I Just Unlocked the ALA Newbie Badge!
Contributed by Theresa Wagner

I was thrilled to be able to attend my first American Library Association Annual Conference this year. As soon as I found out the conference was to be held in Washington, D.C., I jumped at the chance to go as it is one of my favorite cities to visit. I have been in the SLIS program for two years and have one more year of coursework left for my degree. This seemed like an ideal time to experience a national conference.

Since it was my first time, I really did not know what to expect. I had been to several conferences before but mostly at the state and local level. Like a good librarian, I did my homework. I spent time going through the long list of programs trying to decide which ones to attend. ALA launched an online event planner that allowed one to search by keyword, divisions, roundtables and interest track. The problem with this is that some days I had three events in one time slot. There were so many things that I was interested in attending, but doing this ahead of time helped me to avoid getting overwhelmed once I got to the conference.

I traveled to D.C. by car with six other students from the SLIS program here at USC. A great part of this trip was getting to know other students in person. I am a Distance Education student and therefore I do not get the opportunity for much personal interaction with others in the program in Columbia. It was great to meet some of the people I had been in classes with online.

Article continued on page 8
Dear SLISers,

It is hard to imagine that summer break is starting to wind down and fall semester is just around the corner. It feels like just yesterday spring semester was ending and summer plans were being made. I hope that each one of you were able to relax and enjoy some time away from projects and required reading!

The officers and I have been busy all summer getting ready for the new school year. This year our focus is on the word “connection.” Our goal is to set up opportunities so that SLISers will be able to connect with one another, connect with the faculty and staff, connect with the community, and perhaps go as far as connect in a global sense. We have come up with some events and volunteer opportunities already that will allow us to build upon this goal, but we are still looking for more great ideas for you!

Some events that are coming up in the near future include:

- To kick off the fall 2010 semester LISSA and the School of Library and Information Science will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on August 19 at 1:45 PM in Davis College. LISSA will be treating the undergraduates from the SLIS program with a cool treat on their first day of school. This is a great way to connect with our younger students and perhaps help them with their transition into the program. I encourage you all to come and enjoy a great fellowship with the SLIS family!

- This year, LISSA is pairing with Agape Senior Center and Lexington County Public Library System for a brand new Homebound Outreach program. Students will be paired with residents at Agape Senior Center in Cayce-West Columbia where they will provide basic library services. Volunteers will be able to gain reader’s advisory experience, interact with members of the community, and practice programming and patron assistance while building their genre knowledge. If you are interested please contact Jenny Goulden at lissahomebound@gmail.com for more information.

Keep a look out for e-mails about other LISSA opportunities and remember to get involved!

Thanks,

BriAnne Baxley
baxleylissa@gmail.com

**LISSA President’s Notes**

**Ice Cream Social for SLIS Students**

To kick off the fall 2010 semester, the School of Library and Information Science will be hosting an Ice Cream Social. Come out for a cool treat and meet your fellow SLIS undergraduate students as well as SLIS students in the Masters and Ph.D. programs, the SLIS faculty, and the SLIS staff.

The ice cream social will be held on the first day of classes (Thursday, August 19th) and it will take place in Davis College starting at 1:45 PM. The social will take place right outside the doorway. The event will end around 2:30 PM. This event is sponsored by our graduate student association LISSA (Library and Information Science Student Association).

Family and friends are also encouraged to attend the new undergraduate student convocation at the Carolina Coliseum on Sunday, August 15th at 4:00 PM. The College of Mass Communications and Information Studies will also be hosting a ceremony and reception on August 15th at 2:00 PM at Rutledge Chapel on the Historic Horseshoe. This event will be focused on Journalism students; however, you and your guests may attend if you desire.

Please call Andy Thomas at (803)-777-4028 if you need additional information about these events. We look forward to having you on campus and meeting you on August 19th!
A Legend to Look Up to: Growing Up Illustrates Hard Work and Success
Contributed by Hampton Fuller


Growing Up is Baker’s life story and the book begins with him visiting his elderly mother in a nursing home. She begins to reminisce about her own life in northern Virginia back in the early 20th century. Baker then talks about how his father had been an employee of the B&O Railroad in northern Loudon County, Virginia, where Russell was born and grew up. His father was ill and also drank and he eventually died, leaving Mrs. Baker to care for Russell and his sister Doris. Doris is ‘cute as a button’ and shows her brother a thing or two when it comes to selling the Saturday Evening Post. This is Baker’s first job and his first exposure to life as a journalist. Doris shows him how to sell the paper by banging on car windows and telling the motorist that he/she needs to buy the paper because it is only 25 cents. Baker then tells readers that he and his mother and sister had to move to New Jersey to stay with relatives after his father dies.

