Jottings and DIGRESSIONS

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Course Spotlight: Consumer Health

Catherine Arnott Smith views the inclusion of a Consumer Health course in the SLIS curriculum as a political act. One of Smith’s motivations to continue to offer the course was a study she conducted in 2009, focusing on the challenges of health information provision in public libraries in Wisconsin. The study showed that the overwhelming majority of librarians instructed patrons to “Google their symptoms.” Read more about Professor Smith’s course and her students on pages 4 and 5.

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Master’s student and Allied Drive Group member Alison Gehred talks with Chancellor Carolyn “Biddy” Martin.

Chancellor Gives SLIS Chance to Shine

The spring 2011 semester got off with a bang with Chancellor Carolyn “Biddy” Martin’s visit to SLIS on January 20.

Because Chancellor Martin’s previous academic position was at Cornell University where no library program exists (although Cornell is home to a department of information science), we suspected that she would not know much about an LIS program such as ours and wanted to give her a sense of the wide range of SLIS activities.

During her 90 minutes on the fourth floor, she talked with students, faculty, and staff involved in community engagement projects like the Allied Drive Literacy Time, Jail Library Group, and Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums group. She heard about our PhD program from doctoral students Michelle Caswell and Tammy Mays.

“The chancellor and I discussed my dissertation research on Khmer Rouge record-keeping practices and the use of the records they created in an international human rights tribunal to hold them accountable,” says Caswell. “The chancellor was very engaged and immediately made the connection between Khmer Rouge record-keeping and that of the Nazis.”

“For a humanist with a PhD, they [libraries] have meant everything.”

— Biddy Martin
Chancellor

Mays discussed her research on information exchange between student-athletes and their coaches. The chancellor really enjoyed hearing about Mays’s work.

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New Year Brings New Faculty

Dear Friends,

The spring 2011 semester has gotten off to a promising start. We had the chancellor’s visit in January, and I’m also delighted to pass on the excellent news that SLIS has successfully hired a new faculty member who will join the SLIS team in fall 2011 to teach in LIS and Digital Studies (two classes a year in each). We gained this position through the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU) to Digital Studies, one of four awarded to different departments (the others are in the departments of Art, Communication Arts, and English).

Dr. Rebekah Willett is a Wisconsin native (she was born in Madison and has lived in many areas of the state) who comes to us from the Institute of Education at the University of London, where she received her PhD, is currently on the faculty, and where she carries out research in children’s and youth new media practices. We expect that the two classes she teaches for SLIS will help fill the gap in children’s and youth work left by the retirements of Madge Klais and Anne Lundin. Given the ever-increasing importance of digital media to youth and to youth librarianship, we anticipate that Willett’s digital studies focus will enrich our existing curriculum in these areas and offer our graduate students new areas of specialization.

Another piece of very good news for SLIS is that Dorothea Salo has been appointed as a quarter-time academic staff member in SLIS. This means that Dorothea is funded on a regular basis to teach one course a semester. Students flock to her classes, so we are very glad that we can count on being able to keep offering them.

In October, Tanya Cobb returned to SLIS as our new student and alumni relations coordinator. As I mentioned in my fall letter, Tanya is a SLIS alumna (MA’04) who most recently has been graduate program and research administrator in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology & Institute for Molecular Virology. She started her new job with us just in time to be involved in the activities of SLIS Week, which gave her the chance to meet many SLIS friends and supporters, including members of our Advisory Board, who came for the annual meeting and SLIS Week reception.

We are also happy to welcome two visiting scholars from China: Professor Dingquan (Kurt) Chen from Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, and Professor Mingjie Li, associate professor at the School of Information Management, Wuhan University. They will be here for the year.

As always, there are goings as well as comings at SLIS. In May, about 60 MA students and a handful of PhD students will graduate and leave us. Though proud of their accomplishments, we will be sad to see them go; we wish them the very best as they start their careers. Among them will be Christina Johanningmeier, who has served as communications coordinator and editor of Jottings for the past two years. Christina has done a wonderful job of organizing Jottings and giving it a new look, supervising the other students working on the newsletter, and taking photos at SLIS events. We shall miss her very much. However, we are very happy indeed that Laura Damon-Moore, who has been working on Jottings this year as part of her job as alumni relations assistant, will be taking over as communications coordinator and editor of Jottings in the fall. We are very pleased that so much of the production of the newsletter is student-led.

At the end of this semester, we will also say goodbye to Louise Robbins as a faculty member. As you know, Louise stepped down as director in August 2009, but stayed on for a sabbatical and then three more semesters of full-time teaching, research, and service. These last three semesters have certainly been a bonus for us; Louise has played a vital role in our MA curriculum, teaching both online and campus sections of our required foundation class, LIS 450, as well as our course in government documents, and the course that is especially dear to her heart, Libraries and the Global Knowledge Society. We will miss her tremendously, but she tells us that she will still be around and available to help when we need her.

