Fall Events Slated for SI Alumni

October 13-17 is shaping up to be a busy time for the School of Information — and alumni should take note now and plan to be in Ann Arbor. Planning is under way for four big events:

➤ Although it’s too early to name speakers’ names just yet, the School will host its third John Seely Brown Symposium on Technology and Society on Friday, October 13.

➤ The School invites all alumni to an anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 14 in Rackham Auditorium to mark 10 years of the School of Information and its programs and 80 years of overall academic leadership in library science and related fields.

➤ On October 14-15, the annual gathering of Community Information Corps alumni will be held. Each year, alumni return to campus to discuss issues related to their community service occupations and offer advice to current master’s students.

➤ Wrapping up the events will be the second annual i-Conference, an event that draws representatives of the 18 academic institutions in the United States and Canada that focus on information-related academic fields. The purpose of the association of schools (the iSchools Project) is to promote “information” as a discipline, much as law and medicine are readily recognized by the public as a discipline with many specializations within them.

The by-invitation conference is slated for October 15-17, the first was held in October 2005 at Penn State University with faculty and doctoral students attending. The SI-hosted event will be held at the U-M Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

Watch si.umich.edu/events and the summer issue of SI@umich for further details about all of the events.

SI Cites 3 Alumni for Service

Three alumni were recognized at the April 28 commencement ceremony at the School of Information for their service to the School and to their professions.

Margaret Taylor (Ph.D. ’82), a longtime faculty member and tireless volunteer, received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award for exceptional contributions to the SI Alumni Board, to the School, and to alumni. Ruth Jansen Person (AMLS ’69, Ph.D. ’80) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for more than 20 years of contributions to the information professions and to education. Benjamin Bunnell (MSI ’98) earned the Outstanding Recent Graduate Award for his career accomplishments within 10 years of graduation.

Taylor began working with alumni under the dynamic leadership of the late Associate Dean Kenneth Vance. After her own semi-retirement, Taylor took on a more formal role in her work with alumni as the Alumni Society secretary/treasurer, a position she has held since 1997.

“She is, to so many, the face of SI.”

“Margaret is always concerned with how we can better serve our alumni, and she has an incredible memory for so many of the students who have attended SI,” said Karen Jordan (AMLS ’75), development and alumni relations officer.

Continued on page 4

Atkins Takes on National Role

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has appointed Professor Daniel E. Atkins to head the newly created Office of Cyberinfrastructure.

Atkins, who was founding dean of SI from 1992-98, will keep his U-M appointment while serving with the NSF. The professor assumes his NSF role on June 1 and will oversee a $182 million budget. “I cannot imagine a more ideal choice for this critical position at this critical time,” said NSF Director Arden L. Bement, Jr.

The NSF created the Office of Cyberinfrastructure to make competitive, merit-reviewed awards for IT-based infrastructure that is essential to science and engineering, including supercomputers, data management systems, and high-capacity networks.

“With many of these opportunities integrated all of the diverse opportunities my colleagues have given me during my 34 years at the University of Michigan,” Atkins said. “It offers me another important platform for contributing to my overarching professional aspiration — leadership in the creation and use of information and computer technology in service of human learning, creativity, and well-being.”

In 2003, Atkins chaired a blue-ribbon panel of scientists that produced a report on the cyberinfrastructure needs of the United States. That report, commonly referred to as the “Atkins report,” called for the NSF to oversee a major program in cyberinfrastructure-enhanced science and engineering research and allied education for the nation.

Dean John L. King noted that Atkins will help the country achieve its stated national goals. “President Bush pointed out in his recent State of the Union address that U.S. competitiveness depends on increased scientific research in cyberinfrastructure. Dan is the ideal person to lead this initiative. He literally wrote the book on the subject,” King said.
Maria Cervone

Degree by Degree, Managing the Country's Health Info

Maria Cervone (MSI '05) is already making an impression at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta by applying what she learned at SI.

Upon graduation, Cervone accepted a two-year public health informatics fellowship. "SI's approach supports the fellowship by emphasizing the practical application of information science and technology. I frequently share my SI experiences with colleagues at CDC — either directly in the conduct of my work, or by pointing them to relevant SI research. My exposure at SI to the latest in collaborative technologies, as well as to projects on consumer health information and electronic health records, has led to further work in these areas at the CDC.

