

School of Library and Information Science

Spring 2001
No. 42

N E W S L E T T E R

NEW FACES ON THE SLIS SCENE



Jim Elmborg, Joe Kearney, and Christine Pawley

Two new assistant professors and an on-loan interim director joined the School last fall.

Jim Elmborg and Christine Pawley were appointed to tenure-track faculty positions, and Joe Kearney, professor of computer science at Iowa, serves as interim director while the School searches for a senior faculty member who will become its regular director. Kearney was chair of the UI computer science department from 1993 to 1996, and recently completed a 3-year term on the Executive Committee of the College of Liberal Arts. His message to Newsletter readers is on page 2.

Jim Elmborg

Jim Elmborg came to The University of Iowa from Furman University and Wofford College, where he served as Andrew Mellon Librarian for Information Technology. Previously he was head of library user education at Washington State University. He also has extensive experience as a teacher

of English literature and composition. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Kansas and an M.L.S. from Emporia State University.

[We asked Jim to introduce himself to Newsletter readers. His response follows.]

Before I came to SLIS, I taught English for twenty years—ten years in public high schools and ten years at the university level. During that time, my teaching was split about evenly between teaching literature (reading and interpretation) and teaching writing (expression and correctness). My teaching background was a major part of my career as a professional academic librarian, and it continues to dominate my interests.

Now as a faculty member in SLIS, I see my background in teaching traditional literacy as an ideal foundation for understanding and teaching the new literacies, including Visual Literacy, Computer Literacy, Media Literacy, and Information Literacy. In teaching at

SLIS, I intend to continue my work to promote teaching as the core function of librarianship and to continue my advocacy of technology as a valuable tool in the teaching and learning process.

My wife and I are native Kansans. After living on both coasts, we are relieved and happy to be back in the Midwest, where the skies are big and storms roll in from the west, like they're supposed to.

Christine Pawley

Christine Pawley joined the faculty last fall, after a year as Visiting Fellow at the University of New South Wales, in Sydney, Australia. She holds degrees from the Universities of Oxford and Surrey in the United Kingdom, and from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her Ph.D. in 1996.

[We also asked Christine to introduce herself to our readers.]

I think of my adult life as falling into—so far—three phases. I was born and raised in London, England, where I taught high school and college sociology for several years. After I married and moved to the United States, I spent the next decade running a home and caring for three small children. What I still think of as the newest phase started when the children were all in school, and I turned to Library and Information Science. However, LIS is actually turning into my most sustained activity—and hardly new any longer!

Before I came to the University of Iowa, I had previously taught in the LIS masters programs at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, so I already had a feel for teaching mid-western graduate students. My research also focuses on the history of reading and libraries in the upper Midwest, and

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been an exciting year in the School of Library and Information Science. After a tough period of uncertainty, the School has rebounded with vigor and vitality. As Kay Runge said in my first meeting with the Advisory Panel, the School's circumstance has gone "from bleak to brilliant."

I've been privileged to serve as director during this year of rejuvenation. For those of you who don't know me, I'm an expatriate computer scientist disguised as the interim director of the School. My background is in computer vision, virtual environments, and human computer interaction.

My year in the School has been a tremendous opportunity for me to get to know my colleagues and to learn about the library field and community. For example, I discovered (thanks to Candice Smith) why there are little pencil marks on the title pages of library books. I met many of our alumni at meetings on and off campus. Throughout my experience, I've been impressed by the dedication and strong support our alumni provide.

I'd like to bring you up to date on happenings in and around the School over the last year. Last summer, we began working in our new administrative home as part of the Graduate College. The transition has been remarkably smooth and feels like a natural fit. The Graduate College welcomed us with generous support to re-equip the tech lab and the computer classroom with 42 new computers stocked with loads of multimedia software. We can take great pride in the quality and accessibility of our technological facilities.

In late summer the two newest members of the faculty, Professors Christine Pawley and James Elmborg, joined the School. They brought great energy and enthusiasm to the School and have been most welcome additions to our faculty.