Although we have much positive news to share, not all is so rosy. The budget continues to be a cause for great concern all across the university. We have been asked to plan for a budget reduction of 8 percent, and to present our ideas to the dean by mid-February. Obviously, so deep a cut is bound to hurt. We will let you know more in the next issue of Jottings.

In the meantime, let me thank you all, as usual, for your continuing support for SLIS. Without your generous help and support we would be in much more straitened circumstances. We appreciate all that you do for and with us.

Best wishes,

Christine Pawley, Director, School of Library and Information Studies
She reminisced on her brief time working in a library shelving books and on how much has changed since. “That the library has become a different kind of space is a remarkable and wonderful thing.”

In particular we were gratified to hear that she prioritizes support for professional programs that, like SLIS, have already achieved national standing. Although in the current budget situation it is unlikely that the university will have the resources to considerably raise the stature of programs that are not nationally ranked, she stressed that it is important to support those that are already prominent.

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Course Profile: Topics in Consumer Health

By Ethan Masella, MA’10

The three-credit asynchronous online course, Topics in Consumer Health, focuses on examining consumer health information services, consumer health materials in diverse formats, and users of consumer health information. Assistant Professor Catherine Arnott Smith views the inclusion of a consumer health course in the SLIS curriculum as a political act. Only a few library schools provide coursework in consumer health, as opposed to classes in medical librarianship, even though the primary reason people go online is for health-related information. Smith modeled the course after a consumer health class developed by Ellen Detlefsen, one of her former professors at the University of Pittsburgh.

One of Smith’s motivations to continue to offer the course was a study she conducted in 2009, funded by the National Library of Medicine’s Specialized Information Services Division, focusing on the challenges of health information provision in public libraries in Wisconsin. The study, which is currently being prepared for submission to various journals, showed that the overwhelming majority of librarians instructed patrons to “Google their symptoms” or directed patrons to commercial online health sources such as WebMD. Smith’s study was a clear indication that many librarians enter the field without proper training and knowledge of consumer health resources. Smith wants to remedy that at SLIS.

Smith sees the class as one that serves users, and she is conscious of not trying to fit students to particular types of libraries or information agencies. Despite what might seem to be the specialized nature of the class, the coursework is designed to enable students to translate the skills and knowledge they acquire into work at any type of library and is appropriate for information professionals in a variety of health care organizations.

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SLIS Represented in Medical Fellowship and Internships

Two SLIS students completed internship positions with prominent medical library systems for the summer of 2010. Caitlin Sticco, MA’10, was accepted to the National Library of Medicine Associate Fellowship Program, a yearlong postgraduate training fellowship program at the NLM in Bethesda, Maryland. The program is designed to provide a foundation in health sciences information services and to prepare librarians for leadership roles in health sciences libraries and research. The associate fellows are introduced to technologies and skills used to manage information at a national library.

The first half of the year is a curriculum-based training period, designed to train fellows in the functions and management of the various departments at the NLM. In the second half of the year, fellows choose two hands-on projects to implement with the

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“When we think ‘library,’ we often think of a building or a space or a collection of books, but it’s the librarians that make a library.”

— Wendy Hellwig, MA’11

Wendy Hellwig traveled to Maryland for her internship at Harrison Medical Library, part of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.
SLIS Represented continued from page 4

relevant departments. Sticco focused on informatics research during this time.

“Tremendously excited about the time I am spending here at the NLM,” says Sticco. “I am learning everything about this place from cataloging and vocabulary, to our place in policy and legislation. In the spring, I look forward to taking on actual projects of my own to demonstrate what I’ve learned. The other fellows are also interesting and impressive, and the atmosphere is intellectual, lively, and fast-paced. I count my blessings every day!”

Wendy Hellwig, MA’11, was accepted as a summer intern for Harrison Medical Library, part of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

“During my phone interview for this internship,” writes Hellwig, “I explained that I would be extremely pleased to be chosen even if I weren’t going to be able to stay with my son’s family in Baltimore. And that was very true. Many hospitals no longer recognize the value of medical librarians — a fact that makes finding a library position in a hospital seemingly more and more difficult. This chance to experience that role in a hospital, and a Johns Hopkins hospital at that, seemed like an amazing opportunity.

“Each of the librarians spent time explaining to me their role in the library. When we think ‘library,’ we often think of a building or a space or a collection of books, but it’s the librarians that make a library. And these librarians, by combining their different but often overlapping roles, are together the heart of the Johns Hopkins Bayview Harrison Medical Library. By the end of the first day, I was made to feel like a part of the team, learning about and sharing in the work, as well as getting to know them personally. By the end of the six weeks, it was hard to leave. I experienced firsthand how librarians can make themselves valuable as educators, expert searchers of literature, and ‘informationists.’ The latter was one of my favorite experiences — accompanying the doctors as they made rounds on the hospital floors. A memorable experience indeed — and more time with my two little granddaughters was like frosting on the cake!”

