Wilson leaves $374,077.89 estate gift to school

SILS’ Largest Endowed Gift to Establish Distinguished Professorship

In his lifetime, Dr. Louis Round Wilson contributed his time, energy, funds and extraordinary vision to the development of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Among his many accomplishments, Wilson is credited with creating UNC’s outstanding research collection for the campus libraries. In 1931 he founded the first university-based accredited school in the south that educated librarians—what is now the School of Information and Library Science (SILS).

While his past contributions have been impressive, Dr. Wilson was not finished giving. During a special ceremony in his honor on March 17, Wilson’s influence and generosity was once again demonstrated with a gift from his estate. The gift of $374,077.89 was presented by Dean Edmonds III, Wilson’s grandson, to Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, dean of SILS. Edmonds, accompanied by his brother, Louis Round Wilson Edmonds, and his daughter, Mary Ashleigh Edmonds, said the family determined that a gift to the School would provide the most benefit for current and future generations.

“Dr. Wilson started the school, he worked his whole life here,” said Edmonds. “We found it very fitting that in his passing and with his family line coming to an end, that he is still not finished giving to the school.”

The gift is the largest single endowment gift in the school’s history. It is intended to establish the Louis Round Wilson Distinguished Professorship in Information and Library Science, which will provide support for new and existing faculty.

“The school plans to continue to memorialize Dr. Wilson’s legacy by using the gift to apply for matching funds awarded through the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund,” said Griffiths. “It will allow us to establish SILS’ first endowed distinguished professorship.” With the program’s matching funds, the professorship will be endowed at $500,000.

Griffiths said she believes a great university is built around great faculty. “This gift will assist us in recruiting and retaining excellent professors for our programs. We are very grateful,” she said.

Presentation of the gift came after a moving tribute to Wilson by Dr. Robert Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Martin, who completed his dissertation on Wilson while a doctoral student at SILS, described the world view and beliefs of Dr. Wilson. He talked of Wilson’s spiritual and educational background that led to what he termed, “the Gospel of Education.”

Martin also described his own transformation, which he experienced after researching and writing his 800 page dissertation about Wilson. “The transformation that I experienced in my perceptions and views is attributable directly to what I learned from Louis Round Wilson. And it has had a direct impact on my own career, and on the programs that I now direct,” said Martin. “I look at opportunities to implement some of the ideas embodied in Wilson’s notion of the Gospel of Education. That is, to support the enhanced recognition of the social role of libraries of all kinds to support learning.”

To demonstrate appreciation to both Dean

Dr. Louis Round Wilson

Dr. Louis Round Wilson’s great granddaughter, Mary Ashleigh Edmonds, and grandson Dean Edmonds III share thoughts with Stephen Allred, UNC executive associate provost, and Dr. Robert Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Dean’s Message

Since my arrival to the School of Information and Library Science last August, there has been a whirlwind of activity. During the past several months, I’ve had an opportunity to witness great successes involving our faculty, alumni and students. I’ve also had a chance to ponder how we, as the number one school of information and library science in the nation, will need to function in the future.

To continue to succeed in this ever-changing world, we need to re-introduce ourselves as indispensable allies for users of knowledge in the global information age. We will need to position both our profession and our discipline, and I see us doing that at SILS in a number of ways.

Creating a role... We will need to create a critical role for SILS graduates to play in a rapidly evolving world of digital knowledge and globalization.

Re-affirming & re-shaping... Continuing the legacy of history and tradition SILS now enjoys depends on the School’s ability to both re-affirm its historical mission and re-shape the role of information professionals in the 21st century.

Creating the cornerstone of confidence... 21st century information professionals must be the cornerstone of confidence for information in all sectors. From historic archives to current accounts of global activity, citizens of all ages and in all walks of life need and will soon demand a trusted source that validates, assists, organizes and helps balance information of all kinds.

Positioning the profession... In an information era when security, order, integrity and accessibility become critical hallmarks, this ‘source,’ or The New Librarian, shall occupy a respected and highly valued position in every institution, enterprise and organization to ensure that plans drafted, initiatives embarked upon, experiments undertaken and strategies shaped are based upon credible, comprehensive data that is relevant and reliable.

Promoting and educating... While reshaping the role of The New Librarian, SILS must promote not only its mission, but also its competence, by educating external constituencies about the roles and impacts of the Information and Library Science profession and the value those professionals create.

Developing collaborations... We must develop networks and partnerships that create opportunities for collaboration between SILS and other academic disciplines, and between leading individuals, businesses and organizations.

We are already making progress towards this re-positioning. For example, we have recently begun a comprehensive curriculum review to address the changes we foresee in information and library science. We are initiating new collaborations that are expected to expand our networks and create new opportunities. And we are strategically looking at methods that will help us to be the school that defines and shapes the “cutting edge” of education, research and service in our field.

It is an exciting time for all of us. Our opportunities are growing, and with your ongoing support, it can only get better!

Sincerely,
José-Marie Griffiths
Professor and Dean

CORRECTION

Dorothy Hurley Osborn made a gift to the School of Information and Library Science. She should have been included in the Supporters section of the 2003-2004 Honor Roll of donors in the last issue of the newsletter. We are grateful for her support and we regret the omission.
A visit from the SILS Board of Visitors

New and current members of the School of Information and Library Science Board of Visitors and the SILS Carolina First Campaign Committee came together for the 2005 spring meeting on March 17 and 18.

Members of the groups attended the afternoon event on March 17 that featured guest speaker Dr. Robert Martin (Ph.D. ’87), the director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Those attending also witnessed the presentation of SILS’ largest endowment gift to date from the estate of founder Louis Round Wilson (see page 1).

The full-day meeting on March 18 included an overview of SILS by Dean José-Marie Griffiths, who described current programs, the university’s priorities and the school’s efforts to meet them, her vision for the school and changes to the Board of Visitors.

In addition to expanding the Board’s membership, changes include a more structured board with a chair and vice-chair, bi-annual meetings, staggered terms of office and an invitation to become more closely involved.

During the meeting, the Board and the Campaign Committee were treated to short presentations highlighting some SILS projects by faculty members David Carr, Jane Greenberg, Barbara Moran, Gary Marchionini and Helen Tibbo. Claude Snow, co-chair of the Campaign Committee, provided an update of the current progress of the campaign.

Sarah Snow, newly appointed chair of the Board, facilitated afternoon breakout sessions that focused on the topics of strategic development, fundraising, research and curriculum and alumni.

A debriefing with the entire group presented new and exciting ideas that were documented and later shared electronically with those present as well as those unable to attend.

The purpose of the Board of Visitors is to serve as trusted advisors on educational, research and service programs for the school. The Board assists SILS in enhancing the perception of the school, encouraging the highest quality education, evaluating the school’s progress and participating in strategic planning and fundraising activities.

The next meeting of the Board will take place October 16 and 17, 2005.

To learn more about the Board of Visitors and the Carolina First Campaign Committee, visit the Web site at: http://sils.unc.edu/people/committees.html

Rare ‘Dali Alice’ a treasure

Wearing white cloth gloves, Dr. Brian Sturm looks like a magician as he carefully opens the original packaging that holds his most treasured book. It lies in a silk-lined case, and the pages of the book are unbound folios on specially-made rag paper that measure 11.5 inches by 17 inches. The limited edition, signed copy is worth about $4,000 now. It is “The Dali Alice.”

In November of 1969, Maecenas Press printed 2,500 copies of Lewis Carroll’s children’s story Alice in Wonderland with illustrations by Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dali. Dali, one of the 20th century’s foremost artists, is best known for his 1931 painting titled “The Persistence of Memory,” which shows clocks melting.