The family moves to Baltimore, Maryland where Baker grows up and starts to work for the Baltimore Sun. He tells the reader that his mother, a former schoolteacher, once read one of his class papers and told him that he could be a writer one day. Baker says, “I immediately clasped that thought to my heart” (Baker, 1992). Baker goes on to tell about how he went to school and then to Johns Hopkins University. He then went in to the Air Force and dated a lot of girls, one of which became his wife. In the meantime, his mother had remarried and had another child. Once out of the Air Force, Baker becomes a correspondent in London, England in the 1950’s for the Baltimore Sun. He gets a columnist position with the New York Times in the 1960’s and remarks how proud some family members would be of him. The book closes where it began in the nursing home with his mother talking about the past and then falling to sleep.

There are serious moments such as when Baker’s father dies, but it is a story about life and how a person overcomes tragedy and poverty. I highly recommend this book because it is a great read with a lot of comic relief, despite the serious undertones. Baker’s mother always wanted him to make something of himself, and in my opinion, Russell Baker has indeed accomplished his mother’s dream.


Reading Bite: Libraries the Next Pop-Culture Wave?

Linda Holmes, writer and editor of NPR’s entertainment and pop-culture blog, posted her “Why the Next Big Pop-Culture Wave After Cupcakes Might Be Libraries” on July 20th.

This blog is sure to inspire, as she lists the reasons libraries are “on the edge of [their] pop-culture moment” (Holmes, 2010).

For the full blog post go to: (http://www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee/2010/07/20/128651136/why-the-next-big-pop-culture-wave-after-cupcakes-might-be-libraries)

A Summer of Books, Books, and More Books: The Bookshelf Project
Contributed by Pamela Hoppock

This summer, I led the implementation of the Bookshelf Project. With the help of more than 20 volunteers, the Bookshelf Project delivered over 1700 books and magazines into 27 homes to more than 75 individuals. This project stemmed from a paper I wrote for Dr. Pat Feehan’s class, which was to create a literacy initiative. I designed it to team up with Salkehatchie Summer Service to get books into the homes that need them the most. Salkehatchie Summer Camp of the United Methodist Church is a youth service camp where young adults spend a week during the summer fixing up a home. Many of the homes lack running water or proper sewage drains, some are infested with vermin, some have no windows or steps, and others are missing parts of their floors or ceilings. I picked Salkehatchie as a group to work with because Salkehatchie goes into homes, something that many literacy projects do not do.

For several months I pitched the idea that bringing books and bookcases into the homes of impoverished families would be beneficial for us all. I was met with questions, odd stares, and doubts, but ultimately was given great support. I recruited two fabulous local school principals as my literacy coordinators and more than 18 volunteers. Books and magazines began to come from everywhere. They almost came in too fast as we did not yet have storage. The Blythewood Rotary donated the funds to lease a storage unit and volunteers began to sort the books.

Volunteers located books and bookcases, built bookcases, hauled books and bookcases to the storage unit, sorted books, met with families to get to know their particular interests, selected books for each family member, painted bookcases, boxed up books, and delivered the bookcases with books and magazines to the families. I even held storytime in yards with table saws buzzing in the background. Neighborhood children came over and asked if we had extra books. I became known as the Book Lady, delivering books from my car.

Here are a few reactions of book recipients:

- One toddler indicated he did not like books when I first met him. So I made a point to visit him everyday. After only one week, according to his mom, he grew to love books and they are reading every night.
- A recent high school graduate thanked me with tears, hugs, and quiet joy for the medical dictionaries, textbooks, and novels she can now take with her to college as she heads out to earn her nursing degree.
- A brother and sister, ages 4 and 6, said to the campers on the first day, “Where are the books?” By the end of the week, those siblings had over 70 books between them, and their mom had at least 20.

I think the hardest part of this initiative is not figuring out what to give the family members, but how to stop. Each person was interviewed before the camp week started. Each family member knew what they enjoyed to read, from horror to romance to Christian fiction to Sudoku. Families and neighbors were thrilled that they could get books that they wanted. Pride filled their faces as we set up their bookcases and displayed all their new books and magazines. Of the people we served, three confirmed themselves to be illiterate. Of those three, one was given a CD player and a few books on CD and all three were given magazines with great pictures and books for their children and grandchildren.

