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Fall 2014

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In-ter-face: *noun* - a thing or circumstance that enables separate and sometimes incompatible elements to coordinate effectively.

Director's Message

New Horizons: Expanding Our Vision!

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Almost 10 years ago, when I became the 5th duly appointed Director of the School since its initial accreditation, SIS was already well on its way to reaching national stature. I was fortunate to come along just in time to jump on a wave to lead the School through an exciting decade. (These ten years of achievement can be traced by viewing the archive for this newsletter at http://www.sis.utk.edu/alumni/interface.)

Dr. Cortez with Jazz

As we approach the next decade, the School is proud of the trail it has blazed and looks forward to new horizons and expanding our vision. In advancing toward these horizons, we have a team of scouts in place that are paving the way—these include alumni, students, faculty and SIS staff. In this issue of Interface, these leaders reveal themselves through their many accomplishments and future endeavors.

For example, readers will be impressed by the growing geographic diversity of the alumni, stretching all the way to China. Equally impressive is the diversity of alumni career choices and possibilities that you will learn about through their stories. Clearly, our graduates are leaving UT with the skills, abilities and attitudes necessary to compete in a global market that cuts across all information fields.

Similarly, the faculty scouts are probing new research areas, which include Professor Douglass' developing interest in information policy, Professor Bishop's examination of GIS applications in libraries, Professor Potnis' insightful work on innovative IT initiatives, and Professors Zhu and Hank's exploration of how to unlock an abundance of information doors that heretofore have had only a few keys.

Faculty scouts are also building aggressively on past research accomplishments; read about Dr. Bilal's important Google research award, as well as Drs. Allard and

SIS Experiences Wave of Important Grant Awards

For academic units in the modern era, receiving grant awards is the oxygen that fuels the engine. Funding from grants allows faculty members to conduct research which in turn benefits society in the future. The research findings provide material for important academic publications. The funding also provides graduate students with the opportunity to learn research skills while they earn tuition money.

Grant funding in some cases pays for the purchase of software, equipment and travel that can provide benefits to the institution beyond the grant work.

SIS has received several grant award notifications this fall to the delight of the faculty, staff and students. "We are looking forward to many months and in some cases years of continued, high-quality research funding," said SIS Director Ed Cortez. "It is no accident that the first and now the second Director of Research for the College of Communication and Information has been selected from the SIS ranks."

In the following stories, several new grants are highlighted with details about the work to be done and the faculty leading the research. "It is important to our alumni that SIS continues to be a leader in academic research," remarked SIS Professor Suzie Allard. "Our alumni hold degrees that maintain their high-value over time because their school continues to excell at academic research." Allard was named the new Director of the Center of Information and Communication Studies and the new Associate Dean of Research for the College earlier this year. She was also promoted in August to full Professor.

On July 1, 2014, Chancellor's Professor and BOV Professor Carol Tenopir stepped down from her CCI research leadership role and returned to the SIS faculty.

Allard and UT Team Get $2.73 Million for NSF Grant

The College of Communication and Information at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will receive $2.73 million over the next five years as part of a $15 million accomplishment based renewal of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) DataONE project.

DataONE stands for Data Observation Network for Earth, a program that seeks to develop the cyber-infrastructure linking research data collected by environmental scientists to libraries and laboratories around the world and see that it's effectively used.

UT researchers include School of Information Sciences Professors Suzie Allard (DataONE co-principal investigator) and Carol Tenopir (DataONE working group co-lead). Bruce Wilson, who holds a joint appointment with UT and Oak Ridge National Laboratory and UT research associate Mike Frame are also part of the Phase II team. The principal investigator for DataONE Phase II is William Michener of the University of New Mexico.

"Having the opportunity to build on what was accomplished during Phase I of DataONE is very exciting," said Allard. "Phase II will allow us to take our work to the next level by exploring important data management sociocultural issues and to share our findings with the scientific community beyond DataONE."

In announcing its decision to renew DataONE, NSF gave the following example of the accomplishments achieved during Phase I of the project:

"As with the proverbial canary in the coal mine, birds serve as an indicator of the health of our environment. Many common species have experienced significant population declines within the last 40 years.

Suggested causes include habitat loss and climate change, however to fully understand bird distribution relative to the environment, extensive data are needed.

Through a collaboration of DataONE and multiple partners, bird occurrence data collected by citizen scientists has been combined with land use data to allow researchers to map over 300 bird species against important environmental factors. With this information, they were able to more accurately assess the degree of protection required for each species and the responsibility of public land agencies."

During Phase II, DataONE will:
• significantly expand the volume and diversity of data available to researchers for large-scale scientific discovery;
• incorporate innovative features to improve data discovery and further support reproducible and open science; and
• establish an openly accessible online education series to support global participation and training in current data techniques and perspectives.

Phase II will continue to engage, educate and grow the DataONE community. It also will seek user input to ensure intuitive, user-friendly products and services and work to ensure the long-term sustainability of DataONE services.

"NSF's decision to provide an accomplishment based renewal of the project is a testament to the outstanding work of everyone involved in DataONE," said CCI Dean Mike Wirth. "Our DataONE team is looking forward to building on their many accomplishments as they move into Phase II of the project."

Bilal to Receive Google Faculty Research Award

SIS Professor Dania Bilal has been awarded a Google Faculty Research Award for her proposal, "Child-friendly SERPs: Towards better understanding of Google search results readability by children." Bilal will be studying how middle school children read and evaluate the reading levels of search results pages (SERPs) retrieved by Google to modify the reading level metric Google employs for assigning reading levels to search results.

She will be using eye tracking, retrospective think-aloud, and interview techniques. The co-PI on the proposal is Dr. Jacek Gwidzka, Assistant Professor at the University of Texas-Austin.

Google is supporting the proposal with an award in the amount of $41,363. In making the award, the Google Review Team indicated that the "Google Research Awards Program receives many strong proposals every round and conducts a very thorough review of all the submissions received, involving several teams of Google engineers and researchers...Google Research Awards are structured as unrestricted gifts to universities to support the work of world-class full-time faculty members at top universities around the world."

Recent recipients of this Award in the Human-Computer Interaction area (the focus area of Bilal's proposal) are researchers from Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford, and MIT, among others. This is the second Google Research Award received by a University of Tennessee faculty member.

Bilal, who came to UT in 1997, is one of most often-cited researchers worldwide on how children seek and use information retrieval systems to find information. She teaches courses in information access and retrieval, human-computer interaction, Web mining, information systems design and implementation, and

3

SIS Welcomes New Students

The 2014 School of Information Sciences new student orientation was held on campus August 8. The School welcomed 57 new students to the program. The majority of the students will be attending as distance education students residing in other parts of Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina and Ohio.

The new class represents a wide-array of majors including: English, History, Communications, Science, Technology, Math, Business, Psychology, Music, Foreign Affairs, Social Science, Philosophy and Geography. A quarter of the class had already earned one graduate degree before entering the SIS program.

"When you look at our new student demographics," said Acting Associate Director Kitty McClanahan, "it becomes apparent our degree program augments multiple disciplines." Many of the alumni profile stories featured in each issue of *Interface* illustrate the unique ways in which graduates have integrated the knowledge gained while studying information sciences with their undergraduate or other graduate degree studies.

During orientation the new students get to preview the required and optional courses available to them. They get to know the faculty and have their initial advising group meeting face-to-face.

"We have found this in-person orientation is an important first step for our students' success," said Student Coordinator Tanya Arnold. "They lay the foundation for their relationships that for many will last their lifetime. We do not take it lightly that we require in-person attendance at orientation. There are other programs that have virtual orientation sessions which obviously requires less effort for the new student and the school. We prefer to invest our time in our new students because we have learned this positive first step experience can make a significant difference in student's overall SIS experience."

