



Dear SOIS Friends –

As I write this, we are six weeks into the new calendar year, and five weeks into the Spring 2021 semester. This time last year, we were almost exactly one month away from the arrival of a growing global pandemic, shutting down all normal face-to-face contact, and sending everyone except essential workers into months-long quarantining that is just now slowly lifting. Now, as the vaccine rollout gains speed, we are cautiously thinking about a return to stability. In the meantime, I know many of you have faced illness, loss, unemployment, and more among your own family and friends, and for you the cost of this pandemic is very personal.

In the midst of the challenges, however, SOIS continues to move forward. This semester we saw the new Master of Arts in Youth Literature gain speed with new courses and students, and with the new Dual Degree between the MAYL and MLIS officially approved. Our faculty has also been working as a group toward collaborative reflection of social justice and racial healing issues, with a plan to continue our work into the summer with an audit of syllabi, pedagogies, and course materials through a DEI lens. And, we are in the midst of a faculty search to bridge the gap left by Dr. Karen Brown's retirement. Thus, we move forward together in the face of change, always building toward a future we create together.

Stay safe –

Kate Marek
Director and Professor

DOM*i***NICAN**

Chicago's iSchool
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE FOLLETT-BUTLER LECTURE

Presented by

Dominican University's School of Information Studies and

Butler Children's Literature Center

Monday, March 29, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Presented Online

This event is free and open to the public, with registration required.

Fantastic Black Girlhoods

A conversation with Ebony Elizabeth Thomas and Renée Watson
Join the School of Information Studies and the Butler Children's Literature Center in conversation with children's librarian and critic Dr. Ebony Elizabeth Thomas and award-winning author Renée Watson as they discuss the current moment in literature for black youth and how it fits into the larger body of youth literature. Topics explored include the adultification of black youth, representations of black joy, and diversity within diversity. They will also share their hopes and recommendations for the teachers and librarians sharing books with, and building collections for, all young people. Contact butler@dom.edu if you have any questions.

Register
Now



Ebony Elizabeth Thomas studies how people of color are portrayed, or not portrayed, in children's and young adult literature, and how those portrayals shape our culture. She regularly reviews children's books featuring diverse heroes and heroines, teens and tweens caught between cultures, and kids from the margins for the *Los Angeles Times*. She has a particular interest in young adult fantasy literature and fan culture. A former English and language arts teacher, Thomas also explores how teachers handle traumatic historical events, such as slavery, when teaching literature. Her most recent academic book is *The Dark Fantastic: Race and the Imagination from Harry Potter to The Hunger Games* (NYU Press, Spring 2019).



Renée Watson is a New York Times bestselling author, educator, and activist. Her young adult novel, *Piecing Me Together* (Bloomsbury, 2017) received a Coretta Scott King Award and Newbery Honor. Her poetry and fiction often centers around the lived experiences of black girls and women, and explores themes of home, identity, and the intersections of race, class, and gender. Renée served as Founder and Executive Director of I, Too, Arts Collective, a nonprofit committed to nurturing underrepresented voices in the creative arts, from 2016-2019. Renée grew up in Portland, Oregon and currently lives in New York City.

REBECCA CROWN LEARNING COMMONS



The late-October 2020 opening of the Rebecca Crown Library's new Learning Commons just missed our last *Off the Shelf* issue. Despite ongoing requirements for social distancing, the Dominican community members on campus are loving the opportunity to use this newly reimagined space. It is truly a beautiful place to gather, study, read, and research. University Librarian Felice Maciejewski says it "will be a catalyst for engagement, inside and outside the classroom, and will provide students with a rich array of integrated services and experiences." [Click here](#) to watch a recording of the Learning Commons dedication, and see also the [video tour](#). View the [photo album here](#).

BUTLER YOUTH SERVICES SCHOLAR, SPRING 2021



Meet Marché Pernell, the Spring 2021 Recipient of the Butler Youth Services Scholarship for Underrepresented Groups in the Field of Library and Information Science.

By way of introduction, Marché writes:

“Today, the library is much more than just the building; it is a beacon for the community, and it’s my goal to use the skills I gain while earning my master’s to strengthen my outreach. Libraries have given me the opportunity to be confident in my intellect and creativity, always making me feel as if my curiosity about the world was acceptable. I enjoy being able to expose youth to great literature every day, and to a space in their community that provides services and programs specifically for them. With the knowledge gained from Dominican University’s Master of Library and Information Science program, I want to ensure that libraries continue to be that space for generations to come.”

Congratulations, Marché!

