

Information Link

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Welcome from Assistant Dean Knowles

Dear GSLIS Students,

I hope this semester is progressing well for all of you. According to students and faculty to whom I have spoken, the semester is moving forward with only a few glitches. The new faculty—Professors Gerry Benoit, Gary Geisler and Nancy Rossiter—seem to be adjusting to Simmons GSLIS and are eager to support students as they strive for academic success.

A morning coffee meeting has been planned with Kristin Foti, Manager of Information Technology and me, Em Claire Knowles, Assistant Dean for

Student Administrative Services. The first one will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the student lounge, second floor of Palace Road. Stop by for a cup of coffee and share your suggestions for how to improve the GSLIS Technology Lab.

Our student organizations are also planning activities. LISSA-Boston and LISSA-Mount Holyoke are planning a Halloween party in Williamsburg, at the home of Dean Cloonan (about 50 people attended last year) and LISSA-Boston will provide transportation again this year. LISSA will provide more

information soon.

We are preparing for the campus visit of the ALA Committee on Accreditation, who will visit Mount Holyoke classes on Saturday, Oct. 24, and will be in Boston from Oct. 25 to 28. Students are invited to meet with the team, chaired by Dr. Edward Johnson, who will discuss the accreditation process on Monday, Oct. 26 at 9 a.m. More information will follow.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of this month's activities—I hope you'll take full advantage of what the School has to offer!

Best Wishes,
Dr. Em Claire Knowles

An Update from Financial Aid

My name is Amanda Cornwall and I am a financial aid officer here at Simmons. I also serve as our office's liaison to the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. My goal is to improve communication between my office and the GSLIS program and to provide the best service possible to GSLIS students. I'll be contributing to the Information Link each month with updates, tips and reminders about financial aid.

As many of you may know, now that the add-drop period has passed, Stafford loans are starting to be disbursed into student accounts. For some students, this means a financial aid refund check! If you are expecting a refund and you haven't received yours yet, it is a good idea to check with us to determine the reason for the delay. The most common reason for the delay in fall refund checks is that new students haven't completed their Master Promissory Note. If you haven't yet

done so, go to our website and fill out the Master Promissory Note as soon as possible. The site gives you the ability to sign electronically. Here's the link:

http://www.simmons.edu/student_financial_services/types_of_aid/loans.html

If you have any questions about the MPN process or the status of your financial aid, please contact your financial aid officer.

Also, now is the time when we are busy checking how many credits each of our applicants are enrolled in. When we build financial aid packages, we base them on the number of credits that you indicated you were going to take in each term. If this amount changes, it *may* have an impact on your financial aid package. If your financial aid does change, you will receive a revised award letter from your financial aid officer.

If you don't know your financial aid officer, you might want to sched-

ule an appointment to come in and meet him/her. We're here to help you understand the financial aid process and answer any questions you may have. Financial aid can be confusing and at times frustrating—but the best cures for this are information and communication.

The financial aid officers each have a caseload, grouped alphabetically according to students' last names. Here's the breakdown:

Amanda Cornwall: A - E
Kenneth Hayes: F - L
Leslie Czwakiel: M - R
Heather Patenaude: S - Z

Although you'll need an appointment to see your financial aid officer, we also have walk-in hours Monday through Thursday, 8:30 - 5:30. If you have questions and concerns, come and see us! For appointments, call 617-521-2001.

GSLIS Students and Faculty on the Move

Terry Plum (Professor and Director, GSLIS West) co-presented a paper on "Library Usage Patterns in the Electronic Information Environment" in Espoo, Finland, on September 9 at the 2003 Conference on Users in Electronic Information Environments. The conference was hosted by the Helsinki University Library and the National Library of Finland.

Molly Tierney (GSLIS student in archives concentration) has been awarded the Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration. This scholarship is awarded by the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC).

Jeannette Bastian (GSLIS Assistant Professor) has recently had a book published by Libraries Unlimited entitled *Owning Memory: How a Caribbean Community Lost Its Archives and Found Its History*. This summer she presented a paper entitled "Whispers in the Archives: Finding the Voices of the Colonized in the Records of the Colonizer" at a conference in Liverpool, England, entitled "Political Pressure and the Archival Record." She also gave a presentation at the annual con-

ference of the Association of Canadian Archivists in Toronto, Canada. The presentation, given jointly with Elizabeth Yakel (University of Michigan), was entitled "Is There a Core Archival Knowledge?: Archival Education in History Departments and Library Schools."

