Wisconsin and Minnesota: Legislative Reference Library History PAGE 4
Promoting Literacy to Madison’s Underserved PAGE 6
Alumni Working in Distinct Digital Environments PAGE 7
Dear friends and alumni of SLIS,

The School of Library and Information Studies will launch an exciting change this fall. After careful consideration, we will begin a process to transition to a new name that will better represent our expanded educational offerings and create connections with new career directions to attract the best library, archive and information management students. We will change our name to the UW–Madison School of Information (a.k.a. The iSchool). The new name will more accurately represent our current and future work and align our school with emerging directions in the field.

We plan to retain all the things our students, alumni and employers value about SLIS. We will continue to provide an academically rigorous education for future librarians, archivists and information professionals and we will sustain an ALA-accredited graduate degree. We will also continue to provide students and alumni with career services related to libraries and archives. Our faculty will continue to make important teaching and research contributions in library and information studies.

So why this change? SLIS has been continuously accredited for over 100 years, and during that time we have always evolved to reflect changes in the field. The new name will better represent innovations from SLIS over the past ten years including: (1) refreshment of the curriculum to include more community engagement/outreach, technology and management, (2) development of a strong undergraduate presence on campus through the Digital Studies minor, (3) establishment of cooperative programs with the business school, art and history and the UW–Madison Center for Leadership and (4) preparation of two new graduate capstone certificates in user experience design and analytics for decision making (rollout fall 2017!).

We are also hearing that many of our graduates are engaged in careers outside of libraries, and that employers are seeking graduates who are leaders in areas such as user experience design, data management and corporate taxonomy. Prospective students are also seeking preparation for these careers. We remain committed to preparing future librarians and archivists, but we will also prepare graduates to excel in other work that connects people, information and technology for the public good.

We are looking forward to working with all of you in this transition, which goes deeper than just a name change. This year we are planning a series of conversations with stakeholders to set our school on a course to prepare our graduates to tackle future challenges—those that we see clearly and those that are just beginning to emerge. At our first event in September, we convened students, faculty and leaders from the broader LIS community for a “Future Visioning” summit. As part of the summit, we heard a talk by Dean Emeritus Mike Eisenberg from the University of Washington Information School about how Information Schools support graduate library and archives education. We also worked in teams to brainstorm how the school can best position the curriculum to prepare information professionals for an unknown future.

If you’d like to participate or provide advice, please visit slis.wisc.edu for updates and invitations to future public events. This process will bring together members of our community—students, alumni, faculty, employers and others—to share their knowledge, experience and perspectives to assist us in positioning the school for the future.

UW–Madison has a more than 100 year tradition as an elite program with a strong public service ethos. The school has always evolved to meet the changing needs of the information professions while at the same time preserving its core values. With your support, we can emerge from this transition stronger and continue to prepare leaders in librarianship, archives and other information professions.

Thank you all for your ongoing engagement and support.
I am always amazed by L&S alumni. Not only do you take your L&S experiences out into the world, becoming leaders and innovators and wonderful community members, but you also give back. The generous financial support from L&S alumni amplifies all that makes the College great. But what also touches me is your willingness to help our students.

To date, more than 300 L&S alumni are directly engaged in mentoring, networking and opening doors for L&S students as part of the ever-growing L&S Career Initiative, launched in 2012. Many serve as mentors for our Taking Initiative course (Inter-LS 210), which teaches students how to identify their unique talents and articulate their skills to employers. L&S alumnus Steve Pogorzelski (former president of Monster.com) has been a Taking Initiative mentor since the course was launched in fall 2015. Why does he give back this way? Pogorzelski says he’s had many mentors over the years and is committed to providing guidance for others, whether it’s his two grown children, the boards on which he serves, his employees or UW students.

“I believe that coaching is a gift and one should give it and receive it in that spirit,” he has said. “I derive tremendous satisfaction from the whole process.”

