Student HCI Team Brings Home Honors

It's becoming old hat at SI. Teams of master's and doctoral students are selected to compete in the Student Design Competition at the annual Computer-Human Interaction (CHI) conference — the premier professional event in the field of human-computer interaction — and they bring home honors.

Three SI teams qualified for the semifinal round in the 2008 competition, held in Florence, Italy, and one of those teams, “doGooder: Fostering Volunteer Communities to Serve the Homeless,” placed second in the finals. Last year an SI team finished first, and in 2006 an SI team took third.

Members of the doGooder team were MSI students Melissa Perez, Jackie Cerretani, Joshua Morse, Sameer Halai, and Jim Laing (shown left to right, above).

All competing teams were asked to develop systems to improve services provided to the homeless. The doGooder team interviewed a range of people who provide such services and decided to focus on ways to get more volunteers to help those in need.

“Through this process,” the team reported, “we began to understand the importance of the social aspects of volunteering. The solution became obvious: we could harness the power of online social networks to nurture and grow an existing volunteer community.”

Following the competition, team member Cerretani remarked on the quality of the other two SI teams. “They gave us an incredible run for our money with their thoughtful and creative projects, and when doGooder was selected,” she said, “their support made it seem as if our team had tripled in size. At the finals, UMich cheered the loudest!”

The three SI entries in 2008 grew from projects developed in Assistant Professor Mick McQuaid's fall 2007 interaction design course. The other two SI projects in the competition were “Portalis: Using an Online Game to Support Aid Initiatives for the Homeless” and “QR (Quick Response)-codes for the Chronically Homeless.”

Want to keep up on what's new? Visit SI@umich.edu.

Lada Adamic: CAREER Promise

Notable accomplishments in hand and the promise of a great career as a teacher and researcher have earned Assistant Professor Lada Adamic a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from the National Science Foundation.

The award, worth $438,000 over five years, is for proposed work on the social dynamics of information in virtual spaces. The NSF selects only about 300 young faculty for these awards nation-wide each year.

Adamic joined the SI faculty in 2005, after spending four years as a research scientist at HP Labs (the exploratory and advanced research group for Hewlett-Packard). She studies information dynamics in networks: how information influences network growth, how network structure affects the flow of information, and how users navigate social networks. Her recent research has included one of the first large-scale analyses of how people share knowledge on public question-and-answer sites.

“Millions of individuals are flocking to online question/answer forums to seek answers directly from others,” Adamic says. “Part of the reason is the social aspect.”

Adamic and her colleagues studied one month of activity at the Yahoo Answers site — more than a million questions. They found that participants use the site to exchange advice and opinions in addition to technical expertise, at times using it more as a discussion forum even though the site is not set up to facilitate that kind of broad conversation.

The team, which included Associate Professor Mark Ackerman, recent doctoral graduate Jun Zhang, and doctoral student Eytan Bakshy, also discovered the formula for getting an answer chosen as best in such forums. “Askers prefer longer replies,” Adamic said, “whether it be a question about marriage, wrestling, or science.”

Adamic’s NSF CAREER Award will support her work developing a model of the ways community structure affects the spread of information online.

“More and more we conduct our lives in the digital domain,” says Adamic, “from the way we acquire and share information, to the way we communicate, socialize, and organize.”

“Such activities leave behind traces of

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Do Bloggers Really Kill Kittens?

Some of Lada Adamic’s past work on information diffusion has used the “epidemic” metaphor to describe an idea spreading through a network like a contagion. She tells a story that illustrates that this metaphor is also apt in terms of the “contagious” information mutating as it spreads virally.

Several years ago she and Eyvind Aradi did a study at HP Labs inferring paths that information takes through a network of blogs. One conclusion, Adamic says, was that “bloggers don’t always attribute exactly who they get their information from.”

Wired published a story about this study under the title “Warning: Blogs Can Be Infectious.”

In best viral fashion, the tech Web site Slashdot picked up the story, with a slightly more provocative title, “says Adamic, “which was ‘Bloggers’ Plagiarism Scientifically Proven.’”

The story next spread to the site Metafilter. “Metafilter made it sound even more sinister; they said ‘A good amount of

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Paris Calls, Bast Answers

MSI student Anne Bast fell in love with France as an undergraduate on a six-month study abroad. Now she is continuing her education and her immersion in French culture as the first American student to enter the 18-month advanced certificate program at the prestigious Institut National du Patrimoine, or INP, which trains the elite of France’s cultural heritage preservation professionals.

Bast’s INP opportunity is one product of a long relationship between U-M’s Bentley Historical Library and the French National Archives. For each of the past 12 years, an INP student has met that program’s international internship requirement by coming to work at the Bentley. After applying and interviewing with visiting INP

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Them's the Breaks

What do Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C., have in common? They all benefited from SI’s Alternative Spring Break programs, in which 73 master’s students set out to work in public and nonprofit organizations for a week at tasks related to their academic coursework. For more, see page 4. Photo courtesy of Kumud Bihani.
Darlene Crane (AMLS ’74) has parlayed into a successful small-business consulting firm.

