Professor Edwards Earns Guggenheim, Carnegie Awards

Associate Professor Paul N. Edwards has been doubly honored with the awarding of a Guggenheim fellowship and a Carnegie scholarship to study the technopolitics of information in South Africa.

Edwards is one of three U-M Guggenheim fellows and the only Carnegie scholar this academic year. Guggenheim fellowships are given for the support of research and artistic creation and are among the most prestigious awards for ongoing academic and artistic endeavor. Edwards is among 13 Carnegie scholars in the United States named from among 144 nominations.

In addition to his faculty role at SI, Edwards is director of U-M’s Program in Science, Technology, and Society.

The Guggenheim and Carnegie awards will allow him to spend a year in South Africa researching a book on the technopolitics of information during the apartheid era, the transition to democracy, and the creation of an open government. He defines technopolitics as “the strategic practice of designing or implementing technologies to enact political goals.”

According to Edwards, both pre- and post-1994 South African regimes used information technologies to underwrite their sovereignty, but in nearly opposite ways. Under both governments, information infrastructure helped the country maintain its place as a developed nation in a global society, despite a poverty rate in excess of 50 percent. But under apartheid, that infrastructure was an instrument of control for a white minority government, while the new, democratic regime seeks to transform it into a centerpiece of legitimacy for a multiethnic state.

Edwards also seeks to puzzle out the global implications of emerging South African technopolitics, including recent calls by some South African activists for the establishment of a “right to information across regions and across the globe.” These activists see such a right as essential to global struggles against inequality and in support of meaningful, participatory democracy.

“Both South Africa’s past and its present have enormous implications for questions of sovereignty, multiethnic statehood, the effects of globalization, and international peace and security,” Edwards says. “Thanks to the support of the Guggenheim and Carnegie foundations, he will be able to start to delineate just what some of those implications are.”

ALA Accredits MSI Program

The School of Information master’s program has been fully accredited for seven years by the American Library Association.

The accreditation is especially meaningful in that it covers not only the Library and Information Science specialization, but all aspects of the master’s program. The SI accreditation is unique in the country in the breadth of what it includes.

C. Olivia Frost, associate dean for professional programs, guided an 18-month accreditation review process that successfully concluded with the ALA’s decision, announced shortly after its annual conference in June in Toronto, Canada.

Students and alumni were also instrumental in the process and had met with an external review panel during the site visit in March. For more, see si.umich.edu/coa.

ClosetCulture.net provides Open Forum

SI graduate students have opened ClosetCulture.net, an anonymous online community for closeted and questioning lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) individuals.

ClosetCulture.net (CCn) provides a risk-free, open forum where individuals questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity can share experiences without putting themselves or their identities at risk, as members are not required to submit personal information beyond a user name.

“ClosetCulture.net creates a community for closeted LGBT and questioning people to share their common experience and find information,” says Nicholas Johnson, the project leader and an MSi student. “We explore and support sexual orientation in complete anonymity. As a community, we hope to raise awareness of closeted LGBT and questioning people.”

CCn’s features include forums, private messaging, and a complete member listing. “CCn uses the Internet to create a virtual space for closeted individuals to connect with one another, since it is impossible to develop a ‘community of hidden identities’ in the real world,” says Johnson. The SI team hopes the community will become an alternative culture built around an invisible condition, but later evolve into a thriving support community.

Grade A Instructor: Jennifer Lee, holding son Aiden, is the first doctoral student from SI to receive an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award from the Rackham School of Graduate Studies. Lee was cited for establishing strong, connected relationships with master’s students during their first semester. In addition, Kelly Garrett was honored by the SI Doctoral Committee with its own Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award. Both students received a $1,000 prize.

Q u o t a b l e …

“Memorial Day weekend, we drove the bus to Montreal to pick up 6,000 books written in French.”

— Sara Naab

Getting ready to drive to Miami (and then sail to Haiti) in an old school bus loaded with books, computers, and food. Please see page 6 for more.

N o t a b l e …

A Big Thank You to Our Donors

A critical element in the education of SI students is financial support through scholarships and awards. Much of that needed support is provided by individual donors each year. To recognize their support, the School publishes an honor roll on pages 9-11 of this issue that cites alumni and friends who contributed to the School from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.
The First
When the IRS Needed an Archivist, the Agency Turned to Alumnus Edwin Staples

Even if one is the loneliest number, Edwin Staples (MSI ’99) is happy representing it at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In the long history of the IRS, no one has come before Staples as its archivist. For an agency that deals in paperwork, that may seem odd, and yet the mountains of data within the IRS are exactly why Staples is in demand. Among his responsibilities is an expanding project to transfer the vast collection of IRS manuals and regulations to digital format for storage and efficient retrieval.