Last fall, Professor Dave Eichmann took on the enormous challenge of teaching the Online@Iowa course. This web-based course taught over 1700 first-year undergraduates about electronic information systems on campus. The course was a remarkable success, largely due to the creativity and hard work of Dave and the SLIS

graduate students who assisted with content development and running of the course.

In November, Professor Padmini Srinivasan was awarded the prestigious Faculty Scholar Award from the University. This three-year award releases her from half of her usual obligations of teaching, advising, administration, and service to concentrate on scholarship. She plans to study the extraction and summarization of information in medical databases.

During the fall and early winter, Padmini and I served on the Informatics Study Committee co-chaired by Vice Provost Les Sims and Associate Vice President Bill Decker. The Provost and Vice President for Research charged the committee to find ways to promote programs of study and interdisciplinary research in applied computational and information science. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, a new Informatics Initiative is being developed in which the School will play a central role. Substantial funding for the initiative is already in place, with activities set to begin as early as next January.

The School, alumni, and friends were deeply saddened by the sudden death of Joyce Hartford in March. Joyce's 26 years of dedication to the School will be long remembered. Through her kindness and sensitivity for others, Joyce created a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Later this summer, Dr. Cavan McCarthy will be leaving the School to take a faculty position in the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University. We thank Cavan for his dedication and commitment to teaching in a wide spectrum of courses over the last two years. Best of luck, Cavan.

Vice Provost Les Sims is also leaving Iowa City this summer to become Dean in Residence at the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington, D.C. Les was instrumental in arranging the relocation of the School to the Graduate College.

He has provided tremendous guidance and support for the School. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Les and wish him the best in his new position—it's fitting that he will end his career as Dean among Deans.

Lastly, I want to thank the Advisory Panel, faculty, staff, and students for their warm welcome and support throughout the year.

—Joe Kearney

joe-kearney@uiowa.edu

FACULTY NEWS

Jim Elmborg gave two presentations this spring to academic librarians. He spoke on "Information Literacy and the Liberal Arts: Revision or Revolution?" at the annual meeting of the Iowa Private Academic Librarians in Des Moines. Two weeks later he gave a session "Streaming Media Goes Mainstream: Implications for Academic Libraries" at the ILA/ACRL conference in Davenport.

David Eichmann continues his research on web search techniques and multimedia retrieval. New developments include the ability to tag documents with parts-of-speech and then extract entities (person names, organizations, etc.) from those documents. He and Padmini Srinivasan completed a chapter for an upcoming collection on Topic Tracking and Detection, and they are participating in this year's Text Retrieval Conference. His Online@Iowa course for first-semester students in Liberal Arts and Sciences is an electronic introduction to The University of Iowa campus and to electronic information and processes. The Fall 2000 offering attracted 1700+ students. It was described in the April 2001 issue of *Iowa Alumni Magazine*.

Carl Orgren, whose retirement activities focus on his granddaughters, came back this spring to co-teach the Government Information Resources course.

Christine Pawley's book, *Reading on the Middle Border: The Culture of Print in Late Nineteenth Century Osage, Iowa*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press. Her research on print culture continues as she studies Lutie Stearns and the traveling libraries of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, and rural reading in Cold War Wisconsin.

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NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR TWO SLIS ALUMNAE

Two alumnae and members of the SLIS Advisory Panel bring a special perspective to their service for the School. Both have been elected to the highest position in their respective divisions of the American Library Association. Kay Runge has just completed her term as president of the Public Library Association, and Helen Spalding begins her term as vice-president/president-elect of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Kay K. Runge

This has been an eventful year for Kay Runge (SLIS class of 1970). In



April she was named director of the Public Library of Des Moines, having served as director of the Davenport Public Library since 1985. In June she completed her

term as president of the Public Library Association (PLA).

