SPRING/SUMMER 2017 ● VOL. 16, NO. 2

connectiONS

THE iSCHOOL @ SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Remembering Antje Lemke

(1918 – 2017)

Professor Emerita Antje Bultmann Lemke passed away on May 15, 2017 at the age of 98.

In 1952, Antje was hired as Syracuse University's art and music librarian. She went on to earn her Master of Library Science degree from the iSchool (then the School of Library Science). When she volunteered to cover classes for a fellow librarian, her teaching career was born and thrived until her retirement from Syracuse in 1986.

In the years from 1952 to 1986, over 15,000 students had the opportunity to learn from Antje. Whether she was teaching courses like the History of the Book, Bibliography of the Humanities, or Reference; whether she was overseeing a lecture class of eighty students, or a graduate seminar of 6; whether she was tutoring or teaching at Syracuse University programs in Germany or Puerto Rico, or on campus, Antje held to the notion that teaching is sharing information, not imposing it. And generations of students gratefully shared with her, continuing on to rewarding and important careers.

In addition to her long career as a librarian and teacher, Antje worked for many years to ensure the preservation and documentation of the works of theologian, philosopher, and physician Albert Schweitzer. Lemke's father was a friend and admirer of Schweitzer, and Antje translated two of Schweitzer's books into English.

When Antje retired from teaching, a scholarship was established in her name at the iSchool. The Antje Lemke Book Award is awarded every year at the iSchool's Convocation ceremony in May, to a graduate student in the Library and Information Science program who exhibits a passion for learning and a dedication to service.

Antje announced her retirement from teaching in 1985, and taught her last class at the iSchool in the spring semester of 1986. In her resignation letter, she wrote: "*I am especially grateful for having had the opportunity to convey to the next generation what I consider essential in our lives: the seriousness and joy of intellectual pursuit, and the responsibility to act with reason and compassion.*"

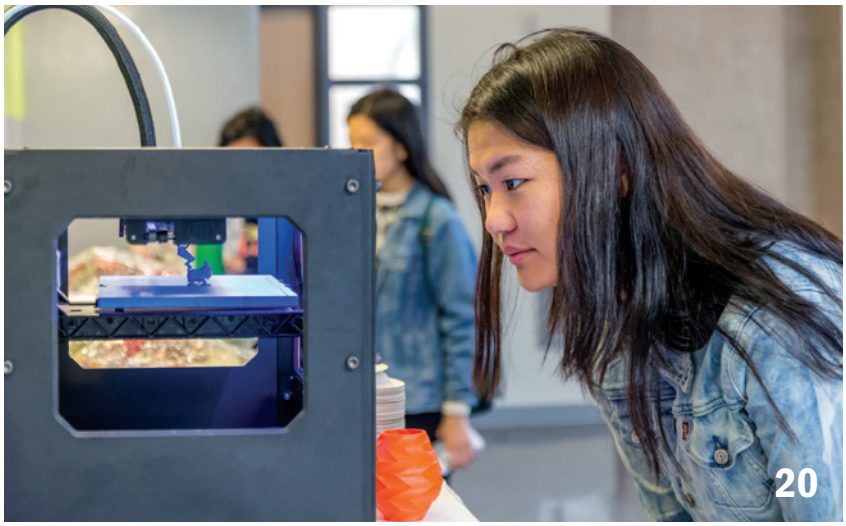
A service in celebration of Antje's life is being planned for the spring of 2018, and details will be shared as they are finalized. Questions can be directed to Barbara Settel at basettel@syr.edu.

Read recollections about Antje, and share your own memories of her on our website: ischool.syr.edu/antje.

SPRING/SUMMER 2017 ● VOL. 16, NO. 2

connections

THE iSCHOOL @ SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



Connections is published twice a year by the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. http://ischool.syr.edu

Dean: Elizabeth D. Liddy G'77, G'88

Editor:
J.D. Ross
rossjd@syr.edu

Alumni News Editor:
Barbara Settel G'73, G'76
basettel@syr.edu

Contributors:
Renée K. Gadoua
Keith Kobland
Kim Pietro
J.D. Ross
Barbara Settel G'76, G'77

Design and Production:
Colleen Kiefer, Kiefer Creative

Address correspondence to:
Connections
Syracuse University iSchool
343M Hinds Hall
Syracuse, NY 13244
rossjd@syr.edu
(315) 443-3094

Connect with the iSchool on Social Media:
facebook.com/su.ischool
twitter.com/ischoolsu
ischool.syr.edu/linkedin

inside this issue

FEATURES

Two New Degree Programs Prepare Graduates for In-Demand Careers 16

A NEXIS of Discovery and Collaboration 20

SCHOOL NEWS

Dean's Message 2
Around the iSchool 3
New Board of Advisors Members 3
Faculty Viewpoint:
Long Days Held Close to the Heart 12
Student Profile 14

ALUMNI NEWS

From the Director 24
Class Notes 25
Upcoming Alumni Events 27
Alumni Profile:
Wiley Cerilli 30
Immersion Trips: Real World Experience in Capital, Talent, & Customer Acquisition 32

ON THE COVER

Senior Kalia Zizi Barrow explains her Arduino-based research project from the NEXIS student lab to faculty member Carlos Caicedo during a Future Friday showcase event. Read more about NEXIS student work on page 20. Photo by J.D. Ross.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Dean's Message

With this issue of *Connections*, I am pleased to be able to talk about some changes and enhancements to our curricular offerings at the iSchool. In our well-known practice of foreseeing the future for our students, we have introduced two new graduate programs in an area which we see as offering the brightest opportunities —**Data Science**.

I am sure you see and hear the very frequent mention by the press of the need for Data Scientists at all levels in an organization. In fact, data scientist is ranked as Glassdoor's No. 1 best job of 2016 and 2017!

In response to the demand and the breadth of expertise sought, we have created two Masters degrees, focusing on distinct parts of the data lifecycle.

The **Applied Data Science Masters** builds on our successful Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Data Science, a 15-credit graduate offering, which we have now expanded to this 36-credit Masters Degree. The Applied Data Science program focuses on applications of data science to enterprise operations and processes, with individual courses tackling data capture, analysis, management, and communication for decision-making. Focus is on practical analytical and technical skills of applying data science methods to improve organizational operations and processes. While housed in the iSchool, we offer this Masters jointly with the Whitman School of Management, and can offer specialization options in accounting analytics, financial analytics, marketing analytics, and supply chain analytics. The Applied Data Science Masters is offered on campus and online.

We know this will be a very beneficial degree for our students as employers are actively seeking candidates with the advanced technical expertise to make data-driven decisions, and data scientists/data analysts are recognized as critical to the success of any organization.

The second degree is our **Enterprise Data Systems Masters**, also 36 credits, offered on campus, and is focused on the design, optimization, and management of information services that support the operation and scalability of secure enterprise information environments from an integrated systems perspective. It focuses more on the infrastructure and service components of an organization's data systems, including the analysis, design, and support of environments that deal with the growing volumes of data that must be shared, stored, and analyzed.

I am pleased to say that our own iSchool Board of Advisors, who represent large organizations who have these needs, have guided us in the development of the Enterprise Data Systems degree. Again, according to Forbes, graduates of this degree are in high demand at employers such as Amazon, EMC, VMWare, Accenture, Google, and IBM in positions such as Cloud Infrastructure Architect, Cloud Support Engineer, Network Manager, and Systems/Cloud Computing Architect.

If you are interested in learning more, read the article on page 16, and check out the iSchool website, under Academics, where you will see these two new degrees detailed, with guidance in how to find out more information, and perhaps apply!

If there are others in your professional network who you think could benefit from an iSchool education in data science, I do hope that you'll pass this information, or your copy of this magazine, along to them so they can learn more. I find that our alumni and friends are always instrumental in helping to spread the news about the many opportunities available at the iSchool—thank you!

Darren Orzechowski
Senior Director of Product and Technical Marketing
VMWare

Sandra Reid G'98
Senior Corporate Counsel
Westfield Retail Solutions

Graham Warner '02 G'13
Chief Operating Officer, Americas Global Transaction Banking
Deutsche Bank

iSCHOOL NEWS

iSchool Welcomes New Members to Board of Advisors

The iSchool is pleased to welcome the following new members to the Board of Advisors.

The iSchool's Board is a collective resource of senior business people, professionals, industry leaders, and other supporters, organized to assist in the development of the School and to help shape and realize its vision. For more information about the Board, contact Kim Pietro, Assistant Dean for Advancement at kpietro@syr.edu. ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Saltz Awarded Grant from 2U to Study Online Learning

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JEFFREY SALTZ HAS received a research grant from education technology company 2U to study student learning and outcomes in online education environments.

In 2016, 2U and the iSchool entered a partnership to deliver the iSchool's master of science programs online via 2U's learning platforms. This is the company's first year awarding research grants to their partner institutions, and Saltz's award is one of 9 grants that 2U has made available, totaling nearly $200,000.

The grant will cover Saltz's research into how students behave and learn in the breakout sessions held during synchronous online course meetings.

Online courses at the iSchool typically start with all students in one virtual online room interacting with the faculty member in real time. Faculty can, when desired, divide the students out into smaller online groups, to work in breakout rooms where they can focus on a particular task or assignment. It is these smaller breakout rooms and the structure of learning within these rooms that Saltz hopes to refine and improve.

"I'm approaching this from the idea of pair programming," explained Saltz. "Pair programming is a software development methodology where two programmers work together at one computer, with one writing code while the other watches, comments, and reviews as the code is written."

"I'm not necessarily looking to study programming, as that's only part of what I'm teaching, but more to focus on the way that two people interact and switch tasks between each other in an online learning video-based collaboration environment," Saltz said. "There's not a lot of research out there right now on how students behave in these smaller-group online environments."

As part of his research, for the first several weeks of his online course, Saltz will have his students work on various data science challenges outside of the pair programming structure. He'll then introduce them to the concept of pair programming and how it can be used to facilitate small groups working on their breakout assignments.