“When you come to an organization that really needs you, you get a new level of understanding of the ability that you have after leaving SI. Are you good enough to do this kind of work? Yes you are.” — Edwin Staples

Edwin Staples is the first archivist in the history of the Internal Revenue Service.

Staples says what he learned at SI and passes along is taken by colleagues “as the gospel of the expert.” He credits SI with teaching him how to evaluate not only the documents he deals with, but the processes he’s involved with daily. Those processes can include the claims and counterclaims of vendors who say they have the right products to help the IRS achieve its goals.

“When you come to an organization that really needs you, you get a new level of understanding of the ability that you have after leaving SI,” he says. “Are you good enough to do this kind of work? Yes you are.”

Previously, the IRS had a historian to track its path, but Staples makes it clear to coworkers that his role as a true archivist is much different. Being the first gives Staples doesn’t work with the public directly—or with tax returns — in the Department of Service-wide Policy, Directives, and Electronic Research, but his work benefits everyone. Staples makes it easier for IRS counsel to litigate tax cases, for example, or examine suspected miscreants. Users can look up past Internal Revenue Code regulations, for example, to see if taxpayers did in fact abide by the ever-evolving rules as written.

The project has larger benefits, of course. If the archive were to contain an IRS manual from 1999, it might also include the entire paper trail of documents that led to a policy decision. That could be tens of thousands of supporting position papers and memos.

“It’s not realistic to flip through all the files to see which ones are valuable,” he says, explaining how wholesale groups of documents are stored rather than sifted first for the most pertinent. What’s important is that those documents are archived properly so that key pages can be found when someone, such as a member of Congress, decides they’re needed — and needed now.

Verna F. Ritchie (AMLS ’61) is professor emerita at the University of Northern California-Los Angeles on September 1. She has been director of the Queens Borough Public Library in New York.

Gary E. Strong (AMLS ’67) begins his new duties as university librarian at the University of California-Los Angeles on September 1. He has been director of the Queens Borough Public Library in New York.

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

Nancy V. Silcox (AMLS ’72) is a library media specialist with the Alexandria (Virginia) City Public Schools.

William S. Moran (AMLS ’73) has retired and is living in Sun City Center, Florida.

Douglas J. Hodges (AMLS ’81) is director of resource management for Canadian Heritage in Hull, Ontario. He writes, “This is my second assignment in the Career Assignment Program, a joint Canadian federal-provincial executive development program. Participating in this program has been great, and I have made many friends and contacts in all sorts of disciplines. My current assignment, which began in June 2002, has given me the opportunity to manage a multidisciplinary resource management team in delivering financial, HR, and IM/IT services to a branch providing grants, contributions, and other services to thousands of museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and parks right across Canada.” This summer he won a Canadian Heritage People Management Award. “My studies at SILS gave me the professional basis to move ahead and as such have been very valuable to me, both because of the excellence of the program, but also because of the many fine people involved — faculty and students alike — from whom I learned so much.”

Julie (Steinbach) Hintz (AMLS ’83) is director of the Wauwapa (Wisconsin) Historical Society and is responsible for the management, conservation, and promotion of the society’s buildings, holdings, and programs, including the Holly History and Genealogy Center and the historical Hutchinson House Museum.

Donna S. Hillcoat (AMLS ’84) is director of sales operations for Endeavor Information Systems, Inc., in Des Plaines, Illinois.

All About Us:
SI@umich is published periodically by the University of Michigan School of Information for alumni, faculty, students, and friends. Correspondence may be sent to: SI@umich School of Information The University of Michigan 304 West Hall 550 East University Avenue Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1092 Phone: (734) 763-2285 Fax: (734) 764-2475

Publications Office
Phone: (734) 763-0074
Fax: (734) 764-2475
E-mail: si.publications@umich.edu

Dean: John L. King
Director of Communications and Web Resources: Frank DeSanto
Editor: Jay Jackson
Director of Development: Shirley MacMillian
Associate Director of Development and External Relations: Karen Jordan (AMLS ’75)

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SI Alumni and Friends Take on ALA in Toronto

Having braved possible exposure to the infectious disease SARS as well as having crossed an international border, an enthusiastic group of SI alumni gathered in Toronto at the American Library Association’s summer conference.

