

# CIRCLE OF LEARNING



## Circle of Learning Students Shine at Professional Conferences



At the 2012 International Conference of Association of Indigenous Archives, Libraries and Museums, students Lisa Dirks, Gena Peone, Valarie Kingsland, and Debbie Reese participated in panel presentations, “Communication and Collaboration in Tribal Communities” and “Developing Culturally Responsive Community Research Partnerships,” planned by project co-director (AILA) Liana Juliano and project manager Heather Devine. Additionally, COL student Debbie Reese presented as a speaker at “Top 100 Books Every Museum and Library Should Have on Their Shelves.”

Seven COL students also presented at the COL-sponsored ATALM Student Research Forum: Tawa Ducheneaux, Jerry Flanary, Jennifer Himmelreich, Valarie Kingsland, Jonna Paden, Indri Pasaribu, and Mary Rogers.

In September, several COL students attended the **Joint Conference of Librarians of Color** in Kansas City, MO.

In October, Valarie Kingsland and Tawa Ducheneaux presented “Circle of Learning: Virtual Indigenous Community Development for MLIS Students” along with COL co-directors Jane Fisher (SLIS) and Liana Juliano (AILA) at the **Library 2.012 Worldwide Virtual Conference**. Students Jennifer Himmelreich and Jerry Flanary also presented “Cultivating Culture: Promising Virtual Practices for Indigenous Communities” at the same worldwide online conference.

### Annual Face-to-Face Meeting Held at Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference in Oklahoma

The COL program held its annual COL face-to-face meeting at the **International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)** in Tulsa, OK on June 4. The meeting gave students an opportunity to discuss program and academic goals face-to-face, meet with the project’s external evaluator, and explore career development with the program’s project co-directors and academic advisors, Jane Fisher and Liana Juliano.

Students also had the opportunity to attend the group’s annual networking event, the COL Community Dinner, which is sponsored by SLIS. The event brought together many of the program’s professional mentors, advisory board members, students and program staff, as well as invited guests.

In addition to these activities, project manager Heather Devine planned a Career Options Fair (open to all ATALM conference attendees) that brought together invited professionals from tribal, archival, library, government and museum fields to discuss career pathways with students in small groups.

Thanks to a generous three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in partnership with the American Indian Library Association, the San José State University School of Library and Information Science is providing 19 American Indian and Alaska Native students with financial assistance, a supportive Circle of Learning, and a culturally relevant approach to their graduate education.



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## Indri Pasaribu Accepts Records Management Position with *First Nations Organization*



Indri Pasaribu accepted a one-year contract to work as a records manager assistant at **First Nations Summit (FNS)** in Vancouver BC, an organization made up of a majority of First Nations and Tribal councils in British Columbia that provides a forum for treaty issues and other matters.

Pasaribu is responsible for managing internal FNS documents, legal and tribal documents, communiqués, and a small resource collection. She will begin a project to help digitize these records. Last summer, she earned LIBR 294 internship credits at FNS while working toward her MLIS degree.

Since joining COL, Pasaribu has focused steadily on seeking professional opportunities and building her personal learning network within the tribal library and archives community.



***“I wanted to learn as much as possible about all the different types of library work, and the best way to do this is through internships. I have learned about different types of library work I would otherwise never have known about if I did not meet the Indigenous librarians through going to conferences while being part of COL.”***

— **Indri Pasaribu**

Pasaribu’s search and eventual selection for the job at FNS illustrate the impact both volunteering and professional networking can play in the hiring process. “When the job at FNS was first posted, I did not immediately think I was qualified. I had yet to take a course on records management at SLIS. However, the more that I learned about the work and the organization, the more I was glad that I had applied. The summer before, I had taken an internship at a local city’s archives, even though I had no familiarity with

this field. Not long after I had applied for FNS, I went to a conference of the **International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)** in Vancouver.

