



Dear SOIS Friends –

Greetings of the new academic year! Our School of Information Studies is seeing robust enrollments and excellent new and returning students, all on paths toward careers in information services. Our main focus this year once the early semester dust has settled will be our involvement in a self-study process associated with our American Library Association accreditation for our MLIS degree. This year-long process involves input from various constituents, including current students and alumni, as we gather and present evidence addressing the Standards from the ALA Committee on Accreditation that all their accredited programs must meet. A draft of the self-study report is due this summer, with the final document and the accreditation visit scheduled for fall.

In the meantime, we continue to deal with Covid, its variants, and its ongoing impact on our community and the broader society. Dominican has joined many universities by implementing a vaccine mandate, making the campus safer for everyone. Our SOIS classes remain mostly online, with the largest number of face-to-face classes in our undergraduate Informatics curriculum. Although of course we had all hoped to be beyond this crisis by now, we feel fortunate to be continuing forward with a supportive community and with resilience.

Wishing you a safe and happy autumn season.

**Kate Marek**  
Director and Professor

**DOMINICAN**

Chicago's iSchool  
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

**WELCOME DR. GLENA TEMPLE, Dominican University's 11th President**



[Glena Temple](#), former president of Viterbo University and a veteran of higher education leadership as well as a scholar in botany and plant sciences, has been named Dominican University's 11th president. The Dominican University Board of Trustees approved Temple's appointment in a unanimous vote. She took office on August 2nd, succeeding Donna M. Carroll, who served as president since 1994. It's been exciting to see the completion of this transition with Glena's new presence on campus!

## FOLLETT CHAIR



We are delighted that **Ebony Elizabeth Thomas** joins us for a second year as our Follett Chair. Ebony studies how people of color are portrayed, or not portrayed, in children's and young adult literature, and how those portrayals shape our culture. Ebony has taken a new position at the University of Michigan in their School of Education, with a joint appointment in English. We look forward to having her teach in our program in Spring 2022, and if safety protocols allow, we also hope to host a late Spring 2022 workshop led by Ebony focused on diversity in youth literature.

## BUTLER YOUTH SERVICES SCHOLAR, FALL 2021



Meet **Andrey Costello**, the 2021 Recipient of the Butler Youth Services Scholarship for Underrepresented Groups in the Field of Library Science. Andrey earned her undergraduate degree in International Studies from Georgia Southern University in 2015. Since then, she has relocated to South Korea to teach English as a foreign language to children. There, she discovered her passion for encouraging literacy in young learners. She looks forward to expanding her studies through the master's program in Library and Information Science, and is especially excited to learn more about Youth Services. She aspires to one day work as a Children's or School Librarian and hopes to empower all children to be future leaders and innovators through the information they will access through library services.

## RECOGNIZING GRADUATES

Congratulations to our **SOIS Informatics Bachelor's degree** Summer 2021 Graduates **Kat Buczek** and **Justin Hayes!**

Congratulations to our two **SOIS PhD graduates for academic 2020-2021!**

**Michelle Benedicta**, Dissertation titled: *Generation Examination: A Phenomenological Study of Generation X Women and Mobile Games* (Fall, 2020).

**Andrea Jamison**, Dissertation titled: *The train that never left the station: An analysis of how collection development policies of children's books at academic libraries address diversity* (Fall, 2020).

[Our Summer 2021 Master of Library and Information Science and Master of Science in Information Management were highlighted in the Spring 2021 *Off the Shelf.* ]

## STUDENT AND ALUMNAE/I NEWS

**Deborah Ginsberg (MLIS 2001)** is the new Faculty Services Manager at Harvard Law School Library. She had previously served at the Chicago-Kent College of Law as their Educational Technology Librarian since 2002.

**Terra Jacobsen (Current PhD Student)** has published "The Library is Metamodern" in the e-journal *Library Philosophy and Practice*, [linked here](#).

**Amanda (Jule) Kowalcze (MLIS 2014)** is the new Library Director at the Frankfort Public Library District.

**Lara Luetkehans (MLIS 1992)**, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Communication at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed interim president and vice president of academic affairs after the retirement of the previous president.

