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connections

THE ISCHOOL @ SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY





iSchool senior Sam Morrison executes a backflip in the lobby of Disqus headquarters during the Spring Break in Silicon Valley trip. Morrison completed a backflip every day during 2011, and spent the summer of 2012 on a world-wide backflip trip. Read more about Morrison, his travels, and his backflip-inspired entrepreneurship project at <http://ischool.syr.edu/sam>.



Fifteen students participated in the second annual Spring Break in Silicon Valley (SBinSV) trip in March. SBinSV provides a select group of students the chance to observe and participate in an entrepreneurial ecosystem. The group visited a host of startups, technology companies, business incubators, and venture capital firms during its six-day trip. At each location, students had an opportunity to learn about the business world, ask questions, and interact with founders and employees. The goal of the program is to expose entrepreneurially curious Syracuse students to the mecca of startup and technology culture – Silicon Valley.

connections

THE **iSCHOOL** @ SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY



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ON THE COVER

Isaac Budmen G'14 (left) and Christopher Becker '13 work in the Syracuse Student Sandbox. The Sandbox is a unique business incubator that gives aspiring student entrepreneurs the resources to make their visions a reality. Budmen and Becker have formed a company, Little Tinker Co., and spent their summer designing and building projects that explore the Internet of things, and bridge the social media world to the real world. <http://littletinker.co>. Photograph by Susan Kahn.

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iSchools and Entrepreneurship

Dean's Message



SUSAN KAHN

ELIZABETH D. LIDDY, DEAN

This summer I was invited to speak at the *Information Professionals 2050 Conference* at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and to share aspects of the iSchool vision. It occurred to me to share some of what I said with you, our alumni, friends, and supporters, so that you can see the striking picture of both where the iSchool is today, as well as how we will move into the future — a rich picture of a very successful, highly reputed school, of which I have the honor of serving as Dean.

While I was asked to talk about what education for information professionals should be in 2050, I did not think it possible to think forward in any reliable way as to what that would look like in 38 years, but rather that what we in the iSchool have done, and what I encourage other iSchools to do, is to adopt an entrepreneurial mind-set. That is — be alert, stay attentive, receptive, willing to risk, able to recognize and sustain competitive advantage, and most of all — be agile.

I argued that iSchools (and the Universities in which they reside) must speed up the planning and implementation processes for introducing new initiatives — which are currently so slow in most places that they cannot support the most entrepreneurial of ideas. iSchools must have entrepreneurial

leaders who empower an environment that is ready, willing, and able to react quickly to the opportunities that abound in today's world, which is so increasingly information dependent. I pointed to our own recent experience, where our three fastest growing areas of teaching, research, and attraction were not in existence just a few years ago — namely social media, information entrepreneurship, and data science. While these are going strong, we know there will be newer ones next year. To get new programs going quickly, we utilize very 'light-weight' curricular options that do not require multiple levels of review and approval, but rather can be mounted as specializations within existing degree programs.

It is essential for iSchools to be actively creating enterprises themselves — by both faculty and students. Our interdisciplinary minor in Information Technology, Design and Start-Ups, has grown from 5 student company teams in 2009 to 34 this summer, and from 4 community mentors to 115. iSchools need to be equally encouraging of faculty entrepreneurship, as we have seen the amazing benefits we can reap when faculty do start-ups simultaneously while carrying out their faculty responsibilities. A terrific example of this is Jeff Rubin, who started his own company within the iSchool as a master's student, while teaching as an adjunct. He then joined the faculty, and now is an Associate Professor of Practice, and runs his company, SIDEARM Sports, from within the school, with 21 full-time employees and 25 part-time student employees. In parallel, he teaches courses of 200+ undergrads from across campus — and is one of our highest-rated faculty.

While faculty entrepreneurs contribute to the prestige and reputation of the iSchool, they are also contributing to the understanding that our students pick up regarding the 'real life' aspect of the information field, which they learn about from faculty entrepreneurs sharing their experiences in class.

What will our entrepreneurial stance toward education for tomorrow's information professionals do for us? I strongly believe that we will continue to experience more of what we have so far — tremendous growth in student body, faculty, and staff; financial success; a strong reputation, and a continual evolution of our academic programs in keeping with the times — whatever that might be. All, hopefully with your attention and support! ■



DANIEL LITTLEPAGE

Peter Morrissey, Director of the University's Information and Technology Services office (center), works with students to map a wireless networking strategy.

STUDENT NOTE

Students Lend a Hand in Haiti

A GROUP OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY students, faculty and staff, including three students from the School of Information Studies, traveled to Haiti in August 2011 to provide technical assistance to the Universite d'Etat du Haiti (UEH) as the school tries to rebuild its wireless internet infrastructure in the wake of the 2010 earthquake.

Graduate students Shivesh Ganotra and Kshitij Mahant, and undergraduate student Daniel Littlepage were part of a team organized by the University's Information Technology and Services office, which has formed an outreach collaboration project between Syracuse University and the UEH. This trip was the first phase in the year-long collaboration – the University also sent six graduate students back to Haiti later in the fall.

FACULTY BRIEF

Lankes Named Dean's Scholar for the New Librarianship

PROFESSOR R. DAVID LANKES was appointed as Dean's Scholar for the New Librarianship by School of Information Studies Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy.

Lankes, who also serves as the Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse (IIS), joined the faculty in 1998. His current work focuses on reconceptualizing the library field through the lens of New Librarianship.

Lankes describes New Librarianship as the recasting of library and library practice using the concept that knowledge is created through conversation. Because libraries are in the knowledge business, libraries are also in the conversation business.

"New librarians approach their work as facilitators of conversation," he explains. "Be it in practice, policies, programs or tools, participatory librarians seek to enrich, capture, store and disseminate the conversations of their communities."

"Through his writing and speaking about what it means to be a librarian in this day and age, Dave has increased the scope and potential of the field," remarked Dean Liddy. "His work has helped to even further improve our very positive reputation in ways that are difficult to measure." ■



STEVE SARTORI

iSCHOOL NEWS

Celebrating One Year of Community Manager Chat

September 7, 2011 marked the first anniversary of Community Manager Chat on Twitter, a forum started in 2010 by Kelly Lux, the Online Communication and Relationship Manager at the School of Information Studies and Jenn Pedde, a Syracuse University alumna and Community Manager at 2Tor, an online education company.

This weekly chat, organized on Twitter via the hashtag #CmgrChat, serves as a forum to discuss ideas, foster collaboration, and as a resource for employees working in the fast-changing community and social media management field.

"I have learned a great deal about the variety of tools and strategies used by other community managers and have been able to put many of them to

use in my work at the iSchool," explains Lux. "One of the major lessons of #CmgrChat has been the value of integrating social media into all facets of an organization and how important it is to really know your own community before you can represent it online." ■



STEVE SARTORI

FACULTY BRIEF

Zhang awarded Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program Grant

STEVE SANDORI



PROFESSOR PING ZHANG was awarded a grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

The overall goal of this project is to help educate a new generation of science librarians. Scientific research is generating huge amounts of data that must be managed and preserved, and there is a need for professionals who specialize in this important work.

“The bulk of the requested funds will be spent to support Ph.D. students training to become faculty in schools that grant MLS degrees, directly addressing the IMLS priority to develop faculty to educate the next generation of library professionals,” Dr. Zhang explained.

In a news release, New York Senator Charles E. Schumer noted that Syracuse University is a leader in this field. “I applaud the Institute of Museum and Library Services for selecting Syracuse University from over one hundred applicants for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program,” Schumer said in the release. “This only confirms what we already knew—that Syracuse University is one of the leading institutions for library sciences, and at the forefront of educating students in the critical 21st century fields of scientific research and data management.” ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Thomas Contributes to Project Management Book

Assistant Professor of Practice Art Thomas has contributed to a book on project management.

Thomas teaches classes on project management and information resource management. He is also Director of the Upstate Health Research Network (UHRN), a consortium of institutions and expert researchers coordinated through Syracuse University

that is making recommendations for health care reimbursement benchmarks.

His contribution, a tip on how to motivate a project team, appears in a chapter on managing project resources in a recently released book entitled, *Successful*

STEVE SANDORI



Project Management: Applying Best Practices and Real-World Techniques With Microsoft Project, by Bonnie Biafore. ■

ISCHOOL NEWS

NSF Showcases Wireless Grid Efforts

Faculty members and graduate students working with the Wireless Grid Innovation Testbed (WiGiT) and Wireless Grid Lab at the School of Information Studies were interviewed by the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Directorate of Engineering Industrial Innovation and Partnerships program to highlight the work they have done as recipients of the NSF’s Partnerships for Innovation Program grants.

WiGiT and the Wireless Grid Lab assist in refining wireless technologies to create markets and bridge the gap between network middleware and grid application layers. By contributing to open standards and application programming

interfaces for wireless grids, work in the WiGiT distributed experimental testbed will help accelerate commercialization and adoption of new wireless solutions and products.

Wireless Grid Lab executive director Edward Nanno explains, “we’re at a juncture in this adventure. We’re getting to a critical mass with wireless grid products and services entering the marketplace, and are developing open specifications and standards for these wireless technologies. The NSF wanted to showcase what we’re doing at a pivotal point in this project, so we took them to four separate test sites around Syracuse to let them see the impact of the technology in the community.” ■

J.A. ROSS



Bernadine Okoro of the NSF directs a video shoot in the WiGiT lab with iSchool Professor Lee McKnight (right) as Peter Wong from Tufts University participates via video conference.

iSCHOOL NEWS

Sandbox Director Receives White House Award Nomination

SYRACUSE STUDENT SANDBOX DIRECTOR John D. Liddy was honored to be nominated for a “Champions of Change” award from The White House, but even more affirming was what he learned about the distinctiveness of the School of Information Studies’ student entrepreneurial mentoring program during his visit.

Liddy was one of 150 guests throughout the U.S. invited to discuss entrepreneurial mentoring with officials of the Small Business Administration and the White House Office of Public Engagement on March 7. He was a nominee for the “Champions of Change” mentorship award, which recognizes outstanding leaders in entrepreneurial mentoring, counseling and training in support of small business owners.



SUSAN KAHN

“To be there was awesome, exciting, and it was very reaffirming. I came away more pleased with what we are doing by seeing how the program stands up with everyone else’s. We’re doing things well, and what we’re doing is unique,” he said.

In conversations with Small Business Administration service providers there, Liddy said he was told there are not many actual practitioners of mentoring, as is the case with the Syracuse Student Sandbox. In addition, he said the officials told him they have formally studied various mentoring techniques as related to the federal Jumpstart program, and consider the team-based approach (used at the iSchool) as a best practice.

Liddy said he was encouraged by the gathering in terms of a federal initiative on mentorship. “One thing I saw is a government interested in what we’re doing.” The breakout sessions where SBA officials directly asked mentors how the agency could help consisted of “small sessions directly led by influential people. They asked us questions, and wanted to hear more.” In addition to the awards presentation, Liddy also took part in a breakout panel discussion focused on venture networks.

The award nomination, plus the fact that two student companies have gone to the White House for recognition in the last six months, is significant for Syracuse University and the iSchool, Liddy said. “We’re really getting on the map. We really have a lot of momentum,” he observed. ■

iSCHOOL NEWS

Little Free Library Initiative Earns Chancellor’s Award

The Syracuse Little Free Libraries project, an initiative that brings books for borrowing to community street corners, was recognized with a 2012 Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship.

The University-wide distinction recognizes a collaborative team project developed by the iSchool in conjunction with representatives from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the University’s Office of Community Engagement and residents of Syracuse’s Near Westside community.

The Little Free Libraries project was cited for its “dedicated, active involvement” on behalf of the University in the community, and for “encouragement of others to learn, discover, and create through deep engagement and exchanges with practitioners and communities.”

Little Free Libraries Project Coordinator Jaime Snyder led implementation of the initiative with a team of folks who brought various expertise and talent to the project. Snyder works as the iSchool’s liaison for Interdisciplinary Development for the initiative Common Ground, and recently completed her doctoral dissertation in Information Science and Technology.

“It is really nice to get this acknowledgement while the project is still ongoing,” Snyder said, since the attention of the award “will mean more people will hear about it and more people can get involved.” She said the organizing

JO ROSS



Reclaimed pay telephone housings are converted into mini curbside libraries for residents of Syracuse’s Near Westside community.

team “has been overwhelmed with the positive support and encouragement this project has received from everyone, from the Chancellor to the little kids on the street.” She added that, from the initial planning meeting, the group’s focus was to assure that the project “came out of the community, and that we were responding to community interest and need. I think we’ve been able to maintain being very true to that goal, keeping the focus and vision we had from the beginning.”

The pay-telephone housing that comprises a Little Free Library on Gifford Street in Syracuse has had much success already. In its first four weeks of operation more than 120 books were borrowed.

Two more Little Free Libraries have been installed in Syracuse, Snyder said.