Gerry Benoit (GSLIS Assistant Professor) has two journal publications appearing next year: one in *Information Processing & Management* and the other in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*. He has also written a book chapter entitled "Bioinformatics" for the *Annual Review of Information Science & Technology*, vol. 40 (ARIST).

Ching-chih Chen (GSLIS Professor) traveled to Greece in June where she was the co-program chair and co-conference organizer of the DELOS/NSF (Excellence of Digital Library Network in Europe/U.S. National Science Foundation) workshop "Multimedia in Digital Libraries" held at the Crete Technological University. She presented several papers there including "Designing Multimedia Digital Libraries with Content Development and Manage-

ment: Technology Potential and Changes." Chen visited Chatham, MA, this summer to participate in the workshop "Post-Digital Library Research: Wave of the Future" (June 15-17) and Balston, VA, to participate in a workshop on the Indo-U.S. Digital Library (June 23-25). She also visited Penn State University in June to discuss collaborative digital library research.

Robin Peek (GSLIS Associate Professor) was recently selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in the World*.

Jody Walker is now Coordinator of Continuing Education at GSLIS.

Megan Fox (GSLIS adjunct Professor) and **Jim Matarazzo** (GSLIS Dean and Professor Emeritus) are co-faculty advisors of the Simmons/SLA Student Group for 2003-2004.

Jim Matarazzo was the keynote speaker at a symposium on recruitment and retention sponsored by the Metropolitan New York Library Council and held at the Baruch College Conference Center on September 10, 2003.

Technology Corner: Blogs

Blog stands for **Web Log**. Blogs are websites that compile links to articles and other websites. People posting to blogs are often able to comment on the articles and other websites. Most blogs have a particular focus and develop a regular audience. Discussion topics are referred to as threads, much like WebCT's bulletin board discussions.

Finding blogs is as easy as

conducting a Google search. You can use www.feedster.com, a blog search engine that uses keywords to search entries in various blogs.

You can join a blogging community, such as LiveJournal, to post to current blogs or start your own blog. You can also develop your own blog with free downloadable software, such as Moveable Type.

A useful Library and Information Science blog is Steven Cohen's www.librarystuff.net. This website focuses on blogs and blogging. Look on the LISSA listserv for information on Cohen's visit to Simmons this November.

For more information on blogs visit: <http://searchwebservices.techtarget.com/>.

October Conferences and Events

October 9

Student petitions to be considered at the October faculty meeting must be submitted to Dr. Em Claire Knowles in the Administrative Office, P-III, by Thursday, October 9, 2003.

October 9

Ann Symons, past ALA President, will hold a discussion at Simmons on "Librarians and Leadership." Discussion will begin at 7 p.m. in C-101, Main College Building, with a dessert reception to follow.

October 14

Coffee in the student lounge, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. An opportunity for students to offer suggestions for improving the GSLIS Technology Lab.

Reminder:

Technology Orientation and Advising Statements are due Friday, October 10, 2003.

October 15

GSLIS Prof. Dr. Ching-chih Chen will present a talk entitled "From Chinese Memory Net to Global Memory Net: A Major International Digital Library Project" at 3:30 p.m. in C-101, Main College Building.

October 16

Tywanna Whorley, candidate for a GSLIS faculty position, will speak at 1:15 p.m. in P-207, Palace Road Building. Ms. Whorley's current research focuses on

"The Tuskegee Syphilis Study: Access and Control Over Controversial Records." A reception will follow at 2:15 p.m. in the student lounge, second floor.

October 17

Deadline for submissions for the November/December issue of *Information Link*. Email items to gsasst@simmons.edu, or send them directly to the office of Dr. Knowles, P-III.

October 19-22

The Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) will be holding its annual conference and expo in Boston, October 19-22, 2003. The expo, a showcase of products and services from over 160 companies, will be held at the Hynes Convention Center, as will the technology application briefings. Both events are free and open to the public. More information is available on the ARMA website: <http://www.arma.org/>.

October 27

The ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA) will hold a panel discussion on the re-accreditation process taking place at GSLIS this fall. Open panel discussion at 9:00 a.m., more details to follow.

