Faculty Embrace Local and Global Collaborations

Have you noticed how today’s media focuses on global events? Rising gas prices, the impact of global warming, immigration, the globalization of commerce... As our world community grows more intertwined, we develop stronger needs for information systems to “interface” and for individuals to collaborate and understand the idiosyncrasies of others’ cultures.

Information represents the currency that drives global connections. Librarians and information professionals stand at the gateway of much of the world’s growing knowledge base. They ensure information access amidst evolving metadata standards, and determine how information systems are designed and built (information architecture), how information flows (collection development), through what channels (accessibility), and how people use that information (usability).

Our School understands that in today’s globally connected culture it is vital to both model and teach the importance of information as a phenomenon that bridges gaps and illustrates commonality between disciplines and practices.

The University of Tennessee has chosen to respond to this need to grow more culturally engaged by launching “Ready for the World,” a campus-wide initiative to transform campus culture into one that celebrates and connects diversity to global concerns, and prepares students to work and compete in the 21st century.

Our School applauds Ready for the World because we are already in stride with its goals and in tune with its values. We are bringing the world to our students through hosting visiting library and information sciences scholars, infusing regional and global collaborations into our curriculum, and expressing the diversity and research interests of our faculty.

Director Ed Cortez, who is a member of the new campus Global Advisory Committee that oversees the accreditation planning strategic collaborations.

Planning Strategic Collaborations

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this issue of Interface and the exciting things that are happening at SIS. The School continues to believe that the long term success of our program rests on active and collaborative leadership, as well as with the enlightened participation of all members of the SIS community. Let me give you some examples.

Faculty are putting the final touches on our new five-year strategic plan, which we will roll out this summer. The plan has two components. The first part, the Strategy of Excellence, addresses three priority areas—University Mission, Collaborations and Partnerships, and Relationship Management—and enumerates goals for 2006 through 2010 with specific objectives to achieve those goals.

The second component, Shaping the Future: Building on Success, features aspirational goals, along with specific themes including: providing solutions to real-world information problems within the state, regionally, and nationally;
Editor’s Desk

SIS moves up in rankings

Good news!

The School of Information Sciences has moved up in its national standing, according to a survey by U.S. News & World Report released in April. SIS rose from 20th in the nation to 16th out of 50 graduate programs in library and information sciences accredited by the American Library Association. SIS falls just below UCLA and Maryland.

U.S. News ranks graduate LIS programs based on expert opinion of program directors and senior faculty about program quality. They also use statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

We hope to realize our goal of being in the top 10 by the next ranking. The last ranking was done in 1999.

Glenn E. Estes Scholarship Fund Endowed!

The School will award its first Glenn E. Estes scholarship this fall thanks, in part, to gifts from his widow, Elizabeth Estes Sanders and her husband Gilbert Eugene Sanders, Jr.

Mr. Estes’ grandchildren made a meaningful and symbolic gift toward the scholarship last December when they emptied their piggybanks and sent their accumulated $30 to the School. Thank you, Emma Kate, Isabel, and Lydia Estes!

The Glenn E. Estes Scholarship will be awarded to students enrolled in the school library information specialist program, especially those who have demonstrated promise as a leader, and who intend to pursue a career in children’s and young adult literature.

Goodbye “Net-working” column

Since 2002, School students, staff, faculty, and alumni authored 27 articles in the Knoxville News-Sentinel Net-working column. Placed on the front page of the Technology Section, the column was published monthly until 2004, when it changed to every fifth Monday. The theme of the column was the Internet, its technologies, applications, tools for users, and its impact on society.

The Net-working column disappeared when the launch of the Greater Knoxville Business Journal replaced the Technology Page in January. To see a full list of Net-working columns, visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/alumni/networking.

SIS @ TLA

We unveiled a new exhibit at the Tennessee Library Association/Southeastern Library Association annual conference in Memphis this April. I counted 36 SIS graduates who made presentations, which may account for the lively alumni & friends reception at the Memphis Hilton. Over 40 alumni showed up to enjoy appetizers, jazz, and fellowship, which was punctuated by enthusiastic bursts of laughter as classmates mingled with each other and the handful of students attending.


Lydia Estes Scholarship Fund

Eugene Sanders, Jr. and Jamie Osborn, Knox County Public Library; Rachel Kirkland, George Mason University Library; and Jamie Osborn, Knox County Public Library System.

Errata

The fall 2005 issue referred to UT Chancellor Emeritus Bill Snyder alternately as Bill Snyder and Gary Snyder. It should have read Bill Snyder in each case.
Lecturer named CEO of major publisher

SIS Lecturer Michael Mabe was appointed chief executive officer of the International Association of Scientific, Technical, & Medical Publisher, according to an STM press release in March. The STM is a global membership organization representing more than 100 companies on copyright issues, technology developments, and end user relations.

According to Mabe, “STM publishers are facing a wider range of challenges in a more rapidly changing market than ever before: calls for public access to publicly funded research, the continuing revolution of the digital transition, challenges to copyright, the need to articulate publisher value-added to broader constituencies than in the past. In all these areas STM must make a real difference for its members and for the wider publishing community.”

Since 1999, Mabe has been director of Academic Relations for Elsevier where he was international academic affairs spokesperson responsible for Elsevier’s relations and strategy with the international research community, science funding bodies, and governmental agencies. Mabe was formerly publishing director of Elsevier’s global materials science program and has held senior positions at the British Standards Institution and Oxford University Press.

Mabe is also director of the Management Committee for the Centre for Publishing Studies, University College, London. Mabe has taught Scholarly Communications at SIS the past three summers and will teach again next summer.

enhancing the preeminence of faculty research; advancing the School’s multicultural and global perspective; and supporting local, state, regional and national goals to foster literacy in young people.

Our future is guided by a new Vision, Mission, and Values Statements adopted last winter and available on our website. We have actively pursued growing and nurturing our global connections and local networks. The three year Memorandum of Understanding between SIS and the East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) is under review for an extension. In preparation for the next phase of collaboration between the two schools, the faculty from each school came together in April for a joint faculty meeting via Centre (the distance education software program used for instruction).