Included in the orientation activities is a meetup with their cohort group (other students from their geographic area) and an overview of the student organizations they can be involved with even as distance students.

The students always enjoy the practitioner panels. Many students later express that the practitioner panels were the starting point where their career path focus first began to change course as they saw the potential for career options they did not realize existed.

Alumni interested in helping with new student orientation as a participant on a practitioner panel are encouraged to contact Tanya Arnold at tarnold@utk.edu. Alumni can participate in person or virtually.

Welcome 2014 SIS Students!

Advisory Board News

Advisory Board Meets to Plan 2014 Actions

The 2014 – 15 SIS Advisory Board met on Sept. 11 and 12 to receive information from the School, interview students and plan the board's actions in support of the School's initiatives. The evening meeting on Sept. 11 took place at a downtown restaurant and allowed the board members to get reacquainted and to meet the newest members before the long day ahead on Friday.

Friday began with SIS Director Ed Cortez's State of the School presentation covering the School's achievements and challenges. He also provided the Board with an overview of the upcoming ALA reaccreditation process which will culminate in 2016. Kitty McClanahan, acting associate director also provided an update on recent SIS actions and Board collaborations.

The Board proceeded with reports from committees. The Curriculum Committee has been researching potential pathways for SIS and gathering information on the continuing education needs of its constituents. The Board was also given updates on barriers to the introduction of new pathways and CE programs such as technology and tuition challenges.

The Outreach Committee led by Wendy Cornelisen offered a report on the competitive comparison her team researched as it relates to recruitment of prospective students and engagement of the geographically dispersed alumni base.

Over lunch, the Board members met with students to collect their input about the program. Each year the Advisory Board provides valuable feedback and recommendations to the faculty and administration of the School based on their interaction with current students. A wide range of topics were discussed from course descriptions to the online experience to the balance between theory and practice. The Board, keeping the individual input confidential, provided the faculty with their findings and discussed recommendations for improvements.

"This annual practice of getting real-time input from our students in a very safe, non-confrontational environment has netted the School some of the best ideas for enhancements to the program over the years," said Cortez. "It is very important to all of us that we continue to hear the voices of our students and energetically pursue improvements."
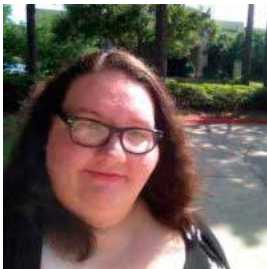
The Board wrapped up their annual in-person meeting with the election of new officers. On the next page is a list of current SIS Advisory Board members and a brief biographical sketch of the newest members.

**UT School of Information Sciences
Advisory Board 2014 - 2015**

Member	Committee Assignments/ Office	Term ends
Atkins, David		2015
Barry, Jeff	*Curriculum*	2016
Cornelisen, Wendy	<u>President</u> *Outreach*	2016
Grogg, Jill	*Outreach Chair*	2015
Henderson, Tim	*Outreach*	2016
Hinton, Karen	<u>Secretary</u>	2015
Hunter, Jeannine	*Outreach*	2017
Huwieler, Cara		2015
Johnson, David	<u>Vice-President/Pres. Elect</u> *Curriculum*	2016
Langley, Anne	*Curriculum Chair*	2017
McGranahan, Jamen		2015
Nielsen, Jordan		2016
Pouchard, Line	*Curriculum*	2016
Reech-Harper, Celise Ann		2017
Zhang, Shali		2016

New members:

 Celise Reech-Harper ('12) is the Associate Director of the Beauregard Parish Public Library in DeRidder, Louisiana. Celise is an active member of ALA and PLA where she serves on the Public Libraries Advisory Committee and participates in the Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibilities Roundtables. (pictured left)

 Jeannine Hunter ('05) is the online specialist and web writer for Children's National Health System in Washington DC. She has worked as a reporter/writer for the Washington Post and The Tennessean in Nashville where she traveled to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina to cover stories. (pictured middle)

 Anne Langley ('93) is the Director of Scholarly Communications & Head Librarian Science and Technology Libraries at the Princeton University Lewis Science Library. Prior to Princeton, Langley worked at Duke University and North Carolina State University. She is the lead author on three books about academic librarianship, and has written multiple articles covering many aspects of librarianship. Anne has mentored multiple library science students, and early career librarians, and her research interests include organizational behavior in academic libraries, transformational library management, and the implementation of new technologies in library instruction. She presently serves as the Chair of the Steering Committee for the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI). (pictured right)

Recruiting - Why We Need You

The School of Information Sciences like many graduate programs around the country is facing challenges as the economy slowly improves. Nation-wide for all Master's and professional programs there has been an 11 percent decrease in the number of American students pursuing those degrees.

Why is this a problem? Several risk factors emerge when the number of students entering graduate programs drops.

1. It shrinks the national talent pool
2. Diminishes America's ability to compete globally
3. Decreases the individual's potential to have a fulfilling and financially successful career
4. Graduate assistants are key to the academic health of a research university.
5. Graduate assistants impact the quality of undergraduate education at universities

Specifially, the decline in enrollment at a program could ultimately impact the quality and prestige of a degree from a particular institution. Taking an active roll to ensure one's alma mater maintains a healthy enrollment protects degrees already awarded.

What can you do?

Actively recruit. Co-workers, friend's children, your friends, anyone you meet or know that might benefit from a graduate degree in information sciences.

Share with prospective students the long list of potential careers from one degree program (see page 27). Many may not realize the variety of careers available to holders of a Master's degree in information sciences.

Contribute to one of the SIS scholarship funds. Help someone else fund their degree. Tuition costs have escalated but, this should not be allowed to be a barrier to a quality student's ability to earn a degree.

Host an event in your area. SIS administrators and staff will be happy to coordinate with you if you would like to host an alumni/recruiting event.

Attend alumni/recruiting events in your area and always take a prospective student with you...even if that person is a remote prospect. These events are relaxed environments in comfortable settings where it is not intimidating to collect information about the UT SIS program and what a graduate can do with this degree.

Volunteer to help at the SIS booth at conferences (see list on page 24). Many prospective students stop by our booth during conferences with many questions. Who better than an alum to answer those questions?

Have other ideas about how you can help?

We would love to hear your ideas. Send us an email or give us a call.

Why get a Masters in IS?

Several years ago this degree program was referred to as the "Library School" where students interested in becoming librarians came to study and learn about their profession. Today the school offers education and professional preparation for a greatly expanded list of professions and jobs in a variety of work environments.

To get a glimpse of the potential jobs and places of employment for our graduates, take a look at this site, http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/information-and-library-sciences/.

Our website contains a great deal of information about the program, potential financial assistance and how to go about applying.

SIS Alumni Society News

Summer elections for the SIS Alumni Society welcomed the following newly elected officers:

Vice President/President Elect - Amy Dye-Reeves ('13)
Secretary - Adam Kemper ('12)
Members-at-large - Diana Holden ('04) and Courtney Fuson ('03)

They joined the following people on the board on Sept. 1, 2014: **President** - J. Michael Lindsay ('02), **Past President** - Aaron Dobbs ('94), **Members-at-large** - Chris Durman ('05) and Andy Madson ('06)

Current President Michael Lindsay met with SIS administrators and staff Ed Cortez, Kitty McClanahan and Donna Silvey to discuss new ideas for the Society. Under his leadership, Lindsay hopes to reach more of the geographically dispersed alumni and integrate their engagement with current students. Among the new initiatives are ideas for overhauling the old Homecoming Brunch to be more inclusive of 40% of SIS alums who were DE students and spent very little time on campus.

