
UCD

School of Information & Library Studies



December 2010 Newsletter

Message from the Head of School



Dear Colleagues,

It's been a busy semester with the school developing a number of new initiatives. Individuals who are not currently students at UCD can now audit any of our courses. A new module designed specifically for professionals has been implemented and is being offered in spring and autumn semesters. A new research project funded by Motorola Foundation was initiated. Two proposals for new teaching and learning initiatives for first stage students were funded. Our school was accepted into the iSchool organization, becoming the 4th school in Europe to be accepted. Staff members continued to publish and present their research, as well as garnish several honours. Details about these initiatives are provided below.

I'd like to thank all SILS administrative and academic staff, occasional lecturers, tutors and demonstrators, Brigid Laffan (College Principal, College of Human Sciences), the College of Human Sciences administrative staff, other colleagues throughout UCD, as well as professionals and alumni for their efforts on behalf of the school this year! I hope you all enjoy the holiday season and have a happy and healthy new year!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Diane'.

Diane H. Sonnenwald

Staff Accomplishments

Crystal Fulton received the American Society of Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) James M. Cretsos Leadership Award for her leadership contributions to the society. As one colleague wrote while nominating Crystal for this award: "Her enthusiasm and engagement have been consistently inspiring to me, both personally and professionally."

Crystal and her ASIS&T colleagues also received the ASIS&T Special Interest group



(SIG) Publication of the Year Award for their special section of the Bulletin of ASIS&T, and SIG Chapter of the Year Award for the many activities they held to promote research in information needs, seeking and use (SIG USE) at the ASIS&T annual conference. Crystal also gave two invited presentations on blogging to the College of Human Sciences Teaching & Learning Committee and UCD IT Seminar.

Lee Komito has written a paper, *Migrants' information practices and use of social media in Ireland: Networks and community*, in collaboration with **Jessica Bates**. The paper has been accepted for presentation at iConference 2011, which takes place February 8—11, 2011, in Seattle. Lee was also invited to participate in workshop sponsored by European Commission: *Understanding the role of ICT in the integration of Immigrant and Ethnic Minorities (IEM)*, 23 November, Brussels.



In commemoration of its ten year anniversary, the IRCHSS has published *Mosaic - A Celebration of Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences*. In the book, twenty-seven of the many projects funded by the IRCHSS are featured. One project included in this publication is a two-year study conducted by Lee Komito on the use of social media by migrants in Ireland. This longitudinal study looks at the impact of social media on information needs and information seeking strategies, as well as communication patterns and social life. Preliminary analysis has already indicated that social media enables the circulation of information amongst people in geographically dispersed groups, information which gives a sense of community.

Claire McGuinness recently published a paper with a MLIS student, M.G. Flynn, in the *Health Information & Libraries Journal*. The paper, [Hospital clinicians' information behaviour and attitudes towards the 'Clinical Informationist': An Irish survey](#), is available online.



Clare Thornley has published the results of some of her research on the privacy and management issues of RFID implementation in libraries. The paper, titled *The application of RFIDs in libraries: an assessment of technological, management and professional issues*, was co-authored with three colleagues. The [paper](#) will appear in *The International Journal of Information Management*. Please contact Clare if you have implemented RFID technology in your library as she will be carrying out some more research in this area soon. Brian Hegarty and Clare have published an article, *With your unconstraining voice still persuade us to rejoice: Poetry promotion in public libraries*, in *An Leabharlann: The Irish Library*, volume 19, issue 2, pages 25-29

Diane H. Sonnenwald and Monica Lassi published a paper in the journal, *Information Research*. The paper is titled: [Identifying factors that may impact the adoption and use of a social science collaboratory: A synthesis of previous research](#). They also presented a paper, titled *An introduction to a Library and Information Science collaboratory*, at the IFLA satellite



conference on Cooperation and Collaboration in Teaching and Research, August 2010. Diane and Hanna M. Söderholm, published a paper, [*Visioning future emergency healthcare collaboration: Perspectives from large and small medical centers*](#), in the *Journal of the American Society of Information Science & Technology*.

Diane recently co-chaired the [ACM Group Conference](#) in collaboration with Wayne Lutters, and she delivered the conferring address at the recent UCD Bachelors of Arts degree award ceremony 7 December. She also gave two talks and held a workshop at the National Taiwan Normal University, Chengshi University and Shih Hsin University in Taiwan while visiting there in November.

