Quotable...

“...Imagine how much we can do in our professional careers with the skills we have developed during our time here, a bit more responsibility, and with perhaps a bit more free time on our hands.”

— Michelle Sweetser (MSI '03)
Addressing fellow graduates at SI's December 2003 commencement reception.

Notable...

Joan C. Durrance a 'Named' Professor

Joan C. Durrance has been named Margaret Mann Collegiate Professor of Information by the U-M Board of Regents. A named professorship is one of the highest honors for a professor.

Durrance is a researcher and educator who has spent her career investigating and teaching social and cognitive aspects of how individuals seek, give, and use information in different contexts. She is an expert in community information systems, the evaluation of information services, and the professional practice of librarians.

Durrance's groundbreaking research in community information has resulted in several major grants and her work has earned her numerous awards over the years. In 1997, she received the R.R. Bowker-Isador Mudge Award from the American Library Association and the Faculty Excellence Award from her fellow faculty members in 1995.

She is a past president of the Association of Library and Information Science Educators (ALISE) and has served on numerous editorial boards.

Margaret Mann was a faculty member when what is now the School of Information was established in 1926. She brought great distinction to the program through her excellent teaching and scholarly contribution to library literature.

Bidlack Memorial on June 22

Alumni are invited to a memorial service for the late Russell E. Bidlack, first dean of the School, at 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 22 in the Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Dean Emeritus Bidlack died September 18, 2003 at age 83. He served as dean from 1969 until his retirement in 1985. For further information, contact Karen Jordan at kjordan@umich.edu or (734) 647-7652.

Canning Spam, One Penny at a Time

“A penny for your thoughts” will have new meaning, if a University of Michigan research team can convince E-mail providers and the public that getting paid for receiving unwanted messages is a good idea.

Assistant Professor Marshall Van Alstyne of the School of Information is a member of the research team that believes it has the answer to one of the Internet's most perplexing problems: how to can the commercial spam that annoys virtually everyone with an E-mail account. Estimates are that half of all E-mail buzzing around the Internet is spam.

The researchers are proponents of a “sender pays” system called the Attention Bond Mechanism (ABM), developed with doctoral students Thede Loder and Rick Wash, both of whom are in the Socio-Technical Infrastructure for Electronic Transactions program, a collaborative effort with the School of Information, the College of Engineering, and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The team brings together unique skills in information economics, peer-to-peer systems, and cryptography. Mark Benerofe of Vortex Communications consulted with the team.

Simply put, with ABM, unless E-mail senders — whether it's your Uncle Fred or General Motors — are on your “white list” of mailers you approve of, the first unsolicited mail from them won’t get through to you unless they pay.

Suppose MegaJunk, Inc. wants you to read about its cheap software but you’ve never done business with the firm. MegaJunk would be required to post a small sum of money (a “warranty”) in order for its first unsolicited E-mail to be delivered.

In the meantime, as the recipient, you would have set a monetary value on what you think unsolicited mail is worth for you to open. Say you set the limit low, at one penny. If MegaJunk thinks its message is worth only that much and attaches a warranty good for a penny, you would get the message. When you receive the E-mail, you could accept it and MegaJunk would keep its penny. But if you found it bothersome and didn’t want more, you could “cash in” the warranty — the penny would be deposited in an escrow account you had established.

Say, however, that you deem your time worth 50 cents a message. MegaJunk’s message, with only a one-cent warranty, would not get to your inbox in the first place.

On the other hand, say you set a 30-cent threshold for mail. A high-quality catalog com-

Continued on page 7

Graduate Matthew Forsythe, with girlfriend Annette Hall, was among the December 2003 degree candidates recognized by the School of Information at a reception in the Michigan Union. For more about the commencement, please turn to page 3.
Jessica Lehr
Channeling American History into Your Home

Enriching the Web is one way of thinking about the work that Jessica Lehr does.

As manager of digital programs at the Benson Ford Research Center, Lehr brings the riches of one of America's greatest historical treasures to the public. Countless individuals who would otherwise be unable to study the vast collections in person can peruse them online.