Certainly one of the best parts about this project for me was learning what a big difference a small step really does make. I also solidified my belief that as an information professional, I understand the efforts to improve literacy across this state, nation and world will continually change. I will remain open to new ideas, including that my own views may change. I will keep my passion about literacy, learning, libraries and books alive. I will not make illiteracy someone else’s responsibility.

We, the Blythewood and Fairfield sites of the Bookshelf Project, still need books, bookcases, magazines and subscriptions to magazines. So if you want to help by donating items or funding, contact Pamela Hoppock at phoppock@yahoo.com. You can also find some basic info and stay in contact with the Bookshelf Project on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Bookshelf-Project/359227797065.
A ‘Who Done It’ at the Beaufort County Library
Contributed by Philip Burt

One of the exciting programs that made waves this summer was the Murder Mystery Party at the Beaufort Branch Library in Beaufort, South Carolina on the afternoon of Sunday, June 27, 2010.

We all need a great escape from reality for a little while, and this free program with its talented volunteer actors enabled 75 people of all ages to do so. The idea came to life when someone donated a “Do it Yourself” murder mystery kit to the library, according to Reference Librarian Amanda Brewer, the program’s coordinator. Brewer worked collaboratively to adapt the character sketches in the kit to suit a library birthday party in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Brewer said the actors met once to practice for this largely improvised show.

At the start of the party, the fictitious family members of the made-up local author Barbara Page-Turner were engaging the real-life guests. They were all awaiting the arrival of Page-Turner to celebrate her 80th birthday at the library. “She’s not signing books today,” Brewer said to keep with the spirit of the program and to let the guests know she was on her way.

But when the door creaked, it was Detective Hugh Dunit and his Assistant, Ida No, and everyone yelled “Surprise!” The stern detective then countered by explaining that Page-Turner was not coming, “I have a surprise for you! A murder has been committed!” All the family members were suspects in her murder. The reserved Ida No had a pen and a long pad ready to take notes.

After the guests were introduced to the quirky family members and the heinous crime, they mingled with the suspects while cake and punch were served. Afterward, Hugh Dunit rounded everyone back up and started the formal questioning, which allowed guests to ask each suspect three questions. At the end, the guests had the opportunity to guess the murderer. According to Brewer, even the other suspects were trying to figure out the murder mystery as well.

The cast included Beaufort County Library administrative staff members Dennis Adams as the detective and Grace Cordial as his assistant. Most of the other volunteers were amateur actors from the Beaufort area.

Brewer is trying to find another script so she can do a murder mystery follow-up at the library on Halloween with a costume party theme. If that works out, she will need volunteer cast members for that one too!

Medical Library Association Brings Its Message to D.C.
Contributed by Robin Sofge

“It used to be the most important abilities in any kind of white collar work were characteristic—remember it’s a metaphor—characteristic of the left hemisphere: the logical, linear, sequential, analytical, step-by-step, spreadsheet, SAT, zero in on the right answer ability . . . Those were the abilities employers wanted,” said best selling author Daniel H. Pink at the Medical Library Association (MLA) Conference in DC this May. “They are no longer sufficient.”

In his upbeat and inspiring message, Pink rallied the crowd with his presentation called “A Whole New Mind.” Although Pink called the left brain skills “essential,” he added, “It is now abilities characteristic of the right hemisphere: artistry, empathy, inventiveness, big picture thinking. Those are now the abilities that matter most.” Pink is the author of A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future and Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us.

As a public library MLIS distance learning student in Virginia, I decided to attend the MLA Conference based on the advice I received last fall in Professors Kendra Albright and Elise Lewis’ SLIS 701 class. They encouraged networking and learning as much as possible about the library and information science field.

For me, the highlights of the conference were checking out exhibits, the job placement center and the résumé clinic. Library professionals agreed to meet privately and critique résumés of those interested. A library director from West Virginia personally spent 30 minutes giving me feedback.

Like so many students, I juggle work and a family with elementary school-aged children. Since it had been my Saturday to work as a library aide in my public library, I could not spend all weekend at the conference. However, the time spent there was a great investment.

