

December 6, 2002

DLIS FACULTY NEWS

Award received by Dr. Kimmel and others at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum

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The Pittsburgh Children's Museum recently honored a few members of the past and present SIS faculty. The award, Outstanding Friend of Children, was given to **Margaret Kimmel, Joan Brest Friedberg, and Amy Kellman** for their dedication to children's literacy issues. The Outstanding Friend of Children Award is given to those who have made a positive impact on the lives of children.

Margaret Kimmel, SIS professor, is currently working with a state literacy initiative. She is a nationally known storyteller, and an author and editor of several books for children, including the University of Pittsburgh's *Golden Triangle* Imprint.

Joan Brest Friedberg, a retired professor of literature at Pitt, and **Elizabeth Segel**, a former Pitt faculty member, are co-founders of Beginning With Books, a non-profit organization that promotes literacy by introducing children to books and reading at a young age.

Amy Kellman, former lecturer in Pitt's School of Information Sciences, is the program specialist for Children's Services at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Faculty Notes

Richard J. Cox published "Changing Worlds: An Institutional Study," in *Records & Information Management Report 18* (May 2002): 14-16. The article is a review of Sally F. Griffith's *Serving History in a Changing World: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in the Twentieth Century* (Philadelphia: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, distributed by the University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001).

Richard J. Cox presented a public lecture at the University of Maryland at College Park on November 14, 2002. Dr. Cox's lecture, "Flowers After the Funeral: The Meaning of Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Post 9/11 World," was co-sponsored by the University of Maryland College of Information Studies, University of Maryland Libraries, Student Archivists at Maryland, MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference Maryland Caucus and MARAC Washington DC Caucus.

Richard J. Cox published the following: Richard J. Cox and David A. Wallace, eds., *Archives and the Public Good: Accountability and Records in Modern Society* (Westport, Conn: Quorum Books, May 2002). Dr. Wallace, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Information, is a 1997 PhD graduate from SIS.



DLIS Faculty Newsletter
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Richard J. Cox has been appointed Society of American Archivists' Publications Editor. In this position he will work with the SAA Publications Board and the Director of Publishing to acquire new titles for SAA to publish or distribute, and to assess the viability of manuscripts and other prospective publications. This is a three-year appointment which becomes effective immediately. He succeeds Harold Thiele who resigned after nine months due to a career change.

Richard J. Cox published "Records Management and Distance Learning: Weighing the Options," RECORDS & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT REPORT 18 (June 2002): 1-14 and "Fighting the Good Fight: Records and the Digital Future," RECORDS & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT REPORT 18 (June 2002): 15-16 [Review of Bryan Bergeron DARK AGES II: WHEN THE DIGITAL DATA DIE (2002) and Susan S. Lazing, DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND METADATA: HISTORY, THEORY, PRACTICE (2001)].

Richard J. Cox was profiled in the Summer 2002 Towson University Alumni Magazine. Dr. Cox is a 1972 graduate of Towson.

Findings from a recent ALA poll:

- 91 percent believe libraries are changing and dynamic places with a variety of activities for the whole family;
- 90 percent believe libraries are places of opportunity for education, self-help and offer free access to all;
- 88 percent agreed libraries are unique because you have access to nearly everything on the Web or in print, as well as personal service and assistance in finding it
- 83 percent believe free people need free libraries; and libraries and librarians play an essential role in our democracy and are needed now more than ever; and
- 81 percent agreed librarians are techno-savvy and on the forefront of the Information Age.
- For the rest of the results, go to the ALA site, at <http://www.ala.org/news/v8n5/studies.html>

Richard J. Cox published Vandals in the Stacks? A Response to Nicholson Baker's Assault on Libraries (Greenwood Press, August 2002).

The Society of American Archivists' 2002 Waldo Gifford Leland Award for writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice was recently presented to **Richard J. Cox** for his provocative monograph, "Managing Records for Evidence and Information" (Quorum Books, 2001).

Richard J. Cox presented a plenary paper, "Appraisal as an Act of Memory," III Coloquio Internacional de Ciencias de la Documentacion and III Congreso de Archivos de Castilla y Leon, University of Salamanca, Spain, October 10, 2002. He also taught a Workshop, "The Practice of Appraisal," III Coloquio Internacional de Ciencias de la Documentacion and III Congreso de Archivos de Castilla y Leon, University of Salamanca, Spain, October 11, 2002.

Richard J. Cox was one of the four principal speakers at Archival Appraisal Alchemy, "Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village Symposium, November 1-3, 2002, Dearborn, Michigan.

Richard J. Cox has been named as a plenary speaker for the Association of Canadian Archivists Toronto June 10-14, 2003. The conference's theme is, What's History Got To Do With It?

