Welcome to our new and improved newsletter format. We hope that you enjoy it. We will now be "publishing" once in the fall and once in the spring.

It's been a busy few months here at SLIS. We have started offering our first undergraduate general education course (Introduction to Information and Society), courses in our new Undergraduate Minor in Library Science, and our new Graduate Certificate in Records and Information Management. As you'll see in the section on faculty news, we have several new grants and publications to announce as well.

SLIS will have a table in the exhibits hall at the Louisiana Library Conference in Lafayette (March 7-9), and we hope to see many of you there. If you'd like more information about what's happening at the School, I'll be doing a presentation on "The State of SLIS" that Thursday at 10:30.

As always, please continue to share your news with us. We love to hear from you.

Best to you all,
Carol Barry, Interim Director

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We are excited to announce the launching of our new, fully online graduate certificate in Records and Information Management (RIM). The certificate program is designed in collaboration and partnership with the Institute of Certified Records Managers (ICRM), the national certifying body for RIM professionals. Graduates from this program will have the skills they need to strategically manage recorded information for any organization, public or private, large or small, and across all industry sectors.

According to Dean Damon Andrew, “This collaboration, the very first university-ICRM partnership in the country, will prepare our students and current professionals with vital skills necessary in our ever-changing technology landscape.”

Through this partnership, students enrolled in the 15 credit program can further leverage their financial investment as a result of the fast track it provides to become a Certified Records Analyst (CRA), or Certified Records Manager (CRM). Due to the rigor of the coursework and exams required by this certificate program, completion of the program will credit the student with passing Exam Parts 1-5 toward ICRM certification—leaving only Part 6 for CRM designation.

For more information contact Dr. Tao Jin (taojin@lsu.edu) or see http://lsu.edu/slis_RIM

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Congratulations to our Fall 2016 Graduates

Zachary Bartlett  Megan Hasler  Rachel Murdock
Brandon Bordelon  Mara Johnson  Lauren Rhodes
Eric Cahanin  Courtney Kearney  Rush Seitz
Kathryn Carlson  Janet Kearney  Rachel Shoun
Paula DuPont  Brandy Luther  Megan Yarbrough
Sarah Harrington  Natalie Meyers
This past fall, SLIS sponsored three major events. In September, SLIS sponsored the Library of Congress’ Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) program’s first regional digital preservation, train-the-trainer workshop in the deep south. According to LOC, “The recent workshop graduates were buoyant with enthusiasm at the close of the training. One participant opined, ‘This was the best training I have ever had in my entire career. It was challenging and supportive, well organized.’” For the second consecutive year, SLIS sponsored the annual meeting of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscript Association (LAMA) at Nicholls State University in October. Several SLIS students & alumni presented at the conference. Finally, SLIS sponsored a free, full-day Lyrasis workshop on disaster preparedness and response for cultural heritage collections at the Main Library of EBRPL. Participants learned about disaster planning & management. The workshop also included a hands-on training of salvaging techniques.

Rachel Murdock (MLIS, 2016), a Long Beach, Mississippi native, graduated from the MLIS program this past December with specializations in Archival Studies and Cultural Heritage Resource Management. Murdock used the SLIS online program as an opportunity to see the world. For her last semester, she took residence in Budapest, Hungary. There, Murdock engaged with classes while surrounded by dozens of museums, which helped her gain a worldly insight into the museum profession.

“The program being online has given me an opportunity to take classes anywhere. I can take what I’m learning in my classes, and apply it to what I see at museums and archives in Budapest, and gain a greater understanding of how diverse the profession can be globally,” Murdock said.

After graduating, Murdock plans to work in collections management at a museum to be an archivist. “I chose LSU because I knew this university would give me the professional education I need at a cost I could afford,” she said. “I am focused on museums and archives, but in the School of Library and Information Science I get to meet many future information professionals that I would not otherwise meet. Our online discussion boards allow us to see several sides of a topic, from a variety of perspectives, and I know that the contacts I’m making now will continue to help as I go out into the professional realm after graduation.”

SLIS Sponsors Conferences & Workshops

Did You Know?

SLIS is one of only 12 programs in the U.S. that have had continuous ALA accreditation since 1931.
Dr. J. Brenton Stewart was awarded the Russell Long Professorship in the School of Library & Information Science for 2016-2017. The Professorship provides funding for faculty research, which Dr. Stewart will use to support his study on African American undergraduates’ use of academic libraries, as well as college students use of the web for everyday life research. This is continuation of Dr. Stewart’s research on contemporary uses of academic libraries.

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Dr. Edward Benoit, III presented his SAA Foundation Grant funded research, “Moving Image Social Tagging: Professional vs. Amateur Production Comparison,” at the Association of Moving Image Archivists in Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Yejun Wu was invited to speak at the 2016 China National Knowledge Organization and Knowledge Link Conference in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in September, 2016. Dr. Wu’s presentation covered knowledge organization system and their application in digital libraries and knowledge discovery.


SLIS hosted Sarah Ramdeen, a UNC SILS doctoral candidate, EarthCube Distinguished Lecturer, & Early Career Scientist, in October, 2016. Ramdeen presented her research, “What is data? Preserving Earth Science Samples for the Future.” The presentation was co-sponsored by the LSU Department of Geology & Geophysics. You can watch her presentation at https://youtu.be/9YY3YU1xYCM.

We are sad to announce that Dr. Danny Wallace, former faculty member and Associate Dean of SLIS at LSU, passed away on December 16, 2016. Dr. Wallace received his MLIS from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his Ph.D. in LIS from the University of Illinois. He began teaching at LSU in 1979. In 1996 he left LSU to accept the position of Director the MLIS program at Kent State.

Dr. Wallace was a prolific author and presenter, and a much loved teacher. He will be missed.
Current MLIS student, Izzy Oneiric had her collection of poems, Crossing Bryan Ferry and Other Poems published this past year by Lavender Ink. More information can be found at http://www.lavenderink.org/content/link/366.


Austin Ward (MLIS, 2015) will begin his doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

The LSU Foundation honored current student, Nancy Arnold, for her outstanding service to the Psychology Department at LSU.


You’ve probably seen a few posts and emails about a group called “GLISSA,” but you may not know much about what we do or who we are. In December we launched our Big SLIS-ter/Little SLIS-ter Program. Participating students with fewer than two semesters in SLIS were matched with more experienced student volunteers with similar goals and interests. The volunteers answer the newer students’ questions and offer advice for navigating SLIS programs.

Most recently, GLISSA hosted a tabletop tournament at SigmaCon, the first comic con hosted at LSU. In March, GLISSA and ALA-SC will debut their guest speaker series, in which professionals share digital presentations on library and information science topics. The first presentation comes from Mr. LaJuan Pringle and focuses on his work with ALA’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force.

If you are a currently enrolled student, you are a member of GLISSA. GLISSA is doing some exciting things this semester, and we hope you’ll be a part of them! Keep an eye on the SLIS listserv, LSU ALA-SC Facebook page, and GLISSA Tigerlink for details and opportunities. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at sbelmo1@lsu.edu.