

InfoLink

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The New Internship Class, LIS 501, Kicks Off with a Bang

by Sasha Nyary, Dean's Editorial Fellow

Anyone debating whether to take LIS 501, the new internship course, should have a quick conversation with GSLIS West student Nancy Little. A scientist by training, Little entered library school wishing to become a science librarian. In the fall of 2009, she took the Literature of Science and Technology (LIS 484), taught jointly by UMass Amherst science librarians Maxine Schmidt '05LS and Naka Ishii. She knew then that she wanted to work with them at the university's Science and Engineering Library (SEL).

So when an email about this new class appeared in her in-box last fall, Little jumped at the opportunity. Now a few weeks into her internship working at SEL with Schmidt and Paulina Borrego '07LS, she couldn't be more pleased. "I'd heard UMass is a great place to work, and I knew this would give me a good idea if I ever wanted to work there some day," she says. "This internship is project-based. I am treated more like a peer than a volunteer. I'm getting practical experience. And I'm getting credit!"

Schmidt is just as pleased as Little. "I truly enjoy having Nancy here, and not only because, like me, she's a geologist," she says, noting that Little's perspective as an informed outsider has been particularly helpful. "Our work must support and reflect trends in research. Providing a new librarian the opportunity to participate in a small instance of that bigger process is satisfying. Of course, I also learn from Nancy, whose thoughts and comments remind me that my five-and-a-half-year-old MLIS looks a little dated already!"

Little describes her project as "sort of collection development/assessment of the technology reference collection." She works at SEL five hours a day, two days a week, for a total of 120 hours over the semester. She has also arranged extra opportunities on other days, such as observing instruction sessions. The coursework for LIS 501 also requires weekly readings on work-related topics such as interviewing and conflict resolution, which students discuss online with professor Mary Wilkins Jordan. They also have three face-to-face classes; during the last class, students will make a final presentation about their projects.

Wilkins Jordan teaches the class, while GSLIS staff members Jennifer Andrews '08LS doctoral studies program manager, and

Kris Liberman '87LS, the program manager of Continuing Education, work on the administrative aspects of the course, such as arranging the internships. All three are delighted with the strong response from the initial 30 applicants and the positive experiences, so far, from the first 10 students; they expect to increase the class to 20 this summer and 30 by the fall.



Nancy Little, photo courtesy of Nancy Little

"I believe maybe a third of the students arrived with an internship set up," says Wilkins Jordan. But, she says, not every student knew where to look for an internship, and some wanted to try something different from what they had done before. "Kris contacts the host institutions and explains what would be involved with the internship," says Wilkins Jordan. "We give a handbook to the hosts, and students also have a copy. We asked students about their professional interests in the application process, and tried to match them to internships they would be suited for."

Interested in registering for LIS 501? Registration can be done via AARC during the regular registration period, provided you have taken the prerequisites. Note: Although students do need to attend the face-to-face meetings, internships do not need to be done locally. For more information, please contact gslisintern@simmons.edu.

Little is well suited for her project, though she found it daunting at first. But recently a sentence in an article she was reading jumped out at her. "It said, 'Work with the data that you have.' And I thought, 'Oh! I have some data! Work with what I know!' There's a deadline of April first [for the SEL] to purchase books, so I need to do certain things by some time in March. But

because I had a major breakthrough I believe I'm on the right track, and I'm sure that by mid-March I can be recommending some titles."

And the verdict? "I knew within the first week," Little says happily. "I want to be a science librarian. And I want to work there, with them. I feel blessed to be there." ▲

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Andrew Flinn

“Oral history puts people and people’s experiences into history.”

Andrew Flinn is the inaugural Allen Smith Visiting Scholar this semester, funded by a bequest from the estate of the late beloved professor. Flinn is a senior lecturer in archives and records management at University College London and director of its archives and records management program. He’s teaching Oral History (LIS 433) and helping with the Cultural Heritage interns in LIS 531V. His Ph.D. is in history with a focus on pre-World War II British political activism. His expertise includes community archives, memory studies, oral history, and archival issues around truth and reconciliation commissions, political identity, and cultural property.

What is your background?

Q: I grew up in Coventry, but I think of myself as from Manchester. I did history at university at Manchester. I became an archivist at the People’s History Museum at Manchester and worked there for 10 years. I looked after the papers of the Labor Party and the Communist Party of Great Britain. While I was there I earned my Ph.D., again at Manchester University. I didn’t expect to end up teaching archives in London.

