Reaching Beyond Our Boundaries

Humming through past issues of Interface going back to 2005, the path is clear. In his inaugural column, Dr. Ed Cortez set the tone for his future leadership by introducing the efforts to build a strategic plan for SIS. The plan included goals to expand the multicultural and global reach and to enrich the educational environment with diversity reflected geographically, topically and culturally. Each volume of Interface chronicles the activities, events and initiatives which have occurred in support of those goals established in 2005.

Highlights of the global and multicultural reach are: international collaboration with China, Egypt and India; participation in UT’s “Ready for the World” initiative; projects with the University of Puerto Rico; expansion of distance learning classes to extend the availability of education to a broader spectrum of students and under-served populations; joint faculty sessions with Makerere University in Uganda, Africa; campus visits from representatives of the Russian Federation Libraries; and the Intercultural Leadership Toolkit Symposium. Efforts included reaching out to special populations such as children and youth through the CCYAL, e-Portfolio options to further expand the student population, rural library grant-funded initiatives, and studies on behalf of children with Asperger’s syndrome.

Several grants and projects have...
SIS Welcomes Two New Staff

Jay Tucker is the new Administrative Support Assistant for the School of Information Sciences. He graduated from the UT Honors Program as an English major in 2005. Jay has worked as a receptionist and at other similar jobs since graduation.

Because he is considering pursuing a graduate degree, working for the university provides the perfect environment for him as he frames a career path. Jay enjoys this job because it presents challenges to solve and provides opportunities for advancement.

Jay is originally from Dyersburg in West Tennessee. His primary hobby is reading novels, history, and other non-fiction. He also enjoys spending time with friends, listening to music, and eating (but not cooking).

Donna Silvey is the new Communication Specialist for SIS. She worked for BellSouth in Atlanta for fifteen years as a senior product marketing manager responsible for the marketing of complex optical products. For the last five years, Donna has been a freelance consultant and designer creating marketing programs and websites for scientific/engineering firms in Oak Ridge.

Donna has been a volunteer for H.A.B.I.T. for the past three years. H.A.B.I.T. is a program through UT’s College of Veterinary Medicine which supplies volunteers and their therapy-trained pets to hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. Donna’s dog, Boudreaux, is a Hurricane Katrina rescue with very special skills. They have been serving a classroom at Belle Morris Elementary in central city Knoxville as Ruff Reading partners. Their classes have achieved impressive academic scores outpacing other classes in the same school by more than 10 percentage points.

Donna is a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Business and the Art Institute of Pittsburgh where she earned her most recent degree in Interactive Media and Web Design. She is the new editor of Interface and is primary web communicator. Her time is split 50/50 with the College of Communication and Information (CCI).

New Federal Libraries Course Offered

This summer a new course will be offered on Federal Libraries. Students will visit a variety of federal libraries in Washington, D.C., including the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court Library, the DOD Library, the USAID Library, the National Agricultural Library, the National Transportation Library, the Goddard Space Center Library, the National Library of Medicine, the US Geological Survey Library, and perhaps others.

These visits will take place July 20 through July 26. The participating students will also enjoy a number of professionally led tours of monuments and attractions in our nation’s capital, including a special tour called “Monuments by Moonlight”. Prior to the site visits there will be three Centra class sessions. After the site visits there will be two additional Centra class sessions. These class sessions will involve lectures and discussions led by William Hawk, the lead instructor in the course.

The course description reads:

This course is an introduction to federal libraries. Federal libraries are information centers developed and maintained to support the research and development efforts of U.S Government departments and agencies. We will explore the basic principles of information organization and representation in a variety of federal libraries and explore their staff methods for providing effective access and retrieval based on users’ needs. We will study the underlying frameworks of information organization that include: identifying and defining information; distinguishing, describing, and indexing intellectual works; current approaches and standards in use; and organizational tools and processes, as well as access and retrieval decisions, including digitization efforts and public access catalogs. Additional
libraries and federal policy related to federal libraries.

Already the course proved so popular that it filled within hours of its announcement. SIS plans to offer the course again next summer. Questions relating to the course should be directed to William Hawk [williamhawk4912@gmail.com] and copied to Ed Cortez [ecortez@utk.edu].

A Few Minutes with Dr. Camila Alire

On April 13, SIS hosted two events with Dr. Camila Alire, former President of the American Library Association (ALA) and dean emeritus at three universities. The morning event was held at the Hodges Library and offered practitioners, students, and faculty a forum to discuss a broad range of topics with Dr. Alire. This event was titled, “Advancing Your Career Through Service, Leadership, Advocacy and Diversity!”

