

CIRCLE OF LEARNING

COL Students Represent Diverse Pathways at Final Yearly Gathering in New Mexico



All 19 COL scholars gathered with project co-director (SLIS) Jane Fisher and project manager Heather Devine at the 2013 International Conference of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums in Albuquerque, N.M. in June. Students attended the annual COL Community Dinner, sponsored by SJSU SLIS, where they networked with COL mentors, advisors and guests including senior library program officers, Alison Freese and Mary Alice Ball from the program's funder, Institute of Museum and Library Services. Fisher and Devine also presented certificates of appreciation from the School thanking the professional mentors and advisors present that evening, Paulita Aguilar, Susan Hanks, Sarah Kostelecky and Jennifer O'Neal, for their volunteer service.

In honor of the group's fourth and final face-to-face meeting, guests viewed a film montage highlighting COL student success stories. Scholars Indri Pasaribu, Susan Gehr, Jonna Paden, and Shannon Rosenbaum discussed the impact of the program's support elements on their academic success. Insights were also shared by the project's external evaluator, Scott Burg, of Rockman et al, and project manager, Heather Devine, president of the American Indian Library Association.

COL students Elviria Aquino, Lisa Dirks, Tawa Ducheneaux, Jerry Flanary, Susan Gehr, Jennifer Himmelreich, Valarie Kingsland, Amy Moore, Jonna Paden, Indri Pasaribu, and Shannon Rosenbaum presented in student-led panels or poster sessions at the conference.

“Not only do our students represent a wide range of tribal backgrounds; the spectrum of expertise they demonstrate is quite remarkable. Although many of our students do work in tribal library and information centers, we also have a children’s literature consultant and author, a language preservationist, several archivists, museum collections specialists, a law librarian, specialists in health information research and services, records managers, and a teacher librarian. Our students have established a very high standard of academic performance. They support one another in their classes and professional work by sharing their diverse knowledge and expertise with each other through our online forum and at in-person professional events. Many of our students have been promoted or offered new positions since joining COL, and quite a few are publishing and presenting their research in professional circles.”

-COL co-director (SLIS)

Jane Fisher

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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Jonna Paden

Study Abroad Course in Australian Archival Theory Funded by Awards



Pueblo archivist Jonna Paden was recently awarded the SJSU Alumni & Friends scholarship as well as the 2013 A. Otis Hebert Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship by the Society of Southwest Archivists' Scholarship Committee. The awards helped Paden to attend a summer University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, School of Information Studies' study-abroad MLIS course: Australian Contributions to Archival Theory and Practice.

The course offered an introduction to Australian contributions to archival studies which have had a global impact on archival theory and practice. Students were able to learn about the Records Continuum, parallel provenance, and the Australian Series System as these exist within their country of origin, to understand differences and similarities in archival practices, careers, and education between the U.S. and Australia, to meet with archival studies students and faculty in an equivalent Australian graduate program and to visit archives and recordkeeping sites in the Melbourne region such as: Koorie Heritage Trust and Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Public Records Office Victoria and Monash University. The course focused on understanding both Australian and U.S. archival practices as influenced by post-colonial settings.

“I approach archives as an Indigenous person learning about archival and records management models and how to tailor the Western models for Indigenous records. From this class, I wanted to understand Australian archival theory to learn how various Australian archives care for Indigenous material from the perspective of management, access, control and especially appraisal and digitalization. This class

and the resulting research have provided me new scholarship and expanded my thinking. Outside of states, cities and localities with strong American Indian presence, it seems there is little – if any, at all -- recognition of the American Indian voice in the United States. And what is available is often Eastern centered – of Eastern (and Midwestern) tribal nations and held in Eastern institutions. It amazed me to find a strong acknowledgment of Aboriginal material (and culture). Even when material was not present, at several institutions, the archivists were aware of its absence.”

- Jonna Paden

International contacts and experiences are important resources that provide students a new voice, ideas and perspectives for helping to improve and solve problems of libraries and archives near and abroad. COL was pleased to assist Paden with partial tuition and some travel expenses for this valuable experience. “Not many Pueblo people have had the opportunity to come to Australia to study. In every field, collaborations are valuable, but especially for the up-and-coming field of Indigenous librarians and archivists. I came to Melbourne to make some valuable contacts, exchange cultures and to share my experience with library and archival education as an American Indian student. I have made international contacts with Australian archivists from whom to learn and ask questions, including several developers of the Australia Records Continuum, a multi-dimensional model. This is a model that better fits Indigenous material and electronic recordkeeping versus the record's life cycle model,” she stated.