What is oral history?

It is a relatively structured process in which one person will interview and record other people’s description of their experiences. That might either be experiences about something in particular — an event, a place, an interest — or it can be what’s called “life history: recording an account of that person’s life from start to finish.” Usually, if we’re thinking about what oral history is, it can be placed in an archive or library so that others can use it. It becomes a historical record. The idea is it puts people and people’s experiences into history. Traditional archive-based history might be dry and factual and not so much on what people might have felt, and oral history is a way of getting at those stories.

What’s the focus of your current research?

I’m focused on independent community archives, the wider field of archives, and history initiatives that are generally nonprofessional. They exist in different ways outside the professional mainstream archives, libraries, and museums, and they are established with some sort of understanding that those histories aren’t being told properly — or at all — in those institutions. That might be because of the locality; it’s a long way from the museum, say. Or it might be some ethnic or political group, or a women’s group, or having to do with sexuality — people who feel their story is not being told.

How does London compare to Manchester?

Manchester is a big industrial city, a center of the Industrial Revolution. It was a big cotton town and had lots of engineering as well. It could have declined and closed down, but it reinvented itself quite well as a center for arts and culture and service industries. The university is a major center there. Music and football are a big part of the city. All those things made quite an impact on Manchester as a young person’s city, a vibrant city.

London is 250 miles away, like Boston to New York, but seems a different world in some ways. London is . . . London. It’s huge. It’s never quiet. There are traffic jams in the middle of the night. There’s lots and lots going on. It’s incredibly rich in terms of culture and history and it’s multi-ethnic, multi-cultural. Manchester is as well, but not to the same extent as London. My wife got a job in London so we moved there. We went as a young family, so it was a bit daunting. My boys were three and one at the time.

What is it like to be away from home for the semester?

I was expecting it to be quite traumatic. My sons are twelve and nine now, and they were all right with it. We Skype a lot. It’s amazing to be able to speak and see them through Skype. I can’t imagine what it would have been like even five years ago. The experience of being abroad now, away from your country, when you have access to the Internet, is different from what it would have been even two or three years ago. Now, constant broadband is available everywhere. Online I have access to U.K. newspapers all the time, and I can listen to U.K. radio if I want. I’m often working quite late, so I go to sleep listening to U.K. World Service Radio, their morning news, on NPR. It’s a little bit disorienting. In a way it’s slightly not so good, I think. It allows you to cocoon yourself in where you were, rather than thinking about and engaging fully with where you are now.



Andrew Flinn, photo by Jennifer Doyle

Have you noticed a difference in the political atmosphere here, compared to the U.K.?

I suppose I haven’t noticed it as much as I suspected I would. I don’t know if it’s being in Boston, a university town. The apartment I’m staying in doesn’t have a television, so I’ve been listening to public radio. I do see definite differences, but I haven’t been exposed to a popular right-wing culture, so I haven’t noticed the difference as much as I thought I would. A lot of discussions about funding and the role of the state are not too dissimilar. There are similar arguments going on in the U.K. at the moment.

What food do you miss?

I don’t feel as if I’m missing anything at the moment. I love spicy food, so I’m normally eating lots of Indian spicy food. I had a curry the other day, and I also like to eat Mexican-inspired food. I’m not sure how truly Mexican it is. And I visit the Whole Foods store that’s around the corner, where I spend far too much of my money. I don’t feel deprived of anything.

Prof. Flinn will be giving a public lecture on March 31 called “Telling Our Stories, Writing Our Histories’: Some Reflections on the Place of Oral History in Community Archives and History Projects.”

Read the rest of his interview online: gslis.simmons.edu/infolink.

Interview by Sasha Nyary

Student Groups on Campus

The conference season is approaching. What do all those acronyms mean, anyway? Which ones should you join, and why?

Spring and early summer are high conference season in the world of library and information science (LIS), so here is a descriptions of the student organizations on campus. Why join a student group? Because they . . .

