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SLIS Director's Report

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SLIS Director's Report

By Stacy L. Creel, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director



Welcome to the Fall/Winter issue of *SLIS Connecting*. It has been a busy time here in SLIS. The faculty have been hard at work developing new courses based on feedback from the most recent survey and focus

groups. Several new courses and curricular changes have been approved to begin in the Fall of 2024. For the Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections students can now choose between the relevant courses (LIS 645—digital—and LIS 649—print) that make the most sense for their career track. Additionally, three elective options (LIS 642, HUM 501 and HUM 502) were added to give students greater flexibility in completing the certificate in timely manner. Multiple courses were given updated titles and descriptions (LIS 433/533 and LIS 457/547). Three new undergraduate courses were approved: LIS 451 - Introduction to Information Science, LIS 461 - Ethics and Technology in Information Science, and LIS 465 - Introduction to Museums and Archives. The Graduate Program gained two new courses: LIS 661 - Archival Capstone and LIS 650 - Museums as Information Centers. Perhaps the most exciting new curricular development was the approval of the joint MLIS and MBA degree, which allows for students to get two masters for 55 credits instead of 70.

The course breakdown includes 34 hours for the MLIS and 21 hours for the MBA. SLIS required courses are: LIS 500 (1), LIS 501 (3), LIS 505 (3), LIS 511 (3), LIS 540 (3), LIS 557 or 558 (3), LIS 559 (3), LIS 605 (3), LIS 609 (3), LIS 668 (3), LIS 540 (3), 651 (3) and the MBA required courses are: SM: ACC 611* (3), FIN 611 (3), MGT 600 (3), MKT 600 (3), MGT 660 Capstone (3), MGT/MKT electives (6). *ACC 200/220/or equivalent pre-requisite.

The SLIS faculty are excited about seeing these curricular updates be implemented beginning in Fall 2024.

SLIS had an amazing number of completers in the last academic year with *125 masters degrees awarded*. Many students joined us at the graduation celebration and ceremonies. It was great to hear them looking for one another and talking about the connections they made in their classes.



SLIS is in the process of gearing up for the 2024 Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival and the incredible line up is featured in the spotlights column.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome – send to slis@usm.edu or call 601-266-4228. Visit

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