Course Profile continued from page 4

Some of the topics covered in the class include: standards and policy statements, consumer health informatics, organization schemes and classifications, and ethics. In addition to the basic coursework, students can elect to take an optional 40-hour collection development practicum component. Students can elect either the practicum or a research paper on a controversial topic in consumer health. Examples of previous topics are the inclusion of sexual health information in consumer health collections targeting children and young adults and the inclusion of complementary and alternative medicine materials in public library collections. Two students from previous classes have had their research papers published in the Journal of Consumer Health online.

During the final month of the course, Smith allows the students to lead the online discussion on populations with special consumer health needs. Student discussion leaders pose discussion questions on their selected population to the rest of the class and moderate the subsequent discussions. Some of the targeted populations that students examined in spring 2010 were the Amish, Muslim women, people with visual impairments, and Hmong people.

One of the advantages of having an online Consumer Health course is that it allows for a diverse student body from across the country. Continuing Education students are also welcome to participate in the course, fulfilling all the discussion requirements but completing only the collection development practicum piece of the class. The course is remarkably customizable and can fit a variety of pre-professional and professional needs.

“Topics in Consumer Health is a course for everyone!” says Smith.
Richard Allen Danner, MA’75, JD’79, is the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Danner is the senior associate dean for information services, and Archibald C. and Frances Fulk Rutty Research Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. He has served that institution in some capacity since 1979.

Upon his graduation from the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Library and Information Studies in 1975, Dr. Danner served as the environmental law librarian for the University of Wisconsin Law School.

He has edited or co-edited several books, most recently Legal Information and the Development of American Law (Thomson/West, 2008). His articles have appeared in publications such as Law Library Journal and Journal of Law and Education, and he has served as a presenter at numerous conferences and panels.

Dr. Danner’s award nomination materials emphasize his outstanding contribution to American law librarianship, including his past service as president of American Association of Law Libraries and editor of Law Library Journal. Nomination letters also speak to his commitment to the education of law librarians, of whom he encourages deeper and “wider thinking and analysis.”

Dr. Danner’s body of scholarship is described as “diverse, prolific, and innovative.” His 2008 article, “Redefining a Profession,” was honored as one of Law Library Journal’s 100 “essential” articles in the history of that publication. Dr. Danner’s work exhibits his commitment to innovation in many areas of academic librarianship, including the expansion of library services; planning and development of library facilities; and the integration of academic technologies in libraries. Through his extensive work with committees and associations, Dr. Danner has been instrumental in promoting cooperation between the Duke Law Library and the Law School; with the university itself; and with the national and global law library community.

Staff members speak to his efforts to promote open access of legal scholarship and his call for increased electronic publishing — big-picture efforts which one letter says makes him a “legend in the field of law librarianship.” Writes one supporter, “[Dr. Danner’s] contributions demonstrate the UW–Madison School of Library and Information Studies’ ability to train students to be innovative, hardworking, and discipline advancing.”

We are honored to recognize Dr. Richard Danner for his decades of pioneering and meaningful contributions to the field of library and information studies.

Seeking 2012 Nominations
The SLIS Alumni Association invites nominations for the 2012 Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award. This award is conferred upon an alumna or alumnus in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The award is given by the SLIS Alumni Association by vote of the board of directors on nominations submitted by its awards committee.

Nominations and suggestions may be sent by anyone who has an interest in the program. Please include the nominee’s name, year of graduation, achievements, and accomplishments. Letters of support are welcome. The deadline for nominations is October 31, 2011. Please send nominations to Phil Hansen at phansen@library.wisc.edu or call (608) 262-3347.
Q&A with Abigail Elder MA’97: Getting to Know a Recent Graduate

Laura Damon-Moore, a first-year master’s student at the School of Library and Information Studies, interviewed Abigail Elder, the library manager for Tualatin Public Library, near Portland, Oregon.

Q. What have you been up to since graduating? What is your current position?
A. My first job after SLIS was at the Salem Public Library. The late 1990s was a crazy time to be a new librarian. We did a lecture series on “What is the Internet?” with a shaky dial-up modem and a rudimentary projector. Over 300 people attended each session — can you imagine 300 people watching someone click on websites? What could be more boring? Clearly, there was intense curiosity about the Internet, and libraries were the only place where most folks could learn about it and is still true today, IMO (in my opinion).

Right now, I’m the library manager for Tualatin Public Library, a small suburb south of Portland, Oregon. The library is part of a city department that includes a senior center, historical center, recreation programs, and parks. I love having these “in-house partners” — they help me see the bigger picture and where the library fits into the community.

