of the Year.
Scholarships and Awards

Thanks to our many donors, past and present, we are able to provide modest scholarships, hire students to assist faculty and support student travel to conferences.

Scholarships and awards funded by or on behalf of alumni, and their recipients:

- Maralyn B. and George G. Babcock Scholarship: **Gregory Bond**
- Kathryn Eye Bading Scholarship: **Crystal Schmidt**
- C. Berger Entrepreneurial Promise Award: **Caitlin Sticco**
- Beta Phi Mu Outstanding Student Scholar: **William Straub**
- Beta Phi Mu Outstanding Student Scholar Finalists: **Kristina Gomez, Gabe Gossett, LuMarie Guth, Shauna Masella, Omar Poler**
- Ethel M. Brann Scholarship provided by Elizabeth Hendrickson, to honor her mother: **Emilie Steinmann**
- Olive Dornfeld Busjaeger Centennial Scholarship provided by Maralyn and George Babcock: **Kayce Austin**
- Jack Clarke Scholarship, given by Beta Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu: **Elizabeth Ryan**
- Sally Davis Scholarship: **Jessica Bartsch**
- Valmai Fenster Award for Outstanding Promise for Exceptional Scholarly Contribution to the Field: **Peter Sh rake**
- Valmai Fenster Memorial Scholarships: **Jiekun Yang and Joung-A Park**
- Charlotte A. Friedman Scholarship: **Stephanie Heyroth**
- Leona Gifford Scholarships: **Brittany Sheveland, Kevin Cunningham**
- Marguerite Linda Hasse Scholarship: **Tina Ngo**
- Dianne McAfee Hopkins Diversity Award: **Kristina Gomez**
- Lawrence Jacobsen Innovations in Library Science Award: **Yi Hong Sim**
- Penelope and Stephen Klein Beatrix Prize: **Ying Qin**
- Penelope and Stephen Klein Scholarship Award: **Amy De Simone**
- Mary Rose Kobetich Scholarship: **Toni Stre ckert**
- John R. Koch Scholarship: **Jonathan Carlson**
- James Krikelas Award for Innovative Use of Information Technology: **Andy Giesler**
- Signe Ruh Ottersen Scholarship: **Jessica Bartsch**
- Beatrice Owens Memorial Scholarship: **Ronda Cole**
- Linda B. Richardson Memorial Student Support Fund: **Xiaohua “Awa” Zhu**
- Olive C. Koch Rowe Memorial Scholarship: **Toni Stre ckert**
- Charlotte M. Sawyer Scholarship: **Melissa Moll**
- Rachel K. Schenk Memorial Scholarship: **Erinn Batykefer**
- William R. Werk Scholarship: **Jessica Bartsch**
- Vannita L. Weseley Scholarships: **Sara Cummins, Mai Lee**
- Lawrence C. Zweizig Student Leadership Award: **Yi Hong Sim**
- LAMP scholarships have been awarded to incoming students
- **Caitlin Greene and Yee Vue.**
- The Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship to support the graduate study of archival administration has been awarded to **Virginia Corvid.**
- Three SLIS students were recently awarded scholarships by the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation. **Alexandra Hinrichs** was awarded the Library Education Scholarship. **Cristina Springfield** was awarded the Sally Davis Scholarship. **Kia Vang** was awarded the Diversity Scholarship. Kia also received the UW-Madison Advanced Opportunity Fellowship and the ALA Spectrum Scholarship.

Archivists-in-Training Go National

Nine archives-track SLIS students and recent graduates attended this year’s Society of American Archivists’ (SAA) annual conference in Washington, D.C.

The joint meeting with the Council of State Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, “Foundations and Innovations,” brought together more than 2000 archivists and students August 10–15 to share ideas, make connections and help develop the profession. SAA-Madison Student Chapter members worked over the course of the year to raise funds.

McNair Scholars conference and the subsequent investigation at a future literature review and preliminary findings are comprised of literacy programs. Ms. Cox will present a case study on baby and toddler literacy at the Hedberg Library in Janesville as a mentor for Janelle Cox, an SLIS undergraduate at Beloit College and a faculty mentor for Janelle Cox, an SLIS undergraduate at Beloit College and a McNair Scholar. Cox contacted SLIS with the Red Cliff Tribe library project in northern Wisconsin and continued to be active with the Jail Library Group.

