



Off the *shelf*

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES



Dear School of Information Studies Community,

Season's greetings to you all as we prepare for the winter break. Students, staff, and faculty have had a busy and productive fall, and now we're ready for our long winter's nap ... or, at least, a slowdown for a few days. We bid farewell to 47 fall graduates, and we'll welcome 60+ new graduate students in the spring, more than forecasted. We are blessed in numbers, including all of you who continue to support us and our students throughout the year.

This holiday season we thank you and wish you all a Peaceful and Happy New Year!

Don Hamerly
Director and Professor

ALUMNI NEWS

Join Dominican University's private online networking platform, [DU Network](#). Alumnae/i can connect with peers across the decades in the group Library Science and Information Professionals. You can also connect with fellow alumnae/i through [LinkedIn](#).

Karis Blaker (MLIS 2023) is now Assistant Director of the Styberg Library at Northwestern University.

Jameson Paul Ghalioungui (MLIS 2023) [published](#) "Successful Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) Initiatives in Progressive Public Libraries and their Communities" in *Library Philosophy and Practice*.

David Sohl (MLIS 2023) took a position with Media Burn digitizing video holdings of Johnson Publishing (*Ebony*, *Jet*) for Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Alex Womack (MLIS 2018) is Client Coordinator for Amigos Library Services.

Heidi Knuth (MLIS 2012), Youth Services Assistant Department Head at the Bloomingdale Public Library, won the Illinois Library Association's Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award.

Joe Filapek (MLIS 2009) was promoted to RAILS Associate Executive Director.

Pilar Shaker (MLIS 2008) is the new interim executive director of the Nilas-Maine District Library.

Ely Sheinfeld (MLIS 2007) is now the College Archivist at Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota.

Melissa Gardner (MLIS 2004), Assistant Director at Palatine Library District and former President of the Illinois Library Association (2017), was named the incoming president of the Rotary Club of Palatine for the 2023-2024 term.

Diana Sussman (MLIS 2001) is the new director of the Edwardsville Public Library.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Laura Rodríguez Romaní (2017) was teaching third- and fifth-grade dual language classes at Hawthorn Elementary in Vernon Hills when she enrolled in SOIS to seek her school librarian endorsement. Laura and her librarian at Hawthorn knew the challenges of finding quality books in Spanish, especially informational books, for their students. Laura was already accustomed to scouring vendor catalogs looking for new sources of books for Hawthorn students when she saw that SOIS offered a travel course to the Guadalajara International Book Fair. Choosing to take that course set her on a new path that led to small business ownership and attention from major news sources.

After the trip Laura made it her mission to use her new-found resources at the fair to bring high-quality Spanish-language books to the U.S. She imagined herself in a librarian role to do so, but a shortage of library positions and the birth of her son inspired a new idea, an online Spanish bookstore for children's books. Laura launched her store, [Los Amigos Books](#), in 2021. Thanks to the Berwyn Shops retail incubator project, Laura now has a physical store in addition to her online store.

In 2022 Laura joined the American Booksellers Association. Soon after, she was featured in an Associated Press story about the boom of minority-owned bookstores during the pandemic that the *New York Times* and Univision picked up. After all the press she received, her business grew and she is in a great position to fulfill her mission. "I see us growing into a company that has two divisions, the online and physical bookstore for the public that is a community space where parents can find books, educational toys, other related merchandise, and attend Spanish language story times and other special events, and a division that focuses on providing books to schools, public libraries, and other organizations."



If you or someone you know would like to travel with SOIS, we will host again this spring a trip to the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Bologna, Italy, in April. For information contact Jen Clemons jclemons@dom.edu, curator of the [Butler Children's Literature Center](#) at Dominican.

FACULTY NEWS

Adjunct Instructor/PhD Program alumna Annette Bochenek co-authored a [chapter](#), "Business Management", in the book *Teaching and Collecting Technical Standards: A Handbook for Librarians and Educators* and an [article](#), "Student Information Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic", in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*.

Professor Bill Crowley [published](#) "When Librarians Talk with Conservatives about Libraries" in *Library Philosophy and Practice*.

Professor Janice Del Negro presented a Professional Development Alliance (PDA) webinar (through CARLI) called "Let Freedom Read: How to Take a Stand for Intellectual Freedom and Support Fellow Library Workers in Illinois and Across the Nation" with Betsy Gomez from ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom.

Professor Cecilia Salvatore was named an inaugural member of the ARMA International Higher Education Council.

Adjunct Instructor Kimberly Shotick, Student Success Librarian at Northern Illinois University, was ACRL Member of the Week [in July](#).

Adjunct Instructor Troy Swanson was the featured guest on [Episode 243](#) of the *Circulating Ideas* podcast to discuss his 2023 book *Knowledge as a Feeling: How Neuroscience and Psychology Impact Human Information Behavior*.

Adjunct Instructor Erin Wyatt was [guest blogger](#) for RAILS' *My Library Is...* blog.

Associate Professor Hassan Zamir presented "Empowered Economics: How to Use AI in Decision Making" at the 2023 Economic Symposium of the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce.

STAFF NEWS

Janette Torres Arellano was named Coordinator of Continuing Studies for the College of Applied Social Sciences.

Jenny King was named Administrative Assistant for the College of Applied Social Sciences.

STUDENT NEWS



MLIS student and Butler Children's Literature Center GA Katy Oldach reading to Goedert Center children at the DU Halloween event

PhD student **Annette Bahringer** received a 2023 Valerie J. Wilford Scholarship Grant for Library Education.

MLIS student **Kelly Clark** [published](#) “The Fight for Intellectual Freedom for LGBTQ+ Youth” in *Library Philosophy and Practice*.

PhD student **Daniel Eller** [published](#) “Bibliometrics and Pentecostal Scholarship: A Review of Trends in *Pneuma*” in the journal *Pneuma*.

MLIS student **Jenn Meadows** presented a poster, “From Satanic Panic to QAnon: Political Movements and Book Bans”, at the Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Springfield.

PhD student **Austin Stroud** [published](#) “Renewing the Labor Union and Library Partnership” in the *Journal of Radical Librarianship*.

PhD student **Kelsey Thompson** [published](#) “Current Unanswered Questions in Social Media Activism Research” in *Library Philosophy and Practice* and presented a Works-in-Progress [poster](#), “Not Just for Viral Dance Trends: Exploring Gen Z's Motivations and Methods for Enacting Social Change Using TikTok” with SOIS faculty member Hassan Zamir at the ALISE Annual Conference.

Alex Towers, who is seeking his school librarian licensure, [published](#) “My Turn: Neurodivergence in Libraries” in the *ILA Reporter*.

PhD student **Sarah Voels** [published](#) “Admit One (Librarian): Current LIS Master's Admission Requirements from ALA-Accredited Programs” in the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

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