

KEYWORD

The Pratt Institute School of Information and Library Science Student Association Newsletter

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BLÖÖDHAG SHAKES THE STACKS

by Sam Robertson

With contributions from Dr. Walczyk's People-centered Methods and Design

"The faster you go deaf, the more time you have to read"

Can heavy metal and punk music be used as a didactic tool to promote literacy and libraries? Blöödhag is a four piece hard-core metal act from Washington state who write and perform very brief and very loud thrash/death metal songs about their favorite subject—the authors of science fiction, fantasy, and horror literature. They consider themselves pioneers of the musical genre "edu-core," and in addition to regular rock venues, frequently play gigs in Pacific Northwest public libraries and beyond. The band has played library shows in Chicago, Boston, NYC, Athens, Austin, Oklahoma City, Las Vegas, Minneapolis/ St. Paul and New Orleans. The Seattle rockers have been credited by the King County Library System as fitting the criteria for a literacy program, and been featured in *Library Journal*, *American Libraries*, as well as skateboard magazine *Thrasher*!

Founded partly as a reaction to the prevailing anti-intellectual, anti-reading stance of punk rock and heavy metal fans and their frequent ignorance of the literary themes and references in the genres, Blöödhag are noted for throwing books at their audience and often pulling some in attendance onstage to read aloud from classic science fiction books. The sound is best described as a guttural indecipherable roar set against a sonic wall of aggressive distorted guitar and clockwork percussion in the death metal tradition.

This might seem like a tongue-in-cheek gimmick, but the members are quite serious and passionate about their mission. Some of the authors



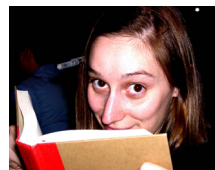
Photo by Lily Warner

championed in the Blöödhag song list include Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, Phillip K. Dick, Ursula LeGuin, and Madeline L'Engle. The authors receive copies of their albums which include these great titles: *The Dewey Decibel System*, *Necrotic Bibliophilia*, *Hooked on Demonic*—and their latest *Hell Bent for Letters* (out now on *Alternative Tentacles*). With the initiative and guidance of Dr. David Walczyk, and the help of his People-Centered Methods & Design class, these thirteen questions were devised to plumb the depths of edu-core (motto: Bang the Head that Does Not Read!) Following is the unedited transcript of the e-mail interview with the vocalist Jake Stratton:

What is the connection between Blöödhag and libraries?

Both my parents are (recently retired) librarians for one. Also, libraries are one of our most important institutions in America. I put librarians
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From the Editor's Desktop



Designing the Future

Everyday, when we climb the stairs of a subway or the PATH train, New York is new again. It's not the same City that we were brought as children: buildings are demolished and raised, neighborhoods have been gentrified, glass and steel replace the wood and brick of years' past. Mammoth cranes reaching toward the sky interrupt the cityscape. What once was is no longer and what an old German philosopher once said, "all that is solid melts into air."

Rapid change is the order of the day in the 21st Century. Libraries especially are trying to reconfigure themselves in the landscape of space and time, virtual and real. What we knew of libraries of the past will not be for the future. This might be the running theme for future librarians to grapple with for a while. Cafés and bands, like BlöodHag, are finding library spaces to promote their music or coffee. Many libraries are welcoming these changes to entice new users in a Web 2.0 world.

This semester we reconfigured KEYWORD to be the voice of our growing community – new faces in the SILS' office, as Dean Giannini's article will attest and a larger full-time student body than before. We wanted to make a visually better and user-friendly publication to a generation of readers who have been brought up by flashy magazines, movies and visual images. At the same time, we will provide a professional publication.

With the semester behind us hopefully more students and faculty will participate in the production of Keyword next year. No previous experience necessary, just a point of view and a sense a humor for our April Fools issue.

In remembrance to the students and faculty who died tragically at Virginia Tech, KEYWORD's colors this month symbolize our solidarity and condolences to that community.

Alicia Gibb, Editor and SILSSA Secretary
Romel Espinel, Designer and SILSSA Treasurer

KEYWORD

EDITOR: ALICIA GIBB

DESIGNER: ROMEL ESPINEL

Contributors:

Contributors	Jill Blagsvedt
Sam Robertson	Rebecca Gordon
Laena McCarthy	Nate Hill
Becky Brauer	Meghan Wheaton Cirrito
Lauren McBride	Jean Hines
Amanda Sullivan	Dalia Lavine
Bonnie Cohen-Lafazan	
Copy-Editors:	
Allison Byrum	Judith Matthews
Jiwon Choi	Julie May
Erin Harper	Rebecca Pou
Carrie Klein	Sam Robertson

SILSSA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
LAUREN MCBRIDE

VICE PRESIDENT
LAENA MCCARTHY

TREASURER/WEBMASTER
BONNIE COHEN LAFAZAN

SECRETARY
ALICIA GIBB

Please send submissions or letters to:
keyword.silssa@gmail.com

For more information about SILSSA or
Online version of KEYWORD:
<http://pratt.edu/~silssa/>
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SILSSA PRESIDENT'S DEPARTING MESSAGE

Lauren McBride

Greetings SILS Community,
On behalf of SILSSA, I would like to express our sympathy for those students, faculty, staff, and families of the Virginia Tech community that were affected by the senseless acts of violence that took place on April 16, 2007. As I watch the breaking news stories unfold online, it actually gets more difficult to try and make sense of this devastating tragedy and to comprehend the impact it has on the Virginia Tech community.

The academic year is coming to a close. Many of our fellow classmates (including 2 SILSSA officers) are graduating in May and moving on to become MLS professionals. I will be stepping down as SILSSA president and passing on the torch to a new regime that will be elected by the time you read this note. My hope is that

the new officers will continue to create a sense of community among SILS students and will always consider the interest of the SILS students.

