The School of Library and Information Science is devoting considerable time during the spring semester to developing the Program Presentation that is required in conjunction with periodic comprehensive review of ALA program accreditation.

Accreditation is the responsibility of the Committee on Accreditation, which, according to the ALA Web site, is “a standing committee of the American Library Association responsible for the implementation of the accreditation of library and information studies programs. The COA develops and formulates standards of education for library and information studies and policies and procedures for ALA accreditation.”

Although the expression “reaccreditation” is sometimes used, the process now underway is not reaccreditation, but rather a review that, under normal circumstances, occurs every seven years. The COA Glossary of accreditation terminology includes “Comprehensive review process,” which is “Periodic review of a program by the COA so that the Committee can evaluate a program’s conformity to the Standards. The process includes submitting the Program Presentation document, a two-day ERP [External Review Panel] on-site review, and a COA accreditation decision.” Successful comprehensive review results not in reaccreditation, but rather in a program’s being granted “continued accreditation status.”

The comprehensive review is following a schedule that requires the School to submit the draft Program Presentation to the Office for Accreditation and the ERP chair at the end of October. They will review the draft and may ask for clarification and possibly additional information. If revisions are required, they will be made in time to deliver the final Program Presentation mid-January. Members of the ERP are to be on campus February 28 – March 1.

The Committee on Accreditation announces the results of comprehensive reviews twice yearly. The comprehensive review schedule the School is on calls for COA action to be announced at the 2011 Annual Conference.

KDLA Commissioner Wayne Onkst to Receive Outstanding Alumna/us Award at School’s Spring Banquet

State Librarian and Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Wayne Onkst ('79) has been chosen to receive the School’s 2010 Outstanding Alumna/us Award, which will be presented to him at the annual banquet, to be held the evening of Friday, April 23, at the Hilton Lexington Downtown Hotel.

Prior to going to Frankfort in November 2007, Wayne had been with Kenton County Public Library for 27 years, the last seven as Director. He began at KCPL as a Reference Librarian and subsequently was Head of Adult Services and then Associate Director. While he was Director, KCPL built two major branches at a total cost of $17 million, and the Kenton County Public Library Foundation was created.

Wayne was nominated by Campbell County Public Library Director JC Morgan, who wrote:

Wayne’s commitment to public libraries – especially Kentucky’s public libraries – is broad and deep. For years he worked tirelessly as a member of the Kentucky Library Association Public Library Section and its successor, the Kentucky Public Library Association, to assure that Kentucky’s public librarians have a professional organization that we can be proud of, that adds to our skills, and that enhances our professionalism. …

Wayne’s contributions to the profession have been recognized both locally and nationally. In 2001, he received the Children, Inc. Award for “innovative services that imagine a better tomorrow for children.” In 2002, he received the GCLC [Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium] Service Recognition Award. In 2005, the American Library Association chose him to receive the prestigious Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children. In 2009, he received the Kentucky Library Association’s Outstanding Public Library Service Award and, also in 2009, he received the Kenton County Public Library Foundation Mary Ann Mongan Literacy Award for Outstanding Work in Promoting Literacy in Northern Kentucky.

(For information about the banquet, and to make a reservation, please see last page of the newsletter.)
Funded Outreach Impact Study Underway

SLIS received funding from the Greater Midwest Region (GMR), National Network of Libraries of Medicine, National Library of Medicine to involve students in an outreach impact study under the direction of Professor Jeff Huber. The GMR funds health information outreach projects to member institutions in the ten-state region, and the purpose of the Outreach Impact Study is to assess the impact GMR funding has on the ability of member institutions to conduct outreach on behalf of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

Funds from the award provide tuition scholarships for up to six students to participate in the two-phase project, each phase of which is to be conducted as an LIS690 Special Topics course. The Phase I Special Topics course is devoted to planning the study and is being conducted spring semester 2010. The Phase II Special Topics course will be devoted to implementing the study and will be conducted fall semester 2010.

During Phase I, students are working with Professor Huber to select an appropriate methodology for the study, draft the study proposal, which will be submitted for regional and Federal review, and draft the Institutional Review Board (IRB) application for the implementation phase. During Phase II, students will work with Professor Huber to respond to any questions raised during the peer review or IRB process, create appropriate data-gathering instruments, collect and analyze data, draft a final report to submit to the GMR Office, and draft a manuscript for submission to the Journal of the Medical Library Association summarizing the study findings.

Faculty Activities

Professor Donald Case recently published an article with Dr. Barbara Wildemuth of the University of North Carolina entitled "Early information behavior research," which appeared this winter in the Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. Dr. Case is on the program committees for two international conferences: Information Seeking in Context (Murcia, Spain, September 2010) and IIIX 2010, the Information Interaction in Context Symposium (New Brunswick, August 18-22, 2010).

Director Jeff Huber has been appointed to serve as a member of the Janet Doe Lectureship Jury for the Medical Library Association for a one-year term beginning May 2010.

Professor Kwan Yi's two research articles, including one co-authored with Professor Lois Chan, were recently accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology (JASIST). The titles of the articles are: "A Semantic Similarity Approach to Predicting Library of Congress Subject Headings for Social Tags," and "Revisiting the Syntactical and Structural Analysis of Library of Congress Subject Headings for the Digital Environment," co-authored with Professor Lois Chan.


Professor Yi presented his research at two conferences, and his presentations also appeared in the conference proceedings. He presented “A Feasibility Study of Exploiting Social Tags to Discover the Sense of Words” at the 20th American Society for Information Science and Technology Special Interest Group in Classification Research Workshop, November 7, 2009, Vancouver, Canada. And, he presented "A Study for Evaluating the Value of Social Tags as Indexing Terms” at the 6th International Conference on Knowledge Management, December 3-4, 2009, Hong Kong.

