

Information Link

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

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News from the Dean's Suite

Simmons, Harvard Team to Help Devastated Iraqi Libraries

NEH Grant Seeks to Modernize War-Torn Libraries, Halt Serious Librarian Shortage

Responding to the devastating effects of war on Iraqi libraries, Simmons GSLIS and the Harvard University library system are launching a joint program to provide training for Iraqi librarians and archivists. The program will aid in modernizing Iraqi libraries and will help address the country's serious shortage of librarians. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Simmons and Harvard \$100,000 for the two-year project. The grant is part of the NEH program "Recovering Iraq's Past," which funds projects to help rebuild Iraq's cultural heritage.

The program links GSLIS with the library and information science professionals of Harvard University, which is home to the world's largest academic library. In June, Dean Michèle Cloonan, Professor Patricia Oyler, and a team of Harvard librarians will meet with Iraqi librarians in Amman, Jordan, for a curriculum planning retreat. The Iraqis will identify their needs for training to rebuild collections and to modernize their library systems. Training areas will include preservation, cataloging, collection development and management, and automation and online information systems. Subsequently, Simmons faculty will teach graduate library courses for Iraqi librarians. In collaboration with Harvard librarians, they will oversee a series of special projects and serve as long-term mentors via the Internet.

Dean Cloonan, serving as the principal investigator for the NEH grant, noted that more than two decades of war and economic sanctions—as well as the chaos of the recent regime change—have left the centuries-old Iraqi book and manuscript collections with a "vast array of problems," and few librarians with contemporary professional training and expertise.

"For years, resources were withheld from cultural institutions in Iraq," Cloonan said, "and the recent war has resulted in widespread destruction. Librarians were cut off from technological and professional development. The United States has some of the best library and information science programs in the world, and we're pleased to be able to bring our training to the Iraqis. So much has changed in library and information science since the Iran/Iraq war two decades ago. The Internet wasn't even in use."

The project organizers also hope to have some Iraqi librarians attend the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions World Library and Information Congress in Oslo, Norway, in 2005 to join their international colleagues.

Moving to a Three-Credit Course Structure

At the May 2004 GSLIS faculty meeting, a motion was approved that enables the School to move to a three-credit course structure. This restructuring will occur after Fall 2005. Dean Cloonan is in the process of appointing a committee to implement this plan. The committee will start meeting in September and will include two student representatives.

The committee will help determine the date that the new program will take effect. All students will have the option to graduate under the program that was in effect at their matriculation, or to incorporate these changes into their programs. Please contact Dean Cloonan at michele.cloonan@simmons.edu if you would like to serve on this committee.

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A Visit to Libraries in Cuba

Contributed by Jared Stern, GSLIS Student

I was lost, wandering up and down the streets of Old Havana in search of the National Archives of Cuba. After an hour of walking and querying everyone, I finally got directions from a guard in the Havana Club Rum Museum. I was tempted to stay there out of frustration, but I resisted the urge and continued my journey. At last I arrived in the enormous ballroom-foyer of Cuba's National Archives. For two hours, Marta Casales, who maintains the photographs, gave a tour of the complex processes of preserving documents and photographs in Cuba's remarkable collection. The photos dated back prior to the Spanish-American War of 1898.



During our one-week tour, we visited numerous libraries, both public and academic. Cuba's public library system is a three-tiered one: national, provincial, and municipal. Our first stop was the José Martí National Library, where director Eliades Acosta Matos provided us with an overview of the system. The national library, built in 1958, is a well-provisioned modern library with the country's best resources. However, because of Cuba's lack of resources, this library still uses a card catalog, not OPAC.

Our group was able to see only the first floor of the provincial library in the city of Cienfuegos, because the library is still damaged from Hurricane Michelle (2002), and the second floor is under reconstruction. Much of the reading space has been eliminated in order to house all the library's materials. However, the children's room and the room for materials for the visually impaired do have reading areas. As a provincial library, the Cienfuegos Library is responsible for ensuring that all of the libraries of Cienfuegos have resources.