Professor Greg Downey survived his first year in his new role as the director of the UW-Madison School of Journalism & Mass Communication without breaking anything. He is still teaching for SLIS once a year and is excited to have been awarded special funding by the Department of Information Technology to purchase micro-projectors and iPads for his undergraduate LIS 201 course, “The Information Society,” in Fall 2010.

Associate Professor Kristin Eschenfelder is continuing to represent the department on the steering committee of the Digital Studies Program, part of the Madison for Undergraduates (MIU) Initiative, along with Stephen Paling. This semester she will again serve on the Graduate School Research Committee.

We congratulate Allison Kaplan on her promotion to faculty associate! This summer, Allison was the faculty mentor for Janelle Cox, an undergraduate at Beloit College and a McNair Scholar. Cox contacted SLIS in search of a summer research project on early literacy. Allison volunteered to mentor Janelle in a research project at the Hedberg Library in Janesville as a case study on baby and toddler literacy programs. Ms. Cox will present a literature review and preliminary findings of their investigation at a future McNair Scholars conference and hopes to attend library school when she graduates from Beloit College. Allison is also pleased to announce that the Allied Drive Literacy Time project has received a $2,000 grant from Target Stores.

Associate Professor Kyung-Sun “Sunny” Kim attended the ALA Annual Conference (Washington, D.C., June 24–29). She successfully completed her term as chair of CORS (Committee on Research and Statistics) and hosted a CORS Research Series program, entitled “Reaching out to Generation Y — Conducting Research to Understand Digital Natives.” Sunny also completed part of her research on the source selection behavior, and two papers are under review for publication. She is currently collaborating with Seonghee Kim, PhD’95, a visiting scholar from Chung-Ang University, Korea, to research different factors affecting the use of social software.

Associate outreach specialist Meredith Lowe contributed to a panel discussion on continuing education at the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) conference in late April. Meredith coordinated the third Archives Leadership Institute, held on campus in Madison from July 18–24. In August, she attended the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Professor Stephen Paling has an article on fuzzy sets and the organization of literary works forthcoming in the *Journal of Documentation*, and will be part of a panel at this year’s annual meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology.

In September, Professor Christine Pawley co-chaired the conference “Libraries in the History of Print Culture” with Professor Louise Robbins. Her book, *Reading Places: Literacy, Democracy, and the Public Library in Cold War America*, appeared from the University of Massachusetts Press in June. Christine is excited to be teaching a course on the history of librarianship for the first time in fall 2010.

In April, SLIS Associate Director Jane Pearlmutter presented workshops on “Collection Development in a Consortial Environment” at Wisconsin Valley Library Service and Indianhead Federated Library System. In May, she spoke at the WLA Support Staff Section spring conference.

Professor Louise Robbins and Michele Besant returned to Red Cliff in September with Dan White of the Rural Libraries Project and designer Christian Schaller to assist the tribe with planning for an eventual re-opening of the tribal library. Catherine Phan, MA’09, and Omar Poler, MA’10, also participated in the meeting. In September, Louise was co-chair of the Library History Round Table’s Library History Seminar, heading up the auction used to raise money for the Round Table’s awards. In addition, Louise will be working with other members of the UW accreditation team to plan and implement a 2012 centennial celebration for the Wisconsin Idea. She also remains active in PROFS (the Public Representation Organization of Faculty Senate).

Louise thanks all the friends and graduates who have been so
The Archives Leadership Institute aims to examine the leadership needs of the archives profession and to prepare participants to influence policy and effect change for the benefit of the profession and the users it serves. The program is directed primarily at mid-level to senior staff — archivists who aspire to leadership roles in their organizations and/or professional associations. The Archives Leadership Institute, which first took place in 2008, has received funding through 2012.

This year’s Archives Leadership Institute occurred July 18–24. Twenty-seven archivists from 17 states were selected to spend a week at UW-Madison’s beautiful lakeshore conference center. A mix of panels, workshops and small-group discussions explored topics such as policy issues for archivists, communication and media relations, legislative advocacy, strategies and sources for funding, and collaboration and coalition building. A grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) funded most of the costs of the institute.

