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Department of Library
and Information Studies

Graduate School of Education

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a note
[FROM THE CHAIR]



Dr. Dan Albertson

Greetings,

It is always a pleasure to write the Chair's Column for our annual Informed newsletter, but I am especially pleased to do so this year from our new home on UB's South Campus in the newly renovated Foster Hall. The building retains all the classic character of UB's Main Street campus while featuring a \$41 million, state-of-the-art renovation. The space has been thoughtfully designed to support collaboration, innovation, and community. With modern technologies that enhance both teaching and research, Foster Hall represents an exciting new chapter for our department. I hope you will visit us soon to see the new space for yourself. You are always welcome - it is truly a remarkable building.

This year, I also want to highlight what makes our department truly special: our students, who are our most valued stakeholders. While they deserve recognition every year in the Column, I have been especially inspired by their accomplishments over the past year. In addition to their continued excellence in the classroom, it has been particularly rewarding to see so many of our students advancing and promoting their work in information and library science beyond the classroom as well.

Our master's students have been actively presenting their work at professional venues across New York State and beyond. Our doctoral students are making an impact at major research conferences, particularly through the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T). This November, nearly a dozen of our students will attend or present at the ASIS&T Annual Meeting - a testament to their hard work and innovation. Their projects are advancing new ideas in the field and appearing alongside research from leading scholars worldwide.

As members of our community, I know you share my pride in our outstanding students and in the way they continue to represent the University at Buffalo with excellence. We are fortunate to attract such promising students to our programs. It is an exciting time to be part of UB, as our department's reputation, reach, and impact continue to grow across all areas of our mission.

Until next time, don't be a stranger, and as always, horns up.

Sincerely,

Dan Albertson
Chair
Department of Information Science
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

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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In Memoriam



We are saddened to share that **Dr. Lorna Peterson** passed away on November 11, 2024. She had been a member of the Information Science faculty from 1990 through her retirement in 2014.

Dr. Peterson impacted the education of the hundreds of students she taught and mentored throughout the Department's many incarnations, the School of Information and Library Science, the School of Informatics, the Department of Information and Library Science and the Department of Information Science. She also made important contributions to the LIS field, researching diversity issues in the librarianship profession as well as the impact of segregation and racism on the history of public institutions like public libraries.

Dr. Peterson was also a fierce activist engaged in local advocacy for Buffalo communities impacted by gentrification, redlining, gun violence and so many of the issues that continue to challenge minoritized communities. Former ALISE President Vanessa Irvin called her "a courageous activist for equity, often speaking and writing about the historical impacts of injustice not just in LIS but in the world."

Dr. Peterson received her bachelor's degree from Dickinson College, an MSLS from Case Western University and a PhD in Education from Iowa State University. As an active and lifetime member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), she was memorialized in a resolution shared by the [Buffalo Challenger Community News](#).

You can read more about Dr. Peterson on the [UB Graduate School of Education's site](#).



Those of you who were students during the Department's SILS days will remember **Dr. Suzanne Hildenbrand**, who passed away on May 23, 2025, in Oakland, California. She had served as a member of the Library Studies faculty from 1983 to 1999.

Dr. Hildenbrand earned a Masters Degree in Library Service at Columbia University, and a PhD in the History of Education at the University of California at Berkeley. She worked as a high school librarian, a cataloger in an academic library and also worked in Europe and Africa with the United States Information Agency.

In addition to researching the role of women in American libraries, Dr. Hildenbrand edited the 1996 text *Reclaiming the American Library Past: Writing the Women In*. She served on the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship of the American Library Association and was an advocate for women's rights throughout her life.

1970s

LARRY NAUKUM (1976)

In 2024, Larry was awarded the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Lifetime Achievement Award at The National Genealogical Society (NGS) 2024 Family History Conference. Larry, a SILS graduate and Beta Phi Mu member, spent 33 years working at the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, Rochester Public Libraries, retiring in 2011. He was the head of the Local History, Genealogy and Digitizing units there. Since retiring he has scanned and catalogued several thousand historical items for agencies and libraries in Western New York.

NINA CASCIO (1979)

Nina has retired after 45 years of service as an Associate Librarian at the University at Buffalo School of Law's Sears Law Library. Nina has been an instrumental practicum advisor for many of the Dept. of Information Science's law librarianship students providing valuable practical experience in legal reference.

1990s

KATHLEEN DELANEY (1997)

In 2024, Kathleen was awarded a Library All Star Award by the Western New York Library Resources Council. Kathleen was the Archivist at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY before retiring earlier that year. According to Canisius Library Director Kristine Kashbohm, "Thanks to Kathleen's efforts and her ability to forge relationships in the local community, the history and records of multiple community organizations including the Kalina Singing Society, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), and Ms. Constance Eve's Women for Human Rights and Dignity, are now preserved. The breadth of knowledge she has regarding these collections demonstrate not only her commitment to preserving the history of Canisius, but also the history of Buffalo." Kathleen was Canisius College's Archivist for 22 years.

OPHELIA MOREY (1992)

Ophelia was awarded the 2025 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. She is coordinator of community outreach services for the Health Sciences Library at the University at Buffalo. In this role, she is responsible for cultivating community relationships and developing innovative ways to make medical information readily accessible with a focus on health literacy and health equity.

BETH ADELMAN (1994)

Beth was named the 2025 recipient of the Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional and sustained contributions to the field. See the write-up elsewhere in this issue.

KEVIN MICHKI (1994)

Kevin is starting a new position as Technical Services Consultant for the NIOGA Library System in Lewiston, NY. Kevin retired from SUNY Fredonia after 27 years as both Music Librarian and Systems Librarian but cannot seem to keep out of the profession.

PAMELA ROSE (1995)

Pamela is celebrating 60 years of service with the University Libraries at the University at Buffalo. As noted by the UB Libraries, "Her unwavering commitment and countless contributions have shaped generations of students, faculty and colleagues. We are proud to celebrate Pam's extraordinary milestone."

SCOTT HOLLANDER (1996)

Scott has been invited to serve on the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Learning Network Committee for a two-year term starting January 1, 2025. Scott is Chief of Staff; Director of Communications and Associate University Librarian for Distinctive Collections at the University Libraries, University at Buffalo.

MARK DE JONG (1999)

In January 2025, Mark became Director of the Library at the U.S. Naval War College.

2000s

NANCY WARREN (2002)

In July 2024, Nancy became the Director of Knowledge Management at Phillips Lytle, LLP. She has been part of Phillips Lytle's information services department, working as a research specialist from 2012-2021 and then as the Library & Information Services Manager prior to taking on this new role.

JANIECE JANKOWSKI (2003)

Janiece recently retired after 28 years with the University Libraries at the University at Buffalo. Among her most valued achievements: the time she spent working with students. "I really enjoyed working with the students — watching them grow and change over time. That was rewarding," she said. Though retired, Janiece will now take on the role of UUP's university wide officer for retirees at UB.

MEGAN MOELBERT (2003)

Megan was awarded the 2025 Library All-Star Award by the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC).

MICHELLE ZAFRON (2003)

Michelle and UB Libraries colleagues Erin Rowley (2009) and Carolyn Klotzbach-Russell (2013) were recipients of the Luminary Award and were recognized for their contributions to UB's Startup and Innovation Collaboratory (CoLab) at the 2024 Panasci Technology Entrepreneurship Competition in April 2024. Michelle is the Coordinator, Reference and Education Services at the Health Sciences Library at the University at Buffalo.

DEBORAH CHIARELLA (2007)

Deborah was awarded the 2025 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. Deborah is the liaison to both the Departments of Music and Theatre and Dance for the University Libraries, University at Buffalo.

AMY HENDERSON (2009)

After 15 years as an Adult Services Librarian for the Monroe County Library System, Amy began a new position as Community Educator for Monroe County's Office of Traffic Safety in August 2024.

ERIN ROWLEY (2009)

Erin and UB Libraries colleagues Michelle Zafron (2003) and Carolyn Klotzbach-Russell (2013) were recipients of the Luminary Award and were recognized for their contributions to UB's Startup and Innovation Collaboratory (CoLab) at the 2024 Panasci Technology Entrepreneurship Competition in April 2024.

Erin and her co-authors received the 2025 ASEE-ELD Best Publication Award for their article, "Systematic Reviews in the Engineering Literature: A Scoping Review." The study examines how systematic review methods are used in engineering research, highlighting key implications for STEM librarianship.

With UB Libraries colleague Amanda McCormick (2014), Erin published an article, Cancelling the 'Big Deal' at a Public University: A Discussion of STEM Faculty Perceptions of Cancellation and Post-Cancellation Usage Data in Practical Academic Librarianship: The International Journal of the SLA Academic Division. (See the full citations in the Alumni Publications section of this newsletter).

Erin has been the Head of Science & Engineering Library Services at the University at Buffalo since 2018.

JOCELYN SWICK-JEMISON (2009)

After 5 years as an Undergraduate Education Librarian in the University at Buffalo's University Libraries, Jocelyn became the Data Services Librarian for UB's Health Sciences Library. A large part of her position is to support UB researchers and to assist with data management and sharing plans to comply with NIH and other federal regulations. Jocelyn co-authored, with fellow UB Information Science alums Nicole Thomas (2012), Keith Nichols (2012) and Bryan Sajecki (2013) the article "Evaluating Annotated Bibliographies in a First-Year Writing and Rhetoric Course Based off 4-Weeks of Scaffolded Instruction," published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries*. The study analyzes student work and highlights the need for deeper integration of the ACRL Framework and librarian collaboration. Jocelyn co-authored the paper, "Transitioning to Tenure-Track Librarianship: Exploring the Challenges and Changes to Practice," presented at ACRL 2025 with UB Dept. of Information Science alums Jessica Hollister (2019), Molly K. Maloney (2013), and Nicole Thomas (2012).

2010s

ROBERTA (ROBIN) SULLIVAN (2010)

After 26 years at the University at Buffalo, Robin retired from her position as Head of Media Services and Educational Technologies Librarian for the University Libraries University at Buffalo. Read more about Robin's accomplishments and successes at <https://library.buffalo.edu/news/spotlights/2024/12/robin-sullivan.html>

NICOLE LAMOREAUX (2011)

As of October 2024, Nicole became the Director of Library Services, LIM College, New York, NY.

JILLIAN SUAREZ (2011)

In June 2024, Jillian became the Associate Director, Research Services, at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library. Previously, she had been Head of Library Services at the Museum of Modern Art and a Librarian at the Guggenheim Museum.

KEITH NICHOLS (2012)

Keith co-authored the book chapter "Pedagogy in Practice: Bolstering an Instruction Program with Critical Information Literacy," featured in *Critical Information Literacy Applications for All Libraries*. His coauthors are UB Dept. of Information Science alums, Bryan Sajecki (2013) and Nicole Thomas (2013). He also co-

authored, with Thomas, Sajecki and Jocelyn Swick-Jemison (2009) the article "Evaluating Annotated Bibliographies in a First-Year Writing and Rhetoric Course Based off 4-Weeks of Scaffolded Instruction," published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries*. The study analyzes student work and highlights the need for deeper integration of the ACRL Framework and librarian collaboration. Keith is the Public Health and Health Professions Liaison Librarian at the University at Buffalo's Health Sciences Library.

