



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
School of Information

July 2022



-Bytes

UARIZONA'S SCHOOL OF INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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From the Director

It's my great honor to continue my work in the role of Director for Arizona's iSchool, a unit that continues to prepare students to tackle societies' grand information challenges and to support scholars in bringing about the most innovative projects and research output possible. Our research foci range from studies of data ethics, information behavior and misinformation, to digital curation, data management, cyberinfrastructure, museums and archives, to data science, machine learning, information retrieval or text mining, to user experience, extended or virtual reality, and game development. Beyond the wide disciplinary and methodological spectrum represented by the faculty, and alongside a broad commitment to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion through programs like Knowledge River and other efforts, we work to collaborate with others across campus, fields, and community sectors such as education, health, law, and the arts. To get these things accomplished we have what I like to call 'good people' – our faculty, staff, alumni, advisory boards, students, donors, community partners, internship site supervisors, visiting scholars, and those who employ our graduates are, truly, among the very best. We have needs, of course. We need to recruit and retain top faculty, for example, and we need to develop a broader collection of industry partners and live data sets for our students and faculty to utilize. But because of our people, the socio-technical challenges we face in society, the explosion of information generally, and our work on one of the original land-grant campuses that is now a federally-recognized Hispanic-serving institution, we are the iSchool to watch! Thanks for reading on...

- Catherine Brooks

Our M.S. in Data Science is now offered via Arizona Online, as an in-person program, and globally!



The M.S. in Data Science program at the iSchool has received considerable attention,

locally and globally. Until Spring 2022, the iSchool had exclusively been running two online versions of the M.S. in Data Science. The program has proven to be extremely successful, especially for students who are interested in learning Data Science in virtual environments. Starting in Fall 2022, the first cohort of on-campus M.S. in Data Science learners, comprising more than 90 students, is expected to dynamize the academic and social structure of the iSchool. Dr. Cristian Román-Palacios, the Faculty Advisor for the program adds that "it is not uncommon to see master and doctoral students from the iSchool, as well as the Colleges of Science, Engineering and Education,

among the colleges taking our M.S. in Data Science core courses (INFO520, INFO523, and INFO526)." Several of these students from across the campus have decided to form more long-term ties with the iSchool by inviting our faculty members to be part of their M.S./Ph.D. committees. The iSchool benefits from these cross-campus engagements with learners and their faculty. If you are interested in the iSchool's curricular offerings in data science, please contact the administrative staff who look forward to talking with you. ■

More info at: si_info@arizona.edu

Professional development talks to inspire our students

This spring, the iSchool hosted a series of career-focused events for students. In addition to a workshop with Dr. Laura Lenhart and Graduate Program Manager Holly B. Brown, network-building opportunities were led by iSchool alumni who shared their career paths with the purpose of building community with and inspiring students.

Sara A. Guzman '15, an alumna of the M.S. of Information in Library & Information Science program and a Knowledge River Scholar, shared her professional experience in Archives and the importance of her role in the preservation of Indigenous histories and Lifeways to maintaining cultural identity

and maintaining tribal autonomy. Sara has successfully integrated cultural competency in archival practice through the implementation of the philosophical principles of decolonization methodology. Sydney Kofron'19 Information Science & eSociety alumna, gave us a talk on her career in social media management and public relations. Sydney talked about the challenging aspects of her role at managing all social media, press releases, assisting in web design and branding projects, and executing SEO strategy.

"We look forward to inviting more alumni and industry leaders to support our students in their career development" added Holly B. Brown. We invite alumni to connect with us, and ask that students stay tuned to our website and social media accounts to find out more about these events. ■



CELEBRATES THIS YEAR'S GRADS



Jasmine is now employed as an Archivist with the Community Driven Archives project at Arizona State University.

<https://bit.ly/2kbz8h3>

Jasmine Torrez, KR20



Arnoldo is an Archivist Intern with the Diocese of Tucson and a graduate assistant for the Pima County Public Library.