Paden, who plans to complete her MLIS in Spring of 2014, presented the session, “Access Matters: Planning Language and Cultural Documentation Projects,” with COL colleagues Susan Gehr and Tawa Ducheneaux, at the 2013 Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums conference in Albuquerque, NM. She works as a librarian / archivist intern at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center's Library and Archive, in Albuquerque, N.M.

Samantha Villagomez

Interns with Shawano City-County Library Children's Department

Samantha Villagomez recently completed a 10 week LIBR 294 summer internship with the **Shawano City-County Library** in Shawano, Wisc. Villagomez, who teaches special education students and worked as a school librarian at the Menominee Tribal School, sought out the internship in order to experience working with children and tweens in a public library setting, "The expectations in a public library and a school library are different. Schools have primarily an academic focus on improving students' reading and research skills. Public libraries do not have this expectation as their sole focus, because they work with a broader population. This internship proved to be an exceptional opportunity to see how public libraries function and the kinds of issues with which they deal. I had the chance to see the day to day operations of a well-run library on a limited budget and to learn the functions of the different departments," she said.

Villagomez focused much of her time on creating a pre-school story time program based on the summer reading theme of "Dig into Reading." She coordinated crafts, presented fingerplays, read stories around themed topics and helped librarians draw the community into the library for special events. She also assisted performers who were scheduled to entertain in the library.

Helping tweens in readers' advisory, assisting in collection

development analysis and working in reference and circulation all helped Villagomez develop relationships with patrons and to apply knowledge learned in the SLIS courses: LIBR 266-Collection Management, LIBR 210-Reference, and LIBR 260 Tween Literature.

Villagomez is excited to incorporate some of the crafts and science projects developed at the library this summer into her classroom curriculum this fall. She plans to complete her MLIS in Spring 2014 and will pursue a career in public library youth services.

"Working with different types of patrons was interesting and enjoyable. I also provided tours for school groups and answered reference questions for technology users. Having these practical experiences has shown me how much I have learned from my MLIS coursework and my Circle of Learning peers. I felt I was able to help the library with my technology skills and my skill with working with children."

-Samantha Villagomez



Jerry Flanary

Accepts Information Services Position at University of Arizona



Jerry Flanary was recently appointed to the position of library information specialist at the **University of Arizona**, Tucson. After working in bookmobile outreach services and facility services at the Norfolk (Va.) Public Libraries for many years, Flanary joined the Access and Information Services Team at the university last spring. He provides reference and information services at the Main Library in person, on the phone, and through chat or email. Flanary also delivers direct service to the public in the Special Collections library, which has a focus on the Southwest and Borderlands materials. Flanary is already exploring what the collection has to offer, “I found a letter from Santee Dakota physician, writer and reformer Dr. Charles Eastman to Yavapai-Apache activist and founding member of the Society of American Indians, Dr. Carlos Montezuma, which was just amazing to me. I was overwhelmed that this original, hand written letter by Charles Eastman was available for viewing in a folder in the library. I’m excited to learn what else I will find in the special collection,” he said.

Flanary credits an SJSU SLIS Online Searching class with Amelia Kassel as instrumental in providing him the searching skills that placed him ahead of other applicants for the university position. “Kassel’s LIBR 244 class taught me great skills with Factiva, Lexis, and Dialog but the real treasure was just spending a semester observing how she thought about and answered questions -- or more importantly, how she asked questions before searching and answering,” he said.

Last summer, Flanary and COL research collaborator, Jennifer Himmelreich, attended the Cultural Codes and Protocols for Indigenous Digital Heritage Management program at the **Digital Humanities Summer Institute** at the University of Victoria, B.C. with assistance provided by Circle of Learning. The program focused on the implementation and integration of cultural protocols and diverse ethical systems into content management systems (CMS), digital archives and online exhibitions through the lessons learned developing and implementing Mukurtu CMS. “Many people in the Digital Humanities field are doing exciting work and it was nice to make new connections in this community. Some of my classmates in the Mukurtu class are doing work with Indigenous communities and I may not have found them and their work for years if not for this event,” stated Flanary.

As a result of presenting his research at ATALM and partnering with Himmelreich, both COL students are exploring options to continue collaborating together in the future. Flanary plans to graduate in the Fall 2013 semester and would like to develop an information brokering service specializing in Tribal government information services consulting, similar to the Congressional Research Service.

Gena Peone and Jennifer Himmelreich Awarded Scholarships to Digital Sound Program

Gena Peone and Jennifer Himmelreich were awarded scholarships to attend the **High Performance Sound Technologies for Access and Scholarship** (HiPSTAS) program at the School of Information at the University of Texas. The school received funding from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** to host this Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities. The HiPSTAS project involves people from many areas of interest in the field of archives, technology, and audio preservation.

