Off the Beaten Path: The Career Adventures of SLIS MLS and MIS Graduates
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A degree from SLIS may be the ticket to the job of your dreams. Or it may take you to a job of which you had never dreamt. Students often arrive at our doors with a firm idea of what they want to do when they head back out into the real world—pursue a career as an academic reference librarian, pharmaceutical information scientist, database manager, school library media specialist—only to find that the labor market is much more varied than they had imagined and that their embryonic career has taken an unexpected trajectory—information architecture, digital asset management, competitive intelligence...fill in the ever growing blank.

A group project, study visit, internship, elective course or casual interaction with a peer or professor may be all that it takes to open up new horizons and upset the best laid plans of mice and men. One of the great things about a SLIS degree is its portability. If we have done our job right, students (tyro information professionals to use a less than felicitous catchall) leave here with a parcel of transferable skills. Of course, we don’t just train people to do X but educate them in the theory that underpins X and the reasons why X matters in different contexts and under different conditions. You may want to work as a reference librarian but don’t overlook the fact that your knowledge of information sources, trust and credibility, information literacy and evaluation techniques could be applied in a wide variety of non-institutional or non-traditional contexts. It has become something of a cliché, but the notion of serial careers captures the mood of the moment; for that reason it behooves us to ensure that our graduates have the attitudinal flexibility and intellectual curiosity necessary to go with the (occupational) flow.

To be sure, employers sometimes mutter that graduates of library and information science programs can’t do this or that and have to be trained on the job, but that kind of complaint is neither new nor especially compelling. You have only to re-read Ralf Conant’s 1980 report, A Study of the Education of Librarians, and, indeed, the many subsequent reports on the “mutually damaging gap” that separates academe and the world of work, to realize that this is a very old chestnut. In any case, I could point to many employers who are simply blown away by the quality of our (and for that matter other schools’) graduates. Long may that continue to be the case!

Blaise Cronin
Dean and Rudy Professor of Information Science

Dean Cronin’s New Book:

Stickmen: Reflections on the Goalie’s Eccentric Art


Dean Cronin, editor of the Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, skims the latest issue, Volume 44 (2010).
FACULTY NEWS covers the period June 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009

**Rachel Applegate**, assistant professor, published three articles: “Resumes and Cover Letters” 28(2) in *Indiana Libraries*; “Who Benefits? Unionization and Academic Libraries and Librarians” 79(4) in *Library Quarterly*; and “The Library Is for Studying: Student Preferences for Study Space” 33(4) in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. She met with the Indiana Library Federation Professional Development Committee to review proposed activities for LEU credits. At the October Indiana Library Federation Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, IN, she gave three presentations: “Hearing from your users: thinking about surveys and other options,” “Designing and analyzing surveys: the details,” and “Whose decline? Where are reference transactions decreasing in academic libraries?” She gave an in-house workshop on Shaping Outcomes for staff of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Gross Pointe Shores, MI in October, and a program planning workshop for Minnesota librarians at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, MN in August. She also was part of the on-site visit team for the institutional accreditation of the University of Michigan in Flint, MI in October.

**Katy Borner**, Victor H. Yngve Professor of Information Science and Director of the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center and Information Visualization Lab, gave a talk titled “STEM: Individual, Local, and Global Flows and Activity Patterns” as an invited speaker at a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workshop at George Washington University, in Washington, D.C. in October. She was the plenary speaker at the Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO) Conference at Northwestern University in Illinois in September, and was an invited speaker at the Visualization in Science and Education Gordon Research Conference held at Magdalen College, Oxford University in Oxford, England in July. She gave presentations at the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) 2009 Conference in Ottawa, Canada, and the IU Showcase Session and Mapping Science exhibit at the North American Conference on Computing and Philosophy (NACAP) in Bloomington, IN, in June and July. She was co-organizer of the Workshop on Modelling Science – Understanding, Forecasting, and Communicating Science System at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences headquarters and the International Institute of Social History, both in Amsterdam in October; the NSF/JSMF Workshop on How to Measure, Map, and Dramatize Science at the New York Hall of Science in Queens, NY in October; and the NSF/JSMF Workshop on Mapping the History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University – Bloomington in June. She served on the NSF, GISE, and SBE AC Subcommittee on Discovery in a Research Portfolio Tools for Structuring, Analyzing, Visualizing and Interacting with Proposal and Award Portfolios Workshop in Washington, DC in September. She was featured with Ying Ding in a press release from the Indiana University News Room for participation in a National Institutes of Health research collaboration, and was one of the leaders for a Media X Vanguard Visualization Collaboratory, held at Stanford University in August.

