



# The Information School of the university of washington

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## Three Generations of Alumni The Shaffer Family

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*Upcoming alumni events  
see page 12*

The Information School is proud to be part of a family tradition. Three generations of the Shaffer family have graduated from the School; Phyllis Jansen Young, Dallas Young Shaffer, and Erika Bern Shaffer. They have worked in very different capacities, but they are proud to have library and information science as a family tradition.

Phyllis Jansen Young was the first generation to graduate from the University of Washington School of Librarianship, earning her Bachelor of Science in Library Science in 1928. She also returned to the school for a Certificate in Library Work with Children in 1931. Phyllis worked as a children's librarian for Seattle Public until her marriage in 1933 (During the Depression, local governments

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## Mission Accomplished!

**The UW Graduate School of Library & Information Science Becomes the 16<sup>th</sup> independent Unit at the University of Washington**

*Dean Michael Eisenberg*

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## Gala Celebration of Mary Gates Hall and New Academic Programs

The Gala celebration held on January 6, 2001 was a rousing success. It was a grand event - wonderful recognition for our School and great fun.

Greetings to all alumni and friends of the Information School!

Three years ago, when I came to Seattle, we embarked on a great adventure: to build on the existing foundations of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science in order to transform the School into a leading information school for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our charge was to remain true to our library roots—including expanding our program and offerings in library and information science.

If you were there, you heard President McCormick announce that we will become the 16th independent school of the University of Washington on July 1, 2001. This is not done lightly as the last new school was created in 1983 and it isn't likely that another one will be created for many years to come.

The changes in the School have reinvigorated student interest and brought more attention to the program.

Please see pages 4 & 5 for Gala pictures.



*President Richard McCormick speaking at the Gala Celebration.*

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# Gala Celebration

*Written by Julie Cook, Alumni Association Communications Officer*

On January 6, 2001, The Information School of the University of Washington threw open its doors to the University of Washington community, friends and family to show off their new home in Mary Gates Hall. With seven invited speakers, Director Mike Eisenberg welcomed one and all to tour the special spaces that the school now calls home. There was lively music by Salon du Swing and delicious food to enjoy while mingling with the approximately 400 guests.



*Speakers of the evening included (from left to right) Provost Lee Hunstman, Dean of the Graduate School Marsha Landolt, Mike Eisenberg, Dean of Florida State University School of Information Studies, Jane Robbins and Alumni Dana Bostrom.*

Speakers included: Joseph Janes, Professor, iSchool; Richard McCormick, President, University of Washington; Lee Huntsman, Provost, University of Washington; Marsha Landolt, Dean of Graduate School, University of Washington; Ed Lazowska, Professor and Chair, Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington; Dana Bostrom, Alumni, 1999, Software Technology Manager, University of Washington; and, Jane Robbins, Dean, School of Information Studies, Florida State University.

The iSchool now inhabits the third and fourth floors of the newly renovated and expanded Mary Gates Hall, near the Suzzallo/Allen Libraries, on the UW campus. Many offices now have beautiful views of Mt. Rainier and Drumhuller Fountain, and certainly enjoy the increased space for all the new staff and faculty. The iSchool students, which number approximately 300, due to the newly added B.A. in Informatics, and PhD, degrees, have a new and improved Lounge, or iSalon, as it is commonly called. There is also a new computer classroom and a Technology Exploration Lab, both on the fourth floor, which provide unique environments for students to develop and practice a variety of technologies.



*Alice Blackburn, 1942 Graduate, enjoying the festivities*



*Demonstrations of the computer technology available in the iSchool were provided throughout the evening.*



During the touring of the new spaces, a video was presented which offered greetings to the new iSchool community from the top five Information School Deans in the Country, including: Joanne Marshall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Leigh Estabrook, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign; John King, University of Michigan; Jane Robbins, Florida State; and Raymond Von Dran, Syracuse University.



