



University at Buffalo

Department of Library  
and Information Studies

Graduate School of Education

FALL 2017

VOL. 4

# the informed

A publication of the Department of Library and Information Studies

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[GSE.BUFFALO.EDU/LIS](http://GSE.BUFFALO.EDU/LIS)



iSchools

# [FROM THE CHAIR]



Dr. Heidi Julien

Greetings, and welcome to our 2016-17 newsletter! The past year has been very busy, and there is much good news to share. We revised our Mission and our Program Goals. We also revised our MS in Information and Library Science degree, launched our undergraduate minor and submitted our doctoral program proposal. Keep your fingers crossed; we wish to launch the PhD program in Fall, 2018. This year we said good-bye to Dr. Guillaume Bou-tard and to Administrative Assistant Olga Garrison. Our 50th anniversary picnic was so successful that we hosted another family picnic on September 16th. The department's biennial narrative report for the Committee on Accreditation was submitted in February and accepted without comment; that is a good thing! For those who may be interested, the results of the past year's alumni, employer, and exit surveys are available on our website. We are working to change the name of the department to better reflect current practice and the broad scope of our activities. More details can be found in

the pages of this newsletter. We also recently joined the iSchools consortium, bringing us into dialog with other scholars around the world who are interested in the intersections between people, information, and technology. Thanks to Chris Hollister (Chair, DLIS Advisory Board), and to all the other Advisory Board members who worked so hard to produce this newsletter. Thanks also to Amber Winters, Assistant Dean for Communications and Marketing in the Graduate School of Education, for this newsletter design and layout. Finally, thanks to our supporters; we count on all of you. Please keep in touch with us through LinkedIn, Facebook, and our alumni listserv; that information is available on our alumni webpage: <http://gse.buffalo.edu/lis/alumni>. Thank you for being part of our community!

Best wishes,

Dr. Heidi Julien

Chair, Department of Library and Information Studies

## the informed

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Assistant Dean for Communications and Marketing

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## REVISED MS CURRICULUM

All students entering our master's programs starting in spring 2017 will follow the revised curriculum, which now includes only three required courses, including two new courses. Students will be required to take LIS 507 (The Information Life Cycle), LIS 508 (Information Users and Uses), and LIS 575 (Research Methods), as well as nine elective courses. Students in the MS in School Librarianship program will also be taking these required courses, along with others required for that degree.

## DEPARTMENTAL NAME CHANGE PROPOSAL

Following discussion at our spring "Advance" (retreat), which included Advisory Board members, students, alumni, and employers, the DLIS faculty agreed to change the departmental name to the Department of Information Science. This reflects changes in the field over the past 20 years, in which a focus on "libraries" has been replaced by a focus on "information" as a phenomena, which is relevant to libraries but more importantly is explored in a range of contexts: organizational, workplace, and individuals' daily lives. Only half of the ALA-accredited departments, faculties, or schools in North America include the word "library" in their name. Similarly, only 28% use the term "studies," but 48% use the term "science." Over the past three decades the field has become much more scientific; so, the label "science" rather than "studies" reflects those interests. For consistency, we also expect to change the name of our general degree to MS in Information Science, and our proposed doctoral program will be a PhD in Information Science. The departmental name change proposal was approved by the Graduate School of Education faculty in fall 2017; it will now go to Faculty Senate for a vote, before coming before senior administration for approval.

## PhD PROGRAM

Our PhD program proposal was successfully submitted in spring 2017. We are now awaiting approval from the Graduate School, SUNY, and NY State Education, and hope to launch the program in fall 2018. The PhD program will be online, requiring only a one week residency annually, in which enrolled students will en-

joy extended advising opportunities, workshops, and networking with their fellow students. For more information, please contact the director of that program, Dr. Dan Albertson ([dalbert@buffalo.edu](mailto:dalbert@buffalo.edu)).

## REVISED MISSION AND PROGRAM GOALS

Following discussion at our spring "Advance" (retreat), we slightly revised our Mission and Program Goals, effective fall of 2017. Here are the new wordings:

Mission of the Department of Library and Information Studies:

In concert with the missions of the State University of New York and of the University at Buffalo, the mission of the Department of Library and Information Studies is to inspire our communities to transform the information world through innovative and impactful research, exceptional learning opportunities, and collaborative service in a diverse global context.

Goals of the MS in Information and Library Science/ MS in School Librarianship Program:

1. Graduates demonstrate theoretical and conceptual understanding of information science, including the creation, representation, organization, retrieval, dissemination, use, and curation of information.
2. Graduates apply disciplinary knowledge and skills required in diverse information contexts.
3. Graduates demonstrate professional competencies, including leadership, critical and analytical thinking, research, communication, collaboration, reflective practice, and ethical adherence.
4. Graduates demonstrate the values, attitudes, and behaviors associated with the roles and responsibilities of information and library professionals.

## ALUMNI, EMPLOYER, AND EXIT SURVEYS

In her role as Associate Chair for 2016-17, Dr. Valerie Nessel coordinated our alumni, employer, and exit surveys, and produced reports of these data. All reports are publicly available, linked from <http://gse.buffalo.edu/lis/reports>.



We are pleased to announce that the Graduate School of Education has a new Dean, Suzanne Rosenblith. Suzanne Rosenblith, former Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Professor of Educational Foundations at Clemson University, has been named dean of the University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education. Rosenblith holds a PhD in educational policy studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's degree in experiential education from Minnesota State University and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary social sciences from Muhlenberg College.

During a successful tenure at Clemson, Rosenblith was integral to the reorganization and reimagining of the university's College of Education. She helped guide faculty and staff through the strategic planning process, expanded and enhanced the school's relationship with community partners, grew enrollment and introduced a research focus and digital media and learning emphasis within her department.

