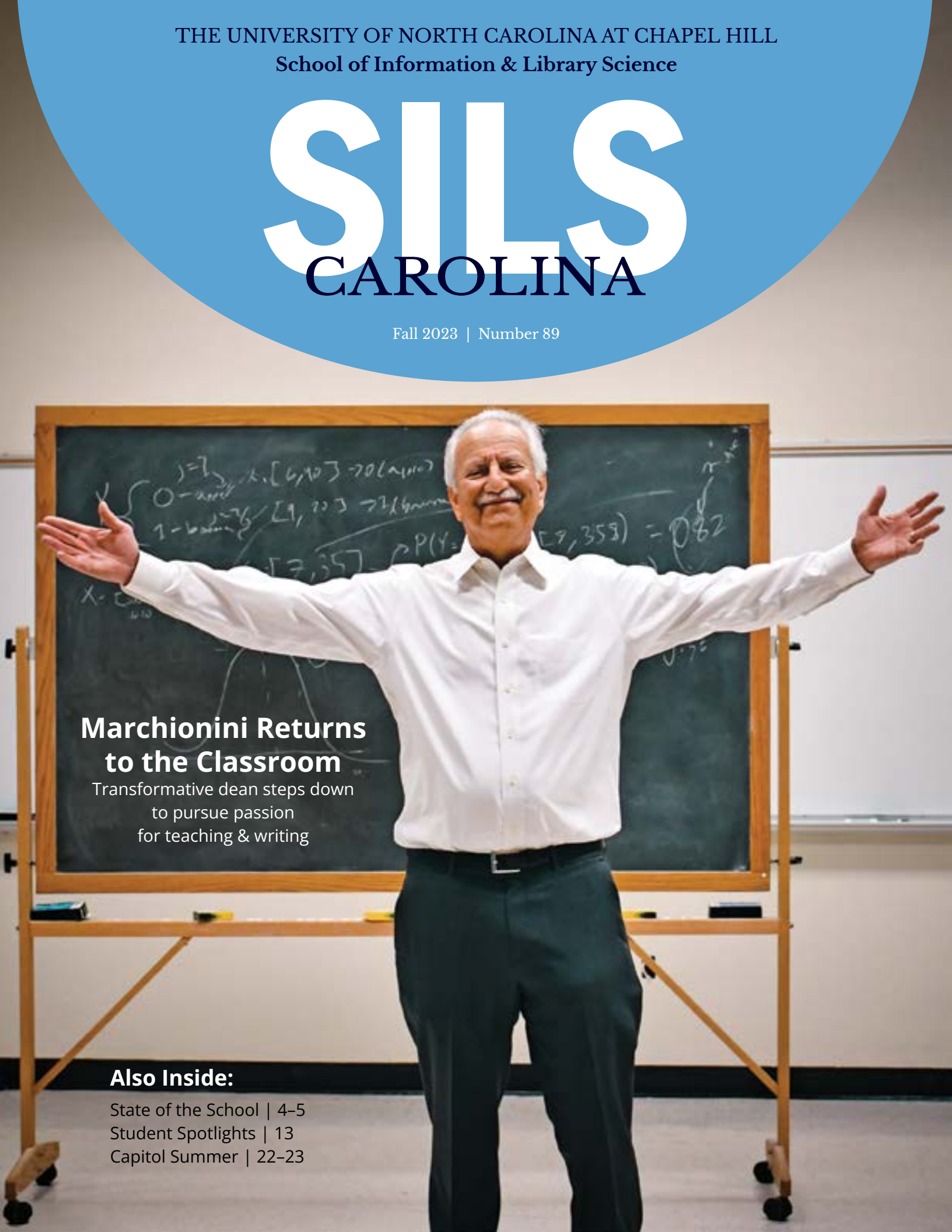


THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL  
School of Information & Library Science

# SILS

## CAROLINA

Fall 2023 | Number 89

A photograph of Dean Marchionini, an older man with grey hair and a mustache, wearing a white button-down shirt and dark trousers. He is standing in a classroom with his arms outstretched, smiling. Behind him is a large blackboard filled with handwritten mathematical equations and diagrams. The blackboard is mounted on a wooden frame with wheels. The background is a plain wall.

### Marchionini Returns to the Classroom

Transformative dean steps down  
to pursue passion  
for teaching & writing

#### Also Inside:

State of the School | 4-5  
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Capitol Summer | 22-23

# Letter from the Dean



**This summer, Gary Marchionini announced his intention to step down as dean at the end of 2023. He will remain on faculty and return to his passions of teaching and writing.**

Greetings from Chapel Hill. I hope this annual newsletter finds you in good health and spirit. As I write this in mid-October of 2023, I am awash in emotional waves of varying kinds and intensities. I feel joy, excitement, and pride in our school; fear, sorrow, and anger for the conditions and events in our world; and anticipation, uncertainty, and optimism for my own future as I transition from the dean role to a faculty role. Our school, our campus, and our world are buffeted by challenges from nature, political evils, and individual defects. We persevere and forge forward nonetheless, knowing that our individual and collective acts of compassion, service, and joy save us individually and collectively in our local and global communities.

The 2022–23 academic year brought record student enrollments across the school and was driven by a trend toward face-to-face classes and meetings as the COVID-19 pandemic moderated. More than two-thirds of our 180 course sections were face-to-face and this trend continues in the fall of 2023.

A second significant trend of the 2022–23 academic year was the unprecedented change taking place in SILS personnel. Half of the SILS professional staff left the school and have been replaced or there are searches underway for their positions. Staff left for better-paying positions on campus or at other universities, for positions that provided more remote work options, and for different careers or retirement. Although we are sorry to lose so many colleagues, our searches have

yielded excellent pools of candidates and new hires, and we continue to have a highly effective support staff.

We conducted searches for new faculty and have been successful in hiring six new faculty who were appointed on July 1, 2023. This is the largest number of new faculty coming to SILS as a group in the history of the school and they are already making critical contributions to our school. Additionally, we have three active faculty searches in process and expect to welcome in 2024 these additional new faculty, including a Louis Round Wilson Distinguished Professor.

Our faculty continue to teach important and inspiring courses, mentor students and their colleagues, produce innovative research and scholarship, and serve as public intellectuals and leaders for state and national communities.

It is also important to recognize the many adjunct instructors who share their time and talent with SILS students—these information professionals from local industry, libraries, and government agencies add enormous experience and opportunity to our students.

Our students continue to do innovative academic and community work as our new curriculum provides broader opportunities to craft specializations and elect team-based practicums that address real-world problems on campus and across North Carolina.

Student organizations are re-emerging from pandemic hiatus to strengthen the social fabric of the school and support common needs for intellectual growth

and emotional well-being; the Community Workshop Series courses are serving the information literacy needs of patrons in local public libraries; and ILSSA again collaborated with faculty and students at SILS, Journalism, and Law to conduct a well-attended banned book reading at Manning Hall on First Amendment Day. These are just a few examples of the dynamism and talent our students exude.

Our graduates continue to find excellent positions in industry, libraries, archives, government, and other venues with 80–90% placements by the fall following May graduation.

Alumni continue to be leaders in the information field and serve as recruiters, mentors, advisors, and financial donors to SILS. Some have given alumni webinars over the past year, and I am especially grateful to those who serve on our advisory boards and those who continue to make meaningful contributions to our diverse philanthropic funds.

In the fall of 2023, we have strong enrollments, continued and new grant funding, strong philanthropic momentum, and optimism about our school and its roles in meeting the many challenges humanity faces. In this issue, you will find stories about our students, faculty, staff, and alumni and the extraordinary work they do.

In the summer of 2023, I announced that I will return to the faculty in January of 2024 and a national search for a new dean has been initiated.

**As I reflect on almost 14 years as dean of SILS, I smile as I recall the people who have touched my life here with their intelligence, energy, spirit, optimism, and action to make the world a better place. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends of the school, and streams of visitors from all corners of the world have walked the floors of Manning Hall with curiosity and vigor.**

I profess that our field and our school address the intersections of information, people, and technology. Over the years technology has changed dramatically and information has grown exponentially, however, people remain consistently good-willed, adaptable, and ready to serve others to learn and find joy.

Certainly, there have been challenges, disappointments, and tears as the SILS community has struggled with natural and human-caused disasters or tragedies. However, there is always someone at SILS to give physical or emotional support when any of us need a kind word or helping hand.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as dean of SILS and I look forward to continuing to work with the amazing people who make SILS so effective, welcoming, and powerful.

