Step Right Up!

SLIS archive students volunteer to preserve circus history

When SLIS teaching assistant Dana Gerber MA’13 discovered that Circus World, in Baraboo, WI, needed library and archives volunteers, she lost no time in proposing that SLIS students “step right up.”

Pete Shrake MA’10, archivist at the Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center at Circus World, responded enthusiastically to the idea. Gerber got the word out, and by 2013, nine students — including two practicum students — were volunteering regularly at Circus World.

Circus World preserves the heyday of the great railroad circuses of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The original winter quarters of the Ringling Brothers Circus (founded by five brothers from Baraboo), the site is now a National Historic Landmark. Its collection of circus-related artifacts is the largest in the world.

We asked Crystal Schmidt MA’13, one of the first volunteers, to describe this unique experience. (Please see page 3.)

Above, Sarah McDole MA’13 holds up a historical circus advertisement. Right, a sampling of archival material at Circus World’s Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center, the world’s foremost research facility for circus history.
As the new dean of UW-Madison’s College of Letters & Science, I am delighted to introduce myself to alumni and friends of the School of Library and Information Studies. This department is critical to the college’s effort to graduate engaged global citizens who can successfully navigate work and life.

SLIS helped to conceive, plan, and execute the newly launched Digital Studies undergraduate certificate, which teaches undergraduates to think critically about the online world. Preparing students to engage with a richly diverse society, SLIS offers community-engagement opportunities with the Goodman South Madison branch of the public library, as well as the Jail Library Group and the Tribal Library Archives and Museum’s Convening Culture Keepers conference.

As alumni, you have many reasons to be proud and to continue your support of the School of Library and Information Studies. SLIS fosters curiosity and creativity in unique and innovative ways, strengthening campus and the community at large, and preparing students to become active and involved members of society.

Please stay in touch with your alma mater. I welcome your feedback and appreciate all that you do for the university.

Thank you and On, Wisconsin!

John Karl Scholz
Dean, College of Letters & Science, and Professor of Economics
dean@ls.wisc.edu
Crystal Schmidt, SLIS Circus World Volunteer, Says:

“I leapt at the opportunity to volunteer at Circus World. How many people can say that they have worked at a circus library? The Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center is the world’s foremost research facility for circus history. The holdings document the history of the American circus from its inception in 1793 to the present day, and include posters, advertisements, sheet music, photographs, journals, film and audio recordings, and a large library of historic and contemporary circus-related books.

Pete Shrake MA’10 is the head archivist, and he enjoys giving new volunteers a tour of the facility, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the artifacts in the basement. I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw the collection of clown shoes and circus costumes!

When I began volunteering, I was the sole library student. I worked on reorganizing the stacks and updating catalog records. The other volunteers focused on archives management. Katherine inventoried the Robert Parkinson collection. Dana and Sarah identified materials in the circus heralds collection. This past spring, Dana and Leslie Nellis scanned each herald. Prairie Hady’s practicum focused on cataloging museum objects, and William Dooling’s practicum work included scanning the extensive glass plate negative collection.

My favorite part about volunteering at Circus World was working with Pete. We had many great conversations about how to utilize library space, and planning for the future. He is an invaluable mentor for all volunteers as a professional archivist and also a SLIS graduate.

I would highly recommend volunteering at Circus World for anybody in the SLIS program seeking a knock-out addition to their résumé!”

—Crystal Schmidt, SLIS student
Gregor Trinkaus-Randall’s all-day disaster workshops are designed to strike fear into the hearts of archivists, librarians, and museum curators and directors.

After stuffing library and archival materials and museum artifacts into large, photographic trays and a huge barrel filled with water, the preservation specialist for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners turns off the lights.

Then he opens the door and ushers participants inside.

“People come into a pitch-black room and are taken completely aback,” he says. “But they have to decide how they’re going to deal with it.”