"There's a win-win in this for my students, 2U and myself" said Saltz. "With this research, I hope I can provide a process or methodology that other faculty within 2U's ecosystem, both here at Syracuse and at other partner schools can use in their teaching—while also improving my own online classroom practices in a way that enhances student learning."

This grant supports Saltz's core research interests, which includes understanding how data science teams collaborate and work together.

"I'm interested to see how this plays out," Saltz said of his research plans. "I'm also working on some different experiments for my face-to-face classes as well, and I'm curious to see where the differences might be." ■

STEVE SARTORI

Jeffrey Saltz

STEVE SARTORI

Christopher Sedore

iSCHOOL NEWS

New Internet of Things Class Covers Rapidly Expanding Technology

A new spring semester course offering at the iSchool provided students with an overview of the rapid changes happening in business and technology because of the proliferation of new devices connected to the Internet.

The class, entitled Digital Transformation and the Internet of Things was taught by iSchool adjunct professor and former Syracuse University CIO Chris Sedore.

"This is one of the areas that over the next five years will have a remarkable impact on our lives and also provide a tremendous amount of business opportunities," says Sedore, who is currently president of the New York State Education and Research Network.

Sedore explained that he hopes the class provided an introduction to the topic, allowing students to understand both the technology and the business sides of what is happening in this arena.

"The Internet of Things (IOT) will really touch everything," said Sedore. "From healthcare to manufacturing and supply chains, and it will also produce huge quantities of data that will need to be analyzed for better decision making.

There will be significant demand across different sectors for people who understand the IOT in a business context, Sedore explained.

"Retailers are looking at the IOT to determine consumer behavior, for example," said Sedore. "Even if you're not working on the actual technology, you'll need to understand how it works. And on the business side, you'll need to know how the technology can enable transformation."

"Companies like GE, Google, IBM, and hundreds of others are making pretty significant corporate investments in IOT technology right now," Sedore added, "so there are likely to be good career opportunities for those with a background in this area." ■

J.D. ROSS

iSCHOOL NEWS

LISSA's Day of FiTS Provides Collaborative Learning Experience

IN FEBRUARY, MEMBERS OF the Library and Information Science Student Assembly (LISSA) at the iSchool gathered to put on their annual "Day of FiTS" workshop series.

Held in Hinds Hall, the event attracted dozens of Library and Information Science program graduate students and community members, who came together to organize a day of exhibitions, presentations, and panels. The out-of-classroom learning experience offered students a chance to explore ideas and topics that were outside of the traditional library science curriculum, and that would be helpful to them as they prepared for their careers after graduate school.

"The FiTS event is meant to provide information that isn't in the curriculum, and often that is far outside of the curriculum," said Jill Hurst-Wahl, director of the MS in Library and Information Science program at the iSchool. "For example, American Sign Language (ASL) isn't in the LIS curriculum, yet we know that there are library users who communicate using it. I really enjoyed filling in a space in my knowledge by attending the ASL session and learning about ASL signs that would be helpful in a library setting. Everyone in that session walked away feeling a bit more confident about interacting with someone who uses ASL."

Among the topics on the workshop schedule were sessions on coding, information literacy and fake news, a history of animal rights, and information about partnership opportunities with libraries in Kazakhstan.

Margaret Craft, a December 2016 graduate of the LIS program who currently works at the iSchool's Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning found that attending the Day of FiTS events allowed her to get in touch with her passions and find new things that interested her.

"The workshops are an effort by the LIS students to connect with other students and groups, and provide a platform for people to express them-

***Library and Information Science graduate** student Nura Agzamova presents her Day of FiTS session on libraries in Kazakhstan.*

selves and get a sense of what they want to do with their careers," Craft remarked. "It's also a great opportunity to share and learn from each other, and it's very different from conference networking or professional networking—this is more informal and creates a much different space to learn in.

This was Craft's third year attending a Day of FiTS event.

"For me it's always a grab bag, you never know who will be there or what you might learn, but it's a worthwhile experience," Craft noted.

"I'm thankful for the students, alumni, and other members of our information community who came to the Day of FiTS," said Hurst-Wahl. "It really shows that we each have knowledge that others are interested in, and that what we learn from each other has value and impact." ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Wang Receives Prestigious NSF CAREER Award

Assistant Professor Yang Wang has received a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support his research and education efforts on privacy management for people with disabilities, particularly those with visual impairments.

The CAREER award is one of the Foundation's most prestigious awards. It supports early career development activities of scholars who most effectively integrate research and education efforts, and focuses on faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models who will lead advances in support of the mission of their institutions.

The award will provide Wang with nearly $498,000 over five years to carry out the research and education components of his project, titled, Inclusive Privacy: Effective Privacy Management for People with Visual Impairments.

His project's key goal is to develop novel privacy mechanisms that will be accessible and usable to people with visual impairments as well as design principals for inclusive privacy mechanisms that can support a wide range of populations.

"If you look at the existing mechanisms in place for privacy and security online, they're not designed with consideration for people with disabilities or visual impairments," explained Wang. "The little lock icon on your browser tab, for example, noting that you're on a website that uses the https security protocol, it's a visual cue that isn't accessible for this population."

Wang argues that many of the privacy and security features in place that support secure and private Internet use may actually put these underserved populations at a heightened risk.

"CAPTCHA, for instance, is a disaster for accessibility," said Wang. "Privacy and security measures that rely mainly on visual cues leave this population vulnerable to security issues."

Wang and his research team, based at the iSchool's Social Computing Systems (SALT) Lab, will first conduct ethnographic studies to observe how visually impaired users work with their computers and devices in their natural environment.

"We'll be looking at how they do various day-to-day tasks online, and use this information to create insights as to what is and isn't working in the current state of privacy and security design," said Wang.

Following the ethnographic study phase, Wang and his team will focus on participatory design sessions, directly involving his target population of visually impaired users to co-design the privacy mechanisms with the research team.

"They'll engage in the whole iterative design process: from brainstorming to prototyping to testing and improvement," Wang explained.

The final phase of the research portion of Wang's project will focus on applying his findings and newly created tools to other underserved populations, beyond the visually impaired.

"We will test out what we have learned from and built for our visually impaired users and see what could also be applied or adapted to populations with cognitive impairments, as well as the elderly. This will allow us to explore the possibility of creating design principles for inclusive privacy mechanisms," Wang said. ■

STEVE SARTOR

Yang Wang

BRITTNI STASIUK

***Winners of the inaugural iPrize** pitch competition held in March.*

STUDENT NOTE

iSchool Student Entrepreneurs Win iPrizes, Top Place in Statewide Business Plan Competition

FOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL initiatives started by students at the iSchool were selected as winners in the inaugural iPrize Pitch Competition in March, three of those ventures advanced to the final stage of the New York State Business Plan Competition, and one came away with the top state-wide prize in April.

Students from Syracuse University and other Central New York colleges and universities took part in Compete CNY, the regional qualifier for the New York State Business Plan Competition. Students from Syracuse University were also eligible to win funding from the The Raymond von Dran (RvD) Fund for Student Entrepreneurship at the iSchool, in the form of the iPrize.

Nearly 60 students from eight area institutions entered the competition, divided among six categories: Social Entrepreneurship, Clean Technology, Services, Products, Advanced Technology, and Software / IT.

In the Clean Technology category, iSchool graduate student Joshua Aviv's venture, Spark Charge took first place, and iSchool graduate student Shivali Naik's company, VFFA (Valued Food For All) took second place. Spark Charge provides a portable charging station that allows electric vehicle owners to re-charge their vehicles on the go. VFFA offers healthy food at lower costs by improving communications between for-profit and non-profit organizations. Both Aviv and Naik are enrolled in the iSchool's Information Management master's program.

Aviv went on to win the $100,000 grand prize at the state level a month later, also claiming a top category prize in the state's Clean Technology category, earning him another $10,000.

In the iPrize Software / IT category, Seth Samowitz, an undergraduate student enrolled in the dual iSchool and Whitman School of Management program took second place with his venture Busie. Busie is an instant quoting and booking application program interface for charter bus operators that helps to streamline the booking process.

In the iPrize Service category, Sarah Grosz's venture, Presently, won $500. Grosz is an undergraduate dual-degree student with the School of Management. Her business helps gift-givers find the ideal gift for friends and family by automatically suggesting presents for a person through an intelligent profiling process.

"I am pleased to see our iPrize winners continuing on to sweep so many of the top spots at the statewide competition," says iSchool Dean Elizabeth Liddy. "Many of these students were participants in our Information Technology, Design, and Startups minor or spent summers at the Syracuse Student Sandbox working on their companies. I am proud to see their efforts and hard work being so handsomely rewarded." ■

RvD Legacy

The RvD iPrize continues the legacy of support for student entrepreneurs started at the iSchool by former dean Raymond von Dran, who served from 1995 to 2007, and passed away shortly before he stepped down. von Dran was a long-time academic entrepreneur who started many innovative programs in higher education and supported student innovation and entrepreneurship. His wife, Gisela, ensured that her husband's infectious spirit for innovation lived on through the creation of the RvD Fund after his death.

"The iSchool is grateful to Gisela for her support of these students and their entrepreneurial spirit," said Kim Pietro, assistant dean for advancement at the iSchool. "It was a pleasure to watch them compete here, and the iPrize funds help ensure that they can keep these teriffic ventures moving forward."

The Compete CNY and iPrize competitions were organized in a partnership between the iSchool and the Blackstone LaunchPad in Syracuse University's Bird Library. The LaunchPad is an experiential entrepreneurship program open to students, alumni, staff and faculty, offering coaching, ideation, and venture creation support. ■

STUDENT NOTE

Student Donation Brings Charge to Electric Vehicles on Campus

As a student entrepreneur who runs the clean-tech company SparkCharge, Joshua Aviv says he was surprised to learn there were no locations on campus to charge an electric vehicle. Electric cars are equipped to be charged using a wall socket, but that takes longer than the charging stations themselves. Thanks to Aviv, this is no longer the case.

"We had previously been working to install charging stations along the Thruway when we realized they would be put to better use here on campus serving our community," says Aviv.

