



Interface

SIS Faculty Innovations Spark Activity

What do the information-seeking habits of children with Asperger's syndrome, classes integrating Web 2.0 technologies into the curriculum, and development of scientific tools for sharing knowledge have in common? These are prime examples of how SIS faculty are pioneering new thinking in their classrooms and in their research.

In the project "Life Online: How Children and Young People with Asperger's Syndrome Interact with, Learn, and Use Digital Media," SIS Professor Dania Bilal, along with Dr. Bharat Mehra and Dr. Sherry Mee Bell, a Professor in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, is spearheading an investigation of the information-seeking behaviors of autistic children, thanks to a grant from the CCI summer research fund. Bilal, Mehra, and Bell will explore

autistic children's interactions with a variety of digital media, including social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, and blogs; social media networks such as Teen Second Life and virtual gaming; Web search engines including Google, Yahoo, and Bing; online databases; and mobile devices.

Through quantitative and qualitative data gathered from video-recordings of participants' interactions with specific digital media tools, and from interviews with participants about their experiences using these technologies, Bilal, Mehra, and Bell will consider how children and youth with Asperger's Syndrome learn to problem solve, form communities, and share information.

This research area proves particularly relevant today, as educators and society more generally are increasingly placing greater importance on the mastery of digital and information technologies. Alongside this rising concern with integrating technology into the classroom and into everyday life, the number of children and young people with autism also continues to grow. And yet little research has explored the information-seeking behaviors of children and youth with Asperger's Syndrome (AS).

Since individuals with AS have difficulties understanding nonverbal communication, reading print text, socializing, and interpreting others' thoughts and feelings, it seems logical that their search behavior would be distinct from that of others. In a recent pilot study of autistic children and



SIS Director, Ed Cortez

It has been a busy and productive winter, and, as the dogwood blossoms proclaim the start of spring, I welcome you to this issue of *Interface*. Let me start by reminding you of the many successes of the faculty in securing major funded research grants last year. As is always the case once funded grants are secured the real work commences. As you read on you will learn about the work of each faculty principal investigator as it relates to their particular grant. For example, Suzie Allard has been busy recruiting the six doctoral students that compose the class of Science Links²—a project that will educate a next generation of scholars in the field of science data and information science. Bharat Mehra successfully completed his recruitment campaign for 16 master's students who will pursue careers in rural librarianship and specializations in information technology.

Drs. Singh and Tenopir are charting their way through three impressive independent grants that relate to next

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Editor's Desk



Joel Southern

SIS welcomes new faculty

Our school is pleased to welcome two new faculty members to our community of scholars. Dr. Devendra Potnis and Dr. Kimberly Douglass will join our faculty this August.

Devendra Potnis

Dr. Devendra Potnis is completing his Ph.D. at the State University of New York where his dissertation research examines the role of cell phones in shaping the information behavior of women entrepreneurs from rural India, earning less than a dollar per day. His research focuses on innovative IT solutions in microfinance, which is



Dr. Devendra Potnis

a platform for empowering the poor by offering them recurring small loans. His other research interests relate to social informatics, digital governance, information behavior and microfinance, and the application of information technology at the intersection of society, government and business.

Before his dissertation research, it was widely assumed that information and communication technologies (ICTs) generate and inspire literacy and change in developing cultures.

Potnis's research discovered, however, that it is access to information, hence change in information behavior, that is instrumental in enabling individuals to explore socio-economic opportunities made available by access to ICTs. This access to information is what engenders socio-economic opportunities. Potnis also discovered that these opportunities open further opportunities, creating a self-sustaining feedback loop.

Potnis's research shows that microfinance allows the poorest of the poor to change from consumers of information to producers of it and, ultimately, to become innovators of information. His research looked at hundreds of women in India with no banking history. When provided with cell phones and simple instruction, these women were able to tap into the microfinance market and generate profits through making smaller loans to friends and family members, selling insurance, and making emergency loans.

Potnis has a master's of Public Administration degree from the State University of New York, where he specialized in Information Decision-Making and Information Management. He also obtained an MS degree in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he specialized in security and networking. His BS degree is in Computer Engineering from the University of Mumbai.

Kimberly Douglass

Dr. Kimberly Douglass is a Post-doctoral Research Associate with the Center for Information and Communication Studies and the DataONE grant,

in which Suzie Allard and Carol Tenopir are also playing key roles. Douglass's research addresses environmental policy, science policy, and commodity



Kimberly Douglass

resource policy, particularly those related to diamonds, copper, and gold. Her research seeks to understand the influence scientific data has on the policymaking process; the value policymakers place on scientific data vis-à-vis personal ideologies, campaign promises, and constituent concerns; and how policymakers determine which scientific data to use.

In her work with DataONE, Douglass has found inventive ways to communicate with project managers, team members, and a host of scientists. She has developed a stakeholder matrix, for example. This tool connects users, showing how the work of scientists connects with virtually every facet of society, including governmental, industrial, scientific, and commercial sectors. This matrix not only shows who will use the products and services, but also how users will use the tools. Her research into scientists' use of information is an attempt to learn more about the culture of science and the web of relationships that interlinks knowledge.

Douglass's interest in environmental policy began when she was a Senior Legislative Research Analyst at the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of Research and Education Accountability. She continued exploring these interests as a policy analyst for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, as an intern at the Wilderness Society in Washington D.C., and as a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Tennessee Energy, Environment, and Resource Center.

Dr. Douglass received her Ph.D. in Political Science, Comparative Politics, and International Relations at UT. She earned her Master of Public Administration degree from Tennessee State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Liberal Arts.

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We encourage you to keep in touch with the School and send us news items, photos, or articles about your role in the wider profession. We welcome your suggestions.

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ScienceLinks² PhD students welcomed

SIS is proud of the IMLS funded ScienceLinks² (SL²) project, which funds the studies of six students in the college's interdisciplinary doctoral program with a focus on science information and communication. Please welcome our 2010 SL² cohort!



