Interface Newsletter

School of Information Sciences

Spring 2008

Interface, Spring 2008

School of Information Sciences

Interface

Linking Theory and Practice

SIS Director, Ed Cortez

The New Year swept in like a storm bringing a multitude of activities and challenges and leaving behind a number of accomplishments and success stories (see the fall issue of *Interface*). Of immediacy, are the two searches for the replacement of Dr. Robinson and Dr. Sandusky. In January, the chairs of the two search committees, Dr. Tenopir and Dr. Bilal, along with other members of the SIS faculty, attended the annual ALISE (Association of Library and Information Science Education) conference in Philadelphia to recruit and interview candidates. We are well on our way to identify a pool of excellent individuals who will be brought to campus for final interviews.

It is always difficult, if not impossible, to replicate the specialties and talents of departing faculty, but we are determined to find new faculty members who will advance the strengths of

Last fall, SIS faculty engaged regional information leaders in an ongoing effort to remain relevant, forward looking, and nimble in a complex and dynamically changing information landscape. We thought that we would give our readers a snapshot of some ongoing efforts the School makes to stay current and engaged with our library and information science colleagues.

SIS hosted its annual SIS-Library Director's Retreat at the UT Visitors Center last September. SIS faculty met with some 20 public librarians and regional library directors to candidly discuss trends and issues in public librarianship, libraries 2.0, and the dynamics of impacting practice with research.

SIS Director Ed Cortez invited Jerry Aiello to give the keynote talk. Aiello is the Director of the Friends and Volunteer Services for the Brooklyn Public Library in New York City and a seasoned storyteller. Aiello detailed the journey he took to convince his boss of the need to create a volunteer program for his library, and how he went on to create a robust army of over 200 volunteers in the fifth largest library system in the nation.

Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist Jeanne Sugg, also on the School's Advisory Board, attended the workshop. She hopes that the SIS faculty will assist state library initiatives and outreach efforts to reach paraprofessional librarians who have a difficult time with traditional learning formats.

Sugg works with a half dozen SIS graduates at the State Library and Archives and said that she was planning to gather them together soon to envision and plan how the State Library and Archives and the 12 regional libraries can initiate collaborative programs and activities with SIS.

"We have our hands in many pots," said Sugg, "and we'd like to partner with the SIS faculty as much as possible, especially since both of our missions rely on using and encouraging the convergence of technology, communications, information services, and public relations."

Knowing how to work with the media, understanding advertising and public relations campaigns, integrating theories of organizational communication, and preparing libraries to move

Joel Southern

Tell us your Dr. Bill story

The big news at SIS is that Dr. Bill Robinson will retire after spring term. We hope that you can join us for his retirement party, where we will have an opportunity to celebrate his 35 years of service and teaching.

Bill's retirement party will be on May 3 from 2 – 4 pm at the UT Visitor's Center, formerly the University Club. We hope you'll join us! (RSVP to me at jsouthern@utk.edu)

We also invite you to contribute your remembrances of "Dr. Bill," which the school will compile into a memory book on his life and work. Visit http://blumpf.pbwiki.com to contribute your thoughts or e-mail me. Feel free to send in correspondence, memorabilia, or other materials—all formats are welcome.

Interface

www.sis.utk.edu

Dr. Bill to Retire

Associate Professor Bill Robinson was recruited to the University of Tennessee in 1972 by founding Director of the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences Gary Purcell. He has served as assistant director since 2005 and has also served as acting director of the School.

Over his 35 year tenure, Dr. Robinson has taught some 10 courses and hundreds of students, including required courses in Research Methods and the Development and Management of Collections. He has authored some 45 articles with an emphasis on Tennessee librarianship, book publishing, and government publications.

His subject specialties lie in social sciences and reference services, although, over the years, Dr. Robinson has become a "gap filler," teaching a broad variety of courses. Dr. Purcell asked him to be the school's "book person," and so to this end, he developed and taught classes in the history of the book, book publishing, collection development—and later, academic libraries, government information, and reader's guidance.

Dr. Robinson was awarded the Tennessee Library Association's Frances Neel Cheney Award for "contributions to the world of librarianship and books through the encouragement of the love of books and reading" in 1999. He received UT Libraries' Outstanding Service Award in 2001, and the College of Communication and Information Outstanding Teaching Award in 2005–2006.

Dr. Robinson attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, jointly administered by Tufts and Harvard Universities, where he received a master's degree in international relations in 1962. He received his M.S.L.S. at the University of Southern California in 1965.

Dr. Robinson was awarded a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in 1973. His dissertation was on "Subject Dispersion

Bill Robinson sits aboard a train, enjoying one of his favorite pastimes.

in Political Science: An analysis of references appearing in the journal literature, 1910-1960" for which he was awarded the Berner-Nash Award for the outstanding doctoral thesis of the year. Dr. Robinson originally planned to become a Foreign Service Officer.

Scholarship Launched to Honor Bill Robinson

The School is pleased to announce a new scholarship to honor Bill Robinson's life and work. The SIS Alumni Board proposed the scholarship after hearing of Dr. Robinson's retirement, and the school has chosen to make a "leadership gift" to launch the scholarship. The William C. Robinson or "Dr. Bill" Scholarship is now looking for contributors to help support students to become information professionals.