At the conference, I volunteered at the booth of the **Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs**, another organization where I have volunteered as a transcriber and data migration specialist for more than three years. I met the supervisor for the FNS job at the conference. Not long after we talked, I was offered the position. I am sure the focus of my scholarship at COL and recent experience combined to make me a strong candidate.”

Just after Pasaribu was hired at FNS, she presented a poster at the **Association of Tribal Archives Library and Museums (ATALM)** in Tulsa, OK. The poster highlighted opportunities for involvement at the **Joint Conference for Librarians of Color**. In September, Pasaribu attended and volunteered at the conference for the first time, thanks to the support of COL funding.

Pasaribu, whose Indigenous heritage is Toba Batak from Sumatra, previously worked with the **Indigenous Peoples’ Solidarity Movement of Ottawa** (a grassroots organization that directly supports Indigenous peoples in diverse struggles for justice), as well as with several other community organizations and non-profits.

In regards to COL’s mandate to increase the number of Indigenous librarians, Pasaribu stated, “Training Indigenous community members in traditional librarianship and records-keeping domains, as well as in ways to take advantage of emerging technologies, will further enable us to become the rightful custodians of our cultures.”

Pasaribu holds a B.A. in English and Political Science from Carleton University. She plans to graduate from SLIS in 2013, and would like to work in arts librarianship in the future.

## Tawa Ducheneaux Named Archivist at *Academic / Public Tribal Library System*

Tawa Ducheneaux recently accepted a position as archivist at **Woksape Tipi Library and Archives**, a joint academic/public library and archives at **Oglala Lakota College**. Located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the agency serves more than 30,000 tribal members and also operates 10 branch libraries spanning a land-base of over 11,000 square miles, and two additional branches off-reservation in Rapid City and Eagle Butte, SD.

Ducheneaux joined COL in the fall of 2011. “I was first inspired to consider this degree and the importance of cultural gatekeeping several years ago when I volunteered at an American Indian museum in my home state of Oklahoma. I witnessed a director mishandle and incur further damage to many artifacts and sacred items. This person did not have the educational background or cultural understanding to care for items like cradleboards, blankets, and basketry. Witnessing this lack of knowledge planted the seed in me to want to know how to properly care for and preserve what is ours. Caretakers, or keepers of sacred materials, need to have an understanding of cultural ways of knowing, specific to the communities to which they belong,” said Ducheneaux.

Ducheneaux’s first objective in the new position is to prepare a comprehensive inventory of the collections including addressing

preservation concerns with some recently acquired headdresses. Ducheneaux cites LIBR 256: Archives and Manuscripts with instructor David de Lorenzo, LIBR 259: Preservation Management with instructor Katherine Skinner, and LIBR 284: Digitization and Digital Preservation with instructor Alyce Scott as the SLIS courses that have provided the most support toward the work she will be doing as archivist. When asked about her new appointment, Ducheneaux stated, “I don’t think this would have happened were I not in the COL program and able to demonstrate that I’ll be completing an MLIS with an emphasis in archives.”

Ducheneaux presented “Ehanni wicoun wopahe tawa pi” (Gathering things from long ago that we are keeping) at the COL-sponsored Student Research Forum of the 2012 International Conference of the **Association of Tribal Archives Library and Museums (ATALM)** in Tulsa, OK in June. The presentation resulted in a connection for a federal funding opportunity for her institution, as well as opening doors to other connections. “I have benefited from extensive networking through ATALM, as well as attending workshops with representatives from nationally renowned entities like the **Northeast Document Conservation Center.**”

Ducheneaux holds a B.A. in Media Arts with a minor in



Native American studies from the University of New Mexico. She has worked at Oglala Lakota College since 2003. Most recently, she worked in the math and science department to build a specimen repository and research archive specific to studies conducted on Pine Ridge over the past several years.

