



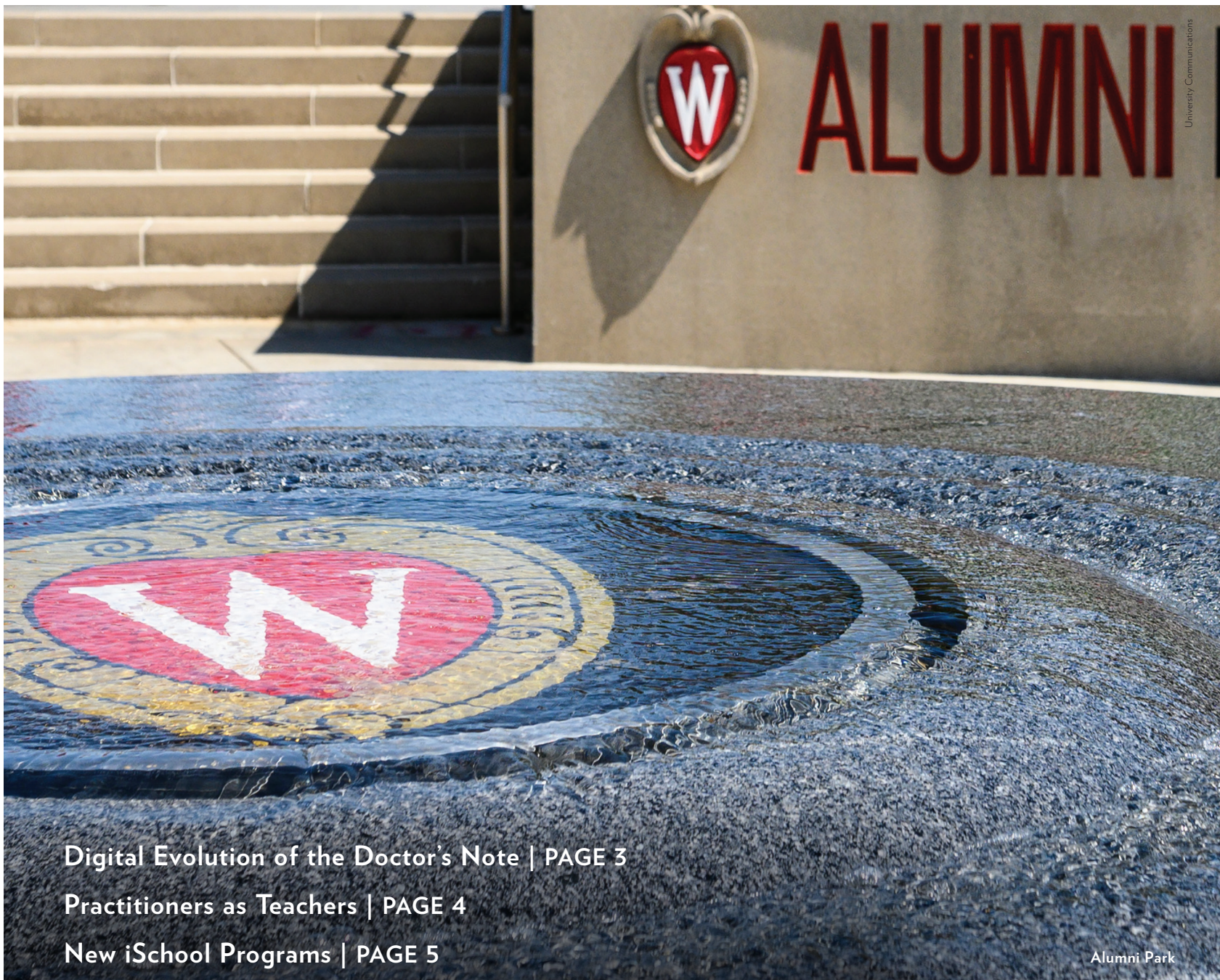
College of Letters & Science
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

INFORMATION SCHOOL

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Jottings

& DIGRESSIONS



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iSchool Director Alan Rubel

From the Director's Chair

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Spring is always welcome in Wisconsin. It's been wonderful this year to get back to teaching in person thanks to the UW's very high vaccination rates and prior masking requirements. Nonetheless, with the Omicron spikes easing and warmer weather coming, spring is particularly welcome this year!

There is lots of other good news, too. We will launch our undergraduate major in Information Science this fall. The iSchool has taught undergraduate courses for a long time, often as part of the undergraduate degree in Data Science. Data Science has grown to become the 11th-largest degree on campus, and the chance to have a full iSchool degree is exciting. The iSchool is also participating in a new online undergraduate degree offered by the College of Letters & Sciences; Professor Ian Hutchins's course Data Revolutions will be one of the first classes offered when the degree begins in fall 2022. Design on the new CDIS building continues. It is encouraging to see the range of learning, collaboration, and research spaces take shape, and to imagine the wealth of opportunities it will create for our students.

