

# CIRCLE OF LEARNING

## Jennifer Himmelreich Sponsored by ALA as 2013 ALA Emerging Leader



Jennifer Himmelreich was chosen as a member of the American Library Association (ALA) **Emerging Leaders Class of 2013**. The American Indian Library Association (AILA) is sponsoring her participation in the program. She attended the ALA Midwinter conference this January in Seattle, WA. Himmelreich's group is working with the Public Library Association's Conference Subcommittee to plan for the **PLA 2014 Conference** (March 11-15, in Indianapolis). "We will provide input as newer members of the library profession for programming. At ALA Midwinter we attended the PLA 2014 Conference Planning Meeting and we will meet during Annual in Chicago. In addition, for the next year to the conference, we will also assist the subcommittee with proposal reviews, conference planning and serve as program liaisons before and during the conference. The PLA project offers me the opportunity to gain the valuable skills and experience of planning a national conference that can be utilized throughout my career," said Himmelreich.

## Circle of Learning Scholars and Staff to Present at 2013 ATALM Conference in New Mexico

COL students and program staff will present the following sessions at the **2013 International Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums** to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from June 10-13th:

- **Susan Gehr, Tawa Ducheneaux, Jonna Paden** -- Access Matters: Planning Language and Cultural Documentation Projects
- **Lisa Dirks, Amy Moore, SJSU SLIS Professor Dr. Arglenda Friday** -- Health Literacy Development in Rural American Indian and Alaska Native Communities
- **Jennifer Himmelreich, Jerry Flanary** -- Cultivating Culture: Promising Virtual Practices for Indigenous Communities
- COL Project Manager **Heather Devine, Valarie Kingsland** -- Connecting Theory and Practice Through Collaborative Learning
- COL Project Manager **Heather Devine, and COL Scholars** -- Student Research Poster Session

Thanks to a generous grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in partnership with the American Indian Library Association, the San José State University School of Library and Information Science is providing 19 American Indian and Alaska Native students with financial assistance, a supportive Circle of Learning, and a culturally relevant approach to their graduate education.



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## Merida Kipp Develops Innovative Programs at Yakama Nation Library



**M**erida Kipp is the library administrator at Yakama Nation Library in Toppenish, WA which serves 10,371 tribally-enrolled members. Entering

the position from an IT and technology instruction background, Kipp's COL scholarship has helped shape her career pathway in LIS, as well as expand the library's mission and reach within the community. She stated, "The library serves as a central place for the community and I feel fortunate that my position lets me branch out into so many different directions." Since joining COL, Kipp has traveled to professional conferences, demonstrated her leadership with several new initiatives, networked with other professionals, and developed information literacy tools which benefit Yakama Nation's education and preservation goals.

At the **2012 Conference of the Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums (ATALM)**, Kipp visited the IMLS Enhancement Grants poster session and learned about a program which places volunteers in local **Head Start** facilities with mobile literacy carts. This inspired her to purchase three mobile library carts to implement into the storytelling program at Head Start programs within the Nation. "As a tribal library, I think there was a perception that we did not necessarily have to learn what mainstream libraries were doing. One thing I would have never done is attend the ALA conference in New Orleans or ATALM in Tulsa. What an amazing experience it was to attend both events. I plan on attending and also bringing my staff to attend ALA in the years to come," she said.

When Kipp learned to create a patron survey for a class assignment, she later administered the survey during a tribal meeting: "The response was amazing. As a result of the survey we increased the size of our children's section and stay open an hour longer on the weekdays."

In LIBR 210: Reference and Information Sources, Kipp developed a pathfinder for the Yakama Nation, which enabled her to dig deeper into the library's collection and learn about many resources she hopes to offer patrons. For LIBR 240: Web Design, Kipp was inspired to create a Tribal School webpage: "There is a senior that mentioned wanting to develop a webpage for the Tribal School. I immediately started the footwork going to get access to the server. I developed a template as a draft for the Tribal School and as my final project for the class. I will work with the students who are interested to help them make the website their own."

Kipp has also served as the school's technology expert, where she acknowledges the importance of students being able to see Native Americans represented in leadership positions: "The school needed someone to find out what the Microsoft IT Academy was all about. I took my other tech person to the meeting. After the meeting we immediately advocated for the curriculum to be a part of the Tribal School," she said.

