



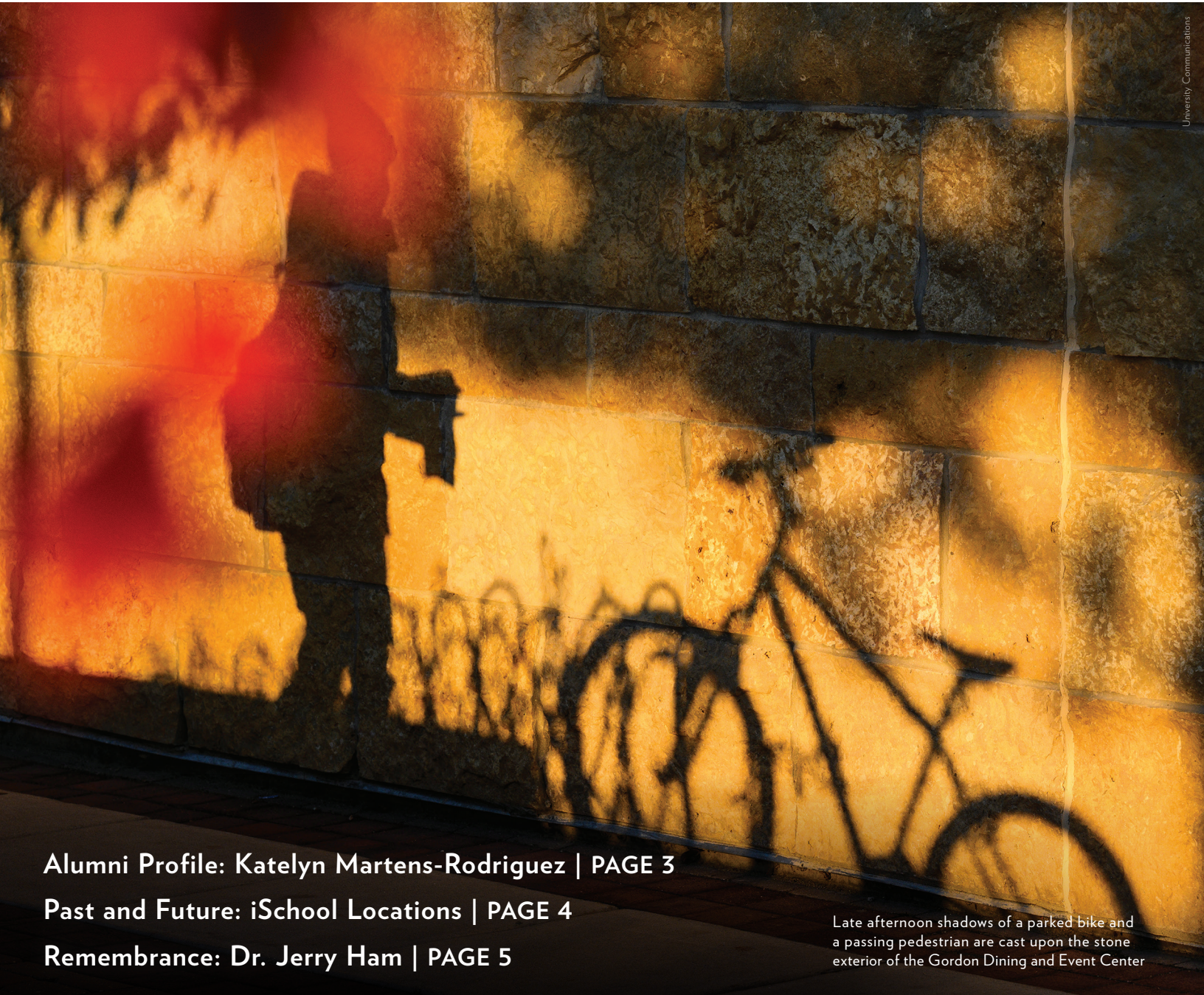
College of Letters & Science
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

INFORMATION SCHOOL

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Jottings

& DIGRESSIONS



University Communications

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Late afternoon shadows of a parked bike and a passing pedestrian are cast upon the stone exterior of the Gordon Dining and Event Center

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iSchool Director Alan Rubel

From the Director's Chair

Dear Friends—I am thrilled to write this note from my office in Helen C. White, having just taught a face-to-face class of 150 (masked, over 90 percent vaccinated) undergraduates and getting ready to meet in person with several colleagues. Although the pandemic continues, infections on campus and in Madison are low. This means that we can interact with students without screens mediating every experience, have impromptu conversations with colleagues, and enjoy many of the things that make UW–Madison and the iSchool vibrant learning communities.