KRISTEN SQUIRE (2012)

In February 2025, Kristen was promoted to Vice President AI Enablement at Edelman Holdings.

NICOLE THOMAS (2012)

Nicole co-authored the book chapter "Pedagogy in Practice: Bolstering an Instruction Program with Critical Information Literacy," featured in *Critical Information Literacy Applications for All Libraries*. Her coauthors are UB Dept. of Information Science alums, Keith Nichols (2012) and Bryan Sajecki (2013). She also co-authored, with Nichols, Sajecki and Jocelyn Swick-Jemison (2009) the article "Evaluating Annotated Bibliographies in a First-Year Writing and Rhetoric Course Based off 4-Weeks of Scaffolded Instruction," published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries*. The study analyzes student work and highlights the need for deeper integration of the ACRL Framework and librarian collaboration. Nicole also co-authored the paper, "Transitioning to Tenure-Track Librarianship: Exploring the Challenges and Changes to Practice," presented at ACRL 2025 with UB Dept. of Information Science alums Jessica Hollister (2019), Molly K. Maloney (2013), and Jocelyn Swick-Jemison (2009). Nicole is the Undergraduate Nursing Liaison Librarian at the University at Buffalo's Health Sciences Library.

ESTHER JACKSON (2013)

In August 2025, Esther became the Head of Open Scholarship at Columbia University.

BREDNY RODRIGUEZ (2013)

In November 2024, Bredny began a new position as Head of Library Access and Outreach Services at University of San Diego.

CAROLYN KLOTZBACH-RUSSELL (2013)

Carolyn was recently awarded tenure as UB's Social Sciences Librarian and promoted to Associate Librarian. She recently published an article on government documents in *Collection Management* (see the list of alumni publications elsewhere in

this issue.

Carolyn and UB Libraries colleagues Michelle Zafron (2003) and Erin Rowley (2009) were recipients of the Luminary Award and were recognized for their contributions to UB's Startup and Innovation Collaboratory (CoLab) at the 2024 Panasci Technology Entrepreneurship Competition in April 2024. Carolyn is Social Sciences Librarian for the University Libraries, University at Buffalo.

MOLLY K. MALONEY (2013)

Molly has been elected as the Chair-Elect for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Drug Information and Library Science Section! She also co-authored an article, "Systematic review of venous thromboembolism (VTE) occurrence in hospitalized patients receiving prophylactic unfractionated heparin twice vs. three times daily," published in *The Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis*. She also co-authored the paper, "Transitioning to Tenure-Track Librarianship: Exploring the Challenges and Changes to Practice," presented at ACRL 2025 with UB Dept. of Information Science alums Jessica Hollister (2019), Jocelyn Swick-Jemison (2009), and Nicole Thomas (2012). Molly is the Pharmacy Liaison Librarian for the Health Sciences Library at the University at Buffalo.

BRYAN SAJECKI (2013)

Bryan co-authored the book chapter "Pedagogy in Practice: Bolstering an Instruction Program with Critical Information Literacy," featured in *Critical Information Literacy Applications for All Libraries*. His coauthors are UB Dept. of Information Science alums, Nicole Thomas (2012) and Keith Nichols (2012). He also co-authored, with Thomas, Nichols and Jocelyn Swick-Jemison (2009) the article "Evaluating Annotated Bibliographies in a First-Year Writing and Rhetoric Course Based off 4-Weeks of Scaffolded Instruction," published in *College & Undergraduate Libraries*. The study analyzes student work and highlights the need for deeper integration of the ACRL Framework and librarian collaboration. Bryan is the Social Sciences, Student Support, and Instruction Librarian at the University at Buffalo Libraries.

MICHELLE UNGER (2013)

In July 2025, Michelle began a position as a training specialist at Lawley, an independent regional insurance firm specializing in property, casualty, and personal insurance, employee benefits, and risk management consulting.

AMANDA LOWE (2014)

Amanda has been awarded the 2025 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. She is the Outreach and Marketing Librarian at the University of Albany. In 2024, she was awarded the President's Excellence Award for Librarianship.

AMANDA MCCORMICK (2014)

Amanda was awarded tenure in her position as Faculty Services Librarian at the Charles Sears Law Library, University at Buffalo Law School. She and UB Libraries colleague Erin Rowley (2009) also published an article, Cancelling the 'Big Deal' at a Public University: A Discussion of STEM Faculty Perceptions of Cancellation and Post-Cancellation Usage Data in Practical Academic Librarianship: The International Journal of the SLA Academic Division. She was also a co-author on The Use of Preprints in Doctorate Programs: A Citation Analysis Study of Trends in Chemistry and Physics Dissertations published in ISTL: Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship. (See the full citations in the Alumni Publications section of this newsletter).

KAITLYN SMITH (2014)

Kaitlyn had been awarded the New York State Library Association's Public Librarian of the Year. You can see the write-up elsewhere in this issue. Kaitlyn is Teen Services Librarian at Wood Library in Canandaigua, NY.

SARAH PATTON (2016)

In November 2024 Sarah became the Lead User Services Librarian at the University at Buffalo Libraries.

GEORGE TOCCO (2016)

In November 2024, George became a Collection Development Librarian at Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library System.

TOMMY BUTTACCIO (2017)

In January 2025, Tommy began a new position as User Services Librarian and Evening Information Desk Supervisor at the University Libraries, University at Buffalo.

MARC COURSEY (2017)

Marc has been promoted to Data Analyst III at MidFirst Bank in Oklahoma City, OK and recently earned his MBA at the University of Oklahoma.

ZACHARY BASLER (2018)

In fall 2024, Zach completed an MA in Youth Literature at Dominican University. Zach is the Department Head Librarian for Adult and Teen Services at Mobile Public Library

in Mobile, AL. Zach has also published his first three book reviews found in the September and December 2024 issues of School Library Journal.

JESS MAXFIELD (2018)

In October 2024, Jess began a new position as a Student Success Coach at Monroe Community College (NY). Jess also earned an MA in History from UB in 2023.

JESSICA HOLLISTER (2019)

In 2024, Jessica began a new position as the Dental Liaison Librarian at the University at Buffalo's Health Sciences Library. She also co-authored the paper, "Transitioning to Tenure-Track Librarianship: Exploring the Challenges and Changes to Practice," presented at ACRL 2025 with UB Dept. of Information Science alums Molly K. Maloney (2013), Jocelyn Swick-Jemison (2009), and Nicole Thomas (2012).

2020s

RACHEL VELLA-GARRIDO (2023)

In January 2025, Rachel began a new position as Student Success Librarian at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga, NY.

AMANDA ANDERSON (2024)

In October 2024, Amanda began a new position as Director of the Community Free Library in Holly, NY.

KEN AXFORD (2024)

Ken is working as a Project Archivist for the University at Buffalo Archives. He is working on the WBFO Project Archives and the history of WBFO. The collection includes rare recordings, archival records, and the station's journey from a student-run initiative in the 1950s to a founding NPR member.

AYIANA CRABTREE (2024)

In October 2024, Ayiana was elected to be Chair-Elect of the Northeast Chapter of the Association for Information Science & Technology (NEASIS&T). They presented a poster "The Role of Academic Libraries in AI Literacy Education" at ACRL 2025 in Minneapolis, MN and "Academic Libraries in the Age of AI: The Importance of Information Literacy Education" at the 2025 ASIS&T Virtual Satellite Meeting. Ayiana also presented "Libraries and AI: Combating Misinformation through Information Literacy" at the Florida Virtual Campus Professional Development Alliance in October 2025.

DEVERELL, RICHARD (2024)

Richard received a travel grant from the American Historical Association to attend the January 2025 conference in New York

City, where he learned more about archival studies and personal histories in addition to networking with colleagues researching cultural and comic book history. Richard also married his fiancée, Xuening Kong, a PhD candidate at Purdue University studying modern Chinese history, in a ceremony at UB's Center for Tomorrow in December 2024.

HUMAIRA MALAM (2024)

Humaira, was awarded the Ambassador of the Year Award by the United Way of Greater Toronto and the Toronto Public Library. Humaira is a Librarian for the Toronto Public Library.

SHANQING (JENNIFER) MO (2024)

In late 2024, Jennifer began a new position as a systems librarian at Toronto Metropolitan University Libraries.

VANESSA ALTAMURA (2025)

Vanessa has been promoted to Librarian I at Middle County Public Library in Centereach, NY.

DEATHS

JODY E. LEBRENZ (1993)

Jody Lebrezn passed away May 15, 2024 in Tonawanda, NY. After serving in active duty as an Air Force communications officer for 8 years, including during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Jody left active duty at the rank of Captain to enroll in what was then the School of Information and Library Studies (SILS) at the University at Buffalo in January 1992. He worked as a public librarian, school librarian, and an academic librarian in WNY. Alongside Bob Gurn, his supervisor and great friend at the BECPL's central library, as well as with other colleagues, he helped introduce countless librarians to the emerging Internet in the 1990s. He was also a gifted artist (pottery, portraiture, drawing, knitting, cigar box guitars, bicycle building/repair, permaculture design gardening, and more) and an avid spiritual explorer. He is survived by a fellow SILS '93 graduate, his wife, Patty (Crosby) Lebrezn.

[NOTES]

We would love to hear from more alumni for our next issue of *The Informed*. Please contact Dr. Brenda Battleson White at blb@buffalo.edu or feel free to post your news to the LIS alumni list, is-alumni-list@listserv.buffalo.edu.

2025 PHD GRADUATE LAUREEN CANTWELL-JURKOVIC RECEIVES THE 2025 ALISE EUGENE GARFIELD DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AWARD!



Dr. Laureen Cantwell-Jurkovic, a 2024 doctoral graduate, has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Award! This prestigious national award recognizes outstanding dissertation research in the field of library and information science. Laureen’s work stood out for its rigor, relevance, and contribution to the advancement of the field.

Dr. Cantwell-Jurkovic’s dissertation, “How Reference and Instruction Academic Librarians Engage in Caring Labor: A Mixed-Methods Study and Proposed Theory of Coactive Caring” examined the act of caring, and how one goes about caring among

academic librarians engaged in public services work. This study focused on the experiences, attitudes, behaviors, and mindsets of academic librarians in anticipation of developing a unique theory of care for their caring labor. The results, findings, and proposed theory suggest avenues by which LIS may better understand itself on a theoretical level, better prepare LIS students for the field, better prepare administrators for leadership and management roles, and facilitate further study on research assistance, instruction, and other student-patron engaged work, to name a few of many possibilities.

JEN BYRNES IS A 2025 ALA MOVER AND SHAKER - INNOVATOR

Jen Byrnes (1998) has been honored as a “2025 Mover and Shaker—Innovator” by the American Library Association. She is Director of the Business Insight Center / Digital Equity Initiative at the Rochester (NY) Public Library (RPL). Jen has been involved in business outreach at RPL since 2017 and Director of the Business Insight Center since 2019. Besides an MLS, Jen also earned an MPH in Public Health from the University of Rochester.

