

Information Link

A Community Newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science

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Up Front **The Little School Library That Could...and Did**

"It's important for us as librarians to volunteer. What we did at the Farragut School has sent a message that school libraries are important. When you start doing good things, more good things come out of it." Ashley Waring, GSLIS student

In the spring of 2004, GSLIS launched an important project with the David G. Farragut Elementary School, located near Simmons off of Huntington Avenue. While Simmons and the Farragut School have had a long-standing relationship, the purpose of this particular project was to organize an "Alternative Spring Break" to revitalize the school's small library, which had been without a librarian for more than a year. To read more about the Farragut School and the evolution of the partnership, go to <http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/students/index.html> and scroll down to Publications, Information Link, 11/04, "The Little School Library That Could."

From March 8-10, 2005, thirty students, staff, and alumni volunteered at the Farragut School library during the first GSLIS Alternative Spring Break (ASB). Their task was to process and label hundreds of new and used books that had been collected during a Simmons-wide book drive held last November by the new GSLIS/Farragut School partnership.

The volunteers sorted, weeded, and categorized books, and then took turns entering cataloging information into an Excel spreadsheet from which they created a shelf list and labels. They affixed the labels to the books along with Simmons bookplates and pockets. By the end of the week, they had processed and prepared more than 500 books that will be incorporated into the Farragut School library.

Laraine Wilson, the Farragut School Boston Connects student support coordinator, is clearly excited about what was accomplished. "The great thing is that now we have an infrastructure for continuing to build the library. We've set up processes that work-study students and volunteers can follow anytime we get books donated."

For Linda Carroll, a GSLIS student and one of the ASB coordinators, service is at the heart of librarianship. "After 25 years in a corporate environment, I am struck by the spirit of sharing found in libraries. It's very satisfying to



connect kids with books, and that's what we're doing this week. That's what librarians do!"

Linda Watkins, GSLIS librarian, said she had been looking forward to "getting back to my roots in elementary school libraries" for months. Holding up a paperback, she said, "But the most exciting thing was when I opened this to put a pocket in it, and it turned out to be a book I had processed at Martin Milmore School in 1975! It's my handwriting on the little borrower's card. That book survived and made its way into a new library 30 years later. It makes you realize that things continue and find new life."

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April Events

Friday, April 1, Alumni and Professional Development Day at Simmons College, Main College Building.

Monday, April 4, Deadline: All students who plan to request a transfer of credit, waiver, or petition for enrollment in a non-GSLIS course must submit their petitions by this date. Please address the petitions to Em Claire Knowles, Assistant Dean for Student Administrative Services. To download the petition forms, visit <http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/students/policies.html>.

Friday, April 8, NETSL (New England Technical Services Librarians) Spring Conference, "Metadata and Meaning: Creating the 21st Century Catalog." Hogan Campus Center, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
For more information, see www.nelib.org/netsl/conference.htm.

April 10–16, National Library Week. For information about how to celebrate this week, visit www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/nlw/nationallibraryweek.htm.

Monday, April 11–Wednesday, April 13, Connecticut Library Association Conference: "Reading the Future", Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, New Haven, CT. For more information and to download the conference program, see <http://cla.uconn.edu/>.

Tuesday, April 12, National Library Worker's Day.

Tuesday, April 12, GSLIS Research Colloquia Series: "Challenges and Benefits in Leveraging Electronic Resource Usage Data," presented by Professor Gary Geisler and student Caryn Anderson. One Palace Road, P207. For more information about the colloquia series, see <http://web.simmons.edu/~benoit/Colloquium/index.html>.

Tuesday, April 12, LISSA Meeting. One Palace Road, Student Lounge, P212G. 12:30–1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13, LISSA Meeting. One Palace Road, Student Lounge, P212G. 5:30–6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 18, Patriot's Day. No classes.

Tuesday, April 26, LISSA Meeting. One Palace Road, Student Lounge, P212G. 12:30–1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26, GSLIS Research Colloquia Series: "Libraries in Kyrgyzstan" presented by Assistant Dean Terry Plum. One Palace Road, P207. 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27, LISSA Meeting. One Palace Road, Student Lounge, P212G. 5:30–6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 29–Saturday, April 30, New England Archivists Spring Conference. The spring meeting of the NEA will take place at Simmons. The program's title is "Looking Forward into the Past: The Future of Archives," with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary partnerships, the digital "frontier," and archival theory. The meeting program and registration form can be downloaded at www.newenglandarchivists.org/activities/meetings/programs/2005_spring_program.pdf.

Folks on the Move

GSLIS MHC student **Jane Babcock** was featured in the article "Director has vision for Hadley library" in the March 5 edition of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*. Babcock started at the library as a volunteer a few years ago, which led to her hire as interim director last June, and then permanent director in November. Among the many improvements she has planned is to get books and materials into an online cataloging system and to establish the small library as part of the regional library lending system. Babcock also anticipates working more closely with local public schools, having the library be a repository of local history and genealogy, and growing it as a community center and gathering place.

Ching-chih Chen, professor, was the first invited lecturer at the newly initiated Symposium on Digital Libraries at Tsurumi University in Japan, December 22. Her lecture — entitled "Global Memory Net offers the world instantly: Potentials for universal access to invaluable Japanese contents" — was translated into Japanese and also published in the February issue of the *Journal of Information Processing and Management*. Chen also is the subject of a new article, "Ching-chih Chen: A shining star and model of Chinese American library and information science professionals," written by the chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress. The article appears in a new book published by Guangxi Normal University Press, entitled *Bridging Cultures: Chinese American Librarians and Their Organizations: A Glance at the Thirty Years of CALA, 1973-2003*.

Terry Plum, assistant dean, spent GSLIS spring break in Pristina, Kosovo, interviewing prospective candidates for the Kosovar Librarian Training grant. Nine Kosovars will be selected to attend GSLIS during the fall 2005 semester, both in Boston and Mount Holyoke. While Plum was in Kosovo, Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj resigned in order to face indictments by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. This event threw some uncertainty into support for the grant by various Kosovo government agencies. However, Plum said the trip was nevertheless successful, and the grant is on schedule.

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Information Link is the monthly newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Its purpose is to provide school- and career-related information and to foster community among the many diverse people who make up the school.

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Copy deadline for the May issue is Friday, May 15.