Q u o t a b l e ...

“It just concerns me that we may have to wait quite a while to understand or recognize the extent of these losses if they exist, and this is very core historical documentation that’s going to be very difficult to recover or compensate from some other kinds of sources.”

— Associate Professor Margaret Hedstrom

Appearing on BBC Radio, discussing the challenge archivists share in preserving “born digital” government records in an era when secrecy makes it difficult to know if there’s a paper trail or even if the records ever existed.

N o t a b l e ...

Alumna in Race for ALA President

Christine Lind Hage (AMLS ’71), director of the Clinton-Macomb (Michigan) Public Library, is a candidate for the American Library Association (ALA) presidency for 2006-07.

“The constant change we experience in our profession provides us with many challenges and opportunities,” Hage says. She plans to champion literacy, equity of access, lifelong learning, and advocacy. “My campaign will focus on ALA’s goal of 21st century literacy.”

Hage, an ALA member since 1971, is a past president of the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of ALA. She is a member of the PLA Board of Directors, serves as the PLA division representative to the ALA Council, and chairs the PLA Awards Committee. She also serves on numerous ALA committees.

Hage was director of the Rochester Hills (Michigan) Public Library from 1988-99 and the Shelby Township (Michigan) Public Library from 1977-81. In 1997, Hage was Michigan Librarian of the Year.

“My campaign welcomes any suggestions, insight, and strategies for accomplishing the important work of ALA as we strive to represent the full spectrum of ALA’s membership,” she says.

ALA members, current as of January 31, will vote on the spring ballot. The candidates elected will serve as ALA vice president/president-elect for 2005-06 and as president the following year. To learn more about Hage’s campaign and how you can get involved, send E-mail to christine@cmpl.org.

SI Influential in CHI Academy Includes Three from Faculty

Faculty in the School of Information’s Human-Computer Interaction specialization have set a standard that no similar program has matched.

Professors George Furnas, Judy Olson, and Gary Olson are all members of the CHI Academy. They compose the largest group of members from a single HCI program anywhere.

The CHI Academy honors individuals who have made substantial contributions to the field of human-computer interaction. Members are the principal leaders of the field, whose efforts have shaped the disciplines and led the research. Selection criteria are cumulative contributions to the field, influence on the work of others, and development of new research directions. The Special Interest Group for Computer-Human Interaction of the Association for Computing Machinery oversees the CHI Academy.

Furnas, professor and associate dean for academic strategy, was the latest SI faculty member to join the academy and one of seven nationally to be inducted this year.

Judy Olson is Richard W. Pew Collegiate Professor of Human-Computer Interaction and Gary Olson is Paul M. Fitsch Collegiate Professor of Human-Computer Interaction and associate dean for research.

The selections reflect well on the master’s-level HCI program at SI and recognize the School’s influence on computer-supported cooperative work (CSCW) in general and the Collaboratory for Research on Electronic Work (CREW). CREW is among the most distinguished research projects of its kind and is supported by both federal and private research dollars.

Thomas Finholt, research associate professor and CREW director, notes that SI’s presence is felt at national conferences. In November, SI faculty and students were scheduled to appear at the annual CSCW Conference, making presentations and serving on organizing committees. Gary Olson was conference cochair and co-chaired the committee that set up the conference presentation panels. Associate Professor Mark Ackerman was a panelist on “Communities and Technologies: An Approach to Foster Social Capital?” and coauthored a paper on “Behind the Help Desk: Evolution of a Knowledge Management System in a Large Organization.”

In addition, Erik Hofer (MSI ’01), a computer systems consultant at SI, chaired a workshop on videoconferencing and Nathan Bos, an assistant research scientist, presented a paper on “In-Groups/Out-Group Effects in Distributed Teams: An Experimental Simulation” with Judy Olson, N. Sadat Shami (MSI ’03), and CREW researchers Arik Cheshin and Ning Nan.

The SI contingent was expected to create a splash with a paper that Finholt, Horn, and doctoral student Jeremy Birnholtz (MSI ’01) wrote. Coauthors were Dheeraj Motwani (MSI ’04) and SI student Swapnaa Jayaraman.

The paper “named names” in its analysis of leading CSCW researchers, as ranked by publications authored and citations to their work by others over 10-year periods. What may have created a stir, however, was the authors’ finding that as collaboration patterns change, the “big names” can drop in the ranking, even though their path-breaking research may still be highly regarded.

