

# GSLIS GAZETTE



Mary K. Chelton, Editor | Volume 6, Number 1 | Spring 2014

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Greetings from Dr. Colleen Cool, Director of the GSLIS

Going into 2014, we have much good news to share. Most of you have already heard that we remain accredited by the American Library Association, with our next program review scheduled for fall 2014. The faculty is working hard to prepare for this review and we wish to involve members of our alumni, student, and professional communities in this process. As part of our ongoing self-assessment, the GSLIS has revised its Mission, Goals & Objectives, which can be found on our website under the "About Us" tab. You will also notice a new Alumni link on the GSLIS website, with information about how you can join our alumni advisory board. Furthermore, we are fostering stronger ties with the CUNY library community through greater communication with the CUNY Council of Chief Librarians. In the near future, you can expect to see much more information about the wide variety of paid and unpaid internship opportunities within CUNY.

GSLIS is committed to maintaining a curriculum that is responsive to the needs of its students and their future employers. From student feedback, we learned that greater numbers of online and hybrid courses are desired; this summer, we will offer our first totally online course, LBSCI 729. This course will run again in fall 2014, along with LBSCI 790 Knowledge Management, in purely electronic mode. We have also increased the number of hybrid courses, with two of our core courses, 702 and 703, now being offered in hybrid mode. Employers tell us

that our students need to graduate with skills in cutting-edge digital technology, along with greater knowledge about teaching with technology. In order to continue our history of providing excellence in LIS education, we are working on ways to address these needs and others as they are raised by employer communities.

The GSIS faculty, both full-time and adjunct, is growing. Joining the full-time faculty in fall 2014 is Lucia Cedeira-Serantes, currently a doctoral student at the University of Western Ontario, who comes to us with expertise in the children and YA areas. Our newest adjunct faculty member is Maggie Murphy, visual resources curator in the Queens College Art Department. Ms. Murphy, who has an MLIS degree with a specialization in digital libraries, will teach art librarianship this fall and other courses in the area of digital librarianship in the future. The GSLIS is currently in the process of filling one other full-time faculty position in the area of information science; we will keep you posted as that develops.

On a final note, we are most happy to announce the establishment of a new scholarship fund. The Ellen Libretto Memorial Scholarship will fund two or more full scholarships for students committed to advancing research in YA literacy. Further information about these scholarships will be circulated shortly. As you can see, this is an especially exciting time for all of us in the GSLIS. I look forward to sharing additional information with you as it becomes available. As always, my door is open if you wish to stop by.

*Sincerely,*

*Colleen Cool, PhD  
Director, GSLIS*

## FROM THE GRADUATE ADVISORS

As I begin my second year as graduate advisor for Admissions, I am continually impressed by the incredible diversity and wide-ranging backgrounds of the applicants to the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. These new students bring their marvelous life experiences into the classroom and into the program, further enriching our already outstanding student body.

Our incoming students range from recent college graduates in their early 20s, to those in mid-career seeking new competencies that might complement their existing skill sets, to those with extensive experience seeking a complete career change. Many of our students have worked in libraries in some capacity in the past or present, or hold precious childhood memories of the role of the library. Increasingly, we are welcoming those with strong interests and competencies in technology, who seek a humanistic, user-oriented focus for their technical strengths. Lawyers, health professionals, teachers, consultants, information technologists, editors and those working in publishing, artists, musicians and social workers are just a few of the professions represented within our student body. We have applicants who have served in the Peace Corps or taught English as a Second Language abroad, as well as international students seeking to avail themselves of the rich library resources of the New York City area.

What our students share is a zest for addressing the challenges and opportunities in library and information services in our

rapidly changing world. Working with them is a wonderful reminder of the best aspects of being involved in library education. As has been the pattern in recent years, potential applicants hear of our program in many ways: from employers, colleagues, their local librarian, family members and friends who are graduates of the program or know of its reputation. Most do extensive research in advance of their formal applications, initiate email and phone inquiries, and/or meet with me in person to answer questions and explore possibilities. These contacts extend throughout the entire year, with a typical surge just before semesters begin (which can lead to some interesting last-minute scrambling for registration). Group interviews for summer and fall admission have just begun and applications continue to arrive on a daily basis. There were 121 applications during the Fall 2013 semester. Sixty-five students matriculated and an additional 16 began as non-matriculated students. Typically, there are fewer applicants in Spring semesters: In Spring 2014, we received approximately 35 applications, with 26 students matriculating and nine beginning as non-matriculated students. We look forward to welcoming our next cohort of promising information specialists in the coming months.