"As I have studied our alumni contacts, I was surprised to see we have alums in all fifty states and many foreign countries," said Donna Silvey, communications specialist for the School. "It made me realize we could serve our alumni community better if we could find ways to connect our alumni by location and by areas of interest." Silvey shared the data with Lindsay who in turn is exploring ways the Alumni Society can facilitate the linkage between SIS alums.

"To support the efforts of our Alumni Society executive board," remarked Cortez, "we plan to host several casual gatherings in several cities over the coming months. We ask that our alums make the effort to stop by and reconnect with the School and each other. We are also asking for our attendees to bring along a prospective student. We realize talking to those who have completed the program and are successfully working in their respective careers are great resources for prospective students." Check the SIS Facebook page or the SIS events calendar for the scheduled cities. If you would like to host a gathering in your town, contact Donna Silvey at dsilvey@utk.edu.

On Oct. 7, Michael Lindsay led the Alumni Society executive board in discussions on goal setting, the role of the Alumni Society, alumni mentoring, social networking and the proposed virtual gathering designed to replace the old homecoming brunch.

Homecoming Brunch Goes Virtual

Fellow School of Information Sciences Alumni,

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your SIS Alumni Society President for 2014-15. We're looking forward to an exciting year, and I'll be working to help fulfill the Society's goals of promoting the School of Information Sciences, helping to bring Alumni together, as well as to develop mentoring opportunities for SIS students.

For many years the UT School of Information Sciences Alumni Society hosted a Homecoming Brunch to welcome graduates back to the campus during the Fall Homecoming weekend. As the years have progressed, attendance has dwindled reflecting the changing demographics of the overall alumni base for the school.

The School began offering distance education classes in 1996. In the almost

HOMECOMING GOES VIRTUAL: JOIN IN THE FUN, SUBMIT YOUR 'WHO AM I' POSTER TODAY!

twenty years since that implementation, the alumni base of the School has evolved to the present day group which represents a broad spectrum of professional interests with alumni living in all fifty states and at least twelve foreign countries. Over 40% of all current day SIS alumni did their course work as a distance education student.

It is apparent the long-held format of expecting alumni to travel to campus on a football weekend where local hotels require a three night stay at hugely inflated prices is not a sustainable model. The ultimate goal of building relationships through alumni involvement has been two fold. One is to provide students with mentors and practitioner role models as they prepare for their own careers. It is also serves a vehicle to connect our alumni to find other graduates with similar professional interests with which they can collaborate.

In order to create a new event that going forward will help to reach the objectives and needs of SIS Alumni, a new event is proposed for this Fall to meet the needs of the broader group of alumni.

WHAT: The New SIS Alumni Virtual Fall Competition – Each SIS alum from across the country and the world is encouraged to create their own "Who Am I" collage poster. Any material from photos, graphics or other items can be used to decorate a standard poster size (18 x 24) if created physically or the equivalent if created virtually. The material on the poster should convey:

1.) the person's employment or employer

2.) something about the time they spent as a UT student

3.) what is most important about their work

4.) something about their favorite hobbies or interests and finally

5.) something about their volunteer work

The posters can be created physically or virtually however, a photo or image of the "Who Am I" poster should be submitted along with the person's name, email address, employment title and employer and year of graduation.

WHEN: All poster images should be submitted to dsilvey@utk.edu by January 30 2015. A panel of judges from current students, faculty and staff will review the posters and select three winners in each of the following categories: 1. most creative, 2. best representation of the information sciences field, and 3. most fun.

HOW: Once the winners are selected, they will be notified by email and the winners with their entries will be displayed on SIS media. The top prizes are: 1. IPad Mini, 2. IPod Touch.

To get some inspiration for your "Who Am I" poster, see the example above or at http://www.sis.utk.edu/who-am-i-poster-contest.

Michael Lindsay, SIS Alumni Society President

Alumni News

Alumni Accomplishments

The Spring issue of *Interface* contained the announcement about **Dr. Shali Zhang** ('88) as this year's recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) International Relations Committee's John Ames/Humphry/OCLC/ Forest Press Award. Here are some photos from the ALA Convention award ceremony.

University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences alumni serve on the American Library Association (ALA) Council. The ALA Annual Conference was held in Las Vegas, NV June 26-July 1.

[Left to Right]
Hadi Dudley, Library Director at Bentonville Public Library and Arkansas Chapter Councilor and SIS Advisory Board member 2011-2014; **Courtney Fuson**, Electronic and Educational Resources Librarian at Belmont University and Tennessee Chapter Councilor; **Susan Jennings**, Dean of Library Services at Chattanooga State Community College and At-Large Councilor and Tennessee Library Association President 2014-2015; **Aaron Dobbs**, Scholarly Communications Librarian at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and Library & Information Technology Association Councilor and SIS Alumni Society President 2013-2014;

As Seen in LinkedIn

Jill Knoke-Staggs ('13) is Youth Services Librarian at the Mabel C. Fry Public Library in Yokon, OK and owner of Escape Media, an advertising campaign company that arranges politcal advertising, among many other activities.

Erin Goken ('11) is now Office Coordinator for Education and Visitor Programs at Monticello for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

Nathan Jones ('10) is a Library Intern at Eskind Biomedical Library at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tim Lepczyk ('06) is Director of Faculty Instructional Technology at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.

Anya McKinney ('08) had a work anniversary at South College where she is a Reference and Interlibrary Loan Librarian. Anya came to UT from Alaska.

Tenopir-King Research Excellence Fund

Chancellor's and BOV Professor Carol Tenopir and emeritus CCI Board of Visitors member Donald W. King have established the Tenopir-King Research Excellence Fund. The fund was established on the occasion of King's retirement from the CCI Board of Visitors and a well-deserved retirement from funded research projects. The focus of the fund is to provide support for a recent SIS Master's graduate to work with Tenopir on research projects related to scholarly communication.

King has had a long and distinguished career in Information Sciences, including founder and president of King Research, a consulting firm based in the DC area, and at the University of Tennessee's School of Information Sciences where he serves as an

Dr. Carol Tenopir and Misty Jones

adjunct research professor. King and Tenopir began working together over 20 years ago when Tenopir moved to the University of Tennessee.

A big motivation for Tenopir's move from the University of Hawaii was the opportunity to work with King on their shared research interests in scholarly communication, reading and publishing patterns of scientists. They have published two books and many articles on this subject over the years, with grants from the National Science Foundation, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Special Libraries Association, the Engineering Information Foundation, and other private and public funding agencies.

The first recipient of the Tenopir-King Research Excellence Fund is Misty Jones. Jones graduated from SIS in 2011, with an MS in Information Sciences. She also has a bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Sociology from East Tennessee State University.

After obtaining her Master's degree, Jones worked for the University of Tennessee Medical Center in the Genetics Center as its grants administrator. In that position, Jones gained valuable experience working in a team environment that included physicians, lab personnel, hospital personnel, administrators, medical students, and patients. That experience was vital to her being hired as a Research Associate in CICS, where she splits her time between the IMLS-funded Team Science project and other research projects withTenopir.

"We partner with our donors to custom tailor gift structures that meet their needs," said CCI Development Director Patrick Powell. "Carol and Don's fund is a classic example of someone with intimate knowledge of the College making an investment to meet a specialized funding need. We are always willing to meet with interested donors to help them craft a gift whether it is broad or focused."

