



# the informed

A publication of the Department of Information Science

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## [FROM THE CHAIR]



Dr. Heidi Julien

Greetings! This is my last “news” as Department Chair, as my colleague Dr. Dan Albertson will have taken the helm by the time this is published. I truly hope that you enjoy this year’s newsletter. We have enjoyed an amazing year of wins for faculty (awards and grants), and the approval of our Ph.D. program, which we finally get to launch in spring 2020! We also changed the department name to Department of Information Science. Thanks to all of you who engaged with us over the past year, as donors, audience members for our talks, attendees at our receptions and events, and supporters in multiple ways. Your feedback and support are appreciated, and always welcome. Many thanks to all the contributors to this year’s newsletter, including students, alumni, faculty, and our Advisory Board. Please keep in touch with us through LinkedIn, Facebook, and our [alumni listserv](#). Thank you for being part of our community!

Sincere thanks to all of you for your tremendous support these past six years. I have been honored to serve the Department during this time. As I reflect back on my time as Chair, I’m reminded of the some of our milestones and achievements – all accomplished due the hard work of faculty, adjunct instructors, and staff, and the incredible support of our students, Advisory Board, and alumni community:

- Achieved full seven-year accreditation in 2015 (of course this means we’re starting to gear up for 2022)
- Developed and implemented a strategic plan for the Department
- Strengthened our research culture, which has led to the engagement of faculty in many international conferences, and multiple external grants
- Revised the core curriculum to three new courses
- Renamed our master’s degrees
- Renamed the Department
- Joined the iSchools
- Obtained approval for a minor in Information Studies and a doctoral program in Information Science
- Moved to fully online course delivery
- Established our newsletter, “The Informed”
- Hosted regular student and alumni receptions and gatherings
- Hosted the annual Bobinski Lecture
- Offered ongoing Research Seminars focusing on a range of topics in the field
- Hosted regular meetings with adjunct faculty
- Celebrated the Department’s 50th birthday
- Launched a new course in International Librarianship with an optional study abroad trip to Costa Rica

Thanks to Amber Winters, Assistant Dean for Communications and Marketing in the Graduate School of Education, for the newsletter design and layout.

Best wishes,

Dr. Heidi Julien

Chair, Department of Information Sciences

## SOCIAL EVENTS

We enjoyed hosting new and current students, as well as faculty, staff, and adjunct faculty at our welcome receptions at the start of the fall and spring semesters. In addition, we hosted a lovely brunch for graduates and their families following the commencement ceremony on May 17, 2019.

## ALUMNI PICNIC

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni enjoyed a family picnic on September 29, in Lincoln Park in the Town of Tonawanda. The weather cooperated, and fun was had by all. This year, we chose to host an alumni event following a full day's orientation for our new students, on August 24. This reception, held in the Center for the Arts Atrium, provided an opportunity for incoming students to get to know alumni, faculty, and staff.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The LIS Graduate Student Association met several times during the past year. On April 21, the group conducted a Pet Therapy day in conjunction with Pamela Rose, Web Services and Library Promotion Coordinator with University Libraries. It was a good way to unwind and de-stress while focusing on the end of the semester.

## NEW PHD PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE

We are delighted to announce that our new PhD Program in Information Science has been approved, to start in spring 2020. The program will be online, with a one-week required residency period annually. Please consult the [program website](#) for further information: , and share the good news far and wide. Inquiries can be forwarded to Dr. Amy VanScoy, PhD Program Director (vanscoy@buffalo.edu.)

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

Thank you to the adjunct faculty who shared their expertise so generously with our students over this past year:

- Susan Allen
- Toni Baller
- Jim Belair
- Sara Beuter Manus
- Marie Bindeman
- Boccuzzi-Reichert
- Marie Elia
- Jim Gerland
- Chris Hollister
- Melissa Jacobs
- Emily Nimsakont
- Vanessa Paniccia
- Anne Perrault
- Molly Poremski
- Jim Tammaro

## BETA PHI MU

2018 Beta Phi Mu Inductees include the following graduates. Congratulations to all of you, and welcome to the IS Honor Society !

- Yoly A. Avella
- Dr. Braddlee
- Christopher J. Duff
- Anne M. LeCard
- Rachel H. McDonald
- Zachary T. Rouse
- Olivia A. Scully (von Kohorn)
- Dianna M. Urbanski

## the informed

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### [ NEWSLETTER DESIGN ]

Amber Winters  
Assistant Dean for Communications  
and Marketing,  
Graduate School of Education

### [ IS ADVISORY BOARD ]

Christopher Hollister (Chair)  
University at Buffalo Libraries

Dr. Dan Albertson (IS Chair)  
Department of information Science, University at Buffalo

Dr. Valerie Nessel (Faculty Liaison)  
Department of information Science, University at Buffalo

Sumyung Moon (Student Representative)  
Department of information Science, University at Buffalo

Gina Nortonsmith  
Department of information Science, University at Buffalo

Sheryl Knab  
Western New York Library Resources Council

Carolyn Klotzbach -Russell  
Social Science Librarian,  
University at Buffalo

Timothy Galvin (Retired)  
Buffalo and Erie County Public Librarian

Susan Janczak (Retired)  
Department of information Science, University at Buffalo

Kristen Squire  
Edelman Intelligence

Joshua Mitch  
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

Molly Poremski (IS Liaison)  
Department of information Science, University at Buffalo

## Dr. Amy VanScoy Wins University at Buffalo Teaching Innovation Award



Established to honor exceptional educational pedagogy, the University at Buffalo's Award for Teaching Innovation was created in 2003 to recognize faculty who have contributed significantly to engaging students with new methods and approaches to teaching. The award recognizes faculty members whose innovative teaching

methods have a demonstrable effect on enhancing student learning-outcomes. Associate Professor Dr. Amy VanScoy was one of three winners of the 2018 award. Professor VanScoy is a 21st Century educator who uses pedagogies that are relevant and appealing to the millennial student. She is exemplary in her application of the literature on online teaching and learning, particularly in the way she employs social media to motivate students in the MS Information and Library Science degree, creating blended learning experiences in the online environment. She balances her many years of professional experience, as well as her own and others' research, into highly impactful learning experiences for her students. In turn, her application of evidence for contemporary information practices informs her research agenda. Dr. VanScoy is an exceptionally student-centered instructor. She focuses on helping students learn rather than on teaching, which helps her to see new opportunities and to think outside the box about courses and classrooms. Her innovative use of social media and instructional design techniques which appeal to today's student, and the impact of her innovations in blended learning, have been felt throughout the student body and among her colleagues. Dr. VanScoy has provided a model of outstanding dedication and success in creating innovative and exceptional learning experiences for students; she is an extraordinarily talented and impactful teacher.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Dr. VanScoy!