As president and business designer of PCI Crane Consulting, which she operates with her husband, Steven, Crane’s passion is small businesses, and seeing them succeed. In the almost twenty years since she established the firm, she has served countless leaders in both corporations and small businesses.

Capitalizing on her abilities as a visual thinker, she gives small businesses the edge they need to compete, using “graphic facilitation,” or the illustration of ideas, to show clients how they can strengthen management and communicate better with employees and customers. She also helps them with IT project strategy and program management.

Those clients quickly discover a personality that is both full of humor — handy when dealing with myriad client personalities — and serious in purpose. She brings a valuable perspective on how businesses work and how they can fail, a perspective gained from 16 years in the banking industry and later by consulting with corporations.

Crane entered banking shortly after graduating from U-M with two master’s degrees: one in library science and the other in East Asian Studies.

And though she worked at the Business School library and learned the ropes, her career aspirations didn’t lie in librarianship. “I fully intended to use my general learning in a business,” she says. So after graduating and heading to California, she took that learning into banking.

Her early years in the industry coincided with a major U.S. Treasury Department push to get more women into banking management. Crane fit the bill, and a degree in library science might be the last thing you’d think a consultant needs to improve the performance of a small business.

But she thrived, in no small part because the skills she gained in her AMLS program, she says, gave her the ability “to sift through masses of data and turn it into knowledge of every part of the business, to apply in reorganization, merger integration, and especially turn-around situations.

“I would say that ability allowed me to take on extreme jumps in responsibility because I was totally confident of how to mobilize knowledge to get the job done. So I went from a analyst’s role into a management role, successfully turning around a $2 billion operation in 18 months.”

With a clearer picture of just how marketable her skills as a strategic thinker were, in 1989 she took the big step and set out on her own.

“When I was making the decision to become a consultant I took a career planning workshop,” she says. “One of the assessments identified that librarianship is classified as an artistic profession. That was a landmark for me because it finally made sense of my amateur artistic abilities and passion to create visual tools.”

Although she has built a national client list, Crane is based in the San Francisco Bay Area and was ringside for the boom and bust of the dot-com craze.

The experience led her to value more than ever the discipline she had learned in banking and became an object lesson for her in the philosophy that clients should avoid the temptation of spectacular growth at the expense of the carefully planned expansion that will help them survive the down years.

That kind of grounding can be hard to impart to small businesses that believe they’re the next big thing. It’s one area in which she helps them stay focused, even while she’s helping them achieve their goals for that carefully planned long-term growth.

Freedom and resources nurture the mavericks Crane says she likes to work with, those who thrive on creativity and new ideas on the leading edge of their industries. These are the people often overlooked by bankers and others who typically bestow their advice on more traditional businesses.

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Part of the appeal for her is the breadth such organizations require: “The principals and owners have to manage from a broad knowledge base to be successful,” she says, asserting that larger companies have become so functionally oriented that they no longer nurture broad generalists who see across functions and issues.

Breadth is one aspect of her library science education that has stood her well in good stead on her career path, but she also points to specifics: “Professionally I use learning from usability, information systems, and management to enhance the performance of every customer I served as an employee and every company I have advised,” she says.

And though she has traveled far from her library science master’s, she credits the degree with helping pay her way: “the AMLS has taken me on a long journey.”
Rottenberg Family’s Love for Each Other Leads to Scholarship

The School of Information never gives a scholarship to a deserving student with an expectation of getting something in return. So it’s especially rewarding when the family of a past scholarship recipient decides to give back to the School in a way that will benefit future students for years to come.

Dr. Mark Rottenberg and his sister, Lisa Friedman, have created the Beatrice Rottenberg Scholarship as a thank-you to SI for giving Rottenberg’s daughter Cari Rottenberg (MSI ’05) a scholarship. The new scholarship is endowed through the Rottenberg Family Foundation in honor of Mark and Lisa’s late parents, Beatrice and E.N. Rottenberg.

The gift, coupled with eligible matching funds from the office of President Mary Sue Coleman (see related story, below), has established a nearly $100,000 endowed scholarship for master’s students. The scholarship is the first established by the family.

The original academic scholarship to Cari Rottenberg in 2003 served to coax her home to Michigan from Massachusetts, where she had earned her undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At the time, she was thinking of continuing her graduate education at MIT. Having Cari come home meant a great deal to her family.

“My late father got a chance to see and enjoy his granddaughter because of that scholarship,” Mark Rottenberg said. “Cari’s brother Adam, who attended U-M, got re-acquainted with his sister. Cari got a chance to enjoy the Michigan experience, including the sports and social events.”

He adds that he is “forever grateful to the School of Information for giving our family a chance to be together.”

The rekindling of relationships within the family was an unintended consequence of Cari’s SI scholarship, of course. But Mark Rottenberg noted he watched his daughter benefit in other important ways that were intended when the scholarship was awarded.

