



## Giving to the School of Information Sciences

On October 27, 2006, the University of Pittsburgh's capital campaign shattered its own fundraising record by reaching \$1 billion in gifts and pledges eight months ahead of schedule. This milestone makes the "Discover a World of Possibilities" capital campaign the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Never content to rest on its laurels, the University of Pittsburgh seeks to raise an additional \$1 billion from alumni and friends. The campaign will provide the University with the financial stability so critical to its ability to:

- Enhance its undergraduate programs and reinforce the strengths of Pitt's graduate and professional programs;
- Increase the number of endowed scholarships, fellowships, and professorships;
- Support major University building and renovation needs; and
- Enable Pitt to continue to make important contributions to economic development and community initiatives.

You can be a part of Pitt's "Building Our Future Together" campaign by making a gift to the School of Information Sciences. Since 1997, SIS alums and friends have donated more than \$6 million to the campaign. Join your friends and colleagues as they give to the second phase of the campaign and support SIS efforts to increase our pool of scholarship funds.

Students at SIS often depend upon financial support from the School to underwrite the cost of their education. Thanks to support from generous donors, the School offers scholarships, book awards, and research and stipend support. Your gift to one of the following funds will give students the opportunity to advance their education at SIS.

**Margaret Mary Corbett Memorial Fund** provides an annual cash award to the student presenting the best dissertation proposal defended in the Library and Information Sciences Program and provides support for the winner's research. A plaque with the winners' names will be featured at the School.

**E. Blanche Woolls Endowed Scholarship for Library Scholars** provides a full or partial scholarship to a student enrolled in the LIS doctoral program. This scholarship is named in honor of a professor emeritus who was a leading member of the School Library Certification Program.

**Elva S. Smith Scholarships in Children's Library Services** was established to honor one of the leaders in the children's

librarianship field. Gifts to this fund help supplement tuition scholarships.

**Jennifer and Eric Spiegel Book Endowment Fund** supports full-time undergraduate students in the Information Science Program in the School of Information Sciences and in the Communications Department in the School of Arts and Sciences. Students must have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and be a sophomore, junior, or senior, and enrolled full time.

**The Dr. Joan Brest Friedberg Scholarship** provides scholarships to Library and Information Science students.

**Margaret Hodges Endowed Scholarship Fund** was established in memory of the late Margaret Hodges and is intended to provide scholarships for outstanding students who are pursuing a career in children's librarianship.

**E. J. Josey Scholarship for Minorities in Library Science** was established to honor a national leader in the civil rights movement and a legend for his work to recruit minorities into the discipline. Support from this fund will be used to provide scholarships for

African-American graduate students in Library and Information Science.

**K. Subramanyam Scholarship for Library and Information Sciences** provides an annual monetary award to a Library and Information Science student as a reward for academic excellence.

**K. Leon Montgomery Assistantship in Telecommunications** provides an annual assistantship to a full-time student enrolled in the Masters of Telecommunications Program. Preference is given to students who achieve academic excellence through coursework, research, international focus, and leadership.

**Frank B. and Anne J. Sessa Scholarship** provides scholarship aid to students who have demonstrated high academic achievements and an interest in pursuing careers in public libraries.

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## Dialogue with the Dean

In its formative years, the School of Information Sciences (or the Training School for Children's Librarians, as it was known in 1901) was supported by one of the great philanthropists of the era, Andrew Carnegie. His gifts enabled the school to expand its curriculum, recruit new students, and keep tuition rates at a level reasonable for that time. Without Carnegie's support, this educational institution would have floundered.

Throughout the history of the School, there have been many examples of such generous support from individuals, foundations, and corporations. It is with this help that the School has grown to offer degree programs in all facets of the Information Sciences and to take a leading role in the education of Information professionals. It is with the support of donors that we can offer financial assistance in the form of scholarships and book awards to our students. It is through the generosity of foundations and corporations that the School can offer state-of-the-art lab experiences in cutting edge subjects such as information assurance and security.

The space restrictions imposed by a newsletter preclude me from listing each and every donor to the School since 1901! (You can see a current listing of supporters on the School's website at <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/aboutSIS/giving/honorroll.html>.) They range from national philanthropic heroes such as Andrew Carnegie to prestigious organizations such as the AT&T Foundation. Our donors include graduates of the School's degree programs and corporations such as Alcoa, Inc. Each and every gift is a significant validation



of the quality of our educational programs and research efforts. Each and every gift allows the School to continue its key mission of educating students to become leaders in the Information Age.

Just recently, Pitt announced that it had surpassed the \$1 billion goal for the University's "Discover

a World of Possibilities" capital campaign and would embark on a second phase — "Building Our Future Together" — to another \$1 billion. I'm proud to note that SIS faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters contributed more than \$6 million to the University of Pittsburgh's capital campaign.