And now they are. Installation was recently completed on two charging stations, one located in the Booth Garage, the other in the University Avenue Garage, placed near the entrance of each. For people who drive electric cars, it will go a long way in reducing something known as range anxiety. Namely, the fear of a car battery running out.

Aviv completed his undergraduate studies at the College of Arts and Sciences in 2014, and is currently enrolled as a graduate student in the Information Management program at the iSchool.

"I was very happy Josh donated the charging stations to Syracuse University, as I have an electric vehicle and drive about 50 miles into work each day," says Sean Scanlon, vice president of advancement and external affairs. Scanlon is a big believer in electric vehicles in terms of both the savings on fuel, and reduction in carbon emissions in the environment. "Considering the environmental, financial and political costs of oil and gas, why use it when you don't have to?"

Aviv developed his idea during his environmental economics class as an undergraduate. His skills as an entrepreneur were further enhanced during his graduate studies.

"I'm so pleased that Josh has provided us with these charging stations to use on campus," says iSchool Dean Liz Liddy. "We've helped prepare Josh to be successful as an entrepreneur through his involvement with initiatives like the Student Sandbox and the RvD iPrize event, and I'm thrilled to see him making an impact in the market and giving back to the University in a way that will benefit the community."

KEITH KOBLAND

Joshua Aviv *with one of his newly-installed electric vehicle charging stations in Syracuse University's Booth Garage.*

The charging stations will be gathering information to be used by SparkCharge to help the electric car industry grow.

"We believe that Syracuse University could be a leader in electric vehicle and electric vehicle charging station research, says Aviv. "The cold weather in Syracuse gives electric vehicles quite a challenge and we hope to find out more about how electric vehicles charge in the harsh climate. The charging stations will also help reduce the need for fossil fuel, and the carbon footprint of Syracuse University as an organization. We hope that these charging stations will spark an interest in electric vehicles that will carry on for years to come." ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Semaan Secures NSF Grant to Address Veteran Transitions with Technology

STEVE SARTORI

Bryan Semaan

What happens to people after they experience a disruptive event in their lives—a job loss, physical or emotional trauma, a natural disaster, a disease diagnosis, returning from war, or homelessness? These life changes, or invisible crises, can be debilitating on the people who are going through them. Following these events, people undergo a process of adjustment—a transition phase—as several taken-for-granted aspects of life, like routines, relationships, and roles, are changed dramatically.

How people recover from these life disruptions, how they transition back to a normal, or 'new normal,' and the role that information and communication technologies (ICT) play in this recovery and transition are questions that iSchool Assistant Professor Bryan Semaan will address with a National Science Foundation-funded grant to study transition resilience.

> "What's missing is the vet's perspective—and their family's perspective—about the transition process. I want to shed light on the hidden pieces of their transitions."

"These kinds of life disruptions, both big and small, are not new, but what is new is that people have access to ICTs, such as mobile and social media, with which they can navigate crises—or, be resilient in the aftermath of these crises," explained Semaan. "These technologies can improve peoples' resilience to disruptions, but we lack deep and systematic knowledge about how ICTs actually enable resiliency, and my research aims to address this."

One population that Semaan and his research partners will focus on is veterans, and how they handle their return to civilian life after their service ends.

"What I've found in working with the veteran population on other projects is that they're trying very hard to become civilians and reintegrate into their post-service lives, but they're having a difficult time doing it." Semaan said. "This project is about trying to understand the range of issues they're experiencing with their transitions, and how they are using technology to be resilient. From there, I want to identify the specific technology needs they have and figure out how we might be able to establish new technology platforms to help with this process."

One of the most important aspects of this research, Semaan believes, lies in assessing the services that are available to veterans after they return to civilian life.

"Often, these services aren't inclusive of veteran voices in the process, discovering what their needs are in a post-service life," Semaan said. "What's missing is the vet's perspective—and their family's perspective—about the transition process. I want to shed light on the hidden pieces of their transitions."

Semaan will collaborate on this research with Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) and the Department of Veteran Affairs at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. Collaborators include Nicholas Armstrong, Senior Director for Research and Evaluation at the IVMF, and Kyle Possemato, a psychologist at the VA.

"Our overall goal is to provide information that will help to improve existing organizational infrastructures—like the VA—and identify what services can they provide for transition," Semaan said. "In the military, there's a lot of time spent in building up soldiers, in training them to be a part of their unit, but there's just a few weeks spent on their transition out of the military, if that."

Part of Semaan's research will involve building a new software system and wearable device that he hopes will provide veterans with the ability to better manage stressful events brought on by their post-transition lives.

"We're looking to create a new type of device that recognizes stress events, and gives veterans the ability to manage these events on their own as they arise," he explained. "It will not only have detection elements, but also reflection and logging capabilities. We want to provide a documentation of what they are experiencing over time, so that they can self-identify any trends—both negative and positive—in their lives."

The final component of the research that Semaan and his team are conducting includes creating a network or social media space for veterans to connect with each other.

"We want to give veterans the ability to connect with other veterans who might be having the same issues with transitions that they are, a type of internal social network," Semaan explained. "It might be connected with Facebook, or it might be a standalone network, we haven't determined that yet."

Once the research team has conducted their service member interviews, built their software platform, and created the connected network, they hope to turn the technology and data over to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the IVMF to use as part of their services for veterans.

"The VA is under resourced right now, so this fills an immediate need to help improve how service members transition out of the military," Semaan said. "And while the veterans model is probably the most severe need, there are also applications for these devices and technologies in other areas, such as people suffering from mental health conditions, chronic illnesses, and refugees fleeing war-torn areas, just to name a few."

The NSF-funded project, Transition Resilience: Navigating Invisible Crises with ICTs, was awarded $173,205 and will run through May, 2019. ■

iSCHOOL NEWS

Stromer-Galley Secures $11.5 Million for Decision Making Research

CAN AN APPLICATION HELP intelligence analysts engage in better reasoning and produce reports that help decision-makers make better decisions? A multi-disciplinary team of researchers from Syracuse University, the University of Arizona, Colorado State University, and SRC, Inc. aims to answer this question by developing digital tools for improving reasoning and decision-making.

The team, led by iSchool Professor Jennifer Stromer-Galley, will develop TRACE (Trackable Reasoning and Analysis for Collaboration and Evaluation), a web-based application aimed at improving reasoning through the use of techniques—such as debate and analogical reasoning—along with crowdsourcing to enhance analysts' problem-solving abilities and foster creative thinking in order to provide support and guidance where human reasoning falls short.

The 50-month project is supported by a $11.5 million contract from the CREATE (Crowdsourcing Evidence, Reasoning, Argumentation, Thinking and Evaluation) Program of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA), an arm of the Office for the Director of National Intelligence, which heads the nation's intelligence services.

"Our goal is to create a reasoning and reporting application that is not only effective, but also appealing to users by making the process intriguing and fun while not interfering with their natural reasoning and writing abilities," said Stromer-Galley. "What makes this project unique is that we are rigorously testing every aspect of our application using experimental research methods. When this project is done we will have a proven effective tool for people to use."

J.D. ROSS

Members of the TRACE team *from left to right: Lu Xiao, Carsten Oesterlund, Kate Kenski, Jennifer Stromer-Galley, James Folkestad, Rosa Mikeal Martey, Brian McKernan, and Debi Plochocki. Not pictured, David Kellen and Lael Schooler.*

The project includes a large team of researchers, practitioners and graduate students with unique abilities and areas of expertise, ranging from human-computer interaction, deliberation, crowdsourcing, game and experimental design, interface and software design, cognitive and decision sciences, as well as computational techniques.

> "Through TRACE, we hope to improve online communication platforms that help groups make more accurate and satisfying decisions when faced with important and sometimes urgent problem-solving tasks,"
>
> —KATE KENSKI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

The potential benefits of a platform such as TRACE may go beyond the intelligence community and can provide guidance to those interested in improving group communication and teamwork. "Through TRACE, we hope to improve online communication platforms that help groups make more accurate and satisfying decisions when faced with important and sometimes urgent problem-solving tasks," said Kate Kenski, associate professor of communication and government and public policy at the University of Arizona. "While our system is being designed for the intelligence community, we see our product design as one that can potentially improve group communication in many types of settings, including political, public service, and business arenas." ■

iSCHOOL NEWS

iSchool Retains #4 Ranking for Library and Information Science Schools

THE ISCHOOL REMAINS ranked No. 4 among 51 library and information science schools in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2018 Best Graduate Schools Rankings, released in March.

The School was also ranked second for information systems, fourth in school library media, and fourth in digital librarianship in the library and information science category specialization rankings.

"We're very proud to remain a highly ranked program," said iSchool Dean Liz Liddy. "We have always been known as a top technical LIS program, and this year's rankings again confirm this with a strong showing among the different specializations."

"I am proud of the education we provide here at Syracuse, and appreciate the well-deserved recognition generated by these rankings," Liddy continued. "Graduates of our programs are recognized as professionals in their field who have the insight and expertise to accomplish the goals of the organization in which they work—be it a library, an established company, an information-based start-up, a government agency, or a not-for-profit organization."

"Graduates of our programs are recognized as professionals in their field who have the insight and expertise to accomplish the goals of the organization in which they work—be it a library, an established company, an information-based start-up, a government agency, or a not-for-profit organization."

– LIZ LIDDY

This year, U.S. News ranked 51 U.S.-based master's degree programs in library and information science accredited by the American Library Association. The rankings are based on the results of a survey sent to each program's dean, director and a senior faculty member.

In addition to March's published rankings, the iSchool is also ranked ranked No. 17 for best online degree programs for graduate computer information technology, and No. 6 in information technology programs for veterans. ■

SUSAN KAHN

The Syracuse iSchool retained the No. 4 spot *for library and information science schools in* U.S. News and World Report's Best Graduate School *rankings for 2018.*

iSCHOOL NEWS

Syracuse Sweeps Awards at Annual iConference

Faculty members, a doctoral student, and an alumna of the Ph.D. program took home awards in multiple categories at the annual iConference, hosted by the iSchools Organization in Wuhan, China this spring.