More information on the Syracuse Little Free Libraries is available at: <http://littlelibraries.syr.edu>. ■



Students Receive Global Experience in EuroTech Program

Students visited the headquarters of Interpol in Lyon, France, to hear presentations about Interpol operations, databases, digital crime, and predicting crime with statistics.

A group of thirty students and two School of Information Studies faculty members spent two weeks in Europe learning about information systems at global corporations and agencies.

The trip, called EuroTech, is part of the broader curriculum collaboration between Syracuse University and JPMorgan Chase. The collaboration, Global Enterprise Technology (GET), is an interdisciplinary program focused on preparing students for careers in large-scale, technology-leveraged global operating environments.

The GET program offers students the opportunity to integrate their classroom experience with real-world professional learning. While on the EuroTech trip, students earned course credit while learning about technology issues from global companies such as Nestlé and Siemens.

Leading the trip were iSchool Assistant Professor of Practice David Dischiave and Gisela von Dran, Director Emerita of the M.S. in Library and Information Science program and an iSchool Board of Advisors member. ■

Students from start-up companies work in the Student Sandbox in the Tech Garden.



FACULTY BRIEF

McKnight, Rotolo Honored by Technology Alliance of Central New York

FACULTY MEMBERS

Lee McKnight and Anthony Rotolo received awards from the Technology Alliance of Central New York (TACNY).

TACNY is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote excellence in technology in Central New York. The Alliance organizes various programs and events to bring Central New York's technical community together.

Associate Professor McKnight was awarded Technology Project of the Year for his work with the Wireless Grid Innovation Testbed (WiGiT). Assistant Professor of Practice Anthony Rotolo was recognized with the Young Technologist of the Year award.



L-R Anthony Rotolo, Dean Liddy, Lee McKnight.

"It is extremely gratifying to have our work over the past decade conceptualizing, designing and developing wireless grid technologies and applications recognized by the technical community," said McKnight.

"It's an honor to receive this award from TACNY," said Rotolo. "My work in social media is really about empowering people to share information and ideas, which is the most rewarding part of working with these technologies." ■

STUDENT NOTE

Syracuse Student Sandbox to Benefit from \$500,000 Award

Syracuse University has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) targeted at innovation and acceleration of entrepreneurship and student ventures in central New York.

Coupled with a \$1.7 million endowment to the Raymond von Dran Innovative and Disruptive Entrepreneurship Accelerator (IDEA) Fund, the EDA award will provide funding for the Syracuse Student Sandbox's effort to assist student entrepreneurs in launching new businesses in upstate New York.

The Syracuse Student Sandbox provides an incubator space and programming in the Tech Garden in downtown Syracuse for student start-up companies. There are more than twenty student-run ventures operating in the incubator space now, and the program is open to all student entrepreneurs from colleges and universities in central New York. ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Dedrick Receives Sloan Foundation Grant to Study Wind Energy Jobs

Associate Professor Jason Dedrick has been awarded a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to analyze jobs associated with the wind energy industry in the U.S. and around the globe.

As clean energy continues to be promoted as a potential driver of economic growth and employment as the world responds to environmental threats such as climate change, supporters see the potential to build a dynamic new industry and create millions of jobs in the U.S.



STEVE SARFORI

Skeptics, however, question the job-creation potential of clean energy for the U.S. They point out that the wind and solar industries are global in nature, with companies from the U.S., Europe and Asia participating in the supply chain, and manufacturing spread around the world. It is possible that many of the jobs associated with clean energy will end up outside the U.S.

This debate on job location points to the larger question of who actually benefits from innovation and investment in emerging technologies when industry value chains cross national boundaries. Is it the home country of the lead firm in the value chain, the country where the final product is manufactured, or the countries that supply high value components?

Dedrick will address this issue through a focused study of the wind energy industry. Using a methodology developed in a study of the Apple iPod value chain, Dedrick and his associates, Greg Linden of UC Berkeley and Kenneth L. Kraemer of UC Irvine, will estimate the global distribution of jobs and wages associated with wind energy development in the U.S. They also will forecast future wind energy jobs and wages in the U.S. and other countries under different scenarios.

"My role will be to collect data from wind turbine manufacturers, their suppliers, and wind farm developers and operators to estimate the current number of jobs in the U.S. and abroad," explained Dedrick. "Then, I'll forecast future job creation under different scenarios, depending on the scale of investment and the nationality of the turbine manufacturers." ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Center for Digital Literacy Awarded National Leadership Grant

THE ISCHOOL'S CENTER FOR DIGITAL LITERACY (CDL) has been awarded a National Leadership Grant for \$190,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The two-year grant, entitled "Investigating Self-Determination Variables in Summer Reading Program Participants," proposes research that has the potential to make a significant contribution to the library research literature in the areas of youth and information literacy.

The focus of this research, assessing the connections between free voluntary reading in public library summer reading programs for youth and the development of information literacy skills, has never been undertaken in any large-scale way. Researchers hope that their findings will help provide strong support for the importance of such reading programs in public libraries.

FACULTY BRIEF

Rotolo Talks Social Media on Capitol Hill

Professor Anthony Rotolo delivered a presentation on social media strategy to Senators and their staff members at the United States Capitol in Washington D.C. in November.

The talk, part of the Senate's Sergeant At Arms Technology Conference Series, was geared toward elected officials and the press and media staffers working in the offices of Senators and Representatives. Rotolo discussed best practices for creating a social media



STEVE SARFORI

Marilyn P. Arnone, Associate Professor of Practice and co-director of the CDL, is the principal investigator on the grant,

and Ruth V. Small, Professor and founding Director of the CDL, is the co-principal investigator.

"We are going to collect data from 12 library reading programs, including ones here in the local area from the Onondaga County library system," explained Arnone. "The grant ties nicely into the research we do at the CDL, and we have done a great deal of work with school libraries in the past, and we're excited to be able to extend this connection to the public libraries as well." ■

strategy, how to engage in online conversations with constituents, and offered tips for using social media for crisis communications.

"They were interested in finding out how they could best stay connected to their constituents and further the role of government," explained Rotolo. "They want to strategically use social media to hear from constituents and have an ongoing conversation."

According to discussions Rotolo had with attendees, he believes that social media is

fast emerging as a necessary communications channel in government. "They realize they need to do it. But many of the longstanding rules and established practices do not address social media issues. In some cases, social media may be contradictory to the established rules and practices of the Senate. The landscape is changing faster than the rules," he said. ■



Julie Walas (center) talks with IT Girls program participants after a group presentation.

JO. ROSS

iSCHOOL NEWS

IT Girls Retreat Raises Interest in Technology Education, Careers

THE ISCHOOL HOSTED 60 HIGH SCHOOL junior and senior girls in November in an inaugural overnight retreat program called The IT Girls.

The program, organized by iSchool undergraduate recruitment staff members Dori Farah and Julie Walas, offered a way for high school girls to learn about technology education and careers via mentors and programming from the iSchool.

Attendees participated in technology activities and learning sessions with peer advisors, graduate students and the iSchool recruitment team. They were also separated into teams to work on an overnight challenge, where they were asked to conceptualize technology-based solutions to adolescent issues such as texting while driving, online bullying, and time management and organization.

“We set out to create an experience that we hope will inspire them to consider an education and career in technology,” said Walas, the Director of Undergraduate Recruitment for the iSchool. “We’re responding to a call to action. Our country is experiencing a deficit of female talent and interest in the STEM disciplines, and we want to help. It is a loss for us not have enough of these women – inherently collaborative, intuitive, inquisitive, multi-tasking leaders – in our community of information innovators.” ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Mueller Takes Best Paper Award for ICANN Publication

Professor Milton Mueller’s paper, “ICANN Inc.: Accountability and Participation in the Governance of Critical Internet Resources,” has received the Best Paper award from the Korean Journal of Policy Studies (KJPS).

STEVE SHARON



facing up to this problem by encouraging the public to “get involved” in its processes. Public participation in its processes, his paper contends, is no substitute for real accountability, which

can only come from competition, globally applicable law, and a membership with real voting power over the board of directors.

“I have been surprised at how widely read and cited this paper has become,” said Mueller, “and, what an impact it has had on global discussion of ICANN. The best paper award from KJPS is a very gratifying form of recognition.” ■

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is the international organization that governs the Internet’s domain name and IP addressing systems. As a private corporation vested with global governance authority, Mueller calls it a “fascinating innovation.”

His paper explains why ICANN has an accountability deficit. He shows how it has avoided

FACULTY BRIEF

Renee Franklin Hill Honored for Best Paper

Assistant Professor Renee Franklin Hill accepted an award naming an article she co-authored as one of four “best papers” at the 2011 Conference of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).

Dr. Franklin Hill accepted the award in Dallas in January, along with co-author Kafi Kumasi, Ph.D., assistant professor at Wayne State University. Their article, “Are We

There Yet? Results of a Gap Analysis to Measure LIS Students’ Prior Knowledge and Actual Learning of Cultural Competence Concepts,” was published in the October 2011 issue of the Journal of Education in Library and Information Science. It analyzes survey results from Library Information Science students at two universities about the level to



FACULTY BRIEF

Small Appointed to NYLA's Digital Literacy Committee

RUTH SMALL, the Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor and Director of the School Media Specialization in the Library and Information Science Program has been appointed to serve on the New York Library Association's Digital Literacy Committee.

The New York Library Association serves as the voice of the library community in New York. Established by Melvil Dewey in 1890, it is the oldest state library association in the country and represents library staff, trustees, and students at school, college, special and public libraries across the state. ■



STEVE SARDORI

FACULTY BRIEF

D'Eredita Profiled in CNY Business Exchange

STEVE SARDORI

Assistant Professor Michael D'Eredita and his rowing machine invention were profiled in the December/January issue of CNY Business Exchange magazine.

D'Eredita, who is actively involved in the Syracuse Student Sandbox start-up accelerator and teaches a course on innovation in information technology called, "What's the Big Idea?," talked to the magazine about

his invention and the patent processes.

The invention, a rowing machine that closely duplicates the conditions in a rowing shell, will go to market soon, and is made largely of components sourced from the central New York area. ■

which their coursework prepared them to become culturally competent library practitioners.

"Achieving recognition among peers for research on cultural competence is especially meaningful and significant," Dr. Franklin Hill said. "The achievement illustrates their recognition that the topic has practical, legitimate and important educational impact."

"Even in the recent past, cultural competence is a subject that many may easily have dismissed as a social issue rather than one

that directly affects the quality of education and information delivery," Franklin Hill continued.

She explained the perspective that led to the creation of the paper. "Cultural competence is something we all need to have an understanding of, to be inclusive and to embrace all the different cultures that are out there. LIS students must be taught how to effectively communicate information and help people from all backgrounds be able to find information," she noted. ■

iSCHOOL NEWS

School Media Program Ranks First for Student Services and Technology

The master's degree in Library and Information Science with School Media specialization offered by the iSchool has been ranked first in the Student Services and Technology category of the U.S. News Top Online Education Programs rankings for 2012.

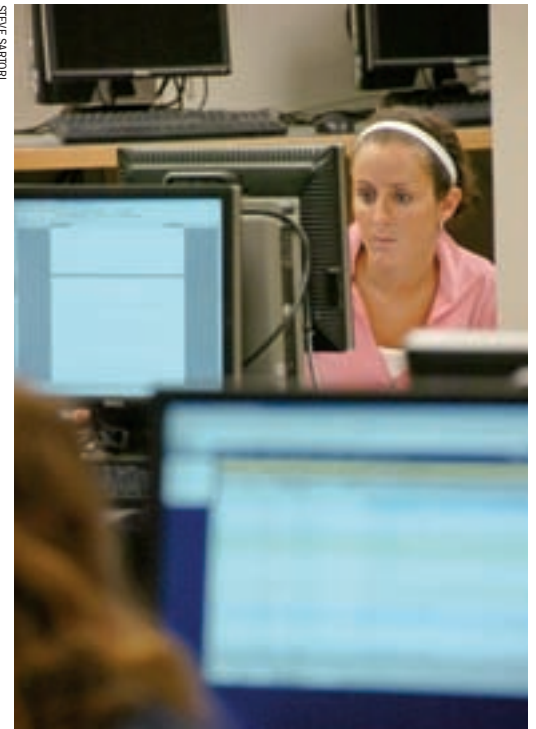
The category ranking is determined by evaluation of technologies available to students, such as live streaming of classes and online access to learning management systems, as well as evaluation of online access to student services, academic advising, career services, and digital library services.

Professor Ruth Small, Director of the School Media Program, has watched the iSchool's distance education presence evolve and grow exponentially over the years. "One thing has remained constant," Small says. "Faculty must have strong technology and instructional design support as they develop and implement their online courses. I have always been very impressed by the level of support provided by our outstanding instructional design and IT staff and this was recently reinforced by our number 1 ranking."

The School Media Program offers a formal area of specialization in school librarianship, and focuses on teaching Library and

Information Science students the skills to help children in all grades and areas of literacy and technology fluency. Students who complete their degree with the School Media specialization work with Syracuse University's School of Education to achieve New York State certification as a school library media specialist.

