



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

School of Library and Information Science

Volume 31 Number 2

Fall 2009

H. Dan O'Hair New Dean of the College of Communications and Information Studies

Dr. H. Dan O'Hair assumed the position of Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Communications and Information Studies on August 1 of this year. The School of Library and Information Science is one of the units within the College, along with the School of Journalism and Telecommunications and the Department of Communication. As we reported in the fall 2008 issue of the newsletter, CCIS Dean J. David Johnson had notified Provost Kumble Subbaswamy of his desire to leave the administrative position and return exclusively to teaching and research.

Dean O'Hair comes to UK from the Department of Communication at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, where he was most recently Presidential Professor and Director of the Center for Risk and Crisis Management. Between 1994 and 2006 he was Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at OU. Prior to moving to the University of Oklahoma in 1994, he was at Texas Tech University, where he served a stint as chairperson of the Department of Communication Studies. In his meeting with SLIS faculty and staff during his campus visit, Dr. O'Hair pointed out that the University of Oklahoma includes the School of Library and Information Studies, which also offers an ALA-accredited master's degree.

Dr. O'Hair holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Texas Tech in speech communication and Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in communication. He is the author or editor of a number of books and has published a substantial number of articles and chapters. He has been Principal Investigator or Co-PI on more than 30 grants and contracts. From 2004 to 2007 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Communication Association. According to its Web site, "NCA is the oldest and largest national organization to promote communication scholarship and education. ... NCA has over 8,000 educators, practitioners, and students who work and reside in every state and more than 20 coun-

tries." His membership on the Executive Committee included a term as President of the NCA.

In his letter to the search committee, Dr. O'Hair wrote:

"...I find the disciplinary composition of the college to be ideal and integrating journalism and telecommunications, library and information science, and communication into a single college represents a strategic masterpiece. Although the disciplines represented by these units are varied and independently distinguished, a whole host of conceptual and practical issues that are shared by these constituents are rich and deserving of collaborative attention. I have an interest in, and experience with, all three disciplines and would find it an exciting challenge to serve as Dean of this College."

Also in his letter to the search committee, Dr. O'Hair summarized his philosophy on administrative leadership:

"...I am the type of leader that values inclusion, engagement, and achievement, and I would be a dean that (a) communicates a clear and shared *vision* of the college, (b) plays an assertive *advocacy* role on behalf of the college, the university,

and the commonwealth, (c) accepts and encourages *responsibility* for myself and my colleagues, and (d) emphasizes *collaboration* among all stakeholders across multiple levels of the university community."

As he was settling in, Dean O'Hair commented to the newsletter:

"Now that I have been on the job for a week, I have an even greater appreciation for UK and the College units. I look forward to getting to know the School's alumni and stakeholders in the coming months. It is an exciting time to be at UK and especially to be involved with the SLIS. In particular, UK Provost Kumble Subbaswamy has approved a substantial renovation in the Lucille Little Library space occupied by SLIS. Space for the McConnell collection, laboratory space for students, and new classrooms are part of the renovation plan. Support for the new space is strong evidence for the importance that UK places on the School, its students, and its faculty."



Alumni and Awards Banquet 2009

The School's Alumni and Awards Banquet was held Friday, May 1, at the Lexington Downtown Hotel and Conference Center. **Krista King** received both the LISSO Leadership Award and the Melody Trosper Award, and new members of Beta Phi Mu were initiated. **Renee Register ('89)** received the 2009 Outstanding Alumna/us Award and delivered the Karen Cobb Memorial Lecture. Among those present, likely for the last time, were Dean **J David Johnson** and **Sally Johnson** and former Director **Tim Sineath** and **Pat Sineath**.

The following were invited to membership in Beta Phi Mu: August 2008 graduates William Armstrong, Sara Chatfield, and Kathy McCardwell; December 2008 graduates William Bowman, Bob Callen, Janice Childers, Rob Detmering, Charlotte Fleming, Sharon Gillies, Jennifer Mattern, Trenia Napier, Elizabeth Price, Sarah Richardson, and Ryan Shrauner; and May 2009 graduates Sara Abdmishani, Marciann Auberry, Sarah Carter, Heather Fox, Krista King, James Payne, Teresa Werner, and Jason Zahrdt.



Long-time LISSO advisor Prof Tim Sineath presents the LISSO Award to Krista King

Faculty Activities and Recognitions

Professor Donald Case will present the keynote speech at the Regional Conference of EDIBCIC at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, in November. EDIBCIC, an international group of information professionals and educators in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking nations, is recognized by UNESCO as a key coordinating agency for Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking information scientists.

Professor Case ends his year as President of the American Society for Information Science and Technology this November at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting in Vancouver. Over the summer he spoke to three ASIS&T regional and student Chapters, including Central Ohio and Southern Ohio and the University of Tennessee Student Chapter.

An article by Dr. Case recently appeared in print: Case, D. (2009). Serial collecting as leisure, and coin collecting in particular. *Library Trends*, 57(4), 729-752. In August an interview with Professor Case was published at: http://www.documentalistas.com/secretary/publications/magazine/i_case.php

Professor Lois Chan presented a paper entitled: "Social Bookmarking and Subject Indexing" at the IFLA Satellite Conference on Classification and Indexing held in Florence, Italy, August 20-21, 2009.

Director Jeff Huber is serving as Chair of the Medical Library Association's Donald A. B. Lindberg Fellowship Jury.

Professor Sujin Kim presented a paper, "The Development of an Automatic Mapping Engine for Biomedical Image Descriptors," at the IFLA Conference held in Milan, Italy, August 23-27. She presented another paper, "Automatic Histologic Grading for Lobular Carcinoma In Situ," at the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering held in Munich, Germany, in September of this year. Her article, "Content Analysis of Cancer Blog Posts," is to appear in the October 2009 issue of the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*.

In early June of this year, **Professor Rebecca Miller** traveled to Macedonia, on the Balkan Peninsula, to visit with library colleagues and learn more about the LIS profession there. She was hosted by the Sts. Cyril and Methodius National and University Library, located in Skopje, the country's capital. In addition to visiting Skopje, she spent three weeks traveling throughout the country, stopping in Radovis, Strumica, Stip, Veles, Bitola, and Tetovo, and visiting

public and academic libraries.

Professor Miller told the newsletter that public libraries in particular are severely under-funded, suffering from the changes in political parties that have occurred in the past 20 years. "However, the public library of Skopje is a shining example of what can be done when a strong-minded, charismatic leader is in place. The new director was appointed (it is a political appointment) just over two years ago and has made significant strides in the quality of service and materials available to the populace of Skopje." She said much of the building has been renovated and "comfortable seating areas are scattered amongst the open stacks. Two large computer classrooms have been built and furnished with quality computers and are constantly used. Also, the front vestibule of the library is now open 24/7, even though the library itself is only open 8-7, Monday-Friday and 10-2 on Saturday, so students can find a safe place to study."