## Susan Allen Wins SUNY Adjunct Teaching Award



The Department of Information Science sincerely congratulates Adjunct Instructor Susan Allen, who teaches in our MS in School Librarianship program, for winning the 2019 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching.

Ms. Allen is not only

an outstanding teacher in the courses she teaches for our department. She has also provided invaluable leadership in revising the whole curriculum for the program, and in the discipline at a national level, she has served in numerous national leadership roles, working to advance school librarianship. In his letter of congratulation, UB President Satish Tripathi writes, "Your dedication to student learning and excellence in the classroom is an inspiration to your students and peers in the Graduate School of Education and across the university. The initiative and enthusiasm you demonstrate in your profession are a source of tremendous pride to all of your colleagues at UB, and we are very pleased to see your outstanding contributions receive the system-wide recognition they so richly deserve." SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson wrote, "This award's rigorous selection criteria ensures that those faculty members who have consistently demonstrated superb skill in teaching receive this distinction. Your mastery of teaching, dedication to students, adherence to the highest academic standards, and continued professional achievements are reflected in your selection for this honor. This nomination underscores the respect and esteem of your colleagues, students, and campus leadership for your professional accomplishments."

We are so proud to count you as one of us, Susan!



## [event] DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Dr. Larry N. White Leaves UB

Please join me in wishing Dr. White happy trails as he heads to Oklahoma City to take up a position as Director of Strategic Planning and Projects for the Metropolitan Library System. Dr. White has been on faculty in the Department of Information Science at UB since 2011, teaching in the management area. His research lies in the areas of assessment, organizational performance, and leadership. Sincere thanks to Dr. White for his many contributions to the Department, and best wishes to him for this new chapter!

### Department Name Change

We're very pleased to share with you the good news that we are now known as the Department of Information Science. This change is the result of consultations with stakeholders and votes by our own faculty, the University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education faculty, and the University at Buffalo Faculty Senate. In late December 2018, final approval came from the University Provost and President.

Graduates of our programs find positions as information specialists in a range of contexts, including traditional libraries, as well as marketing companies, research contexts, fundraising and development offices, indeed, anywhere where information is collated, organized, managed, curated, and disseminated. We are proud to graduate librarians, as well as information specialists with a range of position titles and descriptions.

### New Department Chair

Effective August 16, 2019, Dr. Dan Albertson became the Chair of the Department of Information Science. He brings enthusiasm and a clear vision for the Department to the role. He replaces Dr. Heidi Julien, who stepped away from the Chair's position following six years of service. She will remain on the faculty, and will focus on research and teaching moving forward.

### New Library Liaison for the Department

Molly Poremski, Humanities Librarian, was appointed as the department's new UB Libraries Liaison. Welcome, Molly!

### Dr. Dan Albertson Promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Dan Albertson has been promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Information Science, on the basis of his very successful record of research, teaching, and service. Congratulations on this promotion, Dr. Albertson!

### Death of Dr. John Ellison

John Ellison, former professor in the Department of Information Science, passed away on September 11, 2018. Dr. Ellison loved the profession of library information science and media. He valued original thinking, bold action, confidence, and truth. He was born in 1941 in Darke County, Ohio, and attended Morehead State University (B.A.), Xavier University (M. Ed.), and Southern Illinois. He lived most recently in Charlotte, NC.

*This obituary is an edited version of one posted to NYLINE by Dr. Lorna Peterson.*

## [DIS] FACULTY NEWS

### Valerie Nessel Wins 2019 GSE STAR Award for Service

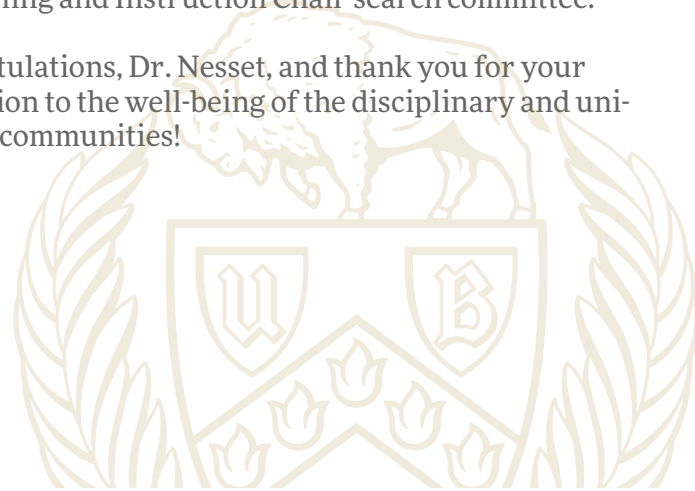


Valerie Nessel

Since arriving at UB in 2008, Dr. Valerie (Val) Nessel has been active in service to her Department, the Graduate School of Education, the University, and to the LIS profession, often serving in leadership positions in all four areas. The 2019 GSE STAR Award for Service was given for her service contributions in the 2017-18 academic year. These included her role as the editor of the

Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, service on the editorial board of the highly ranked Library and Information Science Research, as well as service as a reviewer for another highly ranked journal, Information Processing & Management, and for the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Information Science. In fall 2017 she was appointed by the UB Chief Information Officer as the inaugural UBIT Faculty Fellow, a position created in recognition of her previous work with faculty and UBIT personnel. Under the auspices of this position, she founded the UB Faculty IT Liaison Program, started in spring 2018, which seeks to unite faculty and IT personnel in the shared experience of a design team to design more user (faculty) friendly IT products and services. She also continued as chair of the Faculty Senate IT Committee, served as co-chair of the Pedagogy & Design Committee, was a member of the Faculty Senate, and a member of the Faculty Senate Academic Freedom & Responsibility Committee. At the GSE level, Dr. Nessel was a member of the Department of Learning and Instruction Chair search committee.