This spring, faculty traveled to the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) to discuss the potential for collaboration with the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology. We are crafting a Memorandum of Understanding with UPR to establish the Cross Cultural Leadership Program for Library and Information Studies. Its primary goals will be to:

1. Diversify the student bodies and teaching faculties;
2. Expand teaching and research opportunities;
3. Expand distance learning opportunities;
4. Obtain external funding and participate in co-publications;
5. Establish a cross-cultural center for community informatics linking economic and social development with information and communication technology within regions that are experiencing growth in Latino immigration.
6. Increased focus on knowledge management, youth literature and services, scientific/technical information, and bibliometrics.

Our goals are proactive, action oriented and founded on the belief that through understanding cultural differences and similarities a platform for collaboration can be achieved. Each academic program brings the core values of library and information professions plus diversity, intercultural dialogue, and international literacies.

Locally, the student cohort groups in Virginia and central Tennessee continue to grow, engaging in activities that support academic and social interaction. A new cohort group is being formed in the Tri-cities area. Helping to link the cohort groups, including the Knoxville student group, is a new “social” discussion list created for SIS students.

It provides students with a professional online forum to engage in casual discussion about social activities, coursework and curricula, personal and professional experiences in different library and information science professions, or any topic of their choice.

Starting this fall, the SIS Advisory Board will be resurrected to advise and support the School. The Board consists of distinguished information professionals who represent varied experiences and backgrounds.

This first year at UT has been the most exhilarating and challenging time in 28 years as a library and information studies educator. I am honored to be the director of one of the finest information science programs in the country. Each day, I derive excitement and energy from the strength of our faculty and staff, the quality of our students, the unique role that our School plays in the university, state, and nation, and the firm belief that we will continue to grow in excellence. I look to the future knowing that the best is yet to come!
Jennifer Bownas (SIS ’03) might as well put “unraveling the genetic mysteries of life” on her resume. As the science communications specialist for the Genome Management Information System (GMIS) group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, she has the daunting role of organizing and presenting scientific insights from the Department of Energy’s genome research programs to scientists, researchers, educators, students, and the public.

Fortunately, she is upbeat about her work. “My job is an incredible opportunity to learn and write about the latest developments in biology without getting bogged down in laboratory work that is narrowly focused on some specialized area of biology.”

“We now have hundreds of genomes sequenced and many more on the way, and from this information we are discovering incredible insights into biology,” said Bownas. “Scientists everywhere are rethinking traditional methods for classifying and organizing life on earth, determining the minimal number genes needed to ‘be alive,’ and discovering ways that we can use microorganisms or systems of enzymes to produce renewable transportation fuels, pharmaceuticals, and other products that can improve the human condition.”

Many predict that biology will be the foremost science of the 21st century thanks to the rapid progress in genome science. Using genomics in molecular medicine shows promise for improved diagnosis of disease, better drug design, and gene therapies, while the benefits to energy production and environmental issues include the promise of creating new energy sources through biofuels, better monitoring to detect pollutants, and safer environmental remediation.

Science communications specialist at Human Genomic Project explains nature’s secrets

Begun in 1990, the Human Genome Project (HGP) was an international 13-year effort to determine the complete sequence of the 3 billion DNA bases, identify all human genes, then make this information accessible for everyone. Now that the HGP is complete, Bownas is also involved in a systems biology research program called Genomics: GTL, which is focused on using plant and microbial genomic information to develop alternative energy resources and clean up the environment.

When she isn’t creating technical reports to inform the scientific community and decision-makers at the Department of Energy about GTL, Bownas skims scientific journal articles, white papers, and reports related to genome science. She then distills the key points in layman’s terms for all manner of print and Web documents.

“Essentially, I work with a team that repackages the research findings by thinking up visual aids and language that translate ‘scientist speak’ into everyday language,” said Bownas. “We design websites [www.DOEgenomes.org], prepare exhibits at conferences, create handouts, and posters to reach every conceivable audience, from scientists and researchers of various disciplines, to educators, students, and the public.”

The favorite part of her job is teaching science teachers how to access and use the biological and genome sequence databases freely available on the Web.

“Educators are amazed that they and their students can access and even use some of the database resources that scientists use,” she said.

It all began at CIS

Bownas began working on the HGP in 2001 when she first came to SIS. With a B.S. in biochemistry from Virginia Tech, she approached the Center for Information Studies (CIS) hoping to find a position at ORNL library, but wound up at HGP developing a Web-based guide to gene and genome resources. The fit was perfect. The position is an ideal blend of her interests in technology, instruction, and biology.

What is the Center for Information Studies?

As the research branch of SIS, CIS facilitates and administers world-class applied research in the areas of homeland security, information usage, bioinformatics, and environmental information management. Organized to respond quickly to shifting needs and developments, the Center works with private and public organizations, governmental agencies and corporations providing technical solutions.
Before writing about current and future issues in library and information science (LIS) education, it may be helpful to take a brief look at the past. Libraries have existed for a very long time, and education for librarianship goes back to temple libraries in Egypt and the Fertile Crescent.

One of the important issues in education is the tension between those who educate and those who hire. As you might expect, the ideal would be close collaboration between those who practice and those who teach. This relationship has changed over time.

For most of our history, education was based upon an apprentice model. Those who wished to become librarians would begin by working for a scribe or at a low level position in a library. Over time, the apprentice gained seniority and increased skill and knowledge. With good performance, enough time, and a friend or two in the right place, one would become a librarian.

If the skills and knowledge needed to be a successful librarian are task oriented, on-the-job training makes good sense. It also provides an opportunity for the future librarian to see in some detail exactly what work in a library involves. For the employer, the apprenticeship provides an inexpensive way to evaluate competence and behavior.

On-the-job training is relatively inexpensive for both the library and the apprentice. Imagine no tuition hikes every year, and no student debt!

The downsize of the apprentice model is that training may leave gaps in skills and understanding. The librarian is often limited to “how we do it here” and lacks the broader perspectives typically found in an educational model.