According to Professor Miller, the United Nations Development Program has enabled a few cities to have excellent public libraries, in new or renovated buildings. Collections are "fairly new," and computers are available for the public. "However, there are many more cities and towns that need improved libraries and library service. One way the country is attempting to alleviate some pressure is through a proposed Bachelor's of library studies in the nation's largest university. If this is approved, then the number of potential employees trained in librarianship will increase. Currently, library employees are trained on the job – only a very few have actual training in librarianship."

Professor Miller told the newsletter that how this proposal originated, and how it will be executed if approved, is her main research interest in Macedonia at the moment. "I am interested in the progress of librarianship in this small country and will continue to track it."

Alumni and Awards Banquet 2009



Clockwise from top left: Prof. Lois Chan, Pam and Jim Duncan; Profs. Sujin Kim, Kwan Yi, Joe Miller; Prof. Lois Chan, Outstanding Alumna Award recipient Renee Register; Pat Sineath, Director Jeff Huber, Prof. Tim Sineath; Sharon Ledford, Susan Daole; Rebecca Davis, Rachel Webb, Lindsay Shuford; Prof. Kwan Yi, Carla Redden; Prof. Joe Miller, Dr Sally and Dean David Johnson; Prof. Tim Sineath, Steve Dozier



Professor Tim Sineath Retires after 32 Years

Professor Timothy Sineath retired at the end of the spring 2009 semester, after more than 30 years on the faculty. He came to UK in 1977, from Simmons College, as Dean of what was then the College of Library Science. In 1982, under his leadership, the name was changed to the College of Library and Information Science. After a decade as the chief administrative officer, Professor Sineath left the dean's position at the end of 1987 to return exclusively to teaching. However, in 1997 he returned to the chief administrative role, as Director of what had become the School of Library and Information Science, within the College of Communications and Information Studies.

While he served as director, UK authorized renovation of the third floor of what had been King Library North, now the Little Fine Arts Library building, for the School's faculty and administrative offices and related facilities. The first two phases of the work saw completion of classrooms, offices, conference rooms, and an especially attractive lounge. The School moved into the new space fall 2007.

Thanks for Your Help

As we reported in the spring issue of the newsletter, the School has begun to plan for the next ALA accreditation review, and, as one early step, Director Jeff Huber, working with the faculty Planning Committee, has reconstituted the Advisory Board. The accreditation *Standards* require that we involve the constituency that we seek to serve, and the Advisory Board is one mechanism for doing that.

A year ago, in the fall 2008 issue of the newsletter, we commented that we were, even then, beginning to think about the accreditation review. We noted that gathering information from graduates was an important step in preparing for the review, and we asked alumni to reply to a questionnaire. Nearly 300 of you replied, and we thank you.

Respondents included graduates from as long ago as 1941, which was nearly a decade before the master's-degree program was introduced, and as recent as 2008. Among those who completed the survey, 38% worked in academic libraries, 12% in schools, 25% in public libraries, and 7% in special libraries. More than 80% said that their MSLS degree led to a rewarding career path, and 80% thought that they were well prepared to enter a professional position after their degree program. Most rated the SLIS program highly on everything except facilities, reflecting the fact that most had graduated when the program was in older quarters, such as the 1930s King Library building.

In conjunction with accreditation review, the academic unit must prepare a lengthy *Program Presentation* in which the unit addresses each of the six 2008 ALA *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library & Information Studies*, and which we will write spring 2010.

Jennifer Green Chosen for LC Internship

Jennifer Green, who entered the School's master's-degree program fall 2008, was chosen to participate in the Library of Congress Junior Fellows Summer 2009 Internship Program. The LC June 3 press release announced:

For the fifth year, college students from across the country will participate in the Library's Junior Fellows Summer Internship. Working under the direction of Library specialists in various divisions, they will explore and increase access to the institution's unparalleled collections and resources.

A panel of Library curators and specialists selected 47 students from nearly 500 applicants. During the 10-week paid internship program (June 1-Aug. 7), students will be exposed to a broad spectrum of library work: preservation, reference, access standards, information management and the U.S. copyright system. Core work will include locating, itemizing, and providing bibliographic descriptions for uncataloged, special materials submitted to the Library through the copyright registration process or received as gifts.

In the past, summer interns have identified hundreds of historical, literary, artistic, cinematic and musical gems representing a rich

cultural, creative and intellectual heritage. This year the interns will work on special projects and collections to make a range of the Library's resources accessible to scholars, students, teachers and the general public. Projects include diverse American and international materials including books, manuscripts, music, films, photographs and maps.

According to the press release, Jen's Internship would be in the Network Development and MARC Standards Office. Following her return to Lexington in August, she told the newsletter:

I worked on a special project known as the "On the Record Project" as a Library of Congress Junior Fellow. The project aimed to address the LC's lack of a comprehensive source that described their special collections. Along with my partner on the project, Brian Norberg, a library science student from Indiana University, I interviewed division heads and other appropriate staff from the fourteen divisions which have special collections. We determined the best way to access both cataloged and uncataloged collections in each division. We then created METS/MODS records by converting existing ILS records and in-house databases. For collections that were not described in either place, we researched collections and worked with division staff to create descriptions. The database is currently available for LC administration and research staff use, with hopes that it will eventually be made public.

When we learned Jen had been selected for the highly competitive program, we congratulated her, and do so again.

2010 McConnell Conference

The 2010 McConnell Conference will be held February 26 & 27 at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington. Speakers include John Green, David Wiesner and Dandi Daley Mackall.

Entering Student Anna Stewart Continues SLIS Success in Fellowship Competition

The UK Graduate School has a host of fellowships, of which the Multi-Year Fellowship is the most generous – a non-service award of \$18,000 for the school year, along with a tuition scholarship and inclusion in the University’s student illness and injury plan. The competition for Multi-Year Fellowships is keen; only five were awarded for 2009-2010, and nominees from master’s-level programs compete with nominees from doctoral-level programs. It is this feature of the competition that makes the success of the School, over the years, in landing Multi-Year Fellowships especially noteworthy.

Entering student **Anna Stewart**, whom the School nominated for a Multi-Year Fellowship, received a Graduate School Fellowship whose features – amount of award, tuition scholarship, inclusion in the University’s student illness and injury plan – are identical to those of a Multi-Year Fellowship. However, whereas a Multi-Year Fellowship is renewable for a second year for a student in a master’s-degree program, due to budget uncertainty the Graduate School was unable to commit funding beyond a single year.