**Hsin-Liang (Oliver) Chen**, assistant professor, attended the ED-MEDIA World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications in Waikiki, HI in June and presented: “Refining an E-course Usability Evaluation tool” and “The Use of Media Objects in E-Learning: A Genre Analysis of Eight Online Boating Instruction Websites.” He presented “Analyzing Users’ Retrieval Behaviors and Image Queries of a Photojournalism Image Database and Beyond” at the IUPUI School of Informatics Colloquium in October. He also attended the ASIS&T Annual Meeting, participating in the panel “The Ethics of Studying Online Communities: Challenges to Research Design and Data Collection” and presenting two posters: “An Analysis of Users’ Image Queries of a Photojournalism Image Database: A Web Analytics Approach” and “The Use of Media Objects in E-Learning: A Genre Analysis of Eight Online Boating Instruction Websites.” He has published three papers: “An analysis of undergraduate students’ search behaviors in an information literacy class” in *The Journal of Web Librarianship*, 3(4), 333-347; “The use and sharing of information from Wikipedia by high-tech professionals for work purposes” in *The Electronic Library*, 27(6), 893-905; and “Pedagogical design for an online information literacy course: College students’ learning experience with multi-modal objects” in the *Canadian Journal of Library and Information Science*, 33(1/2), 1-37 (with J. P. Williams). He was also awarded (with Barbara Albee) the 2009 OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant for his proposal entitled, “Impact of Open Source Library Automation System on Public Library Users.”

**Blaise Cronin**, Dean of the School of Library and Information Science and Rudy Professor of Information Science, gave a keynote speech at the Online Information 2009 Conference titled “E pluribus unum? The paradox of a postmodern profession.” He released a new book titled *Stickmen: Reflections on the Goalie’s Eccentric Art*. He also published “Receiving the French: A bibliometric snapshot of the impact of French theory on information studies” (with L. Mehdi) 35(4) in the *Journal of Information Science*, and acted as Editor for the 44th Volume of the *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology* (ARIST). He gave a presentation at the School of Library and Information Science at IUPUI entitled “Ostriches and Opportunists: The Implications of Post-professionalism” in October. In December he gave a talk on research evaluation at Roper University, Edinburgh.

**Faculty News**
RON DAY, associate professor, presented a paper “Examining together social and technological research in Library and Information Science” with SLIS doctoral student Lai Ma and took part in a panel on the “Discipline of Philosophy discipline in iSchools” at the 4th Annual iConference at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in February. He presented the paper “Technology, Organization and Materiality: Reflections on the Problem of Agency” with Howard Rosenbaum and Lai Ma at the Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS) in San Francisco in August. He participated in the Critical Internet Theory panel for the 10th Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) in Milwaukee in October.

YING DING, assistant professor, published “Perspectives on social tagging” in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 60(12): 2388-2401, with E. Jacob, Z. Zhang, S. Foo, E. Yan, N. George and L. Guo. She published “PageRank for ranking authors in co-citation network” in JASIST, 60(11), 2229-2243, with A. Yan, A. Frazho, and J. Caverlee, and “Applying centrality measures to impact analysis: A coauthorship network analysis” in JASIST 60(10), 2107-2118, with E. Yan. She published “Profile Social Networks: A Social Tagging Perspective” in DLib in March with E. Jacob, J. Caverlee, M. Fried and Z. Zhang. With A. Gomez-Perez, and Y. Yong, Ding was a co-author, published “On-line communities of practice typology revisited”, in the Journal of Information Science, 35(6), 740-757 with Puina Shachaf and S. Stoeger. She is a co-PI in the second year of a three year NSF-funded project “MOD & Transmission of Tacit Skills in East Asian Graduate Science Programs.” In May, she gave two presentations “Social Informatics Integrates Design” at the National Chiao Tung University and “Research on Knowledge Sharing from a Social Informatics Perspective” at National Taiwan University both in Taiwan. She also spoke on “Peer-to-peer learning and informal knowledge sharing” at The Graduate University of Advanced Studies SokenDai in Japan in June. She also gave two presentations and talks: “Cross-cultural analysis of the Wikipedia community” (with P. Shachaf) at the Americas Conference on Information Systems in San Francisco in August with Puina Shachaf and “Information and Communication Technology-facilitated Social Movements” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science in Washington, D.C. in October.

