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The 411 on the Mass Library System

by Sasha Nyary, Dean's Editorial Fellow

As this new system makes its way through its first year, a look back at how it came to be

*The transition was fast, exhausting, sometimes exhilarating, sometimes bitter, and immensely sad. Almost everyone involved gave countless unpaid hours to dismantle an outstanding 50-year-old library system for the most mundane of reasons: money. Forced by severe budget cuts, the Massachusetts library powers that be spent last winter and spring consolidating the commonwealth's six regional library offices into a single, much-reduced organization. The regions were dissolved on June 30, and on July 1, the Massachusetts Library System opened for business. This synopsis of what happened over the last 16 months was recently compiled through interviews and online materials, and while an effort has been made to avoid jargon, two acronyms are essential, **MLS** and **MBLC**.*

What is the MLS?

The Massachusetts Library System is a non-profit corporation, born out of a budget-driven consolidation of the six former regional library systems across the state. It has a board of directors, a current staff of 21, and a budget of \$7 million, and it describes itself as "a state-supported collaborative." The MLS supports library services for its 1,700 members — libraries of all types, not just the 370 public libraries — and offers resources for everyone who lives, works, or studies in Massachusetts. To that end, it provides services such as database access, continuing education, resource sharing, summer reading programs, and advisory services in such areas as facility design or redesign, policy development, and programming. Nine of the staff are based in Waltham and 15 in Whately, which includes 11 drivers who deliver interlibrary loan materials to libraries in the western part of the state. The drivers will be laid off on June 30 and a single vendor will handle deliveries across the state.

What is the MBLC?

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) is the state agency responsible for the development of library services throughout the commonwealth. It administers state and federal funds in a half dozen ways, including talking-book services for the blind, capital improvements, library technology and resource sharing, and the MLS.

The MBLC disperses funds for the regional systems; it oversaw their demise while guiding the creation of the MLS; and it now

directs funds to the MLS. The commissioners are appointed by the governor to five-year terms that can be renewed once — Em Claire Knowles '88DA, GSLIS Assistant Dean for Student Services, is nearing the end of her second term — and the commissioners hire the director. Massachusetts residents like their libraries. Five million have library cards, about 80 percent of the six million total population. But they don't seem to want to pay for them: MBLC's current budget is a meager \$21.1 million, down from \$34.1 million in 2008, a 38 percent drop; it's one-tenth of one percent of the commonwealth's entire budget.

What were the regional library systems?

The six regional library systems, Boston, Metrowest, Northeastern, Southeast, Central, and Western Mass., did the work the MLS is now doing. Like the MLS, each region was a non-profit. Each had about eight staff members, except for the Western Mass. Regional Library System, or WMRLS, which hired its own drivers rather than outsource them. The western Mass. library



Staff of the Massachusetts Library System courtesy of MLS

and information science (LIS) community has always been ahead of the curve, creating the state's first bookmobile in the 1930s and WMRLS, the first region, in 1960. By 1964 there were two more regions, Central and Eastern; in 1998, the eastern region was sub-divided into four, with the idea being that each region would serve about a million people. Whether it was its longevity, or the staff's dedication, or the particular issues in this large, mostly rural part of the state, WMRLS was deeply beloved by the libraries it served.

What are the networks, and why are they important?

The nine automated resource-sharing networks across the state (the colorful names include CLAMS, SAILS, NOBLE, Minuteman, and Old Colony, along with C/WMARS, FLO, MVLC, and OCLN), are also non-profits, and are funded by member fees and the MBLC. Essentially integrated library systems for their geographic areas, these networks operate closely with the MLS to facilitate interlibrary loan services, as they did with the regionals. Their members include more than 300 public libraries, 38 academic libraries, and a handful of school and special libraries. MBLC is also working toward a statewide virtual catalog.

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Snapshot

Angela Kelly

“A career fair is a really good way to meet with employers, to see them face to face, talk to them about their jobs, what the opportunities are at their company, and what the culture is like.”

