SLISten Up!

I-Comm Week a Resounding Success

I-Comm Week, the annual showcase of the School of Library and Information Science and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication took place April 16-20. Events included the annual Deans’ Lecture, featuring Dr. Ken Haycock, who spoke on the direction of libraries in the future, and how best to educate students to be the librarians of tomorrow. Following Haycock’s lecture, Dr. Stephen Bajajely moderated a panel featuring Dr. Hastings, former Dean Fred Roper, and State Librarian David Goble. Panelists responded to and gave perspective on Dr. Haycock’s speech.

Also featured was Robert Randolph Newlen, who returned this year to the LISSA Symposium on Career Development to discuss interviewing skills, and give a workshop on techniques for presenting yourself well and answering questions. “I thought his presentation might be the same one he gave last year,” said Gene McClain, “but it wasn’t. He said you would benefit from this session if you learned one new thing. I learned several new things.”

In addition, SLIS alums Shae Tetterton and Gerri Corson presented on Web 2.0 and the new Gamecock Powersearch federated search engine available at Thomas Cooper Library. “I found it really interesting to hear what the process of instituting something like a federated search engine is like,” said Rae Kammerer.

For more I-Comm week coverage and photos, go to: http://www.sc.edu/cmcis/news/archive/icomm07/icomm07post.html

SLIS Students Graduate!

On Friday, May 13th, 87 SLIS students will cross the stage at the Colonial Center and receive their degrees. The ceremony starts at 3:00 p.m. Graduates are asked to arrive at 1:00 p.m.; friends and family are asked to be seated by 2:00 p.m. The Colonial Center advises that all bags will be searched, so you may want to leave unnecessary items at home.

Immediately following the ceremony, there will be a reception for graduates and their families in Davis College. Come toast to the future!
SLIS Storytellers Featured on Website

By Rae Kammerer

SLIS’s Storytellers are the subject of a new website featuring audio and video clips of students, faculty members and alumni practicing their craft. Dr. Pat Feehan teaches the storytelling course here, and has been a storyteller since she took a class in it during her MLS program. “Almost 40 years later, I’m still storytelling,” says Dr. Feehan. Storytelling is a passion of Dr. Feehan’s, and it is something she believes is a good for audiences of all ages. “There is a need for storytelling today for everyone, children, teens, and adults. It is one of the most valuable tools one can use to create a love for literature and to introduce and preserve the oral and written heritage of people from all over the world and from all time.” She also states that storytelling can be an essential part of child development, giving a child facility with language, and a holistic view of the world. “There is a lot of research that has been done about children and storytelling,” says Feehan. “Children who are told stories grow up to be the teachers, therapists, corporate executives, librarians, religious leaders and parents who then share storytelling as a part of their lives.”

Dr. Feehan’s students have many opportunities to exhibit their skills. “My students and I have been working with the USC Bookstore on the Columbia campus, presenting monthly storytimes called “Stories for small People”. We have a small but loyal audience and we hope it will grow.”

If you are interested in storytelling, take a look at the website listed below. Better yet, attend one of the storytelling events, or take the class and get involved yourself. “Storytelling has been not only popular but important in the lives of people everywhere – for all time. Stories have been called the “mirrors of humanity”. They explain the how and why of the world and the concerns and characteristics of the “who” of the world’s folk cultures.” That sounds like something worth being part of.

To see SLIS storytellers in action, visit: http://www.libsci.sc.edu/storytelling/index.htm

Student Erin Rogers entertains an audience at the A. Baker’s Dozen storytelling event.

Storytelling students Zack Moore and Jessica Ellibee read at “Stories for SmALL People” in the USC Bookstore.
I am a veteran graduator. Friday will mark the fourth time in my life that I have put on a mortarboard and walked across a stage to receive a diploma. Each time comes with a soup of emotions reserved for few other occasions: pride in the accomplishment, excitement at the wide-open future, the joy of celebration, but also some fear at facing what’s next, and sadness at a day that is a beginning, but also an end. I find myself getting nostalgic over small things—the magnolia trees outside Davis, Madonna’s never-ending candy dish, the excitement of the first day of any class. My time here has been short in the grand scheme of things, but has had a great impact on me.

The one constant in life is change, and May is all about change for me. Tomorrow I graduate again. Next weekend, I marry Keelan, the guy in the picture below. Then I move to Charlotte and start my new job as an actual librarian, and I can’t even begin to fathom the changes and new experiences that will come from that. It’s a thrilling and terrifying prospect.

In this issue, I am looking back at I-Comm week, and at some other special events that have taken place at SLIS this semester and also looking ahead to the changes in other people’s lives, including those of you who read this newsletter. I am turning over my files to Gene McClain, whose introduction is in the next column. I know you are in good hands.

If you see me tomorrow and I am a little misty, bear with me. I am thinking of all the good things I have gained here, and how I will miss Davis College. I wish you all well, and hope that I can keep in touch with many of you. If you’re in Charlotte, look me up. Just remember to look under Rae Lovvorn. Wow, how weird does that look? Another change to get used to. Exciting!
Director’s Corner

By Samantha Hastings

It is hard to believe that this is Rae’s last issue of SLISten-UP and applause is appropriate for a job well done. Thank you, Rae for making our LISSA newsletter one of the best in the country. I’m not the only one who thinks so! Our LISSA has won the runner-up award for the best student chapter of the American Library Association. The award ceremony will take place at the annual ALA conference in Washington, DC in June. We are very proud of you all and thank Dr. Tu for all of her support and work as your faculty sponsor. There are a limited number of stipends available to help defray your costs if you want to go to ALA. Travis is working on transportation and has a block of affordable rooms reserved. The $200 awards are gifts from Davis alumni and our faculty and staff. If you want to apply for the funds, please see or email Carolyn Delton delton@gwm.sc.edu. I look forward to seeing you all in DC!

So, it’s graduation time – my favorite part of the educational journey. For our students it is the culmination of your good work and a professional recognition that you are ready to be leaders in the fields of library and information science. For the faculty and staff, it is a little bittersweet in that we have grown very fond of you. We have enjoyed working with you and seeing you become successful. We will miss you, but look forward to our continued relationship as alumni of SLIS and Davis College. If there is anything I can do for you in your job searches or professional lives, don’t hesitate to let me know.

If you are not graduating this semester, keep in mind that you will be soon! Read the job announcements and descriptions that are posted on the list and elsewhere so you can see the types of positions and types of skills sets that employers are looking for. Talk with your professors about what you WANT to do and keep developing your skills to match your desires.

This is a most exciting time in our field. Libraries need you to be the next leaders and industry has figured out that people with the MLIS make stellar employees. I encourage you to remember that literacy is the basic building block for an informed life. Volunteer when you can to help us improve the literacy rate in this country. Read aloud to the ones you love every chance you have and get involved with your community efforts to make this a better world.

Again, thank you LISSA officers and Dr. Tu for your continued success. I look forward to more accolades for such a superb and important group. I hope to see many of you at ALA and always look forward to receiving your emails and calls.

Best regards,

Dr. Sam