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Interface Newsletter

School of Information Sciences

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School of Information Sciences

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CCYAL Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Arbuthnot Lecture

The Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature is experiencing a resurgence this year as its new board of directors infuses the organization with new life, a refined mission and bylaws, and an outreach agenda that sets it on a course for national preeminence. Humanities Tennessee, a grant-making organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, already considers the CCYAL a well-established and effective regional advocate for children's literature and the related intellectual capital, according to acting director Dr. Jinx Watson.

This spring as the Center celebrates its 10 years of service, the focus of the new Board is clearly expanding the scope of the Center for the next 10 years. Dr. Watson has been instrumental in reorganizing the Board and refocusing its vision to an extent that the CCYAL sees itself as becoming a second major children's and young adult literature center in the United States, its model being the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The new Board of Directors, constituting some of the most enthusiastic professionals in the region (see sidebar on page 8), went to work last fall to craft a new vision and update the bylaws to make sure that they create a mechanism for rotating Board membership. Working committees are now well underway in the areas of mission and bylaws; development and fundraising; marketing and communication; programming; and outreach. The newest brainchild of the Board is to create a Friends of the Center organization. The benefits of becoming a Friend include receiving seasonal newsletters about CCYAL programs, personal invitations to children's and young adult literature events, author receptions, book sales, and satisfaction in knowing that one's annual contribution as a Friend of the Center will make a difference in Tennessee.

Greetings! On April 6-7 the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation deployed six members of an External Review Panel to serve as their "eyes and ears" to assess the SIS program in terms of the profession's accreditation standards for US and Canadian schools of library and information studies. This review usually occurs every seven years. The panel, composed of practitioners and educators, inspected the School for its mission, curriculum, students, faculty, administration, and physical facilities.

They interviewed students, faculty and administrators, observed classroom teaching, and examined hundreds of documents and other sources of evidence. While we won't hear the final decision regarding the School's accreditation until the annual ALA conference in June, the following is what I believe they discovered.

The SIS mission is on solid ground addressing the discipline's foundations

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INSIDE INTERFACE

Joel Southern

Visualization expert speaks at SIS Research Forum

Dr. Ben Shneiderman, the Founding Director of the prestigious Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory at the University of Maryland presented "Information Visualization for Knowledge Discovery" at a SIS Research Forum on January 30.

The author of *Designing the User Interface: Strategies for Effective Human-Computer Interaction*, Shneiderman presented several examples of interactive information visualization tools that help researchers discover new knowledge by combining powerful data mining methods with user-controlled interfaces. He illustrated research that combines statistics with visualization, which applied to network data and electronic health records. He showed how users are benefiting

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from using these data as "potent telescopes for high-dimensional data." Users can begin with an overview, zoom in on areas of interest,

Ben Shneiderman

filter out unwanted items, and then click for details-on-demand.

SIS students and faculty visit the Highlander Center

[Editor's Note: Second year student Nancy Williams filed the following story.]

Since 1933, the Highlander Research and Education Center (HREC) has been at the epicenter of countless social justice movements. Collections in the HREC library and archives document the extraordinary social changes people can make when they are empowered to stand up against injustice. Photographs, audio recordings, reel to reel films, personal papers and research files detail the struggles of 76 years of southern grassroots movements: unionization in the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, and the struggle against toxic dumping in Appalachia, to name a few.

Wednesday morning, March 11, sixteen SIS students, along with Drs. Black, Mehra, and Cortez, visited the Highlander Center, in idyllic New Market, Tenn. After a warm welcome by Susan Williams, the coordinator of the Highlander Library and Resource Center, everyone pulled up a rocking chair and introduced ourselves. Then, we watched a brief movie highlighting Highlander's pivotal role in 75 years of social justice movements, followed by a fun, interactive living history workshop.

Susan laid out a stack of photographs and told us to pick one. Each photo has a different person who played an important role in HREC history, with their biographies on the back. We were to assume our pioneer's identity and introduce ourselves to one another. This proved to be a fun mixer and got the group excited. Then, we were joined by longtime social activists and folksingers Guy and Candie Carawan and HREC director Pam McMichael for a Q&A session.

After the workshop, we broke for a box lunch, paid a brief visit to the Myles Horton House, then we made the short trek to the library and archives. We explored the circulating materials, the bookstore, and the original library collection, which was seized by the state and stolen back by students in 1961. Visitors were given a tour of the archives including a demonstration of the precarious condition of the materials and the urgent need for preservation and processing. Everyone was handed a copy of the list of practicum opportunities for SIS students.

Susan talked about the research that is carried out in the center by visitors from the world over, and Highlander methodology of enacting social change by empowering people to value their knowledge and to seek out needed information.

Three faculty members and 16 SIS students visited the Highlander Center.

The student cohorts trip to the Highlander was truly a cooperative effort. Thanks to David Green, Christa Cordrey, Laura Starratt, and Dr. Mehra who made up this fantastic committee, and thanks also to the SIS staff without whose help this trip wouldn't have happened!

SIS Research Forum speaker presents solutions to climate change research

Dr. Bill Michener, the director of e-Science Initiatives for University Libraries at the University of New Mexico, spoke about the DataONE (Observation Network for Earth) project, which represents a "new virtual organization whose goal is to enable new science and knowledge creation through universal access to data about life on earth and the environment that sustains it" at a SIS Research Forum on April 13.

