

Message from the Director



Dan Berkowitz, interim director

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My first year as interim director of SLIS was an interesting and rewarding experience, and my second year is well underway. I'll explain more about this later, but first want to pass along some exciting news. A few years ago, we began our efforts to train teacher-librarians for school in Iowa through a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Science (IMLS). Eventually, the students completed their degrees and the grant wound down.

Now, thanks to a grant awarded to Jim Elmborg from the University of Iowa Provost's Office and the Division of Continuing Education, we are renewing our effort to train teacher-librarians statewide, via live video. Through the Better Futures for Iowans initiative, SLIS has hired a program coordinator with an outstanding background in the public schools and a longstanding appreciation for the value of teacher-librarians to our state's educational system. Christine Kolarik brings 25 years of experience as an elementary principal at Iowa City's Lincoln Elementary, where she recently retired. Chris earned both her BA in Elementary Education and her MA in Elementary Administration from the University of Iowa.

Earlier, I mentioned my second year as interim director. Last fall, we conducted what I see as a successful search for a new director. The search committee and staff contributed a stellar effort. We drew a solid pool of applicants from several prominent programs in our field. However, as sometimes happens in a job search, we did not find a two-way fit and no hire was made. Nonetheless, I am proud of the effort by all involved. The plan now is to make the transition back to a model in which the director position rotates among our tenured faculty. This will be put into place this coming summer.

I also wanted to pass on the good news that, despite some declines nationally in LIS enrollments, our entering cohort matched that of last year at 26 strong. I have been impressed with all of them as we met in our weekly proseminar, a new course for incoming students that introduces

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B Sides Still Going Strong

By Jennifer Eilers,
Co-editor, B Sides

*B Sides will host a
practice poster
session this spring.*



Front Row: Sarah Alexander, Jennifer Eilers, Amanda Schreiner. Back Row: Meagan Tunink, Wesley Teal

There is a lot of enthusiasm in the *B Sides* meetings as we launch into the e-journal's fourth year of publishing.

For all three of us returning students, *B Sides* was one of the things about the SLIS program that initially caught our attention. We were drawn by the name, which refers to the B side of records and cassette tapes where artists were generally allowed to be more creative and experimental, and we loved the variety of submissions and the opportunity to publish as students.

This fall, Sarah Alexander, Amanda Schreiner, and I began our second year at SLIS and our "senior" year as editors. We have big plans (some of which are still top secret), starting with a greater focus on helping students with the research process.

We will continue hosting the practice poster session in the spring, where the sec-

ond-year students have a chance to practice their poster presentation.

We also hosted a Brainstorming Session on October 25 to encourage students to begin thinking about potential topics for their poster. We want to be a presence throughout the research process so students will feel more comfortable tackling the publishing process for the first time.

We want to see more submissions and a bigger variety of work published in *B Sides*. We welcome traditional articles, posters, websites and multi-media projects.

We are pleased to welcome first-year students Meagan Tunink and Wesley Teal to the *B Sides* team, and we look forward to working with them and seeing the contributions they will make this year.

To learn more about B Sides and view work published to date please visit:

ir.uiowa.edu/bsides

Students Organize Lending Library

By Cassandra Elton

I came to school at Iowa primarily because I was interested in bookbinding, while also earning a master's degree. The Library and Information Science and Center of the Book joint program seemed like the best of both worlds.

Once I started working at the 21st century after-school program at Grant Wood Elementary, however, I was struck by the importance of youth programming, specifically on the southeast side of town. I wondered if there was more I could do for the kids I work with on a daily basis; find a way to help them learn new skills and develop a love for reading outside of school, something I benefited from myself at a young age. The result is a library at Sycamore Mall, a small, non-profit community library designed to serve southeast Iowa City.

I decided to call it the Antelope Lending Library (AntelopeLendingLibrary.org). The idea started with a discussion in Jim Elmborg's Conceptual Foundations class about what constitutes a document. One argument was that even an antelope could be considered a document if you knew how to read the information it had to convey. I like the idea of how anything can be a document and expanded it to the idea that anything can be a library, and a library can be anywhere.