When I came home, I found a local medical librarian near me who offered to provide more information about the profession. Although I still plan to specialize in public libraries, my eyes have been opened to another vibrant area of the library science profession.
**Good News from SLIS Students, Alum, and Faculty!**


**Jessica Ard Harrelson**, a SLIS alumna and a school librarian at Johnsonville Elementary School, has been named “Teacher of the Year” for Florence County District Five.

**Denise Lyons**, SLIS alumna, has recently been named the Director of Library Development at the SC State Library.

**Dr. Arns and Dr. Williams**, professors at SLIS, received federal IMLS funding for our doctoral program for “Cultural Heritage Informatics Leadership (CHIL): An Experiment in Responsive Doctoral Education.” The IMLS funding will be used to support seven doctoral fellowships.

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**ALA DC 2010: Opportunity of a Lifetime!**

**Contributed by Lee Brown and Brooke Elliott**

Who knew that the American Library Association National Conference (ALA) would be so much fun! We were totally unprepared for the experience that we would have at ALA in DC this past June. Lee’s library mentor, Nellie Moffitt who is with the Navy General Library Program, forwarded her an email that she had received. It was an invitation from ProQuest, a worldwide database vendor, to all library school students who would be interested in working as Ambassadors at ALA DC 2010. This was the first year that ProQuest had implemented a new program called “Discover More Corps.”

Lee shared the email with her fellow student and co-worker, Brooke Elliott, and it did not take long to decide this would be an opportunity of a lifetime! We faxed the application to ProQuest and waited. We received notice about a week before ALA was to begin that both Brooke and Lee had been accepted as two out of sixteen library school students!

Wow – we were running around like crazy trying to find a place to stay and making travel arrangements. We knew our schedule for ProQuest and were already bursting at the seams with excitement and planning what sites we really wanted to visit while in DC.

“**It was awesome to see the ‘behind the scenes’ team work while having the opportunity to represent USC and SLIS.”**

After arriving in DC on Friday afternoon, we attended a meeting about an hour before the floor was opened to the public. We were introduced to other library school students and given our first assignment, which was to hand out “Meet Your Match” wristbands when the floor opened. Ambassadors stood at the bottom of the escalators and spread out on the floor. We handed out over 3000 “Find Your Match” wristbands in four hours. The idea was that each participant was to wear their wristband, locate the matching number that another attendee would be wearing, and return to the ProQuest booth together. ProQuest had their first winning match within two hours of the opening! By the end of the conference there were dozens of “matches” that won things from iPads to cooler bags!

We worked the conference floor every day for several hours answering questions, assisting winners, directing attendees to demo’s and sales rep’s, working ice cream trucks and getting to know the other library school students from the University of Maryland, University of Illinois, University of North Texas, University of Texas, and Catholic University of America. As guests we attended the Pre-Bash party for the ALA/ProQuest Scholarship Bash at the Newseum and enjoyed free food and drinks. As an “extra” we attended the Book Cart Drill Team World Championship! This highly anticipated annual event is best explained as a group of librarians and staff who compete against each other with decorated rolling book carts. What a hoot! Check it out on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) by searching 2010 Book Cart Drill Team to see the winners!!

All in all the experience allowed us to understand just how much time, work, and energy is put into setting up and running a successful vendor booth at ALA. It was awesome to see the “behind the scenes” team work while having the opportunity to represent the University of South Carolina and the School of Library and Information Science.
We Celebrate Children and Books!
Contributed by Stephanie Reed

Saturday April 1, 2010 dawned bright and sunny for El Dia de Los Ninos/El Dia do los Libros (Children’s Day/Book Day) at the Salem Church Library in Fredericksburg, Virginia. According to the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), this celebration, known as Día, “emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.” I had been preparing for this day as an intern since January with Lena Gonzalez Berrios, a Youth Services Librarian, and the teen volunteers from the Salem Church Library.

I arrived at 8 AM to begin setting up for the day. Lena, Zee (her husband), and her family were there waiting for me with Zee’s van full of the percussion instruments and the PA equipment for the music. I had provided 3 CDs of Latin music for children. We put up yellow tape to block the parking lot off and put out an orange cone for those with disabilities at the side of the library. We put up two tents: one for the music and one for the library card signup. With everyone’s help, we dragged out about 10 tables and 20 chairs for our visitors and for the crafts. We used some of the round tables from the lobby, along with lightweight chairs. The weather was perfect, although it got really hot around 11 AM. We had a big water cooler and cups for people to drink.