“He’s an artist of immense renown,” said Sturm, an associate professor at the School of Information and Library Science. “Most people who buy Alice in Wonderland buy it for the story, but in this edition, people collect it for the illustrations.”

The book contains 13 illustrations, one for each of the 12 chapters and the title page. Dali used a variety of colors and blown ink, which gives the images a sense of movement and a fractured quality. Dali includes his conception of Alice on each illustration, and although her location on every page is different, she is always skipping rope and casting a long shadow behind her. Dali’s splatter technique mirrors the dreamlike quality of the story and is uncommon in Dali’s other works.

“The images he used contribute to the otherworldly feeling of the text,” Sturm said. “Pairing Dali’s surreal images with Carroll’s extremely fantastic text creates an ensemble that evokes feelings reminiscent of nightmares in the reader; how apropos for this particular novel.”

Sturm received the book a year ago as a gift from former SILS professor Mary Kingsbury, who taught youth services and children’s literature. She acquired one of only 15 copies that publisher Random House had rationed to Portland, Ore.

“She’s a fascinating woman,” Sturm said. “She’s very earthy and seems to be a woman who knows her mind and isn’t afraid to speak it. She’s a delight, and I am immensely grateful to her for this treasured gift.”
ibiblio, Open Video Digital Library Projects finalists for Computerworld Honors Program

ibiblio and The Open Video Digital Library have been named finalists for the coveted 21st Century Achievement Award from the Computerworld Honors Program for their visionary use of information technology. ibiblio was honored in the Education and Academia category and Open Video in the Media, Arts and Entertainment category.

The two projects from the School of Information and Library Science are among 162 laureates selected by the program’s Chairmen’s Committee from more than 250 nominations to submit a case study to the Computerworld Honors Collection. Of these 162 laureates, ibiblio and Open Video were two of 48 finalists, in ten categories, chosen by an academy of 30 distinguished judges.

“This year’s finalists truly demonstrate how technology can significantly impact industries throughout the country,” said Dan Morrow, a founding director for the Computerworld Honors Program. “The accomplishments they have achieved through the use of technology are outstanding historical contributions to the information technology revolution in every sense of the word.”

Paul Jones, director of ibiblio, and Gary Marchionini and Barbara Wildeynuth, co-principle investigators of the Open Video Digital Library, attended an awards gala at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. on June 6 where they received engraved glass recognition awards, certificates and commemorative medals for being named Computerworld Honors Finalists.

“I am delighted that ibiblio was nominated and is now a finalist,” Jones said. “I started my career in technology reading Computerworld, so it’s a special delight to have ibiblio selected for this honor. Over the past decade, a variety of folks have worked on ibiblio. This honor is for all of them.”

Dr. Gary Marchionini also expressed his pleasure about being named a finalist. “It is an honor for all the talented students and staff who are a part of Open Video to be recognized in this way,” he said.

IBM Chief Executive Officer Sam Palmisano nominated ibiblio, and Michael Dell, founder of Dell, nominated Open Video in recognition of the projects’ contributions to the global information technology revolution and their positive impact on society.

Governed by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation, a Massachusetts not-for-profit corporation founded by International Data Group (IDG) in 1988, the Computerworld Honors Program searches for and recognizes individuals and organizations who have demonstrated vision and leadership as they strive to use information technology in innovative ways across ten categories: Business and Related Services; Education and Academia; Environment, Energy and Agriculture; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate; Government and Non-Profit Organizations; Manufacturing; Media, Arts and Entertainment; Medicine; Science; and Transportation. Each year, the Computerworld Honors Chairmen’s Committee nominates organizations that are using information technology to improve society for inclusion in the Computerworld Honors Online Archive and the Collections of the Global Archives. The Global Archives represents the 100-plus institutions from more than 30 countries that include the Computerworld Honors Collection in their archives and libraries.

Case studies from the 2005 Computerworld Honors Collection are available at www.cwheroes.org, where the entire collection is available to scholars, researchers and the general public worldwide. It serves as primary source material for scholars and as a resource for individuals who hope to use information technology to create solutions to address their own challenges.


School Life

SILS open house welcomes prospective students

The school hosted an open house March 5 for about 100 prospective students. Panelists Winifred Metz (MSLS ’00), media resources librarian at the Undergraduate Library; Chris Brannon (MSIS ’00) project manager at Cisco; Rebecca Wynne Rhodes (MSLS ’02), Grant Source librarian; Laura Christopherson, MSIS student; and Gene R. Springs, MSLS student, respond to questions from visitors.

PHOTO BY WANDA MONROE
A lending library for Homestart

What began as a fall project for SILS students Cindy McCracken, Meg McGinn, Shauna Griffin and Kristen Boekelheide resulted in a community gift that will keep on giving.

The students, all members of the student chapter of the Special Libraries Association, began discussing a project to create a lending library for Homestart, a homeless shelter in Orange County, early in the term with their advisor, Rebecca Vargha, SILS librarian. With few funds to purchase books and supplies, the first step was to write a proposal for one of the Seagraves Service Grants offered by UNC’s Carolina Center for Public Service. The group was one of 11 student organizations on campus to receive a Seagraves grant. The $300 grant was matched with funds from an anonymous donor, and SILS faculty, staff, students and others from across campus donated cash and books. The students successfully negotiated a discount with Borders Books, leveraging their limited funds.

The result of their efforts? Instead of the 40 books initially planned, Homestart received nearly 250 books for its library.

Before the students could unpack the boxes and load the cart on April 19, the children of Homestart were enthusiastically gathering to see the new books. “We didn’t really know what to expect, so it was overwhelming to see so many children clamoring for books, asking how they could check them out, and sitting together to read,” said McCracken. “I don’t know that I’ve ever seen so many kids so excited about reading.”

The books ranged from early readers to books for teens and adults. Children of all ages and their mothers eagerly selected books from the new library.

“The families of Homestart are very excited to have their own special new library of fun and engaging books,” said Laurie Williamson, manager of Homestart. “The library holds a broad range of interesting books and audiotapes for varying age groups and offers a wonderful outlet of discovery and learning for children and youth. These books are also a source of connection for children to interact with one another, with their mothers and with community volunteers.”

SILS students worked with the Orange County Literacy Council, which offers workshops at the shelter to promote reading. They also trained shelter staff and residents on how to determine future purchases and how to keep the books organized.

“We are proud and grateful to be recipients of such a well-intentioned and well-organized project for families who do not always have the means to purchase or access new books,” said Williamson. “Many thanks to Meg McGinn, Cindy McCracken and the whole student team for their hard work in making this library possible for Homestart!”

LAUNC-CH conference focuses on LIS education

Professors, students and practitioners of library science came together to discuss how to keep library education current and relevant in a continuously changing world at the annual conference of the Librarians’ Association at UNC at Chapel Hill. The event was held March 14 at the William & Ida Friday Center and focused on “Education and Practice: The Future of the Library Profession.” About 122 people attended the conference.

Dean José-Marie Griffiths gave the keynote address titled “Out of the Stacks and Into the Jungle: The Future of Knowledge Professionals.”

With the Web and an anticipated reduction of librarians in the future, there is interest in how the profession could change. Griffiths observed that knowledge professionals should understand users and the information they need.

“Knowledge managers will evolve out of traditional roles into new roles with new challenges,” Griffiths said. “They will assume roles as interpreters; knowledge prospectors; knowledge navigators and expedition guides; and collaborators.”

Professor Evelyn Daniel served as a moderator of a session on international library education. Two SILS doctoral students represented their native countries—Xin Robert Fu and Cristina Pattuelli—talked about LIS education as it is taught in China and Italy, respectively.