JIM MALONE (SIS '06) is an Information Services Librarian for the Distributed eLibrary at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Previously, he worked for Integrated Solutions & Services, Inc. as a subcontracted Research Associate to ORAU/ORISE in Oak Ridge.

LISA METZER (SIS '06) is the Adult Services Librarian at the Wells Branch Community Library in Austin, TX. Prior to this job she worked as Learning Librarian at the National Geographic Society.

ELIZABETH NOAKES' educational background includes a BS degree in geology from the University of Wyoming, and an MS degree in geological engineering from Ole Miss. Elizabeth has 20 years of experience as a practicing environmental consultant performing assessment and cleanup at properties ranging from corner gas stations to Superfund sites.

DAVID SIMS (SIS '08) is an intellectual property manager and licensing agent at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He received his MS in Information Science at UT SIS as a graduate of the initial ScienceLinks program.

PRIYANKI SINHA is a final year MS student (Library and Information Science) at the Indian Statistical Institute. She has received her undergraduate degree in Computer Science from the West Bengal University of Technology in India. She has worked for Wipro as a Technical Associate.

TODD SUOMELA studied philosophy and English at Yale University and completed his MS in Information Science at the University of Michigan in 2007. He works as an independent scholar and consultant in Minneapolis, MN.

You can learn more about SL² at <http://www.sis.utk.edu/sciencelinks2>

Director's Message, continued from page 1

generation technologies for libraries, cyberlearning, and return on investment for academic libraries. All of the PIs in these projects are assisted by SIS faculty colleagues, post-docs, and a legion of master's students.

Next I want to bring your attention to the start of a new lecture series, titled "Past SIS Directors Looking Ahead." Starting with Ann Prentice, who was the second director of the school, SIS launched this lecture series this spring to honor former SIS directors who gave so memorably to the school.

Ann's reception and lecture, held on April 7, was a celebratory event with participation from many of her former UT colleagues, students and friends. You can view a webcast recording of the lecture by going to <http://tinyurl.com/yfucugf>. [Editor's Note: see also pg. 12 of this issue.]

Next fall we look forward to a visit from José-Marie Griffith, the third director of the school, which will be followed in spring 2011 by Elizabeth Aversa my predecessor and the 4th person to serve as director of the school. While not serving contiguously (there were several acting directors), these directors followed in the footsteps of the founding director Gary Purcell, now deceased, who served from 1971-1978. Gary was a charismatic visionary who set professional standards for his faculty, inspired excellence, and worked to develop a nationally-recognized program. To his colleagues he was a "gentle giant" who, well over 6 feet tall, towered over most people, yet was still cuddly looking with his rosy cheeks and bushy red hair.

An important new development for alumni and alumni relations is the step toward establishing an SIS Alumni Society. Many of you may not know that while we have had in place an Alumni Board for many years, there has never been an SIS Alumni Society. The Alumni Board, though elected by alumni, has been an entity without any official representation. The Board has worked diligently to improve alumni activities,

and the discussion has included how to further improve alumni activities and how to best utilize the relationship that could be established with UT alumni activities. Discussions led to the idea of needing an SIS Alumni Society, but the question was how this would fit with the SIS Alumni Board.

In order to clear the way for the creation of the Alumni Society, the existing Alumni Board voted in March to dissolve itself. Starting this summer, I will begin to appoint members to a steering committee that will make recommendations toward the creation of an SIS Alumni Society, including developing its charter and bylaws and electing new officers. We expect that the process will consume the entire next academic year and hope to have an official SIS Alumni Society in place come fall 2011. In the meantime we will continue to have a homecoming alumni and friends event, as well as an Alumni & Friends Day, next spring.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not bring to your attention this outstanding class of students. Within these pages you will read about their leadership achievements, research activities, awards, and presentations at conferences regionally, nationally, and internationally. I am especially pleased with the initiative this class of students has demonstrated in pursuing important and complementary extra-curricular activities through tours, practica, and sponsorship of social events. The e-town hall meetings I have had throughout the year with students have been well attended, and the information exchanges have been extremely helpful in organizing and scheduling the academic program. One fun event was when the northern Virginia/D.C. cohort group invited me to Washington for dinner. [Editor's Note: See photo on pg. 8.]

We had great laughs while sampling innovative Greek, Lebanese, and Turkish cuisine. When we run into each other, remind me to tell you about the tzatziki, taramosalata and baba ghanouj! In the meantime, happy reading.

Faculty News & PUBLICATIONS

Suzie Allard



Associate Professor Suzie Allard continues work on several grants, including the NSF-funded DataONE grant, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded ScienceLinks² program, through which she has successfully tapped 6 dynamic PhD students to receive scholarships (See page 3). She and other SIS faculty members continue their work on nearly \$3 million in active IMLS grants.

Allard has presented several conference papers since the last issue. She presented a workshop at the ALISE Academy, held during the Association of Library and Information Science Educators conference in Boston this past January. The workshop, "Launching the Research Agenda: Planning for a Rewarding Journey," was designed to help early career academics develop strategies for successfully pursuing their research agendas. At this same conference, she was invited by IMLS to speak during its panel, "Collaborative Approaches to Training the 21st Century LIS Workforce: Spotlight on Projects Recently Funded by IMLS." There Allard and CCI doctoral candidate Arsev Aydinoglu presented their paper, "Collaborations between LIS and Science: The DataONE case study."

Allard was also appointed by the hosts of the IMLS WebWise conference, to serve as a Table Topic discussion leader on the topic "Libraries, Museums, and Science Data," which was held in Denver this March.

