SURPRISE! A lifetime achievement award and $100,000 birthday gift honor Fred Kilgour

Dr. Frederick Kilgour

1935: A.B., Harvard College
1938: Publishes first scholarly paper
1940: Marries Eleanor Beach
1935-42: Harvard College Library
1943-46: Lt., USNR
1942-45: Office of Strategic Services
1948-67: Yale University
1967: Founds OCLC
1971: Creates WorldCat
1979: Creates Interlibrary Loan services
1990: Joins SILS faculty
2004: Publishes scholarly paper No. 205

It has been 37 years since Fred Kilgour, retired distinguished research professor in the School of Information and Library Science (SILS), founded the OCLC Online Computer Library Center – the world’s first computerized and largest online library network. Thirty-three years have passed since he created WorldCat, a digital catalog of library holdings from around the world. Twenty-five years ago he started the OCLC Interlibrary Loan Service, exploding the scope of information access. At age 90, Kilgour could rest on his many laurels as a celebrated and renowned librarian – but research still holds its appeal.

“We recorded 17 species of birds at the feeders in one weekend,” he said, his dining room table a functional library that includes Peterson and Sibley field guides, binoculars and a book on warblers. “We’ve had as many as 14 goldfinches around that one feeder at the same time.”

Birds or books, card catalogs or computers, the thrill of discovery has always engaged Fred Kilgour. On his 90th birthday, friends and colleagues including Joanne Marshall, SILS dean; Joe Hewitt, associate provost and university librarian; and Jay Jordan, OCLC president and CEO gathered to celebrate Kilgour’s innovative spirit – and it turned out to be a bit of a surprise party.

“I knew the School of Information and Library Science was going to give me a birthday party,” Kilgour said, “but I didn’t expect anything else.”

During the party, Marshall recognized Kilgour, who joined the SILS faculty in 1990, with a lifetime achievement award. Jordan announced a $100,000 gift establishing the OCLC/Frederick G. Kilgour Lecture in the school. He revealed the gift amid glowing remarks about his predecessor.

“We hope that the selectors (for this lecture) will choose people of vision, people who are forward-thinking, people who have the will to effect change and to drive toward solutions that will benefit humankind. In short, people like Fred,” Jordan said.

Thanks to Kilgour’s vision, OCLC now links more than 45,000 libraries in 84 countries. Along with its member libraries, it produces and maintains WorldCat, one of the most consulted databases in higher education. The Interlibrary Loan Service manages the local, regional and international borrowing and lending of more than 7,000 libraries, resource centers and document suppliers that in the past 25 years have conducted more than 134 million interlibrary loans over the system.

Kilgour’s achievements belie the challenges he faced to accomplish them. He credits undergraduate studies in the sciences and graduate work in the history of science for teaching him how to evaluate new ideas. “I just knew that my system would work when most librarians thought it impossible,” he said. “When I received the Melvil Dewey Medal from the American Library Association, the master of ceremonies said, ‘We fought him all the way to his promised land.’”

Still looking ahead, Kilgour published his 205th scholarly paper in 2004. “I’m already thinking about my next topic,” he said.
Dean’s Message

Moving Ahead

SILS faculty, students and alumni create information systems and services that unlock the power of recorded knowledge in formats ranging from ancient manuscripts to digital media. This is the information age, and SILS is experiencing a period of extraordinary change. The field is expanding beyond libraries into all types of organizations that are involved in the creation, collection, organization and dissemination of knowledge.

The SILS community is using the University’s academic plan to guide its initiatives: both undergraduate and graduate programs are growing; new faculty are being recruited; attention is being paid to increasing diversity; a multidisciplinary approach is being taken to the study of information issues; the school is increasingly engaged in projects that benefit the citizens of North Carolina and beyond; and additional international programs are being implemented.

SILS has almost 400 students in a full range of undergraduate, master’s and doctoral programs. The excellence of the professional master’s degree programs is known worldwide, and we have seven dual master’s degree programs with other schools. The quality of the students and faculty is extremely high and the school has attracted international partners such as Oxford University, Charles University in Prague, the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark, and the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia.

As wonderful as all of these accomplishments are, SILS also faces major challenges in meeting multiple demands with declining state dollars. The most serious and continuing concern is the lack of space and facilities in Manning Hall. In addition to suffering from a poorly designed use of space, SILS also shares Manning Hall with another academic unit. The structure does not currently meet building code standards; thus, a planned renovation to create office space for new faculty has been delayed by over eight months. As a result of a 2004-2005 budget presentation to the Provost, SILS now has the possibility of a new building on south campus.

As the school continues to grow and change in the future I know you will be there to support our efforts. We continue to welcome your advice and guidance. It has been an honor to serve as Dean of SILS for the last five and a half years. I look forward to continuing to contribute to the school and our dynamic profession in the future.

Joanne Gard Marshall
Dean and Professor
LOOKING BACK to the “hairy librarians”

In 1970 library science students gathered for a friendly protest to a magazine ad claiming “the hairiest looking sporty car in America” might scare away a few librarians. The ad read, “We may lose a few librarians for customers, but we think we’ll gain a few enthusiasts.” Vicki Glasgow wrote the company, “Some of the hairiest people I know are librarians.” (Published in The Chapel Hill Weekly of Dec. 20, 1970.)

Standing are, from left, Leslie Trainer, Bruce Westbrook, Dr. Raymond L. Carpenter, Paul Odom, Eris Carlson, John Sturtevant, Karen Lerner, Michael Tsaganos, Laura Olshan, Vicki Glasgow, Barbara Yonce, Pete Buyer, Carole Sebastian, Valerie Powers and Neville Grow. Were you among them? We hope our Looking Back feature may encourage a few of you to share your memories of your time at UNC-Chapel Hill. Write to us SILS, UNC-Chapel Hill, Campus Box 3360, Manning Hall; Chapel Hill, NC 27599 or news@ils.unc.edu.