I hope that you will join in supporting the School of Information Sciences through a gift to the School's Annual Fund or to one of the Gift Funds that will support scholarships for students. This newsletter will give you more information about giving opportunities to benefit the School. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a gift to the University's capital campaign in honor of SIS. We appreciate all contributions, large or small. Our individual, corporate, and foundation partners are what make the dreams of faculty and students a reality. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, our faculty, and our institution.

*Thank you in advance,*  
*Ronald L. Larsen, Dean and Professor*

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**Sara Fine Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and Technology** funds an annual distinguished speaker from information science, philosophy of science, psychology, or other field related to the machine-human connection.

**Belle Sochatoff Student Loan Fund** provides emergency assistance to deserving students.

**Faculty Fellowship — Master of Science in Telecommunications** provides assistance in support of the Master of Science Telecommunications Program.

**Tung-Li and Hui-Hsi Yuan Family Award** provides support to MS and PhD candidates in the Library and Information Science Program with a demonstrated commitment to work in the field of libraries in China.

**Dr. Kate Kolish Memorial Loan Fund** provides support for emergency loans to students.

**Lancour, Immroth, Brewster Endowment Fund** provides support for Library and Information Science programs and activities in international and comparative librarianship. Expenditures

are made at the discretion of the Dean and may cover supplies, travel, books, and awards.

SIS also seeks to increase the endowment for the **Doreen E. Boyce Fund Chair in Library and Information Science**. The Buhl Foundation endowed the chair, which is named in honor of the former Foundation president. At the time of its endowment in 1998, the Boyce Chair was believed to be one of the first in the country funded by a foundation in honor of a professional staff member. It also was the first endowed chair in Pitt's School of Information Sciences.

**You can help!** Your gift to SIS has the potential to change the lives of our students, faculty, and staff for generations.

We appreciate all contributions, large or small. Our individual and corporate partners are what make faculty and student dreams become a reality. Visit <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/aboutSIS/giving.html> to make a gift today. If you have any questions about making a gift, please contact Tara Czekaj, SIS development associate, 412-624-9473 or [tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu](mailto:tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu)



# SAS establishes awards, offers networking opportunities

**S**IS invites you to join the SIS Alumni Society, a free organization for graduates of all degree programs at the School of Information Sciences. The mission of SAS is to promote the School of Information Sciences and its academic programs. In addition, SAS endeavors to create programs and activities that benefit current students and alumni, creating a network of information professionals that spans disciplines and generations.

SAS officers for the 2007-2008 year are Karen Grunebach, president (BSIS '83, MSIS '88), Joe Imbimbo, vice president (MST '91), Nancy Alstadt, secretary (MLS '75), Barbara Zaborowski (MLS '90), and Denise Callihan (MLS '92).

SAS hosts a number of events throughout the year to foster a greater sense of community and to offer networking opportunities, including an annual Homecoming exhibit. In April, SAS invited alumni and current students to a Pirates baseball game. In previous years, the Society has presented professional development opportunities, social events, and lectures for both alumni and students.

SAS members offer ongoing opportunities to review student resumes, and have engaged alumni from the Library, Information Science, and Telecommunications fields. Students simply e-mail their resumes to a designated alumni representative and the SAS member will reply with suggestions on how to improve this critical career search tool. SIS gratefully acknowledges these SAS members for volunteering their time and expertise as part of the resume review process — Donna Beck, Denise Callihan, Pat Duck, Kimberly Gregory, Karen Grunebach, Serena Haroian, Walt Horak, Joe Imbimbo, Miriam Meislik, Leah Ducato Randolph, and Barbara Zaborowski. Visit [http://www.sis.pitt.edu/people/alumni/resume\\_reviews.html](http://www.sis.pitt.edu/people/alumni/resume_reviews.html) for more information about this invaluable service.

The Society and the School host a number of blogs for alumni that will allow you to keep in touch with your classmates or to reach out to someone in your field. Visit <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/people/alumni/blogs.html> to network virtually.

Membership in SAS is open to any graduate of the degree programs in Library and Information Science, Information Science, and Telecommunications. Current students may join as associate members. Take advantage of the vast pool of information professionals who have received their degrees from SIS and join the SIS Alumni Society. For more information about the Society and to update your contact information, visit <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/people/alumni/contact.html>.

## Dear SIS alumni . . .

I write to you during one of the most exciting times for SIS alumni. SIS is ever transforming, adding new specializations, revitalizing current programs, and recruiting talented future leaders. Dean Larsen and his staff are assuring an alumni reconnection with the School by creating new programs and events specifically geared for alumni involvement. An exciting addition will be a Spring geocaching event and the return of the Distinguished Alumni Awards.