Why is This Man Happy? Francis Blouin, professor and director of the Bentley Historical Library, celebrates the opening of the library’s first addition, which more than doubled the space available for long-term storage of archival material. See page 7 for more.
Hans Masing
Living His Life Just Like a Kid in a Toy Store

If Hans Masing were running for Father of the Year, he might be accused of buying votes.

That could happen when you open a toy store — in your own home, no less — with two children underfoot. Masing (MSI ’03) and his wife Patricia opened Brain Station with an eye on making it possible to earn a living while devoting more attention to Keller, 4, and Simone, 2, who were both born while he was finishing his degree in Human-Computer Interaction.

Hans Masing, at the Duderstadt Center on North Campus.

“My wife and I are always tossing around entrepreneurial ideas,” Masing says. Sticker shock from store-bought toys got him thinking about problem most parents face. “I thought for myself, there’s got to be a way to do it cheaper.”

With his background in HCI, the leap to a full-fledged e-commerce site was not daunting. Patricia Masing contacted manufacturers and distributors about the stock they carry — approximately 450 distinct products — while Hans developed the online store, found at www.brain-station.com. “It’s not hard, but you have to know the hoops,” he says.

“We have minimal inventory with a maximum inventory presence,” Masing adds. “Location of the product is less important than connecting a customer to the product.

At the simplest level, yes, we have a toy store because we sell toys, but in reality, what we have is a ‘sell boxes to customers’ store.’

The Masings aim their store at somewhat upscale customers. They’re not trying to sell the lowest-cost products in all cases or compete against the mass market. ‘We’re not into selling GI Joe and Hot Wheels,’ he explains. ‘We’re selling exclusive, very-well-manufactured, highest-quality toys, play structures, and school furniture.’

Brain Station occupies only some of Masing’s time. By day, he works at the U-M in information technology, where he has worked since 1997, and is also an adjunct lecturer at SI, teaching HCI courses.

Masing came to SI along a twisting road. He attended Arizona State University, entered the Marine Corps, enrolled at Penn State University and graduated with a degree in management information systems, and then came to Ann Arbor to work with some start-up firms. In 1997 he began a career at the U-M in information technology and became a part-time student at SI.

“The curriculum at SI fit in well with the work I was doing and the career path I had in mind,” he says. “One of the lessons learned from SI was the importance of working in groups,” he says. Masing knew that the Marines, who have a knack for getting groups to perform, were not the right model in higher education. “As a mid-level manager, I found I became a lot more patient working with groups that were pulled together for short projects,” he observes.

“Don’t be afraid to be fearless, to try anything. SI gives you such broad opportunities for one school.”

Thinking about his varied interests, Masing offers some advice. “I don’t consider failure to be a bad thing. I believe when I finally move on, when I die, I want to have failed at more things than I succeeded at, which will mean that I have tried more things. Don’t be afraid to be fearless, to try anything. SI gives you such broad opportunities for one school.”

All About Us:
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A chievers
Lee Roy Hutchins (AMLS ’65) has retired and is living in Kapaa, Hawaii.

Janet (Kaplan) Nicula (AMLS ’69) is chief of the Library Division of the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia.

Robert Beasecker (AMLS ’70) has been appointed interim dean of University Libraries at Grand Valley State University in Michigan where he is rare books and special collections librarian. Friends may reach him at beasecker@gvsu.edu.

Jeffrey P. Johnson (AMLS ’71) is a self-employed library consultant. He provides strategic planning, district library formation, meeting facilitation, and interim-director services to Michigan public libraries.

Marilyn Groves Royle (AMLS ’80) is director of development for Pfizer Global Research & Development in Ann Arbor.

Maria C. Willmer (AMLS ’86) is a legal research specialist at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago.

Sandy (Shemanski) Palfrey (MILS ’88) writes video reviews for Booklist. She is director of the library media center of the Deerfield (Illinois) School District. Friends may reach her at spalfrey@ds109.org.

Kathleen Downing (MILS ’89) is manager of information services for Edward C. Levy Co. in Dearborn, Michigan.

Alice J. Dayhoff-Miller (MILS ’91) is a school librarian at Emmanuel Christian Academy in Springfield, Ohio. “After being ‘retired’ for 10 years (read married housewife and stay-at-home mom) I am back as a librarian in a K-12 setting,” she writes. “It is a newly built building, fully wired for networking. I have volunteered for the four previous years my child has attended and am finally hired. Am in the process of putting materials we have into an OPAC.”

Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
S. Martin Taylor, Grosse Pointe Farms
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Karen Jordan (AMLS ’75)
Rebecca McGowan, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman, ex officio

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2 • S I @ u m i c h • F a l l 2 0 0 4
Michigan Difference: Make it Alumni Participation in ’04

The most pressing needs of the School of Information are on the minds of the faculty, deans, and students.

As you can imagine, there are a number of important areas for which the School needs support. Two of the most pressing needs are:

• Increasing the number of scholarships to make it possible to recruit more students.

Our competitors offer attractive scholarships that we often cannot match.

• Contributions to the Annual Fund in support of special outreach projects for our students that directly benefit the community.

We know our alumni share a strong commitment to their profession and to today’s students. That is why we are asking each of you to make a gift with the goal of increasing the number of alumni participating in giving to the School.

If we increase the number of alumni contributing to the Annual Fund this year, SI will receive a matching gift of $30,000 from a generous alumna.

Please step forward to meet this challenge. Show your support of the School and its students and increase the value of your contribution through this generous match.

The matching gift will be activated if you contribute to any of the scholarship funds or to the Annual Fund. You may choose to honor or remember someone through a scholarship established in his or her name or you may choose to contribute to the Alumni Society Scholarship, which has grown to be one of the School’s largest funds over the years.

In addition, donors have established some scholarships to fund students interested in specific areas. For example, if you are a school media specialist, you might want to contribute to the Olivia Richman Way Scholarship, established to assist someone pursuing a career in that field. Further information on each of the scholarships is available at si.umich.edu/alumni/named-scholarships.htm.

Many of you are enthusiastic about the popular Alternative Spring Break Program. This past February, we sent students to both New York and Washington, D.C., during spring break.

While in those cities, students worked in a variety of nonprofit organizations. As we face severe budget constraints this year, we look to our alumni and friends for help in continuing this important program.

This past winter semester, it cost approximately $50 a day to support a student in the Alternative Spring Break program. Please think about how your gift will support a student. Perhaps you would like to make a $50 “per day” gift, from anywhere from one to 10 days in support of the 2005 Alternative Spring Break.

As always, we thank you for your support and for all you do to help our students and the information professions. Please see “How to Make a Gift...” at left, for details about how to show your support.

— By Karen Jordan (AML ’75)

iTrack Offers Improvements to Help Alumni in Job Market

How often have you heard the phrase “new and improved” and wondered what was new and what was really improved?

Wonder no more. The School has added new features to iTrack, its online employment recruiting system. And, the improvements make it a much more valuable service for alumni.

ITrack is an important resource for alumni in two ways. For employers looking for employees with the latest skills of the Information Age, it makes it easy for you to find qualified candidates. For alumni seeking a job change, it’s a venue to post your own resume for other employers to view.

Joanna Kroll, assistant director of career services at SI, says iTrack is a sophisticated, effective system to meet employers’ recruiting needs. “The new iTrack goes beyond our previous system. Whether you’re signing up as a new user or coming back to iTrack, you’ll discover many benefits with the enhanced version,” she says.

As a registered employer, you can post jobs and/or internships, view resume books, and search the resume database of students and alumni.

“As a job-seeker, you can search job postings by industry, specific job functions, and geographic location. You can even search for advanced-level positions specifically posted for alumni,” Kroll says. “Alumni can gain increased visibility to more employers by submitting resumes and dropping them into career-specific resume books created in the system.”

ITrack provides one-stop access: to post jobs (at no charge) for SI students and alumni. The positions — part-time, full-time, internships, volunteer, projects, and fellowships — can be entry-level to advanced-level.

For a small charge, employers can post positions to multiple colleges and universities through iTrack.

Users can search and collect resumes by specific criteria that meet their recruiting needs. SI Career Services has created Resume Books to streamline your search. “We can create custom Resume Books on request,” Kroll notes.

In addition, the School of Information invites employers to conduct on-campus interviews with students and/or give presentations at SI as part of their overall recruitment effort.

To get on the iTrack to success, go to si.umich.edu/careers. For more information from Kroll directly, you may write to her at jckroll@umich.edu or call her at (734) 615-8294.

Alumni Support Drives Scholarship Programs

The generosity of alumni and friends of the School of Information supports the following scholarship funds. Details about each scholarship can be found online at si.umich.edu/alumni/named-scholarships.htm.

