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This letter opens with great news and hard news. First, the great news: SLIS earned full accreditation from the ALA’s Committee on Accreditation in January of 2015. I’d like to thank everyone who helped SLIS as part of the accreditation process. Our accreditors were very impressed by the strong level of alumni, employer, and friends support for SLIS.

The hard news: Many of you will have heard that the Governor’s proposed cuts to the University of Wisconsin System budget. I want to assure you that while the cuts will be challenging to manage, SLIS will continue to educate innovative leaders in the information professions and produce cutting edge research and scholarship.

We value the experiences and stories from SLIS alumni, and now, more than ever, we want to hear from you about the value of your experiences at SLIS and UW–Madison. Where are you now and how is your SLIS UW–Madison degree a part of that? What concerns you about the budget proposals? We encourage you to be part of the dialogue: post to the SLIS Facebook page; tweet with #KeepWIstrong and #SLIS; or visit www.uwalumni.com/support. Also, check budget.wisc.edu for official UW updates.

Be assured that SLIS will continue to thrive. We have several ongoing projects that build capacity: First, incorporating feedback from employers, alumni and students, we are revising the Library and Information Studies curriculum to even better prepare students for growing areas of the field. Further, in conjunction with partners on campus, we are undertaking development of new post-bachelors certificates in Data Analytics, End User Experience Design and Project Management. SLIS will remain home to a rigorous academic experience and excellent professional preparation, and we look forward to continuing our strong partnerships with alumni, employers, and stakeholders in the field.
SLIS Joins the iSchool Consortium

SLIS is proud of its tradition of innovative research and teaching, ever looking backward and reaching forward to answer the most interesting questions while preparing students for the changing needs of the profession. Therefore, SLIS was excited to be invited to join the iSchools consortium, an organization of programs at the forefront of information research and education.

The iSchool designation reflects what SLIS has always been doing: generating scholarship that questions assumptions about information in society and producing inquisitive, creative and dynamic professionals working at the intersection of people, information and technology.

The iSchool designation will also help SLIS attract undergraduate students to take SLIS’s Digital Studies course offerings. Undergraduate students will become tomorrow’s new information professionals, and numerous students who have taken SLIS’s undergraduate courses have gone on to apply for the MA program in Library and Information Studies.

Please celebrate with the School of Library and Information Studies as we adopt the new nickname “SLIS: the iSchool at UW–Madison.” As part of this effort, SLIS created the iSchool mark (at left) to market the program to undergraduates and new audiences. SLIS will use the iSchool mark in conjunction with our official University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies logo.
Charles Bunge Room Grand Opening

On November 14, SLIS friends, staff, and alumni gathered to celebrate the opening of the Charles Bunge Room (formerly the SLIS Commons). Charles Bunge dedicated 30 years of service to SLIS, including ten years as the director (1971–1981). The school is proud to honor him as the namesake of our newest facility. Highlights of the Grand Opening were a lively dance by Louise Robbins and Charles Bunge (they can move!); having five SLIS Directors together: Kristin Eschenfelder, Louise Robbins, Jane Robbins, Charles Bunge, and James Krikelas; and Dr. Bunge sharing memories, both academic and social, of his time in the Bunge Room space over the years. The room is now equipped with new teaching technology and flexible furniture while maintaining the unbeatable lake view.

The improvements were sponsored by the Charles Bunge SLIS Facilities Fund. The fund was established to promote the value SLIS places on creating learning spaces for 21st century students. Future facilities updates planned for the SLIS Library and classrooms will encourage students to work collaboratively and innovatively through improving group work space and adding creative makerspaces. SLIS students participated in the Library improvement process by formally gathering feedback from faculty, staff, and students through the course: Assessment for Information Professionals. Your contribution to the Bunge fund will help SLIS sustain its vital educational mission.

What I love best about the Bunge Room is the furniture. Before, you needed half a dozen strong people to reconfigure the room! Now one person can change the room from a lecture hall to group-discussion tables or a seminar roundtable in minutes.

DOROTHEA SALO

SLIS students discuss their group projects and refine their “elevator pitches” in Dorothea Salo’s (‘05) Digital Curation course. The course meets in the newly remodeled Bunge Room.
Susan Brynteson (’63), Vice Provost and May Morris University Librarian, with 35 years’ service at the University of Delaware Library, has spent her career improving and advancing library services.

As Vice Provost, she seeks to provide a wide range of services for the university community while assisting Library staff to reach their highest potential and making the physical library space a destination on campus. Participation in professional associations has played a large role, as has her service to Yaddo, a well-known artists’ community located on a 400-acre estate in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Due to the accomplishments of Ms. Brynteson’s impressive career, SLIS is honored to grant her our 2015 Distinguished Alumna Award.

