

## Message from the Program

Leading any academic unit is a challenging task, and with the relatively small size of the SLIS faculty, the position of director can become quite absorbing. After five dedicated years of outstanding work as director of SLIS, Professor Jim Elmborg decided it was time to get back to focusing on his research and teaching interests full time.

Dan Berkowitz began his appointment as interim director of SLIS last July. An associate dean in the Graduate College and professor of journalism and mass communication, Berkowitz is no stranger to the University of Iowa, having arrived as a faculty member in 1988.

"I'm impressed with the great job that Jim Elmborg did as director. The School is running well, and he made it easy for me to step into the position," Berkowitz said.

A key task that Berkowitz hopes to accomplish this year is to hire a new faculty member to take over the director's reins. A national search is currently underway.

"I joke with people that the goal is to replace myself, but in reality, it's important for SLIS to bring in a new director who can help guide the School into a rapidly changing world of libraries and information," Berkowitz said.

Kit Austin, program assistant at SLIS, met with Berkowitz recently to talk about his role with SLIS and how he views the School's future in the next few years.

**KA:** How did you get into the position of interim director?

**DB:** SLIS reports to Graduate College Dean John Keller. I am in my fifth year with the Graduate College. When Dean Keller learned that Jim Elmborg wanted to return to faculty life, he asked if I would be willing to serve in an interim role. My goal is to keep things running smoothly, not making any real changes yet still taking care of any needs that arise.

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Dan Berkowitz, interim director of SLIS

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**KA:** How has your background helped with the new role?

**DB:** I worked in a similar interim role with the Iowa Press last year. Once again, the director there decided to leave the position, and I served in an interim role while a search was underway to hire a new director. They gave me their coveted “Interim Director of the Year” award, which I assume means things went okay, even if I was the only interim director that year.

**KA:** Your academic background is as a journalism professor. Has that helped you in any way?

**DB:** I have observed a number of directors during my time in higher education. In the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, I have actually been a faculty member under seven different directors, so I’ve had a lot of time to observe how different people approach the position. I also see some similarities in the social roles of journalism and libraries, with both being pivotal institutions in society, yet both facing growing pains in a climate of changing technology, information management, and economics.

**KA:** Have you had much chance to interact with current students in the program?

**DB:** My opportunities have been somewhat limited by my other responsibilities on campus. However, I was very impressed with the group of incoming students I met at orientation at the beginning of fall term. I also attended the student poster presentation on November 11 and found the interchange between poster presenters and faculty members fascinating. I thought the graduating students had developed a good sense of research in the profession.

**KA:** How do you see the challenges facing SLIS in the next few years?

**DB:** We are experiencing the dual challenges of maintaining a curriculum that is both grounded in the rich culture of libraries and information science while also keeping the curriculum up-to-date to serve our students in both their long-term and short-term career goals. Along with that, we need to help prospective students understand what we can do for them and what career possibilities await when they complete their degrees.

As the only library science graduate program in the state, we also face the challenge of serving the state of Iowa broadly. Although we have sometimes engaged in distance education courses and projects over the years, we have not yet decided on our path for this opportunity. Given the growth in distance education programs, though, this need will likely be facing us sooner than later.

In all, we have a vibrant and capable faculty who I am confident will work with the permanent director to lead the School into the future.

“We are experiencing the dual challenge of maintaining a curriculum that is both grounded in the rich culture of libraries and information science while also keeping the curriculum up-to-date to serve our students in both their long-term and short-term goals.”

— Dan Berkowitz

We would like to apologize to alumnus Paul Healey for the incorrect title of his book in the Fall 2010 newsletter. The correct book title is *Professional Liability Issues for the Library and Information Professional*. We sincerely regret this error.

## Donor Spotlight

Linda L. Gunther

We would like to express our deep appreciation for a generous bequest from the estate of Linda L. Gunther. Originally from Galesburg, Ill., Gunther earned her BA from the University of Arizona and her MA from the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science in 1969.

She was a teacher and school librarian at Sevilla Elementary in the Alhambra School



District in Arizona for 25 years before her retirement. Gunther passed away on Sept. 21, 2008.