In our last issue, we published several archival photographs. The following are those we identified:
1. Marilyn Miller, former faculty member; 3. Fred Roper, former SILS associate dean; 4. Martin Dillon, SILS Board of Visitors member and former faculty member; 9. Esther Bierbaum (Ph.D. ’82) and Robert Molyneux Jr. (Ph.D. ’84); 10. Jean Freeman, retired assistant to the dean; 13. Susan Steinfirst, former faculty member.
Enhance the field and pay tribute to Fred

We are excited about the establishment of the third scholarly lecture at SILS - the OCLC/Frederick G. Kilgour Lecture in Information and Library Science. I invite you to join the school and OCLC Online Computer Library Center in honoring OCLC founding father and SILS Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, Frederick G. Kilgour, for his 90th birthday.

During a birthday celebration hosted at UNC-Chapel Hill on Jan. 6, the school highlighted Fred's lifetime of achievement and OCLC proudly announced the establishment of this endowed lecture. Please consider making a gift to this lectureship, which will enhance the field of information and library science and pay tribute to Fred.

In the decades to come, Dr. Kilgour will continue to play a role in generating brilliant new ideas through the OCLC/Kilgour Lecture. This event will gather scholars and leaders from around the world to share innovative ideas and research in information and library science.

Upon retiring from OCLC in the late 1980s, Dr. Kilgour chose to continue his career at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science. He selected the school based on the strength of its programs and Chapel Hill location. Although he has recently retired from his position as a Distinguished Research Professor, Dr. Kilgour remains a treasured member of this university community.

As the endowment grows over a period of five years, so too will the possibilities for the lecture. With your tax-deductible gift, the initial lecture in 2005 can surpass the modest expectations and build momentum for future lectures. Also, you will enjoy annual invitations to join the lecture, whether in person or by virtual means.

This is an excellent opportunity to honor Fred, a consummate leader and visionary, and contribute to the field about which he is so passionate. Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to join us in this effort!

Committed supporters share school vision, goal

By SHAWN JACKSON

It's not mere committee work when UNC-Chapel Hill loyalists Claude and Sarah Snow are on board; it's a passion for involvement. When the Snows accepted leadership of the SILS Carolina First Campaign Committee, they took the helm with characteristic enthusiasm, pledged $25,000 and put a plan into action. The plan, of course, is to raise much needed funds for the School of Information and Library Science.

"Information management is the leading catalyst for change in today's world much like railroads, automobiles, radio, television and computers created wholesale change in previous generations," said Claude Snow. "SILS is the leading information school in the country. Its continued leadership is vital to the success of its alumni and the university."

The couple intends that their pledge should benefit the school's programs and students, while also serving as encouragement for others to donate too. Claude is a dual Carolina graduate (BA '76 and MA '78), and Sarah will graduate with a Master of Science in Information Science from SILS in May 2004. In addition to co-chairing the SILS Campaign Committee with his wife, Claude also serves on the UNC Board of Visitors.

Fellow SILS Carolina First Campaign Committee member and avid UNC-Chapel Hill supporter Sara McCoy, along with husband Bill (BA '55), have demonstrated their belief in the school through their generosity. The McCoys have made history with a $100,000 pledge, one of fewer than 10 gifts of similar size in the school's 72-year legacy. The McCoys express appreciation of school programs and admire a rich character developed over seven decades. In regard to the pledge, Sara McCoy said, "I hope it will be incentive for everyone to do his or her part. We are fortunate to be a part of this country's leading School of Information and Library Science. The fine leadership deserves our financial support."

Among others who have made gifts or pledges are SILS Board of Visitors members Peter McCracken (MSLS '95) and Karen Gottovi, and Campaign Committee member Bernie Todd Smith (MSLS '73). McCracken, founder of Serials Solutions of Seattle, is leading the effort to endow the Marcia Tuttle Scholarship in Serials Librarianship. His company provided a leadership gift toward the $20,000 needed to endow the fund. Serials Solutions is partnering with the SILS Alumni Association to encourage additional alumni gifts. McCracken is particularly proud that his organization could play a leadership role and is hopeful that the gift, along with the alumni association's match to alumni contributions, will endow the scholarship.

Gottovi pledged her support to the school over several years. Multi-year pledges allow donors to give annual amounts that fit their budget and consequently extend the impact of the gift.

Smith chose to make a gift of appreciated securities. "I believe stock gifts provide a meaningful way to receive an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes while benefiting the ongoing pursuit of excellence at SILS," Smith said.

Gifts from the SILS Board of Visitors and Campaign Committee members recognize that a bright future for the school depends upon private support. For information, please contact the development director at 919/962-8365 or shawn_jackson@unc.edu.
SILS recognizes largest undergraduate class

This spring’s school commencement on May 9 was invigorated with Carolina blue, the color of undergraduate robes, when SILS recognized 19 graduates from its new undergraduate program in information science. The ceremony was held at 1 p.m. in Room 111 of Carroll Hall.

The information science major, which only has been offered since fall 2002, sprang from the success of the school’s undergraduate minor in information systems. The school has granted the bachelor’s degree in information science (BSIS) to a mere five students since spring 2003, making the 19 graduates its largest number yet.

The BSIS program integrates the study of the creation and management of information content, the characteristics and needs of the people who create and use information, and the technologies used to support the creation and manipulation of information. UNC-Chapel Hill is the only university in the state offering such a degree and is one of only a handful of schools nationwide offering such a program.