Recently Kipp was invited to join the Washington State Library Training Coordinator's Digital Literacy Information website committee.

Kipp's work at Yakama Nation demonstrates the local impact of the COL program: "Tribes want to protect their history and how it is represented and I believe tribal libraries are achieving that aspect. I think the more tribal members that we have educated in the archives and preservation field, the better the materials will be protected," she stated.

She looks forward to maintaining the relationships and knowledge she has built through COL into the future, citing COL scholar Debbie Reese as one of many peers who has been a strong advocate and role model: "She makes me think deeper into the process of selecting books and I truly admire her for all that she has accomplished on behalf of tribal communities. I am striving to make that same impact at Yakama Nation."

## Debbie Reese Lends Expertise on National Literary Taskforce

Debbie Reese was invited to join the IMLS Campaign for Grade Level Reading: Early Learning Taskforce held in Washington D.C. on Dec. 5, 2012. Reese was nominated for the committee after connecting with IMLS officers through a COL-sponsored event.

In November 2012, Reese presented at the fifth annual **Convening Culture Keepers** mini-conference, an initiative of the **UW-Madison School of Library and Information Studies-Continuing Education Services** and endorsed by **Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.** The mini-conference was hosted by the **Oneida Nation's Cultural Heritage Department**. Reese was joined by Wisconsin tribal librarians, archivists, and museum curators, graduate students and community members for informative presentations and workshops. The inter-tribal meeting offered opportunities to share experiences, tour local tribal cultural facilities, and learn from national experts. Reese's workshop, "The Role of Children's Books in

Native Nation Building" provided librarians, teachers and graduate students with information and reading lists about popular and classic books that contain bias, errors, and stereotypes.

This spring, Reese is working as an intern at the **Champaign County Historical Society** to study their holdings, create a subject guide, and identify gaps, particularly those related to people of color. According to Reese, "Historical societies were primarily created by white men and women interested in preserving their own histories in a particular place. Intentionally and not, the histories of people of color were left out. Champaign County's historical society recognized this gap some years ago and has endeavored to address it. My analysis will determine the degree to which they have been successful in adding people of color to the archive, thereby making it more inclusive and representative of all the people who've been in this area."



***"Native Nation building and literature mean two things to me. First, it means providing Native children and teens with books that accurately reflect who we are. Whether it is fiction or non-fiction, the books we hand to our youth should give them the good, bad, and ugly of our lives, past and present, as long as it is accurate. Second, our youth ought to know about books that misrepresent us, but sharing those books with them should be done in an entirely different way than books that are accurate. Instead of handing those kinds of books to our youth for them to read independently, we can use them in displays where we point to the problems in them. We can—and should—teach our youth to read critically, but to do that, we have to know how to read critically ourselves."***

**– Debbie Reese**



The conference planner, host, and speakers: Omar Poler, Shannon Martin, Rita Lara, Debbie Reese, Janice Kowemy, and Mary Olson.

## Records Manager **Mary Rogers** Teaches at Salish Kootenai College



**M**ary Rogers was an invited lecturer in Enterprise Databases at **Salish Kootenai College** in the Fall 2012. The 10-week class focused on the basics of building SQL databases, how to create queries and the theories behind

databases. Rogers, a first time instructor at the college, is the database and historical records manager for the **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Department**, located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, and completed an A.A. in Information Technology at the college in 2010. “They knew I was enrolled with SJSU and working full time, but hoped that I would be able to teach this class. It was a definite eye-opening experience and has raised my level of respect for teachers to an entirely new level. I was very honored to be asked to teach this class as I had no previous experience teaching,” she stated.

In 2012, Rogers presented a research poster, “Tribal Historic Preservation Department Records and an MLIS Degree: Managing Records for Future Generations,” at the **Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums (ATALM)** conference in Tulsa. In addition, Rogers has since given short presentations for the local teacher education day to discuss jobs that are available to someone with an MLIS. “With the confidence that COL has helped me gain, I now serve, and was voted as acting vice president of the Board of Trustees for the **Ronan City Library** and I also serve on the Library District Board. Both of these positions are making decisions that affect the future of the Ronan City Library, whether it will stay open, how it will be funded, who gets hired and so on,” she said.

