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NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA—COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

C E L E B R A T I N G

50
Years

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

School of Information

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The University of South Florida School of Information (USF SI) newsletter brings together departmental stories, events, and news important to information professionals. Each volume contains two issues published in the Fall and Spring. The Spring 2024 issue is Vol. 2, No. 1 of the publication. Please contact si@usf.edu for questions, feedback, or more information.



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Dr. Alice G. Smith: Her Life and Legacy



John McCrossan (2nd Director of USF SI) and Alice G. Smith (1st Director of USF SI)

If you are part of the School of Information, you've heard the name Dr. Alice G. Smith. Her impact on the school, and on our Library and Information Sciences program cannot be understated, especially as we undergo our 8th American Library Association (ALA) Committee on Accreditation (COA) review. The program's first year of accreditation was under the watch of Dr. Smith in 1975, her 10th year as director. Her impact on the school is continued even now via the Dr. Alice G. Smith Lecture series, which is one of the oldest lecture series in library and information science, and was celebrated concurrently with the school's 50th anniversary on November 2nd, 2023.

Born in Farmington, Michigan, she was the firstborn child of Rev. & Mrs. George Gullen Sr. Not much is known about her younger years, but she was eventually a triple graduate of the Colleges of the City of Detroit (what is now Wayne State University) earning a Bachelor's in 1932, and a Master's and Doctorate shortly after that. In 1965 she and her husband, Norman V. Smith, moved to Tampa after he began working in the USF engineering department. She originally joined the faculty as an associate professor in the School of Education, teaching with Florence Cleary (who had been the former Chairman of the Library Science program at Wayne State University). She quickly became the first Chairman of the Library Science program at USF, and pushed for the program to become its own department within the School of Education. A Master's program in School Librarianship was originally offered in 1965, however, five years later in 1970, the Florida Board of Regents approved a comprehensive Library Science Master's program. In 1975, Dr. Smith's efforts to ensure ALA accreditation for USF's Library Science program bore fruit and the school enjoyed its first round of accreditation.

While starting the MLIS program at USF was one of Dr. Smith's large contributions to the Tampa Bay area, she also started the Tampa Book Fair, as she had worked extensively on the Detroit Book Fair prior to her move to the Sunshine State and felt strongly about children's literature being accessible to as many kids as possible. Her good friend, Bernadette Storck, who met Alice and became involved in the Book Fair through her community engagement position at the Tampa Public Library, had this to say in an interview in 2009, "with those early days in the book fair, we all worked real hard. Alice was right in there with a broom and a mop just as the rest of us were. And of course, she also was so creative in dealing with the enhancement of education." Storck goes on to talk about how passionate Dr. Smith was about the MLIS program she had begun and ensuring that the librarians in her community had the tools necessary to support the people they were serving. After she stepped down as Chairman in 1976, Dr. Smith continued teaching at USF and retired as a professor emeritus in 1990. In 1989 a lectureship was established in her honor, highlighting her passion for librarianship and children's literature. The Dr. Alice G. Smith lecture series has gone on to become one of the longest running lecture series on librarianship, and is a fitting legacy for an incredible leader.

Information from Tampa Bay Times May 7, 1997 article by Craig Basse and a 2009 interview of Bernadette Storck by Arlen Bensen

34 Years of the Dr. Alice G. Smith Lecture

Watch the 2023 Alice G. Smith Lecture given by USF Library Director, Todd Chavez

Formally begun in 1989, the Dr. Alice G. Smith Lecture is an annual lecture given by a person who has been instrumental in the development of librarianship and information studies. A small group of Dr. Smith's friends and supporters wanted to find a way to combine both her love of librarianship, and her devotion to children's literature into a legacy that couldn't be forgotten. Originally, the lecture series was intended to be given by those involved in creating or amplifying children's literature, but it has since grown to include many important aspects of librarianship, such as technological advances, community engagement through the lens of social work, and DEI initiatives.

While the lecture is usually given on the USF campus, in years past there have been changes of venue to mark special events and anniversaries, such as for the 25th anniversary of the lecture, which was given in Orlando during the ALA's annual conference, or the 30th anniversary lecture, which was given at the Robert W. Saunders Sr. Public Library, a branch of the Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library system. In recent years, the lecture has been held online in order to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions and to reach a larger audience. The most recent lecture was given during the school's 50th Anniversary celebration by alumni and Director of USF's Libraries, Todd Chavez, who is also our Alumni Spotlight (see pg. 14-15 for interview).