Angela Kelly came to GSLIS last fall with a strong background in business, and she is already putting her experience to good use. A former event planner with a B.A. in business marketing, she was a natural for the role of student liaison between GSLIS and the Career Education Center (CEC) as they organize the spring career fair. (The fair will be held on April 20, 2011, noon to 2 p.m., at the Linda K. Paresky Center on the Boston campus.) She also started at the Simmons School of Management this semester. By the time she completes both degrees — she expects her library degree in May 2012 and her MBA a year later — she'll be a library powerhouse.

What is entailed in your job?

Q: I work with [Assistant Dean for Student Services] Em Claire Knowles at GSLIS and [CEC Associate Director of Employer Relations] Doug Eisenhart.

I'm kind of the go-between between the two departments. The career center normally does all the career fairs but they had too many on their plate right now and didn't have enough time to do this one.

What are you working on?

Right now, a lot of the work is building up the employer list, because there hasn't been a fair in 10 years. We do have an invitation list from 2001, but I'm not sure how up to date the contacts are. I guess I'll find out. And then I have some other lists that we're working from, the Jobline, there's the GSLIS Jobs & Opportunities site, and a few other lists. I'm working up a couple hundred names of employers right now, and then we'll narrow it down. We're aiming to have 15 to 20 companies at the fair, and we're hoping to have 100 to 200 students there as well.

What are some of the companies?

We don't want to announce them until they're confirmed, but my vision is to have a page on the GSLIS website with a list of the employers, a one-sentence description, and a link to their sites. The main goal is to focus strictly on companies that have full-time jobs available. So that if you go to the career fair, it's not going to be just to get another unpaid internship or part-time job. We want there to be opportunities for GSLIS students who are graduating to get full-time jobs. We're also aiming to have a wide range of employers. So not just public libraries, not just academic libraries or archives; we're actually looking at having corporate libraries as a possibility, investment firms, publishers, search engines, depending on what the job market is like for each of these companies.

Are you just focusing on local companies?

We're focusing on Boston, Massachusetts, and New England, but we would happily welcome any institution beyond this area that has job openings and would like to attend. A lot of the employers seem excited about the opportunity to talk to the students, and GSLIS students have a good reputation, which as a student is good to hear!

What does a career fair look like?

The tables will be lined up as they are at a convention. Each employer will have a table, with anywhere from one to three people. They'll probably be standing, and students or potential employees basically browse, and you can talk to anyone you want. If there's an employer that has a good position, there might be a line; it depends on the interests of the students. Since the fair runs from noon to 2:00, you don't have to be there the whole time. You can come at noon, stay 'til 12:30, or come at 1:00 and stay 'til 2:00. You can talk to one employer or to them all. You shouldn't be in jeans and a t-shirt looking as if you've just come from class. And make sure you have copies of your resume with you in case they ask, although a lot of applications are online. There will be no cost to students.

How should students prepare for this, and who should plan to attend?

Throughout the semester there will be career-preparation days to get students ready for the career fair. Many people think of career fairs as being oriented towards the corporate side. I've been to plenty, and I'm used to them, but I think many people have not, and they may think, 'Why would I go to a career fair? I'm not going to get a management job.' But actually a career fair is a good way to meet with employers, to see them face to face, talk to them about their jobs, and what the opportunities are at their company, and what the culture is like.

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GSLIS Career Fair To Be Held April 20

Mark your calendar now for the **GSLIS Career Fair: April 20, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Linda K. Paresky Conference Center**. The fair is designed as a drop-in event, so students can stop by on the way to or from class. They can browse, see one employer, or see all of them — event organizers hope to have 15 to 20 employers, says GSLIS student Angela Kelly, who is helping GSLIS and the Career Education Center plan the fair.

“We want there to be opportunities for GSLIS students who will be graduating to be able to get full-time jobs,” says Kelly. “We’re aiming to have a wide range of employers, including corporate libraries — investment firms, publishers, search engines — in addition to public, academic, and archives.” The final list of employers will be posted online in time for students to peruse it before the fair. “Who ends up coming depends on what the job market is like for each of these companies,” says Kelly, who plans to invite primarily New-England-based employers who are looking to hire soon-to-be graduates. Watch for career-prep classes throughout the semester, including ones on resume writing and building and interviewing skills.