The Benson Ford Research Center (BFRC) is part of The Henry Ford, the nonprofit organization that bills itself as “America’s Greatest History Attraction” (www.thehenryford.org). The BFRC is a treasure trove for anyone interested in automotive history. Its best known collection is the Ford Historical Archives (1903-55), but its collections go well beyond cars.

The BFRC allows people to personally access archives, records, and collections that document the American experience. This includes information on the buildings and 3-D collections in the museum and village, as well as archival collections, over a million historic photographs, more than 35,000 books related to American history and culture, and collections of trade catalogs, rare books, posters, maps, and various other materials. Access to this wealth of information adds a different dimension to the museum visit for scholars and the public alike.

Lehr’s work often involves collaboration with personnel from all areas of The Henry Ford and other institutions. “The goal is to give people a chance to explore the breadth of our collections. We take the major collection areas and give people a chance to read about that collection area and view the different subsections and examples of materials within that collection,” Lehr says of one project.

On another project, Lehr and museum staff are collaborating with several other Michigan cultural and educational institutions to mount “Digital Dress,” a Web portal to historic clothing collections. The Institute for Museum and Library Services has awarded the project $249,433 to put 5,000 digital images of men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing and accessories representing 200 years of fashion online. “We’re taking historic clothing collections from the different institutions and working together to put them all online so they’ll be searchable across the collections,” she explains.

Having a job where she could bring historical collections to the public wasn’t necessarily on Lehr’s mind when she enrolled at SI. After earning a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and English at Wellesley College, she planned to pursue the Library and Information Services specialization, with the K-12 school media focus. As often happens, Lehr became interested in other aspects of the program, this time after taking a museum studies program course and later getting an internship at Henry Ford Museum. “Then I thought about museums and what a neat world that was,” she says.

Lehr’s flexible program allowed her to take some archives courses, too, and she ended up tailoring her degree to fit her new career aspirations. “I feel that I really got to look at a breadth of things that helped me with the work that I do,” she says. “Also, I think I learned not to be intimidated by new things and new technologies. I feel that it made me a lot more confident in my own ability to embark on new things and try new things.”

To top it off, the Benson Ford Research Center matched her career interests. “What I liked about the Benson Ford Research Center was that I’d work somewhere with a museum, a major archives, a great library, and a four-year school, all in the same place.” On the grounds is the Henry Ford Academy, a public, charter high school.

Lehr doesn’t necessarily see herself as a pioneer, but she does blaze a few trails in the museum world. “It’s really exciting to be a part of things, to work on projects that take advantage of the growth of technology to change...
Two doctoral students and 15 master’s stu-
dents were candidates for degrees at the December
2003 commencement.

Doctoral candidates were Huahai Yang and
Xiaolong Zhang. Yang has accepted a position as
an assistant professor at the University of Arizona.
State University of New York, and Zhang is now an
assistant professor at the University of Albany.

Master’s candidates were Peter Bogaty, Benja-
mor Fichialos, and Daphne Ogle, Human-Computer
Interaction, Kristi Barksdale and C. Elizabeth Blan-
kle, Library and Information Services; Michelle
Sweetser, Archives and Records Management;
Anthony Davis, Jr., Eirini Doumboulaki, and Mat-
thew Forsythe, Information Economics, Manage-
ment and Policy; and Wayne Buente, Geraldine
Durka-Pelok, Dearna Goh, and Kara Goldstein,
tailored degree.

A highlight of a recognition program, which
preceded the University-wide commencement, was
the presentation of the Margaret Mann Award to
Durka-Pelok and Sweetser. The award, established
in 1938 by the U-M Library Science Alumni Soci-
ety, honors the late Associate Professor Margaret
Mann, one of the department’s three founding
faculty members. It’s awarded annually to one or
more students as an academic honor, based on
promotion of ability and promise of profes-
sional development.

I do apologize to anyone who is reading this and did not receive
an invitation. Please take a moment to be sure to update you current
address, work, and E-mail information so that you don’t miss out on
any further invitations. (si.umich.edu/alumni). We hate to lose track
of any of you! *

— By Karen Jordan
Manager of Alumni Relations

Remembering SI: Fowlie Family Asks You to Think of PEP

Families of deceased School of Information
graduates often remember the School through
memorial funds.