Doctoral Dissertation Award

DAVID BRODA

Assistant Professor Rachel Ivy Clarke *won the 2017 Doctoral Dissertation Award at the iConference.*

Assistant Professor Rachel Ivy Clarke was honored with the 2017 Doctoral Dissertation Award. Her dissertation, conducted at the University of Washington's Information School, was judged the best to have been completed at a member iSchool in the preceding academic year. The runner up was Jasy Liew Suet Yan, a graduate of the Syracuse iSchool's doctoral program.

The iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Award recognizes outstanding work in the information field. Nominations are solicited from all members of the iSchools Organization, which number more than 80 institutions worldwide, and are judged by an award committee drawn from leading international schools. The Syracuse iSchool was a founding member of the organization.

Clarke's dissertation is titled *It's Not ~~Rocket~~ Library Science: Design Epistemology and American Librarianship*.

"Librarianship is typically framed as a social science," explained Clarke, "but in my dissertation, I argue that librarianship is really more of a design discipline, as librarians make things—things like classification schemes, cataloging projects, events, and reader advisory services, to name just a few."

Reconceptualizing librarianship as a design discipline offers opportunities for empowering and supporting the continued relevance of libraries in the 21st century. A change in how librarianship is perceived could have implications for how librarians are taught, how their job roles are defined, and how research in the field of librarianship is conducted, Clarke believes.

"I carry this world view into my classes with me," said Clarke, "and this was one of the things that attracted me to the iSchool at Syracuse, where I have an opportunity to do a lot of hands-on making in my classes." ■

Most Interesting Preliminary Results Paper

Associate Professor Bei Yu, Research Analyst Yatish Hegde, and Ph.D. student Yingya Li were selected as winners for their paper, *CORA: A Platform to Support Citation Context Analysis*.

This award goes to the authors of the most intriguing paper in the preliminary results category. ■

Best Completed Research Paper Finalist

Assistant Professor Lu Xiao was selected as a finalist for the Lee Dirks Best Research Paper Award for her paper, Writing to Persuade: *Analysis and Detection of Persuasive Discourse*, co-authored with Taraneh Khazaei and Robert Mercer from the University of Western Ontario. ■

Long Days Held Close to the Heart

BY: JILL HURST-WAHL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE

STEVE SARTORI

There is no job description for an iSchool program director and each program director defines his or her own role differently. For me, the best description has boiled down to three things: the answerer of all questions, the solver of all problems, and the person who cares about everything. Those three things describe my life for the last five years as director for the Masters in Library and Information Science program.

When I joined the iSchool in 2001 as a visiting instructor, I had no vision of me staying on longer than two years. Coming from a corporate background and working as a full-time consultant, I could not imagine staying in an academic environment. However, life joyfully intervened and I stayed in Syracuse and remained connected to the school as an adjunct instructor. When I became a full-time professor of practice in 2009, I had no dreams of being program director. My tenure with the iSchool had already been impacted by three program directors (Jana Bradley, Gisela von Dran, and Scott Nicholson). Soon there was number four (David Lankes) and then the recognition that my project management skills might work well in the program director position. I stepped into the roll in 2012.

Every student in the iSchool is in a program which has its own director. We each work long hours attending to a myriad of details from student recruitment and retention, classes being offered (when and by whom), the need for new full-time and adjunct faculty, and much more. If you have never heard a student mention us, then we have done our jobs well because everything went smoothly for them. If you have heard our names, then it is likely that we got involved to smooth out something, no matter what that thing was. There is great joy in knowing that I did something—small or large—to help one of our students succeed. That joy culminates in watching students walk across the stage at convocation, where handshakes and hugs ensue.

However, being a leader with future members of my own profession (a.k.a. students) watching me isn't easy. I know that they watch my every move, mostly with curiosity, and sometimes with criticism. If observing has taught them anything, I hope it is that being a manager and leader isn't easy. Being a manager and a leader can mean long hours and sometimes unpopular decisions. Perhaps for some students, it might be that lessons in the classroom were made more real because of conversations and decisions they saw made in Hinds Hall. Some even witnessed Six Thinking Hats in action!

What will I remember from these last five years? I will remember:

- The long days filled with meetings, email, teaching, and talking with students and prospective students. And did I mention the email? Our iSchool academic programs don't sleep. Classes are held on campus and online, with students asking questions and seeking advice at all hours of the day. As the answerer of all questions, I can tell you that most of those were asked through email and many were answered at night or on the weekend (when meetings aren't held!).
- The success achieved by all of our iSchool students, no matter what program they are in, and knowing the work the programs put in for that success to occur. There is nothing better than watching a graduate head to his/her first professional position or hearing of career moves and advancement.
- The introductions made of students to library and information science professionals, whether that happened through social media or at a conference. The library profession is one where relationships matter, and I enjoy helping students and alumni make those relationships with others in the profession. One of my most favorite photos was emailed to me after a then-student talked with one of my close colleagues at a conference. They had realized that they had "me" in common and that conversation led to a professional bond.
- The support I have received from faculty, staff, my program and student assistants, and undergraduate/graduate students, especially when the days were extremely long and the stress higher than normal. I'm grateful for every kind word and every bright smile!
- Securing the MSLIS program's American Library Association continued accreditation for an additional seven years in 2016. Many know that this singular event dominated my life for several years. It is a pleasure to have it now in the rearview mirror.

And a countless number of other memories. Thank YOU for each and every one of them! As I return to being "just faculty," please know those memories will never be forgotten. ■

Faculty Retirements

In May, the iSchool said farewell to three long-time faculty members as they retired and attained professor emeritus status at the end of the academic year.

Robert Heckman
Associate Professor
iSchool faculty since 1992

Michael Nilan
Associate Professor
iSchool faculty since 1986

Zixiang (Alex) Tan
Associate Professor
iSchool faculty since 1996

2017 Professor of the Year Awards

At the iSchool's Convocation ceremonies in May, four faculty members were recognized by the graduating classes for their contributions to the iSchool. The Jeffrey Katzer Professor of the Year award was established by former faculty member and interim dean Jeffrey Katzer in 1995. Katzer believed that it was important for faculty to be recognized for superior teaching. Every year, the graduating undergraduate and graduate classes each select a full-time and part-time faculty member to be honored at the two Convocation ceremonies. Honors are based on students' evaluation of excellence in teaching, engagement, and scholarship. ■

Murali Venkatesh
Full-time, undergraduate

Alexander Corsello
Part-time, undergraduate

Jeff Hemsley
Full-time, graduate

Mark Borte
Part-time graduate

STUDENT PROFILE

ALEXIS HO-LIU

Undergraduate Research Project Takes IM&T Student to China

BY: J.D. ROSS

How immigrants use social media, digital communications technologies, and mobile applications to interact with their communities and families is the subject of an undergraduate research project that brought iSchool junior Alexis Ho-Liu to China this spring, where he presented his work at the iConference.

Coordinated by the iSchools Organization, the iConference is an annual academic conference that brings together researchers affiliated with information and library science institutions from around the globe. Syracuse is a founding member of the iSchools Organization, and the iConference has been a yearly event since 2005.

"The week before I went to Wuhan, I was on the iSchool's Spring Break in Silicon Valley trip, so I was able to get both an industry perspective and an academic perspective back-to-back. But it's too early to say where I think I'll end up—I'm open to exploring both options.

—ALEXIS HO-LIU

Ho-Liu, a student in the iSchool's B.S. in Information Management and Technology program, was one of a handful of undergraduate students at the conference, invited to present the research he conducted as part of his experience with the iSchool Inclusion Institute (i3), a summer undergraduate research program hosted by the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Early in the spring of my sophomore year, I decided to apply to i3, because I thought it would be a good way to introduce myself to the world of academic research," Ho-Liu said.

The program is held on the University of Pittsburgh's campus, and emphasizes teamwork among interdisciplinary project members. The research and leadership development program that prepares undergraduate students from underrepresented populations for graduate study and careers in the information sciences. The highly selective program takes only 25 students in each cohort.

"The program was structured in a way that provided us with a number of workshops across different areas," said Ho-Liu, "with faculty members from Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, and other universities helping us to select and start on our research projects."

After the initial 4-week summer session, Ho-Liu and his team went back to their respective institutions, and began collaborating on their research project remotely. The team completed their literature review and submitted a poster proposal detailing their research project to the iConference organizing committee, who approved their project for presentation at the 2017 conference in Wuhan, China.

"I was initially intimidated by the idea of presenting academic research at the iConference as an undergraduate," Ho-Liu said. "But I found that people in academia are open to learning from from all levels, and the masters—and doctoral-level colleagues we met at the conference encouraged us to keep researching and gave us helpful advice—it showed me what the environment of academia is like."

As a child of immigrants from China, Ho-Liu's research topic is close to home, as he sees how his own parents use digital media for communication. "Many of my team members also come from immigrant backgrounds, so we're looking at the digital divide, and why some populations prefer one application over another," he explained. "My parents, for example, use WeChat exclusively, so we want to figure out what makes that application a preferred one over Facebook, or another messaging app."

Ho-Liu hopes that the findings from his project will eventually be used by developers to make decisions about the design, usability, accessibility, and inclusivity of their apps.

"We're only in the initial stage of research now," said Ho-Liu, "but we're soon going to move into interviews and then the assessment phase next, evaluating immigrant populations via a survey."

Although the i3 research opportunity provided a good introduction to an academic research career path, Ho-Liu still is unsure where his future lies.

"The week before I went to Wuhan, I was on the iSchool's Spring Break in Silicon Valley trip," he noted, "so I was able to get both an industry perspective and an academic perspective back-to-back. But it's too early to say where I think I'll end up—I'm open to exploring both options. Based on my skills and experience, I think I'm leaning more towards a tech job, but I'm not sure yet," he said.

Ho-Liu will spend this summer at GE Digital in Chicago, as an intern in their Digital Technology Leadership Program. He hopes the experience will give him more insight into what an information technology industry career would be like.

"I'm thankful that the iSchool gave me the opportunity to experience an academic conference, I'm grateful to Dean Liddy for the support," Ho-Liu said. "And [associate dean for research] Kevin Crowston has helped me explore research here at the iSchool and provided advice on our poster, he's been a good source of support as well."

