

Information Link

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

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2004

News from the Dean's Suite

Job Outlook for Spring Grads

The New England Jobline has listed more jobs in March, April, and May of 2004 than in the same three months one year ago. However, the average entry-level salary for 2003 graduates (\$37,314.56) did not rise much above the previous year. An estimated 1.5% increase is expected for the 2004 graduates.

According to the New England Economic Project, the areas of higher education, health care, and finance will see the most job growth. Economists are optimistic that the economy's solid expansion is on track, so it is likely that library positions in these areas will also increase. In mid-April, Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com, said this:

The job market is still, but it is improving...Other economists are hoping that the strong economic growth that began last summer will finally convince businesses to begin rehiring...The biggest sign that the labor market has finally turned the corner was 308,000 payroll jobs were created last month.

According to the business sections in national newspapers and to governmental employment indicators, the most qualified job applicants will find jobs. Until the right position comes along, graduates should continue to groom their skills in customer service, technology, and the organization of records, files, and other materials.

Although job prospects for spring graduates may not be as favorable as we would like, recent graduates are finding jobs or creating professional positions out of pre-professional positions they already hold in public, school, academic, archives, and corporate libraries.

Since entry-level jobs are not abundant, graduates should consider seeking positions outside of New England. GSLIS has a high reputation nationwide, and GSLIS graduates should use this to their advantage. Out-of-state job are listed in the binders in the Student Information Center. I can also assist you in creating other job search strategies. For jobs in the New England area, view the current New England Jobline at <http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/resources/jobline.html>. For more resources, please visit the Career Education Center and Career Resources Library.

Here is a brief overview of the job situation, as I see it, for spring graduates:

School Library Teachers

Some graduates of this program will remain in the assignments they obtained on waivers.

Public Libraries

Some positions have opened up at the Boston Public Library, Shrewsbury Public Library, Newton Public Library,

Rockland Memorial Library, Southbury Public Library, Seabrook Library in New Hampshire, and Westport Public Library in Connecticut. Many public libraries have pre-professional postings and volunteer opportunities to assist with children's services, summer reading programs, and literacy programs, as well as friends-of-the-library groups and trustee boards.

Academic Libraries, Special Libraries and Archives

Several recent graduates, have found library and faculty posts abroad. Reference librarians and catalogers in colleges and universities can expect to earn salaries averaging \$43,554 and \$44,091 respectively (according to The Median Salaries of Midlevel College Administrators for 2003-2004, as reported in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 2, 2004, A30). Archives graduates will need to broaden their search to special collections in academic, public and corporate settings.

If you have no experience in the library and information field, you should consider volunteering. You may want to visit the websites of www.volunteersolutions.org, www.volunteermatch.org, or www.idealists.org. Also, make a habit of checking the binder of volunteer and internship opportunities in the student resource center. Remember that volunteer positions often turn into professional jobs!

Em Claire Knowles

Assistant Dean for Student Administrative Services

Get Published and Win an Award!

LIS students are invited to submit proposals for the Virtual Reference Desk 2004 Student Paper Competition. The competition will highlight exemplary graduate student research or thesis work in the area of reference as it is practiced in a variety of environments and mediums. The author of the best student paper will win one free registration, two nights lodging, and free transportation to the VRD 6th Annual Reference Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he/she will present the paper before an international audience. The winner will be honored during an awards ceremony at the conference, and the paper will be published in the conference proceedings. Papers must be submitted by June 1, 2004. For instructions and more information about the conference, visit www.vrd2004.org.

What's Inside...

Page 2 Snapshot of Adjunct Faculty Member
Jim Kelly

Page 3 May Events

Page 4 Internship and Volunteer Opportunities
Course Offerings

Snapshot: Jim Kelly

“I’d like to reach the point where I really do know everyone in the world.”

Q: *As a kid, did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up?*
A scuba diver, a private detective, a test pilot, a priest, and a herpetologist. Not necessarily in that order.

How did you get interested in library and information science?

After graduating from college, I got a job working as a law clerk for a criminal lawyer in Rochester, N.Y. I spent a lot of time with him because he was engaged in his second childhood and needed someone he could behave irresponsibly with and not feel embarrassed.

During the two years I worked for him, I met and married my first wife. Shortly after, she sized up my personal library—which was large. And my paycheck—which was small. Then she asked if I’d ever considered becoming a librarian. Two months later I started library school.

How would you describe the connection between who you are as a person and the work you’ve chosen to do?

