



College of Letters & Science
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Jottings

& DIGRESSIONS

INFORMATION SCHOOL

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Iconic images cut into rusted steel make up the Badger Pride Wall at Alumni Park.



University Communications

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Professor Kyung-Sun “Sunny” Kim

From the Director’s Chair

I would like to introduce myself as the interim director. Kristin Eschenfelder is on sabbatical until May 2019. I have been on the faculty since 2001, teaching cataloging, digital curation and collections, information use and users, and research methods, among others. I feel honored to work with you all.

We have quite a few accomplishments to celebrate. The first cohort of the User Experience Design (UX) certificate program graduated and the second cohort began this fall. The next capstone certificate, Analytics for Decision Making (ADM), launches in spring 2019.

All of our programs are growing. This fall, over 120 new students started the on-campus or online Master’s program and two PhD students began as well. We have more students in our undergraduate classes, allowing the school to offer teaching assistantships to our graduate students.

We welcomed two new staff members. Alison Caffery (MA ’17) began as Librarian & Instructional Services Manager. Katja Mohaupt-Hedden joined us as Senior Financial Specialist, taking over for Jenny Greiber who is now the Capstone Certificates Coordinator.

On campus, Lisa Carter was appointed as the Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian, succeeding Edward Van Gemert who retired in May, and Lois Brooks is the new Chief Information Officer and Vice Provost for Information Technology. We are delighted they have joined the UW community.

Thank you for your continuing support. With your generosity, we are able to strengthen our school’s curriculum and expand into new horizons. We appreciate all that you do for and with us.

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From Dean Karl Scholz

Every year, I wait eagerly for the results of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Awards. The honor has been given out since 1953 to recognize the university’s finest educators. The vast majority—at least nine out of twelve every year—go to L&S faculty.

I’m always humbled and a bit surprised. After all, we have only 39% of the faculty at UW-Madison. But in Letters & Science we care about great teaching because we teach 64% of undergraduate credit hours (and 57% of all the credit hours taught on the UW-Madison campus). Moreover, knowledge creation and outstanding teaching often go hand in hand.

It is a myth that great research comes at the expense of great experiences in the classroom. Many of our internationally known scholars can be

found working with undergraduates in labs and in archives, organizing first-year interest groups, and developing innovative teaching methods. We call these “high-impact practices,” and they happen across the college.

Our faculty bring talent, passion, imagination, humor, and empathy into their classrooms every day. If you could see, as I do, the notes from our graduating L&S seniors recalling their favorite professors, you would understand that not only do our faculty create knowledge, but they also change lives. I couldn’t be more proud of what they do.

Your support of our teaching and learning efforts is greatly appreciated. Visit ls.wisc.edu/about/our-faculty to find out more about teaching and learning in L&S, and allwaysforward.org/ls to support our work.

AnjiPlay at Madison Public Library

Carissa Christner (MA'12), youth services librarian at Madison Public Library (MPL), first heard about AnjiPlay, a Chinese educational approach, at a local elementary school presentation in Madison. She was blown away by the concept that schools could be a place where play is recognized for its enormous, inherent value and where children are respected so highly. During the presentation, she saw children flourish in the AnjiPlay environment.

The philosophy, created in Anji County, China, by Cheng Xueqin, centers on child-directed play. Children attend schools in which, each day, they create a play plan with other students, execute the plan, adjust the plan as needed, and then draw and write a “play story.” In the afternoon, teachers show the class photos and videos that they captured during the morning play session and ask the kids to talk about what is going on in the images. Child-led problem-solving and conflict resolution occur during this reflection time. Kids then re-enter the playground ready to try out the ideas they discussed.

“I had the amazing opportunity to visit the schools of Anji County, China, in October 2016. While there, I was repeatedly overcome with emotion as I watched the deep joy and engagement of the students in these schools and realized that I wasn’t watching ‘recess’ that was considered a break from the real work of school, but that this *was* the core of the curriculum, and that the teachers and administrators of the schools recognized and respected the true value of self-determined play.”

Carissa believes AnjiPlay is a great fit for libraries because it incorporates “play, write, and talk”—three practices that are not always simultaneously embraced in library programs. The literacy elements inherent in the play stories and the rich vocabulary that comes out during self-determined play are incredible. In summer 2017, Madison Public Library expanded its AnjiPlay programming to two locations, run by two librarians, and Carissa



Carissa Christner in Anji County, China

hopes it will expand to at least three locations next summer. “My hope, my dream is that libraries across the US and around the world will someday be able to embrace the philosophy of AnjiPlay and develop this same deep respect for children’s self-determined play.”



