Making Kids Laugh
Taking Humor Seriously
If you visit our homepage, you’ll notice a new tag line: “The iSchool at Illinois.” Clicking on this tag line will take you to www.ischools.org, the homepage of the iSchools project. On that Web site (hosted here at Illinois), iSchools are defined in terms that should be familiar to any GSLIS graduate: “The iSchools are interested in the relationship between information, technology, and people. This is characterized by a commitment to learning and understanding the role of information in human endeavors. The iSchools take it as given that expertise in all forms of information is required for progress in science, business, education, and culture. This expertise must include understanding of the uses and users of information, as well as information technologies and their applications.”

In the iSchools project, deans of information schools across the country are working together to address collective challenges, one of which is to promote awareness (in the general public and in the university itself) of the importance of schools like ours in preparing information professionals of many different sorts. As Nancy Roderer, president-elect of ASIS&T wrote in a recent letter to the editor of Library Journal, “What is at issue here, and has been for some time, is an extension of the principles and practice of library and information science into other arenas of information activity. Thus, I-Schools use the term information, or what I would call the information professions, as a broader collective term for the wide variety of fields, including librarianship, that deal with people, information, and technology.”

You may wonder whether this new tag line is the harbinger of a name-change for GSLIS. It is not, and when you review the official names of the various members of this group, you’ll see that some, like Illinois and North Carolina, retain “library” in their name, and others, like UCLA, Rutgers, and Georgia Tech, have words like “education” or “communication” or “computing” in their name, but nearly all have in common the word “information,” a term that we see as being inclusive, not exclusive, of libraries and librarianship.

Finally, I want to note that in July, I’ll begin a two-year assignment as coordinator of the deans group, but I should also add that the active communication and collaboration in this project goes beyond the deans to include publications and communications, graduate and undergraduate directors, development, and other areas of administration. There is also a highly successful annual conference, to be held this February at UCLA, next spring in North Carolina, and in 2010 at Illinois. If you’re interested in attending the next one, you’ll find more information at www.ischools.org/oc/conference08/.

All the best,

Dean, Graduate School of Library and Information Science
“The funniest word in the vocabulary of a second-grader is *underwear,*” says Betsy Byars, whose children’s books win readers as well as awards—and Byars is not the only one to make this discovery. Author Dav Pilkey’s “Captain Underpants” series has been a runaway kids’ favorite with titles like *Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets* (1999), *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants* (2000), and looming on the horizon in 2008, *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plight of the Pink Potty Poopers* (2008). Never mind the repetition; hearing the word three times just confirms and exaggerates for young readers how funny it was the first time. And never mind the Freudian possibilities of underwear representing covered genitalia and repressed sexuality, because that is very serious stuff. Instead, consider another word that’s just as popular as *underwear:* the word *toilet,* which Byars also discusses in her essay called “Taking Humor Seriously.”

I reached my peak as a bathroom humorist in The 2000-Pound Goldfish. The goldfish has been flushed down the toilet, into the sewer, where it comes to weigh two thousand pounds and has slurped five or six people to death. The soldiers are marching into the sewer to kill Bubbles, and Warren gets the idea that if everyone in the city flushed their toilets at, say, ten o’clock, the floodgates would open and Bubbles would be swept out to sea “where she could live the rest of her life in peace and harmony.” . . .

There follows a seven-page countdown in which the announcer is entreating listeners to flush their toilets. “It’s five minutes to ten. If you have more than one bathroom, get a neighbor to come flush with you.” “It’s four minutes to ten, open your windows, yell, ‘Flush!’ to the people in the streets below.” It takes two pages to get everyone in their bathrooms, and the final countdown is “Five-four-three-two-one-FLUSH!” and if I read this correctly, I never have to actually say the word flush, because the entire school will make the sound of a toilet flushing. It may not sound thrilling to you to hear two hundred kids flushing like toilets, but it has never failed to move me.” (pp. 216–217, The Zena Sutherland Lectures 1983–1992, ed. Betsy Hearne, Clarion, 1992)

Even the beloved Harry Potter is not above dipping into low humor—frequently, as it turns out. Consider this exchange between the magical hero and his nemesis Dudley in the first book:

“They stuff people’s heads down the toilet the first day. . . .,” says Dudley about his new school, “Want to come upstairs and practice?”

“No, thanks,” says Harry. “The poor toilet’s never had anything as horrible as your head in it—it might be sick.” (p. 32, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, J. K. Rowling, Scholastic, 1998)

Not Shakespearean comedy, we may agree, but it does make kids laugh. And what’s toilet humor all about? Control! Competence—basically what maturation is about. And what’s deeply important can be threatening, can make us nervous. Psychologists point out that humans often smile when they’re nervous. Babies laugh with relief when someone who has “disappeared” reappears in a game of peek-a-boo. Toddlers shriek with laughter when a parent chases them with the threat “I’m going to get you.” Folklorists find that jokes often circulate around issues that adults find threatening, too, such as race or ethnic jokes, or the “sick” jokes that circulated around the 1986 explosion of the Challenger, which represented to many people the threat of technology out of control. Of course humor not only reveals our concern, it also defrays our concern, bonds us with others, and gives outlet to our feelings in a positive way.

How does humor do that? Jaak Panksepp, a neuroscientist at Bowling Green State University, thinks the brain has ancient wiring to produce laughter so that young animals learn to play with one another. The laughter stimulates euphoria circuits in the brain and also reassures other animals that they’re playing, not fighting. “It’s not about getting the joke, it’s about getting along.” (Robert Roy Britt, NYT, Science Section, 3/13/07)

There are, of course, many kinds of humor that emerge during various developmental stages. Nonsense, slapstick, and exaggeration come early. Russian children’s poet Korney Chukovsky said that children laugh at things they can see as absurdly contradictory after having just “mastered” them: The horse says moo, the cat says bow-wow. My Very First Mother Goose, edited by Iona Opie (1996), features nonsensical wordplay and nursery rhymes that have entertained children for centuries, with Rosemary Wells’ mischievous illustrations offering a surprise on every page. For beginning readers, gentle humor about friendships such as Arnold Lobel’s characters Frog and Toad (1970), or Cynthia Rylant’s Henry and Mudge (1987–present), offers reassuring comfort during the trials and tribulations of learning to read—and fitting into the world of peers at school. Parody and ridicule are more sophisticated forms of humor, demanding knowledge of social conventions; both are well represented in the 2001 Caldecott Medal book So You Want to Be President! (written by Judith St. George and illustrated by David...
Small), which pokes fun at the prestigious leaders who once experienced nothing but adulation in children’s literature.

The ability to laugh at ourselves seems to come last (or for some people, never). Beverly Cleary says that what adults find funny in her famous books about Ramona often leaves children serious: Ramona cracks a hard-boiled egg on her head like all the other kids do at lunchtime, but it turns out that her mother has accidentally packed an uncooked egg. Ramona runs from the cafeteria and then the school, raw egg running down her face. (Ramona Quimby, Age 8, 1981) Adults smile ruefully as they look back on childhood disaster stories, but young readers cringe, thinking there but for the grace of God go I.

On the other hand, because humor is often subversive, some adults are shocked by writers who perennially tickle children’s funny bones. Shel Silverstein’s poem “For Sale” in Where the Sidewalk Ends (1974) caused a stir among folks who felt it offended their sense of family values, yet many children appreciate his empathizing with sibling rivalry.

Silverstein has his own take on toilet humor, too, as in the case of a narrator’s older brother persuading him to use a toilet plunger for a hat. (p. 74) His poems “Sarah Cynthia Silvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out” and “Warning” (about nose-picking) are great examples of gross humor, a genre much favored by seven- to ten-year-olds, and “Ma and God” actually challenges ultimate (and penultimate) authority directly.
Challenging authority can be a source of great glee for children. Mo Willems’ *Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* (2003) features one of the all-time great tantrums of children’s literature, and David Shannon’s picture book *No, David* (1998) reassures a defiant toddler that no matter what havoc he wreaks, his mother still loves him. For growing readers, Ann Cameron’s series beginning with *The Stories Julian Tells* (1981), Barbara Park’s *Junie B. Jones Has a Monster Under Her Bed* (1997), and Jack Gantos’s novel *Joey Pigza Loses Control* (2000) feature protagonists who are often in trouble but manage to get through it with humor paving the way.

Closely related to challenging authority is subverting traditions. Folk and fairy tales especially have come in for a drubbing during the last decade, with books such as *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, by A. Wolf (actually by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith, 1989); *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig* by Eugene Trivizas and Helen Oxenbury (1993); *Three Little Pigs* by David Wiesner (2001), whose pigs keep breaking out of the story; and for young truck-lovers, David Gordon’s *The Three Little Rigs* (2005), in which a villainous wrecking ball gets melted down for scrap iron!

Although much humor is culturally specific (pigs are not a big topic in Jewish and Muslim lore), funny children’s books can cross international boundaries. For instance, Korean author Ho Baek Lee’s *While We Were Out* (2003) depicts an irresistible rabbit’s home invasion, traceable only by the trail of poop left behind. In the wide-ranging young adult realms, British imports such as Patricia Finney’s *I, Jack* (2004), which is hilariously narrated by a dog, has appealed to plenty of U.S. readers from its opening sentence (“Hi! HI THERE! Hello! HI, FRIEND!! I am Jack! Look at me! Here I am. I like you. Do you like me? I am JACK! BIG DOG JACK!! HI! Can I smell your . . . ? Oh. Sorry.”), while Hilary McKay’s subtler novel *The Exiles* (1992) projects witty character dynamics and unexpected plot developments with aplomb.

One thing is certain, children love to laugh, and there are never enough funny books for them. Adult critics often seem to think that comedy isn’t important. In the children’s book business, we joke about the fact that every Newbery Award book has to include a death to show that it should be taken seriously. But fortunately, there are some very funny writers and artists satisfying children’s craving to laugh—more for younger children than older, as demonstrated by the Bulletin Blue Ribbons list included here, and more in fiction than nonfiction, though informational books have also laced facts with fun, from Joanna Cole’s *Magic Schoolbus* series (1986–2006) to Michael Emberley’s comedic cartoons in Robie Harris’s *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health* (1994). In this article, I’ve emphasized relatively recent publications, but funny books are an old tradition in children’s literature, including classics such as *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* (Richard and Florence Atwater, 1939), *Homer Price* (Robert McCloskey, 1943), *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* (Betty MacDonald, 1947), and *The Pushcart War* (Jean Merrill, 1964).

In a twenty-first century dominated by computer technology, we still need books that children can chew on, drool over, hug in a stroller, take to bed, drop in the sand at a beach, giggle about, and bond with long before they’re ready to Google information for assignments. Literacy begins at birth, and for those who cannot read, the Internet is nearly useless. Beyond basic literacy is the promise that literature has always offered, of knowledge, understanding, and emotional engagement—from tears to laughter—stored in one of the neatest pieces of technology ever invented, the book.
Three Years of Bulletin Blue Ribbons Humor


PICTURE BOOKS

Bee, William. Whatever; written and illus. by William Bee. Candlewick. 5–7 yrs A boy who responds with an unimpressed “Whatever” to all his father’s efforts to please him reaps what he sows in this wickedly humorous picture book.

Bryant, Sean. A Boy and His Bunny; illus. by Tom Murphy. Arcade. 2–4 yrs Cheerful absurdity marks this rhyming story about a boy who wakes up with a bunny on his head.

Cronin, Doreen. Wiggle; illus. by Zachary Pullen. Simon. Gr. 3–5 Wacky humor invigorates this tale of some hard-to-tame (but ultimately very lovable) wild boars, which engage in their own catalogue of ways to wiggle.

Frank, John. The Toughest Cowboy, or How the Wild West Was Tamed; illus. by Zachary Pullen. Simon. Gr. 3–5 A humorous rhyming story about a boy who wakes up with a funny bunny on his head.

Long, Ethan. Tickle the Duck!; written and illus. by Ethan Long. Little. 2–5 yrs The more the titular duck forbids kids to tickle him, the more they’ll want to touch the textured surfaces of his feet and feathers in this giggle-inducing title.

Manning, Mick. Yuck!; illus. by Brita Granstrom. Lincoln. 2–5 yrs A high-spirited, Q&A-formatted text explains that foods we humans may find yucky are delicious meals for babies of other species.

Pinkwater, Daniel. Bad Bear Detectives: An Irving & Muktuk Story; illus. by Jill Pinkwater. Houghton. Gr. 2–4 A high-spirited, Q&A-formatted text explains that foods we humans may find yucky are delicious meals for babies of other species.

Root, Phyllis. Looking for a Moose; by Randy Cecil. Candlewick. 3–6 yrs In this deliciously chantable rhyming story, a crew of kids take off searching for a moose—but are the animals closer than the searchers realize?

Rosoff, Meg. Meet Wild Boars; illus. by Sophie Blackall. Holt. 4–6 yrs A quartet of wild boars demonstrate all the hideous behaviors that make them bad house guests—and kid-pleasing picture-book stars.

Shannon, David. Good Boy, Fergus!; written and illus. by David Shannon. Blue Sky/Scholastic. 3–6 yrs An obstreperous terrier mostly blithely ignores his owner’s commands and entreaties in this comedy of canine misbehavior.

Smith, Lane. John, Paul, George, and Ben; written and illus. by Lane Smith. Hyperion. Gr. 3–5 This satirical look at our founding fathers may be short on facts, but it’s long on dark humor.

Fiction

Anderson, M. T. The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen; illus. by Kurt Cyrus. Harcourt. Gr. 3–6 This comedic and high-spirited adventure is part loving homage to and part burlesque of mid-century serial fiction.

Andersen, M. T. Whales on Stilts; illus. by Kurt Cyrus. Harcourt. Gr. 3–6. This way-out, smirkily comic adventure pits ten-year-old Lily and her friends against whales determined to take over the world.

Nonfiction

Kudlinski, Kathleen V. Boy, Were We Wrong about Dinosaurs!; illus. by S. D. Schindler. Dutton, 2005. 6–10 yrs Witty illustrations add humor to this focused reminder of the way scientific understanding, especially on this most popular of topics, continues to evolve.
In the most recent US News & World Report rankings, GSLIS moved into first place in Services for Children and Youth, tied with Florida State University. “Over a third of all GSLIS graduates have taken one or more courses in youth services, an indication of our national impact on the future of information literacy, reading, and readers,” said Betsy Hearne, professor emerita and former director of the Center for Children’s Books.

The Center serves as the bustling epicenter of the youth services activities at GSLIS. Not only does it house the collection, but it is a gathering place for faculty and students alike.

**The collection**

The Center’s collection is composed of titles that have been reviewed by the Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books.

The Bulletin began reviewing titles in 1945 at the University of Chicago’s Center for Instructional Materials. During the 1940s, approximately eight hundred new children’s book titles were published each year in the U.S. Since that time, both children’s publishing and the Bulletin have grown. There are now more than four thousand new books for children being published each year in the U.S., and what started as a newsletter to guide teachers in selecting books has grown into a critical journal of national reputation (See page 12 for more about the Bulletin).

The Center and the Bulletin came to Illinois after the library school at the University of Chicago closed. Hearne was on faculty at Chicago at the time, and when she decided to come to Illinois in 1992, she worked with then-Dean Leigh Estabrook to bring the Bulletin and the Center with her. In 2001, upon completion of the addition to the GSLIS building, the Center and the Bulletin moved into their current spot in Room 24. The Bulletin is the country’s only children’s literature review journal to be connected with a university.