Not just for Computer Scientists Anymore

SLIS Professor Joseph Miller Helps Plan Cyber Infrastructure Days Workshop

Cyberinfrastructure Days, sponsored by a National Science Foundation grant to the University of Kentucky Center for Computational Science (CCS), took place on campus February 22-23, and Professor Joe Miller, along with College of Communications and Information Studies IT Coordinator/Postdoctorate Scholar Dr. Konstantin Tovstiaidi, served on the CI-Days planning committee. Professor Miller filed the following report about the event:

The University of Kentucky has significant High Performance Computing (HPC) resources and high-speed network connections (the Teragrid) to other HPC centers across the country that are available for research and teaching. This combination of HPC and high-speed networks is defined by the National Science Foundation as cyberinfrastructure (CI), a term for the collection of advanced technologies and services to support scientific inquiry. CI includes many different elements – computing clusters and high performance computing (HPC) systems, data management, data integration and data storage systems, high speed networks, data mining, data visualization, collaboration and security tools and, of course, all the people who keep these systems operational. Traditionally, HPC has been the domain of physicists, astronomers, and other scientists needing very powerful computational capabilities, but many in the humanities are using technology in surprising ways.

The workshop was designed to help UK faculty understand the potential benefits that CI can provide to their scholarship, teaching, research and outreach; to learn what n-
tional resources are available; and to see what faculty and students are already doing with cyberinfrastructure at UK. A few sessions were on the technology itself, describing huge increases in capacity and the enormous power requirements of supercomputer clusters like “Blue Waters” at the University of Illinois. Aside from all the geeky talk of petaflops and terabits, the real heart of the workshop was to understand how CI can be used. Several sessions highlighted uses of CI for molecular modeling. Dr. John Gilbertson, LIS Professor Sujin Kim’s former doctoral advisor, discussed the challenges of digitizing and analyzing huge repositories of medical pathology images.

Two fascinating examples of the intersection of technology and the humanities came from Dean of Arts and Sciences Mark Kornbluh and Computer Science Professor Brent Seales. Dr. Kornbluh discussed his sociological research analyzing digital images of American quilts. Quilts are difficult to display and many are simply stored away at various museums, but digital images make them available for new research. One of Dr. Kornbluh’s projects is looking to see how an influx of immigrants with their own quilting traditions has changed American quilting regionally over time. Dr. Seales is well known for his project attempting to read “invisible” text within carbonized papyrus scrolls from the Villa of the Papyri, damaged in the Mount Vesuvius eruption, that cannot be unrolled without suffering extreme damage. By obtaining many layers of CT scans and then using HPC to assemble and merge all the images, he can begin to “virtually” unroll them to expose the writings within – an amazing technological feat! All the sessions were a fascinating glimpse into the many new uses of computing and networking technologies.

An Interview with Professor Donald Case

We learned, but too late for the fall 2009 newsletter, that an interview with the School’s Professor Donald Case had appeared in Documentation Magazine, a publication of the Documentation Sciences Foundation. We are pleased to make the interview available to SLIS alumni:

Dr. Donald Case, could you tell us a little about yourself?

I came into the field of information science from two different directions. First was libraries, as I had worked in them as an undergraduate student and went on to earn my Master’s degree in Information Studies from Syracuse, thinking I would become an academic librarian. But instead I took two jobs as a systems analyst for different city governments. Growing bored with that, I decided to go back to get a doctorate in Communication Research at Stanford, as I wanted to study the effects of computers and telecommunications on human communication. And I wanted to do research on how people found different kinds of information, that is, “information seeking” research. After graduating in 1984 I ended up at UCLA, teaching students who wanted to become academic and public librarians. So I made a big circle to end up close to where my first interests directed me. Now I teach at the University of Kentucky, in a program that combines information studies with communication and journalism—a good combination for me.

Since 1937, the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), which you are the President, has been the society for information professionals leading the search for new and better theories, techniques, and technologies to improve access to information. What are your mission and vision? What is your role as President?

My role as President is mainly to lead the ASIS&T Board in making decisions about the future of the Society. A goal of mine has been to increase membership, and international membership in particular. I also represent the Society to other organizations, for example, the American Library Association, and the Asociación de Educación e Investigación en Bibliotecología, Archivología, Ciencias de la Información y Documentación de Iberoamérica y el Caribe; I will speak at the EDIBCIC meeting this November in Coimbra, Portugal.

ASIS&T counts among its membership some 4,000 information specialists from such fields as computer science, linguistics, management, librarianship, engineering, law, medicine, chemistry, and education; individuals who share a common interest in improving the ways society stores, retrieves, analyzes, manages, archives and disseminates information. Why is it important to become a member?

The membership is somewhat less than that now, as like many societies we have been faced with declining membership, as people are able to do so much in the virtual world without attending meetings. But the Society is very healthy financially, and still has many committed members.

What are some of the trends you see in Information Science and Technology? How do you see the disciplines being transformed in the years to come?

I see information professionals becoming more creative, becoming involved in collecting and transforming information to suit certain clients. For example, I recently visited a newspaper library where the librarians made themselves so valuable that none of them lost their jobs when the newspaper was forced to fire 20% of their employees. These news librarians created custom websites that follow certain newsworthy people and topics, constantly adding new information so that when a reporter needs to write a new story about a topic or person, much of the research has already been done. And they are there in the newsroom ready to answer questions and look up facts. Information professionals will need to work harder and smarter than in the past. I find more young people are excited by the idea of becoming a librarian, archivist, or information architect.

What about the preservation of digital documents? Do you have any thoughts about that?

It is becoming more and more important. Electronic records are being created at a tremendous rate, and the younger information professionals who understand how to preserve them have an advantage over the older workers who have not kept up with technological trends. In addition to the dig-
ital documents you ask about, there are many older, non-electronic records that need to be digitized and ways to access them created; this is another new industry for information professionals.