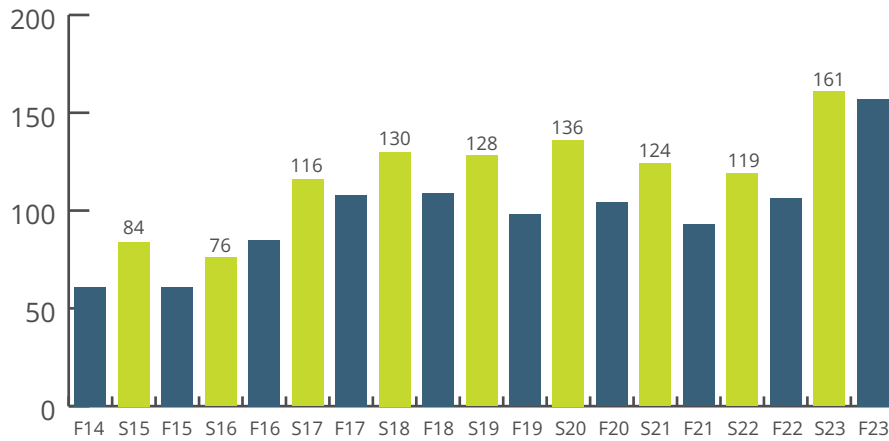
**Gary Marchionini**  
Dean and Cary C. Boshamer  
Distinguished Professor

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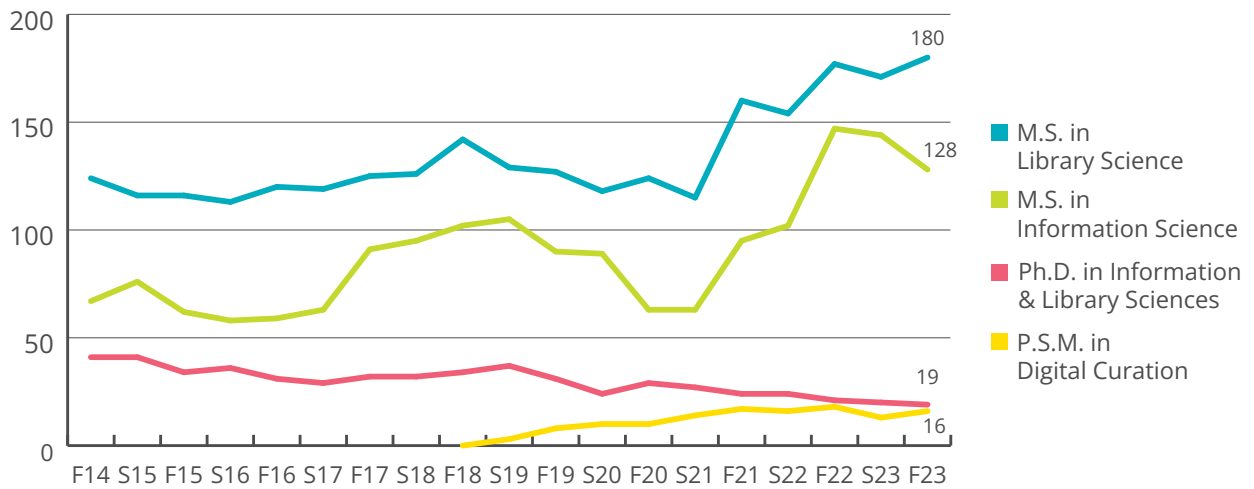


## UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT



Enrollment numbers fluctuate between fall and spring due to factors such as graduation and when undergraduates declare their major (which is typically in late fall after the census date).

## GRADUATE ENROLLMENT



- M.S. in Library Science
- M.S. in Information Science
- Ph.D. in Information & Library Sciences
- P.S.M. in Digital Curation



Dr. Kwanna Bright giving the 2023 Kilgour Lecture



John Musselman, Andres Martinez, and Alicia Slater at the SILS 2023 Scholars Symposium



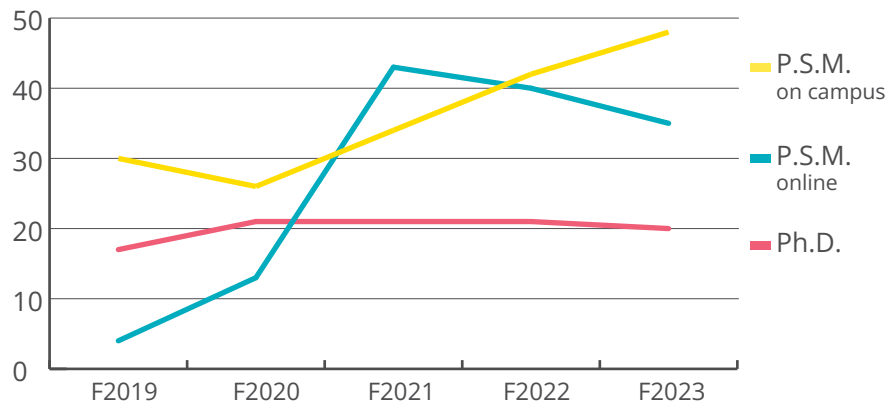


Students in Dr. Maggie Melo’s Information Professionals in the Makerspace class

### Carolina Health Infomatics Program

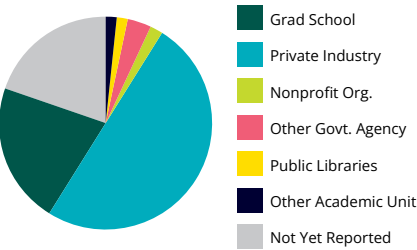
The cross-campus Carolina Health Informatics Program, administered by SILS, continues to attract students and research funding.

The program offers both an on-campus and online Professional Science Master’s (P.S.M.) in Biomedical and Health Informatics, as well as a Ph.D. in Health Informatics.



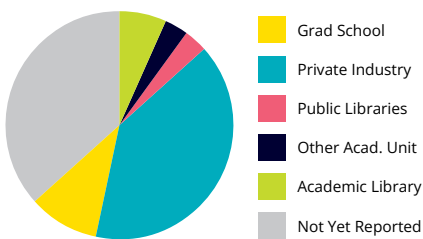
### WHERE DID OUR 2022 GRADS GO?

#### B.S. in Information Science



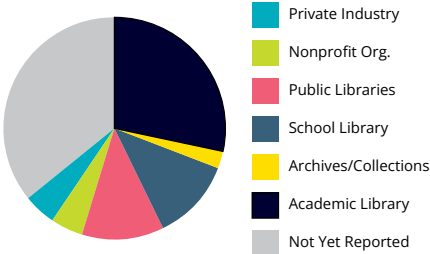
90% Placement Rate

#### M.S. in Information Science



83% Placement Rate

#### M.S. in Library Science



89% Placement Rate

Placement rate is the percentage of graduates either working or continuing their education within 12 months of graduation.



## The Great Reshuffle

“The Big Quit,” “The Great Resignation,” or the “Great Reshuffle.” Business researchers and writers have used various terms to address the labor changes seen across industries over the past few years.

SILS has been no stranger to these employment trends. Over the 2022–23 fiscal year, half of the SILS professional staff left the school for various reasons. Some wanted better job opportunities, others had family changes, and a few wanted to live closer to home.

“Although we’re sorry to lose so many colleagues, our searches have yielded excellent pools of candidates and new hires, and we continue to have a highly effective support staff,” said Dean Gary Marchionini.

### *Top row, left to right:*

Iyana Alewine  
*Program Coordinator, CHIP*

Ty Cole  
*Associate Dean for Development*

Lynn Farrar  
*Human Resources Consultant*

Casey Fletcher  
*Communications Coordinator*

Felicity Gancedo  
*Administrative Assistant, CITAP*

Kenneth Gyan  
*Director of Information Technology*

### *Bottom row, left to right:*

Jenny Kaselak  
*Associate Director, CHIP*

Benjamin Levine  
*Assistant Director of Undergraduate Advising and Programs*

Courtney Lewis  
*Practicum and Alumni Engagement Coordinator*

Ryan Platin  
*Student Business Coordinator*

Bryce Richards  
*Grants and Awards Coordinator*

Mariell Ruiz  
*Programs Manager: Student Activities & Internship Management, CHIP*

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CHIP: Carolina Health Informatics Program

CITAP: Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life

# HAIL

## But not farewell (phew!)

Becoming a dean wasn't in Gary Marchionini's career plan. A renowned expert in human-information interaction, interface design and testing, and digital libraries, Gary's primary passions have always centered around writing and teaching. In 2010, however, he put his personal interests aside and accepted the appointment to serve SILS as dean.

Being an academic dean is a complex job. It requires strong research and teaching skills, navigating university politics, and managing budgets. An exceptional dean has vision and can bring faculty and staff together to help students. They must also ensure the institution actively contributes to the advancement of knowledge. They act as both stewards of the institution's history and shepherds of its future.

**"I remembered meeting Gary during my campus visit and felt excited and inspired to join the SILS. He described the faculty as a 'tapestry,' highlighting the diversity and uniqueness that each member brings to the School."**

**- Assistant Professor Maggie Melo**

Melo continued, "He emphasized how the research endeavors and the products created by the faculty members were all distinct and varied, contributing to the school's strength and vitality. Some contributions serve as the structural foundation, while others add vibrancy and beauty to the overall mosaic."

