MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

A New Perspective for the SLIS
Leslie B. Sims, Dean, Graduate College

The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) was recently transferred administratively to the Graduate College, joining other programs that award only graduate degrees. This change was recommended in the review of SLIS that was conducted by the College of Liberal Arts and the Graduate College during the past year. The review was designed to carefully consider the future of the School during a time of enormous change in technology and information science and of opportunity occasioned by the retirement or resignation of several SLIS faculty. The excellent review report suggests other changes and emphasizes new areas of opportunity as well as needs of graduates of the School. It also recommends further revision of the curriculum; increased interdisciplinary interaction with other departments and programs across the University; and a more central role in the the broad area of information science at the University of Iowa. My enthusiasm for the opportunity to work with the School stems as well from the commitment of the Provost to rebuilding the School and to promoting new initiatives in information science/technology/informatics as an area of strength at Iowa.

I believe we are off to a good start in restoring the pre-review status of the School. We have hired two new faculty, which will allow us to restore normal admissions. A full faculty will also allow revision of the proposal for a new Master of Science in Information Science degree. We will also initiate discussions with the Colleges of Education, Business, Liberal Arts, and the Health Sciences about common interests and strategic goals and ways to encourage interaction of faculty and mutual pursuit of shared research interests. We are fortunate that FY00 funds will allow us to meet some strategic equipment needs of the School. The FY01 budget will probably limit some University initiatives, but is not expected to seriously affect the commitment to restore the SLIS faculty to full strength and to strengthen the School and its programs.

It is, therefore, with considerable optimism that I begin my work with the School’s faculty, students, staff, and advisory board toward the immediate goal of restoring the School to its pre-review status and the long term goal of improving the quality and centrality of the School of Library and Information Science.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Message from Padmini Srinivasan

This has certainly been a momentous year for the School. I am pleased to report that the recent review of the School conducted by the University has concluded very successfully.

Despite some stressful moments for the School’s community, the review’s final results are strongly supportive and create many opportunities for our future. On behalf of the School, our students, staff and faculty, I thank all of you for your loyal support and your recognition of the key contributions of the School to UI academics, the State of Iowa and the LIS professions.

One excellent outcome of the review has been a change in the administrative location of the School. SLIS has been moved from the College of Liberal Arts to the Graduate College. This is a good move, since our academic and professional goals are synchronous with those of the Graduate College. As the accompanying article shows, Dean Sims views the future of the School in a strong light. We look forward to collaboratively strengthening our existing MA program, while simultaneously increasing our emphasis in related areas such as Information science.

Another significant outcome of the review is that we were authorized to recruit and fill our open faculty positions. I am delighted to announce that Dr. Christine Pawley will be joining us as a faculty member in the fall. Dr. Pawley has her Ph.D. in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her interests include the history and sociology of reading, the social and cultural uses of information, and the defining of our profession’s core values.

I am also delighted to announce that Dr. James Elmberg has accepted our offer of a faculty position. With a Ph.D. in English and a Master’s in Library and Information Science, Dr. Elmberg combines extensive teaching experience with expertise in reference and instructional services. He incorporates information technology into the learning process at all levels.

We bid farewell to Dr. Shay Baker, who has resigned, effective at the end of the spring semester, after thirteen years of contributions to the School. A farewell reception was held May 5. We wish her the very best in her future. We also express our thanks to Dr. Casan McCarthy and Dr. Feili Tu, who gave us faithful service as visiting professors.

The School has already benefitted greatly from its Advisory Panel, which was established barely a year ago. The eighteen enthusiastic members were not only very supportive during the review process, but they have given us some innovative ideas for the future. We believe that we have established a strong

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FACULTY NOTES

Sharon (Shay) Baker, associate professor, resigned in May to return to Ohio, where she will set up a non-profit organization aimed at building strong ties between libraries and the visual arts community. The following year she will begin work on a Master of Fine Arts degree at Ohio State University. She will speak at the Canadian Library Association conference in June on collection development in the fine arts and promotion of these materials. She will issue a research report this fall on the extent to which Friends of Libraries groups can make money over the Internet or by selling excess donations and other reasonable titles to libraries trying to stretch their book budgets. For a copy of the report when available, contact her at sharon-baker@uiowa.edu.