- give students a view into the world of professional librarians. “Getting a professional education is not just about the courses,” says Em Claire Knowles ’88DA, assistant dean for student services. “It’s also about developing an understanding of and appreciation for a career. One aspect of that is getting active with the professional associations.”
- offer opportunities to see how coursework relates to areas of employment.
- provide ways to learn about topics pertaining to specific organizations through events such as speakers, on-site tours, movies, and conferences, which include seminars, workshops, and discussion groups.
- are a good way to network professionally.
- supply a forum in which to practice leadership skills.
- offer social opportunities and friendship among those with similar interests.

Attending conferences is a big part of being an LIS professional, and this is another place student organizations can be particularly helpful. Many students attend as groups which, for many people, is more fun and less intimidating than attending alone. Funds for professional travel and memberships are available from LISSA and specific professional organizations, some of which also have access to scholarship money.

Some groups, like the ALA student chapter, circulate a list of what to expect at the conference, what to do (don’t miss the exhibit hall), how to dress, etc. They also emphasize the importance of getting business cards, whether through GSLIS or services such as Kinko’s or vistaprint.com, which offers 250 free cards. “As a student or in your work, part-time or full,” says Knowles, “it’s important to let other LIS professionals know how to contact you professionally.”

American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST or ASIS&T)

“What makes or breaks the success of our student organization is invested leaders who want to work together to bring technology-centric and innovative events to campus,” says Linnea Johnson ’01, ’04LS, ASIST student chapter advisor since 2009 and Manager of GSLIS Technology.

ASIST, which is geared toward LIS students interested in working in technology-heavy positions in libraries and non-traditional settings in the information industry, is a model for a successful student organization. In 2010 it won Student Chapter of the Year for the sixth time in 10 years. “They have a legacy of

being deeply involved,” says Knowles, “including members volunteering to teach students technology.”

The ASIST national organization rates students chapters in three areas: members, activities, and communications. Based on its listserv subscribers, there are close to 300 members in the GSLIS student chapter. About 20 people show up at events; the record is close to 75. The ASIST Student Chapter held eleven events in 2010; four were co-sponsored with other groups, such as a speed-networking evening with the GSLIS Alumni Board. The group holds technology events — hosting a talk by Open Access guru Peter Suber, for example — and provides refreshments and records podcasts, where possible. It also holds purely social events, such as tension-breaking end-of-the-semester board-game nights featuring games such as Scattergories and Fluxx. “It was a blast, and a great way for GSLIS community members to unwind at the end of the semester,” Johnson says. The ASIST student chapter also gives an award at commencement, the Outstanding Information Science Student Award.

“It is not always easy to identify regular on-campus meeting times,” says Johnson. But not surprisingly, probably one of the biggest keys to the success of ASIST is its strong virtual presence. “Almost all of our communication happens on our listserv and via email. It’s fitting that most of our work is done virtually.”

“We like to think of ASIST as an organization in which people interested in these technologies can interact with each other, as well as some important people in the industry,” says Jordan Sly, ASIST co-chair. “I like the networking and experience talking about the field. Having that bit of confidence that you’ll earn just chatting about the library field will help during interviews and on the job.” So who should join ASIST? “Anybody who wants to be a librarian in the 21st century!”

Library and Information Science Student Association (LISSA and LISSA West)

The only group listed here that is not part of a national organization, LISSA is the overarching organization that focuses on student life at GSLIS. And one does not need to join — by virtue of your student status, you are already a member. Founded in 1964 by Dean and Professor Emeritus Jim Matarazzo when he was a student, this group represents the entire GSLIS student body. Students pay an activity fee (\$50), part of which goes to LISSA. LISSA allocates funds to student chapters and to students directly via professional development funds. LISSA has also been running the course evaluation process for at least three decades. In addition, LISSA arranges social and career events, helps with other GSLIS-sponsored events such as Advising Day, and is a liaison between students and faculty. “LISSA has done a great job keeping students informed of each student chapter’s events,” says Cressida Hanson, the American Library Association Student Chapter president, “as well as off-campus workshops that may appeal to the GSLIS community.”

On page 4 is a list of the other student organizations at GSLIS, in alphabetical order. Flip to page 7 for a list of parent organizations and upcoming events.

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Student Groups, continued

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American Library Association Student Chapter (ALASC)

ALASC is for students who are members of ALA or intend to become members. “Its mission, ‘To prepare students for library life beyond Simmons,’ refers to helping students navigate and use ALA’s resources,” says president Cressida Hanson. “We also share useful career and library links for GSLIS students to investigate. This semester we are increasing our connection on networking by sponsoring events on and off campus, and we will invite alumni and local librarians to these events to share their stories of finding jobs after graduation.”