I get this question a lot: “Dean Scholz, what can I do to help students map their future path?”

Your financial support for the L&S Career Initiative is vitally important, of course. We are leading the way among public research universities with our focus on career success for liberal arts graduates, and the entire LSCI is funded by sponsors and donors. But there are so many ways to be involved! Here are just a few:

- Sign up for the new Badger Bridge online networking program to connect with students exploring careers in your field (badger-bridge.com)
- Post an internship
- Offer job shadows
- Help students network

Visit careers.ls.wisc.edu for more information on all of the above. And know that we are beyond grateful for your support.

On, Wisconsin!
Dean John Karl Scholz

SEND NEWS FOR JOTTINGS:
alumni@slis.wisc.edu
slis.wisc.edu
Wisconsin and Minnesota are frequently compared. There are many similarities—Great Lakes, forests, rolling agricultural landscapes, an invigorating climate, the heritage of the region’s native peoples and cultural influences of the early Scandinavian and German immigrants. Also, both states share a history and tradition of developing and supporting libraries, including legislative reference libraries.

Wisconsin’s Legislative Reference Bureau is the older of the two libraries by far. Although Melvil Dewey established a division in the New York State Library that provided research services to legislators in 1890, the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, established in 1901, is generally considered the first true legislative reference library. The Wisconsin Legislature authorized the Free Library Commission to establish a library in the capitol for use by legislators and hired Dr. Charles McCarthy to run it.

A recent Ph.D. graduate in government from the University of Wisconsin, Dr. McCarthy believed that good government relied upon research and knowledge. McCarthy’s vision far exceeded the role assigned to him and he immediately began providing extensive assistance in obtaining information legislators needed. His service vision was a radical departure from the more traditional vision of libraries that focused more on collections. While he actively pursued a wide range of materials, especially current newspapers and magazines, the services he provided, including bill drafting, were heavily utilized and greatly appreciated by Wisconsin legislators.

Legislative reference libraries quickly proliferated due to McCarthy’s success in Wisconsin and his evangelism of the idea. According to a study of the legislative reference movement done by Paul Healey, eight states had legislative libraries by 1908. Healey notes that the “spectrum of services that McCarthy sought to provide—aggressive reference, specialized materials, and impartial bill drafting—have been uniformly adopted by jurisdictions in the U.S. and indeed around the world.” McCarthy believed that bill drafting should be part of the services provided by a legislative library. Keeping with that
tradition, the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau includes a large staff of attorneys who draft legislation. While Wisconsin’s Legislative Reference Bureau was well developed early in the 20th century, the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library’s (LRL) history is far more recent. A movement in the mid-1960s to increase professionalism and staff support in state legislatures was part of the impetus for the formation of the Minnesota Legislative Library. The Library was established in November 1968 “to meet a need for informational service for both houses of the Legislature.” The new library was given several small rooms on the first floor of the Minnesota Capitol, the files of a legislative research office and two staff members—a librarian and an assistant who scrambled to obtain newspaper subscriptions and other materials before the start of the legislative session a few weeks later.

Both the Minnesota and Wisconsin legislative libraries continue to thrive and support the legislative process. Minnesota has six librarians and a total of thirteen staff. The LRL serves legislators, staff in partisan and nonpartisan research and drafting offices and members of the public. Minnesota recently opened a small branch in the new Minnesota Senate Building. Wisconsin has fewer librarians—four—but library staff work closely with a large contingent of attorneys who draft legislation.

Both Minnesota and Wisconsin libraries are staffed with SLIS graduates. Elizabeth Lincoln (the author of this article; MA’88) is the director and David Schmidtke (MA’91) is the deputy director of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library. Pam (Day) Werre (MA’88) was a Minnesota legislative librarian in the early 1990s. Currently, the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau employs three SLIS graduates—Patricia (Helgerson) Reichert (MA’93), Rachel Holtan (MA’08) and Keely Merchant (MA’09).

