Message from the Director

SLIS focuses on training Iowa librarians

As we enter a new school year, I write to keep you informed about recent events at the School of Library and Information Science. A number of interesting and exciting things have been happening around our school. In fact, every day at SLIS is interesting and exciting. This fall we have 113 students enrolled in 20 classes. These numbers include thirty-nine students who are licensed Iowa teachers studying to become Teacher Librarians. These teachers come from all parts of Iowa, and their education is funded by an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant. Upon graduation, they will take jobs in school libraries around Iowa. Nine more of our students are supported by IMLS to study Digital Librarianship. They receive fellowships to rotate through a series of digital projects around campus to gain a well-rounded education in the evolving role of technology in library work. We also have eight students enrolled in our joint program with the University of Iowa Center for the Book. This joint program continues to draw top students from around the country. The diversity of interest and experience represented in our students and our curriculum makes it a pleasure to come to work each day.

This past year, we underwent accreditation by the American Library Association. Once again, we were accredited for seven years, the most allowed by ALA. The process of accreditation, while not exactly "enjoyable," is valuable nonetheless. It allows us to explore our strengths and weaknesses and to work with a group of experts to assess what we do. As we expected, the intellectual diversity of our faculty shone to real advantage. We have a vibrant and exciting group of scholars, who are maturing into an exceptional faculty. Our students are always a strength, and they impressed the visiting accreditation team with their passion for the field and their intelligent and articulate assessment of their own education. Through accreditation, we found that we need to work on establishing more formal planning processes in our school, and this will be a point of emphasis for the coming year.

Jim Elmborg, director of SLIS

Inside this issue

- LISSO project on social networking and online safety
- IMLS teacher librarian fellow Melissa Haberichter
- Current faculty research
- Recent funding awarded to students
- 2008-09 donors to SLIS
Forty aspiring teacher librarians attended classes on campus this summer and gathered for a joint luncheon meeting at SLIS in late June.

The forty students comprise the two cohorts funded by an IMLS grant to complete their master’s degrees so that they may become teacher librarians in Iowa.

Most classes for the groups are offered via distance education, as students are nearly all employed full-time in schools around the state, so the luncheon was a rare chance for them to meet and get to know one another.

The joint cohort meeting provided an opportunity for the first cohort, which began in the summer of 2008, to share advice and insights about the program with the second group, which began this summer.

A panel from Cohort 1 presented their thoughts and fielded questions about course loads, strategies for success, purchasing textbooks and other concerns. Comments ranged from “be sure to have good technology and bandwidth available” to “schedule your time wisely” to “ask for understanding from your family.”

The Institute of Museum and Library Services provided $881,692 to recruit and train teacher librarians in the “21st Century Teacher Librarian” grant program. With matching funds and services from The University and Iowa’s Area Education Agencies, a partner in the program, the grant totals well over a million dollars. The grant pays most tuition costs for each student and provides for technology used to deliver the classes in 12 different sites around the state. The grant is directed by Jim Elmborg.

All students in the two cohorts are certified teachers. With the SLIS masters, they will receive certification to work as K-12 teacher librarians. Listed as a shortage area by the Iowa Department of Education, teacher librarians are needed to fill current and future positions in Iowa schools. It is estimated that nearly 50 school districts do not currently have a teacher librarian and that 300 teacher librarians will retire in the next 10 years. The first cohort will graduate in May of 2010 and the second in 2011.

**IMLS Digital Libraries fellow Amy Slowik’s article “Collecting Medieval Manuscripts” was recently published in the journal Collection Building. Before coming to the School of Library and Information Science, Amy earned an MA in art history from the University of Chicago and worked at the Newbury Library and the Art Institute of Chicago. During the spring semester, she worked on the Live from Prairie Lights collection.**

**Student Article Published**
Our goal in composing this newsletter is to keep you connected to the work of the School and to thank you for your ongoing support. Over the summer we made major improvements to the school facilities. We remodeled our hallway with fresh paint, new carpets, and we replaced our old lounge furniture with new and more comfortable décor, and we created a seminar room that supports our distance education efforts.