SUSAN HERRING, professor, published “Symbolic capital in a virtual heterosexual market: Abbreviation and insertion in Italian iTV SMS” in Written Communication, 26(1), 3-31 with A. Zelenkaukaitė. She also published a book chapter “Web content analysis: Expanding the paradigm” in The International Handbook of Internet Research. She presented three papers “Fast talking, fast shooting: Text chat in an online first-person game” with D. Kutz, John Paolillo, and A. Zelenkaukaitė, “Beyond microblogging: Conversation and collaboration via Twitter” with C. Honeycutt and “Temporal patterns in student-advisor instant messaging exchanges: Individual variation and accommodation” with A. de Siqueira, all at the 42nd Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences in January. At Internet Research 10.0 in Milwaukee in October, she was the organizer and a presenter on the panel on Convergent Media Computer-Mediated Communication and presented two papers: “Cultural bias in Wikipedia content on famous persons” with E. Callahan, and “Nonstandard typography and the virtual marketplace: Gender expression in Italian iTV SMS” with A. Zelenkaukaitė. She gave two talks: “Gender Preferences in mate Selection in Lithuanian iTV SMS Personal Ads” to the Department of Communication at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY in July, and “New Analytical Lenses for New Media: Web 2.0 and CMC/CMC” at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies in Syracuse, NY in November. She was also quoted in the article “Innovation: The Psychology of Google Wave” by Tom Simonite in the New Scientist in October.


NORIKO HARA, associate professor, published “On-line communities of practice typology revisited” in the Journal of Information Science, 35(6), 740-757 with Puina Shachaf and S. Stoeger. She is a co-PI in the second year of a three year NSF-funded project “MOD & Transmission of Tacit Skills in East Asian Graduate Science Programs.” In May, she gave two presentations “Social Informatics Integrates Design” at the National Chiao Tung University and “Research on Knowledge Sharing from a Social Informatics Perspective” at National Taiwan University both in Taiwan. She also spoke on “Peer-to-peer learning and informal knowledge sharing” at The Graduate University of Advanced Studies SokenDai in Japan in June. She also gave two presentations and talks: “Cross-cultural analysis of the Wikipedia community” (with P. Shachaf) at the Americas Conference on Information Systems in San Francisco in August with Puina Shachaf and “Information and Communication Technology-facilitated Social Movements” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science in Washington, D.C. in October.

Marilyn Irwin, Executive Associate Dean (IUPUI) and associate professor, is serving on the Schneider Family Book Award Jury—an ALA committee for youth book awards—for a two year term from 2009 to 2011. At the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in July she attended the Education Assembly meeting and the SLIS reunion. She also gave a report to...
the board of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies. In November, she gave two presentations at the Indiana Library Federation Conference: Challenges to Children’s and Youth Resources in Public Libraries and Media Centers and Indiana’s MLS Diversity Fellowship Project.

ELIN JACOB, associate professor, published “Perspectives on social tagging” in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 60(12): 2388-2401, with Ying Ding, Z. Zhang, S. Foo, E. Yan, N. George and L. Guo and Profiling Social Networks: A Social Tagging Perspective” in DLib in March with Ying Ding, J. Caverlee, M. Fried and Z. Zhang. She published two book chapters: “Information architecture” in the Annual review of information science and technology, vol. 43 (pp. 147-186) with A. Loehrlein and “Context and boundedness: the contribution of place to the development of information environments” in Exploration of space, technology and spirituality: Interdisciplinary perspectives. She was the co-chair of the North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization (NASKO 2009) at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies in June. She was the 2009 recipient of the Trustees’ Teaching Excellence Recognition Award. She attended the dissertation defense of Nisachol Chamnongsi at Khon Kaen University in Khon Kaen, Thailand in June.

ANDREA JAPZON, assistant professor, presented research from her dissertation, “Information shared is information valued: Stewardship of personal digital information,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science & Technology in Vancouver, Canada, November 9, 2009. This presentation was part of the panel discussion, “Shared personal space: Meeting the needs of multiple users and multiple purposes,” with Deborah Barreau, William Jones, and Jamie Teevan.

STAŠA MILOJEVIĆ, assistant professor, joined the SLIS faculty in September 2009 after completing her dissertation at UCLA in the spring. She published “Libraries, archives and museums in Serbia” in the new (3rd) edition of the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. She presented “Preferential attachment in the evolution of the network of scientific collaboration in nanotechnology” at the International Sunbelt Social Network Conference XXIX in San Diego and a poster, “Evolution of the social structure of nanotechnology,” at the 4th Annual iConference at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She attended an NSF Workshop on Scholarly Evaluation Metrics: Opportunities and Challenges in Washington DC in December. She is on the advisory board of the IU Office for Women’s Affairs Women in Science Program.