It’s interesting that as one response to the “L” versus “I” controversy, some librarians and some employers have suggested that it might be best to return to the apprentice model. That would insure that new librarians could easily be tested for on-the-job performance and they would have the particular skills desired by the employer. Training would focus specifically on library specific skills with none of the “I” stuff. The head of the cataloging department would teach cataloging. Just like the old days.

In fact, one of the fundamental tensions in library education over the years has been the proper balance between training (designed to create specific skill sets) and education (designed to provide insight and understanding via the big picture needed for professional success in a variety of positions over the years).

One of the complaints frequently heard in library school is that there is too much “theory” and not enough practical work. With too little practical work, graduates are not prepared for the first day on the job. With too little education, they are not prepared for rapid change and have a narrow sense of possibilities.

The move from the apprentice model to the university resulted from two important conclusions. The first was that librarianship would never have been taken seriously as a “real” profession without validation via a university degree. The second was that “how we do it here” does not prepare librarians for the challenges they will face as new and seasoned professionals. Training is necessary, but it is not sufficient. Thus, library education at the baccalaureate level became the only way to enter the profession. Later, librarianship became a graduate degree because of the increased status and equivalence to other professional educations and to encourage librarians to have substantial subject familiarity.

One of the obvious problems in moving library education to the university is that educators must conform to university values and traditions. For example, faculty cannot just be thoughtful and well-informed teachers. They also must be accomplished researchers and published authors. Since the entry-level degree for full-time university teaching and tenure is ordinarily the Ph.D., library school faculty—over time—had to earn that research degree. Clearly, this limits opportunities for thoughtful and well-experienced librarians to become faculty members.

Several years ago, several library education programs were closed and others were threatened because university administrators had a narrow and stereotypical notion of librarianship. Did a first-rate university need to have an economics department? What about a school of library science? Often, the answer would be yes to the first and no to the second.

Name change is related to where library education takes place. Library education makes sense within the library. Education for library service sounds a bit more professional. Library science sounds more like a program that would be available at the graduate level in a university. However, many in higher education found it difficult to take “library science” seriously. Few librarians or library school faculty ever thought of themselves as “library scientists.”

A major reason for the change in focus from library school to library and information science school and then to school of information science was that the latter seemed highly relevant to the 21st Century university while library science did not. If a professional school is housed in a university, its survival is a function of the perceptions and attitudes of faculty and administrators in other schools and departments.
Kendra Albright was a panelist on International LIS Education at the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) in January, where she is also the Convener on SIG Policy.

Suzie Allard is finishing analysis with partners Ken Levine (Communication Studies) and Carol Tenopir on the IEEE-funded study, “How Technology Professionals Work,” which followed high-tech workers at four firms in the US and two in India. This work also earned a SARIF grant from UT to fund a student research assistant over the summer.

Allard submitted a proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services to study how to improve journal use by engineers, and she is a member of an interdisciplinary team to develop a proposal for the National Endowment for the Humanities/Library of Congress National Digital Newspaper grant program.

Allard also served on the university-wide, interdisciplinary conference committee which hosted the highly successful “New Latino Immigration to Tennessee: Opportunities and Challenges” conference this spring. She worked with Bharat Mehra and Jinx Watson to organize special sessions for librarians including one featuring celebrated Hispanic librarian Jose Aponte-director of the San Diego County library system and another with UT’s own reference librarian, Mark Puente, on a special practitioners panel.

Dania Bilal will present “Assessing the Usability of Cross-Cultural Digital Libraries for Arabic-speaking Children” at the Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, this summer. Her paper is based on two of her studies of children’s interactions with cross-cultural and multilingual digital libraries that are forthcoming in the Information Processing and Management journal.

Ed Cortez made several presentations this spring, including “Listo para el mundo: asociación con la Universidad de Puerto Rico at the University of Puerto Rico in March. He gave the keynote presentation for the East Tennessee Library Association’s 30th annual Mary Utropia Rothrock Lecture, “What an environmental scan tells us about the future of libraries and library education.” He also presented “Futures for LIS Professionals,” at the Atmospheric Science Librarians International meeting in February.

The College of Communication and Information awarded Bharat Mehra the Outstanding Innovative Technology Award at its Convocation this April.

In his course on Public Library Management and Services, students built an online project management portfolio entitled ‘Framework for Library Automation to Digitize Culture-Specific Materials in Small Library Settings.’ [For details, see www.sis.utk.edu/~bmehra/ISS554/PMPltemplate.html.]

Mehra and Jinx Watson were awarded a grant to sponsor a symposium in April that considered “How Does Globalization in the Age of Information Affect Traditions and Culture Around the World?” See sidebar on page 9.

The university recently approved Mehra’s proposal for developing a Commission for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The proposal was presented with George Hoemann (SIS ’95) and Donna Braquet (UT Libraries) to the Chancellor, and the team is now working with UT’s Diversity Council to shape bylaws for the Commission.


In late April Mehra presented “Contextualizing Internet Use in the Everyday Life of the Cyber-Queer” at the Broadcasting Education Association conference in Las Vegas.

Mike Pemberton continues as Executive Editor of Information Management Journal. With his daughter, Anne Pemberton (SIS ’00), the instructional services coordinator at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, he published “Resources and Services to People with Disabilities in Tennessee Libraries” in the spring issue of Tennessee Librarian. Along with John Lounsbury and Janine Williamson, the two also published “Records Managers: A Psychometric Look at Career Choice” in Information Management Journal, September/October issue.

Pemberton recently created a plan that will supply career services to students as they progress through the student lifecycle while at SIS.

The College of Communication and Information awarded Bill Robinson its Outstanding Teaching Award at the College Convocation ceremony in April. In the nomination, Drs. Cortez and Tenopir stated that Robinson is “widely considered an imaginative, innovative, and stimulating professor... He puts students first and always takes time to answer their questions, provide feedback on assignments, and work with them to help them succeed. His class sessions are always up-to-date, full of wonderful information, and entertaining as well.”

Robinson was appointed to the UT Faculty Senate for a 2-year term beginning this fall.
Robert Sandusky is a charter member of the Partnership for a Nation of Learners interest group, a local coalition of representatives from SIS, UT, public broadcasting, public libraries, and other cultural institutions. This group is working to identify research and development projects that benefit the community, the university, and Knox County Library System.