Bill Michener

His talk, "DataONE: Enabling Data-Intensive Biological and Environmental Research through Cyberinfrastructure," discussed this national multi-disciplinary project that will focus on global climate change by changing the ways that scientists gather and communicate knowledge, "harness the enormity of existing data, develop new methods to combine, analyze, and visualize diverse data resources, create new, long-lasting cyberinfrastructure, and re-envision many of our longstanding institutions… DataONE is poised to be the foundation of new innovative environmental science through a distributed framework and sustainable cyberinfrastructure that meets the needs of science and society for open, persistent, robust, and secure access to well-described and easily discovered Earth observational data."

During the past decade, Bill Michener has directed several large interdisciplinary research programs and cyberinfrastructure projects including the NSF Biocomplexity Program, the Development Program for the NSF-funded Long-Term Ecological Research Network, and cyberinfrastructure projects that focus on developing information technologies for the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences.

as well as being responsive to dynamic changes in the library and information professions. The School's mission is also in alignment with that of the university, especially as it relates to multiculturalism and internationalism. The School is well positioned to prepare information professionals to enter and thrive in a global economy. We have forged a respected place among LIS programs nationally and internationally by remaining agile, consistent, and maintaining standards of excellence.

In keeping with the spirit of the accreditation standards, the curriculum at SIS is continually evolving to reflect emerging trends, best practices, and leading-edge research findings. The School has many reflective mechanisms in place, from exit interviews to surveys of various constituencies to ensure that the needs of our diverse society, including underrepresented groups, are served. We strive hard to maintain excellent communication with our students, alumni, and employers of our graduates, and the SIS curriculum reflects this ongoing efforts.

The 12 full-time tenure-track faculty members are one of the most productive in the field in research and publications. Together they cover a range of specialties, research methods, and sub-specialties within the library and information science discipline. Expertise is complemented by a strong group of adjunct faculty who bring current practice and experiences to the classroom. SIS faculty members strive toward excellence in research, teaching, and service and are able to maintain this excellence by teaching within their subject areas, receiving graduate student assistance, through travel support, mentoring, and continual evaluation.

No doubt the accreditation panel was impressed with the SIS student body. It is diverse, highly capable, fosters a learning community, and recognizes its potential to be the next generation of leaders in the information professions.

The administrative and organizational structure of the School is strong and enjoys high institutional support and visibility. The School has sufficient autonomy in faculty recruitment, financial management, and setting its own policies and practices. The faculty, staff, and students participate on equal footing in the university's governance structure, and School's relationship with other academic units demonstrates wide interdisciplinary cooperation. The administration of the School cultivates an atmosphere of intellectual rigor and accessibility both to students and faculty members. The School's administrative staff is highly professional and committed in serving all its constituencies.

Finally, I think that the accreditation team found that our physical resources and facilities complement the intellectual content and environment of the School. These resources support excellent teaching, innovative research, and distinguished service. Of course the panel members looked beyond the Communications Building to discover additional world-class resources that support the mission of the School.

With this positive point of view, I now invite you to read on and discover for yourselves other exciting news happening at SIS. In this issue of *Interface* you will read about how the Center for Children and Young Adult Literature is adjusting to its new home at SIS and how it continues to attract world renowned speakers. You'll be introduced to the newest faculty member and learn about the accomplishments of the entire faculty in general. You will get a sense of how vibrant the School is in terms of student activities and alumni support. And importantly, despite difficult economic times you'll read how SIS continues to thrive in so many ways.

Faculty News & Publications

SIS Welcomes a New Faculty Member

Rachel Fleming-May

The School is pleased to welcome Dr. Rachel Fleming-May to its faculty beginning in August. Dr. Fleming-May fills the position left open by Dr. Mike Pemberton at his retirement. Her research interests include academic libraries, librarianship and users, information seeking behavior, evaluation and assessment of libraries and information resources, and qualitative approaches to LIS research.

Dr. Fleming-May received her Ph.D. from the College of Communication and Information Studies at the University of Alabama. She received her M.L.I.S. from Rosary College (Dominican University) in 1996 and her B.A. in Classics from Macalester College in 1993.

For the past year, she has taught courses in academic libraries, information sources and services, and library user instruction via distance education technologies at the UA's School of Library and Information Studies.

Dr. Fleming-May is engaged in research projects with Jill Grogg ('01) and Jeff Weddle (PhD '03), both graduates of SIS who are well-established LIS researchers with national reputations.

Dr. Fleming-May's dissertation addressed the development of the concept of "use" in the literature of library and information sciences, which reflect her interest in conceptual topics in LIS and the field's growing concern for assessment and evaluation of the ways in which information providers are meeting their constituents' needs. Her research focuses on the changing information and service environment of the 21st Century academic library.

Suzie Allard

Suzie Allard's article "Library Managers and Information in World 2.0" was published in the January/February issue of *Library Management* and in February it was chosen by the *Informed Librarian Online* as one of 15 "picks of the month" from articles in over 312 titles. In March, her article" Design Engineers and Technical Professionals at Work: Observing Information Usage in the Workplace" written with co-authors Kenneth Levine (UT School of Communication) and Carol Tenopir was published in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*.