"The experiences I've had at the iSchool are helping me to make decisions about what I want to do with my life," said Ho-Liu. "I think it's important for students to assess their options early on and see what they want to do, and to take any opportunity that they can to expose themselves to different experiences." ■

two new degree programs prepare graduates for in-demand careers

BY J.D. ROSS

During the spring semester, the iSchool unveiled two new master's degree programs designed to meet growing demands for graduates with specific skills for careers in enterprise data, cloud computing environments, and data science.

The programs, developed in close consultation with alumni and industry leaders in their respective fields, will begin admitting students for study in the summer and fall terms.

Enterprise Data Systems

The rapid growth and proliferation of cloud-based computing infrastructure, mobile apps, social media, data-gathering sensors, and connected devices has led to increased levels of connectivity at the infrastructure, social, economic and policy levels. The sheer amount of data created and gathered in this increasingly connected world has resulted in a demand for skilled professionals who understand new paradigms for enterprise computing and have the ability to design, configure, and manage modern digital enterprise and cloud computing environments.

The new master's degree program in Enterprise Data Systems (EDS) will prepare graduates to design, support, and optimize the infrastructure and processes that power the new digital and data-centric enterprises. This degree builds on the former M.S. in Telecommunications and Network Management degree that the iSchool offered. That degree was closed to new enrollment in 2015 while the EDS degree curriculum was being developed.

J.D. ROSS

Associate Professor Carlos Caicedo examines hardware in the University's Green Data Center. Caicedo is the curriculum lead for the iSchool's new master's degree in Enterprise Data Systems.

"This degree will provide our graduates with the business and technical perspectives of how data and infrastructure work in an enterprise, and give them the knowledge and skills to build, automate, and support these new environments," said Associate Professor Carlos Caicedo, curriculum lead for the new degree.

"The iSchool offers an excellent blend of business- and management-related skills as well as technical knowledge and skills," Caicedo continued. "We've been successful with this balance with our information management program, and now we're translating that success to enterprise data systems."

"We've always been a leader in information systems, and in the importance of understanding how people work with information," said iSchool Dean Liz. Liddy. "It's more than ensuring that the data gets to the right places, it's understanding what people will do with the data, what they need from the data, and how they do their jobs. Our graduates will be able to design and implement systems with the goals of the end user in mind."

Recent reports from IT research and advisory firm Gartner predict additional growth in the infrastructure space as adoption of cloud-based technologies increases. The additional demand from migration of infrastructure from traditional enterprise systems to the cloud, and increased demand from more intensive workloads, such as artificial intelligence and analytics, are helping to drive this growth.

"Cloud computing, and the revolution it is causing in the way information is shared, could be one of the most disruptive technology trends to impact business," said Darren Orzechowski, Senior Director of Cloud Management at cloud and virtualization software and services company VMWare, and member of the iSchool's Board of Advisors. "This master's degree positions iSchool students on the leading edge of this trend, with a

J.D. ROSS

Assistant Professor Jeff Hemsley reviews the work of a student in his information visualization course during a poster session in Hinds Hall. Hemsley's course is an elective in the Applied Data Science degree curriculum.

next-generation, differentiated skillset that will be applicable for years to come."

"The iSchool has strong relationships with companies that are leaders in the cloud computing, computer networks, and data management technologies industries," explained Caicedo. "Representatives from our industry collaborators provide their time, talent, and business expertise along with access to curriculum, leading software packages and hardware configurations."

These industry relationships will allow students in the EDS program to obtain hands-on experience and apply classroom learning to real-world scenarios in an environment found only at the iSchool.

"The blend of technical skills and information management knowledge that our students will receive makes them ideal candidates for positions opening up in the growing number of companies seeking to manage or implement infrastructure to gather and obtain value from data," said Caicedo. "Employers are seeking people who not only have technical expertise, but who can also communicate with the boardroom in everyday language. EDS graduates will be able to articulate their recommendations, solutions, and strategies to both technical and non-technical stakeholders."

The EDS master's degree is a campus-based program that requires fulfillment of 36 credit hours. Students will take core courses in subjects such as cloud management, information policy, information security, and data science. Students will also select a secondary focus area from the curriculum, choosing from cloud and virtualized environments; data science infrastructure and applications; enterprise IT infrastructure management; and mobile services and applications. Students may also create a custom secondary focus area in consultation with their faculty advisor.

Additional information about the EDS degree can be found online: ischool.syr.edu/EDS.

Applied Data Science

With the increasing amount of large data sets being collected by corporations and institutions across all sectors of the economy, the demand for individuals with skills in data processing and analytics is growing dramatically.

Recent studies show that the time to fill these position is also increasing, which suggests that there just aren't a sufficient number of data scientists in the job market, further evidenced by the fact that the starting salaries for professionals with big data expertise is well over $100,000 per year.

Not only is there a great demand for skilled data science practitioners, the demand for individuals that can market big data solutions quintupled from 2014 to 2016. In addition, the demand for deep analytical skills in the United States could be 50% greater than its projected supply by 2018, according to a study conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The new master's degree program in Applied Data Science (ADS) will allow students to build practical analytical and technical skills that they can

apply to analytical concepts, allowing them to gain insight from small and large datasets.

This degree program will provide students with the background they need for a career in the data science field, a field with the No. 1 ranked best job by job search engine Glassdoor in 2016 and 2017.

The ADS degree is a fully interdisciplinary degree and is offered in collaboration with Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management. This degree is built for those who have either a strong background or a strong interest in the applications of data science to solve problems for organizations.

"We believe in teaching students the skills they need to be successful on the job market," said Art Thomas, associate dean for academic affairs at the iSchool. "The M.S. in ADS directly addresses the need for data science and problem-solving skills in business and academia, and our ADS graduates will enter their job searches with a portfolio demonstrating their applied data science expertise."

ADS students will learn and experience the direct application of data science practices and principles, and will graduate the 36-credit program with a complete professional portfolio that demonstrates their ability to solve real-life business and scientific problems using data science.

"We have seen job opportunities for professionals with experience analyzing big data accelerate at high rates over the past three years, and we anticipate this demand to continue on its upward trajectory as data-driven roles within businesses continue to grow," said Donald Harter, associate dean of graduate programs for Whitman. "This degree will enable students to develop the analytical business skillsets that are needed by organizations everywhere."

The ADS degree is available in both on-campus and online formats, and is typically completed in under 2 years. The curriculum combines a primary core, analytics application core, and electives that will provide students with a strong data science and analytics foundation and allow a secondary focus of their choosing.

Successful students in the program will be able to:

- Describe a broad overview of the major practice areas of data science,
- Collect and organize data,
- Identify patterns in data via visualization, statistical analysis, and data mining,
- Develop alternative strategies based on the data,
- Develop a plan of action to implement the business decisions derived from the analyses,
- Demonstrate communication skills regarding data and its analysis for managers, IT professionals, programmers, statisticians, and other relevant professionals in their organization,
- Synthesize the ethical dimensions of data science practice (e.g., privacy).

More details about the ADS degree are available online: ischool.syr.edu/ADS. ■

iSchool master's degree offerings

With the addition of the two new degrees this spring, the iSchool now offers the following master's programs:

- **Applied Data Science**
- **Enterprise Data Systems**
- **Information Management**
- **Library and Information Science**
- **Library and Information Science with School Media Specialization**

All degrees, with the exception of Enterprise Data Systems, are also available online. The M.S. in Information Management degree is also available in an executive format, which offers a reduced course load to students with six or more years of appropriate full-time, professional experience in the information management field.

Learn about all M.S. programs at: ischool.syr.edu/masters

A NEXIS of Discovery & Collaboration

RENÉE K. GADOUA

Mark Edmiston and Kyle Rand may have found a solution to the perennial problem of college students losing their IDs and keys. They envision devices similar to Disney's MagicBands, rubber wristbands that use RFID chips to store data. MagicBands act as IDs and keys at the Orlando parks and resorts, tracking reservations to hotels, restaurants and attractions and storing credit card information.

At Syracuse University, Edmiston and Rand posit, similar wearable technology could replace IDs and keys by unlocking buildings and rooms using RFID chips in bracelets and RFID readers in doors. Theoretically, RFID Orange Bands could hold all sorts of other student and staff data as well.

The team hopes to present the concept to University officials once they work out some more details. "It's a great idea," said Rand, who received his B.S. in Information Management and Technology in May, and is returning for his M.S. in Information Management in the fall. He serves as manager of NEXIS (New Explorations in Information and Science), a student-based research lab housed at the iSchool. "This you literally have to take off to lose. The ID bracelet would be no more expensive than a computer chip to replace."

J.D. ROSS

Mark Edmiston works on his project in the iSchool's ICE Box space.

The ID bracelet was among about 14 student projects on display at a Future Friday showcase in May. About 20 students undertook projects last semester in the NEXIS lab. Members, who must apply, pursue projects outside the classroom, testing their IT ideas, experimenting with emerging technology and collaborating and supporting each other.

Outfitted with beanbag cushions and powerful computers, NEXIS is part high-tech clubhouse and part educational sandbox. The lab opened in 2012 to allow students a new way to implement the iSchool's philosophy of hands-on learning. Through NEXIS, which is open to members 24 hours a day, students can stretch their minds, test theories and experiment with technology. At the same time, they get a taste of working with a team and managing a project.

The projects on display touched on virtual reality, augmented reality, data mining and the intersection of technology and art. Xia Lapides, an iSchool junior, for example, created a

J.D. ROSS

NEXIS lab student manager Kyle Rand explains the workings of a piece of Arduino hardware to iSchool Assistant Dean for Administration Stephen Block.

geodesic dome, a structure made up of triangles. She made the joints and triangles using AutoCAD and a 3-D printer, then added infrared lights and sensors. "When you touch sensors, it changes colors," she explained.

During the showcase, students and faculty visited the displays, while creators explained their projects and the technologies they used: Raspberry pi, Arduinos, LEDs, capacitors, 3-D printers, sensors. Some of the demonstrations failed at first, but students doggedly repeated their efforts. "I love LEDs and lights," one student said.