Congratulations, Dr. Nessel, and thank you for your dedication to the well-being of the disciplinary and university communities!



# [event GRADUATION BRUNCH]

We hosted a brunch for 2018-19 graduates and their families following commencement on May 17, 2019. The event was attended by a number of new graduates, and it gave all of us in DIS a chance to say congratulations in person!

87  
GRADUATES  
JOINED OUR

4,600+  
ALUMNI



Jessica Hollister and Amy VanScoy



Amy VanScoy and Natalia Umana



Valerie Nesset and Amy Gorski



Heidi Julien and Joe Schill

2018-2019

## [GRADUATES]

### MS IN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

Imran Ahmad  
Rebecca Anne Alberto  
Jeanette Aprile  
Thomas John Arcuri  
Amanda Assenza  
Janell Bekaure  
Theresa Bernadette Bliss  
William Blydenburgh  
Sarah Elizabeth Brown  
Rebekah E. Burke  
Emily Elizabeth Cady  
Emily Church  
Melissa Rose Cortese  
Siobhan Elizabeth Dempsey  
Anne DuRoss  
Heidi Eckerson  
Nicole Darrow  
Melissa Eng  
Afiya Colleen Farrell  
Christine S. Fena  
Christopher Franks

Matthew Thomas Gadziala  
Tamice Britain Gates  
Zacharius Charles Gerstein  
Jennifer Elizabeth Giordano  
Maureen E. Grice  
Jennifer Lynn Groth  
Emma Hartloff  
Jessica Rose Hollister  
Kelsey Holts  
Matthew Hoople  
Heather M. Johnson  
Ebonipearl E. Jones  
Jennifer Jorgensen  
David Kalish  
Tyler James Kron-Piatek  
Shaun Michael Kurcoba  
Lauren LichtenthalAlicia  
Nicole Marrese  
Giovannine M. Matheron  
Caitlin Ann Monaco  
Melissa Erin Netzband  
Gina Monique Nortonsmith  
Pamela Pagones  
Alexie Rae Palmer  
Kelly Cheverko Palmese

Danielle Faith Ptak  
Jacob A. Rachwal  
Zachary T. Rouse  
Chloe Grace Santangelo  
Joseph Vincent Schill III  
Vanessa E. Arce Senati  
Alison G. Sepos  
Anne M. Serena  
Yingfang Tian  
Grace Elizabeth Trimper  
Julia Verbanic  
Richard Norman Wade II  
Erin P. White  
Sarah Elizabeth Zaslavsky  
Anthony Zutter

### MS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP

Teena Lynn Artman  
Douglas Wayne Carlton  
Lauren Cayne  
Kathleen Comber  
Elizabeth Learn Corbett  
Samantha K. Ericksen

Kristin Bradley Fiegl  
Michelle Filiatrault  
Jennifer Fratello  
Sonta Giamber Frindt  
Amy Gorski  
Kathryn J. Herzog  
Hayley Mae Lown  
Amy Marciniak  
Kiersten McQuestion  
Bethany Miller  
Corissa Pittman  
Mary Alice Rish  
Allison N. Ryan  
Cynthia S. Snyder  
Jennifer G. Stone  
Terri Sudol  
Leslie Trice  
Natalia Umana  
Shelley L. Wade

### ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

Christopher Michael Allen

## 1960s

**SEENA E. (SULTANIK) SINGER (1969)** passed away on May 3. Singer was a library media specialist from 1969 to 1985 at Buffalo Schools 39 and 84, working with children with special needs.

## 1990s

**NANCY A. CUNNINGHAM (1997)** retired director of the medical research library at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, passed away April 3.

## 2000s

**TONIA BURTON (2003)** Children's Services Consultant for the Monroe County Library System, received the Elliott Landsman Head Start Community Volunteer Award for facilitating the Raising A Reader Program in the Early Head Start programs. In March, she was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker: Community Builder. Read more about Burton's achievements here: [libraryjournal.com/detail-Story=tonia-burton-movers-shakers-2019-community-builders](http://libraryjournal.com/detail-Story=tonia-burton-movers-shakers-2019-community-builders)

**BRETT ESSLER (2004)** is now Director of Strategic Content Management at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

**JACLYN MCKEWAN (2004)** was appointed Outreach Librarian at Niagara University Library last year. Her new responsibilities include managing the library's social media, planning outreach activities, staffing the reference desk, and teaching classes.

**ELAINE KNECHT (2005)** is currently the Director of Information Resources for Barclay Damon, LLP. She serves as the treasurer and membership chair of ALLUNY (Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York), a chapter of AALL (the American Association of Law Libraries). Knecht has just become the chair of the Grants Committee of the PLLIP -SIS (Private Law Library and Information Professionals Special Interest Section) of AALL.

**RICK MIKULSKI (2009)** recently joined the library faculty at Portland State University as an assistant professor, serving as Government Documents & Social Sciences Librarian. In addition to managing the FDLP regional collection, he liaises with the College of Urban and Public Affairs, and coordinates the library's data management services. In June 2019, he was appointed to the Depository Library Council.

**ERIN (PAUTLER) ROWLEY (2009)** was promoted to Head of Science and Engineering Library Services at the University at Buffalo,

in addition to her work as the Engineering Librarian. Rowley writes that she is "so fortunate to be here at UB and be granted this wonderful opportunity."

**JACALYN SPOON (2003)** is now the Broome County Public Library Director. She would love to offer an internship or a professional exploration experience to a UB student!



**JIM WORTHINGTON (2002)** School Library Media Specialist for Maple West Elementary School in the Williamsville Central School District (WCSD), was awarded the Jane Skrzypek Educator of the Year 2018 by the Western Regional PTA. Worthington writes: "This weekend your email and the award truly made me reflect on how important an influence UB has been on my career and in my life." He met his mentor, Heidi Ginal of WCSD while at UB. "As clear as day I still remember her being introduced to the class and as Heidi spoke she dressed herself up as a story book character, picked up her guitar and sang the guitar to us as we all sat in amazement of her. From that point on I became friends with Heidi and planned to teach in her self-described edutainment teaching style... Humorously, while other teachers are looking forward to their retirement years I am looking forward to finding the next exciting storybook character to edutain my students with in the upcoming school year."