Arnoldo Franco, KR20



Jen has been invited to a University of Chicago Law Fellowship. She was one of the first iSchool students to participate as a Law Fellow at UArizona under a program developed by the UArizona Daniel F. Cracchiolo Law Library Director, Teresa Miguel-Stearns.

Jen Bedier, KR19

Leela is employed as a Library Specialist at the UArizona Poetry Center. Leela was the 2021 recipient of the Louise A. Stephens Memorial Scholarship.



Leela Denver, KR19

Kristina is employed at the Grand Canyon University Library in Phoenix. She was selected as a 2021-2022 Spectrum Scholar by the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Diversity Literacy and Outreach Services.



Kristina Santiago, KR19

Rashida is a Labriola graduate assistant, at the Arizona State University Library Labriola National American Indian Data Center. She also is supporting the American Indian Policy Institute's Indigenous Leadership Academy with online resource tools such as the AIPI Indigenous Leadership Library guide.



Rashida Scott, KR20



Jesus Castañeda, KR19

Jesus is a Library Intern with the Pima County Public Library.



Sarah Tarver-Wahlquist, KR 18

Sarah is a graduate assistant for the Pima County Public Library.



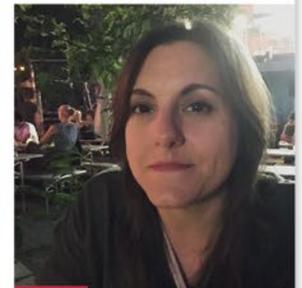
Victoria Manriquez, KR19

Victoria is now employed in Library Services at Pima County Public Library.



Cheryl Gerken, KR19

Cheryl is the Educational Outreach Coordinator at Arizona Public Media.



Bianca Alper, KR19

Bianca is an Archival Intern at UArizona Special Collections Library.



The iSchool is co-sponsoring the PNC 2022 Conference “The Digital World in an Age of Uncertainty”

The UArizona iSchool and the Center for Digital Society and Data Studies are co-sponsoring and helping organize the *Pacific Neighborhood Consortium (PNC) 2022 Annual Conference and Joint Meeting: The Digital World in an Age of Uncertainty: Humanizing Technology for Wellness, Resilience, and Creativity* on September 16-18, 2022. Dr. Bryan Heidorn, the Director of the Center for Digital Society and Data Studies added that some of the topics of particular interest to the iSchool include digital learning, digital humanities, information science, e-business, and techno-cultural data in a post-pandemic world (e.g., archives, museum informatics, machine learning and AI, interfaces, augmented



and virtual reality). The PNC 2022 serves as an opportunity for researchers and developers to facilitate information exchanges among institutions of higher education in the Pacific Rim through computing and communications technology. PNC explores issues of information and technology exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the development of the cultural knowledge contents. The technical program of PNC 2022 will include invited keynotes, paper presentations, workshops, and poster sessions. Free admission is provided for students who help with local logistics during the conference. ■

For more information see:

<https://bit.ly/3yiWs2f>



ESOC 478/INFO 578 Science Information and its Presentation is a course focused on science communication skills and myth debunking practices. The course is designed in an interactive and hands-on format ending with students creating a hypertext game called SciCommbat. Dr. Meaghan Wetherell, who teaches the course explains “The students pick the scenario (so far, we’ve focused on “how do we get

Scientific communication methods and Gaming to understand unvaccinated rates

someone vaccinated”), and then we write the game over the semester as a group. The game’s goal is to record the type of choices a player makes and gives them some feedback at the end about the techniques they used, and other techniques that might be better.”

While playing the game, students are challenged to argue different positions that the scientific community uses to explain unvaccinated rates. Students work together in small groups to write the game narrative, come up with good and bad responses for the player to take, and also write the feedback passages at the end as their final

project. Dr. Wetherell looks for content consistency between the groups and edits the game content.

