A Full Plate for SIS

Academic 2001-2002 has just ended, so it seems a good time to recap some of the events of this year for our alumni. Importantly, our accreditation program presentation and visit went well, and we are grateful for all the support from you. Nearly 100 people joined the faculty and staff for the reception and briefing on April 7, and the external review panel seemed pleased to be able to visit with so many constituents of our program. You can still review the program presentation on the Web at http://www.sis.utk.edu/admin/coa/index.htm, and there is a wealth of information about the School in the linked documents. We won't hear from the ALA Committee on Accreditation until late June or early July but we will get the word out on the outcome of the accreditation review in the next issue of *Interface*.

Enrollment: Coming & Going

Enrollment continues to climb, particularly in the distance education ranks. This week, we will select our distance education class that will enroll in August 2002. We have over twice as many applicants as we can accommodate in the program, and many of them are truly outstanding. Whether on- or off-campus, today's prospective students are very promising, and they will carry on the tradition of excellence that was established and maintained over the years at SIS. Our best students often come to us through the urging of our alumni, so please continue to refer the very best prospective students to us!

30TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration Highlights

WHEN: September 14: 9:00-3:00
WHERE: UT Conference Center Auditorium

9:00 A.M.   Coffee and bagels

9:30 A.M.   Welcome and introductions
Audio-visual history of School

10:45-11:45 A.M. Three concurrent sessions led by Suresh Ponnappa, David Price-Wilkin, & Vicky Leather

11:45 A.M. Break

12:30 P.M. Lunch. Walt Crawford to give keynote speech. Awards presentations.

2:00 P.M. Table Talk Sessions led by SIS faculty.

3:00 P.M. Adjourn

Parking: There are open surface lots available around the conference center and across the street at the state employee lot. There is also paid parking in a garage across the street.

Photo permission of UT Archives

*Remember & *
CELEBRATE

Editor's Desk

Send Us Your Memorabilia and Recollections

The School is assembling a collection of "Remembrances of Things Past" as we prepare to celebrate the last 30 years of the School's history and launch boldly into the next 30 years. A small collection of photos has already been identified, but we need your help. If you have any **photos, artifacts, or recollections** of your favorite times at the School, or reports of how your time at the School influenced your life—and you're willing to share—please contact Shawn Collins at scollins@utk.edu, or (865) 974-3307. Photos of Temple Court facilities, School professors or staff, students, and alumni are especially encouraged.

Interface

SIS Writing Monthly Column in News Sentinel

The School of Information Sciences is now on the front page of the technology section of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* as of April 2002. Dr. Robinson kicked off the monthly column with an article covering federal documents on the Web. Faculty, staff, students or alumni of the School will be writing articles on some aspect of the Internet. Future topics will include:

Call for Memorabilia

- Internet searching techniques
- Internet law and policy
- Web browser guide
- Privacy and e-commerce
- Community networking
- Web blogging

The May 27 article was an especially interesting article written by a panel of graduate students on cyber-terrorism. Their end-of-the-term panel presentation was so impressive that the ORNL director who was present distributed the student report and came back the next week saying that the CIA is interested in interviewing our students. If you have ideas for an interesting story of general Web interest, please contact me for more information.

Alumni Board to Inaugurate Distinguished Alumni Award

The School's alumni board will present three Distinguished Alumni Awards at the 30th Anniversary Celebration. The three awards will honor alumni who have demonstrated professional achievement or leadership attributable to their tenure at the School from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. If you know of any eligible candidates please forward your nominations to our alumni board president, Karen Valentine, at Kvofhearts @aol.com by July 15.

Each nomination must include: a biographical statement on why the candidate is deserving of the award, a resume, if available, or a career summary, basic information such as name, address, employment history, and all LIS degrees and dates.

Candidates must have graduated from UT's School of Information Sciences/ Graduate School of Library and Information Science at least five years prior to year of nomination.

School to Host Alumni Events at ALA Conference

The School will host an alumni breakfast at ALA on Sunday, June 16 at 8 - 9:30 A.M. in the Roswell room at the Renaissance Hotel in Atlanta. We also have an alumni reunion that evening from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the West Ballroom at the Hilton. Please RSVP to Joel Southern (jsouthern@utk.edu) if you are interested in joining us for breakfast.