The degree prepares graduates for a variety of careers in the information industry, including information architecture, database design and implementation, web design and implementation, networking support and information consulting. Many students pursue double majors, often coupling information science with business or computer science.

“I selected this program because I was interested not in designing software but understanding the major causes and effects that information technology can have on business,” said Len Fiume, who has accepted a job with the Charlotte, N.C.-based technology firm Accenture after graduation.

“I have gained confidence in creating databases, spreadsheets, and web pages and understanding all of their implications in the business world.”

For commencement pictures and a list of the May graduates, visit “News & Events” at www.ils.unc.edu.❑

SILS Graduates
August & December 2003

Doctor of Philosophy

August 2003
Miles James Efron
James Wilson Britton
Junghee Choi
Margaret A. DeYoung
Patrick Thomas Giovinazzo
Young-Sook Jung
Shuang-Lin Lee
Yin Tang
Jian Yang
Li Zhao

December 2003
Kelly Lyn Maglaughlin
Debbie Ann Travers

Certificate of Advanced Study

December 2003
Jana Kabrtova

Master of Science in Information Science

August 2003
Brendan Patrick Biamon
James Wilson Britton
Junghee Choi
Margaret A. DeYoung
Karen Louise Duez
Patrick Thomas Giovinazzo
Young-Sook Jung
Shuang-Lin Lee
Yin Tang
Jian Yang
Li Zhao

December 2003
Xiang Ding
Claire Callaway Eager
Telemak Eduard Karmprarayan
Heina Naik
Christopher Bryan Peary
Patrick David Polinski
Anita Sundaram
Nan Wang
Christine Signe Adessa Wilkens

Bachelor of Science in Information Science

August 2003
Melanie Elisabeth Black

December 2003
In Hyuk Lee

A family occasion best describes the school’s intimate winter commencement ceremony in December at Wilson Library. Graduates gathered for a group portrait with faculty and families.
What’s Happening with Faculty & Staff

Sturm explores children’s reading preferences

By TINA CHANG

Is it true that young girls favor books about horses, and little boys prefer pages filled with cars? While new data supports what librarians and parents have long noticed, UNC-Chapel Hill children’s reading specialist Brian Sturm says the interest divide narrows by adolescence.

The SILS faculty member explored trends in children’s reading preferences in “Dogs and Dinosaurs, Hobbies and Horses: Age-Related Changes in Children’s Information and Reading Preferences,” an article that appeared in the winter 2003 Children and Libraries journal that details his recent research.

“Through casual observation, I’ve seen that the stereotypes hold true, but it was somewhat of a fortuitous chance that I gained access to the data to conduct this study,” Sturm said.

When Sturm became aware of a promotional drawing conducted by the State Library of North Carolina that effectively documented what children wanted to know more about, he requested a closer examination. Thirteen boxes containing 150,000 library surveys were shipped to Manning Hall. Sturm then took a random sampling of these 1,800 North Carolina children – which included 100 girls and 100 boys from each year in the ages 6-14. The library survey conducted in 2000 asked children about their areas of interest and also gathered demographic data.

Sturm found distinct preferences between the genders: animals and fiction for girls; transportation and sports for boys (ages 6-7). But as the children grow older (ages 9-10), both girls and boys generally lose interest in animals and gain interest in science and sports. While girls enjoy fiction from an early age onward, interest among boys in fiction peaks later, around middle school. Although some topics appealed more to one gender than the other, they like a lot of the same things too, Sturm said.

“I found the variety of interests amazing, and their excitement about reading was contagious,” he said.

The study provides evidence that younger children tend to enjoy objects such as animals and transportation, and as they grow older, prefer more abstract concepts like science, biography, computers and careers.

“I hope that knowing these trends may help librarians design and manage appropriate collections of books,” Sturm said. “Teachers can use the information as well. By knowing what children are interested in, they can tailor lesson plans so the students will focus on the lesson.”

Sturm said one of the biggest challenges he faced in the study was coding the responses accurately and grouping them accordingly.

“Many responses could fit into multiple categories, so it was difficult to determine where to put many of them.”

Despite the prevalence of television and the Internet today, he said he doesn’t think children will read less. But their reading material may expand from books to include the Internet and other electronic sources.

“I think how we define reading will change, as we begin to discuss visual literacy as well as print literacy as reading,” he said.

Sturm’s interest in children’s reading preferences began when he worked at the children’s reference desk in Monroe County (Indiana) Public Library from 1995-97. He and his colleagues documented questions that young readers asked them, and they informally studied the daily logs to gauge any trends.

Sturm’s examination of children’s reading continues this year. He is collaborating with the Ministry of Education in Chile to create a multinational study of children’s reading and information preferences in Chile and the United States. Another project that he wants to conduct in the future is a longitudinal study of a group of children — following them throughout their elementary school lives and seeing how their reading preferences change over time.

In recognition of his research, teaching and service efforts over the past five years, Sturm received approval for tenure this spring. In July, he officially will become an associate professor.
Dr. Diane Kelly has been selected to serve as a metrics consultant for an Advanced Research and Development (ARDA) funded project titled, “An Investigation of Metrics for Interactive Information Systems.”

The purpose of the six-week project beginning in June is to develop evaluation metrics for analytical question-answering systems. The research team, led by Jean Scholtz and Emile Morse from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), was awarded more than $500,000 to conduct the project. It will include an intensive two-week interactive evaluation of several cutting-edge question answering systems, with U.S. intelligence reserve analysts serving as subjects.

