Valarie Kingsland Wins Prestigious Ken Haycock Award for Professional Promise

Kingsland will travel from Alaska to San Jose to accept the award and to give the Outstanding Student speech at the 2014 San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science (SJSU SLIS) Convocation, on May 17th. Given annually to the graduating student who, in the opinion of the faculty, most demonstrates flexibility in program delivery modes, excellence in academic performance, ability to think theoretically and practically and ability to analyze and communicate the results of knowledge gained, the award also presents Kingsland with $1,000. Kingsland was featured in a SJSU SLIS news story in March.

This spring, Kingsland organized two presentations at the Alaska Library Association meeting: Digital Preservation Planning, Just do it and Culturally Relevant Responsive Libraries. In addition, Kingsland was invited to intern this summer with the Association of Research Libraries’ Career Enhancement Fellowship Program. She will work at the library of University of California - San Diego during her fellowship.

Circle of Learning Scholars Graduate

Five Circle of Learning (COL) students graduated in December of 2013. Lisa Dirks, Susan Gehr, Gena Peone, and Indri Pasaribu were profiled in a February news story on the School’s website.

Eight COL students will complete their degrees this May: Tawa Ducheneaux, Jerry Flanary, Valarie Kingsland, Merida Kipp, Jonna Paden, Debbie Reese, Mary Rogers and Shannon Rosenbaum. The six continuing COL Scholars: Elviria Aquino, Jennifer Himmelreich, Tisa Matheson, Amy Moore, Alyssa Peterson and Samantha Villagomez will graduate just before, or shortly after, the program concludes.

Circle of Learning will meet for a final program evaluation in June at the 2014 Association of Tribal Libraries Archives and Museums Conference in Palm Springs, Calif. This final COL meeting will offer staff, graduates and students the opportunity to conduct formal in-person assessments to examine the program’s outcomes on individuals and communities and to define the program’s successes and lessons learned in the communities served. The COL project will conclude in August of 2014.
Amy Moore
Interns with the Southern Maine Community College Library

“I found a great fit!” stated COL scholar Amy Moore. This spring Moore interned with the Southern Maine Community College Library (SMCC). “Thinking I would benefit from networking with librarians in my state, I felt compelled to look for a local internship experience. When it was suggested to me that I look at SMCC, it seemed that everything fell into place. I was lucky to find an amenable site supervisor in Learning Commons Director, Lisa McDaniels. I contacted Lisa by email, detailed my interests and found that she was receptive to taking on an intern. Lisa met with me in December and we formalized a plan that would blend my experience in a medical library setting, as well as my desire to be involved in web design projects and provide instructional design for trainings,” she said.

Bringing prior work experience in health information outreach from a project with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine - New England Region, Moore began preparing LibGuides for the Health Science and Nursing programs with SMCC’s Outreach and Instruction Librarian, Meghan Hardison. “I’ve learned so much from Meghan, she’s a real LibGuides guru! LIBR 240, Information Technology Tools and Applications, with instructor Raymond Dean also helped prepare me for this opportunity and enabled me to build dynamic pages that highlight many of the Library’s resources.” In addition to these projects, Moore will be creating tutorials for SMCC’s citation management system and applying for a grant to help provide health information outreach services to students.

Moore holds a B.A. from Central Connecticut State University and Post Graduate Certification in Museum Studies from Harvard Extension School. She is a member of the Native Health Database Board and has worked in both public and special library settings.

“This internship has helped crystallize my career goals by providing me with a wide range of experiences that translate to marketable skills I can add to my resume. I feel so fortunate - the staff of the SMCC Library has been incredibly welcoming and supportive.”
- Amy Moore
Debbie Reese
Awarded SJSU CASA Diversity Award

Debbie Reese was awarded the SJSU College of Applied Sciences and Arts’ (CASA) Committee to Enhance Equity and Diversity (CEED) Distinguished Student Service Award in April. The CEED Distinguished Service Award honors a student whose efforts and activities have made an important contribution to enhance equity and diversity.

In the fall, Reese authored two articles addressing issues of diversity in collection development. Her first article, *Beyond the So-called First Thanksgiving: 5 Children’s Books that Set the Record Straight*, was published by the Indian Country Today Media Network, a First Nations media outlet offering in-depth coverage of Native American News, world news, politics, business, Native American culture, and many other issues. Published just before Thanksgiving, the focus of the article was to counter stereotyped stories of “the First Thanksgiving,” by offering readers alternatives to these inaccurate narratives. “There are a multitude of works by Native writers who tell stories from their experience and history. While Thanksgiving is a good time to grab people’s attention about Wampanoag-European interactions, it does not need to frame the story. These books give a far more nuanced, and accurate, account of Indigenous Peoples. They will set children and adults alike straight on what really happened around the time of the so-called First

Thanksgiving, and what Native life is like today,” writes Reese.