In honor of her generosity, SLIS has renamed the student technology lab the Linda L. Gunther SLIS Student Commons. SLIS would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors for their continued support of the department and programs here at the University of Iowa.

# B Sides to Enter Third Year

By Cassandra Elton

**B** *Sides*, launched in 2010, is going strong in its third year. The journal has published 22 articles since its inception, and the student editorial staff and contributors can look back on the highly successful and innovative conference, “Unpacking the ‘Library’: Exploring Works in Progress Across the LIS Field,” held at the Iowa City Public Library last spring.

Current editors Melody Dworak and Samantha Bouwers said the conference turnout exceeded their expectations. “We were praying for 50 people to come, and close to 80 walked through the door,” said Bouwers, adding that “support from the SLIS students, faculty, and library community was overwhelming.”

The conference program consisted of panels of recent graduates, current students, UI Librarians and research poster presentations. In addition to faculty, students, and alumni, a number of working librarians from around the state were present in the audience.

“Sometimes student research gets buried, so it was great to see it presented to the public in

this way,” Dworak said.

While Bouwers and Dworak loved being part of the first student-run conference, they will not attempt to repeat the event this year. The amount of time and effort required for the planning and execution of the conference detracted too much from the main goal of *B Sides*, which is to publish and promote student work. They both feel that *B Sides* will benefit more from smaller-scale projects that relate more closely to the publishing aspect of the journal. Events such as a professional development research symposium and a practice poster presentation are on the docket for this year.

First-year students Sarah Alexander and Jennifer Eilers have joined the team as associate editors, and Dworak and Bouwers look forward to their contributions. The goal of the editors this year is to see more student work published. The work may be in any format. Traditional research articles, websites, poster PDFs, and even the occasional personal essay are welcome.

To view work published to date in *B Sides*, please visit [ir.uiowa.edu/bsides](http://ir.uiowa.edu/bsides).

## Call for B Sides submissions from SLIS alumni

*The B Sides staff is always seeking submissions from alumni, either from your time as a student or from your professional life. Submissions are accepted on a rolling (no deadlines) basis, and are assigned reviewers and put through the publication process as quickly as possible. To submit an article, or to read what we've already published, please visit*

**<http://ir.uiowa.edu/bsides>**

*We are also looking for alumni to act as occasional reviewers of submissions. If you would like to become a reviewer please send an e-mail with your name and your interests/specialty areas to*

**[bsides@uiowa.edu](mailto:bsides@uiowa.edu)**



Pictured (from left) during the B Sides Conference are Leila Rod Welch, Katie DeVries Hassman, Julia Skinner, and Rachel Smalter Hall.

# Second IMLS TL Cohort Graduates May 2011

By Cassandra Elton

Dianna Geers is one of the graduates from the second IMLS cohort and is currently working as a media specialist at Harding Middle School in Cedar Rapids. She previously worked as a talented and gifted teacher at Franklin Middle School in Cedar Rapids.

Geers had wanted to be a librarian for a long time, but could not rationalize taking the time from work and spending the money for a second master's degree. However, when she heard about the IMLS grant, she applied for the program and was accepted.

"The fact that it was all expenses paid was a huge benefit," she says.

During the school year, she was enrolled in a program that met twice a week at a Polycom site that was provided through a partnership with the Iowa Area Education Agencies. The distance education system played a huge part in enabling teachers across the state to participate in this program.

Technology is central to most of Geers'

work. She helps students create multimedia presentations, including podcasts, and works with teachers to incorporate technology into their lesson plans. She has become the first line of defense for tech support for the school. She says teachers and others often come to her for help before they call the IT department. She's been able to help solve tech difficulties ranging from issues with the wireless laptop carts to problems with the Promethean Boards in classrooms.

When asked about which SLIS classes she felt best prepared her for her current position, she answered, "I can't think of any classes that I took that I'm not pulling something from."

She especially praises the foundation classes, which made her ask the question "What is our purpose in the library?" This question helped focus her efforts to advance learning and innovation in the school.