More information about the Archives Leadership Institute, including application information, is online at http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continued/archivesinst.html. If you would like to receive e-mail updates regarding the 2011 institute or future institutes, please send a message to Meredith Lowe at mclowe@wisc.edu or call (608) 890-0364.
Getting to Know ... Eileen Harrington

Eileen received her MA from SLIS in 2007. She is currently the Naturalist Center manager and reference librarian at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

What have you been doing since you completed your SLIS degree? What is your current position?
A few weeks after I graduated, I packed up a rental truck and drove to San Francisco to start my new job with the California Academy of Sciences, a natural history museum, aquarium and planetarium, all under one living roof. I work in the Naturalist Center as the Naturalist Center manager and reference librarian. The center is a resource center on the public floor of the museum.

Were you always interested in working in a naturalist center? What drew you in that direction?
I knew I wanted to somehow incorporate my science background into whatever job I got, as well as have some sort of education component, whether it was working with kids or doing library instruction and information literacy at a university. When I first read the posting for my current job, it felt like it had been written especially for me. It draws on both my library and environmental education skills. I am very lucky to have found such a perfect fit.

What do you find particularly compelling about your current position?
I love the dynamic nature of my job. No two days are ever the same. I get to develop and deliver educational programs like Science Story Adventures, which is a sort of story time-plus. We read science-themed stories, examine natural history specimens to learn more about the animals or plants, and then do a craft. Most days I get to answer interesting and unusual questions, such as helping a local art museum identify the type of beetle that was used on one of their African masks or helping a visitor identify a scorpion they found in their house.

Reading as a Subversive Activity

Christine Pawley. Reading Places: Literacy, Democracy, and the Public Library in Cold War America (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2010).

Reading Places examines the role of public libraries during a time of national anxiety, recounting the history of an experimental regional library service in the early 1950s, a story that has implications far beyond the two Wisconsin counties where it took place. Using interviews and library records, Christine Pawley reveals the book choices of ordinary individual readers, showing how local cultures of reading interacted with formal institutions to implement an official literacy policy.

Analyzing the history of tensions between various community groups, Pawley delineates the long-standing antagonisms arising from class, gender, and ethnic differences which contributed to a suspicion of official projects to expand education. Relating a seemingly small story of library policy, she teases out the complex interaction of reading, locality, and cultural difference. In so doing, she illuminates broader questions regarding libraries, literacy, and citizenship, reaching back to the 19th century and forward to the present day.
Botswana Program Continues
Through a program in its second year, three SLIS students were given the opportunity to intern in a library in Botswana this summer. Partnering with community librarians and paraprofessional staff, interns help develop and model library services with academic support from the University of Botswana Department of Library and Information Studies.

Ashley Bieber, Cara Evanson, and Rachel Lockman shared their experiences with friends and family through separate blogs. Their entries chronicle the challenges, victories, and frustrations of working with the Botswana National Library Service.

The program is looking forward to its third year.

Ashley Bieber, professor Ethelene Whitmire, Cara Evanson and Rachele Lockman join Angelina, the students’ main supervisor and an LIS professor at the University of Botswana; the director of the Botswana National Library Service, Ruth “Pinky” Bailang; Nathan Mejamo, another UB supervisor; supervisor Lucia; and other BNLS representatives during Ethelene’s visit.

Beta Beta Epsilon Update
On May 13, 2010, Beta Beta Epsilon (BBE) held its 26th annual reception, initiation, and meeting at the Pyle Center along the shores of Lake Mendota, where we welcomed our newest members.

William Straub was named Outstanding Student Scholar of the Year, and Elizabeth Ryan was honored as the recipient of the 2009–2010 Jack A. Clarke Scholarship. We were privileged to have Josh Ranger, archivist for the Archives and Area Research Center at Forrest Polk Library, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, give a talk on “The New Normal in Libraries.”

New board members were also elected. Joining president Lia Vellardita, past president Leah Ujda, treasurer Dee Grimsrud, and vice president for membership Anne Rauh are: president-elect Cynthia Bachuber; vice president for scholarship Kate Hull; and secretary Molly Hamm (nee Beverstein). Also continuing to work with BBE is faculty adviser Louise Robbins. Thanks to everyone who attended the annual meeting and helped make it a success!

Mark your calendars now for BBE’s 27th annual meeting, which will take place May 12, 2011, at the Pyle Center. Please consider helping us celebrate not only the academic accomplishments of our newest inductees, but also BBE’s great, historic tradition!