Rosenblith also led the creation or revision of numerous educational programs at all levels in the College of Education, including seven PhD programs, an online Master of Education (MEd) degree, a five-year BA-MEd program, and a transdisciplinary, equity-based STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) initiative. This initiative aimed to diversify STEM disciplines and careers by infusing art and design into educational programs spanning from early childhood through the PhD.

Suzanne is a prolific scholar, widely known for her research on the relationship between religion and public schooling. Her work is grounded at the intersections of educational policy, philosophy of education and educational identity, where she seeks to examine the relationship between religion and education in democratic, pluralist schools.

We are proud to host visiting scholars in our Research Seminar Series. This past year, we hosted the following scholars:



**Anatoliy Gruz**  
**Ryerson University,**  
**Canada**  
 Studying Online Interactions using Social Network Analysis  
 September 28, 2016



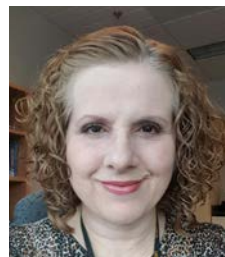
**Lisa K. Hussey**  
**Simmons College**  
 White Privilege in LIS: How do we Define It?  
 October 26, 2016



**Lynn Westbrook**  
**University of Texas at Austin**  
 Intimate Partner Violence Survivors: Gaining Agency through Information Management  
 November 28, 2016



**Don Latham**  
**Florida State University**  
 My Information Literacy Odyssey  
 February 27, 2017



**Louise Spiteri**  
**Dalhousie University**  
 In the Readers' Own Words: How User Content in the Catalogue Can Enhance Readers' Advisory Services  
 April 26, 2017

Please watch for details about our 2017-18 speakers.

event  
**NEW STUDENT  
RECEPTION**

New student recep-  
tions were held in  
August and January to  
welcome incoming stu-  
dents to our programs.  
These receptions  
bring current and new  
students together to  
meet one another, and  
to meet our faculty  
and staff.



Dr. Heidi Julien and Jessica Clemons



Ben Poremski and Maureen Grice



Afiya Farrell, Alice Wu, and Dianna Urbanski



Dr. Dan Albertson and Becky Burke

**CELIA  
GAVETT**



**DLIS**  
**STUDENT  
HONORS**

As the 2017 Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship winner, I had the honor to attend North American Serial Interest Group's (NASIG) 32nd Annual Conference, held June 8-11 in Indianapolis. NASIG is an independent organization that promotes communication, information, and continuing education about serials, electronic resources, and the broader issues of scholarly communication.

This four-day conference was an exciting whirlwind: from presentations on solutions librarians and vendors are uncovering in their daily work, to fun social events. NASIG has a friendly, supportive culture, and newcomers are genuinely welcomed. I left the conference understanding a broader spectrum of issues facing the library and information science world, but perhaps more importantly, I made personal connections that will last throughout my career.



Joining NASIG is a fantastic way to explore the profession. I would encourage all DLIS students to take advantage of the free (yes, free!) student membership, as well as the free Student Mentoring Program that supports emerging professionals. The 2018 conference will be in Atlanta next June, so mark your calendars and apply for NASIG's grants for students and paraprofessionals to attend.

## [ student ACTIVITIES ]

Our LIS Graduate Student Association (GSA) enjoyed an active year, including the following:

- Hire Me! workshop on January 14 for students to learn how to present themselves and craft effective resumes, CVs, and cover letters.
- Welcome to Fall 2016 social event on September 23 at the Irishman Pub and Eatery.



Alex Agostinelli, Sophie Forrester, and Brian McAvoy

- Halloweeeeen party with graduate students from the School of Social Work on October 22.



- Mid Semester Fun social event at Dave and Busters on April 1.
- End of the Year celebration at a local bowling alley.

The LIS GSA also organized monthly relaxation and stress-relief meetings, and online homework groups.

## student [NEWS]

### BETA PHI MU

The following graduates were inducted into Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society. Students in each graduating year are selected by the faculty because of outstanding scholarship and service. Inductees for 2016 are

**Olli S. Baker**  
**Andrew Charles Porteus**  
**Cheryl Ann Tisa**  
**George Patrick Tocco**



Also inducted was **Mark Edward deJong**, who was invited by the faculty to join Beta Phi Mu after graduating from the program in 1999. If you have received an invitation to become a member of Beta Phi Mu in the past but did not elect to do so at the time, you are still welcome and encouraged to join. These invitations do not expire. Please [contact Dr. Brenda Battleson White](#) for more information.

### TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The department hosted a town hall meeting for students in fall 2016, and came to the understanding that most students are satisfied with their programs. Issues that arise are typically minor and readily addressed directly by instructors, faculty, staff, and the department chair. Students are encouraged to direct any concerns through these channels, or through the LIS Graduate Student Association. We do not see any immediate need for future town hall meetings, unless students request them.

### AWARDS

Sebastian Galbo Receives NYLA Award





# [ event GRADUATION BRUNCH ]

We hosted a brunch for 2016-17 graduates and their families following commencement on May 19. The event was attended by a number of new graduates, and it gave all of us in DLIS a chance to say congratulations in person!