If you have contributed to the School through the UI Foundation, we sincerely appreciate the support that made these upgrades possible. As you read through the stories that follow, you will note that our students and faculty are involved in many interesting and exciting projects, and even in this tough economy, our students continue to graduate and embark on interesting careers with promising futures.

Again, your support for SLIS helps make these projects possible. We believe we are engaged in work of true significance. We very much appreciate your support and interest in what we do.

—James Elmborg, Director
School of Library and Information Science

Summer Internship
at the
Library of Congress

Kaitlyn Dodds

Kaitlyn Dodds rounded off her first year at SLIS by landing a highly sought after internship at the Library of Congress. Here is her account of her experience there.

After arriving in early June for my internship in Washington DC, I discovered that this could possibly be one of my best summers ever! I felt so blessed to walk into those doors to see so much history and beauty (check out the URL www.loc.gov for great pics and info).

Although still learning the ropes (and navigating the vast collections), I have discovered a lesson in new approaches for organizing collections, especially in the rare book division.

Working with the Roeben Moumillian collection has been great, getting the ability to organize and digitize his collection of over 400 books, playbills, and manuscripts. For anyone unfamiliar with Moumillian, he was the director of such interesting movies and plays as Porgy and Bess, Cleopatra, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He was also an avid book collector in addition to his manuscripts, with many books given as gifts to him from the authors themselves, including detailed dedications in the authors’ own penmanship.

I think my favorite books to come across so far are the detailed, rare medieval and religious history books with the beautiful gilding and calligraphy.

I am working with three other interns who come from all over the US to work on this project. It’s a fun work experience, we all get along well, and I’m looking forward to the end of the program when I can demonstrate what I have learned along with the other LOC interns by giving a presentation about my experience.

Also I hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the sunshine! I can’t wait to share my experiences when I get back to Iowa in the fall.”
Today it is almost impossible to walk through a coffee shop, library, or computer lab without seeing someone on Facebook, MySpace or Twitter, and the terms “tag,” “status,” and “wall” have acquired different meanings than they had five years ago.

Such social network sites are becoming increasingly popular and almost necessary in today’s professional and social spheres. Despite their popularity, these sites have raised concerns in the matters of privacy, harassment, and safety.

SLIS students have developed a presentation for parents and students that covers the basics of social networking sites. In the presentation, students discuss the basic features and benefits of MySpace and Facebook, such as creating a profile, applications, photos, and messaging.

The presentation also offers tips on staying safe as an active member of a social networking site. Over the past six months, sixteen SLIS students have given over ten social networking presentations to public libraries across Iowa.

Users and non-users of all ages attended the presentations and provided lively discussions about the hazards and benefits of social networking. LISSO plans to continue offering these presentations again this coming school year.

If you are interested in arranging a presentation or volunteering, please contact current LISSO President Rebecca Troup at: rebecca-troup@uiowa.edu

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**Student Funding**

**LA Jack E. Tillson Scholarship Awards**
2007  Noelle Sinclair
2008  Deborah Stanton
2009  Rachel Hall

**SLIS Scholarships**
2007  Elizabeth Nummela
      Suzette Wiley
      Diana Symons
2009  Erin Green
      Ryan
      Strempke-Durgin

**Joyce Hartford/Grace Wormer Scholarships**
2007  Juli Marie Williams
2008  Leah Osterhaus
2009  Peter Balestrieri

**Dr. John Martin Scholarship**
2007  Heather Davis
2009  Leah Osterhaus

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**News of Recent Graduates**

**Mark Anthoney** (2008) is employed as an instructional design specialist at the University of Iowa Information Technology Services.

**Shawn Averkamp** (2008) accepted a position at the University of Alabama as assistant professor and metadata librarian in Cataloging & Metadata Services.


**Nana Diedrichs Holtsnider** (2008) is currently living in Tunis, Tunisia, where she volunteers at the National Library of Tunis.

**Sarah Dorpinghaus** (2009) has accepted a project archivist position at the Chicago History Museum (formally the Chicago Historical Society).

**Yuliya Haluska** (2008) has returned to Ukraine where she works as the Philosophy Study Area reference librarian at the Ukrainian Catholic University Libraries in Lviv.

**Erin Sehorn** (2008) is now living in Jefferson City, Missouri where she is the visual materials archivist at the Missouri State Archives.

