GSLIS: the iSchool at Illinois

Shaping the Future of Information
the work of many hands
you are the reason for our success.

The Brilliant Futures Campaign officially ends on December 31, 2011, concluding one of the University of Illinois's most successful fundraising initiatives. As we approach this momentous occasion, we’d like to take the opportunity to thank you for your commitment to GSLIS and share good news about the many accomplishments achieved through your generosity.

Alumni and friends provide valuable support for our teaching and research, the impact of which extends far beyond the walls of our School. Our top-ranked academic programs educate students who become leaders in the field, shaping the way information is used and benefiting the communities in which they live. Our groundbreaking research program touches the lives of countless individuals in broad areas of society—from business to healthcare to the arts, from education to politics, and from personal information management to international information exchange.

The resounding success of our Brilliant Futures Campaign can only be attributed to the good works of many people. From the initial work by Susan Barrick and the commitment shown through the years by Linda C. Smith, Leigh Estabrook, Terry Weech, John Unsworth, and countless others, it took many hands to achieve our goals—and to aspire to even greater heights.

—Diana Stroud, GSLIS assistant dean for advancement and alumni relations

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Your gift to GSLIS benefits not only our School but also communities and individuals throughout the world.

Our mission is to lead the way in understanding the use of information in science, culture, society, commerce, and the diverse activities of our daily lives.

GSLIS is an iSchool and a world leader in library and information science education, research, and practice. As information needs increase, GSLIS educates professionals who help others connect with resources and technology to achieve their goals. The foundation of librarianship laid by Katharine Sharp, the School's first director, is a strong one that has expanded and remains relevant today.
We are proud to announce that GSLIS has achieved its campaign goal of $15 million.

This accomplishment is the result of a collaborative effort and commitment by alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. As we enter the final months of the campaign, our plan is to build on this success to address current and future challenges, allowing us to continue our leadership and excellence in library and information science education.

Your gift to GSLIS joins with those of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends who believe in the mission of our School and the promise for its bright future.

$15 million raised.

Contributions to GSLIS during the Brilliant Futures Campaign:
July 1, 2003–July 31, 2011

- Alumni: $4.0 million
- Corporations/Businesses: $4.9 million
- Foundations: $4.3 million
- Organizations: $0.77 million
- Friends: $0.84 million
- Students: $0.19 million

Total: $15 million
Your gift to GSLIS establishes a permanent source of support and honors distinguished individuals, creating a legacy of generosity.

40 new funds created.

Generous contributions from alumni and friends have resulted in the unprecedented growth of endowment funds. Since the start of the Brilliant Futures Campaign, 40 new funds have been created.

These funds are used for a variety of purposes, including scholarships and fellowships, student travel, community engagement, urgent needs in the School, and specific use as designated by the donors. Many honor GSLIS faculty and other individuals who have inspired others and contributed significantly to their profession.

During the Brilliant Futures Campaign, a generous gift from Professor Emeritus Boyd Rayward (MS '65) established a fellowship fund to support the work of GSLIS doctoral students. Richard Urban, doctoral student recipient of the W. Boyd Rayward Doctoral Fellowship, credits Rayward’s research on the convergence of libraries, archives, and museums as a “constant source of inspiration” for his work on principles of description in cultural heritage metadata repositories. “I am immensely grateful to be standing on his shoulders, both as intellectual inheritor and as a beneficiary,” he said.

Professor Rayward was involved in the early formulation and planning of the GSLIS campaign, serving on the Campaign Advisory Board until his retirement in 2007.