The library is scheduled to open February 2013, provided that rent has been raised. Fundraising will be done at <http://indiegogo.com/antelope-lendinglib>.

I love that libraries are currently moving to a renewed focus on community service. Libraries are not just warehouses of books. They have the potential to be, and many of them already are, social centers of the communities they serve. This idea

of interacting with a wide variety of people, from children to adults, new immigrants to native Iowans, is very attractive and exciting.

Southeast Iowa City lacks the diverse gathering places and services available in downtown Iowa City. I believe that Sycamore Mall is uniquely poised to become the "downtown" of the southeast side.

As a tenant of the Sycamore Mall, the Antelope Lending Library would be within walking distance of four elementary schools, one junior high, two high schools and Kirkwood Community College's Iowa City campus. It also is on several bus routes and has free parking.

I have been working closely with fellow SLIS student Beth Kamp on the project. The project would not have come as far as it has without Beth's help.

Several community members and SLIS students have agreed to be volunteers at the library. Our hope is that their experiences in the Antelope Lending Library will inform their studies, and in turn their studies will inform how they interact with the library.

"One of the things I love about the direction in which libraries are currently moving is the renewed focus on community service."

—Cassandra Elton



Cassandra Elton (pictured at Sycamore Mall) and fellow SLIS graduate student Beth Kamp are working together on the Antelope Lending Library.

SLIS alum serves medical community

By Cassandra Elton

Student Funding

**LA Jack E. Tillson
Scholarship Award**
2012 Sarah Alexander

**Joyce Hartford/Grace
Wormer Scholarship**
2012 Lindsey Morecraft

Wilson Scholarship
2012 Christine Vivian

Elizabeth Hoover de Galvez, a 2008 SLIS alumna, is the Health Sciences Librarian at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is the only librarian in the hospital, which means she is "in charge of pretty much everything to make a library run." She manages subscriptions, cataloging, reference questions, and outreach activities. She also helps nurses with research projects, along with serving as a member of a diversity team, research councils, and teaching a class on cultural competence.

"It's fun to stay busy so I try to get involved in lots of different things," Hoover de Galvez explains.

The library at St. Luke's Hospital serves mainly hospital staff and doctors. Since it is a magnet hospital, many nurses come there to work and do research. Hoover de Galvez typically works on about five research requests per week. She points out that the number of people who come into the physical library is not as significant as the number who take advantage of the library's electronic services.

Although Hoover de Galvez graduated from the University of Iowa with a BA in Interdepartmental Health Studies, she never thought she would be a hospital librarian.

"When I started library school I wanted to be a public librarian. I didn't think of a librarian as a digital librarian at a private institution," Hoover de Galvez says.

However, she felt a deep connection to librarianship. "It was sort of my calling. I have always been a library-oriented person."

She enjoyed a library class in high school, especially learning how to use different indices and online databases.

"It was really exciting to me that things had moved from book indices to searchable online databases," Hoover de Galvez says. "I worried that when I graduated from school I wouldn't have access to databases anymore. I always wanted to have access to databases."



SLIS graduate Elizabeth Hoover de Galvez performs many duties as the Health Sciences Librarian at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids.

In 2007, Hoover de Galvez enrolled in SLIS as one of 17 digital libraries fellows funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The curriculum for the fellows was centered on the rapidly growing area of digital collections, electronic publishing, and metadata. In addition to attending classes, each fellow was required to work on a different digital project each semester in the University of Iowa Libraries.

"It opened my eyes to a lot of different things and definitely gave me a lot of experience trying different job opportunities," Hoover de Galvez says.

While she wishes she had spent more time in library school, Hoover de Galvez is grateful for the classes she was able to take and the opportunities to work on actual projects. Her advice to current students is "spend as much time as you need in school."

Staying open to new ideas

By John Riehl

An emotional Nicole Dudley had reached a crossroads in her academic career.

