UCD
School of Information & Library Studies

July Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

Congratulations to the undergraduate and graduate diploma (GDIP) students who completed their degree in May! Well done! And best of luck to the MLIS and MA students as they work on their theses this summer.

We've been preparing for the upcoming academic year for many weeks now. In our taught masters programmes, i.e., the masters in library and information studies (MLIS) and graduate diploma in library and information studies, all elective modules will now worth 5 credits, and required/core modules will be 7.5 or 10 credits. This weighting reflects the amount of learning and work expected from students in the different types of modules. We are adding several new elective modules to the MLIS curriculum as well. These include Systems Analysis and Design, Information Architecture and Research Practice. The latter will give students the opportunity to collaborate with academic staff on a project. We are also planning to offer MLIS students the opportunity to do small group capstone projects as an alternative to an individual thesis. These changes emerged from discussions among staff, students, alumni and colleagues in an effort to keep our programmes cutting edge and relevant.

In closing I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make my first year in Dublin such a rewarding year. It's been a real pleasure meeting and working with so many talented people.

With best wishes,

Diane

Staff Accomplishments

Ian Cornelius made a presentation during a panel session at the 7th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS) 21-24 June 2010 in London. The title of the panel was "Unity in LIS theory, for and against: Unity in diversity or irreconcilable conflict?"

Crystal Fulton and her colleague, Rita Collins, in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, received a grant from the UCD Seed Funding Scheme to support their project titled Optimizing Health for Older People: Building an International Collaboration to Explore Health Information Literacy. Crystal also participated in UCD's evaluation of the newest version of Blackboard during the spring semester. Her paper, An ordinary life in the round: Elfreda Annmary Chatman (1942-2002), was recently published in the journal, *Libraries & the Cultural Record*, vol. 45, issue 2, pages 238-259. The full text of this paper is available through Project Muse at: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/libraries_and_culture/toc/lac.45.2.html

Lee Komito presented a paper, "Virtual community revisited: Migrant's use of social media in Ireland", at the Anthropological Association of Ireland (AAI) Annual Conference, Ethnography Beyond Ethos?, held at Trinity College Dublin, 7-8 May 2010. Lee also reviewed three projects funded under 7th Framework for Directorate General Information Society and Media of the European Commission during April-June 2010.

Clare Thornley organized and presented at a panel session during the 7th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS) held 21-24 June 2010 in London. The title of the panel was "Unity in LIS theory, for and against: Unity in diversity or irreconcilable conflict?"

Diane H. Sonnenwald gave two talks at the 7th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science (CoLIS) held 21-24 June in London. The first talk, "Identifying factors that may impact the adoption and use of a collaboration within LIS", was co-authored with Monica Lassi, one of Diane's PhD students in Sweden. The second talk was titled "Library & Information Science: An Infrastructure Discipline".
Diane also gave an invited keynote presentation, titled "The changing landscape of academia: Implications for the education of information professionals supporting academia", at the Irish National University Library Staff (INULS) Conference held 23-24 June at UCD. Diane's review of the book, *E-Collaboration in Modern Organizations: Initiating and Managing Distributed Projects*, was recently published in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, vol. 61*, issue 3, pages 633-634. Diane was also invited to be a reviewer for the European Science Foundation.

Judith Wusteman is a member of the programme committee for the upcoming Irish Human computer Interaction Conference, iHCI 2010. The conference will be held 2-3 Sept 2010 at Dublin City University. Judith was also invited to be a reviewer for the European Science Foundation.

Two new postdoctoral fellows

    Please join us in welcoming Maria Souden and Norman Su to our school. Each will begin a three-year postdoctoral position with us during the autumn. These positions are funded through the Irish Higher Education Authority (HEA) Strategically and Important Vulnerable Subjects Programme.

