

Information Link

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University who has taught courses all over the world, including Iraq. And Shayee Khanaka, who is librarian for the Middle Eastern/North African Collection at the University of California at Berkeley Library.

What did you do to prepare for the trip?

We collected a lot of new library and information science textbooks to take with us. Each of us also brought keepsakes from our cities.

Did you have any expectations going there?

None. I was prepared for anything.

What impressed you about Jordan?

Although Jordan is a “new” country—it was formed after the British mandate of Palestine of 1920 and it gained independence in 1946—the region is ancient. It was conquered by the Romans, Arabs, and Ottoman Turks. As a result, it’s filled with fascinating archaeological sites. Pat Oyler and I spent a couple of days visiting the spectacular pink ruins at Petra, and the more sedate yet elegant Roman columns in Jurash.

What do you remember most about the people and places you saw?

I enjoyed the Middle Eastern cuisine and the long, glorious meals that lasted until late at night. Also watching both men and women smoking hookahs, and shopping.

I was surprised at how unattractive a city Amman is! Although there are ancient ruins within the city, it is a 20th-century city with undistinguished architecture. It’s not nearly as picturesque as Cairo. Yet within a short distance, there is the Black Sea, Jurash and Jerusalem—some of the greatest sites in the world.

Who did you meet that was especially interesting?

Everyone in the Iraqi delegation was interesting. The Iraqis who were over 45 were well traveled and had gone to graduate school in Europe or America. The younger ones didn’t speak much English.

Did you get an impression of daily life there?

We took a tour of both the old and new city, and, as with most places, there is both poverty and wealth. There is also heavy security throughout Amman.

Was the meeting with the Iraqis a success?

Yes. We were able to connect with the Iraqis as professional colleagues. Our mutual interest in the betterment of library services trumped politics.

Folks on the Move

Michelle Angell was selected by the American Library Association/ Student Chapter to attend the ALA annual conference in Chicago in June as an ALA student staffer. The opportunity provides registration, housing, and a per diem. Angell will have the opportunity to work in a division, a round table, and another activity of her choice, as well as to network with students from other LIS programs and library professionals.

GSLIS-West students **Laura Casey** and **Daniel Speidel** received the annual 2004 New England Library Association scholarships, part-time and full-time, respectively.

Last December, Professor **Ching-chih Chen** gave several talks on the Global Memory Net project to audiences in China and Japan. She was the keynote speaker at the International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries in Shanghai, China, and spoke at the Annual Library Conference of Hainan Province in Nanhui, where she also was made an honorary professor at the University of Hainan. In Japan, she spoke at the Digital Library Symposium at Tsurumi University in Yokohama, where her talk was translated into Japanese. The report of her visit and talk can be found at <http://ccs.tsurumi-u.ac.jp/seminar/docu/chenreport.html>

At the ALA midwinter meeting, GSLIS students **Mimi Kolosseus**, **Carla Magenheimer**, **Betsy McCarthy**, **Diane Post**, **Danielle Kwock**, and **Michele Mizejewski** assisted at meetings for the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), a division of ALA. Kolosseus also published a short article, “New Take on Technical Services” in the ALCTS online newsletter, v.16, no.1 in February about her behind-the-scenes experience.

In January, **Terry Plum**, assistant dean, and **Bonnie Isman**, director of the Jones Library in Amherst, MA, and adjunct faculty at GSLIS at Mount Holyoke College, visited 20 libraries and conducted a two-day workshop in Kyrgyzstan, a nation situated between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China. Librarians from Kyrgyzstan (keer-geez-stan) had already visited libraries in the United States last April. The Kyrgyzstan Library Administrator Training and Exchange Program was initiated by the Institute for Training and Development in Amherst. The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Community Connections program. Both Plum and Isman were inspired by the enthusiasm and passion of the Kyrgyz librarians, and by what they had accomplished.