Pattuelli said she enjoyed participating in the conference and sharing her experience. “I spoke in particular about reforms in European higher education in the last 30 years and answered questions about how library science education has managed to accommodate the growing technological emphasis in what has traditionally been a humanities-based degree,” she said.

At the end of the conference, assistant professor Brian Sturm participated in a panel discussion of educators and practitioners about library and information science curricula and professional practice.

Rebecca Vargha, vice president of LAUNC-CH and SILS librarian, served on the conference planning committee. “The well-attended conference on the future of the library profession was a wonderful opportunity for shareholders from diverse backgrounds to discuss the collaboration of graduate education and practice,” she said. “The excellent presentations and resulting conversations were lively and thought-provoking.”
Libraries return on investment study

Researchers find return of $6.54 for every $1 invested in Florida’s public libraries

Thomas Jefferson once said “information is the currency of democracy.” But in these tight economic times, what is the best way to get that currency to the people?

A comprehensive new study released by the Florida Department of State, State Library and Archives of Florida shows that public libraries are not only cost effective in providing access to information, they also reap an impressive return on investment and create significant economic impacts for their communities in terms of business and job creation, gross regional product and wages.

A team of researchers led by Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, dean of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, found that a return of $6.54 was seen for every $1 invested in Florida’s public libraries. The study looked at the relationship between taxpayer dollars invested in libraries and the benefits from the use or the existence of public libraries in the state.

“The results show that the public libraries in Florida have a tremendous economic impact on the state and benefit all taxpayers through considerable contributions to education, the economy, tourism, retirement and quality of life,” said Griffiths.

The return on public library investment was determined by contingent valuation—an economic method of evaluation for non-priced goods and services such as those provided by public libraries. Researchers looked at the implications of not having public libraries. They determined the added costs to use alternative sources of information, should people choose to do so, and the portion of economic contribution public libraries make to their communities that would be lost as well as the loss of benefits to the users. The added cost to use alternatives to public libraries is estimated to be $2.33 billion.

In addition to increased costs to use alternatives if there were no public libraries, employees of the libraries would not receive compensation and unemployment costs would increase. If library staff were no longer employed, they would pay lower taxes, spend less in the community and cause further detrimental effects on community and state businesses. The total lost compensation for library staff is calculated at $241 million.

In-state expenditures by libraries for books, periodicals, electronic equipment and resources, etc., as well as capital projects would not be made if libraries did not exist. Revenues to businesses would be reduced as would their employment. The lost community economic benefits include elimination of library spending and “halo” spending with non-library businesses such as restaurants, coffee shops, contractors and other vendors. These lost community benefits total $447 million.

If public libraries did not exist, some users would not seek alternative sources for information and materials. These direct economic benefits to users would result in lost use benefits of $155 million.

The revenue invested in Florida’s public libraries total $449 million annually from local, state and federal funding as well as from grants and cooperative support. The study found that, based on the existence of public libraries, the economic return on this investment is $2.9 billion.

The economic effect public libraries have on other sectors over time was also analyzed. Research showed that for every $6,448 spent on the libraries from public funding sources, one job is created. For every $1 spent on public libraries, Gross Regional Product increases by $9.08, and for every $1 of public support spent on libraries, state income increases by $12.66.

Other data collected showed that users frequent library resources for their business needs at a rate of 6.2 million uses each year. Florida’s public libraries contribute $2.1 billion annually to the workplace.

For example, in addition to borrowing books and materials instead of purchasing them, businesses use libraries for free access to technology training and one-on-one assistance; free meeting room space; free access to licensed databases and electronic publications that could cost thousands for individual company purchases; and free access to computers and the Internet—important to company researchers and job seekers. Businesses also receive money from the libraries’ contracts for goods and services within and outside of the state, and local businesses see an increase in business from people visiting libraries.

Businesses, not-for-profit, for-profit and government organizations also use the public libraries. The report states that they access over “8,700 documents and a wide range of services annually on behalf of their organizations. In all, 67 percent of business libraries and 71 percent of government and non-profit libraries in Florida take advantage of the state’s public library resources and services.”

The public libraries have an impact on education in the state. University, college and school librarians use library resources on behalf of their users. They access more than 208,000 documents and library services each year. Adults in roles of teachers and students access public library resources 18.4 million times annually.

Florida’s public libraries contribute to a wide variety of personal and family-related information needs. More than 16 million uses
surveys coming for study on the future of librarians

Researchers conducting a national study on the future of librarians and other information professionals in the workforce will be collecting data by creating and sending out surveys to libraries, information industry employers, library and information science professionals and other library personnel, and graduate schools offering library and information science education.

The study commissioned by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will identify the nature of anticipated labor shortages in the LIS field over the next decade; assess the number and types of LIS jobs that will become available in the U.S. either through retirement or new job creation; determine the skills that will be required to fill such vacancies; assess the current and potential capacity and capability of graduate schools to meet the future demand for LIS professionals; develop effective approaches to recruiting, educating and retaining workers to fill these positions; update information about other information professionals performing functions similar to those performed or projected to be performed by LIS professionals; review the importance and value of libraries; and develop recommendations for an ongoing data collection and workforce monitoring approach.

The study will also survey organizations to determine the number of people who perform work similar to that of librarians and information professionals, including librarians and other information professionals; develop effective approaches to recruiting, educating and retaining workers to fill these positions; update information about other information professionals performing functions similar to those performed or projected to be performed by LIS professionals; and determine the skills that will be required to fill such vacancies; assess the current and potential capacity and capability of graduate schools to meet the future demand for LIS professionals; develop effective approaches to recruiting, educating and retaining workers to fill these positions; update information about other information professionals performing functions similar to those performed or projected to be performed by LIS professionals; and develop recommendations for an ongoing data collection and workforce monitoring approach.
Vargha chosen to lead SLA

Rebecca Vargha, librarian at the School of Information and Library Science, has been elected to serve as president-elect of the Special Libraries Association (SLA). She is the first person from the state of North Carolina to be chosen for this position.

Vargha was installed on the SLA Board of Directors at the association’s 96th annual conference June 5-8 in Toronto. She will serve as president of the 12,000-member international professional organization beginning June 2006.

“It is truly an honor to serve the organization in the leadership role of president-elect,” she said.

Vargha’s focus for her presidential year will be increasing membership, and she has set a goal of recruiting 1,000 new members over the next three years.

“It is the people who make this organization powerful,” she said. “In terms of professional development opportunities, SLA is poised as the learning organization creating valuable professional development opportunities for members and making a difference in our daily lives.”

Since 1980, Vargha has been actively involved at all levels of the association. She served as president of the North Carolina chapter, and chair of the Museums, Arts and Humanities Division for SLA. Additionally, she serves as the faculty advisor for the SLA student group at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and as the chair of SLA’s Student and Academic Relations Committee. In 1994, she won the North Carolina SLA Meritorious Achievement Award for making outstanding contributions to the profession and chapter.

Vargha’s other professional activities and contributions include serving as president-elect of the Librarians’ Association at UNC. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English from UNC and a master’s degree in library science from North Carolina Central University. She is a member of Beta Phi Mu, the international information and library science honor society.

Kilgour receives TopCAT award

Frederick G. Kilgour, the inventor of the WorldCat database and founder of the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, has received the Columbus Technology Council’s “Top Contributors to the Advancement of Technology” (TopCAT) Hall of Fame Award.

Kilgour, a distinguished research professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science, was inducted into the Hall of Fame Jan. 20.