Kelly’s responsibilities include designing and administering instruments for data collection, moderating focus groups, training graduate students to assist with processes and analyzing the data collected.

Dr. Barbara Wildemuth, whose name frequently appears as author of technical papers in information science journals, showed another side of her interests when featured in BookWomen’s December 2003 issue. Published by the Center for Feminist Reading at Minnesota Women’s Press, the magazine regularly features reader profiles. Wildemuth shared her thoughts on literature, as well as a sampling of her recent reading: Red Azalea, a memoir by Anchee Min; An Equal Music, a novel by Vikram Seth; Point Last Seen, a memoir by Hannah Nyala; and Catherwood, a novel by Marly Youmans.

If you’re more interested in Wildemuth’s research pursuits, be sure to see her study of medical students’ search tactics in the Feb. 1, 2004, issue of the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology.

Dr. Jane Greenberg’s metadata class received a virtual visit on March 23 from special guest Ericka McDonald, manager for Open Access Services at Online Computer Library Center, Inc. McDonald discussed the Open WorldCat pilot project, an OCLC initiative that is making library resources available via Google and other nonlibrary Web sites. The pilot aims to test the effectiveness of Web search engines in guiding users to library-owned materials, making libraries more visible to Web users and more accessible from the Web sites many people turn to first.

Why is bedtime reading so good for you? What happens when a community comes together to read? And how does one become a habitual reader? These and other aspects of the joy of reading were explored March 15 in READ – “Reading, Experiencing, Advocating, Discussing” – the annual spring conference of the Librarians’ Association of UNC-Chapel Hill. Speakers included SILS professors Dr. David Carr (pictured at presentation) and Dr. Brian Sturm, UNC Chancellor James Moeser, author Doris Betts and professors and authors who have been involved with community and university reading programs. The conference was organized by Rebecca Vargha, chair of the conference committee and SILS librarian.

Dr. Gary Marchionini participated in the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries Program Committee meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. (IEEE), in Tucson, Ariz. Also this spring, he was an invited speaker at several conferences: the Future of Digital Libraries in Canada workshop at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada; at the European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) in Sunderland, UK; at the University of Pittsburgh; and at the University of Maryland’s Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory’s Spring Seminar Series.

SILS researchers design new uses for blogsphere

By JENA WITTKAMP

Many people think of blogs as mere online diaries, full of personal musings and commentary. But blogs today are being used in a variety of ways, even as part of political campaigns and classroom discussions. Researchers at SILS are working to extend the use of blogs even further by offering them as a revolutionary tool for libraries.

With Lyceum, a software application being designed by ibiblio.org, Dr. Jeffrey Pomerantz, assistant professor in the school, and Frederic Stutzman, a researcher at the public library and digital library ibiblio.org, envision using blogs as a new forum for library reference requests. Stutzman expects the software to be complete and available for free to the public in May.


“A blogsphere can be described as a sphere of people who are blogging that you can put some kind of boundary around,” said Stutzman, who added that the term is still developing and open to interpretation. For example, the people who use Lyceum to create blogs become part of their own Lyceum-users blogsphere.

Lyceum can be used in libraries to develop a radically different model for the way reference requests are asked and answered, Pomerantz said. Traditionally, a reference request occurs in a face-to-face interaction between the person who is asking for information and the librarian who responds. Some libraries are beginning to use chat or instant messaging for reference requests, which make reference service accessible outside of the library but still involve just two people. With Lyceum, the reference request could be posted online on a blog and many people could respond.

“If you have a community of users — librarians and library service people — someone could post a question and I could come to blog and make a comment,” Pomerantz said. “Instead of one patron to one librarian, there are multiple librarians.” The added benefit of using a blog for reference requests is that records are created of all questions and answers.

“Blogs are unique in that they are a running thread of conversation and people can change that conversation over time,” Stutzman said. What makes Lyceum different from existing blog creation software is that it gathers reminiscences and slides — as well as drawing pictures on a large easel — to an audience that gathered at UNC-Chapel Hill on March 27.

Growing up in a house filled with artwork, Zelinsky recalled that in his room hung a painting of the witch’s house in Hansel and Gretel. “It filled me with an awe of candy houses,” he said.

Zelinsky was the featured speaker at the school’s Susan Steinfirst Memorial Lecture. Steinfirst was a professor of children’s and young adult literature at the school from 1976-1996.

Zelinsky’s work has been recognized by the Association for Library Service to Children. He received the association’s 1998 Caldecott Medal for Rapunzel. He illustrated three Caldecott Honor books, including Hansel and Gretel (retold by Rika Lesser) in 1985, Rumpelstiltskin in 1987 and Swamp Angel by Anne Eisacs in 1995. He adapted and illustrated The Maid and the Mouse and the Odd-Shaped House: A Story in Rhyme, The Lion and the Stool and The Wheels on the Bus: The Traditional Song.

Paul O. Zelinsky signs and distributes sketches rendered during his talk to young fans.
SILS students beat the attack: Game over Blaster, Nachi and Mydoom!

By TINA CHANG

SILS information science student Jeff Bollinger is learning to think like a hacker – in the name of a good education.

Through his internship with the infrastructure security team at Cisco Systems, Bollinger works to prevent attacks on the internal network, which means using the same tools and approaches as hackers. He has become intimately acquainted with Blaster, Nachi, Mydoom and other worms, which reside in the active memory of computers and send copies of themselves to other computers through email.

“There’s always a new attack coming out; it’s like being an Internet detective and always being on your toes,” Bollinger said. “The technology and tools I use could be considered ethically questionable, but if I use them responsibly then they’re basically an invaluable resource.”

