From the Dean

On page 1, we’ll introduce you to some of the recent graduates of the School of Information Sciences. When you read about Carlos Caicedo (PhD ‘09), Christina Dominique-Pierre (MLS ‘08), Matthew Kelley (MSIS ‘01), and Inge Tomlin (BSIS ‘08), you will be struck by the diversity and breadth of their successes. In order to meet the challenges and opportunities confronting society in the 21st century, we need professionals who are technologically capable and cognizant of the role of information in almost all human endeavors. Whether they are working as youth services librarians or decision analysts, these young alumni exemplify the school’s commitment to giving students the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to manage a truly critical resource: information.

Our faculty and degree programs emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to the study of technology, information, and society. Since the school’s founding in 1901, academic programs have evolved and others have been added to meet the needs of those in the constantly changing information professions. We are proud to be one of the original members of the iSchools Caucus, an international group of 27 higher education entities focused on the role of information. Recently, the iSchool at Pitt created new Web sites and publications, including this alumni magazine, to reflect the school’s holistic approach to information in its many forms—from books and e-documents to artifactual and byteful worlds. We hope that you appreciate the new look of our materials and the increased efforts of the school to meld our diverse degree programs into a cohesive academic program that will prepare the future leaders of our profession.

The following pages highlight the many accomplishments of School of Information Sciences alumni, faculty, and students. Thanks to the generous financial support of alumni and friends, we are proud to report on scholarship support, recently recruited and highly accomplished faculty, new programs, and upgraded lab space.

Alumni have a long tradition of dedication to the school, its students, and its programs. With your support, we will continue to be a pioneer in educating students to become leaders in the information age. I look forward to continuing to build the school’s reputation and legacy in partnership with each of you. You are an important member of our community, and I will continue to share exciting developments with you on the school’s Web site at www.ischool.pitt.edu.

Sincerely,
Ronald L. Larsen
Dean and Professor

School of Information Sciences

Preparing Leaders for the Information Age

www.ischool.pitt.edu

Graduates Turn Passion Into Success

Each year, more than 300 students graduate from the iSchool at Pitt and begin their careers as information professionals. We’d like you to meet some recent alumni of the school. These amazing graduates are making a name for themselves and using what they learned here at Pitt.

Links

A MAGAZINE OF THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES

FALL 2009, INAUGURAL ISSUE

Lisa is published by the School of Information Sciences (a member of the iSchools Caucus) at the University of Pittsburgh. For more than 100 years, we have educated students to become leaders in the information professions. The school, which you’ll find as referencing “the iSchool at Pitt,” offers degree programs in information science, information technology, and telecommunications and networking. Our alumni have gone on to help advance society through the effective use and management of information.

School of Information Sciences

Ronald L. Larsen, dean and professor
Joelleen Yerace, director of constituent relations
Kelli Duffey, director of external relations

Department of University Marketing Communications

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Carlos Caicedo (PhD ‘09)
Assistant professor, the iSchool at Syracuse University

During his doctoral studies in telecommunications and networking, Caicedo (pictured above on right) was a research assistant in both the National Science Foundation-funded Laboratory for Education and Research in Security Assured Information Systems and the Telecommunications Networking Lab. Caicedo was an integral part of the development and design of both lab facilities. “Here at the iSchool at Pitt, I was fortunate to work with amazing faculty on federally funded research, develop curricula for both undergraduate and graduate courses, and assist with the creation of innovative lab spaces. These opportunities, plus learning in such an interdisciplinary environment, have given me a solid foundation for my new position at the iSchool at Syracuse University,” he says. Caicedo’s research interests include economic and policy issues in telecommunications, and he looks forward to continuing this research at Syracuse.

Matthew Kelley (MSIS ‘01)
Decision analyst, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC

As an undergraduate economics major at Pitt, Kelley took a position developing Web sites and assisting in computing labs. He enjoyed this work so much that, after graduating cum laude, he enrolled at the school to earn his master’s degree in information science. While here, he served as project supervisor for the Visual Information Systems Center and the Center for National Preparedness. After earning his MSIS, he was hired as a full-time project supervisor. Kelley led the team that produced immersive environments, conducted data-mining experiments for government agencies and corporate clients, and developed geographic information systems for research and development purposes. While working on a project for Westinghouse, Kelley came to the attention of members of top-level management who were incredibly impressed by his research abilities and innovative thinking. As a result, Westinghouse hired him as a decision analyst, allowing him to apply his expertise to the nuclear industry.