SIS is looking for partners—at any level—who are willing to make a leadership gift in launching this scholarship off the ground. This is an exciting opportunity for any donor who would like to be recognized for his or her contribution—for years to come. Anyone making a contribution to the Robinson Scholarship by July 1 will be identified as a "charter donor" and recognized on a School plaque.

To be among the first supporters of this scholarship, send a check to the UT School of Information Sciences, 1345 Circle Park Dr., Suite 451, Knoxville, TN 37996, or contact the CCI Development Director, Karen Rohr, for more information: krohr1@utk.edu or (865) 974-7074.

the program and support its goals and objectives. To replace one of the vacancies, we are looking for strong candidates in the areas of reference and academic librarianship or school library media. For the other position we expect to identify a top-notch scholar in information and communication technology who will further strengthen our program in this area and, at the same time, provide leadership for our undergraduate minor in Information Studies and Technology. One of the appointments may be made at the senior level. I am confident that the new faculty members will come to SIS prepared to enhance our teaching, research, and service mission.

Clearly, the SIS faculty is in a state of transition which began last year with the retirement of Jinx Watson. While a gap was left in the school media specialist program with her departure, we will continue to support this important component of the SIS master's program. In the course of the current faculty searches, we are trying to identify an outstanding school library media scholar who can build upon and advance the work of Dr. Watson. We are fortunate that Dr. Watson, upon her retirement, agreed to remain on staff half-time to provide stewardship for the school library media program.

Another important development is the relocation of the Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature (CCYAL) from UT's Hodges Library to SIS. Under a new mission, the CCYAL will no longer have a physical collection of books for review and examination but will continue to promote high quality children's and young adult literature through programming and outreach. The Center, also supported by the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, will become a focal point where ideas and specialists gather to promote excellence in literature and literacy.

In February, we will bring Katie Horning to campus. The director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Horning will consult on the future of the CCYAL. The Center will not only continue to be committed to local outreach and coalition building, such as with the Langston Hughes Library located on the Alex Haley Farm, but will also reach out across the world in order to build coalitions with international organizations and institutions who recognize the importance of high quality materials for children and young people.

The most logical place for building these coalitions is within Africa, given the already well-established connections the School has in East and South Africa. Preliminary discussions with two agencies in Africa have already taken place. The Centre for the Book, a specialist unit of the National Library of South Africa, is a book development catalyst and advocates that books should be more accessible, affordable, and attractive to all South Africans, especially children and young people. Its projects are varied and include family literacy, reading programs for children and young adults, a showcase of recently published children's books, as well as strong reference and referral services.

Another agency with which we have established a coalition with is the Council on Literacy Development (CLD) established in Kenya. This agency addresses all aspects of literacy with an emphasis on information, communication, and technology literacy for children and young people. As you may have read in the last issue of *Interface*, the School supported the Children's Reading Tent Program in Kenya last spring. This is a major program of the CLD, which puts books in the hands of children and brings together teachers and librarians for a series of two-day workshops.

Finally, I am happy to report that we are over half way to endowing the John Tyson Scholarship. Thanks to an anonymous donor who is willing to donate $10,000 on June 1 if an equal amount is raised, we have a real chance at endowing this important scholarship—but only if we continue to receive your gifts.

Please find the gift envelope in this issue and pledge your support to the Tyson Scholarship, and, of course, to any of the other scholarships that you feel closely aligned with. We are especially pleased to announce a new scholarship for "Dr. Bill" Robinson, which will be used to help support academically gifted students.

As you can see, SIS is on the move. The future looks most promising thanks to a talented faculty and staff, and, of course, to a coterie of loyal alumni and friends. Until next time!

Edwin M Cortez

Alice Wirth accepts the Distinguished Friend Award from Director Ed Cortez.

SIS honors Alice Wirth with the Distinguished Friend Award

The School of Information Sciences honored Alice Wirth with its Distinguished Friend Award at an Advisory Board meeting on September 27.

The wife of College of Communication and Information Dean Mike Wirth, Alice has supported SIS by regularly attending School events and developing strong relationships with our faculty since arriving in summer 2006. Previously, she was district coordinator for the Englewood, Colorado public school system, where she built a reputation as an effective community organizer, especially on diversity and human rights issues.

Q &A^{with}_{the} Assistant Director

Then and Now

By William C. Robinson

As I prepare to close my career as a faculty member, I sometimes ponder the changes seen over the last thirty six years—the transition from quarters to semesters, the growth in faculty and students here at SIS, the strong distance education initiative, the move into the College of Communication and Information, and so on.

Still, the most dramatic and notable changes are technological. Like the old timer with tales of how difficult and different were the olden days, I remember chalk, erasers, and teaching based upon scribling on that dusty black or green board, or about returning to my office with chalk dust on my hands and sleeves—evidence of "real work." Then, there was the intermediate white board with those bright, colorful markers that never seemed to be there when you needed them. More recently, with Centra-based classes, the only boards are virtual, as are the markers.

Classrooms have also changed. From rooms crowded with those uncomfortable hard desk chairs, a podium, and chalkboard, my most recent classroom has been the Robinson family room with family, dog, and three cats evicted. I'm no longer able to walk around or look at faces and body language to discover who is engaged and who is nodding off.

But what strikes me as the most telling and dramatic change relates to a back room activity—preparing for instruction or for research.

