



Don't miss the annual [McCusker Lecture on October 17](#). Jamie LaRue, Director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, will present his lecture "My Intellectual Freedom Journey: Reclaiming a Moral Sanction for the Public Sector."

REGISTER
NOW

Greetings to you, our students, alumnae/i, and friends –

Our fall semester is off to a great start! We are looking forward to an exciting academic year, with our MLIS, MSIM, Ph.D., and undergraduate Informatics programs all receiving new students to add to our existing student body with degrees in progress. Last spring and summer we graduated our first Master of Science in Information Management (MSIM) students, watching them transition from pupils to professional colleagues along with their MLIS peers. It is quite gratifying to watch these new information professionals enter the field, employed in libraries and organizations of all types and taking with them an understanding of the essential nature of information in our society. With that in mind, we are particularly looking forward to our featured events for the upcoming year, and hope you will be as well. We welcome Jamie LaRue, Director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, as our McCusker Lecturer on October 17, for his lecture "My Intellectual Freedom Journey: Reclaiming a Moral Sanction for the Public Sector." See the reference later in this newsletter to the registration link for the McCusker Lecture. In addition, our 2018-2019 Follett Chair Verne Harris will be in residence for a week in late October and several weeks in the spring. I am looking forward to sharing these special events with you!

Kate Marek
Director and Professor

[FOLLETT CHAIR, 2018-2019](#)



Verne Harris was Nelson Mandela's personal archivist from 2004 to 2013, and currently serves as the Director of Archive and Dialogue at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is widely published, best known for his work as the editorial team leader for *Nelson Mandela: Conversations with Myself*. Harris writes and speaks on topics such as Mandela's life and work; record-keeping and accountability; the politics of archives; archives and human rights; truth and reconciliation; social memory; the mobilization of memory; and the role of archives in the continuing struggle for social justice. As Follett Chair, Harris will be in residence for parts of October and April, will teach a Dominican Siena Center mini-course the week of April 8, will participate in several SOIS courses in the fall and spring semesters, and will deliver the Follett Lecture on April 16.

SOIS ALUMNAE/I COUNCIL

Did you know we have an active group of alumnae/i who help guide our SOIS alumnae/i relations? We meet four times each academic year to discuss various issues and provide input to things such as career development for current and graduating students, curriculum review, and general SOIS planning input. Here are our members for 2018-2019:

Katie Alexander, Head Librarian at John Hersey High School; Doris Cardenas, Associate Archivist at the Claretian Missionaries Archives in the USA and Canada; Monica Dombrowski, Library Director at Sycamore Public Library; Mina Duarte, Branch Manager at Garfield Ridge Branch, Chicago Public Library; Valeria Hunter, Founder and Principal Consultant at Hunter Knowledge and Insights; Matt Isaia, Electronic Resources Librarian at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake; Ariel Orlov, Distance Education Librarian at Adler University; Allison Schein, Archivist, WFMT & Studs Terkel Radio Archive At WFMT Radio Network; Reina Williams, Reference Librarian and Education Coordinator at Rush University Medical Center; Scott Thomson, Library Director at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science; and Leah White, Learning and Development Coordinator at Skokie Public Library.

UPCOMING EVENTS

McCusker Lecture, October 17, 2018 (Free)



Featuring Jamie LaRue, Director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, speaking on the topic "My Intellectual Freedom Journey: Reclaiming a Moral Sanction for the Public Sector." Registration is open; see <https://www.dom.edu/2018-mccusker-lecture-registration>

Family Festival of Stories, October 26, 2018 (\$5 per family)

Celebrate the power of imagination with this family-friendly event. Come in costume and be ready for some Halloween tales! Face painting starts at 6:00 p.m. Costume and fancy face parade at 6:30; stories at 7:00. Martin Recital Hall.

Butler Lecture: March 20, 2019 (Free)



Save the date: Join us on March 20, 2019 as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Butler Children's Literature Center with the seventh annual Butler Lecture featuring Cuban-born author and storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy. (Martin Recital Hall; Registration will open in February.)