RPL’s Business Insight Center visits local firms, business incubators, and accelerators to save them time and money—e.g., by preventing them from paying for reports that the library has and from applying for the wrong licenses. Byrnes says that a frequent response is, “Wow, you can do that?”

You can read more about Jen’s honor at <https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/jen-byrnes-movers-shakers-2025-innovators>



ELIZABETH ADELMAN HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIANSHIP



Beth (1994) was named the 2025 recipient of the Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional and sustained contributions to the field. She also received the ALL-SIS Book Award for Organizational Structures of Academic Law Libraries: Past, Present, and Future, Volume 2 (Jessica de Perio Wittman & Elizabeth G. Adelman, eds., 2024). These prestigious honors were presented by the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section (ALL-SIS) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) —the nation’s leading organization for law librarians and legal information professionals.



ALAN LONG INTRODUCES BOSTON AUDIENCES TO THE LIBRARY OF THINGS

Alan Long (2025) is the Supervisor of Material Services at Newton (MA) Free Library was interviewed by NBC Boston to show off Newton Free Library’s Library of Things (LoT) collection. “Essentially, it’s a non-traditional collection of items that ranges throughout a variety of categories. Currently, we have over 800 items and that accounts for something like 5,000 circulations per year. The idea behind it is really to try to get items that patrons might not otherwise buy for themselves or necessarily have the means to purchase.”



Alan points out that the collection has everything from record turntables and assistive devices to ukuleles and VR headsets. He shared that having done multiple projects on LoT collections as a UB IS student helped prepare him for his current role.

You can read about Newton’s LoT collection and view the interview with Alan at <https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/things-you-borrow-library/3739451/>

KAITLYN SMITH IS NAMED NYLA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2025



The New York State Library Association has named Kaitlyn Smith, Teen Services Librarian at Wood Library in Canandaigua, NY, Public Librarian of the Year for 2025. This honor is awarded to a public librarian who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and service within the library community. According to her nominator, “Katie has gone above and beyond in her role, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where teens feel empowered to be themselves. Her work has not only increased youth engagement with library services, but has also created a lasting impact on the lives of the young people she serves. Many of these teens have grown into strong library advocates, with some even choosing to pursue careers in librarianship — a direct reflection of Katie’s influence and mentorship. Her efforts clearly demonstrate the value of public libraries and enhance the image of librarians as community leaders and educators.”

Congratulations, Katie!

ELIZABETH PORTILLO INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF THE LIBRARY WORKER SUPPORT NETWORK

Elizabeth Portillo (2015) is the Head of Youth Services at Finkelstein Memorial Library in Spring Valley, NY and is part of a group that created the Library Worker Support Network (LWSN), which is a virtual peer support network for library workers, organized and run by library workers. This group was created in response to the [Urban Library Trauma Study](#), published in 2022 by Urban Libraries Unite. With support from a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), LWSN was designed in 2024 to serve as a supportive community as well as a space for ideating change in library workplaces.

When asked if the recent cuts to IMLS have impacted the LWSN, Elizabeth reports that the cancellation of the funding “definitely makes it harder, but we have a dedicated group of people, and it is still going strong.”

Learn more about the LWSN at <https://libraryworkersupport.org>.



Doctoral Students and Faculty Well Represented at the 2024 ASIST and ALISE Conferences

Faculty and students in the UB Department of Information Science (IS) were busy during the 2024-25 academic year. The Department had a great showing at the 2024 Association for Information Science & Technology Conference (ASIST) in Calgary, Canada as well as the 2024 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Conference in Portland Oregon. **Dr. Sam Dodson, Dr. Heidi Julien, Dr. Saguna Shankar** and **Dr. Amy VanScoy** presented papers and/ or posters. Also co-presenting with faculty were current PhD students **Jane Bartley, Jesus Montiel, Hassan Mortada** and **Amy Moy**.

Recent MS alumni were also represented with Dr. Julien presenting with MS alum **Owen Stewart-Robertson** and **Dr. VanScoy** presenting with MS alum **Ayiana Crabtree**. UB IS scholars at ASIST were featured in a Graduate School of Education article, "[Championing Human-Centered Information Research](#)."



L-R: Dr. Saguna Shankar, PhD students Jane Bartley and Jesus Montiel, Mary Montiel, Dr. Sam Dodson, Dr. Amy VanScoy, Dr. Heidi Julien, and PhD student Kayla Burt.



Faculty at the ALISE conference.
L-R: Dr. Amy VanScoy, Dr. Sam Dodson,
Dr. Africa Hands & Dr. Heidi Julien.

At ALISE 2024, **Dr. Africa Hands** presented "Positioning LIS Students for Career Success." **Drs. Julien** and **VanScoy** participated in a panel discussing "The role of the theory in the MLIS curriculum." **Dr. Julien** presented with **Jesus Montiel** and others on information literacy practices and pre-service librarians while **Dr. Shankar** and MS student (now alum) **Hannah Krull** presented "Learning from community-based efforts toward interdependence and shared responsibility for climate and environmental justice."



ASIST and ALISE were not the only conferences with a UB IS presence. **Dr. Xi Lu** presented 4 papers at the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems in Yokohama, Japan. Department faculty and PhD students also presented at the 2024 Information Seeking in Context (ISIC) Conference in Aalborg, Denmark; at iConference 2025, at Indiana University; the 2025 Libraries in the Digital Age Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia; the Australasian Public Library Conference-2025 in New South Wales, Australia; and the 2025 International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS), in Glasgow, Scotland, among others.



UB US at the 2024 ISIC Conference.
L-R: Dr. Africa Hands, PhD student Kayla Burt,
Dr. Amy VanScoy and Dr. Heidi Julien.

Dr. Heidi Julien Is Awarded ASIS&T's 2025 Award of Merit

The Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) announced that Dr. Heidi Julien is the recipient of the 2025 ASIS&T Award of Merit, the highest honor presented by the Association. The award's purpose is to recognize an individual who has made particularly noteworthy and sustained contributions to the information science field. The award is based on 3 criteria: impact on theory, scholarship, and practice; exemplary leadership and sustained involvement; and education and mentoring.

In nominating Dr. Julien, Diane H. Sonnenwald said, "Professor Heidi Julien has been an international leader in information science for over three decades. She is a leading scholar in information literacy and human information

behavior, and has been identified as one of the most prestigious academic researchers in North America based on her numerous publications in prestigious journals and the citations to those publications. ... Throughout her career, Professor Julien has helped countless students and junior faculty worldwide."



Dr. Julien will receive the award during the 2025 meeting of ASIS&T which will be held 14-18 November 2025 in Crystal City, VA.

Dr. Sam Abramovich Is an Inaugural SUNY "AI for the Public Good" Fellow



— including the effective and ethical use of AI, and teaching students to critically evaluate AI-generated content."

SUNY has selected Dr. Sam Abramovich as one of 20 inaugural AI for the Public Good Fellows. As Grace Gerass reports, "the fellows will serve as a resource for SUNY's colleges and universities, providing targeted support for faculty and staff working to update courses and learning activities to incorporate AI literacy

Dr. Abramovich's research focuses on assessing learning objectives and notes that, "the data says the majority of kids are using AI in K-12 and in higher education, and they're certainly going to use it in the workforce. To me, this means we have to really rethink how we're creating assessments, providing feedback and helping people learn how to use AI." One of his efforts is working with Erie 1 BOCES educators (in Western New York) to build a series of micro-credentials and digital badges that K-12 teachers can use to better understand how to use AI.

You can read more about Dr. Abramovich's work at <https://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2025/10/abramovich-suny-ai-fellow.html>

Dr. Xi Lu Wins a Best Paper Award at 2025 Chi Conference

Dr. Xi Lu is a co-author of "Towards Hormone Health: An Autoethnography of Long-Term Holistic Tracking to Manage PCOS," a paper which received one of the Best Paper Awards at the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems in Yokohama, Japan. Dr. Lu presented three additional papers at the 2025 CHI conference.



Drs. Hands and Vanscoy Present at LIDA 2025 in Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dr. Africa Hands and Dr. Amy VanScoy presented at the 2025 Libraries and Information Institutions in the Digital Age (LIDA) Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia in May 2025. LIDA is an international biennial conference that brings together researchers, educators, students, practitioners, & developers from around the world. Of course, no visit to Dubrovnik would be complete without a bit of sightseeing.



Dr. Hands visits the public library in Dubrovnik.



UB Bull was also sightseeing throughout Croatia. See the pictures at the end of this issue.

Congratulations to Mary Jo Sicurella!



Mary Jo Sicurella, the School Librarianship Coordinator for the Dept. of Information Science, has earned a second master's degree from the UB Graduate School of Education. Having earned her MLS from UB in 1998, Mary Jo just completed an EdM in Education Studies focusing on Higher Education. She continues to guide UB School Librarianship students through the program to their required New York State Certification as both school librarians and teachers.

UB Information Science PhD Students Hassan Mortada and Jane Bartley Receive 2025 ASIS&T New Leaders Awards



Hassan Mortada is a PhD candidate and the Arabic Language Cataloging Librarian at Princeton University. His work bridges metadata creation, inclusive cataloging practices, and global knowledge access. With advanced degrees in Library and Information Science, Nonprofit Management, and

Middle Eastern Studies, Hassan brings a multidisciplinary lens to questions of equity and representation in knowledge systems. His current research critically examines how the term “immigrant” is defined and operationalized within library and information science (LIS), arguing for more context-sensitive, power-aware conceptualizations. Drawing from critical theory and postcolonial thought, he explores how empire, biopolitics, and classification systems shape immigrant identities and information behaviors.



Jane Bartley is a PhD student and a full-time digital archivist at Virginia Military Institute. She holds a BS in mechanical engineering from Florida State University, an MS in technical communications from Northeastern University, and an MLIS from the University of Missouri. Her dissertation

research relates to disaster studies and focuses on how disaster response genres facilitate intra- and inter-organizational response.

Receiving the news of the award, Bartley said, “I am deeply honored and excited to receive the ASIS&T New Leaders Award! I am grateful for the encouragement and support of my advisors, peers, and the ASIS&T community as I continue to learn and grow in the information science field. This opportunity will allow me to more actively engage with the organization, collaborate with others, and gain valuable insight from my mentor.”

PhD Student Kayla Burt Reflects on ASIST Annual Conference



Kayla Burt attended and presented at the 2024 Association for Information Science & Technology Annual Conference in Calgary, AB, Canada in November 2024. As a Northeast ASIST Chapter Conference Support Award

Recipient, she provided her reflections of the meeting.

Kayla wrote, “Conferences like ASIS&T focus on much more than sessions; they center on connections. I was looking forward to connecting with my peers and faculty from UB. One evening, we

shared laughter and stories over dinner, with football and hockey games playing in the background (Go, Bills! Go, Sabres!), which added to the camaraderie.”

“I also made meaningful connections with attendees from other institutions. ... like sharing an Uber with doctoral students and faculty from Syracuse University, [which] reinforced the sense of community that permeated the entire conference. It was a powerful reminder that while my support network at UB is incredible, there are others across the globe who share my passion for this field and are equally generous with their guidance and encouragement.”

