An **iOpening** Celebration!

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

The School of Information Studies at Syracuse University celebrated the completion of custom renovations to its new home in Hinds Hall during its iOpening on Saturday, May 10. With a stroke of a wand—or rather a wireless Wii remote controller in true iSchool fashion— the virtual red ribbon snipped apart from the image of Hinds Hall and burst into confetti on the large flat-panel LCD monitor. This was not your average ribbon-cutting ceremony.

More than 1,000 people attended the event in Hinds Hall. The majority watched the ceremony—again in true iSchool form— via a live videostream being fed through the Internet and onto LCD monitors, computer screens, and projection screens. The rest listened to the speakers from the three-story student lounge atrium, where the presentation occurred.

(Above) Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy talks about life in Hinds Hall with visitors during the iOpening festivities. (Near left) Herb Brinberg H'89, chairman of the iSchool's Board of Advisors, shares a bit of the school's history and leadership during the formal remarks portion of the celebration. (Far left) Guests in the student lounge atrium enjoy one of several buffets set up throughout Hinds Hall.

"I think this is the most exciting day in the history of the school," said Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy in her opening remarks. "Today's the day we celebrate our excellence—excellence as leaders in the information field. We've made our mark as a school on the campus and on the world."

In fact, for some, the celebration of the new building took on symbolic meaning as the recognition of information as a serious discipline and a booming profession. "This event reflects on the school's increasing relevance to and integration with other academic disciplines here at SU," said featured speaker Eric F. Spina, vice chancellor and provost. "For many years, the school was housed wherever we could find space—almost as if we didn't really know where information studies fit in…This new home, in a completely renovated building for the iSchool, is the physical testament to the coming of age of information studies as a discipline, and also the coming of age of the iSchool itself."

Herbert Brinberg H'89, chairman of the iSchool's Board of Advisors who has worked with all of the deans since the school changed its name in 1974, put the celebration into a historical context. He highlighted the

"For many years, the school was housed wherever we could find space …This new home, in a completely renovated building for the iSchool, is the physical testament to the coming of age of information studies as a discipline, and also the coming of age of the iSchool itself."

—Eric F. Spina, vice chancellor and provost

DEAN'S COLUMN

Celebrating our Successes

What a glorious few days in May for the iSchool! I wish you all could have been here to celebrate with us! But since that wasn't possible, this issue of *Home Page* shares with you the pride, joy, and accomplishments of those days.

Our three days started off on Friday with a meeting of the school's freshly re-named Board of Advisors, a name that more accurately reflects the key advisory role the board plays. (A list of our prestigious board members can be found online at *http://ischool.syr.edu/About/board.aspx*). This was the best attended board meeting ever, as many members made an extra effort to attend in order to celebrate the iOpening. The board serves the important role of providing us with the richest insight and fullest vision of the information field in which we as a school intend to make our mark. We had an excellent meeting with very active discussion and feedback on our plans for the iSchool. I thank each of the board members and look forward to our next steps on the many ideas we discussed.

First on Saturday was our Convocation during which 80 undergrads, 300 master's degree students, and four Ph.D.s were individually awarded their diplomas. We were honored both to have our Board of Advisors formally process in academic attire with the faculty for the first time — and to have our first external convocation speaker — Frank Bisignano, chief administrative officer for JPMorgan Chase, the iSchool's partner in developing a new world-class curriculum on global financial services information technology.

Next, the faculty, Board of Advisors, new graduates, their families, alumni, and friends processed from Schine Student Center to our glorious, newly completed home in Hinds Hall for the official iOpening. We hosted more than 1,000 guests throughout the building, showing off our well-outfitted computer labs, case classrooms, research centers, collaborative rooms, and faculty and administrative offices. We took great pride in showing off our named spaces that have been generously sponsored by friends and alumni in honor of their family members or fondly remembered faculty. You can view these spaces on an interactive map at *http://ischool.syr.edu.iopening/map.html*.

The official iOpening ceremony is viewable for your appreciation and celebration on our web site (*ischool.syr.edu*). It was truly memorable as it celebrated our long history of remarkable deans, including Bob Taylor and Don Marchand, both of whom joined us, and honored our dear Ray von Dran, to whom we are immensely indebted for his vision and taste in designing our new home.

I hope that many of you will come to visit us in Hinds Hall, where we are truly making a strong and positive impression on our campus, our community, and the world at large.

Elizabeth D. Liddy

Elizabeth D. Liddy
Dean

Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy and Associate Professor Jian Qin, director of the iSchool's nationally ranked Certificate of Advanced Study in Digital Libraries, were featured presenters at the 4th Joint Advanced Workshop on Digital Libraries in Shanghai May 18 through 30. The workshop, co-organized by the School of Information Studies and the China National Library of Science, gave the more than 50 participants—mostly Chinese library directors and mid-level managers—the latest training in instructional methods and digital library research and development.

Faculty, Staff, Student NEWS

Where Did You Learn That?... From My School Librarian

RUTH V. SMALL

As we marked Children's Book Week in May, we were reminded of all of those people who help our children discover the magic of the written word and experience the joy of reading. One of the most important is the school librarian. School librarians introduce students to books and other reading materials that stretch their minds and their imaginations. A study that we conducted here at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies (iSchool) indicates an almost 10 point higher English Language Arts (ELA) test score among fourth-grade students whose schools had certified librarians over students in schools without certified librarians.

Yet, it may be surprising to learn that these essential educators do not fall under state mandated positions. In fact, in the early 1990s during an economic downturn, I witnessed what happens at the local level when the state doesn't mandate elementary schools to have librarians. They get cut. When the economy rebounded, some of the librarian positions were restored. Then the cuts happened again in 1998.

Ruth V. Small

It didn't take long for school administrators to realize that the quality of a school library, like a classroom, is only as good as the educational professional within it. Unfortunately, these cuts have lasting effects on the education of young children, who are at their most rapid and intense period of reading development and language acquisition. Although these positions were restored in local school districts, 20 percent of New York State's elementary library positions still remain filled with non-certified school personnel, parent volunteers or, sometimes, no one, often in the poorest urban and rural communities where they are needed the most.

Research conducted in 19 different U.S. states has demonstrated that the presence of libraries and well-trained, certified librarians

has a positive impact on student achievement. The latest of these studies, conducted by our research team at the iSchool at Syracuse, focused on the impact of New York State's school libraries and librarians on student achievement and motivation.

This research, funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum & Library Services, found a significant difference in the ELA standardized test scores of elementary school students who were in schools with certified librarians compared to those in schools without certified librarians, even when the level of poverty of a school district was taken into account. In other words, both well-resourced and poorer-resourced school districts need certified librarians.

In addition, these professional educators are more likely than their non-certified counterparts to develop school library collections that reflect greater diversity and that support the general curriculum for classroom learning. In short, school library programs benefit both teachers and students.

Our data include countless examples of the profound impact elementary librarians have on young children's reading development and habits. For example, a fifth-grader from Utica described how his school librarian helped him with his research project. "Last year, my librarian helped me with a report I was doing. She helped me find information that was essential to my project. She helped me organize my information in a way I could understand. I got an A+ on that project thanks to my librarian." A fifth-grade girl from the Oneonta area described how her librarian helped her discover some new reading materials. "I was always reading the same types of books and wanted to find something else to read. The librarian showed me a whole new section with different authors and interesting books. I felt like there were new choices for me."

This impact stretches far beyond helping students enjoy the reading experience to introducing students to new technologies and teaching them important 21st century skills that are critical not only to their academic success but also to their future work life, such as evaluating the information they find on the web, learning the importance of respecting copyright by citing their sources, and identifying and using the highest quality resources when completing a homework assignment or class project. For example, when we asked fifth graders what kinds of things their librarian has taught them, one fifth grader from Staten Island told us, "(My librarian) helped me learn how to check if information is reliable and right. You can't believe everything on the Internet." A fifth grader from the Rochester area stated, "I learned how to do a podcast (from my librarian). I loved the experience."

So, the next time you visit your child's school, be sure to thank your school librarian for enriching your child's learning through reading and research. And, while you're at it, make sure your legislator knows how important well-trained, certified elementary librarians are in the education of all children in New York State. ●

Ruth V. Small is a Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor in the School of Information Studies and director of the Center for Digital Literacy at Syracuse University.

FACULTY NEWS & VIEWS

Faculty, Staff, Student NEWS

SUSAN BONZI, associate professor, was named to the new position of director of instructional quality at the iSchool, effective July 1. She is responsible for developing a coaching program of skilled teaching for all instructors in the iSchool.

Susan Bonzi

She is focusing her efforts on problem-based learning practices and oversees course design and learning assessment. She works with student teams who provide feedback to improve learning. She will continue to teach courses as well.

She presented on undergraduate education at the 2008 iConference at the University of California—Los Angeles, and gave a talk at the iSchool at the University of Washington. She spent her spring sabbatical visiting the information schools at Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Drexel University, RIT, and Rutgers University and researching their undergraduate programs. She is using what she learned to enhance the undergraduate program at Syracuse.

KEVIN CROWSTON, professor, served as a Shidler Visiting Scholar in the Department of Information Technology Management at the University of Hawai'i's Shidler College of Business in January and February, and as a visiting scholar at the Center for Work, Technology, and Organizations in the Department of Management Science and Industrial Engineering at Stanford University from March through May.

Kevin Crowston

Crowston is an international professor on a three-year $2.4 million Regione Puglia Grant "ICT Supporting Logistic Services: A Model of Organized Market (L'OrMaICT)."

He published with B. Katzy "Competency Rallying for Technical Innovation: The Case of the Virtuelle Fabrik" in *Technovation* (in press); with R. Wigand and J. Howison "eSocialScience for Free/Libre Open Source Software Researchers" in *Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on e-Social Science*, Manchester, UK, June 18–20; with I. Fagnot "The Motivational Arc of Massive Virtual Collaboration" in *Proceedings of the IFIP WG 9.5 Working Conference on Virtuality and Society: Massive Virtual Communities*, Lüneberg, Germany, July 1-2, 2008.

He presented with M. Conklin and J. Howison "Towards a Data and Workflow Collaboratory for Research on Free and Open Source Software and its Development," and with R. Heckman, N. Li, and M. Scialdone "Group Maintenance Behaviors in Self-Organizing Distributed Teams" at the 2008 iConference, Los Angeles, Calif., February 27-29.

He also taught a two-day course on eScience to engineering Ph.D. students in April at Scuola Interpoltecnica Di Dottorato in Bari, Italy; was a senior faculty member at the Inaugural Research Institute for the Science of Socio-Technical Systems in Ann Arbor, Mich., in July; and was a lecturer for the Advanced International Summer School, Ostuni, Italy, in July.

MARTHA GARCIA-MURILLO, associate professor and director of the M.S. in Telecommunications and Network Management program, was named Jeffrey Katzer Professor of the Year.

Martha Garcia-Murillo

She edited with M. Wholers the upcoming book, *EnREDos*, from McGraw Hill. The book focuses on the

iSchool News Briefs

Professor Lee McKnight Receives Grant to Support his Wireless Grids Work

Lee McKnight of the iSchool and Wireless Grids Corporation (WGC) was awarded a $75,000 Grant for Growth by the Metropolitan Development Association (MDA) to support the SU Wireless Grids Lab. The funds will be used to support of the beta test and evaluation of Innovaticus, Wireless Grids' edgeware application for sharing hardware, software, and content resources. The company was also a Top 10 finalist in the MDA's annual $100k Emerging Business Competition.

