



Linnea Johnson

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY;
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B.A., SIMMONS COLLEGE
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TEACHING/RESEARCH AREAS:

Information Technology, Technology Management,
Organization and Leadership, Social Computing
and User Behavior, Social Networking and Media,
Web 2.0/3.0, User-Generated Content, Usability
Testing, and Cloud Computing.

SIMMONS

Linnea Johnson has a full-time job, overseeing more than a dozen students and employees in the Tech Lab and Usability Lab, budget maintenance and oversight for GSLIS technology needs, ordering equipment, and lecturing for the required GSLIS technology course. For three years, Johnson moonlit 20 hours a week as a Mac Specialist at the Apple Store in Chestnut Hill. “It’s a place where I was able to keep up with current technology,” she says. “Plus, it was a very creative environment full of fellow Mac geeks and enthusiasts.”

Johnson prizes creativity—and she particularly values it in her staff. “I trust my staff to manage their own productivity and set their own goals,” she says. “I want to support [staff members’] innovation. I want them to try things they’ve never before tried.” GSLIS has its own internal technology group, and as a result of this ideology “we get to try new and cutting-edge things that others might not have the chance to do.” Thanks to Johnson’s leadership, GSLIS tech users can now blog, use several hundred wikis, and listen to more than 75 podcasts via GSLIScast (<http://gslis.simmons.edu/podcasts>).

Underlying Johnson’s work is her commitment to the Simmons community. Johnson completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees here. Tech Lab projects—like turning the lab into a gallery of student artwork—all have the overarching goal of making an accessible, welcoming space for Simmons staff and students. “It is vitally important to us that the GSLIS community is able to access all of the Tech Lab features and benefit from our ever-evolving selection of services, workshops, and events,” she says.