411 on MLS, continued

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There's a 10th network, MassCat, that is run specifically for schools and small libraries that can't afford or don't qualify for membership in one of the other networks. "Some networks don't take schools, other networks are just too expensive for schools to be a part of," says Nora Blake '98LS, the MassCat manager for MLS, who is based in Whately. "Schools are our main focus, but there are a lot of public libraries, mostly out here in western Mass., about 20 or 30, that don't have any kind of automation at all, and we have about a half dozen of those in MassCat. These are libraries that aren't connected to anything. They might see MassCat as a stepping stone to C/WMARS, the network for western and central Mass., but maybe not, because C/WMARS is maybe two or three times the cost of what it is to be in MassCat." A few libraries are simply not interested in being a part of any network.

The MLS, and before that the regions, offers an interlibrary loan service so that patrons can borrow materials that are either not available in their network, or whose library is not in a network. The per-transaction cost is picked up by MLS. The Massachusetts Broadband Initiative, which is bringing high-speed Internet to rural towns over the next couple of years, will help some of those libraries take the plunge into automation. But some of these towns are tiny and have tiny libraries with miniscule budgets. Even if a library has direct broadband, the cost of joining one of these networks will remain prohibitive for some of them.

What was the process of consolidation?

Consolidation of the six regions into the MLS occurred in only nine months. It began with the state's notifying MBLC in October 2009 that its funding would be cut 29 percent, from a high of \$11 million in the 2001 fiscal year to \$7 million in the 2011 fiscal year. This cut was particularly galling, given that library usage is at an all-time high and funding is already so low. The regions had been hit with a 25 percent cut the year before and now the decision was made to consolidate.

What that consolidation would ultimately look like had to be determined in the next nine months, by early April 2010, by the 18-member statewide Regional Transition Planning Committee, a.k.a. the TransTeam. Made up of three unpaid members of each region's board (employees of the regions were not full participants of the committee because of the conflict of interest), the TransTeam met as a group seven times in three months and in sub-committees outside the group.

"Eighteen people worked together very intensely," says MBLC Director Robert Maier. "They produced a report, a budget, a service plan, a staffing plan, and a legal transition process." The proposal "to designate the Massachusetts Library System as the administrative entity to provide regional services to libraries and residents beginning July 1, 2010" was presented to the MBLC board on April 1 and approved on April 13.

Next came the practical task of organizing the MLS and closing the regions. The region employees were laid off and invited to apply for jobs at the new organization. Almost everyone who applied for a job with MLS was hired, but as brand-new employees in a brand-new organization. *Continued on page 4*

GSLIS Holiday Party

GSLIS held its annual holiday party on December 17, 2010. Faculty and staff attended, as well as a few of their children — future librarians, we are certain! Photos, from top: Jeannette Bastian and James Matarazzo; Naresh Agarwal with "GSLIS kids"; Melanie Kimball and James Thomas Doyle.



Welcome, International Students

Three new students were welcomed to GSLIS at a lunch with Dean Michèle Cloonan and Assistant Dean Em Claire Knowles. Pictured left to right: Knowles, Cloonan, Chorong Lee, Nayoung Jo, and Samvel Israelyan. Lee and Jo are from Korea, and Israelyan is our new Muskie Fellow from Armenia.



411 on MLS, continued

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It was a stressful time. By July 1, MLS had basic staff in place, including an executive director, Gregory Pronevitz. “They provided service that first day, picked up the phones — delivery was consistent. There were no hiccups at all, and that in itself was a great achievement,” says Maier.

“They came together; there was a great team spirit,” says Carolyn Noah, MLS assistant director, who started in August. “They built a continuing education program schedule out of thin air in a couple of weeks. They hired a business manager. They are great professionals who are excited about the opportunities. We know there are limitations but we also think that we can accomplish a lot.”

Who was opposed to consolidation, and why?