Such was the case this past fall upon the death
of Dorothy Newton Campbell Fowlie (AMLS ’75),
who died October 1. Ms. Fowlie, 79, earned her
degree when she was 50.

The Fowlie family has designated the School
of Information Practical Engagement Program (PEP)
as beneficiary of memorial gifts. Ms. Fowlie had a
lifelong interest in literacy issues, and PEP helps
to bring information literacy to underserved
populations through such programs as Directed
Field Experiences, Alternative Spring Break, and
internships.

Ms. Fowlie was born in Detroit, and her
family says she came “from a long line of strong,
independent women.” The University of Michigan
was in Ms. Fowlie’s blood: her father and grand-
father attended, as did her brother, daughter, and
granddaughter. She earned a bachelor’s degree in
education in 1946. Her husband, Gordon, was an
engineering student at U-M when they met.

The Fowlie family stayed in the Detroit
area, and after Gordon died in 1972, Ms. Fowlie
came back to U-M at age 47 to earn her master’s
degree. She then moved to San Diego, California
and accepted a job at a public library. Later she
worked at the San Diego Law Library and the
Marine Corps Depot Library.

Late in her life, she learned to use the Inter-
et. ‘Such was her quest to satisfy her thirst for
knowledge,’ says her family. ‘She was truly her
own person and a very practical, independent,
and strong-willed woman.’

Memorial contributions in her name may be
sent to the School of Information, 304 West Hall,
550 East University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan
48109-1092.

Well-Received at SI Receptions

This year’s Alternative Spring Break program was a wonderful
experience for the students — and for the staff and alumni who were
fortunate enough to participate!

I was very lucky to be able to travel to Washington, D.C.,
while our students were there during spring break. On Wednesday,
February 25, simultaneous receptions were held in New York and
Washington for students and alumni in each city (please see page 6
for more details).

The students were very enthusiastic and excited about meeting
and talking with alumni. I can confidently report that all the alumni
I spoke with in D.C. were equally enthusiastic and energized by
meeting our students.

Many alumni remarked on how impressed they were by the
students’ poise, enthusiasm, knowledge, and commitment to the
information professions.

While in Washington, I also met with Francis Buckley (AMLS ’65),
Elaine Cline (AMLS ’75), Ken Lee Ray (AMLS ’68), Nancy Gwinn (AMLS
’69), Cynthia Kahn (MILS ’97), and David Grossman (AMLS ’77). All
have offered to become involved with other D.C.-area alumni.

In addition, I met with Gary Huggens (AMLS ’75) at the Library
of Congress (he was once the head of the student government) and
with long-time supporter Mayumi Taniguchi (AMLS ’59). She worked
at the Library of Congress for many years.

We tried to invite all of the alumni we know of in the New York
and D.C. areas to these events. We mailed invitations to more than
200 people and E-mailed many, as well.

I do apologize to anyone who is reading this and did not receive
an invitation. Please take a moment to be sure to update you current
address, work, and E-mail information so that you don’t miss out on
any further invitations. (si.umich.edu/alumni). We hate to lose track
of any of you! *

— By Karen Jordan
Manager of Alumni Relations

Say Hello to the School of Information’s Newest Alumni

Students Sadanori Horiguchi, Josué Hurtado, and Joanna Axelrod
sample the New York City water.

Jessica Goger, center, chats with Dennis and Chris Rudy at
the Washington reception. The Rudys
represented the Morris and Ida Fine
Scholarship, which Goger received this
academic year. (Photo by Monique Uzelac)
**Achivers**

Mark Knox (MILS ’93) is a librarian with the DeWitt (Michigan) Public Library. He is married to the former Sheryl Cormicle (MILS ’94) and they have one child, Katherine.

Peter Morville (MILS ’93) is president of the Asilomar Institute for Information Architecture (aiifa.org), an international, nonprofit volunteer organization with more than 500 members in 31 countries. Two other SI graduates, Louis Rosenfeld (MILS ’90) and Samantha Bailey (MILS ’96), also serve on the five-person board of directors.