The Caribbean Fiesta held in the evening featured a presentation by Dr. Alire entitled, “Change Happens! And Emotionally Intelligent Leadership Works.” The evening event included a silent auction fundraiser for the ALA Spectrum Scholarship. The $1,000.00 goal was reached thanks to the generosity of the attendees and a special thanks to the Athletics department which provided the silent auction with autographed memorabilia from a couple of our star coaches, including Pat Summit. Also, visiting the School was legendary Eugene Garfield, “the father of bibliometrics”. Dr. Garfield participated in a charming one-on-one conversation with Dr. Bilal that was shared with a university audience in the Scripps Lab. Please read more about these two important leaders in our field and the inspiring messages they carried with them.

Even on curriculum matters SIS is reaching out. This summer a new special topics course on federal libraries is being offered, but not on the UT campus. Instead, the nation’s capital will serve as a laboratory for the course.

Students in the program will travel from their locales to Washington DC along with the instructors (myself included) and will be onsite to study the workings of a number of federal libraries, including the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court Library, the Goddard Space Center Library and a number of other exciting library and information center sites. Enrollment for the course was limited and the seats were filled within hours of opening registration. So popular is the course that we are already planning a redux next summer.

In this issue of Interface you will enjoy reading about faculty activities, their scholarship and accomplishments. As a special feature from the editor’s desk read about how SIS excels at faculty mentoring. If you have ever wondered why SIS faculty is so accomplished at what they do and become notable academic stars in the field, one secret might be found in this story.

And let us not forget about our alumni activities and accomplishments! As you read the alumni news you will swell with VOL pride, especially in learning about this year’s top alumni award winners. I also want to bring to your attention, in memorium, the story of Janice Keck a very distinguished alma.

Finally, in this issue we recognize and celebrate our transitions. This year’s hooding ceremony was attended by a record number of guests. The pageantry was set off with all students donning full academic attire which was complemented by the diversity of faculty hoods whose colors represented many world class institutions. And, all of this to a backdrop of beautiful flowers, music from a harpist, and an elegant spread of hors d’oeuvres and punch.

Until next time happy reading!
**Suzie Allard**


**Dania Bilal**


**Ed Cortez**


**Kimberly Douglass**


Teaching Information Ethics: Current Status, Opportunities and Challenges Conference, Botswana, Africa, September 6-7, 2010. [Key Reuctor to Presented Papers]

**Rachel Fleming-May**


Bharat Mehra


Potnis, Devendra


Potnis, Devendra. “Group Information Behavior: Group Characteristic Feature Dominates Individual Characteristic Features of Female Cell Phone Users from a Rural Indian Community.” Journal of the AIS (forthcoming)


Excelling at Faculty Mentoring

Mary Alice Ball
IMLS

This summer will be filled with kids’ camps of all kinds. The model for most of those camps involves older kids instructing younger kids and guiding them through a learning process, be it in soccer or math or jump rope. This simple model works well when expanded to the university level, too. Director Ed Cortez and Assistant Director Suzie Allard have been working to develop, implement, and fine-tune the faculty mentoring program for the School of Information Sciences.

The obvious motivation for this purposeful program is increasing the longevity of faculty members and achieving a greater tenure success rate;

however, below the surface are many other compelling reasons to build a robust mentoring structure. “These are times of tremendous change for universities. Economic effectiveness is critical to survival and growth. Retaining faculty is a key element,” states Mary Alice Ball, Senior Program Officer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The University of Tennessee has official guidelines for Best Practices and Recommendations for Faculty Mentoring. To embrace and fully utilize those guidelines takes active leadership. The process for cultivating an effective program includes articulating the steps, conducting a needs assessment, maintaining clear feedback channels, and conducting regular reviews. Funding workshops and providing internal grants for junior faculty development are ways these programs can be underwritten at the university level. UT’s guidelines begin with instructions on building effective hiring processes. Ball adds about the process of instituting such a program, “It must include clear communication of values and priorities and a vision of the ultimate rewards.”

Because balancing research, instruction, grant-writing, and publishing can be difficult to manage, having an experienced mentor to provide guidance for piecing together the puzzle prevents junior faculty from making unnecessary and costly missteps. When asked for specific examples of this modeling, Ball cited an example involving faculty at UT. She described a situation in which Associate Professor Suzie Allard brought Assistant Professor Kimberly Douglass to the IMLS offices while in town for a conference. Allard walked Douglass through the grant review process while introducing her to reviewers and key people who could provide assistance in the future. Ball said, “It might be intimidating for a new assistant professor to approach program officers without having met them. By bringing Kimberly by the offices, Suzie gave her a much better chance of successfully interacting with the grant-making system.