New Endowment Funds: July 1, 2003–July 31, 2011

Anonymous Fund
Anonymous Fund
Harold and Rose Marie Ames Scholarship Fund
Sidney E. Berger and Michele V. Cloonan Scholarship Fund
Mary I. Beveridge Endowment Fund
Barbara W. Blinks Scholarship Fund
George S. Bonn Endowment Fund
Center for Children’s Books (CCB)
Betsy Heanne Fund
Center for Children’s Books—Stevenson Fund
Community Engagement Fund
Jeanette Marie Drone Scholarship Fund
Lionelle L. Elsesser Fellowship Fund
Endowed Chair in the History of Libraries and the Information Professions
Barbara J. Ford Fund
Nancy and Richard Griffilllan Scholarship Fund
Herbert Goldhor Memorial Fund
Danuta Gorecki Endowed Scholarship Fund
Rebecca A. Graham Scholarship Fund
Ann Lyn Groves Skene Scholarship
GSLIS Alumni Challenge Fellowship
Chester W. and Nadine C. Houston Endowment Fund
Mary Louise Kaufuss Scholarship Fund
LSAA Endowed Professorship
Walter H. Maurer and Geraldine K. Maurer Fellowship Fund
Curt McKay Student Need Endowment
Louise C. Meckstroth Scholarship Fund
Franklin Parker Fund
W. Boyd Rayward Doctoral Fellowship Fund
Hazel G. and Joseph Rediger Award Fund
Katharine Sharp Alumni Challenge Fellowship Fund
Harold Ladd Smith Jr. and Flora Lancaster Smith Endowment
Linda C. Smith Doctoral Student Endowment Fund
Social Justice Award Fund
William W. and Mary Stewart Graduate Assistant—Center for Children’s Books
Sharon Stine Eckert Award Fund
Louise M. Stubblefield Scholarship Fund
Felicia G. Sworsky Scholarship Fund
Margaret L. Thrasher Fund
Carl Volkman Scholarship Fund for Public Librarianship
Yingbo Zhou Memorial Fund

Scholarships are vital to our students, and your support goes a long way to ensure their success at GSLIS. A gift of $25,000 will fully endow a scholarship, and a gift of $150,000 will fully endow a fellowship.
Collective gifts to the Annual Fund support the educational experience of our students, providing dollars for scholarships, annual student awards, new technology, and student travel for Alternative Spring Break. Since the start of the campaign, these gifts total a remarkable $1 million. Together they make a significant difference in what students gain from a GSLIS degree.

The Impact of Annual Fund Gifts

Scholarships make a crucial difference to students who otherwise might not be able to afford a graduate education. Gifts to the Annual Fund assist in providing scholarships to bright and deserving individuals who aspire to careers in the field of library and information science. GSLIS students and faculty are grateful for the commitment of alumni and friends who contribute each year to the Annual Fund.

Alternative Spring Break is a noncredit career development program that places motivated graduate students in professional work environments during the week of Spring Break. Each year, more than 60 students participate in these placements, which allow them to gain additional perspective of the roles and duties of professionals in specific environments, obtain hands-on experience where possible, and continue to build their professional networks. Thanks to Annual Fund gifts, students can obtain much-needed funds for travel to their placement locations.

The Learning Resources Lab (LRL) renovation included 22 Mac-minis with Samsung flat-panel monitors and two 50-inch plasma displays for group work and instruction. Using the “Parallels” virtual-machine software, the Macs can simultaneously run three different operating systems: OS X, Windows, and Linux. The LRL serves as both a walk-in lab and, during LEEP on-campus sessions, as a teaching classroom. When funds become available, the Computer Technology Lab (CTL), used extensively for classroom instruction, will undergo similar renovation.

Recent Alternative Spring Break Placements

- Abbott Laboratories Library
- Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum
- ALA Information Technology and Telecommunications Services
- American Bar Association, Legal Technology Resource Center
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- Caterpillar
- Charles Babbage Institute
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- County of Los Angeles Public Library
- Federal Reserve Bank
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- Georgetown University Library
- International Academy of Design & Technology
- Library of Congress, Digital Reference
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
- Missouri Historical Society, Library and Archive
- National Archives and Records Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- National Library of Medicine
- The Newberry Library
- OnLC Eastern
- Shedd Aquarium
- Smithsonian Institution Libraries
- UCLA Library Special Collections
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- The University of Chicago
- Washington University School of Medicine Library

Your gift to GSLIS creates opportunities for our students, providing scholarships to ease the financial burden of graduate school, practical experience in the field of library and information science, and access to cutting-edge technology.
Your gift to GSLIS supports our tradition of academic excellence, educating tomorrow’s leaders.