Recent events include the library trivia contest in February, which was co-sponsored by ALASC and drew 75 people. The second semester of Brown Bag Sessions — a series of meetings covering topics such as networking and advocacy in the profession — has started well too, says Hanson. “Following student recommendations, the Brown Bag Session was offered in the day and evening, and each session was well attended.” ALASC is trying to have a strong presence on campus, she notes, encouraging member feedback and participation.

Massachusetts School Library Association Student Interest Group (MSLA-SIG)

This organization supports students preparing to become school librarians. “A key program they put on is a spring conference,” which they’ve done for the past five years, says Knowles. “They talk about issues impacting school libraries.” The sixth annual conference will be held on April 2, says co-chair Emily Sypole. “This year, professionals will present on topics such as tips for surviving your first year as a school librarian, professional development opportunities for teachers, and teen interest in graphic novels and literacy.”

The chapter also puts on a career panel in the fall. “School library professionals speak on their experience interviewing others and their experience being interviewed,” Sypole says. “They give the students tips on applying for jobs and what looks good on a resume. Students are also invited to ask questions of the presenters.”

“The conference was fantastic,” says Cressida Hanson. “It was a day-long conference with multiple workshops. And the president of MSLA spoke at the career panel. I was impressed by the amount of time and effort the officers put into preparing these events for the School Library Teacher Program students.”

New England Library Association (NELA)

NELA, a regional organization, is unofficially part of the ALA, says Knowles. While GSLIS does not have student chapters of NELA or the state library associations, each has an annual conference. NELA and individual state organizations offer student memberships, conference scholarships, and tuition scholarships.

Panopticon

A student group of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS), this organization facilitates visual arts resources in LIS. The newest group at GSLIS, Panopticon is now in its third year.

Progressive Library Guild (PLG)

“PLG is for anyone who identifies as progressive, sees librarianship as an opportunity for social justice work, and/or

wants to examine our field through lenses of different types of oppression like racism, sexism, and classism,” says co-chair Vered Meir. “We run events highlighting different issues relating to progressive librarianship and the free flow of information. Our events range from banned books to the Boston Public Library cuts. Last fall we ran an event with two queer storytellers.” More than 100 GSLIS and non-GSLIS people attended.

The group is co-sponsoring and hosting the Boston Skillshare in April, an event at which anyone can sign up to teach a workshop, and anyone can learn skills from their peers. “Librarians are guardians of free information,” Meir says. “We can play a tremendous role in supporting and being central players in social change.”

The Simmons International Relations Group (SIR)

With a new faculty advisor, this group is still getting up to speed. It focuses on introducing students to librarians who have worked or taken internships abroad or who want to work or study abroad. Leaders of this group established a GSLIS presence in Nicaragua through volunteer efforts. Those efforts led to the establishment of International Issues in Librarianship: Nicaragua (LIS 531U), a course held for the first time in March 2010. Its parent group is International Relations Round Table, a program of the ALA.

Society of American Archivists (SCoSAA)

The Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists focuses on supporting students who want to be archivists, work in special collections, or work with rare books. They hold a couple of panels every year to which they invite local professionals to speak about their experiences.

Special Libraries Association (SLA)

The student chapter interacts closely with the Boston chapter of SLA and focuses on special categories of libraries, including media, business, law, medical, science and technology, and federal and military libraries. The SLA group visits libraries and hosts panel discussions. They have also worked with SLA’s Boston Chapter in organizing a “Day on the Job” for students to interact with local professionals. Archives students often find a home in SLA, as well.

Student chapters are one way for students to be involved with these organizations; students can be involved at the local or regional level as well. Organizations such as the Boston Chapter of SLA and NEASIST (the New England Chapter of ASIST) welcome student involvement in events, meetings, and even leadership roles.

Some organizations, such as the Massachusetts Black Librarians Network, don’t have student chapters but are another means of access to the profession and local practitioners. If the national organizations seem a bit too big and broad, try out a special interest group. Whether it’s called a “SIG” (ASIST), a “Roundtable” (SAA and ALA), a “Division” (SLA and ALA), or something similar, these groups offer a way to focus on a particular area. (Is forestry your passion? Are you all about technical services? Do you consider yourself a lone arranger? Yep. There’s a SIG/roundtable/division for that.)