We plan on participating in Pathways to Professions again, held on the Thursday of Homecoming week in late October. This event is an opportunity for alumni to share their experience and expertise with students in any of the information science fields. SAS will also promote the Pitt Career Network (PCN,) an on-line Pitt community networking site. On this site, each graduate can create a profile and volunteer to be contacted about their field.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your SAS President and I now pass the baton to Karen Grunebach, BSIS '83, MSIS '88. Karen has been a vital member of SAS and a tireless volunteer for the School and will push SAS to new heights.

I look forward to another fun-filled and productive year. If you would like to become involved and meet some of our students and alumni, we welcome you. To find out how, please contact Tara Czekaj in the SIS Alumni Relations Office at [tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu](mailto:tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu) or 412-624-9473.

*Barbara Zaborowski, A&S '82, MLS '90*

## Alumni awards to return at 2007 Homecoming

**T**he Distinguished Alumni Awards will make a dramatic return this fall after a short hiatus. SAS members have gone great lengths to update the guidelines and nomination forms to bring back this beloved event. The Awards are scheduled for the evening of Friday, October 19, 2007, and will be included in the formal Homecoming schedule. Included in the new format is an award geared for young alumni — the Professional Achievement Award.

**Eligibility.** Nominees must be alumni of the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences or its antecedent institutions (School of Library and Information Science, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Graduate Library School, Carnegie Library School, and Training School for Children's Librarians).

**Nominations.** Anyone can nominate an alumna or alumnus for a University of Pittsburgh School of Information Science Award.

Nominations must be made on the official form with any supporting materials attached. Please try to include as much relevant information as possible. You can download the nomination form at: <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/people/alumni/award.html>

**Selection.** A committee of three members of the School of Information Sciences Alumni Society will consider the nominations and make a selection. Awards are not necessarily presented each year.

If you know of a SIS graduate deserving of an award, contact Tara Czekaj at 412-624-9473 or [tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu](mailto:tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu). Guidelines and nomination forms are available on the SIS website at <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/people/alumni/award.html>. All forms should be submitted by September 15, 2007. Award recipients will be notified by September 30, 2007.



# Corporate donations support, enhance SIS programs

Donations from industry and corporate foundations have helped the School of Information Sciences offer the most up-to-date curriculum and maintain its reputation as a leading 'i-School'. In 2005, SIS was awarded equipment valued at nearly \$130,000 through the Cisco Systems CIAG Equipment Donation Program. This generous gift allowed the School to equip the Security Assured Information Systems (SAIS) program lab for exercises and related research. "The equipment and the support of Cisco helped the School in its efforts to earn re-designation as a Center of Academic Excellence," notes James Joshi, assistant professor and lead faculty member for the Information Assurance track. The donation "enables us to offer more hands-on learning experience, and will also be used to bolster our application for re-certification by the Committee on National Security Systems."

Earlier, SIS received a significant grant from the AT&T

Foundation. "Corporate foundations are beginning to become more broadly aware of the growing significance of information schools to society," explains Dean Ronald L. Larsen. "The AT&T Foundation, for example, provided a seminal gift of \$50,000 to SIS as it launched its reorganization as a unified i-School." The grant was used to underwrite a study to evaluate how emergent information, technology, and societal factors will shape information schools for the foreseeable future.

The School appreciates the generosity of Cisco and AT&T, as well as the many other industrial partners who have supported SIS and its degree programs. For a more complete list of corporate and foundation donors, please visit <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/aboutSIS/giving/crf.html>. If your corporation or foundation is interested in joining these outstanding industry partners, please contact the SIS development associate at [givetoSIS@sis.pitt.edu](mailto:givetoSIS@sis.pitt.edu).

## New tracks for MSIS and MLIS programs

The School of Information Sciences has introduced new tracks in its Master of Science in Information Science and Master of Library and Information Science degree programs. The new track in the MSIS program is Telecommunications and Distributed Systems, while the MLIS program will offer a new track in Academic Libraries.

The new MSIS track will give students the skills and knowledge to deploy, design, and manage distributed applications across networked systems. The ubiquity of the global Internet and the availability of ever cheaper, more powerful computing and communication devices is paving the way for a new generation of pervasive networks.

The Telecommunications and Distributed Systems (TDS) specialization includes the study of networking protocols, client-server systems, distributed database management systems, and web services. Employers are seeking graduates who can design and manage client-server and peer-to-peer systems, manage network-based information systems, and design networks and systems that are secure. This 36-credit course of study takes advantage of faculty expertise in telecommunications, network design, database management, e-business, and security.