*Claudia A. Perry*  
Graduate Advisor—Admissions

Spring 2014 marks the end of my first academic year serving as graduate advisor for continuing students. This year has been a learning process that has provided valuable insight into the breadth and depth of student talents within GSLIS.

I have advised at least six students who hold a master's degree or higher and who are able to request a release from 709 because they have completed comparable work elsewhere. On the whole, these students demonstrate a talent for writing for a focused academic audience, and their combined expertise in a subject and their energy and enthusiasm for becoming information professionals is impressive. I have also signed off on graduation forms for two classes of graduates (winter 2013 and spring 2014). I have been impressed not only by the large number of students graduating from GSLIS with a foothold in a professional environment, but also by their general skill and commitment to their academic program. These are clearly students who stand to make a quick impression on the profession.

Even considered within the general context of logistics and administration, my position requires that I remain deeply enthusiastic for my role in helping students through our program and delight in the quality of students GSLIS continues to graduate.

*Ben Alexander*  
Graduate Advisor—Continuing Students

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

**Dr. Benjamin Alexander** has announced the founding of a new research lab to be cooperatively developed by GSLIS and the College Library. Establishment of the Laboratory for the Study of Print Cultures, Memory and the Advancement of Digital Humanities is based on the further generosity of Szilvia Tennenbaum, benefactress of the new Special Collections Classroom.

The lab's purpose is to provide hands-on working exposure to printing processes as well as to cutting-edge technologies that capture and document current (born digital) cultural evidences and migrate extant material evidences (with an emphasis on rare books) into digital environments. To this end, an advanced overhead scanner, a variety of workstations, and different printing technologies have been ordered.

At some point in the fall, we will hold an event celebrating the opening of the lab, with the donor and other supporters and friends in attendance.

**Professor Emeritus Virgil Blake** has published an article on Westerns arising from his annual visits to the Readers Advisor class (LBSCI 779) to discuss his favorite genre. "I Am Looking for a Good Western": The Western in the American Public Library of the 21st Century," appears in *Collection Management*, vol. 39, no. 1, pp. 3–16, 2014.

**Adjunct Professor Sandra Kennedy Bright** led a group of volunteers to Chorkor, Ghana, in 2013 to spend 18 days working with over 200 children in a summer camp program called B.A.S.I.C.S. International. The organization's mission is to end the cycles of illiteracy, poverty, hunger, and child labor in Ghana. For more information, visit <http://www.basicsinternational.org>.

A founding member, and former president and fellow of the nonprofit association SCIP—which now stands for Strategic and Competitive Intelligence Professionals—GSLIS's **Dr. Roberta Brody** continues to play an active role in this organization and in the field of CI. This year, she has served on SCIP's fellows selection committee. In the current semester, she is supervising four independent-study GSLIS students on the topic of competitive intelligence. The students work separately, meeting once a month as a group. Toward the end of the semester, they will perform active trade show intelligence at a local search-enterprise conference.

In her job as a GSLIS professor, Dr. Brody focuses on using, analyzing, and enabling access to information sources for research, reference, and teaching others about such materials. However, she believes that everything that is said or written or constructed or performed offers some kind of information, and that narrative or storytelling is another important way in which we come to understand the world. Not surprisingly then, in addition to her activities in the college, at CUNY and in her professional community, Dr. Brody has scholarly interests in the construction of narratives in both print and the visual arts. One area she explores is 18th- and 19th-century British literature. Last October, she delivered an oral paper at the annual conference of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, held at Yale University. The title of her presentation was "Selecting from Among Suitors: Separation and Individuation Themes in Austen's Novels."

Dr. Brody also researches serial storytelling. At the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association meeting in early 2013, she delivered oral papers and presentations on two different types of serial storytelling—comic books and nighttime dramas. In preparation for "Watergate Villains in 1970s Superhero Comic Books," she leafed through hundreds of superhero comic books from the period, examining their images. Most of the materials came from her personal collection of over 4,000 comic books from the 1960s and 1970s. For "Serial Storytelling Elements in 'Law & Order SVU,'" she viewed and reviewed several years of episodes from that television series and charted recurring soap opera elements over time.

In November, Dr. Brody delivered a presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association conference in Atlantic City. In “Will There Be a Double Standard in the Future,” she discussed the role of strong women characters in the science fiction television series “Continuum.” (Dr. Mary K. Chelton also presented a paper at this conference; hers was titled “Adoption Reunions in Contemporary American Romance Fiction.”)