Along with Drs. Mehra and Cortez, Sandusky submitted a grant proposal that would help Hispanic youth establish strong ties to educational and cultural institutions in East Tennessee. The proposal would fund a workshop series for Hispanic youth to learn about documenting their lives and a digital storytelling festival and exhibit.

Sandusky has been busy giving presentations and representing SIS as the coordinator for the new Undergraduate Minor in Information Studies & Technology. Sandusky is also an active member of the Diverse Idea Group for Information Technology (DIGIT), an interdisciplinary group at UT interested in digital information systems theory and practice. DIGIT is working to identify research and development projects that benefit the community, the university, the library, and School.

Carol Tenopir is now serving the second part of her Fulbright Senior Specialist at the University of Oulu in Finland. She continues to wear out the wheels on her international suitcase as she continues research work around the globe, including the University of New South Wales and University of Queensland, where she will return this summer as the John Metcalfe visiting scholar.

Last fall, she traveled to Korea and Japan to present Library Connect seminars and meet with Japanese University Library Directors about future research collaborations.

She will be the visiting research professor at Hanken University in Helsinki, Finland, “a leading, internationally accredited university in the field of economics and business administration.”

She continues to produce a bevy of articles this year, including the Journal of the Medical Library Association, the Journal of Academic Librarianship, and Library Journal, where, along with Bill Robinson, Jill Grogg (SIS’01), and Gayle Baker (UT Libraries), Tenopir continues to write the annual Library Journal “Database MarketPlace” surveys, published in the May 15 issue. This will be the 24th year she has written the “Online Databases” column in Library Journal.

Peiling Wang served on a committee that has just initiated a new Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Computational Science, where students will combine courses from the computer sciences and information sciences disciplines.

She was an invited speaker at the Digital Archives for Science & Engineering Resources Summit last December where she presented “Information-Seeking Behaviors of Researchers in the Internet Age: Interdisciplinary Differences.”

In August, she will travel to Taiwan as an invited speaker at the International Seminar on the Development of Digital Libraries and deliver two presentations: “Preserving Intellectual Resources: Institutional Repository and Open Access;” and “Studies of Web User Behaviors Using Experimental Method and Transaction Logs Mining.”

In September, she will travel to Greece to speak at the Institutional Repository at the Library of Technology Educational Institute of Thessaloniki. She will also present “Information-Seeking Behaviors of Academic Researchers in the Internet Age: Interdisciplinary and Cross-cultural Differences” at the International Scientific Conference: The Information Society Era.

She is on the Program Committee of the new conference: First International Symposium on Information Interaction in Context in Copenhagen, Denmark this fall.

Jinx Watson and Bharat Mehra wrote a successful grant to sponsor a symposium in April that asked “How Does Globalization in the Age of Information Affect Traditions and Culture Around the World?” See sidebar on page 9.

Watson is now writing a report that will detail the findings of the “reflexivity” exercise that she and Bharat Mehra organized to assess faculty and staff’s commitments and interests in global topics. See page 8 for more information about this.

She has written “The Invitation to Notice and Wonder: Caring about Ideas,” a book chapter in Teaching with Spirit: Educational Practices for the 21st Century, which will be published by Scarecrow Press later this year.

Gretchen Whitney will teach a new course this fall. IS 590: Universal Design traces the history of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act and asks the question, “How can we make life in the U.S. better for everyone?” Since the rise of the Internet, disabled people have embraced information technologies, and yet information equality doesn’t truly exist.

Information sciences are relevant to disability services through technologies such as screen-readers, text-to-speech software, closed-captioning techniques, HTML coding standards, operating system capabilities, and through many others. Information policy decisions hinge on how these technologies are adopted.
program Ready for the World, has taken leadership of a faculty that is highly visible internationally.

SIS faculty members have established collaborations with scholars and institutions in Finland, India, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Uganda, Lebanon, and Australia, to name a few. They are committed to supporting a culturally diverse and engaged student and faculty body and are preparing others to become international information leaders. Here are some of the exciting projects that are enriching SIS this year.

Assessing international and intercultural understandings at SIS

Bharat Mehra and Jinx Watson wrote a successful grant last fall to assess faculty and staff's commitments and interests in global issues. They interviewed faculty and staff and brought a well-known facilitator to explore this topic during a half-day retreat this spring. What was collectively discovered through a series of group processes was that SIS faculty are not only extraordinarily diverse and tolerant of other cultures and perspectives, but that most have earned international reputations for their research.

During this session, everyone agreed that the success of our graduates is tied to their ability to respond with alacrity to global issues; that the SIS distance education program is mature and capable of the collaboration we are planning with University students in India, Puerto Rico, and Uganda; and that because libraries and information sciences are interdisciplinary by nature, SIS stands ready for further leadership opportunities.

Faculty also enumerated examples of existing beneficial partnerships with publishers, community networks, nonprofit agencies, public school systems, and every type of library.

SIS launches major collaboration with University of Puerto Rico

In March, Ed Cortez initiated a cross cultural collaboration between the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Library and Information Science and SIS. Carol Tenopir, Bharat Mehra, and Ed Cortez traveled to the Rio Piedras campus to craft a Memorandum of Understanding, identify research affinities, and explore student and faculty exchanges.

The two faculties have communicated their goals via a new Listserv and have established broad agreements for “the Cross Cultural Leadership Program for Library and Information Studies” that they are developing. An inaugural symposium next fall will bring UPR faculty and students together at SIS to further develop a student exchange program with scholarship support, a funded faculty exchange program, and groundwork for a symposium next summer at the University of Puerto Rico.

Because UT’s Office of Outreach and Continuing Education is integrally involved with our distance education courses, SIS alumni and assistant dean of University Outreach and Continuing Education George Hoemann (SIS ’95) is planning a trip to the Puerto Rico campus with Ed Cortez to discuss infrastructure issues with UPR faculty and to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

When the procedures are in place, both student cohorts may take coursework at the other school.