In essence, I have the bipolar personality of a librarian. I relish the intense, hermetic periods I spend doing cataloging. I also relish the freewheeling encounters that can happen to anyone behind the reference desk of a research library.

What was a pivotal experience in your life, something that changed your life?

Spending the senior year of college at the University of Nottingham in England. I was introverted and reticent, but going there, I realized I had to be much more outgoing as a way to take full advantage of the year abroad. To this day, three of my closest friends are three Englishmen I met that year.

What work do you do outside GSLIS?

Our children seem to be our favorite charity, so I work a lot! At the UMass library in Amherst I’m the selector for materials in the humanities, and the primary contact between the library and those departments. I also serve regular shifts at the reference desk and catalog materials in Slavic languages, especially Serbo-Croatian and Dutch. And I moonlight at Frost Library, Amherst College, cataloging their Slavic materials, and at the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies cataloging the rare book collection (about 425 books) and the music CD collection. I teach every so often in the University of Rhode Island library science program, usually their classes held in Amherst. And for the last four years, I’ve co-taught a graduate course in the history of books and printing at UMass Amherst (English Department).

What’s something you’re passionate about?

Bibliography. I’ve been a “field bibliographer” for the *Modern*

Language Association of America’s International Bibliography since 1979—I have now aged into the title of Senior Bibliographer. I’m also section head for General Literature and Related Topics. Since 1987 I’ve been a contributor (*read* bibliographer) for the Modern Humanities Research Association’s *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature*, and now I’m the American co-editor (along with my Smith College counterpart, Bruce Sajdak).

Who would you like to have been in a former life?

I wouldn’t have minded being King Arthur. But in all likelihood I would have been one of the peasants working in the muck (think *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*). It’s unnerving, but part of me would have quite enjoyed being a serf.

What accomplishment in your life are you most proud of?

Ever since it began, I’ve been an admirer of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. When I lived in Washington in the early 1990s, I met John Cole, the founding director. He learned that I’d be moving to Massachusetts, so he suggested that I start a state affiliate of the Center here. After a few years living here, I managed to gather together a small and informal committee which eventually was able to attract the necessary attention and individuals. So, in 1999 the Massachusetts Center for the Book was formally chartered!

What book(s) are you reading right now?

William Gaddis’s *J.R.*; Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* (rereading); Robert Putnam’s *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*; and Norman Mailer’s *Of a Fire on the Moon*.

Do you have a favorite quotation?

“Only connect.” (*Howards End* by E.M. Forster)

Do you have a secret aspiration?

I think I’ve improved on the concept of “six degrees of separation” by closing my range to three. I’d like to reach the point where I really do know everyone in the world.

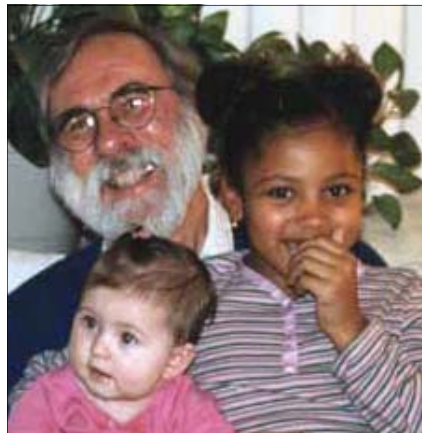
If you could pick one object from your possessions that represents something very important to you, what might that object be?

The gargoyle penholder given me by a friend some years back. I’ll leave the symbolic exegesis to you.

When all is said and done, what would you like people to say about you? “He always said ‘yes’ first and then worked out the how of accomplishing whatever he had promised.”

Also, “He always kept me on his holiday card list, even though I never sent him one.”

Jim Kelly is the humanities bibliographer at the University of Massachusetts Library in Amherst. He also works elsewhere as a bibliographer, cataloger, and teacher. He teaches Literature of the Humanities and Organization of Knowledge and Libraries at GSIS. Jim lives with his wife and an attic full of squirrels in South Deerfield, Massachusetts.



James Kelly with his grand-daughters Alexa and Olivia

May/June Events

Saturday, May 8, **Classes end**, Mount Holyoke campus.

Monday, May 10, **Classes end**, Boston campus.

Monday, May 17–Sunday, June 6, **Summer Session I** (weekend and partial-week courses) Boston Campus.