This year, Dr. Brody continues in her fourth term as chair of the Queens College Academic Senate, the elected body that plays a central role in shared governance on our campus. Comprising 40 QC faculty members and 20 student members, the Senate makes decisions about undergraduate and graduate curriculum matters, as well as other issues that affect campus life. As chair, Dr. Brody is also a member of QC’s General Education Steering Committee. She has been on the CUNY Council of Faculty Governance leaders for the past four years. Dr. Brody has represented Queens College at the University Faculty Senate (UFS) for the last 12 years and will do so next year as well. In the coming year, she hopes to remain on the UFS Committee on Libraries and Technology, on which she has served for six years, and to be a UFS representative to the CUNY Committee on Academic Technology, on which she is currently serving.

In April 2014 Dr. Brody presented an oral paper—“Superheroes’ Serialized Crisis Narratives”—in Chicago at the annual national meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Also in April, she continued her work as a visual artist and creator of artist’s books: She will be learning how to animate her “altered books.” In Fall 2014, Dr. Brody will teach a GSLIS course on digital humanities and humanities research. She hopes to combine her active participation in creating and researching narratives with her knowledge of humanities resources in a hybrid course that will contain both active experiential learning and traditional resource exploration.

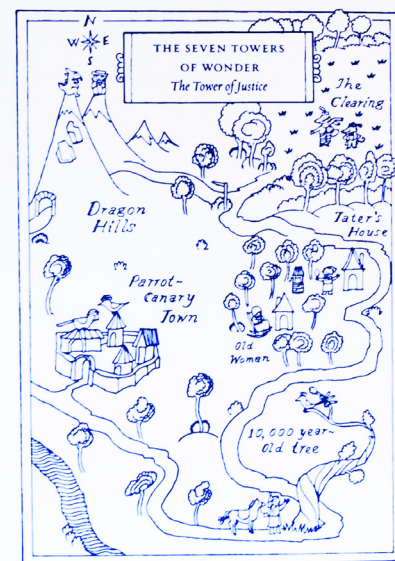
**Drs. Colleen Cool and Kwong-Bor Ng** coedited *Recent Developments in the Design, Construction, and Evaluation of Digital Libraries* (Advances in Library and Information Science (ALIS) Book Series). PA: Information Science Reference, IGI-Global, Inc. in 2013.

**Drs. Colleen Cool and Ping Li**, with Drs. Irene Lopatovska, Craig M. MacDonald, Debbie Rabina, Chris Alen Sula from the School of Information and Library Science of Pratt Institute, and Ms. Julie Graves-Krishnaswami from Yale Law School Library, presented the panel, “Developing Research Culture within LIS Master Degree Programs,” at the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) 2014 Annual Conference held in Philadelphia last January.

**Dr. Linda Cooper** has had two articles published: “Student Reflections on an LIS Internship from a Service Learning Perspective Supporting Multiple Learning Theories,” *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science (JELIS)*, vol. 54 no. 4, (Fall) October 2013, pp. 286-298; and “The Use of Self-story as a Pedagogical Tool in a Meta-cognitive Exercise to Support Children in Understanding their Material Choices in the School Library,” *School Libraries Worldwide*, vol. 19, no. 2, July 2013, pp. 12-22.

*The Seven Towers of Wonder: Justice* is the third book in a seven-volume set that uses folktales from around the world to explore the seven virtues. The tales were chosen and retold by master storyteller and **GSLIS Adjunct Professor Bill Gordh** and handsomely illustrated by John Hutton. Published by Thornwillow Press, this series is being produced in limited edition letterpress in both paper and half-leather. Digital versions are available through Thornwillow Press’s website. The volumes recount the travels of two friends, Possum and Raccoon, as they journey through the Thornwillow Woods collecting stories for their towers. After they collect a tale, they discuss it as they walk on. This dialog provides a model for parent/child discussion, as the idea of the volumes is not so much to neatly define a virtue as to explore its possibilities and see how different cultures have done this through story. Volumes 1: *Courage* and 2: *Hope* are already published; Volume 4: *Faith* is on press now.