“Most importantly, Cari received an outstanding education preparing her for success in her career in user-experience design,” he added. “Her personal growth, professional success, and opportunity to reunite with local family and friends were because of the School of Information scholarship she received. The scholarship we created is our expression of gratitude.”

Cari Rottenberg, now a user-experience designer at McAfee in Sunnyvale, California, even met her boyfriend, Matt Jacobs, at Michigan. He now heads the Silicon Valley Chapter of the Michigan Alumni Association.

“I am very thankful for the wonderful education and career guidance I received from the School of Information,” she said. “My experiences there have enabled me to succeed in the career path I have chosen. I think it is wonderful that my father and his sister chose to establish a scholarship at the School of Information in honor of their parents and our family.”

The family’s ties to the U-M run deep. Mark Rottenberg received his undergraduate degree from Michigan in 1975 and his medical degree in 1977. He specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation in Farmington Hills, Michigan and is medical director of Pain Management & Rehab Associates.

His father also earned his medical degree from Michigan, and his mother was a U-M graduate who served on the board of the School of Education and was a volunteer on the Campaign for Michigan. Cari’s brother Adam was an arts editor of the Michigan Daily while at U-M.

And the pipeline is still active: Lisa Friedman, who with her brother has created the new scholarship, is also a U-M alumna, with a BA in art history. Her son Ben now attends U-M, majoring in classical studies.

In speaking of her grandparents, Cari Rottenberg said “They always had strong ties to the University, and it is wonderful that we can pay a tribute to them by enabling students to pursue a graduate degree from the School of Information for years to come.”

Kathryn E. Taylor Creates Scholarship in Honor of Her Mentor

Kathryn E. Taylor (AMLS ’68) has established an endowed scholarship for SI master’s students as a tribute to her late mentor, U-M librarian Mildred Loeffler.

Loeffler, the long-time head of the U-M Business School library, and Taylor’s first employer, died at age 94 in 2004.

Taylor, who has always remembered the guidance she received under Loeffler, said it inspired her to provide a gift that will benefit SI students.

After leaving Ann Arbor, Taylor herself went on to a distinguished career, becoming the first librarian in the San Francisco office of McKinsey & Co. In 1977, she launched her own library management consulting and design firm, Taylor & Associates. “We found ourselves on the cutting edge of the information revolution,” she said. “Library systems needed computerizing, and then libraries themselves needed computerizing.”

Since selling her share of the firm to her partners, Taylor has lived in New Hampshire. She is impressed with how U-M has addressed relevant national issues, such as freedom of information and affirmative action, and with the way that SI has evolved over the years.

“Playwright Tom Stoppard said that when the world shifts, you must shift, to maintain equilibrium,” she said. “SI has done that. I received my master’s degree in library science with only one computer course. Today’s information world is light years away.”

Taylor added “My family has long believed in the importance of education, and that it should be available to all students, regardless of income.” Thanks to her generosity, SI is a step closer to realizing that dream.

Dr. Mark Rottenberg is surrounded by daughter Cari (MSI ’05) at left, son Adam, and sister Lisa. (Photo courtesy of the Rottenberg family)

Are You Up to the Challenge? President Coleman Will Match Your Gifts to SI

It’s not too late to stretch your gift dollars to the School of Information through the President’s Donor Challenge.

For a limited time, University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman will add $1 for every $2 you donate to support graduate and professional student education — including gifts made to scholarships, fellowships, internships, and student awards.

This applies through 2008 to all such gifts and pledges up to $1 million until $40 million in graduate support is committed University-wide. Because this challenge is open to all U-M graduate programs, the pool of $20 million in available matching funds could go quickly. Making your gift now ensures matching support for a graduate student in SI.

Gifts to SI scholarship funds are particularly needed. Out of approximately 300 SI master’s students, only 20 percent get financial aid from private sources, so SI scholarship support is critical if the School is to continue recruiting the most talented students.

Gifts at all levels will make a difference; those at the level of $50,000 or more will endow a named scholarship, which will continue supporting students far into the future. And with the President’s Donor Challenge funds, your gift will have an even greater impact.

The Challenge also covers corporate matching funds. Gifts are, of course, tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Call Karen Jordan at (734) 647-7652 for details on how to give. A list of all SI scholarship funds with a description of their donor and purpose is at SI.UMICH.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS.

Explore Giving Opportunities: www.giving.umich.edu
SI Students Go All Out to Help Others, Gain Career Experience

More students than ever before participated in this year’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program at SI.

In all, 73 master’s students from across all specializations contributed a week of work at 11 sites in Chicago, 11 in Washington, D.C., and four in New York City. Sites included organizations such as EDUCAUSE, Population Action International, the Library of Congress, the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and the Paley Center for Media.

The program also garnered a record level of support this year, thanks in part to a substantial gift from alumna Margo Crist (AMLS ’69) (see related story below).

This was the 10th year for ASB at SI. Kelly Kowatch, SI career counselor who coordinates the program, noted that participating students and sites alike reported that the experience was mutually beneficial. “Organizations provided students with interesting hands-on projects and professional development opportunities that allowed the students to meet with a wide range of staff and to participate in lectures and meetings to further supplement this real-world experience,” Kowatch says.