Judith Wusteman gave two research presentations this autumn. One presentation, titled *Virtual Research Environments: The Future of Digital Heritage*, was given at the [Second Universitas 21 Digital Humanities](#) conference, held at the University of Birmingham in September. ([Universitas 21](#) is an international network of 23 leading research-intensive universities in fifteen countries.) The second presentation, titled *OJAX++: Virtual Research Environment*, was given at the Industry Focused SFI/ISIN Showcase in SFI Funded Software Research in Dublin on 19 October.



Nail Watts, SILS PhD student, published a paper, [*Reflecting on models for online learning in theory and practice*](#), in the online journal of the All Ireland Society of Higher Education (AISHE). Niall also presented a paper titled *Approaches to history taking in medical education* at the Association for Learning Technology Conference (ALT-C) held in September.



The John Dean & Mary Burke Research Scholarship



As announced previously a new scholarship fund to honour Professor Mary Burke who retired after 32 years of service at UCD has been established. Per Mary's request this scholarship is being renamed to the John Dean & Mary Burke Research Scholarship in Information & Library Studies. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to research students at SILS who have demonstrated financial need. Mary has requested that the name of the fund be changed to the John Dean & Mary Burke Research Scholarship.

This past year the fund has provided financial support to Ashwin Kailasa. The title of Ashwin's thesis is: *What is the role of librarians in supporting biochemistry research in Irish universities?* This research investigates how Science Librarians can best offer research support for biochemistry PhD researchers. To this end he is exploring the research information needs of biochemistry Ph.D. researchers and the practices and perspectives of academic staff in biochemistry and science in Irish universities.



Ashwin greatly appreciates the scholarship. He explains:

“I am grateful to have received support through the Mary Burke Research Scholarship Fund this year. Without this financial assistance it would have been extremely difficult for me to continue my research, especially in the current financial climate. This scholarship fund highlights the commitment of SILS in supporting its research students and I hope that even more students can benefit from this in the future.”

To help grow the fund, Mary has issued us a challenge. She will match up to € 5,000 donated to the fund this year. If you were considering making a donation to the fund, why not do so now so that your donation will contribute twice as much to the fund through Mary’s generosity?

To make a donation, please contact Claire Nolan by e-mail at Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie or by phone at 01 716 7055.

Donors to the Mary Burke Scholarship Fund Autumn 2010

Dr. Jessica Bates
Ms. Marie Burke
Professor John Dean
Ms. Noreen Hayes
Francis Boucher Hayes
Ms. Aoife Lawton
Professor Aidan Moran

Dr. Marie Ni Chiolla Phadraid
Ms. Marjory Sliney
Professor Diane H. Sonnenwald
Dr. Norman Su
Dr. Claire Thornley
Anonymous Donors (2)
UCD School of Information & Library Studies

Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed this autumn and earlier!

Opportunity to Audit Courses @ SILS

There is now the opportunity to audit courses at SILS. Auditing courses provides a unique opportunity to obtain new knowledge and skills without a large investment in resources. Auditing can be ideal if you are:



- a professional who wishes to participate in continuing professional education, learning about current state-of-the-art and future developments in particular topic areas;
- an individual who is considering a career change and wants to explore a new subject; or
- a grandparent who wishes to learn about today's social media to better communicate with grandchildren.

When auditing a course you have the opportunity to attend all course lectures and any labs and/or tutorials offered in conjunction with lectures. Typically each course meets for two hours per week, for 12 weeks.

All courses offered by SILS during the spring semester can be audited. The cost is only €190 per course - less than €8 per hour of course lecture. Of course, you can still also take courses for university credit as an occasional student. Course offered during the spring semester are:

- IS 10030: Information Design, Thurs 13:00-13:50, & Fri 14:00-14:50
- IS 10040: Papyrus to Cyberspace: Information & Society, Tues 9:00-9:50 & Thurs 9:00-9:50

- IS 20030: Social Informatics, Mon 11:00-11:50 & Wed 12:00-12:50
- IS 20060: Information Design & Desktop Publishing, Mon 14:00-14:50 & either Wed 14:00-14:50 or Wed 15:00-15:50
- IS 20090: Web 2.0 & Social Media, Wed 10:00-10:50 & Fri 9:00-9:50

- IS 30050: Information Architecture, Mon 11:00-11:50 & Wed 12:00-12:50

- IS 40030: Information Behaviour in the 21st Century, Wed 15:00-16:50
- IS 40430: Professional Issues in Information and Library Careers, Thurs 16:00-17:50
- IS 40480: The Teaching Librarian, Fri 10:00-11:50
- IS 40520: Organization of Information, Cataloguing & Metadata, Wed 14:00-14:50 & either Wed 13:00-13:50 or Wed 17:00-17:50
- IS 40560: Digital Libraries, Thurs 10:00-11:50

For further information and to register for courses, see:
<http://www.ucd.ie/sils/graduatestudents/occasionalstudents/>
You can also contact the SILS school administrator, Claire Nolan, at 01 716 7055 and Claire.nolan@ucd.ie.



