the
informed

A publication of the Department of Information Science

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iSchools

Dr. Dan Albertson

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this year's column finds you well! Last year was a great year for the department, and all signs point to more great years ahead. Let me take a few minutes to update you on what's happening around the department.

The department continues to thrive with recruiting high-quality students. Enrollment numbers are once again up, and we continue to attract new students with stellar academic records from highly regarded undergraduate institutions. We are so happy that these top students are choosing to do their graduate work here at UB, and we're ready to work with them and help foster their academic success.

Our academic offerings also continue to expand. This past year we officially launched two newly approved dual degree programs: a five-year combined BA in English + MS in School Librarianship program and a five-year BA in English + MS in Information and Library Science (both are distinct degree programs). These programs have potential to not only positively impact our department, but also the wider profession.

Our department also continues to grow in faculty numbers. We are so pleased that Dr. Africa Hands will join us this year (2022-23) as the next tenure-track faculty member of the department. This is a truly remarkable development! You'll read more about Dr. Hands later in this issue of *The Informed*.

Looking ahead, the 2022-23 academic year will be a big one. First, our next comprehensive accreditation review by the American Library Association (ALA) will take place in spring 2023. The review will involve submitting a comprehensive self-study and an onsite visit from a review panel consisting of prominent panelists from across the country. A decision on the accreditation review will be announced in summer 2023 (our last major review was in 2015). Thanks in advance for all your support!

Additionally, we are hopeful for a year that is a little closer to "normal." Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact some of our work. However, there were certainly high points and promising signs last year, most notably a traditional in-person commencement followed by a reception for our graduates. It was great to be able to get together on campus and honor the success of our 2022 graduates! We hope to be able to do the same in 2023.

Finally, in case you already did not know, our very own Dr. Valerie Nesset has retired from UB. We will miss Dr. Nesset dearly. Dr. Nesset's contributions to the department are countless; some include positively impacting hundreds of students through teaching and advising, moving the department's research mission forward with a large grant-funded project, and giving our department prominent visibility across campus through leadership service roles for the university (among many other things). We wish Dr. Nesset a hearty and happy retirement!

So, as you can see, the Department of Information Science continues to be on the rise in many ways. The University at Buffalo is an officially designated flagship university of New York State (i.e., "New York's Public Powerhouse"), and YOUR department is doing its part to contribute to that mission.

Take good care.

[signature]

Dan Albertson
Chair
Department of Information Science

WE WERE HONORED TO HOST THE FOLLOWING GUEST SPEAKERS IN 2021–22

Dr. Leanne Bowler
School of Information, Pratt Institute
Youth Data Literacy and Informal STEM Learning at the Public Library
Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Dr. Nadia Caidi
iSchool, University of Toronto
Practicing What We Preach? The Diversity Mindset in Library and Information Science Research and Pedagogy
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Dr. Dietmar Wolfram
iSchool, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Scholarly Communication Practices in the Open Science Era: We Still Have Work to Do
Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Dr. Denise Agosto
College of Computing & Informatics, Drexel University
"We were Beaten Down": Parents' Perspectives on Benefits and Risks of Children's Digital Media Use
Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Dr. Roderic Crooks
Department of Informatics, UC Irvine
"People's Community Control of Modern Technology": Community Organizers and Data Justice
Tuesday, April 12, 2022

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the informed

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alumni NEWS

1980s

DONALD HARTMAN (1984) After retiring from the UB Libraries, where he was an Associate Librarian in reference, Don has authored *The Hypno-Ripper: Or, Jack the Hypnotically Controlled Ripper* (2021) published by Themes & Settings in Fiction Press. Don is a Victorian literature aficionado, and *The Hypno-Ripper* is the second volume in the *Hypnotism in Victorian and Edwardian Era Fiction* series. This volume features two stories that were published during the time of the Jack the Ripper killings, and they are among the earliest fictional accounts dealing with the Whitechapel murders.

GAIL STAINES, PHD (1986) In our previous newsletter we noted Gail's retirement from her position as Dean of the James C. Kirkpatrick Library, Univ. of Central Missouri. In addition to her work providing information about senior horses (https://www.theseniorhorse.com) Gail has been working as a senior project manager for Deloitte.

1990s

RONALD RUSS (1993) Ronald is the Electronic & Public Services Librarian at Arkansas State University-Beebe where he has been working for 26 years. He was awarded the Student Life Impact Award for 2022 and shared, "what made this special is that students choose the winner of this award. For all the years that I worked here, it is nice to be recognized by them for making a difference."

KEVIN MICHKI (1994) Music Librarianship After 27 years, Kevin retired as SUNY Fredonia's music librarian. He continues his work as a freelance violinist and photographer and recently began a position as digital librarian at Trocaire College.

ANNE BOUVIER (1998) After more than 19 years as the Interlibrary Loan Borrowing Manager, Anne began a new position as User Experience & Information Desk Strategist at the University at Buffalo's University Libraries.

PATRICIA EASTERBROOK PRIOR (1998) Patricia has retired after 20 years as Operations/Technical manager for HUBNET and Library Consortium of Health Institutions in Buffalo.

2000s

NANCY WARREN (2002) In March 2021, Nancy became the Library & Information Services Manager at Phillips Lytle, LLP, Buffalo, NY.

MIDGE COATES (2003) Midge recently retired as Digital Projects Librarian at Auburn University Libraries, Auburn, Alabama.

MARK MCBRIDE, PHD (2006) Mark successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at the University at Buffalo in the Curriculum, Instruction, and the Science of Learning (CISL) program, under the supervision of Dr. Samuel Abramovich. Mark is now the Associate Director, Libraries, Scholarly Communication, and Museums for Ithaca S + R (New York, NY)

REBECCA BELFORD (2007) Music Librarianship Rebecca is now a Technical Services Librarian at the Conservatory Library at Oberlin College.

EILEEN RUBERTO (2009) Eileen is now Senior Research Operations Manager at HashiCorp, focusing on UX research. She has recently relocated back to Buffalo, NY after living in Austin, TX.

2010s

KELLY BARBATO (2011) In July 2022, Kelly began her new position as Director of Library Services at Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeast Seminary in Rochester, NY.

NICOLE LAMOREAUX (2011) Nicole is a 2020-2022 Committee Member on the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL). She is also the Media Review Editor for *Critical Studies in Men's Fashion*, and Advisor for Media Smart Citizens.

NEYDA GILMAN (2012) In addition to her work as Pharmacy, Nursing, & Health Sciences Librarian at Binghamton University, Neyda is also the Assistant Head of Sustainability and STEM Engagement.

AMANDA KOZIURA (2012) Amanda has taken a new position as Head, Scholarly Communication & Data Services at the University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

MAX LAMPSON (2014) Max (formerly Chanteal Craft) is now supervising librarian at the Orting Library, which is part of the Pierce County Library System (WA).

SUSAN POTERA (2014) In Sept. 2021, Susan became the Children's Librarian at Richmond Public Library in Batavia, NY.

ALLISON VAZQUEZ (2014) In Feb. 2022, Allison started a full-time librarian position at Trocaire College in Buffalo, NY.

DEBORAH WOOD (2014) Debora is a Reference Librarian at Richmond Public Library in Batavia, NY.

JESSICA BRIGHT (2015) In March 2022, Jessica began a new position as Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA.

SARAH (AKERS) PATTON (2016) Sarah is now the User Experience and Information Desk Manager at the University Libraries, University at Buffalo.

GEORGE TOCCO (2016) George is the Library Manager of the Bell Isle branch of the Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

TOMMY BUTTACCIO (2017) After 2 years as a Senior Children's Librarian, Tommy is now a Supervising Librarian at The New York Public Library.

ASHLEY SENSKE (2017) Ashley is the Collections Manager at the National Comedy Museum in Jamestown NY and just published an article in American Archivists *Performance!* newsletter.