In Washington, student Tiffany Chao, who is specializing in both Archives and Records Management and Preservation of Information, worked at the Library of Congress. “I definitely gained a perspective on government work at a large institution with extensive service to others,” she said. “I was very fortunate to have supportive supervisors who shared their insights and stories about how they came into this field.”

Also in Washington, Kumud Bihani, a Human-Computer Interaction student, served at Population Action International. “I found a way to connect the content management system to the data repository,” she said, “so that the information present in the content management system could be backed up. I really liked the work; it was challenging.”

Alison Truelock, who is specializing in both Archives and Records Management and Information Policy, found challenging work at the Office of General Counsel at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington. “I mostly performed research on topics related to E-discovery for the director of litigation,” she said. “I also attended meetings with the director and a House Oversight Committee meeting on the Hill on archiving White House E-mail. Going to the hearing on the Hill was probably the most exciting and interesting thing I did, but the research I was doing for the director was also interesting and relevant to a lot of what SI is about.”

Truelock also commented on the way ASB work can complement class work. “My ASB experience was really useful for putting a lot of the theory we discuss in class into context in the real world, and seeing how things actually work in real-world settings. The experience definitely made me excited about the kinds of jobs that are out there.”

In New York City, Jennifer Balaco, a Library and Information Services specialization student, reported to work at the New York Public Library’s Office of Young Adult Services. She observed teen librarians throughout the city and attended meetings focused on community collaboration and the needs of city youth. Balaco said a course taught by Adjunct Lecturer Margaret Taylor, Media for Children and Young Adults,” proved to be directly applicable to her experiences, since she had read 50 books for teens and young adults in the course.

“I was very focused on material for teens and was able to draw on these readings. It helped me to discuss the popular titles with the librarians as well as verify my interest in working with teens,” she said.

Balaco spent one day at the Bronx Library Center. “This turned out to be the most eye-opening and rewarding experience,” she said. “The teens were amazing, using the library after school as a place to hang out, study, and engage in discussion about books and the programming to be offered. It was so impressive and my best experience of the week.”

Mary Kuipers, another LIS student, worked at the Brooklyn Public Library, which fit in well with her goal of public librarianship. “I went to ASB with one primary goal in mind — to determine whether I would enjoy working reference in a large public library in the city. After one day at the BPL, the answer was a resounding yes! I had hoped I might enjoy such work; now I know it. I consider this the most valuable part of my ASB experience, because knowing this has dramatically and positively influenced my future career goals.”

Kuipers admitted she went to New York with a few “rose-colored ideals” about what librarians could do for a community. “Her experience led her to believe she is on the right path.” After observing the Education and Job Information Center librarians sharing life-changing education and career information with their patrons, she said, “I am pleased to say there is still a place for those with such ideals, and it is the public library!”

For Elaine Engstrom, ASB reinforced her goal of working in an academic library, while taking advantage of her background in engineering. She got to test-drive that profession at Columbia University, working with science librarians. That was a good fit for Engstrom, who specializes in both LIS and HCI.

“I spent one-on-one time with the engineering, chemistry, math, biology, geology, and physics librarians,” Engstrom noted. “I gained insight on how they serve the students and faculty that use their library, in addition to managing their collections, their Web sites, their physical space, and how their libraries are changing as many resources are going digital, especially since they have such limited space constraints in New York City.”

In Chicago, HCI student Jasper Liu worked at the American Library Association, conducting usability tests for the LibraryCares.org Web site. He proposed interface improvements and learned the ALA content management system. “The experience in the real working environment makes me reflect on my previous career plan of working in a tech company, like Google or Microsoft. Now I found out that working in the non-tech-centered corporation is also very attractive.”

This “trying on a career” aspect of ASB is one of its most valuable, students say. And it’s one of the reasons why more SI students try on ASB with each passing year. *

Alumna Margo Crist Puts Students First with Support of ASB

One reason the Alternative Spring Break program has been a resounding success has been the support of the SI community.

This year, Margo Crist (AMLS ’69) provided ASB organizers with a $5,000 contribution, spurred in part by seeing the internal contributions from students, staff, and faculty. The SI community effort included a weekend, student-organized “penny war” that resulted in contributions totaling $2,286.91 from loose change scrounged from under cushions, folded bills taking up space in wallets, and some hefty checks. This surpassed the $1,462.43 raised in the 2007 penny war.

In addition, this year’s students raised funds through a talent show, a book sale, and a bottle and can drive, bringing the student-raised grand total to $4,100, an amount matched by the Olive Webb Memorial Fund.

“As an alum who attended the School several decades ago, it has been a pleasure to see all the ways in which the values and leadership skills that have always been central to the program continue to be embraced,” said Crist, who retired in 2004 as director of libraries at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

“Students now learn in very different ways and the new sources of enrichment provided seem endless. When I was recently introduced to the Alternative Spring Break program, I knew I had found a place I could support with my gifts,” she said.

