



College of Letters & Science  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# Jottings

& DIGRESSIONS

**INFORMATION SCHOOL**

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University Communications

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Professor Kyung-Sun "Sunny" Kim

## From the Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce that The Keun Y. and Sanok P. Kim Graduate Scholar in Library Studies Fund has been established to provide scholarship support to graduate students in the Information School. It was made possible with the generosity of Keun Y. Kim, Sanok P. Kim, Kenneth T. Kim, and Pauline T. Kim. Starting this coming fall, the iSchool will be able to offer these scholarships to new graduate students planning a career in librarianship. The fund will continue in perpetuity and support generations of iSchool students. Sanok P. Kim, who had a long career as a librarian, and Keun Y. Kim had a passion for education and UW–Madison. We are grateful to the Kim family for their support.

I am also pleased to let you know about a new opportunity for collaboration. This winter, the iSchool was invited to take part in the "Wisconsin in the Information Age" (WIA) initiative, supported by Chancellor Blank and L&S Dean Karl Scholz. The WIA

collaboration aims to significantly advance research and teaching excellence in the broad area of information, data, computing, and society. The WIA partnership brought together faculty and staff from the iSchool and the departments of Computer Sciences and Statistics to discuss possible areas of increasing collaboration in teaching, research, and outreach. Participants will work together to grow new shared programs while also maintaining their traditional programs and strengths. There will be some new administrative structure at the College level, but the units will maintain their existing independent executive committees for department governance. The iSchool looks forward to expanded opportunities projected to arise from new interdepartmental relationships.

The iSchool will continue to update our alumni and friends about the WIA partnership in *Jottings* and on our website. As always, we appreciate your interest and support in the iSchool's dedication to teaching and research.

Jottings is the alumni newsletter of the Information School  
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## Clare Michaud (MA'19) Pursues Digital Humanities Opportunities



Clare Michaud

I started at the iSchool with the intention of following a career path in information organization and digital asset management. After taking the course Digital Humanities Analytics, I recognized my interest in pursuing work that would more directly engage me with academia. This year, I have been working with the Research Data Services team of the UW–Madison Libraries, where some of my recent projects have included creating a page for the Libraries' website about the use of ORCID iDs in the arts and humanities, as well as creating documentation for data management plans. To gain discipline-specific data management knowledge, hone my visual design skills, and pursue my passion for geography, I am currently enrolled in GIS and cartography courses through the Geography Department. I'll be graduating in May, and I'm excited to seek positions in digital scholarship where I can be involved in initiatives for scholars in the arts and humanities.

## 2019 Distinguished Alumna Dr. Christine Pawley

The iSchool is thrilled to name **Dr. Christine Pawley** (MA'91, PhD'99) as the 2019 Distinguished Alumna. As a student, faculty member, and director, Dr. Pawley has influenced the school and students in countless ways. Before entering the iSchool, she taught sociology in England and spent time as a stay-at-home parent of three. Entering the MA program in LIS was a second go-around for her and she continued on to earn a PhD at the age of fifty. It was her time as a student that made her realize how much she enjoyed teaching, conducting her own research, and helping others with their investigations. "I like the sense of discovery when working with primary sources, and that different sense of discovery when you find secondary literature that helps you see in a new way or gives you new information." She credits Professor Wayne Wiegand, her PhD advisor, as a great support in terms of thinking through research ideas and suggesting new lines of inquiry.

Dr. Pawley began her interest in print culture as a graduate student, excited by developments from the Center for the Book at the Library