Assistant Professor Kimberly Douglass

The UTK School of Information Sciences has been described as the role model school for faculty mentoring and acclaimed as the school of excellence for faculty development. Workshop funding, release time, and monetary bonuses all directly or indirectly require funding. These tools provide investments and rewards for junior faculty as they navigate their development paths.

Ultimately, the beneficiaries will be the students. As the mentoring model is handed down to the classroom, the students will have the advantage of a culture which cultivates learning and growth, with experienced faculty as their guides. As Ball stated, “Lots of people talk about mentoring. It’s a common buzzword. However, the UT program puts the talk into action with thorough and effective plans.”

Building an Archive & Curriculum: The Baker Center Partnership

The Interim Director of the Modern Political Archives (MPA) at the Baker Center is Matthew Brown. He is charged with building the archives and developing the processes and resources necessary to support the center’s archive users.

Brown previously held the position of Coordinator and Archivist for the Albert Gore Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University. The MPA collections include documents from members of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Justice, Tennessee Governors, local governments, and private collectors of political ephemera. The purpose of this archive is to collect and preserve a record of American politics. Most of the archives are open to the public, and the archive offers a full range of services. Among the materials are books, photographs, graphic and fine art, sound recordings, and several other media. A full list of services, operational hours, and contact information can be found at www.bakercenter.utk.edu.

Having this impressive resource now on campus presents a wealth of prospects for partnership opportunities between the center and SIS. SIS is currently considering a significant expansion of its archives course offerings as it moves toward implementing an Archives and Records Administration (ARA) track adhering to the curricular guidelines established by the Society of American Archivists. Students electing this track will be prepared for positions in archives, manuscript repositories, special collections departments, and records management agencies. The ARA
specialization will require a minimum of 18 credits and will involve such courses as records management, modern archives administration, archives accessioning and appraisal, archival description and arrangement, and archives user services and outreach. Students will also be required to take at least one course in digital curation, preservation and conservation, or special collections. As plans progress for this exciting addition to the SIS curriculum, further developments will be reported.

More than supporting historical accounting, archives can provide a catalyst for current day action. As C. Everett Koop once said of the Carnegie Foundation archives, “Occasionally people pick up a segment of a report and act upon it.” Supporting the knowledge and research necessary for building archives is an important component in the future of information science.

Because of that, he was well-known and well-respected; he was able to break barriers. My mother went from being a housewife to a retail clerk to a legal assistant. She was also well-known in the community as a fighter for social justice.

Outside of your many career activities, what are your hobbies and interests?

Dr. Alire: I love to scout around antique shops and flea markets for vintage jewelry and collectibles. I also collect old recipe books. I especially love the ones from women’s groups or church groups because they tend to be the ones with the most practical recipes. Sometimes, my husband and I will plan dinner parties around the theme of recipes from one of these old books.

Give us more details about your writing, specifically the marketing and advocacy for libraries.

Dr. Alire: Part of my message to libraries is, “You are not the only game in town now.” I stress to them the need to hedge against becoming irrelevant by unique and innovative services to their clients.

To faculty I say, “How do we help public libraries?” After all, libraries were one of the first public services to go digital and provide access to technical tools such as catalog systems. The possibilities are infinite for delivering better customer service.

How did you come to write about library disaster recovery planning?

Dr. Alire: They sometimes call me the Disaster Queen because of my experiences with three major disasters. One was the recovery of assets at the University of New Mexico after pipes froze and flooded the building. The library was built mostly underground. As a result, the pipes were never insulated because they never anticipated the pipes would freeze. We had four days of freezing weather one winter, and the pipes froze. We had an issue pumping out the building and then drying it as quickly as possible to prevent mold from forming.

Another disaster occurred when I had been on the job only eight days in Colorado and a major flood occurred. The library had recently moved most of the books to the lowest floor. The recovery took months and cost $70 million. Disasters like these bring out the best and the worst in people. In each case I had to scramble to secure assets which had been spared and recover what was salvageable. We had to devise a plan for finding funding to replace the destroyed items. All the while, we had to develop a game plan for supplying research sources since the ones at their library were no longer available. This took heroic efforts on the part of a lot of people.

Where do you see the future of library and information sciences?

Dr. Alire: I think we are being driven by external demands today. We were the first group to automate with card catalog systems. We need to go back to our legacy of leading innovation and with our demand for better solutions.

If you could challenge higher education institutions to address under-addressed areas in this field, what would those be and why?