Along with CCI doctoral candidate Kitty McClanahan, Allard co-authored, "Exploratory Investigation of Interpersonal Discussions in Response to a Safer Sex Mass Media Campaign," which was named "Top Paper" for the Health Communication Division at the upcoming International Communication Association Conference in Singapore. Allard and McClanahan conducted the National Institute of Mental Health-funded study, which consists of in-depth structured interviews with more than 130 young adults in East Tennessee.

Allard and CCI doctoral candidate, Aydinoglu presented a paper at the BOB-CATSSS 2010 Conference in Parma, Italy,

titled, "Connecting the public with science: Comic books and libraries." Last December Allard was an invited speaker at the 53rd Military Libraries Workshop in Nashville, where she presented "Communication that Works! Improving your Library through Effective Communication Techniques." Finally, Allard has been selected to participate in the inaugural UTK Women's Leadership Program, which was initiated by Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Sarah Fisher Gardial.

Dania Bilal



Professor Dania Bilal is an invited speaker and panelist at the Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval Workshop, titled "Access Search Systems" to be held in Geneva, Switzerland this July. She has also been selected to serve on the SIG IR Workshop Review Committee as well as the ASIST 73rd Annual Meeting, Program Planning and Review Committee, Information Behavior Track. The meetings will be held in Pittsburgh this fall. Bilal will also serve on the Program Committee for the Information Interaction in Context Symposium, to be held in New Brunswick, New Jersey this August.

Kimberly Black



Assistant Professor Kimberly Black served on the Curriculum Advisory Committee for the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools[®] program. This committee provides input to the annual Children Defense Fund's Freedom Schools[®] "Summer Integrated Reading Curriculum Guide. She continues to be active on the Children's Defense Fund's Langston Hughes Library Board.

In March, Black attended the 2010 WebWise Conference on Libraries and Museums in the Digital World in Denver. She attended the Tennessee Library Association conference this March where she participated in a panel discussion, "Rural Libraries Professionals as Change Agents in the 21st Century: Integrating Information Technology Competencies in the Southern and Central Appalachian Region (ITRL) Phase I Planning and Recruitment."

At the 34th annual National Council for Black Studies Conference 2010 in New Orleans this March, Black presented, "Centrality of Africana Studies to the Canonization and Collection of African-American Women's

Literature." This April at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington D.C., she presented "'Just Cause You Can't See Don't Mean Ain't Nothing There': Narrative, Public Space and the Right to the City in the Graphic Novel, 'Pitch Black.'"

Ed Cortez



Director Ed Cortez, along with doctoral student Julie Ann Winkelstein, presented a paper at the Bobcatss 2010 Conference in Parma, Italy, titled "How and Why Public Libraries Can, Should and Do Facilitate the Use of the Internet by the Homeless: A Look at the Programs, Barriers and Political Climate." Cortez and Winkelstein will examine the social role of public libraries providing services to the homeless in the US and abroad.

Cortez traveled to South Africa to meet with SIS African partners and associates, including University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Pretoria University, Makerere University, and a new collaboration with Zululand University. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a network among African universities supporting "Africa Information Ethics."

Rachel Fleming-May



Assistant Professor Rachel Fleming-May made four presentations at three conferences this spring: the Association for Library and Information Science Education annual meeting in Boston, the Tennessee Library Association annual meeting in Memphis, and the Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference in Austin, Texas. Fleming-May reports that the SIS presence at ER&L was quite strong. In addition to having dinner with SIS alums Charles Hillen, Julie Loder, and Jill Grogg, she had a chance to speak with several other graduates of the program. Fleming-May and Grogg are currently working on the August/September Library Technology Report, published by the American Library Association. This summer she plans to make revisions to an article currently under review and complete other projects, including a paper for the upcoming Association of Research Libraries Assessment Conference. Fleming-May has also been invited to speak at the 9th Annual MidSouth E-Resources Symposium.

Bharat Mehra



Assistant Professor Bharat Mehra published a paper (co-authored with Rioux and Albright) entitled “Social Justice in Library and Information Science” in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*, edited by Bates and Maack. Mehra has also co-authored with Black, Singh, and Lee, a paper entitled, “Collaborations between LIS Education and Rural Libraries in East Tennessee,” which he presented during the Association for Library and Information Science Education annual conference in Boston this January. Also at ALISE, Mehra led a panel presentation (with Parris) entitled “Open Source Software Collaborations in Tennessee’s Regional Library System: A Website Analysis;” and filled-in for Cortez in a panel entitled “Creating a ‘Culture of Collaboration’ Across Cultural Borders.”

At the conference, Expanding the Circle: Creating an Inclusive Environment in Higher Education for LGBTQ Students and Studies in San Francisco this February, Mehra presented “Bringing Research out of the Closet: Libraries, Librarians, and LGBTQ Collections.” In March, he served as moderator for the panel “Rural Library Professionals as Change Agents in the 21st Century” at the Tennessee Library Association Annual Conference in Memphis. Mehra also facilitated the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies’ faculty retreat last January. The goal of the retreat was to increase diversity infusion into their curriculum and to further research initiatives between UMW and UT.”

Lorraine Normore



Assistant Professor Lorraine Normore and her IS 588 Human Computer Interaction class are studying how library professionals look for information in library catalogs. Class members are interviewing catalogers and reference librarians at a variety of academic libraries. In so doing, students learn interviewing and data analysis techniques while developing knowledge about the use of catalogs, which may prove helpful for library management.

Vandana Singh



Assistant Professor Vandana Singh received the college’s 2010 Innovative Technology Teaching Award for 2010. See page 6.

Carol Tenopir



Professor Carol Tenopir is weighing in on the national debate about increasing access to scholarly publishing as she serves on the U.S. Congressional roundtable, which is studying how the results of federally funded research can be more widely disseminated. See <http://www.cci.utk.edu/Roundtable> for the full story.

