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After serving as the interim director during the last academic year, I came back as the director of the Information School (iSchool) in August. I look forward to working together with you as the iSchool continues its mission to educate responsible leaders, critical thinkers, and creative innovators. Kristin Eschenfelder took a new position as the associate director of the School of Computer, Data & Information Studies (CDIS), a new division within the College of Letters & Science in which the iSchool is a partner. Please read the article below to learn more.

Thank you,
Professor Kyung-Sun “Sunny” Kim

The iSchool joins the School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences

The Information School (iSchool) has been part of the College of Letters & Science (L&S) for decades and was intrigued by an invitation to discuss forming a new division within the College. The discussions focused on leveraging campus strengths in information management, computing, and data science to create an interdisciplinary division for learning and research. Former iSchool Director Kristin Eschenfelder recounts, “Computer Sciences approached me about getting the iSchool involved, and they were interested in our expertise in the human and social aspects of data and information technology. We agreed to participate in a series of brainstorming meetings to identify areas of possible collaboration.” Ultimately, the L&S departments of Computer Sciences, Statistics, and the Information School decided to pursue those collaborations and become the School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences (CDIS). All three entities will remain distinct departments with unique programs under the umbrella of CDIS.

Why did the Information School join in?
Joining CDIS is an opportunity to grow and strengthen the iSchool. It will allow the school to increase the number of faculty, diversify courses for students, expand the school’s research output, strengthen national stature and ranking, and develop a leading undergraduate program. Broadening the iSchool’s resource base will ensure that the school continues to be a leader within LIS teaching and research. Current iSchool Director Sunny Kim notes, “We are making plans to grow in collaboration with Statistics and Computer Sciences. We are developing new programs while ensuring the excellence of our traditional program.”

What are the opportunities?
Overall, CDIS fosters the capacity for more connection, conversation, and collaboration with colleagues in Computer Sciences and Statistics. Associate Professor Alan Rubel explains, “People in those units are concerned with issues related to privacy and security, algorithmic fairness, how big data represents (or fails to represent) people, misinformation, and so forth. Those are, of course, social problems with substantial
technological components, and they are the kinds of issues iSchools have long grappled with. Doing so in concert with folks from other disciplines will allow us to do work that has broader scholarly, educational, and public reach.”

**How does an ALA-accredited Master’s degree fit?**
The ALA-accredited MA degree will continue to be the largest degree program in the iSchool and remain central to our identity. Within CDIS, we will be able to offer more courses on a greater diversity of topics for MA students. For example, Professor Rubel is developing a new course in Data and Algorithmic Ethics and Policy, and Professor Cat Smith is developing a new course on electronic health records. Both will be open to MA students. The partnership will also create more TA positions for students, which are crucial for recruitment. The iSchool will strive for continuous ALA accreditation and remain committed to the education of librarians, archivists, and information professionals.

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**Keun Y. and Sanok P. Kim Graduate Scholar in Library Studies Scholarship Recipients:**
**First-Year Students Anjali Beck and Rebecca Waschek**

Although I am visually impaired, reading is my favorite activity. Much of my youth was spent in libraries and bookstores—I’ve been working in a bookstore for the past four years. In December 2018, I graduated from UW–Madison with a degree in English, specializing in Creative Writing. I enjoy writing fantasy stories in the young adult genre.

I chose the iSchool because it seemed to be the perfect match for my passion. In pursuing my master’s degree, I plan to focus on public librarianship and youth services. My ideal job would be as a children’s librarian. Being part of a publishing team for my favorite genres would also be great. I am very fortunate to have found a field that I truly enjoy!

It wasn’t until after college that I began to see myself as a librarian. I worked in a rec program serving people with disabilities. I created a library for them and began forming interactive book clubs. As my interest grew, I took a part-time substitute position at a library and realigned my career path.

My goal is to be a public or academic librarian and create spaces where people can imagine and discover their dreams, interests, and passions; where people of every background and cognitive or economic level can find the information they need.

UW–Madison was my top choice for graduate school, partly because it is ranked one of the best programs in the country. Also, I am a Wisconsin girl, and we have one of the most beautiful states.

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**Dr. Louise Robbins, Professor and Director Emerita, shares her thoughts about the new school.**

“CDIS should provide a platform from which the iSchool, even and maybe especially its libraries and archives components, can reach farther and stand more firmly. We have been a model for other departments in developing online programs to supplement our offerings and enlarge our teaching numbers. I believe we will continue to lead the way for our partners in how to engage with important social and cultural issues for information seekers of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and religions, as we have always prided ourselves. Our strengths will enhance the new school and we can profit from their skills in technology and data. I have confidence in the strong voice of our faculty to make sure the concerns we embrace will be visible and valued. I’ll be watching with interest.”
A Forward-Thinking Scholar:  
Decades later, alumna finds long-awaited validation in return to campus

In the South Carolina town where Dr. Helen E. Williams grew up in the 1930s, black residents were not allowed to use the public library. Her access to books scarcely improved at her segregated high school—there was no library, just a broom closet with a few dusty volumes. Yet Williams loved words, and she possessed a strong determination. She would go on to excel in higher education, earning a PhD in library science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1983.