In her second piece, for *School Library Journal*’s “Focus on” collection development series, Reese offers librarians, parents and educators Resources and Kid Lit About American Indians -- an extensive review of pre-school through Grade 12 recommended books and media resources. Reese was one of several literature experts interviewed for the recent CNN diversity article, “Where’s the African-American Harry Potter or the Mexican Katniss?”

A workshop and conference presenter, Reese brought her program, “American Indians in Children’s and Young Adult Literature,” to the Northwest Museum of Art and Culture in Spokane, Wash. on April 23.

Debbie Reese is the author of the blog, American Indians in Children’s Literature (AICL) and is a consultant in the field of American Indians in children’s literature. She is a member of the IMLS Campaign for Grade Level Reading: Early Learning Taskforce. Prior to beginning her MLIS studies at SLIS, Reese was an Assistant Professor in American Indian Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Reese will graduate with her MLIS in May of 2014.
Yakama Nation Library is a proud recipient of the Young Adult Library Services (YALSA’s) 2014 Great Books Giveaway. YALSA donates thousands of books every year to qualifying libraries across the United States. The mission of the librarians and associates of YALSA is to expand and strengthen library services for teens, aged 12-18. Led by COL scholar Merida Kipp, Yakama Nation Library (YNL) serves 12 schools within a 5 mile radius — providing students with access to books, information for school reports, language studies and recreational reading.

Before YALSA’s donation many of the books on YNL’s shelves were considered outdated. With YALSA’s $20,000 book donation, YNL’s collection has been enriched with more contemporary fiction and non-fiction books and media. “In my LIBR 285 Research Methods for Librarians course, I learned methods to engage teens to utilize the library by adding to the services and collection high-interest items such as new graphic novels, young adult titles, manga, and gaming consoles. The YALSA grant has helped our library to offer a collection that suits our young adults. In order to promote reading we have strategically placed these books around the gaming consoles and computer areas that the teens utilize,” stated the grant’s writer, Kipp.

Reading literacy for all ages has also been at the top of Kipp’s list in conducting more outreach and advocacy. “As a tribal library I believe that we can do more to address these issues by promoting reading and providing access to community members who are not utilizing our services. My education has helped me to thoroughly assess and meet the needs of the community. I learned about the areas that needed improvement at our library. As an administrator it will be necessary for me to continuously seek out funding opportunities that will benefit the Yakama Nation Library,” she said.

Kipp began working as a computer specialist for Yakama Nation Library in 2004, where she taught computer classes, conducted job training for many age groups and supervised library staff. She had also previously worked with youth as an AmeriCorps Team Leader in the Yakima School District. Her work now, as the library’s administrator, was profiled in the Circle of Learning project evaluator’s 2013 Case Study Evaluation Report, as a key outcome of the COL project’s impact on tribal communities. Kipp will graduate with her MLIS in May of 2014.

“it is now time for me to apply what I have learned throughout my coursework; some of it will be “learning as you go,” but I am more aware of resources that can help guide me. Most importantly I have my Circle of Learning community that has always freely offered advice and support.”

- Merida Kipp

Yakama Nation Library teens explore new resources
Archivist Tawa Ducheneaux will present: “Tribal Library Statistical Data: Why it Matters,” on Wed. June 11th at the 2014 Association of Tribal Libraries Archives and Museums conference in Palm Springs, Calif. The session will explore how Ducheneaux worked to gather and analyze statistical information about South Dakota tribal library usage, and relates these findings to the broader picture of library service and funding issues. The project was the topic of her fall LIBR 298 Special Study course.

In April, Ducheneaux was part of a panel of university archivists who presented at the South Dakota State Historical Society's History Conference -- A South Dakota Education: The History of Higher Learning in the State. “I found out I had passed the MLIS culminating project, the e-Portfolio, the day I was presenting at the conference. As I reflected on the timing, I realized how far I’d come as an emerging professional; having had several opportunities and challenges to meet and accomplish. With the supportive elements in this cohort, it felt that much more satisfying. I’m grateful to everyone for sharing their experiences and encouraging words throughout this experience,” she affirmed.

