



Dear SOIS Friends,

What a joy it has been these past few months as COVID restrictions have continued to lift, giving us a chance to renew face-to-face activities and celebrations! Two highlights were the Champagne Supper Graduation Celebration the last week in April and the Commencement ceremony on May 8. At the graduation dinner, many of the attendees had not been to campus since March 2020 – and most had never been to campus at all. Graduates and their guests took time to walk around the library, visit the new Donna Carroll Learning Commons, and explore other areas of the university grounds. President Glenna Temple joined us for the dinner. The commencement ceremony was held at the Rosemont Theater on the afternoon of Sunday, May 8, and again it was a lovely time of community celebration which we have missed for two years. However, the pandemic has also allowed our program to expand more quickly beyond our regional borders, so along with the loss of many of the face-to-face experiences, our SOIS community has grown through our increased online offerings. Things continue to evolve in the higher education landscape, and our school is moving confidently into the future, valuing our community both “on the ground” and virtual. Dominican University’s School of Information Studies is well-positioned to engage in the changes ahead for higher education and for our programs, with faculty, administration, and staff who have demonstrated their ability to innovate, respond to crises, and continually support students in their journeys toward LIS professional preparation.

Enjoy the summer!

**Kate Marek**  
**Director and Professor**

**DOM***i***NICAN**

Chicago’s iSchool  
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

## **EVENT RECORDINGS**

Both our Butler Lecture and our Follett Lecture this Spring were offered virtually, allowing us to record the lectures and make them available to a wider audience. The recordings will be active through the summer.

**Aisha Saeed** presented “Books to See us Through” on March 31, 2022, on-campus and online. A recording of her lecture is [available at this link](#).

**Ebony Elizabeth Thomas** presented “The Shadow Book: Reading Slavery, Fugitivity, and Freedom in Children’s Books and Media” on May 2, 2022, online. A recording of her lecture is [available at this link](#).

In addition, the Inauguration of our new president **Dr. Glena Temple** was a glorious event! To see a short highlights video by our university videographer Ryan Pagelow, [use this link](#).

## **SOIS INAUGURAL EIJ ESSAY CONTEST**

Many thanks to faculty member Dr. Tony Dunbar for the organization of our new Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Essay Contest, which going forward will be an annual event. As an expression of the SOIS vision, which echoes the University's vision to be an innovative leader in empowering graduates from diverse backgrounds to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world, the essay contest is an opportunity to bring the values of equity, inclusion, and justice to the forefront as essential to SOIS master’s degree graduates to embrace change and have an impact on the world as professional contributors. Students were invited to connect Equity, Inclusion and Justice themes to information studies, librarianship, and/or an information professional context.

### **Congratulations to our Spring 2022 Essay Contest Winners:**

#### **FIRST PLACE: \$500, and publication in SOIS e-journal *World Libraries***

**Elizabeth Grauel - MLIS Student**

#### **Disrupting Institutional Racism in the Public Library**

*Liz’s essay applied concepts from critical race theory (CRT), to examine the transformation of the public library under a critical lens. She discusses the implications of unacknowledged systemic racism in current equity, inclusion, and justice efforts, and builds on the work of researchers in the field to advance the vision of accessible, useful, liberatory, and transformative public libraries of the future.*

#### **NOTABLE MENTIONS: \$125**

**Sarai Barrios - MLIS Student**

### **Library Metadata and Digital User Tags #Hashtags: The role of Digital Social Mobility, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in digital environments**

*Sarai's essay examines the role of subject heading initiatives in advocacy, issues of suppression of information and lack of diversity in the LIS field and applying the social justice metatheory approach to a controlled vocabulary. She makes the case that subject terms should provide equitable subject access, the inclusion of underrepresented culture, racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ+ communities, and aligning subject terms for social justice.*

### **Cara Charles - (Dual) MLIS Student & MBA Student The Ethical Responsibilities Owed Toward Individuals Experiencing Homelessness, Concerned Patrons, and Ourselves**

*In Cara's essay, she shares her specific experiences working in a public library with a significant and viable number of homeless patrons. The essay discusses balancing the needs of patrons experiencing homelessness with the needs of other patrons who express concerns about the presence of homeless patrons. Before concluding, the essay compels the reader to put aside personal biases towards those with housing insecurity needs.*

## **STUDENT AND ALUMNAE/I NEWS**

### **Congratulations to two SOIS alumna who were named 2022 *Library Journal* Movers and Shakers:**

**Heidi Estrada, MLIS '14**, and **Sophie Kenney, MLIS '15**, were both named Movers and Shakers in the Change Agents category, specifically for creating the Reaching Across Illinois System (RAILS) BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) Library Workers group. View [this link](#) for more information.