Unfortunately, family and work obligations kept her from participating in commencement—she was a solo parent of two sons and already teaching full-time at the University of Maryland. The missed celebration nagged at her.

This past May, Williams returned to UW–Madison to officially validate her achievement. At age 85, she walked across the stage of the Kohl Center at spring commencement, 36 years after earning her doctorate.

“It always felt like I hadn’t really finished my degree, like something was incomplete,” says Williams, of New Carrollton, Maryland. “I needed to tie up a loose end.”

Her visit to campus has drawn renewed attention to her dissertation, which analyzed how black writers portrayed white people in fiction for children and young adults from 1945 to 1975. Dr. Rebekah Willett, an associate professor and the PhD program chair at UW–Madison’s Information School, calls it a groundbreaking work.

“The questions she asked clearly resonate with research being done today in the field of children’s literature and with the ‘We Need Diverse Books’ movement,” Willett says. “The conclusions in her PhD thesis called for more research to be conducted to examine the role of black-produced literature for children and teens. Similar arguments are being made today. She is clearly a forward-thinking scholar.”

Williams says she chose the dissertation topic following a six-month literature search that revealed minimal and often trivial portrayals of blacks by white writers of literature for young readers. She decided to investigate the reverse of that.

“I wanted to know if black writers were using equally offensive stereotypes to describe white people,” she says. “Were we being as mean to them as they were to us?”

Her conclusion: “No, we weren’t,” she says. “Black writers were generally very gentle when discussing white people.”

Williams came to UW–Madison through the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, a consortium of mostly Midwestern universities that funded scholarships for minority graduate students. She had earned a bachelor’s degree from Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina, and a master’s degree from Atlanta University, now Clark Atlanta University.

Williams taught at a number of universities and public schools and authored three books, including *Books by African-American Authors and Illustrators for Children and Young Adults* (American Library Association, 1991).

She counts among her career highlights teaching as a Fulbright professor at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji; serving as a library fellow in Lesotho through the American Library Association; and being awarded a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Morris College.

—Doug Erickson, University Communications
Summer Practica for LIS 620

Taylor Aberasturi

Taylor Aberasturi interned at the Seattle Public Library’s Central Branch, located in Seattle, Washington. Her work consisted mainly of cataloging their recently acquired ZAPP Zine Collection, previously maintained by the hardworking volunteers at the Hugo House. The collection consists of approximately 30,000 zines, and covers a range of topics including race and LGBT issues from a variety of artists and activists. These zines showcase Seattle culture, as well as various cultures from around the world thanks to the popularity of the mail-art movement in the eighties and nineties. Cataloging these creative and unique items provides helpful data about zines to the city of Seattle and to libraries that have access to OCLC.

Taylor collaborated with the library’s serials catalogers to create original MARC records in OCLC, which she later added to the library’s catalog. Taylor also helped to streamline cataloging procedures, updating the process to ensure that the library could easily transition new interns and catalogers into zine cataloging. Finally, Taylor regularly reported to the zine committee, which planned many public projects involving the ZAPP Zine Collection for the coming year.

This truly wonderful internship not only gave Taylor hands-on experience with original cataloging, but also exposed her to unusual materials by passionate and creative people. Plus, Seattle is a fun, exciting city in the summertime: it only rained twice each week. Taylor is a dual-degree student starting her second year at the iSchool and her third year at the Law School.

Hayley Severson

Hayley Severson completed her summer practicum at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, working with Library & Patient Education Services. She spent time with several librarians in a diverse set of positions to learn how Gundersen’s libraries support research, education, health literacy, and clinical decision-making for consumers, patients, staff, and medical professionals.

Hayley worked on the reference desk of both the Health Science Library and the Mooney Patient Education Library. She fielded a variety of questions, from patrons looking for books that their doctors recommended to staff requesting articles to help them conduct research. Hayley also valued participating in orientations for summer fellows, new residents, and medical professional candidates. A significant project Hayley worked on was partnering with the Spiritual Care department to better organize their collection of books available to residents. This included helping to standardize their library catalog and learning how their library needs may be different from collections Hayley had worked with in the past.