Allard was also busy serving the profession. She was invited by the Association of Library and Information Science Educators to lead a workshop on early career development at the first annual ALISE Academy in January in Denver. She was also an invited panelist at the American Society for Information Science and Technology Leadership Workshop in November in Columbus, Ohio, and an invited participant at the ASIS&T publications strategic planning meeting in Alexandria, Va. Allard continues her research on socio-cultural issues and data preservation, and she has been an invited participant at several workshops with scientists and information scientists who are exploring all aspects of creating, managing, disseminating, and preserving electronic scientific data.

Dania Bilal

Dania Bilal's co-authored book, *Information and Emotion: The Emergent Affective Paradigm in Information Behavior Research and Theory*, won the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2008 SIG Publication-of-the-Year Award. The book is co-edited with Dr. Diane Nahl. Dr. Bilal has signed a contract for a book entitled *Automating Media Centers and Small Libraries: A Systems Analysis and Design Approach with Libraries Unlimited* expected to be published late this year.

Ed Cortez

In January, Ed Cortez and doctoral student Monica Colon-Aguirre presented a paper entitled: "What Libraries and Information Professionals can Learn from Knowledge and Project Management" at the BOB-CATSSS Symposium in Portugal.

Bharat Mehra

Mehra Named Scholar of the Week

Bharat Mehra was named the "Quest Scholar of the Week" by the UT Office of Research on February 20. This honor "highlights the work of a faculty member at UT Knoxville who is doing outstanding work regardless of the field."

Mehra was recognized for his recently published paper on community engagement models in library and information science education. Published in the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science,* Mehra's article, coauthored with Bill Robinson (retired), discusses the elements of a community engagement model in library and information science education. The paper is based on a case study of a library collection development and management course Mehra taught over two semesters.

Students taking the course worked with community agencies to develop library collections to meet the needs of particular audiences in varied community settings. In many of Mehra's courses, students explore diversity and intercultural issues and work on social justice and social equity agendas to meet the needs of minority and underserved populations. Examples of community engagement in Mehra's courses can be found at http://web.utk.edu/~bmehra/teaching.html.

In 2009, Mehra has published two book chapters in *Service Learning: Linking Library Education and Practice*, a book edited by Loriene Roy, past-president of ALA, and others. "A Road Map for Integrating Socially Relevant Research Projects into a Required Library and Information Science Course: From a Service Model to Community Engagement" and "LIS Students as Community Partners in Elective Courses: Applying Community-Based Action Research to Meet the Needs of Underserved Populations," were coauthored with Robert Sandusky.

Dr. Mehra presented a paper and participated in two panels during the annual conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education in Denver this past January.

He will participate in a panel discussion on "Planning for Strategic Planning in East Tennessee's Regional Library" at the Tennessee Library Association annual conference in Nashville.

Dr. Mehra has also authored or co-authored several grants in late 2008. "Rural Library Professionals as Change Agents in the 21st Century: Integrating Information Technology Competencies in the Southern and Central Appalachian Region." Along with SIS faculty members Kimberly Black, Vandana Singh, Ed Cortez, and other coauthors, Mehra submitted two grants to the Institute of Museum and Library Services: Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program: "Competencies in the Southern and Central Appalachian Region" and "Intercultural Leadership Toolkit for Library and Information Professionals."

Along with Dr. Kimberly Black, Mehra is the college representative to UT's "Focus on Poverty 2009-2010" taskforce. He is also an invited research associate with the Center for the Study of Social Justice.

Lorraine Normore

Lorraine Normore presented "Characterizing a Digital Library's Users: Steps towards a Nuanced View of the User," at the ASIS&T annual meeting last October.

Mike Pemberton

Mike Pemberton will retire after spring term after a distinguished career of 31 years at SIS. See the fall 2008 issue of *Interface* for this story.

Vandana Singh

Vandana Singh presented a poster, "Modes of Technical Support in Open Source Software–Peer to Peer Digital Knowledge Creation, Sharing and Re-Use," at the ASIS&T meeting in October.

Dr. Singh presented "Users = Designers: A Participatory Approach in Designing Knowledge Management Systems" with co-authors Rathi, Twidale, and Bisen at the Knowledge Management Conference in October.

Dr. Singh also presented "Users of Open Source Software: What are they contributing?" at the International Conference on System Science in Hawaii in January. Her proposal for developing a mini-track session was accepted at the Hawaii International Conference on Systems Science 2010.

Carol Tenopir

Carol Tenopir was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the International COUNTER Online Usage Metrics organization where she will serve until 2011.

In February, she spoke at two conferences in Germany and Italy on "University Investment in the Library: What's the Return?"

Dr. Tenopir, Suzie Allard, Ben Bates, and Bobbie Suttles ('04) have started a new research project for the international Publishing Research Consortium on the value of brands in journal publishing.

At the annual Charleston Conference on Issues in Book and Serials Acquisitions last November, Dr. Tenopir made two presentations: "Return on Investment of Academic Library E-Journal Collections: A Study of ROI in Grant Writing Activities," and "Do E-Journals Narrow or Broaden Science?"

She and PhD student Lei Wu collaborated on three recent articles. PhD student Sheri Edwards ('06) and Jesse Spencer, a master's student, are also co-authors on an article.

Dr. Tenopir submitted a $998,000 grant proposal to the Institute for Museum and Library Services. "Value, Outcomes, and Return on Investment of Academic Libraries" addresses academic librarians' need to demonstrate the return on investment and value of the library to the various stakeholders of the institution and to guide library management in the redirection of library funds to important future products and services. The three year project would expand on two earlier ROI study phases.

