Meet the Dean

Martha E. Pollack Ready for the Challenges

Martha E. Pollack knew she had a good thing going when she accepted the deanship of the School of Information.

The School is in a period of growing enrollment, its research funding is increasing, the Master of Science in Information is expanding to nine specializations, and the School is planning for its big move in 2010 to the North Quad Residential and Academic Complex.

In other words, the School has passed to her in good shape and the opportunities ahead are wide ranging.

Pollack began her duties August 1, replacing John L. King, who since 2006 has served as vice provost for academic information at the U-M. Professor C. Olivia Frost had served as interim dean and will now return to the SI faculty.

Pollack sees herself arriving at a time when the information revolution is having a transformational effect on society similar to what the world experienced during the Industrial Revolution.

"SI’s mission is to address the challenges and opportunities that arise from the information revolution," she said. "It does that both through its education and research programs."

The new dean said she is encouraged by the outlook of the SI community. "What I see overall as a key strength is a willingness of people to listen to different ideas, to integrate different perspectives, and to conduct solid academic work that also has a strongly positive societal impact," she observed.

When considering becoming dean of SI, Pollack noted that one of its greatest strengths was the level of "energy, excitement, and enthusiasm" among students, faculty, and staff.

"Everyone at the School of Information seems completely committed to its goal, which is to connect people, information, and technology in more valuable ways. Everyone here is outstanding at what they do," she added.

Pollack comes to SI from the U-M College of Engineering. She joined the College of Engineering in 2000 and since 2004 had served as associate chair for computer science and engineering, a division with 40 faculty and approximately $11 million in sponsored research activities.

Her own academic background gives her a perspective on the importance of diversity at the U-M, since she too followed career paths in traditionally male-dominated fields.

While an undergraduate at Dartmouth, studying linguistics (and earning her degree summa cum laude) the ratio of males to females was 3:1, and it has been “much worse than that” throughout her years in computer science departments.

“I have spent a lot of time studying women in male-dominated settings and minorities in majority settings, particularly as part of U-M’s...”

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“SI is a recognized leader in innovative and interdisciplinary programs that address the challenges and opportunities of the information revolution.”

— Martha E. Pollack
Monique Uzelac

Experience Leads to Job as a School Media Specialist

Like many SI students, Monique Uzelac (MSI ’05) started the master’s program after working professionally for several years.

The experience she had picked up dovetailed nicely with her new career aspiration of school media specialist.

Before arriving at SI, Uzelac earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Albion College. Her professional experience focused on Web and information technology, with past experience at the University of Edinburgh in computer support. She also held freelance tech support and database design positions.

For eight years prior to SI, Uzelac worked at Aquent, a creative services firm, in multiple roles from recruiter to business development to Web and technology team leader.

It didn’t take long for her to benefit from the SI experience.

“During my first year, I participated in a directed study with five other students, working with Digital Partners on a project with the African Centre for Women, Information and Communication Technology (ACWICT),” she says. “Our student group helped develop a business plan to help bring agricultural information directly to fishermen and farmers in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya.

Laura Schmidt

Archivist Finds a Home in College Special Collections

Laura Schmidt (MSI ’05) knows that sometimes you go back where you got your start full of new knowledge.

After earning her master’s with a specialization in Archives and Records Management at SI, Schmidt accepted a position as archivist at the Marion E. Wade Center at Wheaton College. Earlier at Wheaton, she had earned her bachelor’s degree in English literature and history and had worked on campus.

“Before going to Wheaton, I had a real passion for books and wanted to be a librarian. I had worked at the Wade Center as a student worker through undergraduate school and determined after that experience that I would enjoy working in a special collections environment,” she says.

“I had read that many graduate schools in library science were losing their traditional roots in an effort to adapt to the new technological challenges brought about by the digital era. While I realized I needed an education that looked to the future of information management, I also wanted a school that gave me the established practices best suited to a special collections environment.

“SI seemed to have a good mix of both time-honored teaching standards and the innovative theories and technologies that are revolutionizing the information industry,” Schmidt says.

At SI, Schmidt participated in the Alternative Spring Break program, which allowed her to work at the Berg Collection in the New York Public Library.

On campus, she also received “intense and valuable training” while serving in a work-study position at the Bentley Historical Library.

“I was able to work in both reference and archival processing and observed a professional archival institution for two years,” she says.

The three experiential learning opportunities gave Schmidt an inside view of the similarities, differences, and methods among them. “They made the SI classroom theory come alive and gave me a wonderful foundation for how best to create informed policies and execute projects in my current workplace,” she says.

“While I have to say that my previous experience with the Wade Center was important to my entry into the position,” she says, “my education from SI provided a competence and structure to execute my job as archivist with excellence.”

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Evelyn Freeman (AMS '74), EVELYN.FREEMAN@OAKLAND. K12.MI.US, will serve as president of the School of Information Alumni Society Board for 2007-08 and four others have joined as directors. The terms began July 1.

Freeman is an information media consultant for Oakland Schools in Oakland County, Michigan. She attended the University of Michigan from 1970-74, earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1973 and her AMLS in 1974. During her career, she has been a media specialist in Ferndale, Michigan and an adjunct faculty reference librarian at Oakland Community College in suburban Detroit.

“I am a first generation college attendee, and feel that the University of Michigan played a key role in making me the person I am today,” Freeman says. “Serving on the Alumni Society Board of the School of Information is my way of giving back to the University. My goal as president is to strengthen the connection between alumni in the field and the University in order to create mutually beneficial relationships.”

In addition, Dan Cooney (MSI ’00), DCOONEY@GMAIL.COM, will serve as vice-president/president-elect for the coming year. Since February, he has headed Cooney Information Group, LLC, in Ann Arbor, where he is a user experience designer and information architect. He consults on business analysis, information architecture, and user-experience design.

Cliff Lampe (MSI, ’00, Ph.D. ’06), LAMPECU@MSU.EDU, will serve as a director for three years. He is an assistant professor at Michigan State University in the Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies & Media. He is also director of master's studies for the department. He brings a wealth of knowledge about social networking activities to the board.