Several years before, in her admissions letter to the University of Iowa's School of Library and Information Science (SLIS), this Clarinda, Iowa, native had expressed a desire to work in a small-town library, just like her mother.

However, after a semester of study in the SLIS master's program, Dudley realized that small-town library work was no longer her career goal. This realization was underscored during an interview with a public librarian.

"I asked her to describe a typical day of her job and I was thinking, 'I don't want to do any of this stuff,'" Dudley said. "I went out to my car and cried for five minutes. I was like, 'Why am I in SLIS?' Going into my second semester, I was at a weird crossroads."

Reflecting on this, Dudley realized that her first semester had exposed her to new ideas of librarianship, including interesting work in the digital realm.

However, she wondered if she had the background necessary to pursue a new direction. Her only technical experience was redesigning her church's website and taking



Nicole Dudley changed course as a SLIS student and found a new academic home in digital librarianship.

Professor Haowei Hsieh's Computing Foundation class. "There were these computer-oriented classes, but I came here to work in public libraries." She felt conflicted.

Facing a major academic dilemma—digital librarianship or traditional librarianship—Dudley sought advice from Professor Jim Elmborg, who reminded Dudley to be open to new ideas and challenges.

Dudley took more computer classes and eventually became lead database developer for the UI's UNESCO City of Literature Mobile Application Development Team.

"Nikki had an abrupt and radical turnaround in her plans given her background, which makes it a compelling story," Elmborg said.

We love to hear from our alumni! Please send your most recent news and career updates to slis.grad.uiowa/alumni-profiles

News of Recent Graduates

Amanda Augsburger (Summer 2011) is employed as a data manager at the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research and PaCE instructor at Black Hawk Community College.

Conrad Bendixen (Spring 2011) is a reference and instructional librarian at St. Ambrose University.

Billie Cotterman (Spring 2012) is an assistant professor of library science at Hastings College in Hastings, Neb.

Cynthia Davis (Fall 2011) is director of the Spirit Lake Public Library.

Nicole Dudley (Fall 2011) currently works in the UI Digital Studio for the Public Humanities as a researcher.

Jonathan Jeffrey (Spring 2012) is a library content developer for Pioneer Hi-Bred in Johnston, Iowa.

Sarah Sellon (Fall 2012) has been hired as director of the Ely Public Library.

Jenna Spiering (Spring 2012) is the new teacher librarian at Northwest Junior High in Coralville.

Brittney Thomas (Spring 2011) was hired in August as public services librarian at Illinois College.

Katherine Wilson (Spring 2012) is assistant to the registrar at the University of Iowa Museum of Art.

Julie Zimmerman (Spring 2012) has taken a position as technology specialist in the Park Hill School District in Kansas City, Mo.

Faculty Research Update

Dave Eichmann
co-authored a paper
with SLIS alumnae
Si-Chi Chin and Charisse
Madlock-Brown

André Brock's primary research employs qualitative inquiry into representations of race and ethnicity in digital environments. His dissertation research was one of the first



André Brock

studies to examine the nascent presence of Black-authored, Black culture-oriented weblogs. Brock uses critical race theory, critical discourse analysis, interface analysis, and rhetorics of technology and the digital to expand our understanding of the changing sociocultural demographics of social and institutional computer use. His explorations of the dialectical and cultural relationships between interfaces and interface users reveal how racial performances, ideology, and technocultural beliefs shape the formation, design, and use of digital media.

His published work includes online articulations of race and culture at the confluence of old media, new media, and popular culture; on digital and discursive formations of Black identity in an open source web browser; and on digital and discursive formations of race and gender in current generation video games.

Jennifer Burek Pierce has presented papers on digital publishing and fiber arts, most recently at the Text and Textiles conference sponsored by the University of Cambridge's



Jennifer Burek Pierce

Centre for Material Culture. She has won a research fellowship from the Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library.