Currently, Level 2 of SciCommbat is finished, courtesy of this year’s INFO 578/ESOC 478 students. “New chapters will be added every time the course is run, to create an entertaining, online training program for other science communicators” added Dr. Wetherell. ■

People can play the game here:

<https://www.scicommbat.com/spring-2022>

Join us in welcoming our new staff members



Mary Dickinson joined the iSchool this Spring (2022) as Assistant Director, Operations. Mary came from the UArizona College of Medicine, where she began her University career in 1998. She worked in the capacity of managing and administering professional and graduate medical edu-

cation programs. Mary’s Bachelor of Science degree is from the Eller College of Management and her Master’s degree in Educational Leadership/Higher Education from NAU. As our Assistant Director, Operations. She will help us manage communications with donors, employers, accreditors, and other stakeholders, will help us evaluate and work on our rankings across degree programs, while supporting our staff, faculty, and students within the unit.



JoAnna Patton joined the iSchool this Spring (2022) as a Business Administrator in the Harvill Business Center. Her position includes managing unit finances, grant projects, employment transactions and serving as backup business support for the School of Information. JoAnna holds a Bachelor of Science in

Business Data Analytics, and a Master of Business Administration from Western Kentucky University. She brings extensive experience managing accounting and finance related projects, grant projects and employment transactions. JoAnna enjoys hiking, antiquing and she loves to travel and spend time with family & friends. JoAnna believes every new day is a fresh start to do good and be good to others.



WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY Joining Arizona's iSchool



Dr. SARAH BRATT

Metadata analytics
Research data management
Digital curation



ANDREW KEMP-WILCOX

Video game industries
Narrative design
Player experience



Dr. CHARLES J. GOMEZ

Computational social science
Sociology of knowledge
Global science



Dr. ANDREA THOMER

Knowledge infrastructures
Database curation
Scholarly data practices

Please Support the iSchool, and Thank You!

YES, I support the School of Information (the only iSchool in the U.S. Southwest region)

Go to:

<https://ischool.arizona.edu/donate>

If you wish to contribute to the School via paper, please fill out the information below and mail to:

School of information, Harvill Building Room 409, University of Arizona, 1103 E 2nd St, Tucson, AZ 85121

Please designate my gift for use in the iSchool's general fund (supports faculty, staff, and students): ___yes ___no

Please make checks payable to the School of Information/UA Foundation

or

I prefer to make this gift anonymously: ___yes ___no

Please use my funds for this specific purpose: _____

This gift is from and/or made in the name of: _____



NSF funded project exploring the boundary between the real and virtual worlds



Dr. Lila Bozgeyikli has been working on a virtual reality research project titled: "Give Me a Hand: Exploring Bidirectional Mutual Embodied Tangible Interaction in Virtual Reality." The project is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The aim is to enable mutual and bidirectional encounters between two or more individuals through shared tangible objects in world-fixed virtual reality, with the illusion of objects extending from the virtual world into the real world. To create the illusion, tangible controllers pass through the projection curtain, and half of them are rendered virtually in real time.

They use actuators and microcontrollers for the tangible controllers and render the virtual counterparts according to the movements of these. Both the human user and virtual character can interact with the shared controller. When the virtual character rotates or translates a controller, the change affects the physical controller in the real world and vice versa, hence creating the illusion of a

shared object that extends between the real and virtual worlds. The rendering of the virtual world is updated in real time based on the head orientation of the user through motion tracking. For the control condition, they separate the virtual and tangible controllers.

With the help of **Ph.D. candidate Jack Clark**, user studies have been completed with 48 participants, and data analysis is ongoing. The long-term goal of the research is to increase the seamlessness of the boundary between the real and virtual worlds and



increase the sense of presence of users. Dr. Bozgeyikli says that at the Extended Reality and Games (XRG) Lab in the iSchool, they are mainly interested in research that aims to shrink the boundary between the real and virtual worlds through custom interactions, and beneficial uses of virtual reality and video games, such as rehabilitation. Graduate and undergraduate students participate in the research carried out in the lab. ■

For more news from the XRG Lab in the iSchool, please visit

<https://ischool.arizona.edu/xrg-lab>



Irene McKisson recently began teaching about social media and digital storytelling as an adjunct instructor for the iSchool. She brings her real-world experience as the cofounder and CEO

of a local news startup to the students in her courses. McKisson launched AZ Luminaria this spring. The local nonprofit news organization is dedicated to truly local news in Spanish and English and community-centered journalism that serves all Arizonans. The cofounding team began publishing in March and you can find stories at azluminaria.org or on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram at the handle [@azluminara](https://www.instagram.com/azluminara).