Chris Turner (MILS ’93) is a school library media specialist with the Grand Ledge (Michigan) Public Schools.

Nancy Lin (MILS ’95) is an electronic publishing specialist with the American Council of Learned Societies in New York City.

Amy L. Neville (MILS ’95) is a production librarian for the Journal Storage (STOR) project in Ann Arbor.

Frank Richardson (MILS ’95) is acquisitions/serials librarian with the Duke University School of Law Library in Durham, North Carolina.

Mark N. Holman (MILS ’96) is a reference librarian with the University of Texas School of Law in Austin.

Michael A. Nolte (MILS ’97) is a senior research associate with the U-M Institute for Social Research, working on a health and retirement study.

Beth Hebb Morales (MSI ’99) is a librarian with QVC in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Anders Ramsay (MSI ’99) is lead information architect for CCH in New York City. “My work revolves primarily around requirements management and user-interface design,” he says.

Anne Maria Butzbaugh (MSI ’00) is co-founder of the Northwest Workers’ Justice Project in Portland, Oregon.

Mark A. Nolte (MILS ’97) is a senior research associate with the U-M Institute for Social Research, working on a health and retirement study.

Michael A. Nolte (MILS ’97) is a senior research associate with the U-M Institute for Social Research, working on a health and retirement study.

Margaret H. Notaro (MSI ’00) is a senior consultant with Dante Consulting, Inc., an information technology consulting firm, in Arlington, Virginia. Previously, she was a business systems analyst with another company.

Nicole (Burns) Collins (MSI ’01) is a learning support librarian at Queen’s Park Library in London, England.

Stephanie Flinchbaugh (MSI ’01) is an adult services librarian at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in Clinton Township, Michigan.

Fang-Yu Lin (MSI ’01) is a graduate student/assistant technology specialist with the Digital Design Department at the Parsons School of Design in New York City. He is studying interactive art and design.

Christopher M. Monroe (MSI ’01) is an assistant curator for the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth Yakel has received $71,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a project that will lead to archivists recording and interpreting accurate data about who uses their collections.

The grant, “Developing Standardized Metrics for Assessing Use and User Services for Primary Sources,” is being carried out with colleagues Wendy Duff from the University of Toronto and Helen Tibbo from the University of North Carolina.

Yakel says in this first phase of the grant, researchers will assess current practices and try to develop a set of standard measures for determining who uses both physical and digital collections. As it is, how archivists measure users and the amount of material they use can vary widely. This makes it difficult for archivists to compare usage from one collection to another, which could have ramifications when an organization seeks funding support.

More than 100 institutions will be surveyed and interviews will be conducted with 25 to 30 archivists. A result of the study will be a set of measurements that archivists could adopt to accurately compare such things as collection usage and user queries.

Future phases of the study could cover the actual design of standardized forms and measurement tools and a widespread implementation of measurement tools.

The Mellon Foundation is funding the research because of its interest in the continuing professionalization of the archives field and cultural institutions in general.

In addition, Yakel has received $14,951 from the Online Computer Library Center for a study of “Academic Reference Librarians and Extending Access to Primary Sources.” This and the Mellon grant build on Yakel’s larger research agenda of improving access to archival materials.

Helping Archivists Achieve Higher Standards

Students and faculty from the University of Michigan attended the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) from December 10-12 in Geneva, Switzerland as official delegates.

The WSIS addressed a broad range of themes concerning the development of a global information society. The International Telecommunication Union, a specialized agency for telecommunications within the United Nations, organized the summit under the auspices of UN Secretary-General Koffi Annan.

A goal of the WSIS was to create a worldwide environment where everyone can create and have access to knowledge, thereby empowering individuals and communities to promote sustainable development and improve their quality of life. More than 40 heads of state and government were invited.

From the U-M, Assistant Professor Derrick L. Cogburn (MILS ’93) was appointed by the secretary general of the International Telecommunication Union to the expert group on Global Internet Governance. This is the first step in a major follow-up component to the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society. Cogburn returned to Geneva in late February to present his work on global information and communication technology policy collaboratories and on capacity building through geographically distributed collaborative learning.