In addition to the first-place ranking for Student Services and Technology, the School Media program ranked 8th for Faculty Credentials and Training, and 11th for Admissions Selectivity. ■



STEVE SARDORI

FACULTY BRIEF

“Atlas of New Librarianship” Wins ALA Best Book Award

The American Library Association has chosen a book written by Professor R. David Lankes as its 2012 “Best Book in Library Literature.”

Lankes’ “The Atlas of New Librarianship” was named winner of the annual American Library Association’s

(ALA) ABC-CLIO/Greenwood award. In naming the book’s selection and praising its innovativeness, the ALA said the Atlas “speaks to a new purpose for librarianship: the facilitation of knowledge creation in librarians’ communities,” while the author “portrays a vision of the profession that is based on improving society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities” and of learning “that is created through conversations, versus librarianship that is based on books and artifacts.”

Selection of his book for the annual ALA award is especially gratifying since it represents the recognition by his peers, Lankes said. When first working on the idea for the book and speaking to various publishers, they all recognized that the book would offer new ways of looking at librarianship across the domain, Lankes said. “There was really a need to have that conversation,” he added, and now, he finds it rewarding that “people are responding well to that.” While the book “presents some provocative ideas, it was intended to begin dialogue, not shut it down, and I’m

glad to see that people recognize that. I look at the award as meaning that the practice is willing to have that conversation and that the book is recognized for an important conversation,” he noted.

The Awards Committee also praised the book for its “unique visual map of ideas and their relationships to theory and practice.” Kathryn Deiss, content strategist for the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), described it as “a platform for vital conversations about the future of librarianship,” noting how its “unusual format presents more than 140 Agreements (statements on aspects of librarianship) and visually represents the threads that connect key ideas.”

Lankes’ concept of a new form of librarianship began in 2006, when he was working with the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy and wrote a white paper on library conversations. Through the book’s writing and completion, “I had a fantastic time working with students, some of the faculty at the iSchool, and some fantastic librarians all around the country,” Lankes noted. “I had a lot of help and a lot of people were part of making this happen.”

The book was co-published by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) a division of the American Library Association, and the MIT Press. Its companion website is: <http://www.newlibrarianship.org>. ■

STEVE SARTORI



FACULTY BRIEF

Crowston Appointed Distinguished Professor of Information Science

Professor Kevin G. Crowston was appointed Distinguished Professor of Information Science by Syracuse University Vice Chancellor and Provost Eric F. Spina in February. Distinguished Professor is one of the University’s highest honors for faculty whose exemplary scholarship has advanced the University’s mission.

Crowston’s research examines new ways of organizing made possible by the use of information technology. He approaches this issue in several ways: empirical studies of coordination-intensive processes in human organizations (especially virtual organizations); theoretical characterizations of coordination problems and alternative methods for managing them; and design and empirical evaluation of systems to support people working together.

Crowston’s extensive publications in the area of coordination theory—seeking to understand how work is coordinated across various open source network organizations—have had a significant and lasting contribution to coordination theory, and have fundamentally changed how the field thinks about and shape the field of coordination.

In addition to his scholarly publications, Crowston has also had a leading role in creating one of the largest collections of open source data available to the community through the FLOSSMole project. This endeavor provides data about free, libre and

open source software (FLOSS) projects in multiple formats; integrates donated data from other research teams; and provides a community for researchers to discuss public data about FLOSS development.

“Kevin is a true leader in the information science community whose excellent work is consistently cited by peers and students,” says Spina. “His seminal contributions to this rapidly evolving field have already demonstrated a lasting and practical impact across a variety of disciplines, here at the University and beyond.” ■

New Librarianship:

Engaging Communities in Knowledge Creation

R. DAVID LANKES, PROFESSOR

In 2011, I published a book titled *The Atlas of New Librarianship*. In a profession that stretches back over 3,000 years, that could be seen as pretentious. However, the point of the book is that the reason libraries and librarianship have a 3,000-plus year tradition is because they are constantly renewing themselves.

From scrolls, to manuscripts, to books and e-books, the materials of libraries have changed. From places of kings, to places of monks, to places of the people, library members have changed. And throughout this transformation, librarians have changed from historians, to clerks, to today's information professionals. The vibrancy of a field is a constancy of mission and values, and a perpetual innovation in methods and instruments.

Today's librarians are using the lessons learned over their history to forge a new librarianship, based not on books and artifacts, but on knowledge and community. They are taking advantage of the technological leaps of today to empower our communities to improve. The librarians of today are radical positive change agents in our classrooms, boardrooms, and legislative chambers. They built the Web before we called it the Web. They were crowdsourcing knowledge and searching through mountains of information before Google, before Facebook, and even before indoor plumbing. Today's new librarians are not threatened or made obsolete by the Net. They are pushing the Net forward and shaping the world around you.

For over a century, the iSchool has prepared new librarians – new both in their tenure in the profession, and in their drive for constant renewal of libraries and librarianship as a whole. Today's new librarians still learn the basic skills of the profession, such as reference, information organization, and management. Yet they also seek to expand their impact within the communities they serve. Be it in the academy, in the public sector, in schools, business, or government, today's new librarians seek to fulfill their mission: to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.

These new librarians see the library as a platform for community learning and innovation. Through active engagement the community becomes the collection. The library becomes less a place to lend out licensed resources, and more a place to share materials, but also ideas, experiences, and aspirations. The role of the librarian is not to match a reader with a book, as much as it is to match a dreamer with the tools needed to achieve.

In the Fayetteville Free Library in Fayetteville, NY, Lauren Britton, a recent iSchool graduate, has started a Maker Space that allows community members to access 3D printers and other fabrication equipment. Lauren was inspired by fellow iSchool alumna Meg Backus, who works in the North Onondaga County Public Library, where she has used the library grounds to build a community garden. In the East Syracuse-Minoa School District, at Pine Grove Middle School, 2011 American Association of School Librarians' Media Specialist of the Year and iSchool alumna Sue Kowalski has over 80 middle school students competing to form "iTeams" in the library to assist teachers and students better integrate technology into the classroom.

What will the current crop of new librarians do? Perhaps they will find out in the ancient libraries of Italy they are exploring as part of the iSchool's first study abroad program for Library and Information Science students. Perhaps it will be in the potent mix of librarians and museums they are exploring. Perhaps it will be at the CIA, which now recruits our students. Whatever they do, it will continue the best tradition of librarianship, service, innovation, and leadership. ■



STEVE SARTORI

Professor Lankes holds office hours with his students.



SUSAN KAHN

iSCHOOL NEWS

iSchool Introduces New Graduate Certificate in Data Science

THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES is boosting its cutting-edge academic offerings once again with the introduction of a new graduate Certificate of Advanced Studies in Data Science.

The program is the first state-approved certificate of advanced study in this topic area in New York. Content focuses on equipping students and professionals for the next looming issue in the information field – having the skills sets and the knowledge to analyze, problem-solve and take advantage of the proliferation of increasing magnitudes of information – dealing with “big data” for all types of organizations.

According to iSchool Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy, “The iSchool is helping lead the dialogue in defining data science within the academic community and for our partner organizations. In doing so, students in this program have the rare opportunity to have an impact on the first wave of data science in a wide range of organizations. This will help institutions and affiliates clarify the murky definitions of data science as it infiltrates public consciousness over the next five to ten years.”

Organizations need those with data science skills to better inform predictive models in areas such as clinical research, defense intelligence, customer behavior, medical diagnosis and risk management. The CAS program is structured to provide students with hard, technical skills, but also to assure that they possess the soft, theoretical skills that organizations need. “While predictive analysis is not new, the ability to apply this practice to large data sets, whether structured or unstructured, is an evolutionary leap forward for the world,” Dean Liddy said. “Additionally, the

iSchool’s focus on connecting people and ideas through technology keeps graduates poised to not only work in data science but to have the perspective needed to help it grow from its infancy,” she added.

Announcement of the program was made in March by iSchool representatives as they attended an invitation-only leadership summit for industry analysts, business leaders and executives, and information innovators hosted by IBM in New York City.

Susan A. Dischiave, Assistant Professor of Practice at the iSchool, who presented at the IBM event, said the iSchool is a superior place for teaching this field of information expertise. She cited the School’s information and data orientation, expertise in natural language processing, and faculty who deal in data mining, social media, and structured and unstructured data fields.

“We’re just a perfect fit to help organizations handle these problems and to help students prepare to go into the workforce. Organizations are going to need to get their arms around the growing levels of structured operational data as well as enormous amounts of unstructured data that’s flowing from other areas; it’s a big problem, and it’s very challenging,” she observed. ■

iSCHOOL NEWS

Katzer Teaching Excellence Awards Recognize Hurst-Wahl, Brenner

This year’s School of Information Studies Jeffrey Katzer Professor of the Year awards recognized faculty members Jill Hurst-Wahl and Robert Brenner as full-time and part-time teachers of excellence, respectively.

Presented annually in memory of Katzer, a beloved iSchool professor and interim dean, the awards reflect students’ perceptions of teaching excellence, engagement, and scholarship. Each year the selection process alternates between undergraduate and graduate students, and in 2012, graduate students made the selections.



J.D. ROSS



Both Hurst-Wahl and Brenner have in common a background as managers and trainers in business environments who joined the iSchool to teach at the college level. ■

FACULTY BRIEF

Associate Dean Stanton Named Fellow, American Council on Education

Associate Dean for Research and Doctoral Programs Jeffrey M. Stanton has been named as a fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE) for the 2012-2013 academic year.



The appointment will provide Stanton with a unique opportunity – the chance to spend a year working alongside a college or university president or senior academic officer as an intensive leadership development experience. Stanton is one of 57 fellows from across the U.S. and internationally who was selected this year following nomination by their institutional leaders, and after a rigorous application process.

“This fellowship is truly unique in that it provides the opportunity to experience what happens from the president’s office on down, and you get to see the inner workings of a university from many different angles,” Stanton said. While his placement won’t be finalized

until later this year, Stanton said he is hoping to be placed at a state university (public) setting, because that will contrast with the experiences he has had as an associate dean while at Syracuse.

Stanton was nominated for the fellowship by Syracuse University Chancellor Nancy Cantor, herself once an ACE fellow. “It’s a great honor, and it’s something that I’m really looking forward to taking part in. It is an incredible growth opportunity,” Stanton said. “This will be a chance to branch out and understand issues from the perspective of the whole university. I greatly appreciate the Chancellor’s support and vote of confidence in this, and I’m hoping that the fellowship will be beneficial both for the iSchool and for Syracuse University in the long run.” ■

“This fellowship is truly unique in that it provides the opportunity to experience what happens from the president’s office on down, and you get to see the inner workings of a university from many different angles.”

— JEFFREY M. STANTON,
ASSOCIATE DEAN

iSCHOOL NEWS

Pie-Throwing Raises Pennies and Dollars for American Cancer Society

THE STAGE WAS SET: the outdoor plaza of Hinds Hall, on the Quad.

The drama was building: 100-plus students, staff and faculty had gathered around.

The moment had come: it was time for the public pie-ing of a professor and a staff member, stunts to raise funds for the Syracuse University Relay for Life, to benefit the American Cancer Society.

The event, organized by Julie Walas, director of undergraduate recruitment at the iSchool, drew an enthusiastic audience. They learned that the most “popular” professor of five who participated was David Molta. His popularity award? A whipped cream pie in the face, at the hands of Walas, with the whole crowd watching.

When the moment came, Julie didn’t hesitate; the pie came swiftly. For his willingness to be involved in the pie-throwing fundraiser, Molta raised \$81.68 from students and others who were invited to join the “penny wars” portion of the event.

Next highest in raising funds was Professor Jeffrey Rubin, whose supporters contributed \$62.95. Professors David Dischiave and Anthony Rotolo ended up getting \$53.38 and \$38.40 put into the pot, respectively, in their names. Professor Susan Bonzi’s piles of coins added up to \$15.26. Those penny wars funds, along with some other contributions, raised \$256.67 for the effort.

As for Molta, Walas said she wanted to thank him for being a real supporter and helping to draw a lot of students for the event. “It was very satisfactory, I got a lot of satisfaction” out of pie-ing the professor, she laughed. And Molta joked back, “Sometimes it’s very difficult to be popular. It was a lot of fun and I’m really appreciative of all the students’ efforts. They put a lot of work into this for a good cause. He noted that although he “did request coconut cream,” he didn’t get it; and that he had come prepared with an extra shirt. ■



Professor David Molta takes a pie to the face to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

iSCHOOL NEWS

Entrepreneur Kaplan '97, Delivers Emerging Talk Keynote**STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND BUSINESS LEADERS**

from Syracuse University, the School of Information Studies and the Syracuse community packed Emerging Talk in March to hear iSchool alumnus Philip Kaplan's insights about what works and what doesn't when you're an information entrepreneur.

