



Up Front

The Global Memory Network —

Where Art and Artifacts Meet 21st Century Technology

In 1983, at a time when traveling in China was still difficult for most Westerners, Professor Ching-chih Chen led an expedition of American scholars and photographers to the ancient capital city of Xi'an. Considered to be one of the most important centers of ancient culture in the world, Xi'an was the home of the first emperor of China and is the site of his extraordinary mausoleum, which contains an army of more than 7,000 life-size terra cotta warriors and horses. From the videos and thousands of photographs taken of these historic works of art by her photographers, Chen created *The First Emperor of China*, a set of videodiscs, and then a multimedia CD-ROM learning tool, that could be used by people all over the world.

In 2000, as Internet and web technologies became mainstream, Chen began developing an international digital library of multimedia contents — the Global Memory Net (GMNet) — which she envisions as a “global gateway” to world culture, history, and heritage. Since then, she has traveled extensively to many countries, including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Croatia, Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Austria, Germany, Argentina, and Mexico to gain the collaboration of libraries and museums around the world.

Cutting-edge technology

According to Chen, the GMNet is special because it is so highly integrated and transparent. It features a Linus/Apache/php search system that enables users to search image collections quickly and accurately. Images can be searched traditionally by typing in metadata for titles, subject, and keywords (including by continent or country, with more than 230 countries listed). In addition, an elegant graphical retrieval system has been developed by James Wang and Jia Li, professors from Penn State University, that enables images to be searched by color and shape. The GMNet has a browser that provides a bibliography of relevant resources and links to OCLC's World Cat, Google, Internet Archives, etc. Images can be searched in Chinese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Thai, Croatian, Italian, and English — and the goal is to expand to more languages.

International collaboration

Since its beginning, the project's scope has greatly expanded to include images from China, Italy, Croatia, Japan, and Thailand. Chen's goal is to continue growing the database indefinitely. She emphasizes, however, that she is not out to centralize the image collections of the world's museums and libraries. “We do not say to them, ‘Give us everything you have.’ We just ask them to give us enough good samples so we can include them in our system, so that we can point to what they have. We basically provide access. And in doing that, we provide a possibility for international collaboration. This is a very important thing.”

**International researchers at GSLIS**

Since last spring, seven LIS professionals from China, Croatia, and Vietnam have come to the United States to work with Chen on the GMNet, and more are expected. They have been funded by the International Digital Library Program of the National Science Foundation. Working for periods of three to five months at GSLIS, they have been expanding the GMNet's image collections and helping to develop some of the system features.

S. Q. Zhang is the head of library automation at Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. He spent five months at GSLIS developing Version 2.0 of the GMNet's system under Chen's supervision, and returned to China in early September. **Boris Badurina** is a lecturer in information science at the University J. J. Strossmayer in Osijek, Croatia. He developed Version 3.0 of the system and is working on new capabilities, as well as a simplified version. Assisting Badurina is **Xiaobo Xiao**, the deputy head of library automation at the Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, China, and a doctoral candidate in computer science. He is working on the project's new system features.

Hongjia (Jenny) Zhang is the head of library automation at the University of Hainan Library in China. She is incorporating images of the Li people, an ethnic minority who have lived traditionally for 3,000 years on the island of Hainan (China's second largest island after Taiwan), and who developed China's first silk weaving technology.

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Snapshot Amy Lucker

“When your dreams are within reach, you just have to grab them.”

Amy Lucker '84LS is head of technical services and slides and digital imaging at the Fine Arts Library at Harvard University (located in the Fogg Art Museum). She teaches art documentation at GSLIS and lives in Boston.

Q: You grew up in Princeton, New Jersey. How did that influence you?

I spent a lot of time hanging out in the Princeton Art Museum, and that has had a huge influence on my life. Being close to New York (where both my parents were from), I also spent a lot of time there, in museums and shops. So, it's important to me to work in an academic institution, one that's in or near a major city. No midwest farm town for me.

How did you first get interested in library and information science?

My father is a librarian, and I grew up in libraries; I worked in our public library in Princeton when I was in high school (mostly so I didn't have to keep paying late fines). After getting my degrees — a B.A. in classics at Colby College, and an M.A. in classics at the University of Wisconsin — I decided I didn't want to teach first-year Latin for the rest of my life, so working in libraries just seemed like the thing to do.