But first a detour. I never considered librarianship as a career. Yes, I visited and used libraries. I was a reader, not always discriminating, and also spent too much time and money in bookstores or anywhere that sold periodicals or mass market paperbacks. I was the one who read those fill-the-space tidbits on banana production in some small tropical country that filled space at the bottom of columns in the newspaper. My mother was a high school English teacher so I grew up in a book rich home. Mom was always reading and talking about what she read. Somehow, I became a current events fanatic and that led to an undergraduate major in public affairs/international relations and later a MS in international relations. A conversation with Mom's best friend, the high school media specialist, led me to visit the library school at the University of Southern California followed by a H.W. Wilson scholarship offer. I was on my way to become an academic librarian.

What could be better than working in an academic library surrounded by books and many, many periodicals. It was like working in a candy store, especially when I became head of a public affairs/international relations library. I could read reviews, order books and periodicals, examine them when they arrived from acquisitions,

> " ... the key to professional success involves not just current awareness but understanding change. "

and even check the books out after their exposure on the new books shelf. Imagine, being paid to be currently aware and share interesting tidbits with colleagues. That remains one of the most rewarding aspects of being in the LIS business.

Endeavoring to Be Currently Aware

But back to change. In my area of interest, there were a relatively small number of information sources. Scholarly periodicals were limited and skimming abstracts and conclusions was often all that was needed. Monographs were important, but the scholarly reviews often provided the conclusions and relationship to other works. I could talk knowingly about books I had not read! Popular news sources were essential, the *New York Times* and the *Christian Science Monitor* worked well, complemented with light browsing in *Time, U.S. News & World Report*, and even *Newsweek*. Of course, the thoughtful librarian also kept up with librarianship in general (*Library Journal*), type of librarianship (*College and Research Libraries*), and functional areas (*Library Resources & Technical Services*), among others. I began to see a problem. Single, living in an apartment slightly larger than your bedroom, with few friends beyond work, there was ample time to browse and read. Even read those new fantasy novels by someone named Tolkien. Still, I had a growing sense that I was falling behind and missing important content.

You'll note that I've not mentioned other roads to current awareness such as professional meetings and networking. I was financially challenged on my $5,000 per year salary, and so I didn't attend professional meetings away from Southern California. I was keeping my professional knowledge head above water, but barely and still feeling anxious about what I might

be missing. Surely, a competent librarian should be absolutely on top of what was happening in the field. If we are responsible for helping others to find the right information at the right time surely we should have a crackerjack state-of-the-art current awareness program for ourselves!

So here I am in 2008. I still love current awareness. I understand the importance of having current, future-forward-looking content in course content. Have you seen the preliminary articles on Web 3.0? Web 4.0? In fact, I spend a few hours each day, seven days most weeks, on current awareness. But how I spend my time has changed significantly.

Content sources have changed dramatically. I read fewer hardcopy books on professional issues, trends, and problems. The time lag in book publication means that often books are retrospective and wrap-up previously known content. Also, when do I have the time and the energy to sit down and read a whole book?

My periodical article reading in hardcopy has also declined, although I've always been a browser, skip here reader for years. I read the abstract, the conclusions, and the discussion, then scan the bibliography—not too much cover to cover reading.

I can still remember my first Web browser and the early websites. The number of interesting and professionally relevant websites bookmarked grew all too quickly. Quality blogging made things worse. Making decisions on which websites were genuinely important and which were not became a problem. Although not often done, it became clear that I needed to narrow my focus to just a few content areas. Forget about academic librarianship and concentrate on collection development? And was it ethical to bookmark and visit those interesting genre fiction websites (great for reader's advisory work) or should those be on my home computer since I do read science fiction and heroic fantasy?

I soon discovered that even on my 20-inch monitor, I no longer really *read* digital content on my browser. What I really do is browse and skim. That works well to identify major content elements, but it reduces the amount of reflection typically associated with thoughtful reading. Thus, I'm reading more but likely understanding less.

RSS feeds came along and briefly helped to solve my too much news/awareness problem. Most of the websites that I visited now had RSS feeds which could be collected in my Google Reader news reader, where I could make a relevance decision on the basis of a headline or a brief summary before reading the article. I was soon at 107 RSS feeds and once again overwhelmed. Google helps by tracking which feeds are most read and which are not so that helps to weed unproductive feeds.

Obviously, if librarians and other information professionals had a narrow career focus, current awareness is less difficult. However, most of us tend to be more generalist than specialist. Consider the school library media specialist who needs to be familiar with changes in the larger community where students and their parents live, needs to be somewhat familiar with a variety of content areas from 000 to 999, as well as developments in school library media. That's quite a challenge.

Professional growth, development, and competency must also be addressed. Much of what is learned in graduate school becomes obsolete over time. For example, my only exposure to digital information technology in school was a single course devoted to how a mainframe computer might be used to create an online circulation system. How foolish would I be if that was all that I knew today. Current awareness identifies areas where new skills need to be developed and often provide sources that tell you exactly how to do what when. For example, LIS websites, blogs included, identified Web 2.0 in its early stages, then came articles on how to do what, then examples of successful implementation, and off we go.

SIS faculty in 1972: Standing L to R: Glenn Estes, Pauline Wilson, Bill Robinson, John Warren. Bottom L to R: Gary Purcell, Eugenia Mauldin

Regardless of whether you are in the trenches as an information professional or are a faculty member in a LIS program, the key to professional success involves not just current awareness but understanding change. In the business world, environmental scanning, which is a more systematic current awareness program, is typically seen as absolutely essential. Scanning to identify threats and opportunities gives individuals and their organization the content needed to act to insure not just survival but future success.