    Maria Souden is completing her PhD at the University of Michigan School of Information. Her research interests include information behaviour; health information seeking, provision, and use; information in the chronic illness experience; information, communication, and learning; library practice; and community engagement. Maria's dissertation research, *The Information Experiences of People with Chronic Illness as Shaped by Daily Life and Healthcare Contexts,* is a multi-level analysis that looks at the roles and meanings of information in dealing with chronic illness from a patient-cantered perspective and examines how the patient experience of information is shaped by the healthcare context. Her work was acknowledged at the 2010 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Conference and received an American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) "Best Information Behaviour Poster" award in 2008. Maria is also the recipient of a Phi Beta Mu Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and has served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Education in Library and information Science* and as an ASIST-SIG USE judge.

In addition to pursuing research related to the experience of health information and its use in healthcare settings, Maria will be continuing work with her mentor, Dr. Joan Durrance, on a project seeking to distil best practice models for public library community engagement and hopes to contribute to professional librarianship practice in Ireland as well. Maria brings with her diverse work experience in business, industry, non-profit organizations, and educational settings. She spent 15 years in marketing research, account planning and strategic marketing communications, working with a variety of business and non-profit organizations to help them better understand and communicate effectively with their key audiences. Maria has a Master's of Science in Information from the University of Michigan and a BA in English from Michigan State University.

Maria is moving to Dublin with her husband, a freelance Web developer, long-time techie, and all-around geek, their 5-year old daughter, Maya, and 18-month old black lab mix puppy, Maggie. She is looking forward to the adventure of overseas life and the opportunity to engage in LIS scholarship with colleagues and students at SILS. When not working, Maria enjoys eating well, live music, and being a mom.

Norman Makoto Su recently graduated in 2009 with his PhD in Information and Computer Sciences at the Department of Informatics of the University of California, Irvine. His research interests include human-computer interaction, computer-supported collaborative work, and ubiquitous computing. Fundamentally, he is interested in how people, in their everyday social spheres, are appropriating and shaped by technology. His PhD thesis, *Temporal Patterns of Communication*, utilized a mixed-methods approach to discern how information workers temporally appropriate communication mediums to deftly accomplish work. For example, he examined the relation between communication chains—interactions (e.g., IM, email, face-to-face, and phone) that happen one after another in quick succession—and worker stress. Norman's recent fieldwork drawing from sociological perspectives has looked into the diverse everyday practices of nomadic workers, knowledge management professionals, and head-to-head fighting video game players. In these works, he draws heavily from actor-network theory and social constructionist lenses.

A Californian native, Norman is looking forward to actively collaborating with colleagues and interacting with students at the University College Dublin. While he's lived abroad in Japan before, he is excited about his first chance to live in Europe. He plans to take advantage of the rich cultural heritage in Ireland by conducting fieldwork in spaces unique to the country. When time permits, Norman enjoys eating, meeting new people, reading good books and playing piano badly. Norman will join SILS in early October.

Prestigious UCD Presidential Teaching Award to Crystal Fulton

Crystal Fulton is a 2010 recipient of the prestigious UCD Presidential Teaching Award. This award is only given to two academic staff members throughout the university. It is given in recognition of the recipient's track record of effective teaching and learning, including the adoption of a leadership role in curriculum design, programme development and per mentoring in teaching and learning.

The award also comes with a grant of €5000 to support a project. Crystal's project, Learning to teach; Teaching to learn, will offer doctoral students the opportunity to explore effective means of creating curricula, presenting content, engaging students in learning, and integrating e-learning tools in teaching and learning in an actual undergraduate class environment through a new module aimed at doctoral students. Doctoral students will develop and offer sessions for the undergraduate module, *IS20090: Web 2.0 and Social Media.* IS20090 provides the ideal context for teaching and learning development, since it offers undergraduate exploration, evaluation, and use of a wide range of social computing tools in conjunction with e-learning.