“We are privileged to have such an innovative, world-class expert associated with the School of Information and Library Science,” said Dean José-Marie Griffiths. “Fred’s contributions to the fields of information science and librarianship are phenomenal. He continues to share his vision through his research and writing.”

Kilgour invented the WorldCat database in 1971, which is one of the most consulted databases in higher education and is used daily by students, teachers, scholars and researchers worldwide. By creating WorldCat, he solved a problem that threatened to stifle scholarship, research and intellectual productivity—the rising costs of cataloging the ever-expanding body of information. He developed the concept of online shared cataloging, which made it unnecessary for more than one library to originally catalog an item. It reduces library costs and improves the availability of library resources. Today, Web search engines use WorldCat to lead researchers to pertinent information in libraries.

In 1967, Kilgour founded the Ohio College Library Center, later renamed OCLC Online Computer Library Center, a non-profit organization that works to foster access to information and reduce library costs. He served as OCLC’s first president and oversaw the organization’s growth from a regional computer system to an international network.

Jay Jordan, OCLC president and chief executive officer, nominated Kilgour because he has made significant contributions to the advancement of technology, created jobs in central Ohio, and drawn attention to the region as an important center for technology.

SILS hosts SIGIR 2005 program committee

Leading information retrieval researchers from academic institutions around the globe and corporate labs, including IBM, Microsoft and Google, met April 1-2 at the School of Information and Library Science to discuss the latest research in the field. About 300 research papers and 100 posters were submitted by more than 800 authors from 50 countries.

The school hosted the program committee of the 2005 Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (SIGIR) Conference, sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

SILS faculty, staff and students were involved with the meeting. Drs. Catherine Blake, Stephanie Haas and Robert Losee reviewed papers for the conference; Dr. Diane Kelly was chair for the poster committee; and Dr. Gary Marchionini was chair for the papers committee. Lara Bailey provided logistical support and Scott Adams provided technical support for wireless networking in the meeting room. Jon Elsas, a master’s student, managed the conference manuscript submission and review system.

Marchionini said the facilities in Manning Hall worked well. “Overall, SILS lived up to its international reputation in hosting this meeting and serving as a sponsor for the conference.”

The 28th Annual International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval will be held August 15-19, 2005, in Salvador, Brazil. SIGIR is the major international forum for the presentation of new research results and the demonstration of new systems and techniques in the broad field of information retrieval.
Dr. Gary Marchionini gave the University of Toronto Computer Science Department Distinguished Lecture on Sept. 30 titled “Human-Computer Information Retrieval: Finding and Understanding What We Need.”

Dr. Joanne Gard Marshall co-authored two articles about the NC Health Information Online Project that were published in the *Journal of Consumer Health* (Vol. 8, Issue 4).

Cheryl A. Lytle, assistant director for Information Technology, earned the GIAC Security Essentials Certification (GSEC) from The SANS (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security) Institute. As part of the certification process, she published a paper titled “Acceptable Security on Public Access Computer Workstations in Public University Libraries.” In March, Lytle took another SANS GIAC security course called “Intrusion Detection In-Depth” to defend against hacking.

Dr. Diane Kelly was appointed to serve on the editorial board of *Information Processing and Management*, an international journal for professionals interested in information retrieval. In November 2004, she attended the Thirteenth Annual Text Retrieval Conference (TREC). She led a research group from SILS (Robert Fu, doctoral student, and Vijay Deepak Dollu, master’s student) on a TREC project that explored a document-independent technique for eliciting feedback from users about their information problems. Kelly will continue to lead a TREC group this year. In January, she attended a workshop on Personal Information Management (PIM) at the University of Washington and led a discussion on Measurement and Evaluation. Kelly also co-led a discussion group on Searching, Finding, Filtering, and Auto-Classification and presented a poster titled “Contextual Personalization of Support for Information Seeking.”

Dr. David Carr gave keynote speeches to organizations across the country last year, including the Museum Association of New York; the National Art Education Association conference in Denver; Louisiana State University; and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums in Philadelphia. Carr spoke in Franklin, Asheville and Boone for Friends of Mountain History. He spoke at Arizona State University in March and the Florida Library Association in April. David also spoke at the Iowa Library Association and in West Virginia, where he spoke at the Iowa Library Association and in West Virginia, where his book, *The Promise of Cultural Institutions*, will be shared with museum directors in the state. Carr was appointed to the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences Advisory Committee through August 2006 by Gov. Mike Easley. He also has been appointed to the North Carolina Center for the Book Advisory Committee.

Dr. Jeffrey Pomerantz and Ph.D. student Lili Luo have finished an 18-month evaluation of NCKnows, the new statewide chat-based virtual reference service in North Carolina. He was on the planning committee for the recent Convocation on Scholarly Communications in a Digital World: http://www.unc.edu/scholcomdig/ He also had a paper accepted to the Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) conference in Croatia in May.

Dr. Brad Hemminger edited a special issue of the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* on bioinformatics (Vol. 56, No. 5). He had a research piece in the issue surveying bioinformatics programs in the U.S., co-authored with SILS alumnae Trish Losi and Anne Bauers. Hemminger also co-authored an article titled “Capturing Content for Virtual Museums: from Pieces to Exhibits” in the *Journal of Digital Information*, Vol. 6, Issue 1.

Dr. Deborah Barreau, as a member of the GovStat team, participated in the Help Symposium that Dr. Stephanie Haas organized at UNC from January 21-22, 2005. Her article, “Integration of Information Professionals in the Newsroom: Two Organizational Models for Research Services,” will be published in *Library & Information Science Research* later this year.

Dr. Jane Greenberg and husband Barnes Bierck welcomed their second son, Robert Harold Bierck, on March 31, 2005. He was 6 pounds, 7.25 ounces and 19 inches long.

Dr. Brian Sturm received the Aesop Prize for the best children’s folklore title from the American Folklore Society, Children’s Folklore Section. He gave storytelling performances for the United Church of Chapel Hill’s annual family retreat in January. In February, Sturm gave presentations on storytelling to the Asheville Center for Creative Retirement and Wake County Staff Development Workshop. In March, he presented at the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and at the Librarians’ Association conference at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dr. Claudia Gollop conducted a session titled “Who Are You Calling Old?: Health Issues Across the Baby Boom Generation” at the 14th annual LHAS Current Controversies in Medical Ethics conference at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine.
Class gift—honors to Ed Holley

In a vote for the first class gift, students at the School of Information and Library Science voted to pay tribute to Ed Holley by endowing the Edward G. Holley Student Research Fund. There is also an effort underway to encourage the American Libraries Association (ALA) to honor him by endowing a fund for a lectureship award.

Holley, dean of the School of Library Science from 1972 to 1985 and William R. Kenan Jr., distinguished professor, made significant contributions to both the school and the field of information and library science. During his tenure as dean, Holley implemented the doctoral program and the internship program with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Libraries in Research Triangle Park. The EPA and NIEHS Libraries just celebrated the 30th anniversary of the contract with the school. Holley also provided the leadership for the master’s program to grow from 36 to 48 credit hours in a time of decreasing resources. Today, SILS remains one of the most academically rigorous programs among its peers.

Holley specialized in the history of the book and academic librarianship. He served as president of ALA from 1974-75, and he is an Honorary Member of the Special Libraries Association. He was awarded lifetime status in 1992. In addition, he has received many library science awards, including the 1998 Association of Library and Information Science Educators (ALISE) Award for Professional Contributions to Library and Information Science Education.

The research fund chosen for the Class of 2005 Gift was established in the mid 1990s to provide student awards for expenses incurred for research. By endowing the fund, awards will continue to be available to eligible students. The students and the school face the challenge of raising nearly $6,600 in order to endow the fund at the minimum level of $20,000.