Follett Chair Verne Harris Mini-Course: Evenings; April 8, 10, & 11, 2019 (\$50)

"The Power and the Mystery of Archive" Verne Harris, Director of Archive and

Dialogue at the Nelson Mandela Foundation will lead an exploration of uses and abuses of archive, with special emphasis on reckoning with oppressive pasts, fighting continuing struggles for justice, and finding healing for communities and individuals. (Parmer Hall, 115A; Registration open at <http://events.dom.edu/mini-course-harris>)

Follett Lecture: April 16, 2019 (Free)

“The Secret, Justice and Archive,” featuring the 2018-2019 Follett Chair Verne Harris, Director of Memory and Archive at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa. (Martin Recital Hall; Registration will open in March.)

ON THE ROAD

Find us at the exhibits at ILA, AISLE, and JCLC this fall! Watch social media for details.

SOIS CERTIFICATES – BUILD YOUR SKILL SETS!

SOIS offers specialized certificates for retooling and updating your skill set. Certificates are offered for students currently pursuing an MLIS or MSIM at SOIS, or any professional who wants to add a specialization to a completed master’s degree. If you are an SOIS graduate lacking one or more courses towards a certificate you can enroll in the course(s) any time within five years of graduating in order to add the certificate to the MLIS or MSIM. Five three-semester-hour courses are required (15 semester hours total), except for the certificates in digital curation and digital libraries, which require six three-semester-hour courses (18 semester hours total). In cases where a course is within the requirements of more than one certificate, that course may be applied toward more than one certificate. Here is the list of our SOIS certificates:

Certificate in Archives and Cultural Heritage Resources and Services

Certificate in Data and Knowledge Management

Certificate in Digital Curation

Certificate in Digital Libraries

Certificate in Health Informatics

Certificate in Informatics

Certificate of Special Study

Certificate in Web Design Certificate in Youth Services

See [certificate programs](#) for more information.

FACULTY NEWS

Bill Crowley, Professor, published "*Broken: A Novel of Deceit and Redemption*" as an Amazon Kindle edition.

Janice Del Negro, Associate Professor, won a 2018 Storytelling World Resource

Award for her book *Engaging Teens with Story* (co-edited with Melanie Kimball from Simmons College). See <http://www.storytellingworld.com/2018/>

Associate Professors Yijun Gao, Don Hamerly, and Stacy Kowalczyk traveled to China over the summer on behalf of SOIS to visit various universities there, building partnerships toward collaboration.

Sujin Huggins, Associate Professor, is a member of the panel presentation: "Multicultural Children's Literature for the Future: How CSMCL [Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature] Works Towards Innovation" at the 3rd National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color in Albuquerque, NM. The conference runs from September 26-30, 2018.

Stacy Kowalczyk, Associate Professor, published *Digital Curation for Libraries and Archives*, ABC-CLIO (2018), and "Modelling the Research Data Lifecycle," *International Journal of Digital Curation* 12 (2), pages 331-361.

Cecilia L. Salvatore, Professor, attended "IFLA WLIC 2018," the World Library and Information Congress hosted by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) on August 24-29. IFLA WLIC 2018 was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Professor Salvatore attended the conference as Secretary of IFLA's Genealogy and Local History Section.

STUDENT AND ALUMNAE/I NEWS

Several SOIS alumnae/i were at Boston College on July 11-13, 2018 for the "Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives" conference. The conference was a gathering of religious leaders, archivists, and historians who were working with Catholic religious archives. SOIS Professor Cecilia Salvatore also participated in the conference and is pictured here with the group (center).



The alumnae/i were:

Brie Montoya, the Franciscan Friars of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Jerrice Berrios, the Congregation of the Cenacle, North American Province, Chicago

Doris Cardenas, Claretian Missionaries, USA Province, Chicago

Cassandra Vazquez, Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin

Rebekah McFarland, Sisters of the Living Word, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Aaron Reisberg, McGreal Center for Dominican Historical Studies, Dominican University

Annette Alvarado, MLIS '12, is now a Reference and Instruction Librarian for Loyola University Chicago.