Charles McCarthy’s vision, enthusiasm and unceasing efforts to establish legislative libraries continue to inspire those of us who follow in his footsteps. While we are faced with challenges and opportunities unknown to him, the core principles of providing outstanding, timely, nonpartisan services that support the legislative process remain the guiding principles for today’s legislative reference librarians.

Promoting Literacy to Madison’s Underserved

First year student Lindsay Kamnetz comes to SLIS with a unique background. Lindsay joined the Madison Police Department (MPD) after leaving a job working for the State Legislature. Wanting to help people, she felt working for the MPD was a good choice to do great service for the community. She notes that no matter how much work they do with the community, there are still “limitations: some people simply don’t trust cops, even cops with the best of intentions.”

Lindsay constantly encounters people in desperate need of services and resources. She says that “referring someone to a state agency or nonprofit puts a bandage on a bleeding wound, but does not effect any real change.”

Lindsay hopes that SLIS coursework will bring insight into how she can make a positive change in the lives of children in underserved areas of the Madison community. She wants to focus on effective strategies for community engagement and learn more about library services directed toward diverse cultural backgrounds. Studies show that there are links between crime and literacy. Many of the people that Lindsay encounters have not graduated from high school and many cannot read at an age-appropriate level. She believes that “getting children interested in books and in reading is the first step in helping children excel in school and ultimately improving their quality of life.”

While learning how to promote literacy in young people, Lindsay hopes to be a catalyst in expanding the relationship between librarians and police officers. The current partnership is minimal, at best. There are only a few specialized officers working with library staff at any given time. Officers often deal with families during their worst moments, and, while seeking resources to help them, it’s an ideal juncture to bring reading materials to the affected children. Lindsay says that “police officers are uniquely situated to act as liaisons through which librarians might reach children in need and motivate them to read, in turn impacting education levels and graduation rates.”

Scholarship Impact

Madison police officer and aspiring librarian Lindsay Kamnetz received a scholarship from the Charlotte M. Sawyer Fund for Library and Information Studies. Scholarship funds supported by alumni allow students to focus on their studies and develop as professionals. Help the next generation of librarians, archivists and information managers flourish; learn how to contribute at slis.wisc.edu/slis/support-slis.
Alumni Working in Three Distinct Digital Environments

Lotus Norton-Wisla is the Tribal Digital Archives Curriculum Coordinator at the Washington State University Libraries’ Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation (CDSC). Her primary duties include coordinating the Tribal Stewardship Cohort Program (TSCP), providing Mukurtu training and support and assisting with the Sustainable Heritage Network. Mukurtu is an open-source content management system that empowers communities to manage, share and exchange their digital heritage in a culturally relevant and ethical way. The biggest influences in Lotus’ career were the TLAM class and student group, her summer internship and the Convening Great Lakes Culture Keepers conferences.

Lotus Norton-Wisla (MA’14; left)

Casey Coleman currently works as an Electronic Records Manager at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Casey says that his position gives him the ability to “bring people together to better understand their current information needs and to ensure the bits and bytes will be accessible for future use.” After graduating he accepted a position with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Wisconsin Historical Society and SLIS staff influenced the standards and tools that Casey applies to information challenges in the workplace.

Casey Coleman (MA’09)

Doug Mullin is a Digital Assets Manager for Oakley, Inc. Doug began working in Digital Asset Management while in Madison; he worked for a consumer products company and eventually got his M.A. from SLIS with the company’s support. He noted that even as his career progresses, there is always more to learn, especially in regards to technology. His job at Oakley gives him the opportunity to work with many different people, and the most rewarding part of being a digital assets manager is “bringing together people, process, content and technology.”

Doug Mullin (MA’06)

In June, second year SLIS student Kelsey Sorenson received funding from the UW Friends of the Library to attend Rare Book School. She took a course on 15th Century Books in Print and Manuscript in Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania. While learning about “bibliographic details unique to incunables and manuscripts, from the watermarks of the paper and variations in type to collation and rubrication,” the class challenged Kelsey’s understanding of descriptive bibliography and allowed her to connect with rare book librarians and scholars from across the country.