Peiling Wang

Peiling Wang and PhD candidate Lei Wu gave a half-day tutorial on "Web Search Log Analysis and User Behavior Modeling" at the Association for Computing Machinery conference on Information and Knowledge Management in Napa Valley last October.

The *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* accepted Wang's article, "Analysis of query keywords of sports-related queries using visualization and clustering," co-authored with Zhang and Wolfram of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Dr. Wang delivered a keynote talk and a two-part workshop at the 2008 Advanced Digital Library Seminar held in Shanghai last December. Her keynote speech was entitled "Redesign education for 21st Century Information Literacy Competency;" the workshop was entitled "Web Search Analysis and User Behavior Modeling: (I) Research method and technique (II) Hands-on."

The *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* recently published "Identifying Web search session patterns using cluster analysis: A comparison of three search environments" by Wolfram, Wang, and Zhang, in *Online* on February 2. The article is the second journal paper that reports results of an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, for which Wang is principal investigator.

Cindy Welch

School library media students have had a new opportunity this year in the form of two virtual advising sessions conducted via Centra. Lisa Emery from the College of Health, Education and Human Sciences joined Dr. Welch in the cyber-sessions that provided information about classes, testing, and the licensure process. Response has been positive, and as a result, students taking the school media courses now have a new Blackboard community where they can exchange information and tips and get answers to questions on an ongoing basis.

Dr. Welch presented "10 Tips for a Successful (Book) Discussion Group at the Tennessee Association of School Librarians conference last November. She presented the session in a Letterman Top Ten format, counting down the top ten tips for creating and sustaining a successful book discussion group in middle and high schools.

This February, she presented an in-service for librarians in Illinois, "Youth/YA Collection Development in a Web 2.0 World." The program explored young adult literature blogs as a source of community, collection, and professional development opportunities.

She presented "YA in the Blogosphere: The Best of the Young Adult Literature Blogs" at the TLA conference in Nashville.

At the upcoming annual ALA conference, Dr. Welch will be one of three presenters for the Library History Round Table Research Forum. She will present "Are you a YA Librarian? Do you want to be on this mailing list? If so, please drop me a line – okay?"

SIS Continues to Thrive and Achieve its Academic Mission Despite Budget Woes

By Ed Cortez

In fiscal year 2007, the College of Communication and Information experienced an across the board 2.3% budget cut in its base budget, and this year the college is facing the potential of an additional 8% budget reduction for FY 2010. The magnitude of these cuts is enormous and will have serious consequences for all academic programs within the college. While SIS is not immune to these consequences, we are trying to minimize their impact through a strategic review that enables the School to continue to achieve its core mission: "to educate information professionals and those who create and consume information products to live, work, and flourish in a dynamic information society through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and public service." For example, even though the campus administration imposed a general hiring freeze, SIS earned an exception to the freeze by demonstrating the strategic importance of filling the faculty vacancy resulting from Dr. Pemberton's retirement. (See the story on page 4.)

On the research front, the SIS faculty continues to be highly productive, winning awards and commendations for their work regionally, nationally, and internationally. Dania Bilal's co-authored book, *Information and Emotion: The Emergent Affective Paradigm in Information Behavior Research and Theory*, for example, won the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2008 SIG Publication-of-the-Year Award. Bharat Mehra was named the Scholar of the Week by UT's Research Office.

The curriculum remains solid, but in the face of budget reductions, fewer courses are expected to be offered during the next academic year. A temporary delay of this necessity may come through President Obama's stimulus package. To compensate, the faculty, with the leadership from the Curriculum Committee, are taking steps to revise the curriculum by combining and/or collapsing course content, re-engineering delivery formats and enriching and expanding summer course offerings with the possibility of study abroad opportunities.

SIS takes reins of CCYAL

Other initiatives that indicate that SIS continues to be on its strategic track include the relocation of the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature under the administration of the School. The Center has a new Board, a new mission, and an impressive agenda for the future. In April a new Friends group for the Center was established as part of a fundraising event to honor Christopher Meyers, the noted children's book illustrator. As the Center moves ahead with its mission we can expect it to continue to promote discussion about children's and young adult literature by:

- Maintaining and promoting a non-circulating, current examination collection of quality children's and young adult literature
- Designing and offering a lecture series of significant authors, illustrators, and artists
- Facilitating deep discussion and open inquiry about important literary, artistic, and social issues surrounding literature for youth
- Creating and facilitating outreach opportunities through partnerships and collaboration among schools, libraries, professionals, scholars, and the community at large

Honing in on priorities

On other fronts SIS continues to couple its mission and goals with mechanisms for achieving them. This entails reviewing what we are doing well, what needs improvement, and what changes are desirable. Our priority areas will continue to be 1) alignment with the university's mission; 2) building collaborations and partnerships; and 3) improving our relationships with all of our internal and external constituencies, which include, most importantly, our students and alumni. To these ends SIS is:

- establishing more formal and informal partnerships across the campus, across the country and across the world
- enhancing our diversity and intercultural activities
- invigorating student advising and mentoring programs
- nurturing the undergraduate Information and Technology minor
- continuing to improve the caliber of doctoral students
- increasing our scholarships and endowments
- making further significant capital improvements

Lessons to stand by

In achieving these goals, advancements, and transformations during these difficult budgetary times, SIS will attempt to model what it teaches its students—to expect and cope with change. During this period there are ten lessons we will strive to stand by:

1) We will always put people first. This is core to one of our values of managing effectively all our relationships with students, faculty, alumni, and all of our other internal and external constituencies.