Thomas E. Alford Scholarship
Alumni Society Scholarship
Wallace and Joyce Bonk Scholarship
Deans Emeriti Scholarship
in Honor of Daniel E. Atkins
Deans Emeriti Scholarship
in Memory of Russell E. Bidlack
Deans Emeriti Scholarship
in Honor of Robert M. Warner
Monা East Scholarship
Virginia J. Ehrlicher Fellowship
Mоris and Iда Fine Scholarship
Gwinn-Cole Family Scholarship
Sharon A. Hogan Scholarship
Karen Horny Scholarship
Roberta Keniston Scholarship
Beth McWilliams Scholarship
Marylouise Meder Scholarship
Professor Miranda Lee Pao Scholarship
ProQuest Company Scholarship
Mary Rollman Scholarship
Joseph Rounds Scholarship
Thomas P. Slavens Scholarship
Kenneth Vance Scholarship
Olivia Richman Way Scholarship

How to Make a Gift...

Alumni can contribute to the School of Information by choosing one of these methods:

• Use the enclosed reply envelope. The University will send you a paper receipt for tax purposes.

• Log on to www.giving.umich.edu/giving. Follow the simple instructions and from the appropriate pull-down choice, select “School of Information” to direct your gift.

By using online giving, you automatically bill your gift to your credit card through a secure Web page. The University will send you a paper receipt of your gift for tax purposes.
On the Job with SI

Internships and Directed Field Experiences keep master’s students busy this past spring and summer, working at sites across the U.S. and into foreign lands.

At the first SI@work exhibition in October, organized by the Office of Academic Outreach and Practical Engagement Programs — headed by Associate Professor Mauricia Holland (AMLS ’66) and Sue Davidson (AMLS ’82) — nearly 70 students displayed posters outlining their work. Mentors, employers, and the University community attended. The impressive projects represented work from all master’s specializations.

Clark Leininger, a student specializing in Information Economics, Management and Policy, worked for Indigo Security in quality assurance. His presentation on “Threats from the Inside: Preventing Assets from Becoming Risks,” outlined what Indigo could do to help businesses — such as financial institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and law firms — prevent loss of intellectual property.

“Indigo’s software prevents sensitive information from leaving the desktop and file-server environment, so it can’t be e-mailed, copied and pasted, printed, or published online, if the user doesn’t have the correct privileges to do so.”

The company’s focus is on protecting information, Leininger says, not on monitoring employees. “It’s a lot less Big Brother-ish and little more information-centric,” he notes.

Words Flow Freely for SI Authors

The word is out. Make that the words are out. SI faculty and alumni are in print. By no means is this an all-inclusive list of published books, but recent additions have included:

Robert Beascoeker (AMLS ’70), interim dean at University Libraries at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, where he is also rare books and special collections librarian, is author of Michigan in the Novel, 1816-1996: An Annotated Bibliography. He also edited a book, “I Hope To Do My Country Service”: The Civil War Letters of John Bennett, M.D., Surgeon, 19th Michigan Infantry, which is scheduled for print soon.


Children’s book author Shutta Crum (AMLS ’79) is retiring on December 1 as youth librarian at the Ann Arbor District Library after more than 24 years. She has written several acclaimed books for children, including Splitting Image, which made the New York Public Library’s list of “100 Books for Reading and Sharing” in 2003, and “VOYA’s Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers.” She also wrote Fox and Fluff, which won an Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award, and her latest book, Bravest of the Brave, is due in January. That effort is dedicated to her Ann Arbor District Library colleagues.

Mary Jo Pugh (AMLS ’69), supervisory archivist for the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, wrote Providing Reference Services for Archives and Manuscripts as part of the Archival Fundamentals Series published by the Society of American Archivists. Her next volume is a work by the same title for the second series, also published by the SAA. “It is dedicated to (Dean Emeritus) Robert M. Warner, teacher, mentor, model,” she notes.

David Kaser (AMLS ’52, Ph.D. ’56) is a distinguished professor emeritus at Indiana University, where he taught in the School of Library and Information Science. His authorship began in 1957 with Messrs. Carey & Lea of Philadelphia and continued until 2000 with the publication of My Adventurous Life as a Hoosier Librarian. In between, he wrote Directory of the St. Louis Book and Printing Trades to 1850; Joseph Charless, Printer in the Western Country; Directory of the Book and Printing Industries in Ante-Bellum Nashville; Book Pirating in Taiwan; A Book for a Sixpence; Books and Libraries in Camp and Battle; and Evolution of the American Academic Library Building. He also coauthored three other books.