One of the most popular Web sites at the School of Information is now a prestigious Computerworld Honors Foundation laureate.

The Cultural Heritage Initiative for Community Outreach (CHICO), a project directed by C. Olivia Frost, professor and associate dean for professional programs, was cited in the education category. Microsoft, Inc., nominated CHICO for its collaborative, community-oriented digital resources and multimedia initiatives that celebrate multiculturalism and diversity. One of CHICO’s main roles is serving as a teaching aid for K-12 school students. In January alone, the site had more than one million page requests.

The CHICO site (si.umich.edu/chico) contains well-documented cultural exhibits created by SI students and professionals from around the world. CHICO is supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Included in the 2004 ComputerWorld Honors collection are case studies originating from 24 countries in 10 categories. Frost accepted the honor during a ceremony in San Francisco on April 4. Judges will select the top 50 laureates and honor them as worldwide finalists on June 7 in Washington, D.C. The case studies are now part of a global archive which kept in more than 125 leading museums, archives, libraries and academic institutions around the world.

The ComputerWorld Honors program, established in 1988, documents the global information technology revolution.

SI Contingent Has Role in Geneva

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Also attending from the U-M were Peter Keller-Tranburg, Jessica Goger, and Jacob Moskol, all School of Information master’s students; and doctoral student Kaluke Mawila from the Center for Studies in Postsecondary and Higher Education at the School of Education and the CAAS South Africa Initiatives Office. The U-M delegation was joined by U-M alumna Deborah Robinson (Ph.D. in social psychology). She is executive director of International Possibilities Unlimited, a nongovernmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The U-M participants represented the Collaboratory on Technology-Enhanced Learning Communities (CoTeLCO), a U-M social science research collaboratory that studies the socio-technical factors that influence collaborative learning and decision-making between developed and developing countries. Cogburn established CoTeLCO in 1999.
Talks to Explore Information Topics

Make plans now to come back to Ann Arbor this fall for some thought-provoking and entertaining lectures.

Associate Professor Maurita Holland is coordinating a new lecture series, “The Human Connection: Words, Power, and Change in the Bibliotech Age.” Guest speakers will visit campus to discuss issues related to school media, public and academic libraries, and much more.

The fall series will begin with a public lecture by Nancy Pearl (AMS ’07), head of the Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library and, of course, nationally known “model” for the Librarian Action Figure. She will speak at SI on Wednesday, September 22 in a program sponsored jointly with the Ann Arbor District Library.

Details about other series events are in the planning stages. Please watch for your summer issue of SI@umich for details and be sure to check the official SI calendar at si.umich.edu/events.

exposItion Continues to Impress

Projects in the annual School of Information exposItion covered the waterfront when it came to representing the range of academic and occupational interests students have.

Thirty projects were displayed in February, held for the first time in the newly renovated Haven Hall on Central Campus. Employers, prospective students, and the curious stopped by to see what master’s and doctoral students create in their courses.

The variety this year was impressive. For example, projects included E-commerce in the “Online Tea Shoppe” by Kristina Voros; library cataloging in the “Sotheby’s Catalogs at the U-M Fine Arts Library” by Laura Haxer; human-computer interaction in the “Web-Based Agrittrade Project in Kenya” by Shibani Kapoor, Yong Suk Kim, Marjorie Knepp, Eunice So Bee Kua, Mary Puetz, and Monique Uzelac; and archiving with “Michigan Library Evaluation” by Emily J. Barton, Barbara Lee, Kristen L. Motz, Lisa M. Quist, Kathryn A. Rosen, and Sarah C. Smith.

“The exposition was a great success,” says Joanna Kroll, assistant director of career services. “The number of students and faculty participating was higher than in the past two years. Local employers were impressed with the variety and quality of the student projects, as well as the professionalism and presentation skills of many SI students. It was a great showcase of students’ skills.”

Several employers are actively recruiting some of the participants for full-time jobs and internships, from Web design and information firms, to public and academic libraries, to university service units, Kroll says.