Emerging Talk is a student-run entrepreneurship workshop and pitch opportunity held as part of the programming from the Raymond von Dran Innovation and Disruptive Entrepreneurship Accelerator (IDEA).

In a humor-filled, self-effacing presentation, an animated Kaplan, a 1997 School of Information Studies (iSchool) graduate and an iSchool Board of Advisors member from 2006 to 2012, leveled with the audience of experienced entrepreneurs and budding developers, programmers, designers, and product inventors. Kaplan encouraged the audience not to feel intimidated by the knowledge of successful entrepreneurs in the industry. "A lot of times when you're just starting out, you look at people like me or you have mentors—all these people who are supposed experts—and it makes you feel like, "That person knows a lot that I don't know. The truth is, people are making things up all the time; nobody knows the magic formula," he advised. "That's one of the reasons I like coming back, I can sort of tell the students the stuff I think I wish I knew then," he said.

Kaplan discussed how he got his start and what motivated him then (and still does), to create products, develop apps people want, find users, and succeed in business. After graduation he worked in New York at two different jobs, one at a large company and the other at a small firm, when he decided to quit and go out on his own. He had saved \$2,000, an amount he knew would sustain him for a month. "There's nothing like the motivator of potentially having to move back in with your parents to make you figure it out," he half-joked. So, an energized Kaplan took to the telephone. "I called every person I knew; I spent my whole life on the phone until I got someone who needed a web site. I've been an entrepreneur ever since—which is I think the greatest job in the world, so I highly recommend it," Kaplan said.

That one small website-design job eventually led to another, then to more and larger projects, work for Fortune 500 clients at much higher revenues, and soon to some very successful ventures. Within a few years, Kaplan, now 36, co-founded and sold several companies (including Blippy, a venture-backed social shopping company, Tiny Letter, and F-d company.com), and has become a best-selling author. AdBrite, which he co-founded, is the largest privately-held Internet ad network. He has worked as entrepreneur-in-residence at Charles River Ventures, and has advised several companies. He is CEO of ADHD Labs, Inc., and is an active and engaged angel investor. ■



Philip Kaplan '97 examines a smart bracelet, a piece of technology presented by a student entrepreneurship team, during a pitch session at the Emerging Talk event in March.

STEVE SARTORI

iSCHOOL NEWS

iSchool Invests \$1.3 Million in Upstate IT Scholarships

Almost like an angel investor, the School of Information Studies made a decision in 2009 to fund a stake in the future careers of upstate New York residents looking to enhance and retool their information skills.

The School created a 50% tuition scholarship, and has since provided \$1.377 million worth of funding for 105 permanent Upstate residents to pursue graduate education in the information field. Now, the iSchool program is expanding upon its initial success. Two new degree areas, graduate certificates in social media and data science, are being added for the 2012-2013 year, and the iSchool has committed to fund all recipients for the entire course of their studies, even if that takes several years. Additionally, the program is working to attract students from a wider geographical range, since its extensive distance programs make it possible for students from anywhere in the upstate New York region to participate.

"These unique scholarships are precisely the kind of innovative outreach the iSchool is known for initiating, and we are extremely proud to be offering this program, said Dean Elizabeth Liddy. "The scholarships demonstrate our commitment to the students and the employers of the upstate region in helping both to access the most-up-to-date information skills and education to meet their needs. This initiative perfectly illustrates Syracuse University's larger mission of matching community and university through demonstrated scholarship in action," she added.

Four years ago, the iSchool acted on its mission when it recognized a regional trend of increasing numbers both of tech company startups and information and technology field jobs in primarily non-tech employment sectors. To further bolster that robust development, the Upstate IT scholarship concept was devised. It was designed to simultaneously reach out to more upstate residents, enrich

the talent pool for the region's IT industry, enroll more students in iSchool campus and distance programs, strengthen regional companies' overall IT capabilities, and fulfill Syracuse University's "Scholarship in Action" goals, according to Susan Corieri, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management and Special Academic Program Initiatives.

The program is for permanent upstate NY residents who recently have graduated from undergraduate programs, as well as seasoned professionals seeking to advance their careers by adding or upgrading their skills at the iSchool.

The program encompasses seven master's and Certificate of Advanced Studies graduate programs. All can be fully completed through distance learning, and the School is encouraging interested students anywhere in upstate New York, to apply.

In addition to the significant financial aid that the 50% tuition program provides, some enrolled students may also receive financial help from their employers. In that case, the School does not reduce the amount of its aid (as some colleges do) to further illustrate its commitment to the program goals.

The iSchool is aware of the fact that many working adults have been affected by changing job market conditions. That is a population also in need of educational opportunities, even though universities historically have tended to focus their financial aid

resources on undergraduates, observed David Dischiave, Assistant Professor and director for the iSchool's Global Enterprise Technology program.

"The Upstate IT Scholarship is one big way the iSchool has put scholarship in action as an affordable vehicle to help working adults gain access to the courses that can change their life in a measureable way," Dischiave said. "Many of my students have been able to gain new employment or get promotions they wouldn't have gotten otherwise because they were able to gain or update to the latest skills," he added. ■

STEVE SANDORI





Assistant Professor of Practice Anthony Rotolo speaks to NASA in May about his social media classes. Rotolo is teaching "Social Media in the 2012 Election" this fall.

ISCHOOL NEWS

Class Follows Election in Real Time To Gauge Social Media Impact

A new course this fall uses the 2012 presidential election as the lens for viewing how emerging technologies and citizens' social media engagement impact candidates, campaigns, voters, and success at the polls.

IST 500, "Social Media in the 2012 Election," is being offered for the first time this fall. Based on the how issues and developments shape the election season, the class incorporates elements of spontaneity and unpredictability just as real campaigns do, according to Assistant Professor of Practice Anthony Rotolo, who is teaching the course.

While the class meets once a week, students are tracking and responding to news and events through social media platforms to address campaign issues and candidate situations as they unfold throughout the election season.

"The course is unique because it will be in real time, and we are studying something that is happening as we look at it," Rotolo explained. In addition, it emphasizes the

impact of social media conversation, strategy and engagement on the citizenry and voters, "because it does have an effect," Rotolo said.

The syllabus is specifically designed to be flexible enough to accommodate planned lessons as well as to immediately address the occurrences and changing circumstances of the election season, according to Rotolo.

"Where the course could get unpredictable is that the election is unfolding in real time when the course is in session. For instance, if one presidential candidate makes a move that captures attention, social media will address it immediately as it happens," he explained. Students are right in the middle of it all, immersed in the social media conversations, strategies and emerging technologies that are happening around, and shaping, those situations, he said.

"It's a once-in-four-years course to take," Rotolo noted. "I think it is an experience students won't be able to find elsewhere, and I'm happy to be presenting it." ■

ISCHOOL NEWS

Meyerrose Selected for Cyber Hall of Fame

Across more than 30 years of distinguished military and corporate service, Dale Meyerrose is used to hitting the high bar.

Nevertheless, his selection to the Cyberspace Operations and Support Hall of Fame this spring came as a humbling occasion, placing him among an elite group of about 50 other honorees cited for their contributions to the field of cyber security.

The retired U.S. Air Force Major General, adjunct faculty member at the iSchool, and doctoral candidate in

the iSchool's professional studies program was honored in late June at a ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base.

Inductees are nominated by their peers and are reviewed for selection by a committee of current Air Force general officers and current Hall of Fame members. Their selection recognizes them as "visionaries who guided the Air Force toward a technological and information-enabled future" and whose "dedication, vision, patriotism, and honor established a proud

legacy on which we continue to build today's information superiority."

Typically, several hundred people are nominated each year, so being chosen from among them is a significant honor, according to Meyerrose. "To be recognized as an elite contributor by your peers is perhaps the ultimate in professional recognition. It's very humbling that the people already enshrined are people that I read about in history books, or who are my heroes," he said. ■



iSCHOOL NEWS

Reactions to #140cuse Conference: #Raves

SOME 40 SPEAKERS presenting insights about engaging others through social media addressed an audience of 600+ at April's #140cuse Conference, but the reach of the event, viewed worldwide and trending in the United States on Twitter, was far greater.

Speakers, attendees and organizers all had highest enthusiasm for the conference's content, organization, and presentation. It was the first 140 characters conference conducted at an academic institution, and an official #140 event as hosted through the School of Information Studies' partnership with #140Conf founder Jeff Pulver.

The day "was about education; a lot of people looking to make a difference; a way to be authentic," said Anthony Rotolo, Assistant Professor of Practice and Social Media Strategist at the iSchool. "Most of the stories being shared were about what you can do with technology to reach out to others, about people reaching out to follow their passion, reaching out to connect with people. That's what makes a #140 conference special."

In addition, #140cuse made an indelible mark on all forms of live and digital communication its first time out, as based on audience participation measurements.

- 15,000 viewers followed live-streamed videos on Ustream
- The #140cuse hashtag trended on Twitter in the U.S. just 20 minutes after the event began, with a total of 13,713 Tweets recorded throughout the day

Dean Elizabeth Liddy characterized the event "an absolutely, amazing, inspiring day. It's amazing to think of the numbers of people who will have heard something positive about the conference and the iSchool today," she enthused. "It was so much of a team effort and of community-building with all groups – alums, students, speakers, practitioners. Everyone's saying it's the best conference they've ever been to."

Conference speakers and attendees also had high praise for the student team that planned and staffed the complex event with iSchool support.

Talent Revolution agency head Amanda Hite was emphatic. "I go to conferences all over the place, all over the world, and to a lot of social media conferences. And I was super impressed with how super-organized this was. The people were amazing, the content was relevant and with today, and [the organizers] nailed it."

Hajj Fleming of Brand Camp University, another national-level speaker, also was "really impressed with the students, how refreshing they were and how solidly all the technical pieces worked. The students ran this as though they were professionals doing this for a living. I'm extremely impressed that they did it with such thoroughness and were first-class. That really speaks to the type of programming and leadership here at the school," he said.

140 Conference Founder Jeff Pulver was similarly impressed. "You've got an amazing team," he told the audience. "I've never been around so many focus-driven people, smart people who get it. I feel good about the future just seeing you in action. I come here and I'm in awe on so many levels—the people, the feelings; I'm honored to be here and happy to be a friend." ■



Alyssa Henry G'12 (left) interviews Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of social news site Reddit, after his presentation at the #140cuse Conference in April. Alexis' talk and interview, and all #140cuse talks, are available online at <http://140cuse.com>.



ISCHOOL NEWS

Dean Elizabeth Liddy (front row, sixth from right) and recent doctoral graduate Sarah Webb (front row, third from right), with workshop participants in Rwanda.”

iSchool Education for Rwandans Closer to Fruition

Imagine an African country the size of Maryland with a population of 11 million.

Then think that, out of all those people, only a handful are presently trained as public and academic librarians.

Now try to comprehend how a third-world nation can rebuild its society, years after suffering a million-person genocide, by becoming a knowledge-based economy.

These are the facts for the country of Rwanda, and also the compelling reasons why the iSchool, along with other key partners, answered the country’s call for educational assistance.

The iSchool, Cornell University, the Kigali Institute of Education and the National University of Rwanda have acted together to bring that plan closer to reality. Officials of the institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding toward those goals at ceremonies in the African nation in May. More than two dozen governmental, organizational and academic officials took part.

Among them were iSchool Dean Elizabeth D. Liddy and

Sarah Webb, a doctoral student who has been shepherding the Rwandan initiative for some time. Rose Jackson, G’03 an Information Resource Officer for the U.S. State Department in Rwanda, also was present, as was Cornell University agricultural library director Mary Ochs G’82. Mary has worked with Sarah on the initiative for some time, and traveled to Rwanda to represent Cornell at the MOU-signing ceremonies.

For much of the earlier part of this year, Sarah has been paving the way for the historic agreement by coordinating with officials and institutions in both countries. And although she received her doctoral hood at convocation in May, Sarah is staying on for a post-doctorate period at SU to continue helping the Rwandans gain ground.

The Kigali Institute and National University’s Vision 2020 plan call for educating 33 students. Three would earn doctorates from Syracuse, 15 would earn master’s degrees from Syracuse or Cornell, and 15 would obtain certificates of advanced study from Syracuse.

That core group would then form the faculties needed to reopen the library science program at Kigali Institute and start an information science program at the National University.

“It’s really about Rwandans helping themselves,” Sarah noted. “They asked, and we responded to that request, and the program is our response.”

Of three goals for this trip, all were achieved to a fair degree, Sarah said. They include raising awareness and increasing buy-in for the many organizations and governments involved; achieving greater involvement by organizations representing the international community; and beginning the work of interesting potential program funders. “We have a lot of work to do to get the funding in place,” she noted.

That arena will claim much of Sarah’s focus in the coming year. Implementing a program to train the 33 students carries a \$3 million price tag. While the iSchool can assist with some tuition aid, an outreach to all donor avenues is planned, including corporations, foundations, government venues, and alumni, according to Dean Liddy. The desired timeline

is to bring the students from Rwanda next summer. They would experience a two-month orientation residency before returning to Rwanda to finish their Syracuse educations through distance learning.