Beyond our move back to campus, there is plenty of good iSchool news. This semester, we welcomed new assistant professors Corey Jackson and Adam Rule and new faculty associate DeAnza Williams. In addition to our on-campus and online MA students, our inaugural class of MS Information students joined us this fall, and we have our largest incoming class of PhD students in recent memory. This growth has created some space constraints, and we are adapting rooms to house faculty, staff, and students. Eventually, as many of you have heard, the iSchool will move to a new building on campus with other School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences departments (see page 4). We would also like to congratulate Allison Kaplan and Teresa Knudson on their retirements this summer. We already miss them dearly!

We hope that you are all well, and that the stresses of navigating the pandemic are manageable. Thank you for all of your continued support for the iSchool!

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New Student Eliza Skenandore Plans to Bring Skills Back to the Oneida Nation

In the Oneida Language, incoming MA student **Eliza Skenandore** introduces herself with “She-kú swakwe-kú! Yutyáshnolats okhale’ Eliza ní- yúkyats!,” which translates to English as “Hello, everyone, my name is Yutyáshnolats and Eliza!”

For over 10 years, Eliza worked for the Oneida Nation Museum, a Tribal heritage institution located in northeastern Wisconsin. Initially, she was a culture interpreter, and then worked in the archives as the historical multimedia specialist. “I loved being surrounded by our culture and language. I really enjoyed helping others learn about who they are and teaching the general public about the Oneida people and our history.” Her work led her to partner with different tribal departments, such as the Oneida Community Library, Oneida Arts Program, and Health Division.

Eliza had been thinking about going back to school for a while. She debated between attending the University of Minnesota–Duluth for a Master of Tribal Administration and Governance degree or joining the iSchool. The iSchool won out because Eliza felt she could help her Nation more with the education and skills gained through UW–Madison. “I love that there is a mix of courses that cover library studies, archives, and museum studies. It’s perfect for my past—and, hopefully, future—work experiences.”



Eliza in her regalia

Dr. Allison Kaplan Retires

After 15 years with the iSchool, **Dr. Allison Kaplan** retired over the summer. She taught classes, advised students, and created a name for herself as the person with all the answers about the school library media program. Similar to many others, she came to librarianship via a circuitous route through work in dance and anthropology. The iSchool is fortunate she eventually found her way to youth services and school libraries.

The two classes she enjoyed teaching most were Cataloging and Children's Literature. In Cataloging, she surprised students by making a topic perceived as dull into a fun and interesting course. Children's Literature, her passion and research area, was a joy to teach because "discussions in that class raised some really thorny issues ... I like pushing boundaries and making students think."

When asked what she'll miss about the iSchool, Kaplan said, "I will miss the people. The students who challenged me and those whom I challenged. I will miss the faculty and staff who supported me over these last 15 years. I will miss sitting in my office and having someone tap on my door saying, 'Do you have a minute to chat?'" Likewise, students and staff will miss her presence in the department and—of course—her puppets!



Allison Kaplan



Katelyn Martens-Rodriguez at the Washington (MN) County Library

Katelyn Martens-Rodriguez Infuses Social Justice into Work as a Children's Librarian

Katelyn Martens-Rodriguez (MA'14) planned to work in school libraries but is now a youth services librarian at the Washington (MN) County Library. "While I loved being a school librarian, I'm glad I made the transition to public libraries. I truly enjoy working with families and focusing on children birth to 12."

Classes with Professor Rebekah Willett and instructor **Omar Poler (MA'10)** resonate in her work. "I continue to admire Rebekah's drive, research, and accomplishments. Omar Poler's voice cannot be understated; he made me think, learn, and grow by emphasizing the needs and priorities of Native communities in the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums class." To continue growing professionally, Katelyn is involved with the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) and was elected to ALSC's Sibert Award Committee.

The principles of equity, inclusion, and social justice were present throughout her iSchool experiences and remain the focus of Katelyn's work today. "I integrate these topics into displays, programming, and services daily. For storytimes, this means finding content from diverse voices, utilizing informational texts, keeping statistics to hold myself accountable, and making sure my patrons see themselves positively represented in the stories I choose to highlight."