If you need to update your contact information to receive an invitation, contact vice president for membership Anne Rauh at aerauh@engr.wisc.edu

Beta Beta Epsilon
New Members — May 13, 2010
Amy Caes
Darcy Gervasio
Kristina Gomez
Gabe Gossett
LuMarie Guth
Amanda Lanyon-LeSage
Alex LeClair
Kolap Mao
Shauna Masella
Omar Poler
Ellen Qualey
Michelle Richmond
Michelle Shippy
Amy Stenftenagel
William Straub
Merle Watkins
Alyson Williams
Michelle Wyler
Class News and Notes

1960s .................................................. Nancy R. Meinel, MA’68, writes that after a school library career that spanned 41 years, it is a joy for her to meet former students and know she had a small impact on their lives.

1970s .................................................. Barbara Moore, MA’73, was featured in article in the Democrat and Chronicle of Penfield, New York. The article highlighted Moore’s business, Net Results, LLC, and her enthusiasm for helping her community with its computer technology needs.

Kentucky Adams Wendt, MA’74, was appointed as the policy and community relations director for Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton of Wisconsin. Wendt recently led the Rhinelander District Library as executive director from 2003 to 2008, where she focused on strengthening community outreach programming.

1980s .................................................. Kathleen de la Peña McCook, PhD’80, presented the 2010 Dr. Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture at the 2010 ALA Conference in Washington, D.C.

In Memoriam

Spencer G. Shaw, MA’41, nationally and internationally known librarian, storyteller, and educator, passed away on June 16, 2010. He was 93 years old. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Library School, Shaw was professor emeritus at the University of Washington. Growing up in Hartford, Connecticut, during the Depression, Shaw was the only African-American student in his grammar and high school classes. His parents were actively involved in community affairs, and the Northwest Branch of the public library was an important part of his upbringing. Throughout his lengthy career, he shared his love of libraries and community service as a public librarian, educator, and expert on storytelling and library service to children. The American Library Association called him an “authentic and forthright spokesperson for children and youth librarians, contributing enormously in motivating and guiding the nation’s youth.” Professor Shaw received numerous honors and recognitions for his work, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the Grolier Foundation Award. In 1990, Shaw was the first recipient of the SLIS Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award. This award is conferred upon an alumna or alumnus of the School of Library and Information Studies in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. In 1991, Shaw received the honorary doctor of humane letters from UW-Madison.

Fred J. Mencer, MA’63, passed away on April 13, 2010. Mencer worked as a librarian in Ashland from 1963 to 1965, and at UW-Eau Claire from 1965 to 1970. Mencer became the director of Dodge County Library Service in 1970 and worked in that role until his retirement in 1990. He was a life member of the Wisconsin Library Association, a member and past president of the Beaver Dam Kiwanis Club, a member of the Calvary Bible Church in Fond du Lac, and was active in the Boy Scouts of America.

Clarice M. Ruder, MA’73, passed away on May 24, 2010. Born in Marshfield on May 31, 1948, Ruder moved to Florida in 1974, soon after earning a master’s degree in library and information studies at UW-Madison. Her first job in Florida was as an adult services librarian at the Palm Beach County Public Library System. In 1976, she joined the Tampa–Hillsborough Public Library System, where she worked for 34 years as the head of several progressively larger branch libraries, the last being the inviting new Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library on Manhattan Avenue in South Tampa.

Arnold Dave Popinsky, best friend, love, and husband of Sydelle Popinsky, MA’71, passed away on May 6, 2010, after battling leukemia.
Donald Clay Johnson, PhD’80, received a professional development grant from the University of Minnesota Retirees Association to study embroidery traditions in India.

Gregor Trinkaust Randall, MA’80, preservation specialist at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, has been elected SAA vice president/president-elect for 2010–2011.

Lyn Korenic, MA’81, director of the Kohler Art Library, was awarded a 2010 Librarian of the Year award from UW-Madison Libraries.

Kathleen T. Horning, MA’82, director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC), delivered the 2010 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture, “Can Children’s Books Save the World?”

Sheau-yueh Janey (Huo) Chao, MA’83, was selected as one of two librarians from the City University of New York to attend a one-month residency to teach in Shanghai under the CUNY-Shanghai Exchange Librarians Program.

Patrick Losinski, MA’83, executive director of Columbus Metropolitan Library, accepted the 2010 Library of the Year award from Library Journal. The award was presented to the Columbus Metropolitan Library for its service to the community and innovation in creating programs that helped dramatically increase library usage.

Lynn B. Aber, MA’86, is president of the New Hampshire Archives Group and serves on the state’s board for Connecting to Collections.