The Bautá Public Library, located on the outskirts of Havana, represents the municipal level of Cuba's library system. In addition to its general collections, this library also has a poetry club and a meeting room with video viewing equipment.

Our group visited the University of Havana to see how academic libraries are different from public libraries. The libraries for each academic discipline are located within the departments' buildings.

In addition to the libraries, our tour also included visits to other institutions and businesses. We viewed the Hemingway Museum; the National Museum of

Fine Arts; a company that publishes handmade books; and a huge bookstore, Moderna Poesía.

The trip to Cuba was a remarkable learning experience. It is a country with a high literacy rate, an impressive library system, and welcoming library professionals.

Congratulations to the recipients of the May 2004 Commencement Awards

Kenneth R. Shaffer Outstanding Student Award:
Andrea Nyree Mercado

ASIST Outstanding Information Science Student:
Beatrice Renée Pulliam

GSLIS at Mount Holyoke Leadership Award:
Hillary Ann Garrett

Estelle Jussim Award for the Visual Arts:
Susanne M. Olson

June/July Events

June 5–10, **Special Libraries Association (SLA) Annual Conference**. The Conference will create an environment for networking, communication, learning and other developmental opportunities for information professionals. Available sessions will highlight strategies used in organizations that reflect the Association's strategic plan: Professionals Putting Knowledge to Work in the 21st Century. Nashville, TN, Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

Monday, June 7, **GSLIS Alumni Reception at SLA Annual Conference**, Nashville, TN, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Ballroom A. 6:00–9:00 p.m.

June 20–23, **"The Jewish American Experience: 350 years" Association of Jewish Libraries**, 39th Annual Convention at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge in Brooklyn, NY.

June 24–30, **The 2004 ALA Annual Conference** will be held in Orlando, FL. The GSLIS Alumni Breakfast at the ALA Annual Conference will be held Sunday, June 27, Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World, Japanero Room. 7:00–8:30 a.m.

July 10–14, **American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting Conference (AALL)** Boston, MA.

July 11, **GSLIS Alumni Reception at AALL**. Faculty/Staff Dining Room, Main College Building. 6:30 p.m.–8:15 p.m.

July 12–15, **Summer Institute for Knowledge Sharing**, Simmons College, Boston.

July 18–22, **A Bridge to the Future: Syllabus 2004 Technologies to Connect the Campus**, San Francisco, CA.

July 26–31, Classes are cancelled this week because of the Democratic Convention. Please note that you will still be given the full six weeks to complete your work. Details will be worked out on a course-by-course basis.

August 2, **Archival Educators Forum**, Simmons College.

August 2–8, **Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting**, Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

Folks on the Move

The American Association of Law Libraries selected **Katherine Coolidge's** paper, "Baseless Hysteria: The Controversy Between the U.S. Department of Justice and the American Library Association Regarding the USA PATRIOT Act – September 2003" as one of the best papers in the student division call for papers. Coolidge will be honored at the association lunch on July 12. In addition, she has been invited to participate in the AALL/Call for Papers Program on July 12, where she will have an opportunity to present her paper topic, discuss the development of the paper, and share tips for writing a winning paper. She also will receive a cash prize donated by LexisNexis.

Jane Cain is the 2004 winner of the SLA Boston Chapter student stipend contest, for her essay on the conference theme "professionals putting knowledge to work

Attention Students: Career Building Sessions offered by GSLIS and the Career Resources Library!

June 22 and 23, Career Building Session: Resumés with Mari Cayem, Associate Director of the Career Education Center. Career Resource Library, One Palace Road. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

June 29 and 30, Career Building Session: Online Job Searching Skills with Kris Foti, Manager of Information Technology. Career Resource Library, One Palace Road. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

July 13 and 14, Career Building Session: Networking with Denise Davis, Assistant Dean for Admission and Recruitment. Career Resource Library, One Palace Road. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

in the twenty-first century." Jane will be awarded a \$1500 stipend at the SLA Boston Chapter annual meeting on May 20, which will be used to attend the Annual SLA Conference in June in Nashville, TN. Her essay will be published in an upcoming issue of the Boston Chapter Bulletin, to be posted at <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cbos/pub/pub.cfm>.