Tenopir is also working on several research projects, some funded by publishing organizations and others by federal agencies. In an international study for the Publishing Research Council, she is identifying what factors influence researchers’ choices of articles. Another of her studies measures the value of e-journal collections in the research grants process. Tenopir is lead P.I. on a grant for IMLS on measuring the value of libraries. She presented a paper on the Value and Future of Library E-Collections at the VALA2010 Conference in Melbourne, Australia in February. She also participated in the conference’s plenary “fireside chat” on issues in published and curated content in libraries.

She is also co-PI on a project for USGS that is identifying and describing biodiversity content for the Southern Appalachian Information Node; and she is a member of the Leadership Team and Usability & Assessment Working Group for the NSF-sponsored DataONE project.

This spring semester Dr. Tenopir presented research results at ALA-midwinter; the VALA library technology conference in Melbourne, Australia; the Fiesole Collection Development Retreat in Belgium; the UKSG meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland; and the International STM Publishing meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Peiling Wang



Professor Peiling Wang was invited to serve as an external evaluator for two dissertations: one on Web search system and algorithm from the University of New South Wales, Australia; the other on user behavior of Web searching from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia. Wang recently served as a member of a UNC Chapel Hill dissertation committee on the topic “The Construction of Mental Models of Information-rich Web Spaces.” Wang is a member of UTK Virtual Library Steering Committee for which she led

a discussion on “Collect and Present More Use Data” in March.

Cindy Welch



Assistant Professor Cindy Welch was invited to publish a short article on a popular blog, “In the Library with the Lead Pipe,” about the connections between yesterday’s unique newsletters

like the Young Adult Alternative Newsletter (YAAN, 1973-1979) and today’s blogs. There are many similarities between these publications. For more about this, see the April 14 article online at ww.inthelibrary-withtheleadpipe.org/.

Welch also presented two related papers at ALISE in January. The first paper, “Librarians and Early Radio Broadcasting: Creating Programming Out of Thin Air” explored collaboration between librarians and early radio broadcasting facilities during the 1920s and 1930s. The second paper, “Collaborating to Create a Professional Specialty: The Role of the Young Adult Alternative Newsletter (1973-1979) in the Creation of Modern Young Adult Services,” discussed how a unique newsletter helped grow and sustain the development of young adult services in public libraries in the 1970s.

Welch recently conducted an information/booktalking session for students volunteering in the College of Health, Education and Human Sciences’ Grief Outreach Initiative, overseen by Dr. Tricia McClam. The session was intended to help the volunteers better understand the role of books in the therapy process (bibliotherapy) for children, and to make volunteers better aware of the wealth of youth materials available to support the work of the initiative.

Welch’s “Children’s Stories Through the Air: Librarian-Broadcasters and the Transmission of Values, 1922-1941” has been accepted for the fall 2010 Library History Seminar XII: Libraries in the History of Print Culture. This presentation takes a look at which books and stories were chosen by librarians for adaptation to radio, and which were presented in radio book-talks. Welch believes that those choices were made with the intent to inform children about acceptable social mores and values of the time.

youth, Bilal found that this population's behavior was unique in terms of their learning styles, information needs, use of digital media, and social interactions. Digital media holds particular promise for those with AS: such technologies could serve as mediators for individuals who otherwise struggle to communicate through face-to-face interaction. The

Digital media holds particular promise for those with Asperger's Syndrome. Such technologies could serve as mediators for individuals who otherwise struggle to communicate through face-to-face interaction.

understanding gained from the project Life Online has incredible potential to help educators develop effective ways to reach children with AS. The research findings could also help inform computer programmers as they develop digital media system designs, which can better facilitate the learning of children and young people with AS.

Bilal was inspired to investigate children's information seeking behaviors when watching her nephew and nieces interacting with the Internet. Her personal interest in this topic reflects the excitement with which she is pursuing this rich research area. She has submitted an "Inquiry Letter in Support of Funding" from the McArthur Foundation.

Singh awarded innovation award

SIS faculty's commitment to teaching is reflected in Dr. Vandana Singh's receipt of the 2010 College of Communication and Information Innovative Technology Teaching Award. Singh instructs the graduate courses IS 567 (Information Networking Applications) and IS 585 (Information Technologies), whose

curricula she has redesigned in order to provide students with increased opportunities to utilize and become competent in technologies which are vital to today's information professions.

In Singh's IS 567 class, students apply a variety of Web 2.0 tools to an information environment of their choice, be it a school, public, academic, or special library, or an alternative setting such as a government agency, a non-governmental organization, or a business. Class participants evaluate and develop such technologies as social networking sites, wikis, blogs, RSS feeds, podcasts, and videos. During the final weeks of the class students create a website using Drupal, which is an open source content management system, rapidly growing in popularity. This final project is informed by Singh's expertise and research interests in the area of open source software.

IS 585 offers students additional opportunities to gain hands-on experience with Web 2.0 technologies. In this course participants learn about new information tools and technologies and how these can be applied in various information environments.

Other innovative faculty research

In fact, all SIS faculty integrate leading digital technologies into their coursework. Significant research projects have many faculty members tackling pressing, national problems.

The DataONE project, for example, giant in scope, seeks to develop a sustainable long-term data preservation and access network that will give scientists and citizens practical tools to better understand the "nature and pace of change on Earth." These tools will empower scientists to address environmental, social, and technological challenges.

Suzie Allard is on the DataONE leadership team, which is building the infrastructure through which communities of researchers are creating a virtual organization for envi-

ronmental data. This project involves designing new ways for information to flow across disciplinary boundaries and creating models for how scientists, technologists, computer scientists, and librarians can work together. Moreover, DataONE brings together participants from around the world. Allard is a co-leader on the Socio-cultural Issues Working Group of DataOne, a \$20 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Bharat Mehra is engaged in a creative endeavor of another sort: exploring and addressing the needs of library users in rural Appalachia. The project is part of the IMLS-funded Information Technology Rural Librarian Scholarship (ITRL) scholarship program, which seeks to better understand how to improve services in rural Appalachian libraries. (See next page.)