Children interacting during AnjiPlay

Associate Professor Rebekah Willett on AnjiPlay

“MPL’s AnjiPlayDate and Wild Rumpus programs illustrate the power of child-centered play. When we trust children as play experts, we can see the development of an enormous range of social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills. Carissa is guiding parents, caregivers, and any other adult attending AnjiPlay programs to observe and notice all the important things that happen when children are provided an environment in which they can independently explore, design, and play.”

iSchool Scholarship Recipients



Jude Wasserman received awards from the Lyman Scholarship Fund and Information School Scholarship Fund.

Jude Wasserman

I'm originally from Michigan, although I've spent the last eight years living in Olympia, WA. I graduated with a BA from the Evergreen State College where I focused on social justice education, political economy, and disability studies. My background is in the social service field where I have used information services, teaching, and community practices in nontraditional ways to work with people experiencing homelessness, young families, immigrant communities, and LGBTQ youth. I recently finished a two-year period as a live-in host at a local Catholic Worker house in Olympia where we provided temporary low-barrier housing to transgender youth. From 2012 to 2015, I organized Queer Rock Camp—the world's first music camp for LGBTQ teens—in Olympia and Seattle. My commitment to community-oriented work that centers on education, anti-oppression, cultural spaces, and youth-led programming is the reason I chose to attend the iSchool. The Public Librarianship concentration focuses on these very issues. I am also drawn to UW–Madison for the strong emphasis on firsthand experience through practicum placement. As a librarian, I want to create library spaces that provide opportunities for civic engagement and the iSchool is well positioned to help me pursue my goals.



Fallon Carey is the recipient of a Tribal Libraries Archives and Museums Scholarship, made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Fallon Carey

After graduating with a BFA from the University of Tulsa, I was looking for a graduate degree with vast career opportunities that would also allow me to move forward with a degree in the arts. The iSchool's dual degree program with the Department of Art History appealed to me and demonstrated that a career suitable to my background in the arts was possible. I am interested in archives and curation, but also excited to learn more about the digital aspects of librarianship. I look forward to the varied professional opportunities available with a Masters in Library and Information Studies.



Support the iSchool

Visit go.wisc.edu/iSchoolgiving or contact alumni@ischool.wisc.edu

Your gifts help the iSchool recruit and retain the next generation of information professionals.

Summer Internships

Ellen Faletti (MA'18) interned at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Archives in New York City. In the archives, she assisted a curator and found information and materials to support research for the museum's 150th anniversary in 2020. Ellen also worked with the Watson Library intern to catalog and digitize special exhibition press kits—this was a great way to see the exhibits the museum featured in the past! Every week, Ellen and the other interns met with professionals from different departments to gain a broader understanding of the museum field. She even created and led three public tours. Overall, Ellen is thankful for this great opportunity and excited to see where it takes her!



Ellen Faletti examining "Studies for the Libyan Sibyl" by Michelangelo.



Jesse Hocking in the Library of Congress Great Hall.

Joy Stevenson completed a practicum at the Lancaster County Department of Corrections in Lincoln, Nebraska. The work involved developing a library collections policy and documenting general procedures in order to open the library to jail inmates. Joy is the director of a public library located near the county jail, and she observed that despite how geographically close the public and county jail libraries are to each other, their policies often diverge. Privacy issues are an example. Inmates are not accorded many privacy rights, but in public libraries, the patron's right to privacy is something that all public libraries take very seriously. Joy is a student in the distance program and will graduate in May 2019.



Joy Stevenson in the library stacks, Lancaster County Department of Corrections.



iSchool Launching New Certificate Program

The **Digital Analytics for Decision Making Capstone Certificate Program** will begin in January 2019. As the amount of data continues to increase exponentially, more data-savvy professionals are needed to sift through this vast amount of information and interpret large datasets. Students will learn to optimize every part of the data analysis process used in organizational management and project planning. In addition, students learn to develop answerable research questions to address their organization's current strategic goals, apply a range of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methodologies, develop better data management processes, and learn to communicate findings effectively. They will also understand the limits of current organizational, public, and commercial data sources and be able to explain the shortcomings of datasets and data analysis methods.

The certificate is completed entirely online within one calendar year, making it feasible to balance workload, education, and personal life. The curriculum is designed with working professionals in mind. In addition, no statistics, mathematics, or computer science prerequisites are required—everything needed is taught within the certificate program. Learn more by contacting Certificates Coordinator Jenny Greiber (jgreiber@wisc.edu) or visiting the iSchool website.