After graduating from SLIS, she held a number of positions in various academic libraries before joining the University of Delaware in 1980. Since then, the Library became a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), moved into the expanded Morris Library, added its 2-millionth volume and established the Student Multimedia Design Center, the largest of its kind in a U.S. research library.

As an enthusiastic proponent of electronic information, she continues to extend the electronic library which now includes more than 400 electronic databases, thousands of electronic journals, library-created Internet research guides, and an institutional repository.

A pioneering effort was to withdraw print serials in favor of providing access to electronic counterparts before its general acceptance.

She is keenly proud of the University of Delaware Library receiving Vice-President Joseph Biden’s U.S. Senatorial papers in 2012, spanning his 36-year career.

The University of Delaware Library recently became the first ARL member to implement WorldShare Management Services, the new OCLC cloud-based discovery system. One of Ms. Brynteson’s nominators observed, “It strikes me as wonderful that the longest serving ARL librarian would also be the first ARL librarian to implement this forward leap in discovery for Library patrons.”

She is well known for investing in the recruitment and training of staff including hiring librarians with new graduate library degrees. In 1984 she established a residency program for librarians from under-represented groups, the first such program in a U.S. research library. She has made extensive contributions to professional organizations as the President of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (an American Library Association division), membership on the ALA Council and Chair of both the ALA Publishing Committee and the ALA Legislative Committee.

Accordingly, one of her nominating letters described her as “a marvelous role model for new librarians and developing administrators.”

A unique part of her career is her involvement with Yaddo, a distinguished artists’ community where many award-winning writers, composers and artists have had residences.

Yaddo’s mission is to nurture the creative process for artists to work without interruption in a private, supportive environment. She has been a Member of the Yaddo Board of Directors since 1996 and serves as a consultant to Yaddo as someone who is knowledgeable of its history having lived off and on since 1964 among its artist-guests as the summer librarian-in-residence.

She was entrusted with contributing to the complicated transfer of Yaddo’s extensive archives of 20th century literary and artistic correspondence to the New York Public Library. For her continued service, she was named a Lifetime Member of the Corporation of Yaddo in 2006.

SLIS Continuing Education Opportunities
All are welcome to register for our online professional development courses and alumni receive a 10% discount (use code SLIS10 at checkout). We offer a new set of courses every semester and welcome you to join in!

Summer 2015 Online Courses
Creating a Marketing Plan for Your Library, June 1–28
Designing Mobile Experiences, June 1–28
Basics of Cataloging, June 1–July 26
Introduction to Records Management, June 8–July 31
Information Literacy in Public and Academic Libraries, June 15–July 24
Creating an Engaged Library, July 13–August 7

Workshop in Madison
Reading by the Lake: A Weekend of Book Discussions, August 1–2

www.slis.wisc.edu/continueed.htm
2015–2016 ALA President: Sari Feldman

SLIS is proud to have ‘one of its own’ in such a prestigious position! Sari Feldman ('77) is currently the executive director of the Cuyahoga County (OH) Public Library and the ALA President-Elect. Recently, she reflected on her time at SLIS and shared her thoughts on the future of libraries.

“My experience at UW–Madison SLIS did more than influence my career—it changed the trajectory of my life,” wrote Ms. Feldman. Drs. Margaret Monroe and Jack Clark both played pivotal roles. Dr. Monroe inspired Ms. Feldman with her philosophy of reader’s service and acted as a mentor, academically and professionally, for decades after graduation. She explains, “Finding my way to libraries and attending SLIS was good fortune, but it was Margaret who fueled my passion and drive.” Sari also remembers falling into the habit of having breakfast with Dr. Clarke almost every morning one semester. Those quiet conversations and his encouragement created very special memories.

When asked what libraries will look like in five to ten years, Ms. Feldman notes that we are starting to see libraries focus on learning through collaboration and creation. Libraries that employ a connected learning model recognize that customers today and into the future will be less interested in our “stuff” and more interested in experiences. Connected learning is supported by new digital tools in libraries: 3D printers, animation labs, and self-publishing platforms. Further, the growth of what’s been dubbed the “sharing economy” reflects a trend for the future that actually follows a familiar library model, where trust and access trump ownership. The library of the future will find opportunity by demonstrating that it can facilitate engaging and energizing learning experiences.

Best wishes to Sari when her term begins in June!
Legacy Family
Alumni Sisters: Melissa York and Eleanor Johnson

What were some of the biggest similarities and differences in your experiences at SLIS?

Melissa: Eleanor lived on campus, I lived at home; Eleanor joined more clubs than me. I spent a lot of time at the Historical Society.