65 GRADUATES JOINED OUR 4,600+ ALUMNI



Dr. Valerie Nessel and Abbas Amarshi



Abbas Amarshi and Marc Coursey



Jim Tamaro and Ashley Senske

## 2016-2017

# [GRADUATES]

*We congratulate all of our graduates from this past year and wish everyone much success in their careers!*

### SEPTEMBER 2016

- Tyler Annis
- Dana Bello
- James Doyle
- Alexandra Fernandes Hall
- Joshua Firer
- Nicholas Johnston
- Matthew Oliver
- Kathryn Papas
- Mary Tuttle

### FEBRUARY 2017

- Jennifer Lee Abbott
- Mark Ahrens
- Sarah Marie Amorese
- Katelyn E. Baroody
- Sondra Larissa Cummings
- Kaitlyn Forbes
- Meredith Jane Gaylo
- Robert Gibbs
- Lee Ann Marie Kostempski
- Michelle Leigh Lester
- William Peter Loveland
- Kate Aline Senedzuk
- Marley Janina Solomon
- Kyleigh Stocking

### JUNE 2017

- Alexandra Jamie Agostinelli
- Elizabeth Beardslee
- Carrie Rebecca Blabac-Myers
- Giulia Bombace

- Morgan E. Brett
- Lisa Caggiano
- James Kyle Cingone
- Marie Coene
- Marc Coursey
- Juan Denzer
- Erin C. Fischer
- Ashley Fishkis
- Stephanie Alexander Green
- Jennifer Lynne Henry
- Arielle Dawn Hessler
- Joy S. Ike
- Evalyn Alexandra Kay
- Debra Ann Kelly
- Asia Kolakowski
- Melissa Sue Laidman
- Elizabeth Ann Larter
- Catherine Lathrop
- Elizabeth Marcellus
- Emily June Martin
- Kimberly A. Mccarthy

- Aaron C. Meyers
- Krista Jean Miller
- Rebecca Marie Moe
- Elizabeth Monika
- Kim L. Myers
- Laurie Needell
- Chad Ochman
- Jesse O'Reilly
- Peter Raimondi
- Mallory Cate Rosenberg
- John Michael Sadowski
- Christine Marie Schaefer
- Ashley Senske
- Regina M. Stanton
- Caitlyn Anne Stever
- Tinita Tucker
- Alice Yu-Ting Wu

## faculty [ACTIVITIES]

**Dr. Sam Abramovich** presented a paper at the National Council on Measurement in Education in San Antonio, Texas, a workshop at FabLearn 2016 in Stanford, California, and a symposium at the International Testing Commission Conference in Vancouver, Canada. He reviewed submissions for the Scientific Board for International Symposium on Human Factors in Training, Education, and Learning Sciences, for the Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics Conference, and for the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) Biennial Conference, Junior Researchers (JURE) of EARLI. Dr. Abramovich also reviewed manuscripts for the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, Leadership and Policy in Schools, and Computers and Education.

**Dr. Dan Albertson** gave a paper at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology, and another at the 45th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science. He served as a reviewer for Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, Journal of Education for Library and Information Science, Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice, Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology, and Online Information Review. Dr. Albertson served on the Editorial Advisory Board for Online Information Review and the Editorial Board for Journal of Information and Knowledge Management. He also co-chaired the Works in Progress Poster Session at the 2018 Association for Library and Information Science Education Conference.

**Dr. Brenda Battleson** continues to work with Native American Community Services of Western New York to create metadata for their collection of Mohawk and related indigenous language materials. In addition, she was awarded the Graduate School of Education STAR Award for Teaching, and was appointed an Open SUNY Online Teaching Ambassador. Dr. Battleson is now the Program Director of the new undergraduate minor in Information Studies.

**Dr. Guillaume Boutard** gave a paper at the Journées d'Informatique Musicale, Paris May 2016. He reviewed grants for the French National Agency/Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), and reviewed conference submissions for Journées d'Informatique Musicale.

**Dr. Heidi Julien** presented papers at the Information Seeking in Context conference in Zadar, Croatia, at the Association for Library and Information Science Education, at the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science, and at the I3 (Information: Interactions and Impact) conferences. She also gave an invited talk at Strathclyde University in Scotland. She was appointed to the international Permanent Committee for ISIC: the Information Behaviour conference. Dr. Julien served as President of the Western New York Library Resources Council Board of Trustees, and as Chair of the ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition Committee. She is President-elect of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE). She served as Chair of the Review Committee for Monograph Publisher and Chair of the Award of Merit Jury for the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). She served on the editorial boards for Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science and Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. She also served on the Editorial Advisory Board for Open Information Science (De Gruyter Open), and as an Article Editor for Sage Open. She reviewed Innovative Instruction Technology Grants (IITG) grants for SUNY, a South Africa National Research Foundation grant, and reviewed submissions for several conferences (Information Seeking in Context, Social Media & Society, iConference, Canadian Association for Information Science) and for multiple journals. She is also consulting with other U.S. programs on accreditation.

**Dr. Valerie Nessel** presented a paper and a poster at the annual conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education, and gave an invited keynote address to the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Indexers in Montreal, Quebec. Dr. Nessel continues in her role as Editor of the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, and served on an NSF grant review panel. She served as Chair of the new UB Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee, and as a member of the search committee for the new dean of GSE. She was also appointed as the faculty representative on a new UB Information Security and Privacy Advisory Committee.

**Dr. Dagobert Soergel** presented papers at MarkLogic World 2017 in Chicago, IL, at the II Seminário do Grupo De Pesquisa MHTX ECI, UFMG, Belo Horizonte, and at the CTSA Evaluators Call. He reviewed a paper for the Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology, and reviewed submissions for Perspectivas em Ciência da Informação, the International UDC Seminar, ISKO Rio 2016, and ISKO UK. He served on the program committee for the 16th European Networked Knowledge Organization Systems workshop. At UB, Dr. Soergel served as Director of Evaluation for Clinical and Translational Science Awards, and served on the Faculty Senate Academic Planning Committee.