After an hour or so, Trinkaus-Randall MA’80 flips the lights back on and leads a discussion on what was, and wasn’t, done correctly. Participants then learn how to create a disaster plan for their own institutions.

Trinkaus-Randall is a leading expert on how to preserve and protect library and archival materials from a wide range of unforeseen disasters, including fire, building collapse, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and heavy snowfalls. His home state of Massachusetts is one of only a handful around the country that has implemented statewide preservation programs, with a focus on education, coordination, and prevention.

When dealing with a large-scale disaster, life and public health rightfully come first, says Trinkaus-Randall. But cultural heritage resources can, and should, be part of the advance conversations. Restoring cultural heritage institutions and municipal operations as quickly as possible to normal will have a positive impact on the recovery of the community.

“One of our most important goals is to get two groups talking: emergency managers and the cultural heritage community,” says Trinkaus-Randall, who helped to found Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness in Massachusetts (mass.gov/mblc/costepma).

If, for example, firefighters know the layout of a local historic landmark, they are more likely to respond with sensitivity if called to the scene.

And then there’s the ever-wilder New England weather. Trinkaus-Randall has developed a distribution list of some 3,000 institutions to whom he can send alerts when conditions pose a hazard to collections.

“When Hurricane Irene hit, some Massachusetts libraries had water damage, but no collections were affected,” he says. “I like to think preparedness had something to do with that.”

Trinkaus-Randall was elected a fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 2006 and received the New England Archivists’ 2013 Distinguished Service Award for his groundbreaking work in preservation outreach, disaster planning and response, and archival security issues over a career of more than 30 years. He credits his years as a SLIS graduate student, working in libraries and archives across UW-Madison (Steenbock Memorial Library, the Limnology Library, and the State Archives in the Historical Society), with inspiring his lifelong interest in preservation.
Career Corner: Becoming the Boss

Too often, library school grads don’t think of themselves as managerial types. They don’t prepare for leadership roles, thinking perhaps they’ll have plenty of time for that down the road.

Jenica P. Rogers, director of libraries, SUNY-Potsdam; Ane Carrièveau, library director at University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley; and Heather Sturm, director at Manchester District Library in Michigan — all SLIS 2001 graduates — offer straight talk about being the boss.

Having a good leader in a library — a department head, a library director, a project manager — is incredibly important. We’ve all had bad bosses and have seen the difference a great leader can make. Three of us from the SLIS class of 2001 learned the challenging way that we wanted those leadership jobs, and we wanted to be good at them. Within a few years of our graduation, our directors went on medical leave, were promoted to interim provost, or weren’t replaced after leaving. We learned fast that sometimes, the right person to lead is you.

Our tips can help you start thinking like a leader:

• What kind of leader would you want to be? What were your previous bosses like? Can you emulate the qualities you’ve respected most? Can you remind yourself of which traits to avoid?
• Know your role and communicate it. Clearly articulate the reasons for your decisions, and understand that making those decisions is your job.
• Listen more than talk. As soon as you think you’re the smartest person in the room, it’s time to start listening more closely.
• Investment is important. Staff work better and are happier when they have some control over their work environment. Involve them in planning, goal-setting, and evaluating ideas.
• Interviews and evaluations are hard for everyone. It’s not any easier when you’re the one making the decisions, but your confidence in the process and your decisions will define how everyone feels about personnel management.
• Take pride in your work. Don’t apologize for being the boss. It’s important to acknowledge to yourself that you’ve stepped up and are doing the best you can.
• Model the behavior you want from your team. Actively seek input from staff members; act decisively, consistently, and with integrity; and regularly share your thoughts with your team.

Becoming the boss is always an adjustment. It’s always complex. It is always a challenge. Build your networks, stay in touch, and lean on your peers for support. We all need good bosses: let’s be the best ones we possibly can.