Barbara Lee describes her project, an evaluation of a district library in Michigan. She and five other students formed a contextual design team during the fall 2003. They worked with a public library's administration, librarians, and clerks to identify challenges and offer suggestions concerning issues of staff communication and workflow patterns.

A study of a GeoPad, an electronic device used by the Department of Geology in mapping expeditions, was conducted by Jennifer B. Angel, Yong Hui Chien, Cari R. Rottenberg, and Sharadindu Ramarao.

Achievers

Juliane Morian (MSI ’01) is head of electronic services for the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in Clinton Township, Michigan.

Riva Pollard (MSI ’01) is pursuing a master’s degree in children’s literature at Simmons College in Boston.

Carrie A. Preston (MSI ’01) is an electronic resources cataloger with Alden Library at Ohio University.

Dan Santamaria (MSI ’01) is a Public Policy Papers Project archivist at the Princeton University Mudd Manuscript Library.

Kristen Nimelli Truong (MSI ’01) is an information architect with Truong Studios in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Denny Ray Early (MSI ’02) is a software designer with Phoenix Data Systems, Inc., in Southfield, Michigan.

Sarah E. Keen (MSI ’02) works for the Jane Harman Congressional Papers Project in the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College.

Katrine N. Lewis (MSI ’02) is employed by Lockheed Martin in Maryland.

Kelsey Libner (MSI ’02) is a North Carolina State University Libraries Fellow. She works in the Digital Library Initiatives and Preservation Department.

John Northup (MSI ’02) operates a Web development firm, Bannis Design, LLC, which launched a new Web site for the Milan (Michigan) Area Chamber of Commerce (milanchamber.org). In addition, he works for the Internet Public Library at the School of Information.

Christi Patrick (MSI ’02) is a law student at Wayne State University. She expects to graduate in 2006.

Sharon Richter (MSI ’02) is a research services librarian with the State Library of Ohio in Columbus.

Angela Sidman (MSI ’02) is a catalog librarian with the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

Michael Spaly (MSI ’02) is an independent consultant, working in Seattle, Washington.

Zachary Wright (MSI ’02) is a project associate with the University of Michigan. He works with the federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency-funded Virtual Soldier Project at the Michigan Center for Biological Information.

Christopher J. Borawski (MSI ’03) is a juvenile librarian with the Montgomery County Public Libraries, Wheaton Regional Library, in Wheaton, Maryland.

Ingrid Erickson (MSI ’03) is a doctoral student at Stanford University.
Bright Lights, Two Big Cities
Students Gain Experience with Alternative Spring Break

The waning days of a dreary winter weren’t enough to scare away a dedicated group of SI students interested in Alternative Spring Break (ASB).

During the final days of February, 55 master’s students from all specializations headed out in cars and vans to Washington, D.C., and New York City for a week to work with professionals at 18 information-related settings. They ranged from libraries and museums to advocacy organizations.

“I worked in a world-class institution at the Museum of Television & Radio with excellent mentors who were justifiably excited about showing me their museum and the work they do to keep it vital and contemporary,” says Kristen Motz, who was among the New York contingent. “I saw all four aspects of the School of Information — archives, librarianship, human-computer interaction, and information economics — used daily in the dynamic and volatile entertainment field. Personally, I used the SI skills I have been learning since I arrived on campus in practical real-world situations as I assisted in research for documentary television and film producers, authors, and the general public.”

The ASB program is supported with funds from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and an anonymous donor. Associate Professor Maurita Holland, who directs the Office of Academic Outreach and Practical Engagement Programs, enlisted the support of four students who organized the trips, from finding intern locations to arranging hotel space.

This year’s program included internships in New York City at Poets House, the Museum of Television & Radio, the Brooklyn Public Library, the New York Public Library, NetAid, the New York Historical Society, and the library at the United Nations.

“The most beneficial aspect for me was just to be working in a different kind of professional information organization,” says April Witteveen, who worked at Poets House in Greenwich Village. “The Poets House operates both as a nonprofit organization and a special library, so the week I spent there helped me see that a future career in a special library would be really great. I liked getting to work on a project that had a final ‘deliverable’ product. It gave me a sense of accomplishment even though I was only there for a week.”