In my year as SILSSA President, I have had the opportunity to help foster a sense of community among my peers. As future MLS professionals, our profession incorporates communication and various aspects of service. I urge SILS students to consider creating your own sense of community though your journey at Pratt. Get involved now! When you walk into a class, post to the list serve, attend the holiday and graduation party, participate in an event, trip, or tour, go to a speaker event or a salon, write an article for Keyword, stop by the Mind Jams, or attend a SILSSA meeting, please consider your own personal brand and how you can contribute to your community. ☒

BLÖÖDHAG

continued from front page

on the same plane as firefighters in terms of the service they provide for the public good (except librarians don't demand a statue of themselves after they die). This is what we tell people: Do you think college is too expensive? Self-education for free, think about that. Ray Bradbury dropped out of high school, educated himself in the library, and wrote Fahrenheit 451 on the library typewriter for 10 cents an hour. That's the REAL american dream.

Do you only play libraries?

No we play rock clubs too, with the hope that after we play, they'll tear the place down and build a library there.

How did you get started?

Blöödhag was originally a recording project which mutated rapidly into a four-piece that throws books at you. Actually, the guitar player and I had another band (you never heard of) and we did a really short song about (Tarzan creator) Edgar Rice Burroughs. We jokingly said: what if we did a band that only played short songs about sci-fi and fantasy authors? Then we took ourselves seriously and formed Blöödhag, because the other band sucked.

Who is your intended audience and your actual audience?

The intended audience is half-dressed nymphomaniacs. The actual audience is anyone who'll listen. Seriously, Blöödhag shows are a melting pot. Bad-ass metalheads, spiky punkers, studious bookworms, comic book nerds, college professors, all are welcome and all find something to like in BloodHag.

Who requests your services as a band and do you get a lot of library gigs?

We play locally at clubs and all-ages places

fairly regularly. We do play as many library gigs as we can. Usually youth librarians will contact us to be part of their summer reading programs.

What is the reception of the band by librarians?

Younger librarians [sic] love it, most of the older ones appreciate what we're trying to do, even if they hate the music. The negative reactions we get are usually from librarians who are power-tripping, and are just generally negative about everything (there's one in every library).

Do you ever have situations where the library didn't know what they were getting?

I guess. We have had more than one occasion where a librarian did not know how to promote a show, and no one showed up. Queens, NY Public Library, I'm talking to you!

Do you get a lot of shocked and upset parents?

No, except with the volume. Usually we tell the librarians to put out a bunch of earplugs for people.

What is the Blöödhag "message" and how do you get it across during your shows?

We are encouraging you to read, and most importantly to WANT to read. Most people have trauma about reading left over from high school, and we're here to reverse that. We get the point across with violence and beratement, just like school.

Do people ever get hurt from flying books and moshing?

Yeas, i've blacked eyes and drawn blood with the books i've thrown. They sacrificed their look for books. People should not mosh while reading, it's unsafe, but reading while pogoing is totally cool.



Do you only write songs about science fiction and its authors?

All our song lyrics are short biographies of Science Fiction authors. We talk about key moments in their personal lives, their most important works, and any recurring themes that appear in their books.

Do you see Blöödhag's songs effectively extending the long-standing borrowing between heavy metal and literature (a la Iron Maiden song titles) and literary allusion (Zeppelin/Tolkien, Metallica/Lovecraft)?

Yeah, that is another one of our stated goals from the beginning was to make clear that most major metal bands borrowed liberally from Sci-Fi and fantasy for their concepts, lyrics, art, etc. but most of the time, the bands don't acknowledge the source. We're here to make sure you know the writers who inspired the musicians.

Do you have groupies?

Yes, they're all gorgeous and super horny, and they all attend the Pratt Institute. ☒

Discipline Web 2.0



Alicia Gibb

You Mean We Have to Deal With People

Edited by Erin Harper

The following remarks were posted on the SILS listserv on April 7th and 8th in response to an article on Alternet entitled, "America Gone Wrong: a Slashed Safety Net Turns Libraries Into Homeless Shelters." The original article can be accessed at <http://www.alternet.org/story/50023/>.

Following post by Nate Hill:

As a somewhat long term employee of an urban public library, I sort of chuckled as I read this article. It is important to take issues like this seriously; I don't mean to belittle the problem. But I'll tell you, if anyone wants to do public service in an urban library environment, it is good to have a sense of humor. The fact of the matter is that our social structure is somewhat flawed, and there isn't enough funding for public libraries or homeless shelters. We can argue about policies all

day and night but some stank, drunk, mentally ill folk are going to be using our libraries and we may as well deal with it. Dealing with it is hard work, but it is incredibly rewarding.

I'm particularly amused by the repeated "they don't teach you this in library school" statement [made by librarians in the article who feel they are unable to deal with the homeless]. It is true; there is no classroom preparation for when a character like Margi in this story approaches the reference desk on a busy afternoon. I'm actually not quite sure how you teach that. I really think that the only way to deal with it is by seeing the humor in the situation. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing funny about mental illness. I am not implying that. But if you can't laugh off the crazy things that happen in a given day at the public library, you are not fit for the job.

I like to look at some of these more difficult situations

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School of Visual Arts (SVA)



Jill Blagsvedt

Animation, fine art, graphic design, film, illustration, cartooning, criticism and writing, interior design, art therapy, and art education are some of the undergraduate and graduate majors offered at the School of Visual Arts (SVA).

The Visual Arts Library at SVA is designed to educate and inspire our patron population, which is made up of administration, faculty, current students, continuing education and alumni. I have been the Circulation Manager

for almost 5 years, during which time I've been lucky to see and be part of many changes in the library.

SVA has 3,000 undergraduate and 300 graduate students. The library staff is made up of 14 full time and 2 part time staff, and 24 student workers. Our collection consists of 65,000 books and 3,300 DVDs & VHSs. We subscribe to close to 400 current periodicals, and have access to 17,500 full-text periodicals via our e-resources. Our books, periodicals and e-resources are comprised mainly of the arts, but also include general topics such as literature, sciences, and history, since every major has humanities requirements. Bibliographic Instruction (BI) classes are organized through the Art History Department by our Head of Reference. It has been organized in such a way so that every first year student will be exposed to the library.

In 2004 the library went through a major renovation gaining us space desperately needed, new vibrantly colored walls, clear signage, a computer lab, a conference room, and space for the Milton Glaser Archive. The Archive was started by the Visual Arts

Foundation at SVA and houses a large donation from the illustrator/designer Milton Glaser, and artwork from a number of other prominent designers.