Class Notes

1994
- **Lisa L. Baker** is the Instructional Designer for Brookdale in Franklin, TN

- **Shelley McCoy** retired from the Center for Academic Technologies at Motlow State Community College where she was the Director. Congratulations and welcome back to Knoxville!

1995
- **Quanta Wyatt** is a Media Specialist for Lee County Schools in Marion, Arkansas.

2009
- **Kara Kirk** is now the Library Director of the Sweetwater Public Library in Tennessee.

- **Debbie Valine** is the Rhinelander District Library Collection Development Librarian in Wisconsin.

2010
- **Amber Conger** is the Business and Job Center Librarian at Richland Library in Lexington, SC. She has been named a 2014 ALA Emerging Leader!

- **Peggy Dillard** is the Special Collections Manager for the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, Texas.

2012
- **Heather Duby** is now the Assistant Director at the Sullivan County Public Library in Kingsport, TN.

- **Rachel Gammons** is the Teaching and Learning Librarian at the University of Maryland.

- **Jordan Nielsen** has accepted a position as Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Business Data Librarian at San Diego State University.

2013

- **Amy Dye-Reeves** is a Library Media Specialist for Jefferson County Schools. She is serving on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Library Association and on the Volunteer State Book Award and Staff Development Committees. She was recently elected Vice-president of the SIS Alumni Society.

- **Karlene Jennings** was promoted to Senior Director of Scholarships & Special Projects at the College of William and Mary. She taught a SIS course in library advancement and fundraising this summer.

- **Adam Kemper** is the Acquisitions Librarian at the University of Tennessee, Martin. He was recently elected Secretary of the SIS Alumni Society.

- **Maggie Romer** is now the Compliance Analyst/Corporate Librarian for State Farm Insurance in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

2014

- **April Akins** is employed as the Univerisity Archivist by Lander University.

- **Travis Clamon** works for East Tennessee State University as the Electronic Resources Specialist.

- **Siony Flowers** works for Parallon Business Solutions as a Credentialing Verifier.

- **Elizabeth Frakes** was awarded an internship with the Eskind Biomedical Library/ Knowledge Management at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

- **Emily Griffey** is now Reference Librarian at the Kingsport Public Library.

- **Inga Haugen** has accepted the position as Agriculture, Life Sciences and Scholarly Communication Librarian at Virginia Polytechnic (Tech) University.

- **Kristi Hayden** was the West Linn Public Library Summer Reading Librarian intern in Salem, Oregon.

- **Ellie Weatherly** is a Business Intelligence Analyst for M33 Intergrated Solutions in Greenville, SC.

CALLING ALL SIS ALUMNI

The School invites all alumni interested in mentoring current students, speaking to classes or willing to provide their biographical information for a potential highlight to get in contact with us. We need you! Email us (sis@utk.edu or 865.974.2148) with the following: Name, preferred email contact, preferred phone number (indicate if it is text enabled), place of employment, job title.

_____ willing to mentor students in _____ subject areas.
(ex: Collection development, web development, database management etc.)
_____ willing to speak to classes on the following topics:_____
_____ I have an interesting job/ career track and/or history of exceptional achievement.

NEED TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION?

The School directory gives students a way to find other alumni in their area or field of interest. It enables classmates to find you. To add or update your contact or directory information, go to http://www.sis.utk.edu/alumni-update.

To receive important updates about the School and alumni events such as Alumni Society nominations and elections, join the SIS Alumni listserv, http://www.sis.utk.edu/sis-alumni-listserv.

Faculty News

Suzie Allard

Professor Suzie Allard was promoted to full professor this summer following her appointment this spring as the new Associate Dean of Research and Director of the Center of Information and Communication Studies. See the section on grants to read more about her latest achievements.

Dania Bilal

Professor Bilal's publications were a feature story in the last issue of *Interface* and her grant work is highlighted in this issue. She continues her committee service to the School along with her publishing and teaching roles.

Wade Bishop

Assistant Professor Wade Bishop co-authored an article in *First Monday* with Jessa Lingel, a post-doctoral research fellow at Microsoft Research, titled "The GeoWeb and everyday life: An analysis of spatial tactics and volunteered geographic information," http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/5316.

He will present a research poster, co-authored with Angela Lee, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Education Manager for Libraries and Museums, entitled, "Implications and saturation for the administration of higher education site licenses," at the Association for Information Science and Technology 2014 Annual Meeting (Oct. 31 - Nov. 5) in Seattle, WA.

Ed Cortez

Director and Professor Ed Cortez continued his administrative duties leading the faculty retreat and hosting the Advisory Baord meeting in September. Additionally, he represented the School at conferences and meetings in France, New Mexico, Spain and Germany. He traveled to Memphis, TN to host an alumni/recruiting event and will travel to Washington, DC for another alumni/recruiting event in Nov.

Dr. Cortez also leads the School as it prepares for the ALA reaccreditation process over the coming months.

Kimberly Douglass

Assistant Professor Kimberly Douglass is looking forward to another year of growth in teaching, research, and service. This past summer she participated in UTK's Educational Assistance Program's (EAP) Summer

Research Institute. She mentored an undergraduate, aspiring researcher. Douglass is developing research about the services provided by such programs. She is also developing research on e-governance and the art of science data visualization.

Douglass served on the CCI Diversity Week Planning Committee this past summer and this fall. During Diversity Week, she coordinated and moderated a panel to discuss Diversity and Health Access.

During the Fall 2014 semester, Douglass reviewed scholarly articles for the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* (JASIST) and the I*nternational Journal of Library and Information Science*. Also this fall, she represented SIS at Whittle Springs Middle Schools' Career Night.

Douglass is teaching a new PhD course entitled, iGovernance and Social Justice, which explores the research surrounding access to channels of communication for social mobilization.

Rachel Fleming-May

Assistant Professor Rachel Fleming-May presented two papers at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Library Assessment Conference, both of which were co-authored exclusively with SIS Alums! Fleming-May and Miranda Orvis collaborated on "The value, outcomes, and return on investment of academic libraries (Lib-Value) bibliographic database and controlled vocabulary: A description and demonstration," and Regina Mays (University of Tennessee Assessment Librarian) and Anne Pemberton (Associate Director, Library Assessment and Instructional Services University of North Carolina Wilmington) co-authored "Academic libraries' support for teaching: a LibValue project." The papers were presented on a panel of research related to the Value, Outcomes, and Return on Investment of Academic Libraries (LibValue, helmed by Dr. Carol Tenopir).

"'I never had to use the library in high school': Designing a multi-session library instruction program for at-risk students," also based on LibValue-related research and co-authored with Regina Mays and Rachel Radom, University of Tennessee Librarian for Learning and Engagement, will be published this spring in portal: *Libraries and the Academy*.

Fleming-May has two additional journal publications forthcoming: "Digital innovations in poetry: Practices of creative writing faculty in online literary publishing," was co-authored by Harriett Green, University of Illinois Digital Humanities and English Liaison Librarian, has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*. "Concept analysis for library and information science: Exploring usage" will appear in *Library & Information Science Research* this fall.

Carolyn Hank

Assistant Professor Carolyn Hank's article, with co-author David Tkach, "Before blogs, there were Zines: Berman, Danky and the political case for zine collecting in North American academic libraries" was published in volume 40, issue 1 of *Serials Review*. Her article, "Faculty and student interactions on Facebook: Policies, preferences and practices," with co-authors Cassidy Sugimoto and Andrew Tsou (Indiana University Bloomington) and Jeffrey Pomerantz (formerly of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), was published in late September in *Information Technology*, volume 56, issue 5.