Bollinger works closely with Cisco project manager Chris Brannon (MSIS ’00), who has been employed at the Research Triangle technology company for six years. Cisco is one of a handful of companies that have partnered with the School of Information and Library Science to provide internships, and the school would like to find still more opportunities for its information science students.

With recommendations from school IT Director Scott Adams (MSLS ’98), Brannon has recruited several SILS students as interns, including MSIS student John Reuning, who works as a system administrator at ibiblio; and Tony Bull (MSIS ’03), a software engineer at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

“When I was looking for folks to fill intern positions we were creating, I was looking for bright, talented, IT-focused people at SILS,” Brannon said. “So far, I’ve been very pleased with the caliber of the folks.”

Feedback continues to support the school’s longstanding reputation for well-prepared information science graduates. Bollinger cites Information and Security (INLS 187), which he took with former SILS professor Greg Newby, as the class that taught him the ethics of information security and convinced him to pursue that area of study as a career. He also said classes like Introduction to Local Area Networks (INLS 182) and Protocols and Network Management (INLS 184) taught him technical information about network protocol and design that he uses every day.

Brannon said his favorite class was Systems Analysis (INLS 162) with associate professor Stephanie Haas, and he still uses what he learned in the class.

Working at the SILS computer lab has also proved a valuable training ground. Both Brannon and Bollinger worked there previously. “Scott Adams really encouraged me to do a lot of different things. Working as a systems administrator has helped me with my job at Cisco now,” said Bollinger, who also works part-time at UNC’s Information Technology Services.

Technology companies today require information science professionals who have been educated to respond to issues of the future. In the case of computer security, the major cost of a network being hacked into is the time expended in cleaning and fixing all the systems that got infected, Brannon said.

Reserve your booth for the ILS Career Fair

Efforts are being made to attract more participants, especially information science employers, to semiannual career fairs held at UNC-Chapel Hill. To reserve a booth for your organization, contact Holly Linam at UNC-Chapel Hill Career Services at 919/962-7885 or linam@email.unc.edu.

Students like Marisa Ramirez (pictured, left) met potential employers such as (at right) Jens Holley (MSLS ’83), librarian at Clemson University and son of former SILS Dean Edward Holley, at a career fair held on Feb. 10 in the newly renovated UNC-Chapel Hill Student Union. Employers represented included UNC-Chapel Hill, East Carolina University, Duke University, DC Public Library, and NC State University Libraries.
What’s Happening with SILS Students

Student brings history of prominent N.C. family to life

A collection of letters, papers and photos from one of western North Carolina’s most powerful families through the 18th and 19th centuries lay unorganized and undocumented at UNC’s Wilson Library.

It was Laura Knodel, a SILS graduate student, who was given the task of cataloging the Avery family collection and in the process, discovered just how interesting the family was.

“The Averys typify powerful families in the state at that time who were involved in a variety of things, including law, politics and business,” said Knodel, a Bossier City, La., native. Knodel, who will graduate in May, is earning dual master’s degrees in library science from UNC and public history from NC State University.

Knodel was given the task of cataloging the Avery family collection while working as a research assistant at Wilson Library. After going through the materials, she felt the collection was worthy of being exhibited.

“I thought they were just very interesting people, and their papers had never been on display,” Knodel said.


For the exhibit, she chose items from among many in the Southern Historical Collection. The Avery Family Papers are representative of many family collections available for research in Wilson, said Tim West, director and curator of the manuscripts department. The exhibit was sponsored by the Southern Historical Collection.

Dating from 1786 to 1894, the items exhibited included family letters — some from sons who were away fighting for the Confederacy — plantation registers, land grants, bills of sale for land and slaves, property inventories and wills.

New international offerings entice global adventure

by JENA WITTKAMP

SILS students will venture to Europe this fall to participate in the school’s semester long study abroad programs. Nora Wikoff, a library science student, will go to Prague, Czech Republic, and information science undergraduates Chase Hansen and Alana Carlton will be the first to participate in the Circulating International Program in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The new program, titled “Information Management in the Network Society”, offers students from UNC, the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark, and the Information Technology School of Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore the chance to study together. Each school will take turns hosting the international students, and UNC will be a host site in 2005.

Many students pursue their own research while studying abroad or extend their stay through field experiences in European libraries, such as the Library of Prohibited Books in Prague, said Dr. Barbara Moran, program director and a professor.

“Any of these places are wonderful jumping off points for exploring,” Moran said.

Kristin Fiore, a library science student, went to Europe as part of the SILS study abroad semester in Prague last fall. She left two months before the semester began to visit Austria, Slovenia, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Croatia. She traveled through the countries studying folk music and its affect on people’s lives.

“I hung out with locals the whole time,” said Fiore, who traveled alone. “I didn’t want to do the tourist stuff. I wanted to see what life was really like.” Fiore is a self-proclaimed “music fanatic” and plays six instruments. A highlight of the trip for her was attending the Serbian gypsy marching band festival in a tiny mountain village three hours outside of Belgrade.

“It was the most amazing experience of my life,” Fiore said. While in the Prague program, she studied Czech librarianship, philosophy of technology and new media art. She said her passion for folk music helped her cross language barriers while in Europe.

“People would talk and I would understand them based on the lyrics from the songs I’d been singing for all this time,” Fiore said.
Maureen Barry, MSLS student, was selected by the Student Chapter of the American Library Association (SCALA) to receive a scholarship to attend the June ALA conference in Orlando, Fla. In exchange for a scholarship covering registration, room and board costs, Barry will work during the conference.

Jenny Emanuel, MSIS student, was appointed secretary of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation (GPSF). The federation advocates for improved resources for graduate and professional students; promotes active participation in university, local, state, national, and international issues; and collaborates with university administration faculty, staff, and undergraduate students to create policies that reflect the interests of all graduate and professional students.