Christina Dominique-Pierre (MLS ‘08)
Youth services librarian, West Palm Beach Public Library

Dominique-Pierre, always passionate about promoting literacy to inner-city children and teens, began working at the Free Library of Philadelphia at the age of 13. Throughout high school and college, Dominique-Pierre continued to work part time as an outreach coordinator for the Free Library. After earning her BS in sociology, Dominique-Pierre enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program at Pitt, specializing in children and youth services. Even before she completed her studies, Dominique-Pierre was offered a position at the West Palm Beach Public Library as the youth services librarian. She graduated in December 2008, after completing her studies in the FastTrack MLIS program. “In my current position, I was charged to develop and maintain a children’s blog (wpkids.wordpress.com). My education prepared me to integrate this technology into a library environment,” she says.

Inge Tomlin (BSIS ‘08)
Project and sourcing analyst, Del Monte Corporation

From Albuquerque, N.M., Tomlin came to Pittsburgh to train in classical ballet. She soon realized that she wanted a more secure career and that there were terrific opportunities for jobs that are technically oriented but business centered. “I have always been interested in the business application of technology, so I wanted a degree that would best prepare me for that type of work.” Taking advantage of the school’s variety of courses, Tomlin gained the critical skills to pursue her dream job. A successful summer internship at Del Monte led to her being hired as a project and sourcing analyst in the fall of 2008; in this role, she interprets and conducts research to meet the daily information technology (IT) demands of the end user. When asked if she would stay in Pittsburgh, Tomlin says, “I adore Pittsburgh and love the working culture at Del Monte. The reasonable cost of living and substantial growth in the IT industry are incredibly attractive.”

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6 The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences is a member of the iSchools Caucus, a consortium of 27 institutions of higher education that offer degrees in the information sciences and are interested in the relationships among information, technology, and people. Visit www.ischools.org for more information.
Giving to the School of Information Sciences

The University of Pittsburgh Building Our Future. Together capital campaign has raised more than $1.38 billion toward an ambitious $2 billion campaign goal. Since 1997, School of Information Sciences alumni and friends have contributed more than $8 million to the campaign. It is through this critical support that the school has been able to offer scholarships to students, expand degree programs, conduct multidisciplinary research, and provide state-of-the-art laboratory experiences.

Now, more than ever, students need your help. Please consider making a gift today by supporting one of the following scholarship funds. For fund descriptions and other giving opportunities, visit www.ischool.pitt.edu/alumni/giving.

- Casimir Borkowski Scholarship
- Nina C. Brotherton Scholarship
- Sarah C. Cohen Endowment
- Margaret Mary Corbett Memorial Fund
- Sara Fine Institute
- Ida M. Flynn Memorial Award
- Dr. Joan Brest Friedman Scholarship
- Margaret Hodes Scholarship
- Information Ethics Fund
- Information Sciences Scholarship Fund
- E.J. Jossey Scholarship
- Kolchin Memorial Loan Fund
- Robert R. Kirsch Award
- Lanceur, Eimuth, Brewer Endowed Fund
- Library and Information Science Scholarship Fund
- K. Leon Montgomery Scholarship
- Catherine Olesich and Gerald Omer Award
- Frank B. and Anne J. Sessa Scholarship
- Elva S. Smith Scholarship Funds
- Jennifer and Eric Spiegel Book Endowment Fund
- Sochatoff Loan Fund
- K. Subramanyam Scholarship
- Telecommunications Scholarship Fund
- James G. Williams Scholarship
- H.W. Wilson Scholarship
- E. Blanche Wooll Endowed Scholarship
- Tung-Li and Hui-Hui Yuan Family Award

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New Faculty Members

Susan “Leigh” Star, professor and Doreen E. Boyce Chair in Library and Information Science • Previously, Star served as a senior advisor at the Center for Science, Technology, and Society and a visiting professor of computer engineering at Santa Clara University.