You can read more of Kayla's reflections at

<https://www.asist.org/2024/12/04/reflections-from-the-asist-annual-meeting-connections-collaboration-and-new-ideas-kayla-burt/>

BOBINSKI LECTURE | *Dr. Ranjit Singh*



Dr. Ranjit Singh

The Department of Information Science was honored to host Dr. Ranjit Singh as our 2025 Bobinski Lecture speaker, presented on April 28, 2025.

In his presentation “Between Model Misbehavior and AI Harms: Red-Teaming in the Public Interest” Dr. Singh discussed GenAI red-teaming, which has emerged as both a stress-testing strategy and

a way to engage the public in critical discussions about AI safety. Drawing on collaborative research, Dr. Singh proposes

red-teaming as an ongoing, collective inquiry that balances experimentation with addressing AI risks.

Dr. Singh is a senior researcher at Data & Society’s AI on the Ground team, conducting qualitative research for the Algorithmic Impact Methods Lab (AIMLab). His work focuses on evaluating and regulating algorithmic systems’ impact on daily life while promoting research ethics and equity. His research explores AI infrastructures, majority world scholarship, and public policy using qualitative sociology and ethnography. At D&S, he has examined AI’s conceptual vocabulary, algorithmic impact assessments, and datafied governance. Ranjit earned a PhD from Cornell, studying Aadhaar’s role in shaping Indian citizenship and inclusive development.

This lecture series is supported by The George and Mary Bobinski Lecture Fund. George S. Bobinski, Emeritus Professor and former Dean, School of Information and Library Studies, is a library historian and noted scholar. Mary Bobinski was a former director of the 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 science.

The Department hosts a series of research seminars each year, bringing in scholars from around the world to share their work and ideas with faculty and students. These talks are recorded, and are available for viewing at: <https://ed.buffalo.edu/information/research/seminar-series.html>.

This past year we were pleased to host the following scholars.



Steven B. Sawyer, Ph.D.
School of Information Studies
Syracuse University
“Trajectories of Knowledge Work:
Evidence From an Online Freelance
Labor Market”
September 12, 2024



Ali Fauzi, Ph.D.
Department of Library and
Information Science
Universiti Malaya
“Publishing Patterns and
Pressures: Exploring
Malaysian Academics’ Scholarly
Publication Practices”
November 7, 2024



Ina Fourie, Ph.D.
School of Information Technology
University of Pretoria, South Africa
“Multimethod Research: Deepening
Insight Into the Context and Information
Behavior of Marginalized Communities”
March 13th, 2025



Robin Brewer, Ph.D.
School of Information
University of Michigan
“AI, Information, and Care:
Can They Co-Exist?”
May 8, 2025

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

-----> MS IN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

Continuing with recent years' trend of increase, the MS in Information and Library Science saw a total of 315 applications reviewed for admissions in the 2024-2025 academic year. 203 of these applicants were accepted with 186 of them eventually enrolled as new students. 111 students successfully completed their MS-ILS program of study and received the Master of Science degree. Like in previous years, we are pleased to see MS-ILS students involved with professional organizations and present their work at regional and national conferences, as demonstrated by a number of presentations by our students in this issue.

-Dr. Jianqiang Wang, MS in Information and Library Science Program Director

MS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP <-----

The MS in School Librarianship program is proud to have had its first two graduates of the combined BA English/MS School Librarianship program receive their diplomas this past spring. The MS in School Librarianship program continues to grow with 147 students enrolled in the program this fall, with 32 graduates in the spring 2025 semester. Library Media Specialist once again appears on the Teacher Shortage List for the 2025-2026 school year, so in addition to the temporary supplementary and internship certificates, the state has also tried to alleviate the shortage by enacting a limited exemption where already certified teachers in other areas only must complete 50 hours of student teaching in the library environment as part of their certification requirements.

-Mary Jo Sicurella, School Librarianship Program Coordinator

-----> DOCTORAL PROGRAM



PhD Students

Back, l-r: Nesba Adzobu Armah, Romini Marazzato-Sparano, Amy Moy, Brianna Buljung.
Front, l-r: Jesus Monteil, Yoshi Guy

This has been another exciting year for the doctoral program! We welcomed four new doctoral students into our community and continue to be inspired by the achievements of our current students and recent graduates. We are especially proud to share that Dr. Laureen Cantwell, one of our recent graduates, has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 ALISE Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Award, a prestigious recognition of her outstanding research.

Our students are also actively contributing to the field, presenting their work at major conferences such as ASIS&T, the iConference, and ALISE. These professional engagements highlight the success of our students and showcase the depth and breadth of the scholarship in our program.

-Dr. Ying Sun, PhD Program Director

DLIS [STUDENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES]

Welcome

The Information Science Graduate Student Association (IS-GSA) is excited to welcome new and returning students to the Information Science Department. The purpose of the IS-GSA is to create lasting interpersonal and professional connections and form a valuable network amongst both current students and alumni. Our mission is to assist students in strengthening skills in public speaking, resume building, professional development, leadership, and other vital things to know in the library field through peer-to-peer learning and connections with faculty. We're looking forward to an exciting new academic year!

Our Board Election

This past spring, we had a competitive election for our executive board positions - with over 10 students expressing interest in running for positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Our board members are: Meagan Kimick - President, Ian Blyt - Vice President, Frederick Yampolsky - Secretary, and Ashleigh Dernier - Treasurer.

Events

The IS-GSA remains committed to fostering a community of connection for all students in the Information Science Department. As our students prioritize their academic, professional, and personal lives, our goal is to communicate with folks as succinctly and accessible as possible. This academic year, we will host our monthly IS-GSA meetings where our board will meet with students to discuss the program, our association, or any other information science related topics. We'll also host academic information sessions to

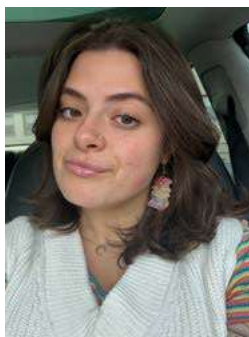
assist graduating students in completing all tasks before they graduate, including their Portfolio requirements.

Discord

In addition to encouraging connection through events, the IS-GSA has a student-only Discord server. This server is a space for students and alumni only, to chat freely about experiences with courses, discuss hobbies, share memes, and more. This server has proven to be an integral part of our association as it keeps student connection and builds friendship. At the current moment, there are about 400 students and alumni on the server. If you are a student or alumni interested in joining our Discord server, please join using the following link: <https://bit.ly/ub-is-gsa-discord>.

Staying Connected

If you're a current or new student and are interested in getting involved with the IS-GSA this upcoming semester, or have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at mrkimick@buffalo.edu. If you'd like more information about the IS-GSA, check out our website at <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/sgsa/>.



Thanks for reading,

Meagan Kimick (she/her)
IS-Graduate Student
Association (IS-GSA)

BETA PHI MU INDUCTEES 2024

Beta Phi Mu is the international library science honor society. It was founded in 1948 to recognize and encourage scholastic achievement among library and information studies students. The following Inductees were invited to join the honor society by UB IS Faculty.

Wafa H. Ahmed

Kenneth A. Axford

Amealia L. Brousseau

Ayiana Crabtree

Richard D. Deverell

Samuel Egan

Lise H. Hall

Madelyn Herb

Samuel Horstmann

Shannen A. Kaufman

Lauren Sosnowski

Eric Stiller



2024-2025

[SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED]

DR. MARIE ROSS WOLCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Lisa Acevedo
Cailin Oneal

E. ALBERTA RIGGS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Megan O'Shaughnessy

JOSEPH B. ROUNDS FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Sydney King
Maude Muto
Jason Vitetta
Yining Wu

PRISCILLA "NELL" LARAWAY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Kenji Kaneshiro

A. BENJAMIN AND HELEN RAVIN SCHOLARSHIP

Amber Ambrose
Adelina DiPalo
Alan Long
Mercy Wamunyima Monde
Shayan Salehirad
Aloysius Mwanje Senono
Christine Tenhaeff
Katerina Valajcavska
Katie Zehr

MARY B. CASSATA LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Kimberly Carlo
Tova Harris
Ashley Sanders
Emily Wiest

***Sincere thanks to our adjunct professors who
shared their expertise with our students in 2024-25!***

Ken Fujiuchi

Jim Belair

Angela M. Boccuzzi-Reichert

Anne M. Bouvier

Rhys Elia

Nathan E. Grassi

Jonathan D. Grunert

Christopher V. Hollister

Kathleen M. Jaccarino

Sara J. Manus

Mark F. McBride

Toni Olivas

Sarah E. Patton

Molly Dahl Poremski

Erin M. Rowley

Liz Stellrecht

Marcy Ann Strong

[CONFERRALS]

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

SUMMER 2024 TO SPRING 2025!



Donna Rassmussen celebrates at commencement in May 2025.



ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE ←-----○

Kisha M. Sawyers

MS IN INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE ←-----○

Vanessa V. Altamura
Robin P. Ambrosino
Edward Archer
Sydni R. Baldwin
Meredith Baron
Karel A. Bott
Lindsey Bradley
Samantha Brandal
Joe Brondo
Sara J. Brush
Molly G. Budziszewski
Emma J. Bull-Macris
Caroline Carr
Corina M. Carr
Nicholas B. Cisco
Jasmine Cordero
Elizabeth J. Croop
Marissa L. Damiano
Tina Daube
Adelina M. DiPalo
Christine M. Dohl Peace
Cassandra Dorien
Kimberly DuBrey
Clare Dunn
Langston J. Epps
Liana R. Espinosa
Vinny Farias da Silva Anderson
Daniela J. Ferrigno

Matthew Filipski
Allison Franzese
Tess Gibala-Broxholm
Leslie Giegerich
Allegra Giovine
Christina Guccione
Amanda Gusman
Samantha Haase
Austin Hahn
Maxine Hannam
Stephanie Haskell
Nina Hill
Samuel Horstmann
Emma Howard
Megan Hutto
Ameera Imran
Jennifer R. Itzkin
Heather Ivory
Jenn Jordan
Kay A. Jordan-Wilkie
Kenji Kaneshiro
Gabi Kelly
Irina Kirilina
Nicholas Knab
Joseph LaFrance
Emily Laufer
Tim Lavis
Tasha M. Lee

Jackie A. Leone
Carol Lockhart
Alan E. Long
Erin Loughran
Naomi R. Love
Benjamin Lovell
Kristina MacHarg
Ana E. Mancia
Quentin Mars
Elis Martinez-Kranz
Samantha L. Matherne
Gabrielle A. Mayorga
Faith Miller
Wes Mogenson
Brooke A. Munella
Drew Neale
Lauren Ngo
Mary F. Nichols
Gina M. Parisi
Jenna M. Peyer
Ally Pleuss
Jessica Post
Haley A. Proios
Isabella M. Ragona
Donna A. Rassmussen
Michael Realmuto
Shirley A. Rice
Freddie Rivera

Nicole Rivera
Alison P. Robles
Susan Romance
Yudelis Romero
Ashley Ronquillo
Ana Gabriela Ruiz
Kayla Saltamach
Chris Sauerwald
Kristen Savastano
Amanda Schelemanow
Daniel Schumacher
Anastasia Sennett
Leon Shek
Samantha Sklar
Ali Spencer
Jadyn K. Stallone
Natalie L. Stansbury
Alexa L. Stephens
Terre Thomas
Metrez-Ellee Tiburccio
Jason Ann Vitetta
Karen J. Wales
Safiya N. Washington
Natasha C. White
Mikaela Wilson
Beth Woodruff

MS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP ←-----○

Amber N. Ambrose
Christin Babcock
Hailey L. Bader
Bekah Bailey
Diana Barry
Amanda Barsi
Danielle Beloten
Josett Bernberg
Erika Brothers
Jessica Bush
Alicia M. Charland

Grace Delaney
Pollyann Demick
Christina Dittmar
Alexa Dumas
Laquanda M. Fields
Sarah Gaeta
Ginta Genender
Krystal Haranin
Kim Hoch
Heather Hodgins
Elizabeth Katzmaier

Benjamin Kutina
Nayomi Saeed Labrador
Elizabeth Locke
Gregory Maddock
Rebecca Mayglothling
Joslin Molow
Emily E. Panek
Abigail Rauvenpoor
Janice Rifenburg
Ashley Sanders
Cassandra V. Slavik

Colleen Spencer
Mackenzie Strum
Colleen Vann
Melissa Vasile
Nicole Vion
Emily Wagner
Shannon Williams
Kelsey M. Wojton
Emma Yusko
Katie Zehr

Ben Poremski

**Program Coordinator and Advisor
MS in Information and Library Science Program**



How long have you been working in the department, and what is your role?