Q. Are there upcoming projects or programs that you’d like to share with us?
A. At my library, we just finished a yearlong grant to improve the volunteer experience. Along with increasing our volunteer base, we wanted to connect residents with their neighbors and provide opportunities for civic engagement à la Robert Putnam’s *Bowling Alone*. Even though the grant is finished, we’ll continue to expand our volunteer services.

For the past couple years, I’ve been involved in a program called “Transforming Life after 50” which was first started by the California State Library. It’s an exciting, inclusive way to better serve older adults.

Q. A fun fact is that the SLIS server is named after you. Can you tell us a little bit about how that came to be?
A. That’s the coolest honor ever! Another student had created the first SLIS website in 1995. I expanded it, recruiting and training other students to make it a full site. I remember coloring in the SLIS logo, pixel by pixel, to get it just right for the site. I’m so glad that Web services have matured into their own field, although I do miss how easy it used to be.

Q. What are some key things you learned during your time at SLIS that inform your work today?
A. SLIS instilled an expansive view of library services that serves us well in these times of rapid change. While libraries can’t be all things to all people, we work hard to meet people where they are and overcome barriers. Remote access, alternative formats, different languages, programs for all ages, new partnerships … we are always finding ways to better serve the community.
Faculty and Staff News

■ Senior Special Librarian Michele Besant, along with SLIS student Amy Winkelman, participated in the Indiana Library Federation annual conference on the panel “Jail House Rock! Libraries and People in Jail.”

■ Professor Greg Downey used an instructional technology grant from the UW Department of Information Technology to bring cutting-edge micro-projectors and Apple iPads to his undergraduate course, The Information Society, engaging students in building digital multimedia presentations using the popular industry “Ignite” format of 20 slides of 15 seconds each auto-advancing over five minutes — “Enlighten us, but make it quick.”

■ Associate Professor Kristin Eschenfelder and PhD student Xiaohua “Awa” Zhu presented papers at the 2011 ALISE conference. Both talked about the need to build more electronic resource management curricula at LIS programs. Zhu presented her qualitative field study of licensing practice: “A Grounded Theory on Licensing Electronic Resources.” Eschenfelder presented the results of a project analyzing 216 e-journal licenses from 10 publishers conducted by herself and three PhD students: Tien-I Tsai, Brenton Stewart, and Awa Zhu. The project analyzes licenses in terms of use rights, sharing rights, interlibrary loan and e-reserves rights. It is hoped that it will result in a paper to be submitted to C&RL or Journal of Academic Librarianship. Eschenfelder is also working with two master’s students on research projects. With Cindy Fesemeyer, she is analyzing the financial literacy links contained on Wisconsin public library websites. With Andrew Johnson she is analyzing the data access and use terms at a sample of cross-institutional data repositories.

■ Faculty Associate Allison G. Kaplan is the recipient of the 2011 Bechtel Fellowship from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). Allison is receiving a $4,000 stipend to travel to the University of Florida to examine the Louise Seaman Bechtel collection of children’s literature. She intends to study the development of board books. Allison is also program evaluation consultant on the Hedberg Public Library Early Literacy Training Program. This program is being sponsored by a grant from the Wisconsin Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

■ Associate Professor Kyung-Sun “Sunny” Kim collaborated with Professor Seonghee Kim, PhD’95, a visiting scholar from ChungAng University, Korea, and co-presented a poster entitled “Factors affecting the adoption of social software: A TAM perspective” at the ALISE (Association for Library and Information Science Education) annual conference (San Diego, January 4, 2011).

■ Outreach Specialist Meredith Lowe is in the midst of planning the fourth Archives Leadership Institute (July 2011) and is looking forward to leading the Librarians’ Tour of Germany in May (http://www.slis.wisc.edu/germany.htm).

■ Assistant Professor Stephen Paling has papers forthcoming in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIS&T), the Journal of Documentation, and Knowledge Organization.

■ Outreach Specialist Anna Palmer hosted the sixth biennial Back in Circulation conference October 1–2, 2010. Circulation managers and staff traveled to Madison from 23 states to gather for two days of all things circulation. The next conference will be October 15–16, 2012.

■ Professor Christine Pawley continued her research on the history of reading. She is working on a chapter about the reading practices of students who applied to the Wisconsin Library School in the first two decades of the School’s history (1906 to 1926), using the extensive collection of student applications in the University Archives, along with correspondence of Mary Emogene Hazeltine. In January, she gave a talk about her book Reading Places (about the Door-Kewaunee Regional Demonstration project) for the Door County Reads program in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

■ Associate Director Jane Pearlmutter and Adjunct Assistant Professor Paul Nelson are the authors of a new book, Small Public Library Management, from ALA Editions. An excerpt from the book, “When Small Is All,” was published in the January/February issue of American Libraries. Jane is also the 2011
Outreach Specialist Omar Poler is organizing a second Convening Culture Keepers mini-conference for Wisconsin tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators, which will be held in April at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College, near Hayward. Additionally, Omar began a two-year term on the ALA Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee.

