



BSIS curriculum redesigned

The curriculum for the bachelor's degree in Information Science has been redesigned to be more responsive to the needs of industry, according to Robert Perkoski, director of the BSIS program at the School of Information Sciences. "We've updated the course of study for the bachelor's program based on feedback from corporations that host internships for SIS students and from industry experts who serve on the SIS Industry Advisory Council."

The BSIS program is an upper-division program — students are accepted as they enter their junior year. Graduates of the BSIS program are well-qualified for careers as system analysts and designers, database managers, network analysts, and software engineers, and are employed in companies ranging from small competitive firms to multi-national conglomerates. They have found careers in financial services, health-care, judicial systems, private industry, government agencies, education, and communications.

"The program was introduced in the Fall, and will better prepare our students for the rigorous and changing needs of the information industry. It will make our students more marketable because they will have an in-depth understanding of some of the key areas in IT," Perkoski said.

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SIS reorganizes for the 21st Century See page 2

MLIS program re-accredited

The University of Pittsburgh MLIS program offered at the School of Information Sciences has been re-accredited by the American Library Association (ALA). This continued accreditation, issued without conditions, will be in effect until 2013 when the program will undergo another review by the Committee on Accreditation (COA) of the ALA. The MLIS program at SIS has been continually accredited since 1962.

"This continued accreditation recognizes the academic excellence — and reinforces the national reputation — of our MLIS degree program," said Ronald L. Larsen, dean of the School of Information Sciences. "This type of review assures potential and current students that they will receive a quality education that prepares them to be productive professionals in the library and information science fields."

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SIS ranked in Top Ten

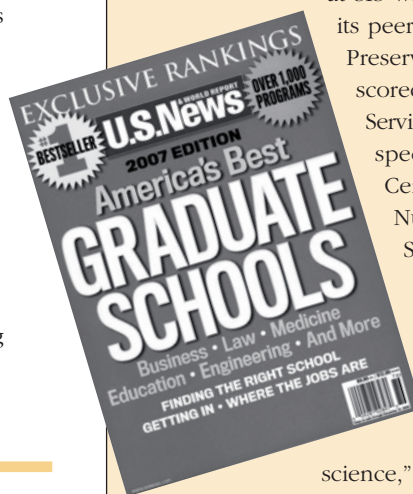
The ALA-accredited Master of Library and Information Science degree program has been recognized as one of the top-ten programs by US News & World Report in the magazine's 2007 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools." The MLIS program as a whole was ranked seventh in the nation, based on a 2005 survey, and several MLIS specializations received top honors as well.

The Medical Librarianship/Informatics specialization at SIS was ranked Number 1 among its peers, while the Archives and Preservation Management specialization scored fourth in the country, as did the Services to Children and Young Adult specialization. The School Library Certification program was ranked Number 9, the Digital Libraries Specialization ranked Number 10, and Information Systems received a Number 5 ranking in the magazine's report.

"We have a long-standing tradition as a top-ranked graduate school of library and information science," said SIS Dean Ronald L. Larsen.

"Our program is appropriately recognized for its excellence, academic rigor, and support of the students. The School is being acknowledged for offering outstanding specializations in the MLIS program. These rankings confirm the reputation of the program, as well as the quality of our faculty, alumni, and students."

MLIS degree programs are ranked by US News & World Report every seven years. Only 51 schools accredited by the American Library Association are included in the survey. The magazine surveys deans, program directors, and senior faculty from these accredited schools, asking them to evaluate the academic quality of MLIS programs.



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Dialogue with the Dean

The School of Information Sciences has reorganized itself to better serve the modern information professions. For more than 100 years, SIS has been educating students for the information professions, including library, information science, and telecommunications disciplines. The distinctions among these disciplines that were so clear in the 20th century have blurred in the 21st century — librarians, for example, now need to master information technology, while systems designers need to understand how to organize information for efficient access and retrieval.

As of July 2006, the School of Information Sciences has undergone a change in governance style — how the School and the various degree programs will be administered — in order to reflect these changes and to foster a more dynamic, fluid organization. Instead of discipline-centric departments, the School is now organized around the degree programs offered by the School and the research interests of our faculty. This reorganization reflects the ever-increasing integration of the disciplines. As a result, certain aspects of the School — the faculty, research activities, and support efforts — are being elevated to the School level.

The ongoing educational programs of the School will, in essence, remain the same. Classes, degrees, and registration will operate largely as they have in the past. The difference is in the way the School is administered. Instead of departments implicitly constrained by disciplinary boundaries, rules and processes, we are moving to a governance structure based on the degree programs that encourages collaboration *across and among* the disciplines.

In the past, faculty and research were affiliated with departments and departments offered the degree programs. Now, faculty are more clearly associated with the School and the breadth of its degree programs — the School offers a BSIS degree; MSIS, MLIS, and MST degrees; and PhD degrees in Library and Information Science as well as in Information Science, and Telecommunications. Faculty are encouraged to form Research Interest Groups that engage members from other degree programs. Such cross-pollination of expertise will increase opportunities for multi-disciplinary research projects and courses of study. The newly-introduced Digital Libraries specialization offers such an example. Even though the specialization is offered in the Library and Information Science program, the courses and faculty reflect expertise from information science, library science, and telecommunications disciplines.

A newly-formed SIS Council is the principal forum for shared governance. It will assume oversight of traditional academic responsibilities such as maintenance of appropriate academic standards in instruction, development of educational programs and degree requirements, and recommendation of policies in such areas as resource allocation, faculty and staff development, student affairs, research and service programs, and SIS relationships with local, regional, national, and international communities. The Council's membership is representative of



the School: it includes faculty members, staff, and students from across the degree programs. The Council will meet on a regular basis to ensure that the School functions effectively and efficiently.

The School undertook this new governance structure in order to better align degree programs with evolving demands of our fields — a melding of traditional principles of information organization, management, and utilization with advances in networking and

information technology. It is increasingly rare that information professionals can succeed with a limited set of skills. They need a combination of disciplinary skills and experience that a school like SIS provides to advance in today's ever-more complex and challenging society.

What does this mean for the students at SIS?

Degrees offered at SIS will remain the same. Diplomas/certificates will continue to reflect the degree program — BSIS, MLIS, MSIS, MST, or PhD in Information Science, Telecommunications, or Library and Information Science.

Courses will evolve as they have in the past, but will increasingly involve inter-disciplinary content. Courses will continue to be associated with a specific degree program (e.g., BSIS or MSIS). It is likely that over time, courses will increasingly be blended across the programs.

Registration will be the same. As in the past, students will meet with their advisor and register for their classes at the School of Information Sciences.

Students will participate in the new governance structure with full voting rights. The first two elected representatives to the SIS Council, Sarah Gillespie and Leah Lindemann, are both in the MLIS program (see p. 15).

How will I know what's going on? All matters addressed at the SIS Council will be posted at www.sis.pitt.edu/~scouncil/. Anyone can view the documents, as long as they are logged on through the www.pitt.edu, www.sis.pitt.edu, or www.tele.pitt.edu domains. Minutes, actions, and discussions will all be posted on this site.

Will students notice any differences? In day-to-day life here at the School, you will notice very few changes. Classes will be offered and research will continue. You will, however, see some differences in the way the School functions on the macro level. The intent of this reorganization is to permit the School to be more responsive to changes in the disciplines and industry. It is intended to create a more effective environment for teaching, research, and learning. Students should find the School to be a more accessible and multi-disciplinary organization that benefits them not only during their time on campus, but also in their subsequent careers.