What Hayley enjoyed most about her time at Gundersen was learning how indispensable the role of medical librarians is in enriching the lives of patients, professionals, and the community. Hayley is a native of La Crosse and is beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to work in an institution that is so significant to the La Crosse community. She is a second-year student at the iSchool this fall, and this summer enjoyed reading Introduction to the Operating Room in her spare time on the reference desk.
NAME: Barbara Alvarez  
HOMETOWN: Sheboygan County, Wisconsin  
YEARS AT THE ISCHOOL: This is my first semester!  
FOCUS OF RESEARCH: I will be focusing on information gaps and gender equality. I am passionate about reproductive justice and Latin American history and hope to weave those areas into my research.  
WHAT YOU’RE LOOKING FORWARD TO: I can’t wait to connect with professors, researchers, and students who are doing incredible work in their field; attend lectures and discussions; participate in political and social initiatives; and try all the different restaurants Madison has to offer!

NAME: Philip Romero-Masters  
HOMETOWN: Katy, Texas  
YEARS AT THE ISCHOOL: Two years in the master’s program and starting the doctoral program in Fall 2019  
FOCUS OF RESEARCH: Human factors and learning in cybersecurity  
WHAT DREW YOU TO THE ISCHOOL: The faculty, staff, and students in this department are spectacular and everyone here brings insightfulness, expertise, and passion.

NAME: Eric Ely  
HOMETOWN: Beaver Dam, Wisconsin  
YEARS AT THE ISCHOOL: Since Fall 2014, and I completed the master’s degree in 2017.  
FOCUS OF RESEARCH: Teaching and learning in academic libraries with diverse students and how users experience academic library spaces  
FAVORITE THING ABOUT MADISON: I completed both my BA and MA at UW–Madison! My favorite things are the diversions from my work and studies it provides, including the lakes and bike paths. The iSchool faculty and staff are fantastic and I’ve enjoyed the relationships I have forged with them all.

NAME: Hanseul Stephanie Lee  
HOMETOWN: Incheon, South Korea  
YEARS AT THE ISCHOOL: Six years, and I’m planning to graduate in December 2019!  
FOCUS OF RESEARCH: Health information seeking behavior among diverse groups of people, including minorities  
FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE ISCHOOL: People are so friendly and always willing to help. I have been truly fortunate to do two of my favorite things simultaneously—work and study—with these wonderful people!

NAME: Xiaofei Wei  
HOMETOWN: Ping Ding Shan, China  
YEARS AT THE ISCHOOL: Three years, since Fall 2016  
FOCUS OF RESEARCH: Users’ interaction with smart-home technologies, especially users’ emotional attachment and intimate relationship with in-home technologies  
FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE ISCHOOL: I really like the view of Lake Mendota from the iSchool library. You can always sit in the library during the summer and cold winter to read, work on your project, and enjoy the view.
Class News and Notes

**Melanie Jones** (MA’19) has accepted the position of Engagement and Reference Librarian at Lakeland University in July 2019.

**Kyle M. L. Jones** (PhD’15) received two Institute for Museum and Library Services grants in support of his research agenda on learning analytics and student privacy in July 2019. These grants complement Dr. Jones’s existing research on student privacy perceptions and expectations related to learning analytics.

**Sara White** (MA’10) is on the Society of American Archivists Diversity Committee and spoke at a Diversity Forum during the ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2018 conference in Washington, DC. Summaries of the presentations by the three speakers appear in the January/February 2019 issue of *Archival Outlook*. Sara spoke about people with temporary and invisible disabilities.

**Anne Rauh** (MA’07), Collection Development and Analysis Librarian and Interim Head of Collections and Research Services at Syracuse University Libraries, has been promoted from associate librarian to librarian, the Libraries’ highest rank.

**Elsworth (Rockefeller) Carman** (MA’06) began working in a new position as the Director of the Iowa City Public Library in January 2019.

**Stacey Erdman** (MA’06) accepted the position of Digital Preservation & Curation Officer at Arizona State University in June 2019.

**Scott Warren** (MA’01), Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship at Syracuse University Libraries, has been promoted from associate librarian to librarian, the Libraries’ highest rank.

**John Jax** (MA’90) accepted the position, after serving in the interim, to be director of Murphy Library at UW–La Crosse in April 2019.

**Sue Salzsieder** (MA’88) was named 2019 Professional of the Year at the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association’s spring conference in April 2019. This award recognizes the outstanding leadership and professionalism of a member who has demonstrated individual excellence in the library, media, or educational technology profession through service to students, teachers, and the community at the K-12 level. Sue began her school library career in Phillips, Wisconsin, and has been employed by the School District of Chilton since 1986 as the elementary and middle school library media specialist.

**Laura Guy** (MA’78) has retired following forty years of work with libraries. Laura worked for twenty years at UW–Madison and another twenty years at the Colorado School of Mines. In retirement, Laura will begin working for Ex Libris, a ProQuest Company, as a support analyst.

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Please consider contributing to the iSchool scholarship, facilities, student travel, or research funds.

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**In Memoriam**

**Gregor Trinkaus-Randall** (MA’80), passed away in August 2019. Gregor was a Preservation Specialist at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners until he retired in 2018.
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