The School’s alumni reception was held on June 22 at Joe Badali’s Italian Restaurant, with good food and a cash bar. Shelley MacMillan and Margaret Taylor were there from the School, and Dean John L. King and Associate Dean C. Olivia Frost joined the group after having attended the final meeting of the ALA’s Committee on Accreditation on SI’s accreditation process. They were able to bring the group encouraging news on that front.

ALA was perhaps not as well attended as usual, but there were still plenty of folks around and Toronto, as always, was interesting and fun.

Watch the SI Web site (si.umich.edu) for further details on the reception at ALA midwinter in San Diego, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 11.

The SI Alumni Society’s annual Executive Board and membership meeting will be held in Ann Arbor on Saturday, October 4. For further information, watch the SI Web site or contact Margaret Taylor (mttaylor@umich.edu). New members of the Executive Board, as of July, are Candace Goss, vice-president and president-elect; Megan Fitch, recording secretary; and Jill Morey, Margaret Lyon, Veronica Johnson, and Juliane Morian, directors.

— Margaret Taylor
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Alumni Society

The generosity of alumni and friends of the School of Information, as noted in the honor roll of donors on pages 9-11, supports the following scholarship funds:

- Thomas E. Alford Scholarship
- Alumni Society Scholarship
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- Sister Claudia Carlen Scholarship
- Deans Emeriti Scholarship in Honor of Daniel E. Atkins
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Professor Miranda Lee Pao Scholarship
ProQuest Company Scholarship
Mary Rollman Scholarship
Joseph Rounds Scholarship
Thomas P. Slavens Scholarship
Kenneth Vance Scholarship
Olivia Richman Way Scholarship

It’s Our First CD!

Master’s student Matthew Forsythe is among faculty, students, and alumni who will appear on the School’s first recruitment CD.

The CD will save the School thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs over the traditional recruiting packet. Everything prospective students need, including all application forms, will be included, plus interviews with students talking about their experiences in the classroom and in the field. Faculty relate their teaching and research interests and there is general footage of the University and Ann Arbor.

Alumni who wish to suggest a prospective student may do so by writing to Judy Lawson, director of admissions and career services, at jmlawson@umich.edu or by calling (734) 763-2285.

Paul McClay (MSI ’97) and Karen Horny (AMLS ’66)

Stephanie Krueger-Blum (MSI ’99), a user-services librarian with the JSTOR (Journal Storage) project.

Dolores (Dee) Gwaltney (AMLS ’77)
Achivers

Marilyn J. Kiefer (AMLS '84) is a library/media specialist with the Novi (Michigan) Community Schools. She will teach at SI as an adjunct lecturer this coming academic year.

John T. Anderson (MLS '87) is a rare book cataloger for the State University of New York at Buffalo-UB Foundation. He reports: "I am doing descriptive cataloging of rare books and other items in the Poetry/Rare Books Department of the UB Libraries."

Steven R. Folsom (AMLS '88) is an associate professor at the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee, has been honored for her exemplary research and technological innovation with the College Faculty Innovative Technology Teaching Award. In 1999, Whitney received the Pratt-Seven Award for Faculty Innovation from the Association for Library and Information Science Education.

Peter Morville (MILS '93) is one of the founders of the Asilomar Institute for Information Architecture (aifa.org), a nonprofit, professional association. More than 350 individuals from 200 companies in 25 countries are members. He has also joined Q Ltd., a graphic design and marketing communications firm in Ann Arbor, as vice president of user experience. He is also president of Semantic Studios, an information architecture and user experience consulting firm. In addition, he maintains a busy schedule consulting and conducting workshops on information architecture and “findability” for such clients as IBM, Wells Fargo, Yahoo!, and Vorsign.

William Teichert (MIS '93) is a library manager at Davenport University in Holland, Michigan.

Nicole James (MILS '94) is a branch manager with the Indianapolis-Marion County (Indiana) Public Library.

Lynn Westbrook (Ph.D. '95), an associate professor at Texas Woman's University, was appointed interim director of the School of Library and Information Studies in June 2. Westbrook is the author of two books, Interdisciplinary Information Seeking in Women's Studies and Identifying and Analyzing User Needs. Her professional activities include her present service as chair-elect of the Library Research Round Table and chair of the Planning Committee for Library Research Seminar II.

Susan Hollar (MILS '96) received the University Librarian Recognition Award at the U-M and will be recognized at the fall Faculty Awards Dinner hosted by President Mary Sue Coleman. Hollar's leadership was instrumental in forming the Teaching and Technology Collaborative, established by technology leaders across campus to collaborate on helping faculty, students, and staff understand and use new technologies effectively.

Cynthia R. Kahn (MSI '97) is a reference librarian with the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Kari R. Smith (MSI '98) is metadata archivist/project manager for the Cornell University Library.

