



Dear School of Information Studies Community,

Season's greetings as we catch our collective breath this winter holiday before jumping into a busy new semester. SOIS welcomed a record number of new graduate students in the fall and classes are at capacity for spring. The River Forest campus hosted its first winter commencement ceremony in eight years, where SOIS honored 31 new graduates, including two newly hooded Doctors of Philosophy. We look forward to welcoming another 50+ new graduate students in the spring. Again, this year we are blessed in numbers, including all of you who support us and our students throughout the year. We thank you and wish you all peace and well-being in the new year!

Don Hamerly
Director and Professor

Alumni News

Frankie Boyko (MLIS '24) is Evening/Weekend Reference Librarian at Elmhurst University.

Kelly Fojtik (MLIS '24) [published](#) "Book Clubs and Displays: RA for Readers and Communities" in *Library Philosophy and Practice*.

Alex Lorenz (MLIS/MSIM '24, BS '19) is a Conservation Services Assistant at the Newberry Library.

Kinsey Major (MLIS '23) is a Reference Librarian specializing in genealogy at the Newberry Library.

Gus Standiford (MLIS '23) is Youth Services Librarian at the Bartlett Public Library.

Krista Kosar (MLIS '21), adult services librarian at Lake Forest Library, partnered with the Dickinson Hall Senior Center to open a Memory Café for seniors suffering from memory loss from dementia.

Spotlight: SOIS Alumna Running for ALA President



SOIS proudly highlights **Dr. Andrea Jamison (PhD '21, MLIS '08)**, whose career encompasses roles in school, public, and academic libraries, reflecting her dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion within the library and information science field.

Currently, Dr. Jamison serves as an assistant professor of school librarianship at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. Her scholarly work focuses on critical librarianship, representation in children's and young adult literature, and social justice in library practice. She has authored significant publications, including "Decentering Whiteness in Libraries: A Framework for Inclusive Collection Management Practices," contributing to the advancement of inclusive practices in libraries.

Dr. Jamison's leadership extends to her candidacy for the 2026–2027 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA). Her platform emphasizes countering assaults on intellectual freedom, reshaping narratives about libraries, and advocating for legislative protections for library workers. She is committed to supporting librarians dedicated to serving their communities, particularly in today's climate of censorship and social tension.

Her extensive involvement in professional organizations includes serving as a juror for the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Round Table, past chair of the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table, and member of the Black Caucus of the ALA. Dr. Jamison's dedication to mentorship and advocacy for systemic change in library and information science education exemplifies the Dominican spirit of service, leadership, and commitment to social justice, inspiring our students and alumni alike.

Rob Wellen (MSIM '18) hosted two meetings of the Chicago AI Executive Circle, a member-led and -driven group focused on fueling AI innovation and education.

Carlinthia Cox (MLIS '17) was elected Chair of the Board for The Haitian American Museum of Chicago (HAMOC).

Melissa Lambert (MLIS '13) was appointed to the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees. Melissa also leads Allen Park High School's library, recognized as Michigan's Model 21st Century School Library.

Jessica Szadziwicz (MLIS '11) is a Senior Market Intelligence Analyst at Sidley Austin LLP.

Gail Meyer (MLIS '06) was named School Librarian of the Year by the Illinois Library Association for exemplifying excellence and advocacy in K-12 librarianship.

Jennifer Drinka (MLIS '05), Executive Library Director at Antioch Public Library District, received the Librarian of the Year award for 2024 from the Illinois Library Association.

David Seleb (MLIS '95) is the new Interim Director of Lake Bluff Library.

Maria Hayley (MALS '72) was selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who in recognition of her impactful work serving at-risk populations through literacy programs in Chicago, including for the Chicago Public Library and the Cook County Department of Corrections.

In Memorium



Pauline Anna Blazina Atherton Cochrane (MALS '54), a distinguished SOIS alumna, passed away on July 29, 2024, at the age of 94. Born in Argo, Illinois, she earned her Master of Arts in Library Science from Rosary College (now Dominican University) in 1954, laying the foundation for a pioneering career in library and information science.

Cochrane was renowned for her groundbreaking work in subject access and information organization. Her research led to significant improvements in catalogs and indexes, enhancing the accessibility of information for users worldwide. She was instrumental in developing the first campus-based retrieval system for Psychological Abstracts and played a key role in advancing the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) Thesaurus.

Throughout her career, Cochrane held academic positions at institutions including Chicago Teachers College, Syracuse University, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She served as president of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) in 1971 and was honored with the ASIS Award of Merit in 1990. Her dedication to education was evident in her efforts to introduce computer-based cataloging and online reference courses in the 1960s and 1970s, mentoring countless students and early career researchers.