SLIS helps build leadership potential

New additions to the SLIS MA lineup prepare our students to be leaders in an ever-changing professional landscape:

• Fundraising donor relations 1-credit class (Summer 2013)
• Certificate in information innovation and organizational change in partnership with the Weinert Center at the Wisconsin School of Business (Fall 2013)
• Leadership and career development component in the SLIS core course LIS 450: Information Agencies and Their Environments
• Budgeting 1-credit class (2014)
• Course in project management and information process design (Spring 2014)
• Re-tooled management course to focus on managing change in organizations and society

Sign up for news: slis-alumni@lists.wisc.edu
Send news for Jottings: alumni@slis.wisc.edu
Meet with other alumni online: Facebook: UW-Madison SLIS Twitter: @UWMadisonSLIS LinkedIn: UW-Madison SLIS group
“A Nice, Quiet Job” Turns into Lifelong Passion

Teresa Schmidt, recipient of the Fall 2013 Olive Dornfeld Busjaeger Centennial Scholarship, will begin her master’s program in UW-Madison’s School of Library and Information Studies distance program this fall. Her passion for libraries (read more below) is one that Busjaeger, in whose honor the scholarship was created, would no doubt have understood.

Olive Dornfeld Busjaeger received her library certificate from the University of Wisconsin in 1918 and worked as a librarian all her life. She died at age 92. The scholarship was created to honor both the centennial of her birth and the centennial of SLIS.

Scholarship winner Schmidt has been the director of the Mercer Public Library in Mercer, WI since 2008. We asked her a bit about her expectations as she sets out on an exciting path.

You started out with an engineering degree before pursuing library and information studies. Why did you switch paths?
I moved to northern Wisconsin for personal reasons and realized that there weren’t many engineering jobs. When our local library was hiring a library aide, I applied, thinking it would be a nice, quiet job that could hold me over until I figured out what I really wanted to do. I ended up absolutely loving it, and have been in libraries ever since — going on 15 years now.

As you looked for library master’s programs, what drew you to the UW’s SLIS program?
My first contact with UW-SLIS was by taking librarian certification courses when I was hired as the director of a small public library. I was skeptical that the online class model would work for me, but I gained a lot from each of those four courses and enjoyed working with UW professors. So when I decided to pursue my master’s degree, the University of Wisconsin was first on my list. I have to say that after living in Wisconsin for 16 years, I’m also pretty excited to be a Badger!

What do you hope to pursue with your master of library science degree once you graduate?
I’ve been in public libraries for all of my career so far, and I really admire the role they play in a community. The variety of public library work is appealing to me: yesterday I went from teaching kids how to crochet to proctoring a test to doing collection development. But no matter what type of library I work in, the most important thing for me is to challenge myself and keep learning new things. I hope that obtaining my master’s degree will allow me to build my professional skills and continue to learn along the way.

What Does Your Gift Support?

- SLIS uses gift funds, in the form of scholarships and grants, to support almost 50% of students enrolled in the program.
- Supporting faculty research is a priority.
- Gifts help us to send students to professional conferences, retool the curriculum, and open doors for talented students who could not otherwise afford to attend UW-Madison.

Congratulations

to SLIS alumnus Beacher J.E. Wiggins MA’72, winner of the 2013 Melvil Dewey Medal Award! This prestigious award recognizes creative leadership of high order. Wiggins is director for acquisitions and bibliographic access at the Library of Congress.
How to Give to SLIS

*Jottings* is sent to all SLIS alumni, and the costs for producing and mailing it are shared by the SLIS Alumni Association and the school. The association needs your support now more than ever. Contributors 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@supportuw.org. To give online, please visit [supportuw.org/giveto/slis](http://supportuw.org/giveto/slis). Thank you for your support!

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My contribution to the SLIS Alumni Association includes:
- [ ] SLIS Alumni Association activities ($20 suggested to help cover reunions, awards, student activities, and more) $________

Scholarship Funds:
- [ ] Rachel K. Schenk
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- [ ] Valmai Fenster
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Total amount enclosed $________

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

Please make your check payable to University of Wisconsin Foundation and mail it to: University of Wisconsin Foundation, U.S. Bank Lockbox, Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807.