Dave Eichmann presented his paper *Semantic Commonalities of Research Networking and PIM* at the Personal Informatics Management Workshop, in conjunction with CSCW 2012 in Seattle Wash., in February. He was co-author with SLIS alumnae Si-Chi Chin and Charisse Madlock-Brown on a second paper presented at the same conference. He collaborated with Chin and Madlock-Brown on another paper that was presented at 2nd ACM SIGHIT Int. Health Informatics Symposium, in Miami, Fla., in January. Eichmann also was an author of *siSPOTR: a tool for designing highly specific and potent siRNAs for human and mouse* published online in *Nucleic Acids Research* in August.



Dave Eichmann

He attended the American Association of Medical Colleges in June, where he gave a talk on *New Trends in Research Networking and Collaboration*. In August, he presented *Reflections on Research Networking Generation 1.0* at the 3rd VIVO Conference, in Miami, Fla.

He is currently serving as co-chair of the Research Networking Affinity Group within the Clinical and Translational Science Consortium and as Tack chair for the Clinical Research Informatics Spring Symposium, American Medical Informatics Association.

Jim Elmborg is currently writing a chapter for a book titled *Successful Strategies*

for *Teaching Undergraduate Student Research*, which will be published by Rowman and Littlefield. The tentative title of the chapter is *Teaching Multimedia as a Composition Process*.

In August, his proposal, "Cultivating the Future in Iowa Librarians for Twenty-first Century Schools," was funded by the University of Iowa's Office of the Provost for \$65,000 as part of the Better Futures for Iowans initiative.

At the national level, Elmborg is chair of ACRL's Professional Development Committee this year. Within the University, he continues to serve on the advisory panel for the Digital Studio for Public Humanities, the steering committee for the Public Humanities in a Digital World, and the advisory panel for the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies.

Haowei Hsieh has co-authored two articles, one titled *Undergraduate Peer Learning and Public Humanities Research*, which appeared in a special issue of *The Philosophy of Peer Learning in E-Learning and Digital Media*. The second article *Collaborative Research in Literature and New Media* was published in the *Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*.

In June, Hsieh attended the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries in



Jim Elmborg



Haowei Hsieh

Washington, D.C. to present *The City of Lit Digital Library – A Case Study of Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration*. He also released a mobile application for the 2012 conference.

He is the co-primary investigator with Yefei He, associate research scientist for the National Advanced Driving Simulator, on a grant, *Integration of Human-in-the-Loop Driving Simulator with Microscopic Traffic Simulation*, which is funded by the DOT Mid-America Transportation Center.

Recently, Hsieh began work on the Nuestr Iowa project, a digital exhibit of Iowa Latino history featuring items housed at the Iowa Women's Archives. The project seeks to explore ways of including this tool in history education and expanding digital access to the collection.

Patricia Katopol's article, *What Will We Do Without You? Retaining Organizational Knowledge When Workers Retire*, suggesting how library managers can retain organizational knowledge when facing baby boomer retirements, will appear in *Library Leadership & Management* this fall.

The article includes suggestions for low cost knowledge management and maintaining organizational memory in a time of budget cuts when not every retiree will be replaced by a professional librarian, if the retiree is replaced at all. Katopol is working on another article for LL&M on risk-taking and decision-making and has been asked to be a regular contributor.



Patricia Katopol

School of Library and Information Science at Iowa

The University of Iowa
3087 Main Library
Iowa City, IA 52242-1420
319-335-5707
319-335-5374 (fax)
slis@uiowa.edu

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Katopol is in the initial stages of a study using the developing theory of information grounds, as proposed by Karen Fisher of the University of Washington. Information grounds are those spaces which people visit for one purpose, such as to enjoy themselves at a coffee house, but end up obtaining information on non-related topics such as jobs and housing. The study will examine whether Relief Society meetings, the women's meeting held each Sunday held as part of services in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, are information grounds and what types of information are shared and transferred by women who attend these meetings primarily for a religious lesson.

Joan Bessman Taylor is currently engaged in a book-length project examining the reading practices of adult recreational book groups and how discussion influences what readers do as part of membership—including but not limited to choosing books for the group's focus, taking notes, researching authors, and deciding whether or not to finish reading a work. Taylor's research focuses on the notion of "discussability", a concept that pervades popular guides for reading groups in the United States as well

as published international research on book group practices.