Ronald L. Larsen, Dean and Professor



Patricia Lawton, newest SIS faculty member

The newest member of the SIS faculty brings a wide range of teaching and research interests to the School, including digital libraries, information technology, cataloging and classification, organization of information, and research methods. Patricia Lawton joined the faculty in November, and in January will teach Organization of Information, followed in the Fall by a course in Cataloging.

"I'm interested in this 'thing' we're calling a digital library," she said. "Many schools now have digital library tracks. How are these programs constructed, and what will students be expected to know and do? There are many definitions of a digital library.

"How will a digital library be incorporated into a traditional academic library, and how will it be managed?" Digital libraries, she said, are a barometer of change, and their definition will vary among different communities.



"We need to examine work processes that hinge on the changing nature of librarianship, and determine how cataloging is changing, what tools are still useful, and how to make changes that accommodate digital information."

Lawton recently completed a PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies. She also has an MLS and a BA in English, both from Indiana University. Lawton has previously held library and teaching positions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Indiana University.

SIS graduate running for president of ALA

A SIS graduate and 33-year veteran of the Library of Congress and its Congressional Research Service is one of two candidates for president of the American Library Association.

"My career has had a national focus," said Nancy Davenport. "It has reinforced to me the importance of libraries and their collections and services to reasoned policy making and creating a learning society. My work involved the immediacy of policy analysis for the Congress, as well as the long-range focus of building collections that document American creativity and collect and preserve the unique artifacts of special collections that connect one generation to another." She is currently a consultant and interim director of library services for the District of Columbia (D.C.) Public Library.



As a president of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) from 2004 to 2006, Davenport said she worked at the intersection of libraries, scholars, and technology "with the goal of ensuring renaissance minds for the digital age."

Librarians are great generalists, she said, and there are opportunities for libraries to engage many more professions within them. "We need to look at 2020 and beyond . . . what should this profession look like? We don't have nearly as many young librarians joining the association or coming to conferences as in the past. They get lots of information from the web and form virtual communities." The ALA needs to attract and engage these librarians as new members, Davenport said, so that they own change and want to be part of it.

"We need to connect people to each other. Every academic community is a learning community, whether it's an office, dorm room, or classroom. What support can the library distribute to those places?"

Davenport earned an MLS in 1971 at Pitt and a BA in political science and economics from West Virginia University in 1969. Her career began with the Congressional Research Service in 1971. Davenport served on the ALA Executive Board from 2002 to 2005 and was elected to the ALA Council for the 1999-2002 term. She also chaired the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee in 2000. She was president of the Federal Librarians Round Table in 2001 and chaired the Membership Committee of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) from 1985 to 1987.

Before joining the D.C. Public Library and starting her consulting practice this year, in addition to being president of CLIR, she was co-dean at the Frye Leadership Institute from 2005 to 2006. At the Library of Congress she was most recently the director of acquisitions (1998-2004), and acting chief of the Rare Books and Special Collections and acting chief of Prints and Photographs Division. She held multiple senior positions at the LOC's Congressional Research Service. Her consulting practice focuses on future directions for academic and public libraries, and public policy issues associated with libraries and their delivery of digital services.

Davenport was appointed to the National Historical Records and Publications Commission by President Bush and also serves on the board of directors of the National Information Standards Organization. She was named a Distinguished Alumnus by West Virginia University in 2005.

The other candidate for the ALA presidency is James Rettig, university librarian at the University of Richmond.



CISCO donates equipment to SIS for security lab

CISCO Systems, Inc. donated more than \$120,000 worth of equipment to SIS late last year. The gift will equip the Security Assured Information Systems (SAIS) program lab for information assurance education, lab exercises, and related research.

SIS offers both theory and hands-on laboratory-based learning, and has earned all five National Security Agency certifications as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (CAE/IAE). The intensive lab-based curriculum component makes this Cisco equipment donation all the more valuable.

"We are grateful to CISCO for this generous donation of equipment," said Dean Ronald L. Larsen. "SIS has been extremely fortunate to develop such a synergistic relationship with CISCO in which they support our efforts to advance the field and create qualified professionals in the field of information assurance. The donated equipment will enable SIS faculty and students to better understand how to build secure information systems. Students will then take these skills into the workforce, meeting the security needs of industries and governments throughout the world."

The SAIS program allows students working toward their master's degrees in either Information Science or Telecommunications to focus on the skills and technology needed to provide security for information systems. The Cisco equipment includes wireless networks, router equipment, and switches that will be used in the SIS labs for research by SAIS students and faculty.

Providing security and assurance to information systems has emerged as one of the most critical challenges in technology. Major corporations and private industry are devoting increasing resources to develop the cybersecurity technology necessary to secure their information systems. SIS is helping to meet the expected demand for professionals trained in secure information systems by offering the SAIS track of study. Master's-level students take courses in information assurance topics such as cryptography, network security, security in e-commerce, and developing secure systems. The SAIS curriculum has been certified by the Committee on National System Security as meeting the national standards for Information Assurance education.

This curriculum was developed as part of a Federal Cyber Service Scholarship for Service grant from the National Science Foundation awarded to SIS faculty members, including James B.D. Joshi, Michael B. Spring, Prashant Krishnamurthy, and David Tipper.

CISCO's equipment donation is part of the company's Biannual Competitive Equipment Donation Program, which is designed to enhance undergraduate and graduate study in information assurance. CISCO makes four grants each year to CAE/IAE, a designation that the University of Pittsburgh holds. The CAE/IAE program is jointly sponsored by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The goal of the program is to reduce vulnerability in the national information infrastructure by promoting higher education in information assurance, and by producing a growing number of professionals with IA expertise.

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BSIS curriculum redesigned

The program offers six core courses that will give all BSIS students the theoretical and programming background they need to succeed in the information sciences field. These courses cover principles of programming, database systems, networks, systems analysis, and human factors. After completing the core courses, students will further strengthen their skills by participating in one of three new concentrations — Information Systems, User-Centered Design, or Networks and Security.

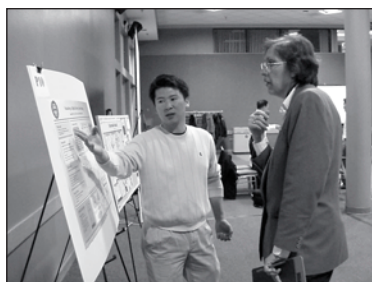
The Information Systems concentration will enable students to use object-oriented design tools to design, build, implement, and test web-based information systems. Courses offered in this concentration include JAVA II, object-oriented design, enterprise systems, system architecture, and web services.

The User-Centered Design concentration will provide the visual and human-computer interaction skills needed to design and build prototypes of information systems interfaces, as well as to perform usability testing of those systems. Courses offered in this concentration will include information visualization, web programming, graphics, and user-centered design.

Students who choose the Networks and Security concentration will learn how to design, build, and test local, regional, and global networks using both wired and wireless communication technologies. This concentration will also examine how to incorporate security protocols into both land-based and wireless networks. Students will be able to take courses in networks, computer security, wireless networks, and mobile applications.

BSIS majors will participate in a 'capstone experience,' further enhancing their practical skills. Such experiences might include internships with regional industries, assisting with graduate-level research projects, or a self-designed project. "The capstone experience allows students to gain practical experience in their concentrations," said Perkosi. "They can use their SIS knowledge working on systems projects for our corporate partners such as US Steel, Heinz, Bayer, ALCOA, or Mellon Financial. Or, they can contribute to leading edge research projects here at SIS with the LERSAIS (Laboratory of Education and Research on Security Assured Information Systems), the Visual Information Systems Center, or the usability labs. It's the kind of opportunity that will put Pitt's BSIS majors ahead of the curve in the job market."