CNLP Appoints New Interim Director

The Center for Natural Language Processing (CNLP) has named Professor Kevin Crowston interim director. He replaces Assistant Research Professor Anne Diekema who has served in the interim position since June 2007 and who recently accepted a tenure-track position at Utah State University.

Since its founding in 1999, CNLP has been dedicated to advancing the development of human-like language understanding systems for government, commercial, and consumer applications.

Crowston has been working with CNLP on Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) projects and has been very successful in obtaining external funding for his research projects. He currently has two FLOSS projects and a third project, "How can document-genre metadata improve information-access for large digital collections," being funded by the National Science Foundation.

Crowston will head the center until a permanent director is hired.

IBM Selects Professors David and Susan Dischiave as Enterprise Systems Educators of the Month

Professors of practice David Dischiave, director of the M.S. in information management program, and Susan Dischiave were recognized as the IBM Enterprise Systems Educators of the Month for May.

The IBM Enterprise Systems Educator of the Month is given to college or university professors across the globe, who in working with IBM, have demonstrated a long-term commitment to teaching students mainframe and large enterprise skills.

Together, the Dischiaves realized that students were lacking the ability and skills necessary to solve complex transactions. In order to close the gap in the students'

knowledge base, they launched the Enterprise Technologies course in fall 2007, which focused on how to solve large-scale computing problems.

For the course, the Dischiaves have access to a virtual machine (VM) on a System z server housed at the IBM Innovation Center in Dallas. For the second semester in a row, the class was enrolled to full capacity. As a result of the great success the program has seen thus far, they plan to expand it with four to five more courses specifically related to the mainframe.

University of Wisconsin Honors the Late Raymond F. von Dran

The University of Wisconsin's School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) Alumni Association selected Raymond F. von Dran as the recipient of its 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award. The SLIS Alumni Association took the unusual step of making this award posthumously since the process of conferring the award was well under way when word was received of his death.

His wife, Gisela von Dran, accepted the award on his behalf during the School of Library and Information Studies Commencement ceremonies in Madison, Wisconsin, in May.

Raymond F. von Dran received a master's degree in library science and French intellectual history and a Ph.D. in information science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1971 and 1976, respectively. He died July 23, 2007, while visiting in New York City.

The award is conferred upon an alumna or alumnus of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin - Madison in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. In making the award, the jury considers service to the profession, leadership in education of librarians, improvement in library techniques or management, and extending library services through cooperation.

WISE Receives ADEC National Award for Excellence in Distance Education

The Web-based Information Science Education Consortium (WISE) has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) National Award for Excellence in Distance Education. The award, which was established in 2000, represents one of ADEC's most esteemed honors and helps fulfill the consortium's mission of increasing international awareness of the critical role of distance delivery in higher education.

challenges that regulators and the private sector are facing as a result of convergence. With I. MacInnes, she published a book chapter, "An Exploration of the Use of Games in Virtual Worlds for Online Education," based on a policy simulation developed for an information policy class. They also presented a paper on a similar topic at the 2008 iConference at UCLA. She also published for Latin American regulators a short piece, "Interconexión y Convergencia," which appeared in the *L@tin.tel*. No. 11, April 2008.

She was the organizer and founder of *RECALSI*, the first information systems journal in Spanish under the Association of Information Systems (AIS). As an invited speaker, she presented her paper "Wireless Broadband Access for Latin America" to a newly formed group of Latin American researchers. In this meeting, she was selected as the program chair for a new conference that seeks to disseminate research about information policy in the Americas.

She completed two years as program chair for the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference and was named to the Board of Directors.

MICHELLE L. KAARST-BROWN, associate professor, initiated and coordinated the iQuilt Initiative as part of iFaire, MayFest, and the official new building celebration for the School of Information Studies. This commemorative quilt involved more than 150 participants and has a finished size of approximately 76 by 88 inches.

Michelle L. Kaarst-Brown

Two of her papers were reprinted this year in two different books: "Understanding an Organization's View of the CIO: The Role of Assumptions about IT" (originally published in *MISQ Executive*, 2005, 4:2) and "More on Myth, Magic and Metaphor: Cultural Insights into the Management of Information Technology in Organizations" with D. Robey of Georgia State (originally published in *Information Technology and People*, 1999, 12:2). These articles were reprinted in *Global IS: The Implications of Culture for IS Management*, edited by D. Leidner and T. Kayworth (Elsevier) and in *Major Currents in Information Systems* (6 volume set) edited by L. Willcocks and A. Lee (Sage).

Two new papers were presented at the OASIS workshop at the International Conference on Information Systems in Montreal in December. "To 'E' or not to 'E': That is the Question" was presented with A. Kwiatkowska and Q. Li. This longitudinal research focuses on small business survival and strategies with or without a web site. She and J. Birkland presented "Older Adults and Technology: A Conceptual Framework and Future Directions," which reviewed the status of research on information systems and the older user.

Faculty, Students Make Significant Scholarly Contributions at 2008 iConference

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

From gaming and ethics to medical informatics and security, faculty and students from the School of Information Studies shared their expertise on a wide range of subjects at the 2008 iConference at the University of California—Los Angeles Feb. 27 through March 1. School of Information Studies Dean and Trustee Professor Elizabeth D. Liddy delivered the opening keynote address, "NLP Research and the iSchool Vision."

In her address, she discussed how an abundance of information today consumes an overwhelming amount of resources. "We're facing a serious problem of too much information," Liddy said. "In this world, it takes too much time and attention to find the right information." Liddy described how she and her colleagues at SU are helping to make search engines and similar technologies smarter. Liddy concluded her speech by announcing the iCaucus's creation of an award in the late-dean Raymond F. von Dran's honor (See related article, "iDeans Establish Award").

Of the 30 posters by Ph.D. students selected to be presented, 10 were from the iSchool at Syracuse. Four other Ph.D. students from Syracuse led workshops, and 11 faculty members from the iSchool presented in nine break-out sessions throughout the conference. A summary of some of their work can be found at our blog, *http://ischoolsyracuse.blogspot.com/*.

The 2008 iConference was sponsored by Microsoft and organized by the iCaucus, a group of information schools from the United States and Canada dedicated to exploring the relationship of information, technology, and

Ph.D. student Ben Addom goes over his poster presentation with a peer at the 2008 iConference at UCLA in February.

people, and to advancing the understanding of the role of information in human endeavors. For more information, visit *http://ischools.org*.

About the iConference

The first annual iConference, "Bridging Disciplines to Confront Grand Challenges," was held in 2005 at the College of Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State University. Approximately 250 participants from 18 information schools sought to define what constitutes an information school, how the study of information is a unique field, and what the grand challenges for field are. Next year's conference will be hosted by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. ●

iDeans Establish Award in Ray von Dran's Honor

To conclude her keynote address at the 2008 iConference, Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy announced the creation of the Ray von Dran Award for Excellence in iSchool Community Leadership by the deans who participate in the iCaucus. Established in honor of the late Dean Raymond F. von Dran, the award will honor individuals who have contributed in exceptional ways to shaping the future of the academic information community.

The award carries a $5,000 cash prize, a commemorative plaque, and the privilege of delivering an honorary lecture at the iConference, at which the recipient will be recognized.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by visiting *http://ischools.org*. Members of the iCaucus will review nominations and make an award when appropriate, although not necessarily annually.

About Raymond F. von Dran

Dean von Dran broke new ground throughout his career to help bring library and information science schools into the Information Age. A founding member of the I-Schools Group (now the iCaucus)—a national consortium of academic institutions focused on the relationship between information and people—von Dran was among a core group of visionaries who helped define the newly emerging academic

field of information studies, examining how information, in all its forms, expands human capabilities. He led the iSchool at Syracuse through a 12-year period of unprecedented productivity (1995-2007), during which the number of faculty and students nearly tripled, sponsored research increased five-fold, and four of the school's programs earned top-four rankings from *U.S. News and World Report*, including the top-ranked master's in information systems. Syracuse often served as a model for other iSchools to emulate, and von Dran advised them on how to establish a collegial and productive workplace. ●

Faculty, Staff, Student NEWS

A third paper led by J. Rubleske and titled "Towards of Model of Determinants of Web Services Platform Adoption" was presented at Web 2007, in Montreal in December.

LEE MCKNIGHT presented "'Convergence Economics: Divergence Growth Strategies" at Future of the Internet Economy, a conference on convergence sponsored by the Korean Government's National Internet Development Agency in conjunction with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Ministerial Meeting June 17-18, in Seoul, Korea. He also joined in a roundtable with other speakers such as European Union Commissioner Vivian Redding.

Lee McKnight

McKnight also spoke and demonstrated his wireless software and technologies at the WiMAX Brazil Conference June 23-24 in Sao Paulo, where plans to establish a Brazilian subsidiary of Syracuse-based Wireless Grids Corporation, operating from the incubator at top-ranked University of Brasilia, was announced. In addition, a University of Brasilia Wireless Grids Lab will be established, linking the technology and arts, law, and business schools there, both with Wireless Grids Brazil and with SU's Wireless Grids Lab.

He has also agreed to work with IST- Lisbon, the Instituto Superior Tecnico, the top Portuguese technical university, and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) on research on next generation network modeling and policy research studies. This work is sponsored by Portugal Telecom and the Portuguese regulator, and offers exchange opportunities for iSchool-affiliated post-docs, faculty, and students, both with CMU and IST-Lisbon.

MEGAN OAKLEAF, assistant professor, published "Dangers and Opportunities: A Conceptual Map of Information Literacy Assessment Tools" in the July 2008 issue of *Portal: Libraries and the*

Megan Oakleaf

Academy. She also published a book chapter in the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) publication *Information Literacy Programs in the Digital Age: Educating College and University Students Online* titled "Planning, Building, and Assessing an Online Information Literacy Tutorial: The LOBO Experience."

Oakleaf delivered the keynote address, titled "Shifting the Focus: Lesson Plans for Learning" at the SUNY-Fredonia Library Instruction Seminar, and a keynote, "'Once More Unto the

Breach': Closing the Gap Between High School and Higher Education" at the New England Association of Independent School Libraries at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts.

Oakleaf presented a workshop about the assessment of information literacy learning outcomes at the New York University Faculty Resources Network seminar "Library Assessment: Measuring and Documenting the Library's Contribution to Academic Success." She also presented two workshops titled "Charting the Course: Teaching & Assessing Student Information Skills in Major-Designated Classes" and "Uncharted Territory: Exploring the Information Literacy Assessment Landscape" at Eastern Connecticut State University. In addition, Oakleaf was invited to be an inaugural member of the newly created ACRL Assessment Committee.

RUTH V. SMALL, Meredith Professor, delivered the keynote address, "The Impact of New York State's School Libraries on Student Achievement and Motivation" at the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES

Ruth Small

annual administrator breakfast on June 6. Small also presented a two-hour workshop, "Having an IMPACT on Information Literacy: Designing Lessons That Motivate You and Your Students" to school librarians.