Ideally, every information profession would have an environmental scanning program just as she would have a physical fitness program to insure a long and healthy life. Similarly, productive information organizations would also develop, evaluate, and revise their environmental scanning programs on a regular basis.

Of course, a valuable scanning program needs to have both a collection and an analysis aspect. It does me little good to have a great collection of RSS feeds that I scan each day if there is no opportunity for me to ponder and make connections. For example, at the end of the day, which item (if any) should be shared with colleagues? Which item should become an agenda item at a committee meeting?

Current awareness by whatever name is the cornerstone of professional competence and success. It is essential for personal and corporate survival. It's something that we as information professionals should be better at than anyone else.

Faculty News & PUBLICATIONS

Suzie Allard continues to work in the areas of science/technology information and intercultural communication. She is a member of the DataNetONE (Observation Network for Earth) team. This interdisciplinary group of experts from agencies as diverse as ORNL, the University of New Mexico, the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure, and the National Center for Ecological Analysis has convened to discuss solutions for the problem of assuring reliable long-term access to a wide variety of scientific datasets. Allard's work on facilitating preservation by focusing on the point of data creation is one focus of the project. DataNetONE has submitted a $20 million grant proposal to NSF, and Allard is named as one of 22 co-investigators.

Allard has designed a new college doctoral course, CI651: Science, Technology, Engineering and Medical Communication & Information, which she is teaching this spring. The course challenges students to explore the role of information and communication in the science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM) disciplines, and to identify a niche for their own research.

Dania Bilal signed copies of her latest co-edited book, *Information and Emotion: The Emergent Affective Paradigm in Information Behavior Research and Theory*, which was promoted by the publisher, Information Today, at the ASIST conference. Bilal will be on sabbatical leave in fall 2008 to begin a research project to investigate how young Arabic speakers use the Arabic version of the International Children's Digital Library and how Spanish speaking children use the Spanish version of the ICDL. The ICDL is an international, multicultural, and multilingual digital library of books for children, teachers, and parents. She will explore the role of language and culture in the information seeking of an international Web interface. Her research will take place in both Lebanon and Puerto Rico. She is also studying the cognitive and affective information seeking behavior of autistic children.

An article coauthored by Professor Dania Bilal on children's information seeking is the single most requested article from the leading information science journal, *Information Processing & Management* (IPM), for the second time in three years. Out of some 80,000 downloaded articles from IPM's website in 2007, Bilal's article, co-authored by Joe Kirby, "Differences and similarities in information seeking: children and adults as Web users," was the most requested article, according to IPM's parent company Reed Elsevier. Bilal's study analyzes patterns of information seeking behaviors of seventh-grade science students compared to information science graduate students using Yahooligans! Web search engine and directory.

Kimberly Black and Bharat Mehra will attend the Continuing Education Summit for Tennessee Libraries sponsored by the Library Serivices and Technology Act and held at Henry Horton State Park on February 20-21. Black attended the United States Board on Books for Young People conference with Jinx Watson last fall.

Ed Cortez and doctoral student Simon Aristeguieta-Trillos presented a workshop at the 2008 Bobcatsss Conference in Zadar, in the Republic of Croatia, January 27-30, entitled "Toolkit for Assessing Grants and Publication Productivity and Impact."

Drs. Cortez, Johannes Britz, and Kigongo-Bukenya, will present a paper at the 2008 IFLA Conference in Quebec, Canada, entitled "Strategies for Human Development of LIS Faculty in Sub-Sahara Africa." Cortez also chaired the Task Force for the Restructuring of the UT Graduate School.

Bharat Mehra made three presentations at ALISE this January. The paper presentation "Integrating Socially Relevant Projects and Achieving Meaningful Community Outcomes in Required Library and Information Science Courses: From a Service Model to Community Engagement" discussed his teaching experiences while incorporating socially-relevant projects in two graduate-level required library and information science courses that partnered students with local agencies to achieve meaningful community outcomes. Mehra and Robert Sandusky also presented "Applications of Community-Based Action Research in Elective Courses: Partnering Library and Information Science Students with Underserved Populations to Meet their Information Technology Needs." They outlined community-based action research applications in three graduate-level elective library and information science courses and identified how each course integrated learning, action, and research to meet the information technology needs of different underserved populations. Finally, Dr. Mehra gave a panel presentation entitled "Cross-Cultural Learning Process of LIS International Doctoral Students."

At last fall's ASIST conference, Mehra made three notable presentations: a technical session "Conceptualizing Social Justice in the Information Sciences" (with Kevin Rioux and Kendra Albright); a panel presentation "Human Information Behavior Concepts from a Perspective of IT Professionals in India" (with Kevin Rioux); and a short paper/poster "International Students' Information Needs and Use of Technology" (with Dania Bilal).

Lorraine Normore and SIS student Michelle Garrett (absent) presented "Models of information organization: A case study" at last fall's ASIST conference.

Mike Pemberton has signed a book contract with Libraries Unlimited, which plans to publish *Records Management: The Professional Issues* this year. He wrote the entry on "Records Management" for the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, 3rd ed., 2007. He also made a presentation at the Annual Seminar of Tennessee State Records Management last November entitled "Records Management: The Future."

Pemberton continues as executive editor of ARMA International's *The Information Management Journal*, a professional, peer-reviewed, international journal.

Bill Robinson is retiring at the end of spring term 2008. See page 2 for more.

forward are hallmarks of successful information leaders.