October 26-28

The Annual NELA Conference will be held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Every Thursday

A bloggers/bloggging meeting is held every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School. Visit <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/thursdays> for more details. People at all levels of blogging are invited to attend.

Information Link

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A Message from the Learning Disabilities Specialist at Simmons

I would like to offer some tips and techniques for students with disabilities so you will be successful academically and personally during your time at the College. It is very important to introduce yourself to faculty, state your particular disability and what you need from the faculty to ensure your success. The literature indicates that students who advocate for themselves and use faculty as resources are the ones who

get good grades. The ideal is to share this information as soon as possible to give everyone sufficient time to put systems in place, if necessary. I am here to serve as the student's advocate and to inform you of other available services in the College.

For your information, faculty have been encouraged to indicate on their syllabi and/or announce in class that students with disabilities should meet with the learning dis-

abilities specialist, Margaret Suby. If you, a faculty member, or an administrator have any questions regarding appropriateness, language, or the law, I will be happy to discuss them with you. Please contact me on Tuesdays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. I look forward to meeting with you.

Have a great term,
Margaret Suby
Disabilities Specialist

Internship and Volunteer Opportunities

Benjamin Banneker Charter School in Cambridge is looking for part-time cataloging help for 6-8 hours a week. The library has recently received a large book donation to add to an already large backlog of books that need to be cataloged. Interns will use Follett software, an easy-to-use cataloging system. Training will be provided if necessary. For more information email the librarian Jennifer Gordon at kgordon@banneker.org. Telephone 617-497-7771, ext. 217.

The Cambridge Arts Council commissions art for public spaces, in accordance with its Percent-for-Art Ordinance. Its public art collection contains over 150 artworks, and new projects are being done every year. Various materials are used to document these projects—slides, photographs, press articles, documents, drawings, CDs, conservation projects, brochures, and other printed articles—and the CAC is seeking an intern to catalog these materials. The project involves assessing the information-retrieval needs of the CAC, identifying the best system(s) for cataloging the items, creating the catalogue itself, producing original catalogue records, and implementing a set of policies and procedures to maintain the catalogue. Job requirements include previous cataloging experience; coursework in cataloging (e.g., LIS 415: *Organization of Knowledge in Libraries*; LIS 417: *Ad-*

vanced Cataloguing and Classification); interest in the arts; experience handling slides; computer skills in Windows framework; and the ability to work independently. The position is unpaid; hours are flexible (minimum ten hours a week). Submit a resume and cover letter to Lillian Hsu, Cambridge Arts Council, 51 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, or email to liliah@cambridgema.gov. Telephone: (617) 349-4389.

The Attleboro Area Industrial Museum has a variety of volunteer opportunities, including Archivist/Librarian, Researcher, Oral History Coordinator, and

Exhibit Designer. For more information, log onto their website at www.industrialmuseum.com.

Back of the Hill Apartments, a non-profit organization that offers subsidized housing to the elderly and physically challenged, is looking for a

current MLS student for a creative and challenging internship. The intern will work collaboratively with the Resident Services Coordinator in the small library to assist with the research needed in finding donated books

from the private/public sectors, library cataloging, and organizing the library.

Would you like to go to a conference, but you can't afford it? LISSA can help! Stop by the GSLIS Administrative Office in P-111 to pick up a LISSA Professional Reimbursement Request Form. LISSA will reimburse any student for 50% of certain expenses incurred by attending library science, information science, or archival conferences and related workshops.

This is an opportunity to gain work experience, make contacts and enrich the lives of the residents by creating a wonderful library for them to use. If interested, please contact Sienora Haynes-Mells, Resident Ser-

vices Coordinator, at 617-232-8092.

Isaacson, Miller, an executive search firm dedicated to working with not-for-profit organizations and public agencies, is looking for a research assistant intern. This is an opportunity to experience executive search in a mission-driven, professional organization serving the nonprofit sector. Use and develop your research skills in a busy but collegial and business-casual office environment. Under the guidance of the Director of Research, the intern will provide Internet and reference material research, including verifying information using Internet and telephone. Potential projects include assisting with cataloging and indexing research library resources, and gathering industry data for in-house research projects. Required skills include strong oral and written communication, proficiency with Internet research and Microsoft Word. The intern must be organized and dependable and have a professional attitude. Email a statement of interest and resume to [Claudia Deane at cdeane@imsearch.com](mailto:Claudia.Deane@imsearch.com).