**Dr. Ying Sun** served as an editorial board member for International Journal of Knowledge Engineering.

**Dr. Amy VanScoy** presented a paper at ISIC: The Information Behaviour Conference in Zadar, Croatia, two papers at the Association for Library and Information Science Education in Atlanta, GA, and a paper at the Canadian Association for Information Science conference in Toronto, Canada. She was invited to present her research to the Department of Information Science at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Her paper, co-authored with Kawanna Bright, "Including the Voices of Librarians of Color," received the Beta Phi Mu/Library Research Round Table Research Paper Award for 2017. Dr. VanScoy was named an Online Teaching Ambassador by the Open SUNY Center for Online Teaching Excellence. She also became a founding member of the North American Steering Committee for Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis.

**Dr. Jianqiang Wang** served as a reviewer for Information Processing and Management.



**Abramovich, S.** (2017) Are there Jewish digital badges?: A study of religious middle- and high-school girls' perception of an emerging educational technology-based assessment. *Journal of Jewish Education*, 83(2), 151-167.

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**Wang, J.** (2017). UB at the NTCIR-13 Short Text Conversation 2 (STC-2) Task, Proceedings of the 13th NTCIR Conference. (in press).



*staff*  
[OUR STORIES]



*How long have you been working in this department? What is your role?*

I have been working in the department for almost two years, running the day-to-day operation of the DLIS main office. I answer and direct phone calls and/or emails from students: past, present and future. I also maintain the students' files, help with planning events, and assist all the faculty and staff.

*What would you like to share about your life outside of work?*

I have a two-year-old daughter named Ariella, who is very active. I have grown up and lived in Buffalo my entire life, and I enjoy the summer festivals and various concerts.

*Why do you like working in this department?*

I like working in this department because everyone is very down to earth, warm, and inviting.

The door is always open with

everyone I work with to discuss professional and personal topics.

*What have been the biggest challenges you face in this role?*

The biggest challenge has been being new to the university and not knowing the policies and procedures. Certain processes have to be completed in a certain order. It is different than working in the private sector.

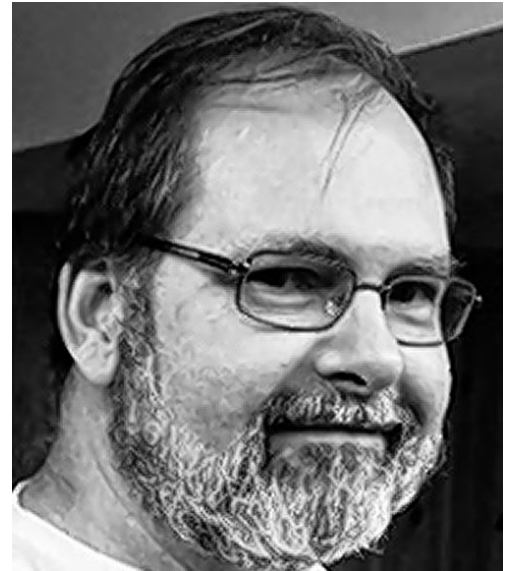
*What are the most significant satisfactions you enjoy in the role?*

I find satisfaction in helping people. Whether it's the students, faculty, or staff, I like to help others accomplish tasks or goals.

*What are your passions?*

One of my passions in life is my daughter, making sure she is growing up to be a well-rounded person. Other passions are art and music. I enjoy just about all musical genres, some more than others. I also appreciate various mediums of art: paintings, photograph, drawings, and poetry.

*in*  
[MEMORIAM]



**MIKE LAVIN '78**

The Buffalo library community suffered a significant loss with the passing of Mike Lavin in June, 2017.

Mike graduated from SILS in 1978 and worked in the University at Buffalo Libraries for 25 years. He also worked in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries and held part-time positions in the Canisius College and Niagara University libraries.

Mike was an internationally respected business and management subject specialist; he authored a renowned text book in this area, and he lectured in Latvia and Thailand. He was also a comic book and graphic novel scholar and enthusiast. He received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 1991, and the Gale Research Award for Excellence in Business Librarianship in 1992.

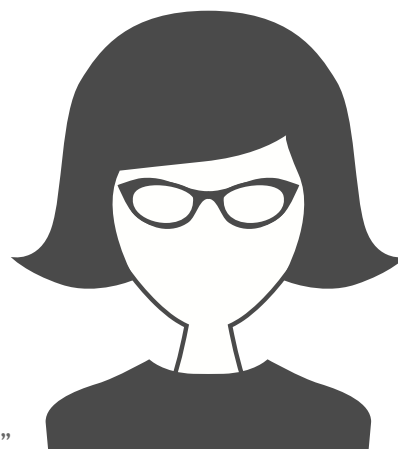
The entire library community joins with Mike's family in mourning his passing.



event [ 2017 BOBINSKI LECTURE SERIES ]

# John Bertot

“UNDER DURESS: THE MLS AND LIBRARIES TODAY”



Dr. John Bertot presented the 2017 Bobinski Lecture on March 27, titled “Under Duress: The MLS and Libraries Today.”

Dr. Bertot presented findings from two recent initiatives, which demonstrate both the benefits and the challenges to an ALA-accredited MLS-centric library workforce. The lecture was stimulating, and gave us confidence that the department’s new curriculum is moving in the right direction. Dr. Bertot is Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Professor, and Co-Director of the Information Policy & Access Center in the iSchool at the University of Maryland College Park. Prior to becoming Associate Provost, John served as the MLS Program Director from 2012-2015. Most recently, he served as principle investigator for the IMLS-funded Digital Inclusion Study of Public Libraries in partnership with the American Library Association. This event was streamed on Facebook Live and can be viewed [here on Facebook](#). The lecture was followed by a reception sponsored by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, University at Buffalo Libraries, and the Western New York Library Resources Council.