Eleanor: Yeah, we focused on completely different things, and living on campus definitely gave me a different experience.

Melissa: Another difference I realized was that I went to school before the recession and everybody had a pretty relaxed attitude of “don’t worry, everyone will get a job,” but by the time Eleanor got to SLIS, that wasn’t really the case anymore.

Melissa: Also, the curriculum changed a lot from the time I was on campus to when Eleanor got there. Although, when we talk now, we know the same things; we both “speak librarian” now.

Any library/information business brought up at holidays?

Eleanor: We talk about library stuff enough at other times that we don’t need to bring it up during holidays!

Melissa, do you think going to SLIS affected Eleanor’s decision to attend?

Melissa: I think Eleanor knew the program existed because I did it.

Eleanor: I think Melissa is right that I probably wouldn’t have realized that this was a degree I could pursue or a program that was good if she hadn’t gone through it already. It was helpful to me to know more about the program and know that it might be a thing I would like to do.

Summer Internships
SLIS Students Share Their Unique Experiences

My favorite and the most challenging part of the project revolved around the camp not having Internet access; I had to figure out how to archive everything without the technology I was taught to use in class and through jobs.

The progress I made in studying preservation of digital materials stands as a testament to the Academy’s commitment to achieving better means of digital preservation, in which I’m proud to have played a role.

It was an incredible opportunity to be surrounded by people who share my passion for preserving, sharing, and educating others about Native American culture from both a historical and a contemporary perspective.

Alison Hyde (x’15) worked at a summer sports camp for boys where she organized and digitized photos, yearbooks, newsletters, and other materials dating back to the 1900s.

April Rodriguez (x’15) was an intern at the Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study in Los Angeles (part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences). She researched digital preservation technologies and examined the Academy’s digital preservation efforts.

Cassy Keyport (x’15) worked at the Sequoyah National Research Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, as an Archives Intern.
Grants Galore for Dr. Rebekah Willett

SLIS Assistant Professor Dr. Rebekah Willett is part of two exciting makerspace-focused grants: ‘The Bubbler@Madison Public Library’ with Dr. Erica Halverson (Department of Curriculum & Instruction) in partnership with Madison Public Library, funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and ‘The Bubbler: Making Justice with Court-involved Teens’ with Dr. Nancy Buenger (SLIS), funded by the Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment and the Morgridge Center for Public Service.

Tell us about the grant projects and how you initially became involved.
The grants focus on learning in the Madison Public Library’s ‘Bubbler’ programs. The Bubbler is a maker-focused program for all ages, and programs include activities and workshops featuring experts in art, design, and technology. When the Bubbler was established in 2012, I was immediately drawn to their work with children and youth. The chance to study these processes in a public library setting offers new opportunities, such as focusing on families and learning, and considering ways to develop community engagement through maker programs. Erica Halverson and Nancy Buenger were thinking along similar lines when we came together with Trent Miller and Jesse Vieau from Madison Public Library to discuss potential grant proposals.

With the grant funding, we are studying and supporting a variety of existing Bubbler programs and then collaboratively re-designing programs to support learning. Another aim of the project is to engage underserved populations, including justice-involved youth at the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center, Shelter Home, and Neighborhood Intervention Program. The Bubbler’s outreach programs have involved UW–Madison undergraduate and graduate students in an SLIS service learning course. We anticipate findings from our study will be valuable to maker programs in libraries around the country. We will hold pre-conference meetings at the American Library Association’s annual conferences in 2015 and 2016.

How do you hope the programs will mediate Madison’s opportunity gap?
We see the programs addressing this issue in different ways. First, we are interested in ways ‘makers’ develop an understanding of their learning processes, and how this helps them in formal settings, such as schools. Second, the project supports digital skills specifically for underserved populations, and exposes Bubbler participants to the range of social and technological resources in public libraries. Finally, through our service learning course, SLIS students are gaining valuable insight for understanding the complexities of different communities within Madison. For our Master’s students, our hope is that they will take these insights with them as they enter the library field and support, advocate for, and develop community engagement programs addressing opportunity gaps.

What have been some of your proudest moments while working at SLIS?
It is unfair to take any credit for the amazing work SLIS students and graduates do in the field. However, I admit to feeling a little bit like a proud parent when I visit students and graduates and see them sharing their expertise and enthusiasm, meeting the needs of different communities, becoming active in professional organizations, and contributing to a sense of community within and around school and public libraries.