Dr. Alire: Library and information sciences in higher education must lead the way by demonstrating a commitment to diversity. Diversity in LIS brings relevance to a broader scope of the population and opens career opportunities. If you look at the demographics for the U.S., the country is evolving in age, race, and other factors. Responding to those changes will keep libraries of all types accessible and meaningful to these diverse populations.

Any final thoughts or advice for our students?

Dr. Alire: Professional service is where you develop your reputation. Make sure it is a good one. If you make the commitment to work on a project, ensure your service leads to a good reputation. Start small, and grow your abilities. This will help you make sure you can handle the project well and not get in over your head. Remember, your value as a librarian will be profound!
SIS Activities and Updates

ITRL update

In the spring 2010 issue of Interface, the Rural Librarian Information Technology Master’s Scholarship Program (ITRL) funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, was introduced. Principal investigator and Associate Professor Bharat Mehra has recently been featured in UT’s premier magazine Quest, showcasing the exemplar ITRL program to address the rural digital divide. ITRL’s accomplishments during the past year include a needs assessment of 50 librarians from southern and central Appalachia about their information services and experienced challenges. The findings were presented in a paper by Mehra, Black, Singh, and Nolt entitled “What is the Value of LIS Education? A Qualitative Analysis of the Perspectives of Rural Librarians in the Southern and Central Appalachia” in the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) 2011 Annual Conference. It was selected as one of four Best Papers to be published in a forthcoming issue of Journal of Education for Library and Information Science.

In May 2010, students were admitted into the ITRL program, assigned to their faculty advisors and practitioners-mentors, and attended the ITRL Summer New Student Orientation delivered online that introduced them to the program’s expectations, people, policies, and student life cycle. Subsequently, faculty advisors Mehra, Black, and Singh communicated the learning objectives and course recommendations to their student advisees. During summer 2010, ITRL students completed two required courses and proposed a strategic academic plan that included their career path and the kinds of IT and management outcomes they planned to develop in their courses. The academic plan ensures the education stays meaningful for each student as it identifies individual achievement goals and strategies for the program. ITRL students took two courses each during the fall 2010 and spring 2011 and reflected rural content in course topics on principles and practices in information organization, technology applications, public library management, and resources for children/young adults.

Evaluation of the ITRL program’s effectiveness is ongoing. Data gathered from all ITRL stakeholders has already netted these findings:

• Personalized advising is helpful for adult learners returning to higher education.
• The SIS online format is a promising model for rural students unable to attend traditional on-campus programs.
• Graduate LIS coursework improves job performance, increases professionalism, and is immediately applicable to library work in rural Appalachia.
• The MLIS is economically inaccessible to many and financial support is instrumental for library staff to attend graduate school and continue work in rural areas.

As noted in the Quest article, a key to providing a bridge for the digital divide is to supply resources in the rural library (often the only source of Internet access in rural areas) that can assist users with their needs. As Mehra noted, “There are many unique circumstances rural librarians face on a daily basis that are not covered in a traditional LIS curriculum. We incorporate those in our program.” Periodic updates will be provided as ITRL students advance in the program.

For more details about the ITRL program, check the website: http://www.sis.utk.edu/rural-librarianship.

TLA Day on the Hill

On January 26, 2011, Dr. Devendra Potnis and Dr. Kimberly Douglass represented SIS at the Tennessee Library Association’s (TLA) annual Tennessee Library Legislative Day. A recurring theme throughout the meeting was the state budget. Given the new ideological disposition of the Tennessee General Assembly, members are expected to make deep budget cuts this legislative session.

The featured speaker for Legislative Day was Stewart Clifton, career lobbyist of Clifton Government Relations, who encouraged libraries and supporters to enter into ongoing dialogues with legislators outside the annual session. Mr. Clifton prescribed these “Top Ten Tips for Occasional Lobbyists:

1. Identify yourself as part of a group, and think of creative ways to build a relationship with legislators over time.
2. Do your homework on both the legislator and the legislation.
3. Respect the official and the office.
4. Provide short, clear information, without jargon.
5. Be honest and accurate.
6. Check your ego at the door.
7. Burn no bridges and never threaten.
8. Know that there are neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies.
9. Set priorities and be focused.
10. Know the formal and informal rules.”