Jan Johansson (MSI ’04), JAN.JOHANSSON@GMAIL.COM, will serve as a director for two years. She is the data librarian of the Congressional Research Service in Washington, D.C. Johansson recommends and oversees implementation of guidelines for the accession, access, and maintenance of social science data. He is currently piloting methods for re-using social science data available through APIs in other organizations, framing the data in the context of policy analysis, and then making it available to the Congress device-neutrally using Web widgets. One of his goals is to get alumni from the greater Washington, D.C., area connected to SI again.

Mary Minow (AMS ’82) will serve a three-year term as director. She is a library law consultant with LibraryLaw.com. In addition to her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the U-M, Minow holds a law degree from Stanford University. She is also the author (with Tom Lipinski) of The Library's Legal Answer Book, published in 2003 by the American Library Association. She has taught law in the San Jose State School of Library Science. In 2002, she was president of the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners. Minow was the first recipient of the California Library Association’s Zoia Horn Intellectual Freedom Award, given in 2004.

Ken Varnum (MILS ’94), VARNUM@UMICH.EDU, will serve a three-year term as director. He has worked with digital information technologies since he became a librarian in 1994. In April 2007, he became Web systems manager at the U-M Libraries, where his job involves all aspects of the libraries’ Web sites. From 2004-07, he was associate librarian and information manager at The Fletcher School, Tufts University’s graduate program in international relations. Previously, he spent seven years at the Ford Motor Company library in Michigan managing the library’s intranet sites and Web-based information services.

Karen Jordan, alumni relations officer, says that SI owes a debt of gratitude to Margot Lyon (MSI ‘98), MLYON@ATLAC.COM, who will now serve as immediate past president. Continuing on the board are Megan Kinney (MSI ’02), MCKINNEY@DENVERLIBRARY.ORG, as recording secretary; Charles Berg (MSI ’98), CBERG@GMAIL.COM, as director; Eva Davis (MSI ’98), EMDAVIS@UMICH.EDU, as director; and Margaret Taylor (Ph.D. ’82), MTTAYLOR@UMICH.EDU, as treasurer and executive secretary. Megan Fitch (MSI ’99), immediate past president in 2006-07, and Directors Paul Burley (MSI ’01) and Megan Kinney (MSI ’02) shared some stories at the Special Libraries Association reception in Denver.
SI Has High Hopes as it Delves into Undergraduate Program

Starting in January, University of Michigan undergraduates will experience what the School of Information is like when they take pilot courses for a proposed Bachelor of Science concentration in informatics.

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the College of Engineering are working in close collaboration with SI to develop the new concentration. Informatics is the study of the structure, behavior, and interactions of natural and artificial systems. Michigan’s particular approach to this growing field of research and teaching emphasizes a solid grounding in cutting-edge programming, mathematics, and statistics, combined with in-depth study of the ethical and social aspects of complex information systems.

SI’s first contribution to the multidisciplinary concentration will be a specialized track in social computing, similar in concept to the specialization in social computing now offered in the School’s Master of Science in Information Program. Additional undergraduate tracks in information analysis, computational informatics, and life science informatics will be offered. The program will feature five common core courses with separate course requirements for each track.

Associate Professor Paul Conway (Ph.D. ’91) has shepherded the project from the beginning, obtaining advice and approval from faculty colleagues and start-up funding from Provost Theresa Sullivan’s Multidisciplinary Learning and Team Teaching initiative. One of the reasons he was selected to lead the initiative was his past professional experience at Duke University, where he helped build an undergraduate information studies program.

Tickets Available for Alumni to Homecoming Football Game

Tickets are available through the SI Alumni Society for the homecoming football game with Purdue at noon Saturday, October 13. They are $55 each and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (734) 763-2281 or write to the U-M Alumni Association’s tailgate tent that morning are available at ALUMNI.UMICH.EDU/EVENTS/HOMECOMING _ TAILGATE. PHP, or by calling 800-847-4764. •

Author Adds Another Children’s Book

Karen Gray Ruelle (AMLIS ’80) and co-author Deborah Durland DeSaix have published Hidden on the Mountain, a children’s literature book for ages 10 and up.

The book describes how, as the Nazi Army closed in on Europe at the onset of World War II, desperate Jewish families were forced to flee their homes. Several thousand children were sheltered in the village of Le Chambron-sur-Lignon and the surrounding area, in southern France. In this book, the authors tell the true stories of some of these children.

Among the other books that Gray Ruelle has written and illustrated were 12 Harry O’Emily Adventures (easy-readers) for Holiday House and a picture book, Bark Park, which will be published by Peachtree Publishers next year. Her picture book, The Tree (Holiday House), illustrated by Durland DeSaix, comes out next year as well. •

Associate Professor Paul Conway headed the effort to start an undergraduate degree concentration with ties to the School of Information.

The U-M undergraduate program will be piloted beginning in January with three of five core courses. In fall 2008, the program will launch in earnest as a full-fledged undergraduate concentration in informatics and accept students who declare informatics as their major.

“Employers in the technology, business, and medical sectors are increasingly attracted to the interdisciplinary emphasis of the informatics field,” Conway says. “A benefit for SI is that students in the undergraduate social computing track will be exposed to the teaching and concepts of the MSI program. In turn, this could spur their interest in pursuing a master’s degree at SI, thus making the undergraduate program a natural source for additional prospective students.”

By phasing in the program and building University-wide recognition for SI’s high-quality program, Conway adds, it will be easier to offer additional undergraduate programs later. What SI did not want to do, he notes, was overcommit its resources and risk losing the goodwill of undergraduates.

An aspect that excites Conway is the move in 2010 to the North Quad Residential and Academic Complex. North Quad will stress the “living-learning community” concept of having classrooms within the same complex where students live. For SI, this will be nearly ideal, with the potential for SI faculty to teach undergraduates adjacent to where they live and for SI’s resources to be housed in the academic portion of the complex. SI will receive daily exposure to hundreds of undergraduates, whether they’re participating in SI courses or by simply being near SI facilities, faculty, and students.