“The Rwandans are very eager, and they’re very dedicated to rebuilding their country,” Dean Liddy observed. She said she would like to see increasing numbers of Rwandan students obtain their library and information science degrees from the iSchool at Syracuse, “and eventually open their own iSchool within the university, one that is able to produce the librarians and information science people they need to meet their goals.” The Dean further suggested that a consortium of iSchools throughout the U.S. might want to become involved.

“There is a whole continent in need. If we really believe this is the future, and if we as iSchools really believe this is where we need to be, it would be great to be part of the initiation of Africa being part of the iSchool movement.” ■

STUDENT NOTE

On His Way to Graduation, IM Grad Student Scores NFL Career

ON HIS WAY TO PICK UP his graduate degree from the iSchool, Kevyn Scott also picked up a rookie spot in the National Football League.

That one-in-a-million kind of opportunity was simply in the plan for Kevyn, a native of Florida who completed his undergraduate and graduate programs on football scholarship at Syracuse University over five years spent at the iSchool.



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

He came to college with a plan: never have just one plan. Kevyn intentionally made big dreams, hedged his bets, and concurrently pursued academic, corporate, and NFL careers. “It’s been just hard work, planning out my future, having back-up options,” Kevyn explained of his multi-layered successes.

Growing up with his dad a high school football coach, Kevyn said he saw “a lot of kids make the wrong decision to go to college and take a one-path track, thinking they are heading to the NFL. Then, when that doesn’t happen, they’re stuck. I’ve also seen people go to the NFL and have a three-year career. With all that in mind, I decided to learn from other people’s mistakes,” he recounted.

The 5’11”, 208-pound cornerback decided to earn both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree within his five-year scholarship span. That meant bulking up on courses and taking 12-credit semesters throughout grad school, while playing the season, training for the NFL and fulfilling team community service requirements working with youth at the Justice Center.

His concerted efforts began converging this spring. He tried out for several NFL teams. Late in April, Kevyn began orientation with the Miami Dolphins. At convocation in May, the 23-year-old received his second iSchool degree, an Information Management master’s to book-end his bachelor’s in Information Management and Technology.

Several job offers have come along, but a confident Kevyn has turned them down temporarily for his NFL chance. “As a rookie, you have a three-year contract. If you do well, that could be four or five years. I’m planning on a long career, but if I don’t have that, I have two degrees, and I won’t be hesitant to start in the corporate world,” he observed. In 10 years, he said, Kevyn pictures himself retired from football, working in the top ranks as a consulting firm executive. “The iSchool does a good job, the curriculum really prepares you for a career in consulting by group work on projects and teams. The IM program prepared me well, and I really like the project management side of IM,” Kevyn relayed. ■

STUDENT PROFILE

JAKE DOLEZAL

Executive Doctoral Student

KATE HOLLOWAY G'10

Growing up in rural Durant, Oklahoma, Jake Dolezal always wanted to earn a Ph.D. and always believed he'd go straight from his undergraduate degree to a graduate program and into a doctorate program, but life didn't quite work out that way.

"At about 16, I had this dream of getting a doctoral degree. I always knew or thought I would go straight through," said Dolezal, who currently works in the Tribal Research office of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma while completing his executive doctoral degree and raising his 7-year-old daughter with his wife, "but then life just happened."

When Dolezal, the son of a football coach and elementary school librarian, married his high school sweetheart, he decided he needed to move directly into a career to support his family. He majored in physics in college and decided to

enroll in a graduate engineering program, but was unhappy in the field and "fell into" computer science.

"It was something I'd always done," he said. "My parents bought me a computer when I was eight years old. It was a horrible thing with a

green screen and a floppy drive but I tinkered a lot with it, though I never went to school for it."

After getting a job as an admissions counselor at Southeastern Oklahoma University where he completed his undergraduate degree, he saw an opportunity to get his master's in the information field. In 2002, he earned a master's in Computer Information Systems and stayed at the University working on the front end of their database.

In 2006, Dolezal accepted an opportunity to become a grant writer for the Choctaw Nation, the third largest Native American tribe by membership. The tribe occupies the second largest land base of any Native American nation, geographically larger than the states of Rhode Island, Delaware and Connecticut combined, and employs more than 7,000 people. Though Dolezal is not a member of the Choctaw Nation, his

"I went to the iSchool website and I was giddy. I don't think I slept at all that night. It was like reading something out of a fantasy because it was so perfect for what I wanted to do."

—JAKE DOLEZAL



Jake Dolezal is living his dream of attaining a doctorate while using his research to benefit the Choctaw Nation.

hometown of Durant is within the nation's borders.

After writing grants for two and a half years, his Executive Director and mentor, Dr. John Jackson of the Choctaw Nation, asked Dolezal if it would be possible to streamline the way the tribe used information since the tribe had grown exponentially in the last ten years.

"We had a good handle on the operational, but not the information side of the tribe. We had questions about how to centralize and ensure that we were doing the right things," Dolezal said. "That's where the Tribal Research office was born. We created an initiative where the whole goal was providing the right information to the right people at the right time so they can make better decisions."

Dolezal worked with Stanford University's Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support Services to



LARISSA COPELAND

adapt their model, what he describes as “putting the iSchool in the organization.” To do this, Dolezal is creating a centralized repository with information from a number of heterogeneous databases in order to better determine how members interact with the tribe and how the tribe impacts people’s lives. He works with three other people—one with background in history research and the other two in information technology—as a part of a team that maximizes effective use of information and research within the tribe.

“Working for the tribe has been one of the most rewarding experiences,” Dolezal said. “I’m not working for a corporation and padding stockholders’ pockets; it’s about quality of life and then you get to add in the research

potential of working with a Native American organization with its own culture, beliefs, history and neat concepts that really create a perfect opportunity to look at it in the context of the work I can do.”

“Getting to work for two people like Chief Gregory Pyle and Assistant Chief Batton is what makes the difference. These men, along with the Tribal Council, have a vision for the Tribe, its people, and its future. They care deeply about their people. It’s just great to be a part of an organization like that.”

Recently, Dolezal published a white paper with the National Science Foundation proposing more research into the effectiveness of domestic violence programs implemented by the Choctaw Nation.

Though working for the tribe is rewarding, he still felt something was missing.

“It was in late 2009 and all this time, I still thought it would be really cool to get my doctorate,” he said, “but it had to be the right degree at the right time because I had a young family and a full time career. I didn’t want to jeopardize any of those things.”

In February of 2010, Dolezal stumbled upon a blog entry about the executive doctorate program at the Syracuse iSchool.

“I went to the iSchool website and I was giddy,” he said. “I don’t think I slept at all that night. It was like reading something out of a fantasy because it was so perfect for what I wanted to do.”

Dolezal put together his application, totaling 37 pages, including a personal reflection. Instead of an essay, he put together a poem.

“I didn’t realize the impact it had until I was on campus last September for my residency requirement,” he said. “It worked out that they wanted to interview me, even though I had not taken the GRE and was not prepared for graduate school, but just thought I’d throw everything in there—my writing ability and everything I was doing at work—and they offered me admission.”

Though Dolezal was excited to start the program, he ran into a hiccup when his residency requirement for the executive doctoral program fell on the same week as his daughter’s kindergarten graduation. He thought he would have to defer his enrollment, but he and the school worked it out so that he could make up his residency requirement at a later date.

“I wanted to make sure my family didn’t have to suffer because I was working on a doctorate,” Dolezal said. “It’s been a challenge, but I’ve been able to balance that really well. My wife said at the end of the fall semester that it hasn’t really impacted us.”

Dolezal recently started the literature review process of his doctoral research, but said that his work with the tribe and his research at the iSchool have come together in a way he hopes will benefit the Choctaw Nation.

“My vision is very wide at this point and I’m only focusing on things that have already been done in a Native American well-being context to find a niche for my work,” he said. “It’s been a very exciting process that matches my personality, my beliefs, and what I see myself doing for the rest of my life.” ■

Q & A



WITH
**Barbara
Stripling**

*Assistant Professor
of Practice, School
of Information
Studies, Syracuse
University and
President-Elect,
American Library
Association*

DIANE STIRLING

Barbara Stripling, a teacher, librarian, director of library services and now professor at the School of Information Studies, was elected as the next president of the American Library Association (ALA) in May. She will lead the organization as its chief executive officer in 2013 – 2014, and will serve over a three-year period, initially this year as incoming president, then in a follow-up year in an advisory capacity.

The ALA is the world's oldest and largest library organization, with more than 60,000 librarians, library trustees and library supporters as members. Its mission is to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information.



Q. You campaigned on a platform of *“Transforming Libraries. Empowering Individuals. Transforming Communities.”* How will you implement that theme?

A. Libraries are on the cusp of greatness. We must seize the moment by re-defining ourselves and capturing the exciting possibilities offered by technology and social media; the explosion of information; and the challenges of maintaining a strong democracy while nourishing the expression of diverse viewpoints.

Q. What kinds of transitions do you see happening for libraries?

A. Libraries need to make sure they are focusing on the needs of the community that they serve. It may mean that you push services you already offer; that you rethink what opportunities you offer if your community has moved in a different direction; that you change the type of resources you offer.

Q. How would you say libraries have come to be regarded?

A. [There is an] assumption by librarians that libraries are good and that people understand that. People do understand that, but when it comes to hard economic times and people have to make choices, they value libraries, but they don't understand the essential nature of libraries for communities. We have not communicated that.

A second piece is [instilling] a flexibility in our library programs so that when the priorities of the communities we serve change, we need to be ready to change what we do and how we offer services.

Q. Is this really a question of *“change or die”* for libraries?

Barbara Stripling in her office in Hinds Hall. On the shelf behind her is a cardboard cutout of her likeness, similar to the life-sized one used during her ALA presidency campaign.



A. Yes. The struggle right now in building community is finding a place for that building-community function and the civic-engagement function. But it's also establishing a virtual presence and providing the services that people really need, even with virtual information.

We will never not have books, but most libraries are moving to a balance between books and electronic resources. All types of libraries need to empower users to find exactly what they want in this virtual world. There's also an increasing importance of family literacy and helping parents be part of the literacy development of their kids.

Q. Do you have an estimated timeframe where you'd like to see the transition occur?

A. Right now. It will take time, but there are things we can do right now. Part of what I want to do [as president] is to support librarians as they transform their libraries. I also want to build a strong public will for libraries, an understanding of their value and essential nature.

Q. How can communities and institutions support libraries as they undertake change?

A. We need to work out in each community what that community wants to have happen, but you need to have the people who are in a position to make it happen at the table.

If you start meeting needs and priorities, you can get the word out and people will come. But there needs to be a conversation with the CEOs, mayors, city council, legislators, school district superintendents, principals—the people who are in positions of making decisions about how the library will be integrated into the culture of the community.

Q. What can individual librarians do to promote that transformation?

A. We need to have a very strong vision of what the library will do to build that sense of community and to empower the members of the community. We need to figure out very strategically what are the wins; what can we do to have the most impact.

We need to be leaders within our own institutions and within our own community; figure out what we need to accomplish; build the collaborations and partnerships to make it happen. We'll have to make some tough choices and set priorities to make sure that the highest impact actions and resources are the ones that we get to first.