***“In a future where tribes will take back ownership of cultural preservation from museums and other institutions, it is important to have the knowledge and skills necessary to affect this movement in a good way. We have a responsibility to properly describe and care for cultural evidence for future generations. Being part of a supportive cohort has been a part of our professional development as emerging leaders. We’ve all shared information and support with one another as we recognize that we’ll be advancing the leadership roles many of us already hold in our communities.”***

— Tawa Ducheneaux

## Valarie Kingsland Brings Community Building Skills to *SLISConnect*



In May, Valarie Kingsland was voted 2012-2013 student president of **SLISConnect**, the student and alumni association of the **School of Library and Information Science at San José State University**. She brings a strong background in community service to the organization.

Kingsland is a regional representative for the **Alaska Association of School Librarians** and serves as vice president on the Advisory Board for the **Seward Community Library Association**. In addition, she advocates for an audio described movie video collection for the blind and visually impaired people in Alaska. Kingsland founded and operates a local children's clothing donation center that offers free books since 2005.

Thanks to a travel grant from COL, Kingsland attended the 2011 **Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM)** joint conference with the **Western Museums Association** in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was so deeply inspired by the conference, that when it was over, she was a bit sad to return to her home in Seward, Alaska. But, then, she recalled the power of her city's community blog, the **Seward City News**, in helping connect people and build community by providing a space to post user driven content to inform and share resources and experiences.

"I thought, you know, we should do something like that for tribal librarians, archivists and Indigenous museums. When I asked a few people about it at ATALM in Hawaii, they were excited about it and thought it was a good idea," said Kingsland.

After researching ways to build online communities, Kingsland presented her idea at the Alaska Native Issues Roundtable at the **Alaska Library Association (AKLA)** conference in Fairbanks, and it was met with great excitement and interest. Thus far, she is building the site using WordPress and BuddyPress and has created a mission statement with goals to create community with inclusivity, transparency, sharing, celebration

and affirmation for tribal library, archive and museum workers. In June, Kingsland presented the topic at ATALM in Tulsa, OK, as part of a panel discussion on collaboration facilitated by COL co-director (**AILA**) Liana Juliano.

Kingsland learned about the COL program through fellow COL member, Lisa Dirks. They were working together on a project involving data collection in Kingsland's community when Dirks urged her to apply. Kingsland has found support and encouragement from her fellow COL students. She has enjoyed taking some of her core courses with them and meeting and networking with many other SLIS students.

"Sharing the same or similar cultural values and experiences is really helpful. I especially noticed it taking LIBR 200: Information and Society, where I felt more comfortable responding in a way that reflected my values and knowing that there was somebody else in my class that would know what I was talking about and have a cultural reference for that," explained Kingsland.

As Kingsland's work at SLIS continues, she realizes the versatility of the MLIS program. While currently working as a library aide in an elementary school, she is also exploring the various career pathways and reading the community profiles on the SLIS website.

Articles and resources, such as "Preparing Future Professionals through Broad Competency Planning" by SLIS director Dr. Sandra Hirsh, and "**Library and Information Careers: Emerging Trends and Titles (2011)**," found on the School's Career Development web pages, have contributed to her career focus. In addition, Kingsland has joined several state library organizations and attended conferences with COL support.

As her Inupiaq family's historian, Kingsland would like to utilize emerging technology skills to help preserve and sustain cultural information such as her family tree.

## Alyssa Peterson Accepts Internship at *Sealaska Heritage Institute*

Alyssa Peterson recently accepted a paid internship with the **Sealaska Heritage Institute** (SHI) in Juneau, Alaska. SHI is an organization dedicated to preserving Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultural materials. As an undergraduate, Peterson interned at the institute. This fall, she will be processing collections at SHI's Special Collections Research Center.

***"I get to sift through the remnants of peoples' lives, study beautiful art pieces, and listen to the voices of the past. It is inspiring and rewarding."***

— Alyssa Peterson

A Tlingit basketry artist, Peterson joined COL in the fall of 2011, immediately following completion of her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, concentrating on Anthropology and Northwest Coast Art, from the University of Alaska Southeast. Her LIBR 240: Information Technology and Tools web design project was a Northwest Coast art portfolio of her Tlingit and Haida basketry.