Students interested in the bachelor's program in Information Science should visit www.sis.pitt.edu/~bsis or contact Robert Perkosi at perks@pitt.edu.



SIS faculty member Judith Jablonski reviews the poster *Visualizing a Digital Library Course Ontology* by Sung-Min Kim, Sue Yeon Syn, and Sherry Koshman during the i-fest 2006.



Two SIS faculty awarded research grant by Norway

Two SIS faculty members have been awarded a grant from the Research Council of Norway (RCN). Prashant Krishnamurthy, an associate professor in the Telecommunications program, and Vladimir Zadorozhny, an assistant professor in the Information Science program, along with Vladimir Oleshchuk of Agder University College in Norway, received a \$24,500 grant. The project involves security and privacy for data management in wireless and mobile network environments. The grant program calls for expertise in the areas of distributed data management, wireless communications, security, and privacy.

The grant was awarded to the three researchers in May, and their work product will be a full proposal to further this cooperative research. RCN promotes and supports Norwegian basic and applied research in all areas of science, technology, medicine, and the humanities. It also advises the Norwegian government on research policy. RCN is a strategic body that identifies areas of special effort, allocates research funds, and evaluates the resulting research.

Krishnamurthy has been a member of the SIS faculty since 1999. His research interests include wireless data networks, wireless network security, and indoor radio channel models. Zadorozhny joined the SIS faculty in 2001. His research interests



Vladimir Zadorozhny (left) and Vladimir Oleshchuk

cover networked information systems, wireless and sensor data management, and scalable architectures. Oleshchuk is a faculty member in the Computer Science program at Agder, and has published extensively on security issues in wireless environments.

Center synthesizes research for preparedness

The Center for National Preparedness at the University of Pittsburgh is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative enterprise that engages the University's scientists, engineers, policy experts, and clinical faculty. Members of the Center possess expertise in bio-medical research, public health, medicine, national security policy, engineering, and information technology. Research, education, and training are its foundations. The Center communicates innovative research by the University's faculty to the broader public through educational and training programs in which students, policymakers, and other interested parties participate. Ken Sochats, director of the Visual Information Systems Center at the School of Information Sciences, hosts the Center's seminar series.

At the federal level, the Center provides expert advice and assistance to the Department of Homeland Security, other cabinet agencies and associated organizations, critical elements of the intelligence community, and key policymakers as they formulate a national homeland security strategy.

At the state level, the Center provides professional training and expert assistance to state and local governments in critical skills such as cyber security, public health surveillance, nursing, and EMA/fire/EMS training. Representatives from the Center also raise public awareness of homeland security challenges through seminars and informational briefings.

Recognizing that a new generation of public authorities, community leaders, and experts must be prepared to succeed in the post 9-11 environment, the Center is structured to provide

assistance at the community level through a multi-tiered system of formal education (certificate through doctorate level) in disciplines that enhance national preparedness.

For more information about the Center for National Preparedness and the Seminar Series, visit www.cnp.pitt.edu.

Professional development day

The SIS Alumni Society (SAS) hosted a second successful professional development day for Library and Information Science students in April 2006. The day began with a presentation on resume development, interview skills, and job seeking, following which participating alums conducted mock interviews both in person and via telephone. Each student received a sample job description and was interviewed for that respective position.

Students also submitted their resumes for alumni critique and following their interviews were offered the opportunity to meet with reviewers. More than 25 students participated. In addition to SAS, the professional development day was supported by SIS, Beta Phi Mu, and Career Services. Based on the success of the event, SAS is preparing another professional development day targeted at Information Science and Telecommunication students. For more information, contact Tara Czekaj at 412-624-9473 or tczekaj@mail.sis.pitt.edu



SIS faculty, staff, graduates honored, win awards

Joshi wins NSF career award

An assistant professor in the School of Information Sciences has won a prestigious award from the National Science Foundation. James B. D. Joshi was honored with the Faculty Early Career



Development (CAREER) Award for his project, "A Trust-Based Access Control Management Framework for Secure Information Sharing and Multimedia Workflows

in Heterogeneous Environments." The award of more than \$400,000 over a five-year period supports the early career-development activities of teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of the organization.

Joshi also led the LERSAIS (Laboratory of Education and Research on Security Assured Information Systems) faculty in their successful quest for a \$1 million grant from the NSF Scholarship for Service program to establish a scholarship program for graduate students in the Information Assurance track at SIS.

The goal of Joshi's research is to address the security and privacy issues related to emerging multi-domain application (EMA) environments. These EMAs are characterized by the convergence of the grid, peer-to-peer, and mobile environments, and multimedia and workflow technologies. These types of environments have the potential to efficiently automate workflow processes and facilitate unprecedented levels of information sharing and resource utilization. Joshi will develop a trust-based framework to allow dynamic systems to securely interact with each other within an EMA environment and ensure the privacy of multimedia data. The results

of this research are expected to have a long-term impact on the development of the techniques to protect complex systems and infrastructures such as the national and global information grids.

One of the most prestigious NSF grants, the CAREER award is not the first NSF award for Joshi. In 2004, he and several other members of the SIS faculty were the recipients of an NSF Federal Cyber Service Scholarship for Service grant of \$286,000 to create a curriculum in Security Assured Information Systems. The research results arising from the CAREER award will be incorporated into the security curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh, which has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, through efforts led by Joshi. The School's security curriculum was developed by Joshi and SIS faculty members Prashant Krishnamurthy, Michael Spring, and David Tipper.

Joshi is co-founder and coordinator of LERSAIS, a research center that facilitates the technical expertise of University faculty to address multi-dimensional problems in information assurance. LERSAIS was developed to host high impact research on two key aspects of information assurance — security and survivability, and high quality education in information security and assurance.

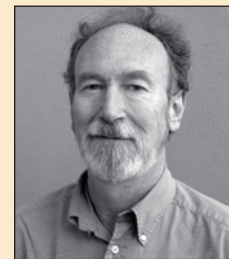
Joshi came to the University of Pittsburgh in 2003 following completion of his PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University. He serves on the editorial review boards for the *International Journal for Network Security* and the *International Journal for E-Business Research*. Previous NSF CAREER honorees at SIS include associate professors Marek Druzdzal and Peter Brusilovsky, as well as former adjunct professor Sujata Banerjee.

Lewis promoted to full professor

An accomplished SIS teacher and researcher was promoted to full professor in July. Michael Lewis, who joined the Pitt faculty in 1987 after earning a PhD in psychology from Georgia Tech, created the research program in human factors. His work focuses on human interaction with intelligent automation.

His research efforts led to founding (with the late Dr. Korfhage) of Pitt's Usability Laboratory in 1996 and the Virtual Theater (a virtual reality facility) in 2003. Lewis' research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research (ONR), Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Air

Force Research Laboratory, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, among others. He has more than 125 publications and developed



widely-used research tools in virtual reality, robotics, and military simulation.

Lewis' current NSF grant addresses the problem of controlling teams of mobile robots for urban search and rescue. He is investigating control and coordination problems with both real physical robots and in simulation. His robotic team, which relies on coordination among multiple robots and an innovative user interface and control regime (rather than expensive hardware), placed third in the RoboCup U.S. Open in 2004 and 2005, placed first in the category of Autonomy in 2005 and 2006, and first in Mobility in 2005. Lewis' work has led to the development of a high fidelity simulator that allows many different types of robotic platforms to be simulated and controlled.