Professor Louise Robbins continued working with Michele Besant, Omar Poler, and other staff and students to put on the first Convening Culture Keepers mini-conference of tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators at the Oneida Reservation in October 2010. Planning is moving ahead for an April 2011 mini-conference at Lac Courte Oreilles. She and others also continue to assist the Red Cliff and Bad River Tribes in developing or enhancing library services to their communities. Louise intends to continue these activities after her May retirement.

Assistant Professor Alan Rubel joined SLIS in fall 2010, and teaches half his courses in the Legal Studies Program. For SLIS, he teaches LIS 450, Information Agencies and Their Environment, and LIS 661, Information Ethics and Policy. His current research focuses on privacy, rights to privacy, and information rights. His most recent article, “Nanotechnology, Sensors, and Rights to Privacy” appeared in Public Affairs Quarterly in 2010.

Faculty Associate and Librarian Dorothea Salo has published two articles: “Retooling Libraries for the Data Challenge” in Ariadne 65, and “Who Owns Our Work?” in Serials 23:3. She is now co-leading Research Data Services (http://researchdata.wisc.edu/), a pilot project of the UW-Madison Libraries and Division of Information Technology, to assist researchers with managing digital research data. Dorothea is also inaugurating the position of Research Services Librarian with the Technology Services Division of the General Library System. Dorothea is currently concentrating her efforts on research data curation (including helping coordinate the campus response to the NSF data-management plan requirement), copyright consultation, and other scholarly communication-related projects, particularly those pertaining to digital publishing, data curation, and digital preservation.

Assistant Professor Catherine Arnott Smith is co-author of a chapter on personal health records in the new edited volume Health Informatics: A Patient-Centered Approach to Diabetes (Eds. Barbara M. Hayes and William Aspray, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2010). Smith is also a member of the advisory board for the Living Environments Lab, part of the new Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery (http://www.discovery.wisc.edu).

With Kristen Eschenfelder, Smith is co-principal investigator on a Social Security Administration-funded grant coordinated through UW-Madison’s Center for Financial Security. Smith and Eschenfelder are investigating Wisconsin public libraries’ capability to support and enable patrons’ financial literacy.

Associate Professor Ethelene Whitmire was invited to speak at the University of California–San Diego for Black History Month. Her talk, “I Am American: Regina Andrews and the Harlem Renaissance,” is based on her current book project. Whitmire will also discuss Andrews’s international travels during a talk, “The Evening Under the Stars: The Cold War Adventures of an African American Librarian,” at the ninth International Conference of the Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) in Paris in April 2011. In August 2011, Whitmire will present at the Nordic Library Conference 2011 “Cultural Diversity — Community and Services” in Copenhagen, Denmark. She will discuss how librarians can conduct community analyses to determine the needs of their users.
Tribal Cultural Conferences Under Way

On October 1–2, 2010, more than 30 tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators gathered for Convening Culture Keepers, the first in a series of networking and professional development mini-conferences for Wisconsin tribal cultural workers. Coordinated by SLIS-Continuing Education Services, the Oneida Nation’s Cultural Heritage Department hosted the fall gathering, drawing together attendees from reservation communities throughout Wisconsin to share experiences and learn of recent developments in indigenous information services.

Attendees enjoyed a feast of traditional foods by an Oneida Nation caterer, Yawe’ku, and browsed cultural displays provided by Michelle Danforth and Nic Reynolds of the Oneida Nation. Alison Freese, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) senior program officer for Native American Library Services, and Loriene Roy, ALA past-president and University of Texas-Austin professor, also joined the group, each offering their unique national and international perspectives on tribal cultural institutions.

Five more Convening Culture Keepers gatherings are scheduled throughout Wisconsin over the next three years. The mini-conferences are intended to help support tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators in providing culturally relevant information services.

SLIS-CES is now coordinating the second mini-conference, which will be hosted by the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College in mid-April.

The result of a successful April 2010 grant proposal prepared by a team of SLIS students, faculty, and staff in collaboration with state tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators, the mini-conferences are funded by $115,000 from the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment and Morgridge Center for Public Service.

Beta Beta Epsilon: Illinois Professor to Speak at Meeting

Help us celebrate our 27th anniversary by attending the Annual Meeting and Initiation on May 12, 2011, at the Pyle Center! If you are in the area, we encourage you to attend the event and support our newest inductees to the Beta Phi Mu Library Honor Society.