SLIS wants to hear from you!
Send your updates to: alumni@slis.wisc.edu
A Librarian’s Role in the Digital Humanities: The Colored Conventions Project

Carol Rudisell (’76) was in Madison for African American Expression in Print and Digital Culture, a conference of the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture. She is a Librarian in the Reference and Instructional Services Department at the University of Delaware Library and an important part in a digital humanities initiative, the Colored Conventions Project (CCP).

Tell us about your work with the Colored Conventions Project. How has the library been involved?

The CCP seeks to bring “buried history to digital life” by creating a website (http://coloredconventions.org) that elucidates African American political organizing during the 19th century. We have digitized minutes from both national and state conventions that addressed concerns facing African Americans, such as the abolition of slavery, education and political rights of free Blacks, and proposed emigration schemes. I became involved with the CCP when I provided an overview of African American resources for a graduate seminar course.

The University of Delaware Library, under the leadership of Susan Brynteson (’63), has provided tremendous support for the CCP. It is housed on library servers and is assisted by librarians working in Reference and Instructional Services, Special Collections, and the Information Technology and User Support Department. We provide CCP team members with advice and support on research strategies, copyright, grants, digital mapping, tagging and indexing, website development and data curation.

What was it like returning to Madison?

I hadn’t been back since the 1970s, so I was excited to return. The conference’s content was outstanding! Papers ranged from topics covering 19th century print culture to contemporary street videography captured via YouTube. No genre was overlooked. It was an added treat that so many members of the CCP were on the program.

The conference addressed the difference racial diversity makes in how we study information cultures. How does that relate to digital humanities and librarianship today?

Despite a lot of rhetoric that is thrown around regarding a post-racial America, race is a major factor in society that influences so much of our thinking in both conscious and unconscious ways. The varied responses you see to the current #Black Lives Matter movement is testimony to the power and continued importance of race in America.

As for librarianship and the digital humanities, we can’t study what we don’t collect and preserve. I am glad to see that so many librarians and archivists of all colors realize that Black lives do indeed matter, and that whether it is the protest activities of today or the “colored conventions” of the 19th century, activities need to be documented and preserved in print and in digital formats so they can be available to future scholars.

How did SLIS help prepare you for your career?

SLIS did an excellent job! The archives sequence with F. Gerald Ham, the state archivist, and an internship at the Wisconsin Historical Society were a wonderful introduction to archives. I remember trekking around campus to libraries in search of obscure reference works for Professor Richard Walker and spending hours in Memorial Library with catalogues and bibliographies for Dr. John Boll’s National and International Bibliography and Government Documents classes. It was invaluable work that prepared me for my current position.
**Nancy Muenkel Crossfield ('70)** retired in July 2014 as manager of Saint Agnes Medical Center Library, Fresno, CA. She had managed three medical libraries in Fresno, and served as Geology-Geophysics Librarian at UW–Madison, 1974–1984.

**Patrick O’Toole ('94)** has formed a consultancy, Prospira Consulting, to provide information management services to non-profit organizations in Western North Carolina and beyond. Patrick primarily assists fundraising organizations; however, he has helped local public libraries by resolving online public access catalog issues and performing cataloging. (Once a technical services librarian, always a technical services librarian.)

**Virginia Woods Roberts ('94)** has accepted the Director’s position of Rhinelander (WI) District Library.

**Mary Hitchcock ('01)** is currently a health sciences librarian at Ebling Library, UW–Madison. She was elected to serve as the President of the Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association. She also authored two biographical entries for *The Dictionary of Early American Philosophers*, and co-authored the catalog for *Paul F. Cranefield, M.D., PhD: a catalog of a physician and bibliophile.*

**Cynthia Lott’s ('01) novel, The Feathers,** was released by RiverRun Select in 2014. It’s a thriller with a paranormal twist. Visit her website at www.cynthialott.com.

**Mary McCoy ('05)** is the department manager of Teen ‘Scape, the young adult department at the Los Angeles Public Library. Her YA novel, *Dead To Me*, will be published by Disney-Hyperion in March 2015.

**Jeremy Cusker ('06) and Anne E. Rauh ('07)** recently published an article entitled, “A Survey of Physical Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics Faculty Regarding Author Fees in Open Access Journals” in the Fall 2014 issue of *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship.* Jeremy is the Earth Science & Engineering Outreach Librarian at Cornell University and Anne is the Engineering & Computer Science Librarian at Syracuse University.

**Easter DiGangi ('10)** is a Content Management Analyst working for Innovative Technologies, Inc. (a subcontractor for NASA Langley Administrative Media & Professional Services). She is also the Assistant Treasurer/Treasurer Elect for ALA New Members Round Table (NMRT).

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**Beta Beta Epsilon Annual Meeting**

Beta Beta Epsilon library honor society will hold its annual meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 14, in the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St.

