2015

Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Course

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Melanie J. Norton earned a BA degree from the State University of New York College at Oneonta and a MLIS and PhD in Information Science from the University of North Texas. She joined the SLIS faculty as Assistant Professor in 1993 and later was promoted to Associate Professor. She served as SLIS Director from 2003 to 2013, during which time she lead SLIS faculty through two successful continued ALA accreditation visits (2005 and 2012) and supported faculty in the further development of the first fully online program at the University of Southern Mississippi. She was invited to serve as Interim Dean of USM University Libraries in January 2013 until July 2014. In fall 2014, Dr. Norton returned to SLIS and as a senior faculty member has worked to revise and update a technology course as well as serving as one of the authors of a self-assessment report for the LIS undergraduate program.

Dr. Norton has published a book that has been used as a text in several LIS programs, a monograph in the ASIS series published by Information Today, Inc. *Introductory Concepts in Information Science* was first published in 2000 and had a significantly revised 2nd edition published in 2010. She also documented the history of SLIS distance education in a chapter published in *Benchmarks in Distance Education* (Libraries Unlimited, 2003). Dr. Norton was first reader on more than 450 successful Master's Projects between 2003 and 2013 leading to students earning their masters' degrees. Dr. Norton's teaching and research interests include academic libraries, information ethics, e-resources, information science and technology.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Patricia Condon, Research Data Services Librarian at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), earned her MLIS and MA in Anthropology from Southern Miss in 2005. Patti's library and archive career began in 1999 as the library assistant at McIntosh College in Dover, NH. In 2001, Patti completed her BA in Anthropology/International Affairs at UNH. She continued to work at McIntosh College and in the children's room at Exeter Public Library until 2003 when she decided to pursue her Master's degrees at Southern Miss. While at Southern Miss, Patti held various assistantships including teaching the information literacy course in the School of Library and Information Science and working on the Mississippi Civil Rights Digitization Project in the McCain Library and Archives. She also had the opportunity to volunteer with the African American Military History Museum in Hattiesburg, where she connected with remarkable individuals and meaningful issues that were the foundation of her Master's thesis. After completing her master's degrees, Patti worked in a special library setting as a researcher for *Consumer Reports* in the health and family editorial department.

In 2010, Patti was awarded one of the five Doctoral Fellowships in Archival Studies from the Building the Future of Archival Education and Research Initiative funded by two 4-year grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. She attended the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College where her experiences further encouraged her growth as a professional, researcher, and teacher. Patti completed her doctoral degree in January 2015.   Patti's dissertation research explored the development of digital stewardship and

investigated whether the field is emerging as an academic discipline independent of Archival Studies or LIS.

Patti began her role as Research Data Services Librarian in May 2015. Patti's central responsibilities in this newly created position are to develop library services to accommodate the growing data management needs of the UNH research community. In addition to working closely with researchers, an aspect of Patti's work involves collaborating with service units across campus to better understand and coordinate campus-wide data services. Patti continues to advance her research agenda, remain active in professional organizations, and teach courses in digital stewardship/preservation and archival science at Simmons College and Kent State University. Patti lives in Exeter, NH with her husband (Zack), dog (Atticus), and two cats that she adopted while living in Mississippi (Harriet and Winston).

Spotlight - Dual MLIS/IT MS Degree
A dual MLIS degree and Instructional Technology MS degree has been approved for spring 2015 - the first fully-online dual master's degree at Southern Miss. SLIS students have been requesting an online dual degree for some time and feedback from students and alums indicate that LIS and IT would be a great combination.

Those who are interested in earning a MLIS/IT MS degree must apply separately to each program. Course requirements include:

MLIS Dual Degree (31 credit hours)

LIS 500: LIS Orientation (1 hr)
LIS 501: Reference Resources & Services (3 hrs)
LIS 505: Cataloging & Classification (3 hrs)
LIS 511: Collection Development & Mgmt (3 hrs)
LIS 601: Library Management (3 hrs)
LIS 636: Foundations of Librarianship (3 hrs)
LIS 651: Fundamentals of Information Sci. (3 hrs)
LIS 668: LIS Research Methods (3 hrs)
LIS 695: Master's Research Project (3 hrs)
Two LIS electives: 6 credit hours

MS in IT Dual Degree (30 credit hours)

IT 636: Instructional Design & Developmnt (3 hrs)
IT 644: Instructional Multimedia Design (3 hrs)
IT 645: Technology in Education (3 hrs)
IT 648: Digital Communication in Edu (3 hrs)
IT 650: Instruc. Strategies Online Teaching (3 hrs)
IT 755: Web Development & Assessment (3 hrs)
Four IT electives: 12 credit hours

Application to Graduate School is online at:
http://usmgrad.admissionpros.com/default.asp

Southern Miss MLIS program is fully accredited by the American Library Association. Classes meet online each week in virtual classrooms where students can hear, see, and interact with faculty. For more information, contact:

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Course Spotlight - "Library Design: Principles and Practice"
Focusing chiefly on public and academic library facilities, LIS 692: Special Problems (section H002) "Library Design: Principles and Practice" gives students an informative overview of how library facilities are designed for today's library users. Through a succession of individual and group assignments, lectures and class activities, the course covers such topics as: the different stages of building design and construction; assessing user and space needs; universal accessibility and ergonomics; acoustics, lighting, color, and signage; greening the library; building renewal; and more. Some basic theory is also introduced. Students will develop the skills and knowledge required to critique existing library spaces and plan for change. The class meets online on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm Central time.

The course instructor, Dr. Matthew Griffis, studied library design and planning at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and served on the Executive Steering Committees for the 2012 and 2013 OLA Institutes on the Library as Place.