Jean Donham, associate professor, was guest editor of the October 1999 issue of Teacher Librarian, on the theme “Building Partnerships for Learning.” In November she presented a pre-conference session with Violet Harada at the American Association of School Librarians conference in Birmingham, AL, entitled “Lessons Worth Learning.” Other activities: teaching an information literacy course for Heartland AEA, serving on an external review panel for the ALA Committee on Accreditation, and presenting a paper (with Feili Tu) on laptop computers and inquiry at the International Conference on Learning with Technology at Temple University. She is on leave during the year 2000, serving as college librarian at Cornell College, Mt. Vernon.

David Eichmann was promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective in August.

Cavan McCarthy, visiting assistant professor, had a busy year developing and teaching seven different courses. He also prepared research proposals on library services to immigrants and to homeschoolers. He previously taught in Kuwait and Brazil.

Padmini Srinivasan, associate professor, will step down as director at the end of the summer. She has held this post for four years. She recently won a two-year research grant from the National Institutes of Health to design methods to improve searching on medical databases. Her study will focus on the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), a meta-thesaurus with about 1.5 million words and phrases that was built by combining more than fifty healthcare-related vocabularies. The project, titled “The UMLS for Text Retrieval - A Rough Set Approach,” will allow exploration of various term selection strategies derived from the mathematical theory of rough sets.

Feili Tu, visiting assistant professor, presented her research on popular literature about eating disorders at a national conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her article on this research will appear in a forthcoming issue of Public Library Quarterly. In October she and Nancy Zimmerman will present a paper surveying health disclaimers and caveats in Internet consumer health information on eating disorders at a symposium on the Ethics of Electronic Information in the 21st Century. Last March she and Jean Donham presented a paper on laptop computers and inquiry at the International Conference on Learning with Technology, in Philadelphia, PA.

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foundation to support a fruitful collaboration, in such areas as mentoring and distance education. Members of the panel are listed on page 5.

I also take this opportunity to say goodbye to all of you as director of SLIS. My (extended) term ends this summer, after which I return to my “normal” responsibilities at SLIS as professor. It has certainly been quite an experience — I might even say perhaps all valuable, in the long run.

A new director will be selected in the coming months to fill this leadership position.

With the new faculty and some thirty new students expected to join us in the summer and fall, we can look forward to exciting times ahead.

To close, I’d like to once again thank you for your support and also wish you success in your sphere of life.

Padmini Srinivasan

A Surprise for Ethel

When SLIS director Padmini Srinivasan asked assistant to the director Ethel Bloesch if she would help her “work on the bylaws” on February 23, Bloesch had no idea that the real object of Dr. Srinivasan’s request involved something other than onerous paperwork. To Bloesch’s astonishment, she was instead escorted to a surprise party hosted by the students to honor her for 30 years of dedicated service to the School. (She is pictured above, second from right.) Students, faculty, staff, and alumni were present to celebrate this milestone in Bloesch’s career at the School of Library and Information Science.

Surprising Ethel was no small feat, since she keeps her finger on the pulse of the School. For the past three decades, she has been an advisor, mentor, and teacher in addition to handling the myriad details related to the daily functions of the department, from meeting prospective students to editing this newsletter.

—Submitted by Bill Musser
ALUMNA PROFILE

Christie Brendau (SLIS class of 1998) began her duties as the State Librarian of Michigan on March 6. We asked her to reflect and to look ahead.

Congratulations on your appointment as State Librarian of Michigan. As you look back on your library journey, what convinced you that this was the right career for you?

If one can stumble into librarianship, I guess I did! My husband was doing a three-year hitch with the military and we were living in Germany. The jobs for American army wives were few and far between, but there was an opening for a library assistant at the Special Services Library, I applied and instantly loved it! Although at one point in my life I contemplated attending law school, I’ve never regretted becoming a librarian and I believe it is one of the most interesting and personally rewarding careers available.

You spent over fifteen years in public and regional library work. What did these experiences teach you?

There are few things as challenging and gratifying as working in a public library. The work is so varied and there is so much satisfaction in helping people find the information they need. Regional work was similar to public library work but on a different level: helping libraries serve their customers by giving them the tools, education, and information they need.

My basic philosophy about the importance of excellent customer service was formed during my years in the public and regional libraries. And I believe that hand-in-hand with excellent customer service are well-trained staff and adequate resources for the library.

In your nine years as Assistant State Librarian of Iowa, how did the statewide library scene change?