Most of the sixteen thousand titles in the non-circulating collection have been reviewed by the Bulletin in the last five to seven years. Great care is taken to weed the collection, and only those that

Tucked away in the basement of the GSLIS building is one of the most significant collections of children’s books in the country. The Center for Children’s Books houses over sixteen thousand titles, their brightly colored jackets warming up Room 24.
are considered to have historical value are kept in the Center beyond that time frame. The weeded books find a home at the University’s Education and Social Science Library, an arrangement that has existed ever since the Center moved to Illinois.

Research and resources
The move to Room 24 made the collection more accessible to the many adults—librarians, teachers, scholars, parents, and others—who are interested in examining newly published books for young readers. Some use the collection for research, others to get a first-hand look at the books they may order or purchase for their libraries, classrooms, and homes. The Center is also used as a gathering space: to host meetings, to hold LEEP classes during on-campus sessions, and for research and collaboration.

Among the many groups that meet in the Center is the Youth Literature Interest Group (YLIG), an interdisciplinary collaboration of LIS, English, and education faculty and doctoral students from Illinois, Illinois State University, and Eastern Illinois University. This group meets monthly to discuss texts and issues relevant to literature for children and young adults. YLIG organizes and co-sponsors monthly reading and discussion meetings, and a research showcase. In the fall of 2006, YLIG hosted the first Allerton Conference titled Family, Youth, and Literature. YLIG also organizes the annual Gryphon Lecture featuring a leading scholar in youth literature. Previous speakers include Roger Sutton, editor-in-chief of *The Horn Book* and Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, professor emerita at The Ohio State University. The 2008 Gryphon Lecture will be given by Professor Lynne McKechnie, currently the visiting Beverly Cleary Professor at the University of Washington.

Storytelling is also a big part of the offerings of the Center. Every spring, GSLIS holds the annual Storytelling Festival, a night where faculty and students tell stories for the public, and every month Assistant Professor Kate McDowell hosts Story Coach meetings where students have the opportunity to share stories and develop their skills.

Because the Center holds the newest titles, students are able to keep on top of children’s publishing—which is important for the dozens of students in our K–12 school librarianship program. Georgeann Burch, the coordinator for the program said, “Access to the rich collection of new and classical literature in the Center is certainly an advantage for our students preparing for careers in school libraries. When they work at a K–12 library during their field experiences, they are very well-prepared to evaluate and select titles for a collection, and they are able to confidently recommend titles to students looking for a ‘good read.’”

Center in the spotlight
The Center was one of four destinations the University of Illinois Foundation selected to spotlight during Foundation Weekend in September 2007. GSLIS youth services faculty and staff were able to share the research and activities of the Center with visitors, highlighting the strength of our faculty and facilities.

Christine Jenkins is an associate professor at GSLIS and the Center’s director. “The visit from the Foundation was a great opportunity for us. The Center is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in children’s and young adult literature. We were able to show our guests that our rich collection, flexible and accessible space, and knowledgeable personnel offer unlimited possibilities for service and collaborations.”
Meet the Youth Services Faculty

Betsy Hearne  
Professor Emerita  
Research interests: Literary and artistic analysis of children's books; elements of folklore and mythology that survive in children's literature; publishing history of juvenile literature in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; cultural and social trends reflected in children's books; developmental role of literature and storytelling from birth to adolescence; impact of story on children's psychological adjustment and reading motivation.

Christine Jenkins  
Associate Professor and Director, Center for Children's Books  
Research interests: History of youth services librarianship as women's history; censorship and intellectual freedom issues; representations of minority-status groups in children's and young adult literature; reading engagement; reader-response research, and the reader-text interaction.

Kate McDowell  
Assistant Professor  
Research interests: Library services for youth; literature for children and young adults; history of gender in children's librarianship; gender in children's literature; technology in youth services librarianship; distance education pedagogy.

Deborah Stevenson  
Assistant Professor  
Research interests: Youth literature and services; children's literature and contemporary culture; history of children's literature; genre theory.

Carol Tilley  
Assistant Professor  
Research interests: History of youth services librarianship; children's print culture; information inquiry and instruction in school libraries; and media literacy.

Ph.D. Students Working in Youth Services


Sharon Comstock, “Indigenous Understandings of Information Literacy by High School Librarians and Students: A Sociotechnical Approach”


Sarah Park, “Representations of Transracial Korean Adoption in Children’s Literature”


April Spisak, “It’s Just so Easy’: Celebrity Publishing in Children’s and Young Adult Literature”


A note from the director

I’d like to invite GSLIS alumni—and their friends—to visit the Center for Children’s Books. Whether you come to the Center in person or visit us online, you can browse our collection and utilize our professional expertise. Are you a preschool teacher looking for the latest picture books? An elementary librarian getting ready for the annual inundation of science fair researchers? A high school teacher looking for fiction to complement a unit on ancient Egypt? A public librarian looking for graphic novels for the young adult collection? A parent or grandparent looking for just the right holiday gift book for a child or grandchild? Come in, log on, or give us a call. We can help!

Sincerely,  
Christine Jenkins, director
Children’s Books a Pleasure for Veteran Reviewer

When she saw the floor-to-ceiling bookshelves in the office, Deborah Stevenson knew she had found the right house. Now, with those shelves full, galleys toppling off living room tables, and books in the bedroom that are threatening to “devour her,” Stevenson feels right at home.

And as editor of The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, Stevenson’s morning journey takes her from this book-filled home office to her book-filled campus office. There, she combs through another set of bookshelves: rows of them located in the Center for Children’s Books holding the roughly four thousand books the Bulletin is sent for review annually. Ultimately, the Bulletin will review only nine hundred of these this year.

The Bulletin has a long history of being one of the most highly respected review journals of children’s literature. Since 1945, librarians have relied on these reviews to develop their collections. Originally housed at the University of Chicago’s library school, the Bulletin and the Center were moved to Illinois in 1992 when Chicago’s library school closed.

Stevenson began her career with the Bulletin in 1989 as a graduate assistant and in 2001 she assumed editorship of the journal. She can often be seen sitting on the floor in front of the bookshelves, poring over new submissions and deciding which titles to assign for review. “Good reviewers know their strengths and weaknesses. I like to give each book the benefit of the doubt, so I’m looking for a good match between book and reviewer. I assign books to reviewers based on their interests and backgrounds,” Stevenson explains.

But a good match doesn’t guarantee a good review. Whereas some review journals follow a policy of only running reviews of books they can recommend, Stevenson thinks it is important to let her subscribers know about titles that fall short as well. “There are a lot of claims on librarians’ budgets, and if we think they don’t need to buy a book that might otherwise look promising or important, I think it’s useful for them to know that,” she said.

At any given time, the Bulletin has five to six reviewers who meet with Stevenson in a weekly editorial meeting. Betty Bush has been a reviewer for over ten years and notes that, outside of their professional expertise, each of the reviewers have something in common: “a strong sense of humor and a knack for collaborative effort.”

In addition to the eighty or so reviews, each monthly issue of the Bulletin includes “The Big Picture,” an in-depth review that will occasionally take on more than one book. Additional free content is available monthly on the Bulletin’s Web site including a focus piece on one author or artist, reviewing his/her career and offering a selected bibliography; the monthly “dozen” which collects thirteen recently recommended titles on a particular topic; a list of all the starred recommendations that appeared in print that month; and the Bulletin Quote of the Month, a quote Stevenson chooses from titles reviewed in the current issue.

Of course, of the hundreds of titles the Bulletin reviews, some stand out as exceptional. To recognize these, the Bulletin reviewers spend many hours discussing (and sometimes debating!) which books will be honored with the Bulletin Blue Ribbon Award. Given annually, the Blue Ribbons include those titles Bulletin reviewers felt represented the year’s best in youth literature and include winners in three categories: picture books, fiction, and nonfiction. Recent winners include 5,000 Miles to Freedom by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin; The Book Thief by Markus Zusak; and Good Boy, Fergus! by David Shannon.

Watching trends emerge

In recent years, parental objections to children’s and young adult literature have remained strong and frequent—from calls for popular titles to be pulled from the shelves, such as the Harry Potter series, to perennial objections to the canonical usual suspects. From her vantage point as editor, Stevenson reflects on the last fifteen years of young adult publishing and finds that, contrary to popular belief, young adult literature is still comparatively conservative in nature. The covers of scantily clad teenagers so prominently displayed at the local chain bookstore are only a small portion of what is available to teens today. And even in these books, where from outward appearances sex seems to take center stage, the text tends to focus more on relationships than overtly descriptive passages of sexual activity.

Stevenson has watched this trend emerge and questions the tendency to consider books as moral examples. “I don’t think kids always read books to want to emulate the people in them, any more than adults who read murder mysteries or true crime want to live in the middle of vio-
lence. Even more than other media, the printed page allows for a distance that makes a literary experience different from a real experience, a way to imaginatively consider possibilities."

Illustrating the rich selection of books now being published, Stevenson points to a number of recent trends including graphic novels which have exploded on the youth publishing scene. Graphic novels not only offer selections for both children and young adults, but cross over subject areas with ease. They run the gamut from simple line drawings and storylines of the Babymouse series aimed at second to fourth graders to complex, biographical pieces such as Journey into Mohawk Country which added illustrations to the translated text of a sixteenth-century Dutch trader to flesh out the story.

Other recent trends that Stevenson notes include postmodern picture books that synthesize text and art to create innovative stories; vampire chick lit; and metaphysical young adult titles that often include descriptions of purgatory or of the afterlife, such as Gabrielle Zevin’s Elsewhere.

'Still a thrill'

Once the red pencils are put away and the week’s reviews are submitted, Stevenson retreats to her office to put another issue of the Bulletin to bed. After eighteen years with the Bulletin, Stevenson still finds joy in reviewing. “No matter how jaded I think I am, there are always surprises, and it’s still a thrill to open up a book and find it absolutely wonderful.”

In this reprint of the August 2006 “Big Picture,” editor Deborah Stevenson responds to a critic lamenting the state of modern youth literature.

**CLASSIC LOSERS**

In July 2006 an opinion piece ran in the Wall Street Journal wherein a commentator (nameless in the electronic version I saw) laments the summer reading lists that are filled with what the writer judged to be lackluster and soap-operaic formula reading when they could be studded with classics such as Black Beauty or 20,000 Leagues under the Sea.

While the essay seemed to be the usual “read as I did as a child, not as I do now” complaint (judging by the New York Times Bestseller Lists, adults aren’t exactly spending the summer revisiting great books en masse), there was a particularly interesting turn: the author was deriving his/her negative opinions not from actually reading the books themselves but from the rigorous examination of their one-sentence summaries.

I’ve always perversely enjoyed such summaries, ever since reading a plot description of Nicholas Nickleby that described the plot thusly: “Nicholas and his sister are beset by their evil uncle. They find freedom with the help of friends.” (It’s almost like hearing Dickens’ own voice, isn’t it?) I therefore offer the nameless editorial writer—and our audience—brief annotations for the classics, so that such titles might be more fairly judged alongside the new material s/he has found lacking.

Deborah Stevenson, Editor

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**Guide Book to Gift Books Now Available for Free**

When you walk into most bookstores, you see the same children’s titles splashed all over posters, stacked high on tables, overflowing on end caps. But what about all the other books for kids published in the last few years? When you want to choose a gift from a deeper selection than what you’ll find on the front table, The Guide Book to Gift Books can help.

Published by the experts at the Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books and available exclusively online at www.lis.uiuc.edu/giftbooks, this free, downloadable guide features over 300 titles suitable for gift giving any time of the year. Download it, print it out, and take the experts with you to the bookstore.

Categorized by age group, it includes picture books, books for young readers, middle readers, and older readers. Each annotated listing includes bibliographic information and is verified to be in print—which means if your local bookstore doesn’t have it, they will be able to order it.

**Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland**
A girl takes a long journey wherein she meets various playing cards.

**Black Beauty**
A horse tells his story of being employed as transportation in the Victorian era.

**Charlotte’s Web**
A pig meets a spider, which dies.

**Cinderella** (Grimms version)
A tree helps a girl dress for a party.

**Goodnight, Moon**
A creature repeatedly refuses strangely colored food.

**Green Eggs and Ham**
A girl takes a long journey wherein she meets a valedictory to various household objects.

**Heidi**
An orphan is sent to stay with her misanthropic grandfather and a large number of goats.

**The Little Engine that Could**
A steam engine negotiates an incline.

**Little House in the Big Woods**
A girl does chores and squabbles with her sister in a time before television.

**Little Women**
Four girls do chores and squabble with their sisters in a time before television.

**Peter Rabbit**
A rabbit emulates his father in destroying a garden.

**Treasure Island**
Hoping to find money to support his widowed mother, an eighteenth-century boy gets caught up in violent criminal activity.
Center for Children’s Books Names Gryphon Winner, Three ‘Honor Books’

by Andrea Lynn, News Bureau, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The True Story of Stellina,” written and illustrated by Matteo Pericoli, has won the 2007 Gryphon Award for Children’s Literature.

The award, which includes a $1,000 prize, is given annually by the Center for Children’s Books.

The award recognizes the author of an outstanding English language work of fiction or non-fiction for which the primary audience is children in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Betsy Hearne, former director of the center and professor emerita, describes the winning book as a warm family story about a lost baby bird rescued from a city sidewalk by the author’s wife.

“Stellina becomes the star of a rhythmic text featuring natural repetition for the transitional reader and oral cadence for reading aloud,” Hearne said. “Spare lyrical watercolor illustrations deepen the appeal and enhance the tonal effect,” she said.

Three “honor books” representing a diversity of genres, styles and formats also were named: “Sea Horse: The Shyest Fish in the Sea,” by Chris Butterworth and illustrated by John Lawrence; “Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything,” by Lenore Look and illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf; and “Good Boy, Fergus!”, written and illustrated by David Shannon. All four books were published in 2006.

The Gryphon Award was begun in 2004 as a way to focus attention on transitional reading – “an area of literature for youth that, despite being crucial to the successful transition of children from new readers to independent lifelong readers, does not receive the critical recognition it deserves,” Hearne said.

The award is funded by the Center for Children’s Books Outreach Endowment Fund. Income from the fund supports outreach activities for the center and the Gryphon Award.

Gifts may be made to the fund by contacting Diana Stroud, GSLIS Development Office, at 217-244-9577 or dstroud@uiuc.edu or 501 E. Daniel St., Champaign, IL 61820-6211.

GSLIS Research Center Expands Information Science Scope, Names New Director

The Library Research Center (LRC) at the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) is expanding the scope of its activities and changing its name to the Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS). With the retirement of Leigh Estabrook in August 2007, GSLIS Associate Professor Carole L. Palmer has been named director of the reestablished center.

For over 45 years, the LRC has been an integral part of GSLIS, conducting Web-based and print survey design and administration, focus groups, telephone interviews, market research, and other social scientific studies for its clients. CIRSS will combine this base of activities and expertise in research design and implementation with the existing GSLIS research strength in scientific and scholarly information use. The Center’s extended focus will be on the information problems facing research communities and the advancement and integration of digital information within and across disciplines.

“It has always been our goal to conduct research that libraries can use to increase their effectiveness. This transition is an ambitious and wonderful expansion of that effort,” said Estabrook.
Palmer notes, “I am honored to be carrying on the legacy of the LRC and extending its reach in library and information science. Our aim is to build on the Center’s strong foundation to catalyze a range of new research on how digital information can advance the work of scientists and scholars. This is a natural step for GSLIS, since we have a growing base of researchers conducting more studies in this area. We also believe that this is now an area fundamental to the future of the information professions. Many of our projects are already done in partnership with scientific and scholarly communities, and the GSLIS CIRSS will help facilitate this collaborative approach and provide an infrastructure for broader programs of research.”