Previously Irene spent 18 years in local news at the Arizona Daily Star where she started as a designer and copy editor, then became the first social media editor at the newspaper and was most recently the cofounder and editor of #ThisIsTucson. As part of that role she was also the general manager of niche audience development for the Star. McKisson teaches and speaks about audience development, analytics and social media strategy to news industry organizations all over the U.S. and in the UK. She also teaches editing in the Journalism School as an adjunct instructor. Social media and audience development trends are always quickly evolving and flexing as society evolves and McKisson works to include the latest news on those trends in her teaching. Students benefit from the expertise that she brings to the classrooms and halls of Arizona's iSchool. ■

The power of technology to blur borders between science and arts

Dr. Winslow Burluson, iSchool Director of Research, is participating in an interdisciplinary collaborative along with Professor Dr. Yuanyuan Kay, (Principal Investigator) at the Fred Fox School of Music, and Distinguished Professor Dr. Chris Impey at the Department of Astronomy. The project is called StellarScape, aiming to draw diverse audiences into a science-inspired immersive multimedia experience to enhance the public's understanding of the physical mechanisms that govern the universe. "The project interrogates



how our understanding of the universe affects our appreciation of it, and how digital technology can enhance both experience and understanding" commented Professor Burluson. This magnificent live performance features four musicians on stage, an eight-channel audio system and a large projection system... for surround live audio processing, fixed media audio and video, and live processing driven by dancers' motion capture data. A top-level team equipped with thermal cameras and computer simulations that treat particles as a fluid

create streams and showers of stars. During one of the main performances, StellarScape delivers an immersive and interactive multimedia performance of the astrophysics of stellar evolution, that integrates music, and a storyline connecting astronomy and the human experience.

Professor Burluson anticipates more outreach events to come tied to this innovative union of science, technology, and interactive art. The purpose of the work is to resonate the concept of STEAM which recurs to the integration of Arts (music, art, dance and creative endeavors) within STEM curriculums, and to foster a more inclusive audience into the experience of science education. ■

To know more about the StellarScape, visit

<https://www.stellarscape.org/>



Dr. Cristian Román-Palacios

recently co-authored an article with Dr. John J. Wiens in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona, and Daniela Moraga-Lopez, a doctoral student at the Universidad Católica de Chile. The article was published in the prestigious Ecology Letters Journal, and explores the evolutionary drivers of animal and plant diversity across habitats. This study highlights the importance of conserving freshwater ecosystems as outstanding reservoirs of evolutionary diversity for both animals and plants. The study also unravels historical interactions between habitats in terms of historical transitions of diversity. (See the article at DOI: 10.1111/ele.13999)

Dr. Román-Palacios is strengthening ties with colleagues at UCLA, and with those involved in the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) in La Joya, NM. These projects are aimed at exploring Data Science tools like Bayesian Regression models to perform paleoclimatic reconstructions using a clumped isotope dataset and understanding urban eco-evolutionary dynamics using long-term datasets. Over the Spring semester, **Quan Guan, an M.S. in Information Science student** collaborated on this project. Quan validated multiple simulated datasets and expanded the set of parametric calibration models used to perform clumped isotope paleothermometry. According to Dr. Román-Palacios, this collaborative work is a perfect opportunity for iSchool students to hone in their data science skills and he looks forward to bringing in more students into his existing academic network. ■