Sarah Falls, MSLS student, presented a paper titled “At the Digital Crossroads: the Spectator in Moving Image Installation Artworks” at the Southeast Conference for Art Colleges in November 2003. She was scheduled to participate in a panel discussion on art librarianship education at the Art Libraries Society of North America conference in New York City in April.

Christian Higgins, MSLS student, was invited to participate in the South by Southwest Music Conference panel, “Archiving and Preserving Music” held March 19 in Austin. The concept for the panel grew out of research that he conducted for several courses at SILS and is a part of the work for his master’s paper. The panel included representatives from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Multicast Technologies, Grammy Foundation and Microsoft Corp. Also this spring, Higgins was accepted for induction into the Frank Porter Graham Honor Society, which recognizes UNC-Chapel Hill graduate and professional students who demonstrate devotion to university community service.

Sylvia Leigh Lambert, MSLS student, submitted her poster titled “Young Adult Community, Collection, Connections” to the poster session at the March 15 Librarians’ Association at UNC-Chapel Hill (LAUNCH) conference held at the university’s Friday Center. Two other library science students, Brooke Phillips and Monique Prince co-presented a poster at the same conference.


Julie Kimbrough, MSLS student, has accepted the position of assistant legal reference librarian at the Law Library of Congress. She graduated in May. She received her J.D. from the UNC School of Law in 2001. Her new position has program responsibility for the Law Library’s specialized collection of congressional publications, records and briefs, transcripts of oral arguments, and opinions issued by the U.S. Supreme Court, and selected executive branch publications. These documents are heavily consulted by members of Congress, congressional staff, as well as legal practitioners throughout the United States.

Christopher Liang, BSIS student, is the recipient of two UNC-Chapel Hill awards that will support his honors thesis research into the information sources used by Mandarin dual language teachers in elementary schools. He has been awarded an honors Undergraduate Research Award and the Little Prize, awarded each year to a student whose honors thesis proposal shows exceptional promise. The Little Prize is named for Professor William F Little, University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, honoring his commitment to undergraduate education and to the role that research plays in that process.

Kasia Leousis, MSLS student, received the 2004 Baker & Taylor Oxford Seminar Scholarship. The $2,800 scholarship, provided by Baker & Taylor Inc., will cover the cost of program registration, which includes room, food and instruction at Oxford University May 16-29. A school committee led by Dr. Claudia Gollop, the faculty adviser to Oxford, reviewed nine applicants for the scholarship and chose Leousis on the basis of an essay that explains how the seminar will enhance her future educational and career goals. Leousis aspires to become a rare books librarian and has applied to the double degree master’s program with the UNC-Chapel Hill Art History Department in order to pursue a second degree in art history.

Jesse Wilbur, MSIS student, was selected as the winner of the SILS Web Design Contest, a challenge to redesign the school Web site. The SILS Web Committee selected three design runners-up by second-year information science student Matthew Carroll; the team of first-year information science students Cindy McCracken and Lourdes Cueva Chacon; and second-year information science student Justin Watt. The Web designs may be found at www.ils.unc.edu/ils/releases/RELEASE04_Webwinners.html.

Amal Mostafa, a visiting scholar from Cairo University’s Department of Library, Information Science and Archives, is pursuing research for her dissertation titled, “Management and Development of Electronic Information Resources in Egyptian Libraries and Information Centers.” Her advisers, Dr. Fathi Abdelhady from Egypt and Dr. Paul Solomon from SILS, met during a visit in March. (In photo below, from left to right are Abdelhady, Solomon and Mostafa.) The Egyptian scholar’s husband Abdallah Metwally and Alaa, their 17-month-old son, will call Chapel Hill home for another year.
Librarian helps make headlines by casting large nets

By JENA WITTKAMP

Fresh from the School of Information and Library Science with degree in hand, Barbara Semonche (MSLS ’76) was looking for a job. When a friend suggested she contact The Herald Sun newspaper, Semonche’s response was, “Do newspapers have libraries?” Indeed, this one did not.

“Being a little cheeky, I asked ‘Well, would you like to have one?’” Semonche said. The managing editor said yes, and she proceeded to write her own job description and salary. So began Semonche’s career as a newspaper librarian. Back then, when newspaper libraries were called “ Morgues” and served as little more than storage for yellowing stacks of newspapers, librarians like Semonche worked aggressively to demonstrate their value to the news operation.

After her position was deemed indispensable at the Durham, N.C., newspaper (friends there called her “commander-in-chief excelsior”), Semonche became the librarian for the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Park Library in 1990. For her service to the profession, the Special Libraries Association (SLA) this spring presented her its John Cotton Dana Award, adding yet another to the long list of accolades she has received from the national organization. The award recognizes exceptional service to special librarianship.

“I’m absolutely stunned, surprised and very, very grateful,” Semonche said. “SILS has been an important part of what I’ve learned, how I’ve learned it and how to keep on learning.”

Her expertise in special libraries and librarianship has taken Semonche across the globe. As The Freedom Forum/Special Libraries Association Fellowship winner, she went to Romania and Poland in 1996 to give Internet training to librarians. In 2001, she went to Hungary to give Internet tutorials to media archivists at the Freedom Forum’s news library at the Center for Independent Journalism. She has also given presentations and toured media archives in Amsterdam, Netherlands and Denmark. Back at UNC’s Carroll Hall, Semonche taught a class on database journalism and serves as a class speaker and Internet coach for students and faculty.