ROXANNE (KEHR) WINFIELD (2017) Roxanne is now the Graduate Student Services Coordinator at Virginia Tech Graduate School in Blacksburg, VA

RACHEL MCDONALD (2018) Rachel is a school library media specialist for the Ithaca City School District.

OLIVIA SCULLY (2018) Olivia is the Help Desk Coordinator for Bibliomation, Inc., which provides support to 70+ consortium member libraries on questions related to software, network, and ILS application.

ZACH BASLER (2019) Zach is the Adult and Teen Services Assistant Manager at Mobile Public Library in Mobile, AL.

2020s

LISA BUDA (2020) Lisa is now a librarian with Rochester Regional Health.

CATERINA REED (2020) Caterina was featured as ACRL's Member of the Week for February 7, 2022. You can read the feature about her in ACRL Insider at https://acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/acrl-member-of-the-week-caterina-m-reed/

KATHERINE BAUM (2021) Katherine is a library media specialist at Kendall Elementary School in Kendall, NY.

JELICIA JIMENEZ (2021) Jelicia is the School Library Media Specialist at Elmwood Village Charter School (Buffalo, NY) and was awarded the 2022 Outstanding Librarian Award by New York State Senator Sean Ryan. From the press release: "Jelicia has created a safe and welcoming environment for everyone to learn as she guides students toward a love of reading. In addition to impacting the lives of the students at Elmwood Village Charter School, Jelicia has extended her reach into the Buffalo community. With her latest project, **Black Boys Read Too**, she is fostering a love of reading by partnering with three local barber shops, which now have bookshelves full of inspirational and educational books with protagonists that young Black boys can relate to."

ANTHONY REDA (2021) Anthony is a part time Adult Services Librarian at Mamaroneck Public Library while continuing his work as a library technician at Westchester Community College.

OWEN STEWART-ROBERTSON (2021) Owen is a PhD student in Information Studies at McGill University in Montreal, QE, Canada.

ELIZABETH LAVINE RUSSELL (2021) Elizabeth is now Library Media Specialist at Bedford Hills (NY) Elementary School.

PUBLICATIONS BY ALUMNI

ESTHER JACKSON (2012)

Fite, L., & **Jackson, E. M.** (2018). ACRL Framework: Integrations for Special Libraries. *Journal of Library Administration, 58*(8), 881–890. https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2018.1516951

AMANDA KOZIURA (2012)

Koziura, A. & Gorham, R. B. (2022). Nontraditional learning opportunities at the Freedman Center for Digital Scholarship. In S. Higgins & N.-Y. Tran. (eds). *Embracing Change: Alternatives to Traditional Research Writing Assignments.* ACRL.

Comanda, B., Wilkinson, J., Bradham, F., **Koziura, A.,** & Seale, M. (2021). Service ceiling: The high cost of professional development for academic librarians. *In the Library with the Lead Pipe.* https://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2021/service-ceiling/

JARED REX (2012) Music Librarianship

Rex, J. A., & Whelan, J. L. A. (2019). The undergraduate that could: Crafting a collaborative student training program. *College & Undergraduate Libraries, 26*(1), 19–34. https://doi.org/10.1080/10691316.2018.1535923

LARA HERZELLAH FOUNTAINE (2016)

Deeken, L., Vecchione, A., Carr, A., Hallman, S., **Herzellah, L.,** Lopez, N., Rucker, R., Alfieri, M., Tenofsky, D., Moore, A., Fawley, N., Glover, J., Peacemaker, B., & Pajewski, A. (2019). Charting a path forward in student success. *Reference Services Review, 47*(4), 503–526. https://doi.org/10.1108/RSR-08-2019-0048

ASHLEY SENSKE (2017)

Senske, A. (2022). Rusty Warren: Women's Sexual Liberationist…and Comedian. *Performance! Newsletter of the SAA Performing Arts Section,* 6-8. https://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/Performance_WinterSpring_2022_FinalDraft_0.pdf

ELISABETH DAVIS (2022) and OWEN STEWART-ROBERTSON (2021)

Nesset, V., **Davis, E. C., Stewart-Robertson, O.,** & Bible, J. B. (2022). Bonded design in the virtual environment: the transition of a participatory design methodology. *Journal of Documentation, 78*(3), 513–528. https://doi.org/10.1108/JD-05-2021-0095

[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 or feel free to post your news to the LIS alumni list, is-alumni-list@listserv.buffalo.edu.

BETA PHI MU

Congratulations to our 2021 Beta Phi Mu Inductees

Samuel Adam
Katherine Baum
Sebastian Galbo
Katherine Gonzales
Raymond LeMay, III
Sumyung Moon

Lindsey Moses
Jaime Mott
Elizabeth Russell
Owen Stewart-Robertson
Melissa J. Sutter
Ambrosia Wilkinson

ESTHER JACKSON

What has been your career trajectory so far?

The summer of 2012, after I graduated with my MLS from UB, I worked for one year as a full-time paid intern at Longwood Gardens. This was a fantastic program which gave me exposure to many different aspects of libraries and archives, including digital collections.

Around the time that my internship ended, a full-time permanent position opened in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in the Bronx, NY. I started there as the User Services Librarian and was promoted within my first year to Public Services Librarian, where I managed a department responsible for Access Services & Reference Services. After four years at NYBG, I added "Wikimedian in Residence" to my title because of my involvement with Wikimedia projects in the Library.

While I was at NYBG, I was proactive in learning new skills and learning from many different people. This included learning from the more senior librarians at NYBG, learning about plant science from the botanists and other educators on staff, taking advantage of the professional development opportunities at Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), becoming active in the Wikimedia NYC user group, becoming a chapter leader and class organizer for Girl, Develop It, NYC, and working as a helper for Carpentries workshops, including at the New York Academy of Science (NYAS) and New York University (NYU).

I wasn't actively looking for a new job when my current position, Scholarly Communication Technologies Librarian, was advertised by Columbia University Libraries. However, I knew that I was interested in scholarly communications work, so I reached out to a contact who was already at Columbia to learn more about the role. Based on my background, they encouraged me to apply. I was fortunate to be offered the job and to sign my offer letter on March 8, 2020, right before the world shut down. I started my position remotely during the height of the pandemic in NYC. My job primarily involves technical project management and data science/ larger scale metadata and digital collections projects, with space for me to continue to develop my skillset as a programmer, working in both Python and Rails. I really enjoy my work—there are never enough hours in the day to take on all the projects I'm interested in! I primarily work with Academic Commons, the Columbia University Digital Repository, but have had the opportunity to get involved in

a number of different Libraries committees and cross-unit projects that have allowed for me to continue to do reference work, learn about the collections, and contribute to automations that save staff time and resources. It was a big change to go from a smaller cultural institution library to a very large academic library, and one that has allowed me to grow professionally.

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

Most importantly, I benefited from the generosity of many educators and mentors—both formal and informal—in the Department of Library and Information Studies (as it was then called), the UB Libraries, and the Buffalo librarian community. My job today is highly technical, and I rely primarily on skills that I obtained informally after graduate school. I learned that for the first paid position (internship) I had outside of library school, there was an applicant pool of approximately 30 people, and one of the primary reasons I stood out and was offered an interview was because I was very active in the student Special Libraries Association (SLA) group, acting as group President and receiving a Student Shadow scholarship to attend a UNYSLA Chapter meeting. So far in my career, professional service work has opened a myriad of networks and associated opportunities, and that was something that started while I was a student at UB.

What advice would you give current students?

Your first library job is probably not going to pay very well, which is the case for a lot of industries. That said, be sure to do careful math regarding your salary to make sure that you can afford to take a job. It usually does not hurt to ask for more money or negotiate in other ways—people won't be shy to tell you that they can't offer you more money, so try not to be shy about asking. Paid internships and fellowship programs can be a very good starting positions, because they can expose you to hands-on library work and different aspects of librarianship and provide you with even more education. If you find a workplace where you will be encouraged to learn and grow professionally, and you have a say in developing your own projects and/or research, that counts for quite a lot.

