2018

Spotlights: Faculty, Alumnus, and Courses

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Spotlight – Faculty

Teresa Smith Welsh, M.L.I.S., Ph.D., is a native Mississippian who graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern Mississippi with a B.A. in anthropology, a Certificate in Humanities, and minors in social studies and classical studies.

While an undergraduate at Southern Miss, she participated in British Studies for study-abroad credit, was a member of the Honors College as well as Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Theta Kappa, Lambda Alpha, Gamma Beta Phi, and Golden Key Honor Societies.

At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), she had a year of graduate study in anthropology including classes in mythology, classical archaeology, and forensic anthropology with Dr. Bill Bass (*The Body Farm*) before changing her major to LIS and earning an MLIS degree while working as an archival assistant on the Sen. Howard H. Baker papers.

After graduating and working a few years at Oak Ridge National Lab in Laboratory Records, she returned to UTK to earn a Ph.D. in Information Sciences in 2002. As a graduate assistant, she taught an undergrad information literacy course and also worked as an assistant evaluation researcher on two telemedicine grants at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. She was awarded the Hilton A. Smith Graduate Fellowship as well as Best Technical Project Award and Best Doctoral Paper Award from the School of Information Sciences.

Dr. Welsh has taught at Southern Miss since summer 2003 and was awarded the College of Education and Psychology 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award. She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, has served on the UTK School of Information Sciences Advisory Board, and serves on the International Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries (QQML) Advisory Committee and International Scientific Committee.

Each May, Dr. Welsh participates in the Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries conference, a wonderfully diverse international conference of librarians, archivists, academics, researchers, and students from about 60 countries. In 2018, QQML met in Chania, Crete where three SLIS students and two alumni presented research. In 2019, the conference will be held in Florence, Italy.

In addition to being published in scholarly journals and conference proceedings, Dr. Welsh has authored several book chapters and co-authored two books on information literacy. Teaching and research interests include information literacy, bibliometric research, spatial analysis, information retrieval, e-learning, museum studies, and archival studies.

Dr. Welsh became a full professor in 2014 and since July 2015, has served as Director for the School of Library and Information Science. Since 2007, she has taught a British Studies LIS summer course in London.

In her private life, she is happily married to her best friend Bud, has two grown sons and five grandchildren. She loves crossword puzzles, genealogy research, movies, and movie trivia. Favorite activities include travel, reading non-fiction and mysteries. She collects old cookie jars, old Coca-Cola trays, and handcrafted items.

Spotlight – Alum

Amed Demirhan holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Southern Miss (USM), an M.A in Dispute Resolution from Wayne State University, Detroit, and a B.A. in International Studies with a minor in Spanish (USM). He is fluent in his native Kurdish as well as in English, Swedish, Turkish, and functional in Spanish.

Demirhan worked in a joint academic/public library in Broward County, Florida (2001-06), and in 2006 became the founding Director of the University of Kurdistan Hawler Library in Kurdistan Federal Region of Iraq where he led in the establishment of the university library based on international standards. It was the first university library in Iraq with open stacks and perhaps the first library in Muslim Middle East with unrestricted Internet access.

In 2011, Demirhan became leader of the American University of Nigeria Library (AUNL), in Yola, Nigeria. In three years, library resources, services, and output strongly increased while cost decreased. AUNL received national and international recognition for these innovative and transformational changes.

Demirhan, currently General Manager/Director of Barzani National Memorial, was invited by a leading businessman and grandson of Kurdistan National Hero Mustafa Barzani, His Excellency Sirwan Barzani, to lead in establishing the Barzani National Memorial Library, Museum, and associated services in accordance with the best international practices in Barzan, Kurdistan, Iraq.

Demirhan has been active in the American Library Association (ALA) and other international library organizations and is currently serving on the ALA Training, Orientation & Leadership Development (TOLD) Committee, and several other committees.

Demirhan has been publishing and presenting in professional organizations and universities locally and internationally. Since 2014, he has served on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Advances in Library Administration and Organization*.