Geoffrey Bowker, professor and senior scholar in cyberhistory • Joining us from Santa Clara University, Bowker was executive director of and Regis and Dianne McKenna Professor at the university’s Center for Science, Technology, and Society.

Jung Sun Oh, assistant professor • Oh attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for her doctoral studies.

James “Kip” Currier, assistant professor • After earning his PhD at the School of Information Sciences, Currier was a visiting professor in the Library and Information Science Program.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Jennifer and Eric Spiegel Book Endowment Fund

To minimize the burden of expensive textbooks, Eric (BSIS ’88) and Jennifer Spiegel (A&S ’88) established the Jennifer and Eric Spiegel Book Endowment Fund to provide a book stipend to full-time undergraduate students in both the School of Information Sciences and the School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Communication.

To qualify for the award, students must receive financial aid and submit an essay on the topic of technology or communication. The Spiegels say their top criterion for the essay is creativity. “The ones that stick with us are the ones that use wit and humor to drive their point home. We have found that a technical topic may not always hold the reader’s interest, but if the author infuses an innovative approach or new way to look at the topic, the result can be a rapt audience that will remember what it is reading,” says Eric. Eric is the CEO and cofounder of XTS Inc., the lead management analytics software for Chris and other virtualization platforms. Both avid Pitt fans, the Spiegels reside in Maryland with their two daughters.

In fall 2009, the iSchool at Pitt will host its first-ever e-fundraising campaign as part of our efforts to increase the effectiveness of your gifts by eliminating some of the costs of printing and mailing. Please look for a notice in your inbox in which you will find instructions regarding how to make a gift to the school online. We hope that we can count on your support.

MAKE A GIFT—Give to the School of Information Sciences!

Gifts can be made online at www.giveto.pitt.edu or by completing this form and returning it to University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences, Joelleen Yerace, 500 Information Sciences Building, 135 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

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Alumni Updates

Elizabeth Topping Mainiero (MLS ’60) was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from Muskingum University in recognition of her 40-year library science career.

Cynthia Ritchey (MLS ’72) (left) was appointed chair of the 2011 Newbery Award Selection Committee. The Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American children’s literature published the previous year.

Deirdre Scaggs (MLS ’03) was appointed director of archives of the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections and Digital Programs.

Cynthia Golden (MLS ’83) (left) was appointed the new director of the Center for Instructional Development & Distance Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to joining Pitt, Golden was a vice president at EDUCAUSE, a non-profit professional association that serves higher education information technology professionals.

School of Information Sciences Alumni Society (SAS)

All alumni are welcome and encouraged to join SAS! There is no membership fee. SAS supports, organizes, and hosts events that encourage alumni involvement and interaction with students. From social events to alumni/student panels on networking and career assistance, SAS focuses on helping our alumni and current students to succeed. To join, please visit www.ischool.pitt.edu/alumni.

The 2009–10 SAS officers are Joe Imbimbo (MST ’91), president; Nancy Alstadt (MLS ’75), vice-president and president-elect; Carolyn Biglow (MLS ’01), secretary; and Karen Grunebach (BSIS ’83, MSIS ’88). Barbara Zaborowski (MLS ’90, PhD ’08), and Denise Callihan (MLS ’92), past presidents.

Deborah Nolan (MLS ’75) was appointed university librarian at Towson University in Towson, Md.

Barbara Immroth (PhD ’80), professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Library Association.

Cynthia Golden (MLS ’83) was named assistant chancellor and director of the John Cotton Dana Library at the Newark campus of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Gerry Douglas (BSIS ’19) was named 2009 TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Partnership Fellow. Douglas is the founder of Babad Health Partnership, a non-governmental organization creating e-health systems to address health care crises in the developing world, with particular emphasis on HIV care and treatment. Recently, Douglas completed his PhD in bioinformatics at Pitt’s School of Medicine.

Alexis (Dave) Rittenberger (MLS ’03) was appointed director of library services at the U. Grant Miller Library at Washington & Jefferson College, her undergraduate alma mater.

Maria Calle Torres (MST ’06, PhD ’09) is a collections specialist at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress.