A long-time supporter of SI, Crist said she is pleased that the School offers such a program that provides direct work-related experience for students.

“Students spend an intense week, when they could be at leisure, on location at work sites, both learning and contributing,” she observed. “The students do their own fund raising, but it is clear that alums can help the dean ensure the continuation of this enrichment opportunity.”

What more could Crist say?

“Bravo, SI! You have my support.” *
Ensuring That No One Forgets the ‘Island of No Return’

The legacy of American colonial rule in the Philippines during the early 20th century includes a dark chapter many Filipinos would rather forget.

Government policy at that time toward people who had leprosy or who were suspected of having it was to isolate them on Culion, one of the Philippines’ 7,100 islands. In short, they were out of sight, out of mind, as SI doctoral student Ricardo L. Punzalan points out.

Punzalan is working to ensure that the records of that period in the Philippines’ history will not be lost and that the people whose lives were changed by it won’t be forgotten. Since April 2005, he has organized and archived thousands of case files from the former Culion Leper Colony, which opened in 1906 with the express purpose of treating and secluding those with leprosy.

“Certain attitudes toward leprosy became a legacy that remained even decades after the colonial era came to an end,” Punzalan said. “Culion, in contemporary memory, connotes banishment and isolation in an ‘island of no return.’”

Punzalan, who is also an assistant professor of archival studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, said that Culion today is largely populated by its former patients and descendants of those patients. More than 20,000 people live on the island now, he said, but few have moved there by choice.

The records Punzalan has archived as part of his doctoral dissertation work document the lives of thousands of people, many of whom never had leprosy but were nonetheless considered societal outcasts due to the suspicion that they might get it. Leprosy-free Filipino citizens often would not leave Culion for fear of the stigma attached to having been there, even temporarily.

Mandatory segregation of leprosy patients ended in the Philippines in 1953 when both the government and doctors concluded that forced segregation did not help eradicate the disease. The truth is that doctors in the 1950s did not know what caused the disease, nor did they know how it spread. It wasn’t until the 1970s and 1980s that multidrug therapy, or MDT, took hold as an effective treatment for leprosy patients.

Looking through the records and realizing how many families were disrupted can be an emotional experience, Punzalan said. He pointed out that other serious diseases of the time, such as tuberculosis and cholera, did not result in the government moving people into what essentially was a lifetime of isolation.

“I went into this thinking that a record is a record,” he said. “But the records came alive, and I realized these records represented patients who received experimental treatments or who were forced to send their children out for adoption.” He hopes that those children who were adopted will be able to use these records to help discover who their biological parents were.

Preserving medical reports, as Punzalan is doing, shows how hospital records themselves can aid in reconstructing social memory. Without them, many of the details of Culion would forever be lost. The original “leper colony” facility is now a hospital, and the archival records are stored there.

“The idea is to open the archive to the public, essentially the former patients and their relatives,” he said. So far, it’s not available on the Internet, but if Punzalan has his way, Culion and those whose lives were shattered by it will no longer be “out of sight, out of mind.”

Anne Bast: Our American in Paris in an International Exchange Program

Continued from page 1

officers last spring, Bast became the first student to go the other way in this international exchange.

Her selection is a testament to the strength of the SI Archives and Records Management program and the caliber of student it attracts. Fewer than 40 applicants worldwide were selected from the 600 candidates who took the certificate program entrance exam last fall.

Bast’s work abroad will complement her master’s work at SI. “The theoretical background I’ve gotten here (at SI) will be really, really useful,” she said. She will leave the program with a diploma as a “conservator” from the INP and an MSI degree from SI. The French “conservator” title most closely mirrors the English “curator” title.

The INP program emphasizes administration and management and features coursework coupled with four required internships. Those include a six-month internship in a Paris archive and an international internship.

Bast hopes to return to work in the U.S., but will continue to look outward. “I’m excited about getting an international education,” she said, “because I’ve wanted to move into a position with an international focus. Cultural heritage questions in the digital world are really international questions.”

Asked what she was most looking forward to in Paris, she said it was getting to know the city on intimate terms and “getting to speak French again, all the time!”

As an American in Paris, she’s no doubt finding plenty of opportunity to do that.

Some Get Scholarships, Mabunda Gets the Whole Scholar Ship

Lorna Mpho Mabunda (MSI ’00) knows how to pick a job with a view.

She spent the first four months of 2008 sailing around the world as assistant director of the Learning Resource Center on “The Scholar Ship.”

This innovative ocean-going campus is a former cruise ship. Students, faculty, and crew set sail from Hong Kong on January 2 and, by voyage end in April, had docked in 11 ports, including Shanghai, Bangkok, Cape Town, Istanbul, Barcelona, and Amsterdam.

Experiential learning in the ports coupled with academic course work while at sea created a unique intercultural experience. Throughout the voyage, the ship hosted “global scholars” — experts, leaders, and artists from various disciplines who shared their experiences and insights with the ship’s community.