Kelsey Sorenson (right)
Alumni as Instructors

SLIS offers dozens of online professional development classes each year and is proud to have alumni teach many of them. They lend their time and years of experience to make the classes informative and fun for library and archives staff in Wisconsin and beyond. We asked them what they like most about teaching.

Cheryl Becker*: There is a real feeling of accomplishment and a sense that I’m helping to shape the next generation of library leaders in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

Marge Loch-Wouters*: Teaching CE has a surprisingly relaxed and collegial feeling. You know you’re working with student-librarians with varying degrees of experience and you are more a coach than taskmaster. I think that collegiality encourages more collaboration within the course resulting in a rich learning experience.

Liz Dannenbaum: It continues to surprise me how much I learn myself through the discussions—I get great ideas and very interesting perspectives from the people who take the classes.

Joy Schwarz: I like getting to know library people from all over the world, then getting to meet them face-to-face at library conferences.

*Cheryl Becker and Marge Loch-Wouters also teach in the graduate program.

2016 Award Recipients

Distinguished Alumna Award
Sari Feldman (’77)

Lawrence C. Zweizig Student Leadership Award
Chrissy Hursh

James Krikelas Award for Innovative Use of Information Technology
Anna Julson, Shalini Ramachandran, Maureen Noonan and Andrea Stoulil

Dianne McAfee Hopkins Diversity Award
Ryan Welle

Lawrence Jacobsen Innovations in Library Science Scholarship Award
Shalini Ramachandran
Honorable Mention
Allison Langham

Penelope and Stephen Klein Scholarship Award
Carmella Hatch
The Beatrix Award of Stephen and Penelope Klein
Ling-Yi Wu

Valmai Fenster Award
Zachary Fannin

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH SLIS
slis.wisc.edu/continuing-education/

Classes for librarians, archivists, and everyone in between! Alumni always receive a 10% discount; use code SLIS10 when you register.
Beta tapes? Floppy discs?
RADD Helps Recover Data in Retro Formats

What is RADD? RADD stands for Recovering Analog and Digital Data and is the brain-child of instructor Dorothea Salo (MA'05). It is a collection of hardware and software designed for digitizing and recovering data from at-risk audiovisual materials. RADD is located in the SLIS Library and is available for community use to recover data from all sorts of expired media: floppy discs, beta videotapes, audio cassettes and more.

However, RADD is first and foremost a teaching tool. While teaching LIS 668 Digital Curation, where students look at digital-preservation challenges, Salo had a hard time finding equipment for students to use to digitize and rescue data. As a result, LIS 644 Digital Tools, Trends, and Debates students built the RADD book scanner and LIS 668 Digital Curation students designed and budgeted the equipment needed to digitize or rescue the audiovisual and digital materials in RADD.

This past spring RADD was part of a personal archiving event. Instructor and WCFTR Head Film Archivist, Amy Sloper, along with SLIS student Sam Abrams, helped people digitize video and audio at Pinney Public Library, while Salo helped digitize video and other digital media in the SLIS library using RADD. She said “one gentleman brought about 25 floppies, representing his daughter’s schoolwork from grade school through graduate school. As he was leaving, all the data successfully rescued, he said, ‘She may not care about all this work … but I do!’”

RADD is getting more and more attention outside of SLIS and UW–Madison. Madison Magazine featured RADD in the 2015 “M-List” for social innovation. In May, students Courtney Becks and Zach Fannin helped Salo take RADD to Madison’s first Mini Maker Faire. Most recently, RADD and Salo were nominated for the Digital Library Federation’s inaugural Community/Capacity Award. Salo says, “I found out about the nomination while on vacation and was utterly staggered! The other nominees are all people I have intense respect for who are doing amazing work. I honestly was not expecting RADD to catch on like this.”

