



Up Front

Cultural heritage close to home:

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Simmons GSLIS is involved in cultural heritage preservation initiatives all over the world. Faculty and staff have worked with librarians in Vietnam, Iraq, Kosovo, and Nicaragua. They have made great strides in helping librarians in those countries preserve important cultural information and artifacts. Did you know that there is a similar initiative happening less than two hours away from Boston? In keeping with Simmons' international initiatives, and to help celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the InfoLink staff took a field trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Mashantucket, Conn. It includes a research library, an archives, a children's library, a museum, and a small café.

Which came first, Foxwoods or the Pequot Museum and Research Center? Well, it depends. Foxwoods was *built* first (it started in 1986 as a Bingo hall, then added gaming tables in 1992 and slot machines in 1993). The Museum and Research Center was *conceived* of first—it was just as important to the Mashantucket Pequot tribe as building Foxwoods. The tribe started collecting items in the mid-1980s and opened the museum and research center in 1998.

Dr. Kevin McBride, Director of Research at the Pequot Museum and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut was one of three people the tribe asked to oversee the design and construction process of the museum and research center. He said that the tribe has long believed that the best way to change people's perspective on history is through research.

Today, McBride calls the library unique and dynamic. Researchers work on four floors and serve as resources for each other. Many researchers share ideas and access sources they can't find anywhere else. The center attracts faculty and graduate students from every college and university in Connecticut and Rhode Island, as well as many from Massachusetts. Dr. McBride said with pride, "Outside of Harvard and Yale, no university library matches what we have here."

The collection: Good, bad, and ugly

Need information on Puritan gravestones? Local maps from 1600-1800? Information on Native-colonist interactions in the 17th century? A current Native American newspaper? Tapes teaching how to speak Cherokee? Or maybe just a recommendation for a Thanksgiving book from the Native

American perspective? Look no further—the Pequot Museum and Research Center has it all under one roof. The depth and breadth of the library's collection is one of its strengths. One researcher who visited recently found many sources on Native American dance—much more information than the one source he found at the New York Public Library.

As Nora Costello, a reference librarian at the center, put it, "As a reference library, we collect the good, the bad, the indifferent, and the ugly." The library collects *all* materials about Native Americans—even works that contain stereotypes and untrue information. For example, the video collection includes old Westerns starring John Wayne and Robert Redford, along with Discovery Channel and PBS specials and even some native-produced music, the majority of which is contemporary, although there is some traditional. The entire collection has about 40,000 titles—with shelf space for up to 150,000. That doesn't count the several thousand volumes in the Children's Library.

Contrary to popular belief, the library does not have a large genealogical collection. However, because so many people ask for genealogical information, they do offer a small collection and a guide on how to get started.

"A really good 500 rare books"

The Research Center also has an extensive archives. Amy Langlois, the Assistant Archivist, graduated from Simmons GSLIS in 2002. Archives and Special Collections contains language glossaries, maps, pop culture materials, manuscripts, and legal documents. Langlois said that they only have about 500 rare books—"but they're a really good 500 rare books!" The archives and vault hold treasures such as religious texts, handcrafted maps from as early as 1600, local history texts, and books by Native American authors (often signed copies). They collect manuscripts and legal documents from 1600-1800 that document that Native American experience—for example, land deeds, overseer reports, and wills. A collection of tribal flags from across the U.S. also is housed in the archives when it's not hanging in the main exhibit space.

An underutilized resource

In spite of all its resources, the center is still a hidden gem; the staff said that all of its areas are underutilized.

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Eliot Wilczek

“Library, archives, and records management work are not really about records or information—they’re about people using or creating records or information.”

*Eliot Wilczek is an adjunct professor in the archives concentration. This fall he’s teaching LIS 456, *Managing Records in Electronic Environments*. In the spring, he will teach LIS 440, *Archival Access and Use*. Here, he talks about records management and the people behind those records.*

colleagues in this standards- and best-practices-oriented field. Get yourself engaged in the profession by reading broadly and extensively inside and outside the professional literature. And get involved in the various professional organizations.