What’s the takeaway? Go to a conference. Join a group. Get involved. Take advantage of every opportunity there is to get to know about the profession while getting to know LIS professionals. There’s no better time than now.

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GSLIS Professor of Practice Maureen Sullivan Runs for ALA President

Maureen Sullivan's nearly 40 years in libraries began when she was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland and got hired as a page at a local public library. She was so impressed with the librarians and liked the environment so much that she quickly followed her B.A. with an M.L.S. A professor of practice in the Ph.D. MLIP (Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions) concentration at GSLIS, Sullivan's expertise and experience are in human resources and library management. She has been involved with the American Library Association (ALA) for almost as long as she has been a professional librarian. If Sullivan wins the election this spring, she'll be the third president in the last four who is affiliated with GSLIS.

Why are you running for the presidency of ALA?

Part of the reason is that it's one of the best ways to give back. Very early on, I had an informal opportunity to be an emerging leader. More seasoned people took an interest in me, made sure to introduce me to people, and helped me identify opportunities to be more involved. They really opened doors for me. And everything I've done in ALA in some way has benefitted either the work I've done as a human resources administrator or the work I do as a consultant and educator. It's been the best way to form a network of relationships. ALA is the association representing libraries and librarians. It's our best means to have the rest of the world understand what we who work in libraries contribute to our community.

What does the president do?

First and foremost, the president provides leadership to the whole association. He or she is responsible for managing a variety of meetings, particularly the executive board and council. Probably the most important role is to represent the association and the profession to the world at large. The president spends a fair amount of time with the media. And the president also does important work when he or she is deciding who will be appointed to all of the committees.

What are the issues at ALA?

Internally, there's a need to make changes in the way the association works, and it's being actively pursued. There's a real desire to have ALA become even more inclusive and responsive to the broad diversity of needs, interests, and preferences of its members. The 2011 to 2015 strategic plan, which came out of the summer meeting last June, addresses this. That goes along with the question of how we retain younger members of ALA. A report came out describing a series of steps to do that.

The third piece is: How can mid-winter be more effective? Should it become a virtual experience? The annual conference this summer, for the first time, is going to have a virtual component. The thinking is, it's still going to be important to meet in person, but we also need to take advantage of the social network and develop the means for people to be engaged.

What do you want to focus on, specifically? What's your agenda?

It's going to be important for me to understand what's been accomplished out of the current administration's work and to build on that. They've done a great job identifying effective people to lead some of their initiatives.

The key area, in my view, continues to be advocacy. I mean making an effort to have libraries and librarians at the table when decisions are being made in our communities. We need to be clear about what library and information professionals bring to that work. I think we bring some important things that we underplay; one of them is our ability to get information that is useful and relevant, no matter what the topic.

I think we have to continue all of the good work that's been done on intellectual freedom, and there are constant challenges. I also think as an association we've done some really good work in diversity and inclusion, particularly identifying ways to do that effectively in different libraries. The big issue right now is, how do we make sure libraries remain relevant and vital as the world becomes increasingly digital?

The economic downturn is causing communities and organizations to look carefully at the resources allocated to various activities. And when administrators don't understand what the libraries are doing and how they are making a difference, people are vulnerable.

We continue to have a segment of every population that doesn't have the resources that administrators sometimes assume are there for them. And what I'm really talking about here is the lack of understanding, especially about how urban public libraries are a key resource — for a variety of reasons — to the people in the community,

including the transient population. We've got a broadly diverse set of customers, clients, patrons. It's challenging for libraries to figure out how they're going to serve those populations with many needs and interests and preferences, but there's a strong desire to do it.

Why should the GSLIS community vote for you?

I think one of the ways in which GSLIS will benefit is that I would be yet another person tied to Simmons who has a national position. This will highlight the MLIP program, particularly, and the entire GSLIS program, although I have to tell you, from where I sit, GSLIS doesn't need to be highlighted. It's right up there. The other benefit is likely to be, if I assume this role, I'll be learning a great deal about the issues, and I'll be in a position to bring that back to Simmons.

For more information, please go to Sullivan's website at <http://maureensullivan.org>. The electronic poll opens on March 16 and extends through April 22. The new president will be announced on April 29.