The simulator has been adopted as the basis for a Robocup search and rescue competition and is now available on Sourceforge from where it has been



downloaded more than 3,000 times over the past nine months.

Earlier this year Lewis was part of a team that won a Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative award to study “Cognition and Collaboration in Network Centric Operations: Understanding and Measuring Macro Recognition in Teams.” He mentors four PhD candidates and teaches classes in Interactive Systems Design and Human Factors.

Department chair retires

With a career that began in Baltimore’s Enoch Pratt Free Library and took her to Wales and Boston before earning a PhD at SIS, the chair of the Department of Library and Information Science retired in June. Margaret Mary Kimmel retired after 28 years of educating library and children’s literature professionals. She will continue to teach at SIS, which has a long history of creating leaders in children’s literature — educators such as Frances Jenkins Olcott, Elva Smith, Elizabeth Nesbitt, and Margaret Hodges told stories, inspired students, and contributed to both the professional literature and children’s books.



Throughout her career, Kimmel made her mark on the library profession. In addition to serving twice as LIS chair, she is a past president of the United States National Section of the International Board of Books for Young People, and was a member of the advisory board and chair of the Board of Directors of Beginning with Books, president of the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association) and recipient of that organization’s Distinguished Service Award, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Kimmel was awarded an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters by Seton Hill College and Carlow College named her a Woman of Spirit in 2000, the same year she was recognized as a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania. She received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Service Award in 1996 from Pitt and the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh honored her in 2002 as “A Special Friend to Children.”

In addition to being a library professional, Kimmel is an excellent teacher. She has taught Understanding Information, Resources for Children, History of Children’s Literature, and Storytelling, one of the most popular courses offered in the SIS curriculum.

She was the series editor for Golden Triangle Books, a series of children’s books set in Pennsylvania, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Her love of story — and of children — led to her involvement in the powerful and enduring television show, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”. Kimmel was a consultant to this landmark television program, appeared on the program to tell a story to Mr. Rogers and Mr. McFeeley, and edited a book with Mark Collins about the program and its host, *Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood: Children, Television and Fred Rogers*.

Kimmel’s colleagues, friends, and family recognized her 28 years of service with contributions to the Margaret Hodges Scholarship Fund at the School of Information Sciences. More than \$5,000 was donated to the fund in honor of Kimmel, funds that will support a SIS graduate student who demonstrates high academic achievement and an interest in working with children in a public library setting.

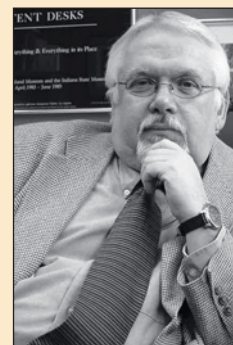
Cox receives writing award

A member of the SIS faculty has been honored with the Society of American Archivists’ 2005 Waldo Gifford Leland

Award for writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice. Richard Cox was recognized for *No Innocent Deposits: Forming Archives by Rethinking Appraisal*, published by Scarecrow Press, Inc. in 2004. The prestigious award, established in 1959, is named for one of North America’s archival pioneers and SAA’s second president.

The SAA notes that the book “makes an important and valuable contribution to the topics of appraisal and acquisitions. Rather than offering a basic primer or ‘how-to’ guide, it presents a much needed, and more

thoughtful, analysis of the issues surrounding these two critically important archival enterprises.” In *No Innocent Deposits*, Cox suggests that archives do



not just happen, but are consciously shaped (and sometimes distorted) by archivists, the creators of records, and other individuals and institutions. This collection of essays offers insights into the fundamentals and consequences of appraisal.

This is the third time Cox has received the Waldo Gifford Leland Award. He was similarly recognized for his monograph, *Managing Records for Evidence and Information* (Greenwood Press, 2001) and *American Archival Analysis: The Recent Development of the Archival Profession in the United States* (Scarecrow Press, 1990). Prior to joining Pitt, Cox worked with the New York State Archives and Records Administration, the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the City of Baltimore, and the Maryland



Historical Society. He currently serves as editor of the *Records & Information Management* journal and publications editor for the Society of American Archivists.

Margaret M. Hodges, 1911–2005

An award-winning children's author, SIS faculty member, and story teller died late last year at age 94.

Professor Emerita Margaret Hodges



was a faculty member in the Dept. of Library and Information Science from 1964 until her retirement in 1976. She was instrumental in developing the

Elizabeth Nesbitt Room in the School of Information Sciences Library, which now contains more than 14,000 rare and historically important children's books. She earned an MLS in 1958 from the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), where she took courses with Elizabeth Nesbitt.

Hodges' library career began when she volunteered to work at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. She adapted and told Arthurian legends, and wrote scripts for a radio program called "The Children's Bookshelf." In 1953 she began a radio program called "Let's Tell a Story." In 1964, the radio program became "Tell Me a Story", a nationally broadcast television program from Pittsburgh's WQED-TV and it was here that Hodges met Fred Rogers, then also beginning a career in television. Their friendship lasted until Rogers' death in 2003.

She worked as a children's literature specialist and storyteller at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh until 1964. The School of Library Science had by this time become part of the University of Pittsburgh, and Dean

Harold Lancour asked Hodges to teach a course in storytelling. She taught graduate courses on literature for children, the history of children's literature, and storytelling, all historical strengths in the SIS master's degree program. She was also an advisor to many who became children's librarians. Upon her retirement in 1976 she was honored by SIS with its

Distinguished Alumna Award. Students from one of her last classes in storytelling formed a group known as "Storytellers Unlimited," a group which lasted nearly 20 years.

Margaret Hodges' career as a writer began with *One Little Drum* published by Follett Publishing Company in 1958, followed by novels and children's

SIS faculty to edit new journals

Shulman — *Information Technology & Politics*

A new journal will focus on how information technology is changing politics, a topic "not typically well represented by scholarly articles in leading political science journals," according to Stuart Shulman, who was recently named editor of the *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* (JITP).

He is an assistant professor at SIS with a joint appointment in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The inaugural issue is slated for Fall 2007.

"We'd like to establish a top-tier interdisciplinary journal, one that brings social scientists together with information and computer scientists in emergent research areas," Shulman said. "For example, JITP might feature a special issue on political blogs with an emphasis on the possibility of new, large-scale, IT-enhanced data collection, analysis, and visualization. It's unlikely you'll find such a topic in any but a few of the other social science journals," he said. Shulman is also the director of the Qualitative Data Analysis Program in Pitt's University Center for Social and Urban Research.

The new journal will be published by Haworth Press, which is affiliated with the American Political Science Association. The website for JITP is www.jitp.net.



Karimi — *Location Based Services*

A SIS faculty member will be an associate editor of the *Journal of Location Based Services*, a new journal that will focus on networked mobile devices that provide location-based services. Hassan Karimi, a SIS associate professor, conducts research in geospatial information systems, mobile computing, and in-car navigation, among other topics.

Articles in the journal will span the field from location-based computing and next-generation interfaces through telecom location architectures to business models and the social implications of this technology. The journal's diverse content will echo the extended nature of the chain of players required to make location-based services a reality. The first issue of the journal is expected in 2007.



books based on her own experiences and those of her sons. She and her husband loved to travel and many of her books reflect visits to special places, especially their summers in England. Travel, folklore, mythology and history became the focus of many of her books. In 1985, *St. George and the Dragon*, written by Hodges and illustrated by the late Trina Schart Hyman, won the American Library Association's prestigious Caldecott Medal, given for "the most distinguished American picture book for children published in English in the United States during the preceding year." One of her most recent works was *Merlin and the Making of the King*, also illustrated by Hyman.