CIRSS faculty, staff, students, and research affiliates bring a wide variety of research techniques, experience, and knowledge to four core areas of concentration: scientific communication, digital humanities, collections and metadata, and next-generation libraries and museums. New projects, funded primarily by NSF, IMLS, and the Mellon Foundation, include studies of data curation requirements in bioinformatics and e-science, integration of ontologies with scientific publishing, institutional repository development, OAI federation of cultural heritage collections, literary text mining and analysis, and digital music retrieval and evaluation.

For more information on GSLIS CIRSS visit http://cirss.lis.uiuc.edu/.

Instructional Technology Receives Upgrade

Over ten years ago, when LEEP was first launched, it was a pioneer in the world of online learning: not only did LEEP break ground in online course delivery, but GSLIS staff also developed many of the various technologies used in our highly successful program.

This year GSLIS announced an evolution in the LEEP program. Beginning with the Spring 2007 semester, the GSLIS intranet migrated to a suite of new tools, which included the Moodle course management system, Confluence wiki software, and new, more robust Web servers to host course materials, personal materials, Web-based bulletin boards, and more. As part of this migration, GSLIS has partnered with the Moodle open source community to improve the infrastructure of our program while maintaining the quality GSLIS students have come to expect.

While the old LEEP system has been retired, we are still committed to including our alumni in the online GSLIS community. You may request a GSLIS domain login by contacting the GSLIS Help Desk at 1-800-377-1892 or help@support.lis.uiuc.edu. Upon logging in to the GSLIS intranet, you will see a personalized page with links to the School-wide bulletin boards, archived course materials, and other resources. Your GSLIS domain account will remain active indefinitely.

If you had content in the WebFTP file storage tool, that material can be migrated to the new I Drive file storage for two years after leaving GSLIS. You can learn more about the GSLIS I Drive at www.lis.uiuc.edu/oitr/help/file-storage/#idrive.

We look forward to welcoming you to these new resources and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or feedback.
2006 Downs Intellectual Freedom Award Given to Michele Reutty

Library director Michele Reutty never realized that following the rules could get her in so much trouble. But when she found herself following library protocol in response to a request for information from the police, she landed in the midst of a controversy.

Her commitment to upholding privacy laws earned her the 2006 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award given by the GSLIS faculty.

In May 2006, area police asked Reutty, then library director at the Hasbrouck Heights Public Library in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, to supply library circulation records to aid in an investigation. Compliance with state statutes, Reutty told police she couldn’t supply the records without a subpoena. After months of disagreement, Reutty resigned on October 2, 2006.

“Michele Reutty’s insistence that proper procedure be followed before patron records were released is the kind of protection of intellectual freedom that the Downs Award is meant to recognize. Michele’s stand is the kind of front line defense of the principles of due process that Robert B. Downs stood for in his many years of dedication to intellectual freedom and the protection of library users’ right to privacy,” said GSLIS Associate Professor Terry Weech.

On December 4, 2006, Reutty became library director of the Free Public Library in Oakland, New Jersey. She is currently president of the New Jersey Library Association.

Reutty was honored during the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. The Greenwood Publishing Group provides the honorarium to the recipient of the Downs Intellectual Freedom Award and also co-sponsors the reception.

The Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award is given annually to acknowledge individuals or groups who have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom, particularly as it affects libraries and information centers and the dissemination of ideas. Granted to those who have resisted censorship or efforts to abridge the freedom of individuals to read or view materials of their choice, the award may be in recognition of a particular action or long-term interest in, and dedication to, the cause of intellectual freedom. The award was established in 1969 by the GSLIS faculty to honor Robert Downs, a champion of intellectual freedom, on his twenty-fifth anniversary as director of the school.

Additional information about the award and past recipients can be found at www.lis.uiuc.edu/about/awards/downs-award.html.
New Master’s Degree Concentration in Data Curation Offered at GSLIS

GSLIS has launched a new master’s concentration in data curation. The Data Curation Education Program (DCEP) received funding under the Institute of Museum & Library Services through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant program.

Associate Professor P. Bryan Heidorn, principal investigator, is working with co-principal investigators Associate Professor Carole Palmer and Professor and Associate Dean Linda C. Smith, to develop a new curriculum dedicated to providing theory and skills necessary for providing curation expertise in academic, industrial, and government organizations.

Data curation means maintaining and adding value to a trusted body of digital information for current and future use; it requires active management, appraisal, archiving, and preservation of data over the life-cycle of scholarly, scientific, and educational usefulness.

“The professions of library science and information science have historically been an integral part of scholarly publishing. Digital data is now becoming an integral part of scholarly production. Funding agencies are requiring professional data curation to protect and maximize the product of their investments. Data curation is simply an extension of the school’s traditional strengths in organization, access, and preservation. In this new degree program we are updating and refining these strengths for this new era of science,” said Heidorn.

DCEP is working with an advisory committee to develop internships and learning opportunities for students. The committee includes, among others, representatives from the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Biomedical Informatics Research Network at the University of California-San Diego.

“The field of digital data curation is in its initial stages, so this is a terrific time to be learning about it. We are seeing a number of career paths taking shape for which a foundation in library and information science will be crucial for the long-term access to use of digital materials. We are pleased to be developing a program here at GSLIS that is grounded in faculty research on scientific information work, the production of scholarship, and the development and use of digital information tools and resources,” said Melissa Cragin, DCEP program coordinator.

More information is available at www.uiuc.edu/goto/dcep

GSLIS CROSSES GREEN STREET TO ATTEND EOH

In March, GSLIS students organized a presence at Illinois’s 87th annual Engineering Open House. Led by master’s student and ALA chapter president Julie Yen and master’s student and SLA chapter president Melissa Zilic, this was the first time GSLIS has formally participated in the event.

“We decided to be involved in EOH because it was an opportunity to break some library stereotypes. LIS both supports engineers through reference and overlaps with engineering in many scholarly pursuits. We wanted to let others know that where people are organizing, using, and manipulating information, there is library work going on, whether that is in a library or somewhere else,” said Zilic.

EOH typically attracts over 10,000 visitors and is meant to showcase the wide variety of research areas and projects in which Illinois engineering students are involved.

Over 550 people visited the GSLIS exhibit, which included a number of interactive activities. During the two-day event, GSLIS volunteers demonstrated LEEP live sessions, allowing visitors to participate in chats on the LEEP discussion boards. They also presented slide shows on preservation, library buildings, and innovations in technology.

Visitors could also try their hand at Guitar Hero, set up in the GSLIS booth to highlight the role of gaming in library and information science. “Scholarly pursuits can be fun and very current (e.g., social networks and gaming) and we wanted to make students aware that they have resources for research in the working world at their workplaces, as well as pointing out opportunities for collaboration across disciplines/fields,” said Yen.
Six New Faculty Join GSLIS

Welcome to our new faculty! Five new members began their appointments with the 2007–2008 academic year, while Assistant Professor Bonnie Mak will begin in August 2008.

Professor Abdul Alkalimat was most recently a professor of sociology and director of the Africana Studies program at the University of Toledo. His research interests include: digital inequality, community informatics, and African American intellectual history. He is the director of the Digital Research Initiative of the National Council for Black Studies funded by the Ford Foundation. He will share a joint appointment with Illinois’s African American Studies and Research Program. Alkalimat earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1974.

Associate Professor Jon Gant is well known for his work in e-government. In addition to this work, Gant’s research interests include information technology and organization design; social networks, knowledge management, and information technology; strategic management of information systems; and geospatial technologies. Gant comes to GSLIS from Syracuse University, where he was previously an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the School of Information Studies and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Gant earned his master’s and doctorate in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University in 1992 and 1998.

Assistant Professor W. John MacMullen joins the GSLIS staff teaching in the area of bioinformatics. Among his primary research interests, MacMullen is studying the way in which life scientists use structured data sets and the biomedical literature in their work processes. He has taught courses in health sciences information and bioinformatics and lectured on the role of information professionals in bioinformatics. MacMullen earned his Ph.D. in information and library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007.

Assistant Professor Carol Tilley joins the GSLIS faculty working in youth services. Tilley’s research interests include the history of youth services librarianship, children’s print culture, information inquiry and instruction in school libraries, and social psychological aspects of reference interactions. She comes to GSLIS from the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University where she was the coordinator of distance education, advising youth services students in the program and developing new courses. Tilley earned her Ph.D. in information science from Indiana in 2007.

Assistant Professor Kate Williams comes to GSLIS from Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Chicago. Her research focuses on the relationship between social networks, social capital, and the use of information and communications technology, particularly in low-income communities. Having studied such diverse communities as Toledo, Ohio; Manchester, England; and Havana, Cuba, she is now examining public computing in Chicago’s ethnic communities. This multiyear eChicago project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Williams earned her Ph.D. in information from University of Michigan in 2005.

Assistant Professor Bonnie Mak will begin at GSLIS in August 2008. During the 2007–2008 academic year, Mak is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto, where she holds a joint appointment in the renowned Centre for Medieval Studies and in the Faculty of Information Studies. Funding for this research fellowship has been provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In addition to Medieval Studies, Mak’s scholarly interests include the history of books, libraries, and archives; manuscript studies; bibliography; the history of reading; and material culture. She has conducted research in the Vatican Library, the British Library, as well as the national libraries of Austria, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. Mak received her Ph.D. in medieval studies from Notre Dame in 2004.
Faculty, staff, students, and friends gathered after graduation in May 2007 to celebrate the retirement of two members of the GSLIS faculty—professors Leigh Estabrook and Betsy Hearne.

In addition to teaching, professor and former dean Leigh Estabrook served as director of the Library Research Center, a position she held from 1988 to 2006. Under her tenure as dean (1986–2001), GSLIS went a substantial period of growth: the number of students more than tripled; GSLIS launched its signature online scheduling option, LEEP; and the School was moved from the fourth floor of David Kinley Hall to our current 58,000 square foot building.

Highly respected by her peers, Estabrook was awarded the Beta Phi Mu Award from the American Library Association for “distinguished service to education for librarianship” in 2002 and in 2003 she received the Association for Library and Information Science Education Award for professional contributions to library and information science education.

“I am so grateful to have been part of the GSLIS community. It is a community willing to take risks, visionary about the problems that face library and information science—all the while maintaining an unwavering support for our fundamental and long-term mission. In retirement, I miss these colleagues personally, but love the freedom that allowed me to say ‘yes, I can go to Kyrgyzstan for two weeks instead of one,’” said Estabrook.

Professor Betsy Hearne has been with GSLIS since 1992, when she moved downstate from the University of Chicago. She has been a leading voice in children’s literature and storytelling. In her last years at GSLIS she also served as director of the Center for Children’s Books.

Illinois honored Hearne with two prestigious awards during her tenure on campus. In 2000, she received a University Scholar Award and in 2004 she received a Graduate College Outstanding Mentor Award. In 2007, the Association for Library and Information Science Education awarded Hearne the ALISE Award for Teaching Excellence.

Hearne is the author of many books including the highly acclaimed picture book Seven Brave Women, the folktales anthology Beauties and Beasts, and several novels for children. Her most recent publication Hauntings: And Other Tales of Danger, Love, and Sometimes Loss, is a collection of fifteen stories published in July 2007 by HarperCollins Children’s Books.

She is also the former children’s book editor of Booklist and editor of The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books. She has reviewed books for almost forty years and her reviews have appeared in many publications including The New York Times Book Review and The Horn Book Magazine. “The opportunities for growth at GSLIS—my own, the students’, and the youth services program’s—were endlessly exciting. They still are; I frequently drop in at the Center for Children’s Books to keep up with the books and people there. But then I come home early and read, write, walk, or take a nap! Being able to choose what to do with each day is a gift. In addition to some fiction and poetry, I’m working on a book chapter about folklore in children’s literature and finishing a collection of essays, co-edited with Roberta Trites from the ISU English Department, entitled A Narrative Compass: Stories that Guide Women’s Lives (University of Illinois Press, 2009) about the books, folktales, and family stories that have inspired women who study narrative.”

Peppered throughout a collection of letters gathered from former students and colleagues for the joint retirement party are powerful words describing the lasting impact these two accomplished scholars had on their students. To be sure, Estabrook and Hearne have transformed many GSLIS students, inspiring them in their lives and in their careers.
Faculty Research Draws Support

From LIS education to preserving digital worlds, GSLIS faculty work on a wide variety of research projects. Here is a sampling of some projects that received funding this year. For a complete list of research projects, see our Web site.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a two-year $1,000,000 grant to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for a humanities text-mining project called “Metadata Offer New Knowledge” (MONK). GSLIS Dean John Unsworth is serving as the Illinois project lead for an international and multi-institutional research team that includes faculty, staff, and students from Northwestern University, McMaster University, the University of Nebraska, the University of Maryland, and the University of Alberta, as well as the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

The foundation for MONK is the work and progress of two existing research projects: the Nora Project, a multi-institutional endeavor for which Unsworth serves as project director, and WordHoard, directed by Martin Mueller and based at Northwestern University. Both Nora and WordHoard apply similar text-mining techniques to digital humanities collections, though the focus of Nora has been on 18th- and 19th-century British and American literature, and WordHoard has concentrated on earlier texts, including Shakespeare, Chaucer, and early Greek epic literature. MONK will bring together these two projects to create an inclusive and comprehensive text-mining and text-analysis tool-kit for scholars in the humanities.

$990,234 for their project titled “Preparing Future Faculty: Enhancing the Doctoral Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.” The project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

GSLIS will enhance its doctoral program by building a stronger research community within the school for the study of information in society, including policy, economic, and historical dimensions. Project goals include enhancing the doctoral program curriculum; connecting the research community to the wider world of librarianship; and attracting and supporting 13 diverse students, especially those from underrepresented groups, with a specific focus on recruiting doctoral students who will teach master’s students capable of becoming future leaders in public, academic, and school libraries. The grant will provide multi-year fellowship support for doctoral students interested in pursuing the study of information in society, including policy, economic, and historical dimensions. For more information on these fellowships contact Linda Smith at lcsmith@uiuc.edu.

Professor Bertram (Chip) Bruce was awarded $788,895 for his project titled “Community Informatics for Youth: Using the Extension Network to Recruit Future LIS Professionals.” The project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

GSLIS and the University of Illinois Extension’s statewide 4-H network, will partner to reach youth and youth leaders with engaging, educational activities to recruit underserved youth into library and information science. Five Illinois communities—Champaign-Urbana, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, and Rockford—with a high concentration of minority, low-income, and English-language-learner populations will pilot the program. Junior high and high school youths will participate in a variety of activities designed to give them familiarity with a range of information science topics, and a variety of LIS careers. The project will also produce a curriculum for use elsewhere.

Dr. Ann Bishop was awarded $996,243 to support “Community Informatics Corps: The Next Generation.” The project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

GSLIS will expand and enhance its pilot Community Informatics master’s program. Community informatics (CI) is the field of study and practice devoted to understanding how information processes and technologies help communities achieve their goals. The aim of the CI program is to recruit and mentor a group of Latina/o, African-American, and other students who are eager for a career that gives them the opportunity to contribute to underserved communities. Students in the CI program focus their coursework on social entrepreneurship and community
library and information services, so that they are prepared to apply what they’ve learned to the creation of innovative information services implemented within and across a range of community-based and public interest organizations.

Assistant Professor Kate Williams was awarded $199,796 to support “Chicago Community Informatics: Places, Uses, Resources.” The project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

In this Early Career Development project, Dr. Kate Williams will use a social capital/social network model to research actual and potential IT use in six disadvantaged communities across Chicago. The research will analyze how people and communities are already using computers and the Internet, and how their own lives and identities might be represented as part of our nation’s cyberinfrastructure.