She was a keynote speaker and panel member at the inaugural conference of the Interdisciplinary Center for Leadership, Technology, Integration, and Critical Literacies (I-CELTIC) at Florida State University. Following her presentation, "Syracuse University's Center for Digital Literacy: A Model of Interdisciplinary Collaboration," she met with I-CELTIC affiliated faculty and students to discuss potential future collaboration opportunities.

Small's op-ed, "Where Did You Learn That? … From My School Librarian" was published in the Syracuse *Post-Standard* on May 11. She and doctoral student Katie Parker served on the New York Library Association Task Force on Information Literacy Standards, which created the first New York State Information Literacy Standards.

She is principal investigator on a research study "Facilitating the Innovation Process: Motivational Influences and Information Requirements," funded by Enitiative/Kaufmann Foundation.

OZGUR YILMAZEL, assistant research professor, had his dissertation published as a book, *NLP-Driven Document Representations for Text Categorizations*, by VDM Verlag in Germany.

PING ZHANG, associate professor, was a Visiting Scholar in the School of Management at Fu Dan University, Shanghai, China during June-July 2008. Her paper with Ph.D. student Na Li received the best paper award for "Positive Affect and

Ping Zhang

Negative Affect in IT Adoption: A Longitudinal Study" at the 6th pre-ICIS Annual HCI workshop, Montreal, Canada, December 2007.

She authored with W. Ke "Motivations in OSS Communities: The Mediating Role of Effort Intensity and Goal Commitment" for the *International Journal of Electronic Commerce*; with S. Aikman and H. Sun "Two Types of Attitudes in ICT Acceptance and Use" for the *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*; and with H. Sun "Affective Factors and their Mediating Effects in User Technology Acceptance" for the *Journal of American Society for Information Science and Technology*.

She published the book chapter, "Principles for Designing Motivating Information and Communication Technology," in M. Avital, R. Bolland, and D. Cooperrider (eds.), *Designing Information and Organizations with a Positive Lens*, a volume of the *Advances in Appreciative Inquiry* series, Elsevier. 2008.

She authored the following conference papers with W. Ke "Motivations for Participating in Open Source Software Communities: Roles of Psychological Needs and Altruism," *Proceedings of the Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems* (PACIS), July 2008, SuZhou, China; with H. Sun "Online Seller Trust and Use of Online Auction Marketplaces," *Proceedings of the Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems* (PACIS), July 2008, SuZhou, China; Y. Kim "Web Advertising: What Do We Know about its Acceptance and Impacts? A Meta-Analysis of the Literature," *Proceedings of the Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems* (PACIS), July 2008, SuZhou, China; and with R. Polillo "The Importance of the Management Perspective in the Human-Computer Interaction Field," *Proceedings of CHI Extended Abstracts*, ACM, Florence, Italy, April 5-10.

Zhang was appointed senior editor of the *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*. She will serve in this capacity from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2011. She was the featured volunteer for "AIS Volunteer Spotlight" in the June 2008 issue. She is among the first five featured volunteers by AIS (*http://home.aisnet.org/*).

5th Annual E*LIT Competition Recognizes Students for Literacy and Technology Projects

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

Fourth-graders at Bellevue and McKinley-Brighton Elementary schools in the Syracuse City School District recently undertook an assignment to research the life or works of children's author Uma Krishnaswami. What they turned in wasn't a typical fourth-grader's report on the writer or her home country of India. In fact, they did award-winning work.

The Bellevue and McKinley-Brighton fourth-grade students, guided by their library media specialists and classroom teachers, collaborated on their group project, "Discovering the Colorful World of India Together," using wikis, podcasts, e-mails, posts to web sites, and other Internet-based communications. They listened to traditional Indian music and tried out traditional Indian dance steps. The results of their efforts and learning can be seen in multiple, information-rich web pages at *http://mcbell.pbwiki.com/*.

These students took home first place in the May 16 Enriching Literacy through Information Technology (E*LIT) Competition, sponsored by the Syracuse University Center for Digital Literacy. The E*LIT awards ceremony was kicked off with a presentation by Krishnaswami, who spoke to more than 400 children, teachers, and administrators from Central New York elementary and middle schools in Grant Auditorium on the SU campus.

The E*LIT Competition is intended to help children (K-12) in Central New York and beyond understand the synergy between technology and literacy. This event has been highly successful in motivating children to read, work collaboratively, and use technology in productive ways.

This year, participants created literacy projects using a variety of mediums based on the life of Indian-American writer Krishnaswami and showcasing a minority perspective. These projects were judged based on such criteria as originality, depth and breadth of project content, spelling/grammar, and use of technology.

All six participating schools received a set of autographed books by Krishnaswami, the 1997 Skipping Stones Award and the 2004 Paterson Prize for Books and Young People recipient. Winning teams received technology packages from Microsoft and Encarta and equipment such as recorders and headsets for their schools.

"We select authors who reflect the culture of an underrepresented group because we want all kids to know that they, too, can become authors and that they have a story to tell," said Professor Ruth V. Small, director of the Center for Digital Literacy and competition organizer.

Krishnaswami has authored more than 20 children's books, including *Bringing Asha Home*, *Chachaji's Cup*, *The Closet Ghosts*, *Naming Maya*, and *Holi*. She read to the students from her soon-to-be-released book, *Many Windows*.

Like authors in previous years, Krishnaswami was impressed with the students' projects and complimented their fine work. She

also explained how writing was much like caring for a pet—both need to be fed and nurtured.

For many, the most important part of the E*LIT Competition is the chance to come to the SU campus and hear personally from the author they've studied for months.

"We believe it's important for the student participants to come to Syracuse University and witness what it's like on a college campus," Small said. "For many, this is their first visit. We receive extremely positive feedback from principals, librarians, and teachers about this project. They are so excited to participate in both the competition and the event. The kids do a phenomenal job." ●

Professor Ruth V. Small (far right) and children's author Uma Krishnaswami (immediately left of Small) worked with several graduate students from the Center for Digital Literacy on the 5th annual E*LIT Competition.

iSchool Hosts Swiss eGov Students

ALETA BURCHYSKI, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The School of Information Studies at Syracuse University was one of eight universities around the globe partnering with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne (EPFL) to offer an Executive Master's degree in eGovernance. The iSchool hosted 20 eGov students in May. Educational seminars and symposia were held at Syracuse University's Main Campus, Lubin House in New York City, and Greenberg House in Washington, D.C.

Based in Lausanne, the program takes mid-career professionals from around the world to North and South America, Europe, and Asia in two or three-week modules to explore the intersection of government services with information technology, and the broader issues in eGovernance. "Normally eGovernment degrees are focused entirely on government services," says Professor Milton Mueller, director of the iSchool's Convergence Center and the local program director. "But eGovernance takes a broader perspective that says, 'Let's not only look at that, let's look at how information and communication technologies are redefining the way the world works.'"

As the program's American partner, the University had an incredible opportunity to showcase its faculty and resources as well as build its global profile. Associate Professor Derrick L. Cogburn, who brought the students to the National Science Foundation in Washington last year and lectured on cyberinfrastructure in Syracuse this year, appreciated the opportunity the University had to share its resources with the eGov program. "We want the students who participate to have the best education experience

possible," says Cogburn, director of the iSchool's Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities (Cotelco). "We want the students to be exposed to the cutting-edge technology, policy, and organization ideas. And we can do that. The faculty assembled here are just world-class."

As well as providing the 20 master's degree students with a unique education, the program plays an important role in connecting Syracuse University with students and universities worldwide. Mueller worked with iSchool staff members Barbara Settel and Kathy Allen to draw Syracuse students and alumni into contact with the eGov students through programming in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Syracuse. The event in D.C. included the symposium "Cyber-Infrastructure and e-Government: The Perspective of Government CIOs" and brought together experts in e-government and cyber-infrastructure to explore how their ideas relate to the practical choices that must be made by U.S. federal government agency chief information officers. The panel of federal CIOs included iSchool alumni Scott Bernard G'98, John Skudlarek G'05, Michael Carleton G'97, and Craig S. Boke G'01.

"It's important that Syracuse University raise its profile in Europe," Mueller says. "This puts us as a part of a global network of universities. At the graduate level, especially, the market for educational services is becoming extremely globalized. So we need to show that we have a global presence, and we need to be able to deliver an educational program that is capable of attracting the interest of people around the world." ●

HOME PAGE

Libraries 2.0: Gaming, Coffee-Drinking, and Slumber-Partying Among the Stacks

TIMEKA WILLIAMS, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gone are the days of being "shhh'd" in the library. The assumption used to be that libraries were a quiet space where books were a protected species, kept away from food, bright light, and noise. As library users have come to expect a more social environment when interacting with information, libraries have adapted to the point where the quiet spaces are now the exception, and users wishing to quietly read find themselves in their own spaces behind protective glass. The public library has become a noisy and social space, serving as a community hub, and many have turned to gaming as a library program that can draw in groups who traditionally have not been heavy library users.

Libraries across the country are using board, card, and video games like Dance Dance Revolution—in which players follow illuminated arrows that tell them which way to move their feet—to service patrons in a whole new way, and School of Information Studies (iSchool) Professor Scott Nicholson is one of the major players investigating this transformation through the Library Game Lab of Syracuse (*gamelab.syr.edu*). Nicholson, whose research tools include a Nintendo Wii, is excited about the new attitude in libraries that is sweeping the nation.

"Libraries have changed in the past 10 years," Nicholson says. "Libraries are about a lot more than books; they are focused on services for users supported by information related resources. The focus has shifted from the item to the service."

Members of Professor Scott Nicholson's Library Gaming Lab (in white lab coats) assist Central New York students on gaming initiatives during the University's annual MayFest celebration in April. Students tried out everything from board games to popular video games such as Guitar Hero and Dance, Dance Revolution.

Nicholson, who says he's been an avid gamer for more than 30 years, was one of the first academics to approach the American Library Association (ALA) with the idea of studying gaming and libraries. "I've been a member of [ALA] ever since I was in library school in the mid-90s and I've been engaged in many different committees in the organization, but making contacts in the gaming space was a new thing for me," he says. "At that point, there were very few other researchers in library and information science schools interested in games, so the ALA is now interested in partnering with someone who is ready to take the issue of gaming seriously."

A Game of Logical Progression

Nicholson was so passionate about gaming, in fact, that he began working and researching before getting a dime of support. He found this opportunity as a way to merge his personal life with his professional life. With the help of students, he got in touch with 400 libraries and found that 75 percent of them already had some type of gaming program in place. "It's actually been going on for decades," he says. "It had not been video games though. It has been computer games and tabletop games—chess and Scrabble and things like that. This gaming phenomenon is more about expanding a service that already exists in three quarters of public libraries, rather than something new."

Libraries have based their decisions to incorporate gaming on the changing desires of their patrons. "Gaming is now becoming a dominant media force," Nicholson says. "We have many current patrons and young patrons who see gaming as an important force in their lives. Being relevant to the information needs of patrons is vital to what libraries do. Public libraries have supported recreational reading, music, and movies; gaming is an extension of that service."

By incorporating gaming, Nicholson says libraries are able to achieve four main goals: entertain patrons, attract new patrons, provide something new for current patrons, and serve as a community hub. "Gaming brings different demographic groups together," Nicholson said at a 2007 ALA conference. "It improves social relations and encourages users to return."

Space Invaders?
Or Evolutionary Necessity?