*Music performed by Salon du Swing provided a festive atmosphere.*



*Norinne Kenney, 1945 Graduate*

**More photos are available on the Alumni Association Noted, which may be found at <http://www.ischool.washington.edu/alumni/noted1-01/>**



## Mission Accomplished! *Continued from page 3*

MLIS students on every WLA committee! We were also very pleased to have Carol participate in our end-of-year convocation to welcome all the new graduates to the field and WLA. The Information School is also more visible than ever throughout the state and region. In the past year, the faculty have presented throughout Washington State as well as in Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Montana. Some of my latest visits include Washington State University, Wenatchee Valley Community College, and Skagit Valley College; Pierce County, the Northwest Council for Computer Education conference in Spokane, and in the Northshore School District.

Our research profile is broad based and inclusive. We have projects studying statewide database licensing and library use, projects involving Sony Robot Dogs, and projects that will help us keep found things found. We currently have over 15 funded research studies totaling well over a million dollars, and more proposals in the pipeline. Some current research highlights include:

- Karen Pettigrew: Help-Seeking in an Electronic World, Institute for Museum and Library Services
- Raya Fidel and Harry Bruce: Collaborative Information Retrieval, National Science Foundation
- Stuart Sutton: Breaking The Metadata Generation Bottleneck, National Science Foundation
- Allyson Carlyle: Default Bibliographic Record Displays in Web-based Catalogs

- Joseph Janes: Studies on Digital Reference: Services, Attitudes and Evaluation, Library of Congress.

I could go on, but I'm sure you get the picture. We are thriving and the future looks very bright for the Information School.

Our transformation is over, but we are not standing still. Our current top priority is to develop a distance version of the MLIS degree. We are planning to have this in place for the 2002-2003 academic year, and we intend to specifically promote this program in the greater Northwest and West—to those states and regions without ready access to professional MLIS education. We also have plans to expand other existing programs and forge new relationships with schools and colleges on our campus and elsewhere.

When I came to the University of Washington, I offered a five-year plan: to revise and expand the MLIS program, to add an undergraduate and PhD program, to establish a solid research agenda, to become a “player” in the field and extended community. The culmination of this was to become an independent school on campus, recognized for quality, collaboration, and impact. Many people thought this was an ambitious agenda with a very optimistic timeline, myself included. However, with the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students, with the help and support of so many at the University of Washington and in the field, we have done it—in 3 years!



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## Mission Accomplished! *Continued from page 7*

I hope you are as proud of the School’s accomplishments as we are. The students, faculty and staff have played a tremendous role in making this all possible. And so have you, our valued alumni. Without your continued support, input and encouragement, it could never have happened. As I write this, I am preparing to take my summer break for reading, relaxation, and recharging. As I do so, I will take a moment to reflect and appreciate just what we have accomplished. I encourage you to do the same. I am sure it will bring the same broad smile to your face that is on mine. We are the right school at the right time—this was certainly the buzz I heard all over San Francisco at the recent ALA Annual Conference. I know it and you know it.

Thank you for being part of the iSchool family and this great adventure.

With warmest regards,



Mike Eisenberg

Dean

### You Don’t Have to Be a Millionaire to Leave a Legacy

Roget’s Thesaurus tells us that a legacy is a value, style or philosophy that is passed from one generation to the next. Black’s law dictionary tells us it is a bequest or gift made by will. In combination, those definitions emphasize that the gifts you make to others through your will or living trust not only distribute your tangible goods and resources, but also express your values and your philosophy about what is worth supporting.

You don’t have to be a millionaire to leave a legacy for future generations. You simply need to write a will and include a gift to the institutions and causes you care about or that have provided value to you during your lifetime.

A bequest to the Information School can be part of your legacy, supporting students, faculty, research, teaching – whatever you most value from your experience at the School of Library and Information Science. Your bequest can be a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your assets. Every gift makes a difference. Every gift stands as its own legacy and adds to the legacy of excellence in education the Information School, in turn, provides.

If you would like information about how to include the Information School of the University of Washington in your will or living trust, or if you have already done so and would like to let us

## The Beverly Cleary Endowed Chair Campaign for Kids!

The Information School is beginning its major campaign to address the major shortage of children's and youth services professionals. We aim to do this by establishing the Beverly Cleary Endowed Chair for Children's Services.

The Cleary Chair will play a critical role in addressing a growing crisis in libraries: the lack of children's and youth librarians. By attracting top caliber faculty and students, by working to set the tone for children's issues statewide and nationally, and by furthering the UW's commitment to service, the Cleary Chair will make a difference for libraries and for children.