I joined the Department of Information Science (then it was the Department of Library and Information Science) in January 2013. At the time, I came in to help prepare for our 2015 ALA accreditation review — basically a project manager role where I combined my MLS background, from a certain

other ALA-accredited program in NYS, with the ALA Standards for Accreditation. I worked on assessment processes and learning objectives that we still use today.

Over the years I also served as Assistant to the Chair, then did data analytics work for the Graduate School of Education. My current title is Program Coordinator and Advisor for the MS in Information and Library Science (MS-ILS). I help students get started in the program, including helping them pick their first few classes, understand UB and GSE policies, and navigate graduate school from start to finish. I'm first person that MS-ILS students come to when they have questions.

My colleague Mary Jo Sicurella serves a very similar role for the MS in School Librarianship — we largely work in parallel.

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

My wife, Molly Poremski, is an alum of our program. She's now the GSE liaison librarian in UB Libraries and teaches our Reference Services & Methods course (LIS 518). Also making up our family is our eight-year-old daughter who loves books and is currently deciding between becoming an artist or a professional soccer player — possibly both at once — but when pressed she acknowledges that *maybe* she would be a librarian.

We live in University Heights in Buffalo, right next to South Campus, and we're active in our neighborhood association and block club. Buffalo really is the City of Good Neighbors, and we try to do our part to keep it that way.

For hobbies: I collect and listen to records, play guitar and other instruments, and do some home recording on a vintage Tascam four-track. My daughter often joins in — sometimes with vocals, sometimes with percussion, and sometimes with whatever interesting object she finds that makes the best noise. It always improves the recording. I also help coach her soccer team and do some woodcarving when I can.

Why do you like working in this department?

A big part of it is helping students reach their career goals. So many of our students talk about wanting to be librarians since childhood, or about a librarian who opened a door for them. That's powerful, and I want the program to work for them in pursuing their goals no

matter what their lives look like — whether they're recent college graduates, career changers, full-time workers, parents, and/or or caregivers juggling everything at once.

Because the MS-ILS is fully online, asynchronous, and relatively affordable, students have the flexibility to shape school around their lives. My job is to help the program fit their reality, not the other way around.

I also genuinely enjoy the department — the collegiality, the mix of interests, the diversity of faculty and students. We have many practitioners who teach part-time and bring real-world experience from the field, which adds a lot to the student experience.

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

The biggest challenge is balancing the work needed to support the program's continued success with the needs of so many committed students who all deserve individual attention.

I rely on technology and good systems to keep everything organized and make sure no one slips through the cracks. It's a lot to manage, but the goal is always the same: make the program accessible, responsive, and student-centered.

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

Honestly, the best part of the job is watching students get where they're trying to go. I see students come in unsure whether they can juggle work, family, and school — and then I get to see them cross the finish line. Those "I did it" emails never get old. We all love books, but it is gratifying to see students recognize that they also love the work of connecting people to the information they need to thrive (or just to function) in the world. I may not be working in the traditional library profession right now, but I apply what I learned in library school every day a student approaches me with a question.

I also appreciate being able to help when someone hits a rough patch. Sometimes a clear answer or a little guidance is exactly what someone needs to keep moving forward in a large online program. All of us — faculty, staff, and others in the GSE and elsewhere at UB — work together to make sure that our program supports the success of our students in all their circumstances.

And hearing from alumni who have gone on to become librarians, archivists, or information professionals, and who are genuinely happy in their lives and making a contribution to our field— is incredibly satisfying. It's nice knowing I played a small part in that.

What are your passions?

Professionally, I'm passionate about helping people enter fields that strengthen communities, including libraries, archives, agencies, and other information settings — all the quiet but essential corners of the knowledge world. These are service-oriented professions, and I really believe in that mission.



Matthew is a 1996 graduate and is currently the Director of the John M. Lilley Library at Penn State University – Behrend in Erie, Pennsylvania.

How have you been putting your degree to work?

While I was in the MLS program in the mid-90s, I worked for Academic Services of Computing and Information Technology at UB and used my

IT knowledge and MLS degree to secure positions working for two library automation vendors for the first seven years of my career. This led to a systems librarian position at a law school and nearly five years of working as an academic law librarian at three different institutions. A family move and a desire to be closer to family was the reason for my move back to the East Coast and Pennsylvania, and I have been working as a department head at two different campuses of Penn State University since 2007. I credit the solid foundation in library and information science that I received during my graduate studies at UB for preparing me for a varied and interesting career in a number of library settings.

What has been your most satisfying professional accomplishment thus far?

Two accomplishments come to mind. First was achieving tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Librarian at Penn State in 2013, where I used the knowledge I acquired during my MLS program in research methods, statistical analysis, and academic librarianship to successfully navigate the six-year promotion and tenure process while publishing my first peer-reviewed articles and build a reputation in the field. Second was being elected by the membership of the American Library Association to ALA Council, working with colleagues around the country on issues of importance to libraries, the profession, and the country.

How did your experiences as a student in UB's program prepare you for your current role?

I entered the MLS program directly after completing my BA in English at UB and had no prior experience working in a library. The Department exposed me to many different types of libraries - academic, public, school, and special - and allowed me to explore different paths in librarianship. I enjoyed the research methods and statistical analysis courses and got great exposure to electronic resources and a new and

growing source of information called the internet, which looking back, no one knew how transformational that would be to our lives and work in such a short amount of time. I also met some great colleagues, a few of which I still remain in contact with today, nearly 30 years since I graduated from the program! I also participated as a student member of the American Library Association, an organization that I have been a member of for many years after my MLS program, and one that I have served on many different committees, round tables, and divisions in subsequent years.

What are your passions?

My biggest professional passions are leadership development and mentoring of new librarians and library professionals. Having been in the profession for 30 years, my way of "giving back" is to serve on the leadership committee of the Pennsylvania Library Association's Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS), which offers leadership development courses for Pennsylvania librarians and library professionals. PALS offers two programs annually: The Directors' Institute, geared toward people in key library management positions that may include duties related to library finances, employee hiring, and public library directors working with boards of trustees, and the Leadership Academy, which is a six-month leadership development opportunity for early-career library professionals that allows them to explore and develop their leadership skills in a cohort model while gaining new professional experiences and connections. Both programs employ the Clifton Strengths method of assessing one's personal strengths and using those strengths to develop leadership skills and lead effective teams.

What advice would you give to current students?

Use your time during your graduate studies to explore as many possibilities in library and information science as possible! I was certain during my MLS program that I was destined to be an academic librarian and focused my coursework in this area almost exclusively, but I wish I had broadened my exploration a bit during this time to become a more "well-rounded" librarian. If you think you might want to work in public libraries, take a course in academic librarianship. If you think school media librarianship is your destiny, try to meet some students who are interested in public and academic librarianship. We all share so many commonalities as librarians, but our specializations often have us conversing with those who are most like us. Give exploration a try and you might find a new path you never knew existed!



What led you to undertake doctoral studies?

My decision to pursue doctoral studies was shaped by both professional and personal experiences. As an immigrant working in library and information science (LIS), I became increasingly aware of how deeply power, history, and identity are embedded in

the everyday systems of information access and organization. Many LIS frameworks treat immigration as a neutral category — but lived realities tell a different story. I wanted to interrogate those assumptions and contribute to a more just and critically engaged field. The PhD offered me the space to ask harder questions, to explore interdisciplinary theory, and to push the boundaries of how LIS understands and serves immigrant communities.

Why did you select UB's program?

UB's program offered something rare — a space where critical theory, interdisciplinarity, and social justice were not only welcomed, but encouraged. I completed my MS in Information and Library Science here and was continually inspired by the faculty's intellectual rigor and openness to complex inquiry. When I began to formulate questions that didn't neatly fit inside traditional LIS boxes — questions about empire, displacement, and epistemic violence — I knew this was a place where I could pursue them seriously and with support. UB's Department of Information Science gave me both the theoretical grounding and the intellectual freedom I was looking for.

What are your research interests?

Broadly, I'm interested in the intersection of migration, power, and information systems. My current research interrogates how the term “immigrant” has been defined — and often flattened — within LIS. I'm exploring how classification systems, metadata structures, and archival practices participate in the racialization and governance of immigrant identities. I draw from critical migration studies, postcolonial theory, and information science to rethink what it means to

study “immigrant information behavior” in ways that are historically and politically aware.

My goal is to push the field toward more context-sensitive, power-literate approaches to research and practice.

Tell us about your day job.

I'm currently the Arabic Language Librarian at Princeton University Library. My work involves creating and enhancing metadata for Arabic-language materials, ensuring they are discoverable and accessible across systems and languages. But it's also about much more than data — it's about cultural stewardship, linguistic nuance, and collaborative infrastructure building. I've also led professional development initiatives, chaired cross-departmental committees, and collaborated on international metadata projects. Every day, I see how technical systems shape what is visible, what is valued, and what is remembered — and that's what keeps me grounded in both practice and theory.

What are your passions outside of your program?

I'm passionate about language, music, and movement. I speak multiple languages and find joy in the act of translation—not only between tongues, but across cultures, disciplines, and ways of knowing. I also love horseback riding, music, long walks, and unexpected conversations. And I'm passionate about community—especially creating spaces where people feel seen, heard, and empowered to grow. Whether in libraries, classrooms, or shared meals, I'm always looking for ways to connect people and ideas.

What do you expect to do with the PhD once you're finished?

My goal is to continue working at the intersection of practice, leadership, and research. I want to lead transformative work in academia or libraries — work that challenges existing paradigms, supports marginalized communities, and reimagines what equity and inclusivity can look like in information systems. Whether through teaching, writing, or building collaborative infrastructures, I hope to contribute to a field that doesn't just serve immigrants — but learns from them, listens to them, and evolves with them.