Seek out mentors and teachers who will have high expectations of you and encourage you to grow. People are often very generous with their time and expertise—don't be afraid to ask for help or advice. The mentorship I have received during my career is something I can never repay, but that I actively try to pay forward.

DLIS PROGRAM UPDATES

MS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP

The MS in School Librarianship program is still growing! In addition to having 32 graduates from the program this year, we have our first enrollees in our combined BA in English/MS in School Librarianship program already for fall 2022. The MS in SL program has specialized requirements that must be met to ensure compliance with New York State Teacher Certification mandates, and this year, there have been many changes made at the state education level, including no longer requiring the GRE or the undergraduate core in liberal arts. Also, NYSED has discontinued the edTPA requirement. These changes are good news to students who would like to pursue school librarianship, and a positive step for removing barriers to teacher certification in NYS. Students from the MS in School Librarianship program are not only working in school libraries but are successful academic and public librarians as well. One of our alumni is now the Program Chair for the Online Media Program at St. John Fisher University.

MS IN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

The MS in Information and Library Science (MS ILS) program continues to attract more and more students, with 169 applications received for Fall 2022 admissions (as of July 18, 2022). The MS program is accredited by the American Library Association and will undergo a scheduled external review in the upcoming academic year. We continue to improve the program through the following areas (1) *Flexibility* – it is a fully online and asynchronous program, students can take 1-4 courses in a semester based on their schedules, and limited summer courses are available, (2) *Quality* – faculty advisors consist of nationally/internationally renowned scholars, instructors also include adjuncts with great subject expertise and practical experience, and the program is ranked 23rd by 2021 US News & World Reports (a very high ranking for a program having only a very new doctoral program), (3) *Variety* – the program offers courses and concentrations in many areas of ILS, including Information Users and Uses, Information Technology, Information Management, and Archives, (4) *Affordability* - as a member of one of the largest public university systems, The University at Buffalo offers students an excellent education at a cost that is more affordable than most other major research universities, and (5) *Interactivity* – the program emphasizes interaction among students, instructors, and advisors through various methods, including online discussion board, audio/video conference, email, telephone, and in-person visits to campus.

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN INFORMATION SCIENCE

The IS Department began offering courses for our Information Studies Minor in Fall 2017. Since then, there has been steady enrollment and success in our two lower-level courses, LIS 200 Introduction to Information Studies and LIS 205 Information and Society. Interest in LIS 205 was enhanced when it was approved as part of the UB Curriculum, UB's general education program for undergraduates, and it is arguably the department's most popular undergraduate course. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to attract enough students to the upper-level courses to meet the Graduate School of Education's minimum enrollment requirements, so these 400-level courses have not been successfully offered in more than three years. Despite extensive marketing of the minor and the importance of information skills in all disciplines, there has not been enough interest among UB students to maintain these courses. So, while the 200-level undergraduate courses will still be offered, the undergraduate minor has been discontinued.

PHD IN INFORMATION SCIENCE

This has been an exciting year for the Information Science Doctoral Program. Our first PhD was granted to Monica Rogers. In her dissertation, entitled "Comparative Data Visualization Literacy Skills of Information Science Students," she studied the extent to which master's students in library and information science programs can interpret various types of visualizations, such as bar charts, pie charts, or scatterplots. With the increasing need for the public to be able to understand data presented in charts, it is increasingly important for information professionals to be data visualization literate, too. Her survey study found that library and information science students have high data visualization literacy although they underestimate their skills. Congratulations to Dr. Rogers! In other news from the program, nine new students joined us in fall 2021. In fall 2022, six new students will join the program. We are looking forward to our first fully in person Residency Week with all 25 students and faculty in attendance! This summer, students and faculty are reading *Algorithmic Culture: How Big Data and Artificial Intelligence are Transforming Everyday Life* in anticipation of our annual book discussion at the Residency Week. Our doctoral students continue to be engaged in the discipline beyond their coursework: publishing research, achieving funding for their research, attending conferences, teaching undergraduate courses, and serving on GSE committees.

PhD Students Enjoy Residency Week, 2021

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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MARY KAMELA

Please tell us about your experience in the MS in SL program. Why did you choose this field? Why did you choose UB?

While I was always an avid reader and a curious child, the idea of becoming a librarian did not come to me until my senior year of college at Penn State University. I was completing an honors thesis in German about Frank Wedekind's 1891 play Frühlings Erwachen and had to locate hard-to-find nineteenth century primary sources in German. I was lucky enough to work with a knowledgeable, friendly academic librarian who showed me all that libraries—and librarians!—could do for me. I realized after this experience that librarianship was a field that would allow me to help others learn while also satisfying my own curiosities.

I chose UB because it was an accredited program in New York state that allowed me to take my classes in a hybrid format, which, in 2016, was more of an anomaly than it is these days. I was interested in both academic and school libraries because I wanted to be able to teach as well as serve library patrons. Choosing between these pathways was difficult, but with insight and advice from faculty, I chose to complete my MS in School Librarianship. This afforded me K-12 NYS certification as well as a foundation of transferable skills to use in any future library role.

Please tell us about your work for UB Libraries. What is your role?

After five years working in school libraries in the Buffalo area, in February 2022 I moved into the role of Student Support and Engagement Librarian with the University Libraries' Education Services team. Our department works closely with first-year English classes to deliver information literacy instruction to UB students at the beginning of their academic journey. We also provide library instruction on topics ranging from citations to critical information literacy across departments on an as-needed basis. Education Services also liaises with student support initiatives across campus to provide additional library support; I am currently working as the library liaison to the University Honors College as well as the English Language Institute.

How are you connecting your learning in the program with your work role?

My current position requires me to utilize learning from my graduate program daily. During the semester, my largest task is teaching with an information literacy focus. My coursework at UB was the foundation of my knowledge of information literacy and provided me with an ever-growing set of strategies to teach information literacy skills to others. Because of my teaching focus, I am able to utilize many of the pedagogical techniques I learned in the School Librarianship program with other UB students.

I am really enjoying getting to work at the same institution where I got my degree; being able to build on connections I made with faculty in graduate school and work with some of my graduating classmates has been a really rewarding experience.

How do you anticipate you will use your learning in the program to inform your future career? What are your ambitions?

As I navigate the tenure track, the research skills I honed at UB, especially as part of my graduate assistantship, are invaluable. I am excited to dig into the scholarship portion of my new position by completing research in my areas of interest- library service to first year students, international students in academic libraries, and social media as a learning tool. In conducting effective research, I hope to become a better teacher and librarian and make an impact on practice at UB and beyond.

Can you tell us more about yourself – your passions and interests?

It will come as no surprise that I am a huge reader. I read mostly fiction, from literary fiction to young adult (thanks to my years in school libraries) and anything in between. I can always be captured by a good story. I also enjoy baking, biking, and trivia. Due to the pandemic, I have not been traveling much, but I hope to get back out into the world when it is safe to do so—and I certainly hope there is an international library conference in my future!

Do you have any advice for our current students?

I would tell current students to be flexible. If the past two+ years have shown us anything, it is that things can change at a moment's notice, and you can never be too sure of anything. Be flexible with your course load (you may end up loving a class you never thought you'd take!), your expectations, and your career path. If you take the time to build your knowledge and connections at UB, you will be set up for success at the end of your program.

[GRADUATES]

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES! SUMMER 2021 TO SPRING 2022!