When fully endowed, the Cleary Chair will provide, in perpetuity, funding to support the children's and youth services faculty position in The Information School and to provide needed operating funds to support the program.

There is a major demand for children's librarians. A 1995 study found that "58% of libraries report that insufficient staff is a barrier to service" (Services and Resources for Children and Young Adults in Public Libraries, 1995).

According to an informal interview with several Seattle Public Library children's & youth services librarians, a librarian at a busy branch may interact with 150-200 kids in a 3-hour shift! This interaction is the starting point for all library services—this is the fundamental cornerstone for a child's life long relationship with libraries.

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## Kris Rayment Memorial Fund - Update

As mentioned in our previous newsletter (Fall 2000), we were raising funds for a gift in memory of Kris Rayment. Kris was ALISS President of the 1992-93 Class and a valued member of the School's community. Her passing in 1999 was deeply felt by the iSchool faculty and staff.

The response to this fund drive was overwhelming! Your support made it possible to have a vintage photo of the Suzzallo Library printed, framed, and mounted with a commemorative plaque. The picture was dedicated and hung in the student lounge at our Gala celebration on January 6, 2001.

After we purchased the photo, we had more donations keep coming in – we are pleased to announce we raised enough additional funds to buy a beautiful wooden bench that will be decorated with a plaque and placed outside our new student services area. This is will be a great tribute to Kris and her active role with the students. We hope to see lots and lots of students appreciate the memorial for years to come!

Thank you for your support and generous contributions to the Kris Rayment Memorial Fund.



## Congratulations Graduates!

Friday, June 8, 2001 was The Information School's annual convocation. It was a wonderful event that was attended by over 600 family and friends. The speaker for convocation was Dr. Herman Totten, a long time friend and frequent visiting faculty member of the Information School. Dr. Totten is currently Associate Dean and Regents Professor at the University of North Texas. He has taught "Information Resources and Services in Culturally Diverse Communities" for the past several summers at the iSchool and will be teaching again this coming summer.



*Students in regalia waiting to be hooded in the ceremony*



*From left to right: Allyson Carlyle, Herman Totten, Mary Hotchkiss and Spencer Shaw*

Dr. Totten has a broad, library and information perspective and spoke to the breadth of interests in our graduating class as well as in the School on the whole. Dr. Totten represents what our School is all about today - pursuing new opportunities and positions in the information society - including the championing and expansion of libraries and librarians.

This year 92 students were eligible to participate, our largest graduating class ever.

### New Mid-Career Information Management Program

The iSchool is pleased to announce a new degree program beginning Autumn 2001. The Master of Science in Information Management (MSIM) is a 47-credit mid-career course of study that is administered on Fridays and Saturdays. The MSIM program is a mid-career program focusing on users and the use of information.

Prospective students are management professionals who desire more exposure to information technology, information technology professionals aspiring to information management responsibilities, and mid-career library and information science professionals who want to further their education and advance professionally.

For more information please see our website at [www.ischool.washington.edu/msim](http://www.ischool.washington.edu/msim)

## Three Generations of Alumni -The Shaffer Family

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did not employ married women whose spouses had employment). She has always had a continued interest in children's literature and took her children to the library regularly in Portland where they grew up. One of Dallas' fondest childhood memories of her mother is "going to the library and getting a whole box of books to bring up to Bainbridge in the summer on a long term vacation loan. Same feeling as having a full refrigerator!"

Dallas Young Shaffer is the second-generation UW School of Librarianship graduate. She attended School with the assistance of a Frederick Melcher Scholarship, an American Library Association awarded to a student for notable work with children. She received her MLS in 1965.

Rather than intentionally following in her mother's footsteps, Dallas sort of fell into librarianship. She was looking for a job in St. Louis and "walked by the library and thought, why not try here?" She came to Library School after working for 1.5 years on a bookmobile for the St. Louis Public Library in the inner city. It was an eye opening experience for a girl who had grown up in suburban Portland, Oregon. "We went from inner city school to inner city school – all poor, all segregated. I was especially struck by the paucity of literature for African American children and how eagerly they embraced books that they found meaningful – jokes and riddles, song books, fairy tales."

After graduating in 1965, her first professional position was as the children's librarian in King County's Burien branch. Throughout her career she has worked in various locations and in different capacities across the United States.