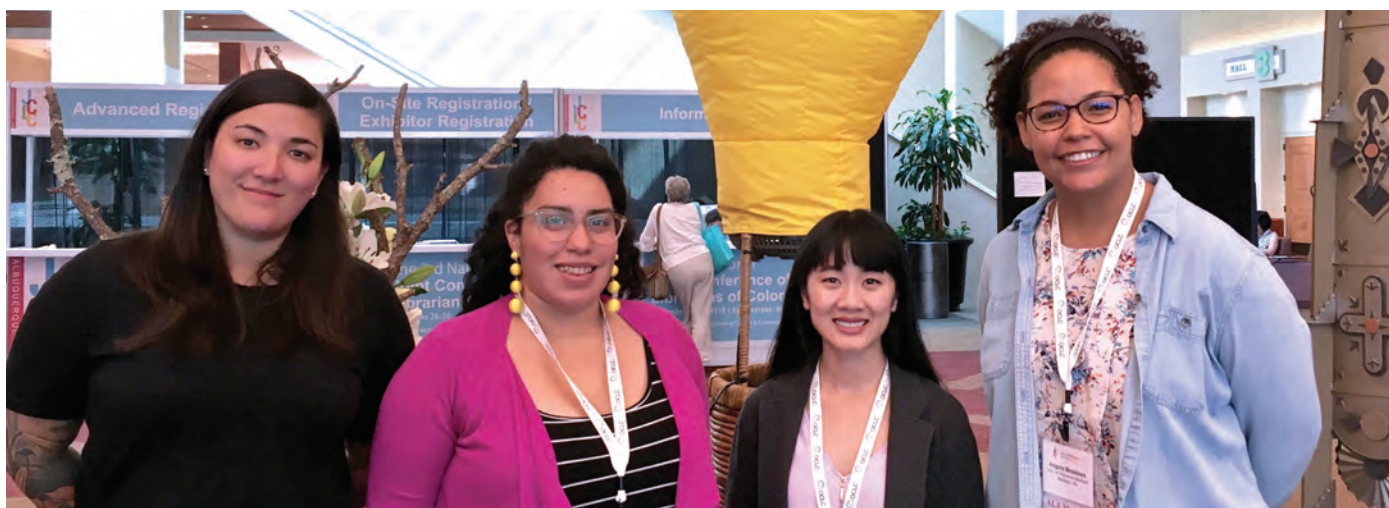
Dr. Christine Pawley

of Congress and the American Antiquarian Society. In 1992, the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America was founded at UW–Madison with the purpose of encouraging research about more recent time periods and highlighting the readings and writings of different classes, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. She points to her time as serving as the director of the Center (renamed the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture) for six years, and also as the director of the iSchool for three years, as highlights of her career.

Dr. Pawley never truly claimed the mantle of librarian for herself, which she believes illustrates the exciting range of people that emerge from the iSchool and move into all sorts of different professions. For graduates new and old, her advice is to listen to those who emphasize flexibility and to think in terms of skills and knowledge rather than positions in an organization. Learn to become an effective communicator, jump at opportunities to speak in public, become comfortable with supervising others—and don't be afraid of budgets! "You just never know what twists and turns your working life is going to take, so having transferable skills is important."

In her retirement, Dr. Pawley moved to British Columbia and she enjoys living by the ocean where temperatures rarely drop below freezing. She spends time gardening, playing the piano, and teaching at the local Elder College, which is a program for people over the age of fifty-five. "I feel very lucky both for the work experiences I have had, and now, to be able to enjoy a different rhythm of life."

## Students Attended the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color in Albuquerque, NM



Sarah Akawa, Jazmin Ortiz, Angel Bai, and Angela Meadows; IMLS funds provided scholarships for the trip.



L to R: Dr. Besant’s dissertation committee: Claudia Carol, Wayne Wiegand, Michele Besant, Dee Michel, Jane Collins, and Louise Robbins

## A New Chapter for Michele Besant



Before Dr. Michele Besant chose to pursue graduate education, she held positions in libraries, was a book binder, and worked as a bookseller at A Room of One’s Own in Madison. She planned to leave town and couldn’t take the bookstore with her, so it seemed an LIS degree would give her more options. Her mother, a school librarian, claimed that she was just stubbornly avoiding the inevi-

table. After graduating from the Information School with an MA in 1993 and a PhD in 1999, she certainly did not anticipate she would end her career where she started it. Dr. Besant will retire as Associate Director of the iSchool in August.

As retirement approaches, she reflected on how the profession has evolved, “The full cavalcade of information technology—which rapidly became anything but a tidy procession—rather changed LIS education. I do, however, use the anachronism consciously as core values of librarianship remain, and the resurgence of libraries as community spaces I see as a continuation, not a disruption.” At the iSchool, the expansion of concentration areas and reasons why people apply has diversified. There are more opportunities in allied information professions where organization, metadata,

data, and information technology are needed. The cross-pollination keeps the profession exciting.

With these changes, physical parts of the school that acted as anchors for so many students, including Dr. Besant, are gone. Who remembers when the library had a mirrored cube for reserves near the circulation desk? Or when Library Literature was on a CD-Rom and the Big Red Books lived on wooded carousels with volumes for DDC on bench tables in the Cataloging Lab? The iSchool library now features more study space and places for collaboration.