Ducheneaux has worked at Oglala-Lakota College since 2003 and was appointed archivist of the college’s Woksape Tipi Library and Archives while working toward her MLIS degree as part of the Circle of Learning program. She will graduate in May of 2014.
Susan Gehr
Wins SLIS Award for Outstanding Thesis

Susan Gehr graduated in December of 2013, following the completion of her MLIS thesis. In the 370 page oral history project, “Breath of Life: Revitalizing California’s Native Languages through Archives,” Gehr documented the archivists’ role in the 20 year history of Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival’s (AICLS) Silent No More -- California Indian Language Revitalization Workshops, held at U.C. Berkeley. She was awarded the SJSU School of Library and Information Science’s (SLIS) Award for Outstanding Student Thesis this spring.

In March, she participated in the SJSU Student Research Competition, where she was the first student to have ever used web-conferencing software in order to present research virtually to the committee. “I chose my topic because AICLS was in its twentieth year of existence, long-lived enough to have people interested in reflecting on its beginnings, and recent enough that all the founders are still available to interview. I also wanted to focus on the work of the archivists to get an understanding of the unique issues inherent to Native language archival collections. When I was invited to participate in the research competition, I looked forward to discussing my findings, showcasing SLIS’s distance education capabilities, and representing Circle of Learning,” she reflected.

Gehr’s research sought to understand the differences in the roles archivists and linguists play in conducting the work of Breath of Life. She interviewed archivists, participants and organizers to find out what new procedures archivists had developed by working with Native American collections and Breath of Life workshop participants. The overarching goal of Gehr’s study was to create a work that will help improve the long term prospects of those pursuing language reclamation efforts. In her conclusion, Gehr synthesizes her discoveries about how archivists have not only modified their policies, created new finding tools and changed their security policies in order to better serve and work with California Native people seeking access to collections, but have taught Native participants how to become researchers. Gehr’s work makes important contributions to the study of language revitalization and the work that archivists do to create best practices that serve Indigenous communities.

Gehr is a Karuk Tribe member and former Karuk language teacher. She helps lead efforts to preserve the Karuk tribe’s endangered language and supports other initiatives to preserve and record California’s indigenous languages. Currently she works as a Project Archivist at the Center for Indian Community Development Collection at the Humboldt State University Library.

In March, the Live Your Language Alliance, a group dedicated to supporting the Indigenous languages of northwestern California, held a conference at Humboldt State University. Gehr arranged print and audio materials from the CICD collection in the Hupa, Karuk, Yurok and Tolowa languages on display for conference participants and got acquainted with their current projects in order to connect them with relevant items.
Circle of Learning Project Staff

Jane Fisher
Project Co-director, SLIS
Jane Fisher co-directed the COL program and served as the scholars’ faculty academic advisor. Fisher previously served as the School’s Assistant Director for Research and Professional Practice, where she led on several diversity projects. She currently leads career development activities for the School.

Liana Juliano
Project Co-director, AILA
Liana Juliano served as the 2009-2010 AILA president and has long advocated for California tribal libraries. In addition to co-directing the COL project, she works as the information resources manager at Paul Hastings LLP. An alumna of SLIS, Juliano directed the mentorship program for COL.

Heather Devine (Eastern Shawnee)
Project Manager
Heather Devine is the president of AILA. As an alumna of SLIS, she found it rewarding to help COL students navigate the technology requirements of the program. Devine created the project’s online workshop series and planned face-to-face networking opportunities at professional conferences. She provided advising support and helped students prepare for professional presentations. Devine is a computer scientist who also assists her tribe with archival research.

Sheila Gurtu
Project Assistant
Sheila Gurtu provided student services, event planning and accounting support to the project. She profiled student accomplishments in the program newsletter and created a short film about the project for a 2013 COL event. Gurtu also works as an online student advisor at the School. A SLIS alumna, she previously worked as a K-8 teacher librarian in urban public schools.
Gratitude

The Circle of Learning students are remarkable and they are already impacting their communities and the profession in meaningful ways. The program staff would like to thank our funder, the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS), for their support of the project. Special thanks also go to the COL project’s external evaluator, Scott Burg, of Rockman et al for survey design, interviews, and evaluation reports.

Success of the program would not have been possible without the support and partnership of the American Indian Library Association (AILA), and without the many volunteer hours contributed by individual AILA members. The Circle of Learning project team would like to thank the following AILA members for their time and expertise in recruiting qualified scholarship applicants, volunteering as guest speakers for our workshop series, and in serving as professional mentors and Advisory Board members during the COL grant period:

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