Dr. Wetherell



PBS 'Eons' Episodes



Dr. Meaghan Wetherell teaches a number of data science and science communication courses, and she wrote a new PBS Eons episode that was just launched, "Something has been making this mark for 500 million years." This episode covers a trace fossil found both in ancient ocean rocks and in our own modern oceans. The fossil is called Paleodictyon, one that looks like a strange honeycomb net of tubes about the size of a plate. The Paleodictyon has been studied since the 1400's but we still don't actually know what it is. When scientists found some down at the mid-Atlantic ridge, 3000 meters below the ocean, they'd assumed that would solve

the mysteries tied to this fascinating fossil. Whatever is making these traces is incredibly sneaky, however. Nothing has ever been found INSIDE the burrow-like tubes of this fossil. Paleodictyon is a cool example of how much progress science has made – and how much more there is to learn! "Why Megalodon (Definitely) Went Extinct" is officially the most-watched video across all of PBS's digital studio productions with 23 million views. ■



The episodes are available at <https://bit.ly/3Oughu0>

The iSchool welcomes its new Faculty Jennifer Rochelle



Jennifer G. Rochelle recently joined the iSchool as an Assistant Professor of Practice and the M.A. in Library and Information Science academic advisor. Jennifer is an attorney, licensed to practice in Arizona, New Mexico and New York. She has been employed as a public defender and as a public interest attorney for non-profit

and immigration firms. Jennifer will use her extensive client-based practice skills to advise and assist students along their educational journeys. She will be teaching LIS 484/584: Intellectual Property and Copyright, ESOC 330: Digital Dilemmas, as well as a new course, GAME 305: Digital Game Law. Jennifer will aid the iSchool in coordinating curriculum between the UArizona James E. Rogers College of Law relative to the Accelerated B.A. in Law and M.A. LIS, as well as the joint J.D. and M.A. LIS degree

program, which are proposed to be offered in Fall 2022. Combining an M.A. in Library and Information Science and a B.A. in Law will give our students the ability to pursue a successful career in legal librarianship without the expense and time of a full J.D. Law degree. This unique combination can allow a more diverse range of students to pursue law librarianship and increase equity and inclusiveness in the field. The combined J.D. and M.A. LIS allows students who want to earn both a J.D. and M.A. to fast track their education and career. This exciting program allows students to graduate with both degrees in about four years. Together, these new innovative programs will allow our students a competitive advantage in achieving their academic and career dreams. Jennifer was previously a law fellow at the Daniel F. Cracchiolo Law Library and graduated from the iSchool's M.A. LIS program as a Distinguished Graduate Scholar. Jennifer is a member of the American Association of Law Libraries Next Generation Law Caucus which strives to bring diversity and inclusion to the law library profession. She is also the new faculty advisor on campus for Beta Phi Mu, the international honor society for library and information studies. Jennifer makes a strong addition to the iSchool faculty for learners across academic programs! ■



-Bytes from Students

Manuel Perez (left) and **Michael Witusik** (right), won the *Best Undergraduate Capstone Project* for their development of a new app called Lift Check. Lift Check is a form tracking application built to detect improper movement across a variety of exercises. The project is built in python utilizing open-source tools like PySimpleGUI, OpenCV, and MediaPipe. Users can get live, real-time feedback as they exercise, or they can input previously-recorded video to be analyzed. "For future iterations, we would like to focus on creating a more robust feedback engine, in which the program would learn the correct form for exercises using machine learning instead of preprogrammed constraints," added Manuel. ■

If you'd like to know more about Lift Check, visit: <https://bit.ly/3xWVvw8>



Byron Snead, represented the iSchool as a member of an interdisciplinary group of students, a group that also included Daniel Fernandez (electrical engineer), Joseph Green (mechanical engineer), Christopher Kaufmann (bio systems engineer), Tom Maillard (mechanical engineer), Tristan Martin (bio systems engineer), and Diego Moscoso (electric and computer engineer). This group won the Most Innovative Design in the Engineering Capstone award for their mobile tool called Go-Vertical Farm which makes possible the automation of Vertical Farming Operations, aka building a bot to help automation in vertical hydroponics farms. Bryan's role was prototyping the local navigation and implementing the graphical interface, with the ultimate goal of "being a completely autonomous facility having grower bots that move around to be replanted and harvested," explained Byron. ■