IN MEMORIAM

Martha E. WILLIAMS
September 21, 1934–July 5, 2007

GSLIS Professor Emerita Martha Williams, one of the pioneers in the field of developing computer-based databases, died July 5, 2007, at her home in Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Williams began her career at IIT Research Institute as a chemist, but her interest soon turned to technical databases. She developed the standard reference in the field, Computer-Readable Databases, and for many years was the editor of the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology. Williams was the founder of the Gale Directory of Databases and the editor of Online Review. She was the founder and President of Information Market Indicators (IMI).

Williams received numerous awards and accolades during her career. Walter Carlson of IBM said “I have not found anyone who excels Professor Martha Williams in combining technical grasp, business judgment, and intuition about future trends.”

Memorials may be made to Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart, 760 East Westleigh Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.
Smith Honored with Off-Campus Teaching Award

Anyone who has had the privilege of taking a class with GSLIS Associate Dean and Professor Linda C. Smith can testify to her unfailing dedication to her students. Whether they sought council in her campus office or from thousands of miles away, Smith has earned a reputation for being an approachable, attentive, and encouraging mentor.

For her work, Smith has been awarded the University of Illinois 2006–2007 Campus Award for Excellence in Off-Campus Teaching.

The selection committee noted Smith’s “philosophy and commitment to teaching adults, innovative uses of technology, responsiveness to students, and [her] impact on students and colleagues.”

Smith began teaching LEEP courses since its inception in 1996 and, as associate dean for academic programs, provides administrative oversight for the program. Over 560 off-campus students have graduated from LEEP to date and LEEP enjoys an impressive retention rate of over 95%.

Associate Professor Christine Jenkins also teaches in the LEEP program. “A large part of the success of LEEP may be attributed to the consistent and invaluable contributions of Dr. Smith. She...has provided just the right combination of hands-on and visionary leadership that has made the program grow and thrive,” said Jenkins.

The award was presented to Smith at the Instructional Awards Banquet on May 2, 2007. In addition to a $5000 personal award, the University presented GSLIS with $1000 to support the LEEP program.

Julie Biando Edwards (MS ’05) is now the ethnic studies librarian and multicultural coordinator at the Mansfield Library at the University of Montana. She began as Smith’s advisee and, since graduation, counts herself lucky to be among Smith’s many peers and colleagues. “When I speak with other new graduates who took on-campus reference courses at other colleges, I listen to them talk about how wonderful their professors are. I let them talk, but I always think to myself, ‘Yeah, but you didn’t have Linda Smith.’”

Associate Professor Michael Twidale named GSLIS Centennial Scholar

Associate Professor Michael Twidale has been named the GSLIS Centennial Scholar for 2007–2008. This award is endowed by alumni and friends of GSLIS, and is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments and/or professional promise in the field of library and information science.

In the last academic year, Twidale has published his research in nearly twenty journal articles and conference proceedings, including international juried conference presentations.

Twidale’s research focuses on how people learn to use information technologies: their frustrations and confusions with badly designed systems, how they cope, how they learn on their own but often with the help of friends and colleagues, and how they creatively appropriate and tailor information technologies to fit them to their own needs. He is exploring how people adopt, adapt, and combine different technologies and applications in new and interesting ways. Twidale is also investigating this phenomenon as it appears in various contexts including the use of ubiquitous computing, digital libraries, social software, Second Life, Web 2.0 technologies, Open Source Software, and in the development of web mashups.

In order to do this research, Twidale is exploring and extending methods of rapid prototyping and evaluation, looking at what happens when we consider our whole lives as a research laboratory, and everyone in it as both a fellow researcher and a subject of study.
The activities of the student groups at GSLIS are integral to student life, as you can see from the following highlights of selected chapters. A complete list of all student organizations is available at www.lis.uiuc.edu/people/students/orgs.html.

### ALA Student Chapter
The ALA student chapter had a very active year, ranging from planning activities for new LEEP students to collaborating on the GSLIS exhibit at Engineering Open House. We welcomed eight guest speakers to campus, including Vinh-The Lam, who spoke on library development in Vietnam, and Bill Harmer, who started the Rock & Roll Library Tour in Michigan public libraries featuring the Detroit band “The High Strung.” We also held a Q&A session via Moodle with ALA Presidential candidates Jim Rettig and Nancy Davenport.

Last year, the chapter established the Weech Award in honor of Associate Professor Terry Weech’s commitment to and founding of the chapter. This year, we awarded the inaugural Weech Award to Lena Singer, who shared her experiences presenting at the BOB-CATSSS conference in Prague, Czech Republic. In addition, Melissa Zilic was selected as the chapter’s Student-to-Staff Program representative at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., several PLG GSLIS members attended the PLG dinner held at Busboys and Poets, which gave students the opportunity to meet PLGers from all over the country.

In October 2007, PLG co-sponsored with the ASIS&T and ALA student chapters a campus visit from GSLIS research fellow Birger Hjørland. In November 2007, PLG co-sponsored events tied to the second National Conference of Prison Book Projects, hosted by the Urbana-Champaign Books to Prisoners project, a thriving local volunteer organization that has to date sent nearly 20,000 books to Illinois inmates.

### Progressive Librarians Guild
The GSLIS chapter of the Progressive Librarians Guild (PLG) was founded in Spring 2007. Currently, Assistant Professor Kathryn La Barre serves as the faculty adviser, Caroline Nappo is president, and Katie Sumner is treasurer.

At the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., several PLG GSLIS members attended the PLG dinner held at Busboys and Poets, which gave students the opportunity to meet PLGers from all over the country.

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### Special Libraries Association
The Special Libraries Association student chapter put a lot of time and energy into exhibiting at the campus Engineering Open House (EOH) and organizing the Alternate Spring Break program. SLA also hosted two events with SLA Illinois: the downstate Dine-Around in November 2006 at the Great Impasta in Champaign and March 2007 at the Bread Company on Goodwin in Urbana.

In March 2007 Sunny Jeong gave a talk about starting up the Korean Cultural Center and in April 2007 Lian Ruan spoke about the Special Libraries Administration class she teaches.

SLA has extended their outreach to get LEEP students involved in student organizations. Over summer 2007, SLA was present at the LEEP orientation and held (in conjunction with the ALA student chapter) an outing to Murphy’s Pub during the cohort 12.1 and 12.2 two-week “bootcamps.” A LEEP student served as SLA webmaster and the group has been able to broadcast most events. LEEP students were also involved in EOH by helping to prepare materials and also in an online chat demo during the Open House. LEEP students also participated in the spring break program.

SLA also held two social bowling outings—one in October 2006 and one in January 2007.
Last May I returned from a nine-month sabbatical to find the University Library abuzz with change. In this column I’ll highlight some of the exciting new developments. To learn more, follow the links in the sidebar.

The library recently implemented a Web content management system. The re-designed Gateway page delivers many features that facilitate information-seeking, such as an Easy Search box for one-stop searching across multiple digital and print resources and more direct access to subject-based pathfinders and links to departmental libraries. The new pages also comply with accessibility standards for visually disabled users. At this writing, only a few departmental library Web pages have been transitioned to the new template; the LIS Library probably won’t be affected until spring.

Through its participation in the Open Content Alliance, the University Library has digitized many library-related publications from and about Illinois. These include back files of GSLIS publications (Library Trends, Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, and the Occasional Papers series) as well as the Library’s own annual reports and staff newsletters. Early proceedings of the American Library Association (headquartered in Chicago) and vintage photographs and postcards from the ALA archives are also part of the online collection. You can discover these and other collections related to the state and its authors through the Illinois Harvest portal.

The member libraries of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, a consortium of twelve leading research universities in the Midwest, have partnered with Google to digitize up to 10 million volumes in their holdings. The project will make distinctive parts of the U of I’s collections accessible to the public via Google Book Search. The library science collections, in Dewey classes 020-028, have been recommended as one of six focal areas for this project.

The U of I Gaming Collection was created to support campus interdisciplinary programs, scholarly research, and student needs involving video games—including cutting edge research and teaching at GSLIS. Housed in the Undergraduate Library, the circulating collection includes console games (XBox, XBox 360, PlayStation 2 and 3, Nintendo Wii, etc.), handheld games (Nintendo DS, PSP, etc.), PC games, and vintage console games (Atari 2600, Sega Genesis, etc.). Librarians have added value to the collection with bibliographies, a pathfinder, a blog, and well attended gaming nights in the library.

IDEALS – the Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship – is the institutional repository for digital content produced by the Illinois community. IDEALS facilitates discovery and access while preserving scholarly information. GSLIS faculty and Ph.D. students have deposited scores of works in IDEALS; the back files of papers presented at the Allerton Park Institute (1954–1997) and the Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing (1963–1995) are also available.

Not all of the new initiatives are digital. The Soybean Press is a collaborative project of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, GSLIS, the University of Illinois Press, Facilities and Services Printing Department, and the School of Art and Design. The press aims “to craft beautifully printed texts and to inspire an appreciation of the book” and has already produced a lovely broadside and a booklet.

Our library spaces are changing too. The Undergraduate Library, now more than forty years old, is being re-invented as a Learning Commons,
where students can engage with ideas in a variety of environments and can interact with a range of campus services. Recognizing that collaborative inquiry is at the core of today’s curriculum, the Learning Commons integrates the social and the academic in spaces equipped with state-of-the-art technologies. And now that hundreds of thousands of books have been relocated from the over-crowded Main Library book stacks to the Oak Street Library Facility about eight blocks away, the entire stacks collection is being shifted. The bulk of the LIS materials (020-028), for many years shelved on the second deck—with low ceilings and poor lighting—will soon be moved to a more welcoming area of the stacks.

The abovementioned innovations and upgrades signal the University Library’s active commitment to creating new service models. Because the rapid spread of electronic information has caused a measurable decrease in visits to many of our libraries, my colleagues and I are asking: How can we best provide materials and services to users who seldom set foot within our walls? What sorts of collections and assistance do our users really want and need? How relevant is our traditional model of physical libraries segregated by discipline in an era of interdisciplinary scholarship and networked information? These large questions will preoccupy us in the coming months. The perspectives of alumni/ae can and should inform our libraries’ futures, and I would be delighted to hear your ideas.

— Sue Searing, LIS Librarian

2007 Corporate Roundtable Series Concludes in Chicago

Is there a way to rapidly track emerging trends in problem-reports coming in from all over the globe to save your company and customers millions if not billions of dollars? Is the virtual world just for gamers or are there practical, effective corporate applications? Are individuals or teams in your organization encouraged to collaborate and/or use collaboration software?

These were just three questions posed during the 2007 GSLIS Corporate Roundtable series. GSLIS faculty and graduate students joined corporate members to explore pressing issues brought to the table for discussion in the form of detailed case studies, research presentations, and interactive demonstrations. Corporate partners engage in active dialogue either in person or by teleconference to gain valuable perspectives on cutting-edge issues.

Participation has expanded to over seventy members representing a multitude of corporations and organizations including Caterpillar Inc.; Archer Daniels Midland Co.; Talent Intelligence; Arch Coal; State Farm Insurance; Federal Reserve Bank; ASPCA; Knowledge Jolt, Inc.; and 3M.

This year’s Corporate Roundtable series concluded in November with our first session held in Chicago. Abbott presented the discussion topic and background material to be analyzed prior to the session.

Dates for the 2008 Corporate Roundtable Series have been set for March 7, May 30, September 12, and November 14. We invite case studies from members to be considered for future sessions.

To find out more about the GSLIS Corporate Roundtable, visit www.lis.uiuc.edu/development/corp-roundtable.html. If you would like to join the GSLIS Corporate Roundtable listserv, share your thoughts and opinions, or suggest a topic for discussion, please contact Sharon Johnson, Associate Director of Development, at (217) 244-6473 or sdjohnso@uiuc.edu.

GSLIS would like to acknowledge Archer Daniels Midland for their generosity in providing Corporate Roundtable support this year for hospitality, parking, and remote participation by members outside the Champaign-Urbana area.
The most exciting part of my job is being able to meet with so many fascinating GSLIS alumni and friends. As our Brilliant Futures campaign gets underway, I’ve been able to visit with hundreds of you, from New Haven to Long Beach, from Kalamazoo to Austin. At every stop I am greeted with the same infectious enthusiasm for GSLIS—complete with stories about boot camp or affectionate memories of faculty.

The Brilliant Futures Campaign for GSLIS will allow us to achieve goals that must be met in order to maintain our number-one ranking. In addition to raising funds for scholarships, fellowships, faculty support, and new projects, we have established a number of priorities that are critical to the success of our School, and the campaign. These include the establishment of our first endowed chair and first endowed professorship. We would also like to endow our Center for Children’s Books, Community Informatics Initiative, and the GSLIS Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship. If you have a passion for one of these projects and have an idea about how to best accomplish these goals, I would love to hear from you!

We had a successful ALA this year—over four hundred alumni recon- nected with us at our booth and over two hundred of you listened to our provost speak at the GSLIS reception. Those of you who joined us also heard about three new giving opportunities: the Smith Travel Fund, the Katharine Sharp First-Time Donor Fund, and the Krummel Fund. Each fund will match your contribution, and if you donate to the Sharp First-Time Donor Fund, your gift will be matched twice!

We need your help to meet our goal of $15 million for GSLIS by 2011. This is an important opportunity for each of us to contribute and there are so many ways that you can help. You can give to the annual fund, consider a bequest, introduce us to others who may be interested in our programs, provide opportunities to showcase our faculty in your community, and/or volunteer to talk with fellow alums about the campaign. We all need to contribute in some way to maintain our number-one ranking. What can you do?

Diana Stroud
Assistant Dean for Development & Alumni Relations
dstroud@uiuc.edu; 217-244-9577

We are pleased to announce two new matching gift opportunities as examples of how your gift, regardless of size, can combine to create even greater support for GSLIS.

Smith Travel Fund Established by Associate Dean Linda C. Smith (MS ’72) in honor of her parents, this fund will match any alumni gift up to $75,000 to support student travel for Alternate Spring Break; service learning projects in Chicago, East St. Louis, and western Africa; professional conferences, and other opportunities that require student travel.

Sharp First-Time Donor Fund Established by Lionelle (MS ’67) and Jim Elseasser this fund seeks to attract first-time donor support for GSLIS. The Elseassers will double-match up to $50,000 per year for a two-year period. Money raised will be earmarked for a GSLIS fellowship. Once the fund has reached $150,000, the Provost’s Office will match this fund with money to create a second fellowship.
GSLIS LAUNCHES FY08 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

We want to express our sincere thanks to GSLIS alumni, faculty, and friends who expressed their loyalty and interest in our School by making a gift to our annual fund this past year. July 1, 2007 began our new fiscal year and the start of our FY08 Annual Fund Campaign. The annual fund is the only source of discretionary funding that our School has, providing current-use support for student scholarships, student organizations, faculty research, LEEP online learning programs, alumni activities, and any critical need that may arise in a given academic year.

On June 1, 2007 the University of Illinois kicked off the Campaign for Brilliant Futures. As part of that campaign, GSLIS has established a goal of $15 million for student scholarships, faculty research, new programs, and an endowed chair and professorships. Contributions to the annual fund will help us reach that goal.

In October we rolled out an ambitious effort to reach our alumni by direct mail, e-mail, and phone. Alumni support in our annual fund drive is one of the factors taken into consideration when our School is ranked. Participation by all of our alumni—at any level—is critical to our success and will help us to maintain our number-one national ranking.

Every gift creates another opportunity for GSLIS students and faculty to participate in programs that will shape their future and the programs offered at GSLIS. Your support has been important and will continue to be critical to the success of our School. Please help us to ensure that GSLIS remains a leader among its peers.

Texas Library Named for Alumna

A branch of the El Paso (TX) Public Library has been named for GSLIS alumna Esperanza Acosta Moreno (MS ’56). The Esperanza Acosta Moreno Regional Branch Library opened on December 9, 2006.