By 2010, Conway envisions, there could be from 75 to 100 undergraduates enrolled in the informatics program annually.

The School of Information gained by encouraging LSA to administer the program, Conway says. Most important, both LSA and Engineering have the infrastructure to advise and support undergraduates, thus making it unnecessary for SI to start from scratch. Financially, SI still gains, since part of the tuition undergraduates pay for the program will come to SI to cover costs.

Conway says the fact that the undergraduate program is under way is evidence that President Mary Sue Coleman and Provost Sullivan share a commitment to expanding the roles of the professional schools like SI in undergraduate education. They want undergraduate students to benefit from the professional school perspective as much as possible, even if they never become graduate students themselves. •
Wide-Ranging Choices

One of the selling points of the Master of Science in Information program is the range of choices students have in selecting a degree program that fits their career goals.

Students may now choose from nine specializations. If they wish, they can choose two specializations. Another option is the "tailored" degree, in which a student works with a faculty advisor to design an academic program that fits very specific needs. + denotes new this fall.

Archives and Records Management

Teaches concepts and techniques to manage historical materials as well as methods that can be applied in information systems design to support integrity, authenticity, access, and long-term preservation of records.

+ Community Informatics

Prepares students for positions as public interest information professionals and technical leaders for nonprofit organizations, government agencies, community development agencies, and entrepreneurial social ventures.

Human-Computer Interaction

Educates the professional who designs and develops technologies that fit the organization and work practices, the work to be done, and the capabilities of the user.

+ Incentive-Centered Design

Teaches the art of designing systems or institutions to align individual incentives with overall organizational goals. It draws deeply from economics, psychology, and sociology, with computer science as a unifying thread.

+ Information Analysis and Retrieval

Teaches how information is stored in computer systems, how it is searched and analyzed, and how humans access it.

+ Information Policy

Prepares students for analysis and design of information policy, at both the organizational and general public policy level.

Library and Information Services

Prepares students for all aspects of librarianship. Students may also choose a track for careers in K-12 school media.

+ Preservation of Information

Identifies preservation challenges and standards-based preservation practices and responds to the urgent need for expertise in preservation, digital curation, and Web archiving.

+ Social Computing

The force behind Web 2.0. Social Computing analyzes online social interactions and recognizes opportunities in social computing technologies.

Tailored Option

Allows students to choose courses at SI and the U-M that closely match their particular career interest.

MSI Enrollment on Upward Swing

The 2006-07 recruiting season was a particularly fruitful one for the School of Information.

The School set a record for new-student enrollment this fall, with the final number at 142. That topped the fall 2006 enrollment of 119 and beat the previous all-time record of 125 students in 2003. Total enrollment of new and returning master’s and doctoral students is approximately 350.

Judy Lawson, director of the Office of Academic and Career Services, noted that students have been intrigued by the new specializations that the faculty have added to the Master of Science in Information program (see list at left) and a revamped set of Foundations courses.

With nine specializations total in the Master of Science in Information (MSI) program, the School of Information is unique in preparing students for careers in such a broad range of long-established and newly emerging fields.

SI now offers the nation’s first graduate-degree specialization in social computing through the Master of Science in Information. When the specialization was announced, news sites and bloggers nationwide jumped on the story.

The School is a good fit for the specialization. Professor Paul Resnick, specialization coordinator, is among the faculty who have been leaders in inventing and analyzing many of the underlying techniques and technologies that have powered the rise of social computing. These include recommender systems, reputation systems, prediction markets, social network analysis, online communities, and computer-supported cooperative work.

In fact, Facebook, YouTube, Wikipedia, and Flickr are some of the well-known services of Web 2.0, also known as social computing. They have changed the way people interact with computers and each other.

An example of the flexibility of the MSI program is that seemingly disparate specializations have numerous underlying ties. The new Social Computing specialization is a natural fit for students interested in the Library and Information Services specialization. Many libraries now create "virtual branches" on services like MySpace. The LIS specialization continues to be the most popular at SI.


In addition, all MSI students are required to demonstrate competency (through coursework or previous experience) in understanding and deploying research methods and in managing information services and organizations.

Lawson adds that alumni have played a role in the growth of the MSI enrollment. During visits to the School and in follow-up surveys, prospective students say that they first heard about the SI program after talking to alumni. Profiles on the SI Web site about alumni and their jobs have also had a powerful effect on students exploring the School.

One alumna in particular has been instrumental through her role as a librarian at the U-M Graduate Library. The School presented Karen Downings (MILS ’89) with a certificate honoring her for “outstanding contributions to diversity at the School of Information and for her exceptional and long-standing efforts in identifying and recruiting excellent students to the Master of Science in Information program.”

The School encourages other alumni to continue to serve informally as ambassadors for SI. Those who have contact with prospective students may obtain recruitment CDs and brochures to hand out, if they wish. Simply write to SLADMISSEIONS@UMICH.EDU or call (734) 763-2285. *
Losing a Piece of Our History
For More Than Half a Century, Robert M. Warner
Was a Historian Who Helped Shape U-M and the Path of SI

Just about any professor can weave a classroom lesson together with a personal story, but few can in one breath talk about how he scrapped with a U.S. president and in the next describe the ever-rising importance of the archival profession on the national stage.

That was the nature of Dean Emeritus Robert M. Warner, 79, who died Tuesday, April 24 in Ann Arbor of complications from Hodgkins lymphoma. He was always a teacher. It was just the platform he was on on that changed.

Even President Richard M. Nixon learned that.

To understand how Nixon and Warner crossed paths, you first need to know a little about Dr. Warner. The short version is that he was dean of the former School of Library Science from 1985-92 and a professor emeritus of the School of Information. He served as the official historian of the University of Michigan and was chair of the History and Traditions Committee from 1991-97. He was also a professor in the Department of History and served as interim director of the University Library from 1988-91. Of even more notable national achievement, he was archivist of the United States from 1980-85.