News for the next issue of *Jottings*:

________________________________________________________________

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

[www.slis.wisc.edu](http://www.slis.wisc.edu)
SLIS student Brian Miller, who is enrolled in the distance-learning program, is creating a fascinating, new, digital collection of old music, while enjoying the support of his online cohort. We asked Brian to share more about his project and goals.

Tell us about yourself and what brought you to SLIS.
I teach at the Center for Irish Music, a community music school with over 140 students. I also maintain a blog where I discuss folk songs that I research. I’m a musician, and I play in an Irish folk band and a duo that performs music from the upper Midwest. I chose to enroll in SLIS as a distance student so that I could continue working in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Describe your final project for Digital Libraries.
We were asked to make a digital collection, and my collection consists of 33 songs by Minnesota lumberjack and singer Michael Cassius Dean. The recordings were at the Library of Congress for decades, unidentified, until I found a reference to them in a 1924 newspaper article. I paid to have the songs digitized for my collection. I added lyrics and notes using Dean’s self-published songster and the papers of Franz Rickaby, a song collector who met Dean in 1923 and took notes on the origins of his songs. Mills Music Library at UW-Madison held copies of Rickaby’s notebooks.

What inspired you to research this topic?
Traditional Irish music has been my passion since I was a teenager. I love that the music is as much about culture, stories, and history as it is about notes and rhythm. I’m from the Minnesota logging town of Bemidji, so my research into lumberjack folk songs has given me a way to connect with the cultural history of the area I grew up in.

What are your plans for the future?
My contact at the American Folklife Center has asked me to write an article about Dean for its newsletter. I am planning to publish a new edition of Dean’s songster with an added biography and song melodies.

Also, my wife, Norah, and I are proud, new parents, so there are plenty of parental duties and pleasures to keep me busy!

What advice would you extend to incoming students at SLIS?
Use social media and online sources to keep in touch with current LIS developments — what’s developing now is quite exciting! I have been energized by the work shared by my online cohort, which confirms my perception that there are a lot of extremely intelligent, creative people working in our field who are redefining what we do in inspiring ways.

— Interview by SLIS student Ellen Hassel
Emeritus Professor John Boll Memorialized by Faculty Senate

Beloved colleague, teacher, and cataloging and bibliography expert John Jorg Boll died on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at the age of 91. Boll taught in the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies for 36 years, until his retirement in 1992.

“John Boll was a doll, is the way I would put it,” said Louise S. Robbins, professor and director emerita of SLIS, and a former colleague of Boll. “He was sweet and unassuming, and he took delight in small things.”

Born in Berlin, Germany in 1921, Boll and his family immigrated to Schenectady, NY in 1936. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Boll worked at the Library of Congress as a cataloguer, and then took advantage of the G.I. Bill to earn his PhD from the University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

In his teaching and scholarship, Boll focused on cataloging, government documents, and national and international bibliography. He was also deeply interested in planning functional library buildings and served as a building consultant to Northwestern College in Watertown, WI as well as head of the building committee for the SLIS space in Helen C. White Hall. His vision and planning abilities continue to serve the faculty, staff, and students who use the space every day.

Robbins revealed that Boll was responsible for the larger women’s restroom space at SLIS, “long before many architects and designers were considering larger women’s rooms.” But many SLIS students were women, and Boll’s advocacy on their behalf was long remembered.

Robbins, along with Professors Emeriti James Krikelas and Charles Bunge, served on a committee to draft a memorial resolution for presentation to the Faculty Senate in recognition of Boll.

Known as the “ultimate gentleman,” with a kind word and smile for everyone, Boll is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Ruth, as well as their three children, five grandchildren, and a wide circle of friends.