She served as a member of Research Forum program committee at the Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting, held in August in Washington DC. At the annual meeting, she also presented, "Teaching digital curation 101," as part of a panel at the Archival Educators Roundtable, on which she serves as a steering committee member. She is also serving on the program committee for the upcoming 10th International Digital Curation Conference, to be held in London next February. This September she was invited to present on data management and storage at the Community Media Organizing Project's Annual Training, held in Lebanon TN. The CMOP is a consortium of progressive, grass-roots, community-based organizations located throughout the southeast.

Bharat Mehra

Mehra presented a paper (co-authored with Rebecca Davis, CCI doctoral student) entitled "A framework to evaluate diversity representation on academic library websites in state universities in the United States: An exploratory study" at the 6th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML 2014), May 27-30, 2014, Istanbul, Turkey. Mehra's co-authored paper (with LaVerne Gray, CCI doctoral student), ""Don't say gay" in the state of Tennessee: Libraries as virtual spaces of resistance and protectors of human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people" was published in the Proceedings of the World Library and Information Congress: 80th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General

Conference and Council. The conference theme was "Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge."

He served as the Guest Editor of a special issue of the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* entitled "Gender in LIS education: New directions, new thinking," June 2014, 55(3), 187-190. Mehra with W. T. Tidwell (SIS '12) published an article in the special issue entitled "Mapping the infoscape of LIS courses for intersections of health-gender and health-sexual orientation topics," pp. 191-211.

Mehra's co-authored paper (with Donna Braquet, UT Libraries), "Marriage between participatory leadership and action research to advocate benefits equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: An extended human rights role in library and information science," was published in *Leadership in academic libraries today: Connecting theory to practice*, edited by B. Eden and J. Fagan and published by Scarecrow Press.

He is serving as Coordinating Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee for the ALISE 2015 Annual Conference and Centennial Celebrations. The theme will be "Mirrors & Windows: Reflections on Social Justice and Re-imagining LIS Education" which will be held in January 2015.

Mehra is the editor (with K. Rioux) for a book entitled "Progressive community action: Critical theory and social justice in library and information science" that will be published by Library Juice Press in 2015.

Mehra is the principal investigator along with co-PI Assistant Professor Wade Bishop of a planning grant entitled "The role of rural public libraries in small business economic development in the Appalachian region: A case study of Tennessee" (PLSB-TN) recently awarded for $49,557 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Mehra continues his work as principal investigator of the IMLS-funded ITRL2 grant program that has been highlighted in past issues of *Interface*. For current details about the program, see http://www.sis.utk.edu/itrl2/

During fall 2014 Mehra is teaching INSC 559, Grant Development for Information Professionals and INSC 560, Collection Development and Management as online courses for which students collaborate in community engagement activities with local, regional, and national agencies to pursue information-related work.

Devendra Potnis

Assistant Professor Devendra Potnis co-authored a research article titled, "Factors influencing adoption of Web 1.0, Web 2.0, and mobile technologies by the growth engine of the US economy" in *First Monday,* which compares the adoption of Internet and mobile technologies by small businesses in the Southeastern US. His research article titled, "Managing gender-related challenges in ICT4D field research" published by the *Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries* better equips Western researchers for conducting field research in developing nations.

Potnis is invited to present his research on "Real-time decision to serve the unbanked poor in the developing world" as part of the Business Model Innovation track at the annual meeting of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences in San Francisco. He is also invited to present his work on the "Potential of analytics for scaling social enterprises" at the 11th annual Social Entrepreneurship Conference co-organized by the Stern School of Business, New York University.

His peer-reviewed research poster titled "Examining mobile banking in developing nations from pro-poor 'context, culture, and community' perspective" is accepted for presentation at the 77th annual meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology held in Seattle this year.

Potnis was selected for the 2014 Grant Writing Institute wherein he wrote an early career research grant proposal titled "A toolkit for libraries to assist small businesses" (ATLAS) to seek external funding ($398,000) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Vandana Singh

Associate Professor Singh was promoted from assistant professor this summer. Congratulations! She returned to teaching this fall. We will hear more about her work in the next issue.

Carol Tenopir

Chancellor's Professor Carol Tenopir is highlighted in the grants section of this issue. She is also featured in a donor story within this issue. She is returning to a role on the SIS faculty from her long time service as Director of the Center for Information and Communication Studies.

Peiling Wang

Professor Wang is on a research sabbatical this semester.

Cindy Welch

Assistant Clinical Professor Cindy Welch has been appointed as the Associate Director of the CCYAL effective August 1, 2014. She carries the responsibilities for developing the collection and working with the lecture series.

Welch was chosen for an Office of Information Technology (OIT) Faculty Spotlight. Each month OIT interviews and then tapes a faculty member talking about teaching. She found the whole process to be delightful. The interview questions ranged from creating community, to classroom engagement, to integrating technology into online courses, giving her another chance to reflect on her philosophy and approach to teaching. The link to the video is https://oit.utk.edu/instructional/spotlight/archive/2014/Pages/cindy_welch.aspx.

She attended the ALA Annual conference in Las Vegas, in June 2014, to participate in committee meetings, stay current with practitioner interests and concerns, and further inform her youth services classes. In the coming year she will return to the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) Institute, in order to stay abreast of developments in work with youth through age thirteen. She will also be working with member committees of ALSC and YALSA, which gives her additional insight into the needs of the field.

Welch will continue to facilitate virtual advising sessions for the school library media track students at New Student Orientation and in both fall and spring, with the help of Marion Vose, practicum coordinator, and Lisa Emery, who is in charge of licensing with the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences (CEHHS). Her advisee list is lengthy, and not all advisees are on the school library track, but she enjoys helping them discover their passion and watching them achieve their goals. Her additional activities included: chairing and participating as a member of several SIS faculty committees, attending conferences such as New Jersey State Library Association, Tennessee Library Association (TLA), ALISE Annual Conference, and attending the Department of Education and CAEP meeting (in connection with change from NCATE to CAEP). She also was a presenter at a workshop on bibliotherapy and youth literature, for the Grief Outreach Initiative class.

Awa Zhu

Assistant Professor Awa Zhu's paper (co-authored with Lan Shen at Purdue University), "A survey of e-book interlibrary loan policy in U.S. academic libraries," was published in *Interlending & Document Supply*. She is working on a follow-up study on e-book interlibrary loan and a theoretical paper on electronic resources licensing. In addition, with Dr. Carolyn Hank, she is working on a research project that compares digital libraries and digital curation curricula.

Dr. Zhu received the SIS Bonnie Carroll and Roy Cooper Faculty Enrichment Award in May 2014 at the SIS Hooding ceremony.

2014 SIS Faculty/Staff Retreat

Careers on the Move

These SIS graduates, like many others, have successfully evolved their careers. Some folks find comfort in staying in the same job for years while others welcome the chance to change direction from time to time. These alumni profiles illustrate the versitility and world-wide options open to graduates of UT's SIS program.

"The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun."
Christopher McCandless, Explorer

Chasing the Sun

Anna Joujan-Goss began her international experience early. She was born in South Dakota as a Canadian citizen but was raised in Zambia as the child of missionary teachers. Her childhood to early adulthood was spent traveling thoughout the world thanks to various educational and work opportunties. France, China, Peru and Jamaica were among those stops in her journey.

She earned an undergraduate degree in French literature before earning her master's degree from UT's School of Information Sciences.

Her career began as a college and high school librarian and cross country running coach. She returned several times to Zambia to teach for individual families and local schools.