SIS welcomes celebrated Hispanic librarian to community events

SIS co-sponsored “The New Latino Immigration to Tennessee: Opportunities and Challenges” university-wide conference on March 31–April 1, focusing on the emerging social and political issues interwoven with the growing Hispanic population in Tennessee. SIS organized a special session for librarians and invited activist public librarian Jose Aponte to speak to librarians about the importance of recruiting socially committed LIS professionals to empower communities.

The director of the San Diego County library system, Aponte has actively promoted library services to Latinos
Throughout his career, in his talk, “Dancing with the elephants: staying relevant in extraordinary times,” he emphasized how “the institution of public libraries must transform itself by actively recruiting Latinos and socially committed professionals dedicated to serving and empowering our community to stay relevant in business, and faithful to our original purpose.”

A passionate speaker, Aponte drove home the importance of getting to know one’s patrons, so that libraries can provide any manner of services—unconventional or not—that create public value through reaffirming our mission ‘to educate, inform, inspire and entertain.’

SIS and Knox County Public Libraries co-hosted a reception for librarians and the Latino community to meet Aponte and discuss Hispanic community information support services.

Reaching out into our communities

Robert Sandusky, Bharat Mehra, and Ed Cortez are the principal investigators of a grant that is proposing a community archival history project called “The Road between Two Worlds: Cultural Preservation and Adaptation in the Hispanic Community.”

The proposal, known as the “Camino Project,” will help Hispanic youth establish strong ties to educational and cultural institutions in East Tennessee by funding a workshop series for Hispanic youth to learn about documenting their lives and through a digital storytelling festival and exhibit. SIS will coordinate the project, collect data throughout the project, and disseminate the results.

Spanish Fulbright scholar presents at SIS Research Forum

Dr. Eva Méndéz spoke to students and faculty at the spring SIS Research Forum on April 19. Méndéz, who is an assistant professor at the University Carlos III of Madrid, explained how higher education in Europe is being transformed by American mores. She also discussed how metadata standards for describing and organizing digital learning objects are being modified rapidly, which is challenging digital libraries and services. The title of her talk was “Information systems and services to educate life-long learners: A chance for metadata research.”

Makerere University partnership update

This spring, SIS held a joint faculty meeting with Ugandan faculty at the East African School of Library and Information Sciences at Makerere University that allowed the schools to renew their purpose and consider future partnerships.

Next fall, our college will admit a doctoral student from EASLIS, who will seek a concentration in information sciences.

— Joel Southern

As a part of the grant that Bharat Mehra and Jinx Watson received through UT’s International and Intercultural Awareness Initiative (see pg. 8), SIS sponsored “How Does Globalization in the Age of Information Affect Traditions and Culture Around the World?,” which was held on April 5 at the International House on the UT campus.

Presentations included:

“Industrial Outsourcing and its Impacts in Enmeshing World Cultures,” by Professor Adedeji B. Badiru, Department of Industrial & Information Engineering

“The Development of Persuasion Knowledge in Value Advocacy Advertising,” by Yoon-Joo Le, Ph.D. candidate, School of Advertising and Public Relations

“Culture: Ward of the State or Evolving Entity?,” by Dorothy Ogdon, SIS graduate student


“Corporatization of Cultures: Traditional Cultural Expressions as Marketing Tools by Corporate Uganda,” by Dick Kawaoya, Ph. D. candidate, SIS

The School will publish proceedings of the symposium, both online and in print later this year.
**Student Corner**

**Institutionalizing Town Hall Meetings**

Director Cortez has institutionalized the town hall meeting to bring students up-to-date on school activities and to listen to their concerns. This spring semester’s town hall meeting was broadcast from the University of Puerto Rico via Centra, the proprietary software SIS uses to conduct its distance education classes, and both SIS and UPR student cohorts participated.

**Student awarded Best Master’s Research Paper**

Second year student Amy Elliott won this year’s Best Masters Student Research Paper Award at the 28th annual College of Communication and Information Research Symposium. Her paper, “Thinking Globally and Reading Diverely: Issues of Gay and Lesbian International Literature for Young Adults,” examines the role of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, and queers in the young adult novel.

**Doctoral candidate receives coveted fellowship**

Doctoral candidate Dick Kawooya received a fellowship from the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundations Network and the Center for Policy Studies (CPS) of Central European University, in cooperation with partners including the Woodrow Wilson Center in the United States.

Kawooya was one of 25 applicants selected from some 500 applicants worldwide. The fellowship aims at training the “next generation of open society leaders in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Mongolia.” Kawooya’s research is in Open Information Policy, specifically copyright policies and access to information in Africa. He proposed to study the impact of copyright policies on Africa’s teaching and research institutions using three case studies in Uganda. He will conduct surveys on usage of electronic resources and the impact of copyright on usage and then assess the best way to utilize his findings in formulating institutional and national copyright policies. Kawooya’s goal is to position teaching and research institutions as players in Africa’s information policies.

**Student wins poster contest**

Nancy Thomas has won the Graduate Student Poster Contest at the Brick and Click Symposium for her poster presentation, “Proxies, URL Redirectors, and VPNs—Oh My!” Thomas received complimentary registration to the symposium and a travel stipend.

**VLA awards student scholarship**

The Paraprofessional Forum of the Virginia Library Association has awarded Maryke Barber, a distance education student from Roanoke, Virginia, a $2,000 scholarship for 2006.

**Student writing thesis on state libraries efficacy**

Sandra Treadway is writing a thesis examining the effectiveness and perceptions of state libraries during the past 20 years. This is a historical study using interviews and secondary sources. Sandy has a Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia and is the Deputy State Librarian at the Library of Virginia. She is coeditor of *Commonwealth: Treasures from the Collections of the Library of Virginia* and is an editor of the multivolume *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*.