Interview by Sasha Nyary



Maureen Sullivan, photo by David Trozzo

CEC Career Corner:

Preparing for a Career Fair

The GSLIS Career Fair is coming up on April 20. Read these tips from the Career Education Center and prepare in advance.

When you begin your job search, take advantage of career fairs to explore specific career paths and learn about your prospective field. Job seekers, especially students preparing to graduate this year, can attend career fairs on and off campus. Carefully prepare now for the upcoming Simmons College GSLIS Career Fair planned for Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Be ready to meet potential employers in one location. This is your chance to make great professional connections and learn about specific employers' hiring needs. Here are some pointers on how to begin:

Prior to the career fair

Proofread your resume. Carefully review your resume to make sure all details are accurate. The format should be easy to read and the content should be well written with concise descriptions of your relevant skills and accomplishments. Have someone proofread your resume. It is a sample of the quality of your work, so make a good first impression. Schedule an appointment with a CEC career coach to have your resume critiqued.

Extra copies of resumes. Prepare a portfolio with a pad of paper and a pen in which you can store copies of your resume and collect company materials as you meet hiring managers during the fair. Two-page resumes should not be stapled so recruiters can read each page side-by-side. If you have your own business card, include current contact information (e.g., Gmail account instead of a Simmons email account), your graduation date, degree, technical proficiencies, and specific career interests.

Research employers. Visit the website of the organization hosting the career fair to gather important details about the employers who have registered to attend. Keep in mind there may be some last-minute changes with employers who cancel or confirm attendance the day of the event. Review the list of employers and view the current job openings so you will be familiar with the job requirements. Visit the employers' web sites to gather details about the work environment and other information.

Plan a strategy. Select and prioritize organizations that interest you. Be well-informed about employers; visit their websites so you will be able to ask relevant questions when you speak with recruiters. Use LinkedIn to search for contacts, including current and former employees, especially Simmons GSLIS alumni.

Rehearse your "elevator speech." Prepare a 30-60 second introduction (also known as an infomercial) to introduce yourself and quickly capture the attention of the hiring manager. You should highlight your academic coursework and specific library experience including working knowledge of specific technical tools and databases, internships, and major accomplishments. Practice this out loud with others.

Select a professional outfit. Determine what outfit, including comfortable shoes and simple accessories, you will need to wear to make a good first impression. Opt for conservative colors such as navy, charcoal gray, black, or brown. View the CareerSpots Videos on 'Career Fair Success,' 'Interview Dress for Men,' and 'Interview Dress for Women' for more tips on conservative clothing and professional appearance: <http://my.simmons.edu/cec/>.

Day of the career fair

Arrive early. Meet recruiters when they begin their day, their energy levels are strong, and they are eager to meet candidates and collect resumes. You do not want to risk missing some employers if they leave early.

Turn off your cell phone. Before you enter the room, turn off your cell phone so you are not interrupted and distracted by a text or phone call while you are speaking with an employer.

Meet the recruiter. Smile and have good eye contact when you introduce yourself to the hiring managers. Use a firm handshake.

After the career fair

Send a thank you note. Send a brief thank you letter to employers you spoke with to thank them for the opportunity to learn about their organization, and express your continued interest in the job.

Evaluate the job and the employer. Review the details of the job and carefully evaluate if the position and organization will be a good fit for you.

Follow up about the next step. Contact the employer to check in about the interview status and future job openings.

Visit the Career Resources Library web site for more information on networking and career fairs: <http://libfs2.simmons.edu/libraryguides/index.php/Networking>.

Additional questions?

Contact the Career Education Center (CEC) to schedule an appointment with a career coach, or visit during drop-in hours: Monday & Tuesday, 3-4:30 p.m. and Wednesday & Thursday, 1:30-3 p.m. New location: Suite M103, SOM/Academic Building. Contact the CEC at x2488 or careers@simmons.edu.

Article by JoAnne Amann

SAVE THE DATE: GSLIS Career Fair

April 20, 2011, 2-4 p.m., Linda K Paresky Conference Center. Watch for details: <http://my.simmons.edu/services/cec/events/>.

Sign up for a Continuing Ed Workshop

Check out GSLIS Continuing Ed's spring and summer workshops at gslis.simmons.edu/ce.