Opposition came from all the regions but it was strongest from the LIS community in the western part of the state. The granddaddy of the regions, WMRLS, with more than 300 members across all library types, covered the largest geographical area, including the biggest part of the state lacking broadband. Of the commonwealth’s 69 public libraries that serve communities with populations under 2,000, 57 are in western Mass. The area has the largest number of non-automated libraries, although WMRLS employees had worked tirelessly to help libraries get connectivity in whatever way they could. Like the other regions, many WMRLS employees had been in their jobs for decades; they were known to libraries throughout the region, and they were familiar with the communities they served.

Western Mass. often feels slighted when it comes to services from the commonwealth, so many in the LIS community were apprehensive about the possibility of closing the WMRLS facility, a large warehouse with offices and classrooms in Whately, about 15 minutes north of Northampton. Many were also concerned that the western Mass. representatives were outnumbered on the TransTeam. When the final report was issued, it included eastern and western offices in the 2011 fiscal year only. It gave no assurance that a western presence would be maintained in future years. “That galvanized folks in the western part of the state to take action,” says Maier.

Feeling unique, and concerned that they would be forgotten, the LIS community rallied to save WMRLS, including holding a vote of member libraries on a proposal to reject dissolution and strike out on their own, independent of the MLS. “The people made their concerns known,” says Maier. “They were heard by the MBLC, the legislature, the governor. The governor was well aware of them — when he went to his home in Richmond, he’d hear from people.” Their plan was financially unfeasible; the vote failed, but as a result of the strong sentiment, says Maier, “we made a commitment that there would be a western Mass. office. That in turn is why we have so much interest and commitment to being sure that an appropriate level of service is offered in the western part of the state.”

What is it like today?

“This has been a really tough time for public libraries,” says Noah, “because they were really familiar with their regional library systems. They had that local touch, with nearby, familiar faces, robust services, and a good community feeling. The MLS is

a completely different creature. The staff has been halved, the funding is significantly lower, and obviously the services don’t begin to give what the regional library systems provided.”

But a single unified library system has its advantages, she adds. “There is much greater buying power. When we had six regional systems all going out to bid for small chunks of databases, they weren’t really attractive contracts for vendors. But now it’s the whole state, so the possibilities are quite different, and many of them mean better service for libraries and better service for residents.” Operating as a single entity, the MLS was able to extend the databases that the Boston Public Library had under contract to everyone in the state, which happened in early September.

The next decrease in funding — MBLC is preparing for a probable 7.75 percent cut in the next budget; Maier is trying to protect the MLS as much as possible — will only reduce library services further, of course. Maier is cautiously optimistic about future funding, but the situation for the next fiscal year is distressing.

The western Mass. LIS community does feel out of the loop at times. It was a surprise to several to learn in recent interviews that the WMRLS drivers will be laid off. (MLS is instituting a unified label-less delivery system; transit slips will go away completely and the system will rely on barcodes to direct each item, saving a significant amount of time and a half a million dollars worth of paper, according to Noah.) The immediate reaction is sorrow for their colleagues and renewed fear that the remote libraries with only a handful of weekly deliveries will be relegated to a mail-type delivery service; Noah and Maier stress that the request for proposals with delivery vendors specifically calls for universal truck delivery and 24-hour turnaround, at least in the first contract.

Still, the fears remain. “I have no doubt that they’re trying,” says Sally Caldwell of the Egremont Free Library. “But the communications are just not what they were before. Small libraries particularly need this. I’m a single person running this library” — her library serves one of the smallest towns in the state, with a population of 1,300 — “and it’s very easy to get tunnel vision. I just don’t feel a part as I did a year ago, and I am quite sure that I am speaking for a lot more than just myself.”

“Budget language and commitments from the MBLC and MLS assure that there will be an MLS facility in the western part of the state for the foreseeable future,” Maier promises. “There will be staff, training facilities, and a computer lab, just like today, even if it’s in a different western Massachusetts location. There will be staff who are familiar with libraries, and the needs of libraries in western Mass.” The Waltham office is expected to move to a more central — and less expensive — location near I-495 and I-90.