Sugg hopes that Dr. Bharat Mehra's grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services will be funded because it would provide student internships at public libraries around the state. ("Public Library Leaders for the 21ˢᵗ Century: Integrating Interdisciplinary Competencies and Developing a Diverse Workforce" is pending at press time.)

Dr. Mehra and Dr. Kimberly Black will attend the LSTA Continuing Education Summit for Tennessee Libraries in February, which focuses on continuing education for library staff in all types of libraries in Tennessee. Special emphasis will be on changes in technology and developing effective library services for the underserved with a discussion of how SIS faculty and statewide professional organizations can assist.

Many are aware of a longstanding tension between educators and practitioners in the library and information disciplines. Practitioners sometimes believe that graduate library and information science schools have abandoned their commitment to educating librarians, while library educators often believe that practitioners don't understand their programs. More often, the tension is between academic researchers and practicing librarians having different agendas. Frank discussions like these help both groups to understand each others' realities—and helps faculty avoid the pull toward building personal ivory towers.

Listening to Our Advisory Board

The School is fortunate in having a vigorous Advisory Board whose deep and diverse knowledge contributes to substantive and creative discussions at their yearly meeting with SIS faculty. Last September, President Shawn Collins, along with Vice-president Angela Roberts, led a focus group of SIS students asking them candid questions about their experiences at SIS, about the integration of technology with

SIS Advisory Board members at their September 2007 meeting. Standing L to R: Jeff Weddle, Bob Conrad, Pat Powell, Shawn Collins, Bonnie Carroll, Wallace Koehler. Seated L to R: Eleanor Read, Teresa Welch, Elizabeth Bibby, William Hawk, Angela Roberts. Not present: Debra Bade, Sue Diehl, Amy Disch, Allison Evatt, Annelle Huggins, Jeanine Hunter, Samantha Seiple, Jeanne Sugg

their curriculum, and how they expect their classroom knowledge and project experiences will help prepare them for careers in the information professions. Did they feel adequately prepared? Are they learning leading-edge skills, coupled with the necessary theory, that will help them to become resourceful colleagues who can hit the ground running with their first professional positions?

The students' feedback was frank and, at times, pointed, while revealing to the board a strong loyalty and appreciation of the faculty. Some school resources, especially regarding placement services, were not well understood by students. The School is working on creating a model website full of resources on career planning, tips, and job hunting strategies.

National LIS Conversations

Eight SIS faculty demonstrated leadership roles at the annual conference of the American Society for Information Sciences and Technology held last October in Milwaukee. ASIST is the world's leading research society for information scientists working in academia and industry and the premier forum for our faculty to explore cutting-edge research.

Bharat Mehra, Peiling Wang, Carol Tenopir, Robert Sandusky, and Dania Bilal made notable presentations, while Ed Cortez contributed to key committees related to graduate education, hosted the SIS alumni reunion and held several

meetings with the School's national and international partners. Suzie Allard is on the Board of Directors for ASIST and had a plethora of responsibilities, including attending some 17 sessions.

Finally, SIS faculty hosted a half-dozen poster sessions, allowing them to discuss the key points of their research in a highly interactive environment.

— Joel Southern

Taking Stock of Student Theses: 1996 - 2006

Internet addiction, pack horse librarians, feminist e-zines, nonprofit competitive intelligence—what do these seemingly disparate topics have in common? They are all theses topics that students have completed in the last 10 years. Although the number of students writing theses is relatively small, the breadth and depth of research completed by our graduate students is impressive. In some cases, these theses have opened additional doors for graduates as they face professional life or an advanced degree.

Consider Sandra Treadway, the State Librarian of Virginia, who completed her thesis, "State Libraries in the United States: Identifying and Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century," at the same moment that she assumed reigns of the state library. Or Celia Walker, whose thesis, "Art in the Archives: A Survey of Artist's Papers in Tennessee" helped bolster her already successful professional position at Vanderbilt University Library. She is now Director of the Peabody Library at Vanderbilt University. There are more success stories to tell but, alas, these will have to wait for another issue. Here, at least, are the titles.

