

# Illinois State University **Milner** *matters*

Newsletter for library science alums, librarians who are Illinois State graduates, retirees, and the friends of Milner Library

## Illinois State offers new library science program

By Rachel Hatch

In 2005, a report from the Illinois State Board of Education declared a growing need for school librarians, predicting that by 2009, 375 school districts around the state would have vacancies. A new program by Illinois State University aims to help answer that need.

With the shortage of librarians, teachers have often stepped into the role, which is continually evolving.

“Over the last 20 years, school libraries have changed dramatically,” said Dane Ward, associate dean for public services at Illinois State. “It goes far beyond the stereotype of checking out books and stacking shelves. Libraries, with a host of new resources and technologies, are now integrated into the teaching and learning of the classroom. Schools all over the state need librarians who are connected to the changes in the field.”

In 2004, the Illinois State Board of Education changed the requirements for working in school libraries. The change meant that teachers wanting to work as school librarians would have to complete 24 hours of coursework in library science. The new requirements sent many teachers in search of post-graduate courses.

At Milner Library, a solution for many teachers had already been in the works. For several years, Ward and others from the library teamed up to develop a post-graduate program. In the fall of 2007, the University approved the new Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program in School Librarianship, designed especially for teachers seeking endorsement as library information specialists.

“We’ve been working on this for about three years, and students have been taking coursework for several semesters,” said Ward. “It’s very exciting that the University has approved the program, so we can assist teachers who are so enthusiastic and inspired to create a positive impact on students.”

One of those students is Chris Bohne, librarian media specialist for Stevenson Elementary School in Bloomington, Illinois.

“This has been a wonderful opportunity to continue learning,” said Bohne, who was an elementary school teacher for 20 years before taking the library position six years ago. “Our job really has a flat learning curve. We need to keep up with all the professional journals and new literature being published, and have the dual role of mastering new technology. It keeps you active.”

Students in the program, which is being offered through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, take six core classes and two electives to satisfy the coursework for the endorsement process. The other portion is a content-area exam, given by the state.

The program is already reaching beyond the area.

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“One of the greatest advantages of the program is networking with other librarians and media specialists,” said Bohne, who said fellow students come from as far as Chicago and Springfield, Illinois. One course is available online, with plans for additional online courses to be added.

“There are very few programs that answer the needs of endorsement,” Ward said. We hope this program will be able to reach all over the state.”

The program also may be incorporated into coursework for a future master’s degree in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in school librarianship.

Bohne moved from student to teacher, becoming an instructor for one of the courses.

“One thing about librarians is that we never turn down an opportunity to learn, especially from each other,” he said.



Dean Cheryl Elzy

## Dean’s message

Greetings once again to alums, colleagues, and friends. We have great news—especially for alums and aspiring librarians! Most of you are already aware that Illinois State University once offered a bachelor’s degree in library science, along with minors and a co-op master’s with the College of Education.

Given budget constraints and the inherent vulnerability of small programs, the program was eliminated in 1984. The last degree was awarded in 1989—although one persistent soul did finish in 1998! With the new Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

Program in school librarianship, Milner is revitalizing a scholarship fund once reserved for library science majors.

The fund, established in 1974, was named to honor Eunice Speer, a professor who helped create the original library science program at Illinois State. The fund has been in use since it was created. When the degree was discontinued, funds were used for continuing education, and development for library faculty and staff at the university, by bringing in expert speakers, providing educational programming, and supporting workshops.

Now that a library science program is part of Illinois State again, the Eunice H. Speer Scholarship Fund will revert back to giving students financial assistance with tuition, books and fees. To do that, the fund needs to grow.

In April, Milner Library will take over the Normal Theatre in uptown Normal for a fundraiser to benefit the Eunice H. Speer Scholarship Fund. On April 22 at 7 p.m., a special showing of the movie *The Hollywood Librarian: A Look at Librarians Through Film* will be held. Though there is no fee for the viewing, those who attend will be given the opportunity to donate to the scholarship fund. *The Hollywood Librarian* is the first full-length documentary about librarians, and how they are portrayed in film.

On May 1 at 2 p.m., Illinois State will welcome one of the movie’s creators, Ann Seidl, to the Old Main Room at Illinois State, Bone Student Center. Seidl is the fifth presenter in the Bryant Jackson Lectureship, a series endowed by University Librarian Emeritus, Dr. Joe Kraus. Now a library consultant, Seidl will discuss making the documentary. The event is free and open to the public. Mark these dates on your calendar. Please plan to come to both events!

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## Inside Milner

### Retirements

**Patricia Meckstroth** retired in December. She joined the Milner faculty in 1976. Pat began her career in the General College Library. She had many roles in Milner and the campus serving as acting director of general education for Illinois State before becoming the humanities librarian.

### New employees

**Julie Murphy** has joined the library as the science and technology division librarian. Julie completed her master's in library and information science from the University of Illinois in May 2007. She received a master's in curriculum and instruction and a bachelor's in physics teaching from Illinois State. Julie taught high school physics and chemistry.