Anna Joujan-Goss with husband Peter

For the past five years, Joujan-Goss has been working for an international school network. Her first stop was a school in Afghanistan. She is now the librarian at Kunming International Academy in Yunnan Province, China.

Kunming is a large city with a relatively small international community. Some are 'ex-pats' who want their children to have a Western education. The 350 students are in grades pre-K through grade 12. Joujan-Goss started as an interim fourth grade teacher filling in for a sudden departure.

With her extrcurricular interest in running, she is a natural fit as the track coach for the school. She even

started a cross country team despite the rarity of interest in distance running in China.

The unexpected move to China had a hidden benefit for Joujan-Goss. She met her now-husband in China. He is working in community development, engineering clean water systems for rural areas.

The globe trotting career is not an unexpected one for Joujan-Goss however. Even as a student, this is the career profile she expected. Each day is unique and and extremely different from the culture experienced in the Western world. It brings its own special challenges and inevitably the differences also make the job more interesting.

"As a third-culture kid myself, I find it immensely gratifying

The sun returns to Kunming, China

to work with kids who have those same challenges. I 'get' them and feel certain that this fact means a lot to my students."

Joujan-Goss' advice to prospective students: "Don't be afraid! I was overly timid at the beginning of my studies, feeling everyone else seemed to know things I didn't. The truth is, everyone is on a learning curve. Speak up! When you feel inpsired, you might just end up helping others to realize they aren't the only ones missing some crucial bit of information."

Reflecting on her graduate studies, Joujan-Goss said she is very glad she selected an ALA-accredited school. "Even if it is not a requirement for your job, it is worth it to have the value an accredited program adds to your skill set. For graduating students and SIS job seekers, Joujan-Goss says, "Your education is the best of the best. Get out there and use it!"

"Yesterday I was nearing the end of a lesson on Genre for the students who come in daily for library class. This was the Grade 2 class, which tends to be a bit on the rowdy side. Two in particular were acting up, as they pretty much always do. I reminded the kids that I was proud of them for being 'super sleuths' and figuring out the mystery we had just read together. I then announced that as a part of check-out time, I had planted clues around the library that led them to some mysteries they might want to read themselves. I had marked some popular mysteries for their level with orange slips of paper that poked out around the room.

At this point, the two troublemakers began an outright wrestling match. One of them, in between grapples, said, 'I'm so excited-I love check-out time! I want to be a librarian . . . someday.' The other poked his head out from a tackle and replied, 'Yeah, I know—me too.' Stifling my laughter, I freed the kids to find their books. These two then shot up from their match and both ran for the shelves. This was, of course, against the rules: No running in the library. So in spite of their inspiring words, both get stuck in time-out for a few minutes while the others got first dibs on the books."

The Right Career at the Right Time

Flexibility has always been a key word in the School of Information Sciences' advertising and recruitment material. **Lisa Baker** (formerly Lisa Baker Hill, '94) has lived it. She began her library and information sciences career at Vanderbilt's Peabody Library after completing her practicum at UT's Hodges Library. "I probably would still be there today if life events had not intervened," said Baker. "I loved working in the academic library environment at Vanderbilt."

She eventually landed at St Jude Children's Research Hospital's ALSAC, the fund-raising arm for the hospital. In this role she worked as a Prospect Researcher researching prospective donors. She also worked two days a week as a foundation grant writer. Her work evolved into full time grant writing until a human resource manager recognized Baker was becoming bored. The HR manager found Baker a position as a trainer, despite the fact Baker had vowed to never teach a human being anything ever again as long as she lived.

Baker had started her career as a 7th grade English teacher after earning an undergraduate degree from Ten-

nessee Tech in English Education. After one year she made her vow to never teach again. (Yes, we can hear many of you middle school teachers chuckling.)

"As a trainer I realized I had the opportunity to help the organization get better," said Baker. She enjoyed the work for several years until the recession hit. Like many during that time, Baker was caught up in a workforce reduction and spent several months finding a job. She went to work for Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in Memphis, designing learning materials for electronic medical record charting.

Lisa Baker

Baker had wisely retained examples of her work. When she was later introduced to the Senior Vice President of Human Resources, she was able to show her the work she had done in her previous positions. From that introduction, Baker was invited to send in her resume and was moved into the Organizational Development Department.

She quickly began to apply her creative problem solving skills and facilitated courses on Leadership Development, conducted coaching sessions, and developed and implemented improvement plans for work teams that needed help finding solutions for relational and performance issues. Her efforts were designed to improve both performance and engagement for Associates that ultimately translated into better care for patients.

After building a life in the Memphis area for 15 years, Baker received a call from a former St. Jude co-worker about a job at Brookdale. Brookdale Senior Living, Inc., corporate headquarters in Brentwood, TN, manages 1,100 communities in 46 states and serves 67,000 residents. Baker went to work as the Quality Assurance Editor making sure the 80,000 plus Associates had accurate educational information.

After only two months, Baker has been promoted to Instructional Designer with additional responsibilities doing some organizational development work. In senior communities, Associates must be thoroughly trained on safety procedures, regulations specific to their state, special population care procedures and many other topics to ensure consistent quality care for all residents.

"I have used the knowledge gained in my Information Sciences coursework in every single job," remarked Baker. "Cataloging to organize information, naming conventions to sort material into manageable, retrievable formats, research techniques, and serving people while helping them learn and grow are skillsets I still use in my work every day." Even though technology has advanced and SIS has been through many changes since 1994, the core knowledge gained in SIS coursework is still applicable and relevant today. As one recent alumnus phrased it, "I'm still learning all of the ways this degree can be applied and I'm thrilled to see the portability and flexibility of the knowledge makes this degree one of the most valuable advanced degrees on the market today."

There is no way to guess what unique opportunity may appear for Lisa Baker in the future; however, there is no doubt she will be well prepared to face it when it happens. She has a knack for landing the right career at the right time and taking along her suitcase of Information Science know-how.

Lights, Camera, Archive

Jennifer Randles ('11) moved to Knoxville from Nashville in 2009 to attend SIS. While on campus, she was the graduate assistant at The Studio at Hodges Library. She now works at Scripps Networks Interactive (SNI) in Knoxville as the Metadata Administrator. The following is our interview with Jennifer Randles about her unique IS career:

(SIS) Brief description of your job responsibilities:

(JR) I create descriptive metadata for Scripps Networks Interactive (SNI) digital video assets. SNI is headquartered in Knoxville and owns HGTV, Food Network, Travel Channel, Cooking Channel, DIY Network, and Great American Country. The video assets I work with are the videos you see on Amazon, iTunes, Netflix, and all of the SNI websites (recipes, how-tos, promotional videos, show snippets). I started this position October 1st. I was previously Media Center Coordinator before that where I cataloged and processed new tapes for DIY Network and helped manage SNI's large collection of multimedia assets (tapes, audio, graphics masters).

I am really looking forward to contributing to the evolving metadata standards and systems here: a lot is changing as digital video is always on the move.

(SIS) What was your career path to this current job?

(JR) I have a BA in studio art in textiles from Georgia State University. After graduating, I moved back to Nashville and worked as an administrative assistant at Vanderbilt University for about 6 years. During that time, I went to the State Library & Archives to research genealogy and realized I'd like to work in a place like that. So I decided to go to grad school at SIS. During those two years, I was the Graduate Assistant at the Studio at Hodges Library, the Libraries' multimedia production lab. Working there changed my original focus from traditional paper-based archives to multimedia archives and collections.