Before coming to SI, Cervone was manager of documentation and regulatory systems at Wyeth BioPharma, where her group generated large pharmaceutical regulatory filings. She was involved with coordinating timelines and review cycles, electronic publishing, and archiving. Her group also designed and implemented information systems. She worked at Wyeth BioPharma for about 15 years.

"When I was first considering SI via its Web site, I thought, 'How can it possibly be this good — is everything that's said here true?' And the answer was yes, you see what you get, and for me that was a perfect match. Coming to SI in midlife, I found myself relating well to my classmates and to the curriculum.

"First, the Community Information Corps was key in introducing me to the concepts critical to addressing public good issues."

In a course taught by Professor Michael Cohen, she researched what she considers the most significant information initiative in health care today — the emerging nationwide health information network.

All About Us:

Archievors

Arthur Lieb (AMLS '64), former executive officer of the Library of Congress, has been appointed to the advisory board of the American Music Research Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has moved to Colorado from Washington, DC.

Paul Jackson (AMLS '65) continues to serve as editor of the Plateau Area Writer's Association Quarterly, in which some of his essays appear. An essay about music, "The Universe's Language," was published online in Making Music magazine. You can also find his writings at his Trescott Research site (trescott@umich.edu), which plays timpani in two bands and an orchestra, and he sings in a church choir.

Karen Horny (AMLS '66) is dean of library services at Missouri State University. Karenhorny@missouristate.edu

Judith Wilhelme (AMLS '69) is serials acquisition librarian for the U-M. Suzanne Schlueterberg (AMLS '74) is a project manager for Information Technology Central Services at the U-M.

Janet Ryan (AMLS '76) is a library media specialist with Holmes Middle School in Flint, Michigan.

David Grossman (AMLS '77) is working part time at the History Room librarian at the Mill Valley (California) Public Library where he is digitizing a collection of printed documents and photos. He continues to write about the future of libraries for USA Today and Searcher magazine. dkgrossman@cityofmillvalley.org

Anna Leiserson (AMLS '77) is webmaster of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Catherine Smith (MILLS '93) is an assistant professor at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies. Her research report, "Electronic Health Records: Sharing Knowledge While Preserving Privacy," was published by the IBM Center for Healthcare Management.

Kathleen Dow (MILLS '93) is head of archival processing and cataloging and curator of the transportation history collection at the U-M Special Collections Library. ksdow@umich.edu

Mark Knox (MILLS '93) is a librarian with the DeWitt (Michigan) Public Library.

All About Us:

Profiles

Ali Hakim

Analyze This (and That)

A master's degree from the School of Information was indeed the right fit for Ali Hakim (MSI '05).

Hakim, who earned his undergraduate degree in computer science at Indiana University, had come to Ann Arbor to work as a Web developer before enrolling at SI. He followed the Human-Computer Interaction specialization, which prepared him nicely for his current position as an electronic content analyst at ProQuest Information & Learning.

"Perhaps the most valuable thing I did outside the classroom was develop a working relationship with Associate Professor Dragomir Radev," Hakim says. "Over the past three years, I've written maintenance code for many of his projects, rebuilt his research group Web site, taken part in two National Institutes for Science and Technology-related submissions, and been co-author of two published articles. This exposed me to a much larger academic world as well as to in-depth information on some topics that interested me in SI classes, such as information retrieval."

ProQuest receives electronic content from newspapers, magazines, and other publications for inclusion in the ProQuest vault; the content is then bundled and sold in its many products. Content might arrive in ASCII text, HTML, XML, or a publication-defined format.

"My job is to analyze it and write a specification for a filter which will convert the publication's format into our proprietary format. As part of this process, I coordinate with the publication to ensure delivery of the content, write instructions for our manual error-processing team, and coordinate creation of the filter program with our programmers in India. The whole process takes several weeks and includes around a dozen people by the time it is finished."
Alumni Help Make Alternative Spring Break Successful

Another successful Alternative Spring Break program at the School of Information gave 53 master’s students the opportunity to get hands-on experience by working with professionals in their field of interest.

At the end of February, students returned to some traditional sites in New York City and Washington, D.C., but a new twist was the opportunity to work on civil rights-era materials in Mississippi.

“The success of the program was due in large part to those who provided financial support in traditional and creative ways,” said Shelley MacMillan, director of development for SI. Some alumni made individual contributions and others pooled funds by creating teams to represent their membership in the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Association of Media Educators, and the SI Alumni Society Board of Directors.