Mabunda worked to foster a transnational learning community on board for graduate and undergraduate students of international business, international communications, and international relations. She sends no word of whether any of the students on board The Scholar Ship attended on scholarship.
**Award Cites Atkins’ Achievements**

A career-long commitment to empowering communities through the strength of global computing has earned Professor Daniel E. Atkins the prestigious Paul Evan Peters Award from the Coalition for Networked Information, the Association of Research Libraries, and EDUCAUSE.

The award recognizes Atkins’ notable, lasting achievements in the creation and innovative use of information resources and services that advance scholarship and intellectual productivity through communication networks.

Atkins has an international reputation for enabling communities — from space scientists to local nonprofit organizations — to work and share common resources regardless of geographic location. He has consistently worked to use the power of large-scale computing to stimulate positive community action.

He joins a short but illustrious list of previous winners of this award: Tim Berners-Lee, Vinton Cerf, Brewster Kahle, and Paul Ginsparg.

For the past two years, Atkins has served as the first director of the National Science Foundation Office of Cyberinfrastructure in Washington, D.C. His expertise and perspective on issues affecting the global computing community will find a welcome home at SI this fall, when he will return to the School to head the Community Informatics specialization within the master’s program.

As SI@umich previously reported, Atkins will become the School’s first Kellogg Professor in Community Information. The named professorship was established through a $2 million gift from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek.

**Hedstrom Noted on LOC Site**

Associate Professor Margaret Hedstrom was profiled as a Digital Preservation Pioneer on the Library of Congress’s Digital Preservation Web site.

The site regularly features trailblazers in the field, highlighting how their work enriches the work that all libraries and other repositories do to collect and preserve our digital heritage.

The profile cited Hedstrom’s years of experience in the field, noting that her “digital preservation expertise spans decades.”

It specifically praised her cultural heritage preservation work in developing countries, collaborating with organizations such as the University of Fort Hare in South Africa, work that has taken School of Information students to that country on several trips to help with archival projects.

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As SI@umich previously reported, Atkins will become the School’s first Kellogg Professor in Community Information. The named professorship was established through a $2 million gift from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek.

**Yahoo! Award Supports Munson**

Sean Munson, who entered SI’s doctoral program in 2007 after a year in the master’s program, has won a $5,000 Key Technical Challenges grant from Internet giant Yahoo! Munson’s research focuses on social computing and online and hybrid communities. He is also a design engineer for Boeing’s Payloads Concept Center, he says, “in my spare time.”

Dean’s Paper is ‘Highly Influential’

A paper coauthored by Dean Martha E. Pollock has won a 2008 influential paper award from the International Foundation for Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems.

The award recognizes papers published at least 10 years ago that have had a significant impact on research into the design of agent-based systems. The paper, “Plans and Resource-bounded Practical Reasoning,” proposes a model of the processes by which agents — human or computational — can deal with multiple, competing, asynchronous demands by forming and committing to plans. It appeared in the journal *Computational Intelligence* in 1988.

**Jennifer C. Ittner, TSI Alumna Awarded Recipient of ARL AWARD**

Jennifer C. Ittner (PhD ‘08), who entered the School of Information in 2003, has been awarded a prestigious ARL AWARD. Jennifer was selected for this honor by a committee of peers from the field of digital libraries.

Jennifer’s work focuses on the preservation of digital content and the development of preservation strategies and tools to ensure the long-term usability of digital materials. Her research has contributed to the development of new methods for assessing and managing the risks associated with digital preservation.

**Locally, She’s Outstanding**

Doctoral student Libby Hemphill (MSI ’06) was honored with an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award for the 2007-08 academic year from the U-M Rackham School of Graduate Studies. She received a certificate and a $1,000 stipend.

**Jolly Good, a Federation Fellow**

Andrew Hunt, an MSI student specializing in archives and records management, is one of four national Digital Library Federation fellows for his work at Stanford University during a summer 2007 internship. Hunt had worked there on the LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) project, which is directed by Victoria Reich (AMLS ’76). LOCKSS is an international nonprofit community initiative that provides tools and support so that libraries can easily and cost-effectively preserve Web-published materials.

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Barbara Snow (AML '73) is an assistant director at the U-M Law Library. Barbarasnow@umich.edu

Also at the U-M Law Library, Barbara Garavaglia (AML '82) is an assistant director. Bcagarcia@umich.edu

Marcia Mardis (MILS '92), an assistant professor in Wayne State University's school library media program, was featured in the March 15 issue of Library Journal. The magazine credits her with consistently encouraging school librarians to show teachers how new technologies — even personal entertainment devices — can enhance student learning. She has worked with the Michigan Education Resources Digital Library and National Science Digital Library to disseminate high-quality digital resources among school librarians and teachers. Coauthor of the American Association of School Librarians Standards for 21st Century Learners, she also helped negotiate a consensus for aligning standards and benchmarks from numerous disciplines. In the Library Journal article, she says that the harder work is convincing school librarians that the new standards won't threaten school libraries but instead will "revitalize them as places of innovation and creative learning." mardis@wayne.edu