109 GRADUATES

JOINED OUR

4,800⁺ ALUMNI

MS IN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

Anderson, June
Argentieri, Danielle Leith
Bates, Davis William
Bernocco, Amanda Lynn
Burdick, Amber
Carignano, Micaela
Cassulis, Diana
Clough, Sophia
Cook, Sarah Louise
Cozad, Devon
Crummins, Elizabeth A
Davis, Elisabeth
Dennis, Eileen Rachel
Dennison, Sarah Louise
DiMeglio, Gabriella
Dingman, Lindsay Erin
Dion, Jake Christopher
Dotegowski, Alexandria Ann

Fiegl, Allison L
Fordyce, Robyn Lucille
Foster, Emmett Gaetano Cuccio
Galbo, Sebastian Charles
Golden, Jessica A
Goldman, Joshua Daniel
Gray, Ashlee Rita
Halberg, Rebecca A
Hallahan, Lori Ann Elizabeth
Henning, Joanna L
Herrington, Brea
Hoeffner, Erin Ann
Hunyadi, Skylar Anne
Jackson, Karen Feona
Jimenez, Jelicia
Joaquim, Janeane
Johnson, Jacqueline
Kain, Emily
Kaprielian, John Vartan
Kiel, Lillianna Rebecca

Klein, Sarah M
Lavezzari, Pedro
Leyko Picciotto, Joseph A
Locke, Elizabeth Abigail Thornton
Longo, Matthew Alexander
Malley, Nicole Leigh
Manley, Elaina Jewell
Mclaughlin, Ashley
Monfiletto, Jonathan Joseph
Moore, Jessie
Mosher, Leah
Murphy, Amanda Lee
Neumaier, Anna Catherine
Penso, Cara
Peppel, Christopher T
Peters, Annie Burke
Pettitt, Thomas Matthew
Pizzuto, Katherine
Ricker, Olivia Nicole
Roeder, Jordan Lynn

Ryan, Heather
Sander, Noel
Schuessler, Nickolas
Shear, Haley
Smith, Naomi Catherine
Stahl, Sarah Elizabeth
Stoltman, Joan Elizabeth
Su, Christine Yu Tien
Sundberg, Julia
Telford, Katelynn Emilee
Trombley, Katelyn Elizabeth
Tuttle, Elizabeth Katherine
VanOstrand, Griffin Rowan
West, Mckayla Rose
Wildridge, Christina Elizabeth
Wilson, Melissa Janice
Wygal, Jenna
Yu, Julia

MS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP

Anderson, Marlene M
Beaulieu, Judi
Braun, Danielle Marie
Bylund, Emily
Cohen, Ashley Robyn
Conrad, Gregory D

Cook, Lisa M.
Daniel, Chantelle Marie
DeSantis, Amanda L
Dygert, Alexis Marie
Eighmey, Amanda D
Flynn, Rachael M
Glennon, Siobhan
Goodrich, Janelle
Hirsch, Cecelia

Hoang, Hang Thanh
Incledon, Catherine Marie
Kateridge, Alexis
Kozloski, Janna
Lancer, Waverly Claire
Martino, Michael
Normann, Bailey Judith
Rak, Kaitlyn Elizabeth
Rao, Melissa

Scott, Colleen Marie
Scott, Megan
Sullivan, Shawn Thomas
Urbanski, Dianna
Vergason, Stacy Ann
Waddell, Stacie B.
Weiss, Gabrielle
Wiedenhofer, Jessica Ann

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENT MIKAYLA MILLER

Theresa Quiner, Library Director at Kuskokwim Consortium Library in Alaska, supervises current MS in ILS student Mikayla Miller, who is a Youth Services Coordinator at the library. The library recently was selected as a finalist for the National Medal for Museums and Libraries. Ms. Quiner notes that "we couldn't have accomplished what we have the past few years without [the] dedication, hard work and creativity" shown by Mikayla. We asked Mikayla to comment on the award and to tell us a bit about herself:

"I think it is a huge honor to be in the running for such a prestigious award considering the Kuskokwim Consortium Library has a full-time staff of two, with a student worker and volunteer rounding us up to a total of four. I was told once that being a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services is like being told you are in the top 15 best libraries in the country. To know that I contributed even a little bit to the library's success is really awesome.

I am the Youth Services Coordinator working with kids ages birth through teen. I plan programs for youth like our summer reading programs, game nights, and STEAM programs like a Stuffed Animal Lab. I created the Junior Librarian League which is a club that gets kids involved with advocacy for the library, planning programs, and acts as our Youth Advisory Board. I also do collection development for the teen collection and the children's room.

My educational goal has always been to receive my Masters in Information and Library Science. I feel that choosing the UB program was the best choice despite the fact that I live in Alaska. Each one of my classes has had merit in my current job. It is so amazing that I am learning while I am doing so I truly understand the use of the content. I feel like I can bond with my professors over shared experiences or learn from their experiences."

Ms. Quiner noted that Mikayla "is young and early in her career, and I strongly encouraged her to apply for library school a few years ago. She is going to continue to be a huge asset to the library field!" We agree!

SHERYL KNAB

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WESTERN NEW YORK LIBRARY RESOURCES COUNCIL

How are you putting your degree to work? What has been your career trajectory so far?

I always have difficulty answering this type of question because I did not set out to do library system work. My initial career goal was to work in an academic research library and work with faculty on their research. That is not how my career transpired. However, sometimes fate has a better path.

I graduated in 1991 from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Buffalo – SILS (at that time). Library school graduates were in abundance, so I worked part-time for several years in western New York before I found a full-time position at Bryant & Stratton. The position was not technically a library position. My job initially was to develop and manage a tutoring center in a room that just happened to be next to the library. Within a few years I took over management of the library and built up a collection, enhanced services, and designed a new library at a new campus when Bryant & Stratton moved further downtown to Washington Street. After five years, a former co-worker and instructor hired me at Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) – a state funded multi-type library system covering six counties with its headquarters in Cheektowaga. Casually known as "the Council," WNYLRC is one of nine regional councils in New York. I knew very little about systems when I was hired. I thought I would give the organization 3-5 years and move on. It is now 22 years later and I'm still here and can't imagine being anywhere else. I supervise seven full-time and part-time staff.

Library Systems work only with staff at member libraries, providing new services and programs that make their jobs easier and helps them provide services to their users and constituency in a more economical and effective way. There are three types of systems in New York State and in total there are 72 systems, including the regional "Councils," of which there are nine, 23 public library systems, and 40 school library systems.

System work provides a great deal of autonomy for staff to be creative, inventive, and forward thinking when working with system members. WNYLRC has been at the forefront of many services that are now available to all libraries in New York: Ask Us 24/7 virtual reference service, Ask the Lawyer legal information, and the creation of Empire State Immersive Experiences virtual reality platform. During the pandemic years (2020 and 2021) WNYLRC provided a great deal of professional development opportunities via Zoom and had our highest attendance records ever. Ask the Lawyer service answered over 200 questions to libraries across the state.

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

My education provided me with a well-rounded foundation in library services. It helped me enormously at Bryant & Stratton in creating a new library program for students and faculty. However, it does not necessarily prepare you for system work which is very different than working in a library or in being an executive. But the foundation I learned does underpin all the services we provide our members.

What are your passions?

At my job: Innovative services and creative thinking. Personally: my family, traveling, and new experiences. I hope to get to Italy and Portugal now that we can travel again!

What advice would you give current students?

Don't lock yourself in one career goal. Be open to the possibilities and unexpected opportunities. Your best job may not be what you envision today.
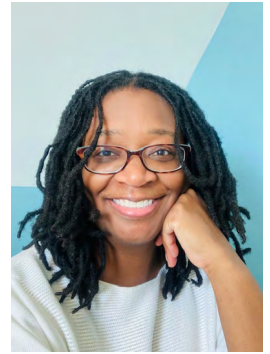
DLIS
DEPARTMENT NEWS

In April, we hosted a farewell party for Associate Professor Dr. Valerie Nesset, who retired in August, 2022. Dr. Nesset was a valued member of the department, known as an excellent teacher who also made significant contributions in service, particularly to IT services at the University.

We wish you much happiness in the next chapter of your journey, Dr. Nesset!