“The Lady Family Foundation provided grant funds for our Mississippi-bound students, and talented SI students produced and performed in the second SI Revue and organized a ‘penny war.’” MacMillan added.

All funds donated by faculty, staff, and students were matched dollar for dollar by the Olive Webb Memorial Matching Fund. “The result was a record $24,000 in funding and huge ASB success,” MacMillan said. “Thank you all.”

New this year were dinners in each of the cities for the students hosted by alumni. “Several alumni who served as dinner hosts participated in spring break activities themselves while students,” said Karen Jordan (AML’s ’75), development and alumni relations officer.

Hosts in Washington, D.C., were Elaine Cline (AML’s ’75), Ashley Young (MSI ’03), Megan Galaida (MSI ’02), Abbey Potter (MSI ’05), Melanye Lackey (MSI ’05), Leslie Knoblauch (MSI ’05), Eboni Curry (MSI ’05), Donna Wilson (MSI ’99), Jenny Angel (MSI ’05), Jan Johansson (MSI ’04), Ed Staples (MSI ’99), Angela Napili (MSI ’00), and Michael Jourdan (MSI ’00).

The New York contingent dined with Barbara List (AML’s ’82), Alyssa Jordan (MILS ’95), Carrie Bickner (MILS ’94), Rosalie Ehrlich (MSI ’00), Johnnie Dent (AML’s ’65), Laurel Sandor (MSI ’01), Leilani Dawson (MSI ’04), Abigail Plumb-Larrick (MSI ’02), C. Andrew Larrick (MSI ’02), and Jim Fiebelkorn (MSI ’03). In Mississippi, Julia Young (AML’s ’81) hosted the students.

At many of the ASB work sites, several students were involved in different projects. From Monday through Friday, the students reported to work and pitched in, just as if they were part of the staff.


In the capital, students participated in projects at the Congressional Management Foundation, EDUCUSE, Federal Trade Commission, Library of Congress, National Museum of American History (Smithsonian), National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian), National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian), and National Archives and Records Administration.

Students in Mississippi worked at Jackson State University and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Mike Swanson worked at the Library of Congress Serial and Government Publications Division. “My project consisted of researching newspapers published in Washington, D.C., in support of the first phase of the National Digital Newspaper Project, and then writing a brief, but informative description of each newspaper.”

At the Library of Congress, Jeremiah Mason, Erin Matas, and Woo Yong Lee were part of the Washington, D.C., contingent.

Of the 53 students who participated in Alternative Spring Break, 19 are returning for a second major honor from the organization to the Olsons.

Jennifer Spamer, Jeremiah Mason, Erin Matas, and Woo Yong Lee were part of the Washington, D.C., contingent.

Olsons Honored for a Lifetime of HCI Achievement

School of Information professors Judy Olson and Gary Olson each received a 2006 CHI Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Computing Machinery’s Computer-Human Interaction section.

The awards were conferred at the annual CHI conference from April 22-27 in Montreal. Gary Olson chaired the international conference.

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

The CHI Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to the study of human-computer interaction. The award recognizes a lifetime of innovation and leadership and carries an honorarium of $5,000. Criteria for the award are cumulative contributions to the field, influencing the work of others, and developing new research directions. This is the second major honor from the organization to the Olsons; both are also fellows of the prestigious CHI Academy.

The Olsons have been active in the field inducted into the CHI Academy, this award recognizes their major, lifetime impact as the collaborative study of collaboration: not only making a major contribution to the development of the science of collaboration, but living the same role themselves,” the award committee noted.

The Olsons’ major contributions have been to the study of collaboration and collaboration technologies at the U-M School of Business and the School of Information. They were instrumental in creating the Collaboratory for Research on Electronic Work and have been involved in several grant-funded projects that involved the creation of collaboratories to enable researchers to a distance to share knowledge. Although both have published prolifically alone about their research, they have been co-authors together on approximately 49 of their papers.

“Although each stands alone as a strong, independent contributor and each was separately

Professors Gary Olson and Judy Olson throughout their careers at the University of Michigan and through professional organizations. Gary Olson served as conference co-chair for the Designing Interactive Systems conferences in 1995 and ’97 and the Computer Supported Cooperative Work conference in 2004. Judy Olson served as co-chair for papers for CHI ’94. Together, they served as technical program co-chairs for CHI ’91 and as papers co-chairs for the 1996 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work.