The addition of a variety of new services, from cafés to game rooms, addresses the need for libraries to redefine their space in the public sector, according to iSchool graduate assistant Katherine Posner G'09, who works with Nicholson. "Some libraries are moving toward being more of a community meeting place rather than remaining in the traditional format," she says. "The new market for libraries will require people to see the library as a place where they can get their information, and perhaps also their entertainment needs, met."

In addition to being plain fun, putting a Wii in the classroom or library may also help individuals gain the skills necessary to produce in a digital world, according to Jenny Levine, Internet development specialist and strategy guide for the ALA. "Gaming and simulation teach the kinds of skills 21st century workers and information gatherers will need to succeed in an already competitive world," Levine says. "We need people to be able to do more than just read; they need to be able to parse meaning from data and information, identify patterns, and make informed decisions, usually on the fly. Gaming incorporates many of those learning principles, so we need to harness those and apply them in our learning environments."

New gaming initiatives at Syracuse University's own Bird Library prove just how attractive gaming is to patrons. For example, after adding an interactive quiz game to its open house last fall, Bird Library saw the number of attendees at the event double from the

previous year, according to Sue Miller, a staff development specialist in the instruction and outreach office. "Students often have such a negative attitude toward this place," she says. "Any way, shape, or form that you can get them in here, I think, is a positive."

Some librarians, though few in number, are not thrilled about making room for Xbox and Nintendo or in planning game nights. Valerie Sallis, an iSchool graduate student who worked with Nicholson on his research, interviewed librarians who shunned the idea of gaming all together. "A lot of the librarians I spoke with were open-minded about the topic and a few were very enthusiastic and had already planned gaming events," Sallis says. "But there were a few who were still dead-set against the idea and thought libraries should only be concerned with books."

Fears that gaming will take over libraries and be used in areas where they don't fit, do not concern Levine. "Libraries are about content, not about the containers that content is wrapped in," she says. "As such, we're not replacing one container with another. Instead, we're adding more content that happens to come in a different container when we're talking about videogames."

Playing by a New Set of Rules

Still, three in four libraries now support the idea of adding games to the list of services they offer patrons. Nicholson, along with student volunteers, visits library conferences with his traveling gaming lab to expose them to different types of games and explore the opportunities for social interaction through gaming. Nicholson sees gaming as being an activity closely aligned with traditional story time in public libraries. "In a game, someone else has developed a story," he says. "They've capsulated that story in a set of rules. Rather than just sitting by passively and listening to the story, in gaming activities you're actually engaging to help tell that story and you're doing that with other people."

Nicholson also sees public schools adopting gaming as lunch time activities or as an alternative to kickball games in gym class. He is currently working with the Fayetteville Free Library to help them decide the best ways to incorporate games into their services. "We're looking to games for inspiration on how to engage people in different ways of becoming literate," he says.

SU students have their own opportunity to see gaming and learning integrated at Bird's annual Library Lock-In. Students, mostly first-year students and sophomores, work to answer 80 questions that take them through all six floors of the library. During the night, movies are shown, and there is time for food, dancing, and other games. "Our main purpose is to introduce students to people in the library, so they know that they can deal with them on a friendly basis," Miller says.

Miller credits the success of the event to the friendly game structure. If students were made to go to the library to take a traditional course on using the libraries, she feels results would be very different. "What's amazing is that many of [the students] have never been to the library before," Miller says. "The lock-in is a forced learning. They come in here and they have to figure out these resources. It's not just a fun thing; it's not just a library thing. It's an academic thing. It makes them stronger students." ●

Syracuse University's Bird Library is one of many libraries across the country looking to expand its services to patrons, including providing gaming and social opportunities as well as coffee and other refreshments. In January, Bird Library opened a new café, which serves Freedom of Espresso coffees and a variety of food items.

SU Center for Business Information Technologies Joins iSchool

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

The Syracuse University Center for Business Information Technologies (CBIT) became part of the School of Information Studies as of July 1.

The School of Information Studies (iSchool) is home to the top-ranked program in information systems, and highly ranked programs in digital libraries, library and information science, and school media. It offers a B.S. degree in information management and technology, three master's-level programs, two doctoral programs, as well as several certificates of advanced study.

CBIT provides high-quality, intensive training programs leading to professional certification that meet the competency standards set forth by such professional organizations as the Computer Technology Industry Association, the Network Professionals Association, and software company certification programs from Cisco, Microsoft, Oracle, Sun, and others.

"This merger strengthens the synergies between the two entities, producing well-rounded information professionals ready to tackle the challenges of a global community increasingly dependent on information systems," says SU Vice Chancellor and Provost Eric F. Spina. "We believe that this union will be beneficial for all populations involved—the faculty, staff, and students of each organization, as well as the broader Central New York business community."

CBIT offers a community-based training program for individuals seeking to gain a variety of IT-related certifications through a supportive learning environment. It also creates customized IT training modules for area corporations that need segments of their employees educated on a particular software upgrade, new information system, or certification program.

"We are excited about the opportunities presented by this merger, especially in terms of our increased capabilities to reach out to local community members and corporations in the region," says Elizabeth D. Liddy, dean of the iSchool. "There has always been a strong alliance between the iSchool and CBIT, and the center's focus on applied technology skills training will dovetail nicely with the iSchool's strengths in information management, policy development, and strategic level IT planning and implementation."

The iSchool is one of the lead colleges at SU involved in a 10-year, $30 million partnership with JPMorgan Chase to create a financial services technology and infrastructure curriculum and training program. As part of the iSchool, CBIT faculty and staff can now contribute their expertise in training program development and execution with local companies to issues specific to JPMorgan Chase employees worldwide.

"We see this as a very positive move for both organizations," says James Shea, director of CBIT. "The iSchool's courses and internship program will be enhanced through CBIT's extensive network of Central New York companies, and CBIT will have increased access to the iSchool's faculty and organizational contacts as well."

The merger will also increase the iSchool's resources to engage in Scholarship in Action initiatives with the community. The iSchool and CBIT are already partners on the Salina Networking Academy, a community work force development project based on Syracuse's South Side.

"By merging with CBIT, we gain capacity to enhance our applied information technology course offerings and strengthen our impact regionally," says David Molta, the iSchool's assistant dean for technology, who will oversee CBIT. ●

H[10]ME PAGE

iOpening *continued from page 1*

About Hinds Hall

- This is the first time one building, Hinds Hall, has been used solely to house the School of Information Studies.

- Originally built in 1955 to house the College of Engineering, renovations began in summer 2003, and the entire building was gutted and redesigned to suit the techie and collaborative nature of the iSchool.

- Ashley McGraw Architects designed the space to meet the instructional, research, and social needs of the school, using green construction practice and Feng Shui.

- The ground floor contains the majority of the iSchool's computing labs and interactive classrooms, with a few other classrooms on the first floor. All are equipped with the latest technology and are set up to facilitate an interactive learning environment.

- Located centrally on the Quad of Main Campus, Hinds Hall has approximately 48,000 square feet on four floors.

A Look at Technology Spaces in Hinds

Equipped with high-performance wireless networking, the new facility supports virtual collaborations with global partners and includes an enhanced computer laboratory infrastructure with three main labs:

- The iLab—Accommodating up to 40 students, this is the signature computer lab, featuring dual 19-inch display screens for increased productivity in a variety of computer applications.

- iTELL (Information Technology Experiential Learning Lab)— Students get hands-on experience working with the latest telecommunications equipment on their own servers and networking devices in the iTELL Data Center.

- iSysLab (Information Systems Lab)—Dedicated to the iSchool's more technical classes, this lab features a variety of hardware and software for students to use.

accomplishments of the deans who brought the school to the historic event:

- **Dean Robert Taylor** (1972-1981) who had the foresight to morph the library school into the broader information school and changed its name to the School of Information Studies

- **Dean Evelyn Daniels** (1981-1985) who fought for space for the school to hold its classes on campus and ensured that the school wasn't enveloped into another school

- **Dean Don Marchand** (1987-1994) who grew the school and established the undergraduate degree program and first distance learning program

- **Interim Dean Jeffrey Katzer** (1985-1987, 1994-1995) who served as a stabilizer and guiding force and kept the school moving forward during times of transition

- **Dean Raymond F. von Dran** (1995-2007) who built the reputation of the school and the information field through a rigorous cooperative branding campaign and who secured for the school its own home on the Quad

"Now we have the wonderful opportunity to work with a new dean," Brinberg said. "Liz [Liddy] has a way of challenging us to keep the momentum going, keep building. We're all proud of this day, and have great expectations for the future."

Alana Edmunds '08 addressed the graduating students in her remarks and reminded them not to be afraid to shake it up in their diverse range of careers. She also thanked the faculty and staff for making the iSchool and Hinds Hall a home to her and her peers. "We're small, we're awesome, and we have the highest starting salary of any graduates at Syracuse University!" she said.

Kisha Pugh '98, Syracuse agency director of MetLife, pointed out that the iSchool goes beyond the physical space of Hinds Hall and that the success of the school can be seen in the active network of alumni. "This story doesn't end on graduation day," she said. "It keeps going and the relationships keep building and getting stronger. We are a diverse community—but one thing brings us together. That's our experience here and how we help one another and we continue to grow with each other after we leave."

Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy closed by thanking donors and acknowledging the central role the late Ray von Dran played in making the iOpening happen. "It's only appropriate as we celebrate today that we say a deeply felt thank you to Ray von Dran, whose dream and vision, whose energy and drive really is what made this day a reality," she said. "In honor of Ray, we have embarked on a very ambitious drive to name the school for him. I seek your support and help for that."

After the formal comments, the more than 1,000 guests were invited to tour the building. Food stations and informational displays were set up in a variety of named spaces throughout the building. A timeline of the school's history led visitors through all four floors of Hinds Hall, and stretched from the late 1800s—when Syracuse University first began offering library science courses—into the future, which included predictions from iSchool students, alumni, and Mr. J. Madoc Powell's second-grade class in Winchester, California.

The event was held to celebrate graduation and the completion of renovations to Hinds Hall, and recognize the donors who help support the iSchool and its Technology Endowment for Hinds Hall Campaign. ●

School of Information Studies Celebrates 2008 Convocation, Honors Graduates

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

The School of Information Studies recognized approximately 80 undergraduates, 300 master's, and four doctoral degree candidates at the school's convocation on May 10 in the Hildegarde and J. Myer Schine Student Center's Goldstein Auditorium. Following the Convocation ceremony, the school held its iOpening building dedication and reception in Hinds Hall.

The main speaker for the Convocation ceremony was Frank J. Bisignano, chief administrative officer for JPMorgan Chase & Co. and a member of the firm's operating committee. He briefly mentioned the 10-year, $30 million partnership between JPMorgan Chase and the University to create a new global enterprise curriculum before sharing a few nuggets of wisdom with the graduates. "Come to work everyday looking to do better than the day before," he said. "Take work off your boss's desk. No one was ever heralded for complaining. Inspire others by your hard work, and remember where you come from and who has helped you along the way."

Marilyn Arnone received the Outstanding Part-Time Faculty of the Year Award, and Martha Garcia-Murillo was recognized as the Jeffrey Katzer Professor of the Year. In her acceptance speech, Garcia-Murillo, who directs the M.S. in telecommunications and network management program, talked about three trends that have changed teaching and learning: the explosion of information, the emergence of community-created content, and the availability of on-demand learning.