Class Notes Section to Begin Next Issue

The last issue of Interface elicited a host of responses from our alumni, and we intend to keep this connection and dialog active. Please send us news of yourself, your classmates, or news of the profession you think would be of interest. Either fill out the form on the back page of *Interface* or online. We will begin publishing your stories starting with the fall issue.

Celebration Is Not to Miss

The School is proudly looking forward to hosting the event of a lifetime in the history of the School: the 30th Anniversary Celebration. In the midst of planning to create a new college and in the wake of an accreditation visit, the School is, nonetheless, funneling its energies into a promising event, which will bring futurist Walt Crawford; TLA president Biddanda Ponnappa; digital library wiz John Price-Wilkin; and library director Vicky Leather to speak. If you want to look at both the future and past of libraries, and connect with your peers, this will be an event not to miss.

Dr. Aversa

30th Anniversary Plans

While new students will be arriving soon, we say good-bye to our graduates. At our May 10 hooding, departing students were honored. Eighteen degrees were conferred in spring term, and alumni board president Karen Valentine was on hand to welcome them to the alumni ranks.
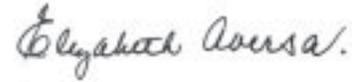
The School's 30th Anniversary Celebration is planned for September 14, 2002. Your alumni board and special committees have planned an exciting event to mark the anniversary! With keynoter Walt Crawford, talks by esteemed alumni, presentations of our first Distinguished Alumni Award, and ample time for visiting with old friends and colleagues, the day promises to be both fun-filled and professionally satisfying. We hope you will join us!

A New College

You may have read or heard about the plans for the School of Information Sciences to participate in the development of a new college at the University of Tennessee. The rumor is true. We expect that the School, the College of Communications (including the School of Journalism and Public Relations and departments of Broadcasting, Speech Communications, and Advertising), and other technology-oriented units and individuals will come together to form a new college within the next year. Your faculty and staff have been involved in planning for this new academic unit, and we anticipate greater visibility and an expanded role for information sciences at UT as a result. The highest priorities for our program in the new organization will be ensuring the integrity of the masters program and maintaining the ALA accredited status. It is an exciting time at SIS and we hope you will stay tuned for the details!

Elizabeth Aversa.

Elizabeth Aversa
Director

Student Award Winners

Congratulations to this year's award recipients. Results of this year's student awards are:

Gary R. Purcell Award:
Emily H. Urban

Academic Achievement Award:
Debra K. Andreadis and
Elizabeth Mercer-Womack

Outstanding Service Award:
Chad Boeninger

University Award for Extraordinary Professional Promise:
Keri-Lynn Paulson

The School of Information Science alumni board has been busy this year, putting the School's Mentoring Program in place, designing the criteria process for the board's first Distinguished Alumni Award, and planning for the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

The School's alumni board is seeking two new members to serve a two-year term. If you are interested in being on the alumni board, please contact any of the board members listed below by July 30. Recent graduates are encouraged to apply.

School of Information Sciences Alumni Board

President	Karen Valentine	
Vice President / President-Elect	Doris Prichard	(dorisp@utk.edu)
Past President	Sherry Ball	(slball2@aol.com)
Secretary	Thura Mack	(tmack@utk.edu)
Members-at-Large	Nancy Carden	(cardenn1@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us)
	Pat Powell	(ppowell@infointl.com)
	Martha Earl	(mearl@utk.edu)
	George Hoemann	(hoemann@utk.edu)
Faculty Representative	Doug Raber	(raberd@utk.edu)
Staff Representative	Joel Southern	(jsouthern@utk.edu)
Director	Elizabeth Aversa	(aversa@utk.edu)

The school of
INFORMATION
sciences

From Reference Desk to Dean's Desk:
A Conversation with Suresh Ponnappa

By Joel Southern

Biddanda "Suresh" Ponnappa is well loved among Tennessee librarians. He should be. He has worked in nearly every department of a library, he is a tireless library advocate, he is innovative, and he is demure and congenial. I recently sat down with him to discuss what changes he has witnessed over his three decades in librarianship, and what he is now doing in his role as Assistant Dean for Learning Resources and Director of the James Quillen College of Medicine Library at East Tennessee State University.