This lecture series is supported by The George and Mary Bobinski Lecture Fund. George S. Bobinski, Emeritus Professor and former Dean, School of Information and Library Studies, is a library historian and noted scholar. Mary Bobinski was a former director Amherst Public Libraries, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. This fund was established to bring scholars of significant standing and high quality to address important topics in library and information studies.

Please plan to join us for the 2018 Bobinski Lecture. We have secured [Dr. Clara Chu](#), Director of the [Mortenson Center](#), for this event on March 14. Dr. Chu is a past Director of the library school at UNC Greensboro and is a past Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) President. She is active in IFLA, and has significant international experience and expertise in diversity issues.



From left: Dr. Dan Albertson and Dr. Sam Abramovich



From left: Susan Davis-Bartl, Scott Hollander and James Mayanard



From left: Dr. John Bertot and Dr. Heidi Julien

*a note of*  
[THANKS]

**We count on the support of our alumni and friends to benefit our students directly, to provide excellent programming, to enhance our infrastructure, and to bolster faculty activities. Our endowments are critical to keeping us ahead of the curve! Please consider supporting us with a one-time gift, a regular donation, or a legacy commitment.**

**DONORS 2015-16**

*We apologize to those donors who were left off our donor list last year, due to a database error. We are very grateful to those donors, including:*

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- Roberta C. Ford
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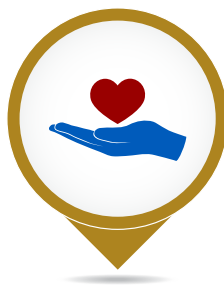
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- John and Joyce Maguda
- Diane Malkin
- Gail Mates
- Thomas and Artie McAuliffe
- Terrence McGovern
- John and Emma Miskey
- Anita Mitchell
- Susan Mitchell
- Michael and Sylvia Moran
- Cathy Oden
- Martin Onieal
- Elaine Panty
- Patricia Sanders
- Margaret Scheffler
- Sub-Board I, Inc.
- UB Graduate Student Association
- Michael Walsh
- Sharon Weiner
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# [ fun FACTS ]

**FOUNDED:** 1966

**ALA ACCREDITED:** 1972

## PROGRAMS

- > Masters - 2
- > Dual Majors - 2
- > Certificates - 1
- > Minors - 1

## FACULTY

- > Full-Time - 10.5

**STAFF** - 4

## ALUMNI

- > 4,500 and growing

## MISSION:

To inspire our communities to transform the information world through innovative research, exceptional teaching, and collaborative service in a diverse global context.

## GOALS:

- 1) Graduates demonstrate an understanding of information and library science, including its historical foundations, as well as the creation, representation, organization, dissemination, use, and curation of information.
- 2) Graduates apply domain knowledge and skills required in diverse information environments.
- 3) Graduates demonstrate professional competences, including leadership, critical thinking, inquiry, communication, collaboration, reflective practice, and ethical adherence.
- 4) Graduates apply an understanding of information and library professions and the roles, responsibilities, and professional dispositions (i.e., values, attitudes, behaviors).

## alumni [PROFILE]



After graduating in early 2011, it took a little while to get my career off the ground. I spent time as a senior page in technical services at Buffalo and Erie County Public Library and as a seasonal bartender back home on Long Island. Following that, I worked as an administrative assistant in a small home office managing condominiums. Everything there was low-tech and I spent much of my time researching contractors out of a phone book. However, I had the opportunity to refresh the paper filing system from scratch. Librarianship is everywhere if you only look for it!

In September of 2012, Daemen College brought me on as a Reference & Instruction Librarian. Soon after, I began picking up the systems work, eventually receiving a promotion to Digital Resources

*“ Librarianship is everywhere if you only look for it! ”*

& Systems Librarian in November of 2016. Early in my career at Daemen, Brenda Battleson White reached out and suggested I join the Graduate School of Education Alumni Association Board. Soon after joining, I was elected secretary by the group and eventually became President of the Board in 2016. It has been a pleasure to serve on this group; we have connected current students and alumni through small student-focused conferences and a mentoring program. Sometimes that one connection is all one needs to get a foot in the door somewhere. It has been a privilege to help pave the way for student success.



**TIM BURKE**  
class of 1984

***What year did you graduate from SILS/DLIS?***

I graduated from SILS in 1984.

***What exciting/interesting/unique elements come along with your position as Executive Director for the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS)?***

I've found my entire career in librarianship, which has included work in academic libraries, public libraries, and library systems, to be "exciting/interesting/unique," so that's a hard question! I really enjoy the work I do every day helping the 29 UHLS member libraries provide the best library service possible to their communities. Public libraries change people's lives and being a part of that transformative work for so many libraries and for so many people is genuinely satisfying. Successfully leading a cooperative membership organization made up of autonomous, independent organizations certainly helps develop my communication and consensus building skills, which is something I also enjoy about my current position. Much of my work involves advocating for increased support and funding for libraries and library service, both locally and at the statewide level, so I get to talk to people about the power of public libraries as part of my job, so what's not to like about that!

***What do you wish to accomplish as President for the New York Library Association (NYLA) Council?***

NYLA serves as "the Voice of the Library Community." It was founded by Melvil Dewey and is the oldest state library association in the United States. Given that history, I consider it a real honor to have the opportunity to serve as President of the Association starting in November of this year. NYLA has a long and strong record of speaking up for libraries and I certainly want to build on that tradition. I think there's some untapped potential for positive growth and change that can be realized if we can do more to bring all of the diverse segments of the

statewide library community together, so I would like to encourage all of us to work together to make a difference...for New York's libraries and for all New Yorkers.