**SIS Announces Top Awards for 2005–2006**

**Gary R. Purcell Award:** Martha Hendricks

**Academic Achievement Award:** Genny Carter

**Outstanding Service Award:** Rachel Kirkland

**Outstanding Thesis Award:** Xuemei Ge “Sherry”

**Scholarship Awards**

**Glenn E. Estes Scholarship:** Sarah Belisle & Emily Catherine Kramer

**Information International Associates Scholarship:** Ronda Foust & Alisa Mason

**Pioneer Award:** Christi Underdown & Jodie Gambill

**Gary R. Purcell Scholarship:** Sarena Cleeton & Susan Jennings

**Wilson Award:** Courtney McGough & Wendy Cornelisen

**Best Paper:**
(Tie): Carly Hamlett: “Are We an Information Society,” and Amy Elliott: “Thinking Globally and Reading Diverely: Issues of Gay and Lesbian International Literature for Young Adults”

**Best Project:**
“University Photograph Collection” Jennifer Anielski & Susan Catlett

**College Award:**
Outstanding M.S. Student in IS: Christopher Benda
Alumni Volunteers in Samoa with Peace Corps

Marques Stewart (SIS ’05) planned to join the Peace Corps before graduate school. Fortunately for SIS, he waited to satisfy his dream until after he graduated last spring.

Today, as a Peace Corps Volunteer, he heads the computer studies department at Chanel College (a high school) in the tiny Pacific island nation of Samoa. He not only designs the computer studies curriculum for students grades 9–13, he teaches five classes a day, and is the primary technology support for the school.

“I am putting my SIS education to work not only by helping these kids understand technology they have never used before, but I’m also getting that technology here,” said Stewart.

“Those are the two challenges I will be facing here for the next two years—developing a computer studies program which others can teach and which will give students the tools they need to develop computer literacy, and then obtaining and maintaining the necessary technologies to give these students a chance to work with computers daily.”

He and his group of 14 volunteers were assigned a village and placed with a Samoan family during nearly three months of intense language and cultural training. His Samoan family “gives us a kind of unique bond to the culture that we could not attain if we were just visitors here for the weekend,” he said.

“It also makes you feel like you are a part of the culture itself because your family considers you one of their own. Since everyone in Samoa is related to someone else, this means that you’re a part of the overall Samoan family. In essence, I have been adopted.” His family gave him the Samoan name “Matusi,” which means “and write book,” which seems perfect for a recent graduate of a LIS program.

Alumni Board Recognizes Martha Earl as 2006 Distinguished Alumni

The School of Information Sciences Alumni Board honored Martha Earl with the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award. SIS Alumni Board President Margaret Casado announced the award at SIS Alumni & Friends Day, March 11, at the university’s McClung Museum. Earl (SIS ’85) is the reference coordinator at the UT Preston Medical Library in Knoxville.

A consummate librarian, Earl has worked in academic and special libraries continuously since 1980. Tena Litherland stated in her nomination letter that few SIS graduates “have so tirelessly worked for Tennessee libraries and its professional associations as has Martha Earl.”

Indeed, Earl gives reliable and committed service to several library organizations—and serves or has served in leadership positions in the Medical Library Association, the Tennessee Health Sciences Libraries Association, TennShare, and the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries, among others. She is a Distinguished Member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals.

Earl is also a long-term and dedicated member of the Tennessee Library Association, having served as President in 1998–99, and continuously in other capacities on the Board of Directors.

Throughout her professional career, Earl has not only demonstrated excellence in publishing, teaching, and service to the profession, she has raised the bar for other librarians. At Alumni & Friends Day, Earl thanked her mentor, Janet Fisher, with whom she worked at Quillen College of Medicine Library at East Tennessee State University.

“Janet Fisher told me that the best way to repay her for her guidance over the years was to mentor other librarians along the way,” said Earl. “It’s very important to give back to the profession and to Tennessee libraries. Leadership is service.”

Martha Earl’s career reads like a road map, linking one success to the next. She has authored or co-authored over 20 peer reviewed articles, including articles in American Libraries, and she gives frequent presentations for local health and consumer groups, and at state and regional library conferences.

She works tirelessly to improve access to health information for librarians, consumers, and health professionals in Tennessee, and her visibility and energy redefine and give meaning to the school’s Distinguished Alumni Award.
Peggy Sullivan Animates Alumni & Friends Day

Peggy Sullivan impressed those attending the SIS Alumni Board’s annual Alumni & Friends Day this spring not only by her terrific memory of her five decades of work in librarianship, but by telling stories that showed how important it is for librarians to know and appreciate the social and political atmospheres from which they have emerged.

One of her stories profiled a small town librarian in Oklahoma, Ruth Brown, who was accused of fanning racial tensions in 1950 by taking stands against censoring her collections and by supporting interracial programs at her library. Against a backdrop of post World War II, when the cold war and anti-communism was revving up, Brown challenged not only entrenched racial attitudes about segregation, she also challenged society’s patriarchal norm that women were to be submissive, nurturing, moral, and domestic.

Because 90 percent of librarians at that time were women, they were expected to provide a homelike atmosphere for their patrons—not advocate on behalf of the underserved.

Sullivan distributed a hand-illustrated sheet of paper that served as a legend and bingo-like guide. She then asked the audience to choose which stories they would like to hear, according to the graphic depiction of the story. Her topic, “Library Heroes: Past, Present and Future,” allowed her ample room to tell stories about America’s foundational librarians, such as Melvil Dewey, Jesse Shera, and Mary Utopia Rothrock.

She admitted that library heroes are not always the most lovable people to be around. They were often, in fact, rather cranky when focused on their work. We do end up loving them in the end for the incredible impact they make on our society, she added.

Sullivan was President of the American Library Association from 1980 to 1981 and Executive Director from 1992 to 1994 — the only woman to have served in both ALA’s highest elective office and its highest staff office. She has worked in public, school, and academic libraries around the country.

Alumni President’s Corner

By Margaret Casado, President, SIS Alumni Board

As another semester draws to a close, we congratulate the new graduates who have completed the program and welcome our new colleagues as you begin your professional careers. We wish you the best and hope you will join us in exciting and valuable alumni events through the years.

The Alumni & Friends Day in March was outstanding. We honored Martha Earl with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and enjoyed hearing her thank the people who supported and encouraged her along the way.

The Alumni Board is preparing a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the SIS Mentoring Program. If you have suggestions you would like to pass along, please send them to me or to Tanya Arnold <tarnold@utk.edu>, the SIS student services coordinator. Your input will help make this an indispensable program for our students and alumni.