Prof. Emerita Sheila S. Intner led a workshop on "21st Century Cataloging" for Kyrgyz librarians on April 12, at International Training & Development-Amherst, a nonprofit educational organization in Amherst, MA.

Assistant Dean Em Claire Knowles presented a poster session on the education and training of librarians in the Caribbean area at the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries Conference in Trinidad and Tobago, May 23–29.

Internship Opportunities

Manuscript & Archives Internship, 2004-2005

The University Archives and Special Collections of Worcester Polytechnic Institute invites applications for its 2004-2005 internship program. The program is designed to offer a graduate library student interested in the archives profession an opportunity to gain practical experience in archival arrangement, description, preservation, and other facets of archival work. The internship will take place during the Fall and Spring semesters (32 weeks) at 15 hours per week, from September 2004 to May 2005.

The intern will arrange, describe, rehouse, and create finding aids for unprocessed manuscript collections. The intern will enter finding aids and other descriptive data onto ENCompass, WPI's digital collection management system. The intern will assist in the day-to-day operations of the archives and special collections. The intern will be under the supervision of the WPI archivist. The candidate must be an enrolled advanced archives-track graduate student in GSLIS. The candidate cannot have an academic degree prior to the beginning of the internship. The candidate should have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and experience with the Microsoft Office suite and HTML. Stipend: \$2,000 per semester. To apply send a cover letter, resumé, a list of archival courses completed or underway, and three references to: WPI Archives & Special Collections, George C. Gordon Library, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609.

Corporate Library Graduate Trainee at Fidelity Investments

Fidelity is a medium-sized corporate library in Boston that serves 8,000 application developers, systems programmers, communications engineers, and business specialists across multiple locations worldwide. The library provides books, journals, consultant reports, Web-based research tools, custom research, and technical documentation.

This position is a practicum, offered from June through December 2004 to two students who have completed the core courses in the Simmons GSLIS program, including: LIS 407-Reference/Information Services; LIS 415-Organization of Knowledge in Libraries; LIS 403-Library and Information Science: The Role of Research; LIS 404-Principles of Management. The graduate trainee is a volunteer position intended to provide an individual without either prior library experience or prior corporate library experience with exposure to and hands-on work in the day-to-day activities of a corporate library. The two trainees will work as a team. The preferred candidates will have prior work experience, excellent communication skills; preferably will have completed all the core courses in the

Simmons GSLIS program, and will each be able to work eight hours over two days during each work week. This is a temporary position without compensation or benefits. Upon successful completion of the project, the candidate will be provided with a reference from Fidelity. To apply, send resumé and cover letter to: Fidelity Center for Applied Technology, Emerging Technology Research Services, 245 Summer St. Boston, MA 02019. Contact: Cynthia Sullivan, ETRS, 617-563-4308, cindy.sullivan@fmr.com.

Financial Aid News

GSLIS students must reapply for financial aid before the new semester. To reapply, you need to complete a Renewal FAFSA form for 2004-2005, and complete the Supplemental Application. For more information, visit the Student Financial Services Web page at <http://my.simmons.edu/services/sfs/>. New students who received Stafford Loans must make sure that they complete their online entrance interview and promissory note, both of which are available on the Simmons Web site at <http://my.simmons.edu/services/sfs/aid/loans.shtml>. Please contact the financial aid office at 617-521-2001 with questions regarding financial aid for the upcoming year.

Congratulations to the elected officers of GSLIS Student Organizations!

Jennifer Snider, LISSA president
Erin Twohig, LISSA vice president
Elizabeth Uzelac, LISSA treasurer
Heather Cougar, Patty Rostomian, LISSA secretaries
Diane Post, LISSA faculty representative
Heather Cougar, LISSA webmaster
Clayton Cheever, LISSA tech liaison

Alison Bozzi, ScoSAA president
Lewis Day, ALA president
Erin Logsdon, SLA president
Caryn Anderson, ASIST president
Diana Ricciardone, MSLMA president

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

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Copy deadline for the next issue (September 2004) is Monday, August 16, 2004.