A panel composed of members of the library board, library staff, and community chose Moreno because of her “42 years of service to the community.” Moreno enjoyed a long and influential career in libraries. She was the first Hispanic woman to receive the “Librarian of the Year Award” from the Border Regional Library Association. In 1992, she was awarded the “Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to Students” from the University of Texas, El Paso.

The festivities included remarks by director of the El Paso Public Library (and GSLIS alumna) Carol Brey-Casiano (MS ’80), Moreno’s husband and sister, and a performance by the Mariachi Sangre Mexicana de Montwood High School. Moreno passed away in 2000.
Gillfillans Give Unique Gift to Support Students

Every year, hundreds of generous alumni support programs here at GSLIS. But recently GSLIS received a gift like none we’ve received before: corn. Sure that this was the first gift of corn in GSLIS history, we wanted to know more about how adjunct lecturer and alumna Nancy (MS ’66) and Dick Gillfillan decided on such a nontraditional gift.

Can you explain a bit about the Fund?
The Nancy and Richard Gillfillan Scholarship Fund is a $50,000 endowment. It will reach at least half by June of 2008. Currently it is being funded by my teaching stipend and gifts of grain.

Why create a fund for scholarships?
I think our choosing to make our giving commitment this way really came about after I had taught a little. I saw the need of students who were trying to get through the program literally on a shoestring. We remember when we were in school, and funds were not available. After much discussion, we decided that this was something permanent we really wanted to do instead of spending it on ourselves for travel or something else.

Why GSLIS?
We feel strongly about education. We feel more closely identified with GSLIS rather than some other program probably because of my teaching and experiences with GSLIS rather than to some program.

How has GSLIS changed since you attended in the 1960s?
Library school has changed a lot. The variety of course offerings has really expanded. Technology has made a huge difference from my day—adding nontraditional approaches such as LEEP has definitely enhanced the program. However, the GSLIS commitment to quality is still there; and that is most important.

More about the Gillfillans
Nancy is an adjunct lecturer at GSLIS, teaching a course in library administration. She draws on forty years of experience as a librarian and twenty years as a library director, serving as director of both the Dixon (IL) Public Library and the Fondulac District Library in East Peoria, Illinois.

Nancy has been a leader in the Illinois library community. She served on the board of the Illinois Library Association for six years and was ILA president in 2003–04. She is a member of the Library School Alumni Association, serving as president in 2001–2002. LSAA awarded her the Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

Nancy and Dick met at the University in 1961 and married in 1963. Dick earned his B.S. and M.S. from the College of Agriculture. They have been farming in northern Bureau County, Illinois since 1973.
Always Illinois: The Virtual Community for the Illinois Family

Connect or re-connect with members of the Illinois family with Always Illinois—a new, free online community only for alumni, students, faculty and staff.

Now it’s easy to maintain lifelong friendships, network, and stay current with happenings on campus, in colleges and departments, as well as in student and alumni organizations—all through one secure online source. Always Illinois offers powerful global connectivity for all!

Unlike online social networks that are open to the general public, Always Illinois is a private community where Illinois family members can build and maintain personal and professional connections. Because Always Illinois requires identity verification to join, users can trust its security and reliability. Unique, one-time Always Illinois identification numbers are available at the time of online registration. Once registered, users create a password for all future logins.

On the network, participants can join customized groups according to class year and degree-granting unit, geographic location, student organizations, professional organizations—the possibilities are nearly limitless.

To join the GSLIS groups, simply search for “GSLIS” under the “Groups” tab. Or start your own GSLIS interest groups, making sure to use GSLIS in the group name so others can find you!

Always Illinois facilitates expanded career networking opportunities for Illinois alumni and students, plus offers online forums to request and offer advice, find a place to live, announce upcoming events, or post a job exclusively to the Illinois family.

Communicate through messaging, photo albums and blogs or use the search capability to find others who share interests, common acquaintances, professions, locations, and more.

Access to personal information on Always Illinois is controlled by each user. The network grows quickly through Illinois alumni and students inviting other Illinois family to be part of the virtual community.

Visit www.alwaysillinois.org and follow the appropriate links for alumni to join.

Always Illinois is a service provided by the Office of the Chancellor in partnership with the University of Illinois Alumni Association, the Office of Institutional Advancement, the Office of Public Affairs, and CITES.

GSLIS ON THE ROAD!

This fall we made the rounds at a number of professional conferences and are planning to attend the following this spring:

- American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting and Conference
- American Library Association Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference
- American Society for Information Science & Technology Annual Meeting
- California Library Association Annual Conference
- Illinois Library Association Annual Conference
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions General Conference and Council
- Medical Library Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition
- Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting
- Special Libraries Association Annual Conference
- Illinois Library School Media Association Annual Conference

Host an alumni day in your city!

At GSLIS, we are always looking for new ways not only to connect with our alumni, but to help our alumni connect with each other. Alumni groups are forming across the country. Are you interested in hosting an alumni club in your city? Or would you like to host an alumni day? You can invite GSLIS faculty to speak to your group or arrange a lunch with Dean John Unsworth. To discuss these options and more, contact Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs Diana Stroud at dstroud@uiuc.edu or 217-244-9577.
Alumni Memories

For most of us GSLIS was an exciting precursor to a rewarding career. The depth and excellence of the faculty and the course offerings, the portability and flexibility of your degree, the lasting relationships you have built and maintained with your colleagues, mentors, and professors: All of these left an indelible impression on us.

This summer we asked alumni to send in memories of their time at GSLIS. We reprint a selection of these letters here so that we can each enjoy and understand the unique imprint GSLIS has had on all of us.

If you have an anecdote, story, or memory to share, please e-mail Assistant Dean Marlo Welshons at welshons@uiuc.edu or send your story to her attention to 501 East Daniel Street, Champaign, IL 61820-6211.

Brenda Pacey (MS ’78)
Campaign committee member

Where did someone interested in reference, children’s services, school librarianship, community outreach and interagency cooperation, information accessibility and disability services, intellectual freedom, history, resource sharing, and multitype library systems find a place in the 1970’s? At GSLIS, there was a home for my wide interests, though even at that time some efforts to quantify/categorize the field were in place in some people’s minds and library school structures. I appreciated the value that GSLIS faculty such as Don Krummel placed on a more diverse definition of librarianship and understood and encouraged my wide interests, affirming that “one size does not fit all,” whether it be the historical grouping of librarianship by the four main types of libraries (academic, public, school, special) or by types of service (pigeon-holed only into administration, cataloging, youth services, reference, technology, etc). This holistic approach has served me well and I’m pleased that today’s world has caught up to this concept and that interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional professional training is tolerated and even encouraged.

Brenda Pacey (MS ’78)
Campaign committee member

It was the year of 1966 and the L.S. Bulletin Board had a note about volunteering to clean a 1920 (?) printing press that was donated to GSLIS.

I signed on and spent a Saturday morning with Dr. H. Goldhor and two other graduate students. I was so surprised to see Dr. G getting dirty and enjoying himself with us on the fourth floor of the Main Library.

We were happy to help and at the same time we enjoyed that morning because of the camaraderie between the four of us.

John A. Mraz (MS ’67)

I am pleased to share my story that brought laughs and chuckling, not only in the Library School, but also the entire library.

As a student, I had a fourth-time job in the circulation department of the Library. The job was to sit at the desk beside the circulation door into the stack area. The stacks were closed to all but graduate students or faculty, therefore an ID had to be presented for entrance. One morning a well-dressed man, whom I did not know, walked to the door and when I asked for an ID he said, “I do not have it with me,” then turned and walked down the hall. The assistant circulation librarian at the front desk, who was helping a student, quickly walked to my desk. She was upset and told me in firm words “that was Dr. Robert Downs, University Librarian, and he can go into the stacks any time without an ID.”

Before she finished, Dr. Downs appeared saying, “You should thank him for following the policy.” He showed his ID and went into the stacks. From that meeting, Dr. Downs and I became good professional friends on a first name basis for many years.

Sidney E. Matthews (MS ’52)
My connection to GSLIS began when I was in junior high school. Since fourth grade, I had wanted to become a librarian. When I went to church camp one summer during my junior high years, my counselor was a Library School professor, Kathryn Henderson. Kathie supported and encouraged my career path and kept in contact with me through my high school and college years. Kathie was an exemplary role model. I was very disappointed that the year I was to take cataloging, Kathie was on sabbatical. In order to be her student, Kathie enabled me to take cataloguing as an independent class, creating more work for her, I know. I have heard many stories about Kathie and Bill Henderson and their generous support of library school students. Many GSLIS students reached their potential and goals due to the encouragement, scholarship, support of students, and love of the library field demonstrated by Kathie.

Sheila (Boos) Fritze (MS ’72)

I arrived at Urbana-Champaign in mid-June 1957 just a few days after receiving my undergraduate degree from Carleton College, Northfield, MN. The population of the campus alone that summer was close to 20,000 students and I had never lived in a community of over 6,000—all told. I stayed in a tiny dorm room with an unknown till arrival dorm mate (and I must confess that I don’t recall who that person was) and the smallest closet I’ve ever seen. Where to fit all those full skirts, even cotton, was a challenge. There I was, sleeping in a hot, hot room (top bunk), eating starchy, tasteless dorm food, taking hours to register in an overflowing Armory setting, and then struggling to complete classes in a totally alien setting on the third floor of the main library.

Back then, all beginning master’s students were to take screening tests before registering for the four 300-level pre-requisite classes in reference, cataloging, “foundations” of the field, etc. Since I had never ever even worked in a library, I simply didn’t take the tests, came, and registered for all four courses for the summer term. I had some difficulty explaining this to my first advisor, but it seem simple to me. How could I comp out of any course when I knew nothing of “library science.” Why waste time taking tests?

The faculty that summer were largely guest practitioners, but seemed to know what they were teaching, especially Dick Chapin, who became the director at Michigan State University and G. Flint Purdy, the library director at Wayne State University. That I ended up in Michigan just a few years later may have come from their subliminal classroom influences. I did think that we were expected, in six weeks, to learn a lot for the 8 hours in which we were enrolled, but I struggled through and started the “real” graduate program in the fall.

Laurel Grotzinger (MS ’58, PhD ’64)
Campaign committee member

I won’t forget the help that Assistant Dean Curt McKay gave me during “Boot Camp,” the two week introductory class on the UIUC campus for the distance-education LEEP program.

It was going into the second week, and we had done a lot of work for the credit class, including a lengthy annotated bibliography. I felt like I was floundering, not sure if I could make it through the second week. I was even questioning if this was all worth the trouble, and that maybe I wasn’t cut out for graduate school, or for the library profession.

That was when I sought guidance from Curt, who seemed very open and approachable, though I had not talked with him at length before. At the time, though I didn’t know it, what I really needed was someone to tell me that I could complete this course, and that as long as I applied myself and did the work, I would make it through. The fact that Curt was available, willing to listen to my fears, and illuminated career options for me, got me through a critical point in my graduate studies. I’m forever thankful for it—I’m working in a profession that I love, and that was one of the messages I got from Curt on that intense day.

Pete McDonnell (MS ’02)
Dr. Librarian

Physician Adds Literacy to Health Care Mix

Photo: Mike DeVries, The Capital Times
Pediatric resident Dipesh Navsaria (MS ’04) has a novel way of measuring his young patients’ development during checkups: He puts a book in their hands and watches their reaction.

Navsaria, a resident at American Family Children’s Hospital, says the child’s response speaks volumes. If the patient shows interest and curiosity, he can tell if books are a natural part of their life. At a certain age, if the child holds the book right-side up, opens it and turns the pages, the doctor gets a quick read on motor skills.

And if children begin talking about what they see in the book, Navsaria can see if they are building social skills.

“This is part of the tools we use to assess children’s health,” he said. “We want children to grow up and set habits and methods of learning that will carry them forward their entire lives.

“Our entire academic system is predicated on the ability to read fluently. (Without that skill), it’s pretty hard to be successful,” he added.

Navsaria isn’t just talking as a doctor, but as a librarian. He took a break during his medical studies to earn a master’s degree in library and information science, with a focus on children’s literature.

With his jaunty bow tie and glasses, Navsaria, 34, looks as if he’d be equally comfortable leading story time as he is treating patients.

Prescription for books

Navsaria is working with Reach Out and Read, a national nonprofit organization founded by pediatricians and educators in Boston that promotes the importance of early literacy, with a focus on reaching low-income populations.

He has started a Reach Out and Read (ROR) program at UW’s student-run free clinic, MEDiC. A ROR program at the Access Community Health Center on South Park
“Sharing books is such a wonderful thing to do with a child. It makes such a difference in their brain development. Please read together every night.”

Street will open in the next two months, if not sooner, Navsaria said. He is also looking for funding to expand the program to two of the outpatient UW Health pediatric clinics.

ROR takes several approaches to building children’s literacy. The program calls for creating medical centers with “literacy-rich” waiting rooms, where books are readily available, volunteers are available to read to children, and ideally, where there is no television. That sort of environment “sends the message that this is a good way to spend their down time,” Navsaria said.

All children coming in for their regular checkups are given a brand new book, starting at 6 months of age up until age 5. That results in a collection of about 10 books. In addition, health care providers encourage and give age-appropriate advice to parents on reading, much like they give standard advice on using car seats and bike helmets.

“I found the best way to do this is a short intervention,” said Navsaria. He calls his approach a “five-second elevator speech” to parents:

“Sharing books is such a wonderful thing to do with a child. It makes such a difference in their brain development. Please read together every night.”

The physician librarian also passes out a prescription to “Read Books” to every child she sees. Refills are available as requested—at the local public library, of course.

**DVDs for books**

Though ROR is an outpatient community-oriented program, Navsaria believes its basic ideas can be applied to inpatient settings. Navsaria has initial funding for a reading program at the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Meriter Hospital, and a group of UW library students has begun to compile a list of possible titles. He has also applied for grants to bring a similar reading program to the new American Family Children’s Hospital.

For children who are inpatients at the hospital, he wants to see a greater selection of quality books, and he has spoken with public librarians about bringing in more books through interlibrary loan.

“They loan books to prisons,” Navsaria said. “They can do it for hospitals.”

Though he is loath to deprive children of their comforts at a time when they don’t feel well, he said it concerns him that there are piles of DVDs and games in the hospital, but few books, besides those in the hospital schoolroom.

“I want this option to be available to them,” he said. “We haven’t won the ‘mind share.’ (Books are) more associated with school rather than reading for pleasure.”

Betsy Bromley, a graduate student at the UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, is helping to develop a collection of books for the Meriter neonatal ICU (NICU). She said the group is considering quality and classic books and those that will hold up for multiple uses.

The project combines several of her interests. Before going to school to pursue a career as a children’s librarian, she considered becoming a child life specialist at a hospital. Child life specialists work to make the hospital environment less scary for children, provide emotional support and do activities with the kids. The reading project is consistent with such goals.

In the NICU, parents who are unable to sometimes touch or hold their children would be able to connect to their babies by reading to them. At the same time, siblings of children in the NICU would have books available to read.

**Madison newcomer**

Born in London and raised in New York City, Navsaria made his way to Madison in May 2006 after medical school and library school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He first heard about Reach Out and Read as an undergraduate at Boston University, when he worked at Boston City Hospital.

In between undergraduate studies and medical school, he earned a master’s degree in public health in Boston and a physician assistant master’s degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Navsaria, who is married to a Wisconsin native and has two young children of his own, is working on the ROR program in addition to his work as a pediatric resident. He said his family hopes to stay in Madison.

“That he would initiate a project like this when he already has so much on his plate is really pretty inspiring,” Bromley said. His dedication to early literacy has impressed local librarians.