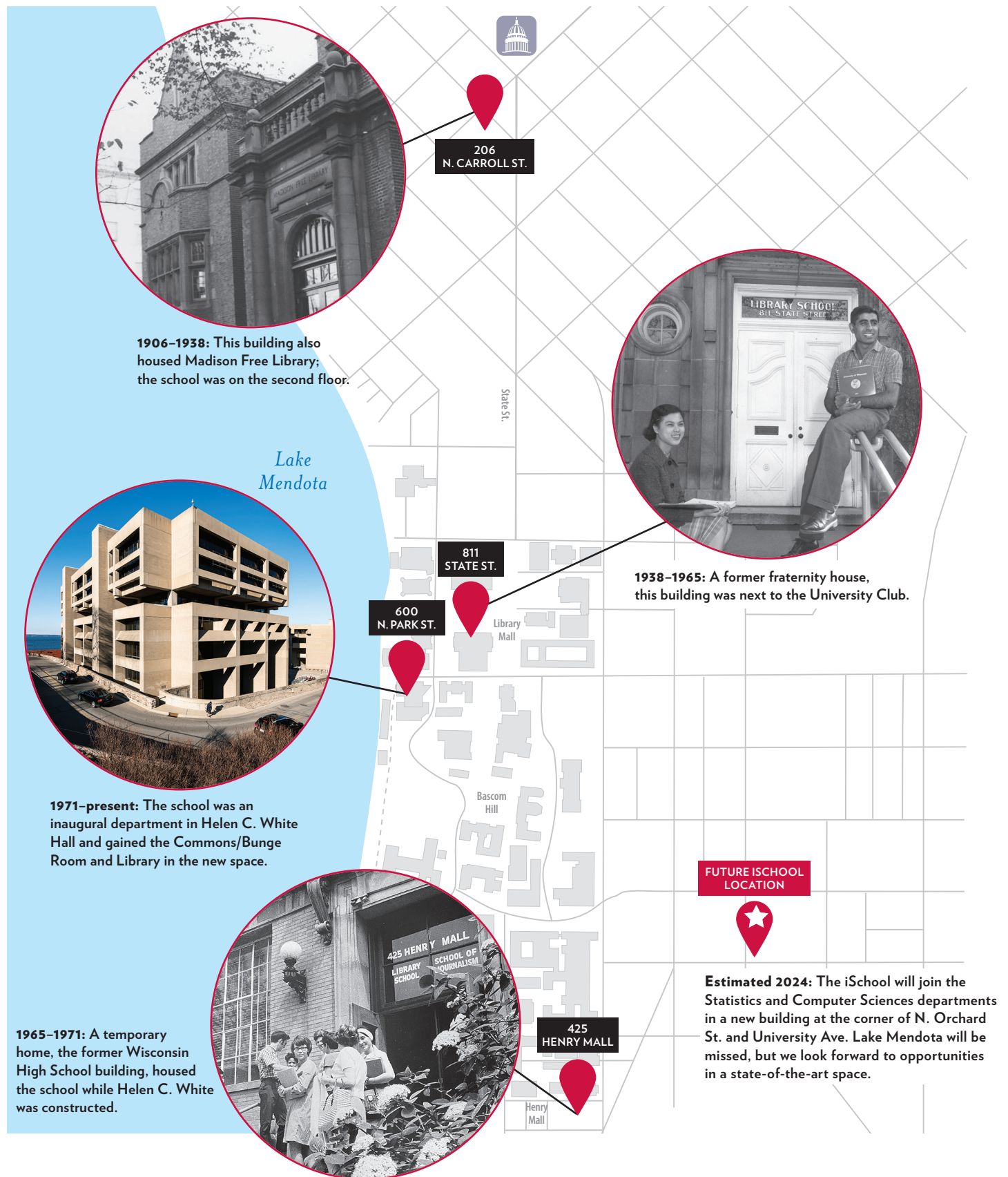


Fall 2022 Jottings is going digital!