- "Health Information Need and Seeking of Older Adults Residing in and Independent-Living Retirement Community: A Qualitative Study," by Sheri L. Edwards, August 2006.
- "Information-Seeking Behavior of Social Sciences and Humanities Researchers in the Internet Age," by Xuemei Ge, December 2005.
- "Identifying Successful Competitive Intelligence Practices Used in Non-profits: A Survey of Competitive Intelligence Strategies Used by Professional Fundraisers to Enhance Fundraising Success," by Heidi H. Gillis, August, 2005.
- "Art in the Archives: A Survey of Artists' Papers in Tennessee," by Celia S. Walker, May 2005.
- "Determining the Data Needs for Decision Making in Public Libraries," by Thena Slape Jones, May 2004.
- "Appalachian Special Collections and Appalachian Studies: The Relationship Between Collection Development and Curricula in Interdisciplinary Regional Studies Programs," by William Eugene Hyde, 2003.
- "Bibliotherapy Using Selected Young Adult Novels: A Model for Assessing Characterization and Content," by Carol Stout, August 2003.
- "Internet Addiction: Professional Discourse and User Attitudes," by Tina M. Metzger, May 2003.
- "A Crusade For Morality: Status Politics and Internet Filtering Legislation," by Suzanne M. Plaksin, August 2002.
- "Developing Comparative Bibliometric Indicators For Evaluating the Research Performance of Four Academic Nutrition Departments, 1992-1996: An Exploratory Study," by Eric Ackermann, Spring 2001.
- "The Books-and-Reading Convention in Pen/Faulkner Award-Winning Novels," by Bonnie Boulton Hanks, May 2000.
- "Residents' Full-Text Database Usage and Satisfaction in an Academic Medical Library Setting," by Amy C. Gideon, May 2000.
- "Changing Students' Perception About Research: Can Thirty Minutes Make a Difference?," by Jacqueline Lou Kracker, August 2000
- "The Behavior of Scientists in Seeking and Using Documents," by Helen L. Miller, May 2000.
- "Counting Published Public Library Research: An Exploratory Study Using Content Analysis," by Margaret Grant Goodbody, August 2000.
- "End-Users' Perceptions: An Exploration on the Study of Electronic Resources," by Deborah Michelle Powell, August 2000.
- "Electronic Publishing and University Presses: The Impact of Physical and Fiscal Size and Factors That Influenced Development of Electronic Publishing Programs," by Jennifer McGhee Siler, December 1999.
- "Public Library Non-Users: A Discussion of Needs, Reasons For Non-Use, and Awareness of Service," by Danielle M. Green, 1999.
- "Personal Information Systems: Journals and Diaries as Product and Process," by Valerie Janese Frey, May, 1999.
- "The Pack Horse Library Project of Eastern Kentucky: 1936-1943," by Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer, December 1998.
- "Autism Etiologies as an Information Mapping Problem," by Jeffrey Brian Romanczuk, May 1998.
- "Automatically Growing Thesaurus as a Tool for Discovering Semantic Preferences of Intranet Users," by David Zlotchenko, May 1998.
- "Visualizing Web Usage: Using Data Visualization to Improve Web Site Performance," by Murray Browne, August, 1998.
- "The Network of Feminist E-Zines on the World Wide Web," by Leigh A. Shoemaker, December 1997.
- "Web Site and Web Page Persistence and Change: A Longitudinal Study," by Wallace Conrad Koehler, Jr., December 1997.
- "Technostress in the Reference Environment: A Survey of U.S. Association of Research Libraries Academic Reference Librarians," by Lisa A. Ennis, December 1997.
- "Separate But Equal? A System Comparison Study of Medline's Controlled Vocabulary Mesh," by Karin Schreier Hallett, August 1997.
- "Libel in Cyberspace: Federal Judges & the Internet," by Teresa Louise Conaway. December 1996.

SIS Outstanding Thesis Awards

2000 - Eric G. Ackermann
2004 - Celia Walker
2005 - Xuemei Ge "Sherry"
2006 - Sheri Edwards

Alumni News

Jeff Weddle chats with Louise Webb, one of the primary subjects of his book, at a book signing.

Eudora Welty Prize Bestowed on Doctoral Graduate

Dr. Jeff Weddle's book, *Bohemian New Orleans: The Story of the Outsider and Loujon Press* (University Press of Mississippi, 2007), was awarded the Eudora Welty Prize at the Eudora Welty Writers Symposium last October. The Eudora Welty Prize is awarded to the author of the winning manuscript of interpretive scholarship in the humanities. Weddle (CCI '03) earned a cash reward and publication of his manuscript.

A documentary based on Weddle's book, "The Outsiders of New Orleans: Loujon Press" was also recently released. Weddle received his PhD in Communication and Information from UT in 2003 and is currently an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama.

Grad Recognized with Distinguished Service Award from CALA

Dr. Sha Li Zhang (SIS '88), assistant director for Collections and Technical Services at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, is the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award of the Chinese American Librarians Association. The selection committee highlighted Dr. Zhang's major contributions to librarianship, library and information science, and professional organizations at the state, national, and international levels. The selection committee noted that

Dr. Sha Li Zhang

"Dr. Zhang has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership ability in her 20 years of experience working at several academic libraries. As a library administrator, she has made significant contributions to improve the libraries' services through the use of emerging technologies, effective workflow, effective staff trainings, system migrations, and development of visionary strategic plan. Dr. Zhang is highly praised and enthusiastically recommended by her deans and colleagues of the libraries she has worked and is working for."

School Library of the Year

Susan Timmons (SIS '06) is the circulation librarian at the Harpeth Hall School Library in Nashville, which was one of three schools nationwide to win last year's prestigious National School Library Media Program of the Year Award from the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association.

Timmons and her colleagues "have instigated a vigorous outreach program to teachers in every curricular area, and work in partnership with their colleagues to instruct students in effective uses of technology and applications of research skills," according to the AASL press release. Timmons, who says that she is fortunate to ride the wave of success earned by her colleagues, said that "it was an honor for the ALA to recognize the quality of our work... Our circulation has skyrocketed in the past two years and we are collaborating with faculty in really exciting ways."

Anthony Smith Becomes Associate University Librarian

Anthony Smith (SIS '00) accepted the position of associate university librarian and director for digital initiatives at

the University of Miami last November. Smith worked at UT Libraries for 12 years and served as the Coordinator of the UT Digital Library Center. Under his leadership, the Center developed from a fledgling center supporting a variety of projects to a formal program that has assumed a state-wide leadership role with regard to digital library development. The DLC has served a community of information agencies, both within the state and beyond, in developing digital initiatives that conform to accepted best practices and standards. In 2004, Smith was invited to give workshops and consult with the staff of Makerere University in Uganda on digitization best practices. He taught a course in digital librarianship at SIS last spring.