Geers frequently smiles as she reflects on her job and what she does every day.

"It is what I always hoped that it would be," she says.



Dianna Geers



Pictured are graduates of the second IMLS TL Cohort and SLIS faculty members (from left) : Kate Merulla, Cliff Missen, Kristina Doll, Kate Lechtenberg, Ann Knipper, Prof. Andre Brock, Jennifer Dwyer, Tami Tomkins, Dianna Geers, Mary Priske, Lisa Lode, Joan Hippen, Deborah Hernandez, Donna Salton, Allison Gates, Janelle Erickson, Christine Taylor, Jodi Schrick, Matthew McKee, Devin Redmon, Prof. Joan Bessman Taylor, and Prof. Jim Elmborg.

"I can't think of any classes that I took that I'm not pulling something from."

— Dianna Geers

# IMLS Grant Fellowship

By Cassandra Elton

In 2006, the state of Iowa passed a new code that required each school district to have access to either a full- or part-time librarian with a master's degree, a huge reversal from 1995, when the state determined that certified librarians were no longer required in the school system.

When the new code went into effect, well over 100 districts were unprepared to meet the new requirement.

The School of Library and Information Science responded to this new need by applying for a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to enable licensed teachers in school districts statewide to earn their master's degree and endorsement as school librarians. The grant provided fellowships for

the teachers that paid most of the tuition and fees for their education.

SLIS sought out teachers with a strong record in the classroom who were not afraid of technology and wanted to be leaders in their schools. The teachers attended classes in the evening, in person or through video conferencing, while working full time.

The first cohort graduated in Spring, 2010 and the second cohort in Spring, 2011.

Jim Elmborg, one of the authors of the grant, believes strongly that grants like this one are beneficial to the University of Iowa, to the school districts, and to the state of Iowa because they "show us ways to do things that are innovative."

*Thirty-nine Iowa teachers benefitted from a grant awarded to SLIS by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).*

*The \$881,692 grant provided for two cohorts of students to go through a two-year program to become certified teacher librarians.*

*The first cohort graduated in Spring, 2010 and the second cohort graduated in Spring, 2011.*

## News of Recent Graduates

Madigan **Armstrong** (2011) is now the Youth/Reference Librarian for the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Rebecca **Berg** (2010) has taken the positions of Director of the public library in Dike, IA.

Suzette Wiley **Blanchard** (2010) is employed as an IT support consultant at the University of Iowa.

Annette **Bramstedt** (2010) is the assistant director of the public library in Hudson, IA.

Rod **Buttermore** (2010) works as a youth services librarian at the Grimes Public Library.

Megan **Conley** (2010) is Scientific Information Literacy Librarian at Wartburg College, Waverly, IA.

Christine **Garrow** (2011) is employed as the Youth Librarian for the Eldridge Branch of the Scott County Library System.

Melissa **Haberichter** (2010) is the District Librarian/Media Specialist (Grades PK-12) at MFL MarMac Community School District, Monona, IA.

Rachel **Smalter Hall** (2010) is Adult Programs Librarian at the Lawrence Public Library in Kansas.

Katie **DeVries Hassman** (2011) is a first-year doctoral student at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies.

Jamie **Hosek** (2010) works for Emerson Process Management in Ottumwa. She serves as Discussion List Owner & Webmaster (Electronic Communications Committee, Chair) for SLA, Iowa Chapter.

Sherry **Lochhaas** (2011) has moved to Germany, where she continues to work for WiderNet.

Jessica **Main** Garchik (2011) is now married to fellow graduate Sam **Garchik** (2010) and loves her new job as Youth Services Librarian at the Fairfield Public Library.

Christine (**Mastalio**) Barth (2011) is now the Reference/Tech Services Librarian for the Scott County Library System in Eldridge, IA.

Katie **Merulla** is now the librarian at Echo Hill elementary in the Linn-Mar district

Gwen **Persons** (2011) has begun a new position as Transfer Articulation and Degree Audit Specialist at the University of Colorado at Denver.