Bonnie Mak, assistant professor of library and information science and medieval studies at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, will be our featured speaker. She will discuss her research, including but not limited to the history of books and libraries; the production and future of digital media; and the intersection of print and digital media.

The winners of the Jack A. Clarke Scholarship and this year’s Outstanding Student Scholar will both be honored. The evening will feature tasty hors d’oeuvres and desserts, great conversation, and the opportunity to network.

The Annual Meeting is an important step in launching our new members into the greater library community; the more members in attendance to see them off, the merrier!

Donations to the Jack A. Clarke Scholarship Fund are always welcome. For information on how to make a donation please feel free to contact BBE President Lia Vellardita at liav@engr.wisc.edu.

To update your contact information to receive an invitation, contact Vice President for Membership Anne Rauh at aerauh@engr.wisc.edu.
SLIS Library Stays Busy, Plans Future

This academic year the SLIS Library has been a very busy place with special events, large and small. The open center area made a splendid setting for the silent auction that was part of the Library History Seminar XII, as well as the poster showcase and reception for SLIS Week. More than 120 people attended the Adrian Johns Center for Print Culture Annual Lecture that was part of Wisconsin Book Festival in this space. And the much-needed new chairs in the lakeside “comfy seating” area were perfect for our first The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Go Big Read discussion. As visitors commented, the SLIS Library space and collections are an incredible asset for the LIS community well beyond the regulars on the fourth floor. And we are holding this in mind as we undertake another Visioning the Future exercise this spring. Volunteers from the SLIS student body along with library staff are seeking input on needs and uses. If you have input — large or small — please e-mail us at slislib@library.wisc.edu.

U.S. Archivist to Speak at ALI

The fourth Archives Leadership Institute will take place in Madison this summer.

This weeklong event will feature presentations by dynamic professionals from within the archival field and relevant leaders outside the profession. This year’s institute welcomes speakers such as David Ferriero, U.S. archivist; Maureen Sullivan, consultant and professor of practice at Simmons College; Peter Gottlieb, adjunct assistant professor and former Wisconsin state archivist; and Susan Davis, ’75, PhD’03, Drexel University iSchool associate teaching professor.

The project 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.

For more information about the Archives Leadership Institute, please contact Meredith Lowe at mclowe@wisc.edu or (608) 890-0364.

A Message from the SLIS Alumni Association President

I am pleased to report another eventful year for the SLIS Alumni Association. It’s still early in 2011, but we have many plans on the horizon for the Alumni Association this year.

We are very happy to welcome Tanya Cobb, the new student services coordinator, to both SLIS and the Alumni Association! We at the Alumni Association are looking forward to working with her and are already thankful for her hard work.

Members of the SLIS Alumni Association attended the annual SLIS reunion at WLA on November 3, 2010, and were very pleased to see a high turnout. We were glad to take part in the annual reunion and look forward to seeing even more people next year!

Our Annual Business Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 5, 2011, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the SLIS conference room. This meeting is open to the public, so please feel free to attend.

Lastly, the SLIS Alumni Association is looking forward to attending the SLIS graduation ceremony in May. We look forward to seeing you there!

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
Wilbur Lyle “Bud” Eberhart, 88, died October 12, 2010, at home in Corvallis, Oregon. Eberhart, MA’51, received his degree following graduate study in American history at the University of Wisconsin. The highlight of his schooling was contacting and interviewing Thomas Mann and his wife about literary activities and their war effort support for the Allies in World War II.

From 1951 to 1959, he was a librarian at the Detroit Public Library and was a branch library chief there until 1962. In 1962, he returned to Madison to work as a public library consultant in the Wisconsin Free Library Commission until 1965. Lyle became the first administrator of the newly created Division for Library Services. He, with other leading Wisconsin librarians, developed a state library legislative proposal, making possible the creation of regional public library systems with partial state financial support for their operations. He was a founding member of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies.

Adult enthusiasms included travel, choral singing, tennis, family reunions, and reading. Genealogy became a retirement avocation and music became his primary joy. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and his daughters and grandchildren.

Margaret Elinor McLeod Mergen, MA’40, passed away in January 2011. As a student from 1938–1940, she saw the School’s transition from a standalone Library School to part of UW–Madison’s College of Letters and Science, and was part of the group known as the “Forty of Forty.”

Irwin Weintraub, PhD’90, retired from his last job as professor/sciences specialist at the Brooklyn College Library in June 2010 and moved back to Israel in October after a long career as an agriculture and science librarian.

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

David Bietila, MA’01, accepted the position of web program director at University of Chicago Library.