Note: Additional faculty and alumni authors will be included in our next issue.
Lectures Available on Web
Missed the great fall lectures in the “Human Connection: Words, Power, and Change in the Bibliotech Age” series? You can listen to them at your convenience through by logging on to si.umich.edu/words and following the links to hear the streaming audio for author Nancy Pearl (AMLS ’67), at right, Rutgers University Professor Carol Kuhlthau, and Deanna Marcum of the Library of Congress. You’ll also find the schedule for the winter semester speakers who will appear in the Alumni Center Founders Room on campus.

Professor Improves Text Summarization

An improved version of the “brain” inside the NewsInEssence multisource news summarization software developed at the School of Information makes it easier for users to create their own summaries of news stories from Web-based news sources.

Assistant Professor Dragomir Radev of the School of Information says that with the addition of LexRank — short for lexical ranking — NewsInEssence (www.newsinessence.com) looks for consensus of facts within documents to build a concise summary. Previously, NewsInEssence summarized documents with a bias toward sentences and phrases in common that were found near the top of a document.

Radev, who holds joint appointments in linguistics and computer science, is an internationally recognized expert in document text summarization. Radev is assisted in his LexRank work by doctoral student Günes Erkan of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The accuracy of LexRank was confirmed in a worldwide evaluation sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) earlier this year. LexRank placed first or second in a wide range of document summarization tasks.

At the NIST Document Understanding Conference, participating institutions used their software to summarize a testbed of stories to see how similar results would be to a summary created by humans. Universities and corporations around the world participated.

Radev says LexRank identifies the most important information in a document. “For example, if you have five documents on the same event, let’s say a hostage-taking, and you go to the New York Times or the Los Angeles Times Web sites, you’re going to see different aspects of the same story.

“The stories will give you the facts that are obviously known, but some will give you background information, and others will give you some contradictory information — maybe the hostages’ ages or which organizations they work for — but they also complement each other.”

LexRank searches for “centrality,” or facts that all stories agree on to write its summary. It is similar, in principle, to PageRank, the method used by Google to rank Web pages.

“However, in the case of the Web, Google can use the explicit hyperlinks between pages, whereas in text summarization, such links don’t exist. The fact that something is mentioned by everybody is probably indicative that it’s more important than something that only a few stories mention,” Radev points out.

A technique developed several years ago for document summarization was the so-called centroid-based method, which meant the software would try to find words that appear in most sentences and then pick the sentences that contain those words as the summary.

Radev’s research is funded by the National Science Foundation’s Information and Data Management Program and will be published in the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research.

Radev says LexRank could generate indexes of mass quantities of documents, handle natural language processing tasks, and be used for E-mail “spam” recognition. *

Stephen Markel Remembered for Setting High Standards

One of the pioneers among human-computer interaction entrepreneurs, Stephen Markel, died at age 38 on September 18, 2004 from complications of a skiing accident more than 18 months ago.

Markel (MILS ’94) was cofounder, president, and chief executive officer of Diamond Bullet in Ann Arbor, a Web design firm. Diamond Bullet grew from a maverick enterprise with a visionary goal of transforming people’s actions into a highly competitive market. The company specializes in business and digital solutions that deploy technology in the service of human and business needs, and it’s an industry leader in usability and accessibility services.

Markel earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from the U-M. After earning his master’s degree, Markel became a doctoral student at SI. Although he did not complete the degree, he left a mark on the company-specializes in business and digital solutions chief executive officer of Diamond Bullet in Ann Arbor, enterprise with a visionary goal of transforming people’s actions into a highly competitive market. The company specializes in business and digital solutions that deploy technology in the service of human and business needs, and it’s an industry leader in usability and accessibility services.

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A chiev e rs

Margot J. Lyon (MSI ’01) is director of business development for the nonprofit American Theological Library Association. Most recently, she was director of business development and marketing at Probe Group, LLC, a market-research consultancy. In that capacity, she directed the sales of IT-related research programs and subscriptions to corporate librarians and senior marketing executives. Her career also includes various positions in business development and investor relations at Thomson Financial and Sony Corporation. At SI, Lyon specialized in Information Economics and Management and Policy.

Lauren M. Collins (MSI ’03) is a public service librarian in instruction services at the Arthur Neef Law Library at Wayne State University.