The Visual Arts Library also houses an extensive picture collection, and the Visual Resources Center. Pictures can be checked out or scanned by patrons for use on projects. The VRC houses not only slides, but also a scanner and technology for their recent digital imaging initiative. Via the VRC, faculty can choose their images from a number of databases and then use software to organize their class lectures.

As for Library 2.0, a few of us recently dove in by creating a myspace page for the library, joining facebook, starting a wiki for interoffice projects, and attending meetings in Second Life. We also have plans to start a blog. So far, we are pleased with the results and feel it has worked in getting the word out about the library and its resources.

The Visual Arts Library is a great place for the artists at SVA to work on research and art projects, make discoveries, or just to hang out with friends. I think we do a good job of serving our patrons and I feel lucky to be a part of this community. ☒

Young New Librarians We are the Future

Bonnie Cohen Lafazan

In our classes, at librarian conventions and throughout the blogosphere, there has been a great deal of discussion about social networks.

We debate about whether our libraries should be integrating these networks for their patrons. We question whether My Space and Facebook are a good or bad thing for our youth. Regardless of where you stand, something must be said about the power of connections and conversations happening online. Librarians quickly joined Bill Drew's Library 2.0 network on Ning.com. In just six weeks, the network grew to 1,000 members. I decided to experiment myself by setting up my own Librarian network, Young New Librarians. Join in on the conversation, because we are the future! ☒ youngnewlibrarians.ning.com/

Designing from the Inside Out

Laena McCarthy

Karen A. Franck, an Environmental Psychologist and Professor of Architecture at the New Jersey School of Architecture (NJIT), presented "Designing from the Inside Out" in Dr. David Walczyk's People-Centered Methods & Design class on Thursday April 5th. It was attended not only by his students, but by others in the Pratt Manhattan community as well.

Dr. Franck spoke about her approach to the design of places and objects from a people-centered perspective, where the needs, activities and emotions of people are inherent in the design and awaken us to the possibility of transformation in our ways of living. Dr. Franck's people-centric approach to architecture and psychology is inspiring, and radical when translated to our field of information science. She does not demand that people sacrifice usable space for the pleasure of aesthetics, and through this new paradigm opens up the field to greater creativity. She spoke about the relationship between architect and occupant, and how the materiality, symbolism and archetypal

aspects of designed spaces can change our lives. Is this the future of design? Can we integrate this innovative approach to design into our field? Dr. Franck's stimulating lecture and our dynamic Q & A afterwards ensure it is already happening. Thank you to Dr. Walczyk and Terence Fitzgerald for bringing this exciting speaker to Pratt-SILS!

Dr. Franck is a professor in the New Jersey School of Architecture and the Department of Humanities at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She also serves as Director of the PhD Program in Urban Systems. She holds a PhD in environmental psychology from the City University of New York. Her research interests related to cities have included alternative housing, the role of building and place types in ordering space, food and the city, and possibilities for unexpected uses of urban public space. Publications related to these interests are: *New Households, New Housing*, edited with Sherry Ahrentzen (Van Nostrand Reinhold 1989), *Ordering Space: Types in Architecture and Design*, edited with Lynda Schneeloth (Van Nostrand Reinhold 1994), *Food and the City* (guest-edited issue of *Architectural Design* 2005) and *Loose Space: Possibility and Diversity in Urban Life* (Routledge 2006). ☒

Library of Congress Trip

Becky Brauer and Lauren McBride

On Thursday, April 12, 2007, 17 Pratt SILS Students met at 5:45 am at the Pratt Manhattan Campus to board a charter bus headed to the Library of Congress in Washington DC. It was a cold, rainy morning as we boarded the bus, but since it was so early, we were able to zip out of NYC with no traffic delays as we munched on a mobile breakfast of Dunkin Donuts and juice. The trip was sponsored by SILSSA. The SILSSA committee to organize the trip was chaired by Nicholas Jackson.

Thanks to Dean Giannini's contacts at the Library of Congress, we were able to get access to a special tour. We began our insider's tour at the stark Madison building which sits atop a vast underground network of vaults and tunnels. The Manuscript Division can best be described as room upon room of rows of stacks of boxes of papers from important people. There is only enough space for maybe six or seven people to navigate some of these rooms at once, so we split into several groups, each one lead by an LC Archivist who

explained the scope of the collection and method of organizing it. After an hour in the archives we were whisked off to a presentation on LC's digital preservation strategy. Next, we emerged from the untold depths of the Madison building into the incandescent light of the Thomas Jefferson Building, the lofty white pillars, reflective marble floors and painted ceiling were a direct counterpoint to the archive's humble rows of diligently labeled beige boxes. Past some velvet ropes and down a red walled vaulted passageway, we were led to the Rare Book Reading Room for a lesson with Mark Dimunation, the Chief of this division. William Blake hand colored plates, a good sized Book of Hours and Columbus's diary were followed by Thomas Jefferson's own annotated copy of the Federalist Papers, a wooden horn book, and a rare American incunable, among other items. We discussed a wide range of topics, from bookbinding, cords and whipstitch, to the problems facing this large collection with a small staff. We were all enjoying ourselves so much that we chose to skip the gift shop and stay a little longer. Lastly, we visited the Prints



and Photographs Division, which had prepared an exercise for us in photograph description. Looking at photographs for which we had no information, we had to come up with catalog entries. After six straight hours of hands-on VIP treatment, we returned to the bus for the second leg of our ten-hour road trip, which was definitely worth it. ☒

M-LEARN Visit the Met



Amanda Sullivan

M-LEARN (Museum Library Education and Research Network), the club focused towards museum librarianship, experienced an unexpected surprise when they visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Friday, March 23.