“We are hoping to help the students exceed their goal through gifts from alumni and friends of the school,” said Shawn Jackson, director of development.

In her commitment to this effort, Dean José-Marie Griffiths pledged the school would contribute up to $2,500 to assist in the success of endowing the fund.

“I am very pleased that the students chose to endow the Holley Student Research Fund,” Griffiths said. “Their vote demonstrates foresight and maturity in seeing the benefit of this endowment and shows an impressive commitment to academic pursuits for our future students.”

To demonstrate her support, Joanne Gard Marshall, dean emeritus and SILS professor, has also offered her annual gift of $1,800 to this fund.

In addition, Davenport “Dav” Robertson (MLS ’75), NIEHS library director, has issued a challenge to help raise the funds. He has graciously agreed to match all contributions up to $1,000 from SILS alumni who were students while Dr. Holley served as dean.

“Dean Ed Holley was the individual who most influenced my career as a librarian,” Robertson said. “His presidency of ALA inspired me to take a leadership role in library associations. He was a true scholar and an advocate of a strong research base, so it is fitting that the student research fund is named in his honor. It is my hope that this challenge will encourage fellow alumni to join me in showing gratitude to Dr. Holley by helping to endow the Edward G. Holley Student Research Fund.”

Students held a class gift kickoff party that raised $530 from students, faculty, staff and friends. There is still time to participate in the SILS Class of 2005 Gift. Your tax-deductible gift may be included in the enclosed return envelope by choosing this fund or can be made online at http://carolinafirst.unc.edu/gift/. Please select the School of Information and Library Science as your designation and type the Ed Holley Student Research Fund in the instructions section.

In addition to the school’s efforts to honor Holley, the ALA Library History Round Table’s (LHRT) Lectureship Award was established by an endowment fund to fund a lecture each year to honor Holley. Barry W. Seaver (Ph.D. ’97), who was mentored by Dr. Holley, is leading the effort to fund this endowment. Seaver notes that this year marks the 30th anniversary of Dr. Holley’s ALA presidency.

“This $15,000 endowment to create the Holley Lecture is a fitting tribute to him for inspiring so many with his knowledge and understanding of library history, his kindness and grace, as well as his open-mindedness,” Seaver said.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made by check to ALA designating “LHRT Lectureship Award Endowment.” Checks should be mailed to: ALA Development Office, 50 East Huron, Chicago, IL 60611. Contributions can also be made by credit card by calling ALA at (800) 545-2433, x3259; or online at https://cs.ala.org/onlinegift/. ALA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

Executive Board established an endowment to fund a lectureship award. In January 1996, it was recommended that the lecture be named in honor of Holley.

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**Development Message**

By Shawn Jackson, Development Director

Dr. Edward G. Holley mentored and inspired many students while he taught and served as dean in the School of Library Science. This photo, taken November 11, 1983, shows Holley in his office.
Alumni give $25,000 gift to launch Metadata Research Center

The School of Information and Library Science has received a $25,000 gift from Sarah and Claude Snow to establish the Metadata Research Center (MRC). The gift will help continue current research activities and fund the official launch of the center, set for spring 2006.

“I am very excited about the Snows’ gift,” said Dr. Jane Greenberg, associate professor and MRC director. “Metadata is fundamental to all aspects of information and library science. It is a key component of just about anything dealing with the flow and use of information. The Snows share an enthusiasm with me about metadata and are strong advocates of our school.”

Metadata is descriptive information about an information resource. Familiar examples include “author,” “title,” “subject” and “date of publication” for a document. Metadata can vastly improve search results by adding value to Web pages and information, automatic or manual; and how to build effective metadata generation tools.

Current research activities at the center are: the Automatic Metadata Generation Applications (AMeGA) Project; the Metadata Generation Research (MGR) Project; Scalable, Human-Centered Search: Improving Information Retrieval Using Author-Generated Metadata Project; and Project OpenKey.

MRC is seeking support for the following activities: a Metadata Research Workshop for scholars; a Metadata Research Institute for the academic and corporate sector; a Scholars’ Program to host an international metadata scholar yearly; a Doctoral Student Fellows Program; and a Student Internship Program. The center will put SILS at the forefront of research on the organization, dissemination and access of digital information and create a stronger link to national and international metadata efforts.

The Snows are co-chairpersons of the SILS Carolina First Campaign Committee, which provides assistance, strategic advice and feedback on the school’s fundraising campaign. Sarah Snow graduated from SILS in 2004 with a master’s in information science and has remained an active alumna by also serving as chair on the SILS Board of Visitors, a group that serves as trusted advisers on education, research and service programs for the school. Claude Snow is the global vice president of the health care industry at Electronic Data Systems, headquartered in Plano, Texas. He received his bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s degree in speech from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The gift counts toward the University’s Carolina First Campaign goal of $1.8 billion. Carolina First is a comprehensive, multi-year, private fund-raising campaign to support Carolina’s vision of becoming the nation’s leading public university.

The Tuttle Scholarship Fund has been offered to students interested in serials librarianship since 1998 through the generosity of Swets Information Services (formerly Swets Blackwell). An endowment, which would ensure the award in the long term, requires a minimum foundation of $20,000. Serials Solutions Inc. launched the endowment effort with a $5,000 gift. SILS alumni contributed $1,425 to the fund through individual and company matching gifts. The SILS Alumni Association has matched all alumni contributions bringing the fundraising total to $7,800.

Please see http://ils.unc.edu/mrc for more information about the MRC. For more information about the center’s needs, please contact Shawn Jackson, director of development, at e-mail address shawn_jackson@unc.edu or mrc@ils.unc.edu or by calling (919)962-8365.
Students win national web design contest

A team of seven SILS undergraduate students won first prize in a national Web site design contest for a project they worked on in a human-computer interaction course taught by Dr. Gary Marchionini. The students involved were Anecia Allen, Jen O’Bryan, Brent Caison, Crystal Foxx, Terrance Hairston, Aaron Shah and William White.

Their design was for the Chapel Hill Housing Department, which does not have a Web site. Marchionini said the project began with a user needs assessment, involved the housing department while they developed the prototype and has already impacted the agency.

“As a result of this involvement, the department will actually add a Web presence using this design and has begun to think through several aspects of their overall workflow,” Marchionini said. “The students also met with the Web master for the town of Chapel Hill who will eventually host this site for the housing department. This meeting set up the potential for easy integration of the student site into the town’s site.”

The interface design, available at http://chh.obryanconsulting.com/, allows visitors to research information about public-housing neighborhoods and apply for housing assistance.

Team leader Caison said the biggest challenge was keeping the project moving forward and making sure the work was distributed evenly among all team members.

“This class project was a great real world training experience,” Caison said. “Winning the contest is sort of icing on the cake.”

The 2004 User Interface Design Contest asked students to create a Web site to help a campus, community, neighborhood, healthcare, philanthropic, museum or educational organization to gain real-world experience and make a difference in their community. Ben Shneiderman and Catherine Plaisant, authors of Designing the User Interface, judged all submissions based on effectiveness for the organization; appropriate information architecture; exemplary interface design; originality; and the degree to which the project is implemented and used. The contest was sponsored by Addison-Wesley, a publisher in the higher education market.

Circulating International Program offers global perspectives

The prospect of studying in Denmark held several different lures for Bert Purvis, a native of North Carolina. Purvis, who had never traveled outside of the state, saw the Circulating International Program (CIP) as one of his only opportunities to experience another culture for an extended period of time. As a double major in information science and English, he had a cultural and linguistic interest in Denmark, and he also felt that the experience would help him when applying for jobs and graduate school in the future.