“This award honors their long, productive collaboration as a single, unique contribution to the field of computer-human interaction, or perhaps more accurately, of human-human collaboration, mediated and enhanced through modern technologies,” CHI said. *
Elledge Takes on Accessibility Role

School of Information alumnus Michael S. Elledge (MSI ’01) is now assistant director of the Usability & Accessibility Center at Michigan State University. He began his new role on March 1.

Elledge had been accessibility specialist at the University of Michigan and accessibility team leader of the Sakai Project, a multi-university effort to design, build, and deploy new software for online learning and collaborations.

"The position represents a unique combination of my experiences in marketing and HCI: usability and accessibility, consumer research and analysis, strategic marketing, corporate-client interaction, and challenging technology issues," Elledge said.

Upon graduation from SI, Elledge joined the University of Michigan staff in 2001 as a usability consultant working with Web developers to improve user experiences.

Polar Bears Romp in Bentley Historical Library Exhibit

A part of unusual Michigan history from the World War I era of 1918-19 has come to life at the Bentley Historical Library at the U-M.

The library, in coordination with the School of Information, created the Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections to commemorate the contributions of Michigan soldiers in Russia during the First World War.

The interactive Web site (polarbears.si.umich.edu) features digitized collections on the history of an American military intervention in Russia.

The Bentley has collected materials related to this event since the 1960s. The materials consist of more than 50 individual collections of primary sources, including diaries, maps, correspondence, photographs, ephemera, printed materials, an oral interview, and a motion picture.

In the future, the Bentley may also include their published resources to the digitized collections, including books, newspapers, and pamphlets on this topic.

Associate Professor Elizabeth Yakel (AMLIS ’82; Ph.D. ’97) who teaches in the Archives and Records Management program, leads the project. The American military intervention at Archangel, Russia, at the end of World War I, nicknamed the Polar Bear Expedition, is a strange episode in American history. Ostensibly sent to Russia to prevent a German advance and to help reopen the eastern front, American soldiers found themselves fighting Bolshevik revolutionaries for months after the Armistice ended fighting in France. Because many of the American troops involved in the intervention were from Michigan, the Bentley Historical Library has long been interested in documenting this episode.

Also significant is that the site represents the first example of the School of Information’s Next Generation Finding Aids Project, an effort aimed at creating innovative approaches to present archival content online. Last year, the project expanded in scope when SI faculty and graduate students began the Next Generation Finding Aids Project. The digitized Polar Bear collections proved to be an excellent testbed for the research group’s experiment.

"For the first time we are able to deliver an entire set of related archival collections to our users via the Internet," Francis Bluin, director of the Bentley Historical Library, says. "There is interest all over the world in this small chapter of a very big story."

Users are invited to give feedback to the project team through E-mail to polarbear@umich.edu.

Lutenske Heads Library

Paul Lutenske (AMLIS ’81) has been named head of the Butman-Fish Library in Saginaw, Michigan. Previously, he was managing librarian of a Bay County (Michigan) Library System branch.

Recently graduated from the University of Michigan and accessibility team leader of the Sakai Project, a multi-university effort to design, build, and deploy new software for online learning and collaborations.

Elledge has since become an accessibility specialist, ensuring the usability of Web sites and software for persons with disabilities. Elledge also acts as an independent consultant to Factomet, a business accelerator and global technology outsourcing firm for commercializing new products and ventures based in Ann Arbor.


In addition to his MSI, he has an undergraduate degree from Vassar College and an MBA from Columbia University.

Alumni Awards

Continued from page 1

U-M, and currently manages relationships with Google’s partner libraries as they work to tackle the challenge of making millions of books searchable online. Bunnell helped launch Google’s Librarian Outreach program in 2005 with a newsletter that now reaches more than 20,000 readers.

Bunnell has also remained connected to SI and its current students. He often answers questions from current and prospective students regarding career options, and participated fully in last year’s Internet Public Library Symposium. The symposium brought together current and former IPL participants and researchers both to reflect on the IPL’s first 10 years and to help map its future. “When asked to help SI, Ben is always willing and eager to help,” Jordan said.

For more on the commencement ceremony and the awards presentation, see si.umich.edu/news.
December Graduation Cites 20

Four doctoral students and 20 master’s students were degree candidates at the December University of Michigan commencement.