### Commitment to Research

"During his tenure, Gary has stabilized, transformed, and expanded SILS. Programs are thriving, new certificates are meeting the emerging demands of the marketplace, and the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP) is the first center of its kind to focus on the intersections of information, technology, and how we live our lives," said Board of Visitors Chair David Singleton. "His focus on partnerships, research grants, and contracts allowed SILS to grow during a time of limited resources."

Gary's unwavering commitment to research excellence has propelled SILS to unprecedented heights. His staunch support for faculty initiatives and cutting-edge projects has cultivated a dynamic research community within SILS. By facilitating collaboration and providing resources, Gary has strategically positioned SILS as a focal point for pioneering research. This has enhanced the school's reputation and its contributions to the broader field.

### Building a Collaborative Space

Beyond his visionary leadership and dedication to research, Gary's advocacy for diversity and inclusion has left a significant mark on the culture of SILS. Recognizing the pivotal role that a diverse student body and faculty play in fostering a rich learning environment, he has actively promoted diversity initiatives, creating an inclusive atmosphere that welcomes individuals from all backgrounds. Marchionini's efforts have been instrumental in shaping SILS into an institution that authentically mirrors the global nature of the information profession.



Marchionini's first  
UNC photo, 1998

Dean and Cary C. Boshamer  
Distinguished Professor, UNC  
School of Information and  
Library Science

### Education:

Ph.D., Wayne State Univ., 1981  
M.Ed., Wayne State Univ., 1974  
B.A., Western Michigan  
University 1971

### Awards and Recognitions:

American Society for  
Information Science and  
Technology Award of Merit,  
2011

Faculty Award for Excellence in  
Doctoral Mentoring, University  
of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
2010

President of the American  
Society for Information Science  
and Technology, 2010

Award for Teaching Excellence,  
UNC School of Information and  
Library Science, 2009

Library and Information  
Technology (LITA) Kilgour  
Award for Research in Library  
and Information Technology,  
2000



## Under Gary's Leadership:

- ◇ SILS saw record enrollment.
- ◇ The B.S. in Information Science has grown from a handful of students to more than 250 majors and minors.
- ◇ New degree programs have been created with hybrid and remote components.
- ◇ 16 new tenure-track and teaching professors joined the school.
- ◇ SILS negotiated joint faculty appointments with the School of Medicine, Health Sciences Library, Hussman School of Journalism and Media, and Eshelman School of Pharmacy.
- ◇ SILS created significant new programs such as the Carolina Health Informatics Program and the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life.
- ◇ The school has seen record growth in grants submitted and received, with faculty winning significant research support from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Knight Foundation, and the Institute of Museum of Library Services, among others.
- ◇ Fundraising efforts for the Campaign for Carolina finished well beyond goal, at \$29 million.

"As a Dean, Gary worked to build a cohesive and interdisciplinary space. One of the things I valued most was his ability to see, understand, and value how scholars from vastly different disciplines approached their study of information," said Assistant Professor Francesca Tripodi.

Understanding the imperative of preparing students for the challenges of the digital age, Marchionini championed interdisciplinary programs that bridge the gap between information science and other disciplines. This approach not only enhances the educational experience but also equips students with the adaptability required in a rapidly evolving professional landscape.

"Gary's actions always reflected his commitment to the success of students, staff, and faculty, because he genuinely cares, and because he knows that the reputation of SILS is reflected in them."

- David Singleton

### The COVID Years

When the world went into lockdown in 2020, SILS had to find a way to suddenly move all classes online. Faculty, staff, and students needed support to deal with the unprecedented situation. Gary kept the community moving forward.

"Over the past almost 14 years Gary has led SILS through a multitude of events from economic hardships, program reviews, creation of new programs, celebrating 90 years of SILS, to COVID-19. Through all the events big and small, Gary has led SILS with diligence, caring, patience, and positivity," said Susan Sylvester, executive assistant to the dean.

### What Comes Next

As Marchionini embarks on the next chapter of his journey, his legacy as an academic dean will be remembered as a period of profound positive transformation for SILS. His contributions, from elevating research standards to fostering inclusivity and preparing students for the future, have shaped the institution and left an enduring mark on all who have been a part of its academic community.

"Gary has been an outstanding Dean. He has guided SILS through challenging times and positioned us for an even more impactful future. I am personally glad that he will still be at SILS and returning to the classroom where the School will continue to benefit from gifts as a teacher," said Board of Visitors member Duncan Smith.

Smith continued, "One of his many lessons that I will continue to embrace is that no dean's successes are entirely their own. They come about through the efforts and commitments they call upon others to make. Gary taught me that, as a board member and alumnus, one of my continuing responsibilities to SILS is to support and work to ensure the success of its leader. I look forward to doing the same with individuals who next sit in that chair in Manning Hall."





With alumni at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in 2017



Reading at a 2018 Banned Book Week event



Chatting at the 2023 Scholar Showcase



Commencement 2022



SILS Celebrates Spring 2016

## The Marchionini Fund

In honor of Gary Marchionini's stellar accomplishments in his more than 13 years as dean of SILS, the Gary Marchionini Student Research Fund has been created. The fund will encourage and support student research, particularly among undergraduates, by supporting expenses such as supplies, equipment, data access, and travel.

Board of Visitors members David Singleton and Bernie Smith made initial gifts to the fund and are offering a 2:1 matching challenge that applies to the first \$70,000 in new gifts to the fund.

Gifts can be made online at [go.unc.edu/marchionini](https://go.unc.edu/marchionini).

To learn about other ways to support the fund, contact Ty Cole, associate dean for development, at [wtyle@unc.edu](mailto:wtyle@unc.edu) or 919.962.3499.



SILS Campaign Kickoff 2017

# 5 QUESTIONS

## *for new faculty*



**Karthik Adapa**  
Assistant Professor

Karthik Adapa holds an M.B.B.S., an M.A. in Public Policy, an M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management, and a Ph.D. in Health Informatics—earning the latter two degrees at UNC.

### **What is your favorite course to teach?**

System Analysis and Human Factors in Healthcare

### **What is your research passion?**

My passion is to design, develop, and implement health IT interventions that improve patient safety and ensure that hospitals are a safe place for both patients and providers.

### **What does your current research involve?**

It involved understanding a) how mental workload and usability influence providers' performance during their interaction with health information technology (IT) and b) how to design, develop, and implement health IT interventions focused on improving providers' well-being, quality of care, and patient safety.

### **Favorite moment on campus so far?**

My favorite moment on campus is the post-match celebration after UNC defeated Gonzaga to win the NCAA 2017 national championship!

### **What is one thing our students, your peers, and our alumni should know about you?**

I value collaboration and actively look for opportunities to work with and learn from students, peers, and alumni.



**Alexandra (Alex) Chassanoff**  
Assistant Professor

Alex Chassanoff earned both her M.S. and Ph.D. here at SILS. Following that, she became a DLF/CLIR Software Curation Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT Libraries. Before joining SILS, she worked as an Assistant Professor at North Carolina Central University and helped develop and launch the new Archives and Records Management concentration.

### **What is your favorite course to teach?**

It's a toss-up between Community Archives and Digital Heritage Projects.

### **What is your favorite book about your field?**

Lucy Suchman, "Human-Machine Reconfigurations"

### **What is your research passion?**

Connecting communities with information! Growing awareness of how humans interact with information, especially the role that technology plays in mediating that experience.

### **Favorite moment on campus so far?**

It's been a hectic beginning to a new job and semester, but I've really enjoyed getting to know my new colleagues here at SILS.

### **What is one thing our students, your peers, and our alumni should know about you?**

Hmmm...I'm a fake Southerner? I've lived here since 2006, but I came from the Great North and still miss winter.



**William (Willie)  
Payne**  
Assistant Professor

Willie Payne grew up as a band kid who liked math. From there, he's always pursued creative and technical interests. He went to the University of Colorado to double major in Music Composition and Computer Science and then to NYU for a Ph.D. in Music Technology.

#### **Favorite moment on campus so far?**

Any time I walk outside! My previous building was in a Downtown Brooklyn office complex. UNC, in contrast, is so beautiful.

#### **What's exciting about your field right now?**

I've been excited to see my field, accessibility of information and technology, incorporate theory from disability studies and sociotechnical systems to frame how we plan, carry out, and evaluate accessible design.

#### **Favorite book about your field?**

For young scholars and designers hoping to learn about accessibility, I'm a huge fan of "Mismatch" by Kat Holmes. The book is practical presenting inclusive design methods that readers can use.

#### **What is your research passion?**

My research passion is forming and maintaining long-term collaborations with community partners. For example, I've been working with The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School since late 2019, and I continue to lead projects with students and instructors

#### **What's one thing people should know about you?**

I am not a morning person so don't expect to schedule an early-morning meeting with me (without coffee/breakfast).