“Studying abroad gives you a chance to strike out on your own, to experience the world from your own point of view,” Purvis said. “I think the most important thing any of us gained was a sense of place in the global community and a better understanding of both ourselves and of other cultures in general.”

CIP is a new program that allows undergraduate students majoring in information science to take a specialized course with international students. The School of Information and Library Science has joined with the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen and the Information Technology School of Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore to offer a program that will be held at a different partner school each year.

Last year’s program, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, brought together four SILS students, five students from across Europe and five students from Singapore. The students took five sequential two-week modules, each taught by a different faculty member. Dr. Barbara Wildemuth was asked to teach “Information Ethics” since she teaches it at SILS, and she accepted.

Wildemuth said teaching the course in Denmark was similar to teaching it in Chapel Hill because she taught the same set of issues and used the same approach by having the students argue about topics during class. But she noticed a difference in the cultures’ assumptions of what is right or wrong.

“Having more people with different upbringings and different ideas brings more diversity of ideas into the classroom,” Wildemuth said.

When the class debated privacy and government surveillance, the students came from opposite sides of the issue. In Singapore, there are cameras everywhere, and the students from there believe that the government effectively stops crime by watching people. Students from Hungary and the Czech Republic don’t want government surveillance because they saw how the government used it incorrectly against private citizens. The U.S. students were in the middle—surveillance has increased in this country, but losing civil rights has become an issue.

Wildemuth’s class also found differences when they talked about making ethical decisions. “Religious backgrounds play a major role. Some were not believers at all, while some were very involved in their faith. It was a typical spectrum,” she said.

Alana Carlton, a senior information science major, said she participated because she was interested in the theme of the courses. “The program created a culturally diverse program.
that provided a unique perception on emerging information science issues,” she said. “I would definitely recommend this program to all students!”

This fall, CIP will be offered in Chapel Hill, and five undergraduate students will be able to participate. The major project for the course is a paper on any of the modules the course covers, and students choose a professor to act as an adviser for the paper. In addition to the special CIP course, which will be taught by Dr. Evelyn Daniel, students will be able to take three or four other elective courses—everything from Tools for Information Literacy to International and Cross-Cultural Perspectives.

What’s Happening with SILS Students

Sarah Fass, a first-year library science student at the School of Information and Library Science, was awarded the 2005 Baker & Taylor award. The award covers housing, food and instruction at Oxford University from May 15-28.

Fass has been a graduate assistant in Wilson Library’s Rare Book Collection since June 2004. She is interested in working in special collections after she receives her library science degree. “I am very eager to explore special collections at other institutions,” Fass said. “Oxford will be a great place to start, especially since I’m a big Anglophile!”

She said the talks and tours that comprise the Oxford program cover many of her interests, including digitization, preservation, collection development, international perspectives on librarianship and library and publishing history.

“I have no doubt that participating in the program will be extremely helpful as I continue to refine my career objectives—as well as really fun!” Fass said.

Baker & Taylor is the leading worldwide distributor of books, video, music and games. It has funded the award every year since 1998.

“This award presents an outstanding opportunity for an individual to study at the prestigious Oxford University and learn more about library sciences abroad,” said George Coe, president of institutional markets at Baker & Taylor. “Exposure to cultural diversity will serve that individual well in their career, and Baker & Taylor is very happy to help provide that experience.”

Sarah Fass, recipient of the Baker & Taylor award.

The seminar, “Libraries and Librarianship: Past, Present and Future,” runs May 15-28 and is co-sponsored by SILS and Oxford’s continuing education department. This summer’s seminar will be led by faculty adviser Dr. Barbara Moran.

Recipient chosen for Oxford award

Seventeen students from the School of Information and Library Science visited Washington, D.C. during fall break on Oct. 14-16 to network with industry professionals and alumni. From left: Maureen Barry, Cindy Blue (MSIS ‘01), Lisa Chinn (MSLS ‘01) Rita Bhattacharyya, Elizabeth White, Anne LeBel and Sharon Jones of University Career Services at the alumni/student networking reception.

Students also toured the U.S. Department of State, DC Public Library, National Geographic Society, ABC News, Library of Congress, U.S. Senate Library, National Archives and NPR. The event was organized by the Information and Library Science Student Association and SILS Director of Development Shawn Jackson.

City Life

Students visit Copenhagen’s canals on one of their sightseeing excursions. From left, Singapore students Padmani Visayakumaran, Joanna Boon, Tabitha Isaac; UNC student Alana Carlton; Gabi Kovacs, from Germany; Peter Petrov, from Hungary; and Jiri Kaplicky, from the Czech Republic.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALANA CARLTON

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAWN JACKSON
Kristina Spurgin, doctoral student and Dr. Lokman Meho (Ph.D. ’01) won ALISE's Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition for their paper titled “Ranking the research productivity of LIS faculty and schools: An evaluation of data sources and research methods.” They will share the $2,500 honorarium.

Laura Knodel, MSLS student, won the Society of North Carolina Archivists’ Gene Williams Award in 2004. Her paper is titled “The Evolution of Archival Description at the Southern Historical Collection.”

Byron Sanders, BSIS student and member of the Tar Heel National Championship basketball team, was featured in South Mississippi’s Sun Herald on March 19 after the Tar Heels beat Oakland in the Syracuse regional 96-68.

Marisa Ramirez, MSLS student, has been elected to the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society for graduate and professional students in recognition of her leadership, scholarship and intellectual development; her contributions to SILS and the University and her ethical behavior.

Doctoral students John Mac-Mullen and Sheila Denn wrote an article on information problems in bioinformatics in a special issue of JASIST on bioinformatics (Vol. 56, No. 5).

Marie Kennedy, MSIS student, chaired a session on image retrieval for the annual conference of the Visual Resource Association (VRA). The session was titled “Fresh Work: New Ideas on the Old Problem of Image Retrieval.” Kennedy won a VRA travel award of $750 to cover her travel costs to Miami.

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L. Teresa Church, doctoral student, had an exhibit titled “Quilts & Poetry” on display Feb. 18 to March 13 at the Flaten Art Museum at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. Church uses quilting and poetry to record the fabric of lives lost and loved. She was part of the Africana Colloquium: Conversations about arts and objects in everyday life, and she also was the Arnold Flaten Memorial Lecture Series speaker on Feb. 24. Her most recent collection of poetry, Beyond the Water Dance, was published in 2002.

Doctoral student Meng Yang received the Thomson ISI/ASIST Doctoral Dissertation Proposal Scholarship at the American Society for Information Science and Technology’s annual meeting Nov. 12-17, 2004, in Providence, R.I.

BSIS students Christie McDaniel and Lori Woods successfully defended their honors theses and presented them at the Sixth Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research on April 29. McDaniel’s thesis was “The Effects of Stress on the Gender Gap in Information Technology.” Woods’ thesis was “Information Technology Use and Social Worker Job Satisfaction.”

Alison Raah, MSLS student, was awarded the Rovelstad Scholarship to attend the International Federation of Libraries Conference this summer in Oslo.

Lili Luo, doctoral student, and Dr. Jeffrey Pomerantz have finished an 18-month evaluation of NCknows, the new statewide collaborative, chat-based virtual reference service in North Carolina.