2) The SIS administration and faculty will model a healthy approach for managing change by embracing new ways of doing things, being supportive of one another, and by providing strength and direction for all initiatives.

3) We will involve all layers and constituencies including the university, the college, other departments across campus, professional associations, and of course our students, alumni, and friends.

4) We will strive to continuously make the case for change, identifying the benefits, the challenges, and the risks. Our vision for change must be compelling, and we will work very hard to achieve this.

5) Related to lesson 4, we will ask that everyone involved in the process of change to take ownership, if not of all its elements, at least enough to create a critical mass among ourselves that will champion change.

6) We will be committed to communicating our message in clear and unambiguous ways. This will require frequent dialogue from the top down and from the bottom up. The process will include soliciting constant feedback, ideas, and advice.

7) We will be diligent in conducting reality checks asking the question "is this thing working?" We must have a good understanding of the culture of the School and the cultural shifts which are inevitable when change occurs.

8) Following on lesson 7, we will be explicit in describing the cultural shifts within the life of the School because only by understanding the evolving culture can proper behaviors and reasonable expectations develop.

9) Since no movement of change ever goes according to plan, we must be prepared for the unexpected. This means having contingency measures in place and remaining flexible for their implementation.

10) We will look everywhere and to everyone for rewarding efforts to embrace change. These will not only include hig visibility rewards, but those too that give recognition for simple acts of commitment and collaboration (adopted from Resiliencereport: Strategy+business booz&co. http://www.strategy-business.com/resilience/rr00006).

Yes, we are falling on very challenging times with an economic future that remains uncertain and sure to result in necessary changes and new ways of conducting the School's business. Yet SIS continues to thrive. We are continuing on a path of deliberate and frequent self-assessment. We monitor our program goals and objectives to insure they are current and keenly focused on meeting changes in the information professions. The curriculum is continuously reviewed and the School's Curriculum Committee remains active in encouraging new ideas and innovations for the curriculum. The student body continues to be excellent. Students are enthusiastic about their career choice as librarians and other information professionals. The School's faculty is diverse in all aspects. It is comprised of top scholars and teachers who are recognized nationally and internationally. The School's staff is dynamic, loyal, and exceptionally skilled—the administrative team is superb.

With all that has been accomplished, many initiatives and opportunities as outlined above remain. Funding and space will continue to be challenging, even after this immediate recession. But then we are fortunate to be situated within our college which continues to provide a cooperative environment for improvement. Identifying and recruiting top researchers and teachers will always be a top priority for the School, and we are happy to report that in this last cycle of faculty hires we were competitive and have been able to attract the best that the information professions has to offer.

The SIS community derives excitement, energy, and strength from all of its members. We enjoy high visibility in the university, state, and the nation. Our international presence has significantly increased in recent years. Each entering class continues to be outstanding. All in all, the School is doing extremely well.

Allard to be named Assistant Director

By Ed Cortez

Effective August 1, 2009, Dr. Suzie Allard will be named assistant director of the School of Information Sciences. Dr. Allard has served in an unofficial capacity in this position during the current academic year. We all know Dr. Allard as an exceptional

Suzie Allard and Ed Cortez

teacher and researcher. Her regular repertoire of courses includes information access and retrieval, digital libraries, and the college's doctoral seminar in science information and communication.

Dr. Allard focuses her research on how scientists and engineers, create, communicate, and use information in a digital environment. Her work has been presented and published in North America, Europe, and Asia. She is a former member of the American Society of Information Science and Technology Board of Directors and is currently on the Board of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations. She is also a visiting faculty member of the International School of Information Management at the University of Mysore in Mysore, India.

Dr. Allard brings to this position a prior established career as a manager and administrator. She is a strategic thinker with a clear focus on how best to achieve results. She pays diligent attention to detail, believes in collaboration and consensus building, and has been an invaluable member of the SIS administrative team in pursuing its initiatives. This was no more evident in her capacity as coordinator of the planning process for the School's reaccreditation. I am privileged to have Dr. Allard as an administrative partner who is skilled in setting priorities, achieving goals, and stimulated by a dynamic and challenging work environment. Welcome aboard, Suzie!

A year ago last spring, the Center's sponsorship moved from UT Hodges Library to the School of Information Sciences. The Center's new home is expected to open later this year. Visitors and lecturers will be free to peruse its non-circulating review collection of recently published children's books.

While Jinx Watson has served as the Center's acting director since her retirement in 2008, the School is hopeful that the Center can hire a staff member to oversee day to day operations of the Center, especially when Watson steps down in May.
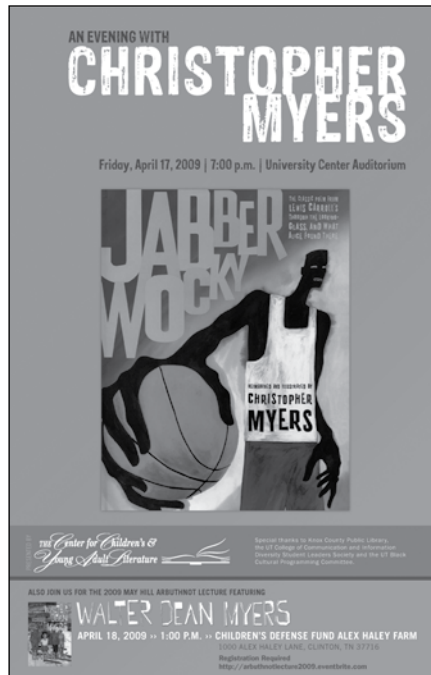
SIS, CCYAL, and Children's Defense Fund Score Arbuthnot Honor Lecture