**Sophie Kenney, MLIS '15**, was named the 2021 Glen Ellyn Community Awards Library Employee of the Year.

**Jerry Napier, MSIM '19**, is the Marketing Manager, Production Operations at Visa.

**Ly Nguyen, MLIS '19**, has been appointed Adult Services Outreach Librarian for the Forest Park Public Library.

## **FACULTY NEWS**

**Dr. Karen Brown, Faculty Emerita**, is the 2022 recipient of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Distinguished Alumna Award.

**Dr. Janice Del Negro, Professor**, received the 2022 Storytelling World Award for

her 5th edition of *Storytelling Art and Technique* (Janice Del Negro, Editor).

**Dr. Yijun Gao, Associate Professor**, was recognized for 10 years of service at Dominican University and to the School of Information Studies.

**Dr. Don Hamerly** has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor.

**Dr. Sujin Huggins** has been promoted from Associate Professor to Professor.

**Dr. Cecilia Salvatore, Professor**, was featured in the Chicago Caxton Club's newsletter. Find the article on page 9 [at this link](#).

**Dr. Foy Scalf**, SOIS Adjunct and Head of the Research Archives at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, is the recipient of this year's CASS Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Dr. Karen Snow, Professor**, was recognized for 10 years of service at Dominican University and to the School of Information Studies.

## ALUMNA FOCUS

**Analú María López, MLIS '17**

Newberry Library, Ayer Indigenous Studies Librarian



***Where are you currently working, and how did you find that particular job?***

I currently work at the Newberry Library, an independent research library focused on the Humanities, as the Indigenous Studies Librarian. Being born and raised in Chicago, I have been a longtime fan of the Newberry since the age of 20. While I

was an undergraduate at Harold Washington College, a Latin-American Studies professor mentioned the Newberry to the class. Ever since then, when I first heard about the Indigenous Studies collection, I knew I wanted to work here. In the past (2004 then again in 2016), I held temporary, grant-funded positions at the Newberry - but I always wanted to work permanently for the institution. Over the years, I kept looking for job openings. Finally, after 13 years, this position opened and I applied. This was also shortly after graduating from Dominican University with a master's in Library and Information Science and a certificate in Archives and Cultural Heritage Resources and Services.

***How does your current position align or compare with what you studied when you were in the MLIS program?***

Dominican University helped me focus on what type of library where I wanted to work in. Although I always knew I wanted to work at the Newberry, when I entered the MLIS program, I didn't realize all the different specialty fields existing within libraries. Dominican's certificate in Archives and Cultural Heritage Resources and Services was wonderful. I especially loved learning about the *Protocols for Native American Materials* in particular. That is very important and informs the work I do within the Indigenous Studies collection.

***Talk a little about the job – what do you do, and what do you enjoy about it? And, how has your work changed in response to the COVID-19 crisis?***

As the Indigenous Studies Librarian at the Newberry, my key duties include providing reference assistance for the Indigenous Studies collection. In a nutshell: anytime someone has a question about materials within the vast collection I help them navigate it and connect them with resources for their research. Pre-COVID, I offered in-person instructional sessions and tours to visiting classes and groups. These ranged from Newberry-associated consortium groups, community groups, tribal representatives, and families; the list is very long. These days, a lot of instructional sessions have been adapted to be done virtually, but we are also hosting in-person visits once again.

***Are there any new or upcoming trends in the library and information field that you find particularly interesting right now?***

I follow a lot of international initiatives working towards uplifting marginalized communities and their knowledge systems that have historically been dismissed within the libraries and archives field. The lens through which I approach the work I do is first as a librarian, but I am also a community member, photographer and writer. While I have many interests, my passion lies in intentional community collaborations for access to materials within colonial institutions and preserving and revitalizing Indigenous languages. I do this work both inside and outside of the library. I am also interested in how Libraries, Archives, and Museums can be better collaborators and allies with BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

***What advice do you have for our current students?***

Find mentors and ask a lot of questions. Don't be afraid to challenge the status quo

within the field.

## **SUBMIT YOUR NEWS**

Please send news for future "Off the Shelf" newsletters to [sois@dom.edu](mailto:sois@dom.edu).