In staff news, we welcomed Lisa Wyeth Woerpel, who joined us as a curricular representative this semester to provide much-needed help as our enrollments expand. iSchool Librarian and Instructional Services Manager Alison Caffrey accepted a position as instructional designer with the L&S Instructional Design Collaborative. We'll miss having her on the floor, but we look forward to working with her in instructional design!

I hope that this spring is as exciting and as welcome for you as it is for us. Thank you for your continued support!

With gratitude, Alan Rubel

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ALA-Student Chapter Offers Networking and Support for Students

Most iSchool students and alumni have heard of the American Library Association (ALA)—the largest (and oldest) organization behind libraries and librarianship in the world. But what about the student chapter right here on campus? UW-Madison's ALA-Student Chapter is a long-standing iSchool student organization and, despite the remote courses and distancing required by the pandemic, the tradition is going strong. Currently, the group is headed up by **Molly Anderson (MA'22)** and **Monika Hetzler (MA'22)**, who serve as co-presidents. "The goal of our organization is to allow LIS students at UW-Madison the opportunity to engage in leadership, networking, and professional development activities right here in Madison," said Anderson.

Career events and student gatherings are great for exploring LIS opportunities, but they also offer another major benefit: support. "I really think the support system and community that the organization helps to build is the most important thing about ALA-SC," Anderson added. "Going through grad school is a really challenging time for many people, so it's essential to find people who share your experience."

Assistant Professor Adam Rule Studies the Digital Evolution of the Doctor's Note

The advent of electronic medical records has transformed both how doctors' notes are recorded and, more broadly, the field of medical informatics. While records were handwritten in the past, today doctors might cut and paste text, utilize auto-populate tools, or implement templates to create boilerplate text. While these changes have a long list of benefits—notes are legible, portable, and shareable—the field is evolving, and challenges have emerged along the way.

Adam Rule, a new assistant professor, studies the ways medical and clinical staff use electronic records to document patient care. One focus is on how moving notes to an electronic format has created a bias toward what is known as “structured data”—the segmenting of information into a specific format, rather than a cohesive narrative.

“Things that might have been written in a narrative form in a note now get scattered a little bit across forms with separate areas for medications and labs,” explained Rule. “Being able to synthesize that information becomes a challenge due to that structuring.”

The doctor's note is used for a long list of things: it's a memory aid for future visits. It's shared with other providers and used for regulation and billing. Given those multiple purposes, it is important to understand how notes are created and used.

“At the beginning, the doctor's note is a very human document,” continued Rule. “It's documenting what the physician observed—how they're thinking about the case, details about the diagnosis, and what they want to do next. Moving to some of these new documentation aids, there was a concern: will you lose some of that narrative? Will it get buried underneath a bunch of stuff that's just automatically imported?”

Before coming to UW–Madison, Rule worked at Oregon Health and Science University, where he researched a decade's worth of medical notes, encountering a phenomenon that's come to be known as “note bloat.” Rule's research team found that notes got 60 percent longer over the decade, and they also became increasingly redundant through repeated cut-and-pasting. More than 50 percent of the note text was contributed by templates that pulled in boilerplate language and lab values, whereas less than a quarter came from a physician or other staff typing it in.

To Rule, the real power of the doctor's note is its ability to tell stories with data and combine the patient narrative with data-driven decision-making tools. As data analysts develop tools that allow them to pair text blocks with code that can analyze data and generate graphs, the potential exists to make note templates even more powerful—and useful.

In the future, instead of piling up auto-generated text blocks, notes could generate graphs that track, for instance, a patient's blood pressure or kidney function over time, creating a visual aid that both patients and doctors could quickly grasp. “I think that there's a lot of opportunity for these kinds of new writing tools to get more interactive,” said Rule.

In addition to teaching iSchool MS Information degree courses, Rule has begun collaborating with UW Health system physicians, examining how efforts like a push to standardize note templates across UW Health impact how physicians use electronic medical records. He also hopes to partner with Madison's Epic Systems to study how tools like note templates are used at health systems across the country.