In focus groups and interviews with more than 50 rural library professionals, Mehra is applying a community engagement model to collect needs assessment data.

In his Development and Management of Collections course, he and his students use Library 2.0 methods to engage library users to fully understand their needs as it relates to collections and services. To Mehra, innovation requires rigor, discipline, and collaboration through sustained critical reflections.

Faculty innovations help bridge the gap between theory and practice and provide tangible outcomes that are directly relevant to a community's needs.

These are just several of the many ways in which SIS faculty are contributing to the profession. SIS faculty's innovations, manifesting themselves in both long-term incremental projects and sudden bursts of creativity, are actively improving our understandings of people's information needs and how those needs might be better met. In this way, faculty are increasing productivity and creating a better future.

—Andrea Baer and Joel Southern



SIS awards 16 scholarships to rural Appalachian librarians

Its name is big but its mission and potential impact on rural Appalachian communities is even bigger. The SIS Information Technology Rural Librarian Master's Scholarship Program has awarded 16 full scholarships to students working in the Southern and Central Appalachia's rural libraries. The scholarships will allow recipients to study at a distance in the SIS master's degree program, thanks to a generous grant of \$567,660 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Half of the scholarship recipients are from Tennessee, while three are from Virginia, two from Kentucky, and one student each from Georgia, Maryland, and North Carolina.

According to SIS Director Dr. Ed Cortez, "Improving library services in rural America is an imperative for community and economic sustainability. When people are unemployed, socially disconnected, and in need of support and encouragement, they often turn to their community libraries. The result of this important project means that when people in need turn to their libraries they will be greeted and served by sensitive, professional librarians skilled in the newest information technologies and service delivery techniques."

Eleven of the selected ITRL students are working in public library settings, three in school libraries, one in a non-profit community library, and one in an academic library.

ITRL students will receive full-tuition for two years, a laptop, and a materials allowance. More importantly, each student will receive individual mentoring by both a professor and a practicing information professional. Students will continue to work as paraprofessionals in their rural libraries while taking coursework at the school. The Web-based curriculum will focus on information technology and rural library management. Students will study part-time at a distance in real-time, while developing tangible IT and rural library management outcomes that

will directly impact change in their local communities.

Dr. Bharat Mehra is the principal investigator of the grant and an assistant professor at SIS. He has worked diligently with the selection committee to identify the top candidates who will use their classroom experiences to extend their leadership and capacities. The students seek to translate their vision for their rural libraries into a reality that makes a difference in their Appalachian communities.

According to Mehra, "It was a really tough decision since I personally spoke with more than 80 people who showed interest in ITRL. Thirty-two candidates submitted their application materials, and we are very fortunate to have an excellent cohort in which each person has a unique dream, passion, determination, and skills to succeed and lead their library communities in the 21st Century."

Rural Appalachian communities experience relatively low levels of information literacy, educational attainment, and a lack of access to information technologies. Library professionals embedded in these communities are in a strong position to develop solutions to meet these needs.

Along with co-principal investigators Kimberly Black and Vandana Singh, Mehra is designing a needs assessment study of library services and information challenges faced by rural regional libraries. This study will assist these students in learning to address the specific circumstances of their communities through library services.

For more information, visit <http://www.sis.utk.edu/rural-librarianship>.



Bharat Mehra presents at the ALISE annual conference.

The 16 ITRL Scholarship Recipients:

- **Beverly S. Chalman**, Library Director, Holland Memorial Library, Gainesboro, Tn
- **Brittany Renee Fletcher**, Elementary School Teacher/Media Team Member, Mountain City Elementary School Media Center, Mountain City, Tn
- **Julie Forkner**, Reference Librarian, Fisher Public Library, Athens, Tn
- **Sally Elizabeth Gilliam**, Library Assistant, Lonesome Pine Regional Library, Big Stone Gap, Va
- **Angela Cortellino Glowcheski**, Information Specialist, Lumpkin County Public Library, Chastatee Regional Library, Dahlonega, Ga
- **Richard George Haynes**, Director, Harlan County Public Library System, Harlan, Ky
- **Kevin Sean Jump**, Circulation Assistant, Weeks-Townsend Memorial Library, Barbourville, Ky
- **Lauren Long**, Library Technologist, Madison County Public Library, Marshall, NC
- **Susan Elaine Macrellis**, Library Director, East Ridge City Library, East Ridge, Tn
- **Helen Frances Owen**, Instructional Supervisor for Materials and Supplies, Teacher Resource Center, Sevier County School System, Sevierville, Tn
- **Marilyn J. Pontius**, Hancock War Memorial Branch Library, Washington County Free Library, Washington County, Md
- **Deborah J. Ratliff**, Branch Manager/Program Specialist, Goshen Public Library, Rockbridge Regional Library, Goshen, Va
- **Christine Maness Smith**, Branch Manager, Bascom Slemp Memorial Library, Lonesome Pine regional Library System, Big Stone Gap, Va
- **Susan J. Williams**, Resource Center/Education Coordinator, Highlander Research and Education Center, New Market, Tn
- **Vicki Michelle Crawford Winstead**, Library Media Specialist, Jackson Elementary School Library, Kingsport, Tn
- **Amber Dawn Woodard**, Library Technical Assistant, Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tn

Student News

SIS students win scholarships

A number of SIS students have received scholarships recognizing their achievements. Rhonda Clossum was awarded a scholarship to attend the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) Global Privacy Summit 2010 in Washington, DC this past April. She also received a \$500 stipend to be used toward hotel and travel expenses. Clossum was also a finalist in the UT Chapter of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society research competition where she presented on her thesis topic, "Information Privacy and Security: A Quantitative Study of the Use of the Social Security Number as a Personal Identifier in Government and Private Agencies."