Dr. Valerie Nesset cutting the cake at her retirement party

In August, we welcomed our newest faculty colleague, Dr. Africa Hands, who has been appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor. Dr. Hands has a Ph.D. from Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, and was most recently assistant professor of library science at East Carolina University. She is profiled elsewhere in this newsletter. We are conducting a search for another tenure-track faculty colleague this academic year and hope to welcome them in 2023. Also, in 2023 we will welcome Saguna Shankar to a tenure-track position. Saguna will defend her Ph.D. dissertation at the University of British Columbia this fall. We also congratulate Dr. Dan Albertson, who was reappointed to another three-year term as department chair. We are grateful for his leadership over the past three years, especially during such trying times!

Dr. Africa Hands

Tracie D. Hall

The department was honored to host Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director of the American Library Association, as our 2022 Bobinski Lecture speaker. The title of her talk was, "Race, Redlining and Resistance: Libraries in the Making of the Next Civil Rights Movement." This annual lecture is the highlight of the department's activities and is supported by the George and Mary Bobinski Lecture Fund.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Dr. Brenda White, who was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor this year!

Dr. Brenda White

[DLIS
DEPARTMENT
NEWS]

Spring 2023 is a particularly important time for the department, as we will be hosting the External Review Panel (ERP) for our MS in Information and Library Science and MS in School Librarianship program accreditation. The ERP will want to meet (virtually or in person) with our stakeholders (especially students, alumni, and employers), so please consider making yourself available to speak with them. More details about those opportunities will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, we have been preparing our accreditation self-study report, which demonstrates how we meet all the accreditation standards. The final version of that report will be made available on our website early in 2023.

NEW GRADUATE DEVON COZAD

Devon told us "I've been recently hired as Daemen University's new Research and Instruction librarian! It was a seamless hiring process, and I can confidently say that UB's MS in ILS program opened up many opportunities even before I officially graduated. Before I joined, I made little to no progress with full-time jobs relevant to my professional goals. Come fall 2021, I was participating in tenure-track faculty and staff searches, with Daemen coming through as a solid starting point as a new librarian with teaching experience. Thank you for everything!"

MS in ILS Graduate Devon Cozad (right) with
Dr. Dan Albertson (left) at Graduation Brunch

[*event*
GRADUATION
BRUNCH]

The Department was delighted to host a Graduation Brunch in May for our most recent graduates. The brunch was attended by departmental faculty and staff, as well as by many of our new graduates and their families. *Congratulations to you all!*

PhD graduate Logan Rath (left) with his supervisor Dr. Heidi Julien (right)
at May 2022 Commencement. Dr. Rath earned his MLS at UB in 2007

student [PROFILE]

ARAEA PERRY
MS in ILS student

Please tell us about your experience in the MS in ILS program. Why did you choose information science? Why did you choose UB?

I am a first semester student in the MS in ILS program. I chose UB because of the types of courses I would be able to take as well as the flexibility of the online learning. My experience so far has been very positive. I have professors who are extremely knowledgeable and passionate about the topics they are teaching. I've been able to discover niches in the information science profession that I did not know existed, for example one of my professors works in the Coca-Cola Archives! I chose information science because of my background as a public-school teacher. While teaching in SE D.C.,, we were able to partner with a program that allowed my students to go to the National Gallery of Art for 6 weeks straight! It got me thinking about all the informal learning opportunities there are for students and how to make these opportunities accessible for all students no matter their zip code. This led me to library and information science.

Please tell us about your activities outside of the program. What work or volunteer roles have you had?

Outside of the program, I am currently a 5th and 6th grade math teacher, soon to be social studies, in Austin, TX. I work within schools that are underserved because I am passionate about educational equity for marginalized groups. I hope to help present new opportunities and create long lasting partnerships with community organizations, such as libraries and museums. I have been a teacher for the past 3 years and am super passionate about working with students!

How are you connecting your learning in the program with your work or volunteer roles? Does your work or volunteer experience inform your learning in the program?

I am taking the courses UB offers on curating a library for students and youth specifically to better inform my teaching practice and future librarian practice. My school currently does not have a school library, so I am hoping to help utilize what I am learning about databases and information users to help pilot a school library.

How do you anticipate you will use your learning in the program to inform your future career? What are your ambitions?

I am hoping to head back to D.C. and be a school librarian or work within a museum or public library creating outreach programs for students in the community. As a school librarian, I would hope to be able to spark a love for reading, coding, or anything else students may be passionate about. I would also hope to make the outside community more accessible. If I take the route of museum or public librarian, I will want to focus on outreach. Many of my students in SE D.C. had never been downtown to the National Mall or into any of the Smithsonians. Making these information institutions accessible is crucial to creating a more equitable society.

Can you tell us more about yourself – your passions and interests?

Outside of teaching, I am an avid backpacker and traveler. I love the outdoors and going for long hikes in the mountains. I hope to one day have visited every country in the world. I currently reside in Austin, TX and have a 1-year-old golden retriever named Willow. I enjoy mindless reality tv and catering to Willow's every whim (I am a crazy dog mom!).

Do you have any advice for prospective students in our program?

I would say to make sure you stay super organized. Asynchronous learning requires a lot of time management and scheduling when you are not only going to do assignments but also when you are going to learn the material. I would also say to take those classes on things you've never heard but are kind of interested in. I ended up learning a lot in a special collections class I took this semester. This profession has a ton of different avenues to explore, so taking advantage of courses that are "niche" is a cool opportunity!

Dr. Sam Abramovich presented papers at the IACEE 18th World Conference on Continuing Engineering Education in Buffalo, NY, at the 16th International Conference of the Learning Sciences (online), at the Play Make Learn conference (online), and at the 53rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (online). He also presented a workshop for the 2022 UB Clinical and Translational Science Institute Health Inequities Workshop Series (online), and he presented two posters at the International Conference of the Learning Sciences (online). Dr. Abramovich served as Financial Officer for International Society of the Learning Sciences. He also won an NSF grant worth $293,110, titled "Building Ecosystems of Belonging for Neurodiverse Computer Science Students."

Dr. Dan Albertson served as Chair of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Advancement Committee, as a member of the Service to ALISE Award Committee, and as a Juror for the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Proquest Dissertation Award Jury.

Dr. Sam Dodson presented papers at the ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries, and the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. He also served on the program committee for the ACM Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval. Dr. Dodson won an Impact Recognition Award at the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing.

Dr. Heidi Julien presented a paper at the 22nd European Conference on Literacy in Dublin, Ireland, a panel and a poster at the annual conference of ASIS&T in Salt Lake City, UT, and a panel and a paper at the annual ALISE conference (online). She served on the Mentoring Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee for the Western New York Library Resources Council, on the ALISE Advancement Committee and Governance Committee, the Steering Committee for ISIC: The Information Behaviour Conference, and she chaired the ASIS&T Awards and Honors Committee. Dr. Julien served on the program committees for the annual conferences of ASIS&T, ALISE, Canadian Association for Information Science, and iConference. She serves on the editorial boards of *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, Public Library Quarterly, Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology, Journal of Education for Library and Information Science, Information and Learning Sciences, Pakistan Journal of Information Management and Libraries,* and *Open Information Science.* She was a guest co-editor for a special issue of the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology.* Dr. Julien was appointed as an ASIS&T Distinguished Member (https://www.asist.org/distinguished-member-program/).