Sara Talarico, a junior at the Whitman School of Management explained her role in the Orange Band project. "I'm not technically-minded, but I thought this was a good idea," she said. "Disney implemented it through a supply chain. I helped with the research."

Esmerelda Murray, a senior economics student interested in data and game theory, created an algorithm assessing the credibility of news sites based on the design of their websites. In addition to working on the Orange Band project, iSchool junior Edmiston analyzed data to determine the best times to release new video games. Another project started as an augmented reality tour and ended up as an interactive app; users scan images via their phone and are directed to a video explaining the site.

"They do this to pursue some aspect of technology that intrigues them," said Marcene S. Sonneborn, assistant professor of practice at the iSchool and NEXIS faculty advisor. "NEXIS provides the context for self-learning."

Even if IT is not the students' primary career direction, "it gives them the experience of working with the technology that is pervasive in t he world," Sonneborn said. "They think about how it will help them be better in their own field."

Sonneborn, who runs the Central New York Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Outreach Program and advises technology entrepreneurs,

J.D. ROSS

NEXIS faculty advisor Marcene Sonneborn looks on as exchange student and NEXIS member Kristian Holmboe demonstrates his final project at a Future Friday event.

J.D. ROSS

Senior Kalia Zizi Barrow presents her work on Arduino programming during a NEXIS student meeting. Sharing self-directed research findings with other members is a key part of learning in the lab.

connects NEXIS students with people on campus and in the community. "My clients for SBIR are curious about a technology and how to develop it," she said. "These companies are doing the same thing as the students but with big dollars that can potentially be developed to improve some aspect of our lives. NEXIS is sort of a microcosm of that."

Sonneborn's deep experience in the technology and entrepreneurial world sometimes provide networking opportunities. When one student was interested in drone policies, Sonneborn connected him with someone in Utica who was working on drones. Another student was interested in virtual reality and gestural computing. She helped him put together a proposal to present at a conference.

"Some students come at this saying, 'I would like to code or use an Arduino board or develop a virtual reality game,'" Sonneborn said. "A lot of these projects are not so sophisticated, but the projects are based on where the students are and where they want to go. NEXIS is a guided adventure for them."

Rand was eager for that adventure and experimentation at Syracuse. "I wasn't really sold on this place until I saw NEXIS," he said. "There were some cool projects and I was totally blown away." He joined the lab in his second semester and eventually served two semesters as NEXIS director, managing projects and helping to shape the lab's role in the iSchool.

Rand described NEXIS as "the bridge between the classroom and the real world." It's also fun. "Everyone hangs out together. As much as we play, we learn," he said.

NEXIS members gain skills beyond technical knowledge. They learn time management, presentation skills and team work — all necessary to succeed in the workplace. Lab leaders also gain valuable work skills. "When you put on your resume the fact you ran a technical group, that's something employers notice," Sonneborn said.

Billy Ceskavich '14 G'16, now a software engineer at Vox Media in New York City, served as NEXIS co-director when he was a student. "It was one of my core extracurricular activities in grad school," he said. "I remember sitting around working on stuff with no strict rules and doing it with friends I enjoyed working with."

NATALIE WIESNET

Billy Ceskavish '14 G'16

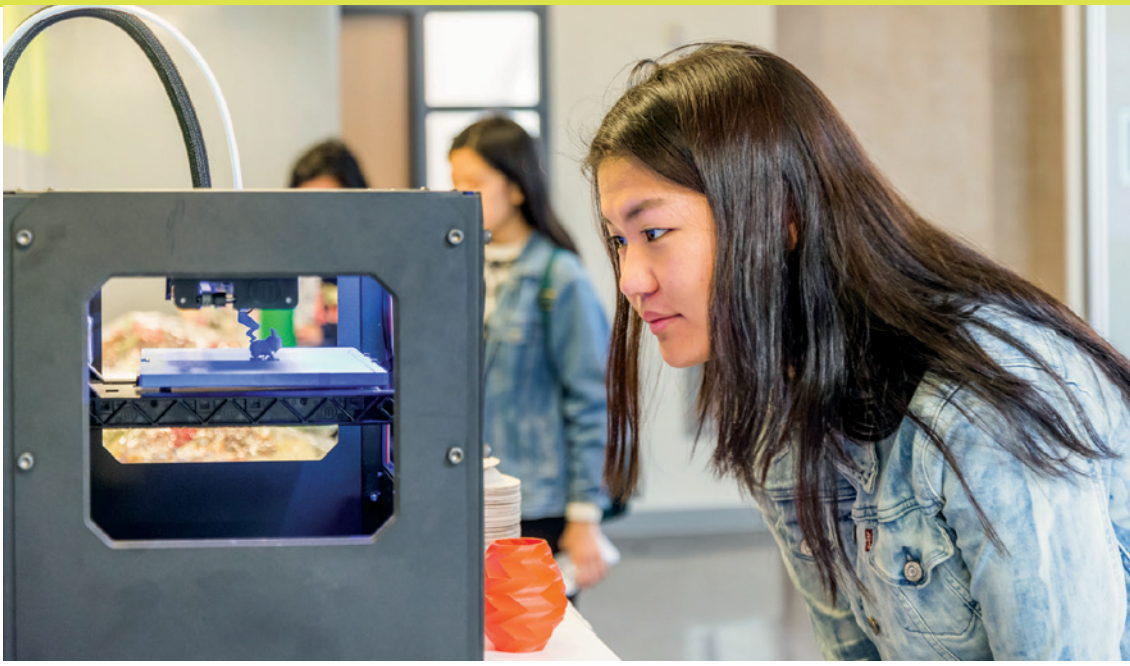
He was involved with the lab's leadership team as NEXIS was evolving into a student-run organization. "We wanted to have this collective working on interesting projects that go beyond school work," he said. "I definitely believed in the idea of what NEXIS could become. I wanted to try

CLAUDIA RUBIN

Linda Gorman '15

> ***"That's really important in the technical field. Technology is a very skills-driven space, and it's good to be able to learn new things. It's a muscle you need to flex and NEXIS helped me learn that."***
>
> —BILLY CESKAVICH '14 G'16

J.D. ROSS



Emerging technologies, like 3-D printers, drones, Google Glass, and virtual reality hardware have been a staple of NEXIS research topics over the years.

to help this little scrappy lab become something people at the iSchool would want to do. It seems to be doing that."

His NEXIS projects included data visualization and a trivia party game. "Most of what I was doing was writing code," he said, adding that the projects helped him get internships and jobs. NEXIS "helped me develop my curiosity and how I hone that to try new things," he said. "That's really important in the technical field. Technology is a very skills-driven space, and it's good to be able to learn new things. It's a muscle you need to flex and NEXIS helped me learn that."

Linda Gorman '15, an Information Management and Technology and Magazine Journalism dual major, joined NEXIS her final semester. "I was interested in making things and electronics," she said. "I thought it would be a good way to connect with some really smart people. It seemed like they were doing some neat stuff."

Gorman first visited NEXIS while writing a story for The Daily Orange student newspaper. "I went to a demo day when they were flying a drone," she recalled. Later, her NEXIS experience informed her honors project, which involved writing articles about robotics and makerspaces. She liked hearing what other people were working on. "There was always something interesting on people's computers," she said.

She's now a developer at Upstatement, a Boston-based web design and development firm started by Syracuse alumni. "It exposed me to some interesting things, like 3-D printing," she said "It was self-directed. That's what the working world is like. You don't get precise direction. You have to figure it out for yourself."

Not every project works out as planned, and some students don't complete their project by the end of the semester. But the experience is still useful and relevant, no matter the student's career direction. "The student now has the core experience to start on the path," Sonneborn said. "It gives them the foundation to further develop that interest."

Self-motivated students thrive in the experiential, independent culture of NEXIS, Sonneborn added. "There are no students in NEXIS who do well if they are waiting for things to happen to them rather than doing things to direct their future," she said.

Transitions

BARBARA SETTEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI RELATIONS

Barbara Settel

DAVID BRODA

Julie Walas Huynh

Every year at Convocation, I tell our students, "you are now officially School of Information Studies alumni and now you all report to me! What does that mean? It means I'm going to bug you for all that personal information we teach you how to protect, like where you're living, where you're working, how we can contact you—Why,? So we can tell you about all the great things that are happening here, so we can boast about you and your classmates accomplishments, and so we can invite you to the networking and social events we hold all over the country. And to be honest, we have a very selfish motive. Our alumni are one of greatest resources—not just because we hope you'll send us a contribution one day—but it's what you do that makes this school look good, helps us recruit the best students, and helps us maintain those terrific U.S. News rankings."

As a treasured resource, we have staff dedicated to communicating with you, engaging with you, and ensuring that you can always ask us for help with your careers or share your success stories with current students. I am only one of many people on that team, and soon I will be yielding my reins to another very capable team member, Julie Walas Huynh. Julie has played an integral part in student life at the iSchool since 2008, as undergraduate recruiter, advisor, and director of student engagement. Julie and I have worked closely together on many programs connecting students with alumni, from Road Trips to immersion programs like EntreTechNYC and Spring Break in Silicon Valley, and networking events for students in all programs.

***Barbara Settel**, at right, with graduating senior Lily Kim at the iSchool's Convocation ceremony in May. Settel greets graduates as they line up to enter the auditorium, inquiring about career plans and post-graduate life.*

The School of Information Studies has been my work home since 1980. I was excited to join the iSchool's staff as a conference coordinator and online lab manager, while also teaching classes in online searching. I knew since I had completed my MLIS a few years earlier that this was a unique work environment where creativity and collegiality flourished. I understudied with Michael Eisenberg and learned to manage the successful Spring Media Conference, and later this would translate into organizing events for alumni around the world. I made the online searching course my own, with guidance from Pauline Atheron Cochrane. I worked my way into administration and counseled hundreds, no, maybe thousands, of iSchool students into degree programs with life-changing career opportunities.