The members of the newly formed club thought they were going on a tour of the Watson Library, but after being lead downstairs past hallways of books and into a conference room, they were given the opportunity to have a round table discussion with the Met's chief librarian, Ken Soehner. Mr. Soehner questioned the group about their goals and

objectives and why they felt a club for museum librarians was necessary. Members expressed the hope of cultivating a network and hosting events specifically for museum librarians. The club also plans to conduct tours of the city's museum libraries and hold panel discussions with professionals already active in the field. Mr. Soehner was extremely generous, offering meeting spaces for future M-LEARN events and a tour of the Watson library. More details about the tour, which will happen in late April before the semester ends, will be forthcoming. ☒

photo from
www.metmuseum.org

Author Penny Colman talks at Pratt

Alicia Gibb

Penny Colman, a non-fiction children's author, presented in Professor Caroline Ward's Children's Literature course Wednesday, April 18, 2007. This lecture was open to all SILS students.

Colman was accompanied by Tim Jones who was standing in for Colman's editor Christy Ottaviano. Colman is a passionate writer who loves spreading the love for reading non-fiction. She began by complementing us with "librarians are the life blood of democracy" and thanked the future librarians for putting books into the hands of children. Her writing style is very successful, she sticks to the three c's: Clear, coherent and compelling. Colman says by sticking to those criteria her books can be enjoyed by all audiences and her editor Ottaviano calls her style a "very personal narrative".

Colman has a close relationship with her editor, they both share a breadth of imagination.

Colman's books begin with ideas, which flow from Editor to Author, Author to Editor and purely with collaborative ideas. The ideas center around women or women's issues. Colman also spends a lot of time researching primary sources to write the historical truth, instead of relying on others' research from decades past. Colman loves to vary her sentence length, enjoys repetition of words and syntax and uses a mechanical pencil for her preliminary draft. ☒

PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE

HIGHLIGHTING NEW DEVELOPMENTS DURING FALL AND SPRING 2007

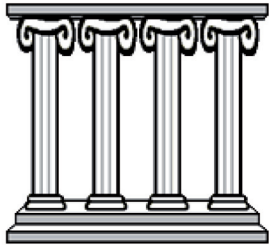
by Dr. Tula Giannini, Dean, Pratt-SILS



courses in business, policy and government sources. <http://pratt.edu/~infosils/wise/html>



The Program's Four Pillars of Knowledge
Research* Digital Tech.* Education* Practicum*



Dear Pratt-SILS Community,

As we approach the end of spring semester and graduation on May 11, I take great joy in knowing that this has been a year of great academic achievement for SILS faculty, students and staff and a year for lively community participation through exciting activities and events. In this brief article I celebrate some of these, and extend my warmest wishes for your continued success at SILS and beyond. Thank you all!

PROGRAMS

Museum Library Certificate: A new program created by Dean Giannini and registered with NYSED, it was launched in fall 07. Pratt-SILS now has the only such certificate program in the US and in fact, worldwide. Importantly, it presents a new vision for museum librarianship based on four pillars of knowledge and skills positioning the program at the heart of cultural informatics and underscoring the commonalities between museum and academic / research libraries. Already, the program is attracting students



The
Experiential Learning Process



nation-wide, and many SILS students have enrolled with some taking both the museum and archives certificate programs. Dean Giannini has applied for an IMLS grant under the rubric, M-LEARN (Museum Library Education and Research Network) in partnership with five NY museums - the Met, MoMA, Brooklyn Museum, AMNH and the Morgan Library. The grant would support museum library students. Notification from IMLS comes at the end of June - hopefully with good news.

WISE (World Information, Society and Environments) - a conceptual model providing an overarching framework, WISE connects concentration areas of law, business, government, policy & politics and health information by way of common themes such as diversity, digital technology and global networked environments thus converging with cultural informatics. WISE serves as a curriculum guide for students by which to plan their courses and shows, for example, that students concentrating on law need to take

NEW COURSES: Bringing greater depth to the Information Design and Interaction program, Dr. Walczyk has introduced two new cutting-edge courses: People-Centered Research and Design for spring and Usability for fall 07. Developing the WISE program, Dr. Rabina introduced two new courses strengthening the area of government, policy & politics: for spring, International Documents and for fall 07, Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age. The Urban Libraries curriculum was enhanced by the new course, Cultural Diversity & Libraries, taught this spring by Jason Baumann of NYPL Research Libraries.

This summer 20 students will participate in SILS new international program in London in partnership with University College London, School of Library, Archive and Information Studies (UCL, SLAIS). E-Publishing Summer School and Centre for Publishing, with UCL First Bloomsbury Conference on E-Publishing and E-Publications. The program will be taught by UCL faculty, recognized leaders in the e-publishing field who will be working with the leading Bloomsbury publishers such as Macmillan and Emerald. Daytrips to Oxford and Cambridge will feature visits to the university presses. A new exhibition at the British Library, "Sacred" adds depth to student experience.

PRACTICUM - NEW COURSE DESIGN, NEW ENTHUSIASM:

As a required course for the archives and the museum libraries certificates, and with more students appreciating the opportunity for career development that this course offers, practicum enrollment has increased dramatically from its former 3-6 students in 2004, to some 30 students each semester. Designed to meet NY State education standards, the course now requires 100 hours of professionally supervised site work, a daily journal and a research project. New York's great cultural and business information environments provide exceptional work experiences.

continued on next page

PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE *continued*



MARIA CRISTINA PATTUELLI – SILS new full time faculty member for fall 07. I am pleased to introduce Professor Pattuelli to the SILS community. She comes to Pratt from UNC, Chapel Hill where she is completing her PhD in Information Science. Her dissertation title, Metadata and ontologies for the semantic web; representation and organization of electronic resources for digital libraries, reflects her expertise in knowledge organization. She holds degrees from the University of Bologna, in Philosophy (dottore in Filosofia), and in Library Science (dottore in Conservazione dei Beni Culturali), specializing in Archives, Paleography, and Diplomatics. She worked at the State Archive of Bologna and was Director of the Luigi Dal Pane Library, Castel Bolognese, Italy, from 1986-2000. Her research focuses on access and retrieval for cultural heritage and the design of ontologies, taxonomies and metadata as well as emerging issues in cataloging. At UNC she taught courses in Metadata Architectures and Applications, and Organization of Information and of Materials. Her Publications include: "Identity matters: Constructing social identities through ontology-based metadata," in DC-2006: Proceedings of the International Conference on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, Manzanillo,

Mexico, in October 2006. pp. 215-219, and "Context for content: Shaping learning objects and modeling a domain ontology from the teachers' perspective," in Proceedings of the Workshop on Digital Libraries in the Context of Users' Broader Activities (DL-CUBA), pp. 23-27. JCDL 2006, Chapel Hill, NC. I invite you to visit her Web site at <http://www.unc.edu/~pattm/>. Students concentrating in knowledge organization will surely benefit from her teaching and guidance and from the rich set of SILS knowledge organization courses SILS has developed and will which continue to grow. We look forward to Professor Pattuelli joining the SILS faculty and community.