#1 in our field.

GSLIS is a premier academic institution, ranked number one among U.S. library and information science schools, and boasts a multidisciplinary and nationally renowned faculty. Our students are among the best and brightest in higher education today, and they come from around the world to study on campus as well as through our award-winning online education program, known as LEEP.

In the 2009 U.S. News and World Report ranking of graduate professional schools of library and information science, GSLIS shared the number-one spot with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and ranked highly in the following specialty areas: Services for Children and Youth (first), Digital Librarianship (second), and Information Systems (fifth).

GSLIS has the oldest, largest, and most successful online program on campus: in 2010–11, online graduate students at GSLIS composed 23% of all online students on the Urbana campus. (Division of Management Information Campus Profile, 2010–11)

GSLIS has a claim to both excellence and stewardship, as one of the two oldest professional schools at this University, and the only #1-ranked school or college on any campus of the University of Illinois.

—John Unsworth, GSLIS Dean
Working together, ordinary people can perform extraordinary feats. They can push things that come into their hands a little higher up, a little further on towards the heights of excellence.

—Author Unknown
the work of many hands.

The GSLIS Campaign Advisory Board is instrumental in building support for the School. From writing letters and making telephone calls to attending events and encouraging others to give, the efforts of the board have expanded the reach of our School and contributed greatly to the success of our Brilliant Futures Campaign.

GSLIS Campaign Advisory Board

Lionelle H. Elsesser, Chair (MS ’67)
Susan K. Barrick, former Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations, 1996–2005
Laurel A. Grotzinger (MS ’58, PhD ’94), former Director of the Center for Children’s Books, 1985–1994 and 2004–2007
Brenda Pacsay (MS ’79)
Mary Jane Petrovski (CAS ’94)
Julia M. Derden (MS ’06)
Donna O. Dziedzic (MS ’73)

Ex Officio Members

John M. Unsworth, Dean
Lisa C. Smith (MS ’73), Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Diana R. Stroud, Assistant Dean for Advancement and Alumni Relations
Cindy Ashwill, Assistant Dean for Communications

The Brilliant Futures Campaign at GSLIS has benefited from the hard work and devotion of the following students who have served as graduate assistants in the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations:

Erica Laughlin (MS ’08)
Sarah Mervat (MS ’09)
Anna On (MS ’06)
Laura Rhieman (MS ’10)
Laura Spradlin (MS ’12 anticipated)
Lucy Spraggins (MS ’11)
Julie Yen (MS ’17)

Advancement Staff (from left): Marianne Steadley, Director of Continuing Professional Development; Patti Grove, Office Administrator for Advancement; Sharon Johnson, Associate Director for Advancement; and Diana Stroud, Assistant Dean for Advancement and Alumni Relations.

Lionelle Elsesser, chair of the GSLIS Campaign Advisory Board and former adjunct faculty member, has been a strong advocate for the School. Her leadership has been invaluable, and she has continually inspired others to support GSLIS, both through her efforts and financial contributions with husband James Elsesser. Since the board was established in 2006, her accomplishments include developing goals and objectives, spearheading action plans, and encouraging and maintaining the group’s momentum.
Irene Hoffman  Brenda pacey
mary Jane petrowski
Donna Dziedzic
laurel grotzinger

“I first served on the GSLIS Campaign Advisory Board as part of my duties as president of LSAA for 2008–2009. I enjoyed connecting with alumni and friends who also value GSLIS’s mission—so much that I asked to stay on after my required term. Lionelle Elsesser has done an incredible job leading the Campaign Advisory Board, and she and her husband are the model of deliberate and thoughtful philanthropy. I have always felt that philanthropy for one’s alma mater(s) is extremely important, but I have a new sense of pride and heightened sense of obligation to give back from my experience on the Campaign Advisory Board. I received financial assistance from a wealthy couple for my undergraduate education many years ago, and I was fortunate to have a graduate assistantship when I attended GSLIS for my master’s degree. For those reasons and more, it’s now up to me to ‘pay it forward’ to support GSLIS faculty and student initiatives.”