At the time I became Assistant State Librarian in 1991, locally controlled and affordable statewide resource sharing was yet to be a reality. At that time we were very proud of the Iowa Locators CD-ROM, a monumental step up from the former teletype system used to locate materials! But with the development of the Web, leadership from the state and regional library, and a $2.5 million dollar federal grant, SILO—the state-of-the-art online system of resource sharing—came into being. When the SILO system was still in design, we deliberately chose to concentrate on the system and content, trusting that the library community would step up to the plate and find the funds to connect to the Internet. And they did—the number of libraries with Internet connections skyrocketed after 1995 when the project began.

Your leadership skills were recognized early—one year after completing your master’s degree you were elected to the presidency of the Iowa Library Association. What were some of the highlights of this experience?

That was a whirlwind time for me both personally and professionally, but I was pleased to be able to give back to our association through my service. I am a firm believer in the value of being active in a professional organization and I have benefited both personally and professionally by my association. I completed library school by attending SLIS for four summers, which meant leaving home and family and moving to Iowa City. Financial resources for our family were tight, and I was concerned about the cost of maintaining a second residence for the summer. This was on my mind at an ILA leadership gathering at Springbrook State Park when I sat next to a lovely lady named Esther Bierbaum (former professor at SLIS). As a result of our meeting, she offered to let me house sit her apartment as she traveled to Florida each summer. As she told me at the time, “Even if I don’t know you, I can trust you. You’re a member of ILA!” I will be forever grateful to Esther for her help.

What do you see as the challenges and opportunities of your new position in Michigan?

Although this is changing, there is not a long history of cooperation within the library community in Michigan. I strongly believe that libraries working together and speaking with one voice ultimately results in better library service. Last fall, a Library of Michigan conference brought libraries of all types together to consider the future and discuss issues; the result of that conference is new partnerships being formed and new ideas being entertained. It is a wonderful time to come in as State Librarian!

Is it true that the handsome new Michigan Library and Historical Center is built around a Michigan white pine tree?

Yes, and it is beautiful! Surrounding the tree is the Great Lakes pool, believed to be the world’s largest fused glass sculpture. The entire complex is constructed of native Michigan materials and opened about ten years ago. The building is the pride of the state, and we entertain thousands of visitors each year. During the school year it is not unusual for 15-20 bus loads of children to daily visit and tour the building and the museum.

What will you remember most about Iowa?

All the friends I have made both personally and in the library community! It was very difficult to leave. But as one friend pointed out, I haven’t lost those friendships! And I look forward to making new friendships here in Michigan.

ALUMNI NOTES

1970
CLAUDETTE HAGLE was presented with the Lois Bebout Award by the Texas Library Association Reference Round Table at the TLA 1999 Annual Conference. This award is given by RRT to recognize outstanding lifetime achievement in reference and public services. Claudette retired from the University of Dallas in August 1997, where she was coordinator of information resources and services.

1973
JULIA WENTZ is now associate director of the Loyola University Chicago Law Library.

1974
TERRY WALLACE CASRAISS retired September 3, 1999 after 30 years of service to the Library of Congress. She was the team leader of the Education, Sports, and Recreation Team in the Social Sciences Cataloging Division at the time of her retirement.

1979
BARBARA SHANNON JOLLEY is circulation supervisor at the Kansas City (KS) Public Library, Main Branch.
KAREN SHOSTRUM LEHMANN has been appointed information literacy librarian at Warburg College, Waverly.

1980
JAN IRVING is now youth services supervisor at the Pueblo City-County Library District in Pueblo, CO. She began there April 17.

1981
MARY NASH is completing her term as president of the Nebraska Library Association.

1985
RHONDA GREEN is engineering librarian at the Cessna Aircraft Company, Wichita, KS.
DEE ANN LANTZ is the library media specialist at Fairfield Middle School, Fairfield.
KATE RATTENBORG is distance learning instruction librarian at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

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1987
THOMAS PETERS, formerly dean of libraries at Western Illinois University, began his new position as director of the Center for Library Initiatives of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, headquartered at the University of Illinois. His latest book, Computerized Monitoring and On-line Privacy, was published last year by McFarland Press.

1990
DONNA ANDREWS is head of extension services, Aurora (IL) Public Library.
ALISON AMES GALSTAD is now director of the Corvalis Public Library.
LAURA SQUIER KIRKLAND is a cataloging librarian at Stetson University, Deland, FL.

1991
REBECCA DONLAN is now manager of technical services, Lee County Library System, Fort Myers, FL.
KATHY THOMAS is a librarian at the Thousand Oaks (CA) Library.

