The Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois
Past, Future, and Present
November 29, 2010
If the University of Illinois means to compete as a top-tier research organization in the 21st century, it needs what GSLIS has to offer—namely, more than a century of excellence and expertise in understanding how people use information and leverage information technology to achieve their goals.

If “stewarding excellence” means what its name says, then it will take note of excellence where it exists on this campus, and it will take seriously its responsibility to steward that excellence into the future.

GSLIS has a claim to both excellence and stewardship, as one of the two oldest professional schools at this university, and the only #1-ranked school or college on any campus of the University of Illinois.
When did we take our current form?

- Illinois Industrial University: 1868
- College of Engineering: 1873
- College of Arts and Literature: 1877
- College of Agriculture: 1877
- University of Illinois: 1885
- [LIS @ IIT: 1893]
- College of Sciences: 1894
- Graduate School: 1895
- School of Law: 1896
- Illinois State Library School: 1897
- College of Law: 1900
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: 1913
- College of Medicine: 1913
- College of Business: 1914
- College of Education: 1918
- School of Journalism: 1927
- College of Fine Arts: 1931
- School of Labor and Employment Relations: 1946
- Institute of Aviation: 1946
- School of Social Work: 1946
- College of Veterinary Medicine: 1948
- College of Physical Education: 1957
The Library School as a professional program at Illinois

“At Illinois, the vigorous leadership of President Andrew Sloan Draper had, from the moment of his appointment in 1894, favored programs leading to professional licensure or certification. He had come to Illinois from New York state where he had known and been influenced by Melvil Dewey's strong advocacy of the role of libraries in educational extension. Draper wanted a highly qualified librarian to build and organize a collection worthy of a university's mission, and he was actively establishing professional programs at the University.”

GSLIS Milestones

★ 1897: Illinois Library School comes to the University of Illinois
★ 1898: Library School Association formed (the oldest unit-based alumni association on campus)
★ 1899: Champaign Public Library opens a Children’s Room supervised by Library School seniors.
★ 1902: The world’s first Baccalaureate degree in Library science awarded at Illinois. Master’s degree also approved at this time, though the Library School didn’t have the faculty resources to deliver it.
★ 1911: Bachelor’s degree required to matriculate.
★ 1926: library school graduates receive their degree from the Graduate College
GSLIS Milestones (cont.)

- 1948: library doctoral degree established (now the oldest extant doctoral degree in our field)
- 1952: *Library Trends* begins publication; now a top-ten LIS journal
- 1956: Allerton Park Institutes begun
- 1959: Name changes to Graduate School of Library Science
- 1961: Library Research Center (now CIRSS) established
- 1962: First course on information storage and retrieval
- 1963: *Proceedings of the Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing* first published
GSLIS Milestones (cont.)

* 1967: Seminar on Computer-Based Systems for Libraries
* 1968: Wilf Lancaster’s textbook on Information Retrieval published
* 1972: Kathie Henderson simulates OCLC searches on PLATO as part of her cataloging class
* 1981: name changes to Graduate School of Library and Information Science
* 1993: founding of the Prairienet Community Network
* 1994: GSLIS wins one of the first NSF Digital Library grants, for $5M
* 1996: GSLIS begins delivering its Master’s degree online, in the LEEP program
GSLIS Milestones (cont.)

* 2001: LEEP is the only LIS degree program recognized with the Sloan-C award for the Most Outstanding Asynchronous Learning Network Program.

* 2004: GSLIS and the Library lead one of nine national partnerships with the Library of Congress, in the National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Program, and receive a $2.8M grant.