"I hope that in this new world of abundant on-demand content that you take the time to learn from and teach others throughout your life," Garcia-Murillo said. "I also expect that your values and integrity will help you make appropriate decisions when reading or sharing knowledge, while maintaining your curiosity and expanding your interests to improve your life and those of others."

A number of students were recognized for their accomplishments, including Dean's Scholars Jeremy Allen, Alana Edmunds, Joshua Frost, Jessica Juliano, and Paul David Wachtler; and master's degree prize winners Youngseek Kim, Philip Bahr, Maya Kanzaria, and Jameson Blandford. Heshan Sun received the Doctoral Prize.

The Undergraduate Leadership Award was presented to Joshua Frost, who described in his speech to students the evolution of the School of Information Studies for him from the college in far-away Syracuse to the place that he called home. Kathryn Buturla, a graduate of the library and information science program, won the Graduate Leadership Award and encouraged her peers to do what they love and be confident in who they are. "And if you don't know who that is, keep looking," she said. "Don't ever give up on yourself."

Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy congratulates a graduate during the Convocation ceremony May 10.

Other student awards presented include the Antje Lemke Book Award and Scholarship to Hyoung Bae Lee; John R. Weitzel Memorial Award for Information Systems Research to Sean Ginevan and Justin Breese; and the Donald A. and Joyce P. Marchand Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement to Alana Edmunds.

The following students were selected to serve as Alumni Class Leaders: Erin Dorney, Alana Edmunds, Joshua Frost, Gayatru Iyengar, Marissa Petruno, Atreye Poddar, Maryalice Smith, and Monil Sundesha. ●

The iSchool recognized more than 380 students during its 2008 Convocation ceremony at the Schine Student Center's Goldstein Auditorium.

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iFaire Turns Spotlight on Hinds Hall Happenings

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

This spring, the halls of Hinds were bursting with activity of all kinds as part of the 2008 iFaire. The iFaire, a series of student-focused events in April, showcased iSchool students, faculty, spirit, and accomplishments, and culminated with the University's celebration of MayFest. The iFaire events were also designed to encourage students to interact and network with such future employers as JPMorgan Chase, Travelers, and GE.

The events ranged from musical performances and Frisbee golf to an alumni panel on career development and an IT case competition. It drew a total of more than 500 participants from across campus. "The students' enthusiasm and commitment to these events modeled what I think the iSchool is all about," says Professor David Dischiave, who organized the event with the corporate partners. "The iFaire brought the school to life with fun and excitement, and created a sense of belonging for our students. I was thrilled with what the iFaire accomplished.

"I would love to see this become a tradition of the school," he says. "We are already talking about what worked well and what didn't and how to engage all of our student population in the planning process."

Dischiave says Multicultural Fiesta and the Business Case Competition stood out as highlights for him. During the Multicultural Fiesta, bright, bold colors of flags from around the world decorated the lobby, greeting the iSchool students, faculty, and staff who were equally festive-looking in their cultures' traditional garb. Everyone also brought a native dish to pass, and some shared musical and artistic pieces with the iSchool community.

"Students loved the prizes, free food, networking opportunities with JPMorgan Chase and other corporate sponsors; the fun and laid back interaction with their professors and the iSchool staff; and getting to meet other iSchool students," says Anne Patterson G'08, a graduate assistant, who planned and coordinated many of the events. "Feedback was very positive."

Alumnus Mike Librizzi '05, a graduate of the dual degree program with Whitman School of Management and recent founder of Briz.com, shared his experiences as a young entrepreneur and how to effectively mix business knowledge with technology and personal interactions. In conjunction with the iFaire, the Women in Information Technology club held its annual Alumnae Panel, which featured Jayee Hegde G'07, a consultant in Enterprise Risk Services for Deloitte & Touche LLP; Jill Epstein '06, a consultant in the Public Sector of IBM Global Business Services; Emily Longcore '06, G'07, an IT analyst in a government accountability office in Washington, D.C.; and Rachelle Webb '05, an analyst at Huron Consulting in New York City. The alumnae shared their experiences and offered tips to current students on how to secure a job and move through the ranks.

The celebration also included the creation of the iQuilt, which pays tribute to the "unified diversity" and multidisciplinary contributions of the iSchool as well as to the late Dean Raymond F. von Dran (See related story, "iQuilt," page 13).

Competitions also played a key role in generating excitement and participation in iFaire events. Sponsored by JPMorgan Chase

and the Kauffman Enitiative, the iFaire featured:

- **a YouTube competition for best video upload of the iBand** (the Hinds Hall musical act made up of Associate Dean Jeffrey Stanton, Assistant Dean David Molta, Information Management program director Dave Dischiave, and Assistant Dean for Advancement Paul Brenner)
  - Justin Yoon, $25 winner
- **YouTube competition for best video about the life and happenings at the iSchool**
  - Nishank Chandradhara G'08, first place, $400
  - Jahnavi Narayanen G'09, second place, $200
  - Patricio Castro G'08, third place, $100
- **iSchool Graduate Student Organization Case Competition**
  - Team 6 (Sonia Singh, Chandrasekhar Sridhar, Lauren Newman), first place, $500
  - Team 5 (Siddharth Damani, Dhawal Gandhi, Janish Shah, Vikram Jain), second place, $300
  - Team 1 (Atanu Ghosh, Archana Chenchu, Vinay Venugopal), third place, $200
  - Team 3 (Ellen Benn, Brian Froese, Lawrence Levy, Pat Stern), third place, $200
- **Enitiative "Entrepreneurial Thinking" Competition**
  - Rajveen Khandelwal, first place, $500
  - Xiaozhong Lui, second place, $250
  - Tamanna Rajpal, third place, $100

iSchool students, faculty, and staff enjoyed participating in a range of activities that boosted school spirit and showcased the diverse talents of our community. Musical performances by students and the iBand (made up of deans Jeff Stanton, Dave Molta, and Paul Brenner, and program director Dave Dischiave) were one of the highlights, as was the Multicultural Fiesta.

iQuilt Celebrates Multi-Disciplinary Contributions, Pays Tribute to Late Dean Raymond F. von Dran

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

Just as a quilt is made beautiful by the diversity of its individual squares, the School of Information Studies (iSchool) enriches Syracuse University with its multi-disciplinary programs, faculty, students, and research interests. With its 41 full-time faculty members representing more than a dozen academic fields, the iSchool unites these disparate disciplines around the common theme of information.

The iSchool wanted to celebrate this quality—which Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy calls the school's "unified diversity"—in a commemorative iQuilt; and invited people from across campus to collaborate on the project. Those who were not interested in quilting participated by commissioning the creation of a square, the funds from which support the iSchool's Raymond F. von Dran Fund, honoring the iSchool's late dean.

In the end more than 130 different fabrics were used in 188 blocks, including the signatures of more than 160 participants, who ranged in age from 8 to 80 years old. The commissioned blocks raised $470 for the Ray von Dran Fund, according to Associate Professor Michelle Kaarst-Brown, who spearheaded the initiative.

The iQuilt pays tribute to the people, disciplines, and ideas that make up the iSchool at Syracuse and to information itself. Through an intricate balance of math, computing, innovation, and artistry, the 75 (h) x 92 (w) inch quilt was completed in time for the May 10 iOpening celebration and now hangs on the ground floor of Hinds Hall.

Kaarst-Brown said the quilt took more than 180 hours to complete, including 17 hours of custom quilting on a long-arm machine and frame. Design began in March, with the final stitches taken in May. The blocks in this quilt were machine sewn by students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of the iSchool, including students from local elementary, middle, and high schools.

The iQuilt contains blocks with images of Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy, the late Raymond F. von Dran, and Hinds Hall. Other blocks range from the whimsical—a cat who boasts of playing "Radio Kitty Hall"—to the more theoretical such as Associate Research Professor Nancy McCracken's arrow graphic. The center of the iQuilt is anchored by a crossword puzzle with the words "I," "manage," "people," and other iSchool related words stitched

into it. Information Management alumna Sue Rothwell G'05 submitted the block.

"This is a beautiful work of collaborative art that we can all be proud of," Kaarst-Brown says. "It's quite remarkable. When you look at it up close, you can see the uniqueness of the fabrics and the thread that unifies all the blocks—sort of like us at the iSchool." ●

Student News

Ph.D. Candidate Isabelle Fagnot Wins First Place at AGEP Competition

In recent years, enrollment in information technology related majors has declined, and one Ph.D. candidate's work to discover why has won her recognition. Isabelle Fagnot, a fourth-year student in the Ph.D. in information science and technology program, won first place in the National Science Foundation's Alliance for Graduate Education in the Professoriate (AGEP) poster presentation competition at Syracuse University's Schine Student Center in June.

Fagnot's poster presentation, "How Are Future Information Professionals Affected by Early Exposure to Features of the IT Professions," was selected by the panel of four judges as one of two entries that tied for first-place among the 31 entries in the competition.

Ph.D. Candidate James Howison Selected to Participate in Institute on Socio-Technical Systems

Ph.D. candidate James Howison was selected to attend the highly competitive Research Institute for the Science of Socio-Technical Systems at the University of Michigan this summer.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the five-day institute brought together 30 senior Ph.D. students and junior faculty as well as 14 senior scholars, including Syracuse Professor Kevin Crowston, from a variety of universities and research centers. This group explored topics and methods for advancing the science of socio-technical systems; a field focused on the interaction of people, technology, and organizations.

Ph.D. Student Joseph Treglia Recognized by the National Science Foundation

Ph.D. student Joseph Treglia received an honorable mention from the National Science Foundation's 2008 Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in the relevant science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees. The goal is to attract students into the STEM fields and to ensure that the country has a strong human resource base to maintain the U.S. technological infrastructure and national security.

Ph.D. Candidate Saira Haque Receives AAUW Dissertation Fellowship

School of Information Studies Ph.D. candidate Saira Naim Haque received a Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

The $20,000 award will support Haque as she completes her dissertation, *Coordinating Across Boundaries: Improving Patient Care Teams*. She was selected for the prestigious award based on her scholarly excellence, teaching experience, and active commitment to helping women through service in their communities or professional field.

iSchool Ph.D. Student Asher Jackson Named Spectrum Fellow

Incoming Ph.D. student Asher Isaac Jackson at the School of Information Studies received the prestigious American Library Association's Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the fellowship was designed to recruit and provide full tuition support and stipends to full-time library and information science (LIS) doctoral students for all four years of study.

Jackson was one of six recipients in the second, and final, group of recipients. He earned a B.A. in English and rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley in 2004 and a M.S. in library and information science, with a concentration in archives, at Simmons College in 2005.

iSchool Senior Selected as 2008 Young Technologist of the Year

Alana Edmunds '08 was named the Young Technologist of the Year by the Technology Alliance of Central New York. She was recognized by the organization during its annual awards banquet May 12 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, N.Y.

Edmunds, of Perrysburg, Ohio, was selected for the award because of her outstanding contributions to advances and improvements in the information technology field. After graduating this May, she accepted a position with General Electric's Information Management Leadership Program. ●

Two iSchool Seniors Lead Orange Lacrosse to Victory

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

Two iSchool seniors helped the Orange men's lacrosse win its 10th NCAA title in a 13-10 victory against Johns Hopkins (11-6) on May 26 in front of a record crowd at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Mass.