CINDY WOLFF – Assistant to the Dean for Academic Services and Visiting Assistant Professor. Cindy Wolff joined the SILS academic team in fall 07. Holding an MLS from Queens College, Cindy brings to SILS her experience as the Librarian for Collection Management at the Museum of Modern Art, and before MoMA, she was Coordinator of Digital Applications at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn. Cindy's publications include, "Using the Online Catalog as a Publishing Source in an Academic Institution," in Journal of

Internet Cataloging; 3:2/3 (2000); pp. 217-25 and was a contributor to the special edited volume Metadata and Organizing Educational Resources on the Internet, Haworth Press, 2000. Cindy's area of specialization is in the field of knowledge organization and she teaches LIS 653. In Cindy, students have a dedicated library professional to help them plan their programs and discuss career options. She is working closely with students in the archives and museum library certificate programs and works with the Dean on the IMLS grants and other academic matters.



CLAIRE MOORE – SILS Administrative Secretary. Claire has been a wonderful addition to SILS academic team. Her years of experience in the fashion industry for which she worked at the fashion house, Nom de Guerre, adds to her excellent communication and organization skills and customer service orientation. She holds a BA from NYU Gallatin School with a concentration in marketing and communication and has worked for Mirabai Films and New Line Cinema. She is very knowledgeable of the PMC academic neighborhood which is most useful in assisting students. Claire's experience in the arts and her creative approach to her work are ring consonant with SILS. ☒

The New York Library Club

Jean Hines

The New York Library Club held its annual spring party at the New York County Lawyer's Association, which co-sponsored the event. It took place in the association's handsomely appointed library and was hosted by Chief Librarian, Nuchine Nobari. The library, designed by Cass Gilbert in 1923, holds a comprehensive collection intended specifically to meet the needs of the practicing bar. The guests, who included SILS student Clara Cabrera, and former faculty member, Dr. Larry Kroah, were treated to a lecture by NYU law professor, James F. Simon, who discussed his research methodology in preparation for his book, "Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney: Slavery, Secession and the President's War Powers." The New York Library Club encourages student membership; visit the website at newyorklibraryclub.org ☒

You Mean We Have to Deal With People

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interacting with troubled patrons as "outreach reference interviews." You know how sometimes when a kid wants a book about Rosa Parks he doesn't know to ask for a book about Rosa Parks? Instead the kid will say, "You know, the lady. The bus. Civil rights." Eventually you figure out what the kid needs and you get it for him. And that is an easy example. It is the librarian's responsibility to notice Margi sitting in a corner, ranting about whatever unpopular rant, and reach out to her and figure out the questions she needs to be asking. Then, it is the librarian's job to refer her to the proper agency. Not everyone can ask the question, sometimes you have to volunteer the necessary information for them.

Anyway, if your attitude is "because as librarians we didn't get master's degrees in order to provide daycare services," don't work at a public library. Find a quiet archive somewhere, no harm, no foul. But if you want to work on the front lines at a public library, you need to be flexible, you need to really care about people who other people don't care about, you need to be

able to laugh, and to roll with the punches. Public libraries were founded to give all the citizens in a democracy the opportunity to educate and enrich themselves. Sometimes we need to interpret that vision loosely. It is true, if we don't in many cases nobody else will.

I'd like to clarify one important thing: I am offering a coping mechanism and a service delivery method for people who currently work in or want to work in public libraries, and it should not be misconstrued as an alternative to effective policy. Clear, concise policies protect our libraries and our staff when we face challenges like the homeless man who [successfully] sued a library in New Jersey [for banning him due to body odor]. Indeed, loitering is a crime, as is disturbing the peace. When we write policies stating the behavior that is expected in a public library, we don't write them so that we can start turning away homeless people or noisy children at the door. That would be lousy. We write them to deal with the most extreme situations and avoid legal problems.

I do think that some classes relating to social work would be useful in [library] school. I also think that an element of continued training in this area would be useful for library staff. ☒

“Mediated” Author Vists Pratt



Alicia Gibb and Dalia Levine

Dr. Thomas de Zengotita was the guest speaker for Lazerow Memorial Lecture this past Friday, April 20, 2007. Dr. de Zengotita is the author of *Mediated: How the media shapes your world and the way you live in it*. He is also a contributing editor at Harper's magazine, holds a PhD in anthropology from Columbia University and teaches at the Draper Graduate Program at New York University.

Dr. de Zengotita opened his lecture, entitled “Mediated Live” by reviewing media

theory in brief, spending some time discussing the Frankfurt School and the neo-Marxist theories that developed in the 1940s first in Germany and later in America. He then focused his lecture on what he labels the “phenomenon of mediated self-consciousness.” The media culture, specifically the media culture in developed, first-world countries, has become participatory where people expect to be a part of the story since The story is their story.

He calls it the “Virtual Revolution”, where anyone can control their own world virtually as they use YouTube, MySpace, blogging and similar sites to create their own content and stories that are shared and broadcast to others. Dr. de Zengotita said “last year was the year that Time Magazine named “You” person of the year. That was much more profound an insight into the nature of the mediated world, and the central performative role that everybody feels entitled to play in it.”