Margaret Hodges is survived by her three sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Contributions in her honor may be made to the Margaret Hodges Scholarship Fund, School of Information Sciences, 135 North Bellefield, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

Ireland honors Brusilovsky

The Science Foundation Ireland awarded a four-month fellowship to a SIS associate professor earlier this year. Peter Brusilovsky received the E.T.S. Walton Visitor Award, which supports "highly qualified academic researchers (from outside Ireland) to carry out research projects of their own choice in Ireland." He was hosted by the National College of Ireland and Trinity College, both in Dublin.

The award enabled him to work on a research project, "Adaptive Systems for Web-Based Education: Architectures and Evaluation." In addition, Brusilovsky directed a summer program on personalized E-learning.

The award was created to honor the legacy of E.T.S. Walton, Ireland's 1951 Nobel Laureate in physics. The program,



which annually supports five or six researchers, brings international investigators from academia and industry to Ireland to strengthen the country's connections to the research community. Brusilovsky has also been the recipient of the James S. McDowell Fellowship (U.S.), the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (Germany), and the Royal Society Ex-Quota Fellowship (UK).

Richey honored by PA Library Association

The director of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library received the Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Library Association at its annual conference late last year. The award to Cynthia K. Richey is the highest honor the association gives and is awarded annually to "one person in recognition of exceptional meritorious service to libraries of the Commonwealth."

Richey received her BA in 1971 and MLS in 1972 from SIS.

The Association cited Richey as "one of our state's most creative, articulate, and dedicated library leaders [who has] consistently demonstrated visionary leadership and tireless energy, hallmarks of excellent library service." As a children's services advocate, she has written articles and other publications, and served on numerous state and national committees. In 2004 she served as national president of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

She is widely regarded as a knowledgeable and articulate spokeswoman on responsible Internet use and developing policies for children's access. Her work is referenced in legal publications, on numerous web sites, and in ALA's online publication, "Children and the Internet: Policies that Work."

Richey was president of the Pennsylvania Library Association in 1994, and in 1997 and 1998 served on the committee that



developed and promoted PaLA's Platform for Twenty-First Century Libraries, the funding model and template for improved library services in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Library Association further cited Richey for her passion for literacy that she shares so broadly for the benefit of thousands of children and adults alike, and for her outstanding contributions to Pennsylvania libraries. She has been a librarian for 34 years.

SIS grad students honored

Two MLIS graduate students have been recognized for their academic excellence.

Justin Bonfiglio, who is in the Preservation Management specialization, was awarded the Image Permanence Institute (IPI) internship in preservation research. Offered by IPI in cooperation with the Association of Moving Image Archivists, this three-month paid internship provides students with experience at IPI. The competitive internship program will allow Bonfiglio to gain invaluable practical experience in preservation research.

Ben Blake, who is in the Archival Studies specialization, was honored by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) with the 2006 Theodore Calvin Pease Award for his student paper, "A Call for a New American Labor Archives: History, Theory, Methodology and Practice." SAA reviewers noted that his paper was "a thoughtful, well-written study that grounds the development of labor archives in the context of the archival progression." Blake's paper calls for labor archives to create knowledge management partnerships with labor unions.

In addition to a certificate and cash prize, the paper will be published in a forthcoming edition of *American Archivist*, a peer-reviewed journal published by SAA. Blake recently accepted a position as an archivist at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Del.

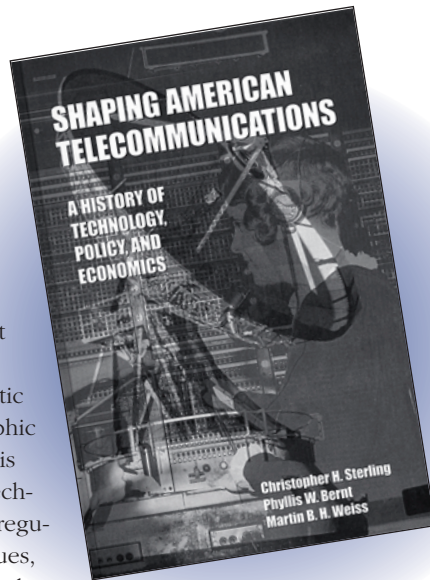


Weiss co-authors telecom history

A recently-published book examines the telecommunications industry from the invention of the telegraph and telephone through the introduction of cable and the Internet to the meltdown of the industry in the 2000s. *Shaping American Telecommunications* was written by Christopher H. Sterling, Phyllis W. Bernt, and Martin B.H. Weiss, SIS associate dean for academic affairs and research. Sterling has taught at George Washington University and was on the staff of the Federal Communications Commission, while Bernt is a professor of communication systems management at Ohio University.

The book takes a comprehensive, chronological look at an industry that has survived both dramatic growth and catastrophic decline. Weiss and his co-authors look at technological advances, regulatory and policy issues, and economic forces that have shaped the telecommunications industry. They explain the basic technical and regulatory principles that shaped the telecommunications field so that the following tumultuous decades of boom and bust are understandable. The authors consider all the elements that contributed to events such as the 1949 antitrust suit against AT&T, the breakup of Bell Telephone, mergers between telecommunications firms and cable companies, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the dramatic drop in Internet and telecom stocks in March 2000 that initiated the meltdown of the telecommunications industry.

Shaping American Telecommunications was published by Lawrence Erlbaum and Associates, and was a decade-long effort by the authors, all of whom have extensive experience in the telecommunications industry. The book chronicles the events and advancements that occurred throughout telecom history and considers the technological, policy, regulatory, and economic developments that have defined the telecommunications field.



Telecom faculty publish fundamentals book

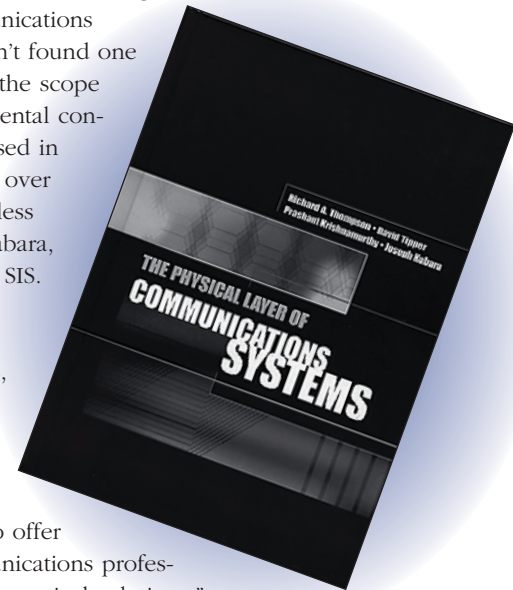
Four members of the SIS faculty have written a textbook on the fundamental principles of telecommunications. *The Physical Layer of Communications Systems*, written by Richard Thompson, David Tipper, Prashant Krishnamurthy, and Joseph Kabara, was published in March 2006 by Artech House Publishers. The book is aimed at both students and practitioners in the telecommunications industry.

"The four of us have been teaching the principal telecommunications courses at SIS and haven't found one textbook that examines the scope of technologies, fundamental concepts, and techniques used in transmitting information over wired, optical, and wireless networks," explained Kabara, an assistant professor at SIS. "Students in our courses would have to purchase three or more textbooks, some of which covered theory, while others were handbooks on practical techniques.