Beta Beta Epsilon will recognize the profession’s rising stars by inducting recent SLIS graduates into the honor society. The program’s guest speaker will be Professor Ethelene Whitmire, who will discuss her award-winning biography, *Regina Anderson Andrews: Harlem Renaissance Librarian.*

Register for the annual meeting at go.wisc.edu/0ao62a. If you would like to renew your membership, visit go.wisc.edu/e71zdu.

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**In Memoriam**


**Diana Bobb,** longtime student records manager, passed away on January 18, 2015, in Arizona. She retired in 2009 and will be remembered for her hard work and sense of humor.

**Betsy Donohue ('53)** passed away on January 23, 2015. She was the head periodicals librarian at Memorial Library and later worked in the reference department.

**Earl Wayne Lee ('85)** passed away on February 15, 2015. For more than 25 years, Earl was a librarian at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS, and achieved the rank of University Professor.
Michele Besant, associate director, with Allison Kaplan and Robin Amato (’13), hosted a panel presentation at the Library Research Seminar VI, “Making LIS ‘Real’: Rewards, Challenges and Contradictions in Community Engagement.” She and Kaplan, with Louise Robbins and Omar Poler, presented on a related theme at ALISE in Chicago, “Social Justice: Is It in Our DNA?”

Anjali Bhasin, public services librarian, is excited to be in the beginning stages of planning a library redesign. Anjali and the SLIS Library team presented a poster at the Teaching and Learning Symposium and will be presenting at WAAL.

Professor Greg Downey has become Associate Dean for the Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Science.

Director and professor Kristin Eschenfelder was appointed as a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor. The appointment recognizes professors at UW–Madison whose distinguished scholarship has advanced the confines of knowledge, and whose excellence has also included teaching or service. Eschenfelder will use the associated research funds to support her project on the sustainability of data archives.

Professor Kyung-Sun “Sunny” Kim published a number of papers and presented with SLIS alumni in 2014. Two examples are: “Individual differences in using information from social media” in Journal of Academic Librarianship, 40 (2), 171–178, with Sci-Ching Joanna Sin (PhD ’09) and Tien-I Tsai (PhD ’13). With Eun-Young Yoo-Lee (PhD ’04) and others, she published “Evaluating cultural authenticity in multicultural picture books: A collaborative analysis for diversity education,” Library Quarterly, 84 (3), 324–347.

Allison G. Kaplan, faculty associate, presented a poster, “Bringing Families to the Library at the College of Menominee Nation” at the ALA 2014 Annual Conference, and a session presentation, “Creating Partnerships, Early Literacy and Technology at the Menominee Nation” at the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association 2014 annual conference.

Outreach specialist Meredith Lowe was selected to participate in the IMLS-funded Library CE Institute: Designing and Delivering Online Training.

Bronwen Masemann, faculty associate librarian, is excited to teach a new course, “Digital Humanities Project Toolkit.” Students will learn project management, text analysis, data visualization, and mapping, and will collaborate with researchers around campus and beyond. She welcomed a son to her family in October.

Omar Poler, outreach specialist, coordinated the first-ever Convening Great Lakes Culture Keepers regional institute for tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators, held at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways.

Assistant professor Alan Rubel published articles in Library Quarterly, JASIST, Journal of Social Philosophy, and the Routledge Companion to Bioethics. In addition, he participated in TeachOnline@UW, a year-long workshop in distance education pedagogy.

Assistant professor Jonathan Senchyne spent half of 2014 as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA. While on research leave he also gave invited lectures on book history and digital studies at Bates College, Clark University, Columbia University, and the Antiquarian Society’s Summer Seminar in the History of the Book.

Instructor and distance program coordinator Debra Shapiro supervised 35 students in practicum placements in the summer of 2014 with Allison Kaplan. Student placements ranged from as far away as Los Angeles and London to as close as Madison, Chicago, and Cincinnati.


In addition to the two grants on page 8, assistant professor Rebekah Willett received funding for: “Childhoods Online: an investigation into play in online spaces” funded by the UW–Madison Graduate School.
Save the Dates!

Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 5 p.m.
Beta Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu
Annual Meeting and Initiation of New Members
Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street

Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 9:30–11 a.m.
SLIS Commencement

June 28, 2015 at 5:30–7:30 p.m.
SLIS Alumni & Friends Reunion
at ALA in San Francisco
All are welcome!

Please see our events listing for additional information: www.slis.wisc.edu

Where do students in SLIS’s online master’s program live?

*The map excludes our most remote student in Doha, Qatar.

For more information about our online master’s degree, visit www.slis.wisc.edu/deprogram