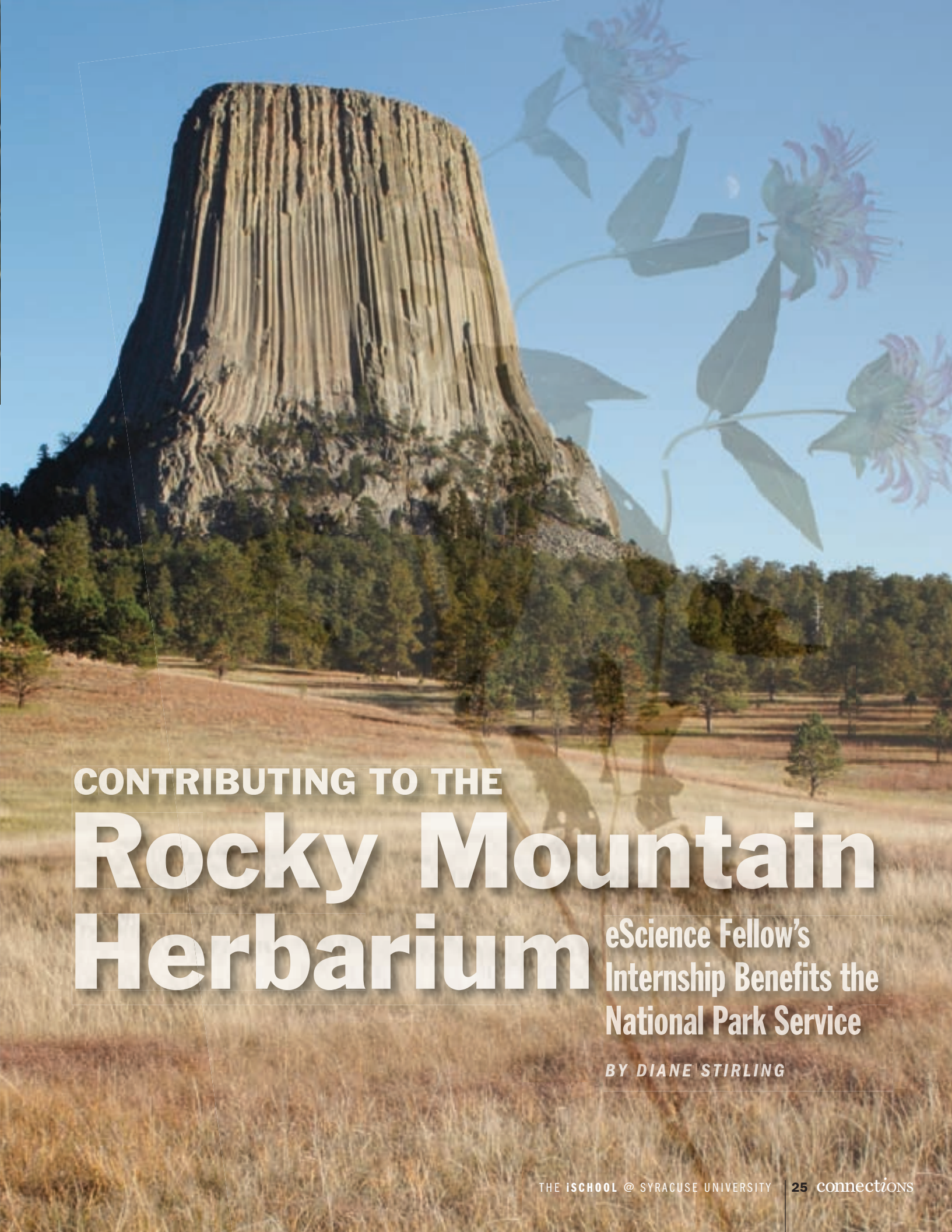
Q. How do you envision that degree of change moving forward?

A. I see it as a process. We can transform our library services so they become lodged in the community and available for every individual; become empowered with the skills and the discovery of the world; then build community and transform our libraries into centers of civic engagement and empowerment for the individual in the community.

Q. How will transforming a library transform a community?

A. [It's about] civic engagement and the democratic conversation. [It's] the opportunity to talk about issues that matter to the community and having a space that supports all different points of view, has access to reliable good information, and people who will serve as facilitators and guide and nurture that kind of conversation.

Another piece is connected to literacy [since] libraries are really foundations of communities by building a reading culture. Then there is the role of a library is preserving and nurturing local culture. Another piece is equitable access. ■




CONTRIBUTING TO THE

Rocky Mountain Herbarium

eScience Fellow's
Internship Benefits the
National Park Service

BY DIANE STIRLING



An e-mail announcement discussing the attributes of the iSchool's eScience fellowship program arrived in the right in-box at the right time for Gisella Stollach.

Just the week before, she began researching a return to higher education. Looking to remedy career doldrums and satisfy her interest in furthering her technical knowledge, Gisella investigated the computer field graduate programs at Syracuse University, thinking that step "would at least get me started in the right direction."

The electronic message that made its way to her husband, an SU alumnus, offered an intriguing alternative, however. Reading about the new eScience fellowship at the School of Information Studies, Gisella's husband told her, "If this doesn't describe you, I don't know what does," she recalls.

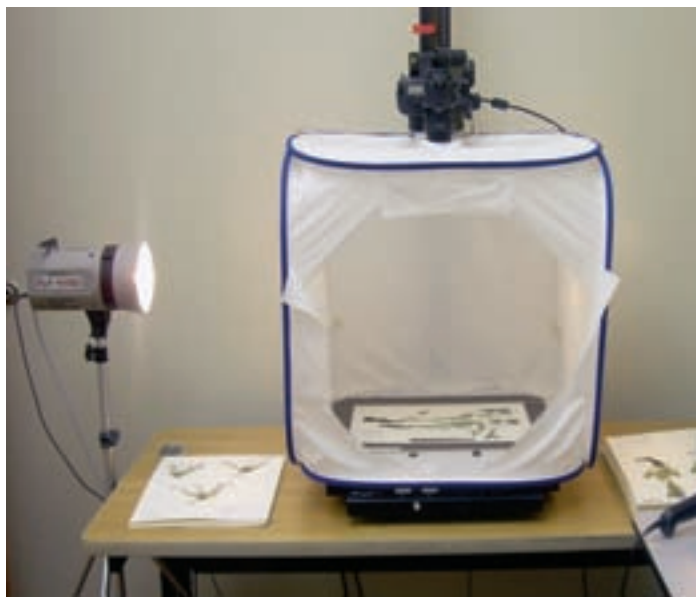
The program details resonated with Gisella, too. The pert young woman recognized that the program suited her core personality as well as her primary academic interests. In its call for candidates, the application asked: "Do you have a science background? Do you like being organized? Do you like working with technology?"

Gisella had the requisite answers.

She had graduated from the State University of New York's Environmental Science and Forestry College in Syracuse several years before with a bachelor of science degree in environmental and forestry biology. She had done graduate

work there, and then worked several years as a chemist in the environmental testing industry, although was looking for a change due to that environment and a lack of opportunity for learning. The eScience program seemed to fill in the gaps in Gisella's educational and career-change quests. The program would permit her to make technology her prime focus, yet she could still learn new computer-based skills. Library-studies components could be structured to enhance, rather than overwhelm, her academic plan. It all sounded good. Full-fellowship funding by a National Science Foundation grant provided a further enticement. It meant she could pursue studies full-time, without juggling a job, too, she recalled.

"So I went for it," Gisella says with an easy smile, "even though I wasn't sure of the eventual outcome." She was accepted and came to campus in the fall of 2009 as one of seven in her cohort. This May, she received her master's degree. As she looks the future, Gisella's recent iSchool internship reaffirmed how her diverse array of experiences



A portable camera tent setup allowed Stollach to digitally photograph herbaria specimens.

converged through eScience to provide unique value that can lead her career choices now.

In a project funded by the National Park Service, she interned in an underground botanical storage facility in South Dakota; enjoyed life at 7,000 feet above sea level at Laramie, Wyoming; and was humored by a change of pace that included frequent sightings of buffalo, mountain goats, and prairie dogs. Hosted by the University of Wyoming and working with Larry Schmidt, the University's Geology Department reference librarian, Gisella spent June and July last summer between the Laramie labs and some of that time in the underground botanical storage facility at Mount Rushmore. She digitally curated 8,000 herbaria specimens, designed a customized database management system, and successfully interpreted the botanists' desires for a computerized specimen database to the IT technicians who produced it. The result was a new open-access web portal that made interactive research about the unique collection of National Park herbaria specimens available around the world, electronically, for the first time.

Gisella's background and skills intersected perfectly to provide all the skills and knowledge she needed for that challenge. Her undergraduate specialization in plant biology, her work experience with scientific machinery, her eScience interests in technical applications balanced with library-research viewpoints, and her natural communication skills and gregarious personality were a recipe for success. In addition, her aplomb and ability to serve as a "translator" was crucial to the project's timely and successful completion. Gisella's interpretation of both sides of the project—the scientific and the technical—filled the bill. She worked to relay the scientific needs and esoteric desires of the botanists to categorize their specimens, even though they were unfamiliar with the IT realities of accomplishing that. And then she worked with the IT people, the folks who understood how to make the technical side happen, but who had no background to





interpret the scientific language, organizational discipline, or scientific viewpoints called for in that structure. By being the intermediary, Gisella saw that that the right technical tasks got done according to proper scientific credo, and that the technical aspects of the project were fulfilled appropriately, regardless of a lack of specific knowledge of the project's subject matter.

In a multi-phased and multi-faceted project, that component was especially satisfying professionally, Gisella found. "If you're going to be a go-between, you're going to have to be able to do that," she said. "I find that I'm constantly trying to boil it down to what a person is actually saying, specifically what is needed and what they are asking for. Then you can clearly explain that to the [IT] person you are working with. It's finding the nut, and then running with it," she beamed. "I really like it when I reiterate it back in my own words and have them tell me, 'That's *exactly* it.'"

The capstone project was valuable to Gisella in other ways, as well. It provided a great deal of personal affirmation of the value of her past education and work experiences. "I could bring all that to my future employment. It made me feel special that I have my own unique background, a niche that I can bring to any library position," she says.

Since graduating with her master's degree in May, Gisella has joined the library staff at Hamilton College, in Clinton, NY, as a cataloging and metadata assistant.

In that capacity, she is helping to digitize Hamilton's "huge collection of rare books and artifacts." That includes original cataloging of the college's collections of revivalist evangelical groups and Oneida Community materials that the college is preserving for researchers. She also serves as a general cataloger, managing new material such as book manuscripts, upon its arrival at the library. Her work also entails original cataloging of rare books – "lots of really cool stuff," she enthused. Since Hamilton is beginning to expand its STEM works, Gisella anticipates being able to assist in the cataloging of faculty research papers, theses and research data into the college's repositories too. ■

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Plant Science Meets Computer Tech Meets Information Management

Gisella's internship presented three phases of distinctly different work. In puzzle-piece fashion, she tapped her scientific knowledge, laboratory machinery skills, information management perspectives, technical computer abilities, and ability to communicate and liaison between diverse clients to interpret needs, desires, and technical realities.

In the end, her work developed a new, highly functional, accurate, high-tech botanical research package. She took a disorganized group of plant specimens from manila envelopes in steel files, and from assorted databases, and consolidated all of that into a cohesive research platform. She organized it elegantly and efficiently by scientific families into an easily researchable, comprehensive database. From there, the database was made available on the web with an interactive location map and configurable photographs of specimens.

First, in science lab mode, Gisella digitally scanned 2,000 herbaria specimens taken from the parks and monuments at Mount Rushmore and Bandelier National Monuments; and Wind Cave, Jewel Cave, and Devil's Tower National Parks, a project taking several weeks.

Next, she cleaned up and formulated uniform databases, organizing the already-imaged group of specimens from Bandelier National Monument that

had been residing in an Access database. She merged the database's duplicate fields, checked relational tables, and created a flat Excel file for easier research, better organization, and simpler categorization. She then tab-delimited CSV files, matching specimen images to the files, combing through 8,000 images.

Gisella then created metadata common to both the National Park Service and Rocky Mountain herbaria. Utilizing the Darwin Core-based schema proposed by the Denver Botanic Gardens, the University of Wyoming, and the University of Colorado, she updated the schema and including some overlooked fields.

Finally, a SQL-layered database was developed to post all the information on the Web. Data was organized by scientific categories for ease of search. The work resulted in an interactive map locating specific herbaria with their geographic locations. From the map, high-quality specimen photos could be extracted, permitting viewing online in superior, enlargeable, full life-like detail. ■



The Rocky Mountain Herbarium Specimen Database website where Stollach's work resides. <http://www.rmh.uwyo.edu>.



BARBARA SETTEL, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AND ANNUAL GIVING

It's good to be back in touch with our alumni with this inaugural issue of *Connections*. This is the one way we can be assured of communicating with all 7,000+ iSchool alumni around the world. But we have certainly had many other opportunities to engage our alumni in events both on and off-campus, events which showcased the wide range of careers and success stories our alumni are living. Here's a sampling....



PAT O'BRIEN



PAT O'BRIEN



PAT O'BRIEN



STEF SANCIONI

CBTX (Coming Back Together) brought our African American and Latino graduates back to Syracuse for a weekend of workshops, fiestas, seminars and receptions. ISchool alumni **Kadidra McCloud '99** and **Erika Monell-Harrigan '96** participated as guest lecturers in the BLISTS Leadership class, and they socialized with students and alumni, including **Carolyn Norman G '74**, at an all-school reception. Graduate students **Shivesh Ganotra '12** and **Kshitij Mahant '12** recounted their amazing experience of volunteering to travel to Haiti and building a wireless network for the University of Haiti.

J.D. ROSS



In November the school hosted a joint day of events for the annual **Black and Latino Information Studies Support (BLISTS) Leadership Conference**, **Orange Central**, and an open house for prospective graduate students. The result was a high-energy day filled with students connecting with alumni and alumni inspiring prospective students to make the iSchool their top choice for graduate study. **Paul Buckman G'99** and **Imani Baker '02** talked about the importance of leadership in shaping their careers, and a panel of alumni including **Sohan Fernandes G '11**, **Katie Schisa G '09**, **Sam Clarvit '10**, **Joielle Walter '97** and moderator **Jason Mills '95; G '96** shared their experience with students.

Alumni visits to classes are often the best way to bring real-world experience into the curriculum. This past year the executive team from HiTouch Business Services, including CEO **Mike Brown '94** and COO **Jason Palmer '02**, spoke to students in "What's the Big Idea" class, and shared their entrepreneurial experience.



