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SLIS Newsletter

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A Message from the Director

Greetings to you all. I hope you have had a wonderful holiday break. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some highlights of SLIS during the past semester as well as things we have planned for the coming semesters.

The first and most exciting news from Fall 2004 is the addition of new faculty members to our SLIS family. Four new faculty members joined us in Fall 2004: Drs. Kaye Bray, Janet Hilbun, Eileen McElrath, and Jeong-Mee Lee. Dr. Hilbun was on visiting appointment for two years prior to her acceptance of the regular faculty appointment. Drs. Bray, McElrath and Lee arrived on campus in August and have been actively involved in all SLIS activities since. With their arrival, SLIS now has eleven full time regular faculty members. As we begin our Spring semester, I also want to extend a warm welcome to Dr. June Jacko to the SLIS faculty, and bid a fond farewell to Dr. Lynn Westbrook, who is moving to Austin to be with her family.

The good news regarding enrollment is that it continues to be high. The challenge for

SLIS is to provide a wide range of classes to meet students' demands for their degree plans. We will continue adjusting the course schedule rotation to meet this challenge. The Fall Forum was a resounding success, thanks to the more than 120 students and faculty who participated. It was wonderful to put faces to names and to meet many of you that attended. Vice versa, it is sure that the students enjoyed the ability to meet faculty and staff members as well. Also, it was wonderful to see the diversity of our students and the enthusiasm was tangible. My special thanks go to Drs. Sylvia Vardell and Lynn Akin for their planning, and to our wonderful office staff, JoAnn Edgar and Pat Graham, and all of the graduate assistants who helped with the event on a beautiful Saturday.

Since January 2004, SLIS faculty members have been hard at work to address the concerns raised by ALA Committee on Accreditation regarding our conditional accreditation. I am pleased to say that the progress report we submitted to COA in October was well received. The process is an ongoing one, and the faculty members are currently working on a comprehensive enrollment management policy with the goal to proactively recruit and retain quality students and to

stabilize the long term financial health of the School.

As we look to the future, the top priority for SLIS is to continue its progress on addressing issues related to our accreditation, and I am confident that we will be on schedule to have all conditions removed and to regain our full accreditation by 2007. Meanwhile, we will increase our efforts on upgrading our core curriculum; improving our services to, and partnership with, library communities across Texas; seeking input from our own alumni, LIS colleagues and leaders in the region and in our profession; expanding our recruitment efforts to geographical areas of Texas currently underserved; and promoting diversity of our students. I see the primary goal of our faculty members is to help mentor the development of students, and to play an essential role in all collaborative activities in our profession and for the state of Texas. It is the mission of SLIS to provide all students with the positive space they need to acquire the knowledge necessary for their jobs, to clarify the vision for their careers, and to awaken their passion for the profession. Let's make good use of the time together while we are here.

-- Ling Hwey Jeng

The Library Science Library Enjoys a New Home!

The Library Science Library has a new home! It has moved from its former home in Stoddard Hall to the Garden Level of the Blagg-Huey Library in Denton.

The Library Science Library serves as a model of children's and young adult collections for students. The collection houses approximately 21,000 volumes including a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction, reference materials, software, and multimedia materials. The library also houses a historical collection (reference), SLIS professional papers, bilingual materials, a large selection of big books, and a vertical file. The historical collection of 900 volumes has a rare edition of Pilgrim's Progress, a 1777 New England Primer, and an 1898 edition of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales.

The Library, a part of the TWU Libraries system, serves the University and Denton communities in a variety of ways. The Library supports the teaching and research needs of students and faculty in library and information studies, education, reading, bilingual education, human development, early childhood education, and family sciences. Class orientations, reading guidance, and computer training are offered. The Library provides exhibits, orientations, and demonstrations by experienced staff members.

The Library Science Library is greatly indebted to Dr. Betty Carter, TWU SLIS Professor Emerita, for her most generous donations to the collection.