The COL scholarship has given Rogers the opportunity to attend several national LIS conferences and helped support her attendance at a regional conference in Montana. According to Rogers, the COL staff has offered assistance with class selections and the cohort

of COL students has provided a supportive network to help students through the graduate school experience. Living in a rural location, Rogers has been able to make use of the databases at the **SJSU King Library** to open up new sources of information for historical research that her local library would not be able to provide. “As a result of the classes I have taken, I am able to provide a better service to not only my own department but to others. I recently collaborated with the Education Department on a basic Tribal History reference list to be handed out to visitors. I hope that we COL graduates will be able to have a positive impact on the tribal archives and preservation fields --not only for our own tribes, but for those that we influence through our actions. The department I work for has Tribes coming in for training and help frequently. I hope that by earning this MLIS degree, I can pass on some basic archival and preservation knowledge to those other tribes,” stated Rogers.

***“I hope that COL graduates will bring a different point of view to the library and archival professions - a slant that helps a wider audience understand that the Tribes as a whole are alive, well and in most cases thriving. That asking about our ceremonies and life ways are acceptable to a certain extent, but that there are areas of our lives that are not for public consumption. That tribes are still, after all this time, speaking our languages, holding those ceremonies and living as best we can in a way to honor those who have gone before us.”***

**- Mary Rogers**

Rogers also applies her information skills in her local column, “This Week in Tribal History” --soon in its second year of publication in the Tribal newspaper the **Char-Koosta**. Rogers chooses historical events prior to 1975 and solicits input from community members. As a result, tribal members are often inspired to contribute related documents to the historical records department. Rogers plans to graduate in 2014 and to continue to help her tribe manage its historical records and information.

## Tawa Ducheneaux and Gena Peone Attend Museum Studies Institute at UC Berkeley

Archivist Tawa Ducheneaux was awarded a scholarship to attend the Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues' **Native American Museum Studies Institute** held at UC Berkeley on January 8-11, 2013. Her employer, Oglala Lakota College, contributed toward her attendance.

Ducheneaux attended a day-long session at the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology to observe their preparations for a large-scale move as well as how staffers photograph their objects for inventory and for online exhibits. "I appreciated the other participants' perspectives on how they find, locate, and retain volunteers. My favorite highlight was after the institute in attending a half-day tour with SJSU SLIS instructor David de Lorenzo at the Bancroft archives. The professionals I met along the way during that tour became contacts, which incidentally, are some of the same people that COL scholar Susan Gehr has interviewed for her thesis work," stated Ducheneaux.



COL scholar, Gena Peone the assistant collections manager of material culture, archives, and archeological material for the Spokane Tribe of Indians, also received a scholarship to attend the institute. Her favorite activity at the institute was a visit to the Mission district in San Francisco.

***"There was a traditional Ohlone-style house built on the premises to honor the native people who were there before the Mission. It was reminiscent of the ones that our ancestors made, and we are making again today. Finding continuity across cultures is fascinating, and something that has drawn me to the archival field." - Gena Peone***

## Jonna Paden

### Writes Collections Grant for Indian Pueblo Cultural Center



Jonna Paden wrote and submitted her first grant for the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center's (IPCC) Library & Archives in 2012. The New Mexico Library Foundation awarded the IPCC \$1000 to add multicultural

children's and YA books to their collection. Paden, a former buyer and receiver for the IPCC's retail shop, began working as a volunteer in the library and archives at IPCC shortly before joining the COL program, in order to learn more about her future career goal of becoming an archivist. Since joining COL, Paden has been selected as one of three grant-funded interns at the center. "Of the three American Indian students chosen, I am the only one in an MLIS program. As a librarian / archivist 1, I am the assistant to the research historian leading the IPCC Library & Archives. In this position, I feel my career goal is in closer reach," stated Paden.

As the selector for the new books, Paden will put into practice the theory and methods she has learned while at SLIS. "To find material, I have researched various sources from AILA to the Smithsonian to a fellow COL classmate's blog. I have just finished up co-writing a grant to the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board for preservation of the center's photography collection," she said.