This course of study addresses topics that are critical to the design and management of networked information systems that form the backbone of industries ranging from healthcare to finance to manufacturing. Students can select from a variety of courses, and several options are available to accommodate student interests and schedules. Visit [http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~dist/academics/specializations/course\\_tele.html](http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~dist/academics/specializations/course_tele.html) for more details and schedule options.

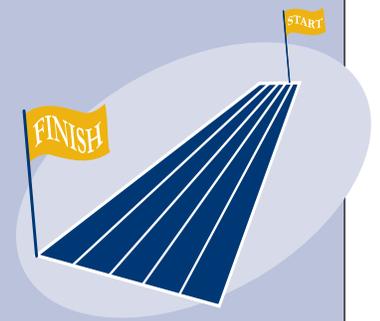
The new track of Academic Libraries in the MLIS program will enable students to focus on a growing field with numerous opportunities for employment and career development. SIS and the University Library System (ULS) have collaborated to develop a specialization that will educate librarians for positions

in academic libraries of all types and sizes, with an emphasis on work-related learning experience for students.

The new Academic Libraries track builds on the strengths of both the SIS faculty and the ULS, a top-quartile Association of Research Libraries system. ULS offers SIS faculty and students the opportunity to work with more than 50 faculty librarians from a wide variety of units in a laboratory-like setting to develop practical applications of the theory of librarianship.

Students specializing in this 36-credit track will follow a sequence of courses with opportunities for electives to develop individual interests. The track incorporates the highly successful ULS Interns Program that calls for interns to work approximately 10 hours each week as student assistants to help with a variety of academic library functions. In addition, interns participate in special projects that focus on the connections between their job duties and the broader roles and operations of academic libraries. The interns also develop personal portfolios over the course of the year that include descriptions of each of their job areas and reflections on how those activities relate to the overall operation of an academic library. Internships are available at Bevier Engineering Library, Chemistry Library, Frick Fine Arts Library, Hillman Library Reference, Music Library, SIS Library, and the University of Pittsburgh Archives Service Center

Part-time students in the Academic Libraries track have the option of completing internships in other western Pennsylvania institutions. Students who work part-time (either 10 or 20 hours a week) in paid positions in academic libraries may receive tuition scholarships of three or six credits, depending on the number of hours they work.



# Alumni news

## 1966 – 1978

**Barbara Gerber**, MLS '66, was featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* for her work as Founder and President of Devon Hill Associates, a health care evaluation company.

**Janice Trapp**, MLS '71, is the 2006 recipient of the Sullivan Award For Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children from the American Library Association. She is Director of the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport, PA.

**Henrietta Angus**, MLS '71, passed away in May 2006. She most recently worked at Robert Morris University in the acquisitions department.

**Cynthia Richey**, MLS '72, Director, Mount Lebanon Public Library, earned the 2006 New York Times Librarian Award. She is married to P. Jerome Richey, Esq., Senior VP & General Counsel, Consol Energy. They are donors to the University of Pittsburgh's Lantern Society.

**Nancy Alstadt**, MLS '75, was unanimously elected Secretary of the SIS Alumni Society on May 24, 2006 at an all-SAS meeting. Nancy replaces **Kimberly Gregory**, MLIS '98.

**Janice Kelly**, MLS '78, has won the MLA President's Award for 2006. She works at the Health Sciences and Human Services Library at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

## 1981 – 1989

**Marilyn Teolis**, MLS '81, of the Medical Library at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, TN was recently named to the Medical Library Association Hospital Library Section's 2005 Scroll of Exemplary Service.

**Susan Biddle Hoehl**, MLS '83, is a 2006 recipient of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine's 2006 Express Technology Improvement Awards.

**Jeffrey Bailey**, MSIS '84, is the Director, Eastern Region for Attevo, Inc.

**David Pasquini**, BSIS '85, is the General Manager of Accounting and Finance at the Kosice, Slovakia US Steel Corporation plant. He and his family are enjoying their new European adventures, but miss SIS and the Panthers!

**Carrie Everstine**, MLS '88, is a 2006 recipient of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine's 2006 Express Technology Improvement Awards.

**Steven Jay Kahn**, MSIS '88, passed away June 15, 2006. He was most recently employed by Telecove in Canonsburg, PA.

**Brother Michael Charles Tripka**, MLS '89, works at the Everest Institute, formerly Duff's Business Institute, helping minority, non-traditional students to continue their education.

## 1990 – 1995

**Katalin Gyorgyey**, MLS '90, Director of Library Services at the Daniel T. Banks Health Science Library of St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, CT was recently named to the Medical Library Association Hospital Library Section's 2005 Scroll of Exemplary Service.