## 2010s

**BECCA BLEY (2011)** our former GSE Alumni Association president, is now the Competitive Intelligence Specialist at HealthNow New York.

**BECKY BURKE (2019)** Staff Assistant with the Gender Institute at UB, has been consulting with the Buffalo Broadcasters Association (BBA) in collaboration with WNYLRC. Working with Heidi Ziemer, Burke created the first video collection for the BBA on the [NY Heritage website](http://NYHeritage.com). The BBA was so appreciative of their efforts that they passed a resolution to thank

them formally!

**TOMMY BUTTACCIO (2017)** is the Senior Children's Librarian at The New York Public Library.

**SONDRA CUMMINGS (2017)** spent 2018-2019 as the School Library Media Specialist at North Tonawanda City Schools.

**KATE EICHER (2018)** is finishing her first year as the Lower School Librarian at The Buckley School in New York City.

**JOHN GAFF (2013)** is the Library Director at the City of Tonawanda Public Library. He also completed his Public Library Administrators Certificate this year.

**KRISTIN E. (CANGIALOSI) GREEN (2016)** published a paper in the June 2019 issue of College & Research Libraries with co-author Erin Burns called "Academic Librarians' Experiences and Perceptions on Mental Illness Stigma and the Workplace." The study showed that stigma associated with mental illness influences academic librarians and argues for an allowance for disclosure of mental illness without the fear of stigmatization.

**LARA HERZELLAH (2016)** is the Student Success and Engagement Librarian at North Carolina State University Libraries in Raleigh, NC.

**WILLIAM "REED" JONES (2018)** published an article in volume 14, issue 4 of Public Services Quarterly's "The Future Voices in Public Services" column. In his essay, titled "Institutional Repositories and Usage: Thoughts on Realized and Potential Value," Reed analyzes three issues relating to the adoption and effective use of institutional repositories: potential impact of the material, interest in submitting materials to the repository, and the efficacy with which materials are available and accessible in the repository. He argues that institutional repositories should continue to focus on collecting both published and unpublished materials, and can also play a significant role in dataset storage and management within institutions.

**KIM MYERS (2017)** After 32 years with New York state, and almost 16 at Drake Library (SUNY Brockport), Myers will be retiring and moving to Tennessee. Her primary goal, after receiving her MS degree, was to create a Scholarly Communications unit at Drake She succeeded and noted "now it's time to move to warmer climates."

**MARISSA RICHARDSON (2015)** is now the Assistant Community Manager at Queens Borough Public Library.

**JESSICA SCHEUERMAN (2018)** took a part time reference librarian position at Genesee Community College.



**Dr. Sam Abramovich** presented papers at the American Library Association conference in Washington, DC, at the SUNY Conference on Instruction & Technology in Purchase, NY, at FabLearn 2019, in New York, NY, at OpenEd in Niagara Falls, NY, and at Play Make Learn in Madison, WI. He presented posters at the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, and at OpenEd in Niagara Falls, NY. Dr. Abramovich also presented a workshop at the Maker Educator Convening (MakerEd) in San Jose, CA. In addition, he served as Secretary/Treasurer of SIG InfoLearn for ASIS&T, and on the American Psychological Association Division 15 Early Career Research Grants Committee, as well as on the University at Buffalo Faculty Senate. He served as a grant reviewer for National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Dr. Abramovich served as a reviewer for Information and Learning Sciences, Aslib Journal of Information Management, British Journal of Educational Technology, Leadership and Policy in Schools, and Computers & Education. He was Principal Investigator on an IMLS Grant and on a SUNY OER Grant.

**Dr. Dan Albertson** presented papers at the 2018 Annual Meeting of ASIS&T in Vancouver, Canada, the 2019 iConference in College Park, MD, and the 2019 Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He served as a reviewer for the 2019 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Annual Conference and the 2019 Canadian Association for Information Science (CAIS) Annual Conference. He also served on the UB Faculty Senate, as a grant reviewer for IMLS, and as a reviewer for Journal of Information Processing and Management, Journal of Education for Library and Information Science, Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice, and Journal of Information Science. Dr. Albertson served on the Editorial Advisory Board for Online Information Review and is the North American Editor for Digital Library Perspectives (Emerald). He was Co-Investigator on an IMLS grant.

**Dr. Heidi Julien** presented papers at the Information Seeking in Context (ISIC) conference in Krakow, Poland, the ASIS&T conference in Vancouver, Canada, the iConference in College Park, MD, the CAIS conference in Vancouver, Canada, and the CoLIS conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She also presented invited talks at the University of Pretoria, South Africa and at the University of South Africa in Pretoria. Dr. Julien served on the Western New York Library Resources Council Board of Trustees, as President of ALISE, and as Chair of the ISIC Steering Committee. She served as an invited member of the Presidential Initiative Working Group for ASIS&T, and served on the ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award Jury for ASIS&T. Dr. Julien co-organized and led the inaugural ALISE Leadership Academy in Charleston, SC. She served on the editorial boards for Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science and Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. She served as Co-Editor for a special issue of Aslib: Journal of Information Management on Methods in Information Behaviour in Health Contexts. She also served on the Editorial Advisory Board for Open Information Science (De Gruyter Open). She served on the program committees for the Social Media & Society and CAIS conferences, for multiple journals, and for grantors in Chile and Singapore. She reviewed several dossiers for tenure and promotion, and examined two dissertations. She was also a Co-Investigator on grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and from IMLS.

**Dr. Valerie Nessel** presented a paper at the International Conference on Knowledge Management in Vancouver, Canada. She continued in her role as Editor of the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, and served on the editorial board of Library and Information Science Research and The Indexer. She reviewed a manuscript for Information Processing & Management, and for Journal of Media Literacy Education, and served on the program committees for the CAIS conference, the iConference, and the ALISE conference. Dr. Nessel also served as University at Buffalo IT Faculty Fellow, as Chair of the Faculty Senate IT Committee, as a Member of the UB Faculty Senate, as a Member of the Faculty Senate Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee, and as a Member of the Search Committee for Vice-Provost for UB Libraries.