For Blake, who worked for WMRLS for nine years, the future is in collaboration. “The challenge for everyone working in libraries in Massachusetts is to think beyond their own walls and their own area and start connecting with libraries from all over the state,” she says. “We have to broaden our vision for ourselves and for our libraries, especially with other types of libraries. Public libraries should be thinking of ways to work with their schools in town, for example. We can only become stronger this way.” ▲

GSLIS Announces Bastian as Acting Dean for Spring 2011



Simmons GSLIS is pleased to announce that Professor Jeannette Bastian will be acting dean for the Spring 2011 semester while Dean Michèle Cloonan is on sabbatical. Bastian came to Simmons in 1999 and has been the director of the Archives Management Program since then. Until January 2011, she was co-director of the Dual Degree in History and Archives Management. Prior to coming to Simmons, she was the director of Libraries and Archives and the Territorial Librarian of the U.S.

Virgin Islands. She received her master's in library science from Shippensburg University, a master's degree (M.Phil.) in Caribbean Literature from the University of the West Indies (Jamaica), and her doctoral degree at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Science. She has published extensively in the areas of archives and memory studies. For more information, please see <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/people/faculty/full-time/bastian.php>.

During her sabbatical, Dean Cloonan will be writing two books and working with the University of Delaware and the North Bennet Street School in connection with our new Mellon grant. She will return to Simmons on July 1, 2011.

GSLIS, in partnership with the Department of Art Conservation at the University of Delaware (UD), Winterthur, and the Library of Congress, has received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a three-year pilot education program in library and archives conservation. Preservation Management (LIS 439) and History of the Book (LIS 425) will be offered to students at Simmons and Winterthur/University of Delaware. Advanced students will also take part in a Book Structures Lab that will be held at North Bennet Street School.

Welcome, Prof. Andrew Flinn

GSLIS welcomes Dr. Andrew Flinn, our first Allen Smith visiting scholar, as a visiting professor during the Spring semester. Andrew is a Senior Lecturer and the Director of the Archives and Records Management program in the Department of Information Studies at University College London (UCL).

In addition to giving a public lecture later in the semester as part of his visiting scholar obligations, Flinn will be teaching LIS 433 (Oral History), working with doctoral students, and assisting with the Cultural Heritage internships. His areas of expertise include community archives, memory studies, oral history, and archival issues around truth and reconciliation commissions, political identity, and cultural property. While in the U.S. he plans to continue his research on community archives from an American perspective.

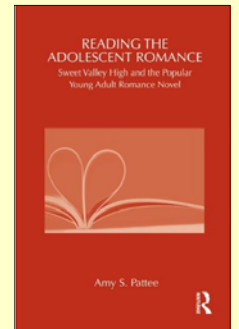
Pattee Publishes; Talks About Why Libraries Won't Perish



GSLIS Prof. Amy Pattee has just had her first book, *Reading the Adolescent Romance: Sweet Valley High and the Popular Young Adult Romance Novel*, published by Routledge. The book is an extension of the work she did to complete her dissertation at UNC Chapel Hill and focuses on Francine Pascal's popular *Sweet Valley High* series of novels for young people. In her book, Pattee demonstrates the ways in which the series was responsive to changes in young adult literary publishing, how it reflected the cultural milieu of the early 1980's

in which it was written, and how it reflected and, to a small degree, challenged some of the literary tropes of romance fiction. Pattee spoke with former readers of *Sweet Valley High*, young women who remember reading and collecting the series as young people, and compared their remembered experiences with the series to the critical re-readings of the novels undertaken by contemporary bloggers, most of whom have a decidedly different opinion of Pascal's novels.

Pattee was also interviewed on WGBH on January 31, 2011, to discuss the future of libraries. To listen, visit <http://www.wgbh.org/programs/The-Emily-Rooney-Show-854>. Go to the section titled "WAYH About The Future Of Libraries" and click on the "listen now" button.