Erica Gray (MSI ’03) is a research specialist with Rain & Company in New York City.

N. Sadat Shami (MSI ’03) is a doctoral student in information science at Cornell University.

Josué Hurtado (MSI ’04) has been awarded the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award from the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The award recognizes minority undergraduate and graduate students of African, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American descent who, through scholastic achievement, “manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA.” Hurtado received the award in August at SAA’s 58th annual meeting in Boston. He is now an archivist for the AIDS Epidemic Historical Records Project in San Francisco. Previously, he worked for JSTOR (the Journal Storage project), completed an internship at the Bancroft Library at the University of California-Berkeley, volunteered at the New York Historical Society, and completed a Directed Field Experience at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. On campus, he also worked part time at the Bentley Historical Library.

E x t r a s

Joan C. Durrance, Margaret Mann Collegiate Professor of Information, is the Chicago Public Library’s Scholar in Residence. In November, Durrance will make presentations, discuss research, and interact with staff. The theme is “How Libraries and Librarians Help,” which is a focus on outcome-assessment approaches. Durrance also gave the keynote speech at the 50th anniversary of the Japan Society of Library and Information Science (JSLIS) in Tsukuba, Japan. While in Japan, she also made presentations at universities in Kyoto, Tsukuba, and Tokyo.

Among Markel’s survivors are his wife, Ellen D. Rambo, and his two sons, Charles and Timothy. *
Three articles by Associate Professor Mark Ackerman have come off the presses recently. Along with Christine Halverson, he wrote "Organizational Memory: Processes, Boundary Objects, and Trajectories" for Computer Supported Cooperative Work: The Journal of Collaborative Computing. For Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing Journal, he wrote "Privacy in Pervasive Environments: Next Generation Labeling Protocols." With Halverson and Tom Erickson, Ackerman wrote "Behind the Help Desk: Evolution of a Knowledge Management System in a Large Organization" for the Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '04). Ackerman has also received a three-year grant to study "Privacy in Pervasive Environments" from Intel Corporation (joint work with Atul Prakash of the U-M). In a service role, Ackerman is chairing the Doctoral Consortium for CSCW '04 and is program chair for GROUP '05.

Professor Jeff MacKie-Mason received a $4,000 Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop grant to support the STIET (Socio-Technical Infrastructure for Electronic Transactions) program. The funds will support this year’s STIET seminar series. More than 40 faculty and students attend workshops across the University who are interested in electronic transaction topics from many disciplinary perspectives. Speakers from the U-M and across the country address interdisciplinary research on the design of information technology infrastructure to support social, cultural, and political exchange. Visitors from Brown, Stanford, Harvard, Caltech, and Carnegie Mellon will speak this academic year. STIET was established in 2001 with a $3.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

First-year doctoral student Marianne Ryan has been awarded the Olin Student Fellowship from the John M. Olin Center for Law and Economics at the University of Michigan Law School. Ryan is also a 2003 graduate of the Master of Science in Information program at SI. The center awards several such academic and fellowship grants in the amount of $2,500 each to promote student research in law and economics and to develop a cohort of students with shared interests in actively engaging the economic analysis of law. The scholarships are awarded to candidates around the university with strong academic credentials and a demonstrated ability and interest in the study of law and economics. Olin scholars are expected to maintain a high academic record, participate in the Law and Economics Workshop, and to submit a research paper.

Peter Knoop, a systems research programmer on the Collaboratory for Research on Electronic Work, evaluated the potential of rugged, outdoor TabletPCs to improve and augment the educational field experience of geology and environmental science students. A 2003 pilot study and this summer’s follow-up proved highly successful, resulting in a National Science Foundation grant to Knoop and colleague Ben van der Pluijm in the Department of Geological Sciences. Knoop is also working with the U-M Biology Department this fall to run trials in field ecology courses that will demonstrate the general applicability of this approach to education.
Kendra Frost (MSI ’97) was among the more than 300 alumni of the School of Information and friends of the Bentley Historical Library who gathered for the dedication of the library’s addition.

Doctoral student Cal Lee (MSI ’99) talks shop with Abby Smith of the Council on Library and Information Resources in Washington, D.C. Smith was the featured speaker at the Bentley dedication ceremony.

No Doubt, a Bigger Bentley is a Better Bentley

After nearly 50 years, Francis X. Blouin was ready for the unveiling.