As libraries and archives continue to face collection issues and information loss related to deteriorating 20th-century media, Salo hopes that “RADD-like rigs large and small turn up everywhere; the need is certainly there.”
Snapshots

Assistant Professor Rebekah Willett and recent Ph.D. graduate Tammy Mays

Erin F.H. Hughes (MA’x17) and Omar Poler (MA’10) presenting Encoding Culture: Making Library Technology Matter at WiLS World in August

Recent M.A. graduate Samantha Jackson with her mom, Sherry, and student service coordinator Tanya Hendricks Cobb (MA’04; right) at graduation

Recently married Casey (MA’14) and Jacob (MA’14) Ineichen at the ALA Alumni & Friends Reunion

Instructor Deb Shapiro (MA’91; right), Michael Cohen (MA’82) and his wife, Susan, at the ALA Alumni & Friends Reunion
Class News and Notes

Steve Johnson (MA'78) retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, where he worked as Systems Librarian at ARLIS, Alaska Resources Library & Information Services. Previously, he managed the library and archives at the Bronx Zoo-based Wildlife Conservation Society (1979-2008).

Charles G. Forrest (MA’79) retired after 27 years with the Emory University Libraries in Atlanta, Georgia, where he held a variety of positions including director of instructional support services, director of planning and budget, and most recently director of library facilities. Before joining Emory he worked for nearly a decade for the University of Illinois, first in Chicago and then in Urbana-Champaign.

Geri Ceci Cupery (MA’88) retired in 2016 after 10-plus years as Head of Youth Services at E.D. Locke Public Library in McFarland, Wisconsin. She returned a month after retirement to kick off McFarland’s 9th Annual Open Mic Poetry Night, an event she began in 2008, sharing two new original poems as a “civilian.” Other notable accomplishments: creating graphic novel collections, building a strong tradition of summer Youth Volunteers and establishing a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten campaign complete with a rainbow reading castle. Geri joined Wisconsin Library Association in 1986 as a SLIS student, and now holds a lifetime membership.

Peter N. Cupery (MA’88) retired from a second career in 2015, as one of four Bookmobile Librarians for Dane County Library Service. His first career began as an Academic Librarian at UW–Parkside and then as Reference Coordinator at the UW–Madison School of Education’s CIMC—now known as MERIT Library. He was also tapped for his online searching expertise in Google’s early days by the UW–Madison library community, at WLA Conferences and on NPR’s “Morning Edition.” He has been a University of Wisconsin emeritus academic librarian since 2005.

Brenda Spychalla (MA’91) and Anna Lewis (MA’99) were named co-CIOs for the UW–Madison School of Education and co-directors for MERIT in March.

Kelly Haberstroh (MA’15) just completed her first year as a Digitization Librarian at the United States Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia.

In Memoriam

Sally Ginell (MA’49) passed away after a life spent in service to her family and libraries. Working in both public and school libraries, Sally started her career in New York state until she moved with her husband and three children to California in 1958. As a retiree, she returned to libraries as a volunteer at the Getty’s Library.

Megann Schmitt (MA’x17) passed away in August. SLIS faculty, staff, students and alumni will remember her creativity and enthusiasm for library services and social justice. After years at the Timberland Regional Library in Shelton, Washington, Megan became a SLIS student and teaching assistant at MERIT where she contributed broadly to the experience of education students. Outside of libraries, her passions included art, hiking, yoga and her cat, Charlie.
MEMORIAL UNION REINVESTMENT

In the first major renovation since it was built in 1928, Memorial Union will fully reopen in late 2016. Visitors will find a renovated Union Theater, new home for Hoofers, lakeside lounge, improved accessibility and even a bigger brat stand! Coupled with more improvements to the area, the campus shore of Lake Mendota is getting a new life.

uwalumni.com/lakefront-gateway/