Anna earned a BA from Davidson College in May 2004, where she majored in psychology and minored in Spanish. Although she distinguished herself at Davidson, recognition of her talents preceded her arrival there. Summer 2000 she was a Presidential Scholar in Washington, DC, chosen as one of only two high school graduates from each state. While at Davidson Anna was a James B. Duke Scholar, an honor given to only four members of each incoming class, in recognition of academic strength. She was invited to membership in Psi Chi, the psychology honor society; Phi Beta Delta, “the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education”; and Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society founded in 1914. In 2004 she received the William Gatewood Workman Psychology Award, the highest award the psychology department bestows on an individual. Davidson awarded her the degree *cum laude*.

Following graduation from Davidson, Anna joined Teach For America – selected as a member of a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in public schools. She was assigned to Albemarle Road Middle School in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was a special education math and language arts resource teacher in seventh and eighth grades. Her students achieved significant gains, raising math and language arts performance by an average of more than two years in a single year, and she was a finalist in 2005 for New Teacher of the Year in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. In summer 2007 Anna enrolled in the Southern Methodist University graduate liberal studies program, which she completed in December 2008.

Circe Anderson, David Broussard Awarded Graduate School Gillis Scholarships

Two students who entered the SLIS program this fall received UK Graduate School Ezra Gillis Graduate Tuition Scholarships, a program of financial support that is new this school year. The students are **Circe Anderson** and **David Broussard**.

Circe is a Tennessee native who majored in sociology, public policy and community service at Emory & Henry College in Virginia, where she earned a BA in May of this year. For part of the time she was an undergraduate, she volunteered at a public library. In her application essay she wrote:

“My undergraduate majors in Sociology and Public Policy and Community Service may not seem to be a typical background for someone who wishes to pursue this degree, but I believe my academic disciplines have only added to my interest in information and its availability. I have spent the last four years learning about society, community, and social change. In my opinion, information science and social development are essentially connected. Libraries are one of few institutions that are uniquely situated to open doors and expand opportunities for all people. They allow people, no matter their ages, races, gender, sexualities, or socioeconomic status, to access an enormous wealth of information that will enable them to develop the skills they need to learn and to grow.”

David, who is from Louisiana, earned a BFA in visual arts/photography at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2008. He entered the MSLS program with experience in both academic and public libraries. In his application essay he wrote:

“My undergraduate degree is in fine arts, and I am just three credits short of a minor in English. My education in art history, the humanities and literature is something that I would like to put to use, perhaps in a museum library or academic library setting as a fine arts librarian. ... Armed with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Library and Information Science, I believe that I would stand a good chance of acquiring such a position. I am well aware that the academic and special libraries may present challenges of their own, but the important thing for me is the maturity level and areas of interest that these patrons would bring to the patron-librarian equation – their areas of interest and mine would oftentimes overlap.”

Gillis Scholarships are limited to newly admitted out-of-state master's and doctoral students who must be nominated by their Director of Graduate Studies and enrolled full time. If the student maintains a 3.5 or higher grade point average during the first year of graduate study, the person is eligible for a second year of Gillis funding.

The Secret Librarian: A Personal Journey

Renee Register

Renee Register ('89) received the School's 2009 Outstanding Alumna/us Award, which Director Jeff Huber presented to her at the May 1st Alumni and Awards Banquet. That evening, Renee delivered the Cobb Lecture, and we thank her for making the text available to the newsletter, so that we may make her delightful talk available to alumni.

I AM SO HONORED to be with you today to accept this award. When I entered this graduate program in my thirties, as a single parent, it seemed as much a risk as an opportunity. It would require that I continue to work a full-time job, put myself further into debt and further diminish the precious time I could carve out to be fully present for my daughter, Marea.

Marea is now about the same age as I was when I entered the Library and Information Science program. Although my path within the profession has not been a traditional one, I think she would agree that pursuing a career in librarianship was one of the best decisions I ever made. I certainly believe that to be true. This evening I would like to share my personal journey to and through the profession with you and also to explore ways in which the core principles of librarianship manifest themselves around us even when we don't name them as such especially through secret librarians (professionals and individuals who would never think to call themselves librarians) who are contributing to and changing the information landscape.

My life as a secret librarian

I was a secret librarian, a secret cataloger in fact, for many years. My father grew up in rural Kentucky, in an environment that was largely without books except for the Bible. Against the odds (it really makes one think there must be something genetic about this stuff – but that's for a different lecture), he became a passionate lover of books and a college professor who inspired his children and many others to love books, to think critically and to question everything.

So, I did grow up with books and with a growing library that we packed up and hauled around with us through the many moves our family made as I was growing up. This

personal library and the many libraries my father frequented over the years were indescribably precious to him. My own library grew as well and reading became like food to me. I have rarely gone one day without reading something for pleasure – not to mention reading for work and school.

Most of the time we lived in college towns, they were small but I was definitely a “townie” and was used to the freedom that comes with being able to navigate our own surroundings, go to stores, friends houses, libraries, movies, restaurants, etc., independently – on foot or on bicycle – without having to be driven by an adult. For about a year, including the summer when I was preparing to enter high school, we moved to a house that was in a more rural setting. There was nowhere to go and I didn't know anyone. While my younger brother loved exploring the hills and woods around us, I was hopelessly “urban” and bored to death.

My father enlisted me to organize (catalog) his library.

Much to my surprise, I really enjoyed it and learned so much about bodies of knowledge, authors and, without realizing it overtly, publishers and publishing in doing this. But did it occur to me that I might want to be a librarian? – not at all.

Over the years, one of my favorite parts of moving to a new home has been unpacking and organizing my books. My personal library became a reflection of myself in a way that no other possessions could.

So, I grew up (if you can call it that), pursued an undergraduate degree in English, married young, had a child, and divorced. Many of the jobs I had were related in some way to books and reading – editing a small literary magazine, working for a college book company, managing a small used bookstore. I also owned a vintage clothing store and



Director Jeff Huber presents the 2009 Outstanding Alumna/us Award to Renee Register

developed a love and knowledge of antiques, vintage things and beauty in general from my mother. This is, in a way I think, another manifestation of my love of evaluation, selection, categorization and curation. As with my parents' houses, there's always space and display competition in my houses between books and beautiful objects. My sister, Pauletta, became a poet and a teacher and my brother, John, inherited my father's love of music and sports.

I was drifting without much focus and often depressed. It was obvious by this point that I was not going to become a rock star or a famous actress and probably not a bestselling author either. I had a child to raise and jobs with no real future as well as no benefits or health care. I had friends in various UK graduate departments – mostly English. My husband, Roger, was one of those friends at the time. I considered an English graduate degree, but somehow it didn't feel quite right for me. I can't really point to the exact moment in which I decided upon the Library and Information Science program. Somehow it was suddenly right and I felt intuitively that it could be a door to options – in academia, public or private sectors and the whole world of information.