The First Ten Lectures- 1989-2002

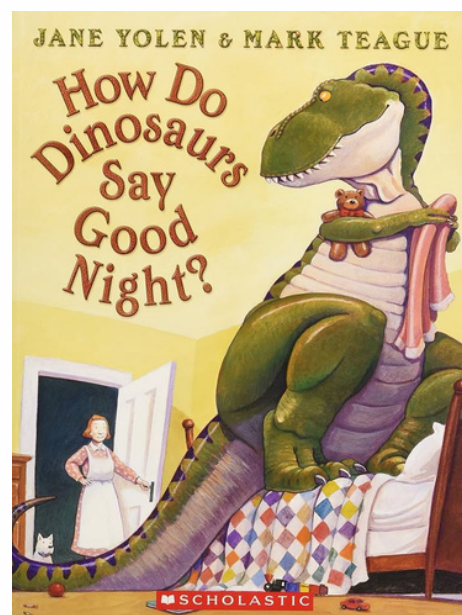
1989, Jane Yolen: author of beloved children's literature such as *Owl Moon* and *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* Her books have won two Nebula awards, a Caldecott, a World Fantasy Award, the Golden Kite award, and many many others.

1990, Kenneth E. Dowlin: City Librarian for the City of San Francisco.

1991, Miriam Drake: Winner of the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award, former Dean and Professor Emerita of Georgia Tech Library.

1992, P. B. Mangla: Professor and Head of the Department of Library and Information Science at Delhi University.

1994, Mary Somerville: retired Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.



1996, Bernadette Storck: first director of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, president and later the archivist for the Florida Library Association.

1998, Philip M. Turner: served simultaneously as a dean and the lead administrator for distance and distributed learning for fifteen years at two institutions: the University of Alabama and the University of North Texas.

1999, Isabel Schon: Spanish-speaking and Latino children expert. Author of 25 books and more than 400 research and literary articles Her lecture was published in *Library Services to Youth of Hispanic Heritage* as "From Dona Blanca to Don Quijote."

2000, Satia Marshall Orange: then Director of the American Library Association Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, focusing on areas such as service to people with disabilities, people of color, older adults, and the unhoused.

2002, Robert S. Martin: the first librarian to direct the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), national President of Beta Phi Mu, and a professor at the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University.

The 25th Anniversary: 2003-2014

2003, Eugene Garfield: chemist and leader in the field of Library and Information Science. He is also a past American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) President (1998-2000) and the President and founding editor of *The Scientist*.

2004, Samantha K. Hastings: director and professor at the University of South Carolina, School of Library and Information Science, served as ASIS&T President in 2004.

2005, Tom W. Sloan: Executive Director of the Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN).

2006, Donald O. Case: Professor University of Kentucky College of Communication and Information Studies was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to lecture at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. Case's book, *Looking for Information: A Survey of Research on Information Seeking, Needs, and Behavior* (2002) was given the "Best Book of the Year" Award by the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T).

2007, Ashley Bryan: author, illustrator, and storyteller, honored with the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award.

2009, John M. Budd: Professor in the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri. Among his publications are *Knowledge and Knowing in Library and Information Science* (2001), which won the 2002 ALA/Highsmith Library Literature Award, and *Self-Examination: The Present and Future of Librarianship* (2008). He received the Beta Phi Mu Award in 2020.

2011, Raymond Santiago: director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System (MDPLS) He won Library Journal Librarian of the Year Award for 2003.

2012, C.J. Roberts: President and CEO of the Tampa Bay History Center.

2013, Anthony Betrus: professor in the Computer Science/Organizational Leadership and Technology Department at the State University of New York (SUNY Potsdam). He implemented a six-course, 18-credit hour concentration on Game Development as an option for Information Technology graduate students. Betrus' research interests include the motivational qualities of games and using games for training and instructional purposes.

2014, Angie Drobic Holan: editor of PolitiFact.com, the School of Information's 25th anniversary lecturer. She is also the 2014 recipient of the School of Information Distinguished Alumni Award. Holan was a member of the PolitiFact team that won the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 2008 election.



Ashley Bryan, author/illustrator of *Beautiful Blackbird*, *Freedom Over Me*, and *I Am Loved*

Where Are We Now: 2015-Present

2015, Barbara J. Stites: current Adjunct Professor at USF School of Information, past Assoc. Dean at Florida Gulf Coast University. Stites has been president of the Florida Library Association and the Director of both the Southwest Florida Library Network and the Tampa Bay Library Consortium. She is the 2008 recipient of the School of Information Distinguished Alumni Award.