**Joseph Imbimbo**, MST '91, is currently the Principal Software Engineer for Oracle Applications at Carnegie Mellon University, Office of Computing Services. He recently had two papers

published: "Deploying 10G Application Server to Extend 11i Business Intelligence," sponsored by the Independent Oracle Users' Group (IOUG), the Oracle Applications Users' Group (OAUG), and the Quest International Users' Group; and "The Roadmap to Successful 8i Database Migrations," sponsored by OAUG. Joe is also the President of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Oracle Applications Users' Group.

**Nunzia Bettinsoli Giuse**, MLS '92, was inducted as one of six new MLA Fellows in May 2006. She is Director of Eskin Biomedical Library at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

**Mark Winston**, MLS '92 and PhD, Library and Information Science '97, moved from Rutgers to the University of North Carolina where he is an associate professor.

**Heidi Rabinowitz Estrin**, MLS '93, was featured in Shalom Today's cover story "The Book of Life" by the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* on May 29, 2006. Heidi, Library Director of the Feldman Children's Library in Boca Raton, is adding innovative book podcasts to the library's audiovisual collection.

**Velora Jernigan-Pedrick**, MLS '94, medical librarian at the Department of Mental Health, St. Elizabeth's Hospital Health Sciences Library in Washington, DC was named to the Medical Library Association Hospital Library Section's 2005 Scroll of Exemplary Service. She is married to Andrew James Pedrick, MLS '94.

**Matthew Kessler**, MLS '94, has been the Corrections Librarian for the PA State Correctional Institution in Cresson for four years.

**Karen Provost**, MLS '95, is the Manager of Research and Library Operations at Proskauer Rose, LLP in New York City.

## 2000 – 2007

**Timothy B. Hogan**, BSIS '00, received an MLA Doctoral Fellowship and is in the PhD program at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Catherine Arnott Smith**, MSIS '00 and PhD, Medical Informatics '02, moved from Syracuse University to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is married to Mark Brampton Smith, MLIS '01.

**Linda Robinson**, MLIS '01, is the Associate Librarian/ Webmaster for the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library at Howard University.

**Florence TENGUH Amandong**, BSIS '02, graduated from Carlow University in May 2007 with a Master of Science, Management & Technology.

**Laura Doughty**, MLIS '02. After two years as the head middle/upper school librarian at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, NJ, Laura took the school year off to be a full-time stay-at-home mom with her son Owen, who was born in July 2006. She will be returning to the library part-time this fall at Lawrence Intermediate School (grades 4-6) in Lawrenceville, NJ.

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**Denny Siau**, BSIS '02 and MSIS '04, is a Management Associate with Citibank, Global Consumer Group in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Citibank Management Associate Program is an intensive curriculum to prepare the next generation of senior management individuals.

**Laurie Davidson**, MLIS '03, is Assistant Director for Education Services, Dahlgren Medical Library, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

**Lisa Massengale**, MLIS '03, is an Associate Fellow at the National Library of Medicine after serving as a reference librarian at Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

**Jaime Friel Blanck**, MLIS '04, is the Liaison and Outreach Librarian at the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

**Stephen E. Michaels**, MLIS '04, is an Assistant Librarian at Kentucky Christian University.

**Rachel Minkin**, MLIS '04, is the Reference Librarian at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. She is married to Abe Wheeler, MLIS '05.

**Alexia Hudson**, MLIS '05, is the first Frederick Douglass Academic Librarian of the Francis Harvey Green Library at West Chester University. She is also a Coordinator for Educational Services, Ethnic Studies, Honors Program, and Sociology/Anthropology.

**Molly Krichen**, MLIS '05, was featured in an article in *The Evening Sun*, "She's back home spreading the words." She is now the Associate Director of Guthrie Memorial Library in Hanover, PA.

**Tracy Maleeff**, MLIS '05, won an SLA New Member Professional Grant. Tracy is a Research and Electronic Content Librarian at Cozen O'Connor in Philadelphia, PA. She has worked at various places, including Baker & Taylor, Inc., Pennsylvania State University, Bucks County Community College, and QVC, Inc.

**Jagrati Shringi**, MST '05, is a Software Engineer with ECI Telecom in the Data Networking Division.

**Abe Wheeler**, MLIS '05, is the Reference Librarian and Public Services Manager at the Stanford University Linear Accelerator Center. He is married to Rachel Minkin, MLIS '04.

**Ashley Conaway**, MLIS '06, is at the Johns Hopkins University, Advanced Physics Laboratory, R. E. Gibson Library & Information Center in Laurel, MD.

**James Damico**, MLIS '06, is a Graphics Inventory Assistant and is on an 18-month grant project at the Rhode Island Historical Society Research Library. He is conducting an inventory and preservation assessment of the graphics collections held by the library.