Student Groups on Campus, continued

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This is not a comprehensive list of organizations you can join. For more niche organizations, visit the Careers in LIS page on the GSLIS website at <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/careers/lis.php> and the Student Groups page at <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/resources/groups.php>.

Memberships:

New England Archivists (NEA)

<http://www.newenglandarchivists.org/>

Society of American Archivists (SAA)

<http://www2.archivists.org/>

American Library Association (ALA) <http://www.ala.org/>

Special Libraries Association (SLA) <http://www.sla.org/>

State Library Associations (MLA, CLA, VLA, NHLA, RILA, NYLA)

New England Library Association (NELA)

<http://nela.camp9.org/>

Massachusetts Black Librarians Network (MBLN)

<http://web.simmons.edu/~mbln/>

American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) <http://www.asis.org/>

Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA)

<http://maschoolibraries.org/>

Visit our website for a listing of New England area professional events as well as large conferences: <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/news/calendar/lis.php>

Archive Events:

New England Archivists (NEA) Spring Meeting:

April 1-2, Providence, RI

Society of American Archivists Annual Conference:

August 22-27, Chicago, IL

Library Events:

MSLA Anti-Bullying Summit: March 14, Ashburnham, MA

Visual Resources Association Conference: March 24-28, Minneapolis, MN

Public Library Association Virtual Spring Symposium: Wednesday, March 30

Association of College and Research Libraries Conference: March 30-April 2, Philadelphia, PA

New England Technical Services Librarians Annual Spring Conference Program: April 8, Worcester, MA

MLA Annual Conference: April 27-29, Danvers, MA

CLA Annual Conference: May 2-3, Stamford, CT

NHLA Annual Spring Conference: May 5-6, Manchester, NH

RILA Annual Conference: June 2-3, Smithfield, RI

SLA 2011 Conference, June 12-15, Philadelphia, PA

ALA Annual Conference: June 23-29, New Orleans, LA

New England Library Association (NELA) Annual Conference: October 2-4, Burlington, VT

ASIS&T Annual Meeting: October 9-12, New Orleans, LA

Public Library Association (PLA) Biennial Conference:

March 13-17, 2012

Awards Available:

Visit the websites of organizations that interest you to find what scholarships or travel awards they offer. NEASIS&T is one example of what's out there.

NEASIS&T Student Travel Award - Essay Deadline April 8, 2011
The American Society for Information Science & Technology, New England Chapter (NEASIS&T) is pleased to announce the availability of one award of up to \$1000 to reimburse expenses for attendance at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting (October 7 - 12, 2011, New Orleans, La.). Applications must be received by Monday, April 8. The winner will be notified by Monday, April 18. For details visit <http://neasist.org/2011/02/24/2011-neasist-student-travel-award-apply-now/>. ▲

Welcome New GSLIS Staff

Amelia-Rose Harrar, Admission Assistant



GSLIS is pleased to welcome Amelia-Rose Harrar as the full-time Admission Office Admission Assistant. Amelia graduated from Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Creative Writing. While a student at Bard, Amelia worked as an Office Assistant in the Academic Resource Center, as an Orientation Assistant for the Office of Residence Life, and as the Assistant to the Deans in the Deans of Students Office. This past summer she worked as a Tour Guide at Wing's Castle in Millbrook, NY. Most of you probably know Amelia already as she has been temping for us in the Admission Office these past several months. We are pleased to welcome her as a permanent addition to the staff.

Courtney Martin, GSLIS West Library Assistant

GSLIS welcomes Courtney Martin as the new GSLIS West Library Assistant. We asked her to say a few words of introduction.

"If you had told me one year ago that I would miss teaching, I would have laughed and told you that would be impossible. Though as time passed, I did miss it. I missed the exhilaration of standing in front of a class of students. This is what drew me to the GSLIS West Library Assistant position. I am able to instruct again, and I love that the unexpected always happens, no matter how much preparation one does.

"In addition to instruction, I am focused on facilitating access to the library and its resources for the students and faculty at GSLIS West. I want to ensure that they have all of the amazing services and privileges that we at the Boston campus enjoy.

"I started at GSLIS in the fall of 2010. My path to library science can probably be attributed to my nomadic lifestyle. Every county where I could get a library card, I did. I currently have six in my wallet. In my free time, I enjoy catching up with my friends on the East Coast and exploring Boston."