I started out by asking Ponnappa what was the biggest change he had seen over his career as a librarian. The greatest change, he said, is one of mindset. "There was a time when a library was a place," he began. "Libraries are not so much a place anymore because a library can now be on the desktop of the user." He elaborated that the challenges of technology have deepened the mandate of librarians everywhere to provide proactive services and innovative approaches to constituent needs. "Librarians can no longer sit and wait for users to approach them," he added. "We must create partnerships with our faculty members and other constituents, work to anticipate their needs, and teach them information literacy skills so they can better help themselves."

Ponnappa then gave me examples of how he is empowering his constituents at the Quillen Medical Library. A grant received from the National Library of Medicine provided funds to develop and install information kiosks (which consist of a computer workstation with connection to the Internet, printer, and subscription to the MD Consult database and access to other useful databases) and provide training to use these resources in rural health clinics around East Tennessee. The kiosks allow rural doctors and health care workers to access medical databases to keep up with significant medical and pharmaceutical literature. Another grant awarded Ponnappa from the National Institutes of Health provides funds for local public libraries to purchase books and to train the librarians and the general public to access good health care related information.

Ponnappa came to the University of Tennessee in 1976 as an agricultural extension student. He had dreams of teaching farmers about scientific agriculture methods, though he turned his focus to education and librarianship after working in the University's Hoskins Library. He worked his way up through the departments at Hoskins Library and later at the Hodges Library by starting as a circulation clerk; library assistant in the microforms department; general reference librarian and later worked in government documents and microforms. With his agriculture and science background, however, he was selected to be the life sciences reference librarian. Later, he became Coordinator of Interlibrary Services, and one of the first Distance Education librarians. From 1994 to 1998, Ponnappa served as Head of the Webster Pendergrass Agriculture Veterinary Medicine Library at the University of Tennessee.

Ponnappa has always been an early adopter of emerging technologies. To him, the benefit of technology means easier access to information – a goal of every professional librarian. While at Hodges Library in the early 1980s, Ponnappa was given complete freedom to explore the Internet and its instructional potential. In the mid 1980s, while teaching courses as an adjunct professor at SIS and when electronic discussion groups were in their infancy, he required his students to participate in listservs to communicate with other experts in their fields of interest. He developed the Tennessee Library Association's Web site, which was one of the first sites of its kind in the country. Effectively, the work that he and his colleagues in the library did while at Hodges not only helped put the University of Tennessee on the map in the new online world, but also helped the library and the librarians to assume a leadership role in popularizing the Internet and its use on campus.

Today, Ponnappa manages all levels of library service, including biomedical communications, which is a department that creates medical illustrations for instruction. He encourages librarians everywhere to be proactive professionals by taking an active part in civic clubs and non-library professional organizations, thus promoting the value and dignity of the profession. As incoming president of the Tennessee Library Association, his first goal is to increase membership. He estimates that only one in three librarians in Tennessee belong to TLA, and that the organization needs to reorganize and reinvigorate some of its subcommittees that are outdated. His second goal as president will be to increase the public visibility of libraries, whether they are public, school, academic, or special libraries. "My goal as an educator," he says, "is to help students become lifelong learners."

Suresh Ponnappa graduated from SIS in 1984.