Power Up:

A Conference in
Leadership for
Youth Services
Managers and Staff

March 28–29, 2019
Madison, WI

Registration will open
in Fall 2018
<http://go.wisc.edu/Power-Up>

Questions?
Contact Meredith Lowe,
mclowe@wisc.edu

Katie Fox (MA'15) shares her thoughts on the importance of data analysis in her work as a research analyst with the Colorado Department of Education.

“In my team, we collect, analyze, and share data from across the state and we train other people in the library community to do the same,” Katie notes. “Using data is really about being curious and learning. We want to know what is working well and where there’s room for change so organizations can move forward and have the most positive impact in their communities.”



Class News and Notes

Mei Zhang (PhD'18) was selected as the winner of a 2018 Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship by the Beta Phi Mu Scholarship Committee.

Nathan R. Johnson (MA'06, PhD'11) published “Rhetoric and the cold war politics of information science” in JASIST, received the University of South Florida’s Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, was selected to give the Alice G. Smith annual lecture at USF’s School of Information, and received the Fellows Early Career Award from the Rhetoric Society of America.

Kim Pittman (MA'11) has been selected, along with Trent Brager & Amy Mars, to receive the 2018 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section (IS) Innovation award for their work on 23 Framework Things, a free online professional development opportunity that helps librarians engage at their own pace through readings, activities, reflection, and discussion.

Katy Kavanagh Webb (MA'11) published *Development of Creative Spaces in Academic Libraries: A Decision Maker’s Guide* (Elsevier, Chandos Information Professional Series), received the Up and Comers Award from ATG Media, and achieved tenure at East Carolina University.

Megan K. Wiseman (MA'09) has released her second novel, *The Kithseeker*. It is the companion book to *The Bookminder*, the YA historical fantasy series taking inspiration from working in Memorial Library.

Emily Scharf (MA'08) is now Head of Reference and Instruction at Gould Library at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

John Baken (MA'04) has been appointed Director of Public Services at Kent Library on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Valerie Love (MA'04) is the Senior Digital Archivist at the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa. She contributed to the volume *Through the Archival Looking Glass: A Reader on Diversity and Inclusion*, published by the Society of American Archivists Press in 2014 and chosen for SAA’s One Book, One Profession reading selection in 2017.

Rachel Vagts (MA'97), Head of Special Collections and Archives at Berea College and director of the Archives Leadership Institute, was inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA).

Ed Van Gemert (MA'78) has retired following 46 years of work with libraries and 36 years of continuous employment with UW–Madison’s General Library System, most recently as the Vice Provost for Libraries. Van Gemert came to the libraries as an undergraduate student assistant in Memorial Library in 1971.

Roger L. Dutcher (MA'76) retired after over 40 years at the Beloit Public Library. He began filing and typing catalog cards, worked on a number of different computer systems, and served as Interim Director for 13 months.

In Memoriam

John N. Koch (MA'83) passed away on March 1, 2018. He worked in UW–Madison campus libraries for many years, most notably as the Government Documents Coordinator at Steenbock Memorial Library.

Rev. Robert Smith (MA'75) passed away on March 12, 2018. Rev. Smith served congregations throughout Michigan and Wisconsin. He spent his retirement in southern Michigan.

Nancy Marshall (MA'72) passed away on July 22, 2018. Nancy led the development of WiLS, served as Interim General Library System Director at UW–Madison, and enjoyed a long and successful appointment as the Dean of University Libraries at the College of William and Mary.

Melba Jesudason (MA'69) passed away on July 29, 2018. Melba worked for UW–Madison’s General Library System from 1979 to 2000, with most of those years at College Library, where she was very active in the instruction program.

Enid Simon (MA'67) passed away on February 23, 2018. She worked at UW–Madison’s Wendt Library for 37 years and retired in 1998.

NOMINATIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA/ ALUMNUS DUE DEC 1

Each year, the iSchool recognizes a graduate who demonstrates exemplary leadership and service to the library and information profession. Please get in touch with the school if you would like to nominate one of our outstanding alumni.

Visit <https://go.wisc.edu/iSchoolAward> or contact Tanya Hendricks Cobb, student-services@ischool.wisc.edu



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Congratulations to the first graduating class of the User Experience Design (Mad UX) Capstone Certificate Program!

UX is a concept that seeks to increase user satisfaction and improve the interaction between users and digital systems in commercial, nonprofit, educational, and governmental settings. Learn more about the certificate at <https://hci.wisc.edu/madux>