The American Library Association's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) named the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature as a cosponsor of the venerated May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture for 2009. The celebrated and prolific author Walter Dean Myers gave the keynote speech at the Children's Defense Fund Haley Farm on April 18, 2009, as this newsletter went to press. Over 600 tickets to the event were issued. Myers, the author of some 90 books, is a two-time Newbery Honor recipient, a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, a four-time recipient of the Coretta Scott King Honor, a two-time National Book Award Finalist, and the recipient of numerous other awards recognizing his contributions to young adult literature.

Not only has CCYAL scored one of the most distinguished children's literature authors, on April 17, Christopher Myers, a renowned children's book illustrator and the son of Walter Dean Myers, gave a presentation at the University Center Ballroom. The Center used this

Walter Dean Myers presented the 2009 Arbuthnot Lecture.

event to celebrate its 10th anniversary and welcome the new Friends of the Center at a special reception.

"To be awarded the Arbuthnot Honor Lecture is an outstanding accomplishment, and I am so proud of our school faculty and our Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature for helping to bring this lecture and the stature it brings to our school, our Center, and to the people of East Tennessee," said Dr. Ed Cortez, director of the School.

The Arbuthnot Honor Lecture is the equivalent of an Oscars nomination in the field of children's and young adult literature. The CCYAL shares the limelight with the Langston Hughes Library at the Children's Defense Fund, the Knox County Public Library, and others.

The lecture was held on the grounds of the former Alex Haley Farm, using the cantilevered barn, which houses the Langston Hughes Library and the Riggio-Lynch Interfaith Chapel, both designed by noted architect Maya Lin. Marian Wright Edelman, the CDF founder and president, welcomed the visitors and paid tribute to the recently deceased John Hope Franklin. For more information, visit www.sis.utk.edu/ccyal.

Christopher Myers gave a lecture on April 17 as part of CCYAL's 10th anniversary celebration.

Student News

A sampling of student papers and research projects

SIS students continue to publish and present papers around the country. Here are a few examples.

Second year students Annelise Freeman and Sarah Culp Searles presented a paper at the Latino Children's Literature Conference at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, on April 24-25. Their session discussed using streaming media and podcasting in conjunction with the Latino storytelling tradition to create multimedia projects in the ESL classroom, thereby hitting on linguistic and cultural skills as well as technological and information literacy skills.

An article by student organizers Carla Poore and Nancy Williams, "New Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville," was published in the Fall/Winter issue of the online serial *Chapters and Loose Papers,* the official online newsletter for students of archival science.

Jason Ezell presented "Information Behaviors, Practices, or Styles?: Implications for First-Year Academic Information Literacy Instruction" at the annual SIS Student Research Forum at the 2009 TLA conference. He has also been selected as one of the first class of Martin Duberman Fellows, an LGBT research travel scholarship sponsored by the New York Public Library. He will visit that library and its LGBT collection in August where he will conduct research on Duberman's book *Black Mountain College*, queer historiography, and radical pedagogy.

Wanda Rosinski, in collaboration with Shantrie Collins presented a poster at the TLA Conference entitled "Understanding the Electronic Resources Management Systems (ERMS) and Important Data Elements for UT librarians." The poster discusses how "managing the libraries' collection of electronic resources and identifying essential data elements for these resources requires strategic planning."

Student applicants continue to embody diverse experiences

In early spring each year, school faculty and staff spend many hours combing over applications from prospective students seeking to join our program. Because the school receives so many applications from qualified candidates, we consider many personal and professional choices in addition to GPAs, GREs, and references from qualified professionals. This year, we have accepted some 100 prospective students in hopes of yielding some 80 students for fall 2009.

The potential class of incoming students at SIS reflects a diversity of backgrounds, scholarship, interests, and experiences. We thought it might be interesting to show some examples of these individual's careers as shown from their applications.

One potential student developed an interest in literacy after creating and recording audio readings for a blind professor whose plane was shot down in Korea. Another student is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. One potential student is a volunteer at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Va, while another serves as a client advocate at the Tennessee Justice Center. One potential student serves as a military officer in the National Guard; another earned a National Certificate in piano in China. Another potential international student works as a student cataloger for the University of Northern British Columbia.

Other incoming students are already published scholars. One accepted student recently co-authored an article in IEEE *Internet Computing* journal, another has been a reviewer for the *Journal of Wildlife* and *Journal of Ethology*, and authored articles published in the *Canadian Journal of Zoology, Herpetological Review, Animal Behaviour*, and others.

Every incoming class is an exciting blend of unique talents, and the SIS faculty do everything they can to nurture these different approaches to learning so that the interdisciplinary nature of our profession flourishes.

PhD Corner

14 PhD students studying information sciences

The college doctoral program is interdisciplinary allowing students to draw on the scholarship and expertise of the faculty throughout the college. However, students are encouraged to identify an "academic home," and fourteen have chosen SIS. The most recent SIS doctoral alumus is Dr. Stephen Bales (Fall '08) who joins the ranks of accomplished scholars who are graduates of the program. This column will proudly profile these scholars in the future.