Wednesday, June 2, **Diversity Summit**, As Simmons moves forward with its 2004 Diversity Action Plan, please join us in our discussion of diversity in the library and information science profession. For more information, contact Em Claire Knowles at knowles@simmons.edu. C-101, Main College Building. 11:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 5–Thursday, June 10, **Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association** in Nashville, TN. Students can register for the reduced fee of \$100. For more information about registering, visit <http://www.sla.org/nashville2004/conferenceevents.htm>.

Sunday, June 20–Wednesday, June 23, **The Association of Jewish Libraries 39th Annual Convention**, “The Jewish American Experience: 350 Years” at the New York Marriot Hotel at the Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn, New York. The AJL would like to extend a cordial invitation to students pursuing their MLS degrees and who wish to explore a career in Judaica librarianship by offering a special discounted rate of \$60 per day for current students. For further information and registration, please visit the AJL website at <http://www.jewishlibraries.org>.

Folks on the Move

Emily Alling, Mount Holyoke GSLIS student, co-hosts a weekly library-themed talk show called “Schoolhouse Rock” on WSCB 89.9 FM (Springfield College). The show airs on Tuesdays from 10:00–11:00 a.m. If you would like to see some topics that have been discussed on the show, visit <http://librarydjs.blogspot.com>. Suggestions for future show topics are welcome.

Sheila S. Intner, GSLIS Professor Emerita and a Fulbright senior specialist, visited Tbilisi, Georgia, from April 25–May 8, 2004, where she lectured on cataloging standards and development of library collections at Sulkhan-Saba University, the Georgian National Library, the Georgian Academy of Sciences, and Tbilisi State University of Culture and Arts. She also met with university and library administrators in these four major institutions to discuss problems of mutual interest.

Estelle Jussim, Visual Arts Pioneer and GSLIS Professor, 1927–2004

A dedicated professor, **Dr. Estelle Jussim** taught courses on film, photographic archives, history of visual communication, and communications media from 1972 until her retirement in 1992. On March 1, she died in Western Massachusetts after a long illness.

Recognized nationally and internationally for her contributions to photography and visual communication, Estelle Jussim was specially known for her unconventional writings on the social impact of photography. Her twenty books include *Stopping Time: The Photographs of Harold Edgerton*, *Landscape as Photograph*, and *Visual Communication and the Graphics Arts*. Other essays and books chronicle photographers such as Barbara Crane, Alfred Stieglitz, Jerome Liebling, Alvin

Sunday, May 16, **Commencement Breakfast**, August 2003, January 2003, and May 2004 Graduates are invited to celebrate with fellow GSLIS graduates, faculty, staff, alumni, family, and friends at a breakfast buffet, immediately preceding Commencement Activities. Beatley Library, Main College Building, 7:30–8:45 a.m.*

R.s.v.p. with the number of guests by May 5th, 2004. Call 617-521-2829 or email gsdean@simmons.edu. Please kindly limit the number of guests to four.

*Graduates must report to Main College Building, 2nd floor, East Wing, at 8:55 a.m.

Commencement information available at <http://my.simmons.edu/academics/commencement/>

Langdon Coburn, Paul Strand, Edward Weston, Ansel Adams and Frederic Remington. Her collected essays, *Eternal Moment: Essays on the Photographic Image*, were published by *Aperture* in 1989.

Jussim was sought after as a speaker and lectured all across the United States at such places as Smith College, the Amon Carter Museum (Texas), International Museum of Photography (Rochester, New York), the Art Institute of Chicago, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and Wellesley College. She also lectured in Canada, France, and England.

A distinguished photography historian, she received an award for her achievement in the history of photography from the New York Photographic Historical Society. She was elected honorary member of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Photographie in Köln, Germany, as “one who has made a significant contribution to the theory and history of photography.” She received an honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from the Linköping University in Sweden for her contribution to the visual arts. She was awarded the Winship Globe Award for her biography, *Slave to Beauty*, of the eccentric photographer F. Holland Day.

Photographer Barbara Crane has described Jussim’s writings as, “an experience in human empathy, energy, and intellectuality, bonded by a superb wit”—an apt characterization of not only her work but Jussim, herself. She was a stimulating lecturer, brilliant writer, dedicated teacher, and a strong mentor to her students. For many, she changed their lives.

The School will establish an annual award in her name to be given to a GSLIS student who demonstrates great promise in the visual arts. For more information, contact Linda Watkins, 617-521-2824 or Michèle Cloonan, 617-521-2805.