We are also working with practicum coordinator Michael Pemberton to develop a Web page that will help students identify some of the practicum experiences available to them. If you sponsor SIS practicum students at your organization, or would like to, please contact me or Dr. Pemberton <imainc@mindspring.com> so that we can let students know of your opportunity. This Web resource will give students helpful contacts at your organization, along with information about the kind of work available.

Contact me at casado@utk.edu or (865) 974-0087 if you have questions.

Finally, it is time to hold elections for new officers and members-at-large for the SIS Alumni Board. Please consider nominating someone (including yourself) for a position. Simply notify a member of the Board by June 1. Visit www.sis.utk.edu/alumni/board for more information about our Board and the nomination process.

Thanks for your support and have a great summer.
In an e-mail sent out last winter, I invited graduates who work together in the same organization to submit photos of their SIS colleagues. This is part of a larger “testimonial project,” which our school is putting together to create textual and photographic profiles of our alumni.

We want to show prospective students where our alumni work, what they are doing, and how much fun they have on the job. We invite you to send us your photo and tell us how your experiences at SIS prepared you for your career journey. You can sample testimonials at: www.sis.utk.edu/about; www.sis.utk.edu/programs; www.sis.utk.edu/programs/masters — Joel Southern

Anne Pemberton (SIS ’00) and husband Peter Fritzler (SIS ’00) are librarians at the University of North Carolina Wilmington Library.

The “UT Volunteer Club” at the University of North Carolina Greensboro Library. Left to right: Robert F. “Bob” Gaines (SIS ’74), Government Information Librarian and Instructor; Sha Li Zhang (SIS ’88), Assistant Director for Collections and Technical Services; and Scott Rice (SIS ’02), Networked Information Services Librarian.

Daniel Redmon (SIS ’05) Information Scientist and Randy Hoffman (SIS ’83) Project Manager are librarians at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

SIS graduates enjoy a light moment at Information International Associates (IIa) headquarters in Oak Ridge, TN. Left to right: Susanne Dupes (SIS ’04) Corporate Communications Manager; Pat Powell (SIS ’05) seated, Senior Vice-president; Fred Rascoe (SIS ’04) Information Specialist; Franciel Aspanu-Linares (SIS ’98), Project Manager
1971
Sue Diehl is an assistant professor and reference librarian at Montreat College in Montreat, NC, and is a member of ALA, ACRL, NCLA, NEA, ACA, and ACL.

1974
W. Ellen McDonell is director of Memphis University School Library in Memphis, and is a member of ALA, TLA, and AASL.

1975
Claudia Schauman is branch manager at Nashville Public Library and is a member of TLA, SELA, and WNBA.

1977
Kathy Breeden is director of the Columbia State Community College Library in Columbia, TN, and is a member of ALA and TLA.

Pamela Budd is media coordinator at AC Reynolds Middle School in Asheville, NC, and is a member of NCSLMA and UMW. She received the Japan Fulbright Teacher Award in 2004.

1979
Kathy Campbell is a library instruction and reference librarian at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN, and is a member of ALA, ACRL, and TLA.

Karen Wehner is principal research information scientist at Eastman Chemical in Kingsport, Tenn., and is a member of SLA.

1980
Thomas Camden is director of Special Collections at the State Library of Virginia.

Becky Smeltzer is coordinator of Library Technical Services at UT’s MTAS Library in Knoxville, and is a member of TLA and ETAL.

1982
Connie Pierce is a librarian in Signal Mountain, TN, and is a member of ALA, PL A, TLA, and TASL.

Beth Walden is director at Dickinson County Library in Iron Mountain, Mich., and is a member of ALA and Michigan Library Association.

1983
Robert “Bob” Conrad is director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Library in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and is a member of SLA.

1985
Susan Earl is a library administrator at Nashville Public Library. She is a member of ALA, PLA, and TLA and serves on the boards of TLA, TennShare, and TN Advisory Council of Libraries.

James Huesman is the dean of libraries at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and is a member of ALA.

Fredda Williams is a children’s consultant and branch manager at Knox County Public Library in Knoxville, and is a member of TLA and the National Storytelling Network.

1986
Julie Adams is an assistant librarian at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Tenn.

1988
Kay “Laurenda” Cunningham is an electronic resources librarian at the University of Memphis, and is a member of SLA, ALA (RUSA/MARS/MERS), TLA, and on the TennShare Board.


Thomas Whisman is a business reference manager at Knox County Public Library in Knoxville, and is a member of ETAL.

1989
Linda Behrend is a collection development librarian at UT’s Hodges Library in Knoxville, and is a member of ALA, ALCTS, ACRL, TLA, and OLAC (Online Audiovisual Catalogers). She is also the subject librarian for Religious Studies; see http://www.lib.utk.edu/people/behrend.html.

1990
Charlie Steinhicke is a senior analyst for health care cost reporting & analysis at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

1991
Emily Moore is a systems librarian at Information International Associates, Inc.’s AEDC Technical Library at Arnold Air Force Base in Tenn., and is a member of SLA.

Kelly Shipman is a librarian at Shelby County Schools in Collierville, Tenn., and is a member of TASL and NEA.

1992
Malissa Brennan is a reference technologist librarian at Knox County Public Library in Knoxville, and is a member of TLA.

Deanna Denk is a consultant at Metropolitan Library System in Burr Ridge, Ill., and is a member of ALA and the National Association of Photoshop Professionals.

1993
Jane Casto is the headquarters services manager at Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center in Fayetteville, N.C., and is a member of NCLA, ALA, and PLA.

1994
Michelle Noel is dean of Vise Library at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn.

1995
Lisa Ahlstedt is media coordinator at Southeast Kentucky Community Technical College in Middlesboro, KY, and a member of ALA and KLA.
Fay Derrick is a librarian at East Shelby Branch Library in Memphis, and is a member of ALA, TLA, and MALC.

Ed Sullivan is a library media specialist for Knox County Schools in Knoxville, and is a member of ALA, AASL, Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, Children’s Lit. Assembly, ALSC, and TASL.