—Julia Derden (MS ’06), GSLIS Campaign Advisory Board member
While Dinesh Rathi (PhD ’08) and Vandana Singh (PhD ’08) were enrolled in the PhD program, they, like so many others, were moved by Professor and Associate Dean Linda C. Smith’s devotion to mentoring students: so much so, that they decided to establish a fund in Linda’s name. They encourage other GSLIS doctoral graduates to support the fund, which will assure that future doctoral students have the resources they need to complete their research successfully.

Dean of GSLIS since 2003, Professor John Unsworth has focused on strengthening the intellectual and financial foundations of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. In eight years of economic uncertainty and annual budget rescissions, the GSLIS budget has nearly doubled; enrollments have risen by nearly 50%, with the percentage of underrepresented students nearly doubling, from 5.7% to 10.8%; the tenure-system faculty has grown from 17 to 25; and our space in the GSLIS building has increased by approximately 5,400 square feet. Meanwhile, the Dean has helped to found and run the Illinois Informatics Institute, and the School has also become involved in the campus-wide informatics program, participating in the MS in bioinformatics and the newly established PhD in informatics.

During the campaign, Associate Dean for Research Allen Rener provided leadership for the coordination of GSLIS’s highly successful research program, which receives funding from a wide range of government agencies, private foundations, and corporate partners. The program is growing rapidly, with current grants totaling over $16 million in award dollars and the percentage of funded proposals at over fifty percent. Of this total, more than $4 million in foundation grants has contributed to the campaign total. Rener stepped down from his administrative position in summer 2011 in order to return to his own active research program as a GSLIS faculty member. His successor, GSLIS Professor J. Stephen Downie, has been principal investigator on a number of large and successful projects, with support from private and public funders and the participation of many collaborators on campus and around the world.

A leader in the field of LIS education, Associate Dean for Academic Programs Linda C. Smith (MS ’72) has served as president of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) and the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). At GSLIS, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1977, she has overseen and taught in the LEEP online option for the MS program for fifteen years. In addition to advising many MS students, she has served on dissertation committees as a member or research director for almost 100 PhD students. 

Linda C. Smith Doctoral Student Endowment Fund

While Dinesh Rathi (PhD ’08) and Vandana Singh (PhD ’08) were enrolled in the PhD program, they, like so many others, were moved by Professor and Associate Dean Linda C. Smith’s devotion to mentoring students: so much so, that they decided to establish a fund in Linda’s name. They encourage other GSLIS doctoral graduates to support the fund, which will assure that future doctoral students have the resources they need to complete their research successfully.
GSLIS Graduates Give Back

Each year during GSLIS Convocation, deserving graduates receive a number of awards that recognize their hard work and commitment to academic achievement. These awards often include a monetary gift. At the convocation ceremony in 2010, Moustafa Mahmoud Ayad (MS ’09) received the C. Berger Entrepreneurial Promise Award, and Jeanie Lynn Austin (MS ’09) received the Social Justice Award. In an act of selfless generosity, each decided to donate the monetary portion of the award back to GSLIS. This example of giving during the Brilliant Futures Campaign demonstrates an immediacy of appreciation for the value of a GSLIS degree and the wealth of opportunities it provides.