(Clifton, Stewart. June 2006. Top Ten Tips for Occasional Lobbyists: All You Ever Really Need to Know You Learned in Pre-K.” A more elaborate description can be found at www.stewartclifton.com)

TLA is focusing much of its lobbying effort on the Tennessee Secretary of State’s budget, which funds or would
The Volunteer Spirit Reaches Out to Tuscaloosa

Because of the deadly tornados that hit Tuscaloosa on April 27, graduates from the University of Alabama were unable to enjoy their commencement program as scheduled. As a result, Graduates of the UT School of Information Sciences (SIS) decided to honor their counterparts at the University of Alabama’s School of Library Studies (UA SLIS) during SIS’s Spring 2011 Hooding Ceremony by carrying their traditional yellow roses tied with crimson ribbon instead of yellow ribbon. A list of all UA SLIS graduates was also included in the hooding ceremony’s slideshow.

SIS graduates, faculty, staff and family members signed a banner honoring UA SLIS graduates at the ceremony and brought signed work gloves to send to Tuscaloosa. The gloves were identified by the UA SLIS team as the most needed short-supply item. The collected gloves and signed banner were hand-carried to Tuscaloosa by UA SLIS alumna and former instructor UT SIS Assistant Professor Rachel Fleming-May. The UA graduates are expected to hold a commencement ceremony in August.

When informed of the activities planned in their honor, UA SLIS Director Elizabeth Aversa told her graduates, “Folks, the LIS community is a strong, tight community and this gesture from our colleagues in Tennessee is evidence of that fact. I am grateful for their gesture of friendship, and I know you will share my sentiments. I hope that, on the day of UTK’s commencement May 12th, our SLIS graduates will take a moment to think about the wonderful world of information professionals that they are entering, and perhaps send a message of thanks to Dr. Fleming-May or Dr. Cortez in Knoxville.” SIS students and faculty responded in an emotional and heart-felt way to the UT SIS encouragement. One UT graduate, Jessica Gentry (SIS ’07) said, “I wanted to send a simple thank you for the kindness you have extended to the UA SLIS community. I currently live in Tuscaloosa, and have been taking a few courses through UA SLIS. It is difficult for me to fully convey the pride I feel for my program and my University at this moment. I have been preaching the greatness of the Volunteer spirit for the year that I have lived here, and now I get to show it off all around town! The recent events here have made us all emotional and thankful for our neighbors in new ways, but this tops it all.”

Fleming-May and SIS Director Ed Cortez were the catalyst behind the effort. Having worked in Tuscaloosa, Fleming-May provided the contacts and communications to determine the most needed support, and Cortez supplied the resources required to honor and help UA SLIS graduates and faculty. Cortez said, “On one level we compete as rival schools. However, on the grander scale, we are all colleagues working toward the same goals. We wanted to reach out to our ‘family’ in Alabama in a meaningful and constructive manner. Judging by the responses we have received, I would say we achieved our goals.”

Distinguished Alumna Janice Keck Remembered

Long-time Williamson County Director of Public Libraries, Janice Keck (M.S./IS ’77), passed away suddenly February 20, 2011. Her friend and co-worker, Margaret Dyer Brown, said of Keck, “She was a passionate advocate for intellectual freedom, for literacy and for the arts, and worked tirelessly on behalf of these issues.” She introduced computers, barcode automation and oversaw tremendous growth. The library system went from 13,000 loaned items in 1979 to 1.47 million during the most recent fiscal year. “She’s going to be sorely missed. History is going to be very kind to her and her leadership.” County Mayor Rogers Anderson said.

Janice Keck left a legacy of excellence and enthusiasm for her work on behalf of the citizens of Williamson County. Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, Chuck Sherrill said, “Janice was an outside-the-box thinker, so creative and insightful. She was way ahead of the curve on many library issues, including treating teens with respect and a sense of fun, and developing a Spanish-language collection.” Tom Murdic, President, African American Heritage Society in Franklin, TN, said, “Janice was a good friend who enjoyed diversity in her life and worked to bring a wide range of programs to our county. I will miss her.”

Keck had completed her coursework for a doctoral degree in public administration. Dr. Ed Cortez Director of the School of Information Science at UT described Keck this way, “She was a great encourager and motivator steering many to a career in Information Sciences and to the school at UT. She was a shining example of the best we can be as advocates and information professionals.”
Congratulations to Dr. Rachel Kirk, Dr. Cynthia Manley, and Dr. Kitty McClanahan! They graduated this spring and were hooded at the university ceremony by their chair, Carol Tenopir, who guided each of them through their doctoral program and their dissertation work.

Our doctoral students and candidates have also been very busy presenting their research at venues around the world. Here are some highlights (there is a lot to report and my apologies for missing good news!).

Doctoral candidate Monica Colon-Aguirre has presented her work at several conferences including the Association of Library and Information Science Educators in San Diego in January. Monica was also a co-author with Karen Freburg (CCI PhD grad 2011) and associate professor Suzie Allard on a poster that won the Best Poster Award at the CCI Research Symposium. Monica’s research has included studies of Google Scholar and Wikipedia.