Hope you can join us for a course this spring!

Congratulations to Laura Toogood, PhD



Laura Toogood successfully defended her PhD dissertation on 6 December. She will be making minor modifications to her dissertation, titled *The impact of technology on community groups and voluntary organisations: An Irish case study*, before submitting the final version to UCD. Laura was the recipient of a 4-year UCD Ad Astra Research Scholarship while at SILS. She is currently working at BBC in London. Laura writes: "Whilst researching for Current Affairs at the BBC, I have been able to utilise many of the skills that I learnt during my undergraduate and postgraduate degree. I have also found Information Studies useful in journalism for my role as a feature writer for the Irish Daily Mail and Irish Mail on Sunday. I have a keen interest in social media in the business environment. My doctorate in community and social informatics has positioned me at the forefront of this developing discipline."

Laura's primary supervisor was Lee Komito. Her PhD Examiners were Jessica Bates and [Dr. Claire McInerney](#) (Associate Professor and Chair of the Department in Information and Library Science, [School of Communication and Information](#)) Rutgers University. Diane Sonnenwald chaired the viva.

While here, [Dr. Claire McInerney](#) also gave a presentation on *Communication Interventions for Improved Diabetic Care*. Claire and her colleagues are working with consultants introducing new ways of sharing information between patients and consultants in order to more effectively help patients manage their diabetes



Claire McInerney, Lee Komito, Jessica Bates, Laura Toogood, and Diane Sonnenwald after the viva

SILS Joins iSchools Organization



This autumn the [iSchools](#) accepted into its collective of information schools dedicated to advancing the information field in the 20th century. The addition of UCD means the iSchools now number 28 academic institutions spanning eight countries worldwide.

"We are delighted to include University College Dublin as a member iSchool," said Harry Bruce, Dean of the University of Washington Information School and Chair of the iCaucus, governing body of the iSchools. "UCD's commitment to education and research mesh perfectly with the goals of my fellow deans in the iCaucus. It also furthers our vision for seeing the iSchools movement spread around the world."

The iSchools organization was founded in 2005 by a worldwide collective of Information Schools dedicated to advancing the information field in the 21st Century. These schools, colleges, and departments have been newly created or are evolving from programs formerly focused on specific tracks such as information technology, library science, informatics, and information science. While each individual iSchool has its own strengths and specializations, together they share a fundamental interest in the relationships between information, people, and technology.

Other iSchools include:

In Europe: Humboldt-Universität Berlin; Royal School of Library and Information Science, Denmark; University of Sheffield, UK

In Asia: Singapore Management University; Wuhan University, China

In North America: University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; Carnegie Mellon University; Drexel University; Florida State University; Georgia Institute of Technology; University of Illinois; Indiana University; University of Maryland; UMBC; University of Michigan; University of North Carolina; University of North Texas; University of Pittsburgh; The Pennsylvania State University; Syracuse University; University of Pittsburgh; Rutgers University; Syracuse University; University of Texas, Austin; University of Toronto; University of Washington.

Sonnenwald elected President of

For the first time, the [American Society of Information Science and Technology](#) (ASIS&T) has elected a President from outside North America. Professor Diane H. Sonnenwald was recently elected as President of the Society. In 2010-2011, she will serve as President-Elect, in 2011-2012 as President, and in 2012-2013 as Past President.

Founded in 1937 as a service organisation focused on the development of microfilm as an aid to information dissemination, today the Society is at the forefront in examining the technical bases, social consequences, and theoretical understanding of online databases, widespread use of databases in government, industry, and education, and the development of the Internet and World Wide Web. In a world where information is of central importance to personal, social, political, and economic progress, the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) leads the search for new and better theories, techniques, and technologies to improve access to information.

ASIS&T has members from 50 countries worldwide including leading academics in information science, computer science, linguistics, management, librarianship, engineering, law, medicine, chemistry, and education.

Grants @ SILS



It is increasingly important for academic units to bring in funding to support research and new initiatives. With government budget cuts to higher education such funding often provides the necessary resources to do world class research and provide meaning learning experiences for students at all stages. This year staff at SILS have submitted a variety of proposals, many of which have been successful. In addition several multi-year grants continue to fund research.