1992
STEVE SHORB is university librarian at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

1993
ALI TURNER, youth services librarian at the Hennepin (MN) County Library, was project manager for a program that was named one of five top winners in YALSA's Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults. The award will be presented at the ALA conference in Chicago this summer.

1994
LINDSAY NICHOL GRETZ is systems analyst, Butler University, Indianapolis, IN.
RUTHANN HEIDGERKEN is now head of children's services, Dundee Township Public Library District, Dundee, IL.
MARY NEFF is librarian for the Night Owl Reference Service, Arlington Heights, IL.
PAUL NEFF is systems architect, security and regulation for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.
LISA RUSSELL is government documents reference and electronic services librarian, University of Maryland, College Park.

1995
SARAH HERLACHE is reference librarian, Glendale (AZ) Public Library, Pothills Branch.
RODGER KELLY is media services and technology training coordinator for the Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, MN.

1996
STEPHANIE BENTS is a librarian at the Omaha (NE) Public Library.
TIMOTHY GATTI was appointed head of database maintenance, processing and bindery at the University at Albany, SUNY.
LYNN HOFFMAN is assistant manager of children's services for the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN.
PAM SUKALSKY is now distance learning/reference librarian, Southwest State University, Marshall, MN.
SARAH SWANER is reference and research librarian, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI.

1997
MINDWELL EGGLEND is head of the Patients' Library at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.
FRANK PROTESTAD is the periodicals librarian at Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby, IL.
JULIE LYNCH is general collections librarian for The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL.
JOAN RUELLE is now coordinator of user services, Science & Engineering Libraries, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.
KAREN VAN DRIE was named the first-ever recipient of the Dunn & Bradstreet Public Librarian Support Award, to be presented at the summer ALA conference by the Business Reference and Services Section of the Reference and User Services Association, a division of ALA.
LI WANG has been appointed curator of the East Asian Collection at Brown University, Providence, RI.
Distance education plan is announced

The School now offers a statewide distance delivery plan, leading to the M.A. degree. Courses are delivered to classrooms around the state over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). The ICN, an advanced fiber optics telecommunications network, provides for interactive video and audio communication at all participating sites. The delivery of synchronous class sessions is augmented by web-based resources for each course, which students can access at their own pace.

Up to 28 hours of the 36-hour program can be earned in courses over the ICN. The remaining 8 hours are taken on campus in one-, two-, or three-week courses offered each summer. Thus, the program can be completed in three years by taking 4.5 hours each semester, and 2-3 hours each summer.

The Foundations course is offered each summer in a two-week format. The four other required courses are delivered over the ICN on a rotating basis, along with nonrepeating electives over a three-year cycle. The courses to be offered this fall are Strategic Management, Personnel Management, College and University Libraries, and Resources for Children.

Individual courses can be taken for continuing education. Those planning to get a degree, however, should apply for admission to the M.A. program.

For more information, check the Distance Education link on the School's website
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~libsci>
or contact ethel-bloesch@uiowa.edu.

ADVISORY PANEL

Organized just last fall, the new SLIS Advisory Panel has already met four times and has quickly found an effective voice, providing both support and ideas for the direction of the School.

Members of the panel are: Mia Beesley, elementary school media specialist, North Scott Community School District; Carol A. Berger, president of C. Berger Group, Inc., Carol Stream, IL; John Burgart, director of curriculum and instruction services, Dubuque Community School District; Carol Hughes, former head of information, research & instructional services, University of Iowa Libraries; Julie Huiskamp, coordinator of learning resources, Northeast Iowa Community College, Calmar; Andy Larson, executive director of market relations, Follett Software Corporation, McHenry, IL; Judy Leavitt, manager of the Cedar Rapids Information Center, Rockwell Collins; Christopher McKee, librarian of the college, Grinnell College; John Pollitz, director of O'Keefe Library, St. Ambrose University, Davenport; Kerri Potter, social studies teacher, West High School, Iowa City; Kay Runge, director, Davenport Public Library; Jerry Schnabel, director of media services, Northern Trails AEA, Clear Lake; Jean Schweger, elementary school media specialist, Cedar Rapids; Dana Smith, manager, information resources group, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston; Sharman Smith, state librarian of Iowa; Helen Spalding, associate director of libraries, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Betsy Thompson, director, Sioux City Public Library; and Mary Wegner, director of the health sciences library, Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines.

Mentor program

The School is planning to revive and restructure its mentoring program, which links students with professionals. A document is being prepared that defines the mentor concept and outlines the role of the mentor and the expectations for the student. The emphasis will be on customizing the program to the needs of each participating student, identifying a mentor both in the subject area of interest and in the locale in which the student plans to live. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or learning more about the program, please contact ethel-bloesch@uiowa.edu.