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Building Retrospective: iSchool Locations through the Years



Remembrance of Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Ham (1930–2021)



Dr. Gerald “Jerry” Ham, who was instrumental in establishing the archives program in the 1960s, passed away in June. Originally hired by the Wisconsin Historical Society as the state archivist, his arrival in Madison coincided with momentum at the then-named School of Library and Information Studies to provide formal archival training. Dr. Ham’s willingness to teach the very first LIS 734: Modern Archives Administration course with

very little notice; experiment with course timing and format from year to year; and lend his professional knowledge to help the program grow led the archives program to be consistently ranked among the top in the nation.

Throughout the profession, Dr. Ham was one of the most widely recognized leaders in the evolution of archival education. **Dr. Charles Bunge**, former director of the School of Library and Information Studies, remembers Dr. Ham as the “epitome of the effective clinical professor. He brought to his teaching wide and deep knowledge and experience in the best practices and theories of archival work. He also took back to the practicing field insights gained from his scholarship and his interactions with students.” The three foundational courses developed with his direction were adopted as the standard for archives programs across the nation.

Over his 25 years of teaching, Dr. Ham’s students were known as excellent practitioners in the field. Archival training through UW–Madison was, and remains, a respected and appreciated skill set. Many alumni of the archives program rose to regional and national leadership positions and several followed in Dr. Ham’s footsteps by also becoming instructors in archives programs. **Dr. Susan E. Davis (MA’73, PhD’03)** shared, “Jerry continued to influence my career as my professor, my boss, and my long-term mentor. Eventually, I became a full-time archival educator in two MLIS programs and had the opportunity to introduce my students to Jerry’s writings and his strong influence on the course of the archival profession.”

iSchool students today benefit from the foundation Dr. Ham established. Now called Archives in a Digital Age, the program’s sustained partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society provides critical field experiences for students. Camaraderie in the program led to decades of an active student chapter of the Society of American Archivists and the program’s reputation allows the school to attract top students year after year. The iSchool is grateful for the commitment and contributions of Dr. Ham and honors his legacy by continuing to educate archival leaders and innovators at UW–Madison.



Dr. Ham examining papers in preparation of a guide to labor history, 1964.



Dr. Ham, left, with Dr. Walter Peterson of Lawrence University in the State Historical Society’s area research center at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 1965.



Marge Loch-Wouters



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Alumni receive
10% off all professional
development from
the iSchool.

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Power Up Inspires Leaders in Youth Services

The iSchool is proud to host the third Power Up Conference February 28–March 11, 2022. This year’s event will be in a virtual “Power Up Pop-Ups” format, with presentations scattered throughout the two-week time frame. The conference is specifically designed to inspire leadership activities and practices for public and K–12 librarians and library workers. Previous years have drawn attendees at all levels of their careers from libraries throughout the United States. The idea for the conference was first conceived after iSchool alum **Marge Loch-Wouters (MA’76)** taught the highly regarded online continuing education class “How Do You Manage THAT? Issues in Youth Services Management.”

Power Up’s success is largely due to the involvement and support of iSchool alumni who have served as subject matter experts on the Power Up program planning committee. **Katelyn Martens-Rodriguez (MA’14)**, Youth Services Librarian at Washington (MN) County Library, and **Shawn Brommer (MA’95)**, Youth Services and Community Engagement Consultant at the South Central (WI) Library System, are two iSchool alumni who are serving on the 2022 planning committee.



“the conference is a unique and completely immersive experience for youth services librarians who are seeking inspiration, innovation, and connection.” —Shawn Brommer

Brommer says Power Up is one of her favorite professional events because “the conference is a unique and completely immersive experience for youth services librarians who are seeking inspiration, innovation, and connection.”

Brommer adds that every part of Power Up, from attending to presenting to serving on the planning committee, is a rewarding experience that allows her to remain connected to and inspired by the iSchool. “Participants are exposed to creative service concepts that are tailored to youth services librarians excited about discovering and exploring their professional powers and personal leadership skills.”

Power Up will host a keynote, co-presented by Dr. Natalie Martinez and Dr. Jean Mendoza. Dr. Martinez, K’awaika-meh (Laguna Pueblo), has been an educator for 25 years in kindergarten classrooms and university settings alike. She sits on the Pueblo’s Education Priority Team, develops and publishes Indigenous-centric K–12 curricula, and serves as a lecturer at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Mendoza, in collaboration with Dr. Debbie Reese, wrote *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People*, adapted from the original work by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. She is also a co-editor of the blog *American Indians in Children’s Literature*.

The conference program strives to represent voices from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. First-time presenters and individuals early in their careers are encouraged to take part.