Dawn **Schrandt** was hired in August of this year as the assistant library director at the James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville, IA.

Julia **Skinner** (2011) began her PhD program at Florida State University.

Ryan **Strepke-Durgin** (2011) is Electronic Resources Specialist for Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

Jonathan **Werth** (2011) is employed as an IT Support Specialist at the University of Iowa.

*Send your news to: UI School of Library and Information Science, [slis@uiowa.edu](mailto:slis@uiowa.edu)*

# Faculty Research Update

**André Brock's** research into cultural identities in digital environments continues to produce exciting research. His research into the racial implications of an African American focused web browser yielded a publication in *New Media and Society*, "Beyond the Pale: The Blackbird browser's critical reception" as well as an invitation by Google to discuss the cultural implications of software design.



André Brock

In April, he won a competitive award for the University of Iowa's Obermann Center Cmiel Research Semester, which will allow him to develop his work on Twitter as a cultural resource.

In October, he presented two papers at the Association for Internet Researchers Conference in Seattle, Wash. — "An Analysis of the Construction of White Identity on the Popular Blog Stuffwhitepeoplelike.com," as well as preliminary findings on the discursive constructions of Black identity on Twitter. Brock is currently editing submissions for a collection of essays on race, gender, and the Internet for Peter Lang Publishers to be published in 2012.

Last summer, **Jennifer Burek Pierce** presented a paper, "No More Optical Delusions: Science in the Works of Oliver Optic," at The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing. The paper developed from her research at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass. Her most recent



Jennifer Burek Pierce

book, *What Adolescents Ought to Know: Sexual Health Texts in Early Twentieth-century America*, published by the University of

Massachusetts, was released last summer. Burek Pierce also serves on the YALSA Henne Grant Committee, which funds research related to the aims and interests of YALSA. She continues to pursue her research project on the role of literacy in the restorative travel prescribed for women as a cure for a variety of illnesses, including heart conditions, mental health problems, insomnia, exhaustion and strain. This project is funded by a University of Iowa Arts and Humanities Initiative Award.

**Dave Eichmann** continues to direct the biomedical informatics component within the Institute of Clinical and Translational Science (ICTS), the University of Iowa's National Institute of Health Clinical and Translation Science Award (CTSA). Iowa is currently one of 60 CTSA's in the country seeking to improve how science gets done.



Dave Eichmann

Eichmann was just elected co-chair of the Research Networking Affinity Group within the CTSA Consortium. He has presented his work on the Loki Research Networking System last year at the Science of Team Science Conference in Chicago and the VIVO Conference in Washington, D.C. Loki's role in the Direct2Experts federated search project was presented at the VIVO Conference and the AMIA Translational Biomedical Informatics Symposium and published in JAMIA. His informatics team in the ICTS is actively developing a research data warehouse to support research access to the clinical data present at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

**Jim Elmborg** is transitioning from administration to faculty life. He continues his work with the Virtual Writing University (a digital collection of recordings about creative writing at the University of Iowa).

## SLIS newsletter

**Caroline Austin**  
program assistant/  
editor

**Vicki MacLeod**  
secretary

**Cassandra Elton**  
student/writer

The SLIS newsletter is published in the fall. It can be found on the web at [www.slis.uiowa.edu](http://www.slis.uiowa.edu)

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Migration of the collection to UI's Digital Library Services was completed in spring of 2011. He was invited to serve on the Provost's Steering Committee for Public Humanities in a Digital Age in fall of 2010, and he began serving on the advisory panel for the Digital Studio for Public Humanities in fall of 2011. He also continues to write about critical information literacy. He published a chapter titled "Literacies, Narratives, and Adult Learning in Libraries" in *Adult Education in Cultural Institutions* published by Jossey-Bass. In spring of 2011, "Libraries as the Spaces Between Us: Recognizing and Valuing the Third Space" was the feature article in *RUSQ*. His paper, "Critical Information Literacy: Definitions and Challenges" will soon be published in *Transforming Information Literacy Programs: Intersecting Frontiers of Self, Library Culture, and Campus Community*.



