Circle of Learning (COL) project leaders are planning the third annual COL face-to-face meeting to coincide with the 2012 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from June 4-7.

On Monday, June 4, students will attend career advisement sessions, discuss their progress in the program, and share presentations from their work to date. Sponsored by the San José State University School of Library and Information Science (SJSU SLIS), the COL mentors and advisors dinner that evening will provide an opportunity for students to network face-to-face with COL advisory board members and mentors.

The next day, Tuesday, June 5, the COL program will host a career chat event open to all conference participants. COL students will be participating in several panel presentations. All students will have the opportunity to volunteer in the SLIS booth in the exhibit hall.

Students are excited to network with leaders in the preservation and tribal library fields. Many plan to attend hands-on lab workshops on preservation techniques, as well as programs on grant-writing and resource collaboration.

Last June, COL students attended the American Library Association annual conference as a group.

Debbie Reese Brings Change through Blog
American Indians in Children’s Literature

COL student Debbie Reese shines the spotlight on the Arizona law that led to the recent shut-down of the Mexican American Studies Program in the Tucson Unified School District on her blog, American Indians in Children’s Literature (AICL).

Concerned librarians and educators quickly moved to seek a resolution from the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) at ALA’s Midwinter Meeting in Dallas this past January. Reese’s coverage of these events on AICL is referenced at the end of the OIF’s blog post.
Meet ALA Emerging Leader
Shannon Rosenbaum

San José State University School of Library and Information Science graduate student Shannon Rosenbaum was selected as an American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leader in 2012. The American Indian Library Association (AILA) sponsored her participation in this leadership program and provides her with a travel stipend to attend both the ALA Midwinter and Annual conferences in 2012.

Rosenbaum traveled to her first ALA Midwinter conference in Dallas this past January where she was assigned to the Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) 35-Year History Oral History project.

Rosenbaum’s selection for the LIRT Oral History project links her background in anthropology and history with her professional goals within the library and information science and preservation fields.

“I was fortunate to be selected for this project because I plan on going into museum work—hopefully archives and preservation. Oral histories are needed within most tribes throughout the country but many undertakings thus far have been poorly recorded and processed and don’t quite follow the necessary guidelines (according to the Oral History Association’s Best Principles and Practices).”

Student Assistant Amy Moore Creates COL Facebook Page

Amy Moore, COL student assistant, designed and launched the COL program’s new Facebook page that connects students and supporters of the program.

In January, she presented a series of Virtual COL Celebrations bringing COL staff and students together on the School’s web conferencing platform Blackboard Collaborate to share student success stories.

Since joining the Circle of Learning program at SLIS, Moore has begun a contract position in health information outreach with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine - New England Region. Most recently, she was awarded the 2011-2012 SJSU SLIS Kaiser Permanente Medical Librarianship Scholarship.

Lisa Dirks Named Student of the Year by the Aleut Corporation

Lisa Dirks, a research manager with the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, has received the 2011 Student of the Year Award from her regional Alaska Native Corporation—The Aleut Corporation.

She was one of several co-authors on the paper, “A Community Prevention Model to Prevent Children from Inhaling and Ingesting Harmful Legal Products,” which was published in 2012 by the peer-reviewed journal Evaluation and Program Planning.

Dirks holds a B.A. in Anthropology-Ethnology from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Health Science Administration from Northern Arizona University. Dirks is interested in special libraries, academic librarianship, and emerging technology career pathways. She would like to pursue a virtual internship during her Master of Library and Information Science studies at SJSU SLIS.
Since joining COL, language preservationist Susan Gehr has seen her consulting practice grow. She is currently contracted with the Center for Indian Community Development at Humboldt State University. The two projects concern their tribal languages collections.

Her proposal for the Society of American Archivists, a panel on community-based archives, was accepted for SAA 2012.

In addition, Gehr was invited by CoLang to teach the beginning course on Linguist’s Toolbox, an application for managing language data. This summer, Gehr will attend the Breath of Life conference at UC Berkeley in preparation for her SJSU master’s thesis.

Gena Peone Delivers

Diversity in the WorkPlace Presentation

Since joining COL, Gena Peone has been promoted to preservation specialist III at Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, in Spokane, Washington. She also has recently presented at a local consortium on diversity issues in the workplace.

Peone has been contracted to consult on an educational resource project about books relating to, about, and by regional tribes. This spring, Peone received a diversity fellowship from the American Association of Museums to attend their 106th Annual Meeting and MuseumExpo in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Jonna Paden volunteers with the Institute for Pueblo Indian Studies Library & Archives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is currently working with the library manager on a grant-funded plan to open the collection for accessibility to the public. This includes organizing, cataloging, buying material, database development, and outreach to the community.

This summer, she will be preparing her LIBR 200, Information and Society research paper, “The Effect of LCC and LCSH on Information Representation for American Indian and Indigenous Cultures,” for publication. This paper was submitted for consideration to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ Special Interest Group on Indigenous Matters.

Jonna Paden

Utilizes LIS Skills in Volunteer Position

Language Preservationist

Susan Gehr’s Consulting Practice Grows

Jonna Paden

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Circle of Learning advisory board members met with the COL project team (project co-directors Jane Fisher from SJSU SLIS and Liana Juliano from AILA, and Project Manager Heather Devine) at the 2012 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, Texas this past January.

COL advisory board members are professionals in the tribal library, preservation, academic, public, and school library fields. The board was formed to begin selection procedures for the scholarship program, review applications, develop guidelines for the mentoring program, and assist with student recruitment initiatives. It convenes twice yearly at ALA conferences to meet and advise COL project staff.

COL professional mentors have been matched with COL students in order to help them navigate the MLIS program by answering questions, helping students build professional networks, and offering encouragement and advice from their unique perspectives gained through many years of experience in the field.