Jean Preer, traveled to Kenya from July to August on the Fulbright-Hays Group Project trip, “Understanding Kenya through Service and Partnership,” with IUPUI faculty, students, and IPS teachers. For her service placement, she worked in the Eldoret branch of the Kenya National Library Service, the city’s public library. She was featured in the August/September 2009 issue of American Libraries (p. 68) in the article “Best of ALA 2009” for her prize-winning book, Library Ethics. In September she attended the meetings of the ALISE Board and the Diversity Advisory Council for Indiana Librarians Leading in Diversity and was an invited panelist at the conference of the Association of Specialized & Professional Accreditors. In October she conducted a teaching workshop for faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies and in November appeared on a panel at ASIS&T, chaired by SLIS faculty colleague Oliver Chen, on the ethics of studying online communities.

Alice Robbin is an associate professor and co-director of the Rob Kling Center for Social Informatics with Alan Dennis. She presented a paper “A Preliminary Inquiry into the Methodologies Employed in Research on ICTs and Society: Prologue (An Alternate View of Knowledge Negotiation)” and was the invited chair for the panel “Life Role and ICT Skills and Competencies” at the IADIS ICTs and Society conference in Portugal in June. She gave two invited talks “Information Behaviour: Debates, Theory and Methodology” at the University of Udine and “Social Informatics” at the University of Trento, both in Italy.

Howard Rosenbaum, Associate Dean and associate professor, published “Social Informatics” in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. He presented a paper “Online social reference: A research agenda through a STIN framework” at the 4th annual iConference at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in February, with Prina Shachaf. He gave the keynote address “The importance of accessibility and usability now and in the future” for the CIC IT Accessibility and Usability Working Group in June. He presented the paper “Technology, Organization and Materiality: Reflections on the Problem of Agency” with Ron Day and Lai Ma at the Americas Conference on Information Systems in August in San Francisco, CA. He was a co-chair for the Philosophical Aspects of Information Systems track, with L. Brooks and R. Brandschneider and co-chair of the Social Theory in Information Systems minitrack at the 15th America’s Conference on Information Systems in August with Prina Shachaf. He was also the co-organizer and moderator for the 5th Annual Social Informatics Research Symposium at the 27th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology in Vancouver.
In Memoriam: Judith Serebnick (1929-2009)

Professor Emerita Judith Serebnick died November 30, 2009, in Bloomington. Dr. Serebnick received her Ph.D. degree in library and information science from Rutgers University in 1978. She joined the Indiana University Graduate Library School (now School of Library and Information Science) faculty in 1977, bringing substantial professional experience in libraries and publishing, including reference information work at the Brooklyn Public Library and the University of California at Los Angeles, experience at Northwestern University and Princeton University, and service as book editor and assistant editor with the Library Journal.

She was a productive researcher, but Dr. Serebnick felt that her primary task was teaching well. Her former students, in both the master of library Science and doctoral programs, remember with pleasure her conscientious and insightful teaching and her infectious enthusiasm. In 1991 Dr. Serebnick was awarded a prestigious Indiana University President’s Award for distinguished teaching. She retired from Indiana University in 1994.

On January 9, 2010, the American Library Association honored Dr. Serebnick with a Memorial Resolution at a meeting of the ALA Council in Boston.
New Faculty Member Joins SLIS-Bloomington

In January 2010, Cassidy R. Sugimoto joined SLIS as an Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science.

Sugimoto received her PhD in Information and Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds a master’s in library science and a bachelor’s degree in music performance from UNC Chapel Hill as well.

About her research, she writes: “My published research has covered three main areas: bibliometrics and scholarly communication, information retrieval, and reference services. My dissertation work explores the scholarly development of doctoral students in LIS with a specific emphasis on mentoring, collaboration, and interdisciplinarity—investigating how doctoral students learn to create and engage with various communicative genres and how these practices shape our discipline.”

She has published articles in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, *Library and Information Science Research*, and *Music Reference Services Quarterly*. She also co-authored the paper “MPACT Family Trees: Quantifying Academic Genealogy in Library and Information Science,” which received the ALISE 2009 Best Paper award.

CAROLE MEDAL, MLS’79, is currently serving as President of the Illinois Library Association. She is also the Executive Director of the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, IL. The library was recently awarded the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, which is the nation’s highest honor for museums and libraries that make extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions.