Karen Gracy is the 2002 recipient of the Eugene Garfield - Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Doctoral Dissertation Award, for her dissertation, entitled, "The Imperative to Preserve: Competing Definitions of Value in the World of Film Preservation" (University of California, Los Angeles, 2001). She will receive the award at the annual conference in January 2003.

José-Marie Griffiths has been selected to receive the Women in International Scientific Collaboration (WISC) travel grant award supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation. This award will fund Dr. Griffiths' travel to Australia in early 2003 to enable her to build upon her ongoing research into the influences of the digital revolution on the conduct of scientific research.

José-Marie Griffiths, as Director of the Sara Fine Institute for Interpersonal Behavior and Technology has received funding from the Collegis Leadership Alliance to conduct a study focusing on the criteria for determining the success of IT programs and environments from the perspectives of the executives of higher education institutions. The study will target the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Academic Officer, Chief Financial/Business/Administrative Officer, Chief Research Officer and the Chief Information/Technology Officer of institutions.

The study will address: a) how academic executives define successful IT programs, environments and best practices; and b) whether criteria for IT success vary (and by how much) by area of responsibility, type of institution (Carnegie class), or other variable (size, organization of IT function, presence of a CIO, etc.). Results will be available April-May, 2003.

José-Marie Griffiths has recently been selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

In April, the University of Pittsburgh Press published *Wilderness Boy* by Margery Evernden, English; edited by **Margaret Kimmel**. Published under the *Golden Triangle* imprint, this young-adult novel tells the story of a 16-year-old boy riding through the woods of Washington County in 1794. Jonathan, the protagonist, must deal with issues of loyalty, freedom, and the birth of a new nation.

Margaret Kimmel, a professor in the Department of Library and Information Science (DLIS) in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, is one of four local women to be honored by the Pittsburgh Children's Museum for dedicating their lives to children's literacy issues. **Kimmel** received the 2002 Outstanding Friend of Children Award during the Children's Museum's 12th annual benefit celebration June 1. The award is given each year to individuals who have made a positive impact on the lives of children. Past award recipients have included Fred Rogers, T. Berry Brazelton, and C. Everett Koop. For more than 20 years, **Kimmel** has influenced countless lives as a teacher, author, and storyteller and has been a major influence in librarianship, particularly in the area of service to children. She has served as a leader in the American Library Association, the Association for Library Service to Children, the International Board on Books for Young People, and the Pittsburgh community. She is a consultant to Family Communications, Inc., which produced Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. **Kimmel**, who chaired DLIS, received the Bachelor of Arts degree in history and the Master of Library Science degree from Dominican University in River Forest, Ill.; she earned the Ph.D. in Library and Information Science degree from Pitt.

In April, the University of Pittsburgh Press published *Wilderness Boy* by Margery Evernden, English; edited by **Margaret Kimmel**. Published under the *Golden Triangle* imprint, this young-adult novel tells the story of a 16-year-old boy riding through the woods of Washington County in 1794. Jonathan, the protagonist, must deal with issues of loyalty, freedom, and the birth of a new nation.

Donald W. King is providing support to the Drexel University W. W. Hagerty Library on a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The study was designed to establish the impact of a library's shift to electronic journals on users, staff and costs. The study developed a detailed cost model of the electronic collection and a readership survey to determine its affect on information-seeking and readership patterns. Preliminary results are found in: "Comparing Library and User Related Costs of Print and Electronic Journal Collections," Carol Hansen Montgomery and Donald W. King, *D-Lib Magazine*, October 2002. David Robins is working on analysis and comparisons of vendor/publisher, library server and survey readership use data. King and Montgomery also collaborated with Carol Tenopir and Peter Boyce in aggregating 2000 to 2002 science readership survey results from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, University of Tennessee and American Astronomical Society members. A metric framework and initial results are reported in "Library Economic Measures: Examples of the Comparison of Electronic and Print Journal Collections and Collection Services," Donald W. King, Peter Boyce, Carol Hansen Montgomery, and Carol Tenopir, *Library Trends*, Winter 2002.

Donald W. King and **Hong Xu** recently completed a study of library consortia and licensing arrangements between publishers and libraries funded by Ingenta Institute in the U.K. The study was supported by the assistance of Visual Information System Center and Sara Aerni. Mr. King presented study results in keynote papers at the Royal Society in London and at a pre-22nd Annual Charleston Conference. The 120 page report by King and Xu, "Library Consortia and Electronic Journal Services," and conference proceedings were published in November 2002.

The Consortium Site License: Is it a sustainable model? Oxford. Ingenta Institute, 2002. ISBN 0-9541867-1-0

The University Library System (ULS) is planning a large-scale migration to electronic journal collections. The Sara Fine Institute, **Donald W. King** and **Dr. José-Marie Griffiths** are performing a study with ULS staff to establish library costs and information-seeking and readership patterns prior to implementation of the migration to electronic journals. This initial phase will involve detailed cost finding of journal-related library operations and readership surveys of faculty, staff and students. A second phase will be to repeat the first benchmark phase to determine the effects of change on library operations and library users. The study is designed to facilitate ULS decision-making as it progresses in electronic journal involvement and to assist electronic journal readers in how best to use this new service.