What did you do before this job?

My job previous to my current one at Harvard was as head of the libraries at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

What do you like best about your job?

Variety. Also, art books and art.

Least?

Paperwork. And being told “no” about anything.

How would you describe the connection between who you are and the work you do?

I'm very good at organizing and guiding other people (I'm much less good at being organized or guided). I hate to be bored, so I try to find jobs where it seems like there's always too much to do, and where there's a variety of things to do. Interestingly, I've only had one or two jobs in my lifetime where I was doing a job someone else had defined. All the others have been jobs where I am the first person doing it, and so I get to define it to a large extent.

What's something you're passionate about?

Books — I love books. I'm totally keen on computers and electronic sources, but I believe we can't lose track of the massive amounts of information still found between the covers of the volumes in the stacks. And especially in an image-centric field like art — the computer screen really can't compete with a great glossy reproduction.

What are you reading right now?

I just finished a great book called *Benjamin's Crossing* about [philosopher] Walter Benjamin, written by Jay Parini. I also read Tom Wolfe's new novel, *I'm Charlotte Simmons*, over the weekend. It consumed both days (it's over 700 pages long), but I just couldn't stop.



Who is someone you admire a lot?

Susan Sarandon for one. She's over 50 and still hot, married to a younger man, and not afraid to display her intelligence and make people take her seriously.

Let's say you believe in former lives. Who or what were you?

A lizard, I think. I'm never happier than when I'm just lounging in the sun.

If you weren't doing what you do now, what would you do?

If I didn't need to work, I'd be living in some lovely climate, swimming and surfing in the ocean, staying warm, and reading until my eyes fell out.

Has there ever been a turning point in your life?

My mom passed away eight years ago. It's still amazingly sad and almost unbelievable. But it taught me that you never wait to do things that are important to you, and you never take the people you love for granted. These are things I'd always known, but now I actually do them.

What accomplishment in your life are you most proud of?

After getting married in 2000, my husband and I took a year off and traveled in Asia. We went to India, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and Japan. We put all our stuff in storage, gave up our apartments and jobs, and just took off, not really knowing where we would return to. It was a wonderful trip and a great way to start a marriage. And I accomplished two of my life's goals — I saw Mt. Everest with my own eyes, and I visited Angkor Wat.

That's pretty gutsy, isn't it?

The biggest lesson I've learned in the past 10 years is to do it now! I knew that somehow we'd support ourselves when we got back, and I really don't want to spend any time in my life wishing I'd taken more chances. When your dreams are within reach, you just have to grab them.

If you had a motto, what would it be?

There are no emergencies in art history.

Any guilty pleasures when it comes to reading?

True crime. I just can't help myself.

If you could have a totally different career, what would you choose?

Astronaut. Or waitress in a book store café.

What is anathema to you?

Boredom at work. Work at home.

If you could pick one possession that is very important to you, what would it be?

My bookshelves. We had these fabulous bookshelves built into our living room. They may keep me from ever wanting to move out of our condo.

So, when all is said and done, what would you like people to say about you?

Sharp as a tack. Funny. A truly good person. Not bad looking, either.

Interview by Victoria Thatcher

The Global Memory Network

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Haiyan Li is a systems engineer at the library of Jiaotong University in Shanghai. She is incorporating images and sounds of Chinese musical instruments.

Nguyen Thi Tuan Linh is the conservator of the Vietnam National Ethnological Museum in Hanoi. She is incorporating images with Vietnamese metadata from the museum's costume collection of 54 traditional minority ethnic groups in Vietnam. Also from this museum is **Nguyen Thanh Son**, an AV specialist, who is developing the English-language counterpart of the Vietnamese metadata associated with the same images with which Linh is working. He also is helping to develop digital video for the GMNet.

By the end of November, the researchers will have returned to their own countries. But as Chen said during a recent interview with the group of researchers, "We're planting seeds. They all know they have a responsibility when they return home."