J.D. ROSS

Several alumni including **Josh Frost '08**, **Joe Kanakaraj '00** and **Mike Hoffman A&S '93** came back to campus to run the second annual **MLB.com Challenge**. The all-night, hackathon event brought 75 students together in teams to pitch technology solutions for MLB's website. The winning team won a trip to NYC to visit MLB.com headquarters, but everyone gained from the opportunity to work on real-world problems with alumni mentors. And at least one student secured a job offer!

More than fifty alumni gathered in Saratoga Springs, NY at the **New York Library Association Conference** in November. This event continues to attract one of our largest crowds and speaks to the deep and strong ties our LIS graduates have to SU. And in New Orleans, an equally large group of doctoral alumni and local professionals met at the **American Society for Information Science and Technology Conference**. We encourage our alumni to bring their colleagues and guests to alumni events and it is no secret that faculty and alumni from other iSchools seek out our receptions because of the opportunity to network and socialize.

This year iSchool undergraduates had the opportunity to meet alumni in New York City and the San Francisco Bay area as part of two very unique trips.

In February forty-five students participated in the first iSchool **NYC Road Trip** to explore the merger of technology in sports and media. Alumni CTO's and CIO's at Yankee Stadium, MLB, Steiner Collectibles, Metlife Stadium, Google, Fox News, and start-up, SeatCrew, gave students a first-hand view of these organizations and opened doors to internships and jobs.

Central New York alumni gathered at the iSchool in March to welcome new Assistant Professor Barbara Stripling. The reception was also a way to thank and recognize the dedication of school librarians who give so much to the iSchool by supervising and mentoring student practicums and internships. Following the reception, faculty, students and alumni participated in a “town hall” meeting to discuss the challenges for the school library profession locally, regionally and nationally. It was a great way to model how students can be active change agents in the profession.



BARBARA SETTEL

In April the school scored a home run with #140cuse, a conference bringing 600 students, alumni and community members together with 50 speakers to explore “The State of Now.” We were the first 140 Characters Conference hosted on a university campus, providing a platform for the worldwide social media community to listen, connect, share and engage with each other, while collectively exploring the effects of the emerging real-time internet on business and society. We know that alumni around the world were tuned in to this event, since in addition to those attending in person, there were more than 15,000 views of the live stream. Among the speakers were alumni Deanna Govoni '02, Matt Koll G '79, Anthony Rotolo '02; G '06, Dave Chenell '10, and numerous current students and SU alumni from other schools and colleges.

Ariel Norling, student and speaker at the conference, blogged about the lesson she learned that day. “There’s only so far school can take you. The consistent message throughout the speakers was how important it is to be passionate about what you’re doing, something that students often miss because they are trapped in assignments and lectures. In the end, we learned a lot about the real-time web, but what we learned most about was how important passion, compassion, and self-learning are.”



J.D. ROSS

140cuse epitomizes the value students and alumni draw from the variety of events, conferences, receptions, and panels that take place on and off campus. Passion, inspiration, creative energy, and a desire to make personal connections flow freely and everyone comes away richer.

Thanks to everyone who came to one of our events this year and I hope we see even more of you in the future.

In March, fifteen SU students participated in the iSchool’s second annual **Spring Break in Silicon Valley (SBinSV)**, an immersion experience which gives students a chance to observe and participate first-hand in a thriving entrepreneurial eco-system. Students learned the importance of networking, and more than one hundred SU alumni joined the students for a networking reception at Google. The event featured a panel on Challenges and Opportunities in Silicon Valley with iSchool alumni **Philip Kaplan '97** and **Chris Smith '97** in addition to other SU graduates.



J.D. ROSS

B.S. in Information Management and Technology

Randy Jackson '98 is a network technician at Profost in Camp Pendleton, Ca.

Joe Kanakaraj '00 is a software developer at exfm in NYC.

Tim O'Shea '98 G'00 is systems samurai at iSupportU in Boulder, Co.

Kristen Schuliar '04 is a senior project manager at Aetna Inc., in Hartford, Ct.

Paul Wachtler '07, G '09 is a business systems analyst at Liberty Mutual in Boston.

Keri Bucktooth '09 is project coordinator at Computer Sciences Corporation in Syracuse.

Heather Drost '10 is a staff writer at the Advisory Board in Washington, D.C.

Carlos Avila '11 is a technology solutions analyst at Cognizant Technology Solutions.

Max Berkowitz '11 is an interactive designer at Bajubot Media, Inc. in NYC.

Lenny Acri Garofalo '11 is a technology analyst with JPMorgan Chase in New York City.

Joseph Giarrusso '11 is an IT server specialist for IBM in South Florida and Puerto Rico. He resides in Miami, Fla.

David Hasfurter '11 is a supervisor at Shoregroup Inc. in Syracuse.

Stacy Kirkland '11 is an IT analyst at Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies in Dover, N.H.

Max Miracolo '11 is a graphic designer at Froogle Media Group, Inc. in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Nick Silva '11 is an infrastructure solutions analyst at Cognizant Technology Solutions.

Marc Squire '11 is a producer at MLB Advanced Media in New York City.

Greg Gordon '12 is a systems integration analyst at Accenture in New York City.

Nichole May '12 is a technology consultant at Protiviti in Boston.

Drew Seidman '12 is a technology solutions analyst at Cognizant Technology Solutions.

Ben Cohen '12 is a business systems analyst at JPMorgan Chase in Dover, Del.

Andrew Klajbor '12 is a business technology analyst at Deloitte Consulting in Boston.

Lauren Scalisi '12 is a business systems analyst in risk and security management with JPMorgan Chase in Syracuse.

Zack Levandov '12 is working in sales and marketing at MyPodStudios at Black Ocean.

M.S. in Library and Information Science

Susy Szasz Palmer '78 is dean of the library at Longwood University in Farmville, Va.

Judy Dzikowski '79 is retiring after 27 years as director of school library systems at Onondaga Cortland Madison BOCES.

Patricia Vilello '83 is retiring after 30 years as director of school library systems at Syracuse City Schools.

Allan G. Savage '87, recently retired as senior technical information specialist at the National Library of Medicine. After 23 years in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Section, Allan has returned to his previous vocation as a professional chess teacher and chess journalist in the Washington D.C. area.

Peggy Garvin '86 received the 2011 Dow Jones Leadership Award, which honors an SLA member who has led others by exemplifying professional and personal competencies. Peggy is a sought-after source of expertise on workplace research skills and the use and management of government information. Her 10-year-old company, Garvin Information Consulting, helps businesses, government agencies, and individuals develop competitive information skills for long-term efficiency.

Kathy Spitzer '90 is the school librarian at KWS Bear Rd. Elementary School (K-4), North Syracuse Central School District. Kathy received National Board Certification in Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood in November 2011.

Angela Weiler '97 was promoted to full professor at Onondaga Community College.

Jennifer Nutefall '98 is university librarian at Santa Clara University in California. She was also named to UCLA's Senior Fellow program.

Deb Christensen '99 is a teacher/librarian at Central Academy of Technology & Arts in Monroe, N.C.

Karin Wikoff '02, electronic and technical services librarian at Ithaca College, is the

author of *Electronic Resources Management* in the Academic Library, published by Libraries Unlimited.

Emily Drabinski '03 is electronic resources and instruction librarian at Long Island University in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Susan Kowalski '03, was awarded the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) 2011 National School Library Program of the Year (NSLPY) on behalf of Pine Grove Middle School in East Syracuse. Sponsored by Follett Library Resources, the NSLPY recognizes school library programs that meet the needs of the changing school and library environment and are fully integrated into the school's curriculum. Each recipient receives \$10,000 toward its school library program.

Dan Muzyka '06 is lead developer on the Drupal team at ServerLogic Corporation in Portland, Or.

Stacey Greene Wicksall '07 is manager at Red Jacket Community Library in Shortsville, N.Y.

Nanette Dougherty '08 is a media specialist at PS 79 in Whitestone, Queens. Her library just received 8 new iPads! She would love to host a student who needs observation or internship hours. She would also like to collaborate with anyone using iPads in school libraries to share creative ideas. Email her at pazparati@aol.com

Amy Gratz '08 is instructional services librarian at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Michael Creedon '09 is a systems librarian at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y. He also presented *Strategic Planning, Marketing, and Assessment for an InfoCommons: How to Get Off the Ground* at the 2010 Consortium of College and University Media Centers (CCUMC) Annual Conference.

Kim Ewart '09 is Archive Specialist at Pearson Education in San Francisco, Ca.

Courtney Jacobs '09 is archives and rare books librarian at University of North Texas Libraries in Denton, Tx.

Kathryn Lulofs '09 is a GED tutor at American career College in LA, Ca.

Barbara McFarland '09 works in cataloging services at Baker & Taylor in Bridgewater, N.J.



Use the enclosed envelope to let us know about your professional and personal accomplishments so that we can include them in a future issue of Connections. Also, please keep us informed of any address or employment changes. You may also visit the alumni section of our website at: <http://ischool.syr.edu/alumni> to update your address, make a gift to the school, or participate in the online alumni community. Class notes can also be submitted to istalum@syr.edu.

Barbara Settel

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Haley Benjamins '10 is reference librarian at Green River Community College Holman Library in Auburn, Wa.

Lorraine Porcello '10 is liaison services librarian for primary care at the Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester Medical Center.

Elizabeth Roberts '10 is a pre-K–12 librarian at the Pan American School of Porto Alegre in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Sarah Spanburgh '10 is a reference librarian at Ashe County Public Library in West Jefferson, N.C.

Maureen Squier '10 is a library media specialist at New Lebanon Jr-Sr High School in New Lebanon, N.Y.

Carrie Waibel '10 is executive assistant at Bexley Public Library in Bexley, Ohio.

Ruth Williamson '10 is interlibrary loan lending coordinator at Ithaca College Library.

Jessica Ammons '11 is a media specialist at Wake County Public Schools in Raleigh, N.C.

Heather Highfield '11 is site manager at Polaris Library Systems in Liverpool, N.Y.

Janice Murray '11 is a library media specialist with Syracuse City School District.

Jessica O'Toole '11 is a reference librarian for Tuckahoe and Eastchester Public Libraries.

Lauren Smedley '11 is director of transliteracy development at Fayetteville (N.Y.) Free Library.

Emily Doyle '11 is business librarian at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

Lisa Hoff '11 is reference, instruction, and outreach librarian at Wells College in Auburn, N.Y.

April Steenburgh '11 is library manager at Deposit (N.Y.) Free Library.

Alexi Galica-Cohen '12 is cataloging and systems librarian for Bethel University in McKenzie, Tn.

Claire Enkosky '12 is emerging technologies specialist at the CNY Library Resources Council in Syracuse and part-time librarian and instructor for Simmons Institute of Funeral Service.

Jennifer Wiley '12 is working as an archivist for US Senator Kent Conrad in Washington, D.C.

M.S. in Information Management

Rose Safir '03 is an information management officer at the U.S. Department of State and a certified advanced facilitator at Apollo Group in Washington, D.C.

Mark Berman '07 is chief information officer at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

Murugan Pandian '08 is a senior business systems analyst at Bose in Boston, Ma.

Ali Nasser A. Hadwer '09 is corporate director of educational IT services at King Saud University for Health Sciences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Pranjal Naik '10 is senior IT advisor with Ernst & Young in New York City.

Lisa Baker '11 is a business analyst with Hewlett-Packard in Cazenovia, N.Y.

Kathleen Duarte '11 is a project manager at Placer County Sheriff's Office in Auburn, Ca.

Chhavi Gupta '11 is a software engineer at EMC Corporation in Boston.

Chris Keeler '11 is an analyst at Accenture in the Security Practice of Technology in New York City.

Thomas Priest '11 is an associate systems analyst at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse.

Gwyneth Frey '12 is a business technology analyst with Deloitte Consulting in Denver, Co.

Ishan Patel '12 is a business technology analyst with Deloitte Consulting in New York City.

Indrjeet Baldev Sharma '12 is an associate release engineer at Salesforce.com in San Francisco.

Leo Stezano '12 is project manager at Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University in NYC.

Ph.D. in Information Science and Technology

Todd Marshall '04 is working on a partnership between Spring Arbor University (where he is Dean of SAUonline) and the largest online program in China at Southwest University in Chongqing, China. They have 55,000 full-time students and 75,000 online students.

Hala Annabi '05 has had a banner year. She was named Ohio University Professor, a student-nominated recognition awarded to four faculty members at OU each year. She also received the College of Business Teaching Excellence Award and was named Founding Director of the COB Honors Program.

Isabelle Fagnot '11 is assistant professor/head of accreditations at IESEG School of Management in Paris, France.

Brenden Kuerbis '11 is a postdoctoral fellow in Internet Security Governance at the Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. In addition, he is a research consultant at Syracuse University School of Information Studies working on a project, *Internet Address Scarcity and the Transition to IPv6*, which is funded by the Next Generation Infrastructures Foundation (Netherlands).