The longer version begins in the summer of 1950 when Dr. Warner arrived in Ann Arbor to pursue a master’s degree in history. As happened to the dreams of so many others that year, his were disrupted by the Korean War. After his military service, Dr. Warner returned to Michigan and earned his master’s degree in history in 1953 and later his doctorate in American history.

Little did he know at the time, but a young U-M faculty member named Sidney Fine would play a significant part later in Dr. Warner’s career. Fine, now a professor emeritus of history, was Dr. Warner’s mentor. Upon Fine’s recommendation, Dr. Warner landed a job at the Michigan Historical Collections in 1957 and later served as its director. The Michigan Historical Collections is now housed in the Bentley Historical Library, which Dr. Warner was instrumental in establishing on the U-M North Campus.

On the national level, Dr. Warner was appointed the sixth archivist of the United States in July 1980 by President Jimmy Carter, and he continued to serve under President Ronald Reagan through April 15, 1985.

In Washington, D.C., today, Dr. Warner is looked upon as the man who led the the fight in Congress and elsewhere to make the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) an independent agency, which it became April 1, 1985. He wrote a book telling about NARA’s independence efforts, Diary of a Dream: A History of the National Archives Independence Movement, 1980-1985, published by Scarecrow Press.

The significance of this achievement led NARA to honor Dr. Warner in Washington on May 19, 2005 by naming its new research center the Robert M. Warner Research Center. The occasion was also NARA’s 20th anniversary of independence from the General Services Administration.

Dr. Warner said that “being archivist of the United States was the greatest opportunity I ever had or will have.” It also gave him a story to tell about a dispute with President Nixon. Dr. Warner held fast to his belief that the National Archives was above reproach, regardless of whether you were a former president.

The face-off with Nixon was one event in a career that, as Dr. Warner related wryly, was “serendipitous, not nicely planned.”

The issue with the former president and the National Archives was over control of Nixon’s papers and tape recordings, including the infamous Watergate tapes. The fight escalated, with Dr. Warner maintaining the archives had the duty to house the papers and 4,000 hours of tapes. Finally, Dr. Warner was served with a subpoena issued by members of Congress who wanted him to explain himself.

“I remember going home one day and telling my wife, I’m being sued by Richard Nixon!” he recalled years later. The standoff brought national attention to Dr. Warner, who was called to testify before Congress and turn over the

Continued on next page

“Bob Warner was instrumental in graduate archival education in the United States, creating and teaching one of the early courses at the Bentley Library in collaboration with the history department and SILS. As a teacher, Bob was articulate and patient; he challenged students to explore archives with the passion and dedication he demonstrated every day in class.”

— Elizabeth Yakel (AMLS ‘82, Ph.D. ‘97)
Associate Professor

“Bob Warner was a pioneer archivist who nurtured in others a rich vision of the cultural significance of the documentary record. He was also a generous and caring man who inspired generations of young archivists to write and contribute to the archival profession.”

— Paul Conway (Ph.D. ’91)
Associate Professor

(Far left) Displaying a Michigan necktie that caught his eye while he was passing through an airport in China.

(Left) With the late Dean Emeritus Russell Bidlack.
Robert and Jane Warner were guests of President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush when they honored former President Gerald R. Ford and his wife Betty.

documents. Dr. Warner refused to give in, citing Senate rules regarding National Archives policies. Upon consideration, Congress backed down. “They respected our position, and they dropped the subpoena. The materials were never released,” Dr. Warner recounted.

Although he had access to the tapes long before they were released to the public, Dr. Warner said he never listened to them. He explained that he didn’t want to answer the inevitable questions about what the former president and his aides had said.

Dr. Warner had another tie to the National Archives, as well. He was instrumental in the negotiations that concluded with the U-M being selected as the site for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. That library is adjacent to the Bentley Historical Library on the North Campus. The Ford Library is under the aegis of the National Archives.

The dean emeritus was a well-liked man and will be remembered for his varied interests and the ability to tell rich stories, whether about his worldwide travels or personal banter with leaders in education, government, and business.

In the educational arena as dean, he faced a problem that plagued other universities: how to keep library science relevant to the university. His greatest challenge, Dr. Warner noted, was the very survival of the School. “This is a time when you have to look back in history and remember that some of the really fine schools of library science in research universities were falling by the wayside,” he said. “The major schools were disappearing.”

Michigan responded by making research a major focus and emphasizing the recruitment of “intellectually strong” students.

Dr. Warner also helped elevate the archives program at Michigan to one of the most respected in the nation. Decades ago, most archivists were trained by getting a degree in history and then working in an archive. With Dr. Warner’s push, archives education at Michigan became a part of the School of Information and Library Studies. Today, it has expanded to include two specializations within the Master of Science in Information program: Archives and Records Management and the newly established Preservation of Information.

Dr. Warner taught his last course in fall 1995. “I would never have sketched this career out,” he said, breaking into a laugh. “I had a much more modest goal, to be a history professor at a small college.” Foremost, he credited his wife, Jane, with shaping the career that he enjoyed so much. “She’s always been my chief counselor, and has always been involved in all my jobs. I wouldn’t have amounted to anything without her.”

In 1996, Dr. Warner was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education to a national task force to advise the secretary on the newly created National Education Library.

In May 2000, he published a book tracing the 40-year relationship of poet Robert Frost with the University of Michigan, from Frost’s two years as the U-M’s first fellow in creative arts to his 1962 reading at Hill Auditorium. Frost-Bite & Frost-Bark: Robert Frost at Michigan was published by the Bentley Historical Library.

Both Robert and Jane Warner were generous to the University. They established the Dr. Robert and Jane Warner Scholarship. He is also memorialized through the Deans Emeritus Scholarship Fund.

Robert Mark Warner was born in Montrose, Colorado, on June 28, 1927, where his father, Mark, was a Presbyterian minister. In 1949 he graduated from Mankinburg College, a Presbyterian school in Ohio, and then pursued advanced studies at the University of Michigan. While at Mankinburg, he met Jane Bullock, whom he married in 1954. Robert Warner was diagnosed with cancer in 2006, just weeks before it was discovered that Jane also had cancer. She died August 25, 2006.