Jim Elmborg

**Haowei Hsieh** presented a paper, "Facilitating Content Creation and Content Research in Building the 'City of Lit' Digital Library" in June at the ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) in Ottawa, Canada. Along with his graduate assistant Nicole Dudley, Hsieh presented a demonstration of the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature Digital Library project at the Joint Conference on Digital Literature. He and Dudley continue to work as database consultants for the UNESCO City of Literature iPhone and Mobile Application Development Team. Users can download the application to learn about Iowa City's rich heritage of literature and authors. Hsieh, Dudley and others published a paper, "UCOL – Iowa



Haowei Hsieh

City UNESCO City of Literature Mobile Application Research & Development," in the *Journal of the Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science*. Hsieh is also coauthor of another paper, "Digital Library 2.0 for Educational Resources," presented by the Ensemble project team at the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries (TPDL) this September in Berlin.

**Patricia Katopol's** article, "Information Anxiety and African-American Students in a Graduate Education Program" was accepted by the *Education Libraries Journal*. The research expands the concept of library anxiety to information anxiety via an examination of the information behavior of black graduate students who use a variety of information resources. Information anxiety is a continuous element of minority students' information behavior and creates a barrier to obtaining and using information for academic work.



Patricia Katopol

She presented, "Cognitive Work Analysis: A Framework for Research in Collaborative Information Seeking" at the Association of Computing Machinery's GROUP2010 workshop on Group Information Retrieval. Katopol also presented a poster, "Using Cognitive Work Analysis in Science of Team Science Research: An Emerging Context for Research in Human Information Behavior and Knowledge Management" at the Science of Team Science Conference in Chicago. "Group information retrieval still has some uncharted territory," Katopol stated. "I'm interested in taking a framework – Cognitive Work Analysis – which has been very useful for me in examining individual information behavior and seeing how far I can take it with groups of all types – from science teams to students working on group projects."

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## School of Library and Information Science at Iowa

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# The SLIS Route to Museum Registrar

By Katherine Wilson

*“I encourage others to think outside of the traditional box and make their SLIS experience into what they want it to be.”*

— Katherine Wilson

People are often surprised to learn that I am earning a master’s degree in library and information science, since I have a bachelor’s degree in art education with an emphasis in art history, and that my goal is to find employment as a museum registrar. The connection between libraries and museums has always been clear to me. Now that I am working as an assistant to the registrar at the University of Iowa Museum of Art, the similarities between libraries and museums have become even more apparent.

My work at the museum is challenging and very fulfilling. I am constantly solving problems by using my experience in SLIS. For example, I will be creating a digital filing system for the curators at the museum, which will be used for bibliographic research of important pieces in the collection. The system will be organized in much the same way as a Special Collections electronic finding aid.

It is so gratifying to know that the skills I have learned in the SLIS

program are relevant across multiple disciplines. I have taken classes, completed projects, and written papers with the idea of being able to translate the lessons to the world of art or history museums. With so many similarities between libraries and museums, it is clear that anyone with an art or history background would find a library and information science degree a practical gateway into the world of a museum registrar. I encourage others to think outside of the traditional box and make their SLIS experience into what they want it to be.



## Continued from Page 7 — Faculty



Joan Bessman Taylor

### Joan Bessman Taylor

continues to examine the social and cultural construction of the adult reader and the role of groups in defining who readers are, what they want, and how they engage in reading. She is particularly interested in the consequences of these evolving definitions on the creation of library policy, the formation of more wide-scale public and educational policy, the design of tools for supporting readers, and on the value systems that influence the

future of reading and libraries in society. One of Taylor’s current projects utilizes the Iowa Library Association’s archives to trace the development of intellectual freedom as a guiding principle for state of Iowa professionals and the juxtaposition of the ideal with fluctuating societal attitudes concerning the recreational reading of adults.

Another project examines the rhetoric employed by designers of e-books and online reading platforms concerning the assumptions they advance about how and why people read and the degree to which these assumptions are complicated by understandings arrived at through social and educational theory as well as empirical studies of readers.