Andrea Wiggins '12 is doing a postdoc with DataONE, cohosted by Cornell University and the University of New Mexico. The project focuses on data management and public participation in scientific research.

*Profile of Giving:***Christine Larsen**

Believing that “the research from the Ph.D. program is fundamental to what the School of Information Studies is and what it becomes,” Board of Advisors member and Syracuse University Trustee Christine Larsen has established a summer fellowship to support a new cohort of students throughout their program.

“The strength of our new Ph.D.’s will continue to drive the reputation for the school,” Larsen explained of the new Elizabeth D. Liddy Fellowships, a program she named for a former classmate who now serves as the iSchool’s Dean. “Liz is a widely regarded leader in her field, so it’s my hope that her reputation in the school and her legacy will be able to carry on to future generations through this award,” Larsen said.

As a University fellow herself, Larsen graduated from the School of Information Studies in 1984. While her graduate work at Syracuse was something she never regretted, she remembers it as a time that was grueling, both academically and economically. She had decided to pack all 36 credits into one calendar year, she recalled. “I was in a hurry. It was a bad idea, but it could be done, so I did it,” she said. “And though I was on fellowship, we were destitute. We ate a lot of wings then,” Larsen remembered.

When she was school convocation speaker last fall, Larsen met a cohort of four Information Science and Technology Ph.D. students who were just beginning their path. She learned that many Ph.D. students are funded only for the academic terms, and that many must take routine jobs to make ends meet over summers. “That is when they should be reflecting and doing academic thinking without the added burden of teaching that they have in the spring and fall,” Larsen suggested. Charmed by the cohort’s enthusiasm and struck by the magnitude of their journey, Larsen decided right then that she “wanted to be their fairy godmother. I wanted to see if there was some way I could make their time easier.”

Consequently, the Elizabeth D. Liddy Fellowships, which Larsen said recognize Dean Liddy’s “superior academic achievements and reputation in the technology field,” will provide \$7,000 in funding to each of the four Ph.D. students in that cohort, for the next three summers of their program.

“Christine has found an especially thoughtful way to provide a gift that not only immediately benefits the students,



Christine Larsen speaks at the New Trustee Installation ceremony in November, 2011.

but is likely to generate added contributions in coming years. There is no telling just how a summer term spent in academic pursuits may enhance and promote thesis research, and later influence others through the ideas and advances of these students,” Dean Liddy said. “The naming of these fellowships is a gracious gesture, and I am very excited to see how having this special summer funding enhances and promotes further opportunities for this group and ultimately benefits the iSchool.”

Larsen’s MLIS program permitted her “a very broad exposure to information management,” in addition to the highly technical courses she pursued. Upon graduation, she was hired by a Syracuse alum and joined Accenture, staying at the company for 10 years.

Now, Larsen is an Executive Vice President and head of Process Improvement for JPMorgan Chase. The operation is one of the largest U.S. providers of banking and lending, employing over 245,000 people. She has also led JPMorgan Chase’s collaboration with Syracuse University, developing the first-ever cross-disciplinary curriculum to train students for large-scale computing in global technology.

“Whoever provided my fellowship changed my life and my family’s life,” she recalled. “As a trustee, I now look forward to [this group] receiving their hoods and being part of that ceremony.” ■

Paul Buckman G'99

Directing FDA's Online Communications

DIANE STIRLING

Being “a bit of a futurist when it comes to business change” is a competency that has effectively served the career track of Paul Buckman G'99.

The School of Information Studies (iSchool) alumnus has been ahead of the curve—and the crowd—for most of his professional career. His skill at spotting trends, his willingness to keep learning, and his ability to think about information in an out-of-the-ordinary way have helped catapult Buckman into cutting-edge, national-level positions. Since his first internship out of the iSchool, Paul has excelled at the top of the industry in the crossover arena between video, tech, news and communications.

While it has been a somewhat circuitous path, Paul likes where he's been and where he's headed.

After Louisville Male High School, the Kentucky native joined the military in 1987 and served in the U.S. Army for six years. There, he took advantage of “the equivalent of an NYU education” in photography, videography, video editing, storyboarding and scriptwriting, he said.

Upon his release as a SPC4 after a military career as an audio/video specialist, Paul enrolled in the University of Louisville to complete his bachelor's degree. He also took a job as a field producer at the local Fox TV affiliate. He took classes all week and worked news on the weekends while earning his Liberal Arts/English degree.

When Paul and his wife both decided to pursue graduate degrees, Syracuse University was top-of-mind. “I always had Syracuse on the brain. I knew about Syracuse even when I was in the military,” Paul related. Since his wife had been accepted to the business management program at SU, Paul knew he would continue his studies here, but was unsure about which academic program to choose.

“One day, I just walked into the iSchool and sat down with Barbara Settel,” Paul said. “I knew [what] they were doing at the iSchool. I decided I could learn something from a pretty reputable program that was doing things that were super cutting-edge at the time—metadata and things that were going to be the future of news. I wanted to get a foot in that door, and I decided that the iSchool's graduate program would be the one for me.”

A FATEFUL INTERNSHIP

Although he had not yet taken his GREs, Paul did so with Barbara's encouragement, and soon was admitted as an Information Management graduate student. He spent exactly a

year taking iSchool classes until fate, in the form of a prominent last-minute internship, intervened.

In the winter, Paul had interviewed for an unpaid student slot at MSNBC.com. Since he hadn't heard back about it, he was preparing for a summer of classes “and a lot of mountain biking,” he laughed. Then, MSNBC called. Could he be on location ready to work in two weeks?

Paul didn't hesitate. “I knew the internship would be a perfect fit for me, because no one was doing the online kind of things in the digital space. So my wife and I were scrambling to get down to Manhattan,” Paul remembers. “We literally got there the day before I was supposed to start the internship.”

At summer's end, his work was so impressive that he was offered a temporary job. Paul stayed on at MSNBC.com, and, through the iSchool's distance-learning program, continued taking classes. He graduated with his master's degree in Information Management in 1999.

That first internship was serendipitous, Paul said. “It was a great time to be entering the online news field; I wasn't one of the originals, but I was pretty close,” he acknowledged. “Everything was so new. Some of the things we were doing were pretty amazing. Nothing was automated, and there weren't tools for us to do anything easily, other than a content management system. Everything was entered into that by hand,” he recalled. “We were doing interactive storytelling, and we worked like dogs. We [had] tools that, compared to today, were very crude.”

Paul stayed for several years, becoming a senior producer at MSNBC.com and subsequently a producer at the *LaterTodayShow.com/WeekendToday*.

RETURN TO VIDEO ROOTS

His involvement with online video on the Today Show website led Paul to think about returning to his video production roots. At the same time, he said, he had identified a gap in his experience.

“I saw a shift in what was going on, where video was becoming more of a content commodity, as opposed to being in-house. I felt a big part of my career was missing.”

Before long, Paul remedied that by taking a job at Scripps Interactive in Knoxville. He worked as director of broadband video programming and original content on Food Network and Fine Living shows, among others. After four years, however, he and his wife felt the pull to return to East Coast living.

Though 2010 was one of the worst economic times to be looking for work, Paul was intrigued by an ad for a web

producer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He won the job, moved to Washington, D.C., and for the past year, has experienced a whole new work environment.

His role encompasses being principal advisor to the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research on Web communications and strategy, policy, research, evaluation and practice.

Ultimately, the skills he learned and the way of thinking infused in him during his time at the iSchool helped him obtain his new position, as well as earlier jobs, Paul believes.

"The clear takeaway for me, and this may sound cliché, is that [the iSchool] really taught you to think outside the box, and to be open about how things are presented or how you do things," he described. "In class, we were talking about content management systems and search before people were even thinking about search," he continued. "It was just mind-blowing...to take down some of the things you traditionally thought of and to think about them in a way that is out of the ordinary."

Buckman credits innovative iSchool professors, including Mike Nilan, Susan Bonzi, and Ping Zhang; his then-academic advisor Robert Heckman; plus a supportive iSchool staff for their contributions to his education. "As an overall program, they don't hold your hand, but they are very nurturing with the students there," he offered.

CAREER MANAGEMENT

Just as Paul pursued new jobs within his interests, he advises today's students to be persistent in working towards opportunities they desire. "If there are things you want to do and if you have the credentials and skill sets to do it, then by all means go after it in a respectful, collegial way," he suggests. While the current economy may make it difficult to job hunt, Paul notes, "At the end of the day, I think you have to manage your own career and seek out opportunities, because no one is going to do it for you. You may have to be flexible on some of the things you may want to achieve at the time, but don't ever give up on the end goal of where you want to be," he advised.

iSchool students, in particular, should also consider various options in looking at creating startup careers by thinking about the entrepreneurial route, Paul believes. "Consider starting something new, something fresh; consider starting out on your own because we do need more entrepreneurs."

AT THE FDA

Buckman's role at the FDA is a complex one, given that the organization is charged with transparency, is housed within a regulatory environment, and strives to openly communicate



Paul Buckman G'99 speaks at the BLISTS Leadership Conference and Orange Central.

highly technical information about food and drug research and safety to consumers, he noted.

The role of a government information disseminator also presents a very different way of thinking about online content, Paul noted. "It's a total switch of your brain and how you're geared and wired," he said. "I was born and bred in news, and you really have to think differently."

Now, Buckman said, his main challenges lie in taking information from "a group of extremely smart people—doctors, lawyers, scientists and researchers, and on a regular basis, translating their work to achieve a mission of protecting public health." The job entails challenges, including boiling highly complex information into lay terms, and finding ways to make that data "relate to folks from day-to-day in a digestible form," he said. In moving out of news and into a government communications role, "I was looking for something more meaningful, getting back to running a web site, and looking for something that would be a very interesting challenge," Paul said of his transition.

"We aren't trying to sell products or get people to give us money; we don't need ad impressions; we're trying to put out a message. The thing about the FDA and the message is that it can potentially save your life," he observed. "At the end of the day, technology is here to enhance and better our lives, not to make things more difficult," Buckman said. "That's why I got into this. I think I'm helping people make better choices about their health by making information more accessible." ■

Supporting the iSchool



SCOTT A. BARRETT ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADVANCEMENT

“It changed my life.” That is, without question the statement I’ve heard more than any other from students since I began working here at the iSchool in December.

Students participating in the Spring Break in Silicon Valley immersion program have said it to me, as have high school students participating in the IT Girls Retreat. Recipients of the Liddy Fellowships, students competing for the Raymond von Dran IDEA awards and a scholarship student working in the NEXIS (New Explorations in Information Science) lab have all said it.

All of these programs and many others that combine to make the iSchool truly unique were made possible, in part, through the generous charitable support of our donors—people and organizations who support the iSchool to change lives.

D. Whitney Coe G’67 is one of those people. After receiving his master’s degree in Library Science at the iSchool, Mr. Coe enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a librarian at Princeton University. For years, Mr. Coe supported the iSchool with generous annual gifts, many in support of financial aid for students working on their Library and Information Science degrees. On a number of occasions,

those grateful students, now alumni, made their own gifts while specifically crediting Mr. Coe’s generosity which had enabled them to succeed.

In October, 2011, Mr. Coe passed away. Not surprisingly, he made a permanent commitment to the iSchool through a generous bequest—among the largest ever received by the school—to create an endowed scholarship, the D. Whitney Coe Graduate Scholarship Fund. Future generations of talented and deserving iSchool students will benefit from Mr. Coe’s generosity, and their lives will be forever changed.

We are fortunate that hundreds of alumni, parents and friends voice their enthusiasm for the iSchool each year through their charitable support. They have the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting a nationally recognized school that is preparing its graduates to accomplish extraordinary things. We hope you will join us this year in supporting the iSchool and, when the time is right, you too might consider including the school in your estate plan. And we hope to see you, either on campus or when we travel to your region throughout the coming year. ■



Dean Liz Liddy and Christine Parker G'93, cut the ribbon dedicating the Christine Parker iCafe in Hinds Hall on September 29, 2011. Christine, a member of the iSchool's Board of Advisors, directed her campaign support to establish the iCafe in an effort to further an open, collaborative environment, where students can broaden their views, engage creatively and expand their network of friends in an informal relaxed space. The iCafe has accomplished its mission of helping to balance work and play at the iSchool, having hosted a variety of activities both large and small, including the iBand, the IT Girls Retreat, #140cuse student pitches and a standing-room only crowd for the SU men's basketball Big East Tournament win over UConn.

Several spaces in Hinds Hall, including faculty offices, classrooms and student spaces, remain available for naming. Please visit our web site: <http://ischool.syr.edu/naming>, or contact Scott Barrett, Assistant Dean for Advancement, at sabarr02@syr.edu or 315-443-6139 for information.

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Adjunct faculty member Bernice L. Rocque teaches a class at the iSchool's Regnier Summer Institute in July. The Summer Institute offers information professionals an opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills in three critical areas: leadership development and management; technology applications; and user services. For more information, please visit <http://ischool.syr.edu/summer>