**Anne Shelley** (2008) has moved to the Twin Cities where she works as assistant librarian for the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies.

**Miriam Sweeney** (2008) is in her second year in the Ph.D. program in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign.

**Megan Tedell** (2008) has worked for the past year as access and instructional librarian at Grand View University in Des Moines.

**Bethany Templeton** (2008) has been wearing two hats, one as application support specialist at Wellesley College Information Services and also as children’s librarian at the Needham Public Library.

**Becky Thoms** (2007) works in Baton Rouge as a librarian-researcher for IEM, Inc.

**Jill Wehrheim** (2008) is the Young Adult Librarian at the Morton Grove Public Library near Chicago.

Several SLIS graduates are doctoral students in The University of Iowa Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Informatics: **Heather Davis, Christopher Ehrman, Charisse Madlock Brown, and Nicholas Wyant.**
Melissa Haberichter has nine years of special memories on her camera from the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. That’s how long her 12-year-old daughter, Jillian, has participated in this event that raises money to support the fight against cancer.

Jillian is a cancer survivor after being diagnosed with leukemia in August, 2000, at age three.

The Haberichter family walks at the Clayton County event in Elkader, Iowa, in support of Jillian and her grandfather Clarence Haberichter, also a cancer survivor. This year, Melissa took pictures of her daughter for an added reason; she was assigned to shoot a day’s worth of photos for her Multimedia 021:123:002 class in the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) graduate program at The University of Iowa.

Haberichter, a second-year student from Monona, Iowa, brought the photos to class and used a web-based program to create a VoiceThread – a media album that allows a group of people to make comments on images, videos, and documents. You can use your voice (with a microphone or telephone), text, audio file, or video (with a webcam).

Haberichter’s project, entitled “Relay For Life: Jillian’s story,” can be accessed online at http://voicethread.com/#q.b551641.i0.k0.

Haberichter’s project, entitled “Relay For Life: Jillian’s story,” can be accessed online at http://voicethread.com/#q.b551641.i0.k0.

The funding comes from a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant totaling $881,692 awarded to SLIS by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to recruit and educate librarians to work in Iowa schools. Each school district in Iowa is required to have a teacher librarian.

“My principal told me about this possibility for a grant. Our librarian is getting closer to retirement age,” Haberichter said. “I didn’t know if I would have a chance, but I applied. I’ve always been a technology type person.

“The 21st Century Teacher Library program is such a great opportunity. Throughout the program, we are constantly teeter-tottering between two worlds – the traditional ‘romantic’ world of reading great books and helping others to love reading and discover books that touch them, and then 180 degrees in the other direction to all the new technology that is available to get students excited and engaged in their learning.”

Haberichter teaches business and journalism courses while also spending time in the guidance office at MFL MarMac. She hopes to be the K-12 teacher librarian at MFL MarMac.
Faculty Research Update

André Brock began the year with a presentation on Whiteness, Obama, and Online Identity for the Communication Studies department. Since then, he has presented research on race and gender in videogames at the “Race, Ethnicity and New Media” conference in March and at the “Games, Learning and Society 9.0” conference in June. In October, he will be presenting a paper on a racially-themed internet browser and its critical reception by tech blogs and black cultural blogs at the Association of Internet Researchers conference in Milwaukee, WI. He has also published articles in Information, Communication, and Society and the POROI Journal.

You can read André’s papers and article drafts at www.uiowa.academia.edu/AndreBrock.

Jennifer Burek Pierce has been awarded a fellowship by the Council of the American Antiquarian Society at its Center for Historic American Visual Culture. Burek Pierce will pursue research on a project titled “The Reign of Children: Games and Toys in American Public Libraries.” Her initial research on early public libraries’ use of games and toys was presented as part of the Library History Round Table’s Research Forum during the 2009 ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago. The fellowship, supported by the Jay T. Last Fund, enables researchers to spend a month in residence at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts to make use of its holdings in American art, visual culture, or other graphic materials.


Haowei Hsieh works closely with other research groups to evaluate and integrate computing services for instructional purposes. He recently met
with researchers from around the country at Portland, Oregon for a collaborative project called Ensemble. Sponsored by the NSF/NSDL Pathway projects, the Ensemble project will create a portal for computing education resources.