This book is intended to offer students and telecommunications professionals both theory and practical solutions."

Emphasizing systems and architecture, the book examines in detail the physical layer as well as the physical media and processes that underlie it. Students and telecommunications professionals can review the fundamentals of electricity, electronics (including transistors and amplifiers), and digital circuits and systems. The authors discuss the theoretical underpinnings of spectral analysis, random signals, and information theory including Shannon's Model and capacity. Readers will have the opportunity to gain practical understanding of how different types of signals are transmitted, the various forms of transmission media (i.e., optical and wireless), and techniques such as modulation and multiplexing to make maximum use of physical media. Individual chapters include exercises to further demonstrate techniques and theory.

In addition to their research and teaching, the book was a major focus of the authors for more than five years. Although it was initially intended only for students in SIS telecommunications courses, the final product is a reference for students, faculty, and industry professionals. Thompson is a professor and chair of the Telecommunications Program, Tipper and Krishnamurthy are associate professors, and Kabara is an assistant professor.



Author celebrates Pittsburgh bridges

The author of a hit book about Pittsburgh's legendary stairs has now turned his attention to the city's bridges. Bob Regan again used geographic information systems (GIS) to help produce a book about a signature feature of Pittsburgh. *The Bridges of Pittsburgh* is a 182-page celebration of the 446 bridges within Pittsburgh and offers 150 contemporary and historical photos, 10 self-guided tours, and a detailed list of all bridges in the city. Regan is a visiting research professor at the Visual Information Systems Center at SIS.

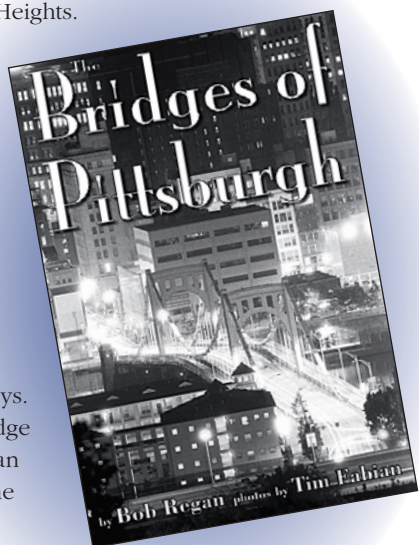
Regan said his favorite bridge is the Wilksboro foot bridge in Brighton Heights.

"It's a spectacular bridge across a beautiful ravine, with wonderful iron lattice-work supporting it." He will now turn his attention to bridges in Philadelphia. An Associated Press story about the bridges book caught the attention of two Philadelphia attorneys. These self-described bridge fanatics have asked Regan to write a book about the bridges in their city.

Published by the Local History Company, the book covers the history and types of bridges, pioneers in their design and construction, and tours for walkers, drivers, cyclists, and boaters. The book includes a chapter on unique Pittsburgh bridges, including the underground bridge that lies undisturbed under the Mary Schenley Fountain at the University of Pittsburgh's Frick Fine Arts Building; the Bridge of Sighs, designed by H. H. Richardson, which connects the old county jail to the county courthouse, and a bridge in a building — *inside* the US Steel building — that carries light rail traffic.

Earlier estimates placed the number of Pittsburgh bridges at about 400, but with 446 documented, the author claims that Pittsburgh deserves the title of "The City of Bridges," traditionally bestowed upon Venice, Italy (which boasts about 400 bridges).

This is the second book by Regan and photographer Tim Fabian. In 2004 the pair collaborated on *The Steps of Pittsburgh: Portrait of a City* (see *SIS Link*, Dec. 2004), now in its fourth



Bob Regan (left) and Tim Fabian

printing. Regan says that he didn't intend to write a book about steps, but simply wanted to map them all. His fascination with Pittsburgh's steps grew as mapping progressed, and the project evolved into a book. As with the previous book, GIS technology was used to locate and plot the landmark bridges. The book's release was timed to coincide with the opening of the annual International Bridge Engineering Conference in Pittsburgh.

Regan has recently finished the manuscript for a third book, *The Names of Pittsburgh*, which covers the origin of street names, neighborhoods, sports teams, universities, and other icons.

Virtual museums book

A SIS graduate and visiting lecturer has guest-edited a book about virtual museums. Bernadette Callery was also a contributor to *Collaborative Access to Virtual Museum Collection Information: Seeing Through the Walls*, published by Haworth Press, which was also issued as Vol. 7(1) of the *Journal of Internet Cataloging*. Callery received a PhD in 2002 from SIS where she is a visiting lecturer, teaching the Museum Archives course and team teaching History of Books, Printing and Publishing with Rhonda Clark.

The articles in this collection discuss several collaborative projects such as the Experience Music Project, Ohio Memory, King County Snapshots, and creation of virtual tours of objects in the National Museum of the American Indians' exhibit entitled Our Universes by students representing various tribal groups. In addition, other articles cover Chinese collections in museums on the Web and identification of sensitive data in natural history museum online catalogs. Virtual museums provide an opportunity to spark learning through online access to multi-sensory information, and collaboration among researchers is needed to efficiently and effectively catalog and present material.

Collaborative Access to Virtual Museum Collection Information explores the challenges of online access to the world of virtual museum collections, from identification and selection of objects to be included to providing online access using common terminology. Future possibilities and problems are fully detailed, including the need for fixed metadata, descriptive standards, and negotiated compromise. Solutions to difficult issues are provided to allow successful development of collaborative virtual museum projects of all types.

Callery earned a BA in English from Seton Hill College in 1969, an MA in library science from the University of Chicago in 1971, and twice attended the Rare Book School at Columbia University during the 1990s.





Five new MLIS Spectrum Scholars

Five new Spectrum Scholars began their MLIS studies in September. The American Library Association awarded 69 scholarships as part of the 2006-2007 Spectrum program, and since the program's inception in 1997, SIS has enrolled 19 Spectrum Scholars. This year's cohort will bring the total to 24. The new students are, from left, Brenda Salem, Christina Patton, Rachel Masilamani, Lareese Hall, and Sarah Eng. For more information about the Spectrum Scholarship Program, please visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/spectrum/spectrum.htm>

New fellowships for 10 LIS doctoral students

The School of Information Sciences and the American Library Association have created a new program for library and information science doctoral students. The Spectrum Doctoral Fellowships, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), will provide full tuition support and stipends of \$20,000 each year to 10 full-time library and information science (LIS) doctoral students for all four years of study at any of the 10 participating institutions. Toni Carbo, a professor in the Information Science program, will direct the fellowship program.

The Spectrum Doctoral Fellowships are open to applicants of American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander heritage who are American citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.

The Fellowship builds on the success of the ALA Spectrum scholarship program for master's students, which began in 1997 and has since provided financial support to 415 individuals pursuing LIS master's degrees or school media certification.

Now approaching its 10-year anniversary, the program has become one of the profession's most significant diversity and recruitment driving forces. SIS has been very successful at attracting Spectrum students, enrolling 24 Spectrum Scholars since the inception of the program. Doctoral applicants need not have received a Spectrum master's-level scholarship to apply for a doctoral fellowship.

Other participating institutions in addition to the University of Pittsburgh include the University of Arizona, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Michigan, Rutgers University, Simmons College, Syracuse University, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Texas at Austin, and University of Wisconsin at Madison.