So, you might ask, is Barbara really retiring? Almost. I am cutting back, taking more time to enjoy my ski racing, travel, bike trips, and family. But by no means am I disappearing from the iSchool. You will still see me at many of our regular alumni events, and I will be reaching out to many of you to express our appreciation for your support and to update you on ways you can continue to help the school grow and prosper. I am honored and grateful to work with the best students, faculty and alumni in academia. Keep up the good work and stay in touch. ■

B.S. in Information Management and Technology

Jason Mills '95, iSchool Board Member and Executive Director for Advanced Analytics and Big Data Technology at JP Morgan Chase, invented a product called COiN (contract intelligence). The software, developed a while Jason was running a machine learning team, reviews commercial-loan agreements which had consumed 360,000 hours of work each year by lawyers and loan officers. The program helps JP Morgan reduce loan-servicing mistakes caused by human error. The company is looking for more ways to apply the technology to other types of complex legal filings.

Philip Kaplan '97 announced his engagement to Kari Weiler in February. Kaplan is founder and CEO at DistroKid, an online service that allows musicians to get their music placed into online stores and streaming services.

Tara Wade '01 completed her Doctorate in Educational Leadership/Curriculum at the University of Phoenix.

Jason Devoe '03 is senior director of security services at Cognizant, in Washington D.C.

Michael Librizzi '05 was married to Marissa Berman. They live in San Francisco, where Michael is an account manager for Google.

Michael Corcoran '07 is a Senior Information Systems Project Manager at Hallmark Health Systems in Boston, MA. Corcoran recently hosted a group of students on the iSchool's healthcare and technology Road Trip to Boston.

BARBARA SETTEL

***Michael Cocoran '07** speaks to students on the iSchool's Road Trip in Boston.*

Josh Frost '08 and his wife Jessica welcomed baby Arlo to the family. Josh works in product development for Major League Baseball's Advanced Media division.

Maxx Berkowitz '11 married Rebecca Margolick. Maxx works as the Design Director for Outernets, an NYC based startup creating interactive storefront windows.

Alec Truitt '11 married Laura Green, a 2011 graduate of the Whitman School of Management. Alec is an Account Executive for DoubleClick Channel Sales at Google.

***Julie Deutsch '13** poses for a photo while visiting the Baha'i Gardens in Haifa, Israel.*

Julie Deutsch '13 recently completed a 7-month leave of absence from Deloitte Consulting to live and work in Tel Aviv while on a Masa program, and has now permanently relocated to Israel. She is working for WalkMe as a Customer Success Manager. She reports she is enjoying the beaches of Tel Aviv and exploring the Startup Nation first-hand!

Bob O'Brien '14 has moved from Silicon Valley to New York City to take a job as Technical Project Manager in the Product Operations group at Major League Baseball's Advanced Media division.

Andy Pregler '15 now works as Alumni Engagement and Marketing Coordinator for Syracuse University in New York City, and is based at SU's Lubin House.

Morgan Briles '16 recently started as an Associate Consultant at Bepress in Berkeley, CA.

Cailyn Lewis '16 writes that she has been promoted to the position of software engineer at Fidelity, and is taking classes in computer security at Stanford University.

Aleksandr Staprans '16 moved to New Zealand after graduation and joined Joy Business Academy as a community builder. The company aims to disrupt education and bridge the skills gap that exists between job seekers and employers. They do this through merging job opportunities with microlearning (45-90 minute courses). By completing coursework around the skills that are necessary for a job you can then apply for the job. The goal is to eradicate youth unemployment by creating the world's first 'learning to earning' platform to help young people develop their employment skills, and then find the job they've been looking for.

Clayton Baker '17 is a cyber engineer/analyst with Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C.

Clayton Baker

M.S. in Library and Information Science

Shirley Lincoln '58 shared her memories of pivotal faculty who shaped her education as a librarian. Florence Van Hoesen, John Allen, and Bessie L. Eldridge, along with Marta Dosa and Antje Lemke, prepared her to work in libraries from Solvay and Syracuse to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Fern Allen, head of Syracuse University libraries in the 1950s, also encouraged and supported her toward the degree during eight semesters of work-

***Shirley Lincoln '58** (at left) with her fellow librarians working with Caribbean genealogy books at the Virgin Islands Public Library System.*

study jobs in campus libraries. Shirley retired in 2000 after 31 years at the St. Thomas public library. Later she organized the library for the Alton Adams Music Research Institute. At age 81, she still volunteers—cataloging the last of 3,000 books into the online catalog for the Caribbean Genealogy Library. "Especially in places with smaller populations, it seems there will always be someone who wants help organizing their books and materials," she says. "A caveat to you bosses—urge most of the students to get a course or two in workflow and personnel management!"

Fred Stoss '82 was promoted to the rank of Full Librarian at the SUNY University at Buffalo, where he is the librarian liaison to the Biological Sciences, Geology, and Mathematics Departments. The Atmospheric Science Librarians International (an affiliate of the American Meteorological Society), elected Fred as Chair-elect/2018 Program Planning Chair (Austin, Texas). The American Library Association announced Fred a winner of its 2017 Carnegie-Whitney Grants, which provides funds for the preparation, either in print and/or electronically, of popular or scholarly reading lists, webliographies, indexes and other guides to library resources that will be useful to users of all types of libraries in the United States. Fred's project is the first volume of a book series, *Environmental ICE: Information, Communication, Education—Volume 1—Resources for Sustainable Communities*, which promotes reading or the use of library resources.

Jennifer Nutefall G'98 *with the trophy she and her team at the Santa Clara University Library received for winning the ACRL's Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.*

Jennifer Nutefall '98, a university librarian at Santa Clara University, received the prestigious ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. The award recognizes the activities and accomplishments Jennifer has led over the last 4 years.

Susan Polos '98 was recognized as a Social Media Superstar by the American Association of School Librarians for her work as a social justice defender. Susan used her Twitter account to advocate for quality library programs and access to diverse literature for her entire school community after several school library positions were defunded in her district. Follow Susan on Twitter at twitter.com/spolos.

J.D. ROSS

Jennifer Tolley G'15, *a librarian at Northern Onondaga Public Library, explains the role of the library's book mobile to a student on the Quad during National Library Week in April.*

Margaret Backus '09 has returned to the Syracuse area to take a position as Director of Library Information Systems at the Onondaga County Public Library. She previously held similar positions at libraries in Tennessee and Alaska.

Shannon DeSantis '13 was accepted into the American Library Association's Emerging Leaders program. Shannon is a Library Media Specialist at People's Academy in Morrisville, VT.

Brandon Fess '15 is Librarian/Archivist in the Local History and Genealogy division of the Rochester (NY) Public Library.

Jennifer Tolley '15 works for Northern Onondaga Public Library, and visited campus with the library's book mobile during National Library Week in April.

Deanna King '16 has taken a position as Adult Services Librarian at the Skaneateles (NY) Public Library.

John Stawarz '16 is an online instruction librarian at Syracuse University Libraries. He is also pursuing his MS in instructional design, development and evaluation and a CAS in designing digital instruction, both in Syracuse University's School of Education.

M.S. in Information Management

John Komninakidis

John Komninakidis '04 was promoted to Director, responsible for Greece and Turkey, at Merrill Corporation in Athens Greece. Merrill, headquartered in St. Paul, MN, is the global leader in producing and sharing sensitive corporate information for due diligence, regulatory communications and disclosure management.

David Rosen '12 has joined CrowdTwist in New York City as a Solutions Architect.

Jessica Santana '13 and **Evin Robinson '14** were named to Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 list for education. The classmates founded New York On Tech, a nonprofit organization that provides pathways for underrepresented New York City high school students into the field of technology.

Zach Schleien '15 gave a talk on his new book "Hacking the Internship Process," during a Financial Literacy Month event at Bird Library. Zach currently works for Johnson & Johnson in their IT Leadership Development Program as an Associate Analyst.

M.S. in Telecommunications and Network Management

Endri Mataj '10 has recently taken a job as a manager in the financial services office at EY in New York City.

Ph.D.

Jasy Liew Suet Yan

Jasy Liew Suet Yan '16 was a finalist for the doctoral dissertation award at the iConference in Wuhan, China in March. She is currently a lecturer at the School of Computer Sciences at the University of Malaysia.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming alumni events. Keep up with all iSchool events by visiting ischool.syr.edu/events.

iSchool Summer Shindig – New York City
Wednesday, July 26 | Beer Authority NYC

Alumni Receptions in Seattle and Portland
Meet our students on the new Peak to Peak trip!
Seattle: Tuesday, August 15 | Portland: Wednesday, August 16

iSchool Seminar: You and the Internet of Things
Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1
Learn more: ischool.syr.edu/seminar

Orange Central Reunions and Homecoming
Thursday, October 5 – Sunday, October 8

Register online: orangecentral.syr.edu

Alumni Reception During NYLA
Friday, November 10 | Sperry's Restaurant, Saratoga Springs

We send event notifications via e-mail—do we have your correct e-mail address and location in our records? ***Update your information at: ischool.syr.edu/update*** *so we can invite you to events in your region.*

Use the enclosed envelope to let us know about your professional and personal accomplishments so that we can include them on our website, or in a future issue of *Connections*. Also, please keep us informed of any address or employment changes.

- Visit *ischool.syr.edu/alumniupdate* to change or submit information.
- Visit *ischool.syr.edu/alumni* to participate in the online alumni community and make a gift to the school.
- Information can also be submitted via e-mail to *istalum@syr.edu.*

Barbara Settel
Executive Director of Alumni Relations
School of Information Studies
Syracuse University
343A Hinds Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244
315-443-5604

facebook.com/su.ischool
twitter.com/ischoolsu
ischool.syr.edu/linkedin

Nominations are Open– iSchool Alumni Awards

The iSchool's Awards & Recognition Program serves to highlight members of the Syracuse iSchool community and showcase their contributions and talents.

Awards are presented in the fall, during Syracuse University's Orange Central homecoming weekend. This year, Orange Central will be held October 5 - 8.

There is still time to nominate a classmate for this honor—nominations will be open until August 15, and the form is available online at ischool.syr.edu/alumniawards.

J.D. ROSS

Winners of the 2016 iSchool Alumni Awards with iSchool Dean Liz Liddy.

HINDSights

Thank you to our HINDSights Speakers!

