

Information Link

A Community Newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Volume 9, Issue 1

December 2004

News from the Dean's Suite

Tech Folk Network in Providence

Boston and the surrounding area are host this year to a small constellation of national conferences for library and information science professionals. Like the conjunction of planets bringing good fortune to GSLIS students, the SAA (Society of American Archivists) met in August and ALA Mid-Winter and ALISE (Association for Library and Information Science Education) will be meeting in January. Most recently, (in November), ASIS&T (American Society of Information Science and Technology) held its annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island.

The ASIS&T conference is a particularly bright light for GSLIS students, because it targets on a national level many of the concerns about information management and technology currently under discussion at GSLIS. This year's theme—"Managing and Enhancing Information: Culture and Conflicts"—focused on "the role of information science in fostering integration and cooperation in the global information society." Professor Ching-chih Chen presented her mature digital library—Global Memory Net, an NSF funded International Digital Library Project—in a session titled "Building Digital Libraries through Collaboration Within and Between Nations." Professor Jeannette Bastian also contributed to integration and cooperation, first by venturing to span the divide between the world of the archivist from that of the information scientist, and secondly, by taking on issues of cultural separation, integration, and identity in history. She presented her research in the session, "Digital Memories/Mediated Memories: Influences on the Creation of Archival and Cultural Web Sites." Finally, Michael Leach (GSLIS adjunct faculty member, doctoral student, and continuing education teacher) who is president-elect of ASIS&T, presented a workshop and a paper on digital institutional repositories.

Since GSLIS is in the process of revising its curriculum, it is reassuring to see the ways in which our new and

revised courses parallel the taxonomies of the ASIS&T conference. For example, ASIS&T categorized its talks and panels into Digital Libraries, System Design, Information Organization, and Knowledge Management. At the same time, GSLIS is developing new or revised courses in each of these categories. Also predominant at the conference were many talks about research, evaluation, user behavior, and the assessment of information-seeking behavior, which are covered at Simmons under the domain of the role of research.

Speaking of assessment, what schools could you assess as having really

hot doctoral programs in information science? Where should a Simmons GSLIS student, interested in information science, apply? *Continued on Page 3*

Caryn's ASIS&T blog

Video Games as Metaphor November 14, 2004

Well, day one (Sunday) was a great start down here at the ASIS&T conference in Providence! J.C. Herz got things off to an interesting start by talking about the social aspects of information design... When I first read her bio and saw that her expertise was in video games, I was somewhat skeptical, but she made a phenomenal case for what we can learn from multi-player online games to...

<http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/caryn/blog.html#vid1>

Simmons has made a terrific showing!! Between students and faculty, I think we are up around 23 people and we are all wearing our buttons...

<http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/caryn/blog.html#vid2>

Caryn Anderson is a member of ASIS&T, a student at GSLIS, and a research assistant on the Digital Video Library Toolkit project at Simmons. She works as an associate with Lee Mizell Consulting. *Continued on Page 3*



In this Issue:

- Snapshot: Michael Leach 2
- ASIS&T in Providence, RI: Terry Plum 3
- Blog from ASIS&T: Caryn Anderson 3
- Bulletin Board 4
- Folks on the Move 5
- December Events 6