PLA, a division of the American Library Association, has 9,000 members. Runge's presidential theme was "The Public Library — A Public Good for a Public Trust." Looking back on her year at the helm of PLA, Runge reflected: "To be able to serve as president of the division representing

the most American democratic institution — the public library — has been a true honor. There is nothing more exciting than to be able to provide customer service to the citizenry of a community where no one is judged by race, creed or social/economic status."

An active member of PLA for nearly thirty years, Runge has chaired several key committees and served on the PLA Board of Directors. She has also served on the boards of LAMA and ALA's Freedom to Read Foundation.

She is a past president of the Iowa Library Association and of Humanities Iowa. Last year she received the Member of the Year Award from ILA and was named to the National Advocacy Honor Roll by the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates.

Last fall, Runge co-taught a course in strategic management for SLIS.

Helen H. Spalding



Helen H. Spalding (SLIS class of 1974) has been elected 2001-2002 vice-president/president-elect of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). She is associate

director of libraries at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Prior to coming to UMKC in 1979, Spalding was head

of serials cataloging at Iowa State University.

The largest division of the American Library Association, ACRL has a membership of over 11,000.

Spalding plans to focus her 2002-2003 presidential term on enhancing the visibility of academic librarians, participating in changing and improving library school education and recruitment to the profession, and examining how ACRL can be better positioned for the future. "We can build on a strong history of partnering with others in higher education and in other types of libraries to address the new realities we face," she observes. Her vision for ACRL is set forth in the February 2001 *C&RLNewsNet*.

Spalding has been an active member of ACRL and ALA, serving most recently on the ACRL Board of Directors Executive Committee, and as the ACRL representative to ALA Council.

She has been active in other ALA divisions as well — LAMA and LITA — and in the Missouri Library Association and the OCLC Users Council.

She is on the Board of Editors for *Portal: Libraries and the Academy* and has published scholarly articles on professional development and the implementation of automated systems.

In addition to her M.A. in library science from The University of Iowa, she holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

ALUMNI NEWS

1972

STEVE BROGDEN is now director of library services at the Thousand Oaks Library in Thousand Oaks, CA.

1980

GRETCHEN NAUGLE is director of the resource center for the Martin Luther Home Society, Lincoln, NE.

1982

BARB UCHTORFF is systems librarian at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY.

1986

BARB STEIN, media specialist at Irving Weber Elementary School in

Iowa City, was named Iowa Media Professional of the Year by the Iowa Educational Media Association. This is the sixth time that a UI grad has won the award since its inception in 1988.

1987

MARTY KURTH is now head of cataloging at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

TOM PETERS was editor of the Fall 2000 issue of *Library Trends*, entitled "Assessing Digital Library Services."

1988

THELMA THOMPSON is government documents librarian at the University of New Hampshire, Durham.

1991

PAULA PRESLEY is included in the 22nd edition of *Marquis Who's Who*.

CHRIS ERNST TAFT is head of reference at the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology, Kansas City, MO.

1993

CAROLYN ROKKE is automation manager for the Sacramento (CA) Public Library.

1995

LESLIE CZECHOWSKI is archivist of the Minnesota Orchestra Collection, housed at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

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Honor Roll of 2000 Library and Information Science Contributors

This honor roll gratefully recognizes alumni and friends who made gifts of \$25 or more to the School of Library and Information Science through The University of Iowa Foundation from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000. Contributors are listed in alphabetical order.

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Alumni News, continued from p. 3

PAUL HEALEY is head of public services at the University of Illinois Law School Library in Champaign, IL.

1996

SUSAN OWEN is website documentation specialist at Indiana State University, Terre Haute.

1997

REBECCA TEASDALE is a branch manager for Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR.

KAREN VAN DRIE is now manager of two branch libraries in the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, CO.

1998

GAYLE BUCKNER is imaging archivist at Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines.

JUDY HARRIS is social sciences librarian at the University of Houston in Texas.

KEVIN ROSS is bibliographic instruction librarian at Chapman University, Orange, CA.

1999

KAY MOHLING is program coordinator for the Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, UI.