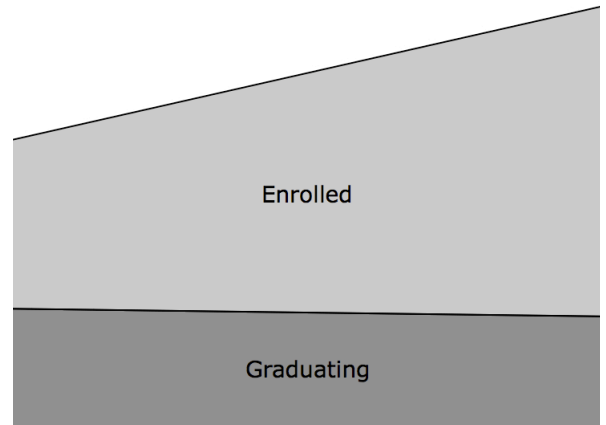
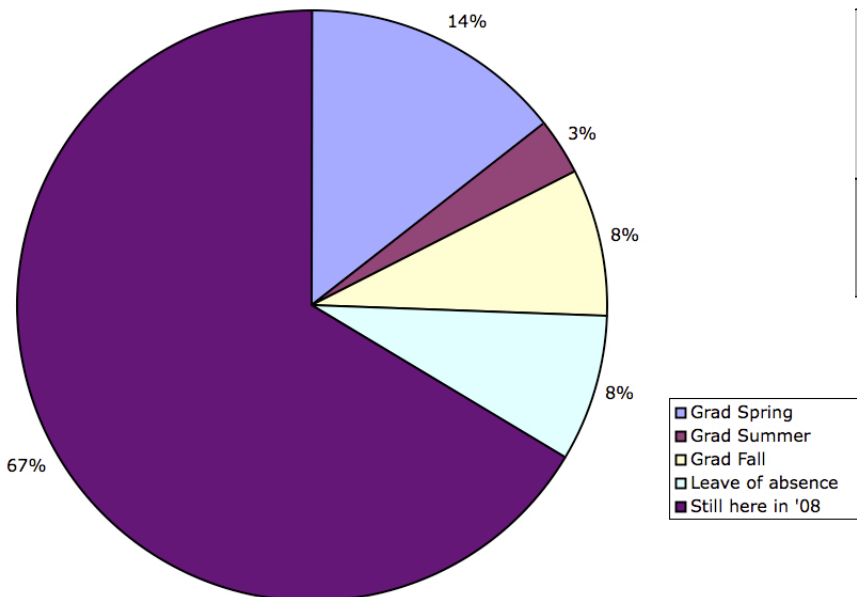
Dr. de Zengotita spoke about how there no longer is a separation between the world of reality and world of representation. Since there is no longer a separation, there needs to be a whole new set of concepts and ways to make judgments about what to do and not do in the world. Using the term “Flattery of representation,” Dr. de Zengotita describes anything that addresses you as the viewer. As human beings, we are hard wired to respond to attention. The example Dr. de Zengotita gave

of this was email pop ups or noise alert that with a “Bing!” lets you know “Ooh! Someone wants me!” The use of electronic devices becomes an instant attention gratifier. The flattery of representation also creates a sense of centrality where we become the center of the world we create.

Dr. de Zengotita's third idea is about options. “The Flattered Self” is a construction of yourself. Technology provides options of who we want to be, referring back to Time Magazine choosing “You” as the person of the year, since we can now personalize our virtual representation of ourselves by mixing and matching avatar outfits, abandoning “top down education ideas”, genetic engineering, cloning, gender operations, and more.

Dr. de Zengotita closed by talking about the event he feels is the first example of a mediated event, which is the Kennedy assassination. The generation who remembers the event talks about where they were at the time. They have a personal account of what happened because they feel as if they lived through it from the reports on the radio and from watching events unfold on TV. It was the first time the story became an event in itself and therefore a part of the self-centered mediated culture. ☒

Who's Attending PRATT SILS? by Becky Bauer



RESTAURANT AND COFFEE SHOP GUIDE



'sNice

45 8th Ave (Cross Street: W 4th Street)

Ignore the lame name and go to 'sNice for free wireless, organic coffee/tea/drinks, simple food, comfortable wooden tables, and good [ish] music. The food is vegetarian café type stuff (\$7 for a sandwich): smoked tofu panini, tempeh reuben, Thai salad, BBQ seitan, etc. The arugula, pear, brie sandwich is a winner. Muffins, cupcakes, and other sugary items are also on hand.

Grand Sichuan

229 9th Avenue (24th Street)
www.thegrandsichuan.com

If you can overlook the long waits and the dingy decor of this restaurant than be prepared to taste excellent Sichuan style

- heavy on the spice and heat- Chinese food. This place is far superior to any other Chinese restaurant in Chelsea, West Village, and Union Square. The steaming hot soup dumplings are sublime. Other dishes which stand out from the others are the crispy green beans with or without pork, the whole fish, and the chef's special chicken. (For a decent description of Sichuan food, please refer to the post by Mark R. Vogel entitled "Sichuan" at <http://www.foodreference.com>.)

Becca Gordon

Bamiyan Afghani Restaurant

Welcoming, warm, and wonderful. A place where the word authentic is not a catch phrase. Bamiyan, a family own restaurant, represents the uniqueness that we have all come to know and love about New York City. Locate at 26th and 3rd, Bamiyan offers an extraordinary and rare atmosphere, they serve traditional Afghani dishes with an ambience to match. The food, the tapestries, the floor-cushions, and the staff make visiting Bamiyan for lunch or dinner an experience worth remembering and returning. So settle into the window seat on cushioned Bukharan rugs surrounding traditional low tables,

or opt for more conventional seating and order an excellent Afghani charcoal-grilled kebabs. Named after the two Buddhas at Bamiyan, which carved into limestone cliffs in the second and fourth centuries A.D, but who were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, the brothers Sayed Ahmad Shah and Sayed Nader Shah, inspired by their awe, wish to "remember the historic statues by naming our restaurant after them, and we hope that you will enjoy your visit with us and keep in your heart a spirit of tolerance and an appreciation of beauty."