David Badertscher, MALS '67, has received the Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award, being recognized for achievements, leadership qualities, and the credentials and successes he has accrued in his field. Badertscher is a historian, former educator and retired principal law librarian for the New York Supreme Court Library. See the full press release at <https://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/452159/david-badertscher-presented-with-the-albert-nelson-marquis-lifetime-achievement-award-by-marquis-whos-who>.

Tim Butzen, current MLIS student, published "Influences on Library Liaison and Faculty Collaboration in Collection Development" in the *Library Philosophy and Practice* e-journal; see <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1691/>

Monica Dombrowski, MLIS '08, is the new director at the Sycamore Public Library.

Marissa (Garcia) Elera, MLIS '13, won the Illinois Library Association's 2018 Golden Ticket Award, given for outstanding local contributions in library services to young people in his or her community.

Kendall Harvey, MLIS '16, was appointed the administrative coordinator for the Illinois Library Association.

J. Zachary Holt, MLIS '11, is the new director at the Galesburg Public Library.

Mikael Jacobsen, MLIS '08, is the new director at the Zion-Benton Public Library.

Anthony ("Tony") Kierna, MLIS '95, from the Schaumburg District Township Library, won Illinois Library Association's 2018 Reference Services Award.

Elizabeth Lynch, MLIS '11 won the Illinois Library Association's 2018 Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award.

Elizabeth Morris, MLIS '18, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Special Library Association to attend their annual convention this past summer.

Kara Thorstenson, MLIS '06 was recently hired as the new Library and Digital Media Manager for Chicago Public Schools.

Nicole Wagner, MLIS '18, published “Not Just a Shot in the Dark: Chicago True Crime Readers Advisory,” the cover article in the June 2018 *ILA Reporter*.

Phil Wills, MLIS '16, is now working with Crate and Barrel as their Digital Asset Management Coordinator, having moved from the digital asset department of McDonald's Corporation.

ALUMNA FOCUS: MONICA DOMBROWSKI, MLIS '08



For this issue of *Off the Shelf's* Alumna Focus, we spoke with Monica Dombrowski, a 2008 SOIS Dominican graduate. Monica was recently hired as the Director of the Sycamore Public Library, having most recently served since 2014 at the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin as the Digital Services Director. We asked Monica a few questions related to her new job as a library director.

Talk a little about your job as a library director in a smaller community, especially after working in a large, well-funded suburban community. Where do you see opportunities for service?

It's great working in a smaller library because you get a chance to keep your librarian skills sharp by engaging in traditional library work PLUS administrative tasks. It's also less stressful because you really get to know your community and they're not shy about telling you what they want, which helps when deciding things related to services and collections. Everyone in Sycamore has taken me in and treated me like family and the feeling that you're part of building and sustaining the entire community brings me a joy I can't describe.

I think providing exciting, meaningful programming for adults is an area of focus for smaller libraries because it can be hard to find presenters who are willing to drive long distances to put on a program. This puts more accountability on the staff to

grow their skill sets, which can be hard when the team is small. That being said, the opportunities for creativity and partnerships with community organizations are some of the best tools in the toolbox!

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

My area of concentration was Academic Libraries, which I found out through experience, was not really for me. That being said, the class on user instruction that I had to take as part of that track was SO helpful and opened up a new world of ideas as to how to "teach" in public libraries. It ignited a passion for helping people see libraries as educational institutions and has made my work very meaningful. I would like to see more classes that help prepare folks to take on administrative roles in libraries. Being a new Director, there are so many things to know related to laws, levies, human resources, and many other topics. Thank goodness I built a strong network of people who have jumped in and/or offered to help me as I'm cramming all these new things into my brain!

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

I'm fascinated by the intersection of Social Work and Libraries. It's amazing that folks think of us for answers to their questions and it's even more amazing for people to think of us as people who care and want to do what we can to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion in our communities. It's a great time to be in libraries and I'm looking forward to seeing where this goes!

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

Network with everyone you can! Use LinkedIn, go to DU's Career Day, and find a mentor. The library world is small and if you build your brand well from the beginning, it will make all the difference as you look for jobs and find that special place where you're supposed to end up!

Submit Your News

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

School of Information Studies
7900 West Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
(708) 524-6845
sois@dom.edu | sois.dom.edu



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