Looking Ahead

Archival Theory and Practice for Non-Archivists
July 17-21
A one-week credit workshop, covering basic elements of archival practice. Instructor: Dale Mayer

Information Literacy
July 24-28
A one-week credit workshop, applying instructional design principles to develop information literacy instruction. Instructor: June Gross

32nd Annual Festival of Books for Young People
Saturday, November 4
Theme: Imagine That!
Speakers: Amy Hest, Nikki Grimes, Will Hobbs
For more information, call Ethel Bloesch toll-free at 1-800-553-IOWA, Ext. 5709, or send request to ethel-bloesch@uiowa.edu.

Student wins award

Jacqueline Samples was named winner of the 2000 Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship, awarded by the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG). In addition to a trip to this summer's conference in San Diego, Jacqueline will receive a scholarship for $2500. Another SLIS student, Mary Iver, received a Student Grant to attend the conference.

Students are selling shirts

Now you can wear a T-shirt or sweatshirt that identifies you as a SLIS supporter. The student organization is selling these items, available in September: T-shirts ($12 + postage) and sweatshirts ($22 + postage). The design is shown at left. For an order form, contact Jenni Olson <jenni-holson@uiowa.edu>.

IOWA

School of Library and Information Science
Appointments of 1999 graduates

JOAN ALLEN: branch manager (Morningside), Sioux City Public Library.

LAURA APPelman: library media specialist, Wilkins Elementary School, Imn-Mar District, Marion.

WILLIAM BOATMAN: reference librarian, Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City.

JIE CAI: library assistant, Central Processing Services, University of Iowa Libraries.

ANDREA CLINKENBEARD: information consultant, Euroliterature, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway.

PATRICK DEMING: software developer IV, National Computer Systems, Iowa City.

PATRICK FINNEY: director, Washington (IA) Public Library.

REBECCA FORD: instruction and reference librarian, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

DANIEL GOLDSTEIN: humanities/social sciences reference librarian, University of California, Davis.


JOHN HELDT: government information specialist, Montana State Library, Helena.

SUSAN HENRICKS: consultant, Southeastern Library Services, Davenport.

KATHRYN HODSON: library assistant III, Special Collections, University of Iowa Libraries.

CYNTHIA HOOGEHEM: assistant dean of library resources, Clinton Community College, Clinton.

NATASHA KAHN: branch librarian, Fresno County (CA) Public Library.

TRICIA KANE: young adult/outreach librarian, Rock Island (IL) Public Library.

KRISTIN KARR: research librarian, National Center for Children Exposed to Violence, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.

JANAE KINIKIN: science reference librarian, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

JOSEPH MACKSEY: library media specialist, Lincoln Fundamental School, Davenport.

KATHY MAGARRELL: reference librarian, University of Iowa Libraries.

YUKA OHBA-KREITER: cataloger, State Historical Society, Iowa City.

JENNIFER PARIS: public services librarian, Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport.

JANET PINE: physical sciences librarian, Iowa State University, Ames.

REBECCA QUINN: school library media specialist, Southeast Polk Junior High, Runnells.

MICHAEL RACK: library assistant, Serials, University of Iowa Libraries.

ROBERT ROMIC: head of the technical library, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Rock Island, IL.

STEPHEN VAN BUREN: reference librarian, South Dakota State University, Brookings.

Alumni notes, continued from p. 4

MARIA WETZEL is software trainer for Data Research Associates in St. Louis, MO.

JULIE WILDE is now youth services librarian, Howard County Library, Columbia, MD.

1998

MICHAELA BRENNER is a cataloger at the Omaha (NE) Public Library.

THERESA HEPKER was promoted to head of technical services at the North Dakota State Library, Bismarck.

LISA MARTINCOI was appointed head of the Mathematical Sciences and Physics Libraries, University of Iowa Libraries.

KRISTY RAINIER is a reference librarian at Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids.

KAREN WOOD is librarian for the Historical Society of Indiana County, Indiana, PA.

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IN MEMORIAM

This issue of the SLIS Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Shaojun Lu, who was a visiting faculty member at the University of Iowa in 1998-99. Dr. Lu then went to SUNY/Oswego, where he was on the information science faculty at the time of his death on March 1. He was a dedicated and informed teacher, and a warm and gracious person. We remember him with great affection.