DENNIS P. LAGER, MLS’89, JD’95, of Indianapolis, is one of three IU alumni who have been recognized as 2009 Five Star Best in Client Satisfaction Wealth Managers by Crescendo Business Services of Minneapolis. He and his colleagues Robert W. Elzer, BA’73, and Kent A. Rollison, JD’93, all practice in the law firm Baker & Daniels’ trusts and estates group. They counsel clients in the preparation, administration, and settlement of estate plans, wealth preservation, and transfer strategies. Fewer than 7 percent of wealth managers in the Indianapolis area receive the Five Star accolade. Recipients of this year’s honor appeared in the October issue of *Indianapolis Monthly*.

ALAN J. McPHerson, MS’81, MS’83, MLS’85, is the author of *Botanic Gems: Indiana Public Gardens (Including Greater Chicago, Dayton, Cincinnati, & Louisville)* published in 2009 by AuthorHouse. He lives in Kewanna, Ind.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has appointed LORiELLE BROWN SWaDER, BA’84, MLS’86, to serve a three-year term as Illinois Secretary of State’s Library Consultant.
as a member of the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee. She is director of the Office for Human Resources Development and Recruitment of the American Library Association in Chicago. Swader also serves as a member of the SLIS alumni board and is the SLIS representative to the IU Alumni Association’s Executive Council. She lives in Harvey, Ill.

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*WENDY WISEMAN PAIGE*, BS’80, MLS’95, is a media specialist at Sunny Heights Elementary School in Indianapolis. She lives in Fairland, Ind.

*VIRGINIA E. DEARBORN*, MLS’07, is an editing assistant at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., where she lives.

“I recently completed my master’s degree in library science,” writes *KATHLEEN M. FLEGE-FRIEDERICKS*, BS’02, MLS’09, who attended both IU Bloomington and IUPUI. “I live in Indy with my husband, a [New Palestine, Ind.] firefighter and EMT.” Flege-Friedericks is a disability adjudicator for the state of Indiana.

*KAREN MARONSKI FRANKS*, BA’82, MLS’01, is an adviser in the University Division at IU Bloomington.

*LISA B. GARDINIER*, MLS’08, is a technical services and information literacy librarian at Cochise College in Douglas, Ariz. She lives in Bisbee, Ariz.

*LAURA BOHN HAYDEN*, MLS’07, is a reference librarian at the Beaufort County Library in Beaufort, S.C., where she lives.

*TERESA K. HEIDENREICH*, MLS’08, became director of the Washington (Ind.) Carnegie Public Library in January 2009. She began working at the library as a high-school student and has held a variety of positions, including bookkeeping clerk and adult-services librarian. Heidenreich holds an associate’s degree from Vincennes University and a bachelor’s degree from Oakland City University. She lives in Washington.

*EMILY T. HEINLEN*, MLS’07, is a research associate for the Indiana University Foundation. She lives in Bloomington.

*KRISTIN J. HENRICH*, MLS’08, is a reference librarian at the University of Idaho in Moscow, where she lives.

*KRISTIE L. HENDRON*, MLS’06, is an undergraduate academic advisor for the IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences. She was named IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences Advisor of the Year in April 2009. Hendron lives in Bloomington.

*STEVEN J. HOOVER*, BA’03, MLS’08, is an instruction and liaison librarian at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where he lives.

*CAITLIN N. HUNTER*, MA/MLS’08, is a supervisory librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. She lives in Culpeper, Va.

*GABRIELE STEIN HYSONG*, BS’92, MLS’06, is a senior librarian for Rolls-Royce Corp. in Indianapolis, where she lives.

*JENNIFER E. JACKSON*, BA’04, MLS’08, is a systems integration analyst for Accenture, a global management, consulting, technology, and outsourcing company. She lives and works in Chicago.

*JASMIN NOF*, MLS’04, is a Judaica and Hebraica catalog librarian at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md. She is originally from Lafayette, Ind.

*MORGAN M. SOHL*, MLS’08, of Rapid City, S.D., is a public and adult services librarian for the Rapid City Public Library.

*KRISTIN L. STOUT*, MLS’07, has been selected to participate in the American Library Association’s 2010 Class of Emerging Leaders. The program is designed to enable approximately 100 library workers to fast track onto ALA and professional leadership. Participants are given the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, network with peers, and observe the structure and activities of the ALA. Stout is a reference and instruction librarian in the Lane Library at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Ga.

*PATRICIA M. TUCKER*, MIS/MLS’02, is a librarian for Corrections Corp. of America. She lives in Humble, Texas.