“He’s very full of energy and ideas and is a real advocate for children’s literature,” said Kathleen Horning, director of the Cooperative Children’s Book Center at the UW-Madison School of Education.

She sees Navsaria as a “kindred spirit because of our interest in children’s books and getting books into the hands of children.

“He is able to pull together people who come from different professions and different experiences to help him fulfill his mission,” Horning added.

Involving pediatricians in promoting literacy makes sense, she said. It’s an excellent way to get the message across to parents that reading is a critical part of child development.

“Doctors have a little more credibility than librarians, and chances are, parents with small children are going to interact with doctors on a regular basis,” Horning said. “That’s not always the case with librarians.”

Reading to children “is such an important part of baby brain development,” she said.

And as for Navsaria’s favorite children’s book?

“It’s the much-loved classic "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak.”
Although he’s not yet 25 and has only just entered the profession, Christopher Cook (MS ’06) already is regarded as an expert in his trade. Which is why the library at England’s Westminster Abbey was eager for him to begin helping them out of a deep dark hole.

Cook left for London this summer to begin cataloging the library’s collection of incunabula, or early printed books. The newly minted librarian and new rare book cataloging project manager at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois hoped, he said, to “provide a descriptive bibliography of the Abbey’s collection of 15th-century imprints, shedding light on book distribution, collecting habits and binding practices in early modern England.”

According to Cook, who earned his master’s degree only a year ago from Illinois’ top-rated Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the Abbey’s collection consists of about 60 incunabula, the majority of which are in Latin, although some of the works are in English, Greek and Italian. Most are theological or philosophical in nature, but history, law, poetry and medicine also are represented, he said.

Although the Abbey’s books are recorded in the “Incunabula Short Title Catalogue,” they “have never been treated with copy-specific descriptions,” Cook said. Among the titles he intended to work with: “On the Wisdom of Solomon,” by Robert Holcot, “Lives of the Popes,” by Bartolomeo Platina and “Comment on the Psalter,” by Hugh de Saint-Cher.

Cook spent about three weeks examining the collection, and is now doing provenance research on campus using “the excellent research resources of the U. of I. Library,” he said.

After he has compiled all his data, probably by the end of the year, Cook plans to publish a “fully indexed, illustrated monograph, making available to scholars and book historians the details of one of London’s valuable repositories of 15th-century imprints.”

The Bibliographical Society of America awarded Cook the Katharine Pantzer Fellowship in the British Book Trades in January to conduct the work.

His supervisor at Illinois, Valerie Hotchkiss, the rare book and manuscript librarian, wasn’t a bit surprised that Cook was given the prestigious job.

“Chris is one of the best rare book catalogers in America,” Hotchkiss said. “And the fact that he comes from the U. of I., which holds the third-largest university collection of 15th-century books, makes him an expert in this period of book production.”

At Illinois, Cook has been overseeing the cataloging of more than 60,000 volumes of rare books since he joined the staff last June. To date, he and his team have cataloged nearly 12,000 books, most from the 16th and 17th centuries. Cook also has been improving the catalog records for the library’s 1,100 or so incunabula.

Cook, who speaks and writes Italian and reads Spanish, has been methodical about acquiring skills in rare book cataloging. He specialized in the field in graduate school at Illinois, and as a student, compiled a list of all of the incunabula that the U of I had acquired since 1979. He then published his findings in a monograph.

Also as a student, he wrote a policy for cataloging incunabula at Illinois, and began to provide full cataloging for the collection that he soon would oversee.

He also curated two exhibitions at Illinois: one as an undergraduate student, on Florentine printing of the 15th century, the other as a librarian, on “Dante at Illinois.”

continued on page 37
Twelve years ago, the Chicago Tribune called the city’s public library system “the runt of the litter” among local cultural fixtures. Only six years later, the newspaper was touting it as “a national showcase.” Since then, the Chicago Public Library has continued to burnish its reputation as a powerful educational, social and economic force in the city.

The person largely responsible for the turnaround is Mary Dempsey (MS ’76), a prominent attorney who was appointed library commissioner by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 1994. Although she had earned a master’s degree in library science from the University of Illinois and worked in libraries in her hometown and at a Chicago law firm, some local groups expressed concern about her lack of experience in the field, especially as an administrator.

But Dempsey quickly demonstrated exceptional management skills and political savvy. She developed the library’s first-ever strategic plan, which focused on rebuilding the human and physical infrastructure. The centerpiece was a professional development and training program for all 1,300 employees. Then, as a logical follow-up to the 1991 opening of the flagship Harold Washington Library Center, Dempsey and Daley persuaded the city council to approve two bond issues that raised $170 million for neighborhood libraries.

The result has been an unparalleled construction and renovation program: Since Dempsey came on board, the city has built 40 new branches. This effort has not only improved the 79-branch network—many of whose facilities had been located in small, leased storefronts—but anchored the revitalization of entire neighborhoods. When the private sector saw the city investing in handsome, freestanding library buildings, new businesses, restaurants and mixed-income housing often followed.

Chicago now is considered a national model in the use of libraries as magnets for development. “I’ve purchased and knocked down more liquor stores, more no-tell motels, more really crummy and dilapidated, burned-out buildings in neighborhood after neighborhood and replaced them with libraries than I’d ever thought I’d do in my life,” Dempsey told attendees at the American Library Association’s annual meeting last summer in Chicago.

The 53-year-old library chief hasn’t been allowed to rest on her laurels. The same year he appointed Dempsey, Mayor Daley also took over the city’s school system. In 2001, when a search was underway for a new superintendent, he asked Dempsey to take the job. She declined. But early last year, faced with a minority-contracting scandal in the purchasing department, Daley again turned to his long-serving cabinet member. This time, Dempsey agreed to a six-month stint as acting chief procurement officer. “Mary Dempsey is a tough, detail-oriented administrator,” the mayor declared. “She has demonstrated an ability to put long-term procedures in place... to be solidly authoritative and unerringly thorough.”

Indeed, Dempsey undertook a “total scrubbing” of the department, streamlining the purchasing process, eliminating a backlog of contracts...
Cook also has taken advantage of professional development opportunities. In the summers of 2005 and 2006, for example, he took courses in descriptive bibliography and rare book cataloging at the University of Virginia’s Rare Book School.

“I spent a lot of time looking at catalog records, reading about cataloging and doing it. I found a skill that I am good at and I ran with it.”

Last November Cook attended a conference at the British Library that focused on English printing. During his free time, he entered Westminster Abbey and happened to pass the door to the library, which was locked.

“Being a curious librarian, I asked the docent if there were tours of the library. She suggested I ring the bell and ask, so I did. I was given a two-minute tour by Tony Trowles, the librarian, and I left.”

Cook said that on the flight home he began thinking about possible projects that could take him back to London, and he wondered about the nature of the Abbey’s incunabula collection. Back home, he searched the international incunabula census and found that the Abbey library had about 60 incunabula – “a manageable number,” he said.

Further investigation showed that no catalog of the collection had been published, so Cook approached Trowles with the idea of producing one. The Abbey librarian was enthusiastic about the idea, since a catalog would draw more users to his collection.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for Chris,” Hotchkiss said, “and his extremely worthy project is yet another sign of the goodwill and cooperative spirit that exists between English and American libraries.”

What makes the young man so good in such an arcane and difficult trade?

“Attention to detail, of course,” Hotchkiss said, “but also a fanatical fascination with the art and variation of the descriptive process known as cataloging. This is a guy who catalogs for fun at Internet cafes, who begs to catalog new acquisitions that are tricky – like medieval manuscripts or scraps or even non-book items – just for the challenge of it.

“He also likes to be the first person in the world to catalog a new book. The knottier the case, the more he likes it. The world of special collections has already recognized him as an up and coming star, hence the award from the Bibliographical Society and the trust of the folks at Westminster Abbey,” she said.

Cook was born in Macomb, Ill., and raised in the small town of Scotia. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Illinois in 2004, with a major in Italian and a minor in linguistics.
LSAA President Remarks

The Library School Alumni Association (LSAA) and its activities are as rich and varied as our alumni. The LSAA Board is currently engaged in identifying a number of projects that will support our School, faculty, and students. Please check the LSAA Web site for a list of these opportunities—we will be asking for your help with these projects!

At our meeting in August, the LSAA Board voted on an exciting new initiative: we will use a portion of our assets to establish the School’s first endowed professorship. The fund will receive the first $100,000 from LSAA and we will work with the development office at GSLIS to continue to raise funds until we reach the $500,000 needed to endow a professorship. I challenge you to help us secure that endowed professorship by 2011. With your help, we can make this “brilliant future” happen for our School!

The Board also sponsors awards and regular events for alumni. Last year a group of GSLIS alumni in the Washington, D.C. area began meeting and talking about ways in which they could support the School. Thanks to the efforts of alumna Irene Hoffman (MS ’81), more than five hundred alumni in the D.C. area now have a way to interact: visit their Web site at https://apps.lis.uiuc.edu/wiki/x/dWg. We would like to establish similar groups in other areas and are currently working to do so in Chicago.

There are so many ways to get involved, connect with colleagues, give back to GSLIS, and take advantage of the many resources available through LSAA. Let me know if you’re interested in starting a GSLIS alumni group in your area. We are trying to foster more student-alumni connections by supporting the Alternate Spring Break program started last year, which provides short work experiences for students during their spring break. Consider hosting a student at your work place. Such experience provides students with a “real world” look at the profession and I am sure that you will find this a rewarding experience as well.

My degree from GSLIS opened the door to a rich and varied career. Although I’ve worked in public and academic libraries, I’ve spent most of my twenty-five years working for a national library association. The people in our profession are bright, talented, and as our many service providers frequently tell me, “genuinely nice.” The service mentality that informs our daily work extends to our profession. I’ve always found librarians to be exceedingly generous in sharing their ideas and helping others. This collaborative orientation is one that I value and led me to serve as president of the LSAA. I am looking forward to an active and productive year.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Davis (MS ’81)
LSAA President

http://lsaa.lis.uiuc.edu
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Kathryn Harris (MS ’71) has been awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award honors alumni who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of library and information science.

Harris is being recognized for her leadership in the library profession, including her service as past president of the Illinois Library Association and of the Rolling Prairie Library System board of directors. She is also a leader in her community of Springfield, Illinois, serving on many local boards and committees.

Harris is currently the library services director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. She was very active in the planning and development of the library and calls it the “highlight of my professional career.” Prior to this position she was director of the Illinois State Historical Library.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Mary Wilkes Towner (MS ’88) has been awarded the 2007 Distinguished Service Award, given for outstanding service for LSAA and/or GSLIS.

Towner has served the LSAA Board as treasurer for two terms. During this time, she has directed the board to make sound, helpful financial decisions that will ensure the growth of LSAA funds. She meets regularly with UIAA representatives to ensure that LSAA is following all processes and procedures appropriately. The University switched accounting systems during her tenure, which resulted in some changes to the financial statements that Towner receives. She is diligent about providing clear, easy-to-understand reports to the board so decisions can be made with a full understanding of the financial impact.

In addition to her service to LSAA, Towner has served as an instructor for the adult popular literature class, which is frequently offered both in on-campus and LEEP formats. She is also a mentor to many GSLIS students who wish to become public librarians.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Robin Brenner (MS ’03) has been awarded the LSAA Leadership Award, given for accomplishments in the field of library science within ten years of graduation.

It has only been a handful of years since Brenner created her graphic novel review Web site No Flying No Tights! (www.noflyingnotights.com) in a LEEP class. Since that time, she has established herself as an expert in graphic novels and has expanded her Web site to include reviews of graphic novels for kids and adults as well as for teens. In March 2007, she was featured in Library Journal’s “Movers and Shakers” issue. In June 2007, Libraries Unlimited published her book, Understanding Manga and Anime. Brenner is the teen librarian at Brookline (MA) Public Library.

STUDENT AWARD

Helen Linda (MS ’07) is the recipient of the 2007 LSAA Student Award. This award recognizes a student who “caught the spirit” of the library and information science profession while employed in a library setting and so chose to enter the master’s program. This graduating student must have a strong commitment to return to a professional position in a library setting and help others “catch the spirit.”

Linda graduated from the LEEP program, and recently became the library systems & technical services coordinator for Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont.

For nearly ten years, Linda had been a support staff member in various libraries in upstate New York, New York City, and Burlington, Vermont. She is particularly inspired by cataloging, open-source projects, and reference. She is extremely enthusiastic about librarianship and will certainly inspire others to pursue professional careers. She already has some of her patrons looking into librarianship!

For additional information on the awards program and previous recipients or to make a nomination for the 2008 awards, please visit http://lsaa.lis.uiuc.edu/awards.html.
1960s
Marion Reid (MS ’68) delivered an address and assisted with the instruction of Beta Phi Mu inductees at San Jose State University in October 2006.

1970s
The Georgia Institute of Technology Library and Information Center in Atlanta has been awarded the ACRL 2007 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Richard W. Meyer (MS ’70) is dean and director of the library.

Margaret Parnell Sander (MS ’70) retired from the Orrville (OH) Public Library where she was the assistant director. She had worked there for 25 years. Previously she had been a reference librarian at the Cleveland (OH) Public Library and the New Jersey State Law Library.

Michele Gendron (MS ’71) retired as head of the literature department at the Free Library of Philadelphia in October 2006.

David R. Dowell (MS ’72), director of the Library/Learning Resource Center at Cuesta College, has been selected as the 2007 winner of the Learning Resources Leadership Award. The award honors significant achievement in the advocacy of learning resources, as well as leadership in professional organizations that support the missions of community, junior and technical colleges.

African American Women Writers in New Jersey 1836–2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide (2003: Rutgers University Press), written by Sibyl Moses (MS ’72, PhD ’95), was chosen by the New Jersey Center for the Book as one of the twenty New Jersey Notable Books for 1995–2005. Two years ago, this same book received a commendation from the American Association for State and Local History.

Sylvia D. (Evans) O’Brien (MS ’72) retired as head of the White Memorial Chemistry Library at the University of Maryland, College Park, in June 2005. She began as the reference librarian in August 1979 and became acting head in December 1997. She served as head of the library from December 1999 until her retirement. In addition, she was team leader for the life sciences/chemistry team beginning in September 2003.

Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck (MS ’73) is the author of Bounty and Donation Land Grants in British Colonial America. He received the National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars 2007 award for “his outstanding contributions to the preservation of [American] colonial history.”

Lou Coatney (MS ’73) married Reidun Boeasaeter, a history graduate student at the University of Oslo, in July 2007. Coatney works at Carl Sandburg College, where he continues to convert the College to I-Share/ILLinet Online. His son, Robert, graduated from Illinois in May 2007.

Donna Dziedzic (MS ’73), executive director of the Naperville Public Library, was elected vice president/president of the Illinois Library Association for a three-year term.

Deborah Ebster (MS ’74) is the Head, Universal Orlando Foundation Library, Rosen College of Hospitality Management, University of Central Florida Libraries. Ebster was featured in the February 2007 issue of ACRL’s College & Research Libraries.

Phyllis Self (MS ’74, PhD ’90) is the new dean of libraries at Western Illinois University.

Cindy (Infantino) Serikaku (MS ’74) retired from the Lake Forest Library staff on November 1, 2006. Cindy served as adult services/special projects librarian at LFL for more than 20 years; she worked in Lake County public libraries since graduation. At LFL, Cindy coordinated the “Cross-Currents” cultural series and the first celebration of Illinois Arts Week in Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, and researched and wrote the text for “Lake Forest Library Art: An Aesthetic Legacy.” In 1996, she helped establish the library’s local-area network; one of the most progressive online systems in the Chicagoland area. Cindy served on the Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee of the Illinois Library Association and edited a special issue of “Illinois Libraries.” In retirement, she will be affiliated with the Chicago-based Arabesque Foundation for Arab Culture.