Azpurua-Linares Making Her Mark

The *Greater Knoxville Business Journal* featured Franciel Azpurua-Linares (SIS '98) in their December 17 issue as one of the select "40 under 40" who are "making their

Franciel Azpurua-Linares

mark" in East Tennessee. Azpurua-Linares, who is director of business information management & technology at Information International Associates (IIa), spearheaded a document-harvesting project for the U.S. Government Printing Office and is chiefly responsible for IIa's presence in the commercial sector in the East Tennessee market.

Azpurua-Linares has worked at IIa since 2000. Originally from Venezuela, she earned masters degrees in information science and economics from UT-Knoxville. Azpurua-Linares will be the featured alumni speaker at the School's Alumni & Friends Day on March 8.

CLASS NOTES

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

LEGEND

AALL	American Association of Law Librarians
ACM	Association for Computer Machinery
ALA	American Library Association
ACRL	American College & Research Libraries
MLA	Medical Library Association
NCLA	North Carolina Library Association
NEA	National Education Association
SELA	Southeastern Library Association
SLA	Special Library Association
TASL	TN Association of School Librarians
TLA	Tennessee Library Association

1969

Don Dilday is an administrative pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky.

1971

Sue Diehl is an associate professor and reference librarian at Montreat College in Montreat, NC, and is a member of ALA, NEA, ACL, and NCLA.

1974

Judy Card is a youth services coordinator with the First Regional Library System in Memphis, and is a member of TLA and ALA.

1975

Steven Rogers retired in June, 2007 as library director and is an emeritus professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is a member of West Tennessee Academic Library Consortium and Jackson Purchase Historical Society.

1977

Clyde Grotophorst is an associate university librarian and head of digital programs and systems at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va, and is a member of the Board of Trustees at the Loudoun County Public Library.

1980

Philip Vandermeer is head of the music library and associate professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in Chapel Hill, N.C., and is a member of the Music Library Association, ALA, and the Society for Ethnomusicology.

1982

Betty Jacobs is director of Shiloh Regional Library in Jackson, Tenn., and is a member of TLA.

Theresa Pepin is a self-employed consultant

1984

Gary Cheatham is assistant professor of library services at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He recently published an article on the Cherokees of Kansas in the autumn 2007 issue of Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains. Beginning with the spring 2008 semester, he is teaching a new undergraduate course at NSU entitled Early Christian Heresies.

1985

James Huesmann is dean at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, AK, and is a member of ALA, AKLA, and ACRL.

1988

Marcellus Turner is the deputy county librarian at the Jefferson County Public Library in Lakewood, Co.

1994

Evans Millican is a public services librarian at Flint River Library in Griffin, Ga., and is a member of the Georgia Library Association.

Victoria Lynn Packard is a Government Information/Map/Reference & Instruction Librarian and Associate Professor at Texas A&M University in Kingsville, Texas.

1997

Lynn Caruthers is a media specialist at Marvin Wright Elementary School in Spring Hill, Tenn., and is a member of ALA, AASL, TLA, and TASL.

Anita Dotson is a reference librarian and interlibrary loan manager at E.G. Fisher Public Library in Athens, Tenn., and is a member of TLA.

Lisa Ennis is a systems librarian and assistant professor at the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and is a member of MLA, the Southern Chapter of MLA, and Alabama Health Libraries Association.

Alice Lawrence is head librarian at Grace Academy in Chattanooga, Tenn.

1999

Jeanne Becknell is a senior librarian at Dunwoody Public Library in Dunwoody, Ga., and is a member of ALA, PLA, YALSA, ALSC, GLA, and SELA.

Melanie Mosier is a certified residential medication aide at Jefferson Memorial Hospital in Jefferson City, Tenn.

Valerie Frey Stone is a freelance writer, contract historical researcher, and archivist in Georgia, and is a member of the Society of Georgia Archivists.

2000

Bonnie Hanks is an indexer at Hanks Indexing in North Garden, Va., and is a member of the American Society of Indexers.

Robyn Williams is a cataloger at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va, and is a member of ALA, VLA, and VICULA.

2001

Lisa Jahn Oakley is a librarian at Gibbs High School, and is a member of TASL.

2003

Katie Archambault is an assistant librarian at Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn., and is a member of ALA, and AISL.

Rhonda Yates Grimsley is a library media specialist at John F. Kennedy Middle School in Suffolk, Va., and is a member of the Virginia Educational Media Association.

2004

Susanne Dupes has accepted the position of Deputy Director of Communications & Media Relations for Knox County in Knoxville. Dupes will assist the Mayor's Office with media relations, constituent services, and external communications.

Letitia Gittens is a librarian at Florence Williams Public Library and V.I. Regional Library for the Blind in Christiansted, Virgin Islands.

Karen Hinton is a supervisor of client education at ProQuest in Seattle, Wa.

Ginger Peterman is branch manager at Chesterfield Public Library in Chesterfield, Va., and is a member of ALA, PLA, and VLA.

2005

Jeanine Hunter is an online producer and free-lance writer for News Channel 5 in Nashville.

Tracy Shields is a library intern at Eskind Bio-medical Library at Vanderbilt University in Nash-ville, and is a member of SLA and ASI.