**Adjunct Professor Andrew Jackson**, a former president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and a current executive board member of BCALA, has been named a 2014 Innovator of Change. In its fourth year, J. Walter Thompson’s Differenter [one who makes a difference] continues its mission to highlight the achievements of New Yorkers making a difference in the lives of African-Americans



Map of Thornwillow Woods from Seven Towers of Wonder.

here and around the world. The *Innovators of Change* documentary series celebrates Black History Month with tales of five everyday people who are making a difference in real time. *Innovators* provokes insightful dialogue from today’s leaders on the importance of the African-American experience and its rightful place in American history. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p002ce-jbQe0&feature=youtu.be&noredirect=1>

**Dr. Ping Li** published an article entitled “Effect of Distance Education on Reference and Instructional Services in Academic Libraries” in *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* (vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 77–96) in 2013. She also co-authored with Zijiang Yang the article, “Performance Evaluation of the Public Libraries in USA Using Data Envelopment Analysis,” which appeared in the *International Journal of Applied Science and Technology* (vol. 4, no. 2) at the end of March 2014.

**Professor Emeritus Thomas Surprenant** is thoroughly enjoying his retirement. He is the vice president of the Queens College Retirees Association and is serving on a campus committee that is designing an experimental high-tech classroom. He was involved in writing a successful grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The principal investigators are the Erie Canal Museum and the



Canal Society of New York State (CSNYS). The grant is for opening up “invisible collections” of archived materials dedicated to the building and history of the state canals. Dr. Surprenant is acting as a consultant for the archived materials and for the development of an online image database. He spoke about the grant at the CSNYS Winter Symposium & Meeting in Rochester on March 1, 2014.

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

**Jennifer Daddio** (2013) wrote an article, “A (Pretty Good) Day in the Life”—about one of her experiences as a YA librarian—that was published in *Voice of Youth Advocates*, December 2013.



Jennifer at work.

**Mirele Davis** (2011), now a school library media specialist at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, MD, is the recipient of the 2013 Young Adult Library Services Association of ALA’s Award for Excellence in Library Services to Young Adults.

**Frances Grossman-Goldberg** (2011), children’s librarian at the Pomonok Branch of QBPL, created a successful program based on the TV show, “Project Runway.” Its distributor, the Weinstein Company, not only gave her permission to use the name of the show, but also sent her the official logo and set her up with contacts to assist her. Based on her experience, Frances wrote an article about the importance of acquiring proper licensing permissions; the piece appeared in the October 2013 issue of *Voice of Youth Advocates*.

**James Hutter** (2011) published his 709 paper, “E-Readers and E-Books in Public Libraries: Measuring Library Patron Expectations,” in the *International Journal of Digital Library Systems* (IDLS), an official publication of the Information Resources Management Association edited by GSLIS professors Cool and Ng.

**Hasina Islam** (2012) is working part-time as the environmental learning arts leader for Queens Borough Public Library. She plans, prepares, and presents age-appropriate programs, primarily for children in five locations, as part of the Greening Libraries Initiative supported by a grant from the Greening Western Queens Fund of the North Star Fund. To view some of her projects: <http://greening.queenslibrary.org/blog/greening/all/hislam>.

**Alicia Kobak** (2011) is a librarian at Globe Institute of Technology, where she recently was awarded a grant entitled “Bridging Cultures (Muslim Journeys Bookshelf).” For more information, visit: <http://www.globe.edu/library.asp>.

**Fred LaPolla** (2013) submitted an abridged version of his 709 paper to the *Journal of Library Metadata*, which approved it for publication.

**Michelle Mansella-Young** (1999) is now the director of the Island Park Public Library.

**Edwin Maxwell** (2009) was named a “Mover and Shaker” for 2014 by *Library Journal*. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2014/03/people/movers-shakers-2014/edwin-maxwell-movers-shakers-2014-community-builders/>

**Tanisha Mitchell** (2010) was named a “Mover and Shaker” for 2013 by *Library Journal*. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/03/people/movers-shakers-2013/tanisha-mitchell-movers-shakers-2013-innovators/>

**Raymond Pun** (2010) accepted a new librarian position at New York University Shanghai, NYU’s newest global campus, where he will provide reference and research support. You can read more about his travels in China and beyond at [raypun101.tumblr.com](http://raypun101.tumblr.com). He was named an American Library Association Emerging Leader for 2014; the Chinese American Librarians Association is sponsoring his participation in

this leadership-training program held at ALA conferences. Recently, Raymond published articles in *CyberOrient*, *Journal of Leadership and Management*, and *Journal of Business and Finance Librarianship*. In addition, he gave presentations and webinars this year, appearing at the American Folklore Center at the Library of Congress, a Columbia University faculty seminar, Social Media Week at NYPL, a Library Management Institute Conference, *Library Journal*’s Digital Shift Conference, Library 2.013 Virtual Conference, REFORMA-NYC Conference, and elsewhere.