JENNIFER PARIS is now instruction librarian at Palomar College in San Marcos, CA.

PAUL SEELAU is a reference librarian at the Council Bluffs Public Library.

Joyce Hartford, 1938-2001: Personal Reflections



The SLIS community has lost a cherished friend. Joyce Hartford, departmental secretary from 1971 to 1997, died on March 3, 2001.

In her 26 years as office manager and

secretary, Joyce was the heart and soul of the School of Library and Information Science. Her contribution to the School and her impact on students and faculty cannot be measured. Even after her retirement in 1997, she continued to help us with special projects, and she was at work on February 16, just one day before she entered the hospital.

Over 1400 students graduated during her time of service. She knew all of them personally, and in most cases hers was the welcoming voice that greeted them when they first called or visited the School. Throughout their stay, Joyce was their advocate, encourager, problem-solver, and empathetic friend. At the time of her retirement in September 1997, SLIS students

organized Joyce's Jubilee, a festive picnic in her honor.

As a colleague, I had the privilege of working with Joyce for many years. Like others, I was amazed at her ability to recognize telephone voices. Her special ability failed only once — she told me my husband was on the phone, and it was actually the dean calling. (He was amused by my inappropriate greeting.) Two special qualities that I admired were her constancy and her genuine concern for others. Joyce's gift to us came not only in what she did, but in who she was: a person of enormous compassion and kindness. She touched many lives, and we are richer for having known her.

At the suggestion of her husband Peter, an endowed scholarship fund has been established in Joyce Hartford's name. One or more scholarships will be awarded annually to students in the School of Library and Information Science. The fund, maintained by the University of Iowa Foundation, was created and will be supported through gifts received in Joyce's memory and with proceeds from a gift given to the school by Fred Wezeman, founding director, at the time of his retirement in 1980.

—Ethel Bloesch

New Faces, continued from p. 1

I have lived in the region for over twenty years. So although I will probably always sound like an "outsider," this feels like home to me.

The core of my teaching and research centers on the social and cultural contexts of information production and distribution. I believe that the best library practice takes account of geographical location and that the most successful practitioners are those with an intimate knowledge of their communities, however these are defined. Best practice also takes account of history. A major failing of the narrowly technocratic approach to information that has unfortunately dominated some schools of LIS both in the United States and abroad is that it ignores memory and experience. But without knowledge and understanding of the past, we cannot understand the present, let alone forecast the future. I have just finished a book project that looks at the print culture of Osage, Iowa in the late nineteenth century, and am now working on a study of reading in rural Wisconsin during the McCarthy era.

I love living in Iowa City, and even the commute to Madison (where my husband teaches) two or three times a month doesn't feel like a chore. The countryside is beautiful, and besides, it gives me an excuse to listen to the radio for three hours at a stretch—KSUI up to Dubuque, and WHA on the far side of the river.

Faculty News, continued from p. 2

Padmini Srinivasan was one of six University of Iowa faculty members selected to receive the UI Faculty Scholar award (2001-2003). This award supports a semester of research in each of the three academic years. She will use it to study information extraction and visualization methods and build a prototype system — with special focus on the Medline database. Her NLM-funded project exploring vocabularies continues. She will present a co-authored paper "Evaluating Topic Based Crawlers" at the 2001 ACM SIGIR Conference (New Orleans, September 2001).

Jean Donham, college librarian at Cornell College, is now an adjunct faculty member for SLIS. She is co-author of a forthcoming book from Linworth Publishing, *Inquiry-Based Learning: Lessons from Library Power*.

Students team with libraries in Web projects

In this spring's Multimedia class, Professor James Elmborg gave the 23 students an opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology and with real libraries. The students worked in pairs to give technological assistance to twelve libraries that had expressed interest in the concept last fall. Professor Elmborg explained: "I didn't want to just do tricks with technology — I wanted to connect the technology to practice." He hoped that taking "the university out into the state" would create a collaboration that would benefit all: the students would learn a lot about libraries, and the libraries would get "nifty web pages."