Stoddard Hall: Home of the School of Library and Information Studies



Evelyn Blagg-Huey Library: Home of the new Library Science Library



Reading Nook in the new Library Science Library

Fall F2F Forum – Spring Mini Forum

The first ever Fall Forum held on September 11th was a success thanks to all those in attendance and the members of our staff and Graduate Assistants who worked behind the scenes. More than 120 students attended and all SLIS faculty members were present.

A wide range of topics were covered by different speakers. Sessions included Blackboard basics, degree plan and advising issues, and graduation guidelines. The forum provided students and professors with an opportunity to meet one another face to face.

Overall, students enjoyed the forum and found it to be helpful and informative. One student replied, "This whole day was an excellent idea. I am sure it took tons of planning and it shows. I hope this can be held regularly, perhaps annually."

Many others expressed the wish that forums be held on a regular basis. As a result, faculty members will be hosting a mini forum at the TLA conference in Austin on April 7th. It will be held from 4:30 – 7:00pm and will take place in the Hilton Hotel in

Austin. Topics covered will include degree plan and advising issues, portfolio and practicum particulars, information on GLISA, and doctoral program opportunities. The sessions will be held in meeting rooms 408 and 412. They are free and are open to current and prospective students of SLIS.

For further information, please contact Dr. Sylvia Vardell at svardell@mail.twu.edu

Did you know?

In 1956, TWU opened the first building in the nation dedicated to library science instruction.



PhD Program

The Doctor of Philosophy degree program in the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University is a research-based program designed to foster critical inquiry about Library and Information Systems and Services, Management and Administration of Library and Information Systems, and Libraries and Information in the Cultural Context.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree program supports the stated mission of the University specifically in the areas of research to enhance progress and welfare of people and the encouragement of the development of intellectual, humanitarian, and leadership skills.

The doctoral program provides a core of theoretical and research material around which students, in collaboration with their Advisory Committees, develop a program to meet their professional and academic needs. The Doctoral Program emphasizes the scholarly perspective as a means for expanding knowledge and as an approach to understanding and improving knowledge and information services.

The objectives of the program are to:

1. Prepare students who can identify significant problems in libraries and information agencies, place them in context, and apply appropriate research techniques to solve them.
2. Prepare students who can assume positions of leadership in the library and information professions as researchers, teachers and administrators.
3. Advance the profession of librarianship through the development of new knowledge about libraries and librarianship.

The doctoral program consists of a minimum of 90 hours beyond the bachelor's degree, up to 15 of which may be completed in a field outside of library and information studies. The specific requirements are determined by the student's Advisory Committee. In some cases the student may need to complete more than 90 hours in order to meet the individual requirements determined by the Advisory Committee.

Common Apportionment of Hours for PhD Program:

- 36 hours from the MLS
- 12 hours for the research tools
- 12 hours for dissertation
- 6 hours for SLIS required courses
- 9 hours for SLIS 6000-level electives
- 3 hours for an examination readings course
- 12 hours for a cognate or other electives

Given the approval of the Advisory Committee, a student may take Independent Studies, have a Teaching Internship, have a Research Internship, transfer in courses, or otherwise develop a personalized program.

*Additional information is accessible at
<http://www.twu.edu/cope/slis/programs/phd.htm>*

Dual Degree Program

TWU is proud to announce the Dual Library/Health Studies Degree. We are the only university in the nation to offer this dual master's program, which combines the specialties of the School of Library and Information Studies and the Department of Health Studies.

Students who pursue the dual program will attain two degrees: Master of Library Science and Master of Science in Health Studies.

Graduates of the program will possess specialized combinations of expertise and be prepared to address social needs stemming from the rapid evolution of information technologies in our versatile job market and information profession. They will also contribute to the resolution of conflicts relating to health policy.

"The dual master's will be an extra bonus in entering the job market after graduation. Plus, the dual degree allows me the flexibility to work in two exciting and dynamic fields."

*- Lisa Huang,
MLS/MS May 2004*

SLIS Welcomes Five New Faculty Members



Denton Campus

Five new faculty members have joined the SLIS faculty in the past year. They include Dr. Eileen McElrath, Dr. Kaye Bray, Dr. June Jacko, Dr. Jeong Mee-Lee, and Dr. Janet Hilbun.