Dr. Valerie Nesset presented a poster at the iConference (online) and was an invited speaker at the Indexing Society of Canada Conference (online). She served on the editorial boards of *Library and Information Science Research* and *The Indexer,* as a reviewer for the ALISE, iSchool, and ASIS&T annual conferences. She also served on the jury for the ASIS&T Severn-Pratt Award. Dr. Nesset reviewed manuscripts for *The Journal of Information Science* and *Library and Information Science Research.*

Dr. Dagobert Soergel presented papers at the 11th International Conference the Future of Education in Florence, Italy, and the 13th International Multi-Conference on Complexity, Informatics and Cybernetics in Orlando, Florida. He also presented keynote presentations at the IV Seminário do Pesquisa Modelagem Conceitual para Organização e Representação da Informação Hipertextual and at the V Congresso ISKO Espanha. Dr. Soergel is Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Council of the International Society for Knowledge Organization. He also served on the program committees for the ASIS&T annual meeting, the 12th International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems, and the Networked Knowledge Organisation Systems Workshop at the Joint Conference on Digital Libraries. He reviewed manuscripts for the *Journal of Applied Ontology,* and the *Journal of Knowledge Organization.* Dr. Soergel was appointed as an ASIS&T Distinguished Member.

Dr. Ying Sun served as an editorial board member for the *International Journal of Knowledge Engineering,* and reviewed manuscripts for the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* and the *Journal of Information Science.* She also served on the program committee for the annual ASIS&T conference.

Dr. Amy VanScoy presented papers at the annual conference of ASIS&T in Salt Lake City, UT, at the ASIS&T SIG-USE Symposium in Salt Lake City, and at the annual meeting of ALISE (online), and she delivered a keynote at the Slovenian Librarians Association Conference (online). Dr. VanScoy served on the editorial boards for the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* and *Library and Information Science Research*. She served on the ASIS&T ProQuest Dissertation Award Jury and as the School Representative for ALISE. She served on the program committees for the ASIS&T and ALISE annual conferences, as well as for ISIC: The Information Behaviour Conference. Dr. VanScoy, along with Dr. Julien and Dr. Deborah Hicks from San José State University won a $3,100 Faculty Research Award titled "Conceptions of Expertise Among Librarians through a Gender Lens" from the University at Buffalo Gender Institute.

Dr. Jianqiang Wang reviewed articles for *Recent Advances in Computer Science and Communications* and *Aslib Journal of Information Management*. He also served on the program committee for the annual ASIS&T conference.

faculty [PUBLICATIONS]

McBride, M., & **Abramovich, S.** (2022). Crossing the boundaries through OER adoption: Considering open educational resources (OER) as boundary objects in higher education. *Library & Information Science Research, 44*(2), 101154.

Baptiste, Y. M., **Abramovich, S.**, & Browne, C. J. (2021). Measuring the value of a digital supplemental resource. *Advances in Physiology Education*, 45(4), 685-693.

Albertson, D., & Johnston, M.P. (2021). Modeling users' perceptions of video information seeking, learning through added value, and using curated digital collections. *Journal of Information Science*, 47(5), 575-589.

Chopra, A., Mo, M., **Dodson**, S., Beschastnikh, I., Fels, S., & Yoon, D. (2021). "@alex, this fixes #9": Analysis of referencing patterns in pull request discussions. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 5*(CSCW2), 385:1–25. https://doi.org/10.1145/3479529

Julien, H., Gross, M., & Latham, D. (in press). Teaching and its discontents: How academic librarians are negotiating a complicated role. *Journal of Information Literacy.*

Latham, D., Gross, M., **Julien, H.**, Warren, F., & Moses, L. (2022). Community college students' perceptions of their information literacy needs. *College & Research Libraries* 83(4), 593-609.

Detlor, B., **Julien, H.**, La Rose, T., & Serenko, A., (2022). Community-led digital literacy training: Toward a theoretical model. *Journal of the Association for Information Science & Technology, 73*(10), 1387-1400.

Gross, M., **Julien, H.**, & Latham, D. (2022). Librarian views of the ACRL Framework and the impact of COVID-19 on information literacy instruction in community colleges. *Library and Information Science Research 44.* https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2022.101151

VanScoy, A., **Julien, H.**, & Harding, A. (in press). Integration of information behavior into reference and information services education: A syllabus study. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science.*

VanScoy, A., **Julien, H.**, & Harding, A. (2022). "Like putting broccoli in a quiche:" Instructors talk about incorporating theory into reference courses. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* 63(3), 321-334.

Jones, K.M.L., **VanScoy, A.**, Bright, K., Harding, A., & Martin, A. (in press). A measurement of faculty views on the meaning and value of student privacy. *Journal of Computing in Higher Education.*

Nesset, V., Davis, E. C., Stewart-Robertson, O., & Bible, J. B. (2022). Bonded Design in the virtual environment: The transition of a participatory design methodology. *Journal of Documentation*, 78(3), 513-528.

AFRICA HANDS ← - ○ NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

What made you choose to come to our department?

I was attracted to the faculty support within the Department of Information Science and the opportunity for collaboration and mentorship from well-respected scholars in the field. I also look forward to engaging with doctoral students in the department's innovative PhD program, which is similar to my own doctoral program. I'm excited that the department is working to fill the gap in terms of online LIS doctoral programs. GSE is also a natural fit for my research interest in higher education. I'm hopeful there will be opportunities to work with colleagues in other departments.

What do you expect to teach?

I will start with teaching the research methods course. I'm looking forward to that course because I see it as an opportunity to demystify research for students, many of whom are more interested in the practice aspect of librarianship. At my previous institution, I taught a course on technology in libraries that focused on issues in technology (privacy, bias in technology, digital equity, etc.) rather than specific hardware or software. I'm hoping to offer it here as a special topics course. Students have varied levels of experience with technology, so it was a good course for them to get comfortable with technology without the fear that they'd break something. Their end-of-the-semester reflection papers were much more optimistic than their introductory discussion posts and memes. I liked seeing their transition and facilitating their awareness of various tech issues.

Can you tell us about your research?

My research focuses on three areas: the graduate/doctoral student experience broadly, first-generation students, and public library support of college-bound patrons. Each area of research comes from my experiences, personal and professional, in higher education and libraries. They relate to my interest in improving access to and awareness of information, resources, and services that move people toward their personal, professional, and educational goals. Much of my time, currently, is spent researching the ways in which public libraries in central Appalachia support (through programs, services, online resources, partnerships, etc.) college-bound patrons, especially post-traditional students who didn't enter college directly after high school. This work is funded through an early career grant from IMLS.

What excites you about teaching and research?

Many students enter information and library science programs because they love books and libraries. I love helping them see the vastness of the field, the multitude of opportunities that can come from the skills and knowledge they gain in an information science program. It's also exciting to help students connect the dots between what they might consider disparate work experience and LIS. For instance, the student whose day job is answering phones at a customer service call center; that's a good foundation for public service librarianship and reference work. In terms of research, I'm excited by the practical application of my work. It's born of real-world experience and aims to improve people's experiences whether it's building more supportive communities for doctoral students, improving the information and academic experiences of first-generation college students, or removing information barriers for prospective college students.

What are your passions outside of work?

I took up mixology during the quarantine phase of the pandemic. I also enjoy crocheting and crafting. My most recent craft project was creating mosaic tile borders for two bathroom mirrors using leftover tile from a renovation project. It was very much like putting a puzzle together - equal parts meditative and frustrating with beautiful results. This past summer, in an attempt to get out of the house, I designed a personal summer camp of activities I've missed because of the pandemic. Activities included a trip to a local museum, a minor league baseball game, a USL soccer game, craft beer competition, two 5k's, and a distillery visit.

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

I most anticipate challenges related to the "blursing" (blessing and curse) of technology. Advances in technology bring about issues of equity of access and privacy that are concerning.

What advice would you give our graduates?

I advise graduates to continue learning. The master's is a terminal degree but that doesn't mean that you stop learning or have learned everything you need to know about the field, it's a starting point from which to build.

JULIA LAMPSON
MS in ILS student

Please tell us about your experience in the MS in ILS program. Why did you choose information science? Why did you choose UB?