Course Profile
LIS 855:
Publishing, Knowledge Institutions, and Society: E-Revolutions?

Libraries depend on publishing processes for the materials they lend. As publishing changes then, libraries change in tandem. From e-book lending issues to open access and open educational resources, every kind of library faces multiple challenges related to digital publishing. And every library everywhere has to deal with copyright.

SLIS’s online summer course Publishing, Knowledge Institutions, and Society is an introduction to the business of publishing — how it’s changing and how those changes affect libraries and library patrons. From journals to textbooks, monographs to makerspaces, the course gives students the background to understand change and the resources to plan and execute sensible responses.

In addition to two book reviews and a scenario plan for a current issue in the often-fraught relationships among publishers, libraries, and readers, students write “issue briefs” about current controversies and challenges, such as e-textbook pricing and adoption, the Georgia State e-reserves lawsuit, and crowdfunding for book publishing. Students leave well equipped for whatever comes next.

— Dorothea Salo, SLIS instructor and faculty associate
SLIS News

SLIS Alumni Association

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Katie Gleischman
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For information about the other members of the alumni association and ways in which you can get involved, please visit slis.wisc.edu/alumni-slisassociation.

Beta Beta Epsilon

President:
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Business Librarian
Milwaukee Public Library
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Milwaukee, WI 53233
kristinalgomez@gmail.com

For information about the other members of BBE and ways in which you can get involved, please visit slis.wisc.edu/PBPM.

BBE 2013 Initiates:
Kelsey Johnson
Tracy Steffens Boehm
Kristine Klopp
Sarah McDole
Jennifer Kirmer
Tien-I Tsai
Lisa Abler
Dawn Wing
Peter Rudrud
Laura Farley
Heather Shimon
Kathleen Behrens
Kelly Kraemer
Sue Ellen Salzsieder

BBE Award Winners

Outstanding Student Scholar Lisa Abler

Lisa Abler MA’12 came to SLIS with a background in the biological sciences. While pursuing her PhD in cellular and molecular biology at UW-Madison, Lisa realized she enjoyed helping co-workers to find information relating to their projects as much as she enjoyed bench work. Library school seemed a logical next step.

During her time at SLIS, Lisa worked as a SLIS office assistant and continued as a post-doctoral trainee in a lab on campus. Classes provided practical experiences that both drew upon and applied to her scientific training, from interviewing scientists about how they use library resources to teaching undergraduate biology majors about citation managers to helping to design a digital object management system for the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery’s virtual reality CAVE.

Currently, Lisa continues to work in her postdoctoral research lab, focusing on data management. She wants to utilize her data organization skills to help other scientists conduct their research more efficiently and effectively. Outside of the lab, Lisa hopes to integrate her ability to find and analyze information with her understanding of science to help people access information they need to make informed decisions about the science that affects their daily lives, from health care to the environment.

Jack Clarke Scholarship Winner Sarah McDole

Sarah McDole is delighted to be honored as this year’s Jack A. Clarke Scholarship winner. In her time at SLIS, she has put her archives focus to work at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). While working on the WHS civil-rights digitization effort (wisconsinhistory.org/freedomsummer), Sarah developed a passion for audio and visual materials and the distinct challenges they pose to archivists. She was also co-chair of the Society of American Archivists Student Chapter’s fundraising committee, for which she played an important role in ensuring that the student group was able to fund educational and professional development activities, including a lecture series from practicing archivists and workshops to learn new technical skills. Sarah graduated this past May, and she hopes to find a position where she can explore her interests in digitization and user-focused descriptive and reference practices.
1960s

Susan M. Allen MA’68 (UCLA PhD’96) received the 2013 Distinguished Service Award at the UCLA Library & Information Studies Alumni Association Spring Awards Dinner. She attributes the success she has experienced in her career to her degrees from UCLA and SLIS.