Bringing Information to Lakes’ Scientists

A large share of the research on the Great Lakes basin flows through the hands of Ann Zimmerman.

As librarian of the John Van Oosten Library at the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) in Ann Arbor, Zimmerman (Ph.D. '03) works closely with scientists and other researchers across the United States to help them find the information they need to organize and make information available. The GLSC is part of the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, a unit of the federal Department of the Interior.

The progression from librarian to doctoral student at the School of Information and back was a natural path for Zimmerman, who started the SI Ph.D. program while working full time for the GLSC. The previous assistant director saw the potential for managing how scientific data and information are shared by taking advantage of information technology and proper information science. He foresaw the library as the focal point for connecting scientists in wide-ranging disciplines who were also geographically dispersed. The challenge remains how to implement that idea.

"SI turned out to be a great place for pursuing those interests," Zimmerman says. "The School has a very broad vision of what information really is."

Zimmerman works with scientists based in Ann Arbor and field stations in other Great Lakes states. Those scientists gather data on Great Lakes water quality, fish and wildlife numbers, habitats, and other information related to the ecosystem. Even though scientists are encouraged to share their data, Zimmerman says, some questioned whether it was feasible for researchers to incorporate the raw data of others.

Zimmerman's research shows that it is possible, but also challenging for researchers to understand and use data that they did not collect themselves. In doing so, they draw heavily on their experiences as collectors of similar data. Her doctoral dissertation zeroed in on ecologists outside the GLSC who made use of data that they had not collected themselves.

As the GLSc librarian, Zimmerman helps the scientific community by making research available electronically wherever possible; in a sense, by running the GLSc's own digital library. Researchers — and the public — have access to the library's scientific information.

"We loan out more than we borrow," Zimmerman says, "which says something about the unique materials in our collections."

Zimmerman became a librarian after earning a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa and working a year as a school library aide. After earning her master's from Iowa in information and library studies, she gained experience in a newspaper library for a year before moving to North Dakota from 1987-91, where she also worked for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Even though she's a librarian, others might think of her as an honorary scientist, based on what she has picked up through her job. "The scientists are always interested in talking about their work," she notes. In that regard, too, she's like an intermediary for the scientists. "They know a lot about their own areas of expertise but they don't always know a lot outside of that."

Zimmerman plans to continue to study information flows among scientists. "Librarians should be involved in managing that," she says.

Olson-Edited Volume Published

Coordination Theory and Collaboration Technology, a collection edited by Gary Olson with colleagues at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, has been released by Erlbaum Associates.

Olson is the Paul M. Fitts Collegiate Professor of Human Computer Interaction and associate dean for research at the School of Information.

The volume includes work by a number of SI-affiliated scholars, including Olson, Edmund Durfee, Judy Olson, Daniel E. Atkins, Terry Weymouth, and Tom Finholt.

The book is part of Erlbaum's "Computers, Cognition, and Work" series. Gary Olson, Judy Olson, and Robert M. Kraut are series editors.
SI Continues to Set the Pace in School Media Education

“Why would you want to go to library school at the University of Michigan? Isn’t their school library program dying? They don’t care about the program there.” How many times have I heard comments like these from librarians and educators? Most of us school media students at the University of Michigan’s School of Information (SI) have had to justify our choice at some point, affirming our faith in the School of Information’s mission and our conviction that school libraries have a key role in accomplishing that vision.

There are plenty of myths out there about the school library program at the University of Michigan, about its passivity, its invisibility — there have even been rumors about its demise. As a current school library student at SI, I am happy to report that reports of our program’s death have been greatly exaggerated. In fact, the program has never been stronger. With all that has happened in the past year and all that is in the works, now is an exhilarating time to be a school library student at the University of Michigan!

Why the School of Information is a Great Place for a School Library Program

With its interdisciplinary approach to learning and its emphasis on applying technology in a meaningful way, the School of Information is in many ways a perfect home for a program that prepares school media specialists. The revised ALA/AASL standards for school library media education programs stress the need for media specialists to be leaders, collaborative teachers, and innovative risk-takers: all of which are skills stressed in SI curriculum. The standards assert that school librarians are catalysts in generating “a spirit of inquiry,” a phrase that neatly describes SI culture as well.

Crossing disciplines to integrate information literacy throughout the curriculum is at the heart of the school librarian’s role. Because of their unique role as both teachers and interdisciplinary coordinators, media specialists are the school professionals best prepared to see the larger picture where technology is concerned, and to be able to determine which systems will best support or enhance the learning environment. School of Information coursework, drawing from a wealth of perspectives from psychology, marketing, computer science, social work, and organizational management, to name a few, prepares future media specialists to synthesize concepts in a diverse curriculum, while hands-on projects train these students to analyze and evaluate the use of technology in different environments.