**Joseph Winberry**  
Assistant Professor

A non-profit professional turned library and information researcher, Joseph Winberry believes research and teaching should be used to make the world a better, more equitable place.

#### **What's exciting about the ILS field right now?**

There is a growing recognition that not all people have the same levels of access to information and technology which has made it more possible to study the needs of marginalized populations to help address access issues in partnership with them and our information-supplying organizations such as libraries.

#### **Favorite book about your field?**

"Information Activism" by Cait McKinney because it brings together history, social justice activism, and information access research.

#### **What's your favorite course to teach?**

So far it is INLS 551: Library and Information Organization History. Students this semester have been creating podcasts about different library history books and it's been great to see them learn new information and skills while having fun.

#### **What is your research passion?**

I love to work on projects that expand not just our understanding but also our willingness and ability to step outside the Ivory Tower to use research for real-world social progress.

#### **Favorite moment on campus so far?**

Every day I walk on campus I am so excited and hopeful for society's future because I see so many (mostly young, but not exclusively so) people exchanging ideas, sharing a laugh, and signing up for new opportunities together. I don't know exactly how our country will move on from the myriad of political and social challenges we currently face, but I know our students will be central to those solutions, and that fills my heart with gratitude.





## Librarian & Leader

While teaching and performing harp in the Tidewater area of Virginia, Ericka Patillo realized that she had acquired a library card for every area she frequented. That thought guided her professional future. She started to consider a career in librarianship.

After earning her M.S. in Library Science from UNC, she launched a career as a music librarian and a public services manager. She returned to UNC to earn her Ph.D. and worked as a lecturer. She continued working in higher education, advancing to positions in leadership while teaching, researching, and mentoring students.

Patillo's research interests involve organizational behavior, specifically examinations of the academic library middle manager role and the impact of role conflict and role ambiguity.

"For me, it's about how middle managers contribute to the organization, how they push the organization forward. We under-utilize our middle managers. With proper training, I think they can really help organizations accomplish their objectives."

Patillo is currently working with SILS librarian Rebecca Vargah on the tenth edition of the "Library and Information Management" textbook. The ninth edition was authored by Barbara Moran, prior dean of SILS and Ericka's past advisor. Patillo said it has been a labor of love to continue Moran's work.

As the associate dean, Patillo's main goal is to make course scheduling more predictable. This will help students plan their studies effectively. She also wants to provide more support and training for adjunct professors.

"It's been amazing for me to come back to SILS," said Patillo. "This was the place that sort of raised me in terms of information and library science (ILS). I want to see us remain a leader in ILS education. As an administrator, I'm here to support. It's not about me. It's about what the school is trying to accomplish and how I can help make that happen."

### Ericka Patillo

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and  
Professor of the Practice

#### What is your research passion?

Middle management in academic libraries – I'm a champion of middle management

#### Favorite course to teach?

Academic libraries

#### Favorite book about your field?

"The Culture of Happiness: How to Scale Up Happiness From People to Organizations" by Vinh Tho Ha and Thakur S. Powdrel

#### Favorite moment on campus so far?

This year's University Day. I had never been, even though I've been on campus forever. It was just wonderful!

#### What is one thing our students, your peers, and our alumni should know about you?

I like to bring joy into any environment I'm in, even the workplace. I want to bring my joy and my authenticity into the space– and music!



Watch Ericka's  
Lighting Talk on our  
YouTube channel.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



**left to right:**

Shira Grace Greer | M.S. in Library Science

Bernice Meja | M.S. in Information Science

Sarah Waugh | M.S. in Library Science

Not pictured: Rachel Kaye Priesman Marquez

## Spectrum Scholarship

Four UNC SILS graduate students were awarded 2023 Spectrum Scholarships from the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services. They were among 70 exceptional students pursuing graduate degrees in library and information studies selected.

These students were selected as Spectrum Scholars based on their commitment to community building, leadership potential, and planned contributions to making social justice part of everyday work in library and information studies.

Join us in congratulating the UNC SILS students selected for these very competitive scholarships!

## Adams Fellowship



Doctoral student Lyric Grimes is a 2023–24 recipient of the Maynard Adams Fellowship for the Public Humanities. She will take part in interdisciplinary graduate workshops, attend the annual Maynard Adams Symposium for the Humanities, develop a public outreach project or event, and receive a stipend.

“Being chosen as a recipient of the Maynard Adams Fellowship is a true blessing—the Adams Fellowship has long advocated for the humanities in public education and public cultures. I’m truly honored to be chosen to continue this legacy.”

This fellowship honors the distinguished philosopher Maynard Adams (1919-2003), who was a long-time professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, a prominent advocate for the value of the humanities in public education

and public cultures, and a campus leader who established the Program in the Humanities in Human Values, now called Carolina Public Humanities, in 1979. The Adams Fellowships are made possible by a generous gift from the Taylor Charitable Trust.



# Congratulations Class of 2023!

## Degrees

### Bachelor of Science in Information Science

Ola Alshaikhli  
Maha Al-Ameen Ballard  
Brittany Alonso-Vazquez  
Erik Amico  
Jackson Barbee  
Khalil Barnett  
Claudia Batts  
Peyton Black  
Gilleyn Bunting  
Pengyi Chen  
Alfred Chen  
Junhao Chen  
Janice Cheuk  
Breonna Corbett  
Camilla Crane  
Henry Credle  
Justin Evangelisto  
Colin Exum  
Cody Garvin  
Nina Geodakyan  
Alexa Gornet  
Alejandro Gutierrez-Ochoa  
Misagh Haghar  
Brandon Hall  
Christopher Harper  
Connor Hitchings  
Yuqi Hu  
Thaddeus Jackson  
Ethan Jarrett  
Michael Jones  
Jessica Judge  
Feifei Kaglic  
Muhammad Khan  
Osman Kpaka  
Denise Kyeremeh  
Chae HyunLee  
Jiarui Li  
Jenny Lin  
Micah Little  
Langston Luck  
Eric Ly  
Andres Martinez  
Nehemiah Miggiani  
Ayana Monroe  
Mikayah Oxendine  
Gina Park  
Richard Perez  
Elizabeth Prieto  
Bedaprakash Ray  
Joshua Rhoades

Nasiha Rizwan  
Morgan Roberts  
Andrew Sadler  
Jay Saini  
Christina Samodal  
Jaycee Sansom  
Darshana Saravanan  
Vibhuti Sehgal  
Alex Shoaf  
Shreyasri Sirlapu  
Byron Smith  
Jackson Sommers  
Deseree Stukes  
Robert Susewell  
Nghi Thai  
Tyler Viverette  
Xuehan Wang  
Aaliyah Wynn  
Haolin Xiong  
Shuying Xu  
Hao Zhang  
Qi Zhu  
  
**Master of Science in Information Science**  
  
Ali Alrabeah  
Olaitan Aina Bamgbade  
Allison Beatty  
Irena Brain  
Cade Cameron Carlson  
Patrick Lowell Conway  
Yi-Tsung Chen  
Yiran Chen  
Xuhesheng Chen  
Yixuan Cheng  
Samuel Kenneth Dalsheimer  
Advaith Deo  
Jiamu Ding  
Yuxin Ding  
Shuang Du  
Chris Eastin  
Chance Daniel Foley  
Corinne Sophia Foster  
Zoe Abigail Flores  
Yidan Gao  
Ethan J. Glattfelder  
Zihan He  
Daniel Wilson Hockstein  
Owen Christopher King  
Erik Arthur Koenig  
Kimberly Michele Kresica  
Wesley Michael Leonhardt  
Zixin Li  
Hao Liang  
Shizhao Liu

Ziqiao Ma  
Venkata Krishna Vamsy Marni  
Madeline Clair Miller  
Nathanael D. Nihart  
Joseph Han Oh  
Jonathan Edward Page  
Jiaqing Pan  
Chul Yeun Park  
Andrew Blake Price  
Tian Qiu  
Evelyn Ramirez- Flores  
Elizabeth Kay Ranatza  
Gabrielle Luisa Rodriguez  
Andrew Phillip Robinson  
Sean Thomas Rodgers  
Gabriela Santana  
Cassandra Marie Saroza  
Austin Sayam  
Bobbie Shreiner  
Denise Stroud  
Yan Tang  
Brianna Thompson  
Yu-Wei Tseng  
Pengxuan Wang  
Tianyi Wang  
Zhaohui Wang  
Delia Mae Wegner  
Ziyu Xia  
Haoyu Xin  
Chenchen Yang  
Jiaxin Yang  
Yifan Yang  
Yuang Yang  
Hanzhong Ye  
Jennifer Ying  
Qian Yu  
Xiaohan Yu  
Chao Yuan