**Dr. Dagobert Soergel** presented papers at the 15th International ISKO Conference in Porto, Portugal, at the ISKO-LC conference in Brussels, Belgium, at the 14th International Conference on Knowledge Management in Vancouver, Canada, and at IMCIC 2019 in Orlando, Florida. He served as a reviewer for the Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology, Pakistan Journal of Information Management & Libraries, Perspectivas em Ciência da Informação, and Knowledge Organization. He served on the program committees for ASIS&T, CONTEXT conference, iConference, and ISKO UK. Dr. Soergel also served on the UB Faculty Senate Academic Planning Committee.

**Dr. Ying Sun** presented papers at the Medical Library Association annual conference in Chicago, IL, and at the annual ASIS&T meeting in Vancouver, Canada. She was a Co-Investigator on a grant from NIH, and an editorial board member for International Journal of Knowledge Engineering. Dr. Sun served as a reviewer for Information Processing and Management and on the program committee for the ASIS&T conference.

**Dr. Amy VanScoy** presented papers at the ISIC conference in Krakow, Poland, the ASIS&T conference in Vancouver, Canada, the CoLIS conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the CAIS conference in Vancouver, Canada. She presented an invited keynote talk to the First University of South Africa Biennial International Conference on Library and Information Science Research in Africa (UNILISA) in Pretoria, South Africa. She served as a reviewer for the Israeli Science Foundation, as an external reviewer for promotion, and as an external examiner. Dr. VanScoy served on the editorial board for Library & Information Science Research, on the program committee for ALISE, and as a reviewer for Journal of the Association of Information Science & Technology, Journal of Documentation, and Health Information and Libraries Journal. She served on the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis Steering Committee – North America, as School Representative for ALISE, on the ALISE Tellers Committee, and the ALISE Methodology Paper Award Committee.

**Dr. Jianqiang Wang** presented papers at the International Conference on Knowledge Management in Vancouver, Canada, and the 2019 International Conference on Information, Computing, Communications and Computer Technology in Shanghai, China, where he also delivered an invited keynote talk. He served on the program committees of the 2019 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, and for ASIS&T.





**Abramovich, S.**, & Wardrip, P.S. (in press). Can digital badges strengthen religious ethnic-cultural identity in a religious education setting? *British Journal of Religious Education*.

Cun, A., **Abramovich, S.** & Smith, J. (2019). An assessment matrix for library makerspaces. *Library & Information Science Research*, 41(1), 39-47.

Kruger, J. S., & **Abramovich, S.** (2019). Open Educational Resources: The new frontier. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*, 5(2), 155-58.

**Albertson, D.** (in press). Comparing Twitter activity from different LIS conferences: Current observations and future research directions. *Information Research: Proceedings of the Conceptions of Library and Information Science 10th International Conference*.

**Albertson, D.** (2018). Users' perceptions of topical learning for aiding exploratory video search. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science & Technology, November 10-14, Vancouver, BC.

**Albertson D.** (2019). Twitter activity at recent LIS academic conferences. In: Taylor N., Christian-Lamb C., Martin M., Nardi B. (eds.) *Information in Contemporary Society*. iConference 2019. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol. 11420. Springer.

Gross, M., Latham, D., & **Julien, H.** (2018). What the Framework means to me: Attitudes of academic librarians toward the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. *Library & Information Science Research*, 40 (3-4), 262-68.

**Julien, H.** (in press). Review of The Consciousness' Drive, by Cole, C. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology*.

**Julien, H.** (2018). Taking a stand in the post-truth era. Guest editorial for *Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries*, 20, i-iv.

**Julien, H.**, & Fena, C. (2019). Thirty-one years of the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science: A content analysis. *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science*, 42(1-2), 1-17.

**Julien, H.**, McKechnie, E.F., Polkinghorne, S., & Chabot, R. (2019). The user turn in practice: researchers' constructions of information users, 1996-2016. *Information Research*, <http://www.informationr.net/ir/23-4/isic2018/isic1804.html>.

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## Information Science [NEW SCHOMBURG FELLOW]



We are delighted to announce that new student **Sumyung Moon** has been awarded a University at Buffalo Schomburg Fellowship to support her MS in Information and Library Science Degree. The Arthur

solutions incredibly rewarding and meaningful, and that passion eventually led me to pursuing a career in law librarianship.

As a recent law graduate burdened by high tuition for some time, I planned to wait a few years before starting a master's program because I desired more financial stability in life. However, the Schomburg Fellowship allowed me an opportunity to fully dedicate myself to future academic endeavor once again without further delay, and I am immensely grateful.

I chose UB's Information and Library Science Program because I believed that UB's theoretical foundational courses and practical courses will provide me with an exciting opportunity to build an awareness of, responsiveness to, and respect for the variety of functions of a law librarian. The versatile nature of the modern-day library is exactly the reason why pursuing librarianship appealed to me from the very beginning, and I hope to successfully design and implement my path through UB's program so I can serve the information needs of underserved population and promote open access to legal information that could make a profound difference in minority communities and organizations in the future.

A. Schomburg Fellowship is a graduate fellowship program for eligible underrepresented students who will pursue graduate study on a full-time basis at the University at Buffalo. We asked Sumyung to tell us more about herself, and here is what she told us.

Prior to receiving the fellowship, I have been working as a law clerk at a minority law firm primarily practicing immigration law. I received my Juris Doctor degree in 2018 from Fordham University School of Law, where I developed a passion for legal research. There, I found guiding my peers through unique legal research platforms and recommending research

### *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.**

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**event**  
**2019 BOBINSKI  
 LECTURE SERIES**

# LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MATTERS: A LOCAL-GLOBAL VIEW OF DIVERSITY



This lecture 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.

The 2019 Bobinski Lecture was presented by Dr. Lynn Silipigni Connaway. There are many ways to engage and to get information in today's online environment, yet libraries offer something that apps and other online environments may not—community—both physical, face-to-face communities and online communities. Dr. Silipigni Connaway, PhD, Director of Library Trends and User Research at OCLC, shared findings from research that identifies ways in which libraries can be positioned within their communities to impact individuals' personal, academic, and professional lives. Dr. Connaway is the Past President of the

Association of Information Science & Technology. She also chaired the ALA and ACRL Value of Academic Libraries Committee. Dr. Connaway leads OCLC Research in the digital visitors and residents project.

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. We are grateful to these partners for their ongoing support!

Please plan to join us for our 2020 Bobinski Lecture - watch for our publicity starting in the new year.