Introducing SILS External Examiner: Thomas A. Finholt

SILS' external examiner, Thomas A. Finholt, visited SILS May 25-27. Tom is Associate Dean for Research and Innovation and Professor in the School of Information at the University of Michigan (UM). He received his Ph.D. in Social and Decision Sciences from Carnegie Mellon University and his B.A. from Swarthmore College. Dr. Finholt's research focuses on the design, deployment, and use of cyberinfrastructure in science and engineering. He was a co-developer of the world's first operational collaboratory, a co-founder of the Collaboratory for Research on Electronic Work (CREW), and the inaugural director of the NSF's summer research institute for the science of socio-technical systems. Currently, Dr. Finholt is the PI on several NSF-supported projects, including a Virtual Organizations as Socio-technical Systems (VOSS) award to study large, cyberinfrastructure-enabled scientific collaborations, such as Open Science Grid. In this work he is particularly focused on computational mediation of the work of organizing, such as trust formation and maintenance. Dr. Finholt is also leading the VIrtual Space Interaction Testbed (VISIT) project at the University of Michigan. VISIT is an effort to use ultra-resolution displays as environments for geographically distributed collaboration within and beyond the UM campus.

In his role as external examiner, Tom reviewed the standards and integrity of our taught modules to help ensure fairness, validity and rigor of assessment, as well as quality of instruction, and he generously provided advice on strategic directions for the school.

During his visit Tom also gave a thought-provoking research presentation, titled "Collaboration in the wild: Designing as if work context mattered." In his talk Tom argued that we should design systems as if work context mattered. He proposed an agenda for "collaboration in the wild" that places a premium on transparency, robustness and mutability. That is, functionality and operation should be clear, performance should be consistent, and users should be able to bend technology to meet emergent needs. This talk was co-sponsored by the UCD Social Science Research Centre.

Presentation by International Expert Stephanie Teasley

We were very fortunate to have Stephanie Teasley visit SILS May 25. Stephanie is a Research Associate Professor and Director of the Doctoral Program in the School of Information at the University of Michigan. She received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Teasley's research focuses on technology use to support key aspects of collaboration for both co-located groups and distributed groups. She has extensive experience assessing work practices and user needs, and

designing, implementing, and evaluating technology use. She has conducted her work in multiple settings including education, business, and scientific communities. Currently, Dr. Teasley is the PI on several NSF-supported projects, including a Virtual Organizations as Socio-technical Systems (VOSS) award and a CreativeIT award. She is also the Director of the Usability, Support and Evaluation (USE) Lab in the Digital Media Commons where she works on the development and evaluation of collaborative tools for academic research and teaching in higher education.

Stephanie's presentation, titled "Learning Management Systems (LMS) in Higher Education: Efficiency or Innovation?", presented research conducted in the USE Lab at the University of Michigan exploring the perceived benefits and actual use of a LMS by instructors and students when the system supplements traditional face-to-face classroom instruction. In this talk, Stephanie presented data from online surveys, system log data, and case studies to examine the current practice of university teaching with a LMS. Her findings suggest that despite the growing number of tools available in the LMS, at present they are not generally changing teaching practice other than simply providing more time for instructors to be the "sage on the stage". In designing educational technology, she suggests that we need to think about how existing and new tools can transform the role of the instructor in the classroom and move away from practices that are based on the assumption that learning is limited to in-class time. However, for any tool to play a significant role in shaping education, LMS implementers need to help instructors and students learn to use them in innovative and meaningful ways. Stephanie's talk was co-sponsored by the UCD Social Science Research Centre.

Open Position: Lecturer in Information and Library Studies (*Ref: 004094*)

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Information and Library Studies, located within the UCD School of Information and Library Studies. An appointment will be offered on either a 5-year or permanent basis. The appointed Lecturer will teach within the School and contribute significantly to the quality expansion of research in one or more of the following areas:

Metadata, information technology design and evaluation, computer-supported cooperative work, health science informatics, human information behaviour, management in information organizations, information retrieval, digital libraries, information architecture, classification, information literacy, and/or related topics regarding the interplay of people, information, technology and social structures.

S/he will also be required to participate effectively in the School's graduate and undergraduate programmes and to contribute to the academic life of the School, College and University. More detailed information can be found at: http://www.ucd.ie/hr/jobvacancies/

Closing date: 23:30hrs on Thursday 30th September 2010. *Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified. UCD is unable to accept late applications.*

Informal enquiries can be sent to the Head of School, Prof. Diane H. Sonnenwald, at Diane.Sonnenwald@ucd.ie, +35317167799.

All current recruitment which is taking place within UCD is dependent on non-Exchequer, external and self-funding sources of finance.