**As information professional, what books were most influential and important to you, and why?**

There have been very many, especially some of those I read as a graduate student in the 1980s. I would have to say that among the top is a 1983 book by Ithiel de Sola Pool, Technologies of Freedom, in which Pool made many predictions that have come to pass, for example, the merger of computing and telecommunications, and challenges to intellectual property law. Another influential 1983 book was “The study of information,” edited by the economist Fritz Machlup, along with Una Mansfield, because of its thoughtful essays on information theory, the definition of information, and its relation to cognition. A more recent book that I have been re-reading is the first volume of Manuel Castells “Rise of the network society,” especially the parts about the changing nature of work and the economy, and how technology affects our culture.

**Based on your experience, what skills does a person need to become a good information professional? Are they well-educated?**

I describe some of the important skills in other answers. If you asked me 10 years ago I would say that most information professionals in the U.S. and Canada are very well prepared in their programs. Now I am not so sure. The spread of distance education has meant the many students now take all their courses online, with little human contact in the classroom setting. I think that is a shame, even though it makes education possible for an expanded number of people. It is also troublesome that some of these students are not currently working in information jobs, perhaps not working at all. Given that most positions require working with other people, often serving the public at large, they do not have the chance to learn from fellow students, or to develop the social skills and judgment needed to be good information professionals. This lack of interpersonal skills may only concern a minority of graduates, however I am worried about the future of education as it becomes increasingly diluted through competition.

So good interpersonal and communication skills are important, along with good technical skills, such as with computers and networks.

**Some people think that the New Technologies could replace the information professionals, because their participation wouldn’t be necessary as intermediary between the user and information. What is your opinion? What are the opportunities and challenges for information professionals in the twenty-first century?**

There definitely has been much “disintermediation,” however I do not think that trend can go on forever. People still find it easiest to get help from other people, rather than simply reading what they need to know. If that were not true, then most formal education, and teachers, would have disappeared after the invention of printing. The flood of information has created more opportunities to help people understand records of all types, and created jobs in the collecting and analyzing and re-packaging of information. Information professionals now need different skills than in the past, for example, the ability to synthesize information to create new products, such as websites.

**What impression do you have of Spaniards information professionals? Are there any differences with USA professionals?**

I am afraid that I have not had much interaction with information professionals from Spain, however the few that I have met seemed very well-educated. It is a good sign that Spaniards are active in international societies. For example, I know that the President of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO) is María López-Huertas (of the Universidad de Granada) and that Emilia Currás of Madrid is also on the ISKO Council.

**Finally, is there anything else that you want to add or that you wish I’d asked you about?**

Well, there is a lot I could say about my book, “Looking for information”, which was first published in 2002 with a second edition in 2007. It is a synthesis of over 60 years of research on information seeking. But perhaps that is best left for another interview!

** McConnell Literature Conference 2010**

The 2010 McConnell Youth Literature Conference was held February 26-27 at Lexington’s Griffin Gate Marriott Spa and Resort with the theme Jump into the World of Youth Literature. John Green, a Printz Medal and Honor recipient for his works Looking for Alaska and An Abundance of Kathertines, delivered the Joy Terhune Lecture at the banquet on Friday night. Green spoke about the importance of librarians and teachers in the world of youth literature, particularly in the rapidly-changing publishing landscape. He also addressed the increasing importance of using social networking to reach out to the teen community. Although Mrs. Terhune could not be with us this year, she was with us in thought, as was conference namesake, the late Anne McConnell.
The banquet was attended by several School faculty, School director, Dr. Jeff Huber, and former State Library Commissioner Jim Nelson. We also welcomed the new Dean of the College of Communications and Information Studies, Dr. H. Dan O’Hair, to his first McConnell Conference.

On Friday afternoon, many aspects of youth literature and services were explored in breakout sessions. Dr. Cynthia Houston (Western Kentucky University) presented “A Tour of Children’s Literature Digital Collections,” and spoke about many of the issues surrounding digital collections today. Librarians Mary Bryant and Karen Parsons (Jefferson County Public Schools) presented “Books Ordered Online by Kids in Schools: A Grant to ‘Rev Up’ School Libraries,” and Master’s students in the Critical Analysis of Children’s Literature course discussed the recipients of the 2010 Caldecott, Newbery, Printz and Morris awards. All sessions were repeated on Saturday.

Though weather conditions prevented children’s author and illustrator David Wiesner from coming to Lexington, conference attendees were delighted by a presentation via digital connection on Saturday morning. The three-time Caldecott Medal recipient spoke about his award-winning works, and attendees were treated to a preview of his new book Art and Max, due out later this year. Saturday’s lunch session featured Kentucky Bluegrass Award finalist Dandi Daley Mackall, who shared many touching and humorous stories about her works’ inspiration. Mackall has published over 400 books for all ages, including Larger-than-Life Lara, Eva Underground, and most recently the young adult title My Boyfriends’ Dogs.

The Saturday schedule included smaller breakout sessions with Green, Wiesner, and Mackall, and a repeat of Friday’s sessions. Meggan Conway (Lexington Public Library) presented “Classics Re-Illustrated,” a look at the current trend that involves the publishing of newly illustrated Caldecott Medal winners and other children’s literature classics. Thank you to all of the presenters for a job well done.

The Blue Marble Bookstore of Fort Thomas, Kentucky once again provided conference attendees with a wonderful selection of books. We are grateful for the continuing support of Peter and Tina Moore, and the staff of The Blue Marble. And of course many thanks go to our wonderful volunteers.

Plans for next year are already underway, and we expect to have an equally engaging set of authors for the 43rd McConnell Conference. Updates can be monitored through the official Facebook event page and the School of Library and Information Science Website. We hope to see everyone again next year. Thank you for your support of the McConnell Conference.