**event**  
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We are proud to host visiting scholars in our Research Seminar Series. Please watch for details about our 2018-19 speakers. This past year, we hosted the following scholars:



**Javed Mostafa**  
**University of North Carolina,  
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 Consumer Health Information Searching:  
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 October 1, 2018



**Rebecca Reynolds**  
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**Melissa Gross**  
**School of Information,  
 Florida State University**  
 Applying the Experience Sampling Method to the  
 Study of Information Communication Technology  
 Use by Child Welfare Workers in Rural North  
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 April 24, 2019



## DIS Students Explore the Libraries of Costa Rica

In July of 2019, an enthusiastic group of DIS students from the LIS 503: International Librarianship course participated in an experiential learning trip to Costa Rica. The purpose of the trip was to expand on the course by exploring the libraries of Costa Rica in a culturally immersive manner. The course instructor, Christopher Hollister, worked with UB's Office of International Education (OIE) and with the Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS) to organize a rich experience for students that included behind-the-scenes visits to a wide variety of libraries. Featured tours included Biblioteca Nacional Miguel Obregón Lizano, Archivo Nacional de Costa Rica, Biblioteca Asamblea Legislativa de la República de Costa Rica, and Biblioteca W. K. Kellogg de la EARTH. Students also met with faculty from the Universidad de Costa Rica library and information science program and enjoyed intimate explorations of select academic, school, and community libraries in the country's Central Valley region. To provide context and greater depth to the overall experience, students attended lectures on Costa Rican history and culture, and they were treated to interpretive walking tours of the capital city, San José. The ambitious week of activities also included complementary day trips to Café Los Volcanes—a fair-trade, organic coffee farm—and to the spectacular La Paz Waterfall Gardens.

Special thanks are given to Trevor Poag from OIE and to Javier Arguedas from ICADS for their invaluable contributions to a rewarding and memorable week in Costa Rica. Ideas for future experiential learning trip associated with the International Librarianship course are being discussed.



## student [STORY] →

### Study Abroad- Alijah Fox

Hi! My name is Alijah Fox. This is a photo of me (left) and my friend Kayla Noll (right) at the Tower Bridge in London, where we just returned from spending a month visiting libraries!

The story starts in the fall semester of 2018. The LIS department was sent an email from Dr. White about a study abroad opportunity for the following June. Kayla and I were both interested from the start, so we contacted the University of Southern Mississippi regarding the program. We learned that it was a month-long trip to London and that there would be many opportunities for exploring! We both applied and got accepted fairly quickly.

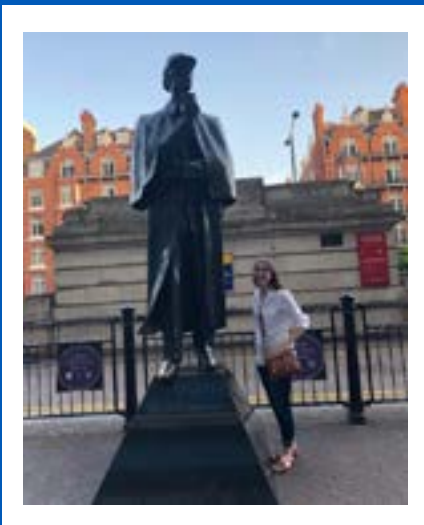
The big day finally arrived, after so much planning and waiting. We got to Gatwick airport in London extremely jetlagged but ready to begin our lives in London! We were in the LIS program, but there were many other programs on the trip with us, like interior design and history, so we were able to meet people from all around the US. Our program consisted of daily visits to different libraries (famous or hidden) like the British Library, where we learned about specific conservation techniques; Christ Church libraries, where we stepped into Lewis Carroll's old office; and the V&A Museum and Blythe House, where we were able to see original artwork done by Beatrix Potter. Every day there was a complete adventure, and we are so lucky to have been able to be a part of it.

The month we were there, June, was filled with opportunities that I will absolutely cherish forever. It was a really special and unique opportunity to be able to go, and I know that will stick with me for the rest of my life. My advice is this: If you have the opportunity to travel, GO. If you can get some studying done while you're there, then it's a win-win! The University of Southern Mississippi has this program every single June, so if you are interested, contact the Study Abroad department! It was 100% worth it for us.



Alijah Fox (L) with Kayla Noll (R)

## student [STORIES]



Kayla Knoll

From the noteworthy reading room in the British Museum to the Barbican Public Library that is hidden away in a concrete maze in the center of the city, our study abroad trip to the United Kingdom was full of wonderfully old and new books tucked in all corners of the city and surrounding towns. For the entire month of June, myself and fellow graduate student, Alijah Fox, had the opportunity to study British libraries, archives, and special collections.

During our time abroad we got to listen to curators

speak about items in their collections, their facilities, and day to day operations. Our schedule kept us quite busy for the month, with one to two trips per day during the week while we were left to explore at our own leisure each weekend. We toured behind the scenes in the British Libraries Conservation Center, and let our necks crane and eyes wander in awe in the stunning, but now unused, reading room of the British Museum Library. We wandered the grounds of Bletchley Park, explored the quiet stacks of The National Art Library at the V&A, and let out gasps of awe when our tour guide at Christ Church Library at Oxford informed us that we'd been sitting in Lewis Carroll's former office for the past hour of our tour. At the end of all of these exciting and packed days, we always found our way back to our dormitories that was tucked just a street away from the home of famous literary detective Sherlock Holmes and a lovely bookshop. You can imagine how many books weighed down my luggage on the way home with this tempting literary location!

By train, by bus, or the Tube, we found ourselves venturing all over the city of London, but also out of the city to the rocky piers of Brighton, the humble home of Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon, and more. This opportunity to discover a new city while getting a behind the scenes look into some of the most noteworthy English library, archive, and special collections was a once in a lifetime chance that I will always cherish.

This program offered by the University of Southern Mississippi found its way to us through listserv and UB faculty sharing. It was not just us Buffalonians that found this trip from afar; in just our small library and information science class we met people from Canada, Oregon, California, South Carolina, Michigan, Minnesota, and Mississippi. If you ever find yourself considering such a trip, don't think too much on the subject, just go. The people you will meet, the places you will see, and the pieces of history that fall into your lap is well worth it. If you're anything like me, these people and places will change you for the best, and you will never forget them.