**Katie Gaffron**, MLIS '06, is the Youth Outreach Librarian at the Chester County Library.

## Hollywood librarian film

A familiar face was spotted in the world premiere of the first full-length film to focus on the work and lives of librarians at the annual meeting of the American Library Association. SIS faculty member Patricia Lawton plays a role in "The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians through Film" which was introduced at the June conference in Washington, DC.



Written and directed by Ann Seidl, the documentary features many interviews with real librarians interwoven with movie clips of cinematic librarians. The film deals with the themes of censorship, intellectual freedom, children and librarians, pay equity and funding issues and the value of reading. The film also features an interview with author Ray Bradbury, who is famous for (among other things) his support of libraries.

The writer and director hopes that the documentary "will increase the public's awareness of the complex and democratic nature of librarianship in the age of technology." Lawton plays "The Cataloger." To see a trailer of the film, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8kd4fC1bwo>

## Security curriculum again earns designation from security agencies

The University of Pittsburgh has again earned designation from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (CAEIAE). This re-designation affirms the contributions made by the School of Information Sciences' security curriculum to the field of information assurance education. The Security Assured Information Systems (SAIS) tracks of study, offered in the graduate programs in both Information Science and Telecommunications, are key to the designation as a Center. The SAIS tracks focus on the design and development of secure networked information systems; deployment, management, and maintenance of networks, systems and IT infrastructures; and evaluation and certification of

the security of systems and software. The curriculum is certified by the Committee on National Security Systems as meeting all five of the national standards for Information Assurance education. Currently, there are only 12 institutions that have all five certifications.

To earn the prestigious CAEIAE designation, an institution undergoes a rigorous review of its contributions to information assurance (IA) education and research covering such critical items as funded research projects, IA-focused curriculum, and the quantity and quality of published research work. The designation as a Center validates the efforts of Pitt and SIS to provide a superior education in Information Assurance, which is critical to preparing the workforce to defend critical technological infrastructure in the US.



# SIS faculty honored, promoted, win awards

## Biagini honored by librarians

Mary K. Biagini has been honored by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) as the 2007 Outstanding Contributor, which recognizes her contributions to Pennsylvania school library media programs. Biagini served as the associate dean for student services at the School of Information Sciences for nearly 20 years. She is also the lead educator in the School Library



Certification Program, which was ranked in the top 10 for the school library specialization by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2006.

The Outstanding Contributor award is an annual recognition of those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to school library information programs or for statewide or collective contributions that have impacted all school library information programs in Pennsylvania. The PSLA provides school librarians and media specialists with educational opportunities and current information through publications, workshops, seminars, and conferences.

Biagini was nominated in recognition of her work to promote the education of school library media specialists. She has ensured that the program at SIS incorporates cutting edge topics and technology so that graduates have the necessary skill sets. Her nomination noted that she “truly cares for her students and mentors each to make a difference as future and present school library media specialists.” Biagini was also acknowl-

edged for her work as a member of the PSLA Professional Standards Committee and as a co-chair of recent American Association of School Librarians national conferences in Indianapolis and Pittsburgh. The award was presented in April at the PSLA conference in Hershey.

## Carbo recognized by ALISE

A professor at both the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Information Sciences and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs received a 2007 Service Award from the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE). The nomination for Toni Carbo said that her “efforts have enhanced the reputation, stature, and overall value of ALISE, and that she has consistently approached the positions she has held as opportunities to move ALISE forward.”



One letter in support of her nomination said that Carbo “notices those who might benefit from assistance and unobtrusively provides it, taking care to be sensitive to the sometimes vulnerable positions of untenured ALISE members who are providing new leadership and direction that could impact their career progress. It is this sensitivity and holistic political judgment that makes Toni’s service unique, and most deserving of recognition.”

ALISE is a national forum for library educators to share ideas, discuss issues, and seek solutions to common problems. Carbo was president of the organization in 1997, and served on the Board of Directors

from 1996 to 2000. She chaired the ALISE Conference Committee for several years, and served on the Governance Committee in 2005 and 2006.

## Druzzdel wins Chancellor's teaching award

An associate professor at SIS is the recipient of the 2007 Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award. The award honors Marek Druzzdel for his commitment to creating a challenging learning environment for undergraduate and graduate students.



His integration of research and teaching — by allowing students at all levels to participate in his Decision Systems Laboratory — was particularly lauded by the Chancellor, who also noted that Druzzdel’s creative assignments have resulted in publications and outside funding for his students’ projects.

Druzzdel was recognized for being a role model for students and enriching the educational experience by engaging students both inside and outside the classroom. Each year Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenburg presents these awards to faculty whose “individual efforts stand as an inspiring example of excellence in the role of University teacher.”

He was officially recognized at the 2007 Honors Convocation and at a University reception. This award carries a cash award and a grant to further support his teaching. Druzzdel’s name will join those of past recipients on a plaque prominently featured in the William Pitt Union.