1996

Laura Kaufmann is director of Library Services at Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn.

Deborah Jammers is a branch manager at Bon Air Library at Chesterfield County Public Library in Richmond, VA, and is a member of VLA.

Kim Owen is a consultant for Public Library Administration and Management at Alabama Public Library Service in Montgomery, Ala., and is a member of the Alabama Library Association.

Scott Wells is assistant director for communications at Innovative Computing Laboratory in Knoxville, and is a member of IEEE.

1997

Roderick Lee is branch manager of East Central Georgia Regional Library in Hephizbah, GA, and is a member of ALA, PLA, GLA, and CSARLA.

Priscilla Seaman is a library instruction coordinator at UT Chattanooga, and is a member of ACRL, ALA, TLA, and CALA.

Leigh Shoemaker is a graduate assistant at UT’s Innovative Technology Center in Knoxville.

Jerry Shuttle is an Electronic Resources Librarian at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN, and is a member of ALA and TLA.

1998

Murray Browne is a research associate at UT’s Department of Computer Science in Knoxville.

Nancy Henthorne is a reference librarian at Brown-Daniel Library at Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Scott Smith is a media specialist at Robertsville Middle School in Oak Ridge, TN, a lecturer at SIS, and a member of ALA, TASL, TLA, ALAN, AASL, YALSA, NCTE, NEA, and TEA.

1999

Perona Mary Lee is a media specialist at Blue Ridge School PK-12 in Cashiers, N.C.

2000

Rebecca Belcher is an Access Services Librarian at Appalachian School of Law Library in Grundy, VA, and is a member of AALL, SEAALL, and VALL.

Judy Bivens is an instructional resources librarian and associate professor at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. She is the Program Coordinator for the Master of Library and Information Science, holds a M.Ed in Instructional Technology, and is a member of ALA, AASL, TLA, TASL, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and ASCD.

Karen Hedgecoth is a middle/high school librarian at Boyd Buchanan School in Chattanooga, Tn., and is a member of CALA and TASL.

Judith Hurley is a senior librarian in the Business/Sciences Department of Memphis Public Library, and is a member of TLA and MALC.

Martha Vaughn is a librarian at the Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tenn., and is a member of ALA, AASL, CALA, and AISL.

Elizabeth Wyatt is a monographs cataloging associate at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn. A member of TLA and ALA, she also volunteers in the Art Library and Resource Center at the Frist Center for Visual Arts in Nashville.

Yanna Zinchenko is a librarian at Karns High School in Knoxville, and is a member of TASL.

2001

Debra Andreidis is a science liaison and reference librarian at Denison University in Granville, OH, and is a member of ALA New Members Roundtable and ACRL Science and Technology and Instruction Sections.

Paul “Ed” Poston is a reference and instruction librarian at Berea College in Berea, Ky.

Patricia Thompson is head of Reference at Blount County Public Library in Maryville, Tenn, and is a member of ALA, SELA, TLA, ETFA, and Foothills Library Association. She will assume the presidency of TLA this year.

2002

Elizabeth Brown is a librarian at Nashville Public Library and is a member of ALA, TLA, and WNBA.

Amy Bush is a Technical Publications Analyst at BWXT Y-12 in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Rhyne Davies is an electronic resources librarian at Pacific Basin Information Node of the National Biological Information Infrastructure in Keihei, Hawaii, and is a member of ALA.

Cynthia Hart is a virtual librarian at Virginia Beach Public Libraries in Virginia Beach, Va, and is a member of VLA.

Pat Jones is a librarian at Wahab Public Law Library in Virginia Beach, Va.

Rachel Kirk is a collection management librarian at MTSU in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Julia Krummen is a faculty member at the University of Phoenix in Indianapolis, Ind., and is a member of ASIST.

John Leslie is a music catalog librarian and assistant professor at the University of Mississippi in University, MS, and is a member of Music Library Association and Southeast Music Library Association.

Carol Moore is a high school librarian at Dickson County Board of Education in Dickson, Tenn.

Lois Morgan is an instructor and librarian for Instructional Services at Squires Library at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., and is a member of ALA, TLA, and CALA. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in Leadership from Regent University in Virginia Beach.

Audrey Williams is an instructional technology specialist at Pellissippi State Technical Community College in Knoxville, and is a member of Women in Higher Education in Tennessee and Phi Kappa Phi.

2003

Stephen Boles is a Ph.D. candidate in UT’s College of Communication and Information, and is a member of ALA, TLA, and ASIST.

Cheryl Carpenter is a readers’ advisor at Nashville Public Library.

Elizabeth Connolly is a reference librarian at Knox County Public Library in Knoxville.

Nicole Galletta is a media specialist at Hamilton County Schools in Chattanooga, Tenn., and is a member of TASL.

Marilee Glover provides service and intra-office support at Atlas Systems, Inc. in Virginia Beach, Va., and is a member of ALA.

Jessica Peccolo is a librarian at Parkview Elementary School in Jackson, Tenn. and a lecturer at SIS.

Ann Rux is a librarian at Ooltewah High School in Ooltewah, Tenn., and is a member of TASL and CALA.

Courtney Stephens is reference librarian at Williamson County Public Library in Franklin, Tenn., and a member of ALA, TLA, and NMRT.

Theresa Venable is a teacher for Oak Ridge Schools in Clinton, Tenn., and is a member of ALA, ALA Black Caucus, ETFA, and TASL. She is also the librarian at Langston Hughes Library located at the Children’s Defense Fund’s Haley Farm.

Amy York is a distance education and outreach librarian at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

2004 – 2005

To see Class Notes for 2004 - 2005 graduates, visit www.sis.utk.edu/apps/alumni/directory.
Mark your calendars:
The next Alumni Board’s annual Homecoming Brunch will be held at the University Club on September 24, from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Come meet the School’s new alumni board members and catch up with your former classmates and favorite faculty members. Spouses and friends are always welcome to attend.

Our alumni website will post registration details later this summer.

www.sis.utk.edu/alumni

School of Information Sciences
451 Communications Bldg.
1345 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-4330
Address Correction Requested