Danny Brennan '08 of Farmingdale, N.Y., who led the NCAA faceoff winning percentage during the 2008 lacrosse season, posted a 13-for-26 performance at the faceoff against the Blue Jays, collected six ground balls, and scored his first career goal in the opening period. Near the end of the first period, Brennan scored his first career goal off a fastbreak following a faceoff win. Falling to the ground, the senior threw in a point with a bounce shot.

Brennan was named to the all-tournament team, and he ended his SU career as one of the

(Left) Midfielder Steven Brooks '08 darts around an oncoming Johns Hopkins defender during the Championship Game.

Danny Brennan '08 holds up the Division I National Lacrosse Champions trophy following the May 26 game at Gillett Stadium in Foxboro, Mass.

best faceoff men in the history of SU lacrosse. His 214 victories in 2008 ranks fourth on SU's season record list and his 485 career faceoff wins is second on the program's all-time ledger. An honorable mention All-American, Brennan was drafted 21st overall by the New Jersey Pride in the 2008 Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Collegiate Draft.

Midfielder Steven Brooks '08 of Libertyville, Ill., a first-team United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association All-America and the 2008 NCAA Division I Midfielder of the Year, recorded three points on one score and two helpers. Brooks was also named to the LaxPower.com's Senior Spotlight Team for the 2008 season. He scored 28 goals and had 41 points in his senior season, including five game-winning goals. He was drafted by the Chicago Machine in the 2008 MLL draft. ●

SU Athletics also contributed to this report.

STUDENT PROFILE

Predicting User Interests
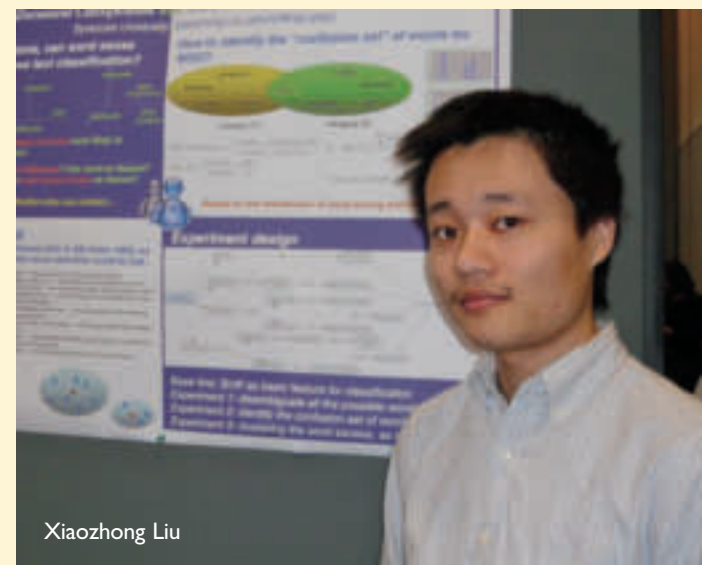
KATHLEEN HALEY, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ph.D. student Xiaozhong Liu headed west last summer and struck gold. An internship at Yahoo in California provided the essential elements for his research interests: data and massive amounts of it. The Beijing, China, native worked with a team during his nine-week internship, but also conducted independent research and mined the search engine's data. He worked into the nights and often slept at the office. "This was a great opportunity especially for young researchers," Liu says. "I really began to know what is a large-scale user study."

His long hours paid off. Liu developed a code that works at predicting the future search interests of users. "At Yahoo, they are trying to predict the probability of what's hot tomorrow," he says. The code analyzes historic data to see which terms and news will be popular based on past results. With Liu's consent, the company is pursuing a patent for the idea. "It was like a bonus," Liu says.

For Liu, the opportunity was mainly important for academic research, which he plans to undertake along with teaching after earning a Ph.D. at the iSchool. Liu, who earned an undergraduate degree in computer science from Beijing Technology University, arrived at SU after working for China's telecommunications company, China Unicom, for two years. As a telecommunications engineer, he connected Chinese users with people in other countries. Being in contact with technicians at various U.S. telecommunications companies, he began to see differences between work flow models. For example, Liu says, if he encountered a technical problem, he would be the only one working to solve it. His counterparts at AT&T work as a team and divide up a technical problem into parts assigned to specialists. Liu wanted to explore these differences, whether cultural or management. "After several years of working, I found that maybe technology is not the answer to everything," he says. "You need to have a bigger version of the whole picture. Information science is a combination of technology and other components, such as people and policies."

Liu, who is in the third year of his Ph.D. and formulating his dissertation topic, is interested in information retrieval and natural language processing, two areas that overlap each other. To his friends, he explains information retrieval simply as "Google": the ability to search for information using key words. Natural language processing is about the capability of computers to interpret human language. In that area, Liu uses algorithms to get at analyzing sentence structure, relationships between different words, and similarities between documents, among other correlations. "It's the dream of every researcher in this area to improve the performance of information retrieval systems and natural language processing systems," he says. "I do not have ambitions that I will figure it all out. But, at least in my life I can figure out a specific

Xiaozhong Liu

problem maybe or several problems and make some contribution." Liu conducts independent research and has also worked with his advisor, Professor Elizabeth Liddy, who was named dean earlier this year. "She's busier now but she always finds time to work with me," he says.

For now, the world of blogging has caught his interest. "I want to analyze the way people interact with each other," he says. Some may interpret blogs as not a true reflection of the real world; others believe it goes much deeper. "Whether this is real life or not, I'm not sure, but I want to take a look." ●

Taking IT to the Next Level

KRISTIN BLAKE, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After two years as a computer science major at Onondaga Community College (OCC), Abraham Almagrabi transferred to the School of Information Studies to get out from behind the desk and hone his management skills. Two years later, the iSchool's curriculum, along with an internship at the Bank of New York, has set Almagrabi on the path to a career that links programming and people.

Almagrabi began working as an intern at the Bank of New York's IT department in downtown Syracuse in May 2006, after one of his instructors at OCC encouraged him to send his resume to a recruiter. His work primarily found him programming in older languages COBOL or JCL on the Bank's mainframe computers, but he also collaborated with other interns in the development of a company intranet and occasionally put together reports and spreadsheets for customers — his favorite part of the job. "I like the interaction," says Almagrabi, who accepted a full-time position at Bank of New York after graduating in May. "The part where you get a positive reply from someone you helped is the best."
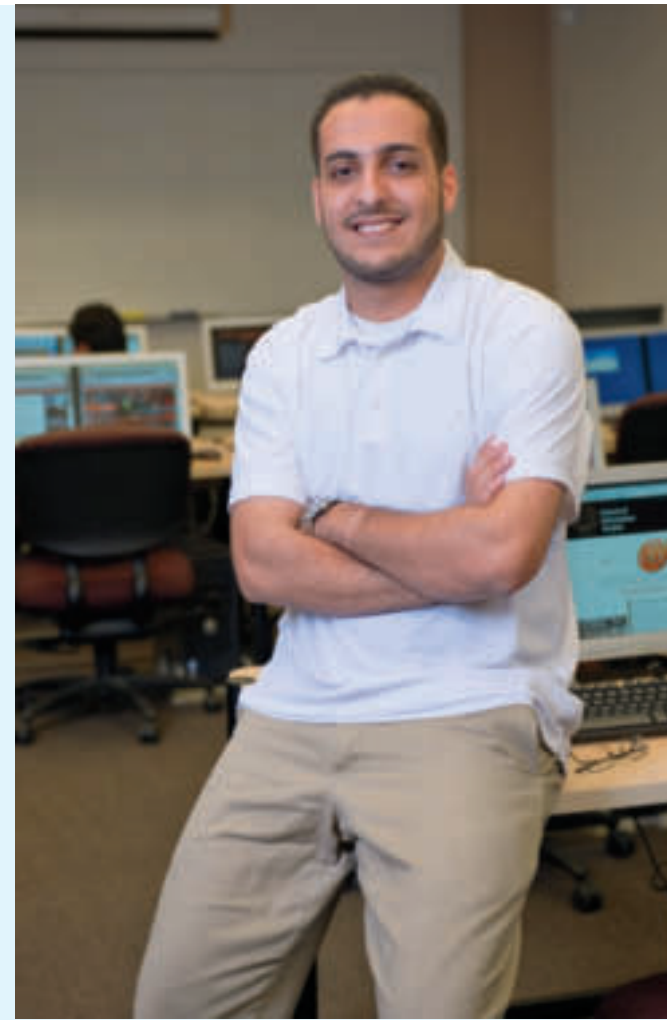
Shortly after taking on his internship, Almagrabi started classes at the iSchool, delving into the management side of the information management and technology program. He sees himself pursuing a career in project management and found classes like Professor Michael D'Eredita's Managing Information Systems Projects to be a great training ground for developing skills in leadership, teamwork, and problem solving. Almagrabi says this management know-how came in handy at his internship, where he navigated the politics of group meetings and made the most of a flat project structure that encouraged everyone to assume leadership roles. "I don't like to stay in front of the computer 24/7," he says. "I like to do something, to work on a project, and then get out there and discuss it with others."

Two days of class and three days of work each week left Almagrabi, who was born in New York City and spent much of his childhood in Yemen, with a busy schedule. Despite the crunch, he still managed to squeeze in a few extracurricular activities, including intramural soccer, the Muslim Student Association, and the School of Information Studies Undergraduate Alliance (IST-UA), an association dedicated to creating social and leadership roles for the school's students.

He's worked with IST-UA to set up meetings between students from the iSchool and the L.C. Smith College of Engineering for an exchange of knowledge, as well as stress-relieving activities like laser tag. Almagrabi says IST-UA was a way to enrich his own undergraduate experience and get the word out about the strengths of the School of Information Studies. "This school gives you such as broad range of areas to choose from," he says. "When you're a programmer, you know exactly what you're going to do. But from here, you can go into networking, telecommunications, management, anything. That's why I chose this program."

His leadership experiences at the iSchool have guided his future activities outside of his career as well. Using the skills he developed here, Almagrabi helped launch Save Yemen's Flora and Fauna (SYFF), a non-profit organization to help preserve the wildlife and landscape in Yemen. He advised the group on its web site (*www.syff.org*) and organized fund-raising efforts and public awareness campaigns. "My leadership skills I learned at the iSchool will help me serve in my role as president of SYFF," he says. "This role will be an important part of my life." ●

Abraham Almagrabi '08

24-Hour Crash Course in Job Search Training

N. NAKITA MONGAR, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sitting across the table from a prospective employer, the student stares at the menu wondering what to order. The cheapest item in respect of the company's budget? The most expensive item to demonstrate excellent taste? According to Robert A. Shutt, an expert on business and dinner etiquette, neither. Order an item that falls between the two extremes to show sensitivity to both issues.

Students learned this and many other career hunting tips from industry professionals at "24," a 24-hour long job search preparation event for iSchool, engineering, arts and sciences, and business students, hosted by the Whitman School of Management.

The event consisted of a variety of panels and presentations to help the students be better equipped for the fall career fair. The concurrent sessions covered subjects imperative to students of any major, including mock interviews, resume writing, interviewing techniques, job negotiating skills, projecting a professional image, and, of course, business meal etiquette.