Erika, the third generation to enter library school, entered the MLS degree program in 1992. Her decision to enter the program was largely due to

her experience working at Bailey Coy Books on Broadway in Seattle. There she enjoyed helping people find books they wanted and developing a portion of the collection. She actually learned the "reference interview" technique at the bookstore. Erika Bern Shaffer received her MLS in 1994. She received one of the first Microsoft scholarships, and consequently worked as an intern, then as an employee in the Microsoft library conducting market research. From market research, Erika began working with the Microsoft financial consultants, and into Microsoft investor relations. In 1999, Erika joined the RealNetworks public relations team. Erika proudly points out, that although she works within a non-traditional library setting, she is still working to get people information and using her degree in Library and Information Science.

Each of the Shaffer family graduates have taken a very individualistic approach to their professional careers within library and information science. Phyllis, Dallas, and Erika have each excelled within the field through very different venues.

Congratulations to the entire family for their contributions and impressive careers, and we look forward to the next generation. Erika and her partner, Amy Egger, also an iSchool alumni from 1996 recently became parents. Born on April 7, 2001, the most recent addition to the family, Phyllis Jansen Egger, was named after graduate number one, Phyllis Jansen Young. We hope to count her as an alumni someday as well.



## **Greetings Alumni, Faculty, Staff, Students and Friends of the Information School at the University of Washington!**

How exciting it must be to be a student of the Information School! The coursework! The star faculty! The equipment and facilities! It is gratifying to see the School taking its place among the great schools of information in the country. The best University in the country deserves the best Information School.

The UW Information School Alumni Association is dedicated to connecting Alumni with the Information School. This year we will be focusing on supporting student-alumni mentorships, supporting student groups, and partnering with the School on events. We hope that you will participate in some or all of these events and programs.

As always, we are looking for information professionals to serve as mentors for Project Network. Project Network connects students with information professionals, and every year we need mentors from every branch of the library and information community - K12, public, academic, corporate, medical, legal, and non-traditional! You do not need to be a UW Alumnus to participate. This program depends on the enthusiasm of the information community. Take the time to sign up for Project Network via the website.

Finally, I would like to make an appeal for you to keep in touch with the School and the Alumni Association. We want to hear what you are doing and where you have been. If you have landed a new job, got married, had a baby, been published, or if you have an interesting story about your time at the UW, please contact us!

Our Alumni organization has been active for decades — thanks to the many graduates who have volunteered to serve as Board members, participated in events, been mentors, and given of their time as alumni liaisons to the iSchool's various committees. We're proud of our longevity and our traditions. We invite you to join us as we plan our future and maintain our organization into the new century.

If you are at all interested in volunteering with the Alumni Association to help plan events, promote iSchool/Alumni relations, or even serving on the Alumni Board, please contact me at [gembala@drizzle.com](mailto:gembala@drizzle.com).

Bill Gembala, '96

President, UW Information School Alumni Association





# The Information School at a Glance

## **Enrollment 2000-2001**

Full-time Masters (Library & Information Science): 188  
Part-time Masters (Library & Information Science): 54  
PhD (Information Science): 5  
Bachelors (Informatics): 28

**Scholarships:** 33 Scholarships at approximately \$2000 each

**Graduate Assistantships:** 26 graduate assistantships (tuition waiver, stipend, benefits),  
5 funded by The Gates Foundation

**Faculty:** 1 Dean, 20 Full-time faculty, 9 Part-time Faculty

**Staff:** 6 Professional Administrators, 2 IT Specialists, 3 Classified Staff

**Facilities:** Mary Gates Hall, 3rd & 4th Floors, including a technology exploration lab, computer classroom, research & development labs, and state of the art workstations and IT resources throughout the School

**Accreditation:** Master's of Library & Information Science - Accredited by American Library Association

**Community Partnership:** Seattle School District, Seattle Public Library, King County Library System, Gates Foundation, UW Libraries, UW Campus Units, King County Public Library, Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon.com, and Meridian Partners

**Funded Research:** Approximately \$2,000,000 in funded research - funders include National Science Foundation, Institute of Museum & Library Services, Library of Congress, US Department of Education, King County Library System, Boeing, and Washington State Library



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