In Washington, students worked at the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Red Cross, the Association for Computing Machinery, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Computer & Communications Industry Association, EDUCAUSE, the National Library of Medicine, the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Two Rivers Public Charter School.

Michael McCaffery, who worked at the National Library of Medicine, observed that “making new contacts and visiting new sites was excellent. To me, however, the interaction with other SI students outside an academic environment was even more enjoyable. It is nice to meet in a more relaxed

Archivists take on Washington.

Jian Bai (left) learns the ins and outs of working on the reference desk at the Science, Industry and Business Library of the New York Public Library.

Nadia Seiler (left) worked on projects at the Museum of Television & Radio. Douglas Gibbons (AMLS ’73), director of library and information services at the museum, supervised the SI interns.
After 50 years of the Residence Hall Libraries program, the University is planning to expand the concept to meet students’ changing information-gathering needs.

University Housing, which administers the program, is revamping the program into the Community Learning Centers (CLC) initiative. “University Housing has long been dedicated to bridging students’ in- and out-of-classroom experiences,” says David Pimentel, director of Residence Hall Libraries and Learning Centers.

Discussions about the need to examine the Residence Hall Libraries program have been held during the past few years. Students’ needs, the campus technology environment, and many other factors affecting information services have changed drastically, but the RHL program had not. Pimentel says University Housing wants to expand residence education possibilities and change the RHL program at the same time. Pimentel foresees SI master’s students continuing to play a role in the operation of Community Learning Centers.

The consensus of options under review has been that “the future RHL” should enable students to better navigate the University’s expansive information environment, Pimentel points out.

Polish Science Official Sees SI Project Demos

Faculty and staff from the School of Information participated in a 90-minute research project demonstration for the minister of science from Poland.

Michal Kleiber was a guest of the University of Michigan and toured the Duderstadt Center (formerly the Media Union) and heard from faculty at the School of Information. Kleiber saw how the University uses collaboratories (“laboratories without walls”) to enable researchers from anywhere on the planet to participate in shared work in real time. U-M and the School of Information in particular are recognized as the leading institutions in the world in building and studying the effects of online collaboratories.

Kleiber listened to presentations on the NEEsgrid earthquake simulation collaboratory, the next-generation of U-M CourseTools software, called Sakai, that involves the U-M and 25 other universities: GeoWall, stereo visualization hardware and software useful in the teaching of Earth sciences; and Centra conferencing software that can be used over the Internet.

Thomas Finholt, research associate professor; Joseph Hardin, clinical assistant professor; and Vlad Weilbut, computer systems consultant with the Alliance for Community Technology, spoke on behalf of the SI-related research.

The new program, intentionally integrated with the larger teaching and learning mission of the University, offers an opportunity to create multiple partnerships among Housing, campus libraries, and academic units. The new program would reclaim the academic focus that the Residence Hall Libraries had lost over time.

University Housing sees the Community Learning Centers concept providing an “information commons” environment designed to stimulate students’ intellectual curiosity and foster collaboration among peers and faculty. Some capital improvements would be made.

“CLCs are suited to a variety of activities throughout the day,” Pimentel says. “From Michigan Learning Community class instruction, to scheduled services from various campus units, to special programs and presentations, to studying and relaxation.”

Once word circulated that the RHL program could change, some alumni questioned the decision. “The residence hall libraries and librarian program was the reason I decided to go to Michigan for library school,” says Katherine Kelly (MLS ’92), former head librarian at Bursley residence hall, and now head librarian at Washington International School in Washington D.C.

Kelly says there is still a place for librarians in the residence halls. “The professional and intellectual skills learned during two years at SI become quite clear to the undergraduate who interacts with a competent residence hall librarian,” she says. “These same undergraduates will become local, state, national, and world leaders who decide later in life whether libraries continue in the global society of the 21st century.”