The information landscape in transition

So, about twenty years ago, I completed my MLIS. I was privileged to study cataloging with Dr. Lois Chan, but was still a secret cataloger – even to myself. Within a few years after graduation, I ended up in the vendor world -- at about the same time that the internet revolution was exploding, Amazon was launching and the expectation of access to information on the web began to become ubiquitous. I fell into cataloging accidentally at Book Wholesalers here in Lexington and then, when Roger (who was teaching at a Tennessee college at the time) and I decided to marry, at Ingram Book Group near Nashville, TN.

At this same time, vendors were beginning to expand their in-house cataloging shops due to library demands for shelf-ready materials. Ingram was moving into the library market after being the number one wholesaler to retailers for some time. They soon became the major supplier to Amazon as well.

I was the second cataloger hired at Ingram and became manager of their new and growing Cataloging Services area which grew to a staff of about 40 within a couple of years. Mary Ann Abner, also a graduate of UK School of Library and Information Science (and who nominated me for this award), joined us early on and was indispensable in developing training and high standards for quality cataloging. This was intense on-the-job, trial and error training and learning. Since Ingram did not yet have their own MARC database or cataloging system, Mary Ann and I were involved in building this from the ground up and integrating it with the overall ordering, inventory and data systems that already existed.

Secret librarians exposed

In competition with Amazon, bricks and mortar retailers began developing web-based discovery and ordering systems and converting metadata previously housed in inventory systems into data displayed on the web. The pressure was on for publishers to transmit electronic data to the trading partners who distributed and sold their titles. ONIX began to be developed as a common

format for sharing title metadata, standards for description and terminologies began to emerge and were promoted by groups such as the Book Industry Study Group in the U.S. and Book Industry Communication in the U.K. Electronic data was no longer just for transmitting orders but for carrying rich descriptive information about titles.

The visibility of metadata on the web for all types of media exposed the work of many professionals in book, film and music trades who are passionate about the “products” they market, sell and support. Like librarianship, many of these fields attract people who are passionate about the content itself as well as about the authors and artists who create it.

Libraries had been sharing metadata in electronic form for some time through MARC records in support of cooperative cataloging but the siloed and specialized nature of our cataloging records and our less than intuitive rules for description, punctuation and formatting did not immediately lend themselves for adoption by the emerging standards community working on the transfer of XML-based metadata in support of web discovery.

A few years ago I organized my father's books for the last time as I helped sort and pack them for a move to a retirement community. The weekend of the move, I made a start at putting them on the shelves in the new apartment. My father died less than one week later and many of his books now live in libraries and in the personal collections of his family. He is with me every day as I look forward to getting home and back to my current book, every time I browse bookstore or library shelves and every time I shop for books online. This is for him.

Making the connection

Ingram was moving into this space as an aggregator of bibliographic data and evaluative content about titles. Ingram enlisted Wendell Lotz, a librarian with a long history in the book trade, to build the database that would support bibliographic products and services for the publisher supply chain, with the goal of capturing metadata on all North American books in print. This data would also support Ingram's web-based selection and ordering tool used by libraries and retailers.

I moved to this new group as Director of Classification and Bibliographic Control and Cataloging Services was soon integrated with the overall metadata group. It was through this experience, managing professionals with library and non-library backgrounds in support of metadata in multiple formats and with multiple terminologies that I began to understand the tremendous duplication of effort across creation and maintenance of metadata in support of library and publisher supply chain needs. I believed there was an opportunity for the core values and skills of librarianship to inform the process. I began to explore ways to bring the various types of metadata together and to cross-train staff with similar skill sets to "catalog" in service of multiple end-users and data streams.

In 2005, I accepted an opportunity to move to OCLC and continue this work in a non-profit environment in support of a broad library community. My goal was and is to transform cataloging and further a paradigm shift in the way we think about, create and maintain metadata – again in support of multiple user communities.

At OCLC, I found support to launch a Next Generation Cataloging Pilot, developing crosswalks between ONIX and MARC metadata and mappings between terminologies to allow metadata originating from publishers to be transformed into MARC and allowing MARC metadata to enrich publisher data to the benefit of end-users who use publisher supply chain websites for information discovery. We're also using FRBR work sets to automatically add appropriate

metadata to new titles that are iterations of existing works.

Interest in this concept continues to grow and in March OCLC hosted a Symposium for Publishers and Libraries to identify ongoing strategies to work together toward further interoperability of workflows, data flows with the end result of better metadata for all.

Secret librarians everywhere

Over the course of this journey that started with a love of books and a curiosity about the world's knowledge I have encountered secret librarians everywhere – in every aspect of publishing and bookselling and through avid consumers



Outstanding Alumna/us Award recipient Renee Register and her husband, Roger Register. Renee and Roger met at UK, where Roger earned an MA in English.

of books, music, film and other media who are now more exposed on the web through tagging, lists, Wikipedia, blogs, etc. Web 2.0 unleashed a passion in the user community to share, describe, evaluate and categorize the works we read, watch, listen to and interact with. My experience of the personal library as an extension of myself is evidently shared by many and is now a part of community and relationship building on the web.

The work we do may often remain secret, invisible to users as they magi-

cally find what they're looking for or are lead to other works of interest. We must be in this space and must leverage our competencies in every space where it's important to connect. This profession is wide open if we make it so.

For my father

A few years ago I organized my father's books for the last time as I helped sort and pack them for a move to a retirement community. The weekend of the move, I made a start at putting them on the shelves in the new apartment. My father died less than one week later and many of his books now live in libraries and in the personal collections of his family. He is with me every day as I look forward to getting home and back to my current book, every time I browse bookstore or library shelves and every time I shop for books online. This is for him.

Alumni Leslie Hammann and Wayne Onkst, SLIS Advisory Board Member Arne Almquist, Win Funding for Undergraduate Scholarships

NKU's BSLI program seen as 'readying students for pursuit of a master's degree in library science.'

In June of this year the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced it had awarded grants totaling \$20.4 million in the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. One of the grants, in the amount of \$999,558, was to Northern Kentucky University (NKU) to fund the project, "Bridging the Gap: Supplying the Next Generation of Librarians to the Underserved Counties of Rural Kentucky." NKU Instructional Services Librarian **Leslie Hammann ('06)** is Principal Investigator. Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and Bluegrass Community and Technical College joined NKU as partners in the grant application.

The IMLS press release reads:

Northern Kentucky University (NKU), partnering with Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, will provide scholarships for undergraduate degrees to 50 library staff members working in the high-poverty rural sections of eastern and far western Kentucky. To meet their educational needs, the partners will further develop existing online programs, including the state's compulsory online public library certification program, the online associate's degree in library technology at BCTC, and a new "completer's program" in library informatics at NKU, which is designed to provide a bachelor's degree to those who already have an appropriate associate's degree.