* 2005: Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries; GSLIS track in campus-wide Bioinformatics Masters

* 2007: Masters Specialization in Data Curation launched, with $850,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

* 2008: the 45-year-old Library Research Center becomes the Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship; GSLIS offers core coursework in campus-wide Informatics Minor.
GSLIS Online

GSLIS has the oldest, largest, and most successful online program on this campus:

A. Online grad students at UIUC, 2010-11: 1528 (Grad College total)
B. Online grad students at GSLIS, 2010-11: 384
C. Online students, campus total, 2010-11: 1651 (includes 71 undergrads)

* B as a percentage of A: 25%
* B as a percentage of C: 23%

All numbers taken from the Division of Management Information (DMI) Campus Profile, line 4072 (see http://www.dmi.illinois.edu).
GSLIS as an iSchool

* The iSchools organization was founded in 2005 by a collective of Information Schools dedicated to advancing the information field in the 21st Century. These schools, colleges, and departments have been newly created or are evolving from programs formerly focused on specific tracks such as information technology, library science, informatics, and information science. iSchools share a fundamental interest in the relationships between information, people, and technology. Dean Unsworth chaired the iSchools Consortium from 2008-2010.

* Associate Dean Linda Smith is President of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) for 2010. Since 1937, ASIS&T has represented information professionals leading the search for new and better theories, techniques, and technologies to improve access to information. Professor Smith was President of the Association for Library and Information Science Education in 2009.
Faculty perspective

* “We live in an information age. Our school is the only place on campus that sees the world as people, information and technology in all its shapes and forms. Our school is the only place on campus that leverages information and technology to support both the science and cultural assets of the state.”

* “Our whole history is radical innovation. Of course in retrospect that radical innovation looks mainstream because others followed. But at its inception it was often weird, often failing to fit classic categories. Those nice ladies in long dresses sure shook things up.”
Faculty perspective (cont.)

* “A larger unit would be in danger of diluting the philosophy and inevitably be less capable of rapid innovation in programs and processes. Any coerced merger would be very problematic, eroding that culture. It's something you hear startup founders fretting about a lot as their company grows.”

* “The people-information-technologies triple of ischools is an issue popping up everywhere. We can help by having been thinking about this for a very long time. We are good at doing multidisciplinary research and also dealing with the difficulties that arise in such work.”
A Few Examples

* **Health:** the NIH recognizes that behavior is fundamental to health care, and understanding how individuals seek out and use health information is key to improving results and containing costs. We focus on user needs and behavior in many realms, including health.

* **Data Curation:** All kinds of researchers are now concerned with achieving better control over the preservation and use of the data they produce in the course of doing their research. This is a new problem for them, but it is a core competency for us.

* **Culture:** Our cultural heritage is rapidly being digitized, which opens new opportunities for research and teaching, possibly offering a way to rescue the humanities and reassert their importance. However, most humanities faculty do not understand how to seize the opportunity that’s being offered to them.
How large or small is GSLIS?

Professional Schools, in order of number of students, highest to lowest, 2010-11 numbers. Faculty numbers are from DMI line 1030 (Tenure System Faculty); student numbers are from DMI line 4090, “All students, on & off-campus”. These are the basis for a calculated (student:faculty) ratio:

Programs with significant undergrad enrollments:
* Business: **3905** students, 92 faculty (43:1)
* Media: **1077** students, 29 faculty (37:1)

Graduate-only or Graduate-mostly programs:
* Law: **735** students, 48 faculty (15:1)
* GSLIS: **713** students, 23 faculty (31:1)
* Veterinary Medicine: **544** students, 54 faculty (10:1)
* Social Work: **368** students, 16 faculty (23:1)
* LER: **193** students, 16 faculty (12:1)
How efficient is GSLIS?

Cost Per IU, 2009-10 (DMI 3080, Grad I & Prof), from low to high (lower is better):

* Social Work: $253
* GSLIS: $300
* Vet Med: $328
* Campus average: $428
* LER: $504
* Media: $520
* Business: $631
* Law: $647
GSLIS Research Trends

- GSLIS has about $16M in grants in progress, with funding from a wide range of government funders, private foundations, and corporate partners.

- In FY10 we submitted twice as many grant proposals as we did in FY09. So far we have been awarded $3.3M from these proposals, an increase of almost 40% over FY09. We have already been awarded $1.8M in FY11, with over $2.5M pending. Our FY11 success rate so far is 60%.