Interested in learning more?
Visit: go.wisc.edu/power-up-22

Alumni Updates

Bailey Anderson (MA'20) accepted a position as library director at the Black Earth Public Library.

Eric Willey (MA'12) received tenure and promotion to associate professor at Milner Library, Illinois State University in July 2020.

Cara Evanson's (MA'11) conference presentation with colleague Meggie Lasher at ACRL 2021, "So You Hit a Paywall: Introducing Undergraduates to Information Privilege," was one of the top 10 most popular of the conference.

Shilo (Halfen) Jefferson (MA'99) accepted the position of regional director at Legler Regional Library, Chicago Public Library's third and oldest regional library (Legler celebrated its 100th anniversary last year) in November 2020.

Angela Fritz (MA'96) joined the Wisconsin Historical Society as the new administrator for the Division of Collections.

Lu Chou (MA'90) retired in July 2021. Her first position at the UW as an information processing specialist was with the Data Program and Library Service (DPLS). Over time, Lu became a special librarian and a senior special librarian with DPLS. In 2005, Lu took on the role of data librarian for the Center for Demography of Health and Aging. In 2007, DPLS and the Center for Demography and Ecology Data Library merged and became the Data and Information Services Center (DISC). Lu has been a senior special librarian with DISC since the merger.

Pam (Day) Werre (MA'88) is serving the second year of a two-year term as interim executive director of Library Services at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) in Moorhead, MN. Pam's first position at the MSUM Library was as the public services librarian in 2000. In 2014, she became the Curriculum Materials Center librarian, replacing **Carol Hanson Sibley (MA'78)** when she retired.

Bonnie (Schaupp) Krueger (MA '76) retired after more than 39 years as a reference and cataloging librarian at Owatonna Public Library in Owatonna, MN, where she worked with other UW-Madison iSchool alumni. Previously, she worked as the Bookmobile librarian at Marathon County Public Library.

In Memoriam

Raili "Telle" Zoller (MA'84), the former foreign law librarian at UW-Madison, passed away on June 13, 2021, at the age of 82. Telle was a beloved member of the Law Library family—a lover of the outdoors, flowers, good food, and welcoming people who visited. As her obituary notes, "She became a lifelong friend to many of the students she worked with, especially the international students, as she was a 'mother' away from home for many of them." She retired from the Law School in 2003.



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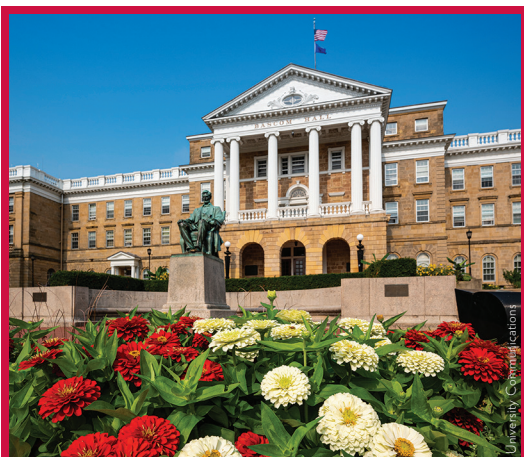


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Research Aims to Give Everyone a Fair Shot at Accessing COVID-19 Vaccines

Mathematical models have helped the U.S. optimize COVID-19 vaccine allocation and delivery to boost vaccination rates. However, these models have not overcome the existing health disparities that stem from unequal access to health care, discrimination, and gaps in education, income, and wealth attainment.

Assistant Professor Corey Jackson is part of a project developing a vaccine fairness recommendation engine that will support equitable decision-making about vaccinations. The results will inform the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and community groups' efforts to address vaccine access and hesitancy, with the ultimate goal of increasing immunization rates.

"Access is not just being within five miles of a vaccination site," says Jackson. "It also means, do you have the ability to take off work to go and get the vaccine? Does the location that's closest to you actually have appointments available? If you speak Spanish at home, is the app for making appointments translatable?"

He is optimistic this work will address the limitations in current vaccine models and validate effective strategies to get resources to people who need them most. "I think we'll have a better idea about what fairness in medical or health decision-making looks like," says Jackson. "My hope is this work will provide useful information for decision-makers moving forward."

The project is supported by the Society for Medical Decision Making through a collaboration with Johns Hopkins University.



Assistant Professor Corey Jackson