Our students are a vibrant and enthusiastic community who bring with them experiences from a wide variety of backgrounds and locales. Currently, we have seven students who are engaged in coursework: Ben Birch (TN), Spectrum scholar Monica Colon-Aguirre (Puerto Rico), Jason Reiger (TN), Julie Winkelstein (CA), Abdalaziz Aldaihani (Kuwait), Sheri Edwards (TN), and Arsev Aydinoglu (Turkey).

Seven students are working on their dissertations: Simon Aristeguieta Trillos (Venezuela), Carolyne Atono (Uganda), Allison Bolorizadeh (TN), Rachel Kirk (TN), Cynthia Manley (TN), Kitty McClanahan (TN), and Lei Wu (China).

SIS doctoral student Sheri Edwards was selected as an intern on the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* Editorial Board.

In future issues of *Interface* we will celebrate the accomplishments of our doctoral students and doctoral alums and share the research interests of our next generation of library and information scholars.

Alumni News

Moving and Shaking!

Chad Boeninger ('02) has been named a *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker for 2009. Boeninger is the reference and technology coordinator at Ohio University

Chad Boeninger has been named a 2009 LJ Mover and Shaker.

in Athens, and he blogs at libraryvoice.com.

The *Library Journal* reports that "Chad 'may be the most effective technology librarian I've ever met,' says Char Booth, e-learning librarian, University of California at Berkeley. This effectiveness stems from practical implementations of Library 2.0 technology, ranging from wikis to podcast library tours. Librarians' relevance, says Boeninger, depends on moving "into our users' spaces." In academic libraries, this includes IM, texting, and Facebook, which Boeninger incorporates—and encourages others to use—"to put a more human face on the library."

In 2005, Boeninger created one of the first wiki-based subject guides, the Ohio University BizWiki, which organizes research guides and keeps content fresh. While competition stymied expectations of student/faculty contributions, they appreciate its resources; Boeninger calls it "a huge success."

In presentations on projects like BizWiki, Boeninger doesn't "show 2.0 technologies just because they're cool"; he emphasizes real-world examples for others to emulate. Boeninger now targets technologies to make librarians mobile, such as forwarding AIM messages to a cell phone and texting back quick answers. "I'd like to see librarians working from home, coffee shops, bookstores, student centers, the college green," he says—and he is beginning the work toward that."

Ken Middleton wins ACRL Award

Ken Middleton, a 1992 SIS graduate and user services librarian at Middle Tennessee State University, is the winner of the 2009 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women's Studies Section (WSS) Award for Significant Achievement in Woman's Studies Librarianship. The award, sponsored by Routledge/ Taylor & Francis Group, honors a significant or one-time contribution to women's studies librarianship.

Middleton will receive a $1,000 award and plaque during the WSS program at the 2009 ALA annual conference in Chicago.

"Ken's latest impressive achievement in women's studies librarianship is his database Discovering American

Ken Middleton received the ACRL WSS award.

Women's History Online, which brings together 405 digital collections of primary sources in women's history in a format that has multiple browse and search options," said Jennifer Gilley, chair of the WSS award committee. "Each collection is annotated and assigned subject headings to make it more accessible to women's studies researchers. The awards committee predicts widespread use for this amazing resource."

Discovering American Women's History Online is available at http://library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects/womenshistory.php.

Middleton has been developing women's history websites since 1997. Two of these sites, "American Women's History: A Research Guide" and "American Women Through Time," have been "highly recommended" in *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*.

Some 75 alumni and friends gathered at UT Hoskins Library to enjoy the 2009 SIS Alumni & Friends Day.

Alumni & Friends Day Delivers

This year's Alumni & Friends Day was a day to remember. Some 75 SIS alumni and friends assembled in the collegiate gothic-styled Hoskins Library Delivery Hall to hear six panelists speak on how records management and archives are evolving in a Web 2.0 landscape. Fueled by a strong new student chapter of the Society of American Archivists, the program drew archivists and records managers from the region, in addition to alumni and friends. (See page 12 for the story on alumni awards.)

A reception for Dr. Mike Pemberton bisected the program and allowed guests to enjoy refreshments and to view student posters. Dr. Cortez honored Dr. Mike Pemberton ('75), the emcee for the program, with a plaque which recognized his "32 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR SCHOOL FOR ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI, AND FOR DEMONSTRATING EXEMPLARY TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE." Dr. Cortez noted a long lineage of librarians and information professionals in Dr. Pemberton's family.

Dr. Pemberton's daughter Anne Pemberton ('03) led a few remembrances of her father and created a poster in his honor that included statements of gratitude from dozens of students, alumni, and colleagues. Dr. Pemberton will retire at the end of this semester.

CLASS NOTES

Update *your* Record:
www.sis.utk.edu/alumni/directory/update

1971

Sue Diehl was promoted to associate professor at the Nelson Bell Library in Montreat N.C., and is the author of *In-the-Oaks*.

Doris Prichard is a cataloger and librarian at South College in Knoxville.

1974

Robert Gaines (Emeritus) is retired from UNC-Greensboro in Greensboro, NC, but still teaching. He and his wife both retired from UNCG in 2007, and are still rescuing homeless Beagles.

