



Dear School of Information Studies Community,

We are delighted to present the Winter issue of our quarterly newsletter, showcasing the latest news, events, and achievements of our students, faculty, and staff.

As the weather gets colder, our academic and research programs continue to heat up, with innovative initiatives and exciting new projects taking shape. In this issue, you will find articles highlighting the recent successes of our faculty, the accomplishments of our students, and the impact of our programs on the broader community.

We hope you will find this edition informative and engaging, and we invite you to stay connected with us throughout the year by visiting our website, following us on social media, and attending our events.

Thank you for your continued support of the School of Information Studies at Dominican University in Chicago.

From <<https://chat.openai.com/chat>>



Greetings, SOIS Friends, this time from a warm human being.

Given the buzz around ChatGPT since its launch in November 2022—and yes, it has been only ten weeks or so—I couldn't resist trying it to introduce our Winter issue of *Off the Shelf*, my first as SOIS director. I am excited to succeed Kate Marek, who led SOIS for over nine years through significant changes for the school and university and built a larger, stronger, more diverse, and more relevant program for people interested in information work of all kinds. I am also happy that Kate is still working full-time for SOIS, having returned to faculty, and available for my frequent questions about SOIS operations.

While new in the role of director, I am not new to the school. Since coming to Dominican in 2009, I have had faculty and administrative roles as director of the School Library Media Program and founding director of the BS in Informatics. In my prior life, I was a high school teacher and librarian in schools around Houston and Austin in Texas, my home state. I got here as fast as I could.

“Fast” describes the pace of change generally in the information world. We teach at all levels, from the undergrads in informatics to the grad students in our master's and doctoral programs, that the pace of technological change bears on information so much faster than we can adapt to it culturally and socially. ChatGPT is just the latest disrupter to reinforce why our mission remains so important

and why, amid disruption, we instill in our students and advocate in our profession adherence to core values: access, veracity, privacy, democracy, diversity, intellectual freedom, and social responsibility, among others.

It's an exciting time for library and information science, and, to paraphrase a chatty robot, we are pleased to share our successes and hope you will stay connected with us, engage with us, and attend our events, including our Butler Lecture and Follett Lecture this spring.

Thank you and best wishes this winter and spring.

Don Hamerly
Director and Professor

CONTINUED ACCREDITATION STATUS



The Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree program received continued accreditation status from the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation. The accreditation comes following a fall 2022 visit to the university and a report from an external review panel. In its report, the review panel noted the program's strong culture of advising, excellence in teaching, and the faculty's significant contributions to scholarship and connections to practice and the profession. The panel also praised former SOIS Director Kate Marek for her leadership during the review period. The next accreditation visit will be in fall 2029.

Continued accreditation means Dominican's MLIS remains one of only two ALA-accredited programs in the Chicago area and one of the oldest continually accredited programs. We are grateful to our extended SOIS community of students, alumnae/i, faculty, colleagues, and others for their perennial support, especially to those who shared time with the external review panel during their visit.

FOLLETT CHAIR DR. CUTCHA RISLING BALDY

This year's Follett Chair, Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy, will present two spring mini-courses in advance of the annual Follett Lecture:

- On February 20, "[Ishi's Return](#)"
- On March 20, "[Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#)"
- On April 17, the Follett Lecture, "Grandfather's Boarding School Journals: An Indigenous Experience Firsthand Account"

[View the Follett Lecture page](#) for details and registration.



BUTLER LECTURE WITH PABLO CARTAYA



On March 23, SOIS and the Butler Children's Literature Center will host the 11th Annual Butler Lecture live and in person with critically acclaimed best-selling author, screenwriter, speaker, and educator Pablo Cartaya. Pablo's work includes *The Last Beekeeper*, *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*, *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*, and *Each Tiny Spark*. His novels center around the themes of family, culture, and community.

A reception and book signing will follow the lecture. [Register](#) to see Pablo Cartaya in person or virtually via live streaming. The lecture will not be recorded.

ALUMNI NEWS

Miriam Rosen (MLIS 2004; PhD 2022) presented a poster, "Taking the initiative: A mixed methods study of perceptions of and efforts to address food insecurity in Illinois public libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic", at the 2022 ALISE Annual Conference in Pittsburgh in November 2022.

Becca Boland (MLIS 2007) will join the Illinois Library Association staff as iREAD Content and Development Manager in March.

Renee Grassi (MLIS 2009) is Director of the Lake Bluff Public Library.

Vicki Rakowski (MLIS 2010) is Executive Director of the Forest Park Public Library.

Reina Williams (MLIS 2010) is Executive Director of Library and Library Technical Services at Collin College's Plano, Texas Campus.

Jennifer Hovanec (MLIS 2011) is Executive Director at the La Grange Public Library.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Emerita Karen Brown presented *Building Collective Capacity for Assessment and Advocacy: A Model for Academic Library Consortia* (written in collaboration with Anne Craig, CARLI, and Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, UIUC) at the 2022 Library Assessment Conference in November 2022. The paper is also part of the conference proceedings.

Professor Karen Snow was honored with the Professional Contribution to LIS Education Award at the 2022 ALISE Annual Conference in Pittsburgh in November.

Associate Professor Hassan Zamir [published](#) "Ranganathan's Laws of Library Science in the 21st Century" in *Medium* in January 2023.

STUDENT NEWS

PhD student **Sarah Dick** successfully defended her dissertation proposal "Electronic Health Records: Catalysts of Waning Physician Well-Being?" in January 2023.

PhD student **Daniel Eller**, Electronics Resource and Reference Librarian at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, [published](#) "Transparency and the future of semantic searching in academic libraries" in *Information Services & Use* 42 (2022) 453–461.

MLIS student **Liz Grauel**'s article "Give Peace a Chance: Introducing 'Peace Lit' as Genre in Public Libraries" will appear in the upcoming *Libraries in a Politically Charged Age* edition of *Public Libraries*.

PhD student **Victoria Longfield** successfully defended her dissertation proposal "Framing, Teaching, and Skill-Building: Evaluating and Assessing Digital Competency Frameworks for Undergraduate Library Instruction" in December 2022.

PhD student **Rebekah McFarland** successfully defended her dissertation proposal “Stories at the Intersection: A Phenomenological and Intersectional Investigation into the Experiences of Black Archivists and Memory Workers Collecting Oral Histories” in February 2023.

PhD student **Faith Rice** successfully defended her dissertation proposal “The Information-Seeking Behavior of African American Teens: A Case Study of Sociocultural Factors in Information-Seeking” in December 2022.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Please send news for future "Off the Shelf" newsletters to sois@dom.edu.