While she is a sought-out and seasoned professional, Semonche wincingly recalls her rocky introduction to special librarianship, a position that blossomed into a 13-year career at the news operation. Working with rotary files eight feet long, 10 feet high and four feet deep, Semonche built the newspaper’s library with reference materials, photos and newspaper clippings organized by subject and reporter’s bylines. She said that though the system had its drawbacks, including misplaced files and the eventual deterioration of clippings, news librarians now face an even greater challenge with the sophisticated technology available to them.

“We have to know an awful lot more about technology than we ever did before,” Semonche said. “It’s made it faster, but it’s also made it harder. With so much information, it’s difficult to find out ‘Is it complete? ’ ‘Is it accurate?’ and ‘Is it current?’”

In addition, print media are cutting losses with fewer editions, smaller newsrooms and, as a result, fewer librarians. Semonche noted that the following recent merger between AOL and Time Warner, the library was dismantled.

Because there are fewer of them, news librarians are expected to be more versatile, taking on tasks like teaching reporters how to do research. Some librarians even come up with ways to generate income from their department, like repackaging and selling newspaper photographs and drawings. News librarians are more integral partners with reporters and editors in the newsroom. Some papers now give credit lines to recognize their contributions.

“We’ve always used librarians as our top researchers but now they are also managers, coaches and entrepreneurs,” Semonche said. “News librarians are now seen as people who can contribute significantly to research. They’re more central to what’s going on.”

For her exceptional service to special librarianship, Barbara Semonche (MSLS ’76) received the SLA John Cotton Dana Award. Above, she assists students Melissa Holer, middle, and Lindsey Strader, right, in finding information online. The illustration below of Semonche is by John Cole of The (Durham, N.C.) Herald Sun.

Barbara’s Notebook

2004: John Cotton Dana Award (SLA)
2000: Rose Vormelker’s Mentoring Award (SLA)
1998: Distinguished Alumna (SILS at UNC-Chapel Hill)
1999: Candidate for SLA President
1996: N.C. Chapter’s SLA Meritorious Achievement Award
1993-94: President of NC Chapter of SLA
1991: Agnes Henebry Award from SLA’s News Division
1995: Elected SLA Fellow and Joseph F. Kwapil Award
1984-86: Bulletin Editor for SLA
Hello from Chapel Hill! Spring has sprung, as they say, and it is hard to believe that summer is practically here. Before long we’ll be turning the air conditioners to full blast and experiencing that wonderful humidity. It is an amazing time of year here, and I wouldn’t trade it for just about anything.

Since the last edition of the newsletter, we’ve celebrated the graduation of another group of information professionals in December. Commencement was marked by the inaugural presentation of the Elfreda Chatman Research Awards, which were made possible by your generous contributions, to Susan Teague Rector and Rebecca Kemp. We also gathered for the 90th birthday of a true legend in our field, Dr. Fred Kilgour, on Jan. 6. Dean Marshall and I presented Dr. Kilgour with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Also over the last few months, the SILS Alumni Association’s executive board has been working to redesign the SILSAA website at www.ils.unc.edu/alumni.

Additionally, we have been busy with the Mentoring Celebration held in March. The unsung heroine behind logistics for the event is Susan Gramling (MSLS ’77), who served the SILSAA as secretary 2001-2003. Susan continues to bring great enthusiasm and skill to the goal of matching eager students with active professionals. Another alum who has proactively lent his energy to the association recently is Peter McCracken (MSIS ’00), co-founder of Serials Solutions. Peter has coordinated informal alumni gatherings at both AIL Midwinter and PLA. These are but two examples of alumni making a difference for the good of the entire SILS family.

We’d love to be able to keep in touch with all of you, and the best way to do so is via the sils-alumni listserv. I would encourage you to verify your subscription to the list, and join if you are not a current subscriber. The traffic is extremely light and the list provides an invaluable communication tool. Visit listserv.unc.edu select “search for lists” on the right-hand side of the screen and search for “sils” or “alumni” (a more directed search, unfortunately, is not possible). Find the “sils-alumni” list in the retrieval set and choose to visit or subscribe to the list. For assistance in subscribing, contact Lara Bailey in the SILS office at 919/962-8366 or ljbailey@email.unc.edu.

Best wishes to all and thanks in advance for keeping in touch!
What’s Happening with SILS Alumni


Elizabeth A. (Libby) Evans (MSLS ’82), a project manager for Administrative Information Services at UNC-Chapel Hill, presented on “It’s Due When? Tips and Techniques for Project Management” at the November 2003 UNC CAUSE conference in Wilmington, N.C. She is also coordinating a UNC system-wide project management special interest group.

Sarah Gehring (MSLS ’99) has been promoted to assistant director of The Baltimore Sun’s news research library. She has been with the newspaper for four years.

David Jensen (MSLS ’70) is the director of the Van Wylen Library at Hope College in Holland, Mich., which received the 2004 “Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.” The national award, which was presented by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), recognizes staff for developing and executing programs that deliver excellent services and resources to further the educational mission of the school. The award included a plaque and a $3,000 gift presented on March 4.

For the sixth consecutive year, Carolyn Kotlas (MSLS ’92), Information Resources Consultant for the UNC-Chapel Hill Center for Instructional Technology, is the webmaster for the Carolina Summer Reading Program at www.unc.edu/srp. The program is designed to introduce first year and transfer undergraduate students to the intellectual life of Carolina. Each year Kotlas designs and maintains the program’s website; she also researches and writes part of the site’s content.