# The Little Magazine Phenomenon

By Cassandra Elton

Little magazines are what Professor James Elmborg calls “proto-zines.” In the words of graduate student assistants Melody Dworak and Liz Holdsworth, “zines that are more beat than punk.” No matter how you label them, little magazines represent the rise of alternative intellectual literature and politically-engaged poetry in the period between 1958 and 1974. During that time, as many as 1,000 little magazines were in print in the U.S. They were never systematically collected because many libraries saw them as ephemeral and insignificant. Elmborg, Dworak and Holdsworth are hoping to create a context for the magazines to be seen in their totality as an intellectual and artistic movement.

Little magazines form a historically significant record of artistic and intellectual critique of American culture in a post-World War II and cold-war society, and in terms of literature, are a rich treasury for today’s scholars.

“These magazines contain works by ‘major minor’ writers that few people know are out there,” says Elmborg. Writers like Louis Zukofsky, Allen Ginsberg, Williams, Burroughs, and Charles Bukowski published their work in various little magazines, as did thousands of other poets and writers, some of whom wrote occasionally and casually and others who still actively pursue creative writing projects today.

The goal of the project is to create an electronic index to the contents of little magazines that have been collected in libraries and also to encourage the indexing of magazines that have never been formally collected by libraries.

The project will encourage contributions from both libraries and collectors, who will be able to add information about magazines to the index.

Dworak explains that the goal of the little magazine project is to compile these ephemeral resources in one place for scholars and the public to enjoy and appreciate. Stressing the interdisciplinary scope of the project, she adds, “It’s a digital humanities project because it’s not just a database; it’s a knowledge discovery tool.” The project aims to give shape to an unwieldy and intentionally resistant artistic phenomenon.

Dworak and Holdsworth became a part of the project after their work in SLIS Professor Haowei Hsieh’s database systems course. The course requires students to take on a client and create a database for them. Elmborg was the client for Holdsworth, Dworak, and Leah Oren-Palmer. Holdsworth and Dworak were subsequently hired as research assistants to continue work on with the project after the class was over.

Holdsworth stresses the value of the course, “Database Systems is so critical because what you do in libraries is based in databases, so it’s great to have that foundation.”

*Little magazines form a historically significant record of artistic and intellectual critique of American culture in a post-World War II and cold-war society.*



(From left) Melody Dworak, Jim Elmborg, and Elizabeth Holdsworth.

## Alumnus and Author Jason Bengtson

By Cassandra Elton

A native of Fairport, Iowa, Jason Bengtson earned both his BA in English and his MA in library and information science from The University of Iowa (2008). Since his graduation from SLIS, he has moved over 1,000 miles away from Iowa to Albuquerque, N.M., where he is the emerging technologies librarian at the Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center at the University of New Mexico.

While a student at SLIS, Bengtson landed the job of director of library services for Kaplan University in Cedar Rapids. He worked for a year and a half at Kaplan before the opportunity arose in New Mexico. His current job at UNM gives him free rein to explore web and mobile technologies, which he greatly appreciates, saying, “Here they are open to new ideas and I have the freedom to focus on research.”

Bengtson’s professional involvement keeps him busy. A member of the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association and provisional member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals, he serves on the CE and program committees for SCC MLA and on the Technology Advisory Committee of SCC MLA that works with the National Library of Medicine. While no longer a member of the Special Library Association, he built a website for SLA’s Rio Grande chapter.

This year, he attended the annual Technology in Libraries Conference at Macalester College. He also presented the paper, “Preparing for the Age of the Digital Palimpsest” at the SCC MLA annual conference. The paper traces the lineage of the palimpsest from its roots as a document erased on parchment to the evolving reality of digitally erased/partially overwritten files. The paper argues that information science needs to take the lead in conceptualizing and formalizing



the future of digital palimpsest recovery. In addition to these activities, he is co-editor of the Technology Column of the Journal of Hospital Librarianship. His scholarly work has been published in multiple journals, including the *Journal of Hospital Librarianship*, *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*, and *B Sides*.