Q: **Where are you currently working?**
I work in the Digital Collections and Archives at Tufts University as the University Records Manager.



Tell us about your grants and projects.
Last year I completed a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) electronic records research grant with Yale University about recordkeeping requirements, ingesting and maintaining records in a preservation environment in a trustworthy manner, and Fedora’s preservation capabilities. I also undertook an NHPRC Archival Research Fellowship about recordkeeping in the U.S. Army during World War I.

Isn’t Fedora a type of hat? How does this relate to digital archives?
Fedora is an open-source repository architecture upon which institutions can build a variety of digital repositories.

What do you like best about your work?
Working with people. I really enjoy meeting with an office’s staff and helping them address their recordkeeping challenges.

What are some of your professional interests?
Records. Our society runs on records; most of our interactions with governments, companies, institutions, and even other individuals are mediated through records. I’m fascinated by people’s recordkeeping behaviors and the complex relationships people and institutions have with the records they create and manage. I’m also interested in digital preservation issues.

Tell us a little about your past LIS experience.
I worked on a congressional collection as processing assistant at Bowdoin College. I then worked as an archivist at Brandeis University before coming to Tufts five years ago.

Where did you grow up?
I lived in Minnesota and Wisconsin as a little kid, spent my middle- and high-school years in Rhode Island, and went to college in Ohio.

What did you want to be as a kid?
A firefighter, like practically every other boy. Specifically, I wanted to drive the back of a hook-and-ladder fire truck. I also wanted to drive an ambulance. It was all about driving fast and weaving through traffic with the sirens blaring.

What advice do you have for people just entering the profession?
Don’t be shy. Library, archives, and records management work are not really about records or information—they’re about people using or creating records or information. LIS is very social work, whether it’s helping users or working with

In which professional organizations are you active?
Society of American Archivists; New England Archivists; Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA), International; and ARMA, Boston.

What book have you re-read the most times?
I’ve read *Goodnight, Gorilla* to my one-year-old daughter more times than I can remember.

Something you collect?
I deal with collections of records and objects at work; I try to avoid collecting things at home.

Interview by Elisabeth Zimmer

GSLIS West column: Meet Raynna Bowlby



Raynna Bowlby is the new GSLIS West Recruiting and Administrative Coordinator. She’ll also be teaching Principles of Management (LIS 404) at GSLIS West in the spring. A GSLIS alum, Raynna has worked in a number of medical libraries, corporate/high-tech libraries, and academic libraries. Here, she tells us about the experience, energy, and passion for Boston sports that she brings to GSLIS.

Tell us about your pre-GSLIS life.
For the last 20 years I was associated with the Brown University Library, primarily in the role of Organizational & Staff Development in the Office of the University Librarian. This past year I became involved in a new venture, as a consultant. I help libraries with strategic planning and other change management challenges. I also consult for the Association of Research Libraries on leadership development and library assessment. Last, but not least, I provide human resources consulting to universities and libraries.

What’s your favorite part of GSLIS West so far?
Feeling like an “old hand” in librarianship after 30+ years, it is a pleasure and an honor to engage with folks new to the profession. I’m fascinated by what is leading them to select our field and also by what they bring to it, especially their technical knowledge and skills and also the cultural and attitudinal differences they will bring to our workplaces.

It’s a pleasure to work with Terry (Plum, Assistant Dean) and our GSLIS West student Jeremy Smith. They both have a sense of humor, are intelligent, technically gifted, and engaged in GSLIS. We have a great camaraderie and complementary strengths. I’ve also enjoyed meeting many of my GSLIS Boston faculty and staff colleagues. I feel fortunate to be affiliated with terrific folks at Simmons.

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Up Front: Mashantucket Pequot

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The public isn't aware of all the resources, so the staff spends a considerable amount of time doing outreach—something Amy hadn't been quite prepared for. "The field used to rely on scholars who understood how to do research," Langlois said, "so they didn't need to do a lot of outreach." Now, however, it's a substantial part of her job. Much of her outreach is directly to the tribe itself. For example, at tribal events, she asks for help identifying historic family photos.. She also reaches out to local colleges and universities, as well as to writers and publishers who often need images or information for books and articles. She sees the archives as a resource for "all sorts of social history information, not just Native American stuff."