Changes Coming to Residence Hall Libraries Program

An End to Spam is Creatively Possible

Continued from page 1
pany attaches a 50-cent warranty to entice you to accept its message and it enters your inbox. If you like the company, you could add it to your preferred “white list.” The company keeps its 50 cents and has the right to send you further mail, until you change your mind. You could also reject the mail and keep the 50 cents.

“Once E-mail is in your possession, you can claim the warranty and keep the money,” Van Alstyne says. “The sender loses the small sum of money, and you gain the sum, as compensation for your time and attention.”

Suppose, though, that you decide to accept all bulk mail that comes your way as a way of padding your escrow account. Bulk mailers, says Loder, would catch on to you and probably remove you from their lists, even if it’s a company that you want to hear from. In other words, honesty and ethics on the part of the recipient also come into play.

The researchers are aiming squarely at spammers. “The purpose is to make spam too expensive for spammers to send,” Van Alstyne says. “The sender who believes his or her message is not spam is willing to put up that money — to risk it to prove that if the recipient reads the E-mail, they will agree that it is not spam. Spammers can’t afford this!”

Escrow accounts needed for the plan to work are not new; they are used by online auctions. They could easily be adapted for use with the Attention Bond Mechanism approach to E-mail management, the researchers say. The transactions would also help maintain the values and promise of E-mail, they say. Spammers can't indiscriminately and degrade the value of E-mail, the researchers say. The transactions would also help maintain the values and promise of E-mail, they say. Spammers can't indiscriminately and degrade the value of E-mail, they say.

The team suggests the Attention Bond Mechanism would help return E-mail to its true purpose: communication between willing participants. “You will also help maintain the values and promise of E-mail — and squarely put the ‘cost’ on those who abuse the system rather than other proposed economic solutions, some of which tax everyone indiscriminately and degrade the value of E-mail,” Van Alstyne says.

As far as the researchers know, they are the first to formally prove that all parties can potentially be better off than even a perfect filtering technology would allow. The research team’s next goal is to market the anti-spam technology. Van Alstyne says that if it were to catch on, the spam problem could be licked within two to three years.
Please Join Us for These School of Information Events…

May 23  Alumni are invited to gather during the Medical Library Association conference. A reception will be held for all alumni, regardless of specialization, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Washington, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C.

June 7  Join fellow alumni in Nashville, Tennessee, for the Special Libraries Association conference. You need not be attending the conference to enjoy the fellowship of the reception in the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville. Watch conference publications, or the SI Web site at si.umich.edu/events, for the location.

June 22  Memorial service for Dean Emeritus Russell E. Bidlack, who died September 18, 2003. The service will be in the Michigan Union Pendleton Room. All alumni are invited. For further information, contact Karen Jordan at kjordan@umich.edu or (734) 647-7652.

June 27  SI will be represented again at the American Library Association conference in Orlando, Florida. All alumni, regardless of specialization, are invited to stop by and mingle with current students and faculty. The time and location will be announced in conference publications and on the SI Web site at si.umich.edu/events.

July 21-24  The hills are alive … make that the streets are alive with the sights and sounds of artists for the annual Ann Arbor Art Fairs. If you’re coming to town, be sure to stop by SI in West Hall and say hello.

Sept. 22  Nancy Pearl (AMLS ’67), head of the Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library and noted Librarian Action Figure inspiration, will speak at SI. Her talk will be the first in a new lecture series, “The Human Connection: Words, Power, and Change in the BiblioTech Age.” Additional guest speakers will address issues related to school media, libraries, and much more. Watch for the summer issue for more details, or check out the SI Events Calendar at si.umich.edu/events for updates.

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Postal mail: Karen Jordan
SI Development and Alumni Relations
304 West Hall
550 East University Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1092

E-mail: kjordan@umich.edu
Web: si.umich.edu/alumni/update.htm

News About Me …

Degree / year earned: ___________________ Job title: ___________________

Employer: ___________________________

☐ This is a new position (and date started):

My news:

______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Who I Am …

Name: ____________________________

Address: ___________________________

______________________________________________________________
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Daytime phone: __________ E-mail: ___________________________

☐ Include my E-mail address in “Achievers” so that classmates can write to me

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Employer: ___________________________

☐ This is a new position (and date started):

My news:

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