My experience in the ILS program so far has been wonderful. I've learned so much in my first two semesters here at UB it's hard to imagine how much I will have learned and changed as a student by the end of the program. I chose UB, in part, based on its ranking of ILS programs in the country, and affordability. However, the flexibility of the asynchronous program for those working full time was also a selling point. Additionally, the opportunities provided by obtaining an MS in ILS allow for many opportunities within libraries or the private information sector. As someone who hasn't yet narrowed down a specific career within library science this was appealing.

Please tell us about your activities outside of the program. What work or volunteer roles have you had?

My undergraduate degree and background are in psychology with a focus on applied behavioral analysis with disabled children. I transitioned to working for my local public library in 2016 and realized that the library field encompasses much of what I value as a career: public service, attention to detail, as well as making a difference in the community. My current position is on the Acquisition and Cataloging team in the Collection Management Department at Pierce County Library System in Washington state. I feel lucky to have the support of my library system and co-workers as I obtain my degree!

My wife (who is also a librarian!) and I also own and operate a small farm on 5 acres. We raise our own poultry, rabbits, pork, lamb, goats, cows, and produce a large amount of our own fruit and vegetables during the spring and summer months. It is a dawn till dusk lifestyle but the peace and quiet of farm life more than makes up for the long days.

How are you connecting your learning in the program with your work or volunteer roles? Does your work or volunteer experience inform your learning in the program?

I feel incredibly lucky to be working in a public library as I pursue my degree. My experience working in Collection Management influences my perspective of classes, readings, and discussions. Conversely all the thoughts, ideas, and knowledge I'm absorbing during my studies at UB influence my perspective

at work as I catalog materials for the public. It's a beautiful feedback loop. In my recent 570 Archival Arrangement and Process class, we completed several readings and discussions concerning language that was used commonly in the past that is now considered offensive. I was thrilled to read about and discuss this topic in an academic setting as it comes up often in my cataloging work with Library of Congress Subject Headings. Changes on the national level take time. Changes at a county level, although not easy, can come quicker. Armed with a few peer-reviewed articles and some newly-acquired knowledge, I plan to present some ideas to my supervisor and discuss tactics my department could employ to mitigate the harm language can cause to communities while still producing findable bibliographic records.

I have also become increasingly aware of how dependent the world in general is, on information management. Other career fields live and die on the organization of information, and as students of ILS, we are specializing in that skill. How cool is that? I would love to take the skills I will learn throughout my program and apply them to local agriculture practices. Our small business is just that, small; and we intend to keep it that way. We are proud to supply local families with food that was grown and raised in their community. In the future, we'd like to offer classes on animal husbandry and small-scale organic farming. The information organization and communication skills I will acquire and develop over the course of this program will be a great help in creating a community hub for local agricultural information.

Can you tell us more about yourself – your passions and interests?

I am passionate about living a sustainable lifestyle, science fiction, astronomy, and history! It is one of the great pleasures of my life to have visited the National Air and Space Museum and seen both the Wright Flyer and Star Trek's Starship "Enterprise" model on the same day. I play the piano and dabble in painting and embroidery. One day I'd like to learn to weave but as I've heard this is quite the undertaking, it will have to wait until after I graduate!

Do you have any advice for prospective students in our program?

Find a way to be involved in behind-the-scenes library work as your progress through the program. Library professionals are a generous and giving community. They will offer support, encouragement, and a valuable perspective. The same goes for your professors! I have encountered nothing but genuine interest in my learning and wellbeing as I navigate student life. The guidance and leadership from UB instructors have been invaluable. Reach out to your resources, they want you to succeed!

Dr. Samuel Dodson Wins Impact Recognition Award

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Dr. Samuel Dodson, who recently won the Impact Recognition award from the Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW) conference, sponsored by SIGCHI (an Association for Computing Machinery special interest group). He is an inaugural recipient of the award, which is new this year. The award is given "for strong examples of work that demonstrates or has clear potential to demonstrate real-world or practical impact" (https://cscw.acm.org/2021/awards/). Dr. Dodson shares, "in this project, we studied how software engineers communicate when using online tools for deciding whether to accept proposed changes to source code. This type of collaboration is increasingly popular in industry but is understudied." Dr. Dodson's paper, co-authored with colleagues from the University of British Columbia (UBC), was one of the 13 Impact Recognition awards, out of more than 1,000 submissions to the conference. The UBC Department of Computer Science has published a blog post about the research and the award which provides further details about the study: https://www.cs.ubc.ca/news/2021/11/ubc-research-team-wins-cscw-impact-recognition-award-paper-github-communication.

[*student event*
UB ALA
CHAPTER]

UB Chapter of the American Library Association

The University at Buffalo Chapter of the American Library Association had been inactive for a few years, but this year it came back with lots of enthusiasm and participation from the student body. First, Larissa Brenner hosted a virtual happy hour at the end of the fall semester to give students a chance to talk and socialize with each other over Zoom. A nice crowd attended, and we had an interesting conversation. In January, chapter member Amanda Bernocco hosted our first Book Club, discussing the book *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. Our second book club was organized by Marisa Hadley and took place in May with the book *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. In addition, thanks to our Communications Director Wende Domm, our website is now updated, and our social media accounts are once again active. By far,

our most popular program of the year featured librarians Kory Yerkes and Deena Viviani from Brighton Memorial Library who presented, "A Foot in the Door: Increasing Your Chances to Get a Library Job Interview," in which they shared recommendations and lessons learned to prospective librarians, as well as opportunities for Q&A. Because this program was done over Zoom, those who could not attend live were able to view the recording after the event had taken place. This event would not have taken place without the connections made by our faculty advisor, Dr. Brenda White, whose support proved invaluable to our ability to revive this chapter. This year, our officers were as follows: Larissa Brenner (President), Marisa Hadley (Vice-President), Christina L'Hommedieu (Secretary), and Wende Domm (Communications Director).

We welcome all students to participate in our Chapter. You do not have to join the ALA to join our student group!

REBECCA CHAPMAN

How are you putting your degree to work?

After graduation, I was offered a position with the Charles B. Sears Law Library at the University at Buffalo School of Law. Because I wear many hats, I have many titles. My shortest title is Senior Assistant Law Librarian. In addition, I am the Outreach Liaison to the School of Law's new Undergraduate Law Program. But I am also the Library Liaison to the new undergraduate Indigenous Studies Department.

As a Senior Assistant Law Librarian, I work with students and faculty on legal research questions. I liaise with specific faculty members regarding research for publication and for course preparation. This sometimes requires me to teach general and specific legal research subjects in selected law school courses and legal writing.

In addition, students and faculty can arrange for a one-to-one research discussion where I walk them through the steps of research, the best sources and materials to use, what to look for, and sometimes even how to organize the materials for ease of analysis.

This is in addition to my own research and publication efforts.

What has been your career trajectory so far?

I have felt truly honored to work with everyone at the University at Buffalo. It has been a welcoming experience. I am deeply honored to be working with the Indigenous Studies Department on its Haudenosaunee Digitization Project. This project aims to preserve and protect Haudenosaunee materials at traditional archives, but also increase access to the materials and promote scholarship. The journey is a long one, but it looks very exciting.

I recently learned that my first article received the honor of Best Article of the Year from the Law Library Journal. I have two book chapters coming out, a number of speaking engagements, and the opportunity to reach out and learn more from seasoned professionals.

I am especially excited to be teaching a fifteen-week legal research course for undergraduate students in Spring 2023. I am gathering materials, observing great teachers, and learning all that I can to make this course special. I plan to keep learning, keep growing, and keep improving while adding value to the University.

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

I do not have the words to express my gratitude to the Department of Information Science. The teachers offered knowledge and resources combined with flexibility and compassion. The combination made it easy to complete the work at a comfortable pace, take the time I needed to synthesize the information, and then apply it with support and care.