William Hannaford (MS ’75) is quite happily retired from the library world after five directorships and is now teaching philosophy courses, online, at the University of Maryland. He has also done some consulting through his Fulbright awards and with the Hellenic American University in Athens.

George V. Smith (MS ’75) writes: “Since February 2005 I have been the associate deputy director for state programs at the Institute of Museum & Library Services. I am enjoying new challenges after 9 1/2 years at the Alaska State Library, Museums & Archives.”

Diane Wilhelm (MS ’75) is now retired and is “traveling full time in our motor home and loving it!”
Daniel Zack (MS ’75) is now the director of the Beloit (WI) Public Library. He was most recently the director of the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin, IL.

Claudia Dahldorf Fishler (MS ’76) was appointed Assistant City Librarian for Santa Monica Public Library. Fishler previously worked for the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Fishler was recently at Illinois recruiting librarians for the county. She writes, “I marveled that the Graduate Library still had cards in the card catalog—an authority file that is still useful!”

In December 2006, Michael Golrick (MS ’76) became the library director of the L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in Eau Claire (WI). He left the Bridgeport (CT) Public Library after six years as the city librarian. In June 2006 he completed a three-year-term on the ALA Executive Board. He was elected to ALA Council as a Councillor-at-Large.

Barbara Wildemuth (MS ’76) has just been elected as a director-at-large for the American Society for Information Science and Technology. Her term will run from 2008–2010.

E. Ann Puckett (MS ’77, JD ’77), a professor of law and director of the University of Georgia Alexander Campbell King Law Library, has been selected for inclusion in the 25th Silver Anniversary Edition of Who’s Who in the World.

1980s

Michelynn McKnight (MS ’81), along with her colleague Lisl Zach, have been awarded $166,285 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a two-year research project to identify and document how information professionals have responded to the needs of users in the aftermath of community-based disasters such as the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes.

In early 2007, the American Library Association published “Out Front with Stephen Abram” compiled by Judith A. Siess (MS ’82) and Jonathan Lorig (MS ’04).

Michèle V. Cloonan (MS ’84; PhD ’88) has been elected vice president/president elect of the Association for Library and Information Science Education. Michèle is a professor and the dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College.

The Peabody Essex Museum appointed Sid Berger (MS ’87) “The Ann C. Pinge Library Director” of the Phillips Library in Salem, MA. “It’s a great honor for me to be able to lead a library with such a longstanding history and distinguished collections,” said Berger.

Kurt A. T. Bodling (MS ’88) has been appointed the rare books librarian at the State Library of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA. He joined the State Library a year ago as its digital resources cataloger, and was instrumental in bringing their digital resources online in the Access Pennsylvania Digital Repository. Before coming to Pennsylvania, he was director of library services at Concordia College, Bronxville, NY for 12 years, and has also been a cataloger in the Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera at the Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

Nancy Buchanan (MS ’88) was promoted to the position of Director, Content Development at Questia Media (www.questia.com) in October 2005. In this position she oversees the collection management, licensing, production, and web design areas. Prior to this she had been Questia’s Director of Collection Management.

Susan Wroblewski Hendrickson (MS ’88) recently earned an MBA from the University of Redlands. She is a senior technical librarian at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory Library in Pasadena, California, where she leads the Collection Management Team.

Jennifer L. Marill (MS ’88) is now the deputy chief, Technical Services Division, at the U.S. National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland. She was previously at the Library of Congress.

Douglas Orlyk (MS ’88) is the youth services coordinator at the Bensonville Community Public Library in Bensonville, Illinois. He writes, “I miss late-night study sessions at Coslow’s, cheap Thai lunches at the Y, and finding wonderful places to curl up with books. I was a music teacher (K–5) for 14 years, thrilled to be back at the library I clerked at before attending GSLIS.”

Julia Schult (MS ’88) is the library director at the Groton (New York) Public Library.


Beth McNeil (MS ’89) is now the associate dean for information resources and scholarly communication at Purdue University. She was previously associate dean of libraries at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Beginning in August 2007 Karen Schmidt (PhD ’89) is the new librarian at Illinois Wesleyan University’s Ames Library. She had previously been the acting librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library.

1990s

Stephen Westman (MS ’90) has published Creating Database-Backed Library Web Pages: Using Open Source Tools, published by the American Library Association. He is the Digital Information Services Librarian at the J. Murrey Atkins Library at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

Steven Harss (MS ’91) is the executive vice president of museums & libraries at Ironworld Development Corporation. He was recently promoted in a January reorganization whereby Ironworld was spun off by the State of Minnesota into a private non-profit corporation. He writes, “Privatization has been a long process, but the result is challenging and invigorating.”

Bilal D. Salahuddin (MS ’92) is the new assistant branch librarian at the High Meadows Branch Library in Houston, Texas.

Patt Leonard (MS ’93) is the cataloging/metadata specialist in the technical services department at the University of Puget Sound Library.

Dr. Michelle Swain (MS ’93) has been appointed to the Kansas State Library Advisory Commission. Swain has worked as the director of the Arkansas City Public Library since 2002 and is the current president of the Kansas Library Association.

Elizabeth Cowell (MS ’94) and her husband Gary welcomed daughter Delphine Elizabeth Crummer-Cowell on August 1, 2006. She joins older brother Gabriel, who already believes he is a librarian. Cowell is the U.S. Government Information Librarian at Stanford University.

Jonathan David Makepeace (MS ’94) is the serials manager at the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, part of the National Research Council Canada.

KC Tan (MS ’94) is the senior librarian (automation) of the National University of Singapore since taking the job in October 2006.

Elizabeth Letterly (MS ’95) served as president of Rolling Prairie’s LLSAP 2005–2006.

Erin (Parker) Saylor (MS ’96) and Gerard Saylor (MS ’96) welcomed their second son, Ian Paul, on January 2, 2006. Ian joins older brother, Quentin. Gerard is currently the director of the L.D. Fargo Public Library (Lake Mills, WI) and Erin is at home with the boys.


Paul Bracke (MS ’97) is associate dean for information technology at the Purdue University Libraries.

Marianne Stowell Bracke (MS ’97) is agricultural information specialist at the Purdue Libraries.

Anthony Cook (MS ’97), research librarian at Mayo Clinic, was named one of Southeast Business Journal’s Ten Under Forty winners. The winners are business leaders under 40 who were judged on business acumen and contributions to the community.

On March 16, 2007, Eileen (Wenzel) Dohnalek (MS ’97) became the Branch Manager of the Brighton Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library. Eileen has been with the Chicago Public Library since graduating from Illinois in 1997. Eileen and her husband, Dick, also a Branch Manager, live in Chicago with their two dogs.

Dawn Rutherford (MS ’97) recently accepted the position of Teen Services Coordinator for the Sno-Isle Libraries (WA).

Mary Shultz (MS ’97) has been named the Special Tribute Award recipient by the UIUC College of Medicine Class of 2006. Shultz is an assistant professor and assistant librarian in the Library of the Health Sciences on the Illinois campus.

Gwen Hudgins Weldy (MS ’97) and her husband, Troy, welcomed a son, Nathaniel Lewis, on May 15, 2006. He joins an older sister, Ella Jane. Since Ella’s birth Gwen has worked part-time as the assistant director of library services at Albany College of Pharmacy in New York.

Michelle (Budt) Caulk (MS ’98) is Senior Business Researcher for Price-waterhouseCoopers, the auditing and consulting firm. She and her husband, Jason, relocated to Florida at the end of August 2006.

Mollie Freier (MS ’98) is the Head of Public Services at Northern Michigan University’s Olson Library in Marquette, Michigan.

Rebecca A. Graham (MS ’98) has been appointed Associate Librarian for Administrative Services in the Harvard College Library, effective July 1, 2007.
Stephanie Davis-Kahl (MS ’98) and Chad Kahl (MS ’98) welcomed Xavier Alexander Davis-Kahl to the world on June 23, 2006.

Becky (Kemerling) Robinson (MS ’98) will be the high school librarian at Galesburg High School (Galesburg, IL) in fall 2006. She has just started her term as President of the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA).

Mark Spasser (PhD ’98) has edited a special issue of Information Research (vol. 12, no. 3) on activity theory and information studies.

Connie (Edlefson) Frankenfeld (MS ’99), Digital Programs Librarian at the Illinois State Library, was one of 40 participants at a symposium in Bellevue, Washington offered by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and National Electronic Commerce Coordination Council (NECCC). The focus of the event was developing effective strategies for garnering support for digital archiving. Most participants were state archivists, librarians, or relevant technology vendors. Representatives from the Library of Congress, National Archives, and the Secretaries of State for Georgia, Montana, and Minnesota were also present. A white paper summarizing the proceedings will be presented to the annual meeting of NASS.

Jill Gengler (MS ’99) gave birth to Henry Patrick Gengler on September 7, 2006. He joins big brother Elliot and dad (and GSLIS staffer) Garret at home in Champaign.

K.R. Roberto (MS ’99) is now the Serials/Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Denver.

Ramchandran Sethuraman (MS ’99) is the library department head at Long Beach City College in Long Beach, CA.

Susan Shoemaker (MS ’99) is now an associate professor of LIS at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota. Previously, she was an assistant professor of LIS at Simmons College in Boston.

2000s

May Chang (MS ’00) is now head of library information technology services at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Chris (Jargowsky) Desai (MS ’00) is education reference librarian/associate professor at Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Valerie Harris (MS ’00) was recently appointed assistant special collections librarian and assistant professor at the Richard J. Daley Library, University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to joining the faculty at UIC, Valerie was the librarian and archivist at the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust. She can be reached for official business or “hellos” at val66@uic.edu.

Kwang Kye (MS ’00) recently became Technology Director for Fort Vancouver Regional Library District. Kye previously was information technology manager for nine years at Oak Park Public Library in Illinois.

Catherine Ritchie (CAS ’00), Theatre Librarian at the Dallas Public Library, co-presented a session on fiction by gay/lesbian/bisexual authors at the 2006 Joint Conference of Librarians of Color.

Gretel Stock-Kupperman (MS ’00) has undergone two big changes this past year. She is now the Library Services Consultant at the Metropolitan Library System in Burr Ridge, Illinois. Stock-Kupperman also welcomed the birth of her daughter, Ilyana, on January 2, 2007. On these changes, Stock-Kupperman writes, “both are exciting, rewarding, and challenging changes!”

Jennifer Woodruff Tait (MS ’00) and her husband welcomed their first child, Catherine Elanor Woodruff Tait, on November 11, 2006.

Andrew Teeple (MS ’00) was promoted to head of technical services for the Lake County Public Library in Merrillville, Indiana in February of 2006. He lives in Valparaiso, Indiana, with his wife Tara, and two sons, Joel (born 2002) and Mark (born March 2006).

Annette Bailey (MS ’01) was a recipient of the 2007 LITA/Brett Butler Entrepreneurship Award for co-developing an open source Firefox browser extension, LibX. LibX delivers library resources to users by seamlessly integrating access to them into the Firefox browser. The award includes a check for $5,000 and a certificate of recognition. Bailey is currently a digital assets librarian at the Virginia Tech University Libraries.

Monica Martens (MS ’01), assistant law librarian at the National Indian Law Library (NILL), recently received the 2006 Public Access to Government Information Award from the American Association of Law Libraries. She shares this award with David Selden, law librarian and colleague at the NILL for their work in making tribal law available to the public.

Mindy (Grundmeier) Rhiger (MS ’01) has been working as a collection development librarian at Tandem Library Group for two years. She also recently participated as an administrator and a panelist in the first Children’s and Young Adult Bloggers’ Literary Award. She blogs about books at www.propernoun.net.
Tracy Ruppman (MS ’01), formerly reference and instruction librarian and interim serials and acquisitions librarian at National-Louis University Library, has received an M.S. in Written Communication from NLU and is now reference and instruction librarian and bibliographer for the School of Education at Lewis Library, Loyola University Chicago.

Mark Szarko (MS ’01) is now the instruction coordinator for the humanities library at M.I.T. He is also the subject selector for theatre, psychology, and education.

Catherine Wong (MS ’01) writes: “On August 11, 2006 we welcomed a new baby boy into our family, Evan Larson Wong was welcomed home by big brother Dale and the two boy dogs.”

Emily (Smith) Asch (MS ’02) was recently named the interim library director at Pacific University (Forest Grove, OR) where she has been the cataloging/technical systems librarian since 2001.

Gwen Evans (MS ’02) is the coordinator of library information technology services at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Beth (Tarr) Gallego (MS ’02) and her partner, Kathy, welcomed their first child, Kate, on January 31, 2007.

James Jacobs (MS ’02) and ShinJoung Yeo (MS ’02) moved to San Francisco and are both working at Stanford University. ShinJoung is a reference coordinator and communication bibliographer. James is an international documents librarian.

Jennifer Hootman (MS ’02) is now a reference librarian at Minitex Library Information Network at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Sarah Houghton-Jan (MS ’02) has just published an issue of Library Technology Reports, which addresses technology competencies for librarians in the Information Age. Houghton-Jan is currently the Information and Web Services Manager for the San Mateo County Library. She is also the author of the blog LibrarianInBlack.net.

Mary Pergander (MS ’02) recently accepted the position of Administrative Librarian (Director) of Deerfield Public Library in Deerfield, IL. Previously, she was the Library Director of Lake Bluff Public Library. Since January 2006 she has been writing the “Working Knowledge” column in American Libraries (the column was started by Elisa Topper).

Mike Ragen (MS ’02) is retiring as chief deputy director of the Illinois State Library.

Alison Scott (MS ’02, CAS ’05) is the health services librarian at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

Jezmynne (Amergin) Westcott (MS ’02) is a science librarian at The Claremont Colleges in Claremont, CA. She writes, “I am the subject specialist for math, computer science, engineering and general science. I also manage the collections housed in Sprague Science Library, which contains three floors, approx 37,000 books and 500+ print serial subscriptions. I am an active instruction librarian for all sciences and first year courses, and innovate outreach and collaboration opportunities with faculty across the Claremont Colleges. I presented at the California Library Association conference in November on IM and Reference, and will present at ALA Midwinter on answering science/tech questions as a non science/tech librarian.”

Brijeet K. Dhaliwal (MS ’03) recently accepted the position of library technology manager/systems librarian at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Katie Dunneback (MS ’03) is now a consultant with Southeastern Library Services in Bettendorf, IA. She has also recently been appointed to the newly formed Reading List Council, a committee of the RUSA CODES section dedicated to acknowledging excellence in genre fiction. She also contributed the chapter on adult services librarian-ship to the recently published book A Day in the Life: Career Options in Library & Information Science edited by Priscilla K. Shontz and Richard A. Murray.

Kevin Hawkins (MS ’03) works as the electronic publishing librarian at the Scholarly Publishing Office of the University of Michigan Library.

Melissa Henderson (MS ’03) writes: “I am delighted to announce that, as of January 2007, I have been working as the head of children’s services at the Glencoe (Illinois) Public Library. This is a small library (service population around 8,000) that has a big impact on its community (over 90% of those 8,000 plus have and use library cards)”

Laura Ikens (MS ’03) moved to Sonnenschein Nath and Rosenthal as a Content Integration Analyst. Previously, she was a Senior Research Specialist with the Legal Technology Resource Center of the American Bar Association. Laura is also currently the President-Elect of SLA-Illinois.

Emily Knox (MS ’03) was recently promoted to associate director of St. Mark’s Library of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church.
Kathleen (Harvey) Lutz (MS ’03) was married to Warren Lutz on August 4, 2006.

Michael Monroe (MS ’03) writes that he “has been cataloging 16th and 17th century texts and will soon be cataloging materials in Yiddish.”