Lokman Meho (Ph.D. ’01) has written The Kurdish Question in U.S. Foreign Policy: A

In Memoriam

Martha Beals  
(MSLS ’80) March 4, 2004
Anne Rebecca Correll  
(BSLS ’52) Feb. 12, 2004
Florence Fowikes Garrett  
Eleanor Anne Hammond  
(ABLS ’37) July 11, 2003
Marcia Stevenson Kingsley  
(MSLS ’71) Oct. 25, 2003
Dorothy Insley Linker  
(ABLS ’41) Nov. 13, 2004
Diantha Joan McBride  
(MSLS ’75)
Jean Brabham McKinney  
(ABLS ’49) Feb. 6, 2004
Ruth W. Simmons  
(ABLS ’36) Jan. 6, 2004
Robertta Cowles Spikes  
(BSLS ’42) Oct. 1, 2003

Death notices are provided by the UNC-Chill General Alumni Association (GAA). Dates in parentheses indicate class year. Notify the GAA Records Department with death announcements to PO Box 660; Chapel Hill, NC 27514.


Ann Romine Poteet (MSLS ’00) and husband Chris welcomed their new son, Noah, on Jan. 21. Poteet currently works as a stay-at-home-mom to Noah and big brother Ross, who’s almost two. She recently worked at the law firm of Perkins Coie in Portland, Ore., and is pondering children’s librarianship for when she reenters the world of paid employment.

C.L. Quillen-Cornwall (MSLS ’01) was selected by the American Library Association as one of 12 librarians to write reviews for Woman’s Day magazine’s online book club. Each librarian was asked to submit two book titles that would appeal to the Woman’s Day reader. They also submitted discussion questions or personal thoughts about the books to encourage discussion among book club participants. This is the first formal book club for the publication, whose Web site receives nearly 300,000 visitors every month. Quillen-Cornwall is a reference librarian at the Mount Laurel (N.J.) Library.

Barry W. Seaver (Ph.D. ’97) is the author of A True Politician (McFarland & Co. Inc.). The book chronicles Rebecca Browning Rankin’s 32-year career as the municipal reference librarian for the city of New York. Serving in many key policy-making positions, both on mayoral committees and in professional organizations, Rankin was an ardent lobbyist for the role of information in educating the electorate. She published more than 50 articles and books on aspects of city government and libraries, and delivered weekly radio speeches on WNYC from 1928 to 1938.

Seaver (photographed, left) began the book as a doctoral thesis project under the direction of his former adviser, retired school Dean Edward Holley (right). Seaver is a librarian at the Durham (N.C.) County Public Library and editor of Civic Duty: The Newsletter of the North Carolina Civic Education Consortium.

Laura J.H. Smith (MSLS ’94) gave birth to a daughter in August 2003 (baby Angela joins a big sister, Rebecca) and a book in March. The Book Bunch: Developing Book Clubs for Beginning Readers is the title of her new book, published by Upstart Books, a subsidiary of Highsmith. She also authored an article for LibrarySparks (a new journal by Upstart Books). She is working on her second article for that publication due to appear in November.
Christine Stachowicz (MSLS ’02) returned to UNC-Chapel Hill in March to take a position as serials access librarian. Prior to this, she had been reference librarian and head of collection access at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va.

Vesselina Stoytcheva (MSLS ’99) is president of Maryland-based VNS Group Inc., which was admitted to the U.S. Small Business Administration 8(a) Business Development Program in February. The company specializes in library, information and business services for government and commercial clients in the United States and Europe. VNS provides professional services to libraries that outsource library management or some of their operations such as library automation, cataloging, authority control, catalog maintenance, serials management, interlibrary loan, loose-leaf filing, physical processing, binding and others.

Janice Webb (MSLS ’00) is planning to participate in a 26.2-mile Suzuki Rock and Roll Marathon to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society on June 6. Webb’s goal is to raise at least $1,600 to fund leukemia and lymphoma research, patient and community service and public health and professional education efforts in the San Diego area. To contribute, contact Webb at janicewebb@hotmail.com by May 1.

IN MEMORIAM

Wallace Kuralt, a former SILS Board of Visitors member and longtime North Carolina bookseller, died on Dec. 13, 2003, in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. Kuralt, brother of the late CBS journalist Charles Kuralt, had been treated for skin cancer for nearly two years, as reported by The (Raleigh) News & Observer. He was 64.

In 1964, Kuralt, a North Carolina native, and his wife, Brenda, purchased the Intimate Bookshop of Chapel Hill. The store, an established Chapel Hill presence, grew under Kuralt’s direction. At one time, the business included nine stores in the state. The stores faced a number of challenges in the 1990s, and the last Intimate Bookshop closed in Chapel Hill in 1999, after which the Kurals opened Past Perfect Antiques and Memorabilia in Pittsboro, as reported by The News & Observer. After closing his last bookstore, Kuralt was engaged in antitrust litigation against the major chain bookstores.

Martha Beals (MSLS ’80) died on March 4, 2004. She worked as a reference librarian at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., Danville Public Library in Virginia, and Averett University in Danville, Va., before retiring in 1999.

CORRECTION

The fall 2003/winter 2004 SILS newsletter mistakenly identified a man photographed on page 15 feature story about a student trip to Washington, D.C. The picture in the lower left corner is Dan Onstad giving a tour of the broadcast library at National Public Radio (NPR). We extend our appreciation to individuals like Onstad who gave tours to students.
Send us your news!

Honors? New job?  New baby?  New address?

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PLEASE RETURN TO:
Newsletter Editor
Sch. of Info. & Library Sci.
UNC-Chapel Hill
PO Box 3360, 100 Manning Hall
Chapel Hill, NC  27599-3360
FAX: 919/962-8071
E-mail: news@ils.unc.edu

The School of Information and Library Science
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CB# 3360, 100 Manning Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3360