2016, Roy Balleste: Director of the Dolly & Homer Hand Law Library at the Stetson University College of Law. Balleste was the 2017 winner of the Nicolas Mateesco Matte Space Law Prize. He is author of *Internet Governance: Origins, Current Issues, and Future Possibilities*.

2017, Douglas W. Oard: Professor, University of Maryland, School of Information.

Nathan R. Johnson, Department of English at the University of South Florida, historian of librarianship, information, and public memory.

2018, Nathan R. Johnson: Department of English at the University of South Florida, historian of librarianship, information, and public memory.

2019, Jessamyn West: creator of librarian.net. Title of Lecture: "Social Justice is a Library Issue; Libraries are a Social Justice Issue."

2020, James E. Andrews: director of the School of Information, University of South Florida. He spoke on the history of the School of Information as it evolved to include STEM-based Intelligence Studies and Cybersecurity.

2021, Lucia M. Gonzalez: author and library director at the North Miami, Florida public library and Alicia K. Long, 2022 REFORMA "Librarian of the Year," and academic librarian at the State College of Florida, Manatee–Sarasota.

2022, Mika Slaughter Nelson: Library Director for the City of St. Petersburg Library System in Florida. She has served on the Executive Board of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators-Tampa Bay.

2023, Todd Chavez, Dean of the University of South Florida Libraries. Honored with the Bernie Madison Outstanding Achievement Award by the National Numeracy Network.



Jean Key Gates Award



Wade Bishop Ph.D.
Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
University of Tennessee-Knoxville

“Dr. Bishop’s work in advancing the field through library education, research, and service exemplifies the type of person we honor through the Outstanding Alumni Award!”

-Dr. Natalie Taylor

Dr. Natalie Taylor—50th Anniversary Celebration, Jean Key Gates Award Announcement

“Dr. Bishop is a Professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He is the Director of Graduate Studies as well as the Research Data Management Certificate Coordinator. His research focus is on Research Data Management, Data Discovery, Geographic Information Science, as well as the study of data occupations, education, and training. He has other research expertise that includes physical access for users to U.S. public libraries (using Geographic information Systems (GIS)), and the evaluation of many other services and resources in academic and public libraries. His research truly reflects the reach of the field of library and information sciences. In addition to the M.L.I.S. he has from our School of Information, he also earned a Ph.D. from Florida State University. He serves as Associate Editor for Telematics and Informatics and on several other editorial boards. In addition to this year’s alumni award, he’s received several other commendations, including a teaching award this year, the 2019 Best Long Paper from the Association for Information Science and Technology (or ASIS&T) and the 2018 Best Paper award from the International Data Curation Conference. Dr. Bishop’s work in advancing the field through library education, research, and service exemplifies the type of person we honor through the Outstanding Alumni Award!”

YEARLY AWARDS

Additionally, the faculty of the School of Information recognize an outstanding student or students whose work, involvement with the community, and contributions to the field stand out among their peers. For 2023, both Kyairla Davis and Gabriel Vega were nominated and accepted their awards at the 50th Anniversary Reception. The two professors that nominated them, Dr. Natalie Taylor, and Dr. John Gathegi, had this to say about their accomplishments.

Dr. Natalie Taylor

“Kyairla Davis is the current President of the Student Organization of Library and Information Science (SOLIS), the ALA and SLA student group, and has been an outstanding contributor to student activities. I’ve had the pleasure of working with her on accreditation related tasks during her service as a graduate assistant and in addition to being a great GA, she’s also just fun to work with. In addition to this award, she also has the honor of being named a 2023 ALA Spectrum scholar.”

Dr. John Gathegi

“Gabriel's exceptional analytical abilities, coupled with an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and a deep passion to become an outstanding member of the intelligence community, set him apart as one of the most brilliant candidates among all MSIS students.”

Outstanding Students of the Year



Kyairla Davis
MLIS Candidate



Gabriel Vega
MSIS Candidate

Conference Season 2023: From London to the Bay

This was a busy conference season for our faculty at USF's School of Information, as we hosted the Alumni Reception at the Florida Library Association (FLA) in May 2023, sponsored the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Annual Meeting in October, and sent 7 faculty members to 3 different conferences, some as close at the Tampa Bay Library Consortium's (TBLC) VIP event, and as far away as London for the 86th Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) Annual Meeting. The faculty who were sent to these meetings have given brief accounts of what they learned or hope to learn on conferences that have not happened yet at the time of writing and students who are interested in the careers these associations represent may be interested in what the conferences were like and how they can join as student members!