To facilitate this, the Graduate College purchased four digital still cameras, four digital video cameras, and a server. The students then created movies ("streaming video") and photographic galleries, enabling them to develop multimedia skills needed for their web projects.

Because Professor Elmborg wanted to emphasize that "we are all teachers and all learners when it comes to the real world," he gave students the chance to teach an afternoon workshop, co-sponsored by Southeastern Library Services, on how to build and maintain a web site. The student presenters gave the participants from the public libraries an overview of how to create a web page and how to get the page they created "online." They introduced participants to sources of low-cost or free software and free online sources for sharpening their web skills after the workshop.

For a look at the student's final projects, go to: <http://mingo.info-science.uiowa.edu/courses/multimedia/Project/final.html>. If you would like to participate next spring, contact Professor Elmborg james-elmborg@uiowa.edu about his Spring 2002 course.

—Holly Huffman

Appointments of 2000 graduates

WENDY BAKER AGOCS: elementary school media specialist, Hamilton (MI) Community Schools.

CATHERINE BOLKCOM: program coordinator, Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board, Le Claire.

ADAM BURKE: librarian, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL.

MIRA DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: systems librarian, Innovative Interfaces, Emeryville, CA.

CLAUDIA THORNTON FRAZER: resource description and materials management librarian, Drake University, Des Moines.

JENNIFER GARNER: assistant director, North Liberty (IA) Community Library.

POLLY MCCARRON GREAVES: competitive intelligence analyst, Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids.

LORIE HYTEN: adult services librarian, Olathe (KS) Public Library.

MARY IBER: consulting librarian for the sciences, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon.

HANNAH IMANKULOV: library processing specialist, Lerner Publications, Minneapolis, MN.

NICHOLE JENKINS: librarian, Radiology Department, UI Hospitals and Clinics.

EMILY KNOTT: head of adult services, Kewanee (IL) Public Library.

MARGARET M. LOTSPEICH: media specialist, Davenport (IA) Community Schools.

TIFFANY MILLER: elementary media specialist, Wilkins Elementary School, Marion.

STACEY L. LUNSFORD: director, Humboldt (IA) Public Library.

BRENDA MOLIFE: reference librarian, UI Libraries.

MELANIE POOCK MORGAN: elementary school media specialist, Round Rock (TX) Independent School District.

JAMIE NELSON: special collections librarian, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

ALYSIA PEICH: public services librarian, Buckham Memorial Library, Faribault, MN.

JEFF SHEPHERD: media specialist, Kaposia Education Center, South St. Paul, MN.

MICHELLE HOLSCHUH SIMMONS: consulting librarian for the humanities, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon.

JAMES CARL SWANER: librarian I, John F. Kennedy Library, Hialeah (FL) Public Libraries.

JOY TOFTELAND: reference/technical resources librarian, Kirkendall Public Library, Ankeny.

ANITA DAWN VOGEL: reference librarian, Northwestern College, Orange City.

PAULA WHANNELL: health sciences librarian, Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines.

KELSIE WHITTEN: reference librarian, Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City.

MARA WIGGINS: project librarian, 5th Judicial District, MN.

LAURA WOLF: media specialist, Lone Tree (IA) Schools.

Mark your calendar now

The 33rd Annual Festival of Books for Young People will be held Saturday, November 3.

Festured speakers will be Avi, Chris Soentpiet, and Kate DiCamillo.

For more information, Call Ethel Bloesch toll-free at 1-800-553-IOWA, Ext. 5709, or send request to ethel-bloesch@uiowa.edu

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IN MEMORIAM

JOSE MALDONADO ('72) of Noblesville, IN, died August 28, 2000.

DONA J. MILLER ('70) of Blair, NE, died September 24, 2000.

MARILYN RAPP ('68) of Chicago, IL, died January 30, 2001.

MARILYN YEAGER ('96) of Cedar Rapids, IA, died December 17, 2000.

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