

KEYWORD

Volume 3, Number 1
September 2005

SILSSA newsletter

PRATT SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

**Welcome Pratt-SILS
Students to this most
exciting and challenging
2005-2006 academic
year!**

Dear Pratt-SILS Students,

I am happy to report that we begin the fall '05 semester on an especially high note having launched new programs and courses, federal grants and cultural partnerships, all planned to enrich your education and learning experiences. I have highlighted these below. With SILS's reputation growing, especially in arts and humanities librarianship, as reflected in its new *cultural informatics* concentration, our enrollment, now reaching about 320, is at its highest level since I began as an Associate Professor at Pratt in 1998. Importantly, this increase in quantity is matched by the high quality and diversity of our students. I feel confident that you will be delighted as you get acquainted with your fellow students and faculty. I look forward to your participation in SILS and to continuing my work in support of SILS's academic excellence and in developing its

programs to best meet the educational needs of our students and to well prepare them for exciting and rewarding careers in the information professions.

Highlights:

→ **GATEWAI (Graduate Archives Training and Education: Work & Information), an IMLS Federal grant in partnership with the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) for \$591,206:**

This 3-year grant funds an archives education program with the BHS. It will provide tuition scholarships and other educational benefits for 30 Pratt-SILS students to complete the new Archives Certificate Program, and to do an internship at the BHS under the direction of Dr. Marilyn Pettit, BHS VP for Libraries & Archives. Visit the GATEWAI web site to learn more and to apply:

<http://pratt.edu/sils/gatewai>

From Pratt's press release, July 19, 2005:

Tula Giannini, acting dean of Pratt SILS and the grant's program director, conceived the program in response to strong student demand

for more in-depth programs in archives. She titled the program, Graduate Archives Training and Education: Work & Information, or GATEWAI. "I designed the program to reflect a new archives vision for the 21st century that places archives in the broad context of cultural informatics, or the intersection of culture, digital technology and information science," says Giannini. She adds that students completing GATEWAI will be well-prepared for careers in the archives field in libraries, museums, and related cultural institutions.



Dean Giannini (c) with Pratt alumni Lauren Lampasone (l) and Terra McLeod (r)

Collaborating with the BHS further strengthens the program by giving students hands-on experience at a respected cultural institution, according to Giannini.

→ **New Archives Certificate Program registered with NY State, Department of Higher Education.** This 12-credit Archives Certificate Program which includes a required archives internship, enables students to graduate with their MSLIS with an Archives Certificate. Visit the program's Web site for details: <http://pratt.edu/~infosils/archivescertificate.html>

→ **RATE (Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education): Pratt's education programs, which include Library Media Specialist (LMS) and Art and Design Education (ADE), were just accredited under the new standards of the NY State Regents.** Redesigned to meet these new standards, the programs are now administered by Pratt's Committee on Education Programs (CEP), and share a 9-credit pedagogical core. New education faculty have been hired and many program improvements made. This program provides wonderful career opportunities for students who envision themselves as teacher/librarians in K-12 school libraries.

→ **New courses for spring & summer '05 to support PULSE and Cultural Informatics concentrations:**

- ◆ Communication Skills for Library Managers
- ◆ Science Museums and Libraries at the American Museum of Natural History
- ◆ The Art World: Business & Information at NYPL, HSSL

→ **Courses just approved for regularization by the Academic Senate.**

- ◆ Management of Electronic Records
- ◆ Art Librarianship
- ◆ Projects in Digital Archives

→ **PULSE, IMLS grant with Brooklyn Public Library (BPL):** Plans are in place for the upcoming **PULSE Symposium scheduled for October 13th.** Martin Gomez, President of the Urban Library Council and former Director of BPL, will be the keynote speaker. This event is open to all SILS students. I hope that you will participate in this stimulating event.

A group of 12 diverse Pratt-SILS students have been recruited to be PULSE trainees for 2005-2006, and five students are enrolled in a PULSE practicum supported by IMLS tuition scholarship. Completing the PULSE curriculum, a second required course has been developed entitled, *Urban Public Library Challenges for the 21st Century*, and will be offered spring '06. Visit the PULSE web site for further information and to apply: <http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/pulse>

→ **The Nasser Sharify Lecture and 80th Birthday Celebration, October 16th:** We are proud to announce that we have engaged Leslie Burger, Director of the Princeton Public Library and President-elect of the American Library Association (ALA), as speaker for this special October 16th event co-sponsored with SILS Alumni Association. Please plan to attend; we hope to see you there.