Piper Mullins was awarded the Ashley Fellowship from the J. Wallace & Katie Dean Fellowship Competition by the UTK Graduate School. The fellowship includes a \$15,000 stipend.

Lee Billings was awarded the Tennessee Library Association's Edwin S. Gleaves Scholarship. Her essay, which describes her learning experience bailing water out of her flooded library, will be published in the summer issue of the TLA newsletter.

Greg Stoner received an academic scholarship from the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians, which will support his tuition for spring 2010.

SIS students ace Praxis exams

Students graduating from the school media licensing program take the PRAXIS exams as a part of their national licensing process. SIS students exceed state and national scores and have a 100% passing score, according to recent figures. The exam assesses beginning teachers in order to ensure that their knowledge and pedagogical skills are sufficient for the classroom.

Students acknowledged at TLA Legislative Day

SIS again supplied a UT van to shuttle students to the Tennessee Library Association's annual Legislative Day. Afterwards, several students spoke out on the school listserv saying how valuable it was to "mingle with dedicated and passionate librarians." SIS students, applauded three separate times at the general session, were asked to stand and be recognized. TLA was obviously pleased that SIS was represented, and SIS students were glad to oblige.

Cortez meets with D.C. cohort

As part of his pledge to visit as many cohort groups as possible each semester, Dr. Cortez met with the northern Virginia (NOVA) cohort on April 9, in Washington D.C. As part of the visit, SIS hosted a dinner for the students at one of D.C.'s trendy restaurants.

Students innovate for TEL

Coordinator for the Tennessee Electronic Library Sue Maszaros asked SIS students Alisa Brece and Christa Cordrey to share some of the projects they have completed at SIS with the state of Tennessee. Alisa and Christa had created some screencasting tutorials, available at <http://tutorialsbychristaandalisa.blogspot.com>, which explain to K-12 students how to use this resource. These tutorials were created to fulfill a requirement of their 596 School Library Media practicum. Maszaros will place these tutorials on the TEL website and has commissioned Christa and Alisa to provide more tutorials in the coming months.

Zachary Fox presented two papers last October at the Southern Chapter of the



Dr. Ed Cortez meets with students in the northern Virginia cohort.

Medical Library Association, including "Starting Early: Recruitment Strategies for Generation Y and Library Orientations: A Mixed Methods Approach." He and his supervisor were also awarded a subcontract by the National Library of Medicine to pilot workshops for clinicians and researchers using iPhones.

SIS @ TLA

SIS students, alumni, and faculty were out in force at the recent TLA annual conference in Memphis. Nine students made presentations on topics as diverse as information privacy and security, marketing webcasts, marketing multicultural issues, and women's studies. Six faculty members also attended, and 16 alumni made presentations, sometimes more than one. The school's yearly reception at TLA was well attended and loads of fun too.

McClanahan wins teaching award

PhD candidate Karen "Kitty" McClanahan has been awarded the CCI Graduate Student Teaching Award for 2010. Kitty worked with Dr. Singh as her Graduate Research Associate and was instrumental in planning and implementing activities in the IS&T Minor. Kitty demonstrated responsibility, initiative and a zeal for adopting new elements into the minor. She experimented with an online course for the minor and used new tools for asynchronous teaching. Kitty is highly responsive to her students and always takes their feedback seriously.

IS&T Minor graduates first cohort

Since its inception in 2006, the first cohort of students will graduate from the school's Undergraduate Information Studies & Technology Minor (IS&T) program this spring. Faculty coordinator Vandana Singh has nurtured the program through significant changes in the last two years. To her credit, 23 students are now enrolled in the minor, and over 220 students are taking coursework within the minor. Demand for classes is high, and classes fill up rapidly.

One of Singh's great successes has been her recruitment efforts with undergraduate advisors across the university. Innovative recruitment strategies have resulted in an increasing number of students from diverse majors and from outside the college enrolling in the undergraduate minor courses.

Significantly, the minor offered its first two online courses last fall. The response from students has been so encouraging that the program will offer four online courses next fall.



Caleb Fristoe

Caleb Fristoe, completing his IS&T minor, was impressed with the course program content and the minor's important role in his educational career.

"In the current, ever-evolving, cultural landscape, now, more than ever, it takes a diverse set of skills, abilities and knowledge to be competitive in the global workforce environment," said Fristoe.

"With the rapid convergence of knowledge readily available to all," he continued, "the information seeking professional will be utilized more frequently to assist in growing task of knowledge management (getting the right information to the right people for the proper task). Information is now, and the ability to find the right information is the future. I'm glad to be enrolled in the IS undergraduate minor, and I hope other students will join me in doing the same. SIS is a true diamond in the rough at UT."



PhD Corner

PhD students engaged in research projects

We have a very strong doctoral student community that is active in research, in community projects, and in governance. Please join me in acknowledging some of their recent accomplishments.

At the ALISE conference held in Boston in January, Mónica Colón-Aguirre and her coauthor, Advertising/PR doctoral student Karen Freberg presented the poster "A Multidisciplinary Case Study Analyzing Google's Key Messages Concerning the Digitization of Books towards Academic Libraries." Also at the event was Arsev Aydinoglu, who teamed with Dr. Suzie Allard to present "Collaborations between Library and Information Sciences (LIS) and Science: The DataONE case study."

January was a busy month for SIS, which was also well represented at the BOBCATSSS conference in Parma, Italy. Arsev Aydinoglu co-authored a paper there with Dr. Suzie Allard entitled "Connecting the Public with Science: Comic Books and Libraries." Julie Winkelstein coauthored a paper with Director Cortez entitled, "How and Why Public Libraries Can, Should and Do Facilitate the Use of the Internet by the Homeless: A Look at the Programs, Barriers and Political Climate." Julie sends a special thank you to Arsev for presenting the paper when she had travel delays.

Jason Reiger's research on the affect of personality traits on motivation to use Online Social Networking sites was chosen as a finalist to be presented at the 2010 Sigma Xi research competition held at the University of Tennessee.

SIS also had a high profile at the CCI Research Symposium in March. Arsev Aydinoglu's paper, "Information-seeking Behaviors of International Students," won the Best Research Award. Julie Winkelstein presented two papers: "How Library

Leaders Define Diversity: In Their Own Words" and "The Librarian Stereotype: Subject to Change?" Mónica Colón-Aguirre shared two research papers "Max Weber's Concept of Bureaucracy and the Administration of Libraries in the 21st Century United States," and a paper she coauthored with advertising/PR doctoral student Karen Freberg, "The Risks and Threats to the Academic Library as the Ultimate Knowledge Source: A Case Study Looking at the Impact of Google Books on Academic Libraries."



Simon Aristeguieta discusses his poster at the ALISE annual conference in January.

CCI's doctoral student representative to the university Graduate Student Senate is SIS' own Julie Winkelstein. She was coauthor with CCI Associate Dean Catherine Luther and fellow doctoral candidate Ben Birch on a paper that won 1st prize in the debut category. "Mass Media Corporate Web Sites as Indicators of Commitment to Diversity" was presented at the Broadcaster's Education Association in April. At the March meeting of the Public Library Association she organized and spoke on a panel, "From Public to PhD: Why Public Librarians are Going Back to School." Winkelstein is active in the Knoxville Interfaith Network and has worked with some of her undergraduate students to furnish over 300 new books to low-income parents and grandparents.

In the fall you will hear more from our doctoral students, as several have publications and presentations already scheduled for the coming months. If you would like to know more about our doctoral program, please contact Suzie Allard at sallard@utk.edu.

—Suzie Allard

Alumni & Friends Day a Success!



Dr. Carol Tenopir presents the keynote address.

By Suzie Allard

On the beautiful spring Saturday of March 27, more than 40 people packed the UT Hoskins Library Delivery Hall to celebrate Alumni and Friends Day. The theme of this year's event, "Information Seekers in the 21st Century," set the tone for three excellent talks, several informative posters, and an afternoon of honoring alumni accomplishments, connecting with friends, and engaging in interesting discussion at the reception. Alumni and friends were also treated to tours of the Center for Information and Communication Studies research offices, which are located in the Hoskins Library building.

Dr. Carol Tenopir presented the keynote talk, discussing information seeking and use of scholarly articles. The other two speakers were alumni who shared presentations focused on research based on their professional experiences. Joan Lange spoke about information seeking among high school students and teaching them about how to avoid plagiarism. Roger Weaver discussed information seeking and institutional repositories. Dr. Ed Cortez gave a brief state of the school address so alumni could catch up with school events.

Laura Starritt and Amber Conger presented informative posters that created interesting discussion. The event also provided a stage for recognizing some special alumni. (See below.) A special treat was when Susan Jennings made a surprise presentation of the TLA Lifetime Achievement Award to SIS' highly regarded retired professor, Dr. Bill Robinson.

It was a terrific event. Tiffani Conner and Susan Jennings were the alumni team responsible for heading up the efforts to plan the wonderful afternoon. They also shared master of ceremony duties.

Meet the Alumni Award Recipients

Scot Smith ('98) was presented with the 2010 SIS Distinguished Alumni Award. Scot is a school librarian at Robertsville Middle school in Oak Ridge. He has taught courses in children's and young adult literature for SIS since 1999. In 2008, he received a Lifetime Service Award from the Tennessee Association of School Librarians.



Scot Smith accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award.

SIS students give him very high scores in their evaluations. Scot has maintained the TASL website since 1999, and he also maintains the websites for the Oak Ridge School district and Robertsville Middle School. He regularly delivers presentations at the TASL annual conference, where he serves on the conference's organizational committee.

According to Yanna Zinchenko's nomination letter, "Scot's extraordinary dedication to his profession, his work ethic and his volunteer spirit set a high bar for all professionals in the field. He single-handedly makes all school librarians of the Greater Knoxville area to aspire to accomplish more in their line of work... in spite of his accomplishments, Scot is not interested in self-promotion and self-aggrandizement. He works tirelessly, yet quietly. He is the first to do the work behind the scenes, and the last to find himself in the lime-light."

The 2010 Innovator's Award was presented to Beverly Simmons ('05) of the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. Theresa

Liedtka, Dean of UTC's Lupton Library, and Virginia Cairns, Head of Instruction and Reference Services, wrote Beverly's nomination letter.

Beverly was cited as always bringing "fresh ideas, real world experience and a well reasoned opinion to the process of planning new spaces and services. Her observant eye for detail and her continual focus on the needs of the patron have added to the dialog every step of the way."

Beverly was also recognized as reaching millennial students in innovative ways. She "transformed what had been a fairly dated library scavenger hunt worksheet into a competitive library research game with student teams, reward points and prizes. Beverly has also been instrumental in developing a number of clever tutorials for use in the classroom at our library, incorporating screen casting, music, video footage and even some humor. One of her tutorials, Understanding the Difference between Scholarly and Popular, was selected for inclusion in the ACRL Primo database of peer-reviewed online teaching resources.

The resulting program was extremely well received by both the USTU101 faculty



Beverly Simmons accepts the Innovator's Award.

and students, and gained the library a much higher level of visibility among the freshmen just arriving on campus. The revamp of USTU101 and the tutorial was done in collaboration with Toni Carter Dean, formally of UTC, now at Auburn University.

Beverly's Academic Onefile tutorial (featuring an appearance by Albert Einstein) is also a favorite with our students."

In addition to being a leader among her librarians, she is also remarkably thoughtful, compassionate, and student-centered. She never hesitates to go the extra mile for students, faculty, and her colleagues.