FLA Annual Conference

This conference covers topics important to librarians in Florida and the association supports and advocates for the profession. Some events from this year's conference were:

- [Fear is Alive: Creating a Library Environment that Addresses the Needs of Young Patrons with Anxiety Issues](#)
- [Be the Leader that shows how to C.A.R.E.](#)
- [Making History a New Reality: How Library Partnerships Using 3D, Digital Collections and Virtual Platforms Can Elevate Learning](#)

ALISE Annual Conference

USF's School of Information is dedicated to helping you achieve the career goals you have always dreamed of, and part of that dedication to excellence is reflected in their support and membership in ALISE, the professional organization that focuses on continuing to push for excellence and preparation for LIS program graduates. For the 2023 conference, USF sponsored lanyards for the attendees, ensuring professional connections and remarkable networking. The theme for the conference was "Bridge the Gap: Teaching, Learning, Practice, and Competencies", and the keynote speaker was Nadya A. Fouad, Ph.D., ABPP. Her presentation, "Competency-Based Education from Proposals to Accreditation: Lessons and Challenges from Psychology," builds on her research in how people make work and career-related decisions, particularly in understanding the work choices for women and underrepresented minorities.



Dr. “Scuba” Steve Gary—DEFCON 31 Attendee

Dr. "Scuba" Steve Gary attended DEFCON 31, the world's largest hacker conference. "The more we know about the threats and vulnerabilities in cyberspace, the more we know how to reduce the threats, and prevent or mitigate exploitation (hacking) of those vulnerabilities." He particularly likes the villages, areas with hands-on activities. One of the new villages for DEFCON 31, Quantum Village, was focused on the current progress on quantum technology and what the future may hold. While today, quantum is slow and expensive, if a major breakthrough happens, who knows what quantum will look like in the future. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) village was popular as well, as there have been large leaps in this technology recently.

Dr. Gary states, "There are many issues that need be addressed with quantum computing, cost (to build and to power with electricity) being the primary issue, then speed (the main reason to pursue quantum computing), then heat (processing at quantum speed generates too much heat). I wanted to know where we stand with quantum computing because I believe quantum computing is today's "space race," because whoever develops "true" quantum computing will have an advantage over the world. From a cybersecurity perspective, just like with AI (you need cybersecurity AI to defend against malicious AI), you will need cybersecurity quantum computing to defend against malicious quantum computing."

Chloe Hartman, Academic Services Administrator—TBLC VIP Conference Attendee

"Dr. Taylor and I attended the TBLC VIP Conference to present at our Information session for the School of Information graduate programs, specifically the MLIS program, since that is the profession the conference was catering to. We updated a PowerPoint presentation we had used last year, that included a brief history, an overview of our MSCIS and MSIS programs, and then details on the MLIS program. Our presentation was brief, but we wanted to utilize the majority of the time for questions prospective students may have and to just have a discussion with those who attended our session.

The way we went about our presentation was very informal and just allowed for us to talk to students who were thinking about pursuing their LIS degree in the future. We had lots of questions, got to speak on specific courses, pathways librarians may follow and how our program caters to that, admissions requirements and the application process...etc. We had Kyairla in our room as well, so she briefly touched on SOLIS. A recent MLIS graduate, Sara Hack, was also in attendance and provided a bit on her experience in our program at USF. It was really enjoyable to connect with prospective students. I did meet one student who started her first semester in Fall 2023, so she was really fresh to the program and wanted to introduce herself to me personally – I loved that! It's great to meet and talk with students in person, especially because our courses are 100% online. It's one of my favorite things about my position at the School of Information.

I guess for tips on public speaking I'd say that because the style of our session was so casual, it didn't feel hard to just talk with students. I present this information in emails and phone calls all day long also, so it's stuff I was really familiar with informing students on. I am naturally an introverted person, so there is some anxiety going into it, but partnering with Dr. Taylor to present made it really easy, smooth, and fun!"

To view their presentation click [here](#).

Dr. Steven Walczak—ASIS&T Conference Attendee

“I have never been to an ASIS&T conference before and as such have no idea what to expect. My graduate assistant and I will be presenting a paper on borrowing in Celtic music, so the fact that our domain is Celtic music and we will be in a Celtic proximal area is fun to think about. As with any conference, we hope to find others who are interested in our research and possibly doing something similar. We also look forward to recommendations on directions to take our research as well as any questions about what and why we did what we did to help strengthen journal article versions of our research forthcoming. It is always nice to interact with faculty from outside of USF and hear about their research and have the possibility of forming collaborative research projects moving forward.

I love traveling and getting to see new parts of the world and experience other cultures. The thing I dislike about travel is all the airport regulations/security including long immigration lines and waiting around for the flights.”