*ALICE J. WEI*, MLS’08, is an application programmer for ProCure Treatment Centers in Bloomington, Ind., where she lives.
Off the Beaten Path:

The Career Adventures of SLIS MLS and MIS Graduates

John Deere’s GPS Guru

Name: Michael Hohnecker, MIS’01
Title: IT Project Manager, Business Applications
Institution: John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group
Town/State: Torrance, CA

Main Job Duties: I’m a project manager for the newly created Intelligent Solutions Group within John Deere. My main projects are centered on the integration of our four locations in Georgia, North Dakota, California, and Iowa to common business systems.

Highlights: I have worked on many different projects during my time with John Deere. One of our recent projects was to create a Web application to authenticate GPS receivers over our satellite network. This application also allows customers to select different software options for the receivers. Most of my projects during the last several years have been on internal business systems. It’s pretty rewarding to also work on our products.

Did the path to your current position have unusual or interesting aspects?

I went to school and grew up in towns in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. Moving to Los Angeles was an adjustment for the first few years. Everything was different, from eating Sushi and avocados to working in a small California technology company. Learning to adjust and find ways to make things work is a valuable skill that has helped my career.
Main Job
Duties: Oversee all aspects of the museum library operation including work with acquisitions, preservation, organization. Involved in the reference and research activities of the institution, and provide research and editing assistance to the public relations department.

Highlights: My position at the Baseball Hall of Fame allows me to meet and work with any number of VIPs, including Hall of Fame inductees, other ball players and managers, noted journalists and authors, actors and politicians, and other celebrities. Whether it is working with them on research or writing projects, or just providing behind-the-scenes tours, you never know who might walk through the door on any given day.

I have had to learn to be very careful of everything I say, because when dealing with so many journalists and bloggers it is very easy for an off-the-cuff remark or an aside to make its way into the press. There are many issues upon which the Hall of Fame needs to stay neutral, so it is important and sometimes difficult to keep all my thoughts to myself.

Did the path to your current position have unusual or interesting aspects?

I spent 15 years in law school libraries, which included being granted tenure at the University of Florida, but I just had to give this job a shot when it was announced in 1995. I was lucky enough to be selected, but there certainly is no standard career path to become the baseball librarian.

Anything else?

I have one of the best possible library jobs in all America. I get to work in my chosen profession, doing the things I most enjoy, and it is all baseball … 365 days a year. Some of America’s great cultural treasures reside in our collection, and our staff is responsible for ensuring their long term care, but also to share them with all our visitors. How cool is that?

Favorite Quote: Baseball - It’s like church. Many attend but few understand.

–Wes Westrum, MLB player and manager
**Main Job Duties:** Currently, I am a business analyst in an operational division of LexisNexis, responsible for developing and maintaining the editorial tools and systems used by legal editors around the world to produce primary, secondary, and custom legal information products. The legal content is ultimately available in a wide variety of formats, including online, from mobile devices, in print, and CD. I am responsible for understanding business needs and challenges; working with legal editors to identify needed improvements in their tools and processes; and communicating needed changes to software development teams.

**Highlights:** Traveling has always been one of the most exciting aspects in my career. For a number of years, I worked on developing new online legal research applications and introducing them to customers. I visited Johannesburg, South Africa, for several weeks in June of 1995 to train the clerks of the South African Constitutional Court in online legal research. During the visit, the Constitutional Court read aloud in open court their first decision, finding the death penalty unconstitutional under South Africa’s interim constitution – it was an exciting moment in South Africa’s history and very moving to be present in the courtroom.

**Did the path to your current position have unusual or interesting aspects?**

Going to law school was not part of my original plan. I worked in the Indiana University library system for several years after graduating from SLIS, then took a leave of absence to do an internship at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. I was amazed by the number of people at the Endowment who had been to law school but had no intention of ever practicing law. I took the LSAT while I was Washington, applied to the IU School of Law, and started law school when I returned to work in Bloomington. I have always been interested in publishing and information delivery. After law school, I accepted a position with LexisNexis and found that everything I learned about information systems, user access, and retrieval at SLIS, as well as a background in the law, was brought to bear and still is – 23 years later.

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**The Inventive CEO**

“As an entrepreneur you face many challenges each day as you try to make your mark on an industry ...”

**Main Job Duties:** Oversee the vision and strategy of the company in addition to all information technology development. I bring the unique perspective of an extensive entrepreneurial and small business management background combined with comprehensive information systems architecture capabilities.

**Highlights:** Being with an entrepreneurial/start-up company brings many exciting and fun things each day. The basis of what I do is create a vision and direction for the company and ensure that it becomes a reality. Being able to see a raw idea become a product/service that is sold and that ultimately changes the landscape of the industry is exciting. There is nothing else like it.