Adam Rule



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Practitioners as Teachers: Meet Three iSchool Instructors Who Share Their Professional Expertise with Students



KELSEY JOHNSON-KAISER

Day-to-day, **Kelsey Johnson-Kaiser (MA'13)** is the youth & family services manager at St. Paul Public Library. Her interest in teaching was piqued when she was asked to teach a course that expanded on topics from a conference presentation. “I’ve had excellent mentors and opportunities to learn and grow, and don’t want to keep those opportunities to myself,” she said. Her favorite part of being an instructor? Interacting with people from many different libraries and gaining perspective on the joys and challenges of librarianship along the way. “I used to worry that if I didn’t have the answers or best ideas, it meant that I wasn’t doing a good job,” she said. “I’ve since learned that listening, asking questions, and staying curious are hallmarks of a supportive leader.”

Kelsey Johnson-Kaiser teaches Programming with Purpose, a four-week continuing education course.



JACOB INEICHEN

Jacob Ineichen’s (MA'14) library career path boils down to networking and trying things out. While attending the iSchool, he tried all the avenues—archives, cataloging, digital tools, TLAM, book history and print culture—and eventually became “the website guy” at the outreach office in the School of Education. When he went to work at Madison Public Library to build websites and digital tools, he maintained connections with the iSchool and eventually began teaching. His advice for students should come as no surprise: try new and different things so as to not get used to the idea that librarians do only one set of tasks. He continued, “Librarianship as a field is varied and vast and full of so many different types of experiences.”

Jacob Ineichen most recently taught the master’s level course Web Development.



ANNA SIMON

Things clicked for **Anna Simon** when she discovered that art librarianship was a career. She’d always loved libraries, museums, and art, so when she found this career path, she jumped in. Her first step was becoming an art history and library science graduate student at Indiana University Bloomington. When she interviewed for her current Kohler Art Library position, teaching art librarianship was an appealing part of the job. She enjoys seeing students’ enthusiasm and sharing experiences with them. She also likes “having an opportunity to critically re-engage with essential components of the work, which a day-to-day job doesn’t easily permit.”

Anna Simon teaches the master’s level course Art Librarianship.

iSchool Programs Update: Expanding and Connecting

Compared to only several years ago, the suite of iSchool programs looks much different! It is exciting to attract new audiences to the school while maintaining the long-standing MA program and continuing education opportunities for library and information professionals.

Continuing Education

For decades, the iSchool has offered professional development opportunities for librarians, archivists, and other information professionals. Online instructor-led courses, as well as self-paced tutorials, are affordable, convenient options. On-campus conferences, live virtual trainings, and webinars occur throughout the year. Many of the offerings are taught by our valued alumni. Also, alumni can always use the code iSchool10 to get 10 percent off!

Bachelor of Science—Information

This will be the department's very first undergraduate program! The iSchool plans to welcome undergraduate students in fall 2022. Undergraduate courses provide more teaching assistant opportunities for master's and PhD students, as well as introduce new college students to the library and information professions. The Information Science (iSci) major provides students with the opportunity to learn concepts and examine issues at the nexus of people, data, information, and computing. The degree further builds the pipeline to all of the iSchool's academic programs. Undergraduate iSci majors will be introduced to the master's and PhD programs and encouraged to continue their academic career with the iSchool.

Capstone Certificates

The iSchool offers two professional capstone certificates aimed at working adults who seek to advance their careers without the commitment of a full master's degree. Certificates in User Experience Design (UX) or Analytics for Decision Making may be completed online and within one calendar year. Both certificates include iSchool courses, as well as offerings from other campus partners.

Master of Arts—Library and Information Studies

The foundational degree at the iSchool is going strong. Recently, the online MA option has expanded its capacity to meet student expectations and offer increased flexibility. However, there remains a strong on-campus cohort that supports an active student presence in the iSchool Library and on the 4th floor of Helen C. White Hall. Students have a wide variety of new course options such as Human Factors in Information Security taught by distinguished teaching faculty III **Dorothea Salo (MA'05)**, Web Development taught by **Jacob Ineichen (MA'14)**, and Power Searching co-taught by **Professor Catherine Arnott Smith**, **Christopher Hooper-Lane (MA'93)**, and **Lia Vellardita (MA'07)**.

Master of Science—Information

The first MS—Information cohort started in fall 2021. Online and on-campus students may focus on User Experience Design/Interaction Design, Analytics for Decision Making, or Information/Data Management. Many students are international and intersect with MA students in elective courses such as Code and Power or Information Ethics. Graduates expect to work in roles as data analysts or user experience researchers.

PhD

In the past, the iSchool typically added two or three PhD students each year based on faculty and funding capacity. The recent expansion of department faculty allowed for the addition of 10 PhD students this academic year. It is wonderful to see so many new faces around the department. The diversity of interest areas in this year's cohort, as well as future incoming PhD students, will expand the reach of the department's scholarship. The expansion is anticipated to provide new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and grant funding.