In 2012, Paden presented a research poster at the Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums (ATALM) conference as part of COL's Student Research Forum. This summer, she will also be speaking on a COL panel at the 2013 conference: "COL funding has allowed me to travel to both a library conference and a conference geared toward Indigenous institutions. Through conferences, I have been able to meet

Indigenous library professionals and learn about them. It is encouraging knowing there is a community out there and exciting to learn what they are doing," stated Paden.

In addition, through the mentorship program offered by COL, Paden and COL scholars are linked to tribal library professionals they might otherwise not have met in a traditional MLIS program, "To have mentors integral to tribal librarianship like Lotsee Patterson tell you how excited they are to see you in an MLIS program is so meaningful and inspiring. And to have mentors like Paulita Aguilar take a sincere interest in you by being supportive and helpful is encouraging" she said.

***"The COL graduates will be vital to the advancement of the library and archival profession. I feel we are like the next wave coming after those who paved a way before us. There is much we can do to change and improve library services and archival processes specific to Indigenous collections and material. With our MLIS education, we will have the knowledge to do that. I am delighted and encouraged to be among the impressive and ambitious classmates in the COL program."***

***- Jonna Paden***

## Circle of Learning Workshop Series Available Online

Circle of Learning holds regular workshops with invited guests from the tribal library and archival fields, offering students an opportunity to interact with and ask questions of subject specialists. Workshops are held online via the web-conferencing program Collaborate. Speakers have shared their expertise on topics such as: working in a tribal library, working as an ethnic studies university librarian, issues in indigenous cataloging, indigenous matters at IFLA and grant writing. Recordings of the one-hour programs are freely accessible from the [COL Workshops page](#).

**Circle of Learning Online Open House,  
Speaker: Heather Devine**

**Meet the Advisors, Speakers: Susan Hanks,  
David Ongley**

**California Tribal Libraries, Speaker: Susan  
Hanks**

**Ethnic Studies Librarianship, Speaker: John  
Berry**

**Talk Story, Speaker: Liana Juliano**

**Tribal Librarian Q and A, Speaker: Janice  
Kowemy**

**Student Social and Maneuvering through  
ALA, Speaker: Patty Wong**

**Indigenous Cataloging Issues, Speaker: Kelly  
Webster**

**Indigenous Matters in IFLA, Speaker: Dr.  
Loriene Roy**

**Job Spotlight, Speaker: David Hurley**

**Career Colloquia: Information Professional  
to Intelligence Analyst: Translating your LIS  
Skills, Speaker: Virginia Sanchez**

**Career Chat, Speakers: Jill Klees, Jane Fisher**

**Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums  
Project, Speakers: Omer Poler, Janice Rice**

**LIS Doctoral Studies, Speaker: Marisa Duarte**

**IMLS Native American Enhancement Grants,  
Speaker: Dr. Alison Freese**

**Grant Seeking Strategies, Speaker: Lisa  
Valdez**

**Research and Writing, Speaker: Dr. Arglenda  
Friday**

**Career Spotlight, Speaker: Jennifer O'Neal**

**F**or information about volunteering as a guest presenter, please contact Project Manager Heather Devine at [hhdevine@gmail.com](mailto:hhdevine@gmail.com).

MORE NEWS FROM

# CIRCLE OF LEARNING SCHOLARS

**Susan Gehr** received grants to help fund her thesis research from Southwest Oral History Association and the Lynn Reyer Awards for Tribal Community Development.

**Jerry Flanary** and **Jennifer Himmelreich** were awarded scholarships to attend Cultural Codes and Protocols for Indigenous Digital Heritage Management this summer at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria, BC.

**Valarie Kingsland's** guest post "Terminology for Library Peeps," was posted on SJSU SLIS Faculty, Dr. Michael Stephen's blog, *Tame the Web*, in December.

**Tisa Matheson** attended *Beyond Boundaries*, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's conference in Spokane, WA on Oct. 31 – Nov. 3 with the assistance of a local conference travel stipend from COL.

[slisweb.sjsu.edu/circleoflearning](http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/circleoflearning)

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