Digital Scrapbook, Now Live



Jean Elizabeth "Bettie" Goodrich's Simmons College yearbook photo

For the past five years, students in Professor Candy Schwartz's digital libraries class (LIS 462) have been using scrapbooks and other materials donated by alumnae to the Simmons Archives as their raw materials with which to build digitized online scrapbooks. The course is so popular that a second section, taught by Assistant Dean Terry Plum, was added this fall. The latest two additions to the collection were launched in early December, bringing the number to seven. Class by digital libraries class, GSLIS students are creating the Notable

Women of Simmons College digital library. The newest scrapbooks can be seen at <http://calliope.simmons.edu/alice/> and <http://gslis.simmons.edu/bettie/>. The collection as a whole can be found at <http://www.simmons.edu/library/archives/exhibits/notable/> and is extensive and searchable.

CEC Career Corner:

Career Programs for Spring 2011

LinkedIn Workshops

February 16, 4-5:30 p.m. and March 15, 1-2:30 p.m.

Join over 85 million professionals. In this hands-on lab, discover how LinkedIn can help you clarify your career goals and be a powerful job-search tool. Learn to search for people, research organizations, get introduced to other professionals for informational interviews, and more. Location: L225. Registration required: Call 617-521-2488 or email careers@simmons.edu.

Marketing Yourself Professionally: The Two-Minute Infomercial

March 22, 4:30-6 p.m.

Learn to communicate your strengths, accomplishments, and career goals powerfully and concisely by creating a verbal marketing piece. Use this infomercial when networking, exploring career options, and interviewing. In addition, you will be prepared to effectively introduce yourself at career fairs. Free and open to all students. Location: M106.

Crash Course for Job-Search-Survival Workshop

March 28, 3:30-5 p.m.

Gather tips on how to leverage yourself during your brief introductions to potential employers. Learn what to do to prepare for career fairs and how to market yourself when speaking with recruiters. Location: M106.

Visit the CEC at our new location: School of Management (SOM) Academic Building, Suite 103. For more information or to register for a CEC event, call 617-521-2488 or email careers@simmons.edu.

Sign up for a Continuing Ed Workshop

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

March 2011

Digitization Strategies, Technologies, and Practices (Mount Holyoke)

Extending Mobile Library Services with QR Codes (Online)
Google Apps: Improving Communication, Productivity, and Searching (Online)

Marketing Your Library (Online)

Secrets of Successful Searching for Business, Public, and Academic Librarians (Online)

Taxonomies and Controlled Vocabularies (Online)

Zotero (Online)

April 2011

Bookmaking for the Beginner 1 (Boston)

Building a Website with WordPress (Mount Holyoke)

Digital Copyright (Online)

Managing the One-Person Library (Online)

Video Tutorials: When, Why, and How to Use Them (Boston)

For the full workshop schedule visit <http://gslis.simmons.edu/ceweb/index.php>.

Snapshot, continued

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It's an opportunity to get your face in front of them, rather than just giving them a piece of paper with your name on it and having them put it in a pile with another couple hundred pieces of paper. The career sessions throughout the semester will give tips on resume writing, resume building, interviewing, and the appropriate dress style for interviews and career fairs. We will bring in speakers and work with GSLIS student organizations to hold panel discussions with employers from different fields. They'll speak about what the job market is like, what they look for when hiring, and what opportunities they might have, and give tips on the best way to get into the type of institution or organization that they work for — those kinds of things.

What about students who don't want to stick around New England after they graduate?

Some people are looking at jobs that are not in New England, or they might want to go abroad. So we're considering having a table with information about different positions across the country and internationally. We're not focusing on those employers. But if we have information about those types of positions, we'll share it with students and they can follow up.

I won't graduate for a while; is it worth it for me to go to the career fair?

I started going to a career fairs when I was a sophomore in college. They're great. You can meet an employer there, hit it off; maybe you like the company so you keep in touch over the year, maybe get an internship out of it, and then who knows. It's never too early to start networking. And even if you get an interview with an institution you're not interested in, it's important to take the interview, because it's good practice. Whether it goes well or not, it doesn't matter. You get to practice your answers in a professional manner. And when you leave, make a note of what they asked and what you said, and tweak your answers. That's an interview under the belt before the one you may really want.

What do you do in your free time? Do you have any?