Kirstin Dougan, MA’01, is a music and performing arts librarian in the Music and Performing Arts Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She recently had articles published in Notes, portal, and the Journal of Web Librarianship, and was elected chair-elect of the Midwest chapter of the Music Library Association in October 2010. Kirstin and her husband, Jeff, welcomed daughter, Molly, in March 2010, and son, Leo, just turned 5.

Robin Paynter, MA’03, is research librarian at Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center.

Daniel Hartwig, MA’04, became the Stanford University archivist in September 2010.

Amanda Moss Struckmeyer, MA’05, and colleague Svetha Hetzler published a book through ABC-Clio. The title is DIY Programming and Book Displays: How to Stretch Your Budget and Staff.

Deirdre Joyce, MA’06, is the new assistant director at the Central New York Library Resources Council in Syracuse, New York.

Sheila Stoeckel, MA’06, and Eliot Finkelstein, MA’97, won the Commitment to Excellence in Academic Support Award from the American College Personnel Association’s Commission for Academic Support in Higher Education. They were nominated by the Center for the First-Year Experience for their work on the library module of the Wisconsin Experience Seminar.

Ron Wiecki, MA’06, is serving as a contributing editor for the second edition of The New Grove Dictionary of American Music. He has also published an article and several reviews in Fontes Artis Musicae.

Kristin Hamon, MA’08, is now children’s librarian at Durham County (North Carolina) Public Library. She was previously at Orange County (Virginia) Public Library.

Veronica Alzalde Wells, MA’08, was hired in August as access services and music librarian at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California.

Sue Mannix, MA’09, accepted a position as director of LeClaire Community Library in LeClaire, Iowa.

Rachel A. Bicicchi, MA’10, accepted a position as assistant professor and educational technology librarian at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois.

Irene Hansen, Specialist Certificate ’10, was featured in Simmons College’s GSLIS Infolink newsletter, for her work as a continuing education instructor teaching the online course, Genealogy Information Services. She also is an associate lecturer at SLIS.

Cate Kellet, MA’10, graduated in December 2010 and will start at Yale Law School as a catalog librarian in March.

Diana Wheeler, ’99, Amy Kindsch, ’83, and Lia Vellardita, ’07, had a chapter about Wendt Library’s credit-bearing information literacy course published in the ACRL monograph Best Practices for Credit-Bearing Information Literacy Courses.

Heather Heckman, MA’09, had an article published in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of American Archivist. “Burn After Viewing, or, Fire in the Vaults: Nitrate Decomposition and Combustibility,” surveys the contradictory descriptions of decomposition and combustibility of motion picture film in current archival and safety literature, evaluates their sources, and compares them to descriptions by image stability researchers and chemists.

Vicki Tobias, MA’03, has accepted the position of images and media archivist in the UW-Madison University Archives.

Easter DiGangi, MA’10, and Kristina Gomez, MA’10, were selected for the ALA Emerging Leaders Program class of 2011. The program enables librarians and library staff from across the country to participate in project planning workgroups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers.

Current Students ..............................

Master’s student Katherine Kelley was selected for the Gerd Muehsam Award for a paper she wrote in LIS 661, Information Ethics and Policy, taught by Associate Professor Kristen Eschenfelder. Katherine’s paper was on Bridgeman Art Library v. Corel Corp in which reproductive photography was found to be not copyrightable, although art libraries continue to treat it as if it were.

Doctoral student Tien-I Tsai presented her poster, “The Social Networks in the Information Horizons of College Students: A Pilot Study,” at the 2010 ASIS&T annual meeting in Pittsburgh. She received the Linda Richardson Memorial Award for student travel to professional conferences.

We want to hear from you! Please send your news and address changes to alumni@slis.wisc.edu.

www.slis.wisc.edu
Student News

Student Organizations
News & Notes

■ The Academic Librarianship Student Organization (ALSO) has had a busy year! Last fall, we learned more about the work of digital librarians here at UW–Madison and expanded our perspectives on academic libraries by visiting the Oscar Rennebohm Library at Edgewood College. We hope to visit another library this spring, most likely on the UW campus, and to hold another panel of librarians working in academic libraries. We also plan to organize a trip to the 2011 Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians conference in Stevens Point to learn more about the profession and network with future colleagues.

■ Allied Drive Literacy Time has been extremely successful in its mission to bring literacy and library materials to children in the Allied-Dunn neighborhood. This past fall was full of highlights for the program. There was an extremely successful partnership with LIS 820 Community Engagement, and Allied Drive was featured on the UW website homepage in Wisconsin Week (December 8, 2010). The program is also being featured in the Friends of UW-Madison Libraries magazine. The semester culminated with a book giveaway with brand-new books purchased through a generous grant through the Target Corporation. This upcoming year, the program is trying to expand by including digital literacy into our mission and is welcoming Christina Endres as a program coordinator. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about the program, please e-mail Allied Drive Literacy Time at slisallied@gmail.com.