"Bridging Library Resources Across the Pacific: The Characteristics of U.S. Academic Users and Their Use of a Gateway Service" by **Hong Xu** and J. Pang will be published in *The Electronic Library* in Vol 21, No 1, 2003.

Student and Alumni News

Matt Eidson, an Archives and Records Management Studies student, was recently selected from 20 applicants as the SAA conference assistant. The position is for two years.

Cheryl Beredo, MLIS August graduate in Archives and Records Management, was offered a position at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe.

Petrina Jackson, MLIS August graduate in Archives and Records Management, was awarded a two-year fellowship at the Cornell University Library's Rare and Manuscript Collections department.

Jennifer Marshall, one of the Department's current doctoral students, is publishing "The Impact of EAD Adoption on Archival Programs: A Pilot Survey of Early Implementers," in *JOURNAL OF ARCHIVAL ORGANIZATION* 1, no. 1 (2002): 35-55.



I always thought heaven would be some kind of library.

—Borges

Results from the *Bibliofile* survey

(Reprinted from April 2001 *Bibliofile*)

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the last issue of *Bibliofile* for Spring Semester 2002. Although it is a hectic time, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon some of your thoughts concerning *Bibliofile*, as presented in the User Needs Survey (see "Results"). For those of you who were familiar with *Bibliofile* prior to the paper version (41%) and felt that there was a student need for it, you offered useful suggestions and constructive criticism to help improve your student newsletter. When asked "Do you find *Bibliofile* provides useful information?" approximately one third of you answered yes, but a significant number of you commented on how the information was outdated or not updated consistently enough. We will announce the publication dates via the MLIS listserv to increase accountability and publicity for new editions of the newsletter. Publication will be made easier since you have told us what you want featured in *Bibliofile*, with Job Information, Student Events, and DLIS News rounding out the top three stated features.

We have listened to your responses and have included in this issue a feature on job resources to help you in planning your life after SIS. With regard to publication, the majority of survey respondents (74%) indicated that there is a need for *Bibliofile*. Approximately 59% of you were unaware of the newsletter prior to publication of the paper version and half of you stressed that *Bibliofile* should be published in both a print and online version. As a result of these findings, we will continue to publish *Bibliofile* in both formats. This allows for greater accessibility and convenience for *Bibliofile* readers.

Part of ensuring that *Bibliofile* is published consistently involves student contributions. We are encouraged that 39% of you stated that you would be willing to write an article for *Bibliofile*. It is crucial that we receive your input, on a variety of subjects from editorials stating your opinion about any facet of your experience at SIS to articles dealing with conference events. We will list the deadlines for article contributions via the MLIS listserv.

We thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

Petrina Jackson and Petra Morris, Co-Editors

Bibliofile Survey (continued)

For the 110 students (out of the 151 registered MLIS students) who took the time to complete the Bibliofile Survey, we thank you. Overall, you provided very helpful and relevant comments to improve your student newsletter. Here are the survey results:

1. Did you know that Bibliofile existed prior to the paper version?

Yes -- 40%

No -- 59%

1a. If yes, how did you learn about it?

Online version -- 22%

Bulletin board announcements -- 7%

Friend -- 5%

Instructor -- 5%

Other -- 14%

No answer provided -- 50%

2. Have you ever visited the online version of Bibliofile?

Yes -- 36%

No -- 64%

Some written responses:

"One issue is that it doesn't seem to be updated regularly. I stopped reading last fall b/c every time I went to the site it was the old info."

"Just never had the time when on-line -- only have time to check email."

3. Do you find Bibliofile provides useful information?

Yes -- 37%

No -- 13%

Sort of -- 2%

No answer provided -- 48%

Some written responses:

"It is so easy to miss important and informative information within our school and this is a good way to provide that information succinctly."

"I've only read it twice - and though all the info. wasn't of interest there was at least a little that caught my interest."

"The information is useful and it brings people in the department together. It gives them something in common and promotes community in the department."

"Yes, but not information that I couldn't get elsewhere."

Bibliofile Survey (continued)

4. What would you like to see featured in Bibliofile? (Check all that apply)

Articles on student organizations -- 55%
 Articles on faculty and faculty publications -- 52%
 DLIS news -- 65%
 Student events and happenings -- 65%
 Job information -- 74%
 Student editorials -- 54%
 Other -- 1%

5. Would you ever contribute an article to Bibliofile?

Yes -- 39%
 No -- 37%
 Maybe -- 8%

Some written responses:

"It would be good to institute policies that encouraged a wide variety of students to contribute their thoughts on an issue - maybe incorporate writing for Bibliofile into duties for other positions in the dept."