~Anne Bradley & Dr. Stephanie D. Reynolds

James O’Rourke Recognized Posthumously

James Ralph O’Rourke, Sr. (’57) was among those recognized at the fall 2009 Homecoming Awards Banquet of the University of Kentucky Lyman T. Johnson Alumni Constitu-ent Group. The Group invites UK colleges to nominate graduates for Torch of Excellence Awards and Torch Bearer Awards. The former “honor alumni who have succeeded nationally, statewide and locally. Those honorees then ‘pass on’ their faith, determination, hard work and academic excellence to current undergraduate students who have shown those same qualities. The undergraduate students then become “torch bearers” for their colleges.”

University Libraries and the School of Library and Information Science collaborate to nominate individuals. Mr. O’Rourke was nominated for the award by UK Outreach and Diversity Librarian Reinette Jones (’88), who, in her nomination, wrote:

This recognition is long overdue for James O’Rourke, Sr. and his contributions to the field of library and information science. He is being recognized posthumously. James Ralph O’Rourke, Sr. was born in 1913 in Tuscaloosa, AL, and died in North Carolina in 1999. After double-checking our files, it is believed that he was the first African American graduate of the University of Kentucky School of Library and Information Science, in 1957. He served as head librarian at Stillman Junior College [now Stillman College] in Tuscaloosa, AL, before being named head librarian at Kentucky State University Library, where he served from 1949-1970. He was a graduate of Stillman Junior College, Talladega College, earned his B.S. in Library Science at Atlanta University, and his M.S. in Library Science at the University of Kentucky.

James R. O’Rourke, Sr. was one of the first African American members of the Kentucky Library Association. He was author of several articles and co-author of the Student Library Assistants of Kentucky Handbook. He and a fellow librarian established the Student Library Assistants program in 1952, the only state-wide program in the U.S. that trained high school students in library techniques. The program also provided scholarships for high school seniors who intended to go to college. Mr. O’Rourke was the commencement speaker at various high schools in Kentucky. He traveled around the state providing library training to public library employees and held an annual workshop to help those same employees gain state certification. He was the last chairman of the librarians’ division of the Kentucky Negro Educa-
Mary Hamilton (‘79) last fall received the National Storytelling Network Circle of Excellence Award, the first Kentuckian to do so. According to the NSN Web site, “The Circle of Excellence Award is presented to artists who are recognized by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling. Mary Hamilton has influenced many through her stories and outreach. Her style, generosity and creative spirit serve as an inspiration. There are so many of us in the storytelling community who recognize her contributions that the hardest part of putting together this nomination turned out to be limiting the letters of recommendation to three.

An innovative and creative teller, Mary Hamilton’s stories are unforgettable, from her participatory folktales like the Russian “Bun”, to her chilling and haunting ghost stories and her finely crafted “11 Cinderellas”, or her powerful keynote speeches like “Sailing the Flying Ship.”

Mary Hamilton Receives NSN 2009 Circle of Excellence Award

Mary Hamilton, recently retired from her position as a professor at the University of Kentucky, was honored with the National Storytelling Network’s Circle of Excellence Award for her contributions to the art of storytelling. According to the NSN Web site, the Circle of Excellence Award is presented to artists who are recognized by their peers to be master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling. Mary Hamilton has influenced many through her stories and outreach. Her style, generosity and creative spirit serve as an inspiration. There are so many of us in the storytelling community who recognize her contributions that the hardest part of putting together this nomination turned out to be limiting the letters of recommendation to three.

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The award for his father was accepted by Dr. James O’Rourke, who, with his wife, lives in Raleigh, NC. In the course of a delightful evening, Dr. O’Rourke mentioned that his mother, George O’Rourke, also had graduated from today’s School of Library and Information Science. “My mother decided to go to library school, she told the family, because my father liked his job so much.”

The School’s alumni records show that Mrs O’Rourke graduated in 1966 and joined the staff at what is today the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

Mary Hamilton is one of a kind and her work reflects it. In a letter from Storyteller Bobby Norfolk supporting Mary Hamilton’s nomination for the NSN 2009 Circle of Excellence Award he wrote, “Mary has consistently shown a high degree of professionalism in her work as a storyteller, workshop leader and visionary for the storytelling art. When I left the field of theatre, standup comedy and living history programming as a National Park Ranger in 1986, I made annual visits to the Corn Island Storytelling Festival in Louisville, Ky. Always a dominant figure there was this humble, quiet woman that everyone was talking about. It was easy to see why. I was immediately captured by the mesmerizing presence of Mary Hamilton every time she took the stage. Her voice, pacing, movement and choice of material was just exquisite! One of my early models for my work in storytelling has been this lady and I would again like to recommend her for the Circle of Excellence Award. Mary Hamilton earned it long ago and we, as an organization, must recognize her as an outstanding pioneer in our art form.”

Her tellings serve as a wonderful example of outstanding, superior storytelling. Just this past week Meta Lee, a long time NSN, Florida Storytelling Association and Broward Guild member, at a local storytelling meeting chose several of Mary’s tapes to introduce a new member to the world of
storytelling. Meta wanted her to get a taste of the best storytelling has to offer.

Mary believes that “the ability to imagine forms the foundation of all human planning, hoping, dreaming, and inventing.” She has traveled across the nation generously sharing her stories, wisdom and insights and actively advancing the knowledge, appreciation and application of storytelling. Whether telling at the National Storytelling Festival, giving a workshop at the Florida Storytelling Camp or during an elementary school residency, Mary is equally enthusiastic, helpful and captivating.

Her contributions in support of storytelling and storytellers are many and go back decades. Mary served the National Association for the Perpetuation and Preservation of Storytelling (NAPPS) and helped create and form what is now the National Storytelling Network.