### Master of Science in Library Science

Emily Leeann Arnsberg  
Shir Lev Bach  
Sara Rose Barclay  
Amanda Leigh Breeden  
Matthew Phillip Berdon  
Rachael Brittain  
William Pressly Browne  
Kelly Rene Bullard  
Mary Elizabeth Cash  
Kevin McLennan Collins  
Laura Reid Dickie  
Molly Dignam  
Zoe Yvonne Grunder Dilles  
Heather Elizabeth Donnelly

Arwen Rebecca Downs  
Lauren Renee Dueñas  
Samantha Brianne Estes  
Madison Evans  
Mariah Beth Finkelstein  
Stacey Eric Fox  
Kayla Aileen Glynn  
Lyric Danee' Grimes  
Tatiana Silver Hargreaves  
Emma Evanson Hauck  
Darvin Heo  
Emily Doss Hill  
Sophia Sohn Hollis  
Whitney A. Hughes  
Carter Garde Hulinsky  
Kelly Samantha Jones  
Rosa Kathryn Jones  
Deanna McEntire Kalk  
Christopher William Koester  
Claire Elizabeth Kozak  
Joshua Kutac  
Shaina Leigh Leverett  
Kaye Marie Ferguson Lott  
Berta Anne Maisel  
Ariel Brooke Matthews  
Mya McCoy  
Brianna Monet McGruder  
Thomas Andrew Kleeman  
Melton  
Hagen Alexander Mendrykowski  
Alanna Katherine Natanson  
Margaret Kathleen O'Sullivan  
Natalie Marie Perez  
Aria Jane Princehorn  
Zoey Ralston  
Olivia Marie Reich  
Hope Katherine Riffiee  
Rolando Onelio Rodriguez  
Delaney Doyle Sheehan  
Danielle Rose Shirilla  
Wesley R. Skidmore  
Hannah Frampton Southern  
Margaret Marie Steitz  
Xinmeng Sun  
Eve Elizabeth Svoboda  
Mary Isabela Tibbits  
Maria Tudela  
Caroline Vaverek  
Amy Elizabeth Vincent  
Rebecca Wade  
Robert Michael Wells, Jr.  
Morrigan Wethington-Smith  
Georgie Wilkins  
Erin Winter  
Shannon Alana House Witherow



Michelle Moriarity Witt  
Daniel Barnhart Woomeer  
Sarah Mckenzie Yarborough

### **Professional Science Master in Digital Curation & Management**

Emma Layton  
Sarah Lynn Sowa  
Marla C. Sullivan

### **Master of Professional Science in Biomedical Health Informatics**

Conor Anderson  
Bryan Andregg  
Zainab Apalara  
Nibras Ar Rakib  
Saranya Arun Kumar  
John Ayers  
Atharva Banait  
Alexandra Barnett  
Nirav Bhavsar  
Rachel Black  
Haki Bradley  
Srilakshmi Cheeti  
Ghata Chovatiya  
Francisa Becsy Delcid  
Tapan Garg  
Viola Goodacre  
Yu-Chen Huang  
Muniba Khan  
Tae Dong Kim  
Jiao Li  
Chao Chin Liu  
Sruthi Malavika Srinivasan  
Ruchi Prakashchandra Mehta  
Adam Moss  
Geetha Nallamotu  
Sisira Padavala  
Elliott Patterson  
Maura Pauline  
Disha Puthran  
Sriharini Radhakrishnan  
Madanraj  
Annie Rajkumar  
Shayla Randolph-Bowes  
Mansi Shah  
Mia Smith  
Maya Suggs  
Justin Swann  
Namita Tiwari  
Rohit Torpunuri  
Kelvin Tran  
Amanda Vega  
Luotong Wang  
Jennifer Mae Williams  
Shouqiang Ye  
Jennifer Young

### **Doctor of Philosophy in Information & Library Science**

Thu-Mai Lewis  
John Martin  
Kelsey Urgo  
Austin Ward

### **Doctor of Philosophy in Health Informatics**

Karthik Adapa  
Malvika Pillai  
Alexander Rich  
Mengqian Wang

### **Awards & Achievements**

*Akers Fellow*  
Thomas Melton  
Delaney Sheehan

*Albert Suskin Prize in Latin,  
Herrington Prize in Latin*  
Justin Evangelisto

#### *Ally Tech Scholars*

Chloe Cheng  
Yiran Chen  
Shuang Du  
Hao Liang  
Chae Hyun Lee  
Ziqiao Ma  
Yan Tang  
Zhaohui Wang  
Hanzhong Ye  
Qian Yu  
Xiaohan Yu

*American Archive of Public  
Broadcasting, Public  
Broadcast Preservation  
Fellow*  
Michelle Witt

*Asheim Fellow*  
Austin Ward

*Beta Epsilon Boule Scholar*  
Thaddeus James Jackson II

*Buckley Service Scholar*  
Ethan Andrew Jarrett

*Burmeister Fellow*  
Chris Charles Eastin

### *Carolina Academic Library Associates*

Brianna McGruder  
Rolando Rodriguez  
Maria Tudela  
Cassandra Saroza

### *Carolina Technology Associates*

Darvin Heo  
Vamsy Marni  
Andrew Price  
Brianna Thompson

*Carolina Scholar*  
Hanan Ali

*Computing Research  
Association, Outstanding  
Undergraduate Research  
Award Finalist*  
Ayana Monroe

*Covenant Scholar*  
Brittany Xicotli  
Alonso-Vazquez

*Distinguished Scholar  
Award, Chancellor's  
Science Scholars Program*  
Ayana Monroe

*EPA-RTP Library Interns*  
Zoe Dilles  
Claire Kozak  
Corinne Foster  
Annie Maisel  
Alanna Natanson

*GEM Fellow*  
Hanan Ali  
Ayana Monroe

*Honors Carolina*  
Hanan Ali  
Michael Jones

*ILLSA Undergraduate  
President*  
Aaliyah Wynn

*Inaugural Primary Sources  
Teaching Fellow*  
Kelly Bullard

*Johnston Scholar*  
Christopher Harper

*Kalp Fellowship*  
Advait Deo

*Louis Round Wilson Fellow*  
Kevin McLennan Collins

*NLM-NIH Biomedical  
Informatics Pre-Doctoral  
Fellow*  
Malvika Pillai

*Renwick Academic  
Achievement Award*  
Aaliyah Wynn

*SAID Fellowship, 2021-22*  
Margaret Steitz

*School Libraries Fellow  
2022-23*  
Kelly Jones

*Student Association of  
Black Librarians,  
Co-Founder & President*  
Mya McCoy

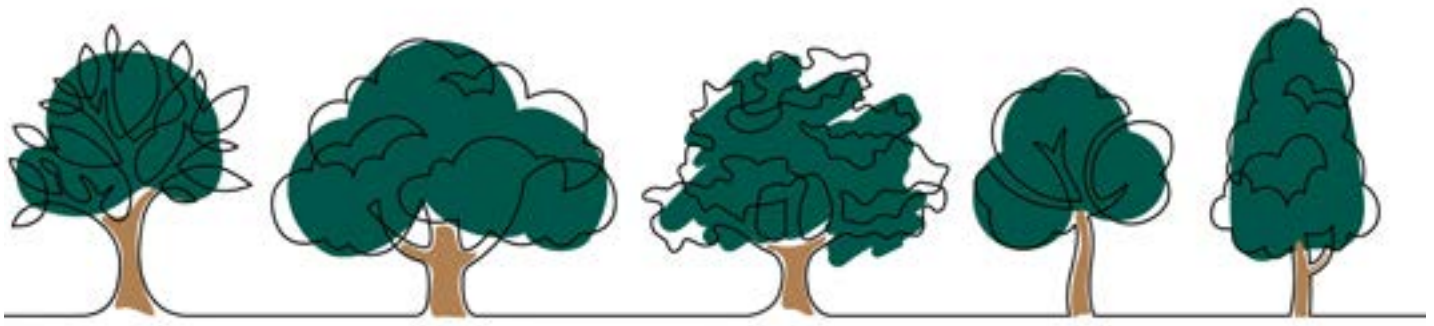
*Tamil Student  
Organization Founder &  
President*  
Nasiha Rizwan

*Tau Sigma*  
Feifei Kaglic

*Tri Alpha Honor Society  
Member*  
Elizabeth Prieto Grimaldo

*Trombone Section Captain*  
Connor Hitchings

*William C. Friday Arts  
& Humanities Research  
Award Recipient for the  
Development of Carolina  
Indian Circle Archive  
Development*  
Mikayah Oxendine



# Growing Our Student Services

Lori Haight lights up as she talks about the email she received from a student a few days prior. Senior Ross Herman participated in the Spring 2023 Career Trek to Atlanta, where he met an alumna working at CNN. That connection led to another, and now Ross was writing to let Lori know that he'd be working at CNN upon his graduation in December.

That's the sort of moment that drives higher education professionals. It's what has kept Haight passionately committed to SILS for over a decade, and what inspires her plans for the future.