If I had a question, a concern, or wanted more feedback to ensure that I was on the right track, the faculty in the department were always available to sit down and work with me. I want to give a particular mention to my advisor, Dr. Brenda Battleson White, for being such a supportive and helpful guiding force. Dr. White helped me brainstorm all the necessary coursework needed to achieve my goals. She helped me network in new areas, and she offered practical advice for entering the workforce as a librarian. She also introduced me to the amazing staff at the Charles B. Sears Law Library, and I am grateful to be among them.

What are your passions?

I practiced for over sixteen years in Indian law around the country, and Native rights and issues continue to be important to me. It is important to me to increase access to materials, educate a wider audience, and promote Indigenous sovereignty within the framework of legal research.

In addition to this passion, I am a new breast cancer survivor. I have found new friends with an organization called Hope Chest of Western New York. This organization empowers breast cancer survivors to keep fit and active while promoting a sense of community. The group sponsors races and team events as a way to bond. I am so lucky to have met these women.

What advice would you give current students?

Get in early to work with your advisor before you select courses. Try to have it all planned out in advance. While the plans may change as courses become available or unavailable, the planning will be essential to keeping your focus on a larger goal.

Take a practicum as early as you can to network and learn on the job. Also try to get an article written for publication before you graduate. It will set you apart from other applicants that do not have the experience. If possible, try to get some teaching experience and absorb as much as you can about teaching methods from seasoned professionals.

Do not be afraid to go somewhere else to take a job and learn. Yes, it can be scary. But it can also be rewarding and exhilarating to accomplish it. Sometimes that effort provides a new level of confidence and fearlessness that sets you apart as a candidate.

Be ready and willing to listen and learn. There is always someone wiser, more experienced, and willing to share knowledge if you are willing to take it.

student [PROFILE]

KENJI KANESHIRO
MS in ILS student

Please tell us about your experience in the MS in ILS program. Why did you choose information science? Why did you choose UB?

I'm still fairly new to the program! My first semester was Spring 2022, and I took a course in Summer 2022. I've worked in public libraries most of my life, and I hit a ceiling in what I could do without an information science degree. It felt like it was time to commit, and my colleagues recommended UB to me. UB offered a flexible and affordable online program that I could take alongside my work schedule (without stressing too much).

Please tell us about your activities outside of the program. What work or volunteer roles have you had?

I've gone through the full gamut of pre-librarian public library work, from Page to Clerk to (now) Library Assistant at the Harrison Public Library in NY. Between those, I was an RA and Graduate Assistant for Student Activities at SUNY New Paltz, where I gained experience with outreach and running programs. It feels like the consistent refrain throughout my jobs has been "duties as assigned," which I'm sure a lot of library workers can relate to.

To that point, my current responsibilities include time at the circulation and reference desks, handling requests and programs for our 3D printers, coordinating our Juried Art program, maintaining our circulating board game collection (that I started), and managing our social media. During lockdown, when our building was closed to the public, I also moonlighted as a paper bag artist for patron pickups. Oh, also, I'm a shop steward for our union (go CSEA!). I think that's everything. . .

How are you connecting your learning in the program with your work or volunteer roles? Does your work or volunteer experience inform your learning in the program?

I've felt at risk of being annoying in a lot of my discussion board responses because I'm constantly offering anecdotes from work that connect to the coursework. Although some theories and readings can seem arcane to me, I've found my work experiences provide a foothold into grounding those ideas in a way I can understand. Opposite that, aspects of my work have become less obscure because of my coursework (looking at you, MARC records). A majority of the coursework can be drawn back to my public library work in ways that help me better articulate and be cognizant of what I'm doing and why. Thinking more concretely about system designs has also informed how I critique design elements of our ILS and how we implement new services. It's been interesting to see how my work and classes have carved out further understanding of the other.

I'm extremely grateful to have these internal dialogues between what I do and what I'm learning because returning to school was something I'd been skeptical about for a while. I wasn't sure the investment would be worth it and held off on getting my masters (against the advice of my colleagues) for some time. Dusting off the academic gears in my brain, and seeing the opportunities for growth in the coursework, I've started thinking about possible directions I can go in.

How do you anticipate you will use your learning in the program to inform your future career? What are your ambitions?

Although I'm just getting through the initial classes, I'm looking forward to learning more about technical services and collection development. Presently, I'm concerned with best practices for maintaining the board game collection I manage at our library and have been using it as a learning opportunity where I can also share my passion for games. I was able to connect a reference experience I'd had with a patron who is deaf blind with my assignments for "Information Users and Uses" that let me explore accessibility opportunities in public libraries. I hope to continue leveraging my coursework towards improving my community's library experiences.

Regarding my ambitions, my motivations decidedly rest within public libraries, but I'm still exploring specializations within that space.

Can you tell us more about yourself – your passions and interests?

I am really passionate about board games. I traveled around the country and internationally to play a game called HeroClix (best described as chess with superhero pieces) for a while and won the Canadian National Championship in 2016. Since then, I've branched out to other games, frequently traveling to conventions like Origins Game Fair, Gen Con, and PAX. In my spare time, when I'm not meeting up with friends to play games, I playtest for some publishers and work on machine translations of rulebooks for games from Japan. If you're looking for some unique games that have made it to the USA, I highly recommend titles from Oink Games and itten.

Do you have any advice for prospective students in our program?

Don't talk yourself out of opportunities, especially when you have others providing you with them. I'm grateful to my director, Galina Chernykh, who encouraged me to go back to school and provided me with the connection that led to me speaking at NYLA. I'm also thankful for my coworker, Giovanna Iannace, who encouraged me to apply for a WLA Professional Development Award that went towards my conference fees and tuition. Riding that success, I applied for and was awarded a participation grant from Gen Con to attend their Trade Day, which offers panels on how games can be used by libraries and schools. It took a lot of nudging from my colleagues before I started pursuing opportunities on my own, and I think it would have helped me a lot to put aside my self-critiques and advocate for myself sooner.

MOLLY POREMSKI

What do you teach for the department?

I teach LIS 518: Reference and Information Services, which is a course I have taught since 2018. This course teaches students how to effectively engage users in a helpful, non-judgmental way. Students also learn about search strategies, evaluating the credibility of sources and how to share this information with the user. The course aims to make sure every student who takes this course can be the best, most helpful, and empathetic reference librarian they can be!

Tell us about your day job.

I am currently a Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian at the University at Buffalo. I am the liaison for Information Science, Romance Languages and Literatures, Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, Africana and American Studies, Linguistics, and Asian Studies. I love interacting with students and demystifying the research process. One of my favorite parts of my job is going into upper level and graduate seminars, where the students are really invested in their research and having a conversation with them about where their research is headed and offering advice on how to find the best materials. I also love working with students via Zoom or in-person on individual research consultations. I'm in charge of the library's collections in my subject area and I'm always on the lookout for books and other materials that can help my students and faculty. I teach a lot of classes for my departments, take part in library and university committees, and do my own research for publications.

What are your passions?

I'd say my biggest passion in libraries is addressing library anxiety in students. UB is a very large school and it's easy to get overwhelmed. It's my belief that the libraries should be welcoming, open places where students' needs are met with respect and kindness. No one likes to feel uncomfortable and using all the systems in the library can be a source of anxiety. The library holds the key to your academic success! It's important to me to make students feel that they can come back anytime and have a sympathetic ear to guide them in the right direction, even if that need is just understanding call numbers and finding that book on the shelf.

Do you have any advice for our students?

Practicums are incredibly important! Having experience in an information setting will help you get that job! If you can't find one that looks good to you, make up your own! Contact smaller libraries, museums, or historical societies to see if you can be of help! 120 hours for 3 credits! You can't go wrong!

Sincere thanks to our adjunct professors who share their expertise with our students in 2021-22!

Susan Allen

James Belair

Marie Bindeman

Angela Boccuzzi-Reichert

Marie Elia

Jon Goodell

Christopher Hollister

Kathleen Jaccarino

Keith Knop

Jessica Lacher-Feldman

Elliot McNally

Derek Moser

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