

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
STUDENT CHAPTER



Chapter News

July 2010

Book Cover Fundraising Event

Saturday, July 31, 2010
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Gregory Conference Room

Stop by @ the Goldstein any time on Saturday to socialize and sew! We'll be making book covers to raise money for the Student Chapter.

MLIS Orientation Potluck

Friday, August 20, 2010
10.30 a.m.
Location: TBA

Incoming and returning on-campus masters students alike are invited to an orientation potluck. Get to know your fellow Tallahassee area classmates and professors, new and old alike!

Join ALASC!

- Sign into Blackboard
- Click the Organizations tab
- In the Organization Catalog on the right side, click Student Organization / Other
- In the Name - Contains field, enter ALA Student Chapter
- Click Enroll

What I've Learned in Library School (so far)

by Micah Vandegrift



I'm not much of a reader. This is like the worst confession of all time for a librarian-to-be. I just happen to have other interests and surprisingly it was those interests that led me into LIS. I can already hear colleagues and employers fuming, "Why do a degree based on a professional love of books if you don't read?" Simply because, as I have begun to learn through the degree, library school is much, much more than training in booksmithery.

That said, here is my list of *The Things I've Learned in Library School (so far)*:

- ✓ Information Organization is a learned skill. Despite the fact that I hate math, abhor sciences, and barely grasp "data," I understand that the study of information is fundamental to librarianship. The ability to assess information needs of a population and accurately approach data as research are tasks of the trade, and in learning these I become a more effective info-conduit for my

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Florida State Visits ALA, SLA Conferences

Florida State was well represented in June's perfect storm of annual library conferences. Students *J Weekley* and *Laniece Miller* found time to sample beignets between programs at the Special Libraries Association's (SLA) Annual Conference in New Orleans, while *Rose Simpson*, *Teresa Nesbitt*, *Natalie Binder* and recent MLIS graduate *Maggie Wells* attended the American Library Association (ALA) Annual in Washington D.C.

Stay tuned for a rundown of Laniece Miller's SLA conference experience in the Student Chapter's August newsletter!



Library School (con't)

- ✓ Libraries are extraordinary social institutions. The phrase that resonated with me when taking library history with Dr. Wayne Wiegand was "Free and Open to All." This concept is subversive enough to be important to our past, current and future socio-cultural contexts.
- ✓ Libraries are greater than the sum of their books. (Again, picking on books - sorry!) Concepts like "Information Laboratory" and "Media Center" can more accurately describe some contemporary libraries. Being a media/tech guy, this has been incredibly attractive.
- ✓ There are many types of libraries. This blew me away as a new student in the program. There are differences between a public, academic and "special" libraries?!? My interdisciplinary radar went off when I realized I could kind of curate my own path through the library world.
- ✓ Emerging technology is integral to libraries. As a user/fan of new media & technology this was an exciting selling point for the MLIS. My favorite course thus far was Digital Media Concepts and Production with Dr. Lisa Tripp. Blog for class? OK! Start a Twitter account and connect with information professionals? Yes, please!
- ✓ Library school is great training for work in a variety of areas. Thinking about coding websites or how best to meet the real/perceived needs of groups through books, media and info-literacy skills can prepare one for many careers. I am consistently surprised at the possibilities that exist for those with better than average understanding of organization, technology systems, and media.
- ✓ Best of all, I am learning that the faculty in library school, especially at FSU, are invested in student's success. (Am I sucking up? Most definitely.) I appreciate the time and help offered by my professors and hope that all MLIS students have as much investment in building relationships as they do in acquiring skills.

So, have I redeemed the fact that I am not a book person? I will argue that I read a ton, and I enjoy it very much, but most of what I am reading is online and better suited to my interests in emerging technology, social media and digital humanities. That's my claim, and I'm sticking to it! What are the most valuable things you learned in library school?

Micah writes about library school, technology and everyday professional life at his blog (michavandegrift.wordpress.com), and is active on Twitter (@michavandegrift).

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Spotlight On...



Dr. Christie Koontz

Dr. Koontz is an Associate in Information Studies at FSU, and the Student Chapter's Faculty Advisor

Where are you from? I was born in Miami, but grew up in Jacksonville, FL.

How long have you been at FSU? 20 years. I held a job for sixteen years in a geographic information system unit and joined the SLIS/CCI faculty in 2006.

What's your favorite course to teach? MARKETING! I developed the course in 1995 based upon my work with Persis Rockwood, FSU marketing professor emeritus. I owe all I am to her.

What are you reading now? The Master of Hestviken by Sigrid Undset. It is a Norwegian series - off the charts magical and yet fast-paced. I am an idealist and romantic, so it suits me.

Favorite place in Tallahassee? The Miccosukee Greenway where I run five times a week. I go on peaceful trails and paths and say hello to strangers I see every day.

Words of wisdom for students? You are earning an MLIS, and that 'I,' *Information*, empowers you to market yourself into just about any organization on earth.

Get Involved!



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Have any ideas, articles, news, questions? Email your officers!