***Is this the career you envisioned for yourself?***

Yes and no. From the time I identified librarianship as my career path as an undergraduate student, I knew that I wanted to always be involved in connecting people with the information that matters to them. But I really I didn't anticipate that I would have opportunities to do this in so many different library environments. I enjoyed my time working in academic libraries, but I was definitely born to be a public librarian. I tell people that I was fortunate enough to be able to fall in love with my profession twice! Once when I left SILS with my MLS and became a librarian and then again when I became a public librarian back in 2003!

***Reflecting on your SILS/DLIS experience, what helped you to get where you are now?***

I came into SILS having only the narrowest vision of the wider world of libraries and all the different types of libraries and library opportunities. My coursework at SILS and my several experiences interning and working in libraries while in the program really helped to expand that vision and my awareness of all the paths and directions you can go with a degree in information science.

***Given your success and professional accomplishments, what advice do you have for current DLIS students?***

I would first offer my congratulations on choosing a career that gives you an opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives. This is a profession that will give you back what you put into it. Hard work, dedication, and most importantly, a sincere passion for the fundamental mission of libraries will be noticed by the people around you and above you. And finally, have fun!

***Anything else you wish to add?***

I will also add my personal shout out to the City of Buffalo. I loved my time living in the "Queen City" and I met my wife of 31 years while in graduate school, so I've been "Talkin' Proud" ever since then! Go Bills! Go Sabres!

## 1980s

**ELLEN MCGRATH** (1983), Head of Cataloging at the University at Buffalo Law Library, was the recipient of the 2016 Renee D. Chapman Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in Technical Services Law Librarianship. It is sponsored by the Technical Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and was awarded during the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Chicago, Illinois on July 18, 2016.

**BARBARA BURNS MORAN** (PhD, Higher Education, 1982) has retired from the faculty of information and library science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Moran, who received her doctorate before our department had a PhD program, has served the department as a member of our Advisory Board. Dr. Moran was on the faculty at UNC since 1981 and served as dean from 1990 to 1998. She was the Louis Round Wilson Distinguished Professor and authored more than 70 journal articles and books during her career. She received awards for her teaching, mainly in the area of management and academic librarianship.

## 1990s

**BETH ADELMAN** (1994) has been elected to the American Association of Law Libraries Executive Board. Beth is Director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library at the University of Buffalo School of Law and an adjunct instructor for our department.

**PAULA GANYARD** (1996) is now the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology & Library Services at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. Also, this year, she received the Leadership Green Bay Leo Frigo Leadership Award for her work as a leader in her field and community.

**KAREN (MADEJ) RUSS** (MLS 1994) Research and Community Engagement Librarian at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, has been appointed chair of the Depository Library Council, the advisory board to the Superintendent of Documents and the Director of the US Government Publishing Office. This appointment follows three years serving on the Council.

## 2000s

**ROBIN COMEAU** (2003) received the Charles S. Lipani Award at this year's School of Dental Medicine commencement. The award recognizes Robin's contribution to the School, the faculty, and the dental profession – Robin is one of only two staff members to ever have received the award. Robin is currently the Quality Assurance Coordinator at the UB School of Dental Medicine. Since graduating from UB, she has published three books: *Boom Town: Early History of Tomahawk Wisconsin, 1886 – 1924*, *Images of America: Merrill*, and *Mill Pond: A Lifetime of Tripoli Memories with Larry R. Peil*, as well as a celebration of the School of Dental Medicine's 125 year history entitled *University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine: Quasiquicentennial Compendium 1892 – 2017*.

**CHRISTOPHER HOLLISTER** (2000) received the 2017 Beta Phi Mu Harold Lancour Scholarship for Foreign Study. Chris will be collaborating with the University at Buffalo's partner institution in Singapore to mitigate the costs of course textbooks. Chris is the Education Librarian at the University of Buffalo Libraries, adjunct instructor, and chair of our advisory board.

## 2010s

**KELLIE (CLIVER) BARBATO** (2011), Outreach Librarian/Assistant Professor at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, New York, received the President's Conference Scholarship which covered the cost to attend the 2017 annual conference of the Association of Christian Librarians in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**JAMES EVANS** (2015) is the Medical Librarian at Rochester General Hospital. He is the subject liaison for Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Social Work, Cardiology and Geriatrics.

**CADY FONTANA** (2012) is now a Librarian at the Tompkins County Public Library in Ithaca, New York. In her new position, Cady works part time in youth services and part time in adult services doing programming and outreach.

**SOPHIE FORRESTER** (2016) accepted her first professional librarian position. She is now the Digital Services Librarian at SUNY Fredonia.

**MOLLY MALONEY** (2013), **BRYAN J. SAJECKI** (2012), and **NICOLE THOMAS** (2012) were all appointed as Undergraduate Education Librarians within the Research, Education, and Outreach unit of the University at Buffalo Libraries. In addition to bolstering meta-literacy skills of UB undergraduate students, they were also selected to collaborate on the development of a comprehensive rework of the SUNY Tools of Engagement Project (TOEP). Through a SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant (IITG), the three plucky librarians will work with Roberta (Robin) Sullivan (2010), the project's Principal Investigator (PI) and an Online Learning Specialist with UB's Center for Educational Innovation (CEI), and others throughout the SUNY system to create a MOOC with the theme of developing lifelong learning skills within emerging technologies. For more information, visit <http://suny.edu/toep>.