Gaby Kaye, the Children's Librarian, does her outreach to a different population: kids. She gets e-mail questions and letters from all over the country from kids who want information on the Mashantucket Pequots or other Native Americans. She spends most mornings working with Pequot children in school on the reservation. Nine classes a week come to the Children's Library to incorporate books by native tribes and typical children's stories into their classwork. Most afternoons, Kaye welcomes visiting school groups into the library—nearly 60,000 children every year. She also offers workshops on looking at books critically to evaluate the information from a cultural point of view.

McBride's outreach focuses on reaching more researchers, as well as research interns. One of the library's current challenges is to make information more accessible to researchers. For example, the 17th-century handwriting on some papers is hard to read, so the documents are being transcribed and digitized. McBride said he is finding that "the digital revolution involves an amazing amount of labor." He sees the research center as an outstanding resource for researchers in many fields, such as archaeology, ethnology, anthropology, and history, and said he wishes more people would take advantage of it.

Want to visit?

Interested in seeing the libraries, museum, and archives firsthand? Start at the website: <http://www.pequotmuseum.org/>. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The library, Archives and Special Collections, and Children's Library are open Monday through Friday. Museum admission for adults is \$15; admission to the library is free. It takes just under two hours to get there by car from Boston.

Article by Elisabeth Zimmer

Advice for archivists

Langlois' advice for library students planning to get a job in an archives: look in places you wouldn't expect to find them. For example, she said she expects archives for corporate entities to be an up-and-coming field. Langlois said she was lucky in her job search; this position was the first one she applied for. She also suggests that students broaden their degree—develop their technical skills, get familiar with Web development, and think about museum skills.



GSLIS West column: Meet Rayna Bowlby

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I am also greatly looking forward to the teaching that I'll be doing next semester. Not only will this be another terrific way to interact with our students, but it will allow me to get fully immersed in my favorite professional/academic area. Believe it or not, I actually like to read Management literature, mull over the theories, discuss how things work in real organizations, etc. I can't wait!

Where did you grow up?

I'm a New Englander through and through. I grew up in Salem, NH, which was a small town back in the day. I've lived in Boston, Maine, Rhode Island, and now Connecticut. Is Vermont in my future?

What are your hobbies?

My main hobby is obsessing on Boston sports teams. I am a *rabid* Sox fan going back to impressionable memories of cheering for Teddy Ballgame (Williams) with my dad, a la Doris Kearns Goodwin with the Brooklyn Dodgers, and of course falling in love with Jim Lonborg in '67. I'm even nuttier about football, since my son played and is now a high school coach. I adore the Pats. My husband works at UConn and we follow both the men's and women's basketball teams. For all these teams I *sel-dom* miss a game; yes, really. So those are my hobbies, though when I'm screaming and yelling I'm not sure that's relaxing!

What book(s) are you reading currently? What's your favorite book?

I'm currently reading Richard Russo's *Bridge of Sighs*. My favorite book of all-time is *Pride & Prejudice*. It's become like a security blanket for me; I always return to it in times of stress.

Tell us about your job responsibilities.

My major responsibilities are recruiting and marketing for the GSLIS West program, which includes coordinating on- and off-site information sessions, presenting GSLIS at conferences and job fairs and in similar venues, recruiting prospective students, working with Admissions, and maintaining a GSLIS West presence on the Web and in various publications. My other administrative responsibilities include coordinating support for the GSLIS West office and faculty. I have a habit of getting involved in lots of different kinds of projects at work. I can already see such possibilities at GSLIS, and that's very energizing.

What are you passionate about professionally?

I guess I've already revealed that I am passionate about the field of organizational behavior, particularly leadership and management studies, and change management. This is an ideal synergy with today's libraries, since our profession is experiencing so much change.