This past June, he presented his paper “Generating Two-way Mapping for VITE” at the 2009 Symposium on Interactive Visual Information Collections and Activity (IVICA). This paper describes the refinement of his ongoing research project on digital information workspace called VITE. The study investigates whether an automated mapping creation process can better assist information users of VITE for their information tasks.

During the summer, he also helped to organize the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2009) held in Austin, TX and served as the proceedings chair for the conference.

Patricia Katopol’s paper, ‘Closer than they Appear: Administrative support staff as information sources for managerial decision-making in city government’ has been accepted for presentation at the 2009 Midwest Academy of Management annual meeting in October. The study described in the paper shows that managers get much of their information, not from other managers but from their administrative support staff. Who are support staff, what are their information behaviors, and how do those behaviors impact managerial decision-making? Also considered is how the relationship between support staff and manager can be addressed in planning technologically and non-technologically based knowledge management systems.

Joan Bessman Taylor has been awarded a grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa to pursue research on a project titled “Struggling for Intellectual Freedom during the 1950’s: A Dubuque Court Case Captures the Nation’s Attention.” The project investigates the police seizure of books from the Dubuque public library and subpoenaing of its head librarian to appear before a grand jury in order to testify as to whether or not modern novels being sold in reprint form by a Dubuque bookseller were obscene. News of the case resonated in papers and journals across the U.S. sparking debates regarding what counted as art and what was obscenity, the reading rights of adults versus those of children, and the role of literary experts and community interest groups in determining the types of reading material made available to the general public.

Drawing on a combination of the University of Iowa’s extensive archival collections and her own interviews with readers, Taylor is also conducting a study of Amateur Press Associations (apas) and the formation of community through the creation and distribution of fanzines. Ostensibly about the reading of science fiction or other genres, but ultimately incorporating discussion of larger life experiences, the activities of apas highlight the importance of serious leisure pursuits in the daily lives of their members.
SLIS Student wins SLA Scholarship

Jamie Hosek recounts her trip to the Annual Conference

It is hard to believe that exactly one month ago I was in Washington, D.C. attending the SLA Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration. Enough time has passed for me to put away my suitcase, update my rolodex with new contacts, and read through my session notes. Enough time has also passed for me to reflect on the experience I had as a first time conference attendee.

Attending the conference in Washington, D.C. was a great experience, and I made sure to get everything I could out of both the convention and the city. I attended an event hosted at the International Spy Museum and another one at the Decatur House Museum.

I dined with a colleague in Chinatown. And I allotted enough time in my busy schedule to walk around the Mall and Arlington National Cemetery and admire the monuments and memorials to our nation’s heroes.

I am probably not alone in saying that the spotlight conference session was the superb keynote address given by former General and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The opportunity to engage with these and other professionals was by far the greatest benefit I received attending the SLA Annual Conference.

When my connecting flight was cancelled in Minneapolis and a new SLA acquaintance offered me her home for the evening, I realized that networking at SLA meant more than collecting business cards. It meant finding mentors and building friendships.

Thank you Julie! I also want to thank the Iowa Chapter for funding this scholarship.

This article was originally posted as a blog by SLA-Divisions on Monday, July 27, 2009 at 08:35 AM in Scholarship winner, SLA Conference.
Deborah Lazar’s first career was as a dietitian. After she had kids, that became her work. Then, at the age of 50, Lazar started chasing another dream. While volunteering at her local public library she thought, “this is something I really want to do,” but she wasn’t sure about going back to school.

She started online courses through the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, but one in cataloging left her frustrated. “Some nights I was just crying, I thought how do you do it?” she said.

Lazar started looking into schools where she could have face to face interaction with her professors and classmates and on Sept. 11, 2001, decided she just needed to go for it.

She hired a math tutor to get her through the GRE and started classes at SLIS at the University of Iowa. “As a nontraditional student going back to school with a passion, but with some trepidation, I was very supported,” she said.

She graduated from SLIS in 2003 and now Lazar is starting her seventh year as an LIS professional, working in the New Trier High School Library in Winnetka, Ill.

At times she questioned herself for going back to school so many years after receiving her undergrad, but she credits her education at Iowa with giving her the encouragement she needed to make her dream happen.