Haight became the director of student services at SILS in October 2022 after a decade in the department. She started as the career services coordinator before

advancing to director of career services. She has taught (and continues to teach) the SILS 585 Management course and has coordinated the field experience program.

As the student services team grew to five positions, a leader was needed to coordinate efforts and maximize what could be done for students. Haight was selected.

"Lori is not just accomplished," said Dean Gary Marchionini. "She is also authentically vested in our students. Her energy and passion are invaluable."

The student services team was hit hard by the post-COVID "Great Resignation", and the team of five dropped to a team of just two. Restaffing and developing new team members is Haight's priority as director. Another priority is the development of a mentoring program using the new Heels Engage platform. She also plans to develop connections with SILS student organizations so that they feel more supported.

"We already worked collaboratively, but our team now has the ability to reduce silos and work together in a more coordinated way," said Haight. By being strategic about communications, focusing on individual student needs, and bringing together the entire team to consider process improvements, Haight expects to support and grow the strong SILS student culture. She also looks forward to many, many more emails and calls like the one from Ross Herman.

## Lori Haight

### *Director of Student Services*

With over 20 years of student services experience in higher education, Dr. Haight enjoys working individually with students and alumni to help them reach their personal and professional goals.

Prior to joining SILS, Lori worked at Meredith College, Chowan College, and Villa Julie College. She received a B.A. in English from the University of Richmond, a M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the Ohio State University, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from North Carolina State University.



## How Alumni Can Give Back

1. Share job opportunities in your organization through our listserv by emailing them to [silscareers@unc.edu](mailto:silscareers@unc.edu).
2. Contribute to our video library by sharing your expertise on a topic, talking about your position, or sharing your insights about the city where you live and work.
3. Sponsor a student field experience by hosting a student for a 135-hour project with your organization.
4. Sponsor a student practicum group project for a year.
5. Join the Heels Engage platform at [heelsengage.unc.edu](https://heelsengage.unc.edu). We'll be using this platform over the coming years to connect alumni and current students for mentoring opportunities and more.

Contact  
[silscareers@unc.edu](mailto:silscareers@unc.edu)  
to get started!

## Freedom to Read Event

As part of Banned Books Week and First Amendment Day, the Information and Library Science Student Association hosted an event at Manning Hall. Members of the SILS community gathered to read excerpts from books that have been banned or challenged across the country.

Photo: First-year master's in library science student David Werner read selections from "Where the Sidewalk Ends" by Shel Silverstein.

**1,269**

The number of demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, documented by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom

This is nearly double the challenges reported in 2021 and is the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data more than 20 years ago.



# What We're Reading (And Listening To)

"70 over 70" is a great podcast which interviews public figures 70 and older about their life and their advice. It is at times funny, sad, and moving, but always interesting. I enjoyed every episode. It also includes monologues from "regular people" who are older, and I find their perspectives and stories just as powerful.

Joseph Winberry  
Assistant Professor

I'm re-reading The Queen's Thief Series by Megan Whalen Turner.

Susan Sylvester  
Executive Assistant

"The Adventure Zone" podcast, based on role-playing games, and "Podcast: The Ride" about theme parks

Bryce Richards  
Grants and Awards Coordinator

"The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles

"The Hare With Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss" by Edmund de Wall

"The Man from the Future" by Ananyo Bhattacharya

"Player Piano" by Kurt Vonnegut

Ron Bergquist  
Teaching Associate Professor

"How to be Blind" by Andrew Leland in the New Yorker

"Vibe Check Podcast" with Sam Sanders, Saeed Jones, and Zach Stafford on Sticher  
Willie Payne  
Assistant Professor

I have been listening to the "Ologies" and "Hidden Brain" podcasts.

Casey Fletcher  
Communications Coordinator

"Anna Karenina" by Leo Tolstoy (Rosamund Bartlett translation), and "Pirate Enlightenment, or the Real Libertia" by David Graeber.

Nico Dubreuil  
Desktop Support and Help Desk Manager

I recommend the podcast "If Books Could Kill."

Casey Rawson  
Teaching Assistant Professor, MSLS  
Program Coordinator

I'm having a lot of fun reading "The Adventures of an IT Leader" by Robert Austin, Richard Nolan, and Shannon O'Donnell.

Kenneth Gyan  
Director of Information Technology

I'm reading "On Our Best Behavior: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Price Women Pay to Be Good" and it is very good!

Courtney Lewis  
Practicum and Engagement Coordinator

David Grann's "Killers of the Flower Moon" and "The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder", as well as Darcie Little Badger's "A Snake Falls to Earth."

Gary Marchionini  
Dean and Cary C. Boshamer  
Distinguished Professor



# Faculty News

**Alex Chassanoff** participated in two panels at this year's International Conference on Digital Preservation; "Community is We: Modeling Collective Action as a Framework for Digital Preservation" and "I Got A Letter From My Past Self: (Un)managed Change and Provenance."

She is also an invited panelist for two sessions at the 2023 annual meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology.

She is working with the Civic Switchboard Project on Civic Data Literacy for Libraries, a newly awarded Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, to host regional institutes for library workers interested in serving as intermediaries between community members and civic data. The Institute will be held at Davis Library in May 2024 and showcase how local library-supported projects use machine learning and other computational approaches to identify historical Jim Crow statutes and covenants.

She is also actively involved in The Hacking into History Community Engagement Project, which explores racially restrictive agreements in Durham, NC property deeds. The project received a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award and has recently launched a curriculum kit for K-12 educators.

**Tressie McMillan Cottom** was one of the panelists at the Mellon Foundations' Reading, Power, and Freedom event in September.

Tressie was also the keynote speaker at UNC's 2023 Women of Worth Empow(her) Conference, hosted by the Office of the Provost. The video is available at [www.mellon.org/events/reading-power-and-freedom](http://www.mellon.org/events/reading-power-and-freedom).

## Interview with ALA President

Tressie McMillan Cottom was guest host for "The Ezra Klein Show" podcast on September 12. She spoke with American Library Association president Emily Drabinski about libraries as public goods and social institutions, 'small' infrastructure, sharing culture, libraries and politics, book banning, collections, reading, and more.

**Mohammad Hossein Jarrahi**'s research was cited recently in the Financial Times article **How will artificial intelligence change the value of human skillsets?** Jarrahi also co-authored the article *What Will Working with AI Really Require?* in the Harvard Business Review.

**Willie Payne** received a \$15,000 grant from the CTA Foundation to support an initiative to teach programming to blind and visually impaired high school students through electronic music at FMDG Music School.

This fall, he also presented at the New York Public Library Accessible Technology Conference and the ASSETS Conference.

**Brian Sturm** held a storytelling workshop for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg public library staff in October. His storytelling students also performed at the Morehead Planetarium's annual Storytelling Under the Stars event in November.

**Francesca Tripodi** received the 2023 CIP award for Impact and Excellence from the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public (CIP) in recognition of her significant academic work related to disinformation.

Her book, "The Propagandists' Playbook", won an honorable mention in the American Sociological Association section on Communication, Information, Technology, and Media

She has also published the open-access articles:

- 'Do your own research': affordance activation and disinformation spread
- Abortion Near Me? The Implications of Semantic Media on Accessing Health Information
- "Too Soon" to count? How gender and race cloud notability considerations on Wikipedia





**Rebecca Vargha** was inducted into the Special Libraries Association (SLA) Hall of Fame this September. She has been head of the Information and Library Science Library and a SILS part-time faculty member since 2001.

Vargha is active in state, national, and international library associations, including SLA and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions.

She is currently co-authoring the 10th edition of an essential library science textbook, "Library and Information Center Management." She is a frequent speaker, as has given more than 50 keynotes, speeches, and presentations to professional associations and other industry meetings across the United States and in seven countries outside of North America.

## MEET US ONLINE

The SILS video library on YouTube has new faculty lighting talks and conversations.

New faculty members gave 10-15 minute lightning talks to introduce themselves to the campus community. In addition, faculty duos (and one trio) sat down for 30-minute casual online chats about themselves, their research, current topics in the profession, and more.

Explore these videos on YouTube to learn more about our fascinating faculty members and the diverse interests and expertise they bring to SILS!



SILS on YouTube  
[youtube.com/@uncsil](https://youtube.com/@uncsil)

### Lighting Talks:

Alex Chassanoff  
Ericka Patillo  
Willie Payne  
Joseph Winberry

### Faculty Conversations:

#### AI & Humans

Mohammad Hussein Jarrahi and Rob Capra

#### Data Management Musings

Cal Lee and Arcot Rajashakar

#### Information Retrieval

Melanie Feinberg and Jaime Arguello

#### Motivations, Teaching Philosophies, & More

Brian Sturm and Casey Rawson

#### Life Journeys

Ron Bergquist and Megan Winget

#### The Academic Life

Elliott Kuecker, Francesca Tripodi, Maggie Melo



# Meet the CaTAs

Their workday starts at 7:45 a.m. as they visit all active classrooms to check computers, audio systems, and cameras to ensure that everything is in working order. Throughout the day, they'll work the service desk to help students, faculty, and staff with any number of IT issues. They are the Carolina Technology Associates (CaTAs), key workers in the School of Information and Library Science. And soon, they'll be ready for hire.