Janet Oberla, MA’87, is now the head of the Main Library at the U.S. Department of Justice. The library, in Washington, D.C., is the oldest and largest of eight branches serving personnel at DOJ.

Bill Doering, MA’87, received the American Library Association’s (ALA) 2010 Coutts Award for Innovation in Electronic Resources Management.

Mary Markland, MA’87, received the 2009 Distinguished Librarian of the Year award from the Midwest chapter of the Medical Library Association.

Elisabeth Owens, MA’88, works for the administration department for the UW-Madison General Library System. As the director of the GLS External Relations Office, Elisabeth oversees Parallel Press, the Libraries’ publishing imprint, and other external library communications and publications.

1990s ..................................................  

Jane Thompson, MA’90, is the conservator for the state archives at the Arkansas History Commission.

Rhonda (Butt) Beck, MA’91, lives in Cornelius, North Carolina, with her daughter Barbara and writes on local short- and dirt-track racing as a correspondent for the Gaston Gazette. She is a member of the National Motorsports Press Association.

Lynn Silipigni Connaway, PhD’92, co-authored the fifth edition of Basic Research Methods for Librarians, due to be published by Libraries Unlimited in September 2010. Lynn is a senior research scientist at OCLC Research.

Nicholas (Nick) Goetzfridt, PhD’97, is professor of library science and Micronesian studies, University of Guam. He has a book on Guam history coming out from University of Hawaii Press next year and just returned from an international conference on ethnomathematics in Baltimore.

2000s ..................................................  

Bonnie Tijerina, MA’03, a digital collections services librarian at the University of California-Los Angeles, was named a 2010 Mover and Shaker by Library Journal.

Nola Walker, MA’03, was awarded the 2010 Information Literacy Award by the WAAL Information Literacy Committee during the annual WAAL conference.

Kori Hall, MA’04, accepted the position of information and adult services manager at the Waukesha Public Library in Waukesha.

Kelli Keclik, MA’04, late evening public service librarian at UW-Madison’s College Library, was awarded a 2010 Librarian of the Year award from UW-Madison Libraries.

Josie Hanneman, MA’06, is currently living south of Bend, Oregon, working as the teen services librarian at Deschutes Public Library.

Sheila Stoeckel, MA’06, Academic Librarian at UW-Madison’s LILI program, received a 2010 Library Service Award from the UW-Madison Libraries.

Paloma Celis Carbajal, MA’07, was awarded the 2010 Information Literacy Award by the WAAL Information Literacy Committee during the annual WAAL conference.


Leia Verfuerth, MA’07, has accepted a position as assistant serials librarian in the Acquisitions Department at UW-Madison Libraries. Leia will be part of the Information Processing Unit, where she has been a research intern since 2008.

Sonia Yaco, MA’07, Old Dominion University special collections librarian and university archivist, and her partners in the Desegregation of Virginia Education (DOVE) project recently received a $2,000 grant.
from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission of the Virginia General Assembly. “The locations of many of Virginia’s historically important records of school desegregation remain unknown. DOVE will train volunteers to conduct onsite surveys of school desegregation collections,” says Yaco. To learn more about DOVE, visit http://www.lib.odu.edu/specialcollections/dove. For additional information, contact Yaco at (757) 683-4483 or syaco@odu.edu.

Cynthia Bachhuber, MA’08, campus librarian at Globe University-Madison West, was chosen to be a protégé in the WLA WeLead Program.

Andy Burkhardt, MA’08, emerging technologies librarian at Champlain College, won a Next-Gen Librarian Award from Lyrisys.

Amy Commers, MA’08, is the new children’s librarian at the South St. Paul Public Library in South St. Paul, Minnesota.

Stosh Jonjak, MA’09, has accepted a position as a specialist in knowledge management at the Pittsburgh office of the law firm Reed Smith.

David Mindel, MA’09, has started a new job as Digital Conversion Specialist with the World Digital Library at the Library of Congress.

Christina Johnson, MA’10, and William Straub, MA’10, each received a 2010 Library Service Award from the UW-Madison Libraries. Christina received the award for her work at the Business Library and American Indian Studies Library. William was recognized for his work at the Ibero American Collection and College Library Reference Desk. Also, Christina Johnson has accepted a position as the campus librarian for Globe University-Green Bay.

Omar Poler, MA’10 accepted a position as associate outreach specialist at UW-Madison SLIS Continuing Education Services.