What made the event particularly useful was the fact that these sessions were led by representatives of 18 different corporate companies, including Deloitte, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Philip Morris, JPX, Macy's, and Kohl's. Many of the tips these experts gave were commonsense, but as one of the representatives said "commonsense isn't so common," such as researching the company before going to a job interview.

College students, who typically spend hours preparing for exams, usually spend only 15 minutes preparing for an interview. What students need to realize is that an interview for a job is equivalent to a final exam; it's why a person goes through four years or more of schooling, the representatives explained.

"These sessions prepare a pipeline for companies to meet students and identify the best student talent early on," said RoseMarie Crisalli, the retail management career consultant at the Whitman School of Management.

Kathy Benjamin, the iSchool employee relations coordinator, said recruiters are always eager to meet iSchool students because of the number of positions in their companies requiring IT and management skills. "Employers have a need to fill these positions and are looking at sophomores and juniors for internships," she said. "This event provides a great opportunity for students to get out there and network. We don't want students to wait until their senior year to visit the career center to begin planning for their future." ●

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ALUMNI NEWS

There's No Place Like Home

BARBARA SETTEL, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AND ANNUAL GIVING

ALUMNI VOICES

The recent iOpening celebrating our new home in Hinds Hall made me wonder about how much our school's culture is shaped by our physical environment. How have our former homes on campus affected the life of the school, and how does the design of our space shape the students' experience and lasting memories of their time here? I decided to take a trip down memory lane and reflect on where we have come from.

The school has resided in five locations on campus before arriving in Hinds Hall. In 1896 the University Librarian, Henry Orin Sibley, taught the first and sole library school student in the vonRanke Library in what is now the Tolley Building, the new Center for the Public and Collaborative Humanities. The school soon outgrew that facility and moved in 1907 to the new Carnegie Library, where it remained until 1971. For those 64 years, the majority of our students were pursuing an education in librarianship, and the majestic Carnegie Library was the perfect setting for students in this program.

In 1971, the school relocated to three houses on the perimeter of campus — fondly known by their street names, Euclid and Ostrom. The school was also undergoing a transformation from a traditional library school, to one that focused on information needs of society at large, and was renamed the "School of Information Studies" in 1974. Euclid and Ostrom were former homes with comfortable couches for napping and showers that were frequently used by doctoral students. A strong and cohesive culture easily took shape among doctoral students who spent long days and late nights holed up in their offices. Cozy, casual, and informal, perhaps this is where the school first developed the sense of family that is the trademark of the school to this day. Professor Marta Dosa, ever the nurturer to international students, practiced her craft feeding squirrels that would visit her office. Antje Lemke's office was filled with artifacts and art materials that she wheeled on a cart to the classroom down the hall.

When the school moved to Huntington Hall in 1983, we were reluctant to leave our homey surroundings, but it was a positive move to bring the school together under one roof. While the internal space had been renovated to accommodate our offices, much of the other space maintained its "historic" flavor. The old radiators still hissed and clanged, and snow drifted through the window frames. Everyone walked through the lounge to check their mail, meet with staff, get a cup of coffee, or work

on the half-finished jigsaw puzzle on the table. Professor Leigh Estabrook brought her baby Helen to work, and faculty and students took turns entertaining her. Could this be one more reason we felt like a family?

With the growth of new programs to prepare graduates to manage information resources and technology, the high-tech Center for Science and Technology seemed a fitting home for the school, which had outgrown its quarters in Huntington Hall by 1989. We were proud of the new labs, classrooms, and offices, which were equipped with subflooring for all the network cables. Yet, we also became lost in a labyrinth of long narrow hallways, where every gray door looked the same. Alumni and faculty recall an "institutional" and "hospital" feel to the building, in which windows could not be opened for fresh air. While the building offered more state-of-the art teaching capabilities to reach our growing number of distance and undergraduate students, areas for socializing and collaborating were very limited. The one saving grace was the perfectly placed balcony off the conference room, with a view of the campus and city in the distance. Named for a group of executive education student smokers, the Dutch Smoker's Balcony was, ironically, the only accessible source of fresh air, and we held many a party on that small balcony. Despite its cold, sterile attributes, the building did not dampen the students' enthusiasm for the school, and they continued to refer to us as a family.

In 2008, we have come full circle. We are back on the Quad, where we started in Carnegie Library 101 years ago. The faculty and staff were consulted on the building design, and Dean Ray von Dran lobbied hard to ensure that Hinds Hall would support and foster our collaborative culture. Bright colors, warm wood, and art work (including the new iQuilt) all contribute to a more humane environment. Windows face the Quad and other picturesque views of campus, and we can witness life on campus throughout all four seasons. As time passes, we see students, faculty, and staff members using the collaborative work spaces and making the best use of our wonderful new facilities. Some, like Ruth Small, can even feel Ray's spirit while she walks through the hallways, smiling and whistling at our wonderful new home. Yes, we are still a family, and we feel at home in Hinds Hall.

(I would like to sincerely thank the following alumni and faculty who provided personal memories and insights for this article: Barbara Kwasnik, Ruth Small, Anne Diekema, Michael Nilan, Liz Liddy, David Pimentel, and Lynn Valenti)

Preservationist Takes 18th Century Path Off the Information Highway

CAROL BOLL, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fourteen years ago, Dan Umstead G'90 surfed into the information age as a pioneer of the Internet. Today, he's a pioneer in a more literal sense, re-creating the world of 18th and 19th century colonists and Native Americans as director of the Oneida Indian Nation's Living History Program. A graduate of the iSchool master's program in library and information science, Umstead says he's still in the information business—he's just changed the method of delivery.

"I consider myself a preservationist," Umstead says. "And right now I'm working to preserve the Oneida Nation history and culture— information that's available primarily through oral traditions. It may not be in books or manuscripts, but it's still information and it provides people with the means of access to a rich culture and history that in many cases has been forgotten."

Umstead began working for the Oneida Nation government in 1993 after positions as a librarian at Arizona State University and preservation surveyor for the South Central New York Library Resources Council. As librarian for the Oneida Nation, he oversaw preservation and online systems, and in 1994, he launched the Nation web site. "The Internet was really a new resource," he says. "We were the first sovereign government to have a web page. The Oneida leadership is very progressive, and they believe in using whatever modern technologies are out there to spread the word about Oneida history and culture."

He sent news of the web site around the world, including to the White House, and a year later, he received a call from Washington, D.C. "They were putting up a White House web page and asked if I would be willing to review it before it went online," Umstead says. In exchange for his feedback, he and two Nation leaders were invited to Washington, where they met members of the White House IT staff. "If you were doing web stuff, you were on the cutting edge at that time," he says. "It was good to be recognized for that."

Umstead decided to leave the world of 21st century technology behind after planning a re-enactment to mark the anniversary of the American Revolution and the Oneidas' role in that conflict. The 2002 observance evolved into the Living History Program, and today, Umstead oversees four staff members and 30 volunteers in depicting the history of the Oneidas as allies in U.S. conflicts from the American Revolution through the Spanish-American War.

From April to December, Native and non-Native re-enactors, outfitted in period dress and authentic weaponry, provide historical interpretation and demonstrations— artillery drills, Native culture displays, battle scenes—at Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome, N.Y., and other historical sites in the Northeast. They also travel to schools, giving children a firsthand glimpse of Oneida history and culture. "I never really liked history," Umstead says of his own grade-school days. But that changed, he says, after he took the course History of the Printed Word while at the iSchool. "I began to realize: If I'm going to work in preservation, how can I *not* know history? So I immersed myself in historical scholarship and made up for all the years I hadn't studied it."

Umstead's work with the Living History Program has led to another initiative, First Armorers, a film consulting group in which he and other staff members provide filmmakers with on-set expertise in such areas as historical weaponry, firearm safety, and Native history. He already has served as consultant for two National Park Service films and one promotional film for the Oneida Nation.

"The people at the Oneida Nation are wonderful folks to work with," Umstead says. "They allow you to experiment with lots of different things, as long as it fits into the mission of promoting the history and culture of the Oneidas. These are people who founded their own culture, maintained it through the revolution, and continue to preserve it today. Having the charge of telling their story is the best thing I could ever do." As for his methods? "Technology is wonderful," he says. "But it's nice to slow down, too." ●

Dan Umstead G'90

Your News

PLEASE

use the enclosed envelope to let us know about your professional and personal accomplishments so we can include them as news items in future issues of *Home Page*. Also, please inform us of any address changes.

YOU MAY ALSO

visit the alumni web site at *ischool.syr.edu/alumni* to update your address, make a gift to the school, or join the online alumni community. You can now submit class notes online.

OR CONTACT

Barbara Settel
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
School of Information Studies
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315-443-5604
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B.S. in Information Management and Technology

Carolyn Kicak '07 is an associate recruiter at TKO's division of ISSI Technology Professionals in Washington, D.C.

Joshua Stein '07 is an analyst at PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City. He is also a founding partner at a web service firm, HyTek LLC, which he started while he was a student at SU. The company has 2,000 clients worldwide.

Alana Edmunds '08 is employed in the Information Management Leadership Program at General Electric in Atlanta.

Josh Frost '08 is marketing producer at Major League Baseball Advanced Media, L.P. in New York City.

Marissa Petruno '08 is an information systems analyst at Liberty Mutual in Portsmouth, N.H.

M.S. in Library and Information Science

Alice Fogel Corwin '48 writes that she is happily retired and recently celebrated her 82nd birthday. Her career started at Dun and Bradstreet, then she worked as a librarian at Queens College Education Library and retired as a school librarian at Calhoun High School in Merrick, N.Y. Alice would love to hear from any classmates who attended Syracuse with her. (Messages can be sent to *basettel@syr.edu*.)

John Brisbin '81 is the development officer for R.O.S.E. Fund in Boston.

Sally Daniels '86 was elected director-elect, Region II of the American Association of School Libraries.

Norm Bagley '94, teacher-librarian at Liverpool (N.Y) High School Annex, was voted 2008 Teacher of the Year by his colleagues.

Charles Hockersmith '00 was elected secretary of the Educators of Library Media Specialists Section of the American Association of School Libraries.

Philip Ratliff '03, circulation coordinator at Portland State University Library, coedited the *Oregon Authors Bibliography, 2006-2007*, an Oregon Library Association publication. The series features books about Oregon and juvenile literature.

Anne Chernaik '06 is chair of the Library Technical Assistant (LTA) program at College of Lake County in Grayslake, Ill. She divides her time between teach-

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D E V E L O P M E N T   F O R U M

Hinds Hall: A Strong Base from Which to Build

PAUL BRENNER, ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADVANCEMENT

It was exciting to celebrate the iOpening with so many graduates, families, alumni, donors, friends, and the iSchool faculty and staff. Thank you to so many of you who have supported this huge endeavor and made our gorgeously functional home in Hinds Hall a reality. The iOpening was also the official launch of the iSchool's component of the Campaign for Syracuse University.

During the coming year, I look forward to meeting with many alumni to explore ways to get you involved. I'm also actively looking to realize the dream of naming the school after our late Dean von Dran. In addition, Hinds Hall continues to have many exciting naming opportunities and can be viewed on our web site. I'd love to visit if you're interested in discussing ways in which you can support our school.