“I never felt like a nontraditional student, I just felt like part of the department,” she said. She even took cataloging again, and, at Iowa, she liked it.

Originally, Lazar was interested in public libraries but the job opportunities she found were in the schools, so she got her teaching certificate from Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., in 2005.

“The opportunities, once you’re in the school setting, to be part of a larger learning community are a reward I wasn’t expecting,” she said.

Lazar is the club sponsor for Erika’s Lighthouse, a group that raises awareness of adolescent depression, and recently traveled to Haiti with New Trier faculty and staff to look into partnering with a school there.

And she said the job market should not discourage new students from entering the LIS field.

“If you find this to be your passion, stay with it,” she said. “I’m excited about the field. It continues to change as the way we get information changes. I think there are so many exciting possibilities.”
Summer Study in China
Ian Mason, IMLS Digital Libraries Fellow

Ian Mason, (front row, right) who is also an IMLS Digital Libraries fellow, spent part of his summer in China where he took part in a Chinese librarianship course offered through the University of Rhode Island. The following is Ian’s account of his trip.

The trip was funded in part by scholarships offered by the Hanban branch of the Confucius Institute (directly affiliated with the Ministry of Education of China) as a means of promoting cross cultural exchange. The class itself lasted about two weeks, beginning in cosmopolitan Shanghai, then shifting to scenic Hangzhou (where a majority of the class was spent at Zhejiang University, currently ranked among the top five universities in China), and finally Beijing, the capital and cultural center of China.

The class was comprised of a series of library tours (think a Cliff Notes version of famous library-related landmarks in China) and culminated in a research paper on a topic of each student’s choosing.

The types of libraries visited included but were not limited to an academic library, a public library, (Buddhist) temple libraries, a children’s library, an ancient library (the class visited the oldest library in China), a papermaking site, a rural library (engaged in extending information access to more impoverished areas in China), and the national library in Beijing (China’s equivalent to the Library of Congress).

Many of the libraries were extremely impressive both in size and in terms of technological sophistication. Class time was also spent attending lectures about various aspects of Chinese culture (from general history to history of books and printing) and meeting with library directors, Chinese library students (graduate and undergraduate), and sundry other library employees.

As is typical of Chinese custom, the library hosts were always extremely welcoming to their foreign visitors. The tours went relatively smoothly despite a few scares about Americans contracting H1N1 (one of the students in the class was quarantined briefly in Hangzhou by the school for having a high temperature).

In addition to the library tours, the class took in some general sightseeing, a few shows (Opera, the famous West Lake show),

“In a country with such great disparities among its populace, the struggle to make information more readily accessible will be of ever increasing importance.”
and some magnificent Chinese banquets. Finally, no trip to China is complete without a visit to the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, which the class squeezed in at the tail end of the trip. [Side Note: Interestingly enough, the trip coincided with the anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Student protests, so security in Beijing was especially tight during the visit.]

The term librarian connotes a different meaning in China as it extends to anyone who works in a library, a small minority of whom hold library specific degrees. Encountering such a degree of nebulousness with regards to professionals versus nonprofessionals should, if nothing else, reinforce the importance for American Libraries to require master's degrees for their librarians.

Chinese Information Science research places particular emphasis on the evaluation of scientific output at the university level. In other words, empirical formulas and data are emphasized over qualitative measures of an academic library's success and maintaining the Chinese government's goal of scientific excellence.

A nationally agreed upon code of service ethics (similar to the one formulated by ALA) also seems to be absent from libraries, in part, because of the unspoken conflict between the role of the librarian to provide access to information and the role of the Chinese government to withhold it.

These are but a few questions that are of interest to not only Chinese librarians, but also American librarians, as China continues to grow in economic and political importance. In a country with such great disparities among its populace, the struggle to make information more readily accessible will be of ever increasing importance.

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This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni and friends who made gifts of $100 or more to the School of Library and Information Science through The University of Iowa Foundation from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. Contributors are listed in alphabetical order.

**Honor Roll of 2008-2009 Contributors—Library and Information Science**

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Berry, Matthew F., Clear Lake, Iowa
Bonath, Gail J., Grinnell, Iowa
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Caplan, Richard M., Iowa City, Iowa
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