Survivors are a son, Mark Warner, a professor of anthropology at the University of Idaho; a daughter, Jennifer Cuddihack, an archivist at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, Texas; and two grandchildren.

Memorials for Robert M. Warner

The family of Dr. Warner suggests that memorials may be made in his memory to the Dr. Robert and Jane Warner Scholarship at the School of Information. Contributions may be sent to:

School of Information
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Holland Announces Retirement

Maurita Holland retired August 31, ending a 35-year career with the University of Michigan and a 17-year stint at the School of Information.

Holland came to U-M in 1972 as a librarian in the Engineering Library, later becoming director of the Basic Sciences Engineering Libraries. Along the way, she and Professor Daniel E. Atkins and others during that period played a major role in bringing the U-M into the digital library age, well ahead of other institutions. She was also instrumental in teaching related to community informatics.

At SI, Holland established the framework for SI’s Practical Engagement Program. She also helped launch the first Foundations curriculum, initiating a course in management of information systems and services.

A hallmark of her teaching has been addressing the information needs of underserved communities and the young. Those efforts culminated in the Cultural Heritage Preservation Foundations curriculum, initiating a course in management of information systems and services. She also helped launch the first Foundations curriculum, initiating a course in management of information systems and services.

The Kellogg Professorship in Community Informatics specializations. Holland will build the portfolio of out-of-classroom opportunities in community information by working with external partners and with others at the U-M.

Until he returns to Ann Arbor, Atkins will be active in SI activities from a distance whenever possible. He plans to participate in the annual fall community information summit.

Atkins is First Kellogg Professor at SI

Professor Daniel E. Atkins will be the first Kellogg Professor in Community Information at the School of Information, starting in June 2008.

Atkins, founding dean of the School, is on leave while serving as director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington, D.C.

The Kellogg Professorship in Community Information, funded with a $2 million gift to the School of Information, “embodies the service ethos and our focus on engagement and outreach in teaching, research, and service,” says Professor C. Olivia Frost.

The faculty selected Atkins for the honor, the first named professorship exclusive to the School. Other SI faculty members hold named professorships, but those were awarded by the University.

“Atkins will be a model for others who will undoubtedly step up to this challenge in the years to come,” said Professor Daniel E. Atkins will return to SI at the end of his term at the NSF. He will assume his new role for a five-year term, pending approval by the U-M Regents, and will make community information a core focus of his efforts, operating as a high-level agent and ambassador and doing teaching related to community information.

Atkins will also be active in seeking out resources for the new Community Informatics specialization. Atkins will build the portfolio of out-of-classroom opportunities in community information by working with external partners and with others at the U-M.

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Atkins Announces Retirement

Mary Jo Held Announces Retirement

Mary Jo Held will retire at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year after 37 years of service to the School of Information. Held came to U-M in 1971 as a junior information specialist at the Veterans Administration National Center for Technology.

Held was among the first small group of faculty who brought a diverse set of skills and experience to SI’s program in the mid-1970s. She was one of the first librarians at the School to acquire a Ph.D. in information science.

Alumna’s School Library One of Best in Nation

The library of which Karen Douse (AMLS ’76) is director has been cited by the American Association of School Librarians as National School Library Media Program of the Year.

Douse is director of library and information services at the Ann Scott Carell Library at Harper Hall School in Nashville, Tennessee. She has been with the school for 15 years.

Harper Hall is a private college preparatory school for girls in grades 5-12. Library staff have instigated a vigorous outreach program to teachers in every curricular area, and work in partnership with their colleagues to instruct students in effective uses of technology and applications of research skills.

Successful efforts have been made to increase and enhance student leisure reading, especially at the high school level. The library itself has become the physical hub of the campus, an inviting and appealing site for students and staff alike.
Research Funding Distinguishes SI

The School of Information continues to make its mark on the national stage through research activities. For the 2007 fiscal year that ended June 30, the School had approximately $6 million in research expenditures.

It was also a good year for funding awards, with 29 new awards coming to the School from external sources, such as the National Science Foundation and other federal governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and foundations. Thirty faculty members received project funding.

“We’ve achieved success in the face of one of the harsh-est federal funding environments in history,” says Thomas Finholt, research professor and associate dean for research and innovation.

At the national level, grant applications were up substantially this year, but funding did not keep up with demand. Despite that, SI had a 40 percent approval rate for its federally funded grant requests. “That’s a strong marker of our capacity,” Finholt adds.

Major grants were awarded from:
- The federal government — for projects related to E-social science, security issues, and work for the Army Research Institute.
- Private foundations — for projects related to archives, story gaming, and continuity of care across shift changes in hospitals.
- Corporations — for projects related to network file systems, information visualization, and displays of art.
- The U-M — for projects that will benefit the entire University in computer networking, security, and curriculum in informatics.

In all, more than 50 research awards are in active stages, including multiyear awards. Many projects are multidisciplinary, involving faculty and scientists from other schools and departments, and many of the projects involve SI faculty whose academic backgrounds are allied with the different master’s program specializations.

Finholt noted that the work of SI faculty elevates the standing of the School itself on the national and international stage. For example, Finholt points out, three SI professors are among the top 10 most-cited authors among all North American iSchools: Jeff MacKie-Mason, Paul Resnick, and George Furnas.

Other examples of distinguished research being recognized included the Gonnel Prize for excellence in political methodology to Associate Professor Dragonir Radev for his work in topic-coding legislative speech.

Associate Professor Elizabeth Yadek received a "most influential paper" award for her work on nursing informatics.

In addition, Professor Paul Courant and Associate Professor Margaret Hedstrom were co-authors of an American Council on Learned Societies report on the humanities and cyberinfrastructures. Finholt notes that preservation and information access issues will continue to be a strong research focus.