-Kayla Knoll



Melissa Netzbund (in the middle)

(six credit hours). Working with my professors, mentors, and colleagues, I helped restore a collection of documents on the service and qualifications of a priest of the Catholic Church in Italy. These documents were all from the early seventeenth century, and had to be carefully cleaned and repaired. We learned and used techniques to remove topical pollutants and stains while ensuring the document itself not be harmed or damaged in any way. From there we repaired each tear, hole, and edge until we were satisfied with the document's stability. This included any area that was susceptible to future damage. I learned a great deal from this program, but most importantly, I learned what was out of my realm of capability and what required more training.

-Melissa Netzbund

## faculty [NEWS] We are proud to announce several new grants to our faculty members:

**Dr. Valerie Nessel** won a \$451,667 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to investigate how public libraries can use participatory design techniques to attract and engage older adults by involving them in the co-design of targeted programming and services. The project partners with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System.

**Dr. Amy VanScoy**, with Dr. Kyle Jones at Indiana University – Indianapolis, was awarded a \$306,682 Research in Service to Practice grant from IMLS to investigate faculty perspectives of student privacy and their practices in relation to emerging learning analytics tools and initiatives.

**Dr. Heidi Julien**, with Dr. Brian Detlor and Dr. Tara La Rose at McMaster University, and Dr. Alexander Serenko at Lakehead University, was awarded a CDN\$159,987 Partnership Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, for a project titled, "Promoting Digital literacy in the Community through Public Library Initiatives." In addition, Dr. Julien, with Dr. Don Latham and Dr. Melissa Gross at Florida State University, was awarded a \$164,599 National Leadership Grant from IMLS, for a project titled, "Community College Librarian and Student Perceptions of Student Information Literacy Needs."



Amy VanScoy

me: LIS 575 Research Methods and LIS 601 Qualitative Methods. I've also taught several versions of an elective about diversity in librarianship — I'm still working on perfecting that one!

### ***What excites you about your experiences in the Department of Information Science?***

This department is so dynamic and engaged! My students are eager to learn and open to trying new things. My colleagues do interesting research from diverse areas of information science. I have received so much mentoring and support since I started here. We are always pushing ourselves to do better in our research and teaching. It's really an exciting and rewarding place to work!

### ***What are your passions?***

I love talking to people about their work, especially librarians! Part of the thrill comes from getting to know librarians from all over the world — I've been so many exciting places and met so many wonderful people. And part of the thrill comes from the passion and commitment that librarians have for their work — I feel lucky to learn from them and share what they have to say.

### ***How long have you been in the Department, and what do you teach?***

I've been at UB for seven years. I often teach LIS 508 Information Users and Uses. This year, I'll teach two courses that are new for

### ***Tell us about your scholarship***

I'm interested in how information professionals think about their work. The discipline tends to focus on librarians' behaviors, rather than their thinking. This approach de-professionalizes the complex and challenging work that information professionals do. So my work focuses on articulating librarians' values, attitudes and professional thinking.

### ***What challenges do you anticipate for information science in the next five years?***

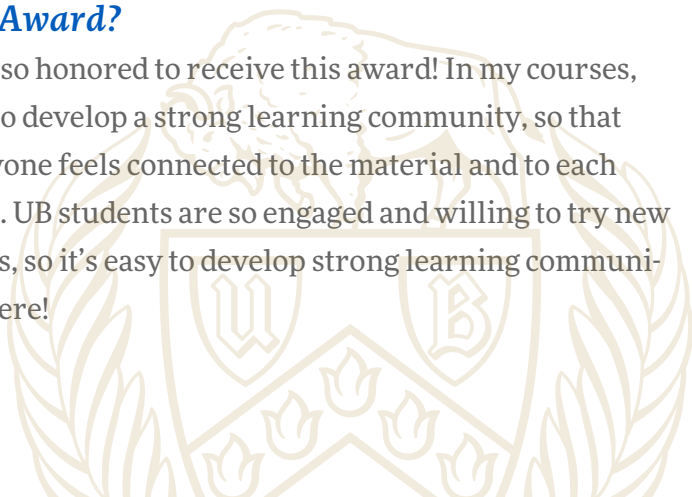
A continuing challenge for information science is to position itself in relation to other disciplines. We are a relatively small group of scholars with diverse interests, so it's a challenge for us to establish a clear identity and make our work known outside our field.

### ***What advice would you give our graduates?***

Make sure that you engage in extracurricular activities! When you're working and have a family, it's not easy to devote all your effort to your coursework. But the extracurricular activities are super important. Learning about hot topics by attending the department's research seminars or local lectures; meeting professionals and developing your network; attending conferences to learn and make contacts; getting involved with fellow students and student groups — these are activities that will help you do well in interviews and hit the ground running as a competent professional.

### ***Can you tell us about your UB Teaching Innovation Award?***

I was so honored to receive this award! In my courses, I try to develop a strong learning community, so that everyone feels connected to the material and to each other. UB students are so engaged and willing to try new things, so it's easy to develop strong learning communities here!







Jeremy Lyman

Buffalo Schools, and SUNY Erie, I enjoy working with a wide range of learners within a traditional library setting. My responsibilities include instruction, collection development and collaboration with a large variety of users and their information needs. I have and continue to enjoy the discovery process, while sharing information and constantly learning. Further, I believe that I am an embodiment of a life-long learner. One goal is to share with and learn from as many as possible. I put my degree to work daily as I continue to learn from those around me.

### ***How did your experiences as a student in the Department prepare you for your current role?***

This is an interesting question for me. The first time going through the program provided me with valuable experiences, both personal and professional. I learned the most while working as Student Assistant with UB Libraries and Interning during my practicums. Interning at Daemen College as a Reference and Instruction Intern grew my love for Reference and rooted the life-long lesson of relationship building (a skill I believe can make or break a librarian's career). Interning at Buffalo State College Butler Library shaped my understanding of professionalism and conducting the daily business of academic librarianship. My most noteworthy experiences are all rooted in the relationships I was able to

### ***How are you putting your degree to work?***

This is an answer I must give in layers. I have both my MLS and my MS in School Librarianship, which provides me with a wide view of the profession. Currently being employed with

foster with others over the years. Working with and learning from my different professors in the program and getting to know others at my internships has not only opened many doors for me professionally, it has also yielded me lasting relationships with professors, classmates and colleagues that I will always cherish. One way to grow in life and professionally is through others. Having positive relationships has helped me with rough assignments and placements, as well as encouraged me to accept new challenges. We work in the information/resource business and how we can relate, communicate, or work with others can truly affect our experiences. Having almost five years of experience building and benefiting from these experiences has been part of what I believe will be an amazing journey.