### August and December 2004 Graduates

**Doctor of Philosophy**

*August*

- Amy Susan Pattee

*December*

- Xiangming Mu

**Bachelor of Science in Information Science**

*August*

- Harold Alexander Bethune
- Tamelia Lynn Meekins

*December*

- Nathan Ivy Cox
- Christopher Chi-Ming Liang

**Master of Science in Library Science**

*August*

- Stephanie Bertin
- Marlan E. Brinkley, Jr.
- Mary Kristine Bryson
- Charles James Cobine
- Amy Harston Davis
- Jean Elizabeth Ferguson
- Kristin Michelle Fiore
- Pushpinder Kaur Gill
- Christian Derrick Higgins
- Susan Hastings Keeke
- William Christop Kline
- Sylvia Leigh Lambert
- William M. Lazorchak
- Jaime L. Margulotti
- Margaret Elizabeth Murray
- Amanda Cathryn Myers
- James J. Neilson
- Brian C. O’Connor
- Meredith Brooke Phillips
- Jennifer Louise Rinalducci
- Patricia Eva Schefcick
- Nicky Arch Sexton
- Amy Ruth Willis

**Master of Science in Information Science**

*August*

- Matthew Edward Carroll
- Marianne Kristin Gouge
- Miao Ni
- John Rufus Reuning
- David Hudson Roberts

*December*

- Erik Peter Banseben
- Jeffrey Bryan Bollinger
- Jeremy Todd Cooper
- David John Eckert
- Rachel Lynn Farrell
- Xiaohua Luan
- Sean M. Storey
- Jerry Matthew Spiller
Susan Tarr (MSLS ’74) was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the School of Information and Library Science Alumni Association at the school’s winter commencement ceremony Dec. 17, 2004.

Tarr recently retired after serving since 1994 as executive director of the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) at the Library of Congress. She worked to improve federal library and information services through interagency cooperation. In addition to her duties at FLICC, Tarr also directed the FEDLINK program, which helps federal libraries and information centers acquire resources and training.

“As Susan has accomplished a great deal in her professional career, which spanned three decades at the Library of Congress,” said Mary Horton, president of the Alumni Association. “We are immensely proud of her achievements and are pleased to honor her with the Distinguished Alumna Award because she represents what SILS alumni should strive toward.”

As commencement speaker, Tarr focused her speech on the future of librarianship, which she said has been wonderfully expanded through electronic information and Web communications. She looked back on her own college coursework experiences and compared them to the current technology.

“The future we were only glimpsing 30 years ago is here and advancing beyond anything we conceived of then,” Tarr said.

Tarr also spoke about the job market and addressed why she thinks librarians should still succeed despite workforce loss. “Employers will be looking for intuitive, innovative, people-focused problem solvers to provide what hardware and software cannot,” Tarr said. “In my experience, librarians would be the ideal candidates!”

Tarr plans to stay busy after retirement. In January, she began coursework toward a master’s in theological studies at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She is active in her church, serving as the secretary of the Board of Trustees at the Church of the Covenant in Arlington, Va., and singing in the church choir. She and her husband also plan on traveling to visit family. Their son is a graduate student at the University of Liverpool and their daughter lives in San Francisco.

Tarr received her bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from Westminster College in New Wilmington, Penn.; a master’s in political science from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.; and a master of science in library science from UNC at Chapel Hill. Tarr was inducted as a member of Beta Phi Mu, the international information and library science honor society. Last year, she won the Federal and Armed Forces Librarians Round Table Achievement Award from the American Library Association.

PHOTOS BY JACKIE ELLIOT

SILS celebrated the graduation of 54 students during the winter commencement. Congratulations to all of our graduates! Top right: MLS student Jessica Zellers receives the Elfreda A. Chatman Research Award from Amy Gresko, vice president/president-elect of the Alumni Association. Bottom right: Graduate students listen attentively during the ceremony.
Law librarian advocates electronic resources

Michael Lamott Mason applies coursework and field experience to career in librarianship

“Library space is shrinking,” proclaimed a promotional packet that arrived on Michael Lamott Mason’s desk. But he already knew that.

When Mason (MSLS ’87) was hired as a law librarian in 1999 at the mid-sized Chicago law firm Ungaretti & Harris LLP, his job was to cut unnecessary subscriptions from the library collection but make sure the firm’s attorneys and research staff still had easy access to information. The ad he had received was for CCH Internet Research NetWork’s Federal Securities Regulation Integrated Library, an electronic research tool that provides legal information and something that he had already helped bring to the firm. Imagine his surprise when he flipped to the next page and saw a glossy reprint of an article he had written about the benefits of migrating print collection titles to electronic format.

“I was in shock!” Mason said.

Early on, Mason had recognized the need to take advantage of online resources and decrease dependency on print resources.

“Our library was sandwiched between the offices of the two named partners Ungaretti and Harris, and it was overcrowded with heavily laden, double-faced rolling shelving units,” he said. “Yet we still didn’t have everything we needed in our print collection.”

Attorneys also used large, fee-based legal databases or visited the nearby Cook County law library, but these options often took too much time and money.

Mason is at the forefront of a movement to switch to online resources. By using specialty focused research tools, the firm has experienced many benefits. They save money; attorneys and research staff are able to increase productivity; documents are delivered faster; and there is less back-logged loose-leaf filing.

“Attorneys were very pleased because these tools were topic specific, allowing them to quickly find the information they were looking for; all current and all accessible from their desktops,” Mason said.

He sees less foot traffic in the library since the switch, but he offers more online and telephone training to help employees learn how to use the databases. Mason helps provide both formal scheduled training and informal impromptu training, such as during lunch hour gatherings or during office visits. He said the resources are becoming continuously easier to navigate and search.

“Recently I saw one of our upper-level partners leafing through a print reporter trying to find a citation,” he said. “Using the ‘Find by Citation’ feature in the online database, it took me just one minute from the time I took down the citation number until I was printing out the full text document for him.”

Mason credits his career successes in public, academic and private sector positions to a rigorous education at the School of Information and Library Science. When he first moved to Chapel Hill, he had been accepted into the graduate program but wasn’t sure how he was going to pay for it. He worked construction during the summer before an opportunity for an assistantship arose. For the next two years, he was a map curator in the Geological Sciences Library.

“I thought it was a good balance for my strong humanities background to work in a science environment and get to see a variety of research methods,” he said. “I learned things there that have come into play since. In the public sector, there were map questions that I could handle. In collection development, I knew which books were standard in geological studies.”

In addition to his assistantship, he also participated in a supervised field experience at Davis Library, working in the American literature collection.

Mason had a great deal of work experience, but the courses he took at SILS also helped him later in his professional career. He said “Abstracting and Indexing” was one of the most useful courses he ever took and it made him a better reference librarian and researcher. Taking “Library Buildings and Equipment” helped him with a public sector building project and moving the law firm’s library in the summer of 2003. Mason also had fond memories of a class with professor Ridley Kessler.

“He made taking ‘Government Documents’ at 8 o’clock in the morning fun,” he said.

But Mason isn’t finished with the learning process. Now, his job keeps him busy because he works with everybody — from the managing partner to part-time support staffers. “It’s busy from start to finish every day. If I don’t learn something new every day, I’m surprised.”

In February, he was invited to speak on a Westlaw-sponsored panel discussion about law firm economics and cost recovery. As the junior panelist, Mason spoke to about 30 people, most of whom were leaders of private law libraries around the Chicago area.

“The panel was only one part of a larger program, and through attending I’ve learned some things to discuss with my managing partner about how to better recover costs,” he said. “It was a learning experience for me as well as being a direct participant.”

Mason (MSLS ’87) has helped lead the movement to migrate print collection titles to electronic format for Chicago law firm Ungaretti & Harris. He credits much of his success to his formative years at SILS. PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LAMOTT MASON
Greetings from Chapel Hill — via Winston-Salem, that is! As I write this, we are having a beautiful spring in North Carolina. The weather is warm and the flowers are blooming. And, we celebrated another national championship for the men’s basketball program!