Druzzdel joined the SIS faculty in 1993 after receiving his PhD in Engineering and Public Policy from



Carnegie Mellon University. His research group, the Decision Systems Laboratory, maintains a research and teaching environment for faculty and students interested in the development of techniques and systems that support decision making under uncertainty. He is also on the faculty of the Intelligent Systems Program at Pitt, a graduate program for advanced education and research in artificial intelligence and areas of cognitive science.

Druzzdel's research interests include decision making under uncertainty, decision-theoretic methods in intelligent systems, and user interfaces to decision support systems.

### **Shulman named director of Sara Fine Institute**

Associate Professor Stuart Shulman has been named director of the Sara Fine Institute (SFI), a research center that examines ways in which technology may affect personal interaction, communication, and relationships



with individuals and institutions. SFI was founded in honor of Sara Fine, a faculty member at SIS who conducted groundbreaking research on

the impact of technology on interpersonal behavior.

Shulman is also a senior research associate at Pitt's University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) and at the E-Democracy Centre based at the Université de Genève, European University Institute, and Oxford Internet Institute. He received a PhD in political science from the University of Oregon in 1999.

Shulman will assemble research partners and teaching faculty from

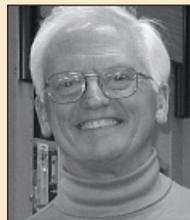
across the University to address pilot projects on topics such as human information processing and interpersonal relations in a range of contexts, from schools and community centers to institutions of higher education and government. SFI will also use campus-community partnerships to undertake research on social, political, ethical, and educational issues.

Those interested in learning more about the Sara Fine Institute should visit [www.sarafineinst.pitt.edu/](http://www.sarafineinst.pitt.edu/)

### **Thompson receives industry award**

Richard Thompson, chair of the Telecommunications program at SIS, recently received a Career Research Award from the International Telecommunications Education and Research Association (ITERA). Thompson was honored for his many achievements in telecommunications research at the ITERA annual conference in March. ITERA is a nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of telecommunications science through excellence in research and education.

Thompson is the lead faculty member for the ITERA organization at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests include communications switching systems, intelligent networks, user services and the human interface, fault tolerance and cellular automata, and probabilistic formal languages. He is the co-author of *The Physical*



*Layer of Communications Systems* with David Tipper, Prashant Krishnamurthy, and Joseph Kabara. The text, aimed at both students and practitioners in the telecommunications industry, was published in 2006 by Artech House Publishers.

### **Shulman and Zadorozhny promoted**

The School of Information Sciences congratulates Stuart Shulman and Vladimir Zadorozhny on their promotion to associate professor. "It is truly an honor for the School to have two such well-regarded teachers and researchers on our faculty," notes Dean Ronald L. Larsen. "Both scholars deserve the honor and recognition that these promotions confer upon them."

Shulman, who teaches in the Library and Information Science Program, is also a Senior Research Associate and the Director of the



Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) in the University Center for Social and Urban Research. In 2007, Shulman was appointed Director of the Sara Fine Institute.

Zadorozhny, who teaches in the undergraduate and graduate Information Science programs, joined the SIS faculty in 2001 after faculty appointments at the University of Maryland and Moscow State University. He is the lead researcher in the Network Aware Data Management Group and a member of the Advanced Data Management Technologies Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests cover networked information systems, wireless and sensor data management, and scalable architectures.

The faculty, staff, students and administration of the School of Information Sciences congratulate Dr. Shulman and Dr. Zadorozhny.



# SIS students win honors

Each year, the School and the SIS Alumni Society offer a number of awards to recognize outstanding academic and service contributions of our students. These students, nominated by faculty from all degree programs, were lauded at the April 29th Recognition Ceremony for their academic accomplishments, leadership, and efforts to improve academic programs or community life for students.

**The Jay Daily Award** for outstanding contributions to the graduate programs in Library and Information Science

- *Sara Gillespie*, MLIS, for her work with the Student Chapter of the American Library Association (SCALA)
- *Vonzell Yeager*, MLIS, for his work with the Student Chapter of the American Library Association (SCALA)

**The Anthony Debons Award** for outstanding contributions to the Bachelor of Science in Information Science Program

- *Matthew Mendik*, BSIS, for his independent study research on human factors that govern the design of computer portals.

**The Fritz Froehlich Award** for outstanding contributions to the graduate program in Telecommunications

- *Kuang-chiu (Kevin) Huang*, PhD, Telecommunications, for his efforts to develop labs to support teaching, his assistance in organizing conferences, and his endeavors to streamline and improve the operations of the Telecommunications labs.

**The Allen Kent Award** for outstanding contributions to the graduate programs in Information Science

- *Jeff Kaminski*, MSIS, for his exemplary class work and his Independent Study research completed with Dr. Brusilovsky and Dr. Flynn.