She has served on the committees that researched and created the Special Interest Groups (SIGS) of NSN as well as the committee that formed, organized and has run the very successful Fringe Festival at the NSN National Conferences. She currently volunteers as the Kentucky State Liaison to NSN.

Mary Hamilton helped research and craft the by-laws and goals of the Kentucky Storytelling Association when she helped to found it in 2004. She and Cynthia Changarís’s WOW (Working on Our Work) weekends promote excellence in storytelling and provide an exceptional opportunity to grow and develop our craft.

Mary is an extraordinary and hard-working emissary for the Art of Storytelling. Her influence is vast. Just last year, I went to Louisiana for Prime Time training, a national humanities-based family literacy program that pairs storytellers and discussion leaders and has been commended for its quality and lauded as a national standard for excellence in humanities programming for children and youth at risk. I was pleased, but not surprised, to see that it was Mary who wrote the section for storytellers.

It seems simple for us to recognize how she has enriched our storytelling community. Now I believe it is time for our community to recognize Mary Hamilton for her outstanding talent and many contributions and officially welcome her to our National Storytelling Network’s Circle of Excellence.”

Alumnus Ron Critchfield To Receive 2010 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award

We have learned that Dr. Ron Critchfield (’95) has been selected to receive the 2010 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award, given annually by the ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT). As described by the ALA IFRT, the John Phillip Immroth Award recognizes “the courage, dedication, and contribution of a living individual or group who has set the finest kind of example for the defense and furtherance of the principles of intellectual freedom.” Besides a citation certificate, recipients also receive a $500 prize. Ron is Director of the Jessamine County Public Library, Nicholasville, KY, and the Award is for his leadership at JCPL.

Sara King, the Adult Service Librarian at JCPL, writes about the inspiration behind Ron’s nomination: “As the award ‘honors intellectual freedom fighters in and outside the library profession who have demonstrated remarkable personal courage in resisting censorship,’ the management team nominated Ron in light of his leadership during the controversies at JCPL.”

The controversy involved two former JCPL employees who lost their positions in September 2009 when it came to light they had taken steps to prevent the circulation of the Alan Moore graphic novel, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Black Dossier. The two collaborated to keep it from circulating after the formal challenge by one of them, to have it removed from the library collection, failed.

News that the two library staff members had been dismissed generated considerable interest in the community. According to the Lexington Herald-Leader, more than 100 members of the public turned out for the November meeting of the Board of Trustees, wishing to voice opinions on the issue. Some of those critical of the library argued the work is obscene, while others criticized the location of the novel, which was shelved near sections of the library intended for young adults.

Ron spoke about the controversy at the UK SLIS March 2nd Lunch-N-Learn event, and the title of his presentation was “Well-Intentioned Censorship Is Still Censorship.” He explained his position as Director and what steps he and the management staff had taken, even prior to the firing of the two employees, in an attempt to understand the situation. He emphasized the dismissals were due to violation of Jessamine County Public Library policies, some of which were composed using the ALA Code of Ethics and Bill of Rights. Ron stressed that the employee had followed proper library procedure when she formally challenged the graphic novel in 2008. The novel, which, he noted, the library acquired following a patron’s request, was reviewed to ensure its being in the collection was consistent with collection policy. The book passed the review and was returned to the shelf. It was the actions of the two employees thereafter that led to their being dismissed.

Ron writes a monthly column for the Jessamine Journal, and he gave his October 2009 column the title, “If we build it correctly, they will come.” In it, he discusses what goes into building a public library collection:

“When a public library builds a collection of materials, multiple perspectives are represented on a given topic across a variety of literary genres and media formats. In building a library collection, professionals follow a detailed collection development policy to guide the selection of materials. Criteria found in a collection development policy should include considerations such as: reviews by critics and other experts in professionally recognized publications; reputation and literary significance of the author/artist; popular appeal and demand of the work; representation of an important movement, genre, or cultural trend; and relationship and overall value to existing library collections and other related materials.”

He adds that, “As customers of a public library there is a First Amendment expectation to respect the rights of all persons – what one person might view as questionable might be quite important and relevant to another.”
Library Media Specialist Timi Goodman Among 70 Chosen in National Contest To Attend New York Conferences

We learned in February that Timi Anne Goodman ('07), Library Media Specialist at Lexington Traditional Magnet School (LTMS), had been selected to attend the Picturing America in Our Nation’s Libraries conference on March 4, and the fifth annual Celebration of Teaching and Learning conference on March 5-6, both in New York City. Picturing America in Our Nation’s Libraries was hosted by THIRTEEN/WNET, the prominent New York public television station, in collaboration with the American Library Association.

According to the information we have about Picturing America in Our Nation’s Libraries, it was a “conference for public and school librarians who have received the Picturing America collection. The conference, held at the Hilton New York, will premiere Picturing America on Screen, a series of short public television programs produced by THIRTEEN that feature the works of art in the Picturing America collection along with ideas for using them in innovative library programming.” Keynote speaker was Katherine Paterson, two-time winner of the Newbery Medal as well as the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. The Library of Congress has designated Ms. Paterson “Ambassador for Young People's Literature.”

According to the information, “librarians selected for Picturing America in Our Nation's Libraries [were also] invited to attend at no charge THIRTEEN's fifth annual Celebration of Teaching and Learning on Friday-Saturday, March 5th and 6th, immediately following Picturing America in Our Nation's Libraries. This national preK-12 professional development event brings teachers, librarians, media experts, informal educators, and policy makers to New York City for a two-day conference devoted to best practices, education philosophy, and trends in media literacy.”