After graduating, it took me a while to find a job (Randles limited her search to the local area), so I volunteered at the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound, did some

Jennifer Randles with Jason Cameron, host of *Sledgehammer* **and** *Man Caves* **for DIY network.**

consulting work for the McClung Historical Collection, and volunteered at the Children's Defense Fund Library. All of those experiences happened because of the people I met at conferences and introductions from other library professionals and friends.

In 2012, the evening supervisor position in The Studio was open. I was so happy to get that job! I really loved working with media in an environment I was familiar with and people I liked seeing every day. However, after a while, I knew that I didn't want to stay in the service field and knew I would have to change jobs and/or places of employment to get myself further in the direction I wanted to go.

In February 2014, I started working at SNI as a Media Center Coordinator and found I really enjoyed this corporate environment and the work I was doing. It was a big change, but a very good one. My background in video production, multimedia metadata experience and knowledge, and my MSIS degree all came in handy when a reorganization happened in my department. I was given the chance to do work that was even more related to what I studied and what field I want to continue in. So I am very happy here.

(SIS) Did you imagine yourself in this role while you were a student?

(JR) Not at all! I prepared for archival environment with multimedia and a tech focus. So some of that is still related: I work in multimedia and IT for a closed collection of assets. But the earliest items I work with are from the 1990s. I didn't specialize in metadata, but I did take cataloging. That was a huge help. Funnily enough, I found out that I am passionate about metadata: making sure it is appropriate and works for users and with systems. I love looking at systems and workflows and improving them so they are more efficient and user-friendly. I also didn't imagine myself in a corporate setting, as I wanted to go into nonprofit or academic setting. I have found that

21

the pace and flexibility of this corporate environment fit my personality and the way I like to work much better than other environments I've experienced. I always wanted to contribute in a meaningful way to the world, and I still believe I am doing that in some way. Plus, I get to experience history as it happens: seeing the evolution of lifestyle reality television gives me a lot to think about and study.

(SIS) What is unique about your job compared to traditional librarianship?

(JR) I do not interact with public, although what I create is in a large part for them. We use local cataloging schema, not a specific metadata schema but one that has been created as needed over the years. I rarely see a book in my job. In my previous position, I worked with many physical objects: tapes of shows, preparing them and cataloging them before they were ingested into the systems for quality control and airing. I also took part in quality control of non-linear video assets and created a technical manual for part of that process.

Scripps Networks Interactive Headquarters

(SIS) What is your favorite part of the job?

(JR) Working with the materials. The world of TV is fun. I love working with video and enjoy a lot of shows that we create. Being creative with descriptive metadata. I am always problem solving when thinking of how to phrase something in interesting ways to get people's attention. I also have to decide what keywords to use so the materials are easy to find. Being in a rapidly evolving part of the profession, there are always lots of changes, adaptations, and figuring out what works best. I enjoy making systems work better for users and am looking forward to contributing to that here.

(SIS) If you could give current students some advice, what would it be?

(JR) Do as many practicums as possible to get external experience in information environments. If you don't like it, that is still useful and is more information for you to make a decision in the future. TAKE CATALOGING! Feeling comfortable with that work and rules is very helpful. It gives you confidence to know that you can tackle other systems. You never know when you'll need to handle metadata in the future. Network as much as you can: it doesn't have to be scary. Find things you genuinely like to talk to about and people who do something you'd eventually like to do. A lot of professionals are happy to share their experiences, so just ask them if you can set up a meeting sometime to find out more about their job and career.

When you begin your job search, look outside your imagined role for job possibilities. You may find something else you hadn't considered before. Don't feel stuck to one environment: your work in academic or public libraries will serve you well in special/corporate libraries. Look at job descriptions as well as titles: the job titles may not say metadata or library, but when you read the description it would be a good fit for you. This is true of many jobs here at SNI, they are not phrased in the way you would expect but would be a good fit for an IS major.

(SIS) Do you think it matters if a graduate receives a degree from an ALA-accredited program?

(JR) Yes, as it opens up more job options. Many require an ALA-accredited degree. That accreditation basically says that you have been held to a set of standards, and professionals trust that.

It is best to come into any graduate program with an idea of what you want to do with the degree. Even having an idea what kind of environment you want to work in can be helpful. Your plan will most likely change during school, but having that direction at first will help you plan what you going to take and where you want to end up. Volunteering before you start school is also immensely helpful. I volunteered at the State Library & Archives to make sure I wanted to work in libraries and archives at all.

(SIS) What is the most gratifying experience you have had in your career to date?

(JR) Seeing students in the Studio learn and excel as they grew as young adults. It was exciting to foster that independence and confidence in other people. Also, when I worked with the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound, I digitally reconstructed a classic Lay's Meats bacon commercial from decomposing film and two separate soundtracks. It was so satisfying to discover that track and put it together, then share it with the world.

research methods. Her research focuses on children's use of web search engines and digital libraries to find information, as well as the design and usability of these tools from children's perspectives in multicultural contexts.

"We're delighted to hear of Professor Bilal's award to fund further quality research in her area of expertise," said SIS Director Ed Cortez. "Her books and papers are some of the most referenced information science materials today."

Link to faculty page: http://www.cci.utk.edu/users/dania-bilal or http://scholar.cci.utk.edu/dania-bilal

Mehra and Bishop Win Grant to Look at Rural Public Libraries' Role in Economic Development

Associate Professor Bharat Mehra and Assistant Professor Wade Bishop, have received a $49,557 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to look at the role rural public libraries play in the economic development of the Appalachian region.

The year-long project, which begins in October, will consist of two phases. The first task will be gathering data about the roles of rural public libraries from the small business and librarian staff. The second part will be drafting a blueprint of a public library small business tool kit. The project's goal is to test and assess a strategy that could be used at regional and national levels.

Dr. Mehra and Dr. Bishop

"The Appalachian region faces tremendous economic and educational challenges," said Mehra. "My experience working with rural libraries in the region leads me to believe we can successfully build a model to help rural libraries play a greater role in small business economic development by encouraging information literacy and access to much-needed information and technology resources."

Grant partners include the Blount County Public Library, Clinch River Regional Library, Holston River Regional Library and Sevier County Public Library System. The Tennessee State Library and Archives will assist in distribution of the survey and identification of interview participants. A letter of support was provided by the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce in Clinton, Tennessee.

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its grant making, policy development and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

To learn more, visit http://www.imls.gov.

Allard co-PI for IMLS Grant to Develop Roadmap for DCPT2.0

SIS Professor Suzie Allard is a co-Principal Investigator on a $49,163 grant awarded to Purdue University Libraries and the Distributed Data Curation Center (D2C2). The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grant is focused on developing a roadmap for the next generation of the Data Curation Profiles Toolkit (DCPT). Along with co-PIs Scott Brandt at Purdue University and Jake Carlson at University of Michigan, Allard and the planning grant team will collaborate on the planning grant called "Enhancing the data curation profiles to help bridge the gap between researcher and repository."

This work will allow Purdue Libraries to bring together expertise in the field of data curation to propose the next iteration of the DCPT as a more extensible and powerful tool for librarians and other information professionals to connect with stakeholders seeking to deposit their research data into a repository.

Conference News

The schedule for SIS participation for ALA related conferences for the spring and summer of 2015 is below. Be sure to look us up if you are attending any of these conferences and contact Tanya Arnold (tarnold@utk.edu) if you would like to help out in the SIS booth.