"I felt that this would tie into my future career because I plan on working in a tribal archive that houses Northwest Coast art pieces, including baskets. Learning how to go about building a website was a fun process and could be very useful if I end up in an archive that has no technical staff, which is quite possible," said Peterson.

Peterson is working toward the Management, Digitization and Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Records (Archival Studies and Records Management) career pathway. Soon after she became a part-time graduate student at SLIS, Peterson found a position as an archive/technical assistant for the facilities department of a local university.

"I am organizing their digital files, which include a lot of images of architectural drawings. Some of the images are quite old and have to be enhanced. The work I did for my LIBR 240 class, especially the photo editing sections, has helped me become more efficient in these instances," added Peterson.

In order to further her understanding of tribal archives administration, Peterson plans to seek an internship with the **National Museum of the American Indian** (NMAI) in Washington D.C. COL advisors and professional mentors have offered their assistance in guiding Peterson through the application process.

"I came into the COL program with a very defined career path. Learning about what other people are doing to face the challenges in their own small tribal archives has been inspiring. The friends I have made through the program have been the most amazing aspect to me. It has been a great support system to me," said Peterson.



Eventually, Peterson hopes to return to her community, the **Organized Village of Kake, Alaska**, to be a part of the organization of a future tribal archive and museum.

## Jerry Flanary Presents *Digitization for Cherokee Cultural Survival* at 2012 ATALM Conference



Cherokee artist Jerry Flanary joined the COL program in fall 2011 with the goal of becoming an independent information professional or information broker.

“When I first came across the description on SJSU SLIS Special Libraries Career Pathway page, I was immediately intrigued,” said Flanary.

Flanary has worked in bookmobile outreach and facilities services at the **Norfolk (VA) Public Libraries** since 2005, and also has a rich background in special library settings. As a glass artist, painter, and former arts educator, Flanary brought these skills to use as an assistant at the **Jean Outland Chrysler Library** at the Chrysler Museum of Art and in the Special Projects Department of the John Vaughn Library at Northeastern State University in OK.

For his LIBR 200: Information and Society course, Flanary wrote a research paper entitled, “Digitization for Cherokee Cultural Survival.” He presented his findings at the 2012 International Conference of the **Association of Tribal Archives Library and Museums (ATALM)** in Tulsa, OK in June.

“Presenting my paper at ATALM was an interesting experience. I met several people interested in that vein of research who gave me valuable feedback on ways to improve. Also, (COL student) Jennifer Himmelreich presented as well and we discovered that our research interests overlapped. So currently we are partnering to develop a presentation for the **Library 2.012 Worldwide Virtual Conference**,” said Flanary.

The SLIS-sponsored COL Community Dinner at ATALM presented Flanary with the opportunity to meet distinguished author Lotsee Patterson, a Comanche librarian, educator, and co-founder of the **American Indian Library Association**, whom he cited in his research paper.

“The dinner went well, and when I described my desire to provide information services to Indigenous governments, she slapped the table and remarked that she has wanted someone to do that since the 1980s. She told me about the Congressional Research Service (CRS) at the Library of Congress that provides information services for representatives and senators. While her vision of the information service was governmental, and mine is entrepreneurial, it was a gift to run into someone who not only got what I am envisioning but who had been thinking about it for 20 or 30 years! Then, in the remaining time at the conference, I spoke with members of the LOC about CRS and got more information,” said Flannery.

For Flanary, the COL program represents a transformative and inspiring community in which to learn. The opportunities to engage with Native SLIS students and contribute to his community continue to unfold.

“After meeting (COL student and Karuk linguist) **Susan Gehr** and reflecting on what she was doing, I started studying Cherokee again. I had started in ’95, but the language classes at that point were still trying to figure out how to teach Cherokee. Now, things have really improved, and it is even possible to learn online from Cherokee National Treasure, Ed Fields, through **cherokee.org**. I am already in the most advanced class that they offer, but I feel like I am just starting to understand. The verbs are the key to the language, and they are very complex. Currently, I am thinking about a “verb of the week” blog that might be searchable as a database for future students of the language,” said Flanary.