Numerous master’s and doctoral students won awards for their research, both locally and nationally. The outlook for this coming year is bright, Finholt says. The School is embarking on VISIT (Virtual Space Interaction Tested), an ambitious project to link the School’s Central Campus and North Campus facilities with wall-sized high-quality audiovisual displays. The displays will allow for both formal interactions and casual get-togethers to help eliminate the feeling that people in both locations are geographically divided.

The long-range benefit would be expanded use of such a system around the University, possibly allowing other units to reduce the number of offices required for faculty and staff who must now frequently move from one building to another.

Finholt says that strategically, the School will continue to focus energy on developing and understanding the implications of social computing applications, explore the benefits of virtual organizations, promote the study of incentive-centered design, and delve more deeply into health informatics.

The associate dean says another hot research area is ubiquitous computing, as represented by the work of SI’s new faculty member, Assistant Professor Mark Newman, who develops systems to interoperate among previously separate household devices (such as to direct your iPod to play video on a nearby monitor).

Stephen Forrest, U-M vice-president for research, visited SI and lauded the faculty for their achievements.

Achievers

Laurel Hicklin (MSI ’01) is a project coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant at Queens Library in Jamaica, New York. LAUREL.HICKLIN@QUEENSLIBRARY.ORG

Adrienne Losh (MSI ’01) is a market-ing communications specialist at the University of Michigan. ADRIENNE@UMICH.ORG

Anne Reader (MSI ’01) is a high school media specialist for the Ann Arbor Public Schools. For the past six years, she worked as a media specialist at the elementary level. “I specialized in Library and Information Studies at SI, with a concentration in school libraries, and worked in various school settings before receiving my degree,” she says. “I am happy to discuss my career path, specifics of my job, and professional organizations I have found valuable.” ANREADER@UMICH.EDU

Mercedea Shriver (MSI ’01) is an adult services librarian for music and arts at the Flint (Michigan) Public Library. MESHRIVER@HOTMAIL.COM

Su-Yong Song (MSI ’02) lives in Los Angeles and is a project manager at Electro-Comm. BESTECOMM@YAHOO.COM

Marcos Vera (MSI ’02) is content producer/metadata librarian at Entertainment Weekly in Rochester, New York. MARC.VERA@EW.COM

Lauren Collins (MSI ’03) is reference librarian at Duke University School of Law. COLLINS@LAW.DUKE.EDU

Jeff Gedeon (MSI ’03) is a patent attorney at Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. JGDEEON@UMICH.EDU

Karen Morse (MSI ’03) is processing archivist (senior assistant librarian) at the State University of New York at Buffalo. KEMORSE@BUFFALO.EDU

Mpaleng Khothule (MSI ’03) is a business consultant at Hartford Financial Services Group in Hartford, Connecticut. “If you’re looking to leverage your SI tools and/or previous experiences in the financial services arena, particularly insurance, feel free to contact me,” he says. MPALENG.KHOTHULE@THEHARTFORD.COM

Kelly Krout (MSI ’03) is a usability engineer at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. KKOUT @UMICH.EDU

Christopher Borawski (MSI ’03) is a librarian (juvenile) at the Montgomery County Public Library in Wheaton, Maryland. CHRISTOPHER.BORAWSKI@MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV

Jennifer Lau (MSI ’03) is a reference/instruction librarian and distance learning specialist at Roosevelt University. JLL11@ALBION.EDU

Daphne Ogle (MSI ’03) is a senior interaction designer at the University of California, Berkeley. DOGLE@UMICH.EDU

Henry Chou (MSI ’04) is a usability analyst at Ameren in Thousand Oaks, California. CHOU_HENNY@HOTMAIL.COM

Associate Dean Thomas Finholt sees a wide range of research opportunities for SI students and faculty.
SI Digitizes AIDS Literature Archive

In more than two decades of covering HIV and AIDS, prolific Science writer Jon Cohen has amassed one of the world’s most comprehensive archives of literature on the disease, amounting to some 230,000 pages of records.

Thanks to a $150,000 grant from the John D. Evans Foundation, researchers and the University Library are digitizing this archive and making it accessible to researchers online.

“This material is important to preserve because it presents the most comprehensive history of the AIDS epidemic and captures the story of an era that is being lost as researchers move on to other projects,” says Gary M. Olson, the Paul M. Fitts Professor of Human-Computer Interaction at SI and head of the project team.

Dr. Robert C. Gallo, co-discoverer of the HIV virus as the cause of AIDS, points out that Cohen “wrote about much of the epidemic almost from the identification of the disease in 1981.”

“The John D. Evans Foundation helps preserve the history of the HIV/AIDS epidemic by funding Dr. Olson and his colleagues,” says Gallo, who is director of the Institute for Human Virology at the University of Maryland. He adds that the digitization project will ensure that the Cohen archive “will be forever valuable to future generations of researchers and to the public at large.”

U-M President Mary Sue Coleman says “the University has long been a leader in digitization, and this support from the John D. Evans Foundation allows us to expand our work and share these remarkable materials with the public.”

Dharma Akmon (MSI ’05) is an archivist on the AIDS literature project.

The Cohen archive holds extensive government transcripts of meetings and investigative reports (many obtained via the Freedom of Information Act), obscure documents on the epidemic from every affected region of the world, literature from AIDS vaccine and drug makers, proceedings of most major international AIDS conferences, and many reports from activists and nongovernmental organizations.

The core project team includes Olson, Perry Willett, who heads the University of Michigan Library’s Digital Library Production Service, and Associate Professor Elizabeth Yakel of the School of Information, who is an expert on digital archives and on the usability and usefulness of finding aids. Dharma Akmon (MSI ’05) works on the project as a full-time archivist.

Other major aspects of the project include assessing the intellectual property status of the material and developing metadata that will help future researchers find their way through it. Work on collecting and sorting the archive to prepare it for digitization began this summer. •

Martha E. Pollack

Continued from page 1

ADVANCE project. Diversity matters. The literature shows that better solutions arise when a variety of perspectives are considered. As SI, we are committed to integrating different disciplinary perspectives, as well as to fostering diversity more broadly. It’s my intention as dean to work hard to ensure that SI is a very diverse school.”