The second semester of our new HINDSights Alumni Visitor Program brought three alumni to campus to speak with students and share their life and career experiences.

***Moné Clarke '14**, IT Security and Compliance Specialist,* The Hartford

***Zachary Glick '08 G'10**, Security Engineer,* Amazon Web Services

***Laura Nisivoccia '94**, IT Support Manager,* LinkedIn

Are you interested in coming back to campus to speak with current iSchool students? Talk with Julie Walas Huynh to learn more about HINDSights: jlwalas@syr.edu.

JULIE WALAS HUYNH

***Moné Clarke '14** (seated, center) with member of the iSchool's BLISTS student group.*

***Laura Nisivoccia '94** snaps a selfie with students who came to listen to her HINDSights talk in February.*

Thank You to our Experiential Learning Trip Hosts

We thank our **alumni at the following companies for hosting our students this year on the iSchool's experiential learning trips.**

Fall Road Trip NYC:

ANC
Madison Square Garden
MetLife Stadium
MLB Advanced Media
NBA Production Studios
Providence Equity Partners
Red Bulls/Red Bull Arena
Steiner Sports

Spring Road Trip Rochester:

Butler/Till
Wegmans
Xerox

Spring Break in Silicon Valley:

AirBNB
BugCrowd
Business Insider
CaseText
Chegg
Cisco Meraki
Density
Elevate Labs
Evernote
Google
Ideo
Livefyre at Adobe
Lux Capital
MobileIron
MOGO Interactive
NEST
Pentaho
ROI-DNA
Salesforce
Stanford University
Threadloom
Uber
VMWare
WeWork

Spring Road Trip Boston:

20/20 Onsite
Athena Health
Barton Associates
Boston Children's Hospital
Hallmark Health
Langer Labs @ MIT
Massachusetts General Hospital
Nanthealth

EntreTech NYC:

360i
Arkadium
BrandYourself
Crowd Twist
Emoji
Foursquare
Good Uncle
LinkedIn
Lovan Worldwide
Lux Capital
New York OnTech
Night Agency
Outernets
Salesforce
Seven Rooms
Squarespace
Talent Tech Labs
Vox Media
Warby Parker
WeWork

Scenes from our Boston Road Trip Alumni Event

Board of Advisors member Greg Raimann with Endri Mataj '10.

Andy Ades '16, Colleen Simms '17, Megan Minier '17, Alex Lederman '16 with Barbara Settel G'76 G'77.

Wiley Cerilli

Choosing to Make Life Happen

RENÉE K. GADOUA

When Wiley Cerilli launched the food delivery service Good Uncle, he expected New York-style pizza to top the order list. Turns out it's not even in the top 10 percent. He did, though, expect college students to like healthful food. But "we didn't know they'd love it," he said. "It's 50 percent of our business."

That experience illustrates Cerilli's entrepreneurial perspective. "I'm not married to any one idea," he said. "Test it and move on." Creating a business is "an iterative process," he said. "People think you have this Steve Jobs-type idea and you have to force it upon people. The Field of Dreams is the worst type of business mentality. It should be, 'If I sell it, I'll build it.'"

Cerelli left Syracuse University at the end of his freshman year to join the New York City tech startup Rocketboard. In 2000, he founded Seamless, a mobile and online service for ordering delivery and takeout food. After 10 years at Seamless, Cerilli started SinglePlatform, an internet marketing business. After just two years, Constant Contact bought Seamless for $100 million. Cerelli was 32.

His newest venture, Good Uncle, delivers food—think pizza, specialty salads and everything bagels—from popular New York City and Syracuse restaurants. Good Uncle negotiated licenses to create signature menu items; customers order via app, and the company delivers the food in temperature-controlled vehicles.

Good Uncle launched in Syracuse in late 2016 and "was profitable from day one." Cerilli plans to expand this fall, adding a food plan option for Syracuse University students and launching in four more college towns.

In his May 13 iSchool Convocation address, Cerilli described the keys to his success: being grateful and being relentless. For the talk, he wore Batman socks because, "My mom calls me Batman." He also wore his grandfather's tie and his father's watch; all remind him of his family's drive, work ethic and support.

Cerilli was relentless in facing his own challenges: a learning disability, a condition that put him in a back brace, his father's death. He sees challenges as opportunities. "I could either let life happen to me, or I could make life happen," he said at convocation. "I chose to make life happen."

Cerilli served for a time on the iSchool's Board of Advisors and participated in several recent Syracuse University programs for entrepreneurs. His entrepreneurial roots run deep. His parents started their own businesses, and as a youth in Providence, Rhode Island, he and a friend sold flowers and T-shirts near Brown University. In 2013, Crain's New York Business featured Cerilli in "People to watch in Silicon Alley," calling him "a consummate salesman."

Successful businesses focus on value rather than how much the product or service can earn, Cerilli said. "How much value can you create doing one thing? What can you make that if you take it away, people will scream?" he said. "A lot of people try to be great at a lot of different things. The best restaurants focus on a few dishes and they make them really well. Nike started out with just shoes."

A similar strategy helped him deal with his family circumstances. "I don't look at it as if I overcame so much," he said. "Whatever hurdle I'm focusing on right now is all-encompassing. I don't always zoom out and look at the big picture. I deal

Business tips from Wiley Cerilli

- Admit when you're wrong
- Be known for one thing
- Don't create your strategy around competition
- Be comfortable not knowing the answers
- Good leaders are good storytellers
- Listen to your users and your team
- Ask the right questions

J.D. ROSS

***Wiley Cerilli** delivering the keynote address at the iSchool's Convocation ceremony in May. Watch the full address at: ischool.syr.edu/convocation2017.*

J.D. ROSS

Wiley Cerilli and iSchool Dean Liz Liddy.

with the challenge right in front of me: What do I have to do today to make a difference."

He "seeks out highs," he added. "Being part of a large organization makes me antsy. That leads me to situations of high risk, high reward. That can be really fun and really scary."

He learned another key business lesson from his high school wrestling experience. "It's just you out on a mat, basically in a women's bathing suit," he said. "It's either going to be humiliating or good." Losing his father at 16 created "a sense of gravity," he said. "As a result, I made decisions very quickly. As a CEO, it's not important that you make all the right decisions, but that you make decisions and move on."

Entrepreneurs must "trust their guts and make mistakes," he said. "I've tried thousands of ideas and most have not worked out. I love the beginning of the process when you have all these question marks."

A good team, he said, includes people with different skills and the best leader work through a collaborative process. An entrepreneur "needs to be able to set a vision and recruit people and empower them to do their jobs," he said, "and not run out of money."

The best hires are not necessarily from the Ivy League. "We like to hire people with chips on their shoulder, with something to prove, like me," he said. "I'm constantly pacing, always wired. That's why my co-founder is steady and constant and focused. He's the balance." ■

Immersion Trips: Real World Experience in Capital, Talent, & Customer Acquisition

KIMBERLY A. PIETRO ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADVANCEMENT

Student participation in Immersion Trips has grown steadily at the iSchool and along with it our alumni and donor support for putting students into these new environments. With upwards of 100 students studying in an immersion course each year, it has become increasingly easy for students to quickly learn what they may, or may not, want to do upon graduation. With your support of our Students of Promise Fund, students can apply for financial support to help offset the cost of these trips, allowing all students the opportunity to attend.

Immersion Trips are credit-bearing experiences aimed at getting students outside of their comfort zone and into the realities of adulthood and working life, here and abroad. The philosophy around our immersion experiences has been to take one step back and think about 'how can I understand what the real challenges are and what the real assets are about the host company.'

Immersion trips are much shorter than a study abroad experience, often only seven days. Students meet before the trip a handful of times not only to become familiar with one another, but to understand the community and culture of the immersion destination. Post-trip reports and reflection sessions are also incorporated into the immersion process and offer participants a chance to contemplate their experiences.

Opportunities at the iSchool include Spring Break in Silicon Valley, EntreTech in NYC, AsiaTech, EuroTech, and our newest program, Peak to Peak in Seattle and Portland taking place this August.

The success of these programs hinges on our partnerships with alumni hosts. Students present ideas for new businesses and also discuss how to acquire capital, talent and customers. These trips are a step along the way, an investment that will help students institute change in whatever field they find themselves in. As a technology-focused school, our students are essentially technology-free during their trips, meaning they spend most of the week "unplugged," a rare occurrence for today's college students. We want them to be where they are and relax and have organic conversations. For a lot of students, it's the first time I think they feel fully present at a particular place.

For more information on how to become a host for one of our trips, to recommend fellow alumni hosts, or to support these programs with your annual gift, please go online to ischool.syr.edu/experiential, call us at 315.443.6139 or e-mail us at istalum@syr.edu. ■

DERAN MIRJANIAN

Students on the 2017 Spring Break in Silicon Valley trip visit the Salesforce offices.

ReFuel 2017 Results

Totals

330 DONORS | **$68,453** TOTAL RAISED

Donors By Type

56% Alumni

44% Faculty/Staff, Students Parents, Friends

Quick Stats

119 NEW DONORS

$168 AVERAGE GIFT

21% GRADUATES FROM LAST DECADE

Competition Results

1st
iSchool Road Trip Fund
127 gifts | $21,892

2nd
Women in Info. Technology
119 gifts | $21,238

3rd
Library Innovation
82 gifts | $12,889

4th
Student Immersion
Students of Promise
79 gifts | $12,434

Thank you for your support of ReFuel, the Annual Campaign for the iSchool. Your gifts to these initiatives is critical, symbolic, and a point of pride. Because of you, our alumni, friends, students, parents, faculty, and staff family is stronger than ever. We are grateful to these Board of Advisors members for their generous matching donations: Sam Clarvit '10, Craig Cornelius '88, and Steve Marsh '97.

DEBAN MIRJANIAN

connections

THE iSCHOOL @ SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

School of Information Studies
Syracuse University
343 Hinds Hall
Syracuse NY 13244

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY
SYRACUSE, NY

J.D. ROSS

Associate Professor of Practice Dave Molta plays with the iBand during an end-of-semester party for students in Hinds Hall.