At the King County Library System in Bellevue, Washington, David Wasserman (MILS '95) coordinates online services. dwasserman@kcls.org

Andrea Richeson (MILLS '96) is a user-interface design consultant at CIBER, Inc., in Austin, Texas. andrich@umich.edu

At ForeSee Results in Ann Arbor, Lija Hogan (MSI '97) is a usability auditor. lhoga@umich.edu

Jean Song (MSI '97) writes, "I am working as the Health Sciences Library’s bioinformaticsian at the National Center for Integrative Biomedical Informatics at the University of Michigan, where I act as a liaison between the librarians/library system, programmers/developers, and researchers/scientists." jean.chung@stanfordalumni.org

In Chicago, Charles Berg (MSI '98) works as an interaction design lead for carriers at Motorola. Cber4@motorola.com

Kcinad Brown (MSI '99) heads the Electronic & Digital Collections from national libraries, museums, and archives. She was professor emeritus at Emporia State University. "Dr. Meder’s legacy will live on through her scholarship," said Jeffrey Woelker, SI alumna and scholarship donor. jwoelker@umich.edu

Olsons Say Farewell to SI

Faculty members Gary M. and Judith S. Olson will leave SI this summer, having both been appointed to endowed Donald Bren Professorships at the Bren School of Information and Computer Science at the University of California-Irvine.

“We're sorry to see Gary and Judy go, and we're extremely grateful for all that they've contributed over the years to the School,” said Dean Martha E. Pollock. "Their new positions will provide them with the opportunity to have a significant impact on another school, sharing their SI values with the West Coast."

St's founding dean, Daniel E. Atkins, said, “Gary and Judy Olson are pioneers in building a deeper understanding between computer and information technology and how people can better work together in knowledge-intensive activities. Their vision, leadership, and personal commitment were also very instrumental in the formation of the School of Information.”

Both will remain associated with the School as adjunct faculty, and Judith Olson has been named a member of St's External Advisory Board.

Paul Burley (MSI '01) works as a technical services librarian at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. PBurley@northwestern.edu

At the University of California-Irvine, Kristine Ferry (MSI '01) directs Web services. kerryd@uci.edu

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia employs Dean Karavite (MSI '01) as a senior information specialist. karavite@email.chop.edu

Hye Hwa Kim (MSI '01) is executive director at DreamTree Education in Stamford, Connecticut. hyehwaikutomi@gmail.com

Abigail Plum-Larrick (MSI '02) is at Register.com in New City York. abigail@plum-larrick.com

Su-Yong Song (MSI '02) serves as CEO of Network Expert Group, Inc., in Los Angeles. mke@ng.com

At the University of Washington in Seattle, Alison Aldrich (MSI '03) coordinates technology outreach. alrich@uwashington.edu

In addition to being a doctoral student at Indiana University in Bloomington, Wayne Buente (MSI '03) is an adjunct lecturer. wbunte@indiana.edu

Lauren Collins (MSI '03) heads the reference department and is a senior lecturing fellow in law at the Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina. collins@law.duke.edu

Matthew Forsythe (MSI '03) directs regional operations at DaVle. mattsforsythe@gmail.com

At Florida State University in Tallahassee, James Hernandez (MSI '03) is a doctoral student. jhernande@fsu.edu

Erica Foley (MSI '04) serves as head of popular materials at the Clinton-Macomb (Michigan) Public Library. edley@oml.org

At Slack Barshinger in Chicago, Jeffrey Woelker (MSI '04) works as a senior digital strategist. jwoelker@gmail.com

Dr. Meder’s legacy will live on through her scholarship," said Karen Jordan, SI associate director of development and alumni relations. “Each year, the recipients of her scholarship will have the opportunity to learn about Dr. Meder’s contributions to the profession.”

Margarette Hackett (MSI '05) works as a senior portfolio analyst at Genentech, Inc., in San Francisco. margarette.hackett@gmail.com

At Harrington College of Design in Chicago, Laura Haxer (MSI '05) is a digital resources librarian. lnhaxer@uic.edu

Zahra Langford (MSI '05) works as a user-experience researcher at tellme | microsoft in Mountain View, California. kathyvl@gmail.com

Gale Cengage Learning in Farmington Hills, Michigan has hired Erin Podolsky (MSI '05) as a product manager. upods@umich.edu

Eric Frierson (MSI '06) serves as education and political science librarian at the University of Texas-Arlington Library. frierson@uta.edu

On the West Coast, Jennifer Spamer (MSI '06) is an acquisitions specialist at the University of Washington. jspamer@uw.edu

Margaret Armstrong (MSI '07) is a media specialist in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. armstrong@ajasaltaulis.siu.edu

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., has hired Valerie Hinjosa (MSI '07) as a records management analyst. valhino16@gmail.com

Dale Hunscher (MSI '07) is a senior business systems analyst at the U-M. Dale.hunscher@thenexttagourewave.com

IN MEMORIAM

Si alumna and scholarship donor Marylouise D. Meder (Ph.D. '64) died March 13, 2008, at age 81. In addition to independent work in libraries, Meder had taught at Drexel University, Rutgers University, Texas Woman's University, and the University of Kentucky. She was professor emeritus at Emporia State University. “Dr. Meder’s legacy will live on through her scholarship,” said Karen Jordan, SI associate director of development and alumni relations. “Each year, the recipients of her scholarship will have the opportunity to learn about Dr. Meder’s contributions to the profession.”