Interview by Victoria Thatcher

Folks on the Move

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently ran a feature article on **Mark Phillipson**, one of four GSLIS students designated as fellows of the new Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Academy. The July 15 article is entitled "Romantic Poetry: Re-imagining Poetry with 21st-Century Technology" and describes how Phillipson used wiki software to promote the interactive study of literature at Bowdoin College. As part of his ARL Academy grant, Phillipson attended the ARL Academy Leadership Institute in Washington, D.C., in September, and this month he begins a paid internship at Columbia University Library in New York City. To read the article on Phillipson, go to <http://chronicle.com/free/v51/i45/45a03501.htm>.

GSLIS's student chapter of ASIST has once again been awarded Student Chapter of the Year, sharing the honor this year with the Information School of the University of Washington. **Caryn Anderson** '05 was the chair from spring to fall 2004, and current student **Kjersten Elias** is the current chair.

Professor **Ching-chih Chen** was invited to speak on the Global Memory Network project at a number of prestigious institutions in China and the United States in July and August. In Beijing, she gave four talks — at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Institute of Scientific and Technological Documentation Center, the National Library of China, and the Palace Museum at the Forbidden City. She also met with the directors of the Tsinghua University Library, the Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the vice director of Peking University. While there, she was appointed consultant to the China Digital Library Project, which is being led by the National Library of China. In the U.S., Chen spoke at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the National Agricultural Library in Silver Spring, MD. She also wrote a chapter in a book recently published by Informatics (India) Limited, entitled *Turning Pages: Reflections in Info-Times*.

Associate Professor **Jeannette Bastian** gave a keynote address at the International Conference on the History of Archives and Records (I-CHORA) at the University of Amsterdam in September. Her presentation was entitled "Reading Colonial Records Through an Archival Lens: The Provenance of Place, Space and Creation."

Welcome to New GSLIS Staff

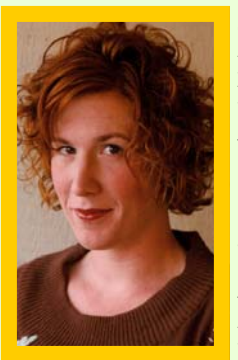


Caryn Anderson has joined Professors Peter Herson and Candy Schwartz to serve as program coordinator for the new Ph.D. program in Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions, funded by a three-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Anderson has a B.A. in communications from Boston University and is a 2005 graduate of GSLIS. She is active in the American Society for Information

Science and Technology, both locally and nationally. Anderson is experienced with IMLS-funded projects from her work with Assistant Professor Gary Geisler on the Open Video Digital Library Toolkit Project, and brings additional expertise to the Ph.D. program from her prior career in nonprofit management, including fundraising, program development, and evaluation.



Susannah Furnish is the front desk receptionist and assistant to the deans. She comes from Syracuse, New York, and before coming to Boston this past summer, she worked as an administrative assistant at Syracuse University's College of Law. She earned her B.A. in English from Mount Holyoke College. Her responsibilities include maintaining the GSLIS events calendar, assisting in general office responsibilities, and assisting GSLIS students, faculty and staff. She is the person to go to for appointments with Dean Cloonan and Assistant Dean Knowles.



Olivia Gatti, the dean's fellow for editorial projects, began her studies at GSLIS this past summer. She is from Long Island, New York, and has also lived in Burlington, Vermont, and Atlanta, Georgia. She has a B.A. in American literature from the State University of New York, Purchase College, and an M.S. in journalism from Boston University. Gatti, who has worked for more than five years as a news photographer and photo editor, was a member of the *Eagle Tribune* (North Andover, Massachusetts)

newspaper staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for journalism in 2003. Gatti's responsibilities include assisting Professors Candy Schwartz and Peter Herson with their journal, *Library and Information Science Research*. She also will be working with Jennifer Doyle, GSLIS special projects manager, on GSLIS publications.

A "Must Read"

An addendum has been added to the *2004-2006 Student Handbook* that covers the major policy changes that affect the 2005-2006 academic year. GSLIS students are responsible for reading and familiarizing themselves with the information in the handbook and the addendum. The addendum is available online at <http://my.simmons.edu/life/policies/>.

October Events

Wednesday, October 12, Panel Discussion on the Status of Iraqi Libraries and Librarianship, presented by SIR. Linda K. Paresky Conference Center, third floor, MCB. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact sir@simmons.edu.

Wednesday, October 12, Advising Statement, TOR, and Petition to Graduate Deadline.