Roy Brooks, MA’10 is now employed as a LIS career specialist and practicum coordinator at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Melissa Adler, doctoral candidate, received a Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council. She is one of 60 graduate students selected from social sciences and humanities departments at institutions across the United States. Melissa participated in workshops in San Diego and Philadelphia in preparation for her dissertation research on the social construction of sexual deviance through the lens of the Library of Congress. The fellowship also provided her with funds to conduct research for three weeks this summer at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Master’s student Easter DiGangi recently published an article, “Gaming at the Fitchburg Public Library,” in the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries newsletter, Communiqué.

Tien-I Tsai, doctoral candidate, presented a paper entitled “Information Horizons of Taiwanese Graduate Students” at the 2010 iConference at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received a Study Abroad Student Travel Grant (spring 2010) from the Ministry of Education, Taiwan. Each semester, a nationwide competition is held among Taiwanese graduate students who study abroad to fund their conference paper presentations.


Irene Hansen, doctoral candidate, participated on a panel at the Expanding Literacy Studies Conference at Ohio State University. She also taught “History of Books and Print Culture” and “Genealogy Library Services” for SLIS and taught “Genealogy Library Services” for Simmons College, Boston.

Nathan Johnson, doctoral candidate, received a Top Scholar Fellowship from the University of Washington in August 2009. In November, he is due to present a paper titled “Constituting Technical Standards: How to Build an Infrastructure” at the National Communication Association’s 96th annual convention in San Francisco.

Brenton Stewart, doctoral candidate, was accepted into the American Antiquarian Society’s (AAS) Summer Seminar in the History of the Book. This year’s theme was “The Global American South and Early American Print Culture.” The AAS awarded Brenton the Isaiah Thomas Scholarship toward the seminar’s tuition.
Library History Seminar XVII: Libraries in the History of Print Culture

We are getting ready to host Libraries in the History of Print Culture, a joint conference of the Center for the History of Print Culture and the Library History Round Table (LHRT) of the American Library Association. Every five years, LHRT mounts a Library History Seminar that attracts scholars in library history from all over the United States and Canada, as well as abroad.

This, the 12th seminar, also acts as the biennial conference of the Center for the History of Print Culture. With more than a hundred registrants, and a packed program that includes topics that range from “Libraries as Sites of Resistance” to “Children at the Main Street Public Library,” the three-day conference promises to be an exciting opportunity for print culture historians to hear about innovative research in the field.

We are very fortunate to have two keynote speakers with international reputations: professor Janice A. Radway of Northwestern University (author of Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature and A Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle-Class Desire), and our own former SLIS faculty member, professor Wayne A. Wiegand of Florida State University (author of many books on library and print culture history, including Books on Trial: Red Scare in the Heartland and Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey).

Both lectures are free and open to the general public, due to the generous contributions of our co-sponsors, which include the UW’s Anonymous and Brittingham Funds, DEMCO Corporation, the UW Libraries, Madison Public Library, the Wisconsin Library Association’s Wisconsin Library Heritage Center, and the departments of History, English, the History of Science, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies.

Another highlight will be the auction (with Louise Robbins as auctioneer!) of library history books and memorabilia. We’ll try to capture some photos for the next issue of Jottings.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Here is a sneak preview of what’s in store for spring:

- Basic Public Library Administration
- Fundamentals of Cataloging
- Basic Reference
- Connecting Teens with the Best in New Teen Lit
- Children’s Services
- Librarians’ Tour of Germany (May 2011)

Questions? Contact Meredith Lowe at (608) 890-0364 or Anna Palmer at (608) 263-4452, or visit http://www.slis.wisc.edu/continued.htm for more information.

Distance Learning Program Begins Anew

This fall, SLIS welcomed 29 new students who will be working toward their master’s degrees in the restructured distance program. SLIS has offered a distance master’s degree since 2005, in collaboration with the Prairie Area Library System (PALS).

Four classes of PALS students began the program between 2005 and 2008, took the core courses via videoconference, and then completed the rest of the degree by taking Web-based courses. No distance students were admitted in 2009 to give the School time to revamp the program. In the restructured program, rather than having to travel to a classroom to participate in videoconference courses, students can take all their courses online.

Online study is complemented by a weeklong bootcamp, or orientation, in Madison. During the bootcamp, students have an opportunity to meet their classmates, faculty, and second-year students. They also have several class meetings for two core courses, LIS 450 and 451, and instruction on UW Libraries resources and courseware.