Dr. Eileen McElrath received her PhD in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University. During her tenure at SLIS, she has taught Reference and Information Professions.

Dr. June Jacko received her PhD in Reading Education from the University of North Texas. Her research interests include traditional literature, poetry preferences of preservice teachers, and storytelling and poetry performance. In the past semester, Dr. Jacko has taught Library Materials for Children.

Dr. Janet Hilbun received her PhD in Library Studies from Rutgers University. Her research interests include the role of religion in children's and young adult's

literature along with the information needs and the ways they are solved by children and young adults. During her tenure here she has taught Information Literacy, Library Materials for Children, School Library Media Centers, and Librarians as Instructional Partners.

Dr. Jeong-Mee Lee received her PhD in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University. Her research interests include information organization and evaluation, human-computer interaction, metadata, and usability engineering.

Dr. Kaye Bray received her PhD in Information Science from the University of North Texas. She is a member of the Beta Phi Mu Committee. During her tenure here she has taught Librarians as Instructional Partners and Multimedia Materials and Library Services.

2004 Scholarship Recipients

- Heidi Ashbaugh
- Amanda Chisholm
- Susan Clove
- Jennifer Davidson
- Beverly Harkness
- Stephanie Hensley
- Danene Hudson
- Joan Johnson
- Candace King
- Carl Martin
- Shannon Rae Miller
- Patricia Moncivais-Lara
- Amy Money
- Rachel Pilcher
- Lilly Ramin
- Yahnira Soto
- Larry Brad Thomas
- Wendy Walters
- Cari Young

Spring Mini Forum – April 7th

Please mark your calendars now for an evening mini forum to be held in Austin, Texas, April 7, 2005 (4:30 – 7:00pm), in conjunction with the annual conference of the Texas Library Association. We hope you plan to attend the TLA conference, but either way, you are welcome to our evening mini forum in Austin.

The event is designed to bring SLIS students together for the purpose of meeting faculty, staff, and each other, becoming familiar with the program and course components, and learning and sharing new information.

These sessions will be held at the conference hotel, the Hilton Hotel Austin, from 4:30-7:00pm in meetings rooms 408 and 412. These sessions are free and are open to current and

prospective students.

Plans for the sessions include:

- Degree plan and advising issues.
- Portfolio and practicum particulars
- Wrap up sessions for those in their final semesters
- Information on our GLISA student association
- Doctoral program opportunities

Immediately following the mini forum, you are invited to join us for our annual TWU alumni dinner. However, a paid ticket is required and can be obtained through your registration for the TLA conference.

Distance Education Opportunities



Distance Education programs mold favorably into the structure of the library profession as a whole. Skills acquired in information technologies, communication, time management, and problem solving are very important assets for today's librarians. The distance education program is an excellent opportunity for the continuing education of practicing librarians.

Additionally, you may earn your MLS through the Learning in Flexible Environments (LIFE), the

distance learning initiative of the School of Library and Information Studies. This 36-credit hour MLS program combines optional face-to-face class meetings with Internet-based coursework.

The distance education program at TWU allows students to complete all of the coursework for the master's degree online. Students can also take both traditional courses and online courses in tandem if they wish. The online courses usually offer up to three optional face-to-face meetings during the semester (on Saturdays) so that students can meet their professors and other classmates, but these meetings are not required. The sessions are deliberately scheduled to

maximize opportunities for students who are taking multiple courses to attend all of the face-to-face sessions. The first face-to-face session for online courses is scheduled either the 1st or 2nd Saturday of the semester.

Online courses at TWU are highly interactive. Instructors use a course website called Blackboard for posting lectures and reading assignments. Students participate through discussion boards and/or chat rooms and e-mail. Assignments are submitted electronically through the instructor's digital drop box. For more information on Distance Learning at TWU, go to: <http://www.twu.edu/dl/>.

"Our online degrees and more than 200 distance learning courses are designed for those who are busy with work or family, yet still want to build on their knowledge and advance their careers." Ann Stuart, Chancellor and President

Flexibility: LIFE courses allow you to reduce travel time and expense while completing the master's degree in a 24/7 online environment. You may enter the program during any semester.