What led you to undertake doctoral studies?

UB's Information Science Doctoral program has provided me with the opportunity to grow in my professional development. After many years in medical practice, I found my thought processes had become somewhat narrowed and specialized. Medicine is constantly evolving, and I recognized that to truly make a difference in my patients' lives, I needed to broaden

my perspective. Obtaining a PhD will allow me to pursue additional positions in education, teaching, and grant writing. The structured research training has given me tools to approach healthcare challenges more systematically and to contribute to medical knowledge in ways that clinical practice alone could not offer. I feel that this knowledge will help translate to my students, residents, fellows, and colleagues.

Why did you select UB's program?

The flexibility of UB's remote learning option was important decision for me as a practicing surgeon. It allowed me to continue caring for my patients while enrolled in courses that would advance my career. The program's structure made it possible to balance my clinical responsibilities with my academic pursuits.

What truly sets UB apart is how the Information Science discipline can be applied across so many fields. The interdisciplinary nature of the program creates an atmosphere of intellectual stimulation. I have found the faculty to be incredibly supportive, offering positive reinforcement while challenging me to think beyond traditional medical paradigms.

What are your research interests?

My research focuses on Health Information Seeking Behavior via patient engagement with AI Chatbot intervention. This combines my medical expertise with cutting-edge technology to address a critical gap in patient care. Initially, I wanted to know how my patients gathered information using the internet, what type of information, and what they really wanted from their physicians.

Many of my patients struggle with complex wound care regimens and have limited access to healthcare providers between appointments. I am investigating how AI chatbots can provide timely, personalized information to patients with chronic wounds, potentially improving adherence to treatment plans and health outcomes. This research sits at the intersection of healthcare delivery, patient education, and emerging technologies.

Tell us about your day job.

As a physician specializing in wound care, I help patients with chronic, non-healing wounds. These patients often face tremendous challenges with many having comorbidities like diabetes, vascular disease, or immobility that complicate their treatment. The wounds themselves can be painful, limiting, and sometimes life-threatening, with high morbidity and mortality rates.

My practice involves not just treating the wounds themselves but addressing the underlying conditions and coordinating comprehensive care plans. It is demanding but deeply rewarding work. UB's program has inspired me to think more critically about what innovations could truly change these patients' lives beyond traditional medical interventions.

What are your passions outside of your program?

Learning is truly a lifelong passion for me. When I am not immersed in medical literature or information science research, you are likely find me outdoors gardening. There's something restorative about nurturing plants and watching them grow and watching their lifecycle, perhaps not unlike helping patients heal.

Community engagement is also essential to me. I volunteer with various organizations at local, regional, and national levels. These activities allow me to contribute to healthcare policy, education, and accessibility initiatives beyond what I can accomplish in my clinical practice alone. This community involvement informs my research and keeps me connected to the real-world impact of healthcare innovations.

What do you expect to do with the PhD once you're finished?

My doctoral study is already benefiting in many ways. I have received two significant grant awards directly resulting from my work at UB's Department of Information Science: a \$10,000 grant from the Society of Vascular Surgery Section on Ambulatory Vascular Care and a \$460,000 grant from the New York State Department of Health to support my dissertation and future development of this work.

These funds will help translate my research into practical applications that can improve patient care. Once I complete my PhD, I plan to develop and implement AI-assisted patient education and monitoring systems in wound care settings. I also aim to utilize my knowledge in information science and medicine, creating more opportunities for innovative healthcare solutions. Additionally, I hope to mentor the next generation of physician-scientists who want to bridge clinical practice with information science research.



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

My undergraduate studies were in Communications and Media Studies, with a focus on journalism. I have a passion for connecting the public with reliable information, which has

led to my decision to become an information professional.

The University at Buffalo was the right choice for me as someone who has had an untraditional path throughout my time in college. The option to pursue a master's degree online has been accessible to me. I also found the course selection very diverse and exciting. Not many programs offer a Health Science Librarianship course, for example.

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

During the summer of 2024, I was selected to participate in the competitive National Center for Data Services (NCDS) Data Internship. Besides this internship being my starting point for acquiring hard skills in data services, I was able to collaborate with the Data Curation Network, gain insight into what data services look like in various institutions, and work on a research project. At the end of the internship, I presented my project to those throughout the Network of the National Library of Medicine. This experience led me to attend and present the project I worked on that entire summer at NAHSL (North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries) 2024, my first library conference. This was truly an irreplicable experience that has given me a great deal of insight into the world of librarianship.

Outside of this internship, I worked at my local public library at their reference and circulation desks. I also interned at the Westchester County Archives throughout the Spring 2025 semester, where I created a finding aid that is now published on their website.

These experiences have led me to my current consulting position in Region 7 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine. I began this role in February 2025. I have various job duties that are preparing me for future roles in libraries, such as refining, analyzing, and visualizing Region 7 engagement data, reviewing class evaluations, developing and hosting virtual classes, participating in committees, and authoring blog posts.

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?

There were many classes aligned with the work I was doing outside of the program at the same time. An example of this is taking the LIS 571-Information Organization class while interning at the Westchester County Archive. I received insight from two different learning opportunities that strengthened my organization and cataloging skills. I chose to take the Information Visualization course after my internship with the NCDS. I don't think I would have chosen this class if it were not for the internship.

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

My classes have given me insight into working in libraries, especially those that I have not worked in. What I am currently learning in my Scholarly Communications class has been very helpful in knowing what to expect when working in academia. The Health Science Librarianship course was the class I looked most forward to when I applied to the program, and it did not fall short.

I am looking forward to working in data librarianship after graduation. Hopefully, in academia and health sciences. I do have a strong passion for many fields of librarianship and would be open to other roles. These fields include working in archives, museums, or efforts in promoting literacy.

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

My interests outside of librarianship consist of creating art and playing video games. When it comes to art, I enjoy drawing, making music, creating costumes, and other artistic activities. In typical librarian fashion, I also enjoy reading, hanging out at home with my cat, and trying different kinds of coffee.

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

A piece of advice I would give to prospective students is to attend and present at a conference while in the program. Getting a head start on publishing work is great for your CV, as well as meeting others in the field or location you would like to work in. Those I met at the NAHSL conference were very supportive of my work. It's a great way to build a community within the profession, and you can get first-hand insight into career paths you are considering.



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

I have felt incredibly blessed from the moment I was accepted by UB. I've dreamt about a career in librarianship, but I thought

it might be too late to pursue it at my stage of life. I chose UB because this is where my library branch manager got his MS in ILS. He was also in his midlife when he went back to school and said it was the best decision he had made. I found out that the age factor was not stopping other students in my program from choosing this path. Their passion and curiosity for learning inspire me every day. My journey at UB has been challenging yet fulfilling and rewarding. As I learned new concepts and developed skills in many areas of information science, I also learned valuable lessons from my interactions with instructors and peers that have benefitted me in deeper ways.

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

Being a single parent to two children who are 7 and 8 years, I do not have extra time for activities outside of school and work. I work part-time in a public library and try to keep up with my coursework. Long ago, I was a volunteer for a local radio multilanguage program. I had to overcome my shyness on the microphone, but I have special memories of work as a DJ.

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 started working in the library as a page four years ago and currently I am working as a public service assistant. Working in the public library has allowed me to connect my learning and apply my knowledge of information science to everyday tasks such as helping patrons with information retrieval where my responses are informed by my understanding of user needs based on the theoretical models we learned in LIS 508. Learning about databases and metadata has helped me to navigate the library

system with a clearer knowledge of the system design. My learning in LIS 534-Resources & Services for Children and LIS 535-Resources & Services for Young Adults has also provided me with valuable tools to connect with children and teens in creative ways.

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

I will apply my learning to professional functions in many ways. As noted in my selection assignment for LIS 587-Collection Management, "I will reflect on the values and mission of the organization so that the materials that are selected are justified." As I reflect on a team project I participated in as part of my database class, I think that despite all the challenges that we faced we all learned valuable lessons in the process of planning, designing and completing a project, in this case, a database system. This kind of practical learning is valuable and will certainly be applied to a broad range of areas where I hope to work.

I am open to working at either a public library, an academic library or a special library such as the law library of a professional organization. I would also be happy to work somewhere in the United States, like the Library of Congress. It may be a far-fetched goal, but based on my recent experiences, I believe miracles can happen.

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

I lived a quiet, almost dull life for a long time, although I have been a passionate reader of classic novels and built my fantasy world on the works of Dickens and Jane Austen. Things changed when I turned forty. I experienced a few miracles, including the births of my children and starting a career in librarianship. I hope one day to share my story with others and inspire them as I have been inspired by my mentors and heroes.

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

You may find things get worse before they get better, as I found out in my first year. Do not panic! Do not give up! It is important to know that even if you do not get the grade you may have wanted, you will be rewarded for your hard work and dedication. The passion that led you here will take you on the journey of a lifetime.

Please tell us about your experience in the MS in School Librarianship program. Why did you choose school librarianship? Why did you choose UB?

I chose UB because of the freedom to do the program remotely and at my own pace. I was nervous at first to commit to an all-online program because I had a pretty rough experience in my undergraduate studies during COVID-19. Luckily, UB exceeded my expectations. The professors are easy to get in touch with and respond swiftly to any concerns or questions I have. I chose school librarianship to allow myself the option to see if I would enjoy working in a school. I wanted to give myself more opportunities rather than fewer.

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

Outside of school at UB, I work as a Teen and Youth Services librarian at two public libraries. As a teen librarian, I work with kids ages 12-18. I absolutely love this age group. Teenagers are often an overlooked, misunderstood group, and I have found that they have so much to say and can be the funniest, engaging, and creative people. In my Youth Services position, I also work with kids aged birth to 18. While I have my soft spot for the older kids, the littles have also taught me many lessons in patience and resilience. When I am not working, I love to volunteer at a local food pantry called Branches Long Island. Their mission is to provide food assistance to those all over Long Island. Volunteering there always brightens my day. I love being able to serve my community and give back in any way I can.

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?

My work 100% informs my learning in the program. Every day I am shown a new example that I can relate to my learning experiences. Since I started my student teaching this semester as

well, I have also been able to bring my experiences into my assignments. The connection between school and my work has been eye-opening. I am always so amazed to see the connections between the two and how closely they correlate.



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

My ultimate goal is to work in either a school or a public library as a Teen Services Librarian. Everything I have learned in these past two years, I intend to put towards my future career as either a school librarian or a public librarian. My number one ambition is to be a guide for adolescents and help shape their minds and have them be the best possible versions of themselves they can be. While also fostering a love for literacy.

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

Some of my favorite things to do are read, write, volunteer, and go to concerts. I love helping others and love to discuss my favorite and current reads. I love music and always enjoy going to concerts with friends, especially to more unknown artists. I also love a brown sugar shaken espresso!

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

My best advice would be to reach out to your classmates and create a small group! It is so hard to connect with others in an online program, but I promise that if you make it a priority, you will never feel alone or lost. I have stayed in touch with two women I met in my 1st semester at UB, and we all plan on getting together to celebrate when we graduate in the Spring! Don't be scared to reach out and make those connections; they are so important.