A few highlights of his many recognitions include:

- 2017 ALA John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for “extensive contributions to international librarianship”
- 2014 *Library Journal* “Mover & Shaker” award
- 2013 feature in “University Libraries: 10 Global Portraits,” *The Guardian*
www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2013/aug/07/university-libraries-10-global-portraits
- 2013 ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Project (AUN e-Library)
- 2012 named Best University Digital Library Services in Nigeria, Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities
- 2008 letter of appreciation and recognition from the Minister of Higher Education in Kurdistan Federal Region, Iraq, for contributing to library managers and staff training and higher education libraries development in the region.
- 2003 “SUNsational Team Award” from Broward County Library, Florida, presented for a significant contribution to improving library service or demonstrated exceptional performance.

Spotlight—Course

LIS 580/587 – British Studies

Southern Miss has one of the largest and oldest study-abroad programs in the U.S. A British Studies LIS class, British Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections, has been offered since 2007, and 212 students from 42 different universities in the U.S. and Canada have earned six hours of study-abroad credit. The largest class was in 2010, with 32 graduate students, two faculty and a GA (equivalent to two sections) and the smallest class was 10 graduate students in 2012 when the Olympics were in London.

From 2007 through 2015, British Studies was headquartered in a King's College dorm near Waterloo Station during the month of July. In 2016, British Studies moved to the University of Westminster Marylebone Hall (across from Madame Toussaud's near Baker Street Station) during the month of June, a time with fewer tourists in London than in the peak season in July/August.

Some great new additions to the program for 2019:

- Inclusion of month-long Oyster Travelcard for unlimited transport via city bus or tube around London www.londonpass.com/london-transport/travelcard-validity.html
- Students make their own arrangements (or opt-in for program-arranged flights from designated cities), which gives them the option to arrive in London before British Studies begins or stay after (the best option since students know their way around London and the U.K. by the end of the course).

Some great features still in place:

- While USM faculty lead the course, the onsite lectures and behind-the-scenes guided tours are conducted by wonderful, distinguished British librarians, archivists, and curators.
- The first two weeks have the heaviest schedule, but even then, students have time most afternoons and evenings to explore on their own. There are designated independent study days to gather information for the blog and research paper, to explore London, and take day trips or weekend excursions.

The best parts of the course are the relationships that are formed. Typically, students arrive in London not knowing anyone else, even faculty and students from Southern Miss since our program is online. Each class is unique but each summer, strong friendships and professional relationships are formed during the month together in London through shared and memorable experiences.

To apply, go to <https://studyabroad.usm.edu> and click on Study Abroad Programs/British Studies. Since students earn credit, they are eligible to apply for student loans and scholarships. For more information, click on the Finances & Scholarships link on the British Studies webpage.

Course Requirements and Schedule

Before leaving for London, students choose two books from a recommended list to read and write scholarly book reviews. While in London, students work on a blog to report and reflect on the sites we visit as well as other relevant sites they visit on their own. The other major assignment is a research paper and while in London, students have a topic approved and gather information. The final paper is due a few weeks after we return to the States. To see the British Studies student research papers published in refereed journals, see ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w146169/mentorpubs.htm, as well as the four refereed British Studies papers published in this special issue of *SLIS Connecting*.

Student Articles

Several students have published articles about their British Studies experiences:

- "[Crossing the Pond: MLIS Students Researching in the U.K.](#)," *Open Shelf* (March 2016) by Martha Attridge Bufton, University of Alberta.
- "[A Study Abroad Adventure in London](#)," *SLISisten Up* (August 2014) by Taylor Atkinson and Jessica Dai, University of South Carolina.
- "[Librarians in London](#)," *ALA Student Voice* (Fall 2009) by Lauren Dodd, University of Alabama.
- "[American Library Student Explores British Libraries](#)," *International Leads* (December 2009) by Nicole Powell, University of Missouri.

Scenes from British Studies