- Of the more than a dozen groups the campus brought together to pitch to Monsanto last July (including Biotech, Engineering, and NCSA), The GSLIS Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship was the first group singled out for a follow-up visit—planned to take place this December or January with a Monsanto delegation coming for 1/2 day to talk more specifically about research opportunities.
### How productive is GSLIS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Expenditures per Faculty FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus avg</td>
<td>$184,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>$150,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSLIS</td>
<td>$127,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Med</td>
<td>$91,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>$62,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LER</td>
<td>$16,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>$9,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>$510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How heavily subsidized is GSLIS?

Our "Original State & Tuition Budget" is reported in DMI line 2000. That budget is partly tuition, and partly from state funds and other sources. The state funds are sometimes called General Revenue Funds (or GRF).

Net tuition is the tuition we generate, after waivers have been subtracted. In DMI, that figure appears on line 7100, but it does not reflect extramural (including online) tuition and waivers--to get that information, you need to click on the budget number and drill down to an expanded view, where extramural tuition and waivers are reported, and then add and subtract numbers to arrive at the actual net tuition total.

In what follows, we see \(((\text{Net tuition} + \text{extramural tuition}) - \text{extramural waivers}) / \text{Original State & Tuition Budget}\), which sums to express our total earned tuition as a percentage of our state & tuition budget. In campus discussions about budget, and in the Stewarding Excellence discussion of the four academic units reviewed, GRF is often used as a measure of subsidy, so that's the term that's used on the next slide.

**NB**, there are non-state funds included in "GRF" (for example, $600,000 of the $1.4M in "subsidy" received in FY2010 by GSLIS actually came from a Library and IT Fee that all students pay, and we use it to offset the tuition waivers for graduate assistants who work in the library). Other units will have other anomalies.
How heavily subsidized is GSLIS?

Schools and Colleges (all figures are for 2009-2010), from least subsidized to most:

- **Business**: \[((64072000 + 44588) - 2490) / 41789000 = 1.53\] (-53% subsidy)
- **Media**: \[((9458000 + 68166) - 9855) / 6547000 = 1.45\] (-45% subsidy)
- **AHS**: \[((17653000 + 40736) - 6081) / 12978000 = 1.36\] (-36% subsidy)
- **Engineering**: \[((91950000 + 1213520) - 39369) / 80457000 = 1.15\] (-15% subsidy)
- **LAS**: \[((126642000 + 445981) - 40419) / 124606000 = 1.01\] (-01% subsidy)
- **Law**: \[((23938000 + 0) - 0) / 25115000 = .95\] (or 5% subsidy)
- **GSLIS**: \[((2200000 + 3301913) - 326013) / 6591000 = .78\] (22% subsidy)*
- **Social Work**: \[((2392000 + 411136) - 3366) / 3359000 = .83\] (27% subsidy)
- **FAA**: \[((22114000 + 45797) - 13416) / 31538000 = .70\] (30% subsidy)
- **LER**: \[((2440000 + 88981) - 5544) / 4227000 = .59\] (41% subsidy)
- **Education**: \[((6850000 + 3035301) - 207512) / 16638000 = .58\] (42% subsidy)
- **Vet Med**: \[((9923000 + 1758) - 926) / 19305000 = .51\] (49% subsidy)
- **ACES**: \[((23068000 + 443136) - 30312) / 50224000 = .46\] (54% subsidy; includes Extension)

*Add the $600K in Library and IT Fee to the GSLIS net tuition, rather than including it in our GRF, and the percentage of GRF subsidy drops from 22% to 13%.
What’s that in dollars/student?

Since the Law School and Vet Med are the professional schools closest in size to GSLIS, we’ll use them as two points of comparison. This comparison uses DMI Line 2910, “State & Tuition Instructional Expenditures per Student”, and multiplies it by the percentage subsidy, to give a sense of how much subsidy the campus provides per student (all numbers are 2009-2010, since we don’t have net tuition numbers for 2010-2011 yet):

* Law: $36,672 * .05 = $1,833 per student
* GSLIS: $20,841 * .22 = $4,585 per student
* Vet Med: $31960 * .51 = $16,299 per student

Vet Med does have a small amount of Extension funding, but that’s not included in this calculation.
How efficient is GSLIS?