Conference	Date	Location
iConference	Mar. 24-27	Newport Beach, CA
TLA	Apr. 22-24	Murfreesboro, TN
MD/DE Joint Conference	May 6-8	Ocean City, MD
VLA Paraprofessional	May 17-19	Richmond, VA
SLA	June 14-16	Boston, MA
ALA	June 25-30	San Francisco, CA

Arkansas Library Association

The University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences hosted an exhibit booth at the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Annual Conference in Hot Springs, October 5-6, 2014. Two students, Amy Walton and Jennifer Carlton, visited with prospective students and connected with alumni during the event.

Photograph by Daniel Fitzroy, ArLA Webmaster

Left to Right:
Amy Katherine Walton, Student, Bookmobile Clerk at the Pope County Library
Jennifer Megan Carlton, Student, Library Assistant at Middle Tennessee State University
Hadi Dudley, Graduate 2004, Library Director at the Bentonville Public Library
Heather Hays, Graduate 2005, Reference Librarian at the Bentonville Public Library
Dean Covington, Graduate 1976, Director of the Mabee-Simpson Library at Lyon College
Darla Ino, Graduate 2012, Director of the White County Regional Library System
Amber Gregory, Graduate 2011, Coordinator of E-Rate Services at the Arkansas State Libra

iSchool Conference

Director Patrick Powell (l) with iSchool Group

CCI Development Director Patrick Powell attended the iSchool Development Workshop on behalf of the School. The workshop was held in Washington DC. "We had good discussions about the ideas and barriers to foundational fundraising," said Powell. "More importantly, it allowed me build a community of professional contacts with fresh ideas on how to engage our alumni and friends. All of these attendees were from other iSchools and represented highly rated programs.

Student News

Paul Lemieux completed a NASA internship during the summer of 2013 at the Marshall Space Flight Center. He presented his research findings first at the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers conference (SEDAAG) in November 2013. There it won the poster competition.

Recently at the URISA GIS-Pro Annual Conference held in Louisiana, his poster based on this research won the "best graduate poster" competition.

Lemieux is currently a Team Science Scholar. He has an undergraduate degree in Geography from the University of Tennessee.

To find out more about Team Science, visit http://scholar.cci.utk.edu/team-science/about-team-science.

Paul Lemieux

UT has received another boost to its efforts to preserve state history. The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded $345,000 to the UT Libraries for phase three of the Tennessee Newspaper Digitization Project.

The Project Coordinator **Louisa Trott** is a current IS student.

The TNDP will digitize another 100,000 pages of Tennessee's microfilmed newspapers dating from the late 19th century to 1922. Since the project began in 2010, the UT Libraries, working in partnership with the Tennessee State Library and Archives, has digitized 200,000 pages from Tennessee newspapers dating back to 1849.

Earlier phases of the project digitized newspaper titles published from the Civil War through the Gilded Age. This third award will bring Tennessee's history forward into the Progressive Era. Readers will be able to eavesdrop on debates about prohibition or extending the vote to women.

PhD Corner

Congratulations to **Crystal Sherline** for successfully defending her dissertation. Thanks to her chair, Professor Suzie Allard, and the other dissertation committee members Professor Carol Tenopir, Associate Professor Mike Kotowski, and Associate Professor Michael Olsen (CAS). The title of her dissertation is "Measuring the norm of reciprocity on data sharing practices: A carrot or stick approach?"

Becca Anderson (expected PhD '15) is now Manager, Digital Analytics for CNN Money.

Professor Suzie Allard

Brandt said, "Our intent is to develop a tool that will bridge the gap between the 'active stages' of the data management lifecycle to the 'curation stages' of discovery, access and preservation." Additionally, the group will produce a report reviewing the challenges of bridging the gap between data producers and data curators and identify recommendations for addressing these challenges.

The DCPT was created in 2010 with support from the IMLS as a resource for librarians to engage researchers in discussion about their data. The Toolkit has been downloaded over 1200 times in 28 countries and used by librarians, administrators, LIS faculty and students, and researchers in many fields. The associated Data Curation Profiles Directory has published 32 Profiles that have been downloaded over 5000 times since January 2013. The Association of College & Research Libraries' Science & Technology Section's 2013 Innovation Award (Sponsored by IEEE) went to the D2C2 for its research and development of the Data Curation Profiles Toolkit.

Did you know?

1. SIS students can develop an individualized program of study in consultation with their advisors. Some options are: academic libraries, applied information technology, corporate information, international issues and experiences, public librarianship, community informatics, school media and science and technology communication.

2. Whatever courses are taken, all students who complete the program receive the Master of Science degree accredited by the American Library Association (ALA).

3. There is more than one way to earn the degree: SIS accepts undergraduate degrees from any academic field, attend full or part time, online or on campus or see website for more details: www.sis.utk.edu.

4. The School accepts applications on a rolling admissions basis until the incoming class is full. There is no deadline to apply to the program, except for international students. Students are admitted in the fall or spring semester. Review of completed applications begin in February for fall admission and October for spring admission.

5. Prospective students are welcome to email, call or visit the school and speak with the assistant to the director and/or the coordinator of student services before the application is completed.

Some current job titles of SIS graduates include:

Information Analyst, Webmaster, Library Director, Records Analyst, Dean of Libraries, Health Systems Database Analyst, Visual & Performing Arts Librarian, Archivist, Legislative Researching Analyst, Cataloger, Library Media Specialist,   Researcher, Senior IT Technologist, Taxonomy Manager, Curator,   Outreach Librarian, Information Technology Specialist, Managing Editor, Youth Services Coordinator, Music Librarian, Manager of Collections Development, Professor, Head of Digital Services, Reference Librarian, Children's Author, Systems Engineer

Tenopir's ongoing DataONE project. They and their research team are the recipients of a 2.7 million dollar NSF grant that will take the project to the next phase, examining sociocultural issues related to data management infrastructure and dissemination of findings to the broader scientific community.

Also in place are a number of ongoing IMLS projects and new planning grants that serve as reliable rudders, helping to keep the School's research mission focused and strong.

These new horizons are being realized under our recently attained status as an iSchool, with the added mission of developing expertise at all levels in applying information for progress in science, business, government and culture.

Very importantly, the Alumni Society has strengthened its direction with the election of an exceptional group of officers and members at large. The role they play is to uplift the life of the School, as well as to help with targeted student recruitment drives. Many of the Society's activities are reported in this issue of the newsletter. Please consider becoming more active in the Alumni Society to share in its growing momentum.

Additionally, the SIS Advisory Board continues to serve as an effective administrative cabinet to the School. Its fall meeting was productive and contributed to how SIS is setting its future sights and initiatives. The Board has also expanded the vision of the School through its members who are highly visible in their national and international work. Their credentials and places of employment are astonishingly impressive, and I invite you to learn more about them through the newsletter and our website http://www.sis.utk.edu/advisoryboard.

Dr. Cortez and Jazz Looking to an Even Brighter Future

Critical to reaching our new goals and a successful future are the students. We must continue to recruit the best and the brightest if we are to maintain our excellent reputation, especially as we approach our re-accreditation by the American Library Association (2016). Toward this end, Acting Associate Director Kitty McClanahan and I have hosted receptions for alumni and student recruits in Memphis and Washington DC. We will continue to host similar receptions throughout the spring semester. When we come to your region please make every effort to help the School by inviting new student prospects to accompany you to these receptions.

In sum, we have set a new course that will lead us through another exciting and successful decade. I invite you to join our journey and look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Best,

Edward M Cortez

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Address Correction Requested

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www.sis.utk.edu

In this issue: New Horizons: Expanding our Vision | Careers on the Move | New Students and Recruiting Opportunities and much more!

Find late-breaking SIS news and announcements on our Facebook page, through tweets and as always, our website. Join us on these new social media tools.

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