"I’m happy I’ll continue to have input on the School’s direction through my seat on the Advisory Board,” she said. “I am proud to be a member of SI.”

Professor Jeffrey MacKie-Mason will replace her as associate dean for academic affairs starting this summer.

Associate Professor Mark Ackerman has stepped into the role of faculty coordinator of the MSI program’s Human-Computer Interaction specialization, a role held until recently by Gary Olson.

"We’re both excited about the opportunity and sad about what we leave behind at SI – the best academic experience of our lives, and the best friends ever,” said Gary Olson. “But we also both know we’re going to continue hearing about great things happening here!”

JOIN AN ALUMNI CLUB: SI.UMICH.EDU/ALUMNI/CONNECTIONS.HTM
Library reaches a milestone…

Sixteen miles of shelving or 42 terabytes of disk space. That’s how much storage you would need to hold the one million books the Michigan Digitization Project, or MBooks, has online at the U-M Library (www.lib.umich.edu). Approximately six million more will be scanned. The library works with Google on the massive digitization project. “As far as I know, Michigan is the first library to have one million books from its own collections digitized and available for search,” says Paul Courant, university librarian and professor of information, economics, and public policy.

Thanks to Our Ambassadors!

The School of Information thanks and recognizes the following alumni for their invaluable assistance in recruiting top students to the Master of Science in Information program. They are truly our ambassadors.

SI matches alumni with admitted students based on the student’s intended specialization or career area. The alumni ambassadors then start a dialogue with the admitted students, advising them on why they might want to consider SI and fielding questions ranging from how to find financial aid to how an SI degree affects job outcomes. The Office of Academic and Career Services assists alumni in this exchange.

As an ambassador, your contacts with admitted students might range from answering E-mailed questions to meeting one-on-one. If you would like to be an ambassador, call SI’s Office of Admissions and Career Services at (734) 763-2285 or write to siatadmissions@umich.edu.

Charles Berg (MSI ’98)
Kincaid Brown (MSI ’98)
Nat Bulkley (MSI ’99, Ph.D. ’06)
Maria Cervone (MSI ’05)
Henry Chou (MSI ’03)
Elaine Cline (AMLS ’73)
Julie Darling (MSI ’05)
Eva Davis (MSI ’98)
Kathleen Dow (MILS ’93)
Eric Frierson (MSI ’06)
Barbara Garavaglia (AMLS ’82)
Tashira Gibbs (MSI ’07)
Kara Goldhamer (MSI ’01)
Candace Goss-Bulkley (MSI ’99)
Beth Harrington (MSI ’04)
Jacqueline Haus (MSI ’00)
Jamie Hine (MSI ’04)
Anne Holcomb (MSI ’03)
Veronica Johnson (AMLS ’77)
Rahul Kannan (MSI ’03)
Shibani Kapoor (MSI ’05)
Leslie Knoblauch (MSI ’05)
Kiran Kulkarni (MSI ’05)
Ruben Mendoza (MSI ’99)
Shaton (Sanderson) Menzie (MSI ’06)
Carol Morton (MSI ’02)
Larry Neal (MSI ’01)
Josie Parker (MILS ’96)
Marta Rey (MSI ’05)
Linda S. Schweizer (AMLS ’73)
Michael Seadle (MSI ’97)
Jennifer Selby (MSI ’01)
Angela Sidman (MSI ’02)
Barbara J. Snow (AMLS ’73)
Su-yong Song (MSI ’02)
Jolie Valentine (MSI ’04)
Mary Ann Williams (MSI ’07)
Sylvie Williams (MSI ’06)

Coming Up!

June 16
Alumni are invited to the SI reception being held during the Special Library Association Conference in Seattle from 6-7:30 p.m. Watch our Web site for the location.

June 29
The School of Information will be well-represented at the American Library Association Conference. A reception, in Anaheim at a location to be announced, will be from 5:30-7 p.m. Watch our Web site for the location.

October 22
Mark your calendar now for the fourth John Seely Brown Symposium on Technology and Society. Featured speaker will be Brewster Kahle, founder of the Internet Archive, which is perhaps best known as the “Wayback Machine.” The event is free and open to everyone from 3-5 p.m. in the Biomedical Science Research Building Auditorium. The event will include a panel discussion and reception following Kahle’s talk. See the SI Web site for further details and a map to the building.

Share Your News

Please send your news to share with fellow alumni in SI@umich by any of these convenient methods:

Web (preferred): siumich.edu/alumni/update.htm
E-mail: kjordan@umich.edu
Postal mail: Karen Jordan
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