Community groups such as the Childcare Network, the Spotsylvania County Parent Resource Center, La Leche League, and Fredericksburg Parent magazine had tables set up with umbrellas to shade teen volunteers, who assisted with crafts, from the heat. Teen volunteers from the National Spanish Honor Society at Riverbend High School came and picked out books to read or picked crafts to help with. The volunteers sat on blankets in the shade with their books and waited for kids to come.

I had the crafts in baskets with signs and examples on them so the kids would know what the craft would look like. We had face painting with the crafts. Dr. McNabb, the head of the language department at Riverbend H.S., and Ms. Jennings, the Spanish teacher, came with some friends. Some of the teen volunteers had me sign forms for community service, which I gladly did. One or two came in and filled out applications for volunteering at the library next year.

Taylor Rose, the therapy dog, and her owner, Gale, came and sat on a blanket under a tree. Kids and adults appeared as if a magnet was drawing them to the dog. The Chancellor Volunteer Firemen came into the parking lot with the huge fire truck, which came and went 3 times blowing the siren every time. It was great! They also cleaned out the hoses and let the children who were interested help.

One of the teen volunteers used a Flip Video camera and took videos of the children playing the bongos. Lena and I took photos and we have about 100 pictures to download and publish. The music and percussion under the big tent was a hit. The adults loved it as much as the children! Even very young children love banging on the bongos and shaking the mariachis.

Lena had some bubbles and played with some of the younger children at the entrance of the library. It was almost like a town plaza, with all ages of people talking and laughing and enjoying the music. It was a wonderful day and we were exhausted and exhilarated as it ended. All the volunteers pitched in to help put the tables and tents away and we estimated about 200 people had come to our 1st Annual El Dia!

We publicized El Dia by taking fliers around the community and publishing it on our library web site at http://www.librarypoint.org/dia_de_los_ninos. For more information on El Dia de los Ninos/El Dia de los Libros, check out http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/diadelosninos/index.cfm.
I Just Unlocked the ALA Newbie Badge! (continued from cover story)
Contributed by Theresa Wagner

...One unexpected highlight of the trip was attending the Open House at the Library of Congress. We were able to see the exhibits in the Jefferson building, visit the reading room and see selections from the Library’s Rare Books Collection. This was a special treat for me as I studied History as an undergraduate and have an interest in archives and preservation. Several items were on display and we were able to ask the librarians questions about many of the documents. Before leaving the library, I made sure to get my own Reader’s Card!

Because it was my first ALA conference, I was not sure about many things. There is so much going on at ALA that it can seem very overwhelming, especially to a newbie. There are a few offerings for newcomers: such Conference 101 and some division meetings with 101 programs. Some of us decided to attend the ACRL 101 session and members meeting. This was probably the best new attendee meeting. I got to see a little bit on how a division meeting goes, meet people with similar interests, and get some tips on attending my first conference from a seasoned expert. I actually changed a lot of what I had planned on attending based on her advice.

Attending my first ALA conference was a definite career highlight for me. I got to meet so many different people and got some great ideas both for my current position and my education as a future librarian. This conference was the shot in the arm I needed as I enter my last semesters of coursework and can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I sincerely hope to be able to attend another national conference in the future. The blisters on my feet have heeled and I learned another very important lesson the hard way: bring VERY comfortable shoes.

Local Sherlock Holmes Society is “On the Case”
Contributed by Ben Higgins

“Ladies and gentleman, the game is afoot!” With these six words, Holmes enthusiasts in Columbia know that another meeting of the Hansom Wheels has begun. Holmes is, of course, Sherlock Holmes, the fictional detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Hansom Wheels is the local society dedicated to discussing his cases, cultural significance, and friendship with his partner and biographer, Dr. John Watson. Founded by Rev. E. Wayne Wall and former USC music professor, Dr. G.B. Lane, in 1977, the society currently numbers about 45 members with a newsletter mailing of around 80. The club’s name is derived from a type of horse-drawn carriage known as a “hansom” or “hansom cab,” used frequently in 19th Century London, where the stories are set.

Meetings of The Hansom Wheels consist of a dinner, followed by “The game is afoot”, signifying a call to order, the toasting of the woman (a Sherlockian tradition), games and quizzes, a brief program, and the reading of “221-B”, a poem celebrating Holmes and Watson.