In retirement, Dr. Besant will spend more time on the lake rather than looking at it from her office and plans to bike across the country with her older brother. She vows to thin her personal library by reading through all the books that were shelved unread. She hopes to attend more events in Madison and on-campus, wants to reconnect with friends, and aims to be more involved with community work.

There is not enough time or space to recall all her favorite iSchool memories. However, one thing Dr. Besant has always enjoyed is the student energy. Every fall, students share their excitement, hopes, and fears about their upcoming experience. Every graduation, they are again so open about their prospects and goals. As Dr. Besant states, “There is a sense of possibility that reassures me each year. The future is in good hands.”

## iSchool Receives Generous Donation from Keun and Sanok Kim



Sanok P. and Keun Y. Kim

The Information School received a significant donation to establish The Keun Y. and Sanok P. Kim Graduate Scholar in Library Studies Fund, which will provide scholarship support to students in perpetuity. Both Keun Young and Sanok Kim are graduates of UW–Madison. It was their wish to give back to the university that made it possible for them to pursue their educations through generous scholarships.

The Kims both came to America in the 1950s to escape the war in Korea. They arrived with next to nothing and felt the opportunities they had at UW–Madison were essential to their successful career paths. Keun Young Kim studied and worked in chemical engineering, conducting research that led to the filing of many patents. Sanok Kim studied romance languages at the graduate level at UW–Madison and completed an additional degree at the University of Illinois before her long and productive career as a librarian. She worked for twenty-nine years at Washington University’s Olin Library, rising to become a librarian supervisor responsible for the technical training of new staff. Her professional work impacted the field at a time when changes in information technology greatly reshaped libraries.

The Kims’ generous gift will strengthen the school’s ability to recruit talented future librarians. Generations of students, as well as the communities they serve, will benefit. The iSchool is very grateful to the Kim family and honored to be able to extend to others Keun and Sanok Kim’s legacy of learning and enthusiasm for education at UW–Madison.

Those who wish to make an additional contribution may use the form below or visit [supportuw.org/giveto/Kimischool](http://supportuw.org/giveto/Kimischool) for the Keun Y. and Sanok P. Kim Graduate Scholar in Library Studies Fund.

## How to Give to the Information School

To make an online gift or contribute to a fund not listed below, visit [go.wisc.edu/ischoolgiving](http://go.wisc.edu/ischoolgiving)

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## Tim Connolly (MA'18) Uses Data Analysis to Help Rohingya Refugees



iSchool alumnus **Tim Connolly** is the Head of Engineering and Innovation Solutions for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, as part of its emergency response to the Rohingya refugee crisis. In this role, he is also Project Manager for the Site Maintenance Engineering Project, or SMEP, which is a joint operations partnership of WFP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). They are responsible for the construction, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of infrastructure in and around the Rohingya refugee camps.

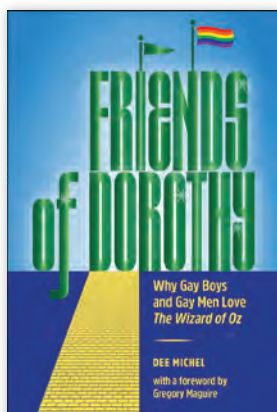
**How has your time at the iSchool influenced your work?**

One of my reasons for seeking the MLIS was for the "IS" part: information studies. When in charge of operations during a humanitarian disaster response, I often found myself responsible for the information management (IM) teams that would show up, with all the latest in digital collection tools and data management applications. I decided it was time I learned more about what they were doing.

The deployment here in Cox's Bazar is my first since graduating, and I have already found myself making use of what I learned at the iSchool. For example, we are now conducting secondary analysis on data which was already being collected and using it to target where the refugees may be having difficulty accessing humanitarian aid due to the terrain. Based on this, we can now direct our engineering resources to improve those areas and mitigate any access difficulties the refugees face.

**Do you have advice for current or future students? Especially those who may be looking to do impactful work in the LIS field?**

It was Archimedes who said, "Give me a place to stand and with a lever I will move the whole world." I think libraries and archives are that place to stand, and librarians, archivists, and other information professionals are the lever. I did my practicum with the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, where I arranged, described, and created a finding aid for a collection of materials they had amassed over their decades-long fight for environmental justice. A seemingly small contribution, yes. But perhaps as a result of my work they are now better able to draw from their collection a particular document critical to making their case in some future legal action.