The School of Information honored its degree candidates at a Graduate Recognition Ceremony at the Michigan Union prior to the U-M ceremony at Crisler Arena. In addition, SI awarded Nabechea Mohammed and Erin Podolsky with the Margaret Mann Award.

The Mann Award was established in 1938 by the University of Michigan Library Science Alumni Society in honor of Associate Professor Margaret Mann upon her retirement. Professor Mann achieved national distinction as an educator in her field. It is awarded annually to one or more students as an academic honor, based upon demonstration of ability and promise of professional development.

The following degree candidates were recognized by the School:

- **Doctor of Information**
  - R. Kelly Garrett, Christopher A. Lee, Kathleen H. Williams, and Zhu Zhang

- **Master of Science in Information**
  - Julie Hatlen, Barbara Scanlon, and Todd Roberts

- **MSI (Archives and Records Management)**
  - Mary Kenney

- **MSI (Human-Computer Interaction)**
  - Armando Castillo, David Fribley, Yang Jin, Shinya Kasuga, Kiran Kulakarni, Nabechea Mohammed, Cameron Park, Aaron Rothman, and James Sweeney

- **MSI (Information Economics, Management and Policy)**
  - Adrienne Janney, Sharon Smith, Wenyun Sun, and Fenghua Yi

- **MSI (Library and Information Services)**
  - Kristina Eden, Erin Podolsky, and Katherine Solon

Alumni Run for Presidency of American Archivists

Two candidates with ties to the School of Information are running for vice president/president-elect of the Society of American Archivists.

Anne J. Gilliland (Ph.D. ’95) is a professor at the University of California-Los Angeles and Mark A. Greene is director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. Greene earned a master’s degree in history with a concentration in archives from U-M in 1984. Both candidates are distinguished fellows of the SAA.

Keeping Tabs on Paul LeFruk

Funny, he didn’t look dangerous.

Those who remember Paul LeFruk (MILS ’00) from his days in the master’s program in the 1990s — and his time as president of the School’s student association — might wonder what the powers above really know about all of us.

MSNBC reported on its Web site that LeFruk, through his involvement with a South Florida group called the Broward Anti-War Coalition, stirred things up by protesting outside a strip-mall recruiting office in Lauderdale.

A federal government database listed the protest as a “credible” security threat. As it turned out, MSNBC reported, the entire event consisted of 15 to 20 activists waving a giant “BUSH LIED” sign.

No one was arrested.

“It’s very interesting that the U.S. military sees a domestic peace group as a threat,” librarian and protest organizer LeFruk was quoted as saying.

Bulkley Takes the Prize

School of Information doctoral student Nat Bulkley (MSI ’99) has won the first Visible Path graduate student award from the International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSSNA).

Bulkley received a $5,000 stipend in recognition of his research on how social networks are used to improve individual and inter-organizational performance. The winning paper was “An Empirical Analysis of Strategies and Efficiencies in Social Networks,” for which Bulkley was the first author.

The nonprofit INSSNA is a professional association for researchers interested in social network analysis. The award is funded by Visible Path of New York.

Bulkley holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Brown University and a Master of Science in Information from SI, with a specialization in Information Economics, Management and Policy.

Achievers

Mary Ratliik (MILS ’98) is assistant head of public services at UAE University in the United Arab Emirates.

Lisa Robinson (MSI ’98) is a catalog and metadata librarian at Michigan State University. robinson79@msu.edu

Tammy Sugarman (MSI ’98) is head of collection development for the University Library at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Constance Bridges (MSI ’99) is director of administration for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at the U-M Medical School.

Suzanne Gray (MSI ’99) is a Web services manager for the U-M Library.

Anthony Hand (MSI ’99) is a mobile user interface designer with Nokia Enterprise Solutions in the Boston area.

Susan Payne (MSI ’99) is library director at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

Donna Wilson (MSI ’99) is a leadership development program fellow in the Office of the Librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Javier Ascasibar (MSI ’00) is a user-interface designer with Indra in Madrid, Spain. ascasibar@hotmail.com

Shafeeq Banthavaswai (MSI ’00) is a manager for Deloitte & Touche LLP in San Francisco.

Stephen Bollinger (MSI ’00) works in library information technology with the Capital Area District Library in Lansing, Michigan.