**Nicole (Wagner) Mszal (MLIS 2018)** is the new Library Director at the Hustisford Community Library in Wisconsin.

**Megan Smith (Current MLIS Student)** has published "Libraries and Mental Health Initiatives: A Literature Review" in the e-journal *Library Philosophy and Practice*, [linked here](#).

## **FACULTY NEWS**

**Karen Brown, Professor Emerita**, presented "The Collective: Assessing a Statewide Training Program on Library Impact " with Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe (UIUC) at the 2020-2021 Library Assessment Conference in March. Their article will appear in the conference Proceedings. She also authored an article, "Count on Libraries: Promoting a Fair, Accurate, and Complete 2020 Census Count," for the 2021 edition of *Library and Book Trade Almanac*.

**Janice Del Negro, Professor**, has released a new edition of her edited book *Storytelling: Art and Technique*. This fifth edition includes updated content and resources, and is called "an absolutely indispensable purchase for all library collections" by reviewer Jamie Campbell Naidoo from the University of Alabama's SLIS.

**Anthony Dunbar, Assistant Professor**, has officially joined our SOIS faculty, as announced in the Spring 2021 *Off the Shelf*. Tony is already an active part of our community and is looking forward to his Fall semester teaching. Tony recently authored a section introduction in the open-access edited work, [Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Through Critical Race Theory](#), MIT Press, 2021.

**Cecilia Salvatore, Professor**, was accepted to and participated in the Willenborg Civic Learning Academy as a 2021 Willenborg Civic Learning Fellow. The process requires participating in the one-week summer academy this past August, ongoing once-a-month meetings with the new and continuing fellows, developing a partnership with community agencies, and the creation of a civic learning course or experience for students.

## ALUMNA FOCUS

Jennifer Clemons, MLIS, 2011



***Where are you currently working, and how did you find that particular job?***

I currently serve as curator of the Butler Children’s Literature Center at Dominican University. The job actually found me! I graduated in 2011 and began working for SOIS (then GSLIS) supporting continuing education for library professionals. Even after leaving that position, I kept in touch with my wonderful SOIS colleagues. When the Curator position opened, they approached me about returning to DU.

***How does your current position align or compare with what you studied when you were in the MLIS program?***

Along with the core MLIS classes, my coursework focused on youth services since I’d planned to work as a youth services librarian in a public library setting. Most everything I studied applies to my current position—collection development, management, children’s and YA literature, and programming. And I still get to spend my day talking about amazing new books, even if my audience has changed from preschoolers to graduate students, teachers, and librarians.

***Talk a little about the job – what do you do, and what do you enjoy about it? And, how has your work changed in response to the COVID-19 crisis?***

The Butler Center is an examination center for youth literature with a collection of newly published titles and significant historical collections. As Curator, I get to share these collections with all the adults working to connect great kids with great books through online tools (reviews, book lists, etc.) and in-person programming. I'm fortunate to share and promote great youth literature with people that love it as much as I do.

Another fabulous thing I get to do is work with a nationally acclaimed author or illustrator on the annual Butler Lecture. I've gotten to collaborate with some amazingly talented creators to help bring them and their stories to the Butler community.

The pandemic has closed the DU's Rebecca Crown Library (where we're located) to the public, and at times to everyone, so that's limited in-person access to the collections. Like everyone else, we pivoted to more online interaction—more frequent book reviewing, more social media focus on our permanent collections, and moving our yearly Butler Lecture online. I've also been able to spend more time working with the Butler Center graduate students on projects in the Center and developing the skills they will take with them after graduation.

***Are there any new or upcoming trends in the library and information field that you find particularly interesting right now?***

I'm fascinated, and endlessly impressed by, all the creative things librarians and libraries have done to stay connected with, and provide value for, their communities during the pandemic. The story walks, Facebook live story times, take-home activities, and virtual field trips, right alongside new COVID resources, Wi-Fi access, e-learning support, curbside pickup, and fighting disinformation. Although these innovations aren't really a trend, are they? Librarians always seem to find a way to meet the needs of the moment.

## **Submit Your News**

Please send news for future "Off the Shelf" newsletters to [sois@dom.edu](mailto:sois@dom.edu).