**Dee Michel**, former assistant professor, taught cataloging and the organization of information from 1993 to 1998. After many years of research, writing, and hunting for a publisher, his book *Friends of Dorothy: Why Gay Boys and Gay Men Love The Wizard of Oz* is available! Learn more at [www.deemichel.info](http://www.deemichel.info). Dee would love to hear from former colleagues, students, or teaching assistants at [deemichel@comcast.net](mailto:deemichel@comcast.net).

## Faculty and Staff News

**Kristin Eschenfelder**, professor and director, was on research sabbatical in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 in Delft, Netherlands. She is finishing the analysis for her project comparing the sustainability of four major social science data archives: ICPSR, the Roper Center for Public Opinion, the UK Data Service, and the LIS Cross National Data Center. She is also enjoying traveling around Europe.

**Allison G. Kaplan**, faculty associate, gave a presentation at the 2018 National Association for the Education of Young Children: “Writing With Photographs, Reading With Pictures: How The Works of Tana Hoban Can Be Applied To Developing Multiple Literacies In Preschool Education Today.” She was a co-presenter at the 2018 Wisconsin Early Childhood Association conference supported, in part, by the UW–Madison Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment.

**Kyung-Sun “Sunny” Kim**, professor, presented at the ASIST conference: “Evaluating social media information: Impact of academic background, purpose of use, and perceived importance of information quality,” co-authored with Joanna Sin (PhD’09) and “Promoting health lifestyles via mobile-health technology for African American young adults,” co-authored with E.Y. Yoo (PhD’04). She published “How are we the same or different: Information needs and barriers of domestic and international students,” co-authored with Sin (PhD’09) in *Journal of Academic Librarianship*.

**David Price**, university staff, facilitated moving course evaluations to a completely online process. He has reached the seven-and-a-half-year milestone at the iSchool and enjoys working with students, as well as staff and faculty.

**Alan Rubel**, associate professor, published and presented papers on privacy and ethics in brain computer interface research, algorithmic decision-making, and higher education surveillance. During the 2018–19 academic year, he is a visiting researcher at the 4TU Centre for Ethics and Technology and Delft Technological University (Netherlands).

**Dorothea Salo**, faculty associate, delivered “The Memory of Research” at the 2018 Sage Assembly. She gave keynotes: “We, Surveilled and Afraid, in a World We Never Made” at Minnesota Library Association’s conference and “Librarians Email Me” at LITA Forum. With Jesse Hocking (MA’19), she published “Digital Reformatting and Data Rescue with RADD and the PROUD and PRAVDA Kits” in the “Endangered Knowledge” themed issue of *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation*. With collaborators, Salo published ARL Spec Kit 360 and launched the IMLS-funded Data Doubles project.

**Jonathan Senchyne**, assistant professor, announces his book, *The Intimacy of Paper in Early and Nineteenth-Century American Literature*, which will be available from the University of Massachusetts Press’s Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book series in late 2019. He is the co-editor of a collection of essays available in mid-2019, *Against a Sharp White Background: Infrastructures of African American Print*, published in the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture’s book series at the UW Press.

**Vicki Tobias**, faculty associate, designed and taught a new course, Genealogy for Librarians, twice. She enjoyed mentoring new and returning

students following the Archives track and coordinated Curating Community Digital Collections, an IMLS-funded program that pairs iSchool students with cultural heritage institutions to complete a digital preservation project for practicum credit.

**Rebekah Willett**, associate professor, presented two papers at the United Kingdom Literacy Association annual conference in July: one on multiliteracies in public library storytimes and one on makerspace literacies. She also co-published a chapter with K. Koh and J. Abbas on social engagement in public library makerspaces in *Reconceptualizing Libraries: Perspectives from the Information and Learning Sciences*.

### In Memoriam

**Dr. Edwin Cortez**, faculty member from 1988 to 2005, passed away in October 2018. Dr. Cortez taught a generation of students in online searching, organization of information, and information technology, and showed his lighthearted side by flipping dozens of pancakes for the school’s annual pancake breakfast.

**James R. Bradshaw (MA’88)** passed away on December 23, 2018. James served for many years as a minister, librarian, and cataloger.

**George M. Bailey (MA’53)** passed away on July 31, 2018. George was the first Chief Librarian at York College in New York.



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## ISCHOOL REUNION AT ALA

We hope to see you  
in Washington, DC at ALA!

Check the website ([ischool.wisc.edu](http://ischool.wisc.edu))  
for details about the alumni reception.

## How far does Jottings travel?