I'm also excited by the school's commitment to encourage and nurture students and alumni who launch innovative and entrepreneurial activities. A group of these like-minded and ambitious students have formed an active and growing entrepreneurship club called E-Venture, and I expect great things to arise from their efforts. Likewise, the school is moving forward on a student innovation lab, and we want to create a venture network with alumni. Won't it be great to get our iSchool known as *the* iSchool to attend if you want to launch an information-related business?

In my travels and at the school I've enjoyed meeting with many such alumni and tracking their progress, like Tony Longo '01, founder and CEO of the growing enterprise *CondoDomain.com*, which is the online marketplace for condominium buyers for 33 urban markets, to very recent start-ups like the social networking site for small businesses and their customers *briz.com* by founder Mike Librizzi '05. Let us know if you have an information-related business or are considering starting one. Our faculty wants to be involved and support these kinds of efforts. Before Mike launched, he presented his business model to many iSchool faculty/administration and let them "kick the tires" and raise questions and suggestions before his site went live. We hope that entrepreneurial success will be good for all. Why should business schools corner the market on entrepreneurship?

On the other hand, if you are one of our many alumni who are retired or soon to be retired and are worried about having enough income in the years ahead, you may want to consider a charitable gift annuity—a smart and simple way to make your assets work harder for you and the iSchool. By creating a charitable gift annuity, you not only receive a fixed income for life—at rates of return typically higher than traditional CDs—you also get a charitable tax deduction, and a portion of your annual income may be tax-free. Plus, you make it possible for future generations of iSchool students to fulfill their dreams.

The chart below highlights some of the benefits of creating a $25,000 charitable gift annuity for one individual—backed by the full faith and credit of Syracuse University. You may also include a loved one in your gift plan.

AGE OF RECIPIENT	RATE OF RETURN	CHARITABLE DEDUCTION
65	5.7%	$ 7,762.75
70	6.1%	$ 9,280.50
75	6.7%	$ 10,678.00
80	7.6%	$ 12,003.75
85	8.9%	$ 13,229.50
90	10.5%	$ 14,609.00

Depending on your financial situation, payments can start immediately or be deferred until a later date. And for those of you under age 65, it's never too early to start planning for your retirement with a deferred charitable gift annuity. Visit *giving.syr.edu/annuities* for more details.

For more information on the many different life income investment options—call me at 315-443-6139 or e-mail me at *pbrenner@syr.edu* ●

ing, advising, and administration with the LTA program and reference duties in the college library.

Alissa Dirubbo '06 is an academic librarian at Bryant & Stratton College in Syracuse. In addition to her reference and collection development duties, she teaches an introductory course in information literacy and research.

Sandy Zajac '06 is manager of the Medical and College of Nursing libraries at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse.

Peg Mauer '07 is the information services librarian for the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES School Library Systems in Canton, N.Y.

Stacey Wicksall '07 is a school media specialist in the Waterloo (N.Y) Central School District, where she serves grades 3-8.

Minerva Aponte '08 is a school media specialist at CS 102 in Bronx, N.Y.

Erin Dorney '08 is outreach librarian at Millersville University in Lancaster, Pa. In this tenure-track position she heads marketing and promotion of library initiatives.

Jennifer Ferguson '08 was awarded a travel grant to attend the 2008 Special Libraries Association (SLA) conference. The grant was awarded by the Pharmaceutical & Health Technology division of SLA.

M.S. in Information Management

Sanjay Kulchandra '05 is employed at Deloitte Consulting in Parsippany, N.J.

Mara Schneider '06 took a new position as a quality assurance manager at Fiduciary Technology Partners in New York City.

Gayatri Iyengar '07 is a technology analyst for Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Siddarth Paliwal '07 is a systems analyst at Fidelity Investments in Boston.

Gautam Mukherji '08 is senior business analyst at Cognizant Technology Solutions in Teaneck, N.J.

Anne Marie Patterson '08 is an IT security analyst at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C.

Atreyee Poddar '08 is an analyst at KPMG Consulting in New York City.

Sonia Singh '08 is an analyst with Diamond Management and Technology Consultants in Chicago.

Chandrasekhar Sridhar '08 is an analyst with Diamond Management and Technology Consultants in Chicago.

Monil Sundesha '08 is a consultant in the security and privacy practice at Deloitte & Touche LLP in New York City.

M.S. in Telecommunications and Network Management

James Blandford '08 is technical marketing engineer for Cisco Systems in San Jose, Calif.

Hongda Zhou '08 is an IT consultant at Optimal Solutions & Technologies in Washington, D.C.

Certificate of Advanced Study in Information Systems and Telecommunications Management

Michele Ming Shan Smith '07 is lead information systems engineer at the Mitre Corporation in Bedford, Mass.

Ph.D. in Information Science and Technology

Anne Diekema '03 joined the faculty of Utah State University in August as assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Services. ●

Cultivating the iSchool Spirit Into Lifelong Success

AMY SPEACH, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every bit as upbeat and articulate as Katie Couric, Marissa Petruno '08 came to Syracuse University expecting to pursue a career in broadcast journalism. Her interest and strengths in technology led her to the iSchool, however, where she discovered the prospering field of information management and technology—an unexpected yet happy turn of events she's been celebrating since her first semester here. "This major allows people to bridge the gap between technology and the businesses that use it. And essentially, every business uses it," says Petruno, now one of the iSchool's most ardent proponents. "It is about understanding how the use of information can help companies and individuals grow."

One of the things that first attracted Petruno to the field was the vast career opportunities for IT professionals, and she's seen the job market grow even more expansive during her time here. Last summer, she held an internship with Liberty Mutual, working in the insurance company's corporate information systems office in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. "I did a lot of project management and process improvement, looking at the applications and programs the technical people were designing, and finding ways to make them run more efficiently for the business," she says. Petruno's impressive contributions as an intern led the company to offer her a full-time position as an IS analyst in market management following her graduation in May. "I'm from New Hampshire, so it

Marissa Petruno '08

is about 15 minutes from my backyard," she says. "It is a nice change to be back home for awhile. And knowing I had a job lined up let me really enjoy my senior year without worrying about the future."

This past November, Petruno competed on the four-person iSchool team that won the 2007 Travelers IT Case Competition in Hartford, Connecticut. "They put us in a room with two laptops, and gave us five hours to create a presentation demonstrating our solution to one of four proposed scenarios," she says. The team took the $1,000 prize for their suggestion of personalizing employees' login pages in ways that pertain to their specific skills, experience, and interests. "So if someone is a claims specialist, for example,

they have at their fingertips the top stories in claims and can access a blog where other claims specialists can post articles and share tips," Petruno says. "It would be an easy and organized form of brain dumping, essentially. It also provides a way for someone who is retiring to share the knowledge accumulated throughout his career." She credits the team's success, in part, to the iSchool's required presentation class, IST 444. "That class has done wonders for everyone who takes it," she says. "You could go in there the worst public speaker ever, and you'd come out on top of your game—confident, and able to make eye contact and give a flawless presentation."

As one of the iSchool's biggest fans, Petruno played an active role in recruiting prospective students and helping current students thrive—as a peer advisor, a member of the University 100, and a founding member of the Information Studies Undergraduate Alliance (ISTUA). "As peer advisors, we advocate for our school," she says. "I love it! I got to know a lot of the first-year students, and I was able to help them pick the right classes and better understand the major and the job market. We're a small, tight-knit school that offers fantastic opportunities. I always encourage students to take advantage of that right from the start." Petruno expects to remain actively involved with the iSchool as an alumna, by representing Liberty Mutual at career fairs, participating in alumni panels, and perhaps, eventually, pursuing a graduate degree. "I definitely hope to come back often and help where I can," she says. "It has been a very rewarding four years, and I'm glad I stuck around!" ●

iSchool Web Site Gets a New Look, Improved Functionality

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

The School of Information Studies has launched a newly designed web site at *http://ischool.syr.edu*. Working with its own Professor of Practice Jeffrey Rubin and his company, Internet Consulting Services, the iSchool upgraded its backend content management system as well as its front-end look.

"I am thrilled with the new site," says Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy. "It will serve us well as our key mode of communication with alumni, our current and future students, research partners, future employers, and supporters of the school."

The site features a few new sections, including iSchool Life, a section that provides visitors with a glimpse of and ways to connect to the school through a variety of new media, and Newsroom, a resource for media and visitors to call upon our faculty experts and keep up with our latest news.

"Web site technology and industry standards change so quickly that every organization needs to continually be updating and managing their web site based on user needs and industry trends," Rubin says. "We at ICS updated and implemented a custom content management system, which will allow administrators to manage every aspect of the web site without the need to worry about technology."

Designer Chris Kirkegaard '04, who is an adjunct faculty member, worked with iSchool and University communications personnel to create a look that fits with the University's evolving brand as well as to tie the school's web presence more closely with its printed materials. Kirkegaard incorporated the color palettes, fonts, use of University seal, and some basic site structure elements from the University site with the unique style of iSchool marketing materials.

Senior programmer Ravind Budhiraja G'03, who is also an adjunct faculty member, designed customized upgrades to the content management system, enabling more functionality on the site and more user-friendly maintenance of the content. Some of the highlights include an interactive events calendar; rotating student, faculty, and alumni profiles on the home page as well as inside pages; mirroring capability for easier maintenance of the same content on multiple pages; and automated workflow and content update reminder system.

"ICS will continue to work closely with the iSchool to continue to add features which benefit our alumni, current students, prospective students, faculty and staff, and our friends around the world," Rubin says. ●

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iSchool Launches New Professional Doctorate Program

MARGARET SPILLETT, EDITOR

The School of Information Studies has launched a part-time online executive doctoral program for highly qualified middle level managers looking to boost their careers.

The Doctorate of Professional Studies in Information Management is a three-year program with fall, spring, and summer terms, which is offered in a limited residency, distance learning format. The 51-credit hour program involves 16 courses on methods, research, and practice topics (36 credits total), plus 15 credits for thesis work.

"The program's applied approach complements the research focus of the iSchool's existing residential Ph.D. in information science and technology," says Associate Dean for Research and Doctoral Studies Jeffrey Stanton. "The program also fits with Syracuse University's commitment to life-long learning and meeting the evolving needs of students at various stages of their professional careers.

"We heard from working professionals that there is a real need for an advanced degree that combines doctoral level research, an applied focus, and an understanding of the role of information in the knowledge economy in both the private and public sectors," he says.

This anecdotal evidence is supported by more formal studies that report the need for a larger, better trained executive work force in information-related fields. For example, in 2007, the Society for Information Management published a report providing evidence that as early as 2010 there will be a severe shortage in the United States of individuals qualified to fill these senior leadership jobs in business, government, and elsewhere. The iSchool professional doctorate program has been designed to alleviate such a shortage.

Developed for mid-career professionals who are already employed, the diverse curriculum will prepare students to advance within their organizations and help their employers keep pace with the rapidly changing information field.

The program received formal approval this spring by the Syracuse University Board of Trustees and the New York State Office of College and University Evaluation, and has begun accepting applications for the fall 2008 class. A successful candidate will have completed a master's degree and have at least five years of experience in the information professions. See the program pages on the iSchool's web site for more details.

The new professional doctorate program joins a growing list of executive education programs in the iSchool, including the Executive M.S. in Information Management and certificates of advanced study.

For more information, e-mail *ischool@syr. edu*; call 315-443-2911, or visit *ischool.syr.edu/execed*. ●