### ***What are your passions?***

Professionally, my passions include information sharing, user experiences, technology, marketing, and growth. While this list will grow and change over the course of my career, it is my aim to always keep my users as the focus for any and all my actions. Personally, my passions include music, photography, history, traveling and most of all REST. I never get enough rest, but I have been blessed to travel a little more recently, and that is a good trade for working hard.

### ***What advice would you give current students?***

To my future colleagues: Be prepared to do and accomplish great things. Be prepared to help others, guide others, learn with others as you navigate a growing world of information. No matter which path you choose within the profession, always remember why you are here and why our profession will ALWAYS matter. Finally, note that an Information Professional can do ANYTHING they set their mind to. We are only limited by our own imagination. Dare to dream, dream BIG and accomplish great things.



Jim Belair

### ***What do you teach for the department?***

I teach Resources and Services for Children. I have taught this course for several years. This was actually one of my favorite classes I took at UB when I did my MLS. One

thing I am proud about with this course is the interactions my students have with each other. The high level of conversations and dialog that take place make me proud! I encourage my students to view each other as member of their own PLC: professional learning community.

### ***Tell us about your day job***

I am the Coordinator for School Library Services at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES in Rochester, NY. I am fortunate that I love my job! In this role I work with the nine West Side suburban districts which services over 30,000 students. I work with the libraries and librarians to provide library automation, online databases, Maker-Space kits, interlibrary loan, professional development, eBooks and audiobooks, streaming video, consultation, mentoring and coaching. I also work with teachers in my districts to help them integrate library/media resources into their instruction. I also work with the New York State Department of Education and other statewide groups; recent projects with NYSED include work re-vamping the School Library Media Program Evaluation (SLMPE) Rubric, work to modify regulations around library media certification requirements, revamping the Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (IFC), advocating for placing a school librarian in each school within NYS.

Through my job I am involved with several different

professional organizations. I highly encourage everyone to be involved with a professional group. They are a great source for ideas, advice, best practices, mentoring, professional development....I am currently on the executive board for the NYS School Library System Association (SLSA), I co-chair the NYS Online Database Purchasing Consortium (SCORE) that the majority of schools in NYS purchase online databases with, I am on the executive board for the NYS Educational Media Technology Association (EMTA) (last year I was chosen for the Distinguished Service Award), I am the chair of our local PBS Educational Advisory Board, I am actively involved with the New York Library Association Section of School Librarians, New York Alliance of Library System, Rochester Regional Library Council Advisory Board, and NYSCATE.

### ***What are your passions?***

My number one passion is my family. I have three amazing kids (10, 10, and 13) and a brilliant wife. I want the best for my kids; as a result, I work, fight, and advocate for my students' education and needs as I would want someone to do for my kids. I am also a huge believer in the impact a high quality library teacher can have on a school. They wear a variety of hats: technology integration expert, literacy expert, inquiry expert, resource connector expert, programming expert...Also, they are key leaders in teaching students and teachers how to evaluate information and draw informed decisions!

### ***Do you have any advice for our students?***

This profession is no longer about books. If someone wants a book they can go to Amazon or download a title onto a device. It is about providing a safe and flexible environment for the people in our communities. It is about helping them with their own learning. It used to be about helping them find information...today, it is about helping them find the BEST information to answer their questions. I would argue that a library program is MORE important now than ever before. In order to adapt and stay current, remember, it is about the people we serve.



Alexie Palmer

Currently, I work as a seasonal education ranger with the National Park Service at Mount Rainier National Park. I'm basically a teacher in a ranger's uniform. Many people perceive rangers as those who work in law enforcement and those who maintain trails. But the division of interpretation and education in the NPS helps to educate the public (those being who visit the park and navigate the parks' websites) on various topics relating to the park. I originally wanted to become a high school social studies teacher, but I realized the classroom wasn't the right setting for me. I also became interested in learning about a lot of different topics and subjects, not just history, so I went for an internship at Women's Rights National Historical Park where I got my experience in writing and giving interpretive talks to students and general audiences of all backgrounds. This internship gave me the tools I needed to apply and work for the National Parks and kick started my career in this field.

Some of the joys of my job are that it changes almost daily so it never gets old. On the other hand, it also makes my job challenging, because I have to quickly adapt to teaching and using effective teaching techniques on the

different ages of students and their varying socio-economic backgrounds. I get to work in some of the most beautiful places on earth, and I get told that daily from visitors who see me and remark, "you must love your job, huh?" to which I usually state, "it's yet another day in Paradise." Which usually elicits a smirk from visitors, because my duty station where I work primarily is called "Paradise."

Meeting and interacting with so many different folks from around the world to learn more about the ecology, wildlife, history, and geology of a place while being mesmerized by the natural beauty gives me so much hope and validation for my role in this profession. My studies in the MLIS program at UB prepared me for gathering and disseminating information in a way to make it interesting and comprehensible so those can better understand the world around us. A lot of the information I gain in order to research my programs is scientific (I read a lot of USGS articles to inform my program materials) because I live on an active, glaciated volcano and am responsible for knowing a lot of random facts about it as the main feature of the park.

My goal for the future is to keep working seasonally as a ranger to gain more experience to apply for permanent positions. I still look for jobs outside of the government in non-profits and museums, but so far I've been able to work year-round as a seasonal employee. It's hard for me to imagine myself elsewhere— but I also realize I never imagined myself where I am now. The future is one big question mark for me as always. Recently, I've juggled with the idea of going back to school for an advanced certificate, but for what program and where remains to be seen. There's just so many topics I love learning about now!

Completing the MLIS program at UB gave me opportunities to grow in my current field of education, which will open more opportunities to apply for permanent positions with the NPS. If I could give any piece of advice, it would be to remain open-minded about the possibilities of where your job prospects could take you. The degree program is adaptable to a lot of different careers, and you might find yourself loving a job you never thought twice about during your education. Networking also helps to become more aware of these opportunities, and how you can best find a direction you might surprise yourself going in.





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