The Hansom Wheels meet on a bi-monthly basis at the Palmetto Club in downtown Columbia. The cost is a flat rate of $20 per meeting, which includes a meal and a drink. Membership is free, minus the meals. The Hansom Wheels is one of many official scion societies of the Baker Street Irregulars, the premier Sherlock Holmes society in North America. Scion societies are off-shoots of the Baker Street Irregulars, but their membership requirements are typically not as strict. Membership in the Baker Street Irregulars is by invitation only.

Since 2002, the Hansom Wheels have sponsored an elective reading course for 8th graders focusing on the Hound of the Baskervilles, perhaps the most widely known Sherlock Holmes story. Students complete a project on the book, take an Accelerated Reader test and pass a written test created by their teacher. Since its inception, 800 students have completed the course. The Hansom Wheels was recently honored by the Beacon Society, which awards organizations that promote Sherlock Holmes to young readers.

Asked why SLIS students should consider attending a meeting of the Hansom Wheels, Kathy Newman, a long-time member, did not hesitate to reply, “We are a group of people who just love to read mysteries. We have some Sherlock Holmes experts, but we are not stodgy.” She added, “We mainly just like to have a good time.” For more information on the Hansom Wheels and to be added to the email list, please contact Billy Rawl, club spokesman, at hwspokesman@earthlink.net. The website of the Hansom Wheels is http://www.capnbilly.com/hansomwheels.htm.
Don’t you hate it when you are enjoying a nice evening stroll and you happen upon a hungry-looking, impolite vampire? Doesn’t it just make you wish you had bothered to remember your frilly parasol with the sharp wooden tip instead of leaving it at the home of your suitor’s well-established family? Okay, perhaps this doesn’t happen too often anymore.

No, in today’s society a lady is expected to know advanced martial arts when she faces her fanged foe. She is to be armed with a short leather skirt and donning daggers, axes, bottled holy water, and a wooden stake! It’s positively scandalous.

Rewind to a time before Joss Whedon’s Buffy graced her face on TV, to an alternate Victorian history where vampires, werewolves, and ghosts are as commonplace as a well-placed silk cravat on a rich dandy. Now I would like to introduce Soulless, Changeless, and the upcoming Blameless, which is to be released on August 31st; three books written by the lovely tea-sipping Gail Carriger that center on the vivacious Alexia Tarabotti, an unmarried spinster (at the ripe old age of 25). As a single lady of fashion, you would think Alexia has little to trouble her simple existence, save for eating one too many tarts or staining a pair of lace gloves. But no, Miss Tarabotti has more than her share of vulgar troubles. For one thing, she is a preternatural, a soulless human, which doesn’t always endear her to the creatures that go bump in the night.

The ghastly vampire impalement via parasol in the first chapter of Soulless is just the beginning of her story. Carriger has created a world in which all manner of genres, from comedy to mystery to the popular steampunk, have nested together beautifully. Soulless is quotable due to Alexia’s snappy witticisms and tolerably romantic in the paranormal sense. With our current acceptance of young submissive wolffy love interests, Carriger provides the brash Alpha wolf Scottish Lord Maccon, who is appalling and appealing all at once. In her own words, "He was so very large and so very gruff that he rather terrified her, but he always behaved correctly in public, and there was a lot to be said for a man who sported such well-tailored jackets—even if he did change into a ferocious beast once a month."

Join Alexia in her world, where it is possible to live a quite tolerable existence even if you don’t have the burden of a soul.
Second Life and the Davis Center 2.0
Contributed by Andrew Harris

As students are preparing to return to classes, some may have noticed a hand with an eye in the middle of it at the bottom of the SLIS homepage. Some of you may wonder what that might be. That hand is the logo for Second Life, which is a virtual world that was created by Linden Lab in 2003.

In Second Life you are able to explore a persistent three dimensional world. You can create an avatar and dress it any way you like. You can fly around the world and visit with other players. Many schools, museums, shops, and companies maintain a virtual presence in Second Life and you can even visit virtual cities.

The Davis Center 2.0 is a virtual library in Second Life that offers several lounge areas, links to databases, virtual classrooms, conference rooms, and access to a reference librarian. The reference desk is run mostly by students and volunteers. The library itself is maintained by Dr. Tu and her graduate assistants.

The Davis Center 2.0 is a place where you can connect with your fellow classmates in a completely new environment. Ultimately, the Davis Center 2.0 is intended to be an instructional aide as well as a link between distance education and on-campus students. We hope to see you online this fall, whether you are a local student or in another state.