My free time — that I don't really have. I read a lot, which is normal in the field, but I do like reading. A classic I really love is *The Great Gatsby*. I also like Dan Brown's books. I'm reading *The Watchman's Rattle* by Rebecca Costa, right now, it's nonfiction, and quite good. I like a wide array of books, and although there are some books that I love, I've never read a book twice.

Interview by Sasha Nyary

Visit the Career Education Center

Have a brief question? Need your resume or cover letter reviewed? Stop by for a 15-minute session with a career counselor, or make an appointment with a Career Coach by calling 617-521-2488.

Folks on the Move

Assistant Professor **Naresh Agarwal** presented a paper, "Information Source and its Relationship with the Context of Information Seeking Behavior," at iConference 2011, which was held from February 8-11 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).

GSLIS Adjunct **Raynna Bowlby** will join the Association of Research Libraries as a consultant in Organizational Performance Assessment for Libraries (OPAL). This new consulting service is offered to help academic libraries effectively integrate strategy, planning, and assessment in the institution so that ultimately the library is prepared to demonstrate its value in advancing the organization.

Prof. Emerita **Ching-chih Chen** has started Global Connection and Collaboration, which was recently approved as an international nonprofit organization. In September, she was appointed honorary chair professor at the National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan.



Dean **Michèle Cloonan** attended an event at the White House on December 17, where First Lady Michelle Obama recognized outstanding museums and libraries. The 2010 National Medal for Museum and Library Service was presented by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to five museums and five libraries at the ceremony.

In the photo, from left: **Mary Chute** '92LS, Dean Cloonan, **Laurie Brooks** '75LS. For a list of winners visit the IMLS website: <http://www.imls.gov/news/2010/121710c.shtm>.



On October 18, Dean **Michèle Cloonan** attended the Oath of Office ceremony held for new members of the National Museum and Library Services

Board in Washington, D.C. Taking the oath were GSLIS adjunct **Mary Minow** and GSLIS alum **Winston Tabb** '72LS. The ceremony was officiated by U.S. Archivist **David Ferriero** '74LS. Pictured, from left: David Ferriero '74LS; **Mary Chute** '92LS, IMLS Deputy Director for Libraries; Mary Minow, LibraryLaw.com Consultant; Winston Tabb '72LS, Dean of University Libraries and Museums, The Johns Hopkins University; Michèle Cloonan, Dean of Simmons GSLIS.

Mimi Drake '71LS has published an article "Academic Library Challenges" in the November 2010 issue of *Searcher Magazine*.

Prof. **Ross Harvey** presented a paper at the International Seminar on The Future of Memory: The Digital Archival Heritage. This seminar was held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, November 18-19, 2010. The paper was titled "The Preservation of Our Digital Heritage: Conversion and Migration Strategies."

Profs. **Ross Harvey** and **Martha Mahard** presented a poster at the 6th International Digital Curation Conference "Participation and Practice: Growing the Curation Community through the Data Decade," December 6-8, 2010, in Chicago. The poster's title was "A Virtual Archives and Preservation Curriculum Laboratory at Simmons GSLIS."

Irene Herold, GSLIS Ph.D. student and Dean of Library at Keene State College, was one of 116 women who gathered in Philadelphia in October for "Vision 2020: An American Conversation about Women and Leadership," in anticipation of the centennial celebration of the 19th Amendment.

Professor Emerita **Sheila S. Intner** has recently published several books as co-author or editor. These include: *Beginning Cataloging* (Libraries Unlimited, 2009); *Cataloging Correctly for Kids*, 5th ed. (American Library Association Editions, 2010); *Subject Access to Films and Videos*, 2nd ed. (Libraries Unlimited, 2010); and *Introduction to Technical Services*, 8th ed. (Libraries Unlimited, 2010).

Mott Linn '08LS, Head of Collections Management, Clark University, will be presenting a paper "The Budgetary Importance of Building Relationships" at the national ACRL meeting in Philadelphia on March 31, 2011.

Connie Springer '83LS has published a book, *Positively Ninety: Interviews with Lively Nonagenarians*. The book is based on Springer's traveling exhibition and was supported by a City of Cincinnati Individual Artist's Grant. Published by www.blurb.com, 2010.

