UCD
School of Information & Library Studies

October Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to launch the inaugural edition of the UCD School of Information & Library Studies newsletter.

I would like to thank Dr. Ian Cornelius for his hard work in the past years as Head of School. The staff and I appreciate his efforts. Ian is now on sabbatical and has plans to retire next August. We wish him the best on his sabbatical.

Thanks also to staff and colleagues who have welcomed me and my family to Dublin. I arrived in Dublin Sept 1, and my spouse arrived Sept 7. We're still unpacking but enjoying the many things Dublin has to offer, including wonderful walks along the sea.

In September we welcomed new students to our school. 53 full-time and 7 part-time students joined our Master's in Library & Information Science (LIS) programme. 3 students began our Master of Arts programme and 15 joined our Graduate Diploma programme. Our undergraduate modules continue to be popular, with over 200 students taking our Information Design module. In total we are offering 9 undergraduate modules this semester with over 1000 students enrolled in these modules.

As you know, many in Ireland and beyond face numerous new - and a few perennial - challenges. It is my hope that we can find innovative ways of working and collaborating with professional organizations such as the Library Association Ireland, businesses, non-profit organizations, and other academic and research units at UCD and elsewhere to help address these challenges. Building on our complementary strengths and resources to solve problems and provide benefits to all collaborators can help us navigate these demanding times. Please don't hesitate to contact me with suggestions regarding ways we might work together.

Best regards,

Diane

Diane H. Sonnenwald

Staff Accomplishments

Eight research papers, one editorial and one book review written by SILS staff - Lee Komito, Judith Wuseman, Jessica Bates, Claire McGuinness, Barbara Traxler Brown, Clare Thornley, Mary Burke, Ian Cornelius and Crystal Fulton – and SILS student Mary O'Farrell were featured in a special volume of the peer-reviewed international journal, *ASLIB Proceedings*, volume 61, issue 3. Access to the papers is available at: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/Insight/viewContainer.do;jsessionid=82CD5E329FED4D B10D39238D6BA23CFC?containerType=Issue&containerId=15001506

Judith Wuseman edited a special issue on virtual research environments for the peer-reviewed journal *Library Hi Tech,* volume 27, issue 2. Diane Sonnenwald also published a paper in this issue. For access to the special issue, see: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/Insight/viewContainer.do;jsessionid=82CD5E329FED4D B10D39238D6BA23CFC?containerType=Issue&containerId=15001413

Crystal Fulton co-edited a special peer-reviewed topics issue of an international journal, *Library Trends*, volume 57, number 4. Crystal also published a paper in this issue. For access to this issue, please see: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/library_trends/toc/lib.57.4.html.

In addition Lee Komito published a paper in the journal, Anthropology in Action, volume 16, issue 1. For access, see: http://berghahn.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/berghahn/antiac/2009/00000016/000 00001;jsessionid=724fcfk2tai7c.alice.

Claire McGuinness gave a keynote presentation at the British Business Schools' Librarians' Group Annual Conference and made a research presentation at the Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference held at Cardiff University. She has also has been asked to serve a second term on the editorial board of the peer-reviewed international journal, *Journal of Information Literacy*.

Diane Sonnenwald recently gave an invited talk at the Department of Computer Science at Warwick University and served as an external Ph.D. examiner there.

Judith Wuseman gave an invited presentation at the Digital Libraries module held at Tilburg University, and was invited to join the editorial board of the peer-reviewed journal, *Journal of Emerging Technologies in Web Intelligence* (JETWI). Judith also served on the program committee for the Irish Human-Computer Interaction Conference recently held at Trinity College Dublin.

Clare Thornley presented a paper titled "Ethical dilemmas concerning RFIDS applications in libraries" with colleagues from the Centre for Applied Philosophy and

Public Ethics in Australia at the Eight International Conference of Computer Ethics: Philosophical Enquiry in June.

Crystal Fulton shared with libraries throughout Ireland and the Library Association Ireland the results of a research project she and her students conducted on the quality of interactions at library information desks. The project will be expanded this year as part of the module, Information Resource Management, which Crystal teaches.