"This represents a new era for Spectrum. Our hope is that the doctoral fellowship will have the same impact on LIS education and executive-level management that the master's degree scholarship has had on the field at large," said ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels. One of the doctoral fellowships will be awarded to an applicant interested in pursuing executive level library management, and will be named in honor of Elizabeth Martinez, Spectrum founder and ALA executive director from 1994 to 1997.

Applications are now being accepted. The due date for receipt of all materials is January 12, 2007. Applicants must also apply for admission to and be accepted by one or more of the 10 participating Library and Information Science programs. Spectrum doctoral fellows are expected to be announced on or before March 15, and to begin studies in the Fall of 2007.

To underscore the fellowship program's emphasis on leadership, following their first semester, the fellows will have their expenses paid to attend the E.J. Josey Doctoral Leadership Institute, named for a University of Pittsburgh professor emeritus and one of the profession's staunchest diversity advocates. The institute will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association for Library and Information Science Education.

Carbo, who also holds a joint appointment in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, said she is proud to be part of this groundbreaking initiative, which builds upon her life-long commitment to address inequities in society. "In particular, this program will provide educational and research opportunities for individuals from under-represented groups who might otherwise find it difficult to undertake doctoral studies."

Further information and application procedures for the program are available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/spectrum/phdfellowship/phd.htm>



Technology education for high school students

Drawing on the struggles that she faced as an African-American high school student who was interested in technology, Tonya Groover decided to make a difference. The 21-year-old senior in computer science founded the Technology Leadership Institute (TLI), a six-week summer program for teens from Pittsburgh-area high schools.

With faculty from Computer Science, Mathematics, and Telecommunications, including SIS assistant professor Joe Kabara, 24 students completed the program. In addition, TLI



Tonya Groover, the first recipient of a grant from the Moyé Information Technology Initiative, used the funding to develop the TLI concept. Alfred Moyé has a long and distinguished history with Pitt, including associate professor of chemistry, dean of students, and vice chancellor for student affairs. He also served in the Carter administration and was director of university relationships for Hewlett-Packard. He is member of the University's Board of Trustees, as well as a member of the Board of Visitors for both SIS and the School of Arts and Sciences.

was staffed by two graduate students, four undergraduates, and one part-time instructor, including a graduate assistant from the Telecommunications program who disassembled a computer in the Tele networking labs while explaining the parts and technology. Working in small groups, the TLI students then assembled their own computers, installed the operating systems, and then networked the computers.

Groover recruited students using churches, community organizations, and community leaders, as well as high schools. She anticipates that the

program will be offered again next summer, and because 80 percent of the students were in the ninth or tenth grades, expects many to return for more advanced work. "For most students," she said, "this was their first college experience, and it was a unique opportunity to learn about computers and technology. They enjoyed being around other like-minded students." The application process involved submitting a high school transcript, recommendations, and essays. The acceptance rate was about 60 percent.

Groover presented a paper about the Technology Leadership Institute at the 2006 Frontiers in Education Conference in San Diego. The annual conference promotes the widespread dissemination of innovations that improve computer science, engineering, and technology education. Her paper was co-authored by Kabara and Andrew Falk, director of corporate and foundation relations for the School of Arts and Sciences.

Continued from page 1

MLIS program re-accredited

The ALA has accredited institutions of higher education since 1924. Every seven years, MLIS programs submit exhaustive reports to the COA describing and evaluating the mission and goals, curriculum, faculty, admission and recruitment policies, facilities, administration, and financial support of the degree program. After reviewing the submitted materials, an External Review Committee conducts a site visit and evaluates the program against the Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies. ALA accredits 61 programs at 56 institutions in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

According to the ALA, accreditation is a voluntary, non-governmental, and collegial process of self-review and peer review with two goals — to ensure that post-secondary educational institutions and programs meet appropriate standards of quality and integrity; and to improve the quality of education that such institutions offer. This process assures the public that individuals who have graduated from accredited schools or programs have received a quality education. It also certifies that accredited programs meet the standards of the profession. The ALA says that "accreditation indicates that a program demonstrates a commitment to quality and that the program seeks to continue that commitment."

"This process is instrumental in providing a quality educational experience for students," said Larsen. "It requires us to critically examine our own program to ensure that we're meeting our missions and goals. It also provides an objective external review of program policies and particulars. In addition to our own evaluation processes that are undertaken on a regular basis, we now have an opportunity to measure the successes of the MLIS degree program on a national level."

The School of Information Sciences (SIS) at the University of Pittsburgh is one of the nation's pioneering schools in the education of information professionals, with a history that reaches back more than 100 years. Throughout that century, the School has built and maintained a tradition of excellence and innovation in education, research, and professional activities pertaining to the information sciences.



Carlos E Caicedo Bastidas, a PhD candidate in Telecommunications, with a robot from the ULab during i-fest 2006. ULab is a SIS academic research team primarily focused on usability engineering.

NSF awards \$1 million to SIS for SAIS scholarships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently approved a \$1 million scholarship program for the Security Assured Information Systems (SAIS) track at the School of Information Sciences. Over a period of four years, the program will support three cohorts of four graduate students in their pursuit of MS and PhD degrees in Information Science or Telecommunications with the SAIS track option. The proposal team was led by James B. D. Joshi, an assistant professor in the Information Science program.

Scholarship recipients will benefit from a multi-disciplinary educational environment combined with the high quality information assurance (IA) curriculum at SIS, which is one of only 12 in the entire nation to receive certification in all five national IA educational standards set by the Committee on National Systems Security. Additionally, the scholarship program emphasizes a “user-friendly” environment where students/recipients are assured of a diverse cross section of students, a supportive mentoring network, and opportunities to engage in University-wide programs for professional development. More specifically, the scholarship program seeks to address the growing need for a workforce trained in the development, design, and implementation of secure information systems. Graduates of the SAIS tracks in Information Science and Telecommunications will be qualified to manage the security of large networks and infrastructures.

On a broader, social level, the scholarship program will emphasize the recruitment of under-represented groups in IA through its relationships with minority post-secondary institutions, thus ensuring a more diverse and wide-ranging pool of qualified IA professionals to serve the global community in its quest to protect cyberspace.

WISE consortium receives IMLS grant

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded \$936,000 to the Web-based Information Science Education (WISE) consortium, of which SIS is a member (see *SIS Link* 3, August 2005). WISE was created as an online course-sharing opportunity for masters programs in Library and Information Science. To date, the program has offered 117 online courses from 13 ALA-accredited programs. The grant from IMLS will be used to support WISE+, Leveraging the Power of the Network to Increase the Diversity of LIS Curriculum.

WISE+ will support partnerships between WISE member schools and professional library associations to increase the course offerings available to both graduate students and librarians who seek educational offerings in diverse or specialized areas of study. The partner associations include the American Association of Law Libraries, American Theological Library Association, Art Libraries Society of North America, American Library Association, Council on Library and Information Resources, Federal Library and Information Center Committee, Medical Library Association, Middle Eastern Library Association, Music Library Association, PALINET, ProLiteracy Worldwide, Reference and User Services Association, Society of American Archivists, and Urban Libraries Council.

The grant will also provide support and training for education in online pedagogy for faculty and doctoral students who teach WISE courses. The consortium will create a ‘WISE Scholar’ program to provide certification for pedagogical training in online teaching.

WISE+ will also create a digital repository for WISE-supported courses, an effort which will be led by SIS faculty members Chris Tomer and Sue Alman.