The "completer's program" is a Bachelor of Science in Library Informatics that accepted its first students this fall. **Theresa Wesley ('79)**, who chaired the committee that proposed the "completer's program," told the newsletter: "We have specifically articulated the completer's program with Bluegrass' [Community and Technical College] Library Information Technology AS degree, but we will also accept students with other AA or AS degrees, working with the course credits we can transfer in. Then they finish their last two years at NKU." Although housed within NKU's College of Informatics, the BSLI program was developed by Steely Library faculty, who will teach the courses. Leslie, Theresa, and **Rob Zai ('02)**, have developed courses, and Leslie is manager of student recruitment and advising for the program.

The NKU press release about the IMLS grant includes comments by KDLA Commissioner **Wayne Onkst ('79)**:

Funds from this grant will enable training for public library staff members across Kentucky and better prepare them for assisting library users. ... The result of this grant will be stronger libraries that improve the quality of life in Kentucky's communities.

Dr. **Arne Almquist**, Associate Provost for Library Services at NKU and a member of the UK SLIS Advisory Board, told the newsletter:

This project was the result of comments that I heard from [Bluegrass Community and Technical College Professor] **Martha Birchfield** during a presentation that she gave describing her certification program back in 2004. Her certification program, of course, seeks to deal with the problem of the lack of degreed librarians in the public libraries of many rural counties in Kentucky. I saw the answer as implementing an incremental approach that would provide library staff with a gradually increasing store of needed skills and knowledge, the enhanced credibility that comes with a degree, and a facilitated route to the eventual goal of increasing the number of MLS-librarians in rural public libraries in Kentucky.

An NKU announcement refers to the BSLI program as "readying students for pursuit of a master's degree in library science."

UK SLIS Director **Jeff Huber** has met with Leslie, Arne, and others to explore steps the School might take to recruit students from the BSLI program to the MSLS program, following completion of their undergraduate degree. As he explained to the newsletter:

A student enrolling in the BSLI program this fall, who has completed the community college associate's degree, can complete the bachelor's degree in two years. Because of that, it isn't a bit too early for UK SLIS to begin to make students in the BSLI program aware of the career advantages of an ALA-accredited master's degree and of the availability of that degree, online, at UK. The ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life of Kentucky's citizens, using the public library as one agency to contribute to that end. Better trained librarians are an integral part of this process, and the goal of better trained librarians is both an obligation and an opportunity for the School.

Alumna Kristi Yingling Chosen for Vanderbilt Post-MLIS Internship

Kristi Yingling, who completed the School's master's-degree program in August, was chosen to participate in Vanderbilt University's Eskind Biomedical Library Post-MLIS Internship. She began the Internship on August 23 and provided the newsletter with a link to information about the program:

The Eskind Biomedical Library (EBL) offers a two-year Library Intern appointment. This position is designed to provide post-MLS training in a dynamic health care environment. In this unique setting, interns have opportunities for advanced training in health science librarianship and biomedical informatics.

Kristi told the newsletter:

I interviewed in mid-May and was hired on the spot (after a 4.5 hour long interview), so I had a very long wait to

pass comps [in July] and finish classes [early August] before I could start the internship.

Having clinical research experience and a master's in medical anthropology definitely helped me get the job, but I feel that a large part of it was the excellent training and support I received from the faculty in the SLIS program. The professors are so student-oriented and so excited for us to succeed – it was a wonderful experience.

We repeat our earlier congratulations to Kristi and thank her for the kind words about the School.

Monica Brooks Named AVP at Marshall

In July, Dr **Monica Brooks** ('90) was named Assistant Vice President for Information Technology at Marshall University. When we learned of Monica's promotion, we congratulated her, and we do so again. The press release reads:

Dr. Monica Brooks Appointed Assistant VP for Information Technology

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Dr. Monica Brooks, MUOnline Director of Instructional Design Skills and Assessment at Marshall University since March 2008, has been appointed Assistant Vice President for Information Technology: Online Learning and Libraries at MU.



In her new role, which took effect July 1, Brooks continues to head up the MUOnline e-course division and is adding several library departments to her new duties.

Brooks has held various positions at Marshall University with an emphasis in libraries and technology since 1995. She provides regular campus faculty training and development opportunities as the current director of MUOnline and member of the library faculty. Recent projects include the development of an award-winning online certificate program and associate degree for library paraprofessionals with an emphasis on public library training and development at the Marshall Community & Technical College.

"Dr. Brooks has an enormous amount of enthusiasm, a tremendous work ethic and is very innovative," said Dr. Jan Fox, Senior Vice President for Information Technology/CIO at Marshall. "Her professional background in libraries, online instruction and higher education gives her some unique qualifications for her new role."

Brooks' ongoing service initiatives include 2007-09 faculty representative for the Institutional Board of Governors, founding board member for the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia, member of the president's ad-hoc committee to recruit and retain diverse faculty, and ongoing participant in university-wide recruitment and retention efforts.

"It is truly a pleasure to work with some of the most accomplished librarians and staff in the profession," Brooks

said. "Marshall University is poised to meet rapid technology changes and anticipate new trends. There are also several aspects of the online learning environment and the library world that complement each other to provide our students and faculty with quality curriculum support. The IT faculty and staff have already hit the ground running with some new programs and services, and I am delighted to be a part of this team again!"

Brooks served as interim dean of libraries at Marshall University from January 1999 to August 2000, and was the associate dean from August 2000 to March 2008 when she became the director of MUOnline. Since 1997, she has taught at Marshall University as an adjunct professor in various units such as the Marshall Community & Technical College, the College of Education and Human Services, and the Department of English.

Brooks received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from West Virginia University in 1988, her Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Kentucky in 1990, her Education Specialist degree from Marshall University in 2004, and her Doctor of Education degree from Marshall in 2007.

Release and photo reprinted courtesy of Marshall University.

Gail Kennedy to Head ALA's Library Leadership & Management Association

Gail Kennedy ('74) has been elected Vice-President/President-Elect of LLAMA, the Library Leadership and Management Association. She assumed the vice-presidential office in July of this year, and in July 2010 will assume the presidency of the organization. The ALA May 19 press release reads:

Gail A. Kennedy Elected as LLAMA Vice-president

Gail A. Kennedy, director of the Lucille Little Fine Arts Library at the University of Kentucky, has been elected vice-president/president-elect of the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) with more than 4,000 members.