In addition, the structure of the degree programs themselves reveal the interdisciplinary focus: a 52-credit school library media degree with certification from the School of Information includes both an ALA-accredited library degree and a Michigan teaching certification with endorsement in school library media. One degree program, two different credentials. The collaboration between U-M’s School of Education and the School of Information means that school library students can start their program without a prior teaching certificate, and still graduate in about two years.

No discussion of the strengths of the School of Information’s program is complete, however, without mentioning the unrivaled opportunities that students have access to both through the reputation of the School of Information itself and through its affiliation with the University of Michigan. As an example, several school media students participated in this year’s Alternative Spring Break, a weeklong internship program sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, through which students worked in archival collections at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Library of the New York Public Library. School media students on these trips dined with SI alumni now working in the Library of Congress, People for the American Way, even the Internal Revenue Service!

The exposure of school media students in U-M’s program to leaders both inside and outside the field is hard to match. For instance, one of the current SI school media students works as an intern at Merit Network, part of a team of digital librarians charged with the maintenance and development of the Michigan Teacher Network. School media students are frequently invited to participate in innovative faculty research projects and grant proposals that are re-imagining the role of the school library media specialist. It is an exciting time to be entering this field, and students at the School of Information are well positioned to make the most of the rich possibilities.

Recent Developments in the School Library Program at SI

At this point in the conversation, a School of Information school library student typically hears, “Yes, yes, U-M has great technology coursework. And maybe U-M’s standing creates some nice options. But what about the school media program itself? Isn’t it being swept under the rug?” Fortunately, school library students at the School of Information can now answer confidently that their school media program is stronger and more vibrant than ever. An influx of new students, a renewed faculty commitment to the program, and a spirit of innovation within the larger profession — culminating in the revised ALA/AASL standards for school library media education programs combined to make this an energizing year for school library students at the School of Information.

One of the most exciting developments has been the formation of a student organization, the Student Association of School Librarians (SASL). Started as a social group in the fall of 2002, SASL evolved into its present form as an organized voice for school library students. Originally, it was little more than a group of friends...
Good Deeds, Indeed

Students Assist Haitians with Books, Computers, and Food

The next time you need to get to Haiti from Ann Arbor with 6,000 books, 3,200 pounds of pinto beans, 92 computers, and assorted peripherals, consider the "comforts" of an old Ford school bus.

Sara Naab, who grew up in Chelsea, Michigan, used an old Ford school bus to transport her students to Haiti.

Three School of Information graduate students eschewed any semblance of luxury for practicality when they set out June 7 for Miami in their bus, which they had repainted a light — let’s kindly say “tropical” — green. In Miami, the bus crew onto a freighter for the nautical portion of its trip to L’Institut de Formation et Development en Informatique (IFDI) in Les Cayes.

Master’s students Sara Naab, Sadanori Horiguchi, and Junko Sagawa took turns driving to Florida, making the bus trip in about 30 hours in their 5-mile-per-gallon workhorse. “We’re doing this to help a community in Haiti utilize technology,” Naab explained, shortly before hitting the highway for Miami. Naab, who organized the trip, and fellow students went to Haiti to set up a library and technology center and create an intranet for 20 local schools. Part of their mission included developing a long-term strategic plan to help Haitians improve their educational and economic standards.

At the end of June, three more students from the School of Information — Elizabeth Keith, Ben Robinson, and Sharon Smith — flew to Haiti, along with Luis Castro of the Business School. Another seven SI students in Ann Arbor assisted with distance-learning technologies: Carole Crouse, Jim Ungar, Henry Chou, Cory Knobel, Erin Doumbouliak, Rachel Hu, and Sara Ulus.

The students stayed in Haiti through August, researching the role that information and community technologies could play in the Haitian economy. The U-M contingent also collaborated with university and business leaders.

“It will benefit a country with enormous needs in those areas,” says Keith. “I’m especially excited about our close collaboration with Les Cayes community members. Our joint goal is to create a local gateway for knowledge, lifelong learning, and community development. I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to be a part of achieving that.”

The project came together as a result of Naab’s devotion to making an impact on society. Through her church work, Naab had visited Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2001 and set up a computer training center. A Haitian student helped open the IFDI in 2002. Naab assisted his effort by writing operating procedures and personally delivering 30 computers to get the IFDI under way.