The book critically examines the common uses of the term in six real-world contexts: book groups devoted to reading the Great Books, science fiction, mysteries, literary fiction, and works by and for African Americans. Based

on participant observation and attendance at 225 book club meetings, the project substantiates and refutes contemporary theories of reading through analysis of qualitative data from actual readers.

It seeks to inform Readers' Advisory work and the design of tools for readers while broadening our general understanding of reading as a social process and the resultant implications for how it should be taught, valued and supported.



Joan Bessman Taylor

Tim Barrett and Julie Leonard have joined the SLIS faculty as associate professors.

Continued from cover — Message from the interim Director

them to the educational background, professional experiences and research interests of our faculty.

Speaking of faculty, I am happy to announce a formal tie between SLIS and two longstanding affiliated faculty members from the Center for the Book. Tim Barrett and Julie Leonard have taught at the Center for the Book for many years and worked with many of our students during that time.

In their new positions as associate professors on our faculty, they will serve on SLIS committees as well continuing to teach our students through the BLIS program.

Tim's current research is focused on the non-destructive analysis of European paper made between the 14th and the 19th cen-

turies, with a special interest in the role of gelatin in paper stability. He also has strong interests in the emerging field of book studies.

Barrett received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2009.

Julie's research is divided between the study of historical book binding structures and the creation of contemporary artist books.

Her most recent body of work makes use of old books, primarily reference books and botany books from the turn of the 20th century.

Wishing you continued success in all your endeavors.

Singing the same Language

By Sarah Alexander

If someone had told me a year ago that computer programming would become one of my favorite skills at library school, I would have told them they were crazy. I came to SLIS with a background in music, and my knowledge of computers extended about as far as the ability to change the background on my Twitter account. I quickly discovered, however, that coding was a language not unlike music with nuances and rules that could be manipulated in endless ways. One semester in, I was hooked and enrolled in the Database Systems course for the spring.

For our final class project, fellow student Jen Eilers and I created a database of the School of Music Performance Recordings. Currently, the CDs of the recitals and concerts of the faculty, students and ensembles of the University of Iowa's School of Music are accessible only by going physically to the Music Library and listening to them in the Media Room. Jen and I wanted to change that.

After consulting with Ruthann McTyre, Head of the Music Library, Jen and I designed a database that would allow patrons to browse, search, and potentially stream the recordings online. The main difference in the design from a traditional

library catalog record is the focus on the individual music tracks as the main entry point, rather than the item as a whole.

The School of Music has been awarded a Student Computing Fees off-cycle grant to fund the expansion of the Performance Recordings Database project to include streaming capability and to fully implement it on the Music Library website.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this project over the coming academic year.

It is very exciting to see something that began as squiggles and diagrams become a useful tool to promote the music being performed at the University of Iowa.

The project will be live hopefully by January with additional recordings being added throughout the year.



Sarah Alexander (pictured in the UI Music Library) and fellow SLIS graduate student Jen Eilers created a database of School of Music Performance Recordings.

The Database Systems class is taught by Assistant Professor Haowei Hsieh.

SLIS would like to take this opportunity to thank Patricia Cervenka and all donors for their continued support of the department and programs here at Iowa.

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Donor spotlight

Patricia Cervenka
M.L.S., University of Iowa (1987)

Patricia Cervenka is Professor of Law and Director of the Eckstein Law Library at Marquette University. SLIS student Cassandra Elton interviewed Cervenka about her experience at the University of Iowa and her career path after graduation.

Why a degree in library science?: Before becoming a librarian, Cervenka worked as a high school French and Latin teacher. She went back to school to get her law degree at the University of Idaho, and her third year there found herself working at the law library. It was there that she found her passion for librarianship and moved back to her home state of Iowa to get her MLS.

“My MLS was the key ingredient in the success of my professional career.”