SIS was well represented by doctoral students and their professors at the BOBCATSSS 2011 conference in Szombathely, Hungary. Doctoral student Crystal Sherline and assistant professor Rachel Fleming-May presented a paper about accreditation standards in the US and the world. Doctoral student Rebecca Anderson and Director Ed Cortez presented a paper about using ethnographic approaches to information systems design. Doctoral candidate Julie Winkelstein, doctoral student Jim Malone and Cortez presented a paper about public libraries and LGBTQ teens. Doctoral candidate Jason Rieber and associate professor Suzie Allard presented a paper about the motivation for using online social networking sites.

Doctoral student Todd Suomela presented his paper, “The Ethics of Collecting Social Media: Twitter and the Library of Congress” at the Collections and Collaborations Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at Indiana University.

Doctoral students Jim Malone, Lisa Metzer, Elizabeth Noakes, Priyanki Singh, and Todd Suomela worked together on research that they presented as two posters at the CCI Research Symposium. One was about collaborative research and the other was about science information education at the undergraduate level.

Congratulations also to Jason Rieber who defended his comps this spring and is now a doctoral candidate.

As the UT SIS program strives for geographic diversity, the number of students’ home states have grown substantially. These efforts enable SIS to attract notice from a broader geographic area for students, faculty, grants and jobs for its graduates. The effort for outreach to the greater LIS community and to be more inclusive of all alumni has been purposeful and planned.

During the summer, the SIS team will be building a strategic communication plan with the goal of supporting the efforts to reach beyond our current boundaries and to include a more diverse population. Data will be collected about the communications tools currently in place and analysis will be done of the gaps and needs for the future. Some very exciting new tools are on the drawing board.

At the core, SIS is an educational institution where curriculum is also at the forefront of the outreach efforts with additional IS courses. The new courses planned include those concentrating in archival administration and courses in support of the ITRL program also addressing the special requirements for rural practitioners.

As a part of the future growth, UT’s SIS will join the iSchools consortium (www.ischools.org) which is an organization of Information Schools dedicated to advancing the information field in the 21st Century. Their interest is in the relationship between information, people and technology. This consortium represents the best-of-the-best among universities and colleges providing information science educations.

Alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students are all critical to the forward progress of SIS. The plan has been made. The path is clear. Together we hold the responsibility to ensure the education and research needs are met to deliver information science knowledge strategically and critically to the world.
Student News

2011 Award Winners and SIS Scholarships

The following is the list of award and scholarship recipients for 2011.

**Best Paper Award**
Name of student: Ann Sneesby-Koch
Title of paper: Digitization in Special Collections: A Survey of the Field and the Lay of the Land (With an Eye to IMLS-Funded Projects)

**Best Technical Project [Web-Based]**
Name of student: Amber Gregory
Title of project: Web-Based Short Training Videos about E-rate Regulations for the Arkansas State Library [not author-generated title]

**Best Technical Project [Other Media]**
Name of students: Matthew Jordan and Seth Jordan
Title of project: Onward and Upward: An Oral History of Austin A. Harrison, a Communications Builder

**Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award**
Name of student: Susan Wood
Title of thesis: The Subject Representation of Core Works in Women’s Studies: A Critical Analysis of the Library of Congress Subject Headings

**Scholarships**
- **Estes** (2): Clayton Altom, Saskia Hoff.
- **Moulton** (4): Melanie Allen, Lisa Maholmes (new), Theresa Parrish (new), Kayla Siddell (new).
- **Purcell** (1): Karlene Jennings.
- **Tyson** (1): Meredith Reid Boehm [Reid].

On May 11, 2011, the Hooding Ceremony for SIS was held at the University Center, with harpist Cindy Hicks from the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. In total, seventy-seven Master’s degrees were officially conferred for Fall of 2010 to Summer of 2011 during the ceremony. Three were honored for achieving their CCI Doctor of Philosophy degrees. This year the ceremony hosted one of the largest participation levels in recent years, with thirty graduates participating in the ceremony.
SIS alumna Jessica Waugh (M.S./SIS ’09) was recently featured in Delta Sky Magazine. The article, “Your Degree, Your Way,” highlights the distance learning experiences of four graduates from four different schools. The story can be viewed at http://msp.imirus.com//Mpowered/imirus.jsp?volume=ds11&issue=5&page=132.