Ingrid Kalchthaler (MLIS ’99), Rachel Welden (MLIS ’86), and Carolee Webber (MLS ’01) were named among Library Journal’s “Movers and Shakers 2009.”

Marilyn Shook (BSIS ’72, MLS ’86) retired as director of information technology at Seattle Public Library.

Bruce Leonard (MST ’89) is a system analyst for TRA Orthopaedic Center in Bloomington, Minn.

Kevin Sweaney (BSIS ’89) is the chief information officer for A Second Chance, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing a safe environment for children who are being cared for by their relatives or a close family friend.

Nancie Gsue (MLS ’92) was promoted to assistant vice chancellor for knowledge management at Vanderbilt University. She will continue to serve as director of the Eskind Biomedical Library and as a professor of biomedical informatics and medicine.

Mark Winston (MLS ’92, PhD ’97) is a professor at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia.

Jill Garcia (MLIS ’08) is a collections specialist at the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress.

Pitt vs. University of South Florida Football Game at Heinz Field

For ticket information, call 1-800-643-PITT (7488). Kickoff time is not likely to be known until early October.

Join Us for Homecoming 2009, October 23–25

OCTOBER 23, 2009
iSchool Open House at the Information Sciences Building, 4–6 p.m.
Stop by the Information Sciences Building at 135 North Bellefield Avenue to learn about the exciting programs, research, and activities of current faculty and students. Tour the Information Sciences Library and visit the newly renovated Laboratory for Education and Research on Security Assured Information Systems. Alumni will have the opportunity to chat with Dean Ronald Larsen and network with past professors, new faculty, fellow alumni, and current students. Refreshments will be served.

Welcome Back Reception, Cathedral of Learning Commons Room, 6–8:30 p.m.
The welcome back cocktail and hors d’oeuvre reception is hosted by the Pitt Alumni Association and is open to all Pitt alumni. The Commons Room will be transformed with spectacular lighting, musical entertainment, food, and fellowship. Reconnect with School of Information Sciences alumni and friends at the school’s homecoming table and visit the Nationality Rooms. If you’ve never come back for homecoming, now is the time to start. Following the reception, the Pitt Program Council presents a fireworks and laser show.

OCTOBER 24, 2009
Pitt vs. University of South Florida Football Game at Heinz Field

For ticket information, call 1-800-643-PITT (7488). Kickoff time is not likely to be known until early October.

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2010 • Sara Fine Institute Lecture by Jonathan Zittrain
Zittrain is a professor of law at Harvard Law School and cofounder of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society. For a University-wide schedule of Homecoming 2009 events, please visit www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming.

Distinguished Alumni and Professional Achievement Awards

The School of Information Sciences is proud to announce the 2009 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni and Professional Achievement Awards. Winners of the awards personally the ideals and mission of the school to produce leaders in the information professions. Their accomplishments were celebrated at an alumni reception on Thursday, March 26, 2009, in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. Christine L. Borgman (MLS ’74) received the Distinguished Alumni Award, and Thomas Reinsel (BSIS ’90, MST ’91) and Edward Mandell (MLS ’65) both received Professional Achievement Awards. For complete biographies of the 2009 recipients as well as additional information on the April 9, 2010, event, please visit www.ischool.pitt.edu/alumni. We hope to see you at the 2010 event!
Now is your opportunity to be counted in the largest campaign in University of Pittsburgh history. By including the School of Information Sciences in your will or estate plans, you can help Pitt reach the goals of its Building Our Future Together fundraising campaign.

A charitable bequest allows you to make a commitment that will cost you nothing right now.

For more information about charitable bequests, please call 412-624-9473 or visit the Office of Planned Giving Web site at www.pitt.planyourlegacy.org.

Over the past year, School of Information Sciences alumni have given back in record numbers. Many have volunteered to review student résumés and have participated in alumni/student panels, while others made gifts in support of the school and its students and programs. Your loyalty and generosity ensures that the next generation of information professionals has the opportunity to succeed in the information age. If you are interested in giving back, please contact me. I am excited to reconnect you with your alma mater.

Joelleen P. Yerace
Director of Constituent Relations
412-624-9473, jyerace@sis.pitt.edu