In February, we were told Timi was one of 70 public and school librarians nationwide who had been chosen to participate in the conference weekend. What we didn’t know at the time, she was one of 70 from 1,439 applicants. Those who participated represented all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and two Native American reservations. Timi was the only participant from Kentucky. Her application was judged and selected on the basis of her 500-word essay about how the Picturing America poster collection and resource book had affected and benefited the LTMS library program. Costs to attend the conferences – travel stipend, hotel accommodations, and conference fees – were paid by the American Library Association, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities and THIRTEEN/WNET.

Timi told the newsletter in mid-March:

The conference, Picturing America in our Nation's Libraries, was a venue for WNET, Channel 13, the educational station in New York City, to preview Picturing America on Screen. They have used the poster collection to create 3-5 minute video shorts comparing historical time periods and social issues. Three of 20 are complete and will begin airing on PBS stations soon. They are wonderful. We also spent a lot of time discussing how individual libraries had used the collection in programming and services. It was a great day full of art, new ideas, libraries, and librarians!

The following two days at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning were equally inspirational. Over 5,000 educators attended this conference, which was packed full of technology workshops and famous presenters. I attended a panel discussion where Katherine Paterson, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Jim Murphy answered and discussed questions posed by Andrea Pinckney about: what it's like to win the Newbery; what their writing and editing style is; also, how school and teachers affected their development as writers.

I saw Katherine Paterson and the Cat in the Hat celebrating Read Across America with 400 New York City elementary school students. They were all wearing the famous red & white striped hat as they took a pledge to read every day. I could go on and on, it was such an awesome experience. I was excited and honored to be a part of this great opportunity and celebration of libraries and education, and I wish I could attend every year.

SLIS Alumna Dr Penny Beile Named 2010 ACRL/EBSS Distinguished Librarian

Award Recognizes Work of 'transformative leader'

We learned, in February, that Penny Beile ('92) had been chosen to receive the 2010 ACRL/EBSS Distinguished Librarian Award. The ALA press release reads:

“CHICAGO – Penny Minton Beile, interim department head for reference services and department head of the Curriculum Materials Center at the University of Central Florida (UCF) Libraries and adjunct instructor in the University [of] South Florida School of Library and Information Science, is the recipient of the 2010 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Education and Behavioral

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sciences section (EBSS) distinguished education and behavioral sciences librarian award.

This award honors a distinguished academic librarian who has made an outstanding contribution as an education or behavioral sciences librarian through accomplishments and service to the profession. A prize of $2,000 and a plaque, donated by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., will be presented to Beile at the EBSS Program at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, during the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C.

“Penny Beile is highly regarded by all of her peers—education faculty and librarians at the University of Central Florida as well as her colleagues within EBSS, ACRL, ALA and the American Educational Research Association,” said award committee chair Judy Walker, education/curriculum materials librarian at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “She works tirelessly to promote effective teaching through research and practice, challenging many of us to rethink how we teach and do research. She has truly been a transformative leader who takes time to mentor those around her. And she does so with extraordinary energy, grace and patience.”

Beile has been extensively active in EBSS, including serving a term as chair from 2007-2008. During her time on the EBSS Executive Committee, Beile was instrumental in establishing the American Psychological Association’s research award for librarians. She has also been a strong advocate for enhancing library research, chairing the first EBSS Research Committee and, with others in the section, encouraged ACRL to reform the association’s Research Committee into a coordinating committee focused on encouraging high quality research in the field of academic and research librarianship.

Her commitment to excellence in education is also demonstrated by her involvement in the K-12 education community. In 2007, Beile was a member of the National Forum on Information Literacy’s ICT Policy Council, which recommended passing scores for Education Testing Service’s information and communications technology iSkills assessment. In 2008, she was part of a team established to review standards and evidence for Teaching Assisting Academy for Career and Technical Education Industry Certification for the Brevard County (Fla.) Public Schools. She has also served on accreditation review teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Beile received her Master’s in Library Science from the University of Kentucky in 1992 and earned a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the UCF in 2005.”

**Roy Strohl to Retire Following 40-Year Career in Academic Libraries**

Roy Strohl (’70) let us know, the first of February, he had announced his decision to retire, effective June 30, concluding an academic library career spanning 40 years. Roy has spent the last 25 of those years at the University of Mary Washington. When he arrived at the Fredericksburg, Virginia, campus in 1985, his title was Librarian of Mary Washington College, and when the institution became the University of Mary Washington, in 2004, Roy became University Librarian.

From information in his retirement announcement, we learned that Roy was directly involved in the design and construction of UMW’s Simpson Library and subsequently with relocating the collections to the new library. He also had the good fortune to participate in what surely must be among the most memorable undertakings that a library director can oversee, when he directed the conversion of the Mary Washington libraries’ collections from Dewey to LC. According to information on the Mary Washington Web site, Simpson Library houses not only the main collection of more than 367,000 volumes but also a Government Resources Depository Collection as well as the University Archives and Rare Book Collection.

In addition to Simpson Library on Mary Washington’s main campus, Roy also is responsible for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies Library, which is located on the Stafford Campus and houses a collection designed to meet the needs of the programs offered at the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. He was instrumental in developing the Stafford Library.

Roy’s career has witnessed the transformation of library services. He implemented the VTLS integrated library system that computerized the catalog; created a Gopher that set the stage for the libraries’ current Internet web presence; and introduced Internet connectivity, a wireless network, and e-books.

When Roy arrived in Fredericksburg 25 years ago, he brought good experience for the director’s position. For eleven years prior to assuming the Mary Washington position he was College Librarian at Emory & Henry College, Emory, Virginia. For two years prior to that he was director of technical services at Roger Williams College, Bristol, Rhode Island, and for two years prior to that he held twin positions as collection development librarian and reference services librarian at Kentucky State College (now University) in Frankfort.