Practicum leads to permanent job

Toral Doshi obtained a permanent job after working for prestigious Atlanta law firm Alston & Bird in a practicum course. One of the firm’s librarians retired, leaving a vacancy for Doshi to fill. Since she had already demonstrated her ability to handle the job, it was a perfect fit. Doshi begins her new role at Alston & Bird June 1. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Suzie Allard for her assistance over the past two years and to Practicum Coordinator Kitty McClanahan for her support.

2011 Alumni Awards Announced

Jessica Waugh was presented the 2011 Innovator’s Award at this year’s Hooding Ceremony. This award is bestowed on an alumnus or alumna who graduated within the past two years and has demonstrated innovation in the field of library and information sciences through cutting-edge activities, forward thinking, leading trends or reinventing a traditional service.

As the Health Information Specialist and Research Librarian at the Chesterfield County (VA) Public Library System, Waugh applied for and won a grant from the National Library of Medicine to create the Consumer Health Information Program in the Chesterfield County Public Library System. As a part of this program, Waugh developed and taught courses in health information literacy and consumer health information searching skills.

The work Waugh did at CCPL was so innovative that this year she was appointed to be the Graduate Education Program Coordinator for the Center of Clinical and Translational Research at Virginia Commonwealth University. In this position, Waugh has demonstrated that information science skills can be applied in innovative ways to facilitate important health related research. Among the services she is providing or overseeing are curriculum development; management and evaluation of new MS/Ph.D. programs in clinical and translational science; coordination of mentoring activities with junior faculty and emerging researchers; and advocacy and representation for the Education Core component of the VCU Center of Clinical and Translation Research across two campuses. Jessica Waugh and a family member were able to attend the ceremony. She encouraged new graduates to look for new and interesting avenues for their careers.

2011 Alumni Award Winners Honored along with Graduates Friends Day.

The second alumni award presented at the school’s Hooding Ceremony was the Distinguished Alumni Award. This award honors an alumnus or alumna who graduated at least ten years ago and has demonstrated a meritorious career based on service, teaching and/or scholarship. This year the award was presented to Bob Conrad.

As Library Director for Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) since 2000, Conrad has provided extensive information services to the ORNL staff with professional dedication. As the largest and most broadly based U.S. Department of Energy multi-program national laboratory, ORNL conducts research across an exceptionally wide range of subject assignments. Conrad has supported ORNL’s preparation of proposals for new funding opportunities, and he has ensured the ORNL Research Library has effectively met all the laboratory’s research needs.

Most notably, Bob Conrad led the library through the challenging transition from a largely paper-based library with multiple branches to a single main library with an extensive collection of electronic resources, most of which are readily accessible to researchers working at their own computers. The successful execution of this transition has resulted in enhanced productivity for the ORNL research staff. At the same time, Conrad worked hard to ensure the preservation and continuing availability of several valuable print and microfiche collections of journals, books, and technical reports.
Vandana Singh


Carol Tenopir


Peiling Wang


Cindy Welch


Beth Davis-Brown

‘84 has been named Program Coordinator in the Cooperative & Instructional Programs Division for the Library of Congress. She oversees internal and external training for 1500 Library Services staff and more than 700 external cataloging partners. On May 19, she had completed 20 years of service.

Charlie Steinhice

‘90 co-authored his first book, No Denial (2010). The book reprints in full “Lest We Forget,” the first major public exhibition of Holocaust photographs (June 1945) with original captions by Charlie's late grandmother, Marion Coleman. A research scientist with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Charlie drew on his experience as a reference librarian to provide historical perspective to accompany commentary by his mother, Laurel Coleman Steinhice.

Anne Pemberton

‘00, Instructional Services Coordinator at the William Madison Randall Library at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, celebrated the renewal of her wedding vows with husband Peter Fritzler on their 10th anniversary while in Key West, FL.

Lauren Seney

‘08 has been promoted to Access/Technical Services Librarian at the College of William & Mary Law Library. She manages the school’s Scholarship Repository.

Did you know? Our faculty is ranked #1 nationally for per capita journal articles published and #3 in overall research productivity!
All in the Family

Unlike the Bunkers or the Kardashians, the Allards have a much more productive relationship. This mother-son team worked on a poster project together for the 2009 ASIS&T conference. The title of the poster was: “Transdisciplinarity and Information Science in Earth and Environmental Science Research”. Grant Allard is a third-year student with a double major in Philosophy and Political Science at Furman University. Grant Allard said of his experience working with his mother, “It was a good experience. We’ve always had a good relationship and we worked together well on this project. I was interested in this topic and getting to research the material in conjunction with my mom gave me a real insight into her work.”