Celia Walker is the new director of the Peabody Library at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and is a member of the College Art Association, TN Association of Museums, TLA, Society of Tennessee Archivists, SLA, ARLIS, ARLIS/SE, and ICON.

2006

Susan Catlett is a school library media specialist with Portsmouth Public Schools in Portsmouth, Va.

Timothy Lepczyk is a metadata librarian at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and is a member of ALA, ASIST, and SAA.

Jenny Parker is a teacher librarian at Hatch School in Oak Park, Ill.

2007

Margaret Brown is a cataloger at Williamson County Public Library in Franklin, Tenn., and is a member of ALA, ALCTS, and TLA.

Susan Jennings is a service desk manager at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., and is a member of TLA and ALA.

Jamie Price is a reference librarian and assistant professor at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke, Va.

Carol Tenopir has been awarded the Contributions to Information Science and Technology Award by the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. The award goes each year to information science educators and practitioners recognized as exceptional leaders whose dedication, commitment and vision inspire others, or whose contribution to information science has been significant. Tenopir joins the company of such distinguished award recipients such as Eugene Garfield, Tefko Saracevic, and Christine Borgman.

In December Tenopir gave two presentations in London, one at the Online Information Meeting, and one to a meeting of academic librarians organized by Evidence-Base, a usage data initiative for U.K. university librarians. The topic for both was "What Does Usage Data Tell Us About Our Users?" The talks described findings from my IMLS MaxData project, which is in the third year of a three-year project.s

Peiling Wang's "Information-seeking behaviors of academic researchers in the Internet Age: A user study in the United States, China and Greece," has been selected as the runner up of the 2007 SIG USE Best Information Behavior Conference Paper Award. She received an award ribbon at the ASIST SIG USE symposium last October.

Wang was one of the invited international scholars contributing to the Nordic Research School in Library and Information Science. She delivered three lectures on research methods at the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Aalborg Denmark last October involving research methodologies in LIS, observing users using experimental design, and Web search log analysis.

She also coauthored three papers presented at the ASIST conference:

Peiling Wang, D.A. Dervos, Yan Zhang, and Lei Wu (2007). "Information-seeking behaviors of academic researchers in the Internet Age: A user study in the United States, China and Greece;" Peiling Wang, Dietmar Wolfram, Jin Zhang, Ningning Hong, Lei Wu, Craig Canevit & Daniel Redmon (2007); "Mining Web Search Behaviors: Strategies and Techniques for Data Modeling and Analysis;" and Dietmar Wolfram, Peiling Wang & Jin Zhang (2007). "Modeling Web Session Behavior Using Cluster Analysis: A Comparison of Three Search Settings."

Gretchen Whitney is experimenting with new technologies to expand concepts of information database indexing. She is bringing concepts of indexing, beyond simple subject headings and thesaurii, from the 1970s into today's world.

She is teaching IS 310, an undergraduate course in information seeking, and IS 585, Information Technologies.

Robert Sandusky Accepts Appointment at University of Illinois

Assistant Professor Robert Sandusky left SIS at the end of fall term to rejoin his family and become the Assistant University Librarian for Information Technology and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His duties at UIC include providing systems support for established library and information services, supporting nascent institutional repository and library publishing activities, and developing new services appropriate to a library serving an academic research university with a comprehensive health sciences center.

During his two-and-a-half years at SIS, Dr. Sandusky taught in the areas of information and communications technologies, knowledge management, and Internet technologies and techniques, including XHTML, XML, and the Semantic Web. He also led the effort to establish the School's undergraduate minor in Information Studies & Technology, which is growing and has a strong endorsement from the College and Chancellor's Office.

In collaboration with Dr. Carol Tenopir and the University Library's Margaret Casado, he conducted an evaluation of an innovative database for retrieval of figures and tables from scientific journal articles. He also conducted research with botanists from across the southeastern U.S. and, through the regional Latino Task Force, and the Hispanic community in East Tennessee.

Alumni & Friends Day 2008

The School of Information Sciences Alumni Board invites you to join former classmates, favorite faculty members, and new graduate students at the SIS Alumni & Friends Day 2008.

At this year's program we will hear from SIS faculty members Bill Robinson and Suzie Allard. Our alumni speaker, Franciel Azpurua-Linares, will speak on "Librarians, Information Engineers, and Knowledge Workers, Oh My."

Finally, SIS faculty will sponsor a poster session during the afternoon reception.

WHAT: Alumni & Friends Day 2008

WHEN: March 8, 1 pm – 3 pm

Reception & Faculty Poster Session: 3 – 4 pm

WHERE: McClung Museum Auditorium,
            1327 Circle Park Dr., UT Campus

Attendance is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to Joel Southern at jsouthern@utk.edu or (865) 974-6727 to attend.

www.sis.utk.edu/alumni

PROGRAM:

- *Dr. Ed Cortez*: Welcome and State of the School Address

- *Dr. Bill Robinson* will speak on "Readability"

- *Dr. Suzie Allard* will speak on Information Professionals 2.0

- *Franciel Azpurua-Linares* will speak on "Librarians, Information Engineers, and Knowledge Workers, Oh My"

- Alumni Board President *Chrissie Anderson Peters* will present the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award

- Reception & SIS Faculty Poster Session

School of Information Sciences Faculty

School of Information Sciences
451 Communications Bldg.
1345 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-4330

Address Correction Requested

Interface

THE UNIVERSITY *of* TENNESSEE
School of Information Sciences