As if these professional activities were not enough, Bengtson is earning a second master’s degree in English Language and Literature at the University of New Mexico. He feels that “academic librarians need to look at having a second master’s.” He is also the author of several novels, one of which, *the Reaches*, is available online for the Kindle.

Reflecting on his time at SLIS, he notes, “Library school is a funny animal. It’s both a professional and academic degree, so it makes the classes varied and interesting.” He cites two SLIS classes that he found particularly useful: Organizational Management and Research Methods, both taught by Professor Patricia Katapol. “As a librarian you are always managing, either people or projects, so you have to have management skills,” he says.

His advice to current students? “Take all the technology classes you can. Computing Foundations was the seed I used to build on to get to my current position.”

“Library school is a funny animal. It’s both a professional and academic degree, so it makes the classes varied and interesting.”

— Jason Bengtson

# SLIS Student Awarded Olson Fellow

By Cassandra Elton

Second-year student Kalmia Strong is the newest Olson Fellow in UI Special Collections. Originally from Texas, Kalmia took the long way to Iowa via New York and Boston. After earning a BA in the history of the book and print culture at the Gallatin School at NYU, she took a job in Harvard's Conservation Lab. That job spurred her interest in the library side of the profession as well as conservation work. She was accepted to the joint MA/Book Studies Certificate Program at Iowa (BLIS), which enables her to learn more about library work and to indulge her love of bookmaking and conservation.

Her appointment in Special Collections, which began in July 2011, affords her the opportunity for practical training while familiarizing herself with UI Special Collections. "It feels very professional," she notes. "You're part of the department at a macro level as well as all the daily stuff." She also relishes the responsibility that the position carries, "It's great to be able to see projects all the way through."

There are two Olson Fellows at a time and they are appointed for two years in alternate years. The other Olson Fellow is Gyorgy Toth,

a Ph.D. candidate in American studies. The first year of the appointment focuses on becoming familiar with the operations of Special Collections. Kalmia answers reference questions, locates materials, and works with classes that come to Special Collections. She has also helped curate an exhibition in the display cases outside Special Collections that highlight different areas of the collection. She recently completed a display of graphic novels and comic books in coordination with the Obermann-International Programs Humanities Symposium, "Comics, Creativity, and Culture: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives" this fall. In her second year, she hopes to spend more time with a specific collection and work on developing different ways for readers to access books from a book studies perspective.

The Olson Fellowships are open to students from any graduate program at the University of Iowa but are of particular interest to those in the Center for the Book, English, History, American Studies, and Art and Art History Programs. The fellowship is designed to "support graduate students in the course of their academic work; provide on-the-job training at the immediate pre-professional level for students who are or may become interested in Special Collections librarianship, museum curatorship, archives administration, or similar career paths; and offer opportunities to accumulate and document significant academic and work experience and accomplishment." Since 2005, four of the six Olson Fellows have been joint students in library and information science and the Center for the Book.

## Student Funding

### 2011 ILA Jack E. Tillson Scholarship Award

*Jenna Spiering*

### 2011 Wilson Scholarship

*Melody Dworak*

### 2011 Joyce Hartford/Grace Wormer Scholarship

*Kristine Gavin*



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If you are a resident of the following states, please review the applicable, required disclosure statement. **GEORGIA:** A full and fair description of the charitable programs and activities and a financial statement is available upon request from the organization using its address/telephone number, listed above. **MARYLAND:** A copy of the current financial statement is available upon request from the organization using its address/telephone number, listed above. For the cost of copies and postage, documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are available from the Secretary of State, 16 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-974-5521. **NEW JERSEY:** INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charfm.htm>. **REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.** **NEW YORK:** A copy of the last financial report filed with the Attorney General is available upon request from the organization using its address/telephone number, listed above, or from the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. **PENNSYLVANIA:** The official registration and financial information of the State University of Iowa Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. **WASHINGTON:** Financial disclosure information is available upon request from the Secretary of State, Charities Program, by calling (800) 332-4483. **WEST VIRGINIA:** West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement.