

# InfoLink

A Community Newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science

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## Up Front

## Jobs in International Librarianship:

# Taking Your Skills Overseas

For our international librarianship issue, we profile recent graduate Meaghan O'Connor '08LS, who worked abroad before and during her studies at Simmons. She recently started her dream job, which gives her the chance to travel to Eastern Europe to improve public libraries in two countries. To read more about O'Connor's international work, look for her posts on the GSLIS Dispatches from the Field blog (<http://gslis.simmons.edu/blogs/dispatches/>) under the categories Iraq, Jordan, and Korea. She's now blogging at <http://irexgl.wordpress.com/>.



Meaghan O'Connor in a one-room library in western Romania

Meaghan O'Connor '08LS enrolled in GSLIS in fall 2006 with clear plans for post-graduation: to work in international library development, focusing on public libraries and youth services. Few students could have prepared better. She spent the previous year in central Serbia, volunteering to develop library programming at a cultural center while her husband taught English at a local university.

The work helped her get a coveted GSLIS fellowship, for which, during her two-and-a-half years at Simmons, she was involved in several international initiatives. She was part of the team that secured funding to train Iraqi librarians, and she helped arrange for two Iraqis come to Simmons to get Ph.D.s. She also coauthored an article on the longstanding GSLIS program training Vietnamese librarians. And she organized the first GSLIS study-abroad course, in which eight students are traveling to Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, later this summer. (O'Connor will join them.)

Beyond her fellowship, O'Connor was a co-chair of the Simmons International Relations (SIR) student group, bringing speakers to campus to talk about international work. She also joined ALA's International Relations Round Table (IRRT) and volunteered to work on the wiki for the IRRT Sister Library Initiative, a "dating service" that connects American and international libraries. Throughout her time as a student, O'Connor kept her eye on job boards for international postings, but she rarely saw anything other than volunteer opportunities.

"I came here gung-ho about [finding a job] overseas," she says. "I came to believe that job simply didn't exist and that I'd be very happy as a children's librarian, getting involved in international projects in different ways. And that would be a very wonderful life."



Card catalog in Romanian library

One Sunday last November, a month before she finished school, O'Connor saw a posting on the ALA website for a job in the Washington, D.C., office of the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), a nonprofit that works on education, media, and other development projects in more than 50 countries. IREX has been awarded two five-year grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative to equip libraries in Romania and Ukraine with computers and Internet access, provide training to librarians, and help library associations develop policies and advocate for support from their governments. IREX was looking for a librarian to advise the grants' implementation. O'Connor saw the ad and thought, "Is this for real?" During her interview, the vice president of IREX told her they had taken one look at her resume and thought the same thing. "This is exactly what I said I wanted when I came to Simmons, almost to a tee," she says.

O'Connor is the sole American librarian working on the grants. There are four other project managers with her in the D.C. office and larger field staffs in each country made up of a mixture of American expats and locals, including a Romanian librarian in the Bucharest office who is, says O'Connor, a "huge" resource for her. O'Connor usually communicates with the field officers from D.C., but since taking the job she's already traveled overseas several times to lead workshops and meet with local librarians.

Over the next five years, IREX will install computers and establish networks in about 1,500 libraries in each country. But technology improvement is only part of the plan, and O'Connor's concern is the overall library. "We're putting the computers in, and for their security they need to be in a locked room. So sometimes the computers feel very separate from the library," she says. "The danger is that they will become de facto Internet centers that happen to be in the library, instead of part of a whole library service."

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## Summer 2009 InfoLink

This summer, *InfoLink* goes global. This issue focuses on experiences in international librarianship — from Romania to Nicaragua to Oxford to Berlin. There is also an article on the Army Library Program, a worldwide library network that recently held a two-day training session with GSLIS CE. And we've provided tips for those of you interested in pursuing a career in the international LIS arena, as well as coverage of other GSLIS goings-on. Happy reading!

— Jen Doyle, *InfoLink* Managing Editor

# Jeremy Shaw-Munderback

*“I’m a very firm believer that information should be open to anyone who wants it.”*

If you don’t know Jeremy Shaw-Munderback, chances are you’ve seen him on campus. And if you see him on campus, chances are he’ll say hello. Since enrolling in GSLIS in January 2008, Shaw-Munderback has been a visible, affable presence through his work as president of the ALA Student Chapter (ALASC) and other groups. This fall, he’ll sit on one of the committees preparing the GSLIS Reaccreditation Program Presentation.

“The joke with some of my friends is that I now know everybody,” he says. “That’s not entirely true, but it’s nice to be able to say hi to somebody, no matter where you are.” Over spring break, he traveled to Berlin, Germany, where he met with librarians at the Free University and Humboldt University. Shaw-Munderback, who grew up in South Portland, Maine, works part-time at the reference desk at Wheelock College and plans to work in academic libraries after he graduates in December.

**Q:** Why did you decide to go to Berlin?  
I have a longtime fascination with German culture. And I knew a little bit about how German libraries separate some books from their collections.

**Where did you learn about that?**  
My ex-girlfriend was visiting my house for the first time. She was looking at my bookcase, and she spotted a copy of *Mein Kampf* on my shelf. This was less than a year after she moved back to the States from Germany, where she grew up. She said, “You can’t have that book.” She explained that in most parts of Germany, it’s only for scholarly use. In some cases you need a professor to sign off, and you need to sign a waiver saying, “I need to read this book for such-and-such a purpose, and it’s not going to be used for any ill or propaganda.”

**So *Mein Kampf* isn’t for sale in Germany?**  
No. I bought it because I like to know all viewpoints of history. I knew what the Allies printed in terms of what Hitler was thinking. But I wanted to know what *he* was thinking, especially during his time in prison.

**When you spoke with librarians in Berlin, what did they say about controversial materials?**  
They tended to bring up that they want to be extra careful because of their past. So anything having to do with WWII was pretty much in the special collections, anything with a fascist slant. At Humboldt, it’s strict. They have the waivers, and you have to sit there with the book and return it before leaving.

**Do all the librarians speak English?**  
Yes, and some spoke more than that. One I met with spoke English very well, but she stopped and apologized that her English was poor because she had spent the last two weeks in Morocco speaking fluent French. In Berlin almost everyone

speaks English. I wanted to practice my German, but as soon as they picked up that I was an English speaker, they’d want to practice their English.

**Would you have to be fluent in German to work there?**  
Yes.

**How could you get a job there?**  
In Berlin, it’s going to be very hard because there aren’t a lot of openings, and there are a lot of people going into library school programs. One of the main reasons is that people are getting English degrees or history degrees and saying, “I can’t do anything with that, let’s go to library school.” It’s the same here.

I was talking to the librarian at Humboldt, and he said that one of the jobs that might suit an American in Germany is negotiating with vendors, since most of them come from the U.S.



**What kinds of jobs did you have before graduate school?**  
At the very beginning of college, I started working on cars. I did that for a year. Then I worked at a marina, cleaning boats for customers. I worked my way up to installing thousands of dollars of electronics equipment, like radar and GPS. Basically, the boats come in empty. The customers picked what they wanted, and I would put it in.

I actually miss working with my hands now. When I moved down here, I set up my TV speakers/electronics in my apartment, and I never really took the time to make sure the wiring was nice and neat. It’s really bugging me now. It’s my project in the next week or so to go in and rewire everything so it looks nice.

**You were the ALA student chapter president this year. What was your job?**  
When I came in [in summer 2008], it was almost a dead group. Most of the students had either graduated or moved on. At that time I was in my I-don’t-talk-much phase, but I was working very hard on getting out more, which is one of the primary reasons I took over the position. I knew that I needed to meet more people.

I did raffles for ALA memberships for all the new student orientation days. I worked with several other groups last fall to do the Banned Books Week panel and set up a display in the library. Banned Books Week tries to bring attention to the fact that books in libraries are being challenged. I’m a very firm believer that information should be open to anyone who wants it. I get very irritated with people who say, “I don’t like what’s in this book so you should take it out of the library.”

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## Up Front (cont.)

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Shelves in a Romanian library

Part of that library service is, of course, the books. In her visits to libraries — most of which are in rural areas run by a lone librarian — O'Connor found that they haven't changed much since the Soviet era, when "the library was a place where you store books, and the librarian was supposed to protect the books from the government, from the people, from anyone who wants to look at them," she says.

One of O'Connor's goals is to introduce libraries to different ways they can serve their users — by, for example, moving away from a culture that prizes an overabundance of books. "There's no such thing as weeding," she says. A librarian in eastern Romania told her the library holds onto almost everything, even the now-outdated Communist books. "I said, 'But how are you ever going to convince your government that you need more books if your shelves are overflowing with ones that no one ever looks at?'" says O'Connor. "The idea that we'll change that way of evaluating libraries is kind of a long shot, but I have hope."

O'Connor is careful to point out that IREX isn't imposing American methods on libraries in the two countries. In the presentations she's given so far to field staff and others on subjects like advocacy, she's talked about policies and practices in Canada, New Zealand, and Great Britain, and she's collecting local success stories to share. "We're not going in and saying you have to provide story hour twice a week, you need to have programs on this, on that," she says. "If we give them a lot of different perspectives, they can figure out what's right for themselves."

Article by Katharine Dunn

## Snapshot (cont.)

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My main goal as president was to get speakers to come to campus and to get people involved. [The job] definitely got me out there a lot more. I must say that it was a little bit depressing. We had a meeting early this semester in the GSLIS lounge, and I was trying to get ideas from people about what they wanted, what would make them happy, who should I bring in. I think I was jumping up and down, but people didn't raise their hand, didn't speak up. And I was like, Come on you guys. You're paying a lot of money to be here. You have a say in what you want to do. Get involved.

To read more about Shaw-Munderback's visit to academic libraries in Berlin, visit the *Dispatches from the Field* blog:

<http://gslis.simmons.edu/blogs/dispatches/>

Interview by Katharine Dunn

## O'Connor's Job-Seeking Advice

International job seekers may be more likely to find volunteer librarian positions than to find full-time paid jobs, says Meaghan O'Connor '08LS, because international development organizations generally don't hire subject specialists.

"If you're working on a project on agriculture, you might get a consultant who is a specialist, but the people who work on the project are in project management," she says. Her job is unique, but she hopes it won't always be. She'd like to create an internship program at IREX for American library students, and she wants to get many librarians involved in the projects she's now working on.

Her advice to current GSLIS students who are interested in overseas work:

- Get involved in the ALA's International Relations Round Table (IRRT). "You just never know what kind of people you're going to meet in the IRRT circle," she says. O'Connor learned about the IREX job through a contact at IRRT. Its members meet at ALA conferences, so O'Connor suggests taking advantage of the student rate and going to as many conferences as possible.
- Get international experience before applying for jobs. Some of that you can get through Simmons: Volunteer at the library in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, for example (see page 4 for more information); apply for a scholarship to attend the World Library and Information Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA); study abroad in courses offered by Simmons, UNC Chapel Hill (visit *InfoLink Online* for more information: <http://web.simmons.edu/~lislive/infolink/>), and others.
- Be flexible. "We all have a preferred region of the world where we'd like to work," says O'Connor. "If you can get in the door in any region of the world, you have more opportunity to get to the region you want. Don't pass up opportunities, because they might lead you there eventually."

Article by Katharine Dunn

## GSLIS Ranked in Top 10 by U.S. News

GSLIS was ranked among the nation's top 10 schools of library and information studies in the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2010 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools." The rankings were released online at the end of May and are featured in the May 2009 issue of *U.S. News*.

Simmons GSLIS is the only library and information science school in New England to be ranked in this category this year. Additionally, it was in the top 10 category for the specialty rankings of Archives and Preservation, and Services for Children and Youth.

To read the full article, visit:

<http://www.simmons.edu/overview/about/news/press/817.php>

## Roving Reference: GSLIS Students Lend a Hand (and Books) in the Nicaraguan Countryside

*Over the last four years, GSLIS members of the Simmons International Relations (SIR) student group have traveled to the seaside town San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, to volunteer with a public library and its mobile project, delivering books by truck to patrons in rural farming communities. In January 2009, nine students went on the trip, including Jessica DeAngelis '09LS, who writes of her experience below.*

Our day began at 8 a.m. as we piled into a pickup truck and traveled over bumpy dirt roads, amidst rolling volcanic mountains. We passed carts loaded with wood drawn by tranquil oxen, and children waved as we went by. After more than an hour, we arrived at the village of Tortuguero and unloaded plastic tubs containing precious cargo: books, sports equipment, and craft materials. Though it was a holiday and the schoolyard was chained shut, children came running with books to return, eager to borrow more. A soccer match began in the street. Some of us played games while others read books, distributed snacks, helped with circulation, or gave out new library cards. No day is ever ordinary out on the San Juan del Sur (SJDS) Biblioteca Movil (Mobile Library).

The Biblioteca Movil is the mobile component of the SJDS Biblioteca Publica y Movil, Nicaragua's first lending library, located in the small, tropical port town of San Juan del Sur. GSLIS students first began traveling to volunteer in San Juan in 2006, after former Assistant Dean Denise Davis met Jane Mirandette, Nicaragua's inspired and tireless advocate for lending libraries, at an ALA conference. The library got its start when Jane began lending books from the patio of the bed and breakfast she owns in town. She discovered that since books are precious (because they're expensive), a common saying in Nicaragua is, "to lend a book is to lose a book." But she found that the concept of lending caught on quickly. Currently, the main library in town has over 12,000 books, and the mobile project serves about 30 rural communities.

The SJDS library is well used and well loved. Story hours, craft workshops, and other events are very well attended, and children often come in to sit and read (or be read to), or to play a game. The staff makes sure that the collection contains textbooks used in the local curriculum, since in most schools there are not enough books to go around. Adults come to the library to find practical information that is often not available elsewhere, especially on issues like health and domestic violence. The library now has wireless Internet, which works as long as the town's somewhat inconsistent electricity is on.

As the concept of lending libraries begins to catch on in Nicaragua, volunteers and staff members of the SJDS library have become leaders in their fields. They run workshops on topics like collection development, basic book preservation, and program development, and share their knowledge with librarians across the country. The library has also recently been accepted into Nicaragua's national network of public libraries.

GSLIS's involvement has grown along with the library. The January 2009 group of volunteers was the largest yet, with nine participants. And thanks to the hard work and dedication of two volunteers, Jessica Haglund '09LS and Hannah Miller '09LS, GSLIS is working on offering its first San Juan del Sur for-credit study-abroad program in March 2010.

When we finally packed up the mobile project in Tortuguero that day, many of us were drenched in sweat after being outrun by 10-year-old soccer stars. We were exhausted but our hearts were light. We could see that although lending libraries are a new concept in Nicaragua, people even in the most remote, rural communities have made the library their own and can now gain free access to information that was previously reserved for only those who could afford it.

To learn more about the evolution of the SJDS Biblioteca Móvil, and of lending libraries in Nicaragua, you can read about experiences that past volunteers have had on the GSLIS Dispatches from the Field blog (<http://gslis.simmons.edu/blogs/dispatches/nicaragua/>).

Article by Jessica DeAngelis

Photos, from top:



Simmons students loaded up into the bookmobile for an early morning trip. From left to right, Jeremy Grubman, Laura Rosenberg, Stephanie Donohue, Erika Adams, Lauren Vander Zanden, Andrea Garvey, Jessica DeAngelis, and Jessie Haglund. This beat-up old pick-up, along with another vehicle, are the mobile book project that make it possible for the San Juan del Sur Library to serve over 30 rural communities in the "campos" that otherwise would not have access to books and reading materials.

Children in the village of Tortuguero select books from the Mobile Library project.

GSLIS volunteer Lauren Vander Zanden reads to a group of children in Tipitapa, where one of the first libraries started lending books using Jane Mirandette's model.

Library volunteer Luis Carlos at the circulation desk of the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca Publica y Movil.

For more interviews from students who have participated in the Nicaragua program and UNC's Oxford abroad program, visit the InfoLink Online: <http://web.simmons.edu/~lislive/infolink/>.

## Be All You Can Be in the Army Library Program

In April, 120 Army librarians from around the world attended training sessions at a two-day workshop run by the GSLIS continuing education program. The training, held in a Department- of-Defense-leased building in Southbridge, Mass., focused on timely topics: evaluating library strengths, marketing, information literacy, and writing business cases.

“Libraries must sell their services, so marketing is important,” says Ann Parham, the Librarian of the Army. “We need to be able to justify our budgets and demonstrate our value. Libraries, like most organizations, must be accountable for their funding.”

Parham oversees the Army Library Program (ALP), a network of 200 libraries, including public (called “general” in the Army world), academic, medical, scientific/technical, and other special libraries in the United States and abroad, which are staffed by 300 civilian librarians. The Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps each have their own libraries.

Most of the overseas Army libraries are “general” and are for military personnel and their families who live on bases. “It’s the company store,” says Parham. The libraries are in Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, and Korea — where U.S. troops have been stationed since WWII. Their collections tend to emphasize military art and science and defense-related subjects, but also include books for leisure reading and off-duty education. They also vary somewhat depending on the audience: A library in Heidelberg, Germany, for example, has a large number of books about the occupation of Germany after the war. There are no physical Army libraries in Iraq and Afghanistan, but troops there are sent boxes of paperback books selected by an Army office in Alexandria, Va., and shipped once a month.

Parham, who worked for more than 10 years as a librarian in Korea and Germany, says there are fewer Army libraries overseas today than when she started. But there are jobs internationally and in the United States. In particular, library school students with undergraduate degrees in science or technology could do well in these jobs. “Graduates with science and biomedical backgrounds make very competitive candidates, as that combination is difficult to find,” she says. In the United States, the Army has about 12 libraries that support research laboratories staffed by chemists, physicists, and other scientists, as well as 40 medical libraries in hospitals and clinics that serve doctors and nurses. “There is always a need for librarians in these subject areas,” she says.

Article by Katharine Dunn

For more information, including links to Army job ads, please see InfoLink Online: <http://web.simmons.edu/~lislive/infolink/>.

## GSLIS CE Workshops

Online registration and online payment now available!

Continuing Ed Workshops in August:

- Graphic Novels 101: online
- Career-Savvy Information Professional: online (special price, \$85)

Upcoming CE Workshops:

- Taxonomies & Controlled Vocabularies: online, September & November

See the full Spring/Summer schedule on the GSLIS CE website: <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/continuinged/workshops>

## \$1M Gift Honors Prof. Allen Smith

“In order to be really good as a librarian, everything counts towards your work, every play you see, every concert you hear, every trip you take, everything you read, everything you know. I don’t know of another occupation like that. The more you know, the better you’re going to be.”  
– Dr. Allen Smith, GSLIS professor

The family of GSLIS Professor Allen Smith has made a \$1 million gift from his estate to pay tribute to Dr. Smith’s 30-year Simmons career. This generous gift has endowed two funds: one to establish a visiting scholars program, and a second to enhance a scholarship created at GSLIS in the late professor’s honor after he passed away on August 2, 2008.

The **Allen Smith Visiting Scholars Fund** was established with a \$600,000 gift. In recognition of Dr. Smith’s international teaching, scholarship, and outreach, GSLIS will invite to campus scholars from the United States and abroad who have expertise in oral history, reference, or humanities. During his career, Dr. Smith spent time in England and Wales. His expansive approach to teaching and scholarship benefited GSLIS students for three decades.

The **Allen Smith Scholarship for GSLIS** was initiated by the late professor’s family, friends, and colleagues. The \$400,000 gift from Dr. Smith’s estate made it possible to endow the scholarship, which will provide annual support for selected GSLIS students in good academic standing who have demonstrated financial need and an interest in oral history, reference, or humanities.

Dean Michèle Cloonan says this leadership gift is significant for GSLIS, and the College as a whole, enriching the exceptional education available at Simmons.

“The loss of Allen will be felt by GSLIS for a long time,” said Dean Cloonan. “He was a superlative teacher, a valued colleague, and a fascinating conversationalist. In his mastery of so many things – sailing, horseshoeing, wood turning, the dulcimer — he was a Renaissance man. We are pleased that his legacy at GSLIS will be recognized in perpetuity.”

Excerpts from article by Leah R. Eggers. To read the full article, visit [http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/docs/Smith\\_Gift\\_04-13-09.pdf](http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/docs/Smith_Gift_04-13-09.pdf).

## In Memory of Judith Krug

Judith Fingeret Krug, the long-time director of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and executive director of the Freedom to Read Foundation, who fought censorship on behalf of the nation’s libraries, died April 11 after a lengthy illness.

Michele Cloonan says, “Judy Krug was a petite woman with an outsized personality. She had a wonderful sense of humor, but she was quite serious in her pursuit of intellectual freedom. Her classes were lively, serious, intense, disputatious. Students who took the first course that she taught at GSLIS were so inspired by her that they made an embroidery of the First Amendment and presented it to her at the last class.”

For more information about Krug’s career, visit: <http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/april2009/oifkrug.cfm>.

## Commencement Awards

Each year, GSLIS gives four major awards to graduating students. We've profiled each of the students below and invite you to read full Q&As on the GSLIS Student Profile pages at: [www.simmons.edu/gslis/people/students/profiles/index.php](http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/people/students/profiles/index.php). Many congratulations to each of the award winners and all of this year's GSLIS graduates!

### GSLIS West Leadership Award: Adam Williams



This award is given to an outstanding GSLIS West student who best exemplifies the leadership values of academic excellence, community building, service, and commitment to the success of other students and the program. This year's recipient was Adam Williams.

Adam began at GSLIS in Fall 2006, and was the LISSA West President for 2007-2008. During that year, he and the LISSA West team brought students together into an active community by providing leadership and initiating new and creative ways to build relationships. In addition to organizing public speaking events on public, school, and academic libraries, and on archives, he arranged a number of well attended social events. Of these, the most popular wasn't what you'd expect.

"My legacy is bowling," Adam says, with only a little bit of tongue in cheek. Bowling was originally begun by a previous generation of student leaders. Adam "expanded on their work. Setting up events at the bowling alley proved to be a good way to connect with fellow students and faculty at GSLIS-West as well as area librarians outside the program." LISSA West also challenged the Boston Campus LISSA leaders to a "grand bowling match," bringing West and East together.

Adam focused his coursework on management, reference, and technology. While a student, he also worked as a Thrive Circuit Rider. Through a grant received by the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS), he and his colleagues assisted libraries serving populations under 2,000 to update their collections. The grant also enabled WMRLS to build websites for a handful of small libraries. He is now working as a reference librarian at the Springfield (MA) Technical Community College Library.

### ASIS&T Outstanding Information Science Student Award: Jen Langley



The Simmons Student Chapter of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) awards an annual prize for service to the chapter and for academic achievement in information science. This year's recipient was Jen Langley.

While at GSLIS, Jen says, "I took as many classes with the word "digital" in the title as possible!" This included Digital Libraries, where she served on the web committee, and Digital Publishing, where she wrote about Open Access. She also took Database Management, Web Development and

Information Architecture, and Social Informatics. Her most valuable experience while a student, however, was taking part in the GSLIS Information Architecture (IA) Project, which formed the framework for the 2009 GSLIS Website redesign. One of a group of six students who worked on the project as part of an independent study, Jen was part of the Paper Prototyping team and also acted as the 'schematic wrangler,' creating wireframes of the different iterations of the IA team's proposed structure. "I worked harder on the IA project than on anything else in Library School and it turned out to be one of the best experiences of my 2 ½ years," she says.

In addition to taking a full schedule of courses at GSLIS, Jen was Chair of the Simmons College Student Chapter of ASIS&T while also working full time as a Web Manager with YouthBuild USA. Now the Associate Director of Information Systems, she uses what she learned about databases, user testing, web development, social software, and information organization at work every day.

### Estelle Jussim Award: Caro Pinto



The Estelle Jussim Award is given each year to a graduating GSLIS student who has demonstrated great promise in the visual arts. It honors Dr. Estelle Jussim, a GSLIS faculty member who was a distinguished photographic historian and scholar, and who exhibited professional accomplishments in the visual arts and high academic achievement. GSLIS was pleased to present the 2009 Estelle Jussim award to Caroline "Caro" Pinto.

Caro is a dynamic and innovative library and archives professional with background in teaching and research. With a second masters in American History and an undergraduate degree in History from Smith College, she has gained experience in Archives and Special Collections at Harvard University, Amherst College, Northeastern University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst where much of her work involved creating better access to audio-visual material. Since 2006, Caro has been a graduate advisor and teaching assistant at the University of Massachusetts where she is widely recognized by colleagues and students as an excellent instructor who successfully engages students in the learning process.

While at GSLIS, Caro loved taking Visual Communication and Archiving and Preserving Digital Media. "It was exciting to consider how to tackle the challenges of producing, sharing, and preserving scholarship in the digital age," she says. She also enjoyed working with a number of other Simmons alumni at Amherst College on a project to process the Henry Steele Commager papers, which was, she says, "a remarkable experience."

### Kenneth R. Shaffer Outstanding Student Award: Meaghan O'Connor

Meaghan O'Connor is the recipient of the Kenneth R. Shaffer Outstanding Student Award. The award is given each year to a student whom the faculty has identified as outstanding and possessing great leadership potential. It honors Dr. Shaffer who was director of the school for almost 30 years. To read more about Meaghan, read the *Up Front* in this issue.

## New GSLIS Faculty

This Fall, GSLIS welcomes four new faculty members to our community — Naresh Agarwal, Mary Wilkins Jordan, Kathy Wisser, and Fran Zilonis.



Last year, as **Naresh Agarwal** approached the end of his dissertation and worked on a job search, he took on something he'd never done before: He created a marble sculpture for the School of Computing at the National University of Singapore, as part of a university-wide endeavor. "My head of department was worried that our faculty might be the only one without a sculpture," he says. "So I promised him I'd get one done."

The work, called "In Harmony," speaks to Agarwal's artistic side — his favorite hobby, beyond traveling, acting, and modeling, is painting — but also to his love of community. After earning his bachelor's degree, Agarwal worked for six years as a computer engineer. But he decided that "working with machines was not really satisfying," he says. So he made the shift to information science, where in his "person-centric" research he looks at why and how people search for information the way they do. Agarwal, a native of India who has spent the last dozen years in Singapore, says he was drawn to Simmons largely because of the people. "When I walked in the door I found a very collegial environment," he says. "I said, 'I can see myself getting old at Simmons.'"

**Mary Wilkins Jordan's** first job out of library school was library director in a low-income North Chicago community, where, she says, "As long as I didn't burn the building down, I was being more successful than they had been." And she found that to be successful, she needed to be resourceful. She soon secured state and private grants, as well as donations of furniture and computer equipment from a local company. The library began to thrive.

Now, in her new role as a researcher and professor at Simmons, Jordan hopes to do similar kinds of work on a larger scale: She wants to train future library managers, as well as research ways to improve the training of public librarians and the services they provide. "I want to help libraries have something they can put their hands on and measure to say, 'If we do these things, we'll be more helpful,'" she says. Jordan, who completed her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, grew up in Springfield, Illinois, and worked as an attorney before going to library school.

### Save the Date: Event in honor of Maggie Bush

Mark your calendars: on Tuesday, October 6 there will be an event celebrating the distinguished career of our own Professor Emerita Maggie Bush. Time and location TBA.



**Katherine Wisser** comes to GSLIS from the University of Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she is a Ph.D. candidate and where she completed her master's degree in library and information science in 2000. Wisser started her academic career in history — she has a master's degree in early American history from the University of New Hampshire

— and her interest in library science initially grew out of a desire to learn "the real work of making [historical] materials available to researchers," she says.

Once she took a cataloging course, everything changed. She now often publishes and presents about metadata standards in libraries, archives, and museums. Her Ph.D. dissertation is on 19th-century classification in American social libraries, which she'll continue researching when she's at Simmons. This fall, Wisser will teach classes that reflect both of her interests: Information Organization and Archival Access and Use. "I think about teaching as learning. Student involvement is essential," says Wisser, who grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. "I want people to look forward to class. I like to have fun, and there's lots of laughing."



**Fran Zilonis** comes to Simmons GSLIS from Bishop Feehan High School, where she was vice principal of academic affairs since 2006. Prior to that, she spent six years as the director of information technology in the Newton Public Schools, and, from 1994-2000 was a full professor and the chair of Secondary Education and Professional Programs (consisting of Counseling, Educational Leadership, High School and

Middle School Education, Library Media Studies, and Instructional Technology) at Bridgewater State College. She has also worked in the Cambridge and Randolph Public Schools. She received her M.Ed. in School Librarianship from Bridgewater State College in 1973, and her Ed.D. in Educational Media and Technology from Boston University in 1979. In 2005, *School Library Journal* named her one of the library field's most innovative and influential thinkers. Beginning in the 2009-2010 academic year, Dr. Zilonis will be teaching in the School Library Teacher Program.

### Save the Date: Lazerow Lecture

Attend the annual Lazerow Lecture on Tuesday, November 17, 5 p.m. — 8 p.m., Simmons College Boston campus. Toby Pearlstein, Director of Global Information Services at Bain & Company (retired), will be this year's speaker. More details will be posted as soon as they become available.

## Folks on the Move

GSLIS West students **Kirstin Kay**, **Aaron Rubinstein**, and **Emily Toder** gave presentations about their own library-related projects at the PVAAL (Pioneer Valley Association of Academic Librarians) meeting in April.

An article by **Stephanie Willen Brown**, adjunct professor, and **Leslie Porter**, GSLIS West alum, was published in *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, Spring 2009, Vol. 48 Issue 3. The article is entitled “Making Unmediated Access to E-Resources a Reality.”

GSLIS student **Jessie A. Howell** was awarded a Simmons Student Research Fund for her work “Dongguan Public Library (DPL): A Case Study of Technological Innovation and its Social Effects,” which she’s doing under the supervision of Professor Ching-chih Chen. Howell’s research will also be supplemented by additional support from Chen’s NSF Grant. Howell’s research involves visiting one of the most technologically innovative libraries in China. DPL, a collaborator on the Global Memory Net, became the first international library to receive an award from the American Library Association at its Annual Meeting in June 2008 for its library service innovation. Howell will travel to Dongguan, China to conduct this research on-site during the period May 11-June 1. Howell is also the recipient of the Beta Phi Mu’s 2009 Harold Lancour Scholarship for Foreign Study for this study, which includes a cash award of \$1500.

Adjunct Professor **Gail Matthews-DeNatale** published a piece entitled “Information Literacy and IT Fluency” in the May/June 2009 issue of *Educause Review*. She also co-presented an Educause Learning Initiative (ELI) online webinar, “The Role of Play in Learning with Technology,” in May. At NERCOMP SIG she gave a two-part presentation entitled “Assessment Into Action,” which covered the development, implementation, analysis, and use of qualitative assessment. In April she organized and presented at the day-long NERCOMP SIG conference a presentation entitled “Blended Learning: Realizing the Promise of the Best of Both Worlds.” And at NERCOMP’s first online webinar, she organized and presented a talk called “Educating the Whole Student: What’s Our Evidence?” In March, Matthews-DeNatale was named to the Founding Board of Directors for the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-Based Learning (AAEEBL), a professional association for those at the nexus of learning initiatives, assessment, and educational technology.

Adjunct professor **Claudia Morner** gave a presentation at NERCOMP SIG in April entitled “Collaborating for Blended Learning.”

GSLIS student **Shanti Freundlich** was recognized as the Scott/Ross Center Distinguished Civic Engagement Graduate Student for her outstanding work with our community partners.

GSLIS student **Jessica Brody** was pictured in a March 11 article in the newspaper *Armenian Reporter* about Project SAVE’s Armenian Photograph Archives. Jessica Brody is an intern working at the archives.

Professor **Ross Harvey** gave a presentation, “Doing Digital Preservation: Do We Have to Learn New Tricks?,” at the Harvard University Library in April. In March he participated on a panel discussion, “From Research to Practice: How Archival Research Shapes What We Do,” at the New England Archivists Spring Meeting. He also gave a presentation entitled “Appraise and Select” at the Digital Curation 101 Workshop in London, England.

## Summer Events

Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, Independence Day holiday: No classes.

Saturday, August 1: Classes end.

Save the Date: The fall 2009 New England chapter of the American Society for Indexing conference will be on Saturday, September 19, featuring Cheryl Landes and Seth Maislin as speakers. Location and conference details and registration information will be posted on NEASItalk and on the Upcoming Events page of the NEASI Web site at <http://www.newenglandindexers.org/events.htm>.

More information about these and other events can be found at <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/news/calendar/events.php>.

## IMLS Grant Awarded to Simmons GSLIS Faculty

Professors Jeannette Bastian, Ross Harvey, and Martha Mahard, and dean and professor, Michèle V. Cloonan have been awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant of over \$450K for their project, “Curriculum, Cooperation, Convergence, Capacity — Four C’s for the Development of Cultural Heritage Institutions: Libraries, Museums and Archives in the New England Area.”

GSLIS will partner with New England cultural institutions to incorporate museum informatics and data stewardship into its existing program of study. For more information, please see the IMLS press release at: [http://www.imls.gov/news/2009/061709b\\_list.shtm#MA](http://www.imls.gov/news/2009/061709b_list.shtm#MA)

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## InfoLink

*InfoLink* is the monthly newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Its purpose is to provide school- and career-related information and to foster community among the many diverse people who make up the school.

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Copy deadline for the September issue is Monday, August 3, 2009.