“The entire cohort consists of over 20 participants with five coming to this project with backgrounds in native cultural preservation/language preservation. In addition, COL advisor Loriene Roy is a faculty advisor on the project. ARLO (Adaptive Recognition with Layered Optimization) is the software behind the project. It was originally developed to identify bird calls. Through this group we are all experimenting to test the capabilities of using this program in other humanities applications. One of my ideas for the project is to see if and how this tool will be able to assist in identifying and cataloging language audio files, to see if I can train the program to decipher Salish from English using the tagging system. The beta-testing will take place over the course of the year and will culminate with a final meeting to analyze and report on our findings,” said Peone, the assistant collections manager of material culture, archives and archeological material for her tribe, the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

As part of the HiPSTAS Institute, the COL students travel to two meetings in order to report back their findings to the group.

Jennifer Himmelreich Awarded Smithsonian Fellowship and Oral History Scholarship

Jennifer Himmelreich recently completed the Smithsonian’s Native American Artist Files Fellowship at the **Vine Deloria Jr. Library, National Museum of the American Indian – Cultural Resources Center** (NMAI-CRC) in Suitland, Md. Himmelreich’s was the only paid position of several summer internships offered by NMAI. The goal of the position was to organize 400-450 artist and subject files relating to the Artist Files and the general vertical collection, including the recently acquired vertical collection from the National Geographic Society.

Last spring, Himmelreich was awarded the Eva Tulene Watt Scholarship for Native Americans to attend the **Southwest Oral History Association's Annual Conference** in Las Vegas. Eva Tulene Watt was a distinguished White Mountain Apache elder whose narration of her family and tribal customs has assisted in the preservation of White Mountain Apache tribal culture.

Last June, Himmelreich presented, with COL scholar Jerry Flanary, “Cultivating Culture: Promising Virtual Practices for Indigenous

Communities,” at the 2013 ATALM conference. She is following the Digital Services and Archives career pathway and expects to graduate in 2014.

“My knowledge as an artist, and of art history and American Indian Studies were essential in determining the needs of the collection. I drew on my SJSU SLIS coursework in technology and digital services to conceive a long-term strategic plan for the collection and find additional access points for the collection.”

-Jennifer Himmelreich

Program Evaluators

Study Impact of COL Program on Tribal Communities

This spring, Lisa Dirks, a COL scholar and research manager, joined COL's external evaluator, Scott Burg of San Francisco based firm, **Rockman et al** in conducting on-site evaluation visits in two communities where COL scholars now serve in leadership positions in library and archival services. Previous evaluation studies of the COL project had focused on program quality measurement through surveys and face-to-face interviews of COL students. The purpose of the new case-study approach for the third year of the grant was to observe, document and assess impacts and outcomes of the COL project on two distinct Indigenous communities being served by COL students: the **Oglala Sioux Tribe** of S.D. and the **Yakama Nation**, in northwest Wash.

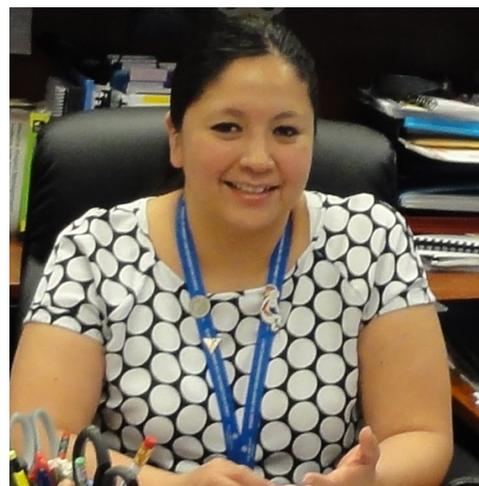
Since joining COL, student Tawa Ducheneaux was appointed to the position of archivist at **Oglala Lakota College**. And COL student Merida Kipp entered the library profession with a computer science background, taking LIS courses while transitioning into her library administrator leadership position at Yakama Nation. Researchers studied how the support components of the COL program (tuition and technology support, mentoring and advisement, professional development at conferences, and networking opportunities) helped these students develop best practices that reached widely into their service populations.

The researchers found in both cases that the COL student-professionals had dramatically improved services in each community in just a short period of time. "In ascending to positions of increased responsibility at each of their libraries, both women credited the academic training and exposure to peers and other library professionals provided by COL as instrumental in shaping their views and influencing their actions to address a myriad of community needs and concerns. By dramatically expanding the scope and quality of their library services, diverse constituencies within each community are benefiting in ways that strengthen their knowledge and education, reinforce cultural identity, improve job and communication skills, bridge generational gaps, alter and challenge traditional

tribal stereotypes, expand tribal influence and control, and open new doors to a myriad of new educational and job opportunities both on and off the reservation," stated the report.