Alumni News

DeRidder awarded major grant



Jody DeRidder

University of Alabama Librarian Jody DeRidder ('08) is the principal investigator on a grant from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

This grant funds the digitization of a large and nationally important manuscript collection related to the emancipation of slaves: the Septimus D. Cabaniss Papers. The grant will provide researchers online access to some 44,563 images.

DeRidder and her team have created a model that other institutions can use at a low cost, and which recreates online for patrons what it is like to peruse a library collection with everything provided in context. The Finding Aids provide context about what the whole collection is about and leverage the search and retrieval experience for scholars. See <http://www.lib.ua.edu/libraries/hoole/cabaniss> to learn more about this collection.

Kevin Reynolds ('08) has been elected to serve a 3-year term on the ALA Executive Board, beginning at the close of the ALA 2010 Conference. Kevin is the Assistant University Librarian at the University of the South, and he is also President of the Tennessee Library Association.

Kay Cunningham ('88) is the director of the Plough Memorial Library at Christian Brothers University. She just published "The Hidden Costs of Keeping Current: Technology and Libraries. *Journal of Library Administration*" 50:3, 217-235.

Tiffani Conner ('04), Ken Middleton ('92), Andy Carter, and Melanie Feltner-Reichert ('04) published "Volunteer Voices: Tennessee's Collaborative Digitization Program" in *Collaborative Librarianship* 1, no. 4 (2009).

CLASS NOTES

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

1970s

Pamela Budd ('77) is a National Board Certified Media Coordinator.

Ann Rogers ('79) is a reference librarian at Walters State Community College and lives in Dandridge, Tenn.

1980s

Kay (Laurenda) Cunningham ('88) is the library director at Christian Brothers University's Plough Library in Memphis.

1990s

John Bellamy ('90) is the executive vice-president and general counsel at Graceway Pharmaceuticals, LLC in Kingsport, Tenn.

Courtlan Dixon-Thomas ('91) is the director of academic and student services at Polk State College in Lakeland, Fla.

Anne Langley ('93) has written *A Practical Writing Guide for Academic Librarians: Keeping It Short and Sweet*, coauthored with Jonathan Wallace, by Chandos Publishing, Oxford, England. Ann is a librarian and Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Duke University Libraries.

Alice Anderson ('94) is a librarian at Information International Associates, in Oak Ridge.

Teresa Conaway ('96) is head of instruction & research services at University of La Verne College of Law in Rancho Cucamonga, Ca.

Patti Lee ('97) is head of research services at Georgia Gwinnett College in Decatur, Ga.

Elijah Scott ('97) is the director of libraries at Georgia Highlands College in Rock Spring, Ga.

Claudene Sproles ('97) co-wrote the Annual Library Instruction and Information Literacy Bibliography, published in *Reference Services Review*, a peer reviewed journal. 37(4), 463-553, 2009. Sproles is a Government Documents Librarian at the University of Louisville.

2000s

Marty Vaughn ('00) is the library director at Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga.

Stephanie DeClue ('02) is the library director at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

Katie Archambault ('03) has published "The Power of Collaboration" in her school's *Girls Preparatory School* magazine. She and Marty Vaughn (SIS '00) presented "Livin' on the Edge: Controversial Fiction and Graphic Novels" at the Association of Independent School Librarians conference in April. Katie is an assistant librarian at the GPS in Chattanooga.

Kindel Collins-McAmis ('03) is a technical services librarian with the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection in Knoxville.

Cindy Lancaster ('04) started the Knoxville Drupal Group, a consortium of web architects whose mission is to better understand this open source content management system.

Judy Hoff ('05) is a senior consultant with ERM in Kings Mountain, NC.

Anna Leah Keene ('08) is a readers' advisor with the Knox County Public Library in Knoxville.

April Knepp ('08) works for Library Associates Companies on assignment at the USAID Knowledge Services Center. She is responsible for collection development and acquisitions.

Tom Lamb ('08) is a librarian at Carleton College in Minnesota where he works as a catalog/metadata librarian. He resigned his position with Tennessee State Library and Archives in late February.

Bo Link ('08) is a librarian at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

Amy Blow ('09) is an adult services librarian at Poquoson Public Library in Newport News, Va.

Andrea Gales ('09) is an archivist and technical services librarian with Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville.

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Dr. Ann Prentice Delivers Inaugural “Past Directors” Lecture

By *Kitty McClanahan*

On April 7, the first event of a new tradition honored the storied past of both SIS and librarianship, as former Director Dr. Ann Prentice spoke on “The Public Library in the Twenty-First Century.” The panoramic windows of the beautiful new Scripps Convergence Lab conference room framed a glorious spring day, as the audience experienced Dr. Prentice’s vivid recollections of and future insights into the practice of public librarianship. This occasion was the first in a series of lectures by past directors of SIS and its predecessor, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS). The event will take place over the next two years, in celebration of the 40th anniversary to be recognized in 2011 of UT as an American Library Association-accredited program. Current SIS Director Dr. Ed Cortez initiated the lecture series to encourage both thoughtful reflection on the program’s past, and meaningful connections to its future.

Dr. Prentice shared her memories of library practices of the



Ed Cortez presents Ann Prentice with a UT clock.

past, including the developmental years of library automation, which culminate in today’s versatile public library, with its combination of onsite and online resources and capabilities.

Dr. Prentice noted that the continued proliferation of technologies in the public library is important because it allows librarians to spend more time doing what they do best—directly helping people to connect to the qual-

ity information sources that they need. She

also emphasized the importance of librarians using creativity and effective outreach in order to discover and meet the information needs of the full spectrum of community members.

Dr. Prentice served as the director of the GSLIS from 1978 to 1988, before moving on to an administrative vice presidency at the University of South Florida. She ultimately became the Dean of the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland, serving from 1993 to 2001. She is currently a Professor Emerita at Maryland. Dr. Prentice holds a Doctorate in Library and Information Science from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Rochester.