Roy has been active in the Virginia Library Association and ACRL. He served on numerous accreditation visiting teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and a few years ago he concluded the longest continuous tenure on the VIVA (Virtual Library of Virginia) Steering Committee, of which he was chair for several years. He also has served as chair of the State Council on Higher Education’s Library Advisory Council.

Roy enrolled as an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania but left after two years to enlist in the United States Navy, serving on the USS Passumpsic in the Western Pacific during the early years of the Vietnam War. After his tour of duty in the Navy, he attended and graduated with honors from Hanover College in Indiana, with an emphasis in English literature and theology. He later enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Kentucky and earned masters degrees in library science and English literature.

Following his retirement, Roy and his wife, Cathy, who also graduated from UK SLIS, plan to remain in the Fredericksburg area.
Forty Years Later, Roy Strohl Reflects on Circuitous Route to Librarianship

When something arrives that we’d like to put in the newsletter, we ask the sender for permission, and, if the person agrees, we typically ask the person to review a draft in order to correct mistakes we inevitably make. When Roy replied, after we asked him to review a draft of what we had written about his career, he sent along reminiscences that we asked if we also could publish, and we thank him for consenting.

Oddly enough I came to librarianship in a most circuitous route. Cathy and I both graduated from Hanover College in 1967, she in the spring and I in December. We were married right after my classes were finished, and we relocated to Louisville. Cathy had worked at Hanover’s Duggan Library and was already working at Louisville Free Public Library, and I landed a front-line management position at a Louisville-based division of Corning Glass, beginning January 1968.

We saved to foot the bill for going to UK for grad school, and after a couple of years we moved to Lexington. Cathy attended SLIS and completed her MSLS in 1970 and went to work as director of Paul Sawyer Library in Frankfort. In the meantime I had begun work on my MA in English at UK and was a TA. The intervening years of work at Corning, with the constant pressure of shift management, threats of strikes, production quotas, and just the general pace of a manufacturing operation, had apparently changed my day-to-day outlook on work. When I started teaching freshman English, I pretty much knew right away that teaching was no longer a good fit for me. I couldn’t measure the day-to-day, couldn’t really tell whether I was being effective in the classroom; but I loved my coursework – particularly my English bibliography class. I survived the Fall semester, and Cathy and I went back up Hanover to visit our faculty friends for the Christmas holidays.

While at a Christmas party at the home of one of our professors, I confided with some of the folks there that my work experience at Corning had altered my expectations so much that I knew I wasn’t destined to go back into the classroom. Cathy’s work experience at Hanover’s library included working with the Director, Walt Morrill. Walt overheard the conversation, and he invited us over for breakfast the next morning. While eating breakfast with his wife Marcia, Cathy, and me, Walt asked if I had ever considered librarianship. My answer was probably something like “No, hell no.” Walt and Cathy then started in on the fact that I clearly loved the academy, that I liked the role of managing aspects of a business situation, and then Walt delivered the line that probably cinched the deal: “You will find that the library is probably the closest thing to running a business within the academy. You have personnel, inventory, production quotas, customers, and the pressures that come from having to make decisions.”

Well, the rest was history: Cathy and I talked about it all the way back to Frankfort, and at the beginning of the Spring semester I signed up for a few LS classes while keeping my English class schedule. When all was said and done, I really enjoyed my library science courses, finished the MLSA a year after Cathy, and eventually finished the MA in English. If it hadn’t been for Cathy’s encouragement, I probably wouldn’t have made the decision that altered my career path. Now after being married for over forty three years and looking back over our time together it is fun to think that we’ll have more time to live the next phase of the life that we have worked for.

Postscript We asked Roy what Cathy, also a UK SLIS graduate, had been up to since they left Kentucky, and he wrote: “While I was working on my MA in English, Cathy was the director at the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort, KY. She was really good at it and wound up, much to virtually everyone’s amazement, getting the citizens of the county to pass a millage tax to increase support of the library. My job at Roger Williams (Rhode Island) came up, and off we went to live up there. Shortly after arrival Cathy was selected as Director of the Pawtucket PL, but before she could accept she found out that we were going to have our first child, Meg. We were the kind of folks who found that if we could live on one salary that would be enough. So, first Meg in 1973 and then Mary in 1975 made for a house full of family; and collectively we never looked back. Cathy is an excellent gardener, cook and raised two very neat girls.”

Samantha Cunning Hristova Reports on Her Work in the Private Sector

Early in March, Samantha Cunning Hristova (’08) posted information about positions where she works, and in doing so passed along information about what she has been up to since completing the School’s program. We are always interested in information about work the MLS prepares a person for, other than in a library, and we thank Samantha for permitting us to put the information in the newsletter:

After finishing up my MLS at UK I started working for an Integrated Library System (ILS) company in Virginia called VTLS as a Customer Support Librarian. Customer Support might seem a dirty word to you, and I wasn’t sure I wanted a job with those words in the title when I applied back in 2008, but this is a really great job and EXCELLENT experience that you could never get in any one or more regular library positions.

As a Customer Support librarian, I have learned all facets of the Integrated Library System: the controls behind what you see at the Circ Desk, in Cataloging, Acquisitions, the OPAC, etc. If you like solving problems and researching, you'd love this job. If you want teaching experience for that dream Reference Instruction Librarian position, you’d love this job. If you enjoy Reference work, never knowing what the next patron will ask, you’d love this job. (If you’re not the social Reference or Circulation type, there is still great experience to be had in software testing. Quality Control Librarians do the same work as I do, without having to interact with the pesky public.)
When a customer’s library has a problem or wants to change how they use their ILS, they send in a technical service request to the office. These questions get assigned to the various Librarians and Analysts here at VTLS. And those are my daily/weekly puzzles. The questions are rarely the same and you never know if you’ll be researching request workflows, printing problems, library report configurations, cataloging settings, etc. Working in a library you will get experience in one department, but here I’ve learned at least the basics of every part of an ILS, become web admin of a digital repository, and have learned quite a bit of Unix through osmosis and working with Analysts.