Sunday, October 16 - Tuesday, October 18, The annual New England Library Association Conference. DCU Center (formerly the Worcester Centrum), Worcester, MA. For complete conference information, including the conference program, and registration and hotel reservation forms, visit the NELA website: <http://www.nelib.org/conference/index.htm>.

Wednesday, October 26, Deadline for applications to the Kay Bader Scholarship to attend the 21st Century Literacies conference. For details, visit <http://www.masslib.org/conference/2005FallConference/KayBaderScholarship.htm>.

Thursday, October 27, SLA@s Meeting. Pizza will be served. GSLIS Student Lounge, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1, Deadline for the 2006 Rittenhouse Award Competition, seeking unpublished papers and web-based projects. For details about the award and how to apply, visit <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/admissions/rittenhouse.htm>.

Tuesday, November 1, Deadline for applications for IMLS grant for tuition waiver. For more information visit http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/archives/2005/09/arl_academy.shtml.

Tuesday, November 15, Holiday Craft Fair to benefit LISSA. All items for sale have been crafted by Simmons College faculty and staff (mostly from GSLIS) and include scarves, hats, aprons, cards, ornaments, watercolor paintings, jewelry, gift boxes, decoupage items and much more. Faculty/Staff Dining Room, MCB. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact: Jody Walker, GSLISCE Program Manager, walkerj@simmons.edu.

Friday, November 18, 15th annual ISI Samuel Lazerow Memorial Lecture, "Pachydermous Reflections on the Future of Academic Publishing: Rethinking the Ways Scholars Create, Communicate, Use and Preserve Their Work," by Dr. James Neal, vice president for information services and university librarian, Columbia University. Location TBA. 12:30 lunch, 1:30 lecture. R.S.V.P. to gsdean@simmons.edu by November 7.

New Faculty Appointments

GSLIS welcomes its newest faculty member, Daniel Joudrey, and two distinguished visiting professors — Martha Mahard and Amy Warner.

Career Workshop: RSVP by Oct. 14

Thursday, October 20, A Career in Library & Information Science: Strategies, Choices, and Insights, a panel & networking event for current GSLIS students and recent Boston area alumni, sponsored by the GSLIS Alumni Executive Board. Enjoy wine and light refreshments and learn about new and exciting career options! Cost for current GSLIS students: a \$5 ticket purchase is required to reserve a seat BUT you will receive your money back when you arrive, so the final cost is FREE! Register by October 14 at the GSLIS Front Desk, P111. Event held in Trustman Art Gallery, 4th Floor, MCB. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Daniel Joudrey has been a metadata policy intern at the Library of Congress and a teaching fellow at the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned his LIS degree and is now finishing his Ph.D. He also was a research assistant to Dr. Arlene Taylor, a well-known expert in the field, and assisted her in writing the forthcoming third edition of her textbook, *The Organization of Information*. Joudrey will teach the organization of information, including cataloging and classification.

Martha Mahard has more than 30 years of professional experience with the Harvard College Library System, including working in the photography and visual collections at the Fine Arts Library, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and the Harvard Theatre Collection of the Houghton Library. She has written numerous publications and presentations in the field of photographic archives and visual information. She received her D.A. (LS '92) and M.S. (LS '88) from GSLIS. Mahard will teach photographic archives and photographic preservation.

Amy Warner is an internationally recognized expert in information architecture, controlled vocabularies, and the design of metadata and thesauri. She formerly taught at the University of Michigan School of Information and has been a consultant to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Hewlett Packard Inc., and the United States Geological Survey. Warner has co-authored two books and written numerous articles on controlled vocabularies and database design. She received her Ph.D. in library and information science from the University of Illinois and her M.A. from Indiana University. Warner will teach database management and information technology for information professionals.

Ready to Graduate?

Petitions to graduate are due in the GSLIS Administrative Suite by Wednesday, October 12. Petitions can be downloaded at <http://my.simmons.edu/gslis/resources/student-info/graduation.shtml>.

InfoLink

InfoLink is the monthly newsletter of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. Its purpose is to provide school- and career-related information and to foster community among the many diverse people who make up the school.

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Copy deadline for the November issue is Friday, October 14, 2005.