Amir Ameri, Steven Chow, Joab Garcia, Jonathan Patzke, and Brendan Schofield won the *People's Choice Award* for their two-player fighting game **Fatal Strike**. Fatal Strike main mode is a 1 vs. 1 mode, where players have access to three different moves to attack their opponent. In addition, players are provided with a parry mechanic that allows them to deflect incoming attacks from their opponent, making the game a more entrained experience for gamers. Fatal Strike has three unique stages each with their own special song and sound effects created and mastered by Joab Garcia. Steven Chow led the art design for backgrounds, and along with Jonathan worked on the pixel art design. Jonathan was also responsible for the user interface design; Brendan made the character sprites, and Amir designed and programmed all the gameplay. Steven said, "It was an honor working with my group members and it was fun making our game. I wish them the best of luck in life." ■

If you'd like to know more about the game features as well as the experience of the group when building every component of the game, check <https://bit.ly/3QRKGEk>



Congratulations to our 2022 Outstanding Seniors!



Riley Zuckert
Outstanding Senior and
Excellence in Research



Mariah Armstrong
Outstanding Senior



Destiny Derevage
Outstanding Senior



Mary Kate Armstrong
Leadership &
Community Engagement



Jillian Sommers
Leadership &
Community Engagement



-Bytes from Students

Paloma Barraza, another M.A. LIS student recently published a book titled, *Women's Art Wednesday: A Woman Artist for Every Week of the Year*. This book commemorates the four years of hard work that Paloma and her art historian co-creator, Jane Thompson, have worked on since the establishment of the Women's Art Wednesday (WAW) collective in 2018. Every Wednesday, they feature a woman artist on Instagram, providing an insight of these creatives beyond academia through an accessible and free platform. Paloma has both a bachelor's and a master's in Art History and has used this collective as a way to share histories of women artists.

As Paloma started her M.A. LIS program, she learned about the ways in which social media are ephemeral platforms of information and realized she wanted to archive part of the 200+ women artists they had featured so far, thus resulting in their first book. Paloma's courses helped her navigate copyright laws, research databases, publishing rights, and citations to honor this selection of talented women artists. The book is comprised of stories about fifty-two women artists, one for every week of the year, ranging from various mediums, eras, and styles. Paloma and Jane collaborated with Studio Patten to include beautiful illustrations that capture some of the women artists as well as images of local artists. ■

Follow WAW on Instagram [@womensartwednesday](https://www.instagram.com/womensartwednesday) and purchase the book here: <https://womensartwednesday.org>



Elias Gabriel Larralde, also working on a M.A. LIS was awarded the prestigious *Josephine Forman Scholarship* for showcasing great potential in archival studies, and significant work in minority-related archival studies. Elias is a Queer Latinx who saw in oral history the gateway into archival studies. Elias started recording several interviews for a newly established LGBT archive during their undergraduate studies at Florida State University. "My time at the iSchool has allowed me to expand the areas and resources that I can use in my work. In particular, I enjoyed the Information Environments from Non-Dominant Perspectives course with Professor Loa and getting a chance to work at the Center for Creative Photography here in the UArizona.", he said Elias sees this scholarship as an opportunity to keep moving their career of archival studies to provide a space and the tools for people to document their history and culture, and to expand their own network of like-minded archivists. ■

Bianca Finley Alper, Knowledge River'19, completed her M.A. LIS and a graduate archival certificate, and we'd like to share some about her important work. Born and raised in Tucson, AZ, Bianca is from a working-class Mexican-American family proud of her multi-ethnic roots and larger borderlands history that frames the Sonoran experience. This culturally rich inheritance has led Bianca to focus on examining the documentation and interpretation of cultural landscapes and the built environment for non-dominant communities that have been displaced and whose identities and histories are inextricably linked to place.