Mary Burke's Retirement

Professor Mary Burke is retiring from UCD. Mary joined the staff at the Department of Library and Information Studies at UCD in October 1977 after four years as an information scientist at the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards. Before that, she completed a PhD in Chemistry at UCD and an MSc in Information Studies at the University of Sheffield (UK). She was the first lecturer appointed to join Professor John Dean in the newly established Department of Library and Information Studies (DepLIS), which subsequently became the School of Information and Library Studies (SILS).

Mary was responsible for teaching and research in the areas of information retrieval and digital libraries and has been a catalyst in the adoption of information technology by Irish libraries for over thirty years. She has been Head of the Department / School of Information and Library Studies from 1993 to 2006 with occasional breaks. She has made a significant contribution to Information Technology strategy and other policy areas in UCD through membership on Faculty and College committees, interview boards and working groups.

In addition Mary has been active in various roles in the Library Association of Ireland, including as a Member of the Executive Board and of the Education Committee. She has been a member of the Member of the Editorial Board for Library and Information Science Research, Library Review and An Leabharlann. She has been External Examiner for many universities overseas, including current appointments at Northumbria University, the University of Sierra Leone and the University of Ulster. Mary has acted as advisor / consultant to many organizations including Telecom Eireann, the H W Wilson Company, and Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda.

A presentation and reception for Mary will take place on Friday, 16th October 2009 at 5.15pm in the Norah Greene Room, UCD, Belfield. If you'd like to attend the recpe4tion, please the SILS administrator, contact Claire Nolan by e-mail at Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie or 01 716 7055, before October 10.

A new scholarship fund to honour Professor Mary Burke who is retiring after 32 years of service at UCD has been established. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial

assistance to research students on MLitt / PhD programmes who have demonstrated financial need. Mary's intention is that the scholarship would encourage students to undertake research in Library and Information Studies. These range from Irish students who need financial support to students from developing countries. To donate to the fund, please contact Claire Nolan by e-mail at Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie or by phone at 01 716 7055.

Visiting Professional Scholar

We are very pleased to have Sophie Bury spending her sabbatical leave with us this semester. Sophie works as a business librarian at the Bronfman Business Library at York University, Canada. Her key duties there include providing reference and research assistance to business students and faculty, giving information literacy sessions, and looking after collections in specific business areas. While at our school Sophie is conducting a study investigating the continuing professional development needs of Irish library and information science professionals. Sophie's blog documenting aspects of her sabbatical visit can be found at http://sophiebury.ca/ .

Study Participants Sought

To investigate how distributed collaborative knowledge work is evaluated in organizations we would like to interview people who have either worked in project teams that include team members working in different locations and/or people who have managed such project teams. During the interview you will be asked to share your experiences and expertise regarding how distributed remote collaborative work is evaluated formally and informally. The interview will last approximately 1.5 hours. If you are willing to participate in an interview, please contact Diane Sonnenwald by e-mail at: Diane.Sonnenwald@ucd.ie or by phone at: 01 716 7799. Thanks in advance!

Alumni News

Just a reminder that SILS has an alumni group on Facebook. To join contact Claire Nolan at Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie or Crystal Fulton at Crystal.Fulton@ucd.ie.

If you're an alumnus and have personal news you'd like to share via our school's eNewsletter, please send your announcement to Claire Nolan, Claire.Nolan@ucd.ie.

Master Thesis Topics

Each year our MLIS students complete a Master's thesis. If you would like assistance in investigating problems that may also be suitable for master theses in information and/or library studies, please contact Clare Thornley at Clare.Thornley@ucd.ie. We will share your suggestions with staff and students to determine if a collaboration around the topic you suggest might be possible. We encourage students to select a topic and supervisor during the fall semester, finalizing their choice by the end of January. Most work on the theses is done during the spring and summer, with the final thesis submitted in September. Examples of possible master thesis topics include evaluation of technology and work processes, and investigation of information workflows within an organization.

Late Afternoon/Early Evening Modules offered this Spring

Individuals who have the equivalent of an undergraduate degree and some postgraduate training and/or work experience in information and library professions are welcomed to take modules at our school. Modules being taught in the spring semester in the late afternoon/early evening include: Book History (Tuesdays & Thursday, 3:00-4:00), Professional Issues in Librarianship (Wednesday, 4:00-6:00) and Special Topics-Theory Development (Mondays, 4:00-6:00). Modules start 18 January. The cost for taking a module is €700. A certificate of registration is issued on completion of the module. For more information, please see: http://www.ucd.ie/sils/occasional.htm.