Daniel Cooney (MSI ’00) is senior associate consultant with West Pole, Inc., in Ann Arbor. dcooney@pm.com

Rebecca Bizonet (MSI ’01) is an assistant archivist with the U-M Special Collections Library. miz@umich.edu

Jane Greenwood (MSI ’01) is a readers advisory librarian for the West-

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**A ch i e v e r s**

Christi Patrick (MSI ’02) has joined the Detroit office of the law firm Kerr, Russell and Weber PLC as an associate.

“I had a great experience at SI,” she says. “I’ve found the degree invaluable as I head into my legal career.” She will practice business and information law.

Laura Tatum (MSI ’02) is an archivist with the Yale University Library Manuscripts and Archives.

Naomi Daniel (MSI ’03) is information architect strategic lead at Hewlett Packard in Palo Alto, California.

Barbara Few (MSI ’03) is a clinical advisor for Clinical Systems Implementation in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jeff Gedeon (MSI ’03) is a third-year law student in Lansing, Michigan with plans to graduate in May and begin practicing in November. He plans to practice intellectual property law, including patent, trademark, and copyright law.

Kristin Hitchcock (MSI ’03) is a research librarian for the Family Physicians Inquiries Network at the University of Chicago.

Anne Holcomb (MSI ’03) has been newsroom librarian for the Kalamazoo Gazette in Michigan since December 2004. She is responsible for maintaining a text archive of news stories from 1992 to the present and a large collection of historical clippings and photos. She also has news research and staff training duties and assists in strategic planning for information resources in the organization.

Pragy Sen (MSI ’03) is an analyst in quality assurance for Computer Horizons Corp. in Troy, Michigan.

N. Sadat Shami (MSI ’03) is a doctoral student in the Department of Information Science at Cornell University. He anticipates graduation in May 2008.

Michelle Sweetser (MSI ’03) is an attorney and consumer interface designer for Marquette University Special Collections & University Archives.

Sara Ullius-Sabel (MSI ’03) is a usability specialist with Global Consumer Design in Benton Harbor, Michigan. “I’ve gotten married! Jason Sabel and I were married in St. Joseph, Michigan on October 1, 2005,” she writes.

John Visnaw (MSI ’03) works for the Plymouth (Michigan) District Library.

Rebecca Yoo (MSI ’03) is working in marketing with Thomson Creative Solutions in Dexter, Michigan.

Charles (Chassy) Cleland (MSI ’04) is an information architect for the MTV network in New York City. Since graduation, he has also been an information architect and user interface designer for the Historical Statistics of the United States Millennial Edition Online for Cambridge University Press, and producer and developer of Mariska.com, the official Web presence for actress Mariska Hargitay of the Law & Order: SVU program.

Exploring Ways to Make a Difference: At left, Jonathan James (foreground) listens to a presentation by Tyrone Winfrey, associate director of the U-M Office of Undergraduate Admissions. At right, Diana Gavales tours a multimedia lab at the Boll Family YMCA in downtown Detroit.

**C IC L o o ks t o T a k e A c t i o n i n D e t r o i t**

A day filled with contrasts was more than just educational for students and faculty of the School of Information — it was an eye-opener.

On one hand, it was a bleak look at Detroit with many of its neighborhoods in disrepair. On the other, it was a view of those same areas as grounds full of opportunities for anyone with a desire to serve the public good.

Looking at the same thing from different viewpoints was one of the purposes of the Saturday, February 18 trip organized by the Community Information Corps, an SI initiative that explores the changing role of information and technology in society. Students in the CIC are especially interested in taking on jobs that can make a difference in a community, as many graduates already have in the United States and such places as Central America. The nearly 50 participants were also interested in seeing how the University of Michigan as a whole can promote positive change in the city.

“The purpose of the trip was to acquaint CIC-interested SI faculty and doctoral and master’s students with Detroit demographics, opportunities and challenges, and to stimulate our thinking about how we might use the new U-M Detroit Center in research, education, and service projects,” says Associate Professor Maurita Holland.

The field trip for SI 575: “CIC Seminar in Kids, Technology, and Informal Learning,” included narration by Reynolds Farley, professor emeritus of sociology and research professor emeritus of population studies. His career in large part focused on the problems and possibilities of Detroit, and his depth of knowledge about the history of Detroit rivaled that of any textbook.

Farley’s descriptions, coupled with stops at the new Boll Family YMCA and the U-M Detroit Center, stirred much discussion about Detroit’s outlook. At the U-M Detroit Center, Detroit school board member and U-M employee Tyrone Winfrey concentrated on the need to improve city schools. Winfrey, associate director of U-M undergraduate admissions, outlined challenges city schools face in the near future.