“I decided to return the award because I felt that it would be put to good use supporting community partnerships and projects undertaken by GSLIS. I have learned through experience that just a small amount of funding can go a long way in supporting these projects, and that this funding is often limited. I hope that, by returning the award, I have helped to sustain current projects, so that they will be available and beneficial to community members and GSLIS students in the future.”

—Jeanie Austin (MS ’09), CAS student and project manager of Turn the Page: Extending Library Services to Empower Youth (ELSEY)

“It is the culture of altruism that is present in every one of the students, staff, lecturers, and professors at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science that compelled me to give back to the institution that taught me to work for the greater good. I can think of no institution with a more pervasive culture geared toward creating a more vibrant, eclectic, and caring community than that found at GSLIS.”

—Moustafa Ayad (MS ’09), independent contractor for media development firms in North Africa and the Middle East
Melissa Allen (MS ’03)
Peoria, Illinois
Manager, Business Resource Center
Caterpillar Inc.
“The education I received from GSLIS provided me with an excellent foundation for working in corporate libraries. I have been able to apply the knowledge and skills I learned through both my coursework and interactions with my peers and professors during my tenure in the engineering library for the company, and now as the manager of the Caterpillar Business Resource Center. I have enjoyed continuing my relationship with GSLIS by collaborating with the School on numerous projects and value-added activities during my career with Caterpillar, and I anticipate more collaboration in the future.”

Héctor R. Hernández (MS ’78)
Chicago, Illinois
Branch Manager/Librarian IV
Chicago Public Library, Rudy Lozana Branch
“I consider myself very fortunate to have been able to attend GSLIS. It afforded me a quality education, which has served me well in my career. I am proud of my association with the number-one library school program in the nation.”

Daylily Alvarez (MS ’10)
Chicago, Illinois
Cybernavigator
Chicago Public Library Foundation
“At GSLIS, I learned about the vital role librarianship plays as a civic service. GSLIS has provided me with awareness and leadership skills necessary to make a positive impact in the communities I serve. Despite the fact that the information sciences are migrating toward technological practices, GSLIS maintains its efforts towards continuing the development of library science as a social practice.”

Anne Estabrook Driver (MS ’02)
Chicago, Illinois
Librarian II/Adult Services, Social Sciences and History Department
Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center
“Attending a diverse and creative program like GSLIS allowed me to explore various possibilities in librarianship that I knew nothing about. I learned how to blend my natural curiosity with a desire to help people find and use information—and this was perfect for my present career in reference services at a large public library.”

Rachel Wightman (MS ’09)
Kampala, Uganda
Librarian
Reformed Theological College
“As a solo librarian at a small library in Africa, I have many responsibilities. Each day is an adventure and brings something different, from cataloging to installing computers to providing reference services to communicating across language barriers to thinking creatively about how to use limited resources. I am grateful to GSLIS for the preparation I received as a student. I am particularly grateful for the wide variety of library and information science classes offered by GSLIS. Taking this broad spectrum of classes combined with an assistantship gave me a strong foundation for whatever type of librarianship I chose and especially for my current position.”

To read more about Rachel, visit her blog at www.alibrarystory.blogspot.com.
GSLIS alumni profiles

Edwin Schroeder (MS ’89)
New Haven, Connecticut
Director, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Yale University

“GSLIS provided a broad introduction to librarianship, especially academic libraries. Although GSLIS did not have a rare book or special collections curriculum when I attended, I worked with my advisor, Professor Donald Krummel, to create [such a curriculum] using a combination of existing classes and independent studies.”

Diane Parr Walker (MS ’78)
Charlottesville, Virginia
Edward H. Arnold University Librarian
University of Notre Dame

“When my appointment to lead the library at the University of Notre Dame was announced, my mother commented that she had wondered back when I announced that I planned to go to graduate school what I would ever do with a graduate degree. Now she finally understood. I truly cannot imagine a more rewarding and exciting profession to be in at this time of rapid developments in information and instructional technology. My library degree from GSLIS was the entrée to a career of imagined opportunities to engage daily with new questions and to learn something new every day.”