**Favorite quote:** As an entrepreneur you face many challenges each day as you try to make your mark on an industry, which in many cases is slow to embrace change and new ideas. So, one of my favorite quotes is:

“To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.”

–Thomas Edison

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**Name:** Leslie L. Denton  
**MLS’76, JD’86**  
**Title:** Business Analyst  
**Institution:** LexisNexis  
**Town/State:** Dayton, OH

**Name:** Brian Kleber  
**MIS’04**  
**Title:** CEO  
**Institution:** Viveda, Predictive Physiology and Medicine, Inc.  
**Location:** Indianapolis, IN
Main Job Duties: Mostly cataloging, about 75/25 original/copy. Other than that, anything library-related you can think of and then some.

Highlights: I am proud of the fact that we have implemented a bookmobile here in the park. From the public’s point of view, it is probably fairly simplistic to think, “Oh, yeah, of course a library would have a bookmobile.” However, working in a special library makes it a bit more unusual. Once a month during the summer, one of our staff (usually the seasonal intern) drives a van loaded with books around the Grand Loop stopping at the major areas in the park. Not, perhaps, a true bookmobile, but something like this hadn’t been done before and park employees are really warming to the idea—we’ve had 60 to 150 percent increases in use every year since we started in 2006. We generally bring three or four boxes of books, as well as anything else park staff have requested.

During the summer, most of the park staff live one to four hours away from the library and have intermittent to no dial-up as their Internet connection. This makes it pretty difficult for them to get the information needed to do fireside presentations and informational walks. The bookmobile helps with that as well as bringing books for general learning (hiking, bird/plant/wildlife identification, etc.) as well as for entertainment. We try to collect anything and everything that has to do with Yellowstone, so even the fiction and AV sections are pretty well developed.

I live near and work in a national park so walking to my job can be pretty interesting. I started out as an intern in 2003 and during one of my first days at work, the administration building had all of the front doors shut down because an elk had given birth right outside. Pretty exciting for someone who rarely saw wildlife other than the IU squirrels.

Though the library’s location has since changed, I still have to walk through elk in the fall and bison herds in the spring (both groups like to eat the grass on the school’s football field which is in between my house and the Heritage and Research Center). I’ve had issues leaving because of pronghorn antelope loitering outside. Thankfully, I haven’t yet seen a bear between work and home though they do come into town and there have been grizzly prints behind our building.

Favorite Quote: Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass…it’s learning to dance in the rain — Unknown

Did the path to your current position have unusual or interesting aspects?

I didn’t want to work in Yellowstone. I liked being near Chicago and Indianapolis. I liked having more than three choices on where to eat out during the winter months. I liked being anonymous in a sea of 40,000 people. I only called to inquire about an internship so that my mother would stop nagging me. Imagine my shock when the third sentence of the phone call was, “So, what day do you think you can you start?” It was my second shortest job interview ever.
Main Job Duties: Responsible for the managing of, organization, storage and safety of Collection. Promote the Collection in UK and overseas by giving lectures and participating in international organizations. Develop and carry out cataloguing projects. Formulate collection management, copyright, environmental control, preservation, and photo management policies. Manage picture library. Responsible for the office management such as booking researcher visits, ordering specialist supplies, and managing volunteers. Provide reference assistance to visiting researchers in person, by phone, and via email. Create informational resources for music, dance and theatre students. Manage reorganization of the Collection. Liaise with other similar specialist organizations.

Highlights: The two actors who started the collection where I work collected ‘anything and everything’ to do with the British theatre – and it’s true – there are books, journals, programs, playbills, photographs, tickets, correspondence, artworks, props, costumes and porcelain figurines ranging in date from the early 1600s to present day. So, it’s exciting to stumble across items such as the actor William Macready’s diary entries from 1849 when he was touring in the United States and met up with the presidential candidate James K. Polk, or the handbag Vivien Leigh carried in Tennessee William’s production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the New Theatre in 1947.

Did the path to your current position have unusual or interesting aspects?

I started travelling abroad when I was 15 years old and knew that I wanted to live overseas at some point in my life. I also acted in children’s theatre in my hometown, and I did my undergraduate degree in Art History and Russian, then went on and did a graduate degree in Visual Culture with a specialization in Costume Studies before deciding to go back and get my MLS specialization in Art Librarianship and Special Collections. So, when a job in a theatre collection in London came up — it seemed like a great opportunity!