**Donna Rosenblum** (1998), GSLIS adjunct professor, and her son, Ryan, shaved their heads on March 18 during a St. Baldrick’s Foundation event at Sanford Calhoun High School in Merrick. A volunteer-driven charity that raises funds to combat pediatric cancers, St. Baldrick’s is committed to supporting the most promising research and giving survivors longer and healthier lives. “Shavees” collect donations for their gesture and, by their temporary baldness, express solidarity with young cancer patients, who lose their hair in the course of treatment. This was the fifth time Donna shaved her head and the sixth time for Ryan, generating \$500 for St. Baldrick’s; to date, their combined donations exceed \$1,000. For more information about St. Baldrick’s Foundation, please visit <http://www.StBaldricks.org>.



Donna and son with shaved heads for the cause.

**Jullian Rudes** (2011) was named one of the American Library Association’s Emerging Leaders for 2014 (as was Raymond Pun). When she graduated, she received the Lucille Thomas Outstanding Future School Librarian Award.

**Amy Jo (Scoca) Southworth** (2009) was the recipient of the 2013 American Association of School Librarians' Frances Henne Award. Established in 1986, the \$1,250 prize recognizes a school librarian with up to five years' experience who demonstrates leadership qualities. Amy Jo also had an article on advocacy published in the May 2013 issue of *English Journal*: [http://www.literacyin-learningexchange.org/sites/default/files/poised\\_to\\_partner\\_the\\_21st\\_century\\_school\\_librarian\\_ej\\_may13.pdf](http://www.literacyin-learningexchange.org/sites/default/files/poised_to_partner_the_21st_century_school_librarian_ej_may13.pdf).



Amy at work.

**Kate Summers** (2012) published an article based on her 709 project, "Adult Reading Habits and Preferences in Relation to Gender Differences," in the Spring 2013 issue of *Reference and User Services Quarterly*, vol. 52, no. 3, pp. 243–249.

**Johnathan Thayer** (2011), archivist for the Seamen's Church Institute in Rosenthal Library, had an article, "Mythmaking and the Archival Record: The Titanic Disaster as Documented in the Archives of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey," in the Fall-Winter 2012 issue of the *American Archivist Journal*, vol. 75, no. 2.

**Marissa (Wolfe) Lieberman** (2011) writes from the East Orange Public Library in New Jersey "...that my first manga review has been published on Robin Brenner's review site. It's a lot of fun reviewing only graphic novels and manga." <http://noflying-notights.com/2014/03/17/false-memories-vol-1/>

"Also, my administration has given me full support to revive Toshcon here at East Orange Library. We are planning to do it either the first or third Saturday in June next summer and tie it in to the Summer Reading theme of Superheroes @ Your Library. I'm going to adapt it to fit the theme by making it a mini comic con, as opposed to just focusing on anime. I'm going to be working with our grant writer and hopefully get some extra money to bring in great special guests."

Marissa was part of a library panel at last year's New York Comic Con, discussing the topic, "Beyond Harry Potter and Percy Jackson: Great Middle Grade/Tween Fantasy Books."

**Haruko Yamauchi** (2013) is now an assistant professor at CUNY's Hostos Community College, with the title of Librarian + Liaison to College Transition Programs.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The February 2014 issue of Queens College's newsletter, *FYI*, highlights recent activities in Special Collections and cites the efforts of specific GSLIS students on page 5, [http://www.qc.cuny.edu/communications/newsletter/Documents/FYI\\_February\\_2014.pdf](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/communications/newsletter/Documents/FYI_February_2014.pdf).

**Erin Allsop** is featured as the new Waldorf-Astoria archivist: <http://waldorfnyc-blog.com/2013/07/25/let-me-introduce-you-to-the-waldorf-archives/>.

**Carmen Cowick** will be presenting at the poster session at ARLIS/NA 2014 in Washington, DC, this May. Her poster is entitled, "Why Documenting Political Street Art is Important to the Historical Record." A link to the presenters can be seen here: [http://arlisna2014.sched.org/event/c13a4a48c5db975f5368d1f305634d080#Ux062\\_Id-VzU](http://arlisna2014.sched.org/event/c13a4a48c5db975f5368d1f305634d080#Ux062_Id-VzU). She will also be presenting at the poster session at SAA 2014 in Washington, DC, in August with a poster entitled, "The Myths of Corsets: How Access to Archival Material Can Separate Fact from Fiction."

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