* Measured by faculty/student ratio, GSLIS is twice as efficient as Law, three times as efficient as Vet Med, and more similar to Media and Business (which have undergrads) than to the grad-only or grad-mostly programs.

* Measured by cost per IU, GSLIS provides education at 70% of the campus average, and at half the cost of Law, with costs closest to Vet Med.

* Measured by subsidy per student, Law’s subsidy is 40% of GSLIS’s, but GSLIS’s subsidy is only 28% of Vet Med’s.

We don’t at all begrudge Law or Vet Med their GRF, but we do believe GSLIS should be considered to be an efficient unit, given the comparative metrics presented here.
GSLIS Advancement Trends

GSLIS has raised its campaign goal twice during the current capital campaign, from $7M to $9M and from $9M to $15M. We will complete this goal about six months before the end of the campaign. Our cost to raise a dollar is 13 cents—the second lowest rate on campus.

The GSLIS Communications Office pays its expenses through income earned from publications (Library Trends and The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books) and the sale of books. We are also exploring new revenue streams such as print-on-demand publications. In FY2011, expected income is estimated at $229,000, with expenditures closely following at $226,564.

Continuing Education: For the period SU09-SP10, tuition generated from continuing education programs was $271,779, up from the previous year's $219,775. On the downside, there was $108,147 in university staff tuition waivers.
## GSLIS Diversity Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>LEEP</th>
<th>On-Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11:</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10:</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09:</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08:</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07:</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Grad College, 2010-2011: 7.6%

* Campus average, 2010: 11.5%
The Rankings

* GSLIS has been ranked #1 by US News since that magazine began ranking library and information science programs in March, 1996. Re-rankings were done in 1998, 2006, and 2009, and we remained in the #1 slot for each of those. In recent years, we have been tied for #1 with UNC. Recently, sub-specialties have also been ranked, and GSLIS is #1 in Services for Children and Youth, and highly ranked in a number of others.

* GSLIS is the only #1-ranked school or college on any campus of the University of Illinois. There is a #1-ranked department at UIUC (Civil and Environmental Engineering) but after us, the next highest-ranked school or college is Engineering, at #5.

* Over a 9 year period we (and UNC) increased from 4.4 to 4.5

* In 1999 the closest competitor had a 4.0 score; now Syracuse is at 4.4, Washington is at 4.3, Michigan is at 4.1. Since 1999, Washington has risen from 18th to 4th.

* Almost all of the top ranked schools have a dean reporting to their provost; Madison is an exception with a director reporting through LAS, but its ranking has declined. UCLA has dropped out of the top 10 since its forced merger with Education.
# The competition (2009 data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Tenure-System Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GSLIS:</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Washington:</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNC-CH:</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syracuse:</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Funded Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GSLIS:</strong></td>
<td>624</td>
<td>$9.9M</td>
<td>$3.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Washington:</strong></td>
<td>397</td>
<td>$14.2M</td>
<td>$2.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNC-CH:</strong></td>
<td>369</td>
<td>$8.8M</td>
<td>$1.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syracuse:</strong></td>
<td>711</td>
<td>$25M</td>
<td>$4.7M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

Along with Engineering, Agriculture, and Law, GSLIS is one of four schools or colleges at the University of Illinois that has continued intact and in its current organizational form since the 19th century.

GSLIS keeps costs low and productivity high, compared to its peer units on campus, and it is the only #1 school or college at the University of Illinois, as well as being the only school of its kind in the state’s public university system.

GSLIS has the lead position in the information field, nationally and internationally, and it achieves this at bargain rates, compared to competitors at other universities. Its demonstrated excellence is an asset to the campus going forward, not least because that excellence is focused on information problems that are core concerns for 21st-century science, business, and culture.