1980s


1990s—2000s

Susan Barribeau MA’91, the English language humanities librarian at Memorial Library, was honored as one of the UW-Madison Libraries’ 2013 Librarians of the Year.

Vicki Tobias MA’03, the images and media archivist at University Archives in Steenbock Library, was honored as one of the UW-Madison Libraries’ 2013 Librarians of the Year.

Matthew Coan MA’06 presented at WAAL in April with a library colleague and a faculty member on their efforts to expand their commitment to the core writing course at Madison College. He is also excited to join the planning committee for WAAL 2014.

Jon Jeffries MA’06 and Anne Rauh MA’07 were elected to the board of directors of the Engineering Libraries Division of the American Society for Engineering Education (the primary professional organization of librarians supporting academic engineering programs) in 2013. Jon began a two-year term as director, and Anne began a four-year term on the officer track.

David Drexler MA’08 took a new position as digital initiatives librarian at California State University-Fresno. He was previously the systems librarian at Eastern Oregon University.

2010s

Amanda Lanyon-LeSage MA’10 moved to Denver, CO with her fiancé, Andrew Kramp MBA’13; a January wedding in Madison is planned. She plans to pursue a career as a paralegal.

Melissa Becker MA’11 is the new collection cataloger for the Art Institute of Chicago’s Prints and Drawings Department. She will work part-time until finishing her masters in art history, theory, and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in May 2014, then work full time.

Spencer Brayton MA’11 accepted a new position as head librarian at Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL.

Elizabeth Huggins MA’11 recently became the information services and instruction librarian at the Health Sciences Library at Loyola University Chicago-Health Sciences Division.

Ellen Jacks MA’11 is now grants librarian in the reference department at UW-Madison’s Memorial Library. Previously she was a research intern at Memorial Library and an adjunct faculty member at Bryant and Stratton College in Milwaukee, WI.

Eric Willey MA’12 accepted a position as assistant curator for the Special Collections Department of the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, KY.

Jennifer Kirmer MA’13 accepted a position as digital archivist at Washington University in St. Louis in June. Her specialization at SLIS was in archives and records administration.

Angela Pratesi MA’13 joined the faculty at the University of Northern Iowa as the fine and performing arts librarian in August.

Crystal Schmidt MA’13 accepted a summer library internship at the Montana Historical Society in Helena. This technical-services position includes weeding, organizing, and shifting Montana state documents.

Amy Sonnichsen MA’13 begins a nine-month internship at the Getty Research Institute in the fall as the general collections cataloging graduate intern (part of the Getty Foundation, Los Angeles, CA), working primarily with the Harald Szeemann (Swiss curator) collection.

Carrie Wolfson MA’13 accepted a position with the Denver Public Library starting in June. She will focus on early childhood work but will serve all ages at a newly opened branch. She is very excited for the work, the library system, and the community.

Current Students

Laurel Gildersleeve was awarded the MAC Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship.

What Do You Want to See in Jottings?

The editorial staff of Jottings & Digressions wants to hear from you! Let us know if you have story ideas, courses you would like to see highlighted, or alumni you would like to see profiled. And of course, keep us up to speed on your own news and updates. Email the editor at alumni@slis.wisc.edu.
Save the Dates

April 29, 2014
The Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting
The annual meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the SLIS Commons (Room 4207 Helen C. White Hall). All SLIS alumni are encouraged to attend.

May 15, 2014
Beta Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu Annual Meeting
and initiation of new members at the Pyle Center, UW-Madison.

May 18, 2014
SLIS Commencement
Please join us in congratulating this year’s graduates at 9:30 a.m. in Music Hall, followed by a reception at the SLIS Library. Please see the SLIS events calendar at slis.wisc.edu for more information.

June 29, 2014
SLIS Alumni and Friends Reunion at ALA in Chicago
Join your SLIS colleagues past and present from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, 2014, location TBA. We’ll have hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. All SLIS alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends are welcome! Please see our events listing on the SLIS website this spring for additional information.