Nick Jackson

Cafe Charlie

9 E 40th St.
New York, NY 10016
(212) 725-1420

Near Mid-Manhattan & Humanities Research Library Cafe Charlie has it all – juice bar, sushi bar, gourmet coffee, pitas, wraps, sandwiches, and on and on. Prices are reasonable (nothing over \$8) and the food is pretty darn good. Location is key for Mid-Manhattan and Humanities libraries. Open 24 hours, 7 days a week, and you can get grocery items here as well. Free delivery. The essence of convenience and economy. ☑

Heather Hunt

Long History of Mini Books

Miniature Books: 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures by Anne C. Bromer and Julian I. Edison (May 2007; Abrams Books in association with The Grolier Club, New York; \$40.00) is the first lavishly illustrated and authoritative book on the delightful subject of literature though no taller than three inches. An ideal gift for the librarian who thinks he knows all types of books big and small, the array of authentic books on subjects ranging from Shakespeare's plays and the Holy Bible to politics and presidents, children's books, the pleasures of life, and more are shown—with few exceptions—at their actual size.

Among the notables are the prayer book that Anne Boleyn carried to her execution shown open to its sole illustration of Henry VIII; the world's two smallest books (impossible to be sure which is tinier); books studded with gemstones, books that Napoleon carried with him on his campaigns; and books illustrated by artists such as Picasso and Edward Gorey. In addition, there is a section dealing with the papers, printing,

and binding of these tiny marvels. The text is lively and accessible, full of great stories and fascinating people. It will appeal to the experienced collector, but also to the one just starting a collection and anyone who loves the look and feel of a good book.

Finally, Miniature Books includes a section on which libraries contain miniature books in their holdings. These include The Beinecke Library at Yale University in New Haven, CT; The Boston Public Library in Boston, MA; The Bridwell Library of the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas; The University of California at Los Angeles Library; The Chicago Public Library in Chicago, IL; The University of Cincinnati Library in Cincinnati, OH; Lloyd E. Costen Children's Library at the University of Princeton in Princeton, NJ; The Free Library of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA; The Library of Congress in Washington, DC; and many others. ☑

Jason Wells is in the midst of his final semester in the Pratt SILS program. jasonmwells@yahoo.com.

SGA COMES TO PMC

Meghan Wheaton Cirrito

The Student Government Association of Pratt has finally made it to Manhattan! I am proud to be the first Pratt Manhattan SGA representative and am happy to report that SGA held its first Open Forum on March 8th. Students in attendance brought a myriad of issues to the table, including building maintenance, security, visitor procedures, and space usability and configuration. Since our Open Forum, administrators met to discuss student concerns and take action. Please look for changes in the 4th floor space outside of the library! A microwave is coming to the Vending Machine Room soon! The bathrooms will have toilet paper! Also, I want to encourage everyone to join the PMC listserv. This is a great way to stay in contact and share information across programs. We asked for it and David Marcinkowski, Associate Director of Academic Computing at PMC, delivered within a week. What an awesome example of an administrator going the extra mile to meet students' request in a short period of time.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please email me at mwheaton@pratt.edu or meet me in the Student Affairs office on the second floor during my office hours on Monday and Tuesday afternoon during the school year. SILS students are so enthusiastic and involved and I really look forward to your input and direction. ☑

KEYWORD RECOMMENDS

"It's a smutty book" - Mrs. Shinn, the Mayor's wife from *The Music Man*

BREAKABLE YOU by Brian Morton
(September 2006; Harcourt; \$25.00)

While fellow novelists Michael Chabon and Richard Russo are known for their comic send-ups of the writing life, its the remaindered scraps of his writers and scholars' private relationships that are of interest to Brian Morton. The difficulties of pursuing intellectual life while maintaining key relationships is the concern of much of Morton's work and of this brilliantly-realized fourth novel, set in contemporary New York.

Adam, a has-been novelist whose work peaked a decade earlier, has a new opportunity; Ruth, widow of Izzy, a writer friend who has just died, entrusts him with an unpublished manuscript of her husband's and asks him to make sure it is published. When Adam reads the novel and realizes it is Izzy's best work, he tells Ruth that the book's publication would embarrass her husband's memory. When she dies a few months later, he re-reads the manuscript and decides to fashion it into his own book. The book is enthusiastically received and catapults him back onto the literary map.

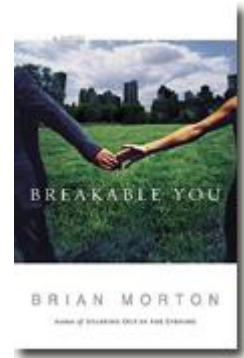
Adam is meanwhile estranged from his ex-wife Eleanor who is a therapist still struggling after their debilitating divorce and hoping to embark on her own writing project. Both worry about the state of mind of their daughter Maud, a philosophy Ph.D candidate at Columbia who we meet her at the beginning of an intense affair with Samir, a carpenter grieving the loss of his three-year-old daughter from a rare blood disease. Maud discovers she

is pregnant, the couple acknowledges their thus-far tentative feelings are worth pursuing. Alas, all is not as sunny as it seems when the philosophers Maud relies on to order her intellectual life can't steady her after a major loss.

Breakable You is ambitious in the philosophical questions it raises and in the assured way it situates flawed characters' in circumstances that test their weaknesses. As in past novels (*Starting Out in the Evening* [1999]),

A Window Across the River (2003), Morton writes about the junction of love and art with grace and delicacy. In his depiction of Adam, his ex-wife Eleanor and Maud he has created realistic characters who orbit each other in dangerous ways. His characters are consistent in their flaws: When Adam struggles with complicated feelings of nostalgia and friendship for both Ruth and Izzy, his decision is profoundly realized. Though he struggles to honor these feelings of tenderness, he ultimately succumbs to ego-driven ambition making the only believable but devastating decision he can make. We as readers have seen stirrings of the moral person Adam could be and feel the full effects of how he has disappointed Ruth and his own family. Maud is similarly complicated. One of the most powerful moments in the novel comes at the end, as she trudges up a hill to visit a grave site. "We must imagine Sisyphus happy," she thinks to herself. It is a hard-won conclusion.