Innovation: LIFE courses offer personal contact with faculty via optional face-to-face meetings while using the latest in courseware technology to deliver content and interactivity directly to your desktop.

Choice: LIFE courses can be mixed and matched with traditional courses. Working closely with faculty, you will design a program ideally suited to your learning styles and individual needs.

Quality: LIFE courses are taught by full-time faculty with extensive experience developing and teaching courses in a variety of formats and settings. The program is accredited by the ALA.

Important Dates for Spring

- February 24 - Last day to drop a class without academic penalty.
- March 7 - Begin Academic Advising for Summer and Fall 2005.
- March 11 – Portfolios Due
- March 14-18 - Spring Holiday. No classes.
- March 24 – Final installment payment due for tuition/fees and housing/meals
- March 31 - Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University.
- May 6 – Last day of classes
- May 7 – Final examinations begin
- May 12 – Final examinations end
- May 14 – Denton commencement



Did You Know?

TWU was the first state college (1938-39) to offer a degree in library science.

Student Spotlight

MLS candidate, Amber Seely, has had her article “Digging Up Archeological Information” accepted for publication in Behavioral and Social Sciences Librarian. Her article will be in either the Fall 2005 or the Spring 2006 issue.

Hilary Haygood, MLS candidate, has earned a grant to host an author visit for her entire school district in Andrews, Texas. As a result, author Pat Mora will be visiting her school in April.

Doctoral student Ann Sloan will be presented

“Poets as Signifiers: Learning About Poetry from the Poets Themselves” along with Young Adult poet Sonya Sones at the annual conference of the National Council of Teachers of English in Indianapolis, IN.

Carolyn Harty, MLS candidate, received the Mayo Drake Scholarship from the South Central Region of the Medical Library Association. Funds from the award will allow Carolyn to attend the annual SCC/MLA meeting.

MLS candidate, Vicky

Hays will have her article “Earning an MLS in Your Pajamas” published in the Spring edition of Colorado Libraries.

We would like to congratulate the 2004 Beta Phi Mu Inductees:

- Janet Bickel-Burton
- Jennifer R. Davidson
- Susan Clove Durrett
- Cynthia L. Henry
- Yolanda G. Henry
- Kimberly J. Kinnaird
- April M. Krych
- Deborah M. Lipnick
- Erin K. Miklaur
- Diana S. O’Connor

Faculty Focus

Professor Sylvia Vardell has several publications in press including: Vardell, S.M. and Jacko, J.M. “Folklore for Kids: exploring the Rhymes, Songs, and Games of Childhood.” Book Links. American Library Association. Dr. Vardell was also voted President-Elect of the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY).

Dr. Evelyn Curry presented a poster at the Association of Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference in Boston entitled, “HIV/AIDS and African-American Women: Information Seeking Behavior and Cultural Considerations.”

Professor Jeff Huber recently received an implementation phase grant award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine for TWU’s F2F Connection project. The project partners the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, Texas Woman’s University, and Family to Family Network to facilitate access to electronic health information resources for families who have children with chronic illnesses and/or disabilities. Funds from the grant award are being used to develop and implement health literacy programming at the Family to Family Network facility.

Professor Keith Swigger serves as Team Leader for

design and implementation of the Learning Resources Center for Prince Mohammad University (PMU), a new private university in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia that will open in 2006. The complete PMU design is a project of the Texas International Education Consortium. Dr. Swigger is also a member of the Implementation Committee for the Continuum of Library Education, a project of the Western Council of State Libraries to address professional recruitment, retention, diversity, and the need for improved library services especially in rural, underserved and tribal areas.

Denton Campus



Houston Campus





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SLIS Goals

The School of Library and Information Studies prepares students for leadership roles in the information professions, including careers in librarianship and mass communications.

1. Development of professional competencies that reflect an appropriate balance between theory and practice, and an ability to meet the changing information needs of society.
2. Contributions to the improvement of information service through teaching, research, publication, and professional service.
3. Advance the profession of librarianship through the development of new knowledge about libraries and librarianship.



**TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
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2004 Graduates

Pamelia Adams	Holly Edwards	Melanie Machos	Jennifer Renteria
Yong Hee Ahn-Kim	Leann Eldridge	Martha Magee	Brittany Rice
Maria Alatorre	Ana Esparza	Jessica Marie	Rodney Rich
Marleen Allen	Meredith Fleming	Sunday McAdams	Selina Rodríguez
Kimberly Archer	Stacy Fowler	Sherry McAsey	Dale Saenz
Janet Bickel-Burton	Velma Frank	Nancy McGinnis	Angela Sasse
Michelle Boulè	Lea Ann Gilbert	Shannon McGregor	Constance Schultz
Carla Braxton	Robyn Ginther	Annie McKinney	Lynette Schurdevin
Rhonda Brockett	Alison Graber	Elizabeth, McNutt	Sara Shreve
Erin Brooks	Lucilia Green	Erin Miklaur	Bobbye Silva
Sharon Brooks	Sylvia Gutiérrez-Drake	Madelaine Monroe	Alice Sparks
Lola Buchanan	Susan Halydier	Prudence Morris	Jennifer Stanbro
Shannon Burke	Doriss Hambrick	Laura Murff	Mia Steinkamp
Sandra Cappello	Carolyn Harty	Kristen Murphy	Nicki Stohr
Ivey Carey	Diana Haskell	Sandra Noles	Susan Totter
Jacqueline Carroll	Cynthia Henry	Jeong Rye Oh	Gretchen Trkay
Amy Chapman	Delia Hernández	Shari Oндler	Wendy Turner
Valerie Christie	Heidi Hiteshue	Non Owens-Gravell	Rosanna Webb
Kathleen Collins	Chantel Horsey	Chin Sook Pak	Mary Wegher
Heather Cropper	Jill Howell	Darleen Perry	Rachel Wilson
Tracy Croysdale	Cristal Issaacks	Melissa Petty	Deborah Wright
Sara Darden	Judith Ketola	Nicole Pitt	Christine Yanger
Audrey Davidson	April Krych	Sara Puentes	Julia Zafereo
Alissa Diaz	Deborah Lipnick	Maria Salza Purchine	
Shellie Driscoll	Stacey Livingston	Darla Pyron	
Susan Durrett	Ricardo López, Jr.	Jill Rael	
Johnson Dweben	Catherine Loveday	Robby Rather	

SLIS Alumni: Publishing, Presenting, and Contributing to the Profession

Amy Buckman, MLS 2002

“A Practical Approach to Marketing the Public School Library.” Library Media Connections, Fall 2004.

Rose Brock, MLS 2003

“Poetry Partners in Middle School Learning: Verse Novels Connect Poets, Teachers, Librarians, and Students.” Presented at the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English 2004.

Solina Marquis, MLS 2003

“Collections and Services for the Spanish-Speaking.” Public Libraries, March/April 2003, May/June 2003.

Ken Coley, MLS 2002

“Moving Towards a Method to Test for Self-Censorship.” SMLR, 2002.

Shedrick Pittman-Hasset, MLS 2003

“Website Awards as a Selection Toll for Librarians.” Public Libraries, May/June 2003.

Donna MacKinney, MLS 2003

“Autism, Children and Libraries: The 3R’s: Repetition, Routine, and Redundancy.” Children and Libraries, Summer/Fall 2004.

MLS for School Librarians:

Students who plan to work in the public school systems of Texas must meet the state’s requirements as set by the Texas Board of Educator Certification. To help prepare students to meet those requirements, the MLS requires ten courses, leaving room for two electives.

MLS for Special Librarians:

Students who plan to work in corporate, museum, medical, and other special libraries have a number of course options available. To help prepare students to work in these varied settings, the MLS requires four courses, leaving room for eight electives.

MLS for Academic and Public Librarians:

Students who plan to work in public, college, or university libraries have a number of course options available. To help prepare students to work in these varied settings, the MLS requires four courses, leaving room for eight electives.