→ **Expanded Florence program:** Florence Summer Program 2005 was expanded from two to three weeks enriching the course content and activities. Dr. AnnaMaria Poma-Swank, the course's professor, was joined by leading Florentine curators, librarians and scholars who gave lecture presentations that enlightened and inspired students. Please visit the Florence Web site: <http://pratt.edu/~giannini/florence.html>

→ **SILS graduates are appointed to positions at top research university libraries:** Since May '05, Pratt-SILS recent graduates have gained appointments at top universities: Columbia, Cornell, NYU, Emory, and two appointments at Princeton University.

→ **We are happy to welcome two new SILS faculty:** Dr. Debbie Rabina, who holds a PhD from Rutgers University, and Dr. David Walczyk, who holds a doctorate from Columbia University. Learn about their achievements- <http://pratt.edu/~infosils/faculty05.html>

→ **PMC Facilities User Group:** Chaired by Dr. Giannini, with representatives from all PMC constituencies, the group's charge is to resolve issues related to student services, classroom use effectiveness, safety and security. If you have comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to submit them to Dr. Giannini.

Wishing you all the best for a productive and fulfilling school year,

Tula Giannini, PhD, MLS, MM,
Acting Dean.

SILSSA PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

from Michelle Dollinger

Fall is a great time to look back at the past academic year and look forward to the upcoming year. I participated in SILSSA last year as treasurer, and this year I'll be serving as president. My goal is to create an atmosphere where we can all feel connected. My vision is for a school where we are connected to each other, the faculty and the library community.

Last year was very busy (see our past events at <http://pratt.edu/~silssa/calevent.html>) and students enjoyed a lot of tours, trips and speakers. Besides making valuable contacts in the professional world, we also got a chance to get to know each other better.

To continue that outreach, I encourage everyone to participate in SILSSA and meet the people you go to school with. Pratt is full of amazing, interesting people and our alumni are working in libraries and businesses all over the city and the country. I have learned so much about the library profession from my peers and if you take the time to get to know them, they'll share it with you, too.

This year we welcome an incredible set of new, enthusiastic SILSSA officers. In the works are tours including the Library of Congress, H.W. Wilson, the United Nations, FindSVP, Entertainment Weekly, Ellis Island and Credit Suisse. We are planning informative roundtables and bibliographic instruction classes as well as regular social events and networking opportunities. In addition, we are working to have a continued voice in school matters such as curriculum, registration, financial aid and the facilities.

Whether you're a new or returning student, please make sure you subscribe to the SILS listserv. Faculty and students make class, meeting, job and news announcements and it's a great place to communicate with each other. You don't have to have your Pratt address set up in order to subscribe - don't wait and miss valuable updates - sign up now!

1. Address message to Majordomo@list.pratt.edu
2. Type subscribe sils-announce in the body of the message. Leave the subject line blank.
3. Send the e-mail message. You should receive an e-mail verifying that you have successfully subscribed.

Finally, please contact me if you have any ideas for the upcoming year. If you work in an interesting place or if you have made a site visit where they might welcome a small group, let me know. My email is mdoll@earthlink.net.

SILSSA is here to add value to your experience with Pratt SILS, but we can't do it without your help and participation.



SILSSA president
Michelle Dollinger

Featured Library of the Month: The New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

by **Karyn Hinkle**
SILSSA treasurer

WHERE

515 Malcolm X Boulevard at 135th St. in Harlem. Take the 2 or 3 train to 135th St. The library is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 am - 6 pm and Sundays 1 pm - 5 pm.

WHY

The Schomburg Center is one of four Research Libraries of The New York Public Library and is a unique and important library in the U.S.

According to NYPL, the Schomburg Center “promotes the study of the histories and cultures of peoples of African descent and interprets its collections through exhibitions, publications and educational, scholarly and cultural programs.”

Library materials at the Schomburg Center are housed in five collection

- ◆ Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division
- ◆ Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division
- ◆ Photographs and Prints Division

I like visiting the Schomburg Center because it’s a chance to visit an historic and changing neighborhood, and also because a visit to the library feels like a serious and

scholarly undertaking: you must sign in at the door, then check all of your belongings in the coatroom, except for what fits in the smooth, clear plastic bag provided for the research materials you need to bring with you into the reading rooms.

DON'T MISS

The *Malcolm X: A Search for Truth* exhibit in the Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Reading Room is up through

December 31, 2005. It provides the first opportunity for the public to view items in the Center’s large and varied Malcolm X collection.



image courtesy of The New York Public Library

divisions, according to format:

- ◆ Art and Artifacts Division
- ◆ General Research and Reference Division

In the next issue of *Keyword*

Faculty profile: **Dr. Debbie Rabina**

Student profile: **Andy Lanset**, WYNC's archivist

... and much, much more!



Send *Keyword* submissions and letters-to-the-editor to gayle@snible.org

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Visit SILSSA's website at <http://pratt.edu/~silssa/>