STUDENT AND ALUMNAE/I NEWS

Sarah Furger (MLIS '16), as part of the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee, including co-chair Karen Snow (Associate Professor), contributed to the creation of the *Cataloging Code of Ethics* in January 2021, the culmination of a two-year, international effort that included multiple rounds of soliciting community feedback. The document is accessible on the Steering Committee website: <https://sites.google.com/view/cataloging-ethics/home>

Tina Griffin (MLIS '13) collaborated on an article with colleague Abigail Goben titled "In Aggregate: Trends, Needs, and Opportunities from Research Data Management Surveys," published in *College & Research Libraries*. Tina and Abigail's article won third place in October 2020 in IACRL's People's Choice Award in Scholarly Publishing. (See <https://www.ila.org/news/1258/iacrl-people-choice-award-in-scholarly-publishing-winners>.) In addition, Tina recently published an article in the *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* describing a new approach to data management education focusing on student research projects. See <https://jisc-pub.org/articles/abstract/10.7710/2162-3309.2365/>.

Allison Schein Holmes (MLIS '12), together with Professor Stacy Kowalczyk, published a paper titled "The Studs Terkel Radio Archive: A Journey to Enhanced Usability for Audio" in the *Journal of Archival Organization* (July 2020).

Dan Weinberg (MLIS '00) has been accepted into the Public Health Master's program at Northeastern Illinois University and plans to begin that program in Fall 2021.

FACULTY NEWS

Bill Crowley, professor, was interviewed via Zoom on December 29, 2020 by Daniel R. Albohn, Project Lead, Panorama Project. The topics of the interview included readers advisory service and how reading can be encouraged by public libraries. According to its web page, "The Panorama Project is a cross-industry research initiative working towards purposeful collaboration and transparency to more accurately measure the role public libraries play in the book business, while partnering with publishers and libraries to measure and analyze the impact of library marketing and events on discovery of specific titles and authors, and sales via local booksellers and beyond." <https://www.panoramaproject.org/what-we-do>.

Stacy T. Kowalczyk, professor, and **Allison Schein Holmes**, an alumna and the Director of Media Archives at WFMT, published a paper titled "The Studs Terkel Radio Archive: A Journey to Enhanced Usability for Audio" in the *Journal of Archival Organization* (July 2020).

Karen Snow, associate professor, contributed as co-chair of the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee to the newly completed (January 2021) *Cataloguing Code of Ethics*. The completed publication is the culmination of a two-year, international effort that included multiple rounds of soliciting community feedback. The *Cataloguing Code of Ethics* is accessible on the Steering Committee website: <https://sites.google.com/view/cataloging-ethics/home>

ALUMNA FOCUS



Allison Schein Holmes, M.L.I.S., C.A.

Director of Media Archives
Studs Terkel Radio Archive
WFMT / WTTW

Chicago, Illinois

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

I currently work for WWCI, most commonly known as Channel 11 on your TV and WFMT 98.7 on your radio dial. I started as an intern during undergrad and then came back after graduating from Dominican and passing my archives certification. At the time, I was hired as the part-time archive manager for the Studs Terkel Radio Archive in 2013. I became a full-time employee in 2016, adding WFMT's digitization to my duties. In late 2019 I was promoted to Director of Media Archives, bringing channel 11's holdings under my purview and creating an archives department. I think this is because I have a button on my lanyard that says, "I love Metadata."

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

I am successful in my position due to my MLIS education. Yes, I could have read Gregory Hunter's text on archival history and processes, but the program's hands-on approach gave me the confidence to perform my work. One of the most valuable classes was during the Intro to Archival theory class. The professor had us talk about what we consider our personal archive to be. That exercise has helped me convey to folks what an archive is and why we should care about it. I knew that a traditional library job was not for me, so I appreciated the flexibility in how we approached projects. One year for LIS 882, we made a video titled "Library Lounge" -- think daytime talk show whose focus is on cataloging graphic novels.

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

I oversee three collections, two radio, and one TV. My department is working towards creating intellectual control over the wild, wild west of all three, making them accessible to internal and external stakeholders, and generating revenue through licensing. This also means making a concerted effort to expose our holdings to educators and students. Most people within the organization do not know or understand what we do but are happy with their provided results. Our overall goal is to merge all owned holdings into one single source to empower our colleagues to locate their desired media. Like many, the COVID-19 shut down shifted our operations to remote work. That was tough for my team since we are such a new team. The shift in technology was a challenge for some. It did improve some of our workflows, and I could process the Studs Terkel Radio Archive backlog! We continue to work remotely, allowing for those responsible for broadcast to work in a safer environment.

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

I am greatly encouraged with the workaround decentering whiteness in the archival profession and archival description. Long overdue! If you are interested in joining in the conversation, I highly recommend joining Chicago Area Archivist's Anti-Racism Working Group.

What advice do you have for current SOIS students in terms of their preparation for the job market?

Pursue different types of internships, it will expand your skillset and you may find a new passion! Most archivists are very friendly, reach out to them! Ask them questions, they are here to support you.

Submit Your News

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