Students Present Indexing Research at TLA

Recent graduates Keri-Lynn Paulson and Emily Urban presented their research of automatic indexing at the TLA conference this year. Their presentation was part of the Student Research Forum, a program recently added to the conference in order to showcase new trends in research to conference attendees and to strengthen the ties between the students of SIS and TLA. Keri-Lynn and Emily began their research as part of Dr. Carol Tenopir's Advanced Information Retrieval course. Their object was to compare the automatic indexing component of nexis.com (SmartIndexing) and Dow Jones Interactive (Intelligent Indexing1) and to compare automatic indexing with manual (human) indexing using H.W. Wilson's *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature.* The unique quality of the automatic indexing systems evaluated is the input of subject experts and information professionals into the algorithms used to apply indexing terms. Factiva, a new entity formed by the merger of Reuters and Dow Jones Interactive's business information services, was unveiled at SLA 2001. Emily and Keri-Lynn incorporated Factiva (Intelligent Indexing2) into their study after they determined Factiva's automatic indexing component was not identical to Dow Jones Interactive. Their findings suggest that manual indexing more accurately represents the concept of an article, is less likely to misinterpret metaphors, and is less likely to misread synonyms and homonyms. The SmartIndexing system assigned accurate terms more consistently than Intelligent Indexing1 and 2 although Intelligent Indexing2 performed more consistently than Intelligent Indexing1. The authors predict that the use of "human assisted" automatic indexing will increase because it is less expensive and more efficient than manual indexing. Information professionals will need to learn and pass on to users the best ways to manipulate these types of systems. In addition, the performance of the automatic indexing systems should be improved before they are used for knowledge management in large organizations.

30th Anniversary Alumni Speakers

In addition to Walt Crawford, the School is bringing three distinguished alumni speakers to articulate their expertise and reflect on the information science field.

Vicky Leather

Since 1971 Vicky Leather has worked as a librarian in a variety of library settings—public, school, medical, and academic. She has worked at Chattanooga State Technical Community College for the past 21 years and has been Dean of Library Services the past six years. Vicky has also directed a branch library and a medical library.

Active in several groups, including Solinet, TN Board of Regents Library Directors, and TLA, Vicky has worked to advance librarianship in the state of Tennessee. She is especially determined to develop agreements with other libraries to establish strong collaborative relationships with schools, libraries, and other information providers to bring training and education to Tennessee librarians. Vicky was awarded the TLA James Ward Library Instruction Award in 1998.

She graduated from SIS in 1978.

John Price-Wilkin

John Price-Wilkin is the interim associate director of digital library services and head of the Digital Library Production Service (DLPS) at the University of Michigan. The (DLPS) was formed in 1996 to provide infrastructure for campus digital library collections, including both access systems and digitization services.

John has a strong humanities background and has initiated impressive projects, such as the Humanities Text Initiative, which provides online access to full-text humanities resources. He was also the principal investigator for an NEH grant to convert the Middle English Dictionary, mount it online, and create a new, supporting reference work (the HyperBibliography of Middle English Prose and Verse). A grant by the Mellon Foundation allowed him to convert some 7,500 19th century US imprint monographs. John graduated from SIS in 1986.

Biddanda "Suresh" Ponnappa

Suresh, as he likes to be called, is another special librarian-of sorts. He is the Assistant Dean for Learning Resources and Director of the James Quillen College of Medicine Library at East Tennessee State University. Previously, he was an Associate Professor and the Head of the Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Library at the University of Tennessee.

While at UT, Suresh coordinated Interlibrary Services and Distance Education, served as the Life Sciences Reference Librarian, and managed the Microforms and Government Documents. Suresh is also president-elect of the Tennessee Library Association where he has served since 1985. See page 4 for interview.

Suresh graduated from SIS in 1984.

30th Anniversary Celebration . . .

Do you remember any of these people or places? (Find out on September 14.)

Come celebrate where we've been, and learn where we are going.

A Special Appeal: $30,000 for 30 years

The School of Information Sciences invites you to participate in an important initiative to help the next generation of librarians and other information professionals. We need to endow our scholarship funds now so that we can begin to award much needed financial assistance to promising students so they can study in our program.

The need for financial assistance is great. With UT tuition increases in double digits for the past two years, affording a graduate education is a growing challenge for many potential students. Our libraries are suffering manpower shortages at the same time.

Our campaign to raise $30,000 – a thousand dollars for each year of the School's history – is underway, and we hope to announce that we have reached our goal by September 14 when we celebrate the School's 30th anniversary.

Two anonymous challenge grants have been offered to encourage alumni giving. Both donors have promised to match up to $1000, dollar for dollar, donated before the 30th Anniversary.