As one of the senior librarians here often says, ‘Working at an ILS provider is like getting a second MLS.’ After my first year, I completely agree. While what you learn in your LIS classes is useful theory, providing you with an understanding of the library world past, present and future, what I’ve learned working here is eminently practical. At an average library position you will use an ILS, but only a few of you in high-level positions will have access to the software that controls how the ILS works. One day your library director will probably tell you that some library function is impossible to change (she’s probably wrong) and since you most likely will not have access to the parameters controlling these functions, you’ll never know. My unique position allows me to experiment with all of these settings on a daily basis.

This job also involves travel and teaching experience. I’ve traveled three times in my year here to visit customers all over the US and train them to use their ILS. I’ve also done about 20 online training sessions. There is also a possibility for international travel, as we have customers on every continent. Visiting a library to train the librarians and staff to use the software is also a valuable experience in library politics, and all libraries are different in this respect.

When I was in library school at UK I’d never heard of this sort of library related job. After working at an ILS provider myself I’d highly recommend the experience to any budding librarian. You are sure to gain confidence, well-rounded library experience, and connections at the very least.

Cheers and Good Luck in your pursuits!

~ Samantha Hristova

Barbara-Ann Bomgardner Dies at Age 82

We have learned of the death of Barbara-Ann Bomgardner (’50), mother of Martha-Ann B. Alito (’77). The following obituary appeared in the Star-Ledger:

Barbara-Ann Bomgardner, formerly of Columbus, N.J., passed from this life after a five-month decline on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 in Springfield, Va. ... Barbara-Ann was born May 14, 1927 at St. Barnabas Hospital, Newark, N.J. She graduated from Manasquan High School in 1945 and the University of Kentucky with a degree in library science in 1950. A trail-blazing professional she commuted to New York, N.Y. to work at the American Bankers Association, eventually making a career move to Godman AFB, Ky., where she met her husband. In all, she spent 25 years as a librarian for the Air Force and five and one-half years with the Army at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex. and Ft. Dix, N.J. Her career kept pace with her husband’s assignments in the Azores, Texas, France, Maine and New Jersey. In 1973 she applied to work in Europe, thereby turning the tables; her husband followed to Germany. During this time they traveled throughout the world. She took month-long solo trips to Russia and Thailand, yet adored the major capitals of Europe. In 1980 they returned to Columbus, N.J. where they lived until April 2009. Wanderlust, curiosity and kindness to all were her hallmark. She will be remembered for her concern for children in poverty, her love of cats, as well as her gracious manners, laughter, and stories of her travels.

Alumni Activities

Roy Strohl (’70) has announced his intention to retire at the end of June, after a 40-year career in academic librarianship. Roy is University Librarian at the University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA.

We appreciate the time Anna Schein (’74) took to pass along to us information about her career. She wrote:

I have been a librarian at West Virginia University Libraries for thirty-five years. Though I have held more than one technical services managerial position with the Libraries, a common thread throughout my career has been to convert manual library records and catalogs to machine-readable formats. I am currently the Printed Ephemera Curator in the West Virginia and Regional History Collection and manage the day-to-day operations of the Printed Ephemera Collection Unit.

It was good to get this news from Pam Mullins (’92) early in October:

After serving just over 3 years as the director of the Morristown-Hamblen Library in Morristown, TN, during which the library completed a huge renovation of the 40 year old main library, I resigned to accept the position of Director of the Anderson Public Library in Lawrenceburg, KY. I began that position on September 1. Although I was sad to leave Morristown just 2 months after the year-long renovation was completed, I am very happy to be back in the Bluegrass area.

We have learned that Sara Howrey (’01) has retired from her position with Kenton County Public Library, KY.

Robb Farmer (’03) filed this report early in March:

I wanted to share this information for whatever edition of the newsletter is coming up next. In March, I was promoted to Assistant Director of Research & Instructional Services at the Faulkner University Jones School of Law Library in Montgomery, AL. For 2009-2010 I have served as chair of both the Alabama Library Association Government Documents Roundtable, and the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. Hope all is well in Lexington pre-Madness.
Natalie Frost is on the staff at Clark County Public Library, Winchester, KY.

Bethany Groves is librarian/teacher at Lexington Christian Academy.

Janelle Hawes is School Librarian, St Mary School, Alexandria, KY.

Krista King has joined the staff at Kenton County Public Library as a Children’s Programmer at the Mary Ann Branch, Covington.

Amy Laub has been promoted to Head of Technical Services, Paris-Bourbon County Public Library.

Elizabeth Leggett is on the library staff at Murray State University, KY.

Kacy Lundstrom has joined the Distance Learning staff at Utah State University, Logan.

Jan Mueller is Kentucky History Reference Assistant, Kenton County Public Library, Covington, KY.

Margaret Penn is Circulation Supervisor I at Lexington Public Library’s Central Library.

Several months ago Carla Redden let us know she had accepted the position of Library Coordinator at Maysville Community and Technical College, KY.

Sylvia Rhodes is School Library Media Specialist, Jefferson County Public Schools, Fairdale, KY.

Sarah Rice is on the library staff at Jefferson Community and Technical College, Louisville.

Heidi Scheidel is on the reference staff at Campbell County Public Library, Ft Thomas, KY.

Rachel Toews is on the staff at Scott County Public Library, Georgetown, KY.

Bookie Wilson is Assistant Children’s Librarian, Woodford County Public Library, Versailles, KY.

Please send information for the newsletter to:
carrigan@uky.edu

For information about the April 23 banquet, and to make a reservation, please go to:
http://www.uky.edu/CommInfoStudies/SLIS/students/banquet10.htm