■ The Jail Library Group continues to provide reading material to the inmates of two Dane County jails in downtown Madison. In 2010, a Library Services and Technology Act grant allowed the group to add several hundred much-needed, high-demand books to the jail collections, and a newly started women’s book club received an enthusiastic response. Members of the group are preparing for the JLG’s 20th anniversary in the coming year. The group thanks Dane County, local Friends of the Library groups, community volunteers, and donors for their support. Donations are accepted year-round (we always need more dictionaries!). For more information, see the JLG’s website at http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~jail/.

■ The SLIS REFORMA Student Group hosted a read-in to support ethnic studies in October. Participants were encouraged to attend and read aloud from a variety of materials — many of them classic texts and frequently banned texts used in ethnic studies courses. The books and poetry that were read sparked conversations about race, ethnicity, and the political climate of education in the United States. The read-in was held in protest of recent attacks on ethnic studies and multicultural education and was part of a week of action that took place across the nation. It was also part of a week action held at UW-Madison, which included events by a multitude of ethnic studies programs, including the Chicano@ & Latin@ Studies Program, Afro-American Studies Department, Asian American Studies Program, American Indian Studies Program, and the Jewish Studies Program. Find us on the Web at http://slisreforma.wordpress.com/about/.

Lauren Chenevert reads a book to a group of children taking part in the Allied Drive Literacy Time.
SLIS Alumni Association
Executive Board Ballot

Current President is Phil Hansen. Vice President/President-Elect Catherine Phan will take office in July.

Vice President/President-Elect
___ Amanda Kramer, Educational Outreach Coordinator, TeachingBooks.net
___ Write-in

Mail ballots to Robin Willard, 4217 Helen C. White Hall 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706-1403, or email to uw-slis@slis.wisc.edu. All ballots must be received before the Annual Meeting on May 5, 2011. Interested in getting involved? Let us know.

SLIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Contribution Form

Jottings is sent to all alumni. The costs for producing and mailing the newsletter are shared by the SLIS Alumni Association and the School. The association needs your support now more than ever to support its activities. Contributions to the Second Century Fund provide unrestricted support for the greatest needs. Your gifts to the scholarship program provide extremely important financial support for students. If you are considering a planned gift, please contact Jennifer Karlson, our UW Foundation representative, at (608) 262-7225 or jennifer.karlson@uwfoundation.wisc.edu. Thank you for your support!

Date __________________________
Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State _____ ZIP __________
Phone __________________________
E-mail __________________________
Fax __________________________

My contribution to the SLIS Alumni Association includes:

___ SLIS Alumni Association Activities ($20 suggested to help cover reunions, awards, student activities, etc.) $________

Scholarship Funds:

___ Rachel K. Schenk
___ Sally Davis
___ Valmai Fenster
___ Jack Clarke

___ SLIS Directors Fund $________
___ SLIS Second Century Fund $________
___ SLIS Laboratory Library $________
___ Barbara J. Arnold Fund $________
___ Other Purpose (please specify): $________

Total Amount Enclosed $________

___ Check here if you would like a SLIS pin for contributions of $25 or more.

Please make check payable to University of Wisconsin Foundation and mail to: University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Ave., Madison, WI 53708.

News for the next issue of Jottings.

Questions? Call (608) 263-2909 or fax (608) 263-4849.
Please send address changes or update your record in the Alumni Directory at uwalumni.com/directory.

Continuing Education Services Preview:
Online Classes

SUMMER 2011
- Promoting Yourself on the Job Market
- Creating Dynamic Pathfinders
- Records Management
- Genealogy Library Services
- Fundamentals of Cataloging (in Madison)

FALL 2011
- Basic Public Library Administration
- Collection Development
- Social Media Marketing
- What’s New in Children’s Books
- Spanish for the Library
And more to come!
Save the Dates

May 5, 2011
The Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting will be held at 1 p.m. in the SLIS Conference Room. All SLIS alumni are encouraged to attend. Check the SLIS website for more details. Please see president’s message on page 11.

May 12, 2011
Beta Beta Epsilon Meeting and Initiation will be May 12 at the Pyle Center. Please see article on page 10.

May 15, 2011
SLIS Commencement
Please join us in congratulating this year’s graduates at 9:30 a.m. at Music Hall, followed by a reception at SLIS Library.

June 26, 2011
SLIS Reunion at ALA in New Orleans
Join your SLIS colleagues past and present from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 26, at Mulate’s, 201 Julia Street (www.mulates.com). We’ll have hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. All SLIS alumni, students and friends are welcome.

November 3, 2011
SLIS Reception at WLA-Milwaukee
Join SLIS alumni, students, and friends from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. Watch the SLIS website and Facebook page for details.

Celebrate with red and white — congratulate our newest graduates May 15.