**LAURIE NEEDELL** (2017) is the new Adult Reference Librarian at the Orangeburg Library in Orangeburg, New York. She is also co-founder of the Nyack Seed Exchange, Rockland County's first seed library.

**ELIZABETH PORTILLO** (2015) has accepted a new position as the Children's/Teen Librarian at the Easton Public Library in Connecticut. She was formerly YA Librarian at the Eastchester Public Library in New York. During her time at Eastchester, she created teen programming, oversaw major renovations to create a teen library space, and founded a local Battle of the Books program.

**JARED REX** (2012) is the Music Librarian at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. He was recently nominated to a three-year position as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the New England Chapter of the Music Library Association (NEMLA). After graduation, Jared held various positions including Library Fellow at New World Symphony, Head Librarian of the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, Personal Librarian to conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, and Acting Librarian at the Nashville Symphony.

## [ NOTES ]

We would love to hear from more alumni for our next issue of *The Informed*. Please contact Dr. Amy VanScoy at [vanscoy@buffalo.edu](mailto:vanscoy@buffalo.edu) or feel free to post your news to the LIS alumni list, [LIS-LIST@listserv.buffalo.edu](mailto:LIS-LIST@listserv.buffalo.edu). You can also join our Facebook page: [SUNY Buffalo Library Science Alumni](https://www.facebook.com/SUNY-Buffalo-Library-Science-Alumni).

## DEPARTURES

We were sorry to say good-bye to **Dr. Guillaume Boutard** in June, following two years as an Assistant Professor in the department. Dr. Boutard has returned to Montreal.

We also said good-bye to Administrative Assistant **Olga Garrison**, who retired in late August. She served the University at Buffalo for many years, and she will be missed. Very best wishes to Dr. Boutard and to Mrs. Garrison!

## APPOINTMENTS

We hope to be hiring new faculty in the near future, particularly with the launch of our new undergraduate minor program, and our expected doctoral program.

## BETA PHI MU

Beta Phi Mu Beta Delta Chapter at SUNY Buffalo met on May 15, 2017. The meeting featured a guest presentation by Associate Professor Valerie Nessel on "Information Literacy Instruction: Things You Need to Know But Maybe Don't Know to Ask."

## AWARDS

The 2017 winner of the **Beta Phi Mu-Library Research Round Table Research Paper Award** is Including the Voices of Librarians of Color in Reference and Information Services Work. This paper was authored by DLIS Assistant Professor, **Amy VanScoy**, and by DLIS adjunct instructor, **Kawanna Bright**. VanScoy and Bright received a certificate and a \$500 award at the American Library Association's annual conference in Chicago this summer. Beta Phi Mu award reviewers described their research question as having "important implications for the profession, both in terms of diversity and social justice. It also has valuable potential for improving Reference and Instruction services for patrons of color." The paper provided an "excellent review of the literature... to explain and revisit meaning for the results. ... Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) addresses commonalities and differences in the lived experiences of the phenomenon, which suits this question. The identification of clear themes... provides a valuable context for improving the work environment and supporting inclusiveness in the profession... provid[ing] potential for improving the equity and justice of reference and instructional services as well." Congratulations, Dr. VanScoy and Ms. Bright!



We are very proud to announce that **Dr. Brenda Battleson White** is this year's winner of the **Graduate School of Education STAR Award for Teaching**. Dr. Battleson White is an outstanding teacher, mentor, and advisor. In all circumstances, she puts students' learning and well-being at the forefront of her intentions, actions, and efforts.

She is a steady and thoughtful advocate for students in our curriculum and program planning. Students regularly comment on her professionalism, dedication to the teaching role, excellent instructional design, authentic assignments, and care for their wellbeing. We are honored to have Dr. Brenda Battleson White as an outstanding member of our teaching team!

Long-time adjunct faculty member **Jim Tammaro** was awarded the Mildred Lowe Award, which is presented annually by the New York Library Association/Government Information Round Table to a librarian who has made a significant contribution to government documents librarianship, access to government information, and/or the encouragement of documents use in New York State libraries. Jim has taught for 25 years at the University at Buffalo. He teaches a records management course and an introductory archives course, and routinely advises and/or supervises students carrying out archives and records management practicums.

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Adjunct professor **Hilda Weisburg** recently published a book titled *Leading for School Librarians: There Is No Other Option*, published by ALA Editions. Ms. Weisburg brings significant experience to this roadmap for building the confidence and skills required for contemporary leadership in school libraries. Please visit [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org) for more details.





***How long have you been teaching in this department? Which courses do you teach?***

I have been a full-time faculty member since 2010, but began teaching as an adjunct instructor in 2008.

I teach courses on management, information organization, the information life cycle, and collection management. I will also be

teaching undergraduate courses on information and society, censorship, privacy and information policy, information in decision-making, and organizational storytelling.

***Why do you like teaching in this department?***

I have a personal and professional connection to the department because this is where I earned my MLS back in the “dark ages.” The best part of this job is revealing the world of information and all it entails to new students. While most of our students come to us looking to work in libraries, we try to prepare them for careers in any environment where information is important. It is a brilliant feeling when I see students realize and embrace the possibilities.

***What have been the biggest challenges you have faced in your role?***

I see my role as more than simply teaching skills. Understanding the bigger picture—the societal role that unfettered information access plays in a free society—is far more important than simply learning skills. Of course, employers want skills, skills, skills; so, finding the right balance is increasingly challenging.

***What are the most significant satisfactions you get from your role in the department?***

I love seeing former students grow and mature as professionals. Occasionally, I will receive an email or phone call from a former student asking for advice or commenting on how something learned in class helped them in a work situation. This offsets the occasional course evaluation comment comparing me to the “spawn of Azog the Defiler.”