Pollack’s own research interests fit well with the mission of SI. Her graduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania was in computer and information science, and she has worked on a range of projects that address the uses of information technology to improve the quality of life. For example, she has been a pioneer in the design and development of assistive technology that helps people with cognitive impairment live more autonomously.

To allay any fears that under her deanship the School will turn away from its roots, she offers this:

“Different iSchools have different defining characteristics, and one of the important characteristics of Michigan’s iSchool is precisely that it grew out of a very strong library studies program, which it has not abandoned.

“In a world where we have an explosion of information, we need librarians more than ever. They are the people who have the longest tradition of knowledge about how to organize information so that people can readily access it. What I see at SI is a tight integration between the knowledge and skills of specialists in library and information services, and those who come from other disciplines.”

Prior to coming to the U-M, Pollack spent nine years at the University of Pittsburgh with a joint appointment in the Department of Computer Science and the Intelligent Systems Program, and six years as a senior researcher and computer scientist in the Artificial Intelligence Center at SRI International.

“I’ve been extraordinarily impressed with the SI students that I’ve met so far,” Pollack commented. “They’re smart, they’re motivated, they’re intellectual risk-takers. If they weren’t, they’d be at a more traditional school. I think that it’s going to be a lot of fun to work with them in the coming years.” •
They Came, They Learned, They Graduated

School of Information degree candidates were recognized April 27 at the spring commencement ceremony. In addition a smaller group was recognized on December 17 at a ceremony in the Michigan Union.

Following the University commencement exercises in Hill Auditorium, the School held its own Graduate Recognition Ceremony at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. More than 400 graduates and family members were on hand and for a reception at the Alumni Center.

A highlight of the day was the presentation of the Margaret Mann Award to Elisabeth Jones, Robert Thompson, and Mary Ann Williams. It is awarded annually to one or more students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the information profession and promise of professional development. In December, the Mann Award went to Olga Khroustaleva.

SI students selected Madelyn Hawk for the Edmon Low Award for dedicated service to the information profession, empathy for people, the ability to inspire confidence and trust, industry, political shrewdness, responsibility, and a good sense of humor.

In her remarks to the graduates and their families, C. Olivia Frost, who was serving as interim dean, commented about the kind of students that SI attracts.

“Criteria for admission to SI include academic excellence, and also leadership, the ability to deal with ambiguity and change, the ability to welcome challenges, and the desire to make a difference,” she said. “SI grads reflect these leadership attributes especially in their work with practical engagement and in initiatives that they lead in student organizations.

Three doctoral graduates have accepted positions. Yan Qu is an assistant professor at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies, Denise Anthony is an assistant professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Denver, and Nathaniel Bulkley is a post-doctoral fellow at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois.

April '07 Candidates

Ph.D.

Yan Qu

MSI

Ryan Cannon
R. Rebecca Carter
Brian Kerr
Maty Kleiman
Christopher Korintus
Jessica LeEsperson
Tammy Petinatno
Abbey Bishop
Todd Suomela
Andrea Wiggins
Mary Ann Williams

MSI-ARM

Philip Debra
Corinne Forstat
Brian Garrison
Jill Griffiths
Madelyn Hawk
Paul Jordan
Andrew McLetchie
Jason Nargis
Erin Pashehl
Rachel Pooley
Jennifer Sharp
Seth Shaw
Mike Swanson
Seth Turner
Sarah Walsh

MSI-IEMP

Anne Abraham
Sara Alisky
Mario Baumann
Jaron Ding
Farah Faisal
Kathe Fraassrand
Piotr Gladowski
Kim Gh
Amy Grude
David Shih-Min Hsiao
Dale Hunscher
Sun-mi Kim (August)
Mark LaRissa
David Lee
Zhenlei Liu
Clark Matthews
Timothy Mills
Vorazuma Dharavath
Michael Scheibl
Matthew Scholl
Nika Tiesi-Smith
Robert Thompson

MSI-IEMP

Rodger Burns
Derek Cooper
Nisha Ennen
Anna Falkevics
Nicholas Goodwin
Elisabeth Jones
Woo Yong Lee
Zachary Monahan
Lee Richards
Carl Seymour
Jodi Tyron
Matthew Wilson

MSI-IEMP

Matthew Alibe
Margaret Armstrong (SM)
Theresa Betts
Alexander Byrne
Emily Campbell
Yu Chen Chang
Linda Cho
Ann Claffin
Heather Defore
Kimberly Fletcher
Jacob Glenn
Teresa Hebron
Mona Kobersy
Xiang Li
Ananthi Lin
Andrew MacLaren
Emily Maurice
Jillian McCormick
Maddalena Rumer
Nicole Scholtz
Andrew Schuck
Maura Seale
Julie Shadrack (SM)
Mary Brook Todd
Sara Wiedel
Michaela Will Hooper
Jason Young

MSI-IEMP

Joshua Borton
Meghan Bresnahm
Anne Chokkaiset
Morgan Daniels
Sara Doan
Patrick Fuller

MSI-IEMP

Kyle Conner
Lanet James

MSI-IEMP

Ayca Aksu Erkan

MSI and JD

Stephen Tate (LL.B)

MSI and MBA

Irena Cheung
Tashira Gibbs (PhD)
Tanaka Roy

MILS

Michael Rice

December '06 Candidates

Ph.D.