Favorite Quote: Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

—Mark Twain

Name: Kristy Davis, MLS’04
Title: Collection Manager
Institution: The Raymond Mander & Joe Mitchenson Theatre Collection
Location: London, England
Greetings from the SLIS Alumni Board President

In a letter destined for an issue themed “Off the Beaten Path,” I won’t go so far as to quote Robert Frost at you — just mentioning his name is surely enough to set the lines rolling through your mind. (I should note, as much as I’ve been thinking about snowy evenings, or more accurately anticipating the upcoming lack of them, I’m thinking of that other poem … about, well, paths.)

It’s all very well to invoke inspirational verse about the excitements and rewards of following new paths — of making choices that might be less expected, of blazing trails or heading in new directions — but while new paths often do lead to both excitement and reward, they can bring about less desirable outcomes as well: risk (financial or otherwise), unanswered questions, even loneliness. Whether you’re working as a solo corporate librarian in a high-rise or single-handedly staffing the media center at several schools, lacking feedback and support from your own professional community can be challenging, as can applying a SLIS degree in a situation completely outside anything resembling a library or information science environment.

On an individual level, many choices might qualify as going off the beaten track (geographically, say, or in terms of one’s professional responsibilities), but what does it mean to go off the beaten path with a degree in library or information science?

Nearly anything, as this issue illustrates.

Our professions aren’t alone in declaring our core skills and strengths as eminently transferable, wildly flexible, and endlessly applicable (although please don’t judge my librarianship by the state of my desk which, I suspect, defies classification). Even so, I expect to be challenged and inspired by the ways fellow alumni have lived out those phrases in their own career choices.

Doing more with less isn’t a new story for academic libraries, certainly, nor is it unique to that arena — and of late, regardless of working environment, we’ve all been tightening our belts while still looking for ways to improve, innovate and expand our offerings to meet the needs of our user communities. In what ways might we go off the beaten path within our own organizations in service of that goal? Often we think in terms of adding new services, but in my own professional reading I’m finding great inspiration from several articles I’ve recently read espousing the value of refocusing and in some cases doing less — and I’m betting that strategically cutting services, even if data repeatedly show they’re no longer wanted or needed, is certainly a road less travelled for most of us.

Furthermore, while there seems to be cause for cautious optimism in regard to the job market (based on a very unscientific weather-eye kept on the number and type of postings lately), it’s still tough out there. I’m sure each of you, like me, can think of several bright, talented fellow alumni whose job searches have gone on long past their expected duration — and whether you’re newly graduated or have already chalked up years of experience, it’s an uncomfortable situation — to say the least! I’ve been thinking that those of us who are in a position to do so might lend a hand or open a door for someone from the SLIS community. Something as simple as words of encouragement, or a quick note sent to the chair of a search committee in praise of someone you know and respect might make a big difference. I’d welcome your ideas on this topic as well.

In other news from the Alumni Board: we’ve been working to revise the Constitution to better reflect the priorities, goals and practices of the Board, and to allow us to better serve our constituency — you. You can review the proposed changes on the SLIS website, and we’d welcome your feedback. We’ll vote on the document at our upcoming meeting April 30.

Finally, for all of you, wherever you find yourself, and whatever career destinations you might have set your sights on: I, the Alumni Board, and the faculty and staff of the School wish you all the best. Don’t forget to share your stories with us — we love to hear them.

Courtney Greene

Upcoming Alumni Events

May 23 (Sunday), 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
All-Conference Alumni Reception,
MLA annual conference, Hilton, Washington, DC

June 14 (Monday), 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Alumni & Student Connect Reception, SLA annual conference, New Orleans, LA

June 27 (Sunday), 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
ALA Annual Conference,
Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC.
(And visit the SLIS Booth (#930) in the Exhibit Hall.)

July 12 (Monday), 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Alumni Reception for SLIS and IU Maurer School of Law and Law Library, AALL annual conference, Capitol Ballroom 7, Hyatt, Denver, CO

October 25 (Monday), 6 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Joint Alumni Reception, ASIS&T annual conference, Pittsburgh, PA

Subscribe to the SLIS Alumni listserv to be notified of future events.
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I want to thank you for your gifts to the School of Library and Information Science. We could not achieve our goal of providing an outstanding education to our students without your help. Our faculty has been ranked #1 in North America for its scholarly productivity and impact, and the school continues as one of the top-ranked programs of its kind in the nation. Your gifts are important to the future of SLIS and the lives of talented men and women. Again, thank you for your generous support.

Blaise Cronin
Dean and Rudy Professor of Information Science

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