***What would you like to share about your life outside of the department?***

I love dogs. BIG dogs. My husband and I have a five-year-old Great Pyrenees named Bear and an eight-year-old Bouvier des Flandres named Roamie. Both are rescues and each weighs in at 115 lbs. During the summer, I spend as much time in my garden as I can. Of course, keeping the dogs OUT of the garden can be a full-time job.

***What are your passions?***

I am passionate about libraries, especially public libraries. In a world where gaps in all segments of society are growing, it is important to stand up for and WITH those who have little voice or influence. Information and knowledge can level the playing field in many situations of inequity, which is why I see information in general and libraries in particular as playing an important societal function. Of course, doing what is right is not always popular or universally accepted. So it is important to be aware of and to be willing to accept potential consequences.

***Do you have any advice for our students or graduates?***

1. Be persistent and be prepared to be disruptive, especially if you are working in public libraries. Librarian stereotypes are as strong as ever, so use the opportunity to educate people about who you are and what you can do.
2. The number of library jobs is finite, but consider that information professionals are needed in every organization. Since the leaders of those organizations have yet to realize the value you can bring to them, be prepared to educate them and share your “elevator speech” at the drop of a dime.
3. Be prepared to move to the job. It will not come to you.
4. Your first professional position may not be your dream job, but then it doesn’t need to be. Learn and move on. You will progress.
5. In short: Watch. Listen. Learn. And don’t be afraid to be creative.





**How long have you been teaching in this department? Which courses do you teach?**

I'm in my first year teaching for the department and looking forward to many more. I currently teach LIS 518: Reference Services & Sources.

**What would you like to share about your roles as a doctoral student/former librarian?**

Transitioning from full-time librarianship to full-time student status was an

interesting experience! But I found that my librarian skills (reference, instruction, information literacy, management) all play a role in my success as a graduate student. Whether I'm working on a group project and helping my classmates figure out the best way to complete our project, or applying my research skills directly to my own projects, I never lose touch with my inner librarian. I also like to jokingly say that once you are a reference librarian, you are always a reference librarian. I get at least one reference request from friends, family, classmates, and even my instructors, every other week. It keeps me on my toes and helps me to stay in touch with an area that is still a passion of mine. I also appreciate just how much new information I've picked up since becoming a doctoral student. We talk about lifelong learning within information literacy, but I think we sometimes lose sight of how to best apply that concept to ourselves. I always tried to learn and grow as a librarian; doing so as a student just happens to be a bit easier.

**Why do you like teaching in this department?**

Though I've only taught for one semester, I already see the tremendous support that I am receiving as an adjunct. The opportunity to participate in meetings and events, even though I'm halfway across the country, has been invaluable to my sense of belonging. I also have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the students in my class. The enthusiasm and interest they have in their studies is a pleasure to see, and I reap the benefits through the quality of the work that they submit. I also know that if I have a question or a concern, I can contact the department and someone will assist me quickly.

**What have been the biggest challenges you have faced in this role?**

Being at a distance does have its downfalls. I know some of my students would benefit from being able to meet with me face to face, and that I also would be able to develop stronger relationships with them if I was in the general vicinity. I also want to continue working on how best to be an effective teacher in an online environment. Despite having taught online for years now, I know there are things that I can improve.

**What are your passions?**

Within libraries, I'm passionate about information literacy and instruction. I know the value of being an information literate person, and I want others to have these same advantages. I'm also passionate about reference (of course!) and the impact that reference librarians have on their institutions and the people that they work with.

As a graduate student, my passions include diversity in libraries and assessment in libraries. I will be looking at an aspect of assessment for my dissertation, so I will be fully immersing myself into that topic very soon!

Personally, my passions include baking and knitting, which means lots of gifts for those who help me to either test my baking creations or wear those lovely hats and scarves I manage to put together each year (no matter how ugly they think they are!).

**Do you have advice for our students or graduates?**

The best pieces of advice that I can give to the students and graduates of the program are as follows:

1. Always work on improving yourself and your skills.
2. Get involved, whether it be through a local student group, nationally, or volunteering. Whatever you are passionate about, take the time to get involved in it fully.
3. Look for opportunities to network. You never know when someone you meet may turn out to be a great connection for a job or a project later.
4. Don't be afraid of research! There is so much that you could do with the data and information. Make sure you embrace the challenge of figuring out how research aligns with your future career.
5. Support one another. I know that I am where I am today due to the support of others in the field. Once you have made those connections (with peers, with instructors), be sure to cultivate them and help them to grow. They will come in handy in the future!



Sincere thanks to our **ADJUNCT FACULTY** members for 2016-17, who bring sincere dedication and expertise to our programs!

Susan Allen  
Jim Belair  
Kawanna Bright

Stewart Brower  
Chris Hollister  
Maria Muhlbauer

Anne Perrault  
Jim Tamaro  
Hilda Weisberg

# [ Annual Picnic ]



Becca Bley and Mei Grierson



Anne Marie Siejakowski and Dr. Heidi Julien

Reunited and it feels so good.

On Saturday September 16, alumni, students, faculty, staff, professors emeriti, and family members joined together for some fun in the

sun! Our annual picnic was well attended this year, and it was a terrific opportunity to get to know one another better, to reminisce, and to

enjoy some picnic food. Please consider joining us for our 2018 picnic, scheduled for September 29, 2018!



Garrett Adams, Molly Poremski, and Miriam Abramovich



Neil and Nancy Yerkey



Rita Packard and husband, with Dr. Ying Sun, Dr. George Bobinski



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**IS HOW**

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**information your**  
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