Not just any opening, to be sure, but the new $5.8 million addition to the Bentley Historical Library. In the dream stages since the late 1970s and the proposal stages since the 1980s, the addition is now reality.

With University support, the Bentley added 44,000 square feet of storage space to create 125 percent more than the library previously had.

That alone would be enough to make an archivist happy, but there was more. Enough new features, in fact, to give 300 guests at the official October 1 unveiling enough room to rub elbows without actually doing so and to find something new around every corner. The attributes include an enclosed loading dock area with space to sort things, and a new cold room in the conservation area designed for preserving photographic negatives, film, video, and audio archives.

That’s just for starters. Beyond that, there’s a large conference room, a University Archives and Records Program area with offices and workstations, and a newly configured reading room.

Everything but the kitchen sink has changed. Check that. Even the small kitchen has been updated.

Surprisingly, the scope of the project didn’t spoil the view of the main building from Beal Avenue (the addition is barely perceptible), nor from the indoors areas that look into the well-landscaped courtyard (you’re hard-pressed to spot the addition).

What the project did do, though, was create enough space to make it possible for the Bentley to continue to add materials for several more decades.

Abby Smith of the Council on Library and Information Resources in Washington, D.C., gave the dedication address. She called the revamped Bentley “a new civic space,” noting the Bentley accurately reflects the changing role of what an archive should be in today’s digital age.

The library, Smith noted, serves the state through its role as home to the Michigan Historical Collections, but is also a repository for U-M papers and of great significance to scholars.

Paul Courant, provost and vice president for academic affairs, related a story of how Blouin obtained state support for the expansion. John Engler, then governor and an avid state history buff, visited the library. Blouin had arranged an exhibit of various papers and artifacts from previous governors now in the collections. Engler moved about the room, impressed with the breadth of the materials.

Blouin nudgingly told Engler how his own papers could be stored in the Bentley, too. A little extra space to do that would be nice, of course.

“Fran sealed the deal,” Courant observed.

Wandering about the reception, Blouin — who has been director of the Bentley since 1981 and is also a professor at SI in the Archives and Records Management specialization — would have hugged the building, perhaps if it hadn’t gotten so big.

“It’s been 20 years in the making, and it’s been worth 20 years in the making,” he smiled.

William Wallach, associate director of the Bentley, gives some insider-type details to SI students following the dedication of the new addition.
Are You Influential?

Many SI students choose to enroll based on the recommendation of an SI alum — like you! If you know a prospective student interested in the information professions, make a referral to si.umich.edu/admissions. If you would like copies of our recruitment CD to hand out, write to si.admissions@umich.edu or call (734) 763-2285.

Please Join Us for These School of Information Events…

**Dec. 12–15**
SI will host a reception at the International Conference on Information Systems in Washington, D.C. The time and location will be announced in conference materials and at si.umich.edu/events.

**Jan. 14–19**
Alumni and friends are invited to the SI reception at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Boston. The reception will be Saturday, January 15; the location will be announced in conference materials and at si.umich.edu/events.

**Jan. 26**
Nancy Gwinn (AMLS ’69), director of the Smithsonian Institution libraries in Washington, D.C., and Elaine Cline (AMLS ’73), director of the Ralph J. Bunche Library of the U.S. Department of State, will speak. This lecture is cosponsored by the School of Information and the Ann Arbor District Library and is part of the “Human Connection: Words, Power, and Change in the BiblioTech Age” lecture series. The program will be at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Center Founders Room, 200 Fletcher St.

**Feb. 16**
This lecture in the School of Information’s series, “The Human Connection: Words, Power, and Change in the BiblioTech Age,” will feature Frank Kurt Cylke, director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress. Under Cylke’s direction, the number of users of NLS services has increased to more than 700,000 persons, ranging in age from preschool to over 100. He will be joined by Jean Moss digital projects coordinator at the Library of Congress, and Margaret Wolfe, coordinator of the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled, in Ann Arbor. The program will be at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Center Founders Room, 200 Fletcher St.

**March 16**
Beth Fitzsimmons, chair of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, will speak in the final program of the “Human Connection: Words, Power, and Change in the BiblioTech Age” series. The program will be at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Center Founders Room, 200 Fletcher St.

**March 30**
SI will host a reception for those attending the Society of American Archivists meeting from March 30–April 3 in Salt Lake City. Details will be announced in conference materials and at si.umich.edu/events.

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