Studying Libraries and Archives Abroad
Contributed by Virginia Blake

This summer, I had the opportunity to take the England Field School class that is offered through the Public History department here at USC and is taught by Dr. Allison Marsh. Five other students and I spent a month in northern England, three weeks at Kiplin Hall and a week in York, traveling to museums, historical sites, and archives. During the first three weeks, we alternated between site visits and projects days. For our projects at Kiplin Hall, we were split into pairs based on our interests. The two historical preservation students studied the history of a conservatory on the property of the estate. An archives student and a museums student worked in the archives on the finding aid that had been started by groups in previous years. I worked with a museums student in the library cataloging books. It was quite an experience working with books that dated back to the seventeen and eighteen hundreds. These books range from novels, biographies, books written in foreign languages, bibles, and atlases. With this project I was not only given cataloging experience, but also the chance to handle books that I would never see in other libraries.

The majority of our time was spent on site visits. We visited several historical sites such as Easby Abbey, Rievaulx Abbey, and Mount Grace Priory. One of my favorite site visits outside of the archives was in York where we spoke with the York Glaziers Trust, which conserves the stained glass for York Minster. We were able to see how they take care of the glass and do repairs to it while doing all that they can to keep the integrity of the work of the original artists. One day we walked about two miles of Hadrian’s Wall with representatives of English Heritage and the National Trust; the two organizations that take care of historical sites in England. In talking with them, we were able to hear about the measures they take when caring for these amazing historical sites that we had visited.

We had the opportunity to tour the library and archives of two museums. The Bowes Museum had recently renovated their library and art storage facilities. The library, though not large, had some great volumes about artists and architecture and various other topics for researchers to use. The National Railway Museum has one of the most impressive archives that I have seen. They have a large art and photograph storage which contains personal photographs and paintings by artists that were inspired by the railroad. They also have a large collection of documents that portrays the lives of the people that worked on the railroad and gives a rich history of the railroad in Britain.

This is just the beginning of all that we did while over in England. We covered so much that it was all kind of a blur as it was happening. Along with the project and the site visits, we were given time for independent travel, so even on the weekends we were traveling to other cities and towns in order to explore everything that we could while over there. Now that I am back and have had time to reflect on everything that we did, I truly realize what an amazing experience this was. I am so glad that this program gave me the opportunity to study libraries and archives abroad.
Director’s Corner
By Samantha Hastings

Dear Students and Colleagues,

I hope you have found a little shade this summer. I thought it felt so hot because I am aging but seems the record shows that this really has been the hottest summer. I read Pillars of the Earth and The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest instead of swimming. I recommend both of them and was just thrilled to be able to do some recreational reading. I know you understand how important our libraries are to economic development and literacy – just remember, we are also about fun and the quality of life!

Speaking of fun, we welcome three new faculty members this fall!

**Dr. Karen Gavigan** joins SLIS as an assistant professor. She has a Ph.D. in Teacher Education with a concentration in literacy from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). She is currently the director of the Teaching Resources Center at UNCG. Prior to working at UNCG, she served as a children’s services librarian, reference librarian, and worked for fifteen years as a school librarian. Karen’s research interests include the use of graphic novels with struggling male adolescent readers, flexible versus fixed scheduling in school libraries, as well as the ways in which poverty affects school library services.

**Dr. Susan Rathbun-Grubb** joins SLIS as an assistant professor. She received her Ph.D. from the UNC School of Information and Library Science in 2009, where she has also taught organization of information, organization of materials, and indexing and abstracting as an adjunct instructor. She earned her MLS at Chapel Hill and a MAT and AB from Duke University. Her doctoral research focused on career satisfaction, turnover, and retention in the library and information science field.

**Gerry Solomon** joins SLIS as an instructor, specializing in School Library Media, internships and administration. She has been the School Library Media Consultant with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction’s Instructional Technology Division, supporting approximately 2,300 media professionals throughout the state with consulting and professional development. She also has been an adjunct instructor at the UNC-Chapel Hill/School of Information and Library Science. Prior to joining the state agency, she was a school library media consultant in North Carolina and in the Fairfax County (VA) Public Schools.

Welcome to Carolina if you are a new student, and welcome home if you are a returning student! Get ready for a great semester filled with learning new things and making the world a better place. It takes a bunch of libraries to keep the earth in balance!

Let me know if there is anything you need!

Dr. Sam