Denise Anthony
Nathaniel Bulkley

MSI

Carl Collins
Jenet Cotton
Michael Hess
Mark Joseph
Tonya McClarkey
Jennifer Spamer

MSI-ARM

Andrew Besuden
Nancy Jacobson
Maria Rocah Marquez
Kathryn Sime

MSI-ICL

Mario Baumann
Kai-Sheng Chan
Olga Khroustaleva

MSI-IEMP

David Davin
Tebarek Teketel

MSI-LIS

Jim Maynard
Dona Olendorf
Georgia Portuondo
Nathanial Powell

Achivers

Annie Abraham (MSI '07) is an application developer at the University of Michigan. annabrah @umich.edu

Ayca Aksu Erkan (MSI '07) is a product analyst at Xanga.com in New York City. ayca.aksu@gmail.com

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

Linda Choo (MSI '07) is manager of library technical services at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. lindachoo @thefenwayford.org

Kyle Conner (MSI '07) is archives/recorder at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. keconner @gmail.com

Derek Cooper (MSI '07) is a systems integration specialist at Philips in Foster City, California. derekcooper @umich.edu

Madelyn Hawk (MSI '07) is a law librarian in Array Technologies at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. madelyn.hawk @gmail.com

Teresa Hebron (MSI '07) is a systems librarian at Innovative Interfaces, Inc., in Emeryville, California. thebron @iiil.com

Andrew McLetchie (MSI '07) is a senior data analyst at JSTOR in Ann Arbor. “I am working on leveraging our content and usage data to inform decisions about product development and promotion,” he says. mcletca @umich.edu

Nicole Scholtz (MSI '07) is an information resources reference specialist at the University of Michigan. nscholtz @umich.edu

Mary-Brook Todd (MSI '07) is assistant librarian at the Ensworth School in Nashville, Tennessee. marybrook.todd @gmail.com

Andrea Wiggins (MSI '07) is a doctoral student at Syracuse University. anwiggins @svet.edu

In Memoriam

Alleen F. Schnatter (AML '52) died June 20 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She worked as a librarian for many years in colleges in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Washington. She retired as library director at Washington State University and moved to Santa Fe in 1986. In addition to her master's degree, she held a bachelor's degree from the U-M, and earned her doctorate at Indiana University in 1972.
Thanks to Your Efforts...

The School of Information enrolled a record number of new master’s students for the fall semester. Many of these students indicated that they first heard about SI from referrals from alumni who were more than willing to share their stories about SI and its academic programs.

We thank you and encourage you to continue to be our ambassadors around the world. If you would like recruiting materials to hand out (CDs, booklets), just let us know by writing to sl.admissions@umich.edu or calling (734) 763-2285.

STIET Receives Funding Renewal

The innovative STIET program for doctoral students at the University of Michigan has received a $3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to continue its programs for the next five years.

In addition, the program is expanding to include students from Wayne State University. The program is directed by Professor Jeff MacKie-Mason.

Students selected for STIET — Socio-Technical Infrastructure for Electronic Transactions — explore research, training, and outreach in an incentive-centered design approach to modern information systems.

The multidisciplinary program supports joint and collaborative activities at the two universities.

STIET got its start in 2001 and grew into a strong multidisciplinary program with SI, the College of Engineering, the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, and the Department of Economics sharing responsibilities. In all, 35 fellows received funding during the first grant period.

Gavin Clarkson has received a renewable IBM Faculty Award to pursue research into “Patent Cartography,” sort of a roadmap for finding information about a specific U.S. patent.

Countless hours are spent unsuccessfully every day by inventors, attorneys, and business professionals who need patent information. Given that more than 200,000 U.S. patents are issued annually, a streamlined information retrieval system would be an immense help.

“As the rate of patenting has increased, so too has the problem of patent thickets, or dense webs of overlapping intellectual property rights that an organization must hack its way through in order to commercialize new technology,” Clarkson says.

“Although automated, the patent search process itself has not been reengineered and thus remains functionally similar to the patent search process developed in the 19th century,” Clarkson cites a Federal Trade Commission report that said in certain industries, the large number of issued patents makes it virtually impossible to search all of the potentially relevant patents. For many firms, the only practical response to this problem of unintentional and sometimes unavoidable patent infringement is to file hundreds of patents each year.

For the past two years, Clarkson has collaborated with IBM on a National Science Foundation-funded project to improve the patent search process. He and fellow researchers are combining methodologies for measuring the patent space developed at the School of Information with methodologies developed at IBM’s Almaden Research Center.

It’s Like Building a Better Road Map

With the new funding, STIET will now include a Summer Research Opportunity Program for undergraduates that will double as a training practicum for STIET doctoral fellows.

STIET got its start in 2001 and grew into a strong multidisciplinary program with SI, the College of Engineering, the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, and the Department of Economics sharing responsibilities. In all, 35 fellows received funding during the first grant period.

Coming Up!

- **October 5**
  - Alumni Society annual meeting, 10 a.m., Ehrlicher Room, 411 West Hall. All alumni are invited.

- **October 22**
  - All are invited to a reception during the ASIS&T Conference in Milwaukee. Drop by — you don’t need to be registered for the conference to attend our reception. We’ll gather from 6:30-8 p.m. Watch si.umich.edu/events for location.

- **October 6-9**
  - SI and the U-M will host the third International e-Social Science Conference. Professor Gary M. Olson is program co-chair and Thomas Finholt, research associate professor and associate dean for research and innovation, is conference chair. Research Fellow David Ribes chairs workshop planning. For details, see ess.si.umich.edu.

- **October 17**
  - At this Connect with SI event, prospective students are invited to hear from faculty, staff, and current students and learn about the master’s and doctoral programs of SI. The session will be from 6-8:30 p.m. in West Hall. Call (734) 763-2285 for details.

- **October 20**
  - This Connect with SI event is identical in content but will be from 1-3:30 p.m.

- **November 8**
  - SI will host a reception from 5-6 p.m. during the Michigan Library Association Conference in Lansing. All are welcome; you need not be registered for the conference. Watch si.umich.edu/events for location.

- **January 11-16**
  - Those attending the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting should stop by the SI reception. Watch si.umich.edu/events for details.

- **March 25-29**
  - SI will host a reception during the Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis at a date and time to be announced at si.umich.edu/events.

Share Your News

Please send your news by any of these convenient methods:

**Web (preferred):** si.umich.edu/alumni/update.htm

**E-mail:** kJordan@umich.edu

**Postal mail:** Karen Jordan
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