From Fall 2020 to Spring 2022, Bianca worked as a graduate research assistant on Dr. Jamie A. Lee's IMLS funded Early Career Development Research Project "Community-Based Archives: Considering the Power of Naming Practices," that examines naming practices across a range of community-based archives to better address archival appraisal and description practices. From Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 she worked as Archival Intern at UArizona Special Collections processing and increasing access to the library's vast architecture collections. During Fall 2021 semester, she also worked as the UArizona Libraries Digital Borderlands graduate intern, providing support for the Digital Borderlands Initiative, a grant project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to produce and disseminate new, open-access humanities scholarship on the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. As a result of her coursework, assistantships, and personal history, Bianca has developed a research focus on archival metaphors of space, place, belonging and spatial justice, by implementing praxis that increase representation and access for marginalized and minoritized communities in libraries, archives, and cultural heritage institutions. ■





Congratulations Dr. David Sidi on your dissertation defense

David Sidi's doctoral dissertation describes and motivates a research program for privacy technology called group-oriented strategic technology for adversarial privacy enhancement (GOSTAPEs). Group orientation in design makes the technology user a coordinated group, rather than an individual protecting their own personal privacy; while adversariality imposes costs for acts and practices that cause privacy harm. By design GOSTAPEs aim to strategically influence the underlying causes and conditions for privacy attacks, rather than allowing new privacy attacks to drive technology development. ■

Read the disertation at <https://bit.ly/3PGMnTB>



Liliana Salas is a Fulbright doctoral student using geospatial and social network methods to address mobility equity challenges posed by technology in urban environments. Recently, her paper "Analysis of Current E-Scooter Safety Regulation in a Large U.S. City Using Epidemiological Components as a Framework." was published with the Transportation Research Record (TRR) DOI: 10.1177/03611981221088771. This study addresses the main safety issues on scooter riders identified by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Austin in 2018, and analyzes how current regulation along with implementation of technology-based developments can mitigate the impact of those safety issues on e-scooter's ridership. Liliana was also awarded the second place, Graduate/Professional Student category in the 2022 UArizona Libraries Visualization Challenge for a dashboard that presents population density levels across the city of Bogota, Colombia, and its relationship to bus stops density. This is part of an ongoing project that explores transportation accessibility constraints in big cities across the Global South, and the potential of information technologies to spotlight on structural inequities from an urban planning perspective. ■

Director's List of Distinguished Scholars

Distinguished Graduate Scholars

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bianca Finley Alper | Samantha Honanie |
| Olivia Ambrose | Kerri A. Larimer |
| Abby Beazer | Bethany Leonardi |
| Britney Bibeault | Jenny Lundin |
| Brooke Blizzard | Rachel E. Luni |
| Bethany Bones | Kendra Lyons |
| Jesús Alberto Castañeda-Hernández | Victoria Manriquez |
| Victoria Choin | Gabriel Meier |
| Tessa Cullan-Wilkinson | Jung Mee Park |
| Deedra Erin Dallas | Colleen Katelynn Pepper |
| Morgen Elisabeth Daniels | Matthew Ricker |
| Amanda M Durbin | Cheryl Schrader-Gerken |
| Arnoldo Franco | Jasmine Torrez |
| Quan Gan | Jiahui Wang |
| CJ Garcia | Wonkyun Yim |
| Sabrina Heuschkel | Songyi Zheng |