Some highlights of time at SLIS: “Being in classes with folks from around the country—some of whom I still stay in touch with or visit occasionally when I am in their neck of the woods. I went to classes in the daytime, but worked 30 hours a week as a reference librarian at the Law Library so I didn’t have a ton of time to do much else than work, study and spend time with my 16 year-old daughter. It was a crazy schedule.

“Of course, I loved going to Iowa basketball or football games on the weekend when I could get tickets. The 1987 basketball team was pretty good that year.”

Career path after Iowa: Since she earned her degree from SLIS, Cervenka has worked for seven different law schools across the country, including Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and Saint Louis University in Missouri before moving to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. She became a full professor in 1996, and achieved tenure in 2001. She currently serves on the University Academic Senate and is a past chair of the University Faculty Council. She also served as chair of the Task Force on Shared



Patricia Cervenka has worked for seven different law schools across the United States since earning her degree from SLIS.

Governance at Marquette from 2003-2006.

“Each school has its own challenges, but libraries everywhere are about services and what can we do in the mission of the school.”

Publishing experience: In 2010, Cervenka’s book *Wisconsin Legal Research*, which she co-authored with Associate Law Librarian Leslie Behroozi, was published. They are currently working on a second edition.

“I have published a few articles over the years and all are available on the Marquette Law School Institutional Repository. It is fun to see the monthly tallies of articles that are downloaded from the repository.”

Favorite parts of the job: Cervenka loves teaching people how to be better searchers and develop better skills for evaluating information for accuracy.

“I proposed and taught a new course

elective called Advanced Legal Research at Creighton Law School, Mercer University Law School, and Saint Louis University Law School. The course teaches future lawyers how to do legal research in an efficient and economically sound manner. The same course was in place as mandatory here at Marquette Law School when I arrived so I generally teach 2-3 sections of the course each academic year. It is fun to devise problems for the students so that they can see how their researched answers would affect the lives of their clients.”

Cervenka also appreciates the opportunities she’s been given to serve on building

committees at Creighton University School of Law and Marquette University Law School.

“It was a great experience to blend library service with a new building and trying to project how the design would serve the law school community for many, many years to come.”

Why give back to SLIS? “I am eternally indebted to SLIS—they were my launch pad. The degree enriched my career being everything I hoped for and more. My MLS was the key ingredient to my success. It’s been a wonderful life because of the degree I earned at Iowa!”

Kolarik’s new job at SLIS is best of both worlds

Chris Kolarik believes that every teacher and every student deserve to have the professional expertise of a teacher librarian.

Kolarik’s main responsibility as teacher librarian coordinator for the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) is to provide graduate students with the practical experiences necessary to become effective teacher librarians.

“I have been an advocate for school library programs my entire career, because I have seen first-hand how a competent teacher librarian and a strong library program can support learning and teaching in all curricular areas,” says Kolarik, principal at Lincoln Elementary School in Coralville for 24 years before retiring in 2011.

“As a teacher and administrator, I wanted students to develop strong literacy skills, the ability to effectively handle information, and to always want to question and learn about the world around them.”

While Kolarik considered what she wanted to do following her retirement, a colleague suggested a new position within the School of Library and Information Science. She followed up on the advice and found that she was really intrigued by the position.

“What really drew me was that it touched on my longtime interest in using technology for learning and instruction and the impor-

tance of literacy,” Kolarik says.

Kolarik is excited to be coordinator for the Teacher Librarian Program, because it provides her the opportunity to continue to advocate and contribute to an educational program that is an essential part of a K-12 education.

Chris mentored many teacher librarians as a principal and was excited by the prospect of working with students who are training to enter that field.

“This is the best of all possible worlds,” Kolarik says.

Kolarik will oversee students in the Teacher Librarian Program, funded by the University of Iowa’s Better Future for Iowans initiative. The first cohort of students is expected to enroll in fall 2013.

Her duties also will include teaching both the School Media Library Administration and School Media Library Practicum courses. Kolarik earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and her master’s in elementary administration at the UI.



Chris Kolarik

SLIS newsletter

Caroline Austin
program assistant/editor

Vicki MacLeod
secretary

Cassandra Elton
student/writer

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