"I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to play a leadership role in LLAMA," Kennedy said. "LLAMA faces the challenge, as do all professional organizations, of remaining relevant to members and developing new models of service. LLAMA has embraced this challenge and I look forward to being a part of the progress ahead. In a time when strong leadership and management skills are indispensable, LLAMA will continue to grow as a vibrant community nurturing and supporting library leaders at all levels."

Kennedy received a Master's in Library Science from the University of Kentucky in 1974 and has been a member of LLAMA for 19 years. Active in LLAMA's Buildings and Equipment Section (BES), Kennedy currently chairs the Interior Design Awards Committee and was a mentor for new librarians in LLAMA's mentoring program. She has also served on LLAMA's President's Program, the joint Associa-

tion of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)/LLAMA Interdivisional Committee on Building Resources, and chaired the Buildings and Equipment Section.

We congratulate Gail on this recognition.

Kim Fender Is OLC Librarian of the Year

In August, **Kim Fender ('83)** received the Ohio Library Council Librarian of the Year Award. Kim is Executive Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, a position she has held since 1999. The OLC news release reads:

Ohio Library Council Librarian of the Year Award Presented to Kim Fender

On August 11, Lynda Murray, Director of Government and Legal Services for the Ohio Library Council (OLC), presented the 2009 OLC Librarian of the Year Award to Executive Director Kim Fender. The award honors a librarian whose recent accomplishments have impacted the library profession and/or library service to the community. Award recipients are chosen based on having exhibited distinguished service in the library community; demonstrated evidence of professional and personal achievements; developed and implemented new services; created partnerships within the community to provide innovative services; and been actively involved on the local and state level. Award recipients are chosen by the OLC's Awards and Honors Committee based on nominations and recommendations received from the Ohio library community.

In her remarks, Ms. Murray stressed that this is the highest honor presented by the OLC. "Kim not only does a great job for her own library but also for public libraries statewide. This is clearly demonstrated through her leadership of OPLIN, the state's information network; her dedicated service on the OLC Government Relations Committee, her initiative on developing the State's Ready to Read project, and her innovation in spearheading digitizing collections," said Murray. Congratulations, Kim!

We add our congratulations to those of Ms. Murray.

Northern Kentucky University Awards Rob Zai University-Community Partnership Grant

Rob Zai ('02) and **Michael Providenti** received funding from Northern Kentucky University to work with a small group of public libraries on Web site redesign. The NKU press release reads:

Access Now!, funded by a 2009 University-Community Partnership Grant from Northern Kentucky University, is a pilot project to redesign the websites of small, traditionally underfunded public libraries in Kentucky to better provide equitable access to their users with visual and motor disabilities, and to meet the standards set by accessibility laws

and guidelines. Access Now! partners the W. Frank Steely Library and Kentucky Virtual Library with 5 public libraries in Northern Kentucky (Cynthiana-Harrison County, Fleming County, Grant County, Owen County, and Mason County). Project activities include the hiring and training of an NKU student to move the web content created by the public library partners into accessible web templates and the creation of an online learning community where Kentucky public libraries can find training materials, support from their peers, and discuss accessibility issues.

We offer our congratulations.

An interview

Cindy Brown Retires Following 24 Years as Boone County Public Library Director

'I've had the best public library job in the country.'

The end of August, **Cindy Brown ('82)** retired after 24 years as Director of the Boone County Public Library, only the second job she held since completing the School's master's-degree program. Following graduation from SLIS, she joined the staff at Campbell County Public Library, and it turned out to be the right place at the right time. The Boone County Public Library had been established in 1973 and had only one director prior to Cindy. When that person announced she was leaving the position, the BCPL board asked the woman who had hired Cindy at Campbell County if she were interested in the BCPL director's position. By then, the woman had relocated out of state. She wasn't interested in returning to Kentucky, but told the BCPL board she knew someone she thought would be perfect for the position. There was an interview, of sorts; Cindy was offered and accepted the job; and – well, that was 24 years ago last spring.

When we learned Cindy would retire, we asked if we could interview her for the newsletter. She said yes, and we spent a delightful August day with her at BCPL's newest facility, the stunningly attractive Main Library in Burlington, which opened in January 2008. In the course of a wide-ranging conversation, Cindy at one point said, "I've had the best public library job in the country."

One word, more than any other, summarizes Boone County Public Library over the two-dozen years Cindy has been Director: **G R O W T H**. When she started to work there, BCPL had a single facility; today, it has six. Campbell, Kenton, and Boone counties are in northern Kentucky, across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. Of the three, Boone was the best positioned for growth, due to the presence of transportation facilities, including the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport. A quarter-century ago there was a substantial amount of undeveloped land. According to information on the Boone County Planning Commission Web site, county population was 45,842 in 1980 and is projected to be nearly 122,000 in 2010.

With library funding tied to property taxes, the growth of the county has translated into generous funding for the li-

brary. In FY 1985-86, BCPL per-capita funding was \$18.58, third highest among Kentucky's public libraries, and 2.7 times the average per-capita funding among the state's libraries, which was \$6.81. In FY 2007-08, BCPL per-capita funding was \$108.60, highest among Kentucky's public libraries, and 3.0 times the average per-capita funding of \$35.76. BCPL has enjoyed the highest per-capita funding for a number of years. Costs for the Main Library – site, building, furnishings and fixtures – totaled about \$18 million, which the library funded without borrowing or a tax increase. In fact, in several recent years the Board of Trustees reduced the tax rate.

In spite of that, Cindy said during our conversation, the new facility opened at the very time two major political factions in Boone County were squaring off, and one faction portrayed the Burlington Main Library as an example of public-sector excess. In her high-profile position, Cindy found herself having to defend the BCPL in what was a political fracas. Reflecting on that experience, she said: "Politics is not evil, but it can be time- and energy-consuming; and every library director has to understand that, because the public library is tax-funded, it is unavoidably a part of the political process."

Our questions and Cindy's replies follow:

What have been the most gratifying parts of the job?

Being here during a period of so much change – new technologies, new facilities, and new services. Working with some of the most talented and creative people I will ever have the pleasure to know. Having the resources to implement so many of the great ideas those talented people came up with.

What have been the least gratifying parts?

Leaky roofs, disgruntled customers and employees, overflowing toilets.

What have been the most challenging?

Being here during a period of so much change – new technologies, new facilities, and new services. Working with some of the most talented and creative people I will ever have the pleasure to know. [She repeated her prior answer.]

Of all the changes you've seen, in Boone County and the Library, what change comes to your mind first?

Growth – pure and simple.

On April 15 of this year there were tax protests in some communities across the country. Is there evidence of organized tax opposition in Boone County?

There is a group in the county who are very vocal about tax rates. However, the focus of their effort seems to be our current County Judge Executive who has managed the exponential growth in this county with little if any increase in the tax rate. Go figure.