Trinie Thai-Parker (MS ’05)
Seattle, Washington
Reference Librarian, Gallagher Law Library
University of Washington Law School

“Without the financial support that I received from GSLIS, I would never have been able to complete my MS and have the career that I do today. During my studies, my parents lost their home in Biloxi, Mississippi, to Hurricane Katrina; my instructors as well as the GSLIS administrative staff were very supportive of me during this time.”

Richard Bazile (MS ’95)
Ocala, Florida
Dean, Learning Resources
College of Central Florida

“Before I entered GSLIS, I thought I knew everything there was to know about libraries and technology. What I soon discovered was that I was totally clueless about the profession, the field, and the outlook. The greatest lesson I learned from attending GSLIS is, “Everything changes, be as ready as you can be for when it happens.” It is this axiom that has guided my professional life in the field of library and information science.”

Anna Orr (MS ’08)
Seonsan, South Korea
English Teacher
Seonsan Girls Middle School and High School

“I think that being a librarian and being a teacher have a lot in common in that they both involve passing on knowledge to others. One of the things I loved about GSLIS was how everyone had such an appreciation for the value of knowledge and education. I’m trying to pass on some of that appreciation to my students.”

“T”
In 2004, GSLIS established the Katharine L. Sharp Legacy Society to recognize alumni and friends who have included a gift for GSLIS in their estate plans. These gifts take many forms, including simple bequests in a will, gift annuities, and charitable trusts. Many of these plans offer substantial financial and tax savings benefits, often complementing an individual’s overall estate plans. All are greatly appreciated and help to ensure the tradition of excellence at GSLIS for future generations of information professionals.

Anonymous
Sidney Berger
Mary Beveridge
Barbara W. Blinks
Jana Bradley
Michele V. Cloonan
Donald G. Davis, Jr.
Avis Jane Davis
Jeanette Drone
Donna O. Dziedzic
Sharon Eckert
Barbara J. Ford
Rebecca A. Graham
Laurel A. Grotzinger
Nadine C. Houston
Franklin Parker
Michael Ragen
Margaret Thrasher
J. Mark Tucker
Barbara W. Tucker

Capturing a Legacy

Travis Ross, visualization laboratory manager at the Beckman Institute, recently performed a 3D scan of the Katharine Sharp Memorial, a bas-relief sculpture of Katharine Lucinda Sharp, university librarian and founding director of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (1893–1907). The sculpture was created by Lorado Taft and hangs in the Main Library.

The final 3D image was created by stitching together 40 individual scans, each capturing the rich texture of a piece that was originally sculpted in 1921. GSLIS Dean John Unsworth requested the scan, which uses advanced technology to further memorialize a groundbreaking leader, not only of this campus, but in the field of library and information science.

We’re grateful to the Imaging Technology Group and the Library for helping us turn Katharine Sharp into information that can now be shared freely.

—John Unsworth, GSLIS Dean
As we celebrate the accomplishments of the Brilliant Futures Campaign, we look forward to the promise of an equally bright future made possible by strong leadership; outstanding faculty, staff, and students; and dedicated alumni and friends. Our immediate priorities include the completion of two capstone projects: an endowed chair and endowed professorship.

Endowed positions attract distinguished faculty whose teaching and research in turn attract exceptional students and contribute greatly to the field. For GSLIS, endowed chairs and professorships will only strengthen our reputation and reinforce our #1 ranking.

In addition to faculty positions, numerous opportunities exist to contribute to GSLIS and sustain our tradition of academic excellence. For more information, including funds that offer matching gift opportunities, visit our website.

www.lis.illinois.edu/giving
Thank you for sharing our vision.
Private contributions play a key role in our ability to provide an unparalleled education, advance the field, and benefit local and national communities.

People are at the heart of our success, and we thank you for your role in shaping a Brilliant Future for GSLIS.

Donate today.
www.lis.illinois.edu/giving