Since the last edition of the newsletter, your Alumni Association executive board has continued to be quite busy. At December graduation we were pleased to honor our graduation speaker, Susan Tarr, with the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award. We also awarded two Elfreda Chatman research awards to master’s students Jessica Zellers and William Hannah. These awards are given to master’s students who demonstrate creative and scholarly vision in their research proposals. The two best proposals were just a few of those in attendance. Funding for the reunion was provided by the SILS Alumni Association and SILS.

The internship, which was negotiated by Edward G. Holley in 1975, presents an opportunity for students to develop practical skills in several library areas. In turn, the program offers EPA and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Library (added as part of the program in 1985) some of the area’s best library students.

For more information about the program, visit http://www.ils.unc.edu/EPA_NIEHS/

Alumni board stays busy with activities

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In order to help us keep you informed of our activities, I encourage you to verify your subscription to the sils-alumni listserv; and join if you are not a current subscriber. The traffic is extremely light and the list provides an invaluable communication tool. Visit http://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. You may also keep up with our activities by visiting our Web site at http://ils.unc.edu/alumni/.

EPA celebrates 30 year collaboration with SILS

A reunion celebrating the 30 year relationship between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Information and Library Science and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drew a crowd of more than 70 on Saturday, March 19, at the new EPA building in Research Triangle Park. The event celebrated the ongoing library internship program. Former students arrived with their families to connect with friends and colleagues. Tours of the building and the library were offered; special music was provided by Saxophrass — a band that included previous SILS graduate Lynn Narveson; and several special guests were on hand to say a few words about the program. Richard L. Huffine, manager of the EPA National Library Network; Joanne Marshall, SILS professor and former dean; Debbie Balsamo, federal library project officer; and José-Marie Griffiths, dean of SILS, were just a few of those in attendance. Funding for the reunion was provided by the SILS Alumni Association and SILS.

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Shawn Jackson, Director of Development
Rosalyn Metz, ILSSA Student Representative
Larry Alford (MSLS ’77) is the vice provost for libraries and university librarian at Temple University. He served at local, county, state and federal level on for libraries and university librarian at Temple Pennsylvania.

Marcy Sims (MSLS ’69) received an Award for Excellence in the Humanities from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. She worked for 33 years with the Virginia Beach Public Library as a champion of education, libraries, books, reading and adult literacy. Sims also served as chair of the Virginia Center for the Book, guiding the organization through many large projects.

Sandra Hughes-Hassel (Ph.D. ’98), an assistant professor at Drexel University’s College of Information Science and Technology, has been awarded tenure. Her areas of specialty are information resources and services for children and young adults, school library media programs, social impact of information technology and library services to the disadvantaged.

Joan Durrance (MSLS ’64) was named the Margaret Mann Collegiate Professor of Information at the University of Michigan’s School of Information.


Phyllis Shepard Larson (BSLS ’56) was listed in the 17th edition of Who’s Who of American Women; the 2004 Who’s Who in America; and the 2004-2005 Who’s Who in Finance and Business for volunteer work at local, county, state and federal level on behalf of libraries for more than 20 years in Pennsylvania.

Martha (Molly) Grogan Rawls (MSLS ’72) published a book in July 2004 titled Winston-Salem in Vintage Postcards (Arcadia Publishing). Rawls is the photograph collection librarian at the Forsyth County Public Library. She is married to Jeffrey Rawls and has three sons.

Mélina (Brown) Mangal (MSLS ’94) wrote her fourth biography, Mildred Taylor; for young people (Mitchell Lane Publishers). Mangal is an elementary school media specialist.

Dr. Lokman Meho (Ph.D. ’01) and Kristina Spurgin, doctoral student, won ALISE’s Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition for their paper titled “Ranking the research productivity of LIS faculty and schools: An evaluation of data sources and research methods.” They will share the $2,500 honorarium.

Monique Prince (MSLS ’04) is an undergraduate service librarian in the Research and Reference Department at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jill Stover (MSLS ’04) is an undergraduate service librarian in the Research and Reference Department at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Renee Bosman (MSLS ’04) is the government documents librarian in the Research and Reference Department at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Tammy Allgood (MSIS ’02) is a librarian with the Digital Libraries and Information Systems Team at the University of Arizona.

Debra Slone (Ph.D. ’01) will be starting as assistant professor at the University of South Florida in the fall.

Joby Topper (MSLS ’02) published a paper titled “Saved from Oblivion:” The organization and management of the Douce Collection at the Bodleian Library and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford, 1834-1934” in the November issue of Library History. He said the paper was “a greatly enlarged version of an appendix to my master’s paper.” Topper is a technical services librarian at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and applying to the Penn State program in higher education for further graduate study.

Miriam Intrator (MSLS ’03) published a paper titled “Avenues of Intellectual Resistance in the Ghetto Theresienstadt: Escape Through the Central Library, Books, and Reading” in LIBRI. She was invited to present another paper titled “The Theresienstadt Ghetto Central Library, 1941-1945: Reading and Books as Means of Defiance and Escape” at the Library History Seminar XI at the University of Illinois in October. The paper will also be considered for publication in Libraries and Culture. Both the presentation and the publication are derived from Intrator’s master’s paper. She is a photo archivist and registrar at the Leo Baeck Institute at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan.

Clista Clanton (MSLS ’01) received third place for a research poster presented at the Medical Library Association’s Southern Chapter 2004 Conference in Biloxi, Miss. She is a medical librarian at the University of South Alabama Biomedical Library.
David Goble (MSLS ’94) was promoted to dean of libraries at Central Piedmont Community College. He is the chairman of the Teaching and Learning Committee for the CJCLS section of the Association of College & Research Libraries and the Endowment Committee for the NC Library Association. He serves on the NCLA Public Policy Committee and the SILS Carolina First Development Committee. This past July he was elected for a second term as the chairman of the NC Council of Community College Library Administrators and in October assumed responsibilities as the president of the Metrolina Library Association.

Dav Robertson (MSLS ’75) has been selected as a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association and was honored at a special reception June 5 during the SLA 2005 Annual Conference in Toronto. In Oct. 2004, Robertson presented a paper co-authored by Dr. Jane Greenberg at the International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications held in Shanghai, China. He also presented at the Peking University School of Information Management on metadata and the Semantic Web. He showcased the Metadata Research Center and the collaborative work he and Greenberg have been doing for the past four years.

Beth L. Rowe (MSLS ’01) is the regional documents librarian in the Academic Affairs library at UNC.

Erica Jarvis (MSLS ’02) and husband Chris welcome son Brendan Christopher into the family. He arrived on June 19, 2004, at 1 pound, 4 ounces, and is going strong on Feb. 5, 2005, at 11 pounds, 9.8 ounces.

IN MEMORIAM

Carol
Michelle “Mic” Norton, SILS alumna, died on Oct. 3, 2004, in Virginia Beach, Va. Norton was a graduate of Old Dominion University and earned a master’s in library science from SILS in 1987. She had worked as a reference librarian at Central Library in Virginia Beach since its opening in 1988. Her interests were photography, travel, collections, animals, art (crafts and drawing), old graveyards, genealogy, videos, flowers and gardening and people.

Norton is survived by her beloved partner Carole Norton of Virginia Beach; her parents Barbara and James Harold Norton of Otto, N.C.; her brother MSGt. James H. Norton Jr., his wife Christina, their children Katelyn and Jackson, of McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Norton will be remembered by her family and friends with great love and admiration for her love of life, ready wit, kindness, loyalty, thoughtfulness and unique and memorable e-mails.

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