This fall’s distance class went through bootcamp August 2–6, and, although it’s still early days for the new program, signs of team-building and camaraderie-generating were visible throughout that week.
A Message from the SLIS Alumni Association President

I am happy to report another eventful year for SLIS and the Alumni Association! Members of the SLIS Alumni Association were happy to attend the graduation ceremony for our newest SLIS graduates in May and enjoyed the refreshments and conversations back in SLIS. We also were honored to recognize Jennifer Younger, who received the 2010 SLIS Distinguished Alumna Award at the graduation ceremony.

We are very pleased to welcome Catherine Phan and Jean Ruenger-Hanson to the SLIS Alumni Association. Catherine Phan was recently elected to the position of vice president and president-elect, and Jean Ruenger-Hanson joined the SLIS Alumni Association board as our new secretary.

The Alumni Association would like to thank Andrea Poehling for her incredible service to SLIS. She has been an integral part of the Alumni Association and the entire SLIS program, and we would like to wish her well in her new position.

We are looking forward to the SLIS Alumni Reunion at WLA in November and hope to see many of you there. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions regarding the reunion, please contact the SLIS student services coordinator at student-services@slis.wisc.edu.

In closing, the SLIS Alumni Association would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support of libraries, library education, and SLIS.

Sincerely,

Phil Hansen

SLIS Alumni Association Board Members 2010–2011

Past President, Nikki Busch, MA’03
UW-Madison Memorial Library
nbusch@library.wisc.edu

President, Philip Hansen, MA’06
UW-Madison Steenbock Memorial Library
phan@library.wisc.edu

Vice President/President-Elect/Nomination Committee
Catherine Phan, MA’09
UW-Madison Digital Collections Center
cphan@library.wisc.edu

Secretary, Jean Ruenger-Hanson, MA’09
UW-Madison Steenbock Memorial Library
jruenger@library.wisc.edu

Special Events Chair, Ann Combs, MA’94
UW-Madison Ebling Library
acombs@wisc.edu

Reunion Chair, Rhonda K. Puntney, MA’96
Lakeshores Library System
r puntney@lakeshores.lib.wi.us

Member-at-Large, Patricia Herrling, MA’84
UW-Madison Steenbock Agricultural Library

Ex-Officio Member
Christine Pawley, SLIS Professor & Director
cpawley@wisc.edu

SLIS Student Services Coordinator
student-services@slis.wisc.edu

SLIS Advisory Council

The council provides the School with insights into the changing information services environment, keeps us in touch with the profession, and helps plot future directions.

Connie Bakker • Kate Bugher
Barbara Dimick • Alberto Herrera
Ethel Himmel • Penelope Klein
Bob Koechley • Juba Watts-Cain
Rhea Lawson • Nancy McClements
Zelantha Phillip • Sarah Pritchard
Joshua Ranger • Sarah Roberts
Allison Smith • Mark Wendt
Jennifer Younger

For more information, visit http://www.slis.wisc.edu/alumni-advisory.htm
A fund has been created to honor the work of Barbara Arnold, MA’73, who served SLIS as the student services coordinator. Arnold retired in December 2007 after serving SLIS for more than 30 years.

The Barbara J. Arnold Fund will support professional development and community building for the students and staff at SLIS. The fund may be used for celebrations, reunions at professional conferences, student recruitment, special speakers and events, student travel, professional development opportunities, and other related uses.

With this fund, Arnold aims to promote the opportunities for professional development she experienced at SLIS: “My position as student services coordinator pulled all of my previous work, professional organization, and volunteer work experience together in service to my alumni, school, state, and profession.”

“I was very blessed in the number of opportunities I had for personal and professional career development throughout my career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I owe a lot to my faculty adviser, Muriel Fuller, and many mentors and colleagues who guided me along the way.”
SLIS Week a Success

The first weeklong celebration of SLIS succeeded in its goal of bringing together students, faculty, and alumni from the School to share their accomplishments and research with others on campus and in the community.

Director Christine Pawley was pleased with the week’s events. “The turnout was great,” she said. “People came together to see what we’re all about.”

From October 18 through 22, each day spotlighted an aspect of the School, opening with an informational program about the master’s degree and concluding with an exhibit walkabout of student posters and a reception. Other events included an open house for the Center for the History of Print Culture, a Faculty Forum, and Community Engagement Showcase.