The CaTA program evolved from a lab assistant role about five years ago. The goal was to develop a career preparation opportunity similar to the Carolina Academic Library Associates (CALA) program. CaTAs are graduate students enrolled in either the master's in library science or the master's in information science programs.

"This program is valuable to students because it provides them with hands-on experience. They can practice what they've learned in class, interact with faculty and students, and learn how to provide exemplary IT service for the school," said SILS IT Director Kenneth Gyan.

Typically, four or five students are selected for the program each year. Their two-year appointment involves working 20 hours per week to assist the SILS Information Technology Services Team. Each CaTA also completes a semester-long project geared toward their career interests. Recent projects have involved project management, information retrieval, and database work. Students also receive one-on-one coaching from the IT director. The program provides a stipend, full tuition support, and health insurance.

"These students not only help us provide support to our user base," said Gyan, "They also exhibit the passion we have in training our students. When they go out into industry, they serve as advocates for SILS programs."

## Norry Lu

I aim to enhance my problem-solving skills and innovative thinking abilities working as a CaTA. These experiences will help me grow in my career as a UX Designer. I plan to leverage my project management skills acquired as a CaTA to excel in delivering user-centered digital solutions that align with both user expectations and business objectives.

## Jimmy McKinnell

My professional and research interests revolve around technology literacy and instruction. After graduation, I look forward to applying what I learn as a CaTA to meet the technology needs of academic libraries and their communities.

## Nishitha Bottu Ramakanthchowdary

My professional interests are primarily around product management and innovation in technology. Working as a CaTA has taught me how to deal with different technologies and tackle day-to-day problems. After graduation, I hope to succeed in offering the finest solutions using the product management and customer service skills I learned as a CaTA.

## Cole Richard

I am hoping to gain practical experience working in an IT environment. Specifically, I am interested in databases, data management, and information organization. I plan to use the skills gained in this position to pursue work in semantic technology and information retrieval.

## Lilyth Shepard

My experiences here have opened up a range of career opportunities! Working as a CaTA has solidified my desire to get a Ph.D. in information science in order to continue to educate others in how things work from a technological standpoint, and to work with technology to make the world a better place.



L to R: Jimmy McKinnell, Nishitha Bottu Ramakanthchowdary, Norry Lu, and Cole Richard

Not pictured: Lilyth Shepard



# Capitol Summer

Two SILS graduate students received coveted placements as Junior Fellows at the Library of Congress this past summer.

Hannah Whitaker worked at the National Audio Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC), processing lacquer discs from the Universal Music Group collection. Her job was to create metadata for master recordings from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s.

Callie Beattie was a Junior Fellow in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. She spent 10 weeks processing and arranging the archive of contemporary book artist and letterpress printer Russell Maret. She also created a LibGuide focused on the Russell Maret Artist Book Collection and Archive.

## Why did you apply?

**Hannah:** Ever since I was a teenager I had wanted to work at the Library of Congress, and the Junior Fellows Program seemed like the perfect opportunity to gain this experience. The Universal Music Group lacquer disc collection processing project allowed me to combine my library science degree with my passion for music.



Hannah Whitaker gains hands-on experience with lacquer discs

**Callie:** I was always curious about what working for the Library of Congress would be like and had heard great things about the Junior Fellows program. I am a dual degree student earning my MSLS with a concentration in Archives and Records Management and my MA in Art History. I'm interested in working as an archivist to contextualize and care for artist archives. I'm also interested in how artists form their personal archives and interact with primary source materials as inspiration for their work. When the Library announced the 2023 Junior Fellows project list, I saw the "Artists and Archives" project and knew I had to apply because the project felt tailor-made for me.

## What was your favorite part of the experience?

**Callie:** My favorite part was the actual hands-on work of processing the archive and being so warmly welcomed by the amazing folks in the Rare Book and Special Collections division. My project mentor, Stephanie Stillo, gave me the space to make decisions and choices about the processing and arrangement of the Maret archive that really helped build my confidence as an emerging archivist.

**Hannah:** My favorite part was the magnitude of how much I learned about audiovisual preservation. I felt that I left the NAVCC with a whole new skill set that will benefit me throughout my career.

## What was something that surprised you about this work?

**Hannah:** Anytime a master recording of a song or artist I loved came across my desk I was enthralled. The Universal Music Group lacquer disc collection contained recordings from iconic artists such as Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, Billie Holiday, and Danny Kaye, to name a few. I was also excited to learn



Callie Beattie presents some of her favorite archive materials during team meeting

about IRENE, which is an incredibly high tech turntable that uses microscopic imaging of the grooves to play discs that are too broken to be played with a traditional turntable with a needle.

## What other types of experiences did you have?

**Callie:** Each week, the Junior Fellow cohort toured a different division in the Jefferson, Madison, or Adams building. One of my favorites was the Serial and Government Publications Division, which holds the international newspaper collection and the comic book collection. We also went on a few architectural tours and were lucky enough to go to the top of the Jefferson Building dome. A small balcony that wraps around the outside of the dome offers incredible 360 views of DC. I also participated in a few special events in the Rare Book and Special Collections division – my favorite was getting to meet the Dandelion Black Women Artists Collective. The division was acquiring a number of their artist books, so several artists dropped off their books, showed us how to care for and handle the works, and talked to us about their creative process.



**Hannah:** This summer I had the opportunity to attend the Audio Engineering Society Conference on Audio Archiving, Preservation, and Restoration which was hosted at the National Audio Visual Conservation Center. Leslie Ann Jones, a recording engineer and the Director of Music Recording and Scoring at Skywalker Sound, presented the keynote speech. It was incredible to hear from a pioneering woman in the sound recording field. My co-fellow and I were given a tour of the Recorded Sound and Moving Image Research Centers up in D.C. I gained experience cleaning and preserving dirty and damaged discs in preparation for my final presentation on the preservation of lacquer discs from the early twentieth century.

### How has this experience influenced your plans for the future?

**Hannah:** I hope to teach with primary sources in the future, and this experience working with and preserving archival materials has given me the necessary skills for using collections when instructing. I am so grateful for the Junior Fellows Program for granting me this incredible opportunity.

**Callie:** While I had little doubt, this experience ultimately reaffirmed that I'm on the right track and pursuing the right career. I love this work, and I am so excited to continue my journey as an archivist. It also bumped Washington, DC to the top of my list of places I'll focus on during my job search in the coming months.

## Nielsens Support Graduate Students

SILS alumnus Brian Nielsen and his wife Carol have made a generous gift to support graduate students, with the particular goal of enhancing the social, economic, and cultural diversity of the School.



“We are pleased to offer a yearly scholarship targeted to support increasing diversity in the SILS student body,” said the Nielsens. “We believe that higher education offers the possibility of enhancing progressive thinking and is critical to the free flow of information in an open society. This scholarship offers the possibility of the liberating power of diversity in education.”

Dean Gary Marchionini said, “Graduate education is too often a luxury that not all interested students can afford. Support from donors like the Nielsens doesn't just impact individuals. By supporting students with diverse backgrounds, they improve the profession.”

## Nominations Open for Alumni Awards

The School of Information and Library Science Alumni Association (SILSAA) is accepting nominations for the annual Distinguished Alumni Award as well as a new recognition, the Rising Star Alumni Award.

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Established in 1981, the Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated outstanding professional library or information science achievements at national, state, or local levels, or who have provided outstanding service to SILS or its Alumni Association at the time of the award. Anyone may submit a nomination for a SILS alumna or alumnus to receive the honor. Recipients are selected by the SILS Alumni Association board each year.

### Rising Star Award

Established in 2023, the SILS Rising Star Alumni Award recognizes recently graduated alumni who have demonstrated exceptional growth in their profession or chosen field, early professional library or information science achievements at national, state, or local levels, and/or who have provided outstanding service to SILS or its Alumni Association.



Find details and the nomination forms at [go.unc.edu/silsaa-awards](https://go.unc.edu/silsaa-awards).  
Nominations are due by December 15, 2023.



# Letter from the President SILS Alumni Association

Greeting SILS Alumni,

As we embark on another academic year on campus, I reflect on the amount of change that has occurred in both SILS and the wider UNC community. There has been a record number of faculty and staff arrivals, our campuses are back in the full swing of in-person activity, and our campus body is demonstrating a desire to plug in both intellectually and conscientiously.