Jennifer (Foster) Nelson (MS ’03) is manager of information services at the Illinois Association of School Boards in Springfield, Illinois.

Daisy Porter (MS ’03) writes: “After earning my MLS, I spent two years at New Orleans Public Library. Post-Katrina, I evacuated to my hometown of Chicago, where I applied for and received a Katrina Fellowship from Northern Illinois University Libraries. I worked in reference and special collections for six months while applying for permanent positions. I have now relocated to San José, California, where I manage a mid-sized branch of the public library system. Look for my reviews in School Library Journal and the newsletter of the ALA GLBT Round Table.”

Kay Shelton (MS ’03) spent time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries through a research grant from the UWM Global Studies International Institute.

Lauren Siebert (MS ’03) was promoted to collection manager of the Rockford (IL) Public Library. She is also a member of the 2006 Synergy Illinois State Library Leadership Conference. In September 2006, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity.

Catherine (Adamowski) Yanikowski (MS ’03) married on July 16, 2005. She is currently a liaison for the Prairie Area Library System board of directors.

Dolores Jungheim Barber (MS ’04) retired as Professional Library Associate, Special Collections Cataloger, from the University of Illinois at Chicago in September 2005. She has been working part time as Archives Assistant at the American College of Surgeons in Chicago since March 2006.

Roberta Craig (MS ’04) has just begun a two year assignment working at an international school in China. Craig said, “I am very excited for this opportunity to work in another culture. The school is growing and plans to build a new facility in the near future and I will be able to design the library space and update the collection and the library technology.”

Carmen Ifkovits (MS ’04) has taken a position as associate librarian for reference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Laura Leavitt (MS ’04) is now the Human Resources and Labor Relations Bibliographer/Librarian at Michigan State University. Previously, she worked for two years as a Business Reference Librarian at the University of Iowa’s Tippie College of Business.

In early 2007, the American Library Association published “Out Front with Stephen Abram” compiled by Jonathan Lorig (MS ’04) and Judith A. Siess (MS ’82).

Rachelle (Ramsey) Miller (MS ’04), business specialist, Dayton Metro Library (Ohio), is the recipient of the 2007 Dun & Bradstreet Public Librarian Support Award.

Shirley Miller (MS ’04) is now employed as library director at the Vaughn Public Library in Ashland, Wisconsin.

Ann Nichols (MS ’04) is the reference, circulation, and extended services supervisor at the East Bonner County Library District in Idaho.

Jim Obst (MS ’04) is an Information Analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He is developing a digital library of the bank’s historical collection and is a member of a team developing a Federal Reserve System intranet portal. He is also editor of the SLA-Illinois membership e-zine, The Informant, which can be found at www.slaillinois.org.

Laura Chambers Savastinuk (MS ’04) recently published the book Library 2.0: A Guide to Participatory Library Service with Michael E. Casey. Savastinuk is currently an assistant branch manager at the Gwinnett County Public Library in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Gabrielle Toth (MS ’04) has been a reference and instruction librarian at Chicago State University since January 2005. She recently presented a paper, “Dubious Exports: U.S. Gang Migration to Latin America, a Bibliography” at the 51st Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic.

Jim Tuttle (MS ’04) was selected to receive the Fellowship for Librarians New to the Profession for the DLF 2007 Spring Forum. Jim is currently the project coordinator for North Carolina State University’s National Digital Information Preservation Program project. His second paper is currently pending publication.

Terry von Thaden (PhD ’04) recently published her article “Building a foundation to study distributed information behaviour” in Information Research (vol. 12, no. 3).
Rudi Waldschuetz (MS ’04) is systems librarian for the Department of Labor. He and his wife are expecting their first child in January 2007.

Hong Cui (PhD ’05) joined the School of Information Resources and Library Science at The University of Arizona as an assistant professor of information technologies.

Tim Donohue (MS ’05), research programmer with the University of Illinois institutional repository project (IDEALS), won best poster for “Format Conversion in DSpace using OpenOffice.org” at the Open Repositories 2007 conference in January 2007.

Jane Easterly (MS ’05) is assistant director and reference supervisor at the Galesburg (IL) Public Library.

Dianne Hirning (MS ’05) recently moved with her son Wyatt to become the interlibrary loan librarian at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah. She previously was the librarian at St. Thomas More High School in Champaign, IL. She writes that she is “enjoying the dry weather and working in an academic library.”

Kevin Knott (MS ’05) is working as a resource and policy analyst at the University of Illinois (for all three campuses) in the University Office for Planning and Budgeting. He is married to Julie (Gott) Knott (MS ’01) who is an elementary school librarian for Unity Schools in Tolono and Philo, Illinois.

Oswaldo (Ozzie) Meza (MS ’05) has recently been promoted to senior research analyst at the Carlyle Group and Akoya Capital in Chicago. He also just received his Illinois real estate sales license.

Karen Pardue (MS ’05) has recently been promoted to Team Leader for Information Literacy at Colorado State University-Pueblo. She also received the AY 2006–2007 Outstanding Faculty Award—University Library at CSU-Pueblo.

Teri Rankin (MS ’05) has been named youth services director of O’Fallon (Illinois) Public Library.

Gabrielle Rosenfeld (MS ’05) accepted a position in May working for Guideline, a research firm in New York. She specializes in food & beverage and general consumer research. She and her husband Joe welcomed their son Silas in January 2006.

Kayleigh Van Poolen (MS ’05) recently accepted a position with Northwestern University’s Pritzker Legal Research Center as an associate providing reference and research support. She is continuing to support various professors at DePaul University College of Law while she completes her second year of law school.

Karen Choy (MS ’06) was hired by Keene Memorial Library (Fremont, Nebraska) in July 2006. She is the children’s librarian, serving infants through teens. She resides in Omaha.

Julie Derden (MS ’06) has taken a position as teaching material librarian at Illinois State University’s Milner Library.

Jeffrey M. Eller (MS ’06) recently began a new job as Acquisitions Librarian at the Tulane Law Library in New Orleans, LA.

Emily Goodhue (MS ’06) has been working as an abstractor and indexer at EBSCO Publishing in Ipswich, Massachusetts (just north of Boston) since May 2006. She was just recently promoted to thesaurus manager and comprehensive subject indexer. She writes, “I’d love to hear from any other GSLISers in the Boston area!” Her email is egoodhue@epnet.com.

Sonya Green (MS ’06) joined the staff of the Millicent Library in Fairhaven, Massachusetts in January 2007. Green is Millicent’s new youth services librarian.

Merinda Hensley (MS ’06) has recently been appointed as visiting assistant librarian for instructional services at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Daniel Kraus (MS ’06) is the associate editor of American Libraries magazine. He worked for six years as a documentary filmmaker and freelance writer and spent one year (2005–2006) as a reference librarian before taking the job at the magazine.

David S. Kunz (MS ’06) is a reference/instruction librarian at the American University in Dubai.

Annette Lesak (MS ’06) writes: “After completing the M.S. in May 2006, I have continued at GSLIS to earn a C.A.S. to become certified as a school media specialist. I look forward to starting my professional career in the fall of 2007.”

Sarah Morris (MS ’06) began working as a technical services librarian at the law firm of Reed Smith. She was previously serials/indexing librarian at the Illinois College of Optometry. Morris writes, “the last couple months have seen a few changes—I bought a house in the Chicago suburbs, presented at both NASIG and ALA…and got engaged. Additionally, the cat count is up to two.”
Tamara (Starke) O’Shaughnessy (MS ’06) participated in a volunteer service trip to Peru in September 2006, where she worked with school children in several charity schools built by Coprodeli USA. She is currently leading a children’s book drive to stock school libraries in these ten schools, which are located in the poorest communities in Peru.

Hallie Pritchett (MS ’06) was a panelist for a session entitled “Don’t Be Afraid of a Long- Distance Relationship: Distance Learning Library Schools” at the 2006 Minnesota Library Association Conference. Pritchett recently relocated to Athens, GA, where she is the new map librarian with the University of Georgia Libraries.

Lesley Purnell (MS ’06) is working at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She writes, “I’m happy to have found 27–35 hours weekly of part-time work at the University Library, so that I can stay in the C-U area with my family and my husband can keep his local job.”

Sean Quimby (MS ’06) is director of the Special Collections Research Center at the Syracuse University Library.

Carolyn J. Sanford (MS ’06) has been named assistant director of the Learning Resource Center at Richland Community College in Decatur, IL.

Maren Williams (MS ’06) is a reference librarian at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. She is also responsible for collection development and information literacy instruction.

Carolyn Caizzi (MS ’07) relocated to Denver, CO to be digitization manager of a large photo archive that is currently being housed at the University of Denver through the art and art history department’s Myhren Gallery.

Laurie Chipp (MS ’07) recently began her “dream job” as a Catalog and Reference Librarian at the Ryerson & Burnham Libraries at The Art Institute of Chicago.

Caroline Conlon (MS ’07) is the director of the medical library at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, IL. She is also the director of the Learning Resource Center at the Saint Anthony College of Nursing.

Matthew Gengler (MS ’07) writes: “I recently accepted a position at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Ingalls Library. As the instruction and outreach librarian, I will work to bring new patrons to the library, while developing and implementing educational programs.”

Jean Gudenas (MS ’07) has accepted a faculty position as Research Services Librarian at Loyola University in Maywood, Illinois.

Migdalia (Dali) Jimenez (MS ’07) is the Teen Volume Book Discussion Moderator with the Chicago Public Library. She looks forward to becoming a full-fledged librarian within the Chicago Public Library system. She can be reached at migdali@illinoisalumni.org.

Helen Linda (MS ’07) has accepted a job as the Library Systems and Technical Services Coordinator for Goddard College in Vermont, due to start October 1st. She’s “psyched!”

Erin Miller (MS ’07) works as a development research specialist at the University of Illinois Foundation, Urbana-Champaign campus.

DECEASED

Geraldine Kaufman Maurer (AB ’29, BS ’36)
Edward “Ned” B. Stanford (BS ’34)
Margaret S. Putnam (BS ’36)
E. Lucile Deaderick (BS ’37)
Ruth L. Whitlock Jackson (BS ’37, MS ’41)
Marjorie D. Smith Ross (BS ’38)
Marjorie E. Hall (AB ’39, BS ’40)
Eldon C. Hart (BS ’39, AM ’40)
Louise M. Stubblefield (BS ’39)
Kathryn J. Adams (BS ’41)
Sidney E. Warfel Harmon (BS ’41)
Martha Bernhart Barr (BS ’42)
Mary J. Carr (BS ’42)
Helen Jacob (BS ’42)
Florence A. Nason (BS ’42)
Dorothy M. Naughton (BS ’42)
Josephine M. Thorpe (AM ’42)
Helen Welch Tuttle (BS ’42)
Arla Loser Schreiber (BS ’44)
Virginia L. McConnell (BS ’46)
Shirley Jean Wills (BS ’47)
Ellen R. Wrigley Fetzner (BS ’48)
Vernon E. Martin Sr. (BS ’48)
Elizabeth Anna Wakenhut Germany (MS ’49)
Virginia Dana Emigholz (MS ’54)
Barbara Wilson Gillis (MS ’54)
John R. Watt (MS ’54)
Marilee K. Born (MS ’55)
Margaret Anderson Powell (MS ’59)
Rachel P. Roller (MS ’59)
William W Garton (MS ’60, AM ’70)
Chloe V. Foutz (MS ’62)
Bernice “Bunny” Lord Hulsizer (MS ’65)
Jean Adair Desmond (BFA ’68, MS ’70)
Edith J. Fraser (CAS ’68)
Virginia Mares (MS ’69)
Jerry G. Tessin (BMUS ’69, MS ’72)
William E. Marks (AB ’72)
James W. Trisler (BS ’72)
Lois Larson Williams (MS ’76)
Catherine J. Goodsey (AB ’80, MS ’89)
Tara L. Dirst (MS ’00)
Ten Things They Don’t Teach You in Library School

The following is a commentary by Jennie Kiffmeyer (MS ’99) that aired on WMUB-88.5 FM (Oxford, OH) on November 12, 2007. Listen to this and other commentaries by Kiffmeyer at www.wmub.org under the “News, Opinion” section. Reprinted with permission of WMUB and Jennie Kiffmeyer.

In library school, commentator Jennie Kiffmeyer learned all about the Dewey Decimal system, database design, and storytelling. But as she was to realize on the job as a school librarian in suburban Washington, that knowledge didn’t amount to a handful of jellybeans. Here is her list of ten things they don’t teach you in library school.

10. On your second day of work as a school librarian, there will be a sewage backup in the building. You, along with a hundred four- and five-year-olds and their teachers will be evacuated to a nearby church basement, where you will be asked to read the children a story. Not having a picture book the size of a twin mattress handy, you take a deep breath and tell a story you learned by heart. When the story ends, students will leap up and hug your legs. “More!” They command you. You about break open with joy and comply until it is time to go home.

9. You will be asked to wipe noses, tie shoes, braid hair, and once, you will be mooned by a three-year-old.

8. And then there are the gifts:
   • the handmade Christmas ornaments made out of starched string and tin foil
   • a tub of homemade tapioca pudding
   • a hanging pot of impatiens that you manage to kill
   • a hot pink cyclamen plant that you don’t
   • a candle holder made out of an empty can of cat food
   • a bottle of sexy perfume

7. In the beginning, you will work about 65 hours a week during the school year. As your expertise grows, you will be able to decrease that amount by approximately 43 minutes per year.

6. Upon hearing the words “book fair” you will break out in a cold sweat.

5. Every year, you will meet about 300 people who are losing their teeth, wear pants with elastic waistbands, and who think any joke with the word “underpants” is the height of comedy and you will find something to love about each one. Really.

4. You will divide your wardrobe into two categories: clothes to wear on days when you have recess duty, and clothes for all other occasions.

3. You will finally have an appreciative audience for your repertoire of silly voices.

2. You will watch as parents lose their hair from chemotherapy. One first grader’s leukemia comes back, but after months in the hospital and a bone marrow transplant, she is in remission. Another child is killed in an auto accident.

Lauren was coming back from a birthday party in Baltimore. It was raining and a tour bus skidded to a halt on I-95, jumped lanes, and plowed into the car’s back seat where Lauren was sitting.

A year before Lauren died, her mother had asked if their mother-daughter book club could meet in the library one Sunday afternoon. I said yes—all I had to do was come in and unlock the library—and was surprised to find a beautiful potted cyclamen on my desk the next day as a thank you. When I moved from Maryland to Indiana two summers ago, I took it with me, wedged in between a snack bag and my son’s car seat. The drive about did it in, but it perks up once we arrived in Richmond. It continues to thrive on my shaded deck during the summer and my kitchen windowsill in winter. It is like a thread I can trace back to those days in the library and to Lauren and her family.

And that brings me to the number one thing they don’t tell you in library school:

1. With any luck, your job will be full of stories—those found in books and those you glean from your students’ lives.

Happy Reading!

Jennie Kiffmeyer is a freelance storyteller and writer in Richmond, IN. She spends a good deal of time telling stories to her two young children, Ben and Lizzybeth.

She writes, “Despite the title, I feel that I learned a lot at GSLIS, especially from Betsy Hearne, Janice Del Negro, the Hendersons, and Don Krummel. After graduating, I had two wonderful jobs as a school librarian in suburban Washington: one at Grace Episcopal Day School (N-6th grade) and the other as Head Librarian at Sidwell Friends School—Lower School (PK-4th grade.) There is no way I would have gotten these jobs without having gone to library school, however, my real education came from walking through the library door each morning. True for most of us, I suspect. It would be fun to hear what others discovered library school did not teach them based on what they encountered their first years on the job!”
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