During the Kentucky General Assembly session this year, Senate Bill 72 was introduced but not passed. It would have subjected a proposed increase in an ad valorem tax by a special district to review and approval by the fiscal court of the county. Many of Kentucky's public libraries, including BCPL, are special districts. Do you believe it's inevitable that something like SB72 will become law eventually?

I have been heard to say exactly that – one of these days, some form of legislation will pass if it is presented often enough. The question is whether it will continue to be a legislative issue when the economy improves. Right now all things anti-tax get a lot of traction – justified or not. My take on it is that some kind of change will quite possibly be made to how districts/local governments set tax rates.

What do you see as the major challenge or challenges your successor will face in the first couple of years in the job?

I prefer to call them opportunities. She will have the opportunity to manage the district through however many months remain of this 'recession'. Growth, while it has certainly slowed, continues and she will have the opportunity to provide facilities and services to accommodate that growth.



Cindy at her desk in the Scheben Branch, with plans for the Burlington Main Library before her.

The School has an elective public libraries course. What are the most important things a student should learn in that course, if the person hopes to work in a public library?

What a student should hope to get from a public libraries course is a strong foundation in the philosophy and function of the public library in today's society – including the issues that public libraries face in their communities. Everything we do – collections, programs, services – is based on what we understand our role to be. Also, if not equally, important is a good general overview of the typical public library – organization, basic services, funding/governmental status.

What advice do you have for a person who wants a career in public librarianship?

First – have a passion for it and truly believe that the public library is essential to our way of life. Public librarianship offers, in my opinion, the most exciting opportunity in the library field. However, for an opportunity to be exciting, it must involve an element of risk.

Alumni Activities

Gail Kennedy ('74) has been elected Vice-President/President-Elect of LLAMA, the Library Leadership and Management Association. She assumed the vice-presidential office in July of this year, and in July 2010 will become president of the organization.

Susan FitzPatrick Sommar ('74) is the mother of a UK Junior, Michael, a geography major. She finds herself back on the UK campus occasionally and, of course, Joe Bologna's. Susan is a substitute librarian for Fairfax County Public Schools, VA.

Judith Gibbons ('78) retired from Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives on December 31, 2008. Since that time, she has continued working in the library field as a consultant and writer. In March, she was the keynote speaker for Tennessee Library Association's Legislative Day. She wrote the Foreword for *The Accidental Library Marketer*, by Kathy Dempsey. In addition, Judith had a short article in *The Library PR Handbook: High Impact Communications*, "Kentucky Puts ALA Resources to Good Use," that was expanded for *Kentucky Libraries*. Both were published in 2009.

In May, Judith was elected to the ALA Council, and when we congratulated her on the election, she replied:

I am extremely grateful for the support of colleagues in the ALA Council elections. This is an opportune time for me to take on this new challenge. My varied work background combined with 30 years experience on assorted Kentucky Library Association, Southeastern Library Association and ALA committees has given me the fundamentals. At ALA Annual, I started networking with colleagues for tips in navigating the Council maze. I welcome the experience.

Judith's article, "Implementing a National Advocacy Campaign at the State Level: Kentucky Public Librarians Put Theory into Practice," was published in the Summer 2009 issue of *Kentucky Libraries*.

At the end of August **Cindy Brown ('82)** retired from the position she had held for 24 years, Director of the Boone County Public Library, KY. Elsewhere in the newsletter we publish an interview with Cindy, for which we thank her.

We read with particular interest **Kim Fender's ('83)** article, "The New Bond Hill Branch: Successfully Merging Two Small Branches," that appears in the March/April 2009 issue of *Public Libraries*. In August, Kim, who is Executive Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, received the Ohio Library Council Librarian of the Year Award.

Since November 2006 **Charlene McGrath ('86)** has been Director of Library and Information Services at Gateway Community and Technical College, in northern Kentucky.

Jake Gibbs ('87) was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Lexington Public Library, and he has been appointed to the Search Committee for a Director of Lexington Public Library. Jake is on the faculty at Bluegrass Community and Technical College here in Lexington, which many readers of the newsletter remember as Lexington Community College.

In July, Marshall University announced that **Dr. Monica Brooks ('90)** had been appointed Assistant Vice President for Information Technology.

In August, **Robert Kelley ('90)** filed this report:

I am still Coordinator of Library Services at Hutchinson Community College. I just finished up 6 years at the helm in late June. I'm pretty involved professionally here in Kansas. I'm co-chair of the Kansas Regents Libraries Database Consortium this year, secretary of the 2-year college interest group in the Kansas Library Association structure, and I'm heavily involved with the 2-year directors in the formation of a new Kansas 2-year college library directors council (TYLDC) whose goal is to formally advocate for the needs to the state's 25 public 2-year colleges. I'm also a member of the Hutchinson Public Library Board of Trustees. Fellow alum **Micaela Ayers ('98)**, Library Director at Butler Community College, El Dorado, KS, and I talk quite a bit.

We thank **Steve Davenport ('91)** for thinking of the newsletter with this information: "I have joined the Library of Congress as the reference specialist, US history. I was previously associate director of reference service at the US Military Academy (West Point), 2006-09, and reference librarian at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, 2000-06; there was that librarian gig at Lexington Public (and the great friends and colleagues there) too from 1991-2000."

We take the following information, about **Cindy Price Welch ('91)**, from the Fall 2008 issue of *Interface*, the newsletter of the University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences:

Assistant Professor Dr. Cindy Welch, another recent PhD graduate from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, is the new Youth Services Specialist at SIS. Along with teaching youth services courses and courses in the general curriculum, Dr. Welch coordinates the school library media track at the School, which was left open after the retirement of Dr. Jinx Watson.

Dr. Welch has worn many hats related to her expertise in children's and young adult literature. Most recently, she was the deputy executive director of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, where she served from 2002 to 2004. At ALA, Welch managed day-to-day operations, oversaw the YALSA journal, worked with association leaders and the board of directors to chart the fu-

ture of the organization, and developed continuing education offerings. Prior to working at ALA, Welch worked at public libraries in Chicago and in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

We thank **Mary Hackett ('93)** for passing along this information:

I am a 1993 graduate of the School of Library and Information Science. The main topic then was the Internet and the Information Society. I had great classes with Dr. Harris and Dr. Waldhart. That year I sent my first e-mail and had the best computer training from 'Dr. Stan' [Hannah]. I was hired as a reference librarian in 1994 because I knew what the internet was. Now I'm the old kid on the block. What's the scoop in librarianship now and what should I be doing to educate myself? I'm feeling lost.