Please tell us about your experience in the MS in School Librarianship program. Why did you choose school librarianship? Why did you choose UB?

My experience in the MS in School Librarianship program has been incredibly positive and

supportive. I first came to UB for my undergraduate studies, and moving from a small town, I was nervous about the transition. What I found was a welcoming community where my professors were on my level with understanding and support, my peers encouraged me, and I always felt seen and heard. Because of that, when I decided to pursue a graduate degree, I never considered going anywhere else. UB provided me with the strong foundation I needed as an undergraduate, and I knew the School Librarianship program would give me the same level of support and opportunity to excel. Choosing information science was a natural fit for me because I wanted to merge my love of education, literacy, and helping students with a career that makes a difference in schools.

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

Outside of the program, I've been fortunate to work in a pre-kindergarten classroom at the school my children attend. That experience gave me the chance to support early learners, which has been both rewarding and inspiring. I'm also actively involved in my children's sports and extracurricular activities. Volunteering and helping in those settings allows me to connect with families and kids in our community in meaningful ways, while also strengthening my skills in building relationships and supporting young learners.

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 been able to directly connect what I'm learning in the program to my role in pre-kindergarten. Concepts and theories we discussed in class often came to life in real-time with my students. For example, observing how

young children develop literacy skills gave me a deeper understanding of the coursework, while the coursework helped me recognize and respond more effectively to what I was seeing in the classroom. It has been such a rewarding cycle of learning, each setting informs the other and strengthens my preparation to become a school librarian.

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

My ultimate goal is to become a school librarian in my children's school in our hometown. The knowledge and experience I've gained at UB have prepared me to bring strong literacy skills, technology integration, and a passion for fostering a love of reading into my future role. I want to create a space where students feel excited to explore and where teachers feel supported in using resources effectively. My ambition is to be a positive, lasting influence on the students and families in my community, just as my own professors and teachers have been for me.

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

Family is at the heart of everything I do. I love spending time with my three young children, who teach me something new every day. We're an outdoors family, we enjoy ice fishing, four-wheeling, snowmobiling and finding new adventures together. Those moments keep me grounded and remind me of the importance of curiosity, exploration, and joy in learning. Bringing that same sense of wonder into my work as a librarian is something I'm very passionate about.

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

My advice is that you can absolutely balance this program with life's other demands. As a full-time graduate student, mother of three, and someone working full-time, I initially doubted whether I could manage it all. But with careful planning, determination, and a willingness to set boundaries, it is possible and incredibly rewarding. Don't be discouraged if it feels overwhelming at first. Lean into the support UB offers, stay organized, and remember that family and school can complement each other beautifully. Looking back, I am so proud of what I've accomplished, and I hope others see that they can succeed too.

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MICHELLE ZAFRON (2003)

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SAM DODSON

Dr. Dodson presented “Genre stability amidst technological advancement: A comparative analysis of Fortran and Python programming language manuals” at Document Academy, Philadelphia, PA. He was also active at the ASIST and ALISE conferences. See the proceedings listings under Faculty Publications elsewhere in this issue.

AFRICA HANDS

Dr. Hands presented an invited talk at the 2025 Australasian Public Library Conference, New South Wales, Australia. She also presented a poster, “Information seeking behavior during the college admissions process: A preliminary analysis” at the 12th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS), University of Strathclyde Glasgow, Scotland. In addition to participating on a panel at the Library Research Seminar VIII, University of Kentucky, Dr. Hands also presented at the Libraries in the Digital Age Conference (LIDA), Dubrovnik, Croatia. See the feature on LIDA elsewhere in this issue.

HEIDI JULIEN

In addition to her numerous paper presentations at ALISE 2024, Dr. Julien was part of an ALISE panel presentation on “The Role of Theory in the MLIS curriculum” with UB colleague Dr. Amy VanScoy. Dr. Julien gave a talk about the role of theory in information science to doctoral students at the School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee. Drs. Julien and VanScoy also presented a webinar “Preparing students for the workplace: the good the bad, and the ugly” to the LIS Pedagogy Chat (ALISE). This topic had been the subject of a panel discussion they participated in at ALISE. In keeping with her research on the professional preparation theme, Dr. Julien co-presented a poster with PhD student Jesus Montiel and others on “Understanding Information literacy practices: Implication for preparing pre-service librarians” at ALISE 2024.

SAGUNA SHANKAR

Dr. Shankar worked with UB Archivist Hope Dunbar to present “Revealing restricted voices: The Love Canal interview redaction project” to the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York. She also presented “Forgotten families in the Love Canal story”: Calling attention to disappearances, suppressions, and voids in environmental justice crises as data care work” at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, Seattle, WA.

AMY VANSCHOY

In addition to the presentations with Dr. Heidi Julien noted above, she co-presented on a panel “Preparing students for the workplace: The good, the bad, and the ugly” with Dr. Julien and UB MS alum Ayiana Crabtree at the 2024 ALISE conference. She presented at the LIDA 2025 conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, as discussed elsewhere in this issue and presented “Preparing students for the workplace: Results from recent studies” online at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. VanSchoy traveled to Thailand to conduct research and presented at Chulalongkorn University. She also presented the 45th Gabriel A. Bernardo Memorial Lecture. University of the Philippines, The Philippines. This talk, “The theory/practice gap link: Changing the narrative about theory in library and information science” followed a presentation on “Reference services and strategies for improving the public library setting” at Quezon City Public Library, The Philippines. Closer to home, Dr. VanSchoy presented two papers at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, as well as co-presenting “We just don’t leave it at the door when we enter the workplace”: The effect of identity on perceived expertise in librarianship” with Dr. Julien at the [ALA] Library Research Seminar, Lexington, KY

- Bright, K., Kim, S., Colon-Aguirre, M., **VanScoy, A.**, & Crabtree, A. (2025). Using a serial multiple-mediator SEM model to demonstrate the effect of program preparation, professional development opportunities, and comfort with technology on retention of BIPOC librarians. *Library & Information Science Research*, 47(1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2025.101342>
- Cattlin, J., Given, L. M., & **Julien, H.** (2025, in press). CoLIS as 'community of practice': A study of papers presented at Conceptions of Library and Information Science conferences, 1991-2022. *Information Research*.
- Detlor, B., Serenko, A., La Rose, T., & **Julien, H.** (2024). A survey of public library-led digital literacy training in Canada: Perceptions of administrators and instructors. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 19(3), 23–41. <https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip30553>.
- Dodson, S.** (2025). Using genres for laboratory work, report writing, and design projects: Comparing second and fourth year undergraduate engineers. *Information and Learning Sciences*, 126(3/4), 173–191. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ILS-03-2024-0031>.
- Dodson, S.**, & Bartley, J. (2024). (Disrupting) continuities between eugenics and statistics: A critical study of regression analysis. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science & Technology*, 61(1), 892–895. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1131>.
- Guy, Y.O.** & Sun, Y. (2025). An opinion survey: Understanding perspectives of the data analytics in decision making in higher education [Poster session]. *iConference 2025 Proceedings*. iSchools. <https://hdl.handle.net/2142/126229>.
- Hands, A.**, & Buchanan, S. (Eds.). (2025). *The self-determined doctorate: Perspectives on leading the doctoral journey*. De Gruyter Brill.
- Hands, A.**, & **Shankar, S.** (2025). Back From Crisis Mode: Exploring Care-Centered Approaches to Teaching In LIS. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 66(1). <https://doi.org/10.3138/jelis-2024-0052>.
- Hands, A.** (2024). Positioning LIS Students for Career Success. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.alise.2024.1745>
- Hands, A.**, & Candela, R. (2024). Staff perspectives on the role of public libraries in facilitating college literacy. *Journal of Library Administration*, 64(8), 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01930826.2024.2403748>.
- Harris, T. & **Shankar, S.** (in press). American drone surveillance practices & information policy implications. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference*.
- Ju, B., & **VanScoy, A.** (2024, October 25-29). Perceived online information quality: An empirical study using Q methodology. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 61(1), 956-958. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1152>
- Julien, H.** (2025). The impact and legacy of the ISP and Seeking Meaning. In *Seeking meaning: A process approach to library and information services*, C. C. Kuhlthau. ABC- CLIO. (Invited).
- Julien, H.** (2025, April 9). Information literacy instruction in Canadian libraries. *Information Matters*, 5(4). <https://informationmatters.org/2025/04/information-literacy-instruction-in-canadian-libraries>.
- Julien, H.**, Montiel, J., Gross, M., & Latham, D. (2025, in press). Information literacy instruction redux: What are instruction librarians doing now? *College & Research Libraries*.
- Julien, H.**, **Abramovich, S.**, Burns, S., & **Shankar, S.** (in press). Artificial intelligence: Implications for the MLS curriculum and pedagogy. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference*.
- Kang, D., Li, J., Leshed, G., Rzeszotarski, J. M. & **Lu, X.** (2025). Towards Hormone Health: An Autoethnography of Long-Term Holistic Tracking to Manage PCOS. In *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 319. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713619> (Best Paper Award, 1%)

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- Latham, D., Gross, M., & **Julien, H.** (2024). Community college librarian views of student information literacy needs. *College and Research Libraries* 85(5), 712-725. <https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.85.5.712>.
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- Liu, L. H., **Lu, X.**, Chiang, P.-C., Epstein, D. A., & Squire, K. (2025). Meditating Together: Practices, Benefits and Challenges of Meditation on Social Virtual Reality. In *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 984. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713172>
- Montiel, J., Moy, A. Q., & **Dodson, S.** (2024). Healthcare disparities in telemedicine access and use during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science & Technology*, 61(1), 1036–1038. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1178>
- Mortada, H., **Shankar, S.**, Pagan, S., & **Dodson, S.** (in press). An exploratory data analysis of keyword associations in LIS immigration scholarship. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science & Technology*.
- Reed, A., Kong, Y. & **Abramovich, S.** (2024) Assessment, credential, or both? Higher education faculty's design principles for micro-credentials. *Discover Education* 3(1), 16.
- Saplan, K., **Abramovich, S.** & Wardrip, P. (2024) Analyzing properties of success for assessment development in maker-based learning. *Education Technology Research and Development*, 72(1), 281-303.
- Shankar, S.** & Krull, H. (2024). Learning from community-based efforts toward interdependence and shared responsibility for climate and environmental justice. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference*. <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.alise.2024.1725>
- Silva, L. M., **Lu, X.**, Liang, E. X., & Epstein, D. A. (2025). Foody Talk: Exploring Opportunities for Conversational Food Journaling. In *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1183. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713875>
- Sinnamon, L., **Dodson, S.**, Li, A., & Hina Shahid, S. (2024). Re-envisioning search education through a critical information literacy lens. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference*. <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.alise.2024.1666>.
- VanScoy, A.**, Adzobu-Armah, N. Y., & Baidoo, D. K. (under review). Welcoming caretakers, solution providers, and expert communicators: Ghanaian librarians' approaches to reference service.
- VanScoy, A.**, **Hands, A. S.**, Švab, K., & Merčun, T. (2024). Surfacing the 'silent foundation': which information behaviour theories are relevant to public library reference service? *Information Research*, 29(2), 589–601. <https://doi.org/10.47989/ir292849>
- VanScoy, A.**, & Rafiq, M. (in press). Strong service orientations and fostering self-sufficiency: How librarians approach reference work in Lahore, Pakistan. *Journal of Librarianship & Information Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09610006241269158>
- Zheng, Q., **Lu, X.**, Jin, Q., Jain, J., Meadan-Kaplansky, H., Shi, H., Xiong, J., & Huang, Y. (2024). Towards responsible use of large multi-modal AI to analyze human social behaviors. In *Companion Publication of the 2024 Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing* (pp. 663-665).
- Willson, R., Stewart-Robertson, O., **Julien, H.**, & Given, L. (2025). Academic casualisation and precarity: A scoping review. *Higher Education Research & Development*, revised and resubmitted.
- Willson, R., Stewart-Robertson, O., **Julien, H.**, & Given, L. (2024). "You need to step back when you're contract faculty": Information practices and care in casual academic work. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science & Technology*, 61(1), 685-690. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.1080>.

student [PUBLICATIONS]

Bebell, D., & **Burt, K.** (in press). *Engaged teaching: Engaged learning: An Empirical study of teaching, learning, and student engagement across the K-12 Community of Apple Distinguished Schools.* [White Paper].