Distinguished Scholars

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mariah Armstrong | Lauren Force | Manuel Sebastian Perez |
| Mary Kate Armstrong | Joab Garcia | Alina Perlstein |
| Patricia Azevedo | Victoria Gendreau | Cass Randall-Greene |
| Nora Baccam | Hayli Green | Kara Reagan |
| Faye Bandet | Rodrigo Guerrero | Shanna Register |
| Mrs. Rocío J Blanco | Kalyssa Harris | Abbey Rohler |
| Tyler Bromberg | Dylan Hayes | Jillian Sommers |
| Julian Nicolas Castellon | Madison Hirsch | Grace Chmielinski |
| Colby Chambers | Nizan Howard | Ava Isola |
| Paige Chartier | Charlotte Mills | Shannon Stickles |
| Danielle Chilcote | Auggie Moore | Derek Colombo |
| Kaycie Drennan | Jenny N | Kris Kelley |
| Sarah Finegold | Alexis Parra | Linh Ta |



“It’s been +20 years of fruitful public library career and getting to serve in a very rewarding way to the community.” Polly Bonnet

Polly Bonnet (M.A. LIS '02) was recently named Director of the Mesa Public Library. Polly started her career at MPL in 2000, as a part time clerk, and upon the completion of her M.A. LIS she became a library associate. Polly then spent some years in California working in a community outside Pasadena, and then returned to Mesa, where she calls home. During her first year as Director of the Mesa Library, Polly’s goals include getting back to full services, filling vacancies, planning new library locations, and expanding the library services in different ways throughout the city.



Polly’s aspirations include making sure that the library is engaging all parts of the local community. It includes involving her team as partners in the innovation district in which Mesa Public library is located. Her team is looking at inclusive services and programming and how they can develop that further.

After these years of community service Polly admits that she thinks often about one of her first lessons at the iSchool, “when you are a reference librarian, you’re impartial and the goal is to get information that people are looking for into their hands without any sort of judgment. We’re the connector to that information.” Polly considers that being impartial is what allows librarians to serve the community’s needs. “As a profession, we make sure we’re serving everyone in a way that they are able to make decisions about what they need or what they are looking for,” added Polly. Further, she highlighted her vision on the library profession, as “being able to surf the community, to invest (we’re a social infrastructure), to provide that for free, and to provide a place that people can come together, build relationships, find information, as well as learn and grow. It’s really a neat thing to be a part of this kind of community.” ■

Congratulations on your recent book, Dr. Lewis

Richard Lewis (M.A. LIS '03) received his Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary studies: Philosophy and Media & Communications from the University of Brussels in 2020. Last year he published his first book, *Technology, Media Literacy, and the Human Subject*, with the academic press Open Book Publishers. The book can be freely downloaded at: <https://bit.ly/3yyCS3n>

Richard worked for ten years as Director of the Prescott College Library, the place where he began to formulate an important research question. He wanted to understand how people are moving from a literate print-based paradigm to a digital paradigm, and how these shifts impact people and information over time. After years spent doing interesting interdisciplinary work across the fields of philosophy, technology, media and communications, he was able to design a methodology to situate technological relations in a broader context to look at not only technological relations or sociocultural relations but also how

our own minds and bodies come together in any technological mediation that we experience. This methodology is presented in his book, which also invites us to question the usability of technology. It has been Richard’s quest as a faculty librarian and director to address this question: How do we make our resources and our processes usable to the students? Richard’s book has already been a great success. Within the first four months after publication, it was downloaded more than 800 times. He looks forward to seeing how the book will be utilized in instructional settings.

Reflecting upon his time at the University of Arizona, Richard recalls the Digital Preservation class and the teaching of Walter Ong. Richard cites the Organization of Knowledge as another course which left a strong impression, “being able to understand how to take a search, separate it into areas and look for keywords to define each of those areas is something I still teach to all our students.” For Richard, this digital internet era requires more people to understand and organize knowledge. “It’s so key to have people that have been trained to help others see that and to be able to tap in and navigate more easily. When you have some of these skills and understand



the organization of information that is out there you can leverage the key words more powerfully, you are able to focus on how to group ideas, troll vocabulary.”

When asked what advice he has for current students, Richard said, “I always feel that staying connected with your heart is central. Think of how you can make classes you take, or the job you get, into your own. How can you keep your work really relevant to you?” Richard suggests that we all, “keep that excitement and nurture our inner geek.” ■

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