Contributed by Linda Watkins, GSLIS Librarian and friend of Estelle Jussim

Internship Opportunities

Summer 2004 Corporate Library Internship

Fidelity Investments/Systems Co./FCAT Emerging Technology Research Services, 245 Summer St. Boston, MA 02019
Contact: Cynthia Sullivan, 617-563-4308
cindy.sullivan@fmr.com

Hours/Rate 40 hours/week, \$20/hour

Start date: May 17, 2004 through September 17, 2004

Library description:

A medium-sized corporate library in Boston that serves 6,000 application developers, system programmers, communications engineers, and business specialists. The library provides books, journals, consultant reports, web-based research tools, research support, and technical documentation. The position offers the opportunity to pursue training in software applications and to be exposed to leading-edge technologies. Responsibilities include:

Research support: Handle research for technical staff using print, web-based databases, and other Internet-based resources, including more in-depth research projects.

Processing books: Index and catalog materials; use client/server library system to catalog and update records; prepare books for shelf access.

New software testing: Assist librarian with installing, testing, and evaluating new software products and systems; assist librarian with testing and evaluating new web-based products and resources; additional projects as they arise.

Interns are required to have taken: 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.

Suggested skills are: Knowledge of library operations and library systems; knowledge of IBM PC compatible hardware, Windows/XP, Microsoft Office suite of products, and HTML; good interactive skills and professional manner in dealing with clients; willingness to assume responsibility; excellent time management skills.

Course Offerings: Fall Schedule

Thanks to those of you who indicated your top choices of electives for the fall semester in our recent request via gslis_info@simmons.edu. We're pleased to convey that all of the top vote-getters are on the fall tentative roster, e.g. academic libraries, collection development, and US government information policies. Also, in order to continue to follow-up on your feedback provided in the earlier WebCT survey hosted by LISSA, we have arranged to offer Library Architecture and Design, which will be taught by Claudia Morner, University Librarian at the University of New Hampshire. This is an especially good time to offer this elective, because of the Simmons library building project. The final fall schedule will be posted no later than mid-June, and registration for fall semester will take place in mid-July. Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 8, and end on Saturday, December 18.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer in Boston for the American Association of Law Libraries 2004 Annual Meeting

Join others who are volunteering to help make the American Association of Law Libraries 2004 Annual Meeting in Boston a success. The Local Arrangements Committee needs volunteers for a variety of activities at the AALL Annual Meeting held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, July 10 - 14th. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with law librarians from across the country. You don't have to be an AALL Member to volunteer. Volunteers will receive free passes to the exhibit hall. Volunteer opportunities include working at the registration desk, collecting tickets and seating people at the association luncheon and closing banquet, stuffing the conference tote bags on July 9, or setting-up booths and visiting with attendees' children at the family social hour on July 10.

Volunteers are critical in making the conference run smoothly—and they have fun! For more detailed descriptions of volunteer opportunities at the Boston AALL Annual Meeting, check the volunteer form available on the AALL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/events/local04/>. Please fax, mail, or email the completed volunteer form available on the AALL website or in the preliminary program by June 4 to: Judy Gire, Volunteer Chair, Franklin Pierce Law Center Library, 2 White Street, Concord, NH 03303. Fax: 603-228-0388, Email: jgire@piercelaw.edu.

New Faculty Presentation

It was another packed house in room P-207 on Tuesday, March 23, when new GSLIS faculty member Gerry Benoit spoke on information retrieval and the special challenges of IR across languages. For those who missed it, check out the Event Report on the ASIS&T website, which includes a brief description of what Gerry covered, links to his PowerPoint presentation and a great set of supplemental material mapped to his presentation points: <http://web.simmons.edu/~schwartz/asis/benoito4.html>. For further information, contact Dr. Gerry Benoit at benoit@simmons.edu.

Information Link

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.

The Link Staff

Em Claire Knowles, Editor-in-Chief
Victoria Thatcher, Editor
Alisa M. Libby, Production Editor
Christine Sharkey, Proofreader

The *Link* welcomes your suggestions, comments, and especially your contributions. Please send comments and suggestions to knowles@simmons.edu. Send submissions to alisa.libby@simmons.edu.

Note that views expressed by unofficial contributors to the newsletter are not necessarily the views of the newsletter, GSLIS, or Simmons College. The editors reserve the right to edit any material submitted for publication.

Copy deadline for the June/July 2004 issue is Friday, May 14, 2004.