Morton sketches his modest scenes of everyday life in deceptively simple language,



but <http://service.bfast.com/bfast/click?bfmid=2181&sourceid=27337&bfpid=0151011923&bfmtype=book> does not shrink from tackling central questions. How does one remain faithful to one's calling if it estranges us from the people we love? What happens when we experience artistic failure? How do we accept the very worst about the people we love? Morton's characters may not have the answers, but they learn to accept the imperfect choices they make. Caveat lector: there are moments in this novel that make Old Yeller look downright sunny, so be prepared to fend off a tear or two.

Also check out Morton's 1999 novel *Starting Out in the Evening*. The film adaptation premiered at Sundance this year, starring Six Feet Under's Lauren Ambrose. **K**

Reviewed by Anne Garner

PMC LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

Invisible Cities
by Italo Calvino

This is a quirky and highly intriguing book which, if studied too much, could lead one to read it as a masked philosophical treatise. There is some philosophy here, but what makes it so readable is the shocking creativity of the author's descriptions. The book is made up of fifty-five chapters, each of which describes an imaginary surrealistic city, interspersed with short chapters of dramatized dialogue between the historical characters Marco Polo and Kublai Khan. Their conversation takes place in a garden somewhere in the kingdom of Kublai Khan (though it seems to exist more in a timeless void), and the city descriptions

are set within Polo's account of his travels to the Mongol emperor. The cities themselves are what stand out here. Take Armilla, for example, a city which "has no walls, no ceilings, no floors: it has nothing that makes it seem a city, except the water pipes that rise vertically where the houses should be and spread out horizontally where the floors should be: a forest of pipes that end in taps, showers, spouts, overflows." One can often see nymphs and naiads bathing in the tubs or showering or combing their hair amidst the tangle of pipes that make up Armilla. This is just one among the many refreshingly witty collage-cities that make up the work. It's a very fun book and well-worth the time.

Reviewed by David Cevoli

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
by E.L. Konigsburg

The classic art history mystery! The book is much more enjoyable when not forced to read it in fifth grade. The mystery takes place when two runaways hide out in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and a new sculpture is bought—controversial over its price. The book has won the Newbery award and an Author's Afterword has been added to bring some facts in the book up to date. A fine piece of children's literature for all ages.

Reviewed by Alicia Gibb

continued on next page

PMC LIBRARY RECOMMENDS Continued

The Archive

Edited by Charles Merewether

The Archive is a collection of fundamental essays by influential artists and theorists on the role of archives in modern art and history. It surveys ways in which the archive has become crucial in visual culture's exploration of history, memory, and identity. The book delves into the multiplicity of our evolving notions of the archive as both an idea and a physical place. Not just historical allegory, The Archive illuminates the practice of artists such as Susan Hiller, Ilya Kabakov, Thomas Hirshhorn, Renée Green, and The Atlas Group, balanced with important writings by Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Sigmund Freud.

Reviewed by Laena McCarthy

Blow-up and Other Stories

By Julio Cortazar

Most often associated with the ill-conceited novelty novel "Hopscotch," an exercise in tedium unanimously hailed as a masterpiece by postmodern-hungry academics and critics, Cortázar's talent was in fact best suited for the short story form. Here, the wizardry and inventiveness of the same writer who produced that 600-page bore whose sole offering was that it could be read

from any starting point—backwards or forwards—are distilled into wonderfully wrought worlds governed by the fantastical and mysterious. Though an uneven collection on the whole, "Blow-up and other stories" is worth the cost of a late-return fine for—if nothing else—the story "Axolotl," in which the narrator's obsessions with axolotls, "the larval stage (provided with gills) of a species of salamander of the genus *Ambystoma*," triggered one day by his off-hand decision to visit the aquarium at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris and furthered by his uncontrollable daily returns, "watching them, observing their immobility, their faint movements," finally manifests itself when he inexplicably transforms into one himself. Or so we're told—in the first paragraph. Yet—as with any great hook—we read on, mesmerized. Discover Cortázar the technician; leave Cortázar the grandiloquent novelist to that professor that nobody likes.

Reviewed by Brendan Curley

AWARDS

Karyn Hinkle is the recipient of the 2007 Celine Palatsky Travel Award, given by the New York Chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NY). The award will allow her to attend the annual conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) being held in Atlanta at the end of April.

SILSSA Election Results:

President: Louis Munoz
Vice-President: Julie May
Secretary: Alicia Gibb
Treasurer: Romel Espinel

LETTER TO KEYWORD:

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Caroline Ward was honored by the Association for Library Service to Children's Distinguished Service Awards (article by Jason Wells).

Although I am not on the Library Media Studies track, her course, Literature and Literacy for Children, standouts as one of the highlights during my graduate studies at Pratt SILS. Caroline brought her knowledge and passion on children's literature to all of her sessions. The selections of books were both diverse, educational, and entertaining. And, most importantly, Caroline provided her students with insight and advice on the library profession and about professional development.

Rebecca Gordon

Kurt Vonnegut Jr., 1922-2007

by David O'Neil

David O'Neil

"Requiem"

When the last living thing
has died on account of us,
how poetical it would be
if Earth could say,
in a voice floating up
perhaps
from the floor
of the Grand Canyon,
"It is done."

People did not like it here.

~Kurt Vonnegut Jr., 1922-2007, from *A Man Without a Country*

[The photo of Kurt Vonnegut is in the public domain and is republished here using a GNU Free Documentation License.]

Vonnegut wrote 14 novels – dark and funny, fractured creations – as well as short fiction, plays, and essays. He broke out of obscurity with *Slaughterhouse* in 1969. His work describes improbable worlds filled with loopy, science-fiction tinged creations, and is full of wry potshots at the universe. He hopes for human beings to be kind to one another, but doesn't bet on it. His irreverent and wise novels, sometimes racy, rough, and rebellious, struck a chord with young people in the late-sixties and has influenced generations of writers ever since. He wrote freely, using punctuation as he saw fit, blending fiction and non-fiction, and generally flouted authority both in form and content. His last book, *Man Without a Country*, was published in 2005. He died in New York City on April 11, 2007. His official web-site, Vonnegut.com, is now

comprised of just one image: an empty birdcage with an open door, and the words "Kurt Vonnegut 1922-2007". ☒