Dr. Ly Dinh—ASIS&T Conference Attendee

“As an early career faculty, I plan to focus on two areas for professional development:

1. Networking and Collaboration:

ASIST 2023 presents a unique opportunity to connect with eminent scholars and colleagues in the Information Science field. It will not only allow me to strengthen my existing collaborations but also establish new professional relationships. The conference's diverse attendee base is a rich source of knowledge exchange and potential future partnerships, fostering a vibrant community within the discipline.

2. Exposure to new methods and frameworks for data science and crisis informatics::

The conference will serve as a window into the forefront of Information Science, with a particular focus on emerging trends in data science and crisis informatics, which are my two areas of research and teaching. Attending presentations, keynotes, and discussions will expose me to the latest research findings and innovative approaches, specifically with the advent of LLMs such as GPT-4, Llama2, and Falcon.

I'm excited to see that this year there are a number of papers that focus on crisis informatics. I will also actively attend the poster session where I will present my work and receive feedback from peers and experts. I will also attend another paper session on bibliometrics and network analysis where I will hear about state-of-the-art methods for bibliometric data handling and network construction based on citation and co-authorship data. Two sessions I will attend are:

Paper Session 11: Information Crisis and Digital Divide.

Paper Session 19: Scholarly Communication and Open Access

ASIS&T's poster session is my most preferred networking platform. I will also attend 'Meet the JASIST Editors' to learn about the editorial process and publication opportunities, with the aim of gaining insights into the peer-review and publication procedures at JASIST, which could be invaluable for my future research contributions.

One thing I enjoy about travel: Exploring new museums, trying local cuisines, and catch up with my colleagues and conference friends. One thing I do not enjoy about travel: the time difference!”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kyairla Davis—Nominated by Dr. Kathleen McCook & Dr. Natalie Taylor



Dr. Kathleen de la Peña McCook

“Kyairla produced a LibGuide, Libraries and Incarceration, along with another student, which is now displayed on the American Library Association’s website. This resource guide provides information on providing library services within correctional institutions, including ALA policies and standards, a select bibliography, directories of organizations that support library services and intellectual freedom for justice-involved individuals, along with resources for libraries to provide justice-involved individuals upon reentry into their communities.”

Dr. Natalie Taylor

“Kyairla is the current president of SOLIS, has been instrumental in organizing many events for our students, is involved in the professional community (TBLC for instance), and has been a fantastic GA.”

Jahnae Edwards—Nominated by Dr. Loni Hagen



“Jahane Edward is currently in her third year of the Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS) program at the University of South Florida. She has been working on a funded project named “Online Information Environment Analysis” with Big Data Analytics Lab. Her contributions to this initiative have been significant, involving the successful completion of multiple data mining tasks aimed at identifying behavioral patterns within a targeted misinformation campaign prevalent on social media platforms. In addition to her excellent academic work, she has proven records of working for non-profit local organizations to assist low-income students and families. Jahane Edward embodies the type of student that the BSIS program at the

University of South Florida highly values. Her unique ability to amalgamate technological expertise with a genuine commitment to assist marginalized populations underscores her potential to harness technology for the benefit of those who have been underserved by it.”

Alexandra Sosa Mora—Nominated by David Chapel & Dr. “Scuba” Steve Gary



“Alexandra Sosa Mora represents the best and brightest students at USF. Alexandra's academics are in the top 10%, currently holding a 4.0 GPA. She was selected to be an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (IC-CAE) Scholar and went on to represent USF at the 2023 IC-CAE Summer Seminar in Washington, DC. Then she was quickly selected as an intern for Security Management International (SMI), one of USF's industry partners in the field of intelligence. Alexandra is earning her way to a successful career. Alexandra was selected as a Graduate Assistant due to her particular skillset and experience to work with sensitive documents

as part of a digitization project and has continued to be a valuable member in her time as a graduate assistant.”

Dean of USF Libraries & USF Alum: Todd Chavez



B.A. Anthropology '84 and M.A. Library and Information Science '98 from USF

Todd received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and a Master of Arts degree in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida. He currently serves as the Dean for the USF Libraries. His research focuses on the intersection between library and information science and interdisciplinary research, with emphasis on the geosciences.

Chavez's areas of expertise include library administration, digital library/collection implementation and management, open-access publishing, digital scholarship, and geoscience information research.

He is the winner of the 2022 Bernie Madison Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Numeracy Network which is awarded to those who show exceptional leadership and contributions in the field of numeracy and quantitative literacy.