The first problem statement in the project sought to identify the framework to understand the way researchers collaborate across disciplines. In short, the project revolved around finding solutions for easier collaboration between scientific researchers working in ‘silos’. Most of us are familiar with some recent gains in medicine where a drug failed to work on one disease but, it proved to be a benefit for another distantly related disease. Without the ability to share critical findings and research with functional ways to catalog the data, the work would be of little value to other scientists.

“My son has always been interested in my work” says Dr. Allard. “Working with Grant, I had to wear my professor hat rather than my mom hat. I think we were very successful in our effort and had a great time working together.”

To view the poster information, see: http://www.asis.org./Conferences/AM09/open-proceedings/posters/46.xml
Your Opinion Matters

Communicating with alumni and friends of the School of Information Science is a top priority. With the evolution in communication tools, we have all evolved our preferences for receiving communications. Where once we walked in the door at home, through the mail on the table and played our voice mail messages, we now have texts, instant messages, e-newsletters, email and a host of other options. Realizing our audience for Interface may have changed preferences as well, we would like your opinion. Printing and mail costs continue to rise and as good stewards of our operating funds, we need to make sure we are delivering our communications in the most cost effective method while still meeting the needs of our readers.

You have two ways to tell us what you think. You can answer the questions below in an email back to us, or you can go to the web site address below and take our quick survey. In either case, we would very much like to hear your opinion.

Survey web address: http://www.sis.utk.edu/webform/sis-communication-survey

Questions:
1. Would you prefer to receive Interface as a print document through the mail, as an email with links back to the full stories or one print edition each year with 1 or 2 email versions.
   - 2 print issues per year
   - email issues only
   - 1 print + 1 or 2 email versions per year

2. What would you like to see more stories or information about in future issues?

3. What would you like to see less of in the future?

4. Thinking of other similar newsletters, either print or electronic, what is your favorite example and why do you like it? (send us a copy, if possible)

5. What is the section of Interface you are most likely to read?

6. What is the section you are most likely to skip?

7. Has anything you have read in Interface ever inspired you to make a donation to SIS? If so, what?

8. How often do you go to the SIS web site?
   - once a week
   - once a month
   - once a year
   - never

9. Have you ever recommended UT’s SIS to anyone as a place to pursue a degree?

10. What other communications would you like to receive from SIS?

Your opinion is very important to us. We would value hearing from you.

Email responses can be sent to Donna Silvey, Communication Specialist at dsilvey@utk.edu.

Faculty Appreciation Week: Shout Outs

Dr. Bharat Mehra

One of the best—an excellent instructor; demanding but fair, very invested in the quality of the learning experience for the students.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your students. It means so much to those you teach.

Your sense of humor makes classes with a pleasure. Thanks for all the cat photos and jokes that make information cataloging more digestible!

Dr. Peiling Wang

Thank for being so inspiring and influential to me. I cannot be where I am without your guidance along the way.

Thank you for always setting the high standard as a researcher and teacher. Your endless pursuit of excellence has influenced me tremendously both professionally and personally.

Thank you for all your encouragement in my course work at UT. You gave me the confidence to complete my M.S. and pursue a doctorate.

The next generation of UTK SIS graduates looks on at the 2011 Hooding Ceremony.
On March 23, SIS hosted an event with Dr. Eugene Garfield at the Scripps Convergence Lab. UT SIS Professor Dania Bilal emceed the discussion. Garfield is known as one of the founders of the information science discipline and is Chairman Emeritus of the Institute for Scientific Information (now Thomson Scientific). Garfield is credited with a breakthrough vision in 1950 that shaped the future of scientific information discovery and recovery.

Dr. Garfield’s lecture was entitled, “Reminiscences, Reflections, and Flotsam: an Informal Conversation with Dr. Eugene Garfield.” In it, he recounted the course of his life’s work in which activities spawned by his natural curiosity and inquisitiveness resulted in a series of opportunities that largely determined the path of his career. Dr. Garfield made his initial job search during a deep recession. The audience of students, faculty, and guests was fascinated by his description of events and his inspiring innovations.

Dr. Garfield is also former president of ASIS&T. He continues to be active at age 85 in scientific communication and information science. He is a frequent writer and speaker and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Derek J. de Solla Price Memorial Medal in 1984; an Honorary Degree from Far Eastern University, Vladivostok, Russia in 1997; and an Honorary Membership in the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia, also in 1997. In 2005, he was made an American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow, and in 2007, he became an American Philosophical Society member. In 1986, he founded The Scientist, a bi-weekly newspaper for research professionals. It reports on news and developments relevant to the professional and practical interests of scientists, providing a unique forum for the discussion of issues important both to the research community and society. Visit Dr. Garfield’s site at http://garfield.library.upenn.edu/ for more information.