For more information about WISE and WISE+, please visit www.wiseeducation.org

New digital libraries track in MLIS program

Digital libraries are one of the most rapidly expanding fields and career opportunities are increasing exponentially. The Digital Libraries track in the MLIS program will prepare future information specialists to design, develop, and manage digital repositories. The 36-credits can be completed within one year and will focus on content development, information management, and digital library design and development. This new specialization reflects the multi-disciplinary strength of SIS as it offers courses from both the Library and Information Science and Information Science programs. This balanced mix of coursework will provide the skills needed in technology, information organization principles, and end-user needs essential for success in the digital libraries field.

Students interested in the Digital Libraries track should have successfully completed undergraduate courses in algebra or trigonometry, introductory logic, statistical analysis, and introductory programming. Courses in this MLIS track will include:

- Understanding and Organizing Information
- Information Architecture
- Digital Libraries

- Database Management
- Information Storage and Retrieval
- Web Technologies and Standards
- Managing Libraries and Information Services
- Knowledge Representation and the Semantic Web
- Web Engineering.

This one-year program will enable graduates to lead the development and management of digital repositories in academia, industry, and government agencies. Students will gain the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for digital management positions. As with any emerging field, position titles are in flux but may include, among many others, Digital Initiatives Librarian (Coordinator or Manager), Digital Project Manager, Director of Digital Library Development, Director of Digital Library Initiatives, Head of Digital Project Department, or Digital Technologies Development Librarian.

For further information, contact either Chris Tomer (ctomer@mail.sis.pitt.edu) or Peter Brusilovsky (peterb@mail.sis.pitt.edu).



Industry Advisory Council discusses resurgence of IT

Keeping abreast of the latest industry developments is an important element of the SIS goal to maintain dynamic programs. The School's Industry Advisory Council (IAC) provides a strategic touchstone in the continuous process of refining degree programs, research, and marketing, as well as strengthening relationships with corporate partners.

Established in 2004, the most recent IAC meeting in April focused on the resurgence of IT, from which a current corporate perspective of IAC members emerged. "We value member perception so that we can understand the needs of the corporate community. They are an important sounding board so that we keep up with trends in the IT business community," said Bob Perkoski, director of the BSIS program. IAC representatives noted that outsourced jobs still tend to be low-level programmers, help desk workers, and accounting staff; however, the SIS curriculum offers higher-level marketable skills in networking, security, and databases. According to IAC members, these skills allow SIS grads to attain upper level careers in the U.S.

The IAC includes representatives from IBM, Mellon Financial, Microsoft, Dell, Alcoa, Cisco Systems, Marconi Corp., PPG Industries, FedEx Ground, and North Pittsburgh Telephone Company.



i-fest 2006 poster winners

PhD Track

First Prize

Pratibha Menon

Overflow Networks for Optical Capacity Management

Second Prizes (tie)

Maria Harrington

Simulated Ecological Environments for Education

Chih-Kuang Lin

Efficient Access Control for Data Intensive Sensor Network
(with Vladimir Zadorozhny and Prashant Krishnamurthy)

Honorable Mentions

Demetrios Ioannides

The Morsoplexis Framework

Jae-wook Ahn and Sue Yeon Syn

YourNews: A Personalized News Filtering System
(with Peter Brusilovsky)

Worasiit Choochaiwattana

A Heuristic Access Rule-Based Approach to Automatic Web Image Analysis for the Semantic Web (with Michael B. Spring)

Non-PhD Track

First Prize

Heather Yager and Daniel Saniski

Cultivating the Database: Natural Language Processing of Fruit Production Guides by Human Hands

Second Prize

David Kauffman

Using Metadata to Design and Structure State Education Reporting

Honorable Mention

Jeff Pferdehirt

The Use of Virtual Avatars to Facilitate Knowledge Transfer

First two students elected to SIS Council

The first two students elected to the SIS Council are each working on their third academic degrees in anticipation of launching their second, third, or fourth careers, depending on who does the counting.

Sara Gillespie, a self-described 'army brat', never lived anywhere for more than two years, and had the opportunity to live all over the U.S. and Europe. Before moving to Pittsburgh, she worked as a developmental editor for a large publishing company in Boston. Gillespie majored in English at the College of Holy Cross and also received an M.A. in English language and literature from the University of Chicago. Currently in her first semester at Pitt, she is pursuing an MLIS, and hopes to work as either a public or academic reference librarian.

Gillespie ran for SIS Council to become more involved with the school and get to know more of the issues that concern the faculty and administration.

Leah Lindemann grew up in Louisville and received a B.A. in math and an M.S. in secondary math education from the

University of Kentucky. She worked in Washington, D.C. for Habitat for Humanity with Americorps, and was then a software trainer on Capitol Hill. She taught math at a girls boarding school in Northern Virginia before she and her husband decided to escape the high cost of living in the D.C. area and move to Pittsburgh, a location half-way between their families. Lindemann decided to enter the MLIS program because she wants to stay in the high school environment, but have contact with students in a broader range of subjects than just math.

Lindemann decided to run for SIS Council because she is interested in the behind-the-scenes operation of SIS and how students can become part of the decision-making process.



Sara Gillespie (left) and Leah Lindemann



First i-Schools meeting

The School of Information Sciences was well-represented at the first conference of the i-School community: *Bridging Disciplines to Confront Grand Challenges*. The conference, held last fall at Penn State, was designed to celebrate the i-School community, explore and develop the essentials of the information field, address challenges facing i-Schools, and discuss the i-School identity.

This conference was hosted by a consortium of information schools, and is part of their long-term strategy to build brand identity and foster collaborative efforts across the country. SIS is a founding member of the consortium.

Many SIS faculty and staff presented papers at the conference:

- Anthony Debons, *Essentials for an Educational Program in Information Science and Technology*
- Peter Brusilovsky, *From Information Retrieval to Information Access: A User-Centered View and an Agenda for i-Schools*
- Toni Carbo, *Information Ethics: A Fundamental Building Block of the Field of Information*

- Ellen Gay Detlefsen, *Understanding the Anatomy of i-School and Medical School Cooperation*
 - Stephen Hirtle, *I-dentity: Is it the i-forest or the i-trees?*
 - Terrance R. Kizina, *Grand Challenges Facing Enrollments*
 - Ronald L. Larsen, *Centripetal or Centrifugal Forces at Play? Challenges in the Education of Information Professionals*
 - Glenn L. Ray, *Web Services in the i-School Curriculum*
 - Ken Sochats, *Who Are We?*
 - Richard Thompson, *Telecommunications as an i-School Discipline*
- Students from SIS featured in the graduate student poster session included:

- Julian Aiken, *Framing a Digital Community: The Creation and Publication of Digital Watch*
- Mary Jo Dorsey, *Investigating Information Seeking Behaviors of Primary Care Physicians Who Take Care of Older Depressed Patients and their Family Caregivers*
- Div Sharma, *Whirlpool: Efficient Querying Wireless Sensor Networks for Non-Intrusive Structural Monitoring*

Recent SIS grads and alumni use Pitt career network

SIS graduates are among the alumni using the Pitt Career Network (PCN) to further their careers. PCN is an online directory of students and alumni with information about their careers and professional experience. So far 2,647 alumni have signed up, of which 154 are SIS grads. It's a free service for alumni and students seeking career-related contacts, insight, and advice — not an employment service or a job board, but rather a networking tool.

Young alumni can interact with more experienced alumni, and for those considering a change in career path, PCN can provide helpful connections. Even well-established alumni can benefit by using the network to engage peers. All graduates can register and create profiles. PCN is a partnership between Career Services and the Pitt Alumni Association. For more information or to join, go to www.alumni.pitt.edu/networking/



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