Faculty and Staff Updates

Kyung-Sun Kim, professor, published “Use and evaluation of information from social media: A longitudinal cohort study” in *Library and Information Science Research* and presented “Social media use: Implications for information literacy training” at Libraries in the Digital Age.

Chaoqun Ni, assistant professor, published an article “The gendered nature of authorship” in *Science Advances* and received NSF funding to study the faculty mobility and retention at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Both the article and project center on issues related to the diversity, equity, and inclusion in the scientific workforce.

Adam Rule, assistant professor, published an analysis of millions of electronic doctors’ notes written between 2009–2018 in *JAMIA*, a leading journal in medical informatics (see page 3 for details). Two papers describing the impact of medical scribes on clinical documentation were nominated for Best Paper awards at leading conferences on medical informatics, AMIA and MedInfo.

Dorothea Salo, distinguished teaching faculty III, published “Physical-equivalent privacy” in *Serials Librarian*. With the Data Doubles team, she placed “Questions of trust: A survey of student expectations and perspectives on library learning analytics” in *Library Quarterly* (to appear this year). She also presented “Single sign-on, the library, and patron privacy” at the Digital Library Federation’s annual forum.

Debra Shapiro, instructor and coordinator of the online MA degree, was a lead planner for the online students’ Virtual Bootcamp in 2021. Virtual orientation materials are gathered in an online course that students can access throughout their first year. Bootcamp went virtual by necessity in 2020 and was so successful in the online format that it will be online again for 2022’s new class of online students.

Catherine Arnott Smith, professor, is collaborating with researchers at the American Family Children’s Hospital on a study funded by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: “Getting on the Same Page: Leveraging an Inpatient Portal to Engage Families of Hospitalized Children.” Smith continues to investigate medical misinformation, an unfortunately timely topic. Her article “Factors influencing willingness to share health misinformation videos on the internet” was published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research* in December.

Rebekah Willett, professor, published three articles in 2021: 1) “‘In our family, we don’t watch those things’: Parents’ discursive constructions of decision-making connected with family media practices” in the *Journal of Family Studies*, 2) “Maintaining family stability in the age of digital technologies: an analysis of d/Discourse informing domestic screen media practices in three U.S. families” in *Children & Society* with Nate Wheeler, and 3) “Navigating children’s use of screen media: an analysis of guidance information provided on public library websites” in *Library Quarterly* with Eric Ely (iSchool PhD student), June Abbas, and Denise Agosto.

DeAnza Williams, teaching faculty II, joined the iSchool in fall 2021. Williams gave a lecture for the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Library and Information Studies Voices for Information Equity series. She served on the YALSA Research Committee and co-authored the “Research Roundup: Race(ism)” column with Lori Lieberman and Erica Ruscio published in *Young Adult Library Services*. She co-presented “Go back and get it: A Sankofa journey to the PhD in library and information science” at the 11th National Conference of African American Librarians.

Lisa Wyeth Woerpel, iSchool curricular representative, started her time with the iSchool on December 6, 2021, and she’s delighted to be part of such a wonderful organization. Thanks to everyone!

Alumni Updates

Krista (Ellis) Clumpner (BA'80, MA'81) retired at the end of December 2021 after more than 30 years at Northern Michigan University's Olson Library. While at NMU she held the positions of head of technical services and systems before becoming the head of collections and metadata. Prior to working at NMU she held positions at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City), and Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library.

Tom Tews (MA'90) retired from his position as geography librarian at UW-Madison.

Nate Pedersen (MA'05) accepted a new position as the manager of archival and reference team at Georgia Historical Society in Savannah. After a multi-year, \$5 million renovation project, the research library reopened to the public in January 2022.

Darcy Gervasio (MA'10) has taken on the role of interim manager of the library at SUNY Purchase College Library in Purchase, New York, starting in December 2021 and going through at least July 2022. She began as a reference and instruction librarian at SUNY Purchase in 2010 and was promoted to reference coordinator in 2015 and earned tenure in 2016. She's very excited to have grown into this leadership role and to lead Purchase College Library through a transitional period.



John Thompson (MA'87) was named Librarian of the Year by the Wisconsin Library Association in November 2021. He is currently the director of the Inspiring & Facilitating Library Success (IFLS) Library System based in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

In Memoriam

James (Jim) Staskowski, Jr. (MA '07) passed away in July 2021. Upon graduating from the iSchool, Jim left his job at Madison Public Library and moved to South Carolina where he was a librarian for the Richland County Library System for several years. In 2018, he became the manager of Richland Library-Sandhills and assisted in the library's move into the newly built joint-use facility with the Richland Two Innovation Institute (R2i2) High School Program. He was posthumously recognized by the Richland County Council for his contributions to Sandhills with a proclamation in his honor. He is survived by his life partner, Brenda Gardner.



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