Awards continuing in 2010

Lee Komito & Jessica Bates: Social media, information & community amongst foreign nationals in Ireland, funded by the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences

Judith Wusteman, OJAX++: A next generation collaborative research environment, funded by Science Foundation Ireland

Diane Sonnenwald, Crystal Fulton, Jessica Bates, Claire McGuinness, Developing ePracticums, funded by the UCD National Digital Learning Resources programme

Diane Sonnenwald, Establishing Relationships with Taiwanese Universities, funded by UCD International Student Recruitment Seed Funding Scheme

New awards received in 2010

Crystal Fulton & Rita Collins (UCD School of Nursing), Optimizing health for older people: Building an international collaboration to explore health information literacy, funded by the UCD Seed Funding Scheme

Crystal Fulton: Learning to teach; Teaching to learn, funded by the UCD Presidential Teaching Award

Andrea Johnson & Lee Komito, Creating video essays, funded by the UCD National Digital Learning Resources programme

Lee Komito, Impact of the social web on participation, migration, and community formation by non-nationals in Toronto, funded by the International Council for Canadian Studies

Diane Sonnenwald & Pádraic Conway, Identifying contextual factors influencing mobile technology adoption & use in police work, funded by the Motorola Foundation

Clare Thornley with Alan Smeaton, Dublin City University, New approaches to measuring impact

Judith Wusteman & Claire McGuinness, ePeer Mentoring for Stage 1 Students, funded by the UCD National Digital Learning Resources programme



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CANADIAN STUDIES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL D'ÉTUDES CANADIENNES

The Reflective Professional: A New Course for Professionals

For the first time, SILS is offering a 5-credit course specifically created for professionals. The purpose of this course is to offer professionals the opportunity to reflect on their work experiences, and learn from this reflection. A participant who successfully completes this course will be able to:



1. Critically discuss the roles and responsibilities of information and library professionals
2. Reflect on their professional work place experiences, and use that reflection to enhance their future work.

The course, IS40540 the Reflective Professional, is restricted to professionals with at least 5 years of work experience as an information and library professional and who are not currently enrolled as students in degree programmes at UCD SILS. This 5-credit graduate level module is being offered in the spring 2011 semester. It has been approved by the LAI Education Committee.

Detailed information about the course is available at:

<http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/is40540%20the%20reflective%20professional%20description.pdf>

An application/registration form is available at:

<http://www.ucd.ie/sils/graduatestudents/occasionalstudents/>

Professionals should register by 17 January to take this course during the spring semester. The cost of this course is €700.

Dr. Barbara Traxler Brown Retirement

In October 2010 Dr. Barbara Traxler Brown retired. Barbara has been a member of the academic staff here at SILS since 1980. For many years she was the director of two academic programmes: the Master in Library and Information Science and the Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science. She was also the Erasmus and Junior Year Abroad liaison. In addition during her career here at UCD she periodically served as Acting Head of School, organised several international conferences, and procured EU funding providing full tuition costs for postgraduate students.

Barbara requested that there be no reception in her honour. Instead, she asked that funds be collected in her honour to provide support to help catalogue and preserve materials pertaining to the history of SILS, and periodically display the materials at special events. To pay tribute to Barbara and to thank her for her many contributions, we are delighted to honour her in this manner.

To contribute, please send your donations to Ms. Claire Nolan, Administrator, UCD SILS, Belfield, Dublin 4. Alternatively you can send e-mail to Claire at Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie. Any amount of donation is very welcomed. Thank you in advance for helping us to celebrate Dr. Traxler Brown's career and contributions.

Giving to Others @ SILS

Undeterred by the snow, the students in IS40530: Information & Reference Services celebrated the end of the semester in style with an Open House, entitled *Strictly Come Wiki*, to showcase their wiki reference collection projects. A potluck lunch accompanied the social event. In addition, the students amassed 12 boxes of donated clothing, toys and food for Women's Aid Refuge, a local women's shelter which will house up to a dozen women and their families during the Christmas period. Penney's generously contributed 100 euro in vouchers to the charity drive. Dr. Crystal Fulton taught IS40530 this semester.



Alan Doyle shows his group's wiki to Maria Souden, SILS postdoc.

Calling All SILS Alumni!

A number of alumni are working with SILS to establish a SILS Alumni Association. We would like to hear from you regarding your preferences for alumni activities, etc. Please take a moment to answer the [Alumni Questionnaire](#). Thank you!



Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year to All!