Throughout the day, as the bus meandered the streets, Farley explained how different ethnic groups settled in various neighborhoods and what impact they had on the city. In his role at the U-M Population Studies Center, he carefully tracked Detroit census data and watched the ebb and flow. The life of some neighborhoods seemingly disappeared entirely, while that of others has thrived. Those who live outside the city don’t often picture the latter.

The city was not a first-time destination for all who toured, but everyone came away with new interpretations, regardless. “During my time at SI,” said student Noor Ali-Hasan, “I’ve visited Detroit several times, but the tour gave me a whole new perspective on the city.”

Holland says SI will continue to explore opportunities for students and graduates in Detroit. A follow-up meeting with Winfrey, of undergraduate admissions, was held March 31.
**Alumna Craig Wins ACRL Distance Learning Award**

Monica Hines Craig (AMLS ’78), off-campus librarian for the Metro Detroit Region at Central Michigan University, has been named this year’s recipient of the Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Conference Sponsorship Award.

The award is presented by the Distance Learning Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

This annual award honors an ACRL member working in the field of, or contributing to the success of, distance-learning librarianship or related library service in higher education.

“Monica is one of our founders, having been an active member and contributor since the Distance Learning Section of ACRL was established in 1990,” said Tom Abbott, chair of the DLS award committee. “She has made significant contributions to the field of distance learning librarianship through teaching and supporting off-campus students and faculty at Central Michigan University for the past 18 years.

Craig is a “mentor, collaborator, and cheerleader” for distance-learning librarians, students, and faculty alike, the ACRL noted. “Her quiet and distinguished leadership is valued and respected by all.”

The Haworth Press, Inc., sponsor of the award, will present Hines Craig with a $1,200 award and a plaque at the American Library Association annual conference in New Orleans during the Distance Learning Section program at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 24.

ACRL is a division of the American Library Association, representing 13,000 academic and research librarians and interested individuals.

**Finding a Patent in a Haystack is Getting Easier**

School of Information researchers are studying methods that will make it easier for inventors and businesses to search through and explore millions of U.S. patents and find the ones they really want.

Assistant Professor Gavin Clarkson is heading a research team on patent cartography to find efficient ways for nonexpert users to cut through “the patent thickets.” They will devote part of the research to creating visual representations of patent searches so that users can quickly see how their search results tie in with related sets of data.

The SI research team is working with scientists from the IBM Almaden Research Center on the project, which has been funded over three years with a $397,964 grant from the National Science Foundation. The study involves all U.S. patent data back to 1976, including the full text of several million patents, provided by IBM and now housed digitally on the U-M campus. Approximately 200,000 U.S. patents are granted each year.

IBM is providing software search tools that will be adapted by the SI team to make natural-language searching and information retrieval possible when applied to the patent data. Conquering those problems alone will be a huge step forward for anyone interested in effectively searching U.S. Patent Office data, Clarkson notes.

“What IBM has are new taxonomy-generating and graphical representation tools that we are turning toward the patent space to see if we can systematically improve the process of patent searches by nonexperts,” Clarkson says.

**Almost Like Getting There — Before You Leave Here**

School of Information researchers were part of a team that won the prestigious Supercomputing 2005 Bandwidth Challenge (BWC), an elite annual competition that encourages innovation and will expand network capacity to deliver huge data flows for real-world science applications.

The group delivered a peak of more than 150 gigabits per second (Gbps) of data to the floor of the Supercomputing 2005 conference in Seattle. At that rate of transfer, it could have sent all of the Library of Congress’s print content to Seattle in less than nine minutes.

The winning effort was a collaboration of researchers at several institutions, including U-M, Caltech, Fermi National Accelerator Lab, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. The challenge showcased the high-speed transfer of particle physics data between collaborating labs located around the globe.

The BWc collaboration achieved a peak data transfer rate of 150.7 Gbps and sustained a rate in excess of 100 Gbps for several hours. Researchers connected a total of 22 10-Gbps “waves” of data feeds linked via fiber optics from partner institutions as far away as Brazil and Korea.

SI participants included MGRID members and the Center for Information Technology Integration. Thomas Finholt, research associate professor at SI and acting MGRID director, says U-M’s role in the 2005 BWC win showed that the University is a frontline player in advancing cyberinfrastructure.