Back in Ann Arbor last fall, Naab gave a presentation about her work to a Community Information Corps class at SI. Other students quickly expressed an interest in helping and soon the project expanded. Faculty support and the work of student Adrienne Janney, who volunteered as a coordinator, smoothed the way.

Naab received financial support for the project from the Alliance for Community Technology, a W.K. Kellogg Foundation-supported initiative at the School of Information; the U-M International Institute; her Ann Arbor church, St. Luke’s Lutheran; and from the project’s Web site (haiti.si.umich.edu), which accepts online contributions.

The Chelsea, Michigan school district sold the bus to Naab. Once some seats were removed and makeshift beds were added, tons of supplies were loaded. Over Memorial Day weekend, Naab and Horiguchi drove to Montreal, Canada to pick up most of the 6,000 books, written in French, from an organization that promotes literacy. They also drove to Grand Rapids to pick up donated computers and monitors. Then there were the beans — 32 100-pound bags for an orphanage.

For students who wanted to have a hand in changing the world, the mission was quietly accomplished.

Master’s student Sara Naab knows how to pack for a trip. Try 6,000 books, 92 computers, and 3,200 pounds of pinto beans, for starters. She and friends managed to squeeze it all into an old school bus.

Achievers

Christopher M. Hamilton (MSI ’02) is a programmer/analyst, based in Ithaca, New York, with both the U-M Zoology Museum and the Cornell University Library Research Department.

Sarah E. Keen (MSI ’02) is a manuscripts processor for the Jane Harman Congressional Papers in the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Joel Blanco-Rivera (MSI ’03) is an archivist with the General Archives of Puerto Rico, where he is working with documents from the 19th and early 20th centuries and is making recommendations on digitizing collections.

Aaron Burgman (MSI ’03) is a software systems engineer with the Mitre Corporation in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Scott M. Duimstra (MSI ’03) is an adult reference librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library.

Phillip M. Edwards (MSI ’03) has been accepted as a doctoral student at the Information School of the University of Washington.

Anne Holcomb (MSI ’03) is a children’s Librarian with the John Muir Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Sarah Hughes (MSI ’03) is a reference librarian at the Natrona County Public Library in Casper, Wyoming.

Kelly Knout (MSI ’03) is a usability engineer in the Office Design and Usability Group at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington.

Extras

Got spirit? The student chapter of the Society of American Archivists asks, since it’s offering alumni the opportunity to wear your Michigan colors proudly with a “Michigan Archives” T-shirt for the low, low price of $10 (yes, the same shirts you’ve seen advertised on late-night TV for much, much more). Preview the merchandise and place your order at si.umich.edu/5AA. The shirt won’t chop or dice your onions, but it will make you look stylish.

Kate Williams, an SI doctoral student, wrote “Literacy and Computer Literacy: Analyzing the NRC’s ‘Reading Fluent with Information Technology,’” for the spring issue of the Journal of Literary and Technology, an online publication at www.lit-tech.org. The NRC is the National Research Council.

Master’s student Naomi Daniel was the first author (with Assistant Professor Dragomir Radev and Timothy Allison) of a research paper presented at the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics Workshop on Text Summarization. “Subsumption-Based Multi-Document Summarization” presents new results in the automatic summarization of news articles on current events. Radev co-taught a tutorial on text summarization at the annual Association for Computing Machinery’s special interest group on information retrieval conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in August. Previous installments of the tutorial at other meetings have attracted between 20 and 125 attendees.

A c h i e v e r s

Christopher M. Hamilton (MSI ’02) is a programmer/analyst, based in Ithaca, New York, with both the U-M Zoology Museum and the Cornell University Library Research Department.

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Phillip M. Edwards (MSI ’03) has been accepted as a doctoral student at the Information School of the University of Washington.

Anne Holcomb (MSI ’03) is a children’s Librarian with the John Muir Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Sarah Hughes (MSI ’03) is a reference librarian at the Natrona County Public Library in Casper, Wyoming.

Kelly Knout (MSI ’03) is a usability engineer in the Office Design and Usability Group at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington.

E x t r a s

Got spirit? The student chapter of the Society of American Archivists asks, since it’s offering alumni the opportunity to wear your Michigan colors proudly with a “Michigan Archives” T-shirt for the low, low price of $10 (yes, the same shirts you’ve seen advertised on late-night TV for much, much more). Preview the merchandise and place your order at si.umich.edu/5AA. The shirt won’t chop or dice your onions, but it will make you look stylish.