Folks on the Move

Assistant Professor Naresh Agarwal presented a paper titled "Information Source and its Relationship with the Context of Information Seeking Behavior" at iConference 2011, which took place February 8-11, 2011, in Seattle. A paper based on his Ph.D. work "A Context-based Investigation into Source Use by Information Seekers" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST).

Doctoral student Anne Marie Casey presented a poster at the Jean Tague Sutcliffe Doctoral Student Research Poster Competition at the ALISE Annual Conference on January 4-7, 2011. Her poster was titled "Use of Academic Library Strategic Priorities During Severe Budget Reductions: A Study of Leadership and Management." Casey was a finalist in the ALISE poster competition.

Congratulations to **GSLIS student Marika Cifor**, the winner of the 2010 Beta Phi Mu Beta Beta Chapter Book Award. Marika won based on her application and essay, which demonstrated her commitment to scholarship and service.

Doctoral student and Adjunct Professor Deborah Froggatt presented a poster at the Work in Progress Poster Session at the ALISE Annual Conference on January 4-7, 2011. Her poster was titled "Tips, Tools and Tendencies: Toward a Grant Management Theory."

Linnea Johnson '04LS has been promoted to Manager, GSLIS Technology. Johnson joined the GSLIS Technology Team in November of 2001.

Dr. James M. Matarazzo '65LS and **Dr. Toby Pearlstein '77LS** co-authored an article, "Positions Advertised in For-Profit Libraries in New England 2006-2009" in *Searcher Magazine*, 8.10, December 2010. This is the sixth article in their series, *Survival Lessons for Libraries*. Dr. Matarazzo also spoke at the Boston Society of Architects on January 27, 2011, to the Information Resource Wizards Group on "Employment Opportunities in New England 1997-2009." Matarazzo was a guest speaker on "The Management of Special Libraries" for a class at Wayne State University in Michigan on January 28, 2011.

GSLIS student Jane Showalter is the new Multimedia Specialist and will be the primary contact person for all things GSLIScast (gsliscast@simmons.edu).

Assistant Professor Mary Wilkins Jordan has been awarded the 2011 American Library Association Carroll Preston Baber Research Grant for the project titled "Public Library Stressors: Identification and Elimination." To read about her award, visit the ALA website: <http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/winner-2011-carroll-preston-baber-research-grant-announced>.

GSLIS students Stacie Williams and Valerie Enriquez co-presented at the Handheld Librarian IV online conference, held Feb. 23 - 24, about mobile librarianship. The presentation was titled "A Warm Reception: Embracing the Possibilities of Mobile Technology for Libraries."

Congratulations to **Stacie Parillo, Fellow for Dean's Initiatives**, on her new job as the processing archivist for the Newport Historical Society in Newport, Rhode Island. Because Stacie's new position began in early March, GSLIS student Homer will help for the remainder of the semester with projects that Stacie has worked on, such as the support of the Yonsei summer program and the faculty lunchtime lecture series.

Got news? Please send it to us at infolink@simmons.edu.

February-March Events

Thursday, March 24, **Lunchtime Lecture: Mary Wilkins Jordan & Laura Saunders** will present "Important Things about Reference." They will share the results of a survey of practicing reference librarians' views of necessary skills, competencies, and qualifications for current reference practice, as well as which skills they see lacking in new hires.

Sunday, March 27, **GSLIS West Career Panel**. Hear from a panel of experts on how they successfully manage and navigate their careers and how their experiences may help you to jump start your own. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Panel Discussion. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Resume and Cover Letter Workshop. Willits-Hallowell Conference Center, Mount Holyoke College.

Wednesday, April 20, **GSLIS Career Fair**. The GSLIS Career Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 20, from 12-2 p.m. in the Linda Paresky Conference Center. Formal dress is required. Students should bring copies of their resume for the representatives from hiring employers. For more information, email Angela Kelly at angela.kelly@simmons.edu.

Thursday, April 28, **GSLIS After Dark: An Evening of Recognition and Connection**. Paresky Conference Center, Main College Building, 4:30-8:30 p.m.

More information on events can be found at <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/news/calendar/index.php>.

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InfoLink

InfoLink is the newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Its purpose is to provide school- and career-related information and to foster community among the many diverse people who make up the school.

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Copy deadline for the April issue is Tuesday, March 15, 2011.