## Jennifer Himmelreich Extends Learning with Professional Development Opportunities

Jennifer Himmelreich (Navajo) joined the COL program in fall of 2011, and holds a B.A. in Bi-cultural Studies with an emphasis in Navajo Culture from Fort Lewis College, in Durango, CO.

Having previously worked in a range of public, college, department and school library positions, and most recently as an exhibit technician for the Ak-Chin Indian Community at the **Him-Dak EcoMuseum & Archives**, Himmelreich came to the SLIS program with strong experience in a variety of information settings.

***“San José State is an ideal place for me to continue my education. Most significantly, the COL program encourages opportunities for students to connect with professionals.”***

**— Jennifer Himmelreich**

Since joining COL, Himmelreich has been able to do just that, taking part in two face-to-face COL meetings at professional conferences, as well as joining professional organizations like the **New Mexico Library Association** and the **Western Museums Association** – thanks to COL funding.

A COL local conference travel grant also supported Himmelreich’s attendance at the **19th Navajo Studies Conference** at the Institute

of American Indian Arts, Center for Lifelong Education. Her goal in attending the conference was to make a connection between her MLIS studies and the Navajo Studies field. One of the sessions she attended, “Navajo Oral History Project – Journalism Partnership,” outlined a joint project with Dine College and Winona State University.

“I wanted to learn the set-up of the project and collaboration execution. I can see possible areas of research as I continue my coursework at SJSU that can help expand the field,” added Himmelreich.

Utilizing COL funding, Himmelreich also attended Enforcing Native Rights Using the NAGPRA, a one-day workshop offered by the **National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO)**. But it was the opportunity to present her poster at the COL-sponsored Student Research Forum of the 2012 International Conference of the **Association of Tribal Archives Library and Museums (ATALM)** in Tulsa, OK, this June that enabled Himmelreich to connect her MLIS studies with the wider tribal library, archives, and museum audience.

“Presenting at ATALM was fantastic. To take my written work that requires 20-30 minutes to read and translating it visually, so a viewer can gain what they need



in a 2-3 minute talk taught me a lot. I learned where to expand my research and made connections with people who were interested in what I was doing.”

At ATALM, Himmelreich met face-to-face with her COL professional mentor, Leslie Monsalve-Jones. She also had the opportunity to meet program officers representing the program’s funder, the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**. “I have received total welcome and support from professionals when I tell them I am in the program. They want us to succeed in building the field,” said Himmelreich.

# CIRCLE OF LEARNING SCHOLARS

**Elviria Aquino** was recently promoted from library technician to law librarian at the **New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library**. She is currently being trained on the reference desk and her focus will be collection management and government documents (e.g., print, electronic/digital, and microfilm), as well as training the new library technician taking her former position.

**Susan Gehr** presented at the panel session, "SESSION 510 - Independent Community-Based Archives: Opportunities and Challenges," at the annual meeting of the **Society of American Archivists** in August.

**Jonna Paden** was awarded the **American Indian Library Association's** Virginia Mathews Scholarship for 2012-2013. She presented her "LIBR: 200 Information and Society" paper at the 2012 ATALM conference in Tulsa, OK.

**Gena Peone** has accepted a position as assistant collections manager for the **Spokane Tribe of Indians**. She works with archival and material culture collections in the tribe's preservation department. She presented on a COL-led panel at the 2012 ATALM conference.

**Debbie Reese** was an invited guest at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's **America Healing for Democracy** conference in New Orleans, LA in April. This summer, Reese was an invited presenter at the **Pacific Northwest Library Association** conference and spoke at two sessions at the **International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)** in Tulsa, OK.

**Shannon Rosenbaum's** ALA Emerging Leaders 2012 oral history project on the 35th anniversary of the LIRT was presented at ALA's annual meeting in Anaheim. The group's work is available on their [website](#).

[slisweb.sjsu.edu/circleoflearning](http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/circleoflearning)

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