Chavez served on the Digital Initiatives Advisory Board for the Medieval Academy of America, the USF Associate Deans for Research Committee, the Provost's Chairs Steering Committee, and is a founding member of the international Karst Information Portal Project collaboration. His current assignment places him on the University of South Florida's Campus Leadership Council, the Council of Deans, and the Information Technology Management Council.



How do you remember your experience with USF's School of Information?

I remember it very fondly, I very much enjoyed the program. I had the pleasure of coming in during a transitional time where we had some online courses, but the vast majority were in-person courses. As a result of that, the school was pretty energetic about making sure that there was some organizing by cohorts. I had actually come back to USF after getting my Bachelor's there in Anthropology. I left for some personal reasons, but had wanted to go to graduate school for Archeology. So, I served a 10-year sentence in retail at Barnes & Noble and thought I would get a job at USF, which would enable me to go to school and be in a supportive environment. So, I got a job within the library because of my experience at B&N, and I had no idea of what to expect, but I loved it! Once I started doing the work here, I started seeing all these different potentials down the road, so I decided, even before I was admitted into the Archeology program, I was going to go into Library and Information Science. Once I made that decision I never looked back.

What did you like the most about the program?

Some of the faculty that I had experience with, Dr. Anna Perrault in particular, she was my advisor and mentor, and boy, did I learn from her. She was fantastic. Her whole area was academic librarianship, but she was also the faculty member who primarily taught research methods. I had a lot of affinity for that "harder side" of the profession, more of the quantitative and research method driven areas. She gave me a lot of support, a lot of freedom in how I could structure projects and things like that. Flexibility is something you want in a graduate program, there was a lot at the time and still is.

What skills did you learn during your time in the MLIS program that have greatly impacted your career?

I'll start it like this, one of the things I did wrong in the program was I left cataloging for last. In essence, a well-designed catalog or search utility makes self-support possible for the overwhelming number of people who are going to encounter the library. The other part is that it lets the rest of the library focus on those high tier activities that no one gets to do if what they're doing all day long is helping people locate information resources.

What skills did you learn outside of school that you feel are especially important to your successes in your career?

Generally, I do tell all my classes, as soon as you get your MLIS, eventually, you're going to be in charge of something. Spend some time learning about how to lead, manage, and supervise. All three. Learn something about budgets, and learn as much as you can about how you can deal with goal setting, and planning for an organization.

What changes have you seen to the program since you were in it?

Shifting from in-person to online was a big one. It was pretty gradual for a while and then it very much intensified. That's probably the single biggest change. They have spent more time thinking about the core courses that are required for everyone, and I think they've done a good job in closing some gaps.

What is your favorite/the most interesting part of being the Director of Libraries for USF?

My favorite part is I am not constrained when I want to do things that are different. I am lucky because I am surrounded by people who are willing at least give me an opportunity to explain what craziness I want to do next. Since I've been Dean, I've spent a lot of time building new ways for the library to be relevant, take leadership roles, and contribute to research.



I want to participate in and collaborate on research! When I was going to library school it was very much inculcated into the mindset that, “you are not an information creator, your role is to provide guidance and direct and support people who are trying to find information.” I understood that role, particularly as more and more information became digitally available, but I started to wonder what the future of librarianship would be if we didn't think about some of these things. I've worked really hard to move the library to be a creator of information. We worked on a project that was on the cover of Nature magazine, the #1 science magazine in the world. Our people designed a model that made it possible for researchers to draw the conclusions they drew about a particular burial being the earliest known burial of a modern human in Africa. Our people created the 3D model and showed how the deposition of the skeleton was not natural, it had to have been human placed, it couldn't have been done naturally.



The School of Information Science just had its 50th anniversary, how do you hope we will improve in the next 50 years?

I'd like to see some of the technology that I've been referencing added into the curriculum so that students can get some real hands-on experience with those. GIS is really important, I think GIS is the most important information technology, certainly in the 20th century as it emerged, but also in the 21st century. I think it's critical. You can't understand a world without understanding the spaces we live in. Almost anything can be dealt with that kind of approach.

We'll be talking a lot about legacies in this newsletter, what do you hope your legacy will be within USF's Libraries?

There's a whole different mindset now. There's always talk of change, but to be honest with you, we're all tired of hearing about change. There is no change except change. To us, it's like we're not even going to talk about it anymore and to live in that environment, you've gotta have a mindset that's different. You have to be prepared to be opportunistic when it's appropriate, very tactical when it's appropriate, and not to confuse the two.

What is one thing that students might be surprised to learn about you?