"If asked, I would. I wouldn't submit anything blindly."

"If I do something interesting enough for people to want to read about, I'd happily write & submit something."

"I have enough writing to do with my school work. I like to have a life outside of the LIS building, thank you."

6. In what format should the editors publish Bibliofile?

Online version -- 28%
 Print version -- 8%
 Both -- 50%

7. Is there a need for Bibliofile?

Yes -- 74%
 No -- 7%

Some written responses:

"Students would benefit from a comprehensive information source. Too often flyers are not seen in the hallways or elevators so students might miss out on deadlines or key events. One useful and timely source would be a nice complement to flyers and other information sources."

"I think it could be laid out better, and actually be fewer pages. Easy for me to say without helping you lay it out."

"Dunno: Seems to be a need for finding out if people know it exists."

Field Notes from the Graduates

When **Khafre K. Abif** was finishing his undergraduate degree at Pitt in Africana Studies in 1992, he was looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of African American children. He knew he wanted to get into their hands the types of information about Black History he had learned in college, but he also knew that as a classroom teacher, he would be confined to the mandated public school curriculum which had taught him so little. Then someone suggested he talk to **Dr. Josey** about the MLIS program. **Dr. Josey** spoke with him about how, as a librarian, he could get information directly to children and families who needed it. An MLIS would “give him the credentials to run an institution in his own community.” It would be a conversation that would transform his life, empowering him to reach children and families, and planting the idea that he could lead an organization that makes a difference in their lives. Within days he applied to the MLIS program, and within a decade he has fulfilled that dream in a position he could never have imagined at that time.

In graduate school, people questioned Abif about why he would want a position in children’s services, when, as a male in the library world, he could be in key positions to move up quickly and work in administration to bring about change. But even then, he knew that with children, “this is where it begins, if you do it right at this age you will have library lovers for life and you won’t have to convince adults of the power of libraries, they’ll already know.” Keeping that focus helped him through the rough spots during school. He credits Dr. Josey’s support and mentoring with helping to keep him on track with his philosophy of librarian as activist and advocate for children and their communities.

After graduating in 1993, he began a series of jobs, first in Washington D.C. and then the New York metropolitan region. With each position in children services, his skills and his responsibilities expanded. At the Montclair New Jersey Public Library he got his first informal experience supervising a department for the manager who was engaged in a new building project. That led the way to his position at the Mount Vernon, New York, Public Library as Head of Children’s Services. From there, his next jump was to the Brooklyn Public Library where he became Manager of Children’s Services for the entire system of over sixty branches, one of the largest in the country. At Brooklyn he learned the skills of a systems administrator: how to do children’s programming without an institutional budget line, and how to reinstate a system of age level specialist librarian positions which had been dissolved during a budget crisis. The answers: obtaining a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for children’s programming, and mandating institution-wide administration standards and performance evaluation for children and young adult librarians, including an extensive education and training program.

As his abilities grew, and with them the chance to impact all children in one of the most culturally diverse regions in the world, the chance to make direct contact, especially the creative interactive components like storytelling and multicultural programming that he so enjoyed, declined. Fortunately there were individuals who had followed his career and knew of his strengths. In 1999 the Children’s Defense Fund and its companion organization the Black Community Crusade for Children established the Langston Hughes Library as part of its mission to “Leave No Child Behind.” The private non-circulating collection and reading rooms are incorporated into the farm once owned by Alex Haley, author of *Roots*. After invitations to numerous workshops and strategic planning sessions as an expert in African American children’s literature and programming, Abif was asked to become director of the library.

After years of battling for children’s services, especially for minority communities, he would be able to pursue his dreams and ambitions to their fullest potential in a facility with the resources and inclination he needed. While the position as director allows him to shape that destiny, he still has the ability to make contact and connections with the children, families, educators, librarians and visitors who come to see and use the collection. One of his first mandates was to put the Langston Hughes Library on the map, which he began to do this February in an article he authored in *American Libraries* magazine. Another important step was coordinating one of the largest gatherings of African American children’s book authors and illustrators in a children’s literature festival this August at the farm. Life is good for **Khafre Abif**, from his visionary ideals in library school in Pittsburgh to ten years later, coming to fruition in a perfect job combining all he has learned and loved along the way. You can find out more about the Langston Hughes Library in **Khafre's** article in February 2002 *American Libraries*, or at <http://www.e-zing.net/LHL/home.htm>. **Khafre** can be reached at kabif@childrensdefense.org.

On working with children: “this is where it begins, if you do it right at this age you will have library lovers for life and you won’t have to convince adults of the power of libraries, they’ll already know.”