What are you passionate about outside of work?

Since I've already babbled on about my love of sports, I would also like to rave about my family. I am actually a newlywed, having married just last year, which is a wonderful gift in my middle age. My husband, Brinley Franklin, happens to be a librarian too (we share all the same degrees including our undergraduate major). He is Vice Provost for University Libraries at UConn. We have three fabulous kids and a blended family of three male dogs — some days that works better than others. There are frequent skirmishes over the role of alpha male.

Any predictions for Boston sports teams this year?

It certainly looks like the Pats are going all the way and that we could have another year with both football and baseball World Champions. Go Pats!

Interview by Elisabeth Zimmer

December Events

Wednesday, December 12, End of Semester Party. There will be appetizers, a cash bar, and door prizes — all brought to you by LISSA, ASIS&T, MSLMA and SLA. Squealing Pig, 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 15, Classes End.

Sunday, December 16, GSLIS Graduation Recognition Ceremony. Students graduating this semester will receive an invitation in the mail for this event.

December 21 – January 1, Holiday Break.

More information about these and other events can be found at <http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/resources/calendars/events.shtml>.

Are you ready for a Ph.D.?

If so, GSLIS Doctoral Studies is now accepting applications through February 1st, 2008. For more information email phd-lis@simmons.edu.

Save the Date...upcoming events

Joint Doctoral Student Reception at ALISE
January 8–11, 2008, Philadelphia, PA.

ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 11–16, 2008, Philadelphia, PA
GSLIS representatives will be in attendance. Contact gslis@simmons.edu to connect with someone!

GSLIS Alumni Day
Saturday, March 29, 2008, Simmons College, Boston, MA

Upcoming GSLISCE Online Workshops

January 1 - 31, 2008

- The Read/Write Web: Social Software and Libraries

February 1 - 28, 2008

- Feed Your Site: Building a Dynamic Web Presence for Your Library
- Creating Online Tutorials: A Designer's Challenge
- Lone Arranger: How Do You Survive?

For the full list of upcoming workshops, see <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/continuing/workshops/>

In an upcoming InfoLink...

Sarah Thomas and Peter Hirtle gave this year's ISI Samuel Lazorow Memorial Lecture, entitled "Babies and Bathwater: Re-Imagining Academic Libraries," on November 16th. Peter Hirtle is the Intellectual Property Officer for Cornell University Libraries. Sarah Thomas, a 1973 GSLIS grad, is the first woman and the first non-Brit to head Oxford University's Bodley Library. Look for more information about the duo in the March issue of *InfoLink*. To listen to a podcast of this lecture, visit: <http://gslis.simmons.edu/podcasts/index.php?id=40>

Folks on the Move

Congratulations to Mott Linn for his new column "On Strategy" to be published in "The Bottom Line." The first column published in the series is entitled "The Importance of Managing Strategically."

Camila Alire is a candidate for the 2009-2010 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA). Alire is currently an adjunct professor for the Ph.D. program in managerial leadership and adjunct professor for San Jose State University Library & Information Science's executive MLIS managerial leadership program.

Congratulations to ASIS&T for winning The Student Chapter of the Year Award, along with the student chapter at UCLA.

Petitions to Graduate

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Students who intend to complete the GSLIS program in May 2008 CAN STILL submit the petition to graduate to the GSLIS Administrative Office (room P111).

You may also fax the form to 617-521-3192 or mail it to: Simmons College GSLIS, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 01225, Attn: Graduation. The petition to graduate can be downloaded at: <http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/resources/student-info/graduation.shtml>.

Those who are unsure of their graduation plans should submit the petition with their anticipated term of completion. If your graduation date changes, please submit a new petition with the new graduation date. If you have already submitted a petition and received confirmation, you do not need to submit another one.

For more information...

Check out *InfoLink's* online supplement at (<http://web.simmons.edu/~lislive/infolink>)

InfoLink

InfoLink is the monthly newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Its purpose is to provide school- and career-related information and to foster community among the many diverse people who make up the school.

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