I don't really know. I guess the only thing, because not many academics enjoy this, I do a lot of outdoor stuff. I do archery, kayaking, birding. I do flintknapping, I can mimic a stone tool made by an early human. I actually have an affinity and enjoy working on those primitive skills. You probably wouldn't think about that for a library Dean.

What is one message you'd like to leave the students with on their educational journeys?

The only boundaries this profession will give you are artificial boundaries. Everything else... it's an unbounded world. We've seen it. Look at all the misinformation and disinformation, all of this highlights the critical need for information being as democratized as it can be and still get produced, because surely, we can do a lot better than what we currently do. As librarians that's what we do, so don't undervalue our contributions. Don't allow yourself to be undervalued; as my colleague Tom Getwinski says, “We have a noble profession. Treat it accordingly.”

Academic Forum—Health Informatics

Background

Dr. Denise Shereff has been a faculty member at USF for the past 15 years, beginning as an adjunct instructor in 2009, teaching a course in Consumer Health Information Sources and Services, to her current Associate Instructor position, beginning last year. She received her Bachelor's in Foreign Language from Austin Peay State University, earned an MLIS from the University of South Carolina, and just recently graduated with a PhD in Educational/Instructional Technology from USF in 2023. Her research was concentrated on the intersections between social work and librarianship, and how to better train social workers to be better information seekers.



Student Practicum

Dr. Shereff is the student practicum coordinator, one of the many incredible coursework opportunities that are accessible to USF MLIS and SCIP candidates. If a student wishes to gain some professional and practical experience working within a library or other information science center while also earning course credit toward their Master's degree, they can reach out to Dr. Shereff. If the student has an idea for where they'd like to complete their practicum Dr. Shereff will coordinate with that organization, or if the student needs direction, Dr. Shereff can also help find opportunities in the area of a student's interest. Additionally, her advice to students looking to make the most out of the Information Science program (at any level) would be to become involved in organizations like the American Library Association (ALA), Florida Library Association (FLA), or Medical Library Association (MLA). They often have discounted member fees for students, and these organizations can provide you with incredible networking opportunities and mentorship.

Additional Information

- Worked in the Responsive Librarianship Lab through USF's Henrietta Smith Library.
- Helped create a scenario-game-based program to test information literacy skills in social workers.
- Completed the National Library of Medicine Spring 2010 fellowship program in BioMedical Informatics at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- Dr. Shereff holds distinguished-level membership in the Medical Library Association's Academy of Health Information Professionals and Level 2 Consumer Health Information Specialization.

Google Scholar Profile

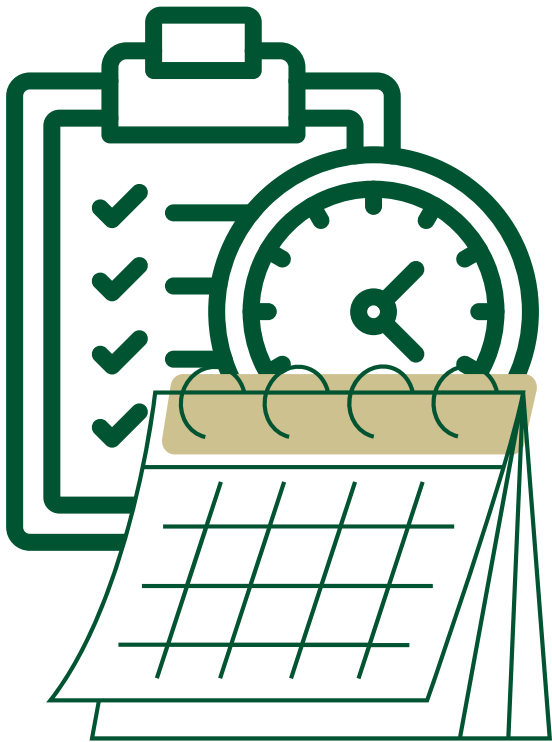
- <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=lznrGRYAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

Selected Works

- <https://works.bepress.com/denise-shereff/>

Time Management for Students

Hello USF School of Information students, my name is Corinne, and my fatal flaw is piling too many things on my plate. This is something I believe as students and educators we are all guilty of at times; I can't prove it with any kind of quantifiable data (because I haven't had the time) but I believe those who are actively engaged in getting a higher education, or teach within a higher education are adding more and more to their plates every year. Can you blame us? We're embroiled in the Information Age, when computers that used to fill entire buildings can rest snugly in our pockets and the idea that we only have so much time to understand as much as we can has rocketed books like *Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals* by Oliver Burkeman, *Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity* by Peter Attia with Bill Gifford, and *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones* by James Clear into the New York Times bestseller lists, some even as long as 202 weeks. There is always so much to do, and so little time to do it in. I definitely added a lot to my plate this past semester (to the point



that my friends and family were honestly a little concerned for me), and the only reason I'm not currently drowning under the weight of 30 deadlines is because I have had to truly revamp my time management habits, and even just the way I personally care for myself. Both time management and self-care are definitely things I have struggled with in the past and I know many other people have also struggled with them too, so here are a few tips that have worked for me (a highly functioning ADHD person), and a few that didn't, but that may work for you.