Beyond her professional achievements, Cochrane had a deep appreciation for music and nature, often expressing her observations through haiku poetry. She supported organizations such as the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society and the Oberlin Credo program, reflecting her commitment to nurturing young talent.

Pauline Cochrane's legacy as a visionary in library and information science continues to inspire, embodying the values of innovation and service that Dominican University cherishes.



Pauline Cochrane (center) with colleagues working in the Syracuse University Libraries on SUPARS. Syracuse Libraries Special Collections [Source.](#)

Connect with fellow alumnae/i through [LinkedIn](#).

Faculty News

Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, 2024-205 Follett Chair, will teach a Spring 1 course “Critical Hope & Self-Preservation in Contemporary Librarianship” January 6 to February 28. Through assigned resources, reflective prompts, guest practitioner-led conversations, and opportunities for values visioning and career retrospectives, the course will explore the challenges of 21st-century librarianship and the role of critical hope in cultivating leadership, centering well-being, and expanding perceptions of library advocacy. Students will consider and reimagine humane library futures based on consistent praxis, self-preservation, and collective care.

Dr. Janice Del Negro will present “Once Upon a Time Again: Finding New Narratives in Old Tales” at the 2025 Illinois Youth Services Institute February 27-28.

Dr. Tony Dunbar [published](#) “CRITICAL Race Information Theory as Innovative Pedagogy, Act Two: Still Harder Than You Think, and It Remains a Beautiful Thing” in the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science with PhD student Rebekah McFarland and MLIS alumna (2023) Liz Grauel.

Dr. Kara Malenfant will present "Espoused and Enacted Values: Library Action to Support Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" at ACRL 2025 in Minneapolis, April 2-5. Dr. Malenfant also co-authored two publications: “Apply for Digital Equity Funding Now; ALA and ACRL Provide Support” in [ACRL Insider](#) and “Characteristics of Academic Libraries, Library Instruction, and Student Outcomes: A Descriptive Analysis Focusing on Minority-serving and Rural Institutions,” a [book chapter](#) in *Assessment and Advocacy: Using Project Outcome for Academic Libraries*.

Dr. Karen Snow secured an IMLS grant, “Exploring User-Informed Approaches to Enhancing Library Metadata for the LGBTQ+ Community,” in collaboration with the University of Tennessee and the University of Missouri to advance equity and access in LIS cataloging education.

Student News

Katie Clausen (PhD Student) presented “Hunger Pangs and Poisoned Apples: Female Appetite from Classic Fairy Tales to Contemporary Children’s Literature” at the Children’s Literature Association conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

Daniel Eller (PhD Student) presented “Dual-Process Information Seeking of University Students: Understanding the Roles of Intuition and Critical Thinking” at the University of Kentucky for the Library Research Seminar 8.

Maegen Rose (PhD Student) [published](#) “SLJ Reviews the New York City Civil Rights History Project Database” for *School Library Journal*.

Austin Stroud (PhD Student) will present “Empowering Libraries Through Code: Future-Ready Digital Leadership” the upcoming Computers in Libraries 2025 conference in Arlington, Virginia, March 25-27.

Mazzy Teich (MLIS Student) [published](#) “Incunabula: Ancestors of the Printed Book” for the Art Institute Chicago.

Mark Your Calendars

Spring 2025 Butler Lecture: Join us for the 13th Annual Butler Lecture on March 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. The Butler Children’s Literature Center will host a live (and live-streamed) event with award-winning author [Candace Fleming](#). A reception and book-signing will follow the lecture.

Follett Lecture Series: On April 10 at 6 p.m. in the Martin Recital Hall Follett Chair [Kaetrena Davis Kendrick](#) will deliver her Follett Lecture, *The Low-Morale Experience: Exploring Fractals of the Phenomenon & Considering Humane Library Futures*. Kendrick, who has been studying and clarifying low-morale experience outcomes on library workers and in library workplaces since 2016, will summarize low-morale experience development and share insight into her later studies on leadership impacts and her ongoing data collection projects. She will engage attendees further as the collective reflects on their own library workplace experiences and reimagines self-preservation and collective advocacy for sustainable and empathetic LIS industries.

Follow Us on Social Media

Social media is a great way to connect with us and each other. If you want to know more about School of Information Studies events, follow our social media pages. We post on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) every

Tuesday and Thursday at noon and on [LinkedIn](#) every Wednesday and Friday at noon.

Submit Your News

We can only report in *Off the Shelf* what we know. Please send news for future *Off the Shelf* newsletters to sois@dom.edu.



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