Kate Williams, an SI doctoral student, wrote “Literacy and Computer Literacy: Analyzing the NRC’s ‘Reading Fluent with Information Technology,’” for the spring issue of the Journal of Literary and Technology, an online publication at www.lit-tech.org. The NRC is the National Research Council.

Master’s student Naomi Daniel was the first author (with Assistant Professor Dragomir Radev and Timothy Allison) of a research paper presented at the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics Workshop on Text Summarization. “Subsumption-Based Multi-Document Summarization” presents new results in the automatic summarization of news articles on current events. Radev co-taught a tutorial on text summarization at the annual Association for Computing Machinery’s special interest group on information retrieval conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in August. Previous installments of the tutorial at other meetings have attracted between 20 and 125 attendees.
**After 38 Years, Slavens Bids Adieu**

Friends and colleagues of Professor Thomas Slavens gathered April 11 to wish him well on the end of a teaching career that spanned 38 years at the University of Michigan.

Approximately 100 guests attended a reception in honor of Slavens and his wife Cora at the School. Guests attended from as far as Texas and New York.

In typical Slavens style, the professor asked that no speeches be made. The only formal aspect of the retirement party was a presentation by Dean John L. King of a bound book with tribute letters from alumni to the professor. After accepting the book to a round of applause from the guests gathered in West Hall, Slavens succinctly summed his service: “It’s been a privilege.”

Slavens estimates that he has taught approximately 7,000 graduate students in classes in reference, and sources of information in the humanities, the social sciences, and business, as well as courses in the history of books and printing and the history of libraries.

Slavens studied at the University of Oxford in England, Texas Christian University, Drake University, and Loyola College. From 1960-64 he was the librarian of the Divinity School at Drake University and after that joined the faculty of the University of Michigan as a teaching fellow, rising to the rank of professor in 1977. In 1967 he was a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota and in 1978, 1980, and 1993, he was a visiting professor at the University of Wales in Britain.

He has been a long-time member of the Association for Library and Information Science Education, having served as its president; the American Association of University Professors; the American Library Association, having served on various committees; and the advisory board of Marcel Dekker, Inc., a publisher in New York. He is an editor-at-large of Marcel Dekker.

At the University of Michigan, he served on the committee to select the distinguished faculty service awardees and on committees to select the AMOCO awards for faculty, awards for outstanding teaching assistants, Rackham Dissertation Awards, and Rackham Theological Fellowships. He has published more than 60 articles and reviews in addition to 25 books.

Over the years in the School of Information, Slavens served on numerous committees and was actively involved in developing the Alumni Society. He also served as a consultant to the Library of Michigan, Northeast Louisiana State University, the United Nations, Wright State University, and the Genesee County Library in Michigan.

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**Elaine Didier (AMLS, '71; Ph.D. '82), center, catches up on the news with other guests.**

**The Rev. David Krehbiel of Ann Arbor (left) enjoys a laugh with Professor Slavens.**

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**Professor Thomas Slavens (left) greets guests at his retirement party, including Associate Professor Mark Ackerman.**

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**E x t r a s**

Assistant Professor Dragomir Radev was among 36 leading information retrieval researchers invited to report on “Challenges in Information Retrieval and Language Modeling.” His report provided a roadmap for research in information retrieval for the next 10 years and covered such topics as Web search, user modeling, multimedia retrieval, text summarization, and question answering. The report is available at ccr.cs.umass.edu/irchallenges.

Doctoral student Ji-Hyun Kim received the Society of American Archivists’ 2003 Oliver Wendell Holmes Award. The Holmes Award assists overseas archivists already in the United States or Canada. A certificate, complimentary registration for the SAA meeting, and a cash prize were presented at the August 22 awards ceremony at the SAA annual meeting in Los Angeles.

Professor Gary M. Olson received a National Science Foundation grant to sponsor a workshop on management models for cyberinfrastructure. The one-year, $313,000 grant will support a series of workshops and “town hall meetings” on national cyberinfrastructure policy. These events serve as forums for input from the science and computing community on the development of management models for digital environments called for in a report on cyberinfrastructure that Professor Daniel E. Atkins spearheaded on behalf of the NSF.

Assistant Professor Elizabeth Yakel has received a 14-month, $42,636 grant to study “Assessing Access and Accessibility of Interfaces for Primary Sources” from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. This study will provide a research base that archives and manuscript collections can use to create transparent access tools to enhance the usability and accessibility of primary sources.

MSI students Eunice Kua and Adrienne Janney received Moody Fellowships from the U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies and the U-M South Africa Initiatives Office. The awards support U-M graduate students for three months work during the summer in South African agencies on projects that involve a combination of research and service. Kua spent part of this summer in South Africa with the World Library Partnership, volunteering at a rural library.