1. Schedule time for the fun things.

I know it seems less fun to schedule fun time, but when time is your most precious resource it's necessary to schedule for both the fun and productive. I generally try to build a little fun into every day as a sort of reward for getting a certain number of tasks done. Be that using one of my 15 minutes breaks at work to do some pleasure reading after I've finished teaching a science program, or hopping on to my family's Wordle group chat for the daily round. It can also mean bigger things, like my partner planning out one big date day for us every month until the end of this school year so we can be sure of quality time together even when we're both busy. Scheduling those fun times makes it possible for me to look forward to and motivate myself to get assignments and work-related tasks done so I'm not anxious and distracted from the fun tasks.

2. Build yourself a calendar.

I personally am truly awful about keeping up with a calendar. I have spent so many years buying aesthetic planners and notebooks and calendars with the full intention of utilizing their mythic ability to order my life and make things feel less crazy... and then I use them for a week or less and they get lost or buried under a pile of books somewhere. If you are the kind of person who can keep a planner, I am both in awe and I envy you. I will say, and again I have to thank my partner for helping me keep myself a little more organized this year, that taking a little bit of time at the beginning of each semester and putting due dates into a Google calendar/online calendar has been the one thing I can keep up with. I know my phone isn't going anywhere, and I can set reminders and alarms for the bigger projects to help me plan ahead and be aware of what my time commitment to school is going to be for that week.

3. Lean on your support system a little bit more.

This is also something I've always struggled with, I don't like asking for help, even when I know I need it, but I've been trying to make a conscious effort to let people help me when they are genuinely offering. I am very lucky to have a partner and parents that are supportive of me and willing to help make dinners, or understand when I need to raincheck, but I know that not everyone has that. It's easy to give advice when I'm coming from a place of privilege, but please, I beg of you, if you are feeling alone, reach out to someone. That could be a teacher, a counselor, a fellow student, we all crave support and to be heard, so don't ignore that very human part of you. There are so many resources available for connection within a school, from student orgs to professional associations. Everyone has at least a few interests that will find them friends, or at the very least acquaintances.

4. Do not try to multitask.

Scientifically speaking, we CANNOT multitask. A Psychology Today article from 2022 summarizes much of the recent research by saying that when we think we are multitasking we are actually just rapidly switching back and forth between tasks, creating a small lag time in between each shift (which is time and productivity wasted). "Essentially, our brains will turn off the rules for the previous task and turn on the rules for the new task depending upon the goal (Rubinstein, Meyer, & Evans, 2001). These stages do not work simultaneously, but rather in a linear reaction—focus to activation and repeat." Meaning, even when you think you're doing two things well simultaneously, you're more likely to be doing both things worse than if you had done them sequentially. I cannot stress enough the importance of single-tasking over multitasking. Be intentional with the time you are using and recognize that our wonderful, incredible, marvelous, limited human brains operate most efficiently when they go through things one at a time.

5. Take care of your body and mind as much as you possibly can.

There's been a lot of talk about "self-care" recently, but what I want to mention goes back to the very basics. Listen to your body. Your brain can't run at full efficiency if you are fatigued in any way. If you are tired and you can sleep, sleep. If you are hungry and you can eat, eat. I promise you, trying to stay up late to cram for an exam, or skipping a meal in order to work on a paper longer will only result in a poorer product, in the long run if not immediately.

"There will always be too much to do, no matter what you do. But the ironic upside of this seemingly dispiriting fact is that you needn't beat yourself up for failing to do it all, nor keep pressuring yourself to find ways to get on top of it all by means of increasingly extreme multitasking. Instead, you can pour your finite time, energy and attention into a handful of things that truly count."

– Oliver Burkeman



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Article written by USF SI graduate assistant, MLIS candidate, and Children's Librarian Corinne Titus.

Students interested in publishing articles in the SI newsletter are encouraged to submit work for future issues. Each written submission is reviewed and considered for publication. For more information on student submissions and related opportunities, please contact si@usf.edu.

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