In July, we welcomed a new SILS Alumni Board, and as SILSAA President it is my honor to introduce you to our set of wonderful alumni who are taking the time to offer guidance to SILS programming. Our returning members include Anita Jotwani (Past President), Meaghan O’Riordan (Treasurer), Alex Poole (Diversity Representative), and Samira Akpan (Communications Director). In addition, we have two new representatives: Katrina Vernon (Secretary) and Harry Hoy (ILSSA Representative). The group selected has demonstrated a passion for supporting the mission of SILS and provides the perspective of both our information and library science communities. As a part of our goal to educate, discover, create, and advance, we would be pleased if you all would consider joining us in our in-person and virtual events that we have planned for this year.

In the words of Helen Keller, “Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” At SILS, we have had the privilege of a robustly innovative community, and it has been with your support that this continues to be a reality. In a world where data, information, and insights are our greatest tools, it is our responsibility to maintain the environments from which those learnings are propagated. Part of the way we would like to sustain our progress is through increased mentorship, professional development, and skill-building opportunities. We believe that thoughtful iteration and synergy create a powerful community for all, and we would love for you to become as involved as possible this upcoming year.

While we all show our support in a variety of ways, take a moment to join us on the listserv, LinkedIn, and Facebook groups to stay plugged into the changes in our community. In the spring semester, SILS plans to welcome a new dean and it would be great for that individual to know that they have the support of our alumni who represent a plethora of journeys, stories, and experiences.

Thank you for your support,

Jamin Friday  
SILSAA President

## LET’S CONNECT

There are many ways to keep in touch with SILS as alumni! If you have questions on how to stay connected as an alum, please feel free to reach out to us via email at [contactsils@unc.edu](mailto:contactsils@unc.edu).

### SILSAA Membership

All SILS graduates become members of the SILS Alumni Association (SILSAA) automatically upon graduation.

### Alumni Listserv

To keep in contact with other SILS alumni and receive updates on SILS news, events, and alumni e-mails, subscribe by sending an email to [contactsils@unc.edu](mailto:contactsils@unc.edu) with the subject SUBSCRIBE. Once you have subscribed, you can send/receive messages through [sils-alumni@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:sils-alumni@listserv.unc.edu).

### Monthly Alumni e-Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving monthly SILS e-newsletters, which hold important alumni information such as event details, SILS news, and other featured content, please reach out to SILS Communications Coordinator Casey Fletcher at [contactsils@unc.edu](mailto:contactsils@unc.edu).

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For more information, visit [sils.unc.edu/alumni/stay-connected](https://sils.unc.edu/alumni/stay-connected).

Follow us on social media or visit our website at [sils.unc.edu](https://sils.unc.edu) for SILS news.



# 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award

Donna Nixon (MSLS '01) was presented with the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award this spring in recognition of her professional achievements.

"I am so touched by SILS honoring me in this way. This is amazing," Nixon said. "Hard to believe that my career has been long enough and with enough milestones to warrant this honor. But I am thrilled by it. I'm especially honored to be in the company of my classmate, Susan Brown and so many greats, including Larry Alford. I thank you so very much."

Nixon is a Clinical Professor of Law and Electronic Resources Librarian at the UNC School of Law. Through these roles, she teaches Advanced Legal Research and Introduction to Law of the U.S. She manages the library's databases of journals, electronic books, and other resources and provides reference and research assistance to students, faculty, and other patrons.

"Donna has been a leader in legal research techniques and practices and an exceptional mentor and teacher for SILS students preparing to work in law libraries," said Dean Gary Marchionini. "She serves as an exceptional role model for students who want to integrate legal research and library practice and especially for students in our dual MSLS-JD program. Her expertise and welcoming smile make the UNC Law Library and SILS great. Her impact on the field of library science is invaluable."



Donna Nixon (left) and past SILSAA president Anita Jotwani

## About Donna Nixon

Doctor of Law, Stanford Law School  
MS in Library Science, UNC-Chapel Hill

Reference/Access Services Librarian  
and Clinical Assistant Professor of Law  
UNC-Chapel Hill, 2001–2004

Head of Reference Services and  
Lecturing Fellow  
Duke University Law Library, 2004–  
2007

Assistant Director for Public  
Services, Kathrine R. Everett Law  
Library  
UNC-Chapel Hill, 2007–2012

Electronic Resources Librarian &  
Clinical Asst. Prof. of Law  
UNC-Chapel Hill, 2012–2021

Electronic Resources Librarian &  
Clinical Professor of Law  
UNC-Chapel Hill, 2012–present

## SILS Alumni Association Board

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# ALUMNI UPDATES

A new four-part documentary series about the life and work of Gordon “Doc” Anderson—the unofficial house photographer at Harlem’s historic Apollo Theater from the late 1940s through the mid-’60s—is now live on the Apollo Theater’s Digital Stage. It can be accessed at [apollotheater.org/digital-stage/](https://apollotheater.org/digital-stage/). As the theater’s staff archivist, I helped to research and provide materials, and also conducted the interviews. For this mini-series I welcome archivist Steven Fullwood, photo historian Rose Bishop, and Harlem historian/archivist/style icon Lana Turner to discuss Anderson’s fascinating life, work, and impact. We were also honored to be joined by four members of Anderson’s immediate family, who shared their special memories of him for the first time.

Brad San Martin  
Digital Archivist, Apollo Theater

Donna Flake graduated from SILS in 1976. She retired in 2020 after a 41 year career in medical librarianship: 11 years at ECU Medical Library in Greenville NC, 4 years as Library Director at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah, and 28 years as Library Director for the SEAHEC Medical Library in Wilmington, NC. She currently leads an international partnership between University Libraries in Moldova and University Libraries in NC. She is the recipient of the Lucy Bramlette Patterson Literary Award for her novel, *The Haunted Life of Lura*, published last year.

Donna Flake, MSLS, MSAS

I am the Library/Media Specialist at Harvard Junior High School in Harvard, IL (Aug. 2020-present), and I was recently appointed to the Pre-K-12 Library Team Lead position so I am now in charge of managing our five district libraries.

Catherine M. Gallagher, MSLS '20, Diversity Advocate Certificate

## In Deepest Sympathy

SILS extends condolences to the family and friends of alumni who passed away during the previous year. The following were drawn from obituaries published from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Peggy W. Bellamy, MSLS 1967  
Sara S. Berghausen, MSLS 1996  
Martha R. Bruning, MSLS 1983  
Anne C. Bunting, MSLS 1966  
Margaret C. Calhoun, MSLS 1973  
Evalyn S. Cole, MSLS 1965  
Robert G. Cole, MSLS 1972  
Nancy W. Dishman, MSLS 1972  
Georgia F. Donati, BSLS 1954  
Frances Anne B. Goode, BSLS 1947  
Elinor D. Hawkins, BSLS 1950  
Damon D. Hickey, MSLS 1975  
Gloria W. Houser, BSLS 1950  
Susan H. Keese, MSLS 2004  
Joyce P. Kelly, MSLS 1983  
Barbara A. Kincaid, MSLS 1976  
Mary M. Kinard, BSLS 1951

Karin Lazarus, MSLS 1976  
Nancy J. Leachman, MSLS 1976  
Rayna W. Lester, MSLS 1985  
H. E. McLeod, MSLS 1972  
Randall E. Mullis, MSLS 1985  
James R. Myrick, MSLS 1978  
Frances H. Norton, ABL 1939  
Alice P. Peery, MSLS 1973  
Floyd W. Price, MSLS 1981  
Dorothy C. Sawyer, MSLS 1974  
Carolyn S. Scott, BSLS 1942  
Elvin E. Strowd, BSLS 1955  
Earl J. Smith, MSLS 1980  
Donald K. Stacy, MSLS 1977  
Nora C. Warren, MSLS 1965



## Campaign for Carolina Exceeds Goal

**\$29.1 M**

**Total Campaign  
Commitments**

**\$20 M**

**Campaign  
Goal**

**146%**

**Percent  
to Goal**

**1,590**

**Total Campaign  
Donors**

- A commitment made by campaign co-chairs Charles B. Lowry '74 (MSLS) and Marcia Duncan Lowry in 2016 established the Duncan-Lowry Deanship at the School of Information and Library Science. The commitment is the largest in the school's history and the first at Carolina to be designated for a deanship.
- During the campaign the School of Information and Library Science became the home of two new interdisciplinary centers with international impact on technologies and the people who use them. The Center for Information Technology and Public Life began in 2019 with a \$5 million investment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The Center on Technology Policy, established in 2021, is completely funded by corporate and foundation support.
- Campaign donors with a passion for innovation provided initial funding for two new programs recently launched in the School of Information and Library Science. The Certificate in Applied Data Science is designed to equip students with data science knowledge and skills to succeed in the modern workforce. The Professional Science Master's in Digital Curation and Management teaches students lifecycle management of durable digital content.

### Learn more about opportunities for giving to SILS by contacting:

**TY COLE**

Associate Dean for Development  
919.962.3499  
wttycole@unc.edu

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Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0309

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The UNC School of Information and Library  
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annually for the School's alumni and friends.

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Sammantha Dellaria

Send comments about this news magazine to  
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