**Two visiting professors from Seoul, South Korea will be at SI during the 2003-04 academic year. Hye Rhan Chang studies online database searching, indexing and abstracting, and evaluation of library and information services. She will conduct research on cooperative digital reference services and will work closely with the Internet Public Library during her stay at SI. She holds a Ph.D. in library and information science from Yonsei University, South Korea, and an MLS degree from St. John’s University. Hyun Hee Kim, director of university libraries and professor of library and information science at Myungji University, studies digital libraries, information retrieval, knowledge management, informatics, ontology, and archives and records management. During her stay at SI, she plans to design and implement a model of an ontology-based knowledge management system for the digital libraries of financial firms. She received her doctorate in library and information science from Case Western Reserve University in 1985. Her dissertation advisor was the late Miranda Lee Pao, who later became a professor at SI.**
The deeper you walk into the passages of the New York Society Library, the greater the feeling overcomes you that you’re stepping further into American history itself.

Going to work each day as a cataloger, Paul Burley (MSI ‘00) plays a role in maintaining the integrity of the New York Society Library as one of the premier private institutions of its kind. Unlike most libraries familiar to the public, the Society Library operates through memberships, donations, and an endowment fund. Patrons today represent an interesting cross-section of New Yorkers, from those on society’s A-list to authors and researchers who wish to delve into the rich collections for information often unavailable anywhere else.

To say the least, a library founded in 1754 knows a thing or two about American history. The library survived the Revolutionary War and went on to count the likes of Henry David Thoreau, Lillian Hellman, W.H. Auden, and countless other luminaries as patrons. Even pages of Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* were penned there.

A point to ponder is how books themselves can take on new meaning, which helps one understand the important role of the cataloger. “Our collection that was in current circulation in 1754 is now one of the best rare book collections in the United States,” Burley notes. To further put the library into historical context, consider that it served as the Library of Congress for the Continental Congress.

The Society Library contains the rarest of manuscripts, such as letters written by George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, and pamphlets produced by the fledgling American government.

Burley is surprised at how well the holdings have lasted. “I’m always shocked that pre-19th century materials have such high-quality papers. They have not been degraded by time at all,” he observes.

Part of Burley’s job involves adding as much information to the electronic catalog entry as possible to, in effect, tell the complete story of the holding, down to such details as where it was purchased and what related materials are available.

“Our ability to describe our collections is much richer than it was in 1754.” Burley says, with just a bit of understatement. “Then, the catalog existed only as a ledger.” Even after nearly 250 years since its founding, library catalogers continue to find treasures in the stacks, such as poet Percy Bysshe Shelley’s personal edition of *Queen Mab*.

Burley’s role goes beyond cataloging, though. He’s also the electronic systems specialist and helps train others on staff. He also works with patrons to teach them how to search for materials and has conducted focus groups with them to learn how best to present catalog information in an easy-to-read format.

By taking advantage of complex systems to catalog the library holdings, Burley is in fact bringing aspects of American history back to life for present and future generations to study.

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*White House Guests. Dean Emeritus Robert M. Warner and his wife, Jane, were among the guests at the White House to honor Gerald R. Ford on his 90th birthday. His actual birthday was July 14 and dignitaries gathered in Washington on July 16 for a White House dinner and celebration. The former president, a University of Michigan alumnus, and his wife, Betty, were invited by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush to mark the occasion. Warner was appointed archivist of the United States in July 1980 during the Jimmy Carter administration and retained his post until April 15, 1985 while serving under President Ronald Reagan. Dinner guests were primarily members of the board of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, of which the dean emeritus is secretary.*
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The Executive Committee of the Presidential Societies established the John Monteith Society to recognize those persons who have designated the University as beneficiary, or partial beneficiary, of their estate.

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ALA accredits MSI program…

Professor Thomas Slavens retires …

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Librarian helps scientists understand the Great Lakes ecosystem… Cataloger has a rare view of American history… School media program alive and well at SI.

Please Join Us for These School of Information Events…

October 4  The Alumni Society of the School of Information will hold its annual membership and Executive Board meeting at SI at 9 a.m. in the Ehrlicher Room, 411 West Hall, 550 East University. All alumni are invited. Contact Margaret Taylor (mttaylor@umich.edu) if you have questions or for further information. If you have issues or concerns you would like to raise, or would like to have brought up at the meeting, please contact Hannelore Rader (AMLS ’68) at h.rader@louisville.edu. She will be installed as president of the Alumni Society at the meeting.

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