**Stay in Touch on the Alumni Blog**

Keep in touch with SI and your far-flung classmates via the SI Alumni Blog. This forum is a great way to learn about what your School and your colleagues are up to, and to contribute to the discussion yourself! Visit the SI Alumni Blog at si.umich.edu/alumni/blog.

**A c h i e v e r s**

Jan Johansson (MSI ’04) is information systems specialist/operations analyst and presidential management fellow in the Knowledge Services Group of the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service. His work involves designing information flows and work processes.

Joanna Markel (MSI ’04) is manager of the user-experience design team at ProQuest in Ann Arbor. In July 2005, twin daughters, Abigail and Caitlyn arrived. joannamarkel@yahoo.com

Michel Nguyenssen (MSI ’04) is head of library and academic technology at the Governors State University Library in Illinois. cangaley@yahoo.com

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Jo Ané Wright (MSI ’04) is an information architect with Travelocity in Southlake, Texas.

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Shibani Kapoor (MSI ’05) is a human factors engineer with Intel Corp.

Kiran Kulkarni (MSI ’05) is a usability engineer with Microsoft. kulkarni.kiran@gmail.com

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Stephanie Lichtenauer (MSI ’05) is social sciences reference and instruction librarian at the University of Colorado in Boulder. slichten@umich.edu

Sarah McNitt (MSI ’05) is a study-abroad counselor for the Office of International Education at Miami (Ohio) University.

Abigail Potter (MSI ’05) is at the Library of Congress Office of Strategic Initiatives in Washington, D.C. She is working on national digital preservation projects. Most recently, she worked at National Public Radio.

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Todd Roberts (MSI ’05) is management analyst for the Washtenaw Community Health Organization in Ypsilanti, Michigan. trrobert@umich.edu

Emily Tennant (MSI ’05) is a fellow at the North Carolina State University Libraries. emilytennant@umich.edu

**E x t r a s**

Doctoral students Derek Hansen and Nikhil Sharma shared the School of Information’s annual Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award announced this winter.
You’re a Role Model…
…and our prospective students know it. Our alumni them foresee the opportunities that lie ahead. To refer a prospective student, write to si.admissions@umich.edu or call (734) 763-2285. You can also ask for recruitment CDs if you would like to have some to hand out.

Please Join Us…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Alumni Reception at the annual Medical Library Association conference in Phoenix, 6-7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 N. Second St. Look for updates at si.umich.edu/events or write to <a href="mailto:kjordan@umich.edu">kjordan@umich.edu</a> to be notified personally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>Alumni Reception at the annual American Library Association convention at the Morial Convention Center, New Orleans. For time and location, see si.umich.edu/events or write to <a href="mailto:kjordan@umich.edu">kjordan@umich.edu</a> to be notified personally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Alumni Reception at the annual Society of American Archivists conference in Washington, D.C., 7:30-9 p.m. at the Hilton Washington, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW. Updates at si.umich.edu/events or write to <a href="mailto:kjordan@umich.edu">kjordan@umich.edu</a> to be notified personally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>John Seely Brown Symposium on Technology and Society. See si.umich.edu/events for late-breaking details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>School of Information Alumni Society Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Ehrlicher Room, 411 West Hall. Open to all alumni.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>School of Information Anniversary Celebration to mark the 10th year of the School of Information and the 80 combined years of academic history in information science. All alumni are invited to campus for the event. In addition, Community Information Corps alumni will gather for a two-day reunion. See si.umich.edu/events and the summer issue of SI@umich for planned activities.</td>
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Dear School of Information ...

1. My thoughts about this publication (SI@umich look, format, articles):
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

2. My thoughts about the Web site (si.umich.edu/alumni):
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

Please return this survey information by any of these methods:

Postal mail: Karen Jordan
SI Development and Alumni Relations
304 West Hall
1085 South University Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1107

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: _________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

Daytime phone: _______________ E-mail: ____________________________

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

☐ Yes, add me to your alumni E-mail group

True Optimists: Master’s students Elizabeth Jones, Lev Rickards, Yang Shi, and Jill Griffiths searched for solutions to Ann Arbor’s vehicle parking problems (also known as the holy grail) for a project in their SI 501, “Use of Information” course in the fall. The project was carried out in conjunction with the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority. Trek Glowacki was also a team member.