Tawa Ducheneaux



Merida Kipp

Lisa Dirks

Prepares Grant for Aleut Heritage Library and Archive



Research manager, researcher and COL student Lisa Dirks is excited to begin work on a grant for the **Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association's** Aleut Heritage Library and Archive (AHLA) in her LIBR 282 Grant Writing class this fall. The AHLA is a collection of material significant to the Unangan (Aleut) people, their history, traditions, culture and environment. It is comprised of books, articles, audio and video recordings, photographs, maps, journals and statistical information. In addition to various types of literature and archival material, a very important part of the collection is the documentation (including video-taped testimony) of the WWII evacuation and internment of the Unangan (Aleut) people from 1942-1945 at Southeast, Alaska by the U.S. Government-- a part of history of which few are aware. Additionally, the research material, including field notes, of anthropologist Lydia T. Black is archived at the library. "The collection is only partially cataloged and is not indexed. Currently, there is only one staff member with limited library and information science experience familiar with the collection available to assist community members, researchers, or students that may utilize the collection and she is the only one who knows where to find materials in the collection," Dirks explained.

She plans to write a grant proposal for

the AHLA to help process the collection to make items more findable. She also plans to develop a proposal to digitize the collection and make it available online so that the collection is more widely available, especially to community members living in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. "This grant writing endeavor will be an opportunity for me to give back to my Unangan (Aleut) community using knowledge learned as a result of the COL program and the SJSU-SLIS program. It also provides an opportunity to complete a needs assessment and to develop a grant application for funding to help the AHLA begin making their library and archives resource more widely accessible and organized," said Dirks.

Dirks recently accepted a new position as researcher with the **Southcentral Foundation** in July. The foundation is an Alaska Native-owned, nonprofit health care organization serving nearly 60,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, and 60 rural villages. She is working on a variety of health-related research projects that support the development of Alaska Native and American Indian wellness and disease prevention. She plans to graduate in the Fall 2013 semester.

MORE NEWS FROM COL SCHOLARS

Tawa Ducheneaux attended the National Museum of the American Indian Conservation Workshop held Aug. 20th at the **Sicangu Heritage Center** in Mission, S.D.

Susan Gehr attended the **Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival's Language is Life Conference** in Sausalito, Calif. in September in order to share preliminary results of her MLIS thesis research about the organization's Breath of Life Workshops.

Jerry Flanary's glass basket pieces were awarded an honorable mention at the **42nd Annual Trail of Tears Art Show (TOTAS)** at the **Cherokee Heritage Center**, in Tahlequah, Okla.

Tisa Matheson completed a summer internship with the **Spokane Tribe of Indians** in Wellpinit, Wash.

Alyssa Peterson received scholarships from the **Organized Village of Kake**, Alaska, the **Sealaska Heritage Institute** and the **Goldbelt Heritage Foundation**.

Shannon Rosenbaum accepted the full-time position of library specialist – youth services with the **Nisqually Indian Tribe** of Wash. She is responsible for bookmobile services including the provision of story time, reference and other services.

Valarie Kingsland

Leads Alaska Native Issues Roundtable

SJSU SLISConnect President Valarie Kingsland was elected chair of the Alaska Native Issues Roundtable for the **Alaska Library Association** last March. Last spring, she received an **Alaska Native Libraries and Museums' (ANLAM)** leadership scholarship to attend the **Eighth International Indigenous Librarians Forum** and attended the **ANLAM's Culturally Relevant Workshop** in Anchorage, Alaska. "Meeting other Indigenous librarians provides an opportunity to discover our commonalities and understand the challenges that we face," said Kingsland.

Kingsland attended the **Digital Preservation Outreach Education (DPOE) Train the Trainer** event held at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Rasmuson Library from Aug. 27 -29th. The goal of the training was to create a cadre of DPOE Trainers who will provide digital preservation training to other working professionals in their own communities. Kingsland, who currently works

in a school library media center in Seward, Alaska, serves as regional representative for the **Alaska Association of School Librarians**, and operates a local **community-based not for profit**. She was elected **AILA** member at large 2013-2015 at **ALA** in June, and plans to graduate in Spring 2014.



DPOE Event. Left to right, back: Jacob Nadal, director of library & archives, Brooklyn Historical Society, George Coulbourne, executive program officer for the associate librarian for strategic initiative/ chief information officer for the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Left to right, front: Robin Dale, director of digital & preservation services and operations manager of technology services for LYRASIS, Valarie Kingsland, Mary Molinaro, associate dean for library technologies, University of Kentucky Libraries, and principal investigator for U. of Ky.'s participation in the National Newspaper Digitalization Program.

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