Dodson, S., & **Bartley, J.** (2024). (Disrupting) continuities between eugenics and statistics: A critical study of regression analysis. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 61(1), 892–895. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pa2.1131>.

Guy, Y.O. & Sun, Y. (2025). An opinion survey: Understanding perspectives of the data analytics in decision making in higher education [Poster session]. *iConference 2025 Proceedings*. iSchools. <https://hdl.handle.net/2142/126229>.

Julien, H., **Montiel, J.**, Gross, M., & Latham, D. (2025, in press). Information literacy instruction redux: What are instruction librarians doing now? *College & Research Libraries*.

Montiel, J., Moy, A. Q., and Dodson, S. (2024). Healthcare Disparities in Telemedicine Access and Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic [Poster presentation]. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 61(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pa2.1178>

Mortada, H., Shankar, S., Pagan, S., & Dodson, S. (in press). An exploratory data analysis of keyword associations in LIS immigration scholarship. *Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology*.

Shankar, S. & **Krull, H.** (2024). Learning from community-based efforts toward interdependence and shared responsibility for climate and environmental justice. *Proceedings of the Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference*. <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.alise.2024.1725>.

Vuletich, S., Ostendorf, D., Kraus, J., and **Buljung, B.B.** (2025). Operating a Budget Friendly Open Publishing Buffet. In Bongiovanni, E., Gainey, M., Griego, C., and Beltran, L., eds. *Open Science Cookbook*, ACRL. <https://hdl.handle.net/11124/180598>.



student [PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS]



BRIANNA BULJUNG (PhD Student)

Buljung, B.B. (2025, February 12). Essentials of Research Data Management: Best Practices for Research Integrity and Impact. Invited workshop for research scholars offered through the India Institute of Technology Gandhinagar Library. Virtual. <https://youtu.be/hoySOoWP9PI>

Vuletich, S. and **Buljung, B.B.** (2025, March 11). Beyond Just OER: the Importance of Accessibility in OER. Invited workshop for the Colorado Open Education Community hosted by the Colorado Dept. of Higher Education. Virtual. <https://tinyurl.com/mr3dpn2t>

Vuletich, S., **Buljung, B.B.** and Greene, A. (2025, June 22-25). Enabling Successful Transitions to Higher Education for Students with Disabilities [Conference paper]. Presented at the 2025 ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition, Montreal, Canada. <https://peer.asee.org/56343>

KAYLA BURT (PhD Student)

Burt, K. (2025, June 2-5). *Information Needs in Postsecondary Education Decision-Making*. [Poster presentation]. International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science, Glasgow, Scotland.

Villafuerte, C., Mireles, N., **Burt, K.**, Ventura, C., Hammami, S., Wild, A., Mosely, B. (2025, April 23-26). *Positionality in action: Developing tools to recognize bias across settings* [Workshop]. National Council on Measurement in Education Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, United States.

Bebell, D., **Burt, K.** (2024, November 13-15). *Drawing on the Future of Learning —Apple Distinguished Schools Research Study and Findings*. [Conference presentation]. Apple Distinguished Schools Global Summit, Orlando, FL, United States.

Bebell, D., Xin, Z., Cleveland, G., **Burt, K.**, Nambiar, M. (2024, November 5). *Digital Natives: Exploring how Newton Students Use and Perceive Educational Technology*. [Workshop]. Newton Public Schools Professional Development Day, Newton, MA, United States.

KIMBERLY CARLO (MS-ILS)

Carlo, K. (2024, October 21). Looking Back: Analyzing Data Curator Job Postings from Past Years [Poster presentation]. Presented at NAHSL 2024 (North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries). Mystic, CT, United States.

NOEL HUNTLEY (MS Student)

Huntley, N. J. (15 October, 2025). The Importance of Inclusive Literature for Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse Youth in the Library [Poster session]. Illinois Library Association 2025 Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL, United States.

Huntley, N. J. (26 September, 2025). The Importance of Inclusive Literature for Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse Youth in the Library [Poster session]. Prairiecat User Group (PUG) Day Conference, East Moline, IL, United States.

JESUS MONTIEL (PhD Student)

Julien, H., Latham, D., Gross, M., & **Montiel, J.** (2024, October 14-17). Understanding information literacy instructional practices: Implications for preparing pre-service librarians. [Poster presentation]. Annual conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education, Portland, OR, United States.

Nazario, S., McLean, M., **Montiel, J.**, Jacomino, K., & Bostick, B. (2025, March 2). A Newer Innovation for Faculty: Modern SmartApp Improves Evaluations of Residents [Panel presentation]. CORD Academic Assembly 2025, Seattle, WA, United States.



Dr. Amy Vanscoy, Dr. Saguna Shankar, Dr. Heidi Julien, Dr. Africa Hands, PhD student Jesus Montiel, and Dr. Sam Dodson at ALISE 2024, Portland, OR.



PhD student Jesus Montiel and Dr. Heidi Julien at ALISE 2024, Portland, OR.



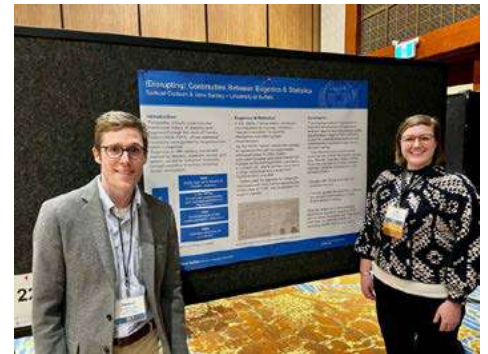
Dr. Saguna Shankar presents a poster at ALISE 2024, Portland, OR.



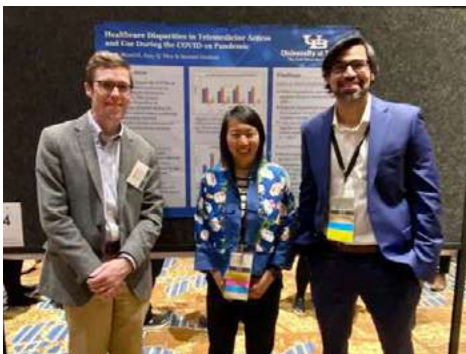
Dr. Heidi Julien, Dr. Mónica Colón-Aguirre, Dr. Amy Vanscoy, Dr. Don Latham, and Dr. Melissa Gross present a panel at ALISE 2024, Portland, OR.



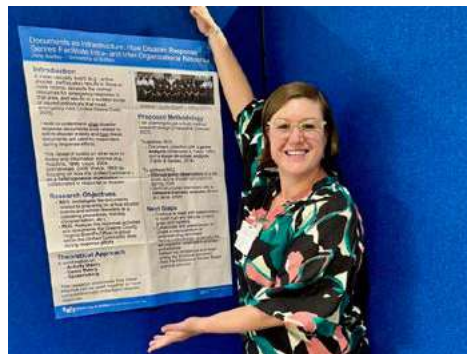
PhD students at ASIST 2024, Calgary, Canada.



Dr. Sam Dodson and PhD student Jane Bartley at ASIST 2024, Calgary, Canada.



Dr. Sam Dodson and PhD students Amy Moy and Jesus Montiel at ASIST 2024, Calgary, Canada.



PhD student Jane Bartley presents a poster at CoLIS 2025, Glasgow, Scotland

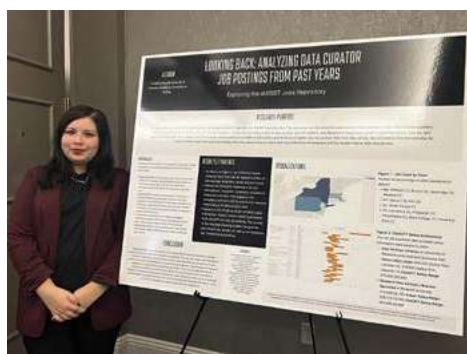


PhD student Yoshi Guy presents a poster at iConference-2025 at Indiana University

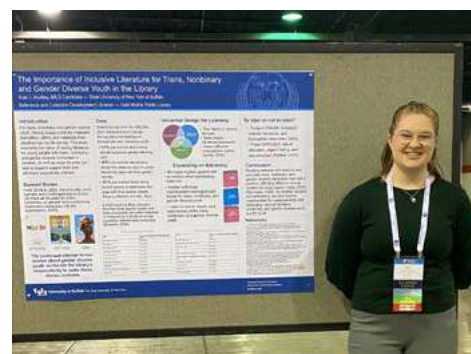
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Dr. Africa Hands and UB IS Research Seminar speaker Dr. Robin Brewer.



MS student Kimberly Carlo presents at the NAHSL 2024 (North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries) conference, Mystic, CT.



MS student Noel Huntley presents at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL. This was a poster created in Dr. Anne Perrault's course, LIS 536 – Inclusive & Accessible Services & Collections for Young People.



Dr. Amy Vanscoy, Dr. Brenda White, Dr. Jianqiang Wang and UB IS Research Seminar Speaker Dr. Ali Fauzi enjoy a visit to Niagara Falls.



Faculty and PhD students enjoy Anderson's ice cream at Residency Week. L-R: Michael Porter, Dr. Amy Vanscoy, Yoshi Guy, Dr. Africa Hands, Amy Moy, and Jesus Monteil. In the very back are Dr. Heidi Julien, Dr. Ying Sun, and Jon Goodell.



Dr. Amy Vanscoy and PhD students Aloysius Mwanje, Nesba Adobu Armah, and Mercy Monde enjoy wings at Duff's

o----- UB Bull Visits Dubrovnik, Croatia -----o



Attending the LIDA Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with Dr. Africa Hands.



What a view from Dubrovnik!



Hopping a ride to visit a Franciscan monastery.

The background of the top half of the image is white with a complex pattern of blue lines and arrows. Some lines are solid, while others are dashed. The arrows point in various directions, creating a sense of movement and connectivity. The text is centered and follows a logical flow from top to bottom.

Here
IS HOW
↓
you make
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