1975

Suzanne C. Lay has been awarded the Exceptional High School Library Award from the Superintendent of Education in Georgia. She also won a million dollars on the show "Are you smarter than the average 5th grader." She is a media specialist at Perry High School in Perry, Ga.

1977

Susan Kemppainen is a video studio manager at Covenant Health in Knoxville.

1978

Carol Hewlett is the director at Jackson-George Regional Library System in Pascagoula, Miss.

1979

Wenda Webster Fischer is a librarian at Stoll Keenon Ogden in Louisville, Ky.

1980

D. Lindsey Martin is the technical services librarian at Tazewell County Public Library in Tazewell, Va.

Philip Vandermeer is a music librarian and associate professor at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is past-president of the Music Library Association.

1981

Martha White is the director of library experiences with the Lexington Public Library in Lexington, Ky.

1983

Kathleen Ellis is a technical information specialist at Information International Associates, Inc.

She retired from Eli Lilly in January of 2008, and also works part-time building taxonomies and glossaries.

Ann Sherrill Morphew is a language arts teacher in San Antonio, Fla.

1987

Scott Troy is a business manager at Colorado West Regional Mental Health in Glenwood Springs, Co.

1989

Linda Behrend works part-time as a cataloging librarian in the Central Research Library of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

1990

Tracy Reid-Rowe is an Ameripan business owner in Spring Hill, Fla.

1994

Rick Wallace is an assistant director with the Medical Library at ETSU in Johnson City, Tenn.

1995

Christy Ann Smith Groves is a user services coordinator at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

1996

Scott Bailey is a research and information services director at Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP in Washington, DC.

2000

Jeanne T. Ullian is a law librarian at Hofheimer Nusbaum, P.C. in Norfolk, Va.

2001

Liz Whitson is a systems implementation coordinator at UT in Advancement Services, reporting for the alumni and development database. Formerly, she worked at the Helen Ross McNabb Center for seven years as an Electronic Medical Record Administrator.

2002

Audrey Williams is the director of educational technology services at Pellissippi State Technical Community College in Knoxville.

2003

Katie Lantrip Archambault is an assistant librarian at the Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga. Along with Marty Vaughn ('00) and Karen Hedgecorth ('00), they presented at the TASL Conference Nov. 10th in Nashville.

Elizabeth S. Hamilton is the director of the Frankford Library where she serves as part-time director of a public library in Frankford Delaware. She is married to Tom Hehman, director of Wicomico Public Library System in Salisburg. They both "worked with John Tyson in Virginia before his untimely death and thought highly of him."

Lee Hope is the coordinator of services for Children and Young Adults at the Chattanooga - Hamilton County Bicentennial Library in Chattanooga.

Cheryl McClure works in the Office of the Dean of the Commons at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Reen Locker is an attorney with Farris Mathews Bobango PLC in Nashville, and is president of Rutherford County Friends of the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

Julie Loder is a systems and electronic resources librarian at Vanderbilt University Library, and head of the Electronic Resources and Serials Management Team.

2004

Daphne Parker Evans is an information specialist at DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Trent Hanner is a reference librarian at Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville.

James Staub is a systems librarian with the Nashville Public Library in Nashville.

Robert Bobby Swanay is the library director with the Johnson City Public Library in Johnson City, Tenn.

2005

Heather Cleland is a librarian at Overbrook School in Nashville.

2008

Maryke Barber is the outreach librarian and Arts Liaison Librarian at the Wyndham Robertson Library at Hollins University in Roanoke.

Alison Connor is an IT analyst at UT Knoxville.

Jody DeRidder is the head of digital services at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Linn Monahan is a librarian at West Virginia Junior College.

Interface

THE UNIVERSITY*of* TENNESSEE | **ur**
School of Information Sciences

Dr. Mike Pemberton Honored with Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Mike Pemberton is presented with a plaque by Dr. Ed Cortez.

Dr. Mike Pemberton ('75) was honored with the School's Distinguished Alumni award for 2009, voted in by SIS alumni.

His nomination letter noted how he has been instrumental to the school's success and in the success of countless students.

Dr. Pemberton's level of scholarship throughout his career has been impressive, and the awards bestowed on him by the industry's top organizations make him a natural candidate for this award. See the fall 2008 issue of *Interface* for a full story of Dr. Pemberton's accomplishments.

Read more at http://www.sis.utk.edu/node/7070

Last year, the SIS Alumni Board saw the need to initiate a new award to recognize dynamic alumni who might not be eligible for the Distinguished Alumni Award. The Board inaugurated the Innovator's Award and changed the criteria of the distinguished alumni award.

James Staub Honored with Innovator's Award

James Staub says a few words after receiving the SIS Innovator's Award.

James Staub ('04) was honored with the inaugural Innovator's Award, which honors an alumnus or alumna who graduated at least two years earlier and who demonstrates innovation in the field of information sciences through cutting edge activities, forward thinking, leading trends, or reinventing a traditional service.

SIS alumni Susan Earl and Tricia Bengel nominated Staub and in their letter praise Staub who they say "consistently shows innovation in every project he participates in throughout the state. From creatively saving money for TLA by creating his own wireless networks in conference centers to bringing levity to the Tenn-Share Learn & Discover Online learning, everyone who works with James can be assured that he will do is work competently and with tremendous humor and fun."

James was a founding member of FREEGOVINFO.INFO, a blog "to raise public awareness of the importance of government information and create a community with various stakeholders to facilitate an open and critical dialogue."