We have learned that **Jennifer Sias ('96)** has been promoted to Director of Research, Information Literacy and Instructional Services at Marshall University. In a mid-September e-mail, she wrote: "I'm focused mainly on our embedded librarian program and getting ready for fall 2010 when all of our librarians will be embedded in our new First Year Seminar. Marshall University is going through some changes with the Gen Ed curriculum, and we have carved out an important role for information literacy in the new/emerging core curriculum. And I am finding that what I really enjoy doing most is teaching."

JC Morgan ('97) has agreed to serve on the School's Advisory Board. However, he prudently kept his day job, as Director of the Campbell County Public Library, in northern Kentucky.

We thank **Steven Edscorn ('98)** for the e-mail that he sent in June. Steve is Library Director, Memphis Theological Seminary, TN. In his e-mail he wrote: "Memphis Theological Seminary is an ecumenically-minded, graduate seminary affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian church, located in the mid-town area of Memphis. The student body includes approximately 330 students, is more than 40% African American and more than 40% female. Students represent approximately 30 different Christian denominations."

Dr. **Suzie Allard ('99)** was named Assistant Director of the School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee, effective August 1 of this year.

We thank **John Adkins ('04)** for his note: "I hope things are going well in Lexington, I am very busy here as you might well imagine. Not only am I still down a librarian but I am teaching Historiography in the history department in the evenings. I'll try to write you a longer letter in the near future and tell you about our new Federated Search engine and the monumental shift we are doing of materials in the library.." John is Assistant Professor of Library Sciences and Director of Library Services, Schoenbaum Library, University of Charleston, WV.

In March of this year **Jeremy Berberich ('04)** was appointed Associate Director of Library and Information Services at Gateway Community and Technical College, in northern Kentucky.

Rebecca Montano-Smith ('05) has been appointed to the Search Committee for a Director of Lexington Public Library. In her day job, she is Assistant Manager, Village Branch, Lexington Public Library.

Leslie Hammann ('06) is Principal Investigator on an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant of nearly \$1 million. The grant was awarded in the IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. Leslie is Instructional Services Librarian, Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University.

Just when we thought this issue of the newsletter was complete, we received an e-mail that we are especially pleased to have, from **Renee Harvey ('06)**, who wrote:

I have spent the last two years attending class at the University of Tulsa working towards a certificate in Museum Studies and a certificate in African American Studies. While attending class, I worked in the Special Collections Department of McFarlin Library, which was quite the learning experience and a direction that I never thought I would go in, but I ended up enjoying it immensely. My experience in Special Collections and my degree from the University of Kentucky lead me to the position I now hold as Assistant Librarian at the Sarah Erwin Library at Gilcrease Museum.

I've been here since August 17th and can finally find my way around the back passage ways without getting lost and having security come retrieve me:) The Gilcrease Museum has been under the management of the University of Tulsa for the past year, and with that many changes have occurred, including restructuring of many of the departments, including the library. Previously, the library was staffed with volunteers and an Art/Library Curator, and now the library will have an Assistant Librarian and a Library/Archive Curator.

Renee concluded by saying she hopes to visit Lexington in the spring; we hope so, too.

Jill Grunenwald ('08) wrote in June: "I wanted to let the school know that I've found a professional job. I've been working here for a few months now, but didn't get it into you in time to be added to the last LIS newsletter, so I'd like to have it put into the next one. I'm working as a librarian at a minimum-security prison in Grafton, OH (20 miles west of Cleveland) and I've been here since late February."

In May, we received a note from **Kathy McCardwell ('08)**, in which she wrote: "As of June 30, I will be finished at Hanover College, then will spend approximately a month in my intended eventual field site/home (yes, Alaska), and then head down to Colorado for grad school -- a second Master's, followed, I expect, by a PhD, both in anthropology."

Richard Pitaniello ('08) is an Archivist in Special Collections at Marshall University.

Among Recent Graduates

Marciann Auberry is a kindergarten teacher in Bardstown City Schools, KY.

Sarah Carter is on the staff at LaRue County Public Library, Hodgenville, KY.

Alison Cucchetti is Oak Hills High School Media Specialist in Cincinnati.

Jennifer Davis is Library Media Specialist, Mildred Dean Elementary School, Newport Independent Schools, KY.

Pam Duncan is on the staff at Lexington Public Library, assigned to the Central Library.

Vaughan Fielder is Program Coordinator, Kentucky Women Writers Conference.

Sarah Finn is on the staff at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

Sarah Flood is Childrens and Youth Services Librarian, Breckinridge County Public Library, Hardinsburg, KY.

Jason Fowler is Archives and Special Collections Librarian, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Heather Fox is a member of the special collections staff at Filson Historical Society, Louisville.

Jennifer Garner is Library Media Specialist, Irvington Elementary School, KY.

Susanne Jolliffe is a teacher in Fayette County Public Schools, Lexington.

Spring semester 2009 **Amy Laub** had a paid internship at Paris-Bourbon County Public Library and did so well that Director Mark Adler persuaded the Board of Trustees to create a position for her, as Technical Services Librarian. We received a nice e-mail from Amy on the first day of fall:

I am now a selector for roughly half the adult non-fiction (100, 200, 500, 700, 900, biography) and adult graphic novels. Although this is extremely daunting, I'm enjoying the challenge, not to mention the vicarious thrill I get from spending large amounts of money on books. In addition to this I am also taking part in the Bourbon County Leadership program for the next 8 months. This should be fun exploring various aspects of government and business in Bourbon County.

Rachel Medley is a teacher at The Lexington School.

Ben Rawlins is on the staff at Paul Blazer Library, Kentucky State University, Frankfort.

Carla Redden is on the library staff at Maysville Community and Technical College, KY.

Erin Reed is a teacher at Pleasure Ridge Park High School, Louisville.

Scott Richards is on the teaching staff at Dixie Heights High School, KY.

Tracey Ritter is a teacher at Grant's Lick Elementary School, Alexandria, KY.

Julie Scalos is on the staff at Lexington Public Library, assigned to the Tates Creek Branch.

Kristen Schlessor is Library Media Specialist, Millcreek Elementary School, Lexington.

Mitchell Scott is Reference Librarian at Spalding University, Louisville.

Stephanie Short is a School Media Specialist, Fayette County Public Schools, Lexington.

Amy Tabb is Acquisitions Specialist at Eastern Kentucky University Libraries.

Randy Westbrook is a music professor at Eastern Kentucky University.

Lauren Wolfe is a teacher at Tates Creek High School, here in Lexington.

On August 24 **Kristi Yingling** began a two-year Clinical Librarian Internship at Vanderbilt University's Eskind Biomedical Library.

Jason Zahrdt is on the library staff at Bellarmine University, Louisville.

We have learned of the death of two alumni, but have no further information: **Anna Kelton ('60)** and **Margaret Raybould ('68)**.

Please send information for the newsletter to
carrigan@uky.edu.