Gifts may be earmarked for any of the scholarship funds or may be made directly to the School.

Our scholarship funds include:

Carl T. Cox Scholarship Fund, Carmen Linkous Moulton Fellowship, SIS Enrichment Fund, Glenn E. Estes Scholarship, Gary R. Purcell Scholarship Endowment, and the John C. Tyson Minority Student Fellowship (see next page).

We know that you will be generous and we look forward to announcing a successful conclusion to this campaign in September!

30th Anniversary Celebration

Don't Miss it.

Walt Crawford

NAME _____ FORMER NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

YEAR OF GRADUATION _____ E-MAIL _____

TELEPHONE _____

☐ ATTENDING ($30)   ☐ STUDENT ($15)

☐ NOT ATTENDING (BUT ADD ME TO THE SCHOOL'S MAILING LIST)

Your registration fee of $30 includes lunch and a commemorative CD-ROM. Please fill out form and send check* for $30 to:

School of Information Sciences
804 Volunteer Boulevard
Knoxville, TN 37996-4330

* Make checks payable to the University of Tennessee

School of Information Sciences

30

YEARS

SPEAKERS:

Walt Crawford: Award-winning writer & speaker who writes on libraries, technology, media, publishing, and personal computing.

John Price-Wilkin: Interim Associate Director of Digital Library Services, University of Michigan

Biddanda Ponnappa: Assistant Dean, ETSU Medical Library, President of TLA

Vicky Leather: Director of Libraries, Chattanooga State Technical College

Celebrating 30 Years of Service

1972 – 2002   30-Year – $30,000 Initiative

2002 is a special year for SIS and, indeed, a transitional year. We are making new efforts to stay in touch and keep connected with our alumni who are moving to increasingly diverse fields, not to mention parts of the country. We ask you to consider helping our incoming students.

SIS Enrichment Fund

For special programs and resources for students and special events for graduates.

I'd like to contribute: $_____

Carmen Linkous Moulton Fellowship

For students with professional promise and financial need.

I'd like to contribute: $_____

Please make checks payable to the University of Tennessee and send to:

Joel Southern
School of Information Sciences at UT
804 Volunteer Boulevard
Knoxville, TN 37996-4330

Carl T. Cox Scholarship Fund

I'd like to contribute: $_____

Glenn E. Estes Scholarship

For support of youth services programs in memory of Glenn E. Estes.

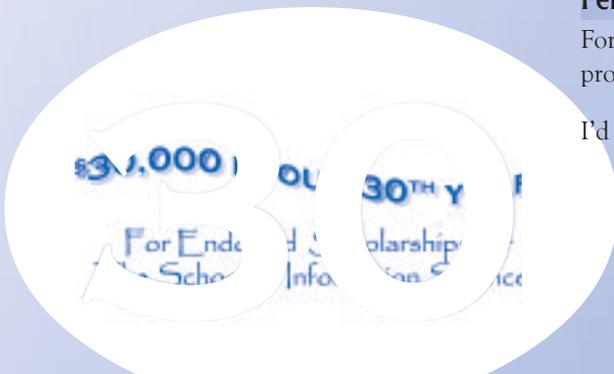I'd like to contribute: $_____

Gary R. Purcell Scholarship Endowment

For students with professional promise in the information sciences.

I'd like to contribute: $_____

John C. Tyson Minority Student Fellowship

For minority students with professional promise.

I'd like to contribute: $_____

$30,000 OU 30TH Y For Ende d Scholarship Scho Info an ce

SIS Alumni Information Form

NAME _____

IF YOUR LAST NAME HAS CHANGED SINCE GRADUATION, PLEASE INDICATE _____

YEAR OF GRADUATION _____ E-MAIL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____ POSITION TITLE _____

EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS _____

WORK TELEPHONE _____

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS _____

WHAT'S NEW? TELL US ABOUT ANY RECENT DEGREES, JOB CHANGES OR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, ETC.

_____

_____

_____

_____

School of Information Sciences
University of Tennessee
804 Volunteer Boulevard
Knoxville, TN 37996-4330

Interface

Return Service Requested