Dean and Professor Emeritus **Robert D. Stuart** and Professor of Practice **Maureen Sullivan** have co-authored the book *Developing Library Leaders*, published by Neal-Schuman, 2010.

GSLIS student **Stacie Williams** recently had a proposal accepted for a presentation at Indiana University at their "Preserving Our Cultural Heritage" conference in March, 2011. The topic of her presentation is the digitization of the Jim Henson archives and how it continues Henson's cultural legacy.

Andromeda Yelton '10LS was recently featured in *American Libraries Direct* for her work with the Buy India a Library project: <http://buyindiaalibrary.wordpress.com/>. The project was inspired by a Twitter discussion between Yelton and three other librarians, who are now on a quest to raise money through the British charity Good Gifts Catalogue (<http://goodgifts.org/>) to cover the cost of furniture, books, and two years of a librarian's salary.

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

VIII Trejo Institute Conference



On November 5-6, GSLIS hosted the VIII Trejo Institute conference, “Engaging and Serving Hispanic/Latino and Spanish-Speaking Communities: Best Practices, Challenges, and Strategies.” The conference was well attended by

Simmons faculty and students, as well as librarians from across the Northeast. Conference attendees were welcomed by Ninfa Trejo, the President of the Trejo Foster Foundation Board, Assistant Professor Howard Rodriguez-Mori, the Institute Chair, Molly Raphael, president-elect of the American Library Association, Tess Tobin, the former president of REFORMA Northeast Chapter, and Dean Michèle V. Cloonan.

Camila Alire, the former president of the American Library Association, Rodriguez-Mori, and Loida García-Febo, coordinator of special services at the Queens Library in New York spoke on the changing demographics of the United States and the Latino population itself, and how these changes inform the kinds of outreach, programming, and services libraries undertake, with particular focus on the successes of the Queens Library. The presentations also addressed the effect on multilingual and multicultural services in today’s atmosphere of libraries constantly striving to demonstrate their value. The presenters underscored the importance of innovative solutions, community partnerships, and rigorous assessments in this economic climate.



To close the conference, the sponsoring library and information schools collaboratively hosted an open discussion on strategies for Hispanic student recruitment and retention, and on giving all students increased service opportunities.

In addition to GSLIS, the Trejo Institute was sponsored by Southern Connecticut State University Information and Library Science Department, the New England Library Association, REFORMA Northeast Chapter, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, REFORMA, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Science, and the Trejo Foster Foundation.

Photos, from top: Em Claire Knowles, Ninfa Trejo, Camila Alire, Howard Rodriguez-Mori, Michèle Cloonan, Loida García-Febo; Howard Rodriguez-Mori; Millie Gonzales.

February-March Events

Wednesday March 2 and Monday, April 11, Tech Lab Workshop: Word 2007. The GSLIS Tech Lab in Boston is starting its workshop series with a free workshop on Word 2007, Wednesday, March 2, from 3-4:30 p.m. and on Monday, April 11, from 1-2:30 p.m. Do you feel uncomfortable using Word 2007? Do you feel frustrated when trying to create, edit, or modify your Word documents? This workshop will explore the main features of Word 2007 and point out the basics that students need to know to improve their papers. We will also play around with text and reveal the most popular “clicks.” This workshop is intended for people with little or no experience using Word 2007, or people with questions about it/ Please register with Eventbrite through one of these links:

(3/2 session) <http://sp11w01.eventbrite.com>

(4/11 session) <http://sp11w02.eventbrite.com>

If you have any questions please email the GSLIS workshop series at workser@simmons.edu. A listing of all tech lab workshops in Boston can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/workser>.

GSLIS Book Club, Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5, Boston campus. GSLIS West date TBA. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, assorted librarians — anyone associated with GSLIS — are invited. You don’t even have to read the book; just come ready to participate. The book for March is *The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun* by Gretchen Rubin. 12:45-2 p.m., P207.

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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Opinions expressed by contributors to the newsletter are not necessarily the views of the newsletter, GSLIS, or Simmons College.

Copy deadline for the March issue is Tuesday, February 22, 2011.