**The Margaret Mary “Peg” Corbett Award** in recognition of the dissertation proposal judged to be the best submitted in the Library and Information Science Program

- *Fei Yu*, PhD, Library and Information Science, “Users’ Emotional and Material Satisfaction at the Micro/Macro Levels in an Academic Library.”

**The Robert R. Korfhage Award** in recognition of excellence in writing a scholarly paper on information retrieval or a related topic by a student in collaboration with a faculty member

- *Chib-Kuang Lin*, PhD, Telecommunications, for his paper “Efficient Hybrid Channel Access for Data Intensive Sensor Networks,” co-authored with Vladimir Zadorozhny and Prashant Krishnamurthy.

**The Harold Lancour Award** for Excellence in International and Comparative Study in recognition of academic and scholarly accomplishments in international library and information science

- *Abdulnasir T. Abdulla*, PhD, Library and Information Science, for his dissertation on the information-seeking behaviors of Kuwaiti journalists entitled “Technology and Internet-Related Information Behaviors of Print Journalists in Kuwait.”

**The Catherine Ofiesh Orner Award** in recognition of excellence in writing a scholarly paper in information science

- *Rachel Masilamani*, MLIS, for her paper “Documenting Illegal Art: Collaborative Software, Online Environments and New York City’s 1970s and 1980s Graffiti Art Movement.”

**The Sarah C. Cohen Award** for the Outstanding School Library Certification Program Practicum Student

- *Timothy Howard*, MLIS, for exemplifying outstanding achievement and professional promise during his practicum experience.

**School Library Certification Program Student Awards** offered to SLCP students, nominated by the Library and Information Science Program faculty, who exemplify academic excellence and professional promise as school librarians

- Awardee: *Bridget Berlandi*
- Finalists: *Karin Kugel, Elizabeth Koch, Tina Tomczak, Lynn Smokovich, Micah Weglinski*

**The Jennifer & Eric Spiegel Technology and Communications Essay Award**

- *Mitchell Soso*, Arts and Sciences, in recognition of his winning essay entitled “Apple vs. Microsoft: A Look at Usability and Accessibility.”

**The Ida M. Flynn Memorial Award** in recognition of excellence and outstanding contributions to the undergraduate program in information science

- *Courtney Machi*, BSIS, was selected for her work in reinvigorating the undergraduate Information Science student association and for her efforts at promoting the undergraduate program.

## Geocaching event for alumni and students set for Spring

A geocaching event is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2008 for SIS alumni and students. Geocaching is a ‘sport’ where you are the search engine. According to Wikipedia, “Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which participants use GPS receivers or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called geocaches or caches) anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and ‘treasure,’ usually toys or trinkets of little monetary value. Today, well over 350,000 geocaches are currently placed in 222 countries around the world,

which are registered on various websites devoted to the sport.”

The SIS event will resemble a typical hunt. Caches will be hidden on campus for teams of students and alumni to find. The caches will contain prizes. If you have never heard of geocaching, don’t know how to work a GPS device, or are looking for a fun way to come back to campus, then this is the event for you! We will have geoinformatics students and ‘cachiers’ on hand for assistance. For further information on this event, please contact Tara Czekaj at 412-624-9473 or [tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu](mailto:tczekaj@sis.pitt.edu)



# Celebrating 2 decades of service to SIS



Mary K. Biagini (right) worked with hundreds of students during her tenure as associate dean for student services.

**M**ary K. Biagini was often the first administrator students met as they enrolled in the School of Information Sciences . . . and she was often the last to congratulate them at graduation. During her years as associate dean for student services, her responsibilities ranged from recruitment and registration to graduation and placement. In June 2007, Biagini stepped down from this administrative position.

Since her arrival in 1988 at the School of Library & Information Science (as it was then known), Biagini has been a key part of leading the School of Information Sciences through a period of great change and growth. “Mary K. was deeply engaged in the redefinition of the School and its curriculum in light of the surge of new technology,” notes Martin Weiss, associate dean for faculty affairs. “Under her watch, the School and the disciplines changed dramatically. We went from a time when the

Internet was merely a research project to the present where the Web is ubiquitous and has changed the way people search for and interact with information. Over the last 19 years, we’ve gone from mainframes and card catalogs to PCs and personalized user interfaces. It has been an exhilarating time for the information sciences and higher education had to evolve along with the field. Mary K. helped lead the students and faculty as they struggled to redefine the professions and degree programs.”

But most importantly, Biagini gave her time and attention to new and unsure students who would later graduate with confidence and a solid understanding of the principles of information sciences. She handled student questions and problems, celebrated student successes, and made each student feel as though they had an advocate in her and a family at SIS.



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