**Heather Kosur** joined the staff in the preservation unit.

**Erica Holden** is the new digital imaging specialist in systems.

**Josh Layden** has joined the access services department.

### Accomplishments

**Cheryl Elzy**, dean of University Libraries, Digital Citizens Project was the subject of a feature article, *The First Close Look at Colleges' Digital Pirates: Illinois State U. Opened Up Its Computer Network and Found a Haven for Illegal Activity* in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 7, 2007.

**Dane Ward**, associate dean for public services, received a Library Services and Technology Act grant "Information Power to the People: Investigating the Feasibility of an Illinois Center for Information Literacy." The grant will investigate whether an information literacy center should be established on the Illinois State campus.

**Milner faculty** taught 808 instruction sessions reaching 16,668 students from July 1, 2006—June 30, 2007.

**Angela Bonnell** and **Sarah Williams** presented "Federated Searching Feedback" at the Internet Librarian 2007 Conference in Monterey, Calif.

**Cheryl Elzy** co-presented "Researching P2P Activity: What Students Say Versus What They Really Do" at the Educause Annual Conference in Seattle October 2007.

**Toni Tucker** co-authored *How to Develop a Marketing Plan for an Academic Library*, published in *Technical Services Quarterly*, Volume 25, Number 1, 2007.

### **The Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) Collections Enhancement Awards were granted to six Milner librarians:**

**Christine Kubiak** Popular Expressions of the Arts

**Sharon Naylor** Higher Education Systems in Africa and South/Central America

**Vanette Schwartz** Latin American Studies: Meeting the Needs of Illinois' Academic Curricula in History, Politics, Culture and Society

**Dan Ward** Anthropology: Cultures Across the Curriculum

**Kay Weir** Asian Studies Partnership: Business and Economic Relationship with Asia Since the Asian Economic Crisis

**Sarah Williams** Computer Science Partnership: New Media, New Networks, New Technology

## Tidbits

### Stevenson family collection

Milner Library is now the home to the Stevenson family collection. The collection includes about 300 items documenting the life of Adlai E. Stevenson II, and some items that belonged to his grandfather Adlai Ewing Stevenson, and Adlai II's great-grandfather Jesse Fell. During the opening reception on August 29, 2007, Adlai Stevenson III presented the library with the Stevenson family Bible. Portions of the collection can be seen on display on the fourth floor of the library. Currently, political memorabilia is on display from Adlai Stevenson II's run for governor of Illinois and vice-president of the United States along with some Fell family pieces.



Adlai Stevenson III presents Cheryl Elzy with the Stevenson family Bible.

### Teaching with Primary Sources goes regional

The Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program (TPS) at Illinois State University's Milner Library continues to provide teachers and library information specialists throughout Central Illinois with a professional development opportunity to learn how to find and utilize the more than 10.5 million digital primary sources found on the Library of Congress' Web site. In addition to providing this ongoing local professional development, the TPS program at Milner Library has been selected by the Library of Congress' Educational Outreach Department to become one of four regional centers in the United States. Our goal is to expand the Teaching with Primary Sources effort throughout the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin. This 15-month pilot program will offer sub-awards to interested partners to develop professional development opportunities in their location. The Midwest Regional Center for Teaching with Primary Sources at Milner Library looks forward to this challenge!

The Teaching with Primary Sources program at Milner Library has been selected ... to become one of four regional centers in the United States.

### 2007 Visiting Author Program

In its sixth year, the Ames/Milner Visiting Author Program featured Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin September 18, 2007. "Leadership Lesson from Abraham Lincoln" was the title of her evening presentation based on her book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Goodwin talked about how Lincoln knew the value of acknowledging his mistakes and understood how to respond to them. She also shared her experiences as Lyndon B. Johnson's biographer at the young age of 25 and about her lifelong love of baseball.

### Mark you calendar for mini-book sales

The Friends of Milner have set mini-book sale dates for February 5, March 4, April 1, and May 6. All sales take place from 1-3 p.m. on the Main floor of the library.

## Homecoming

“Spread the Red: 150 Years of Spirit” was the 2007 Homecoming theme. Miner’s honored alum Laura Garrett ’73, presented to Milner faculty and staff an interesting look into how the State Farm Library began. Laura retired as the director of the State Farm Library in 1998. After the presentation, Laura and her spouse, Bob, were joined by their two sons and daughters-in-law for the annual honored alumni luncheon.



Once again, Milner Library won a prize for its homecoming parade entry with the theme “Celebrating in Style at Milner Library.” This was the first year the library entered the mobil unit category. Library faculty, staff and students dressed in red tails wearing top hats and white gloves. Canvas bags bearing the library theme were passed out to parade spectators.

Jan Johnson, a 25-year Milner Library employee and alum of the library science program, was inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Hall of Fame. She received the Campbell “Stretch” Miller Award for her years of service for serving as a game day crew member for four Redbird athletic teams. The award was given during homecoming week.

## Alumni update

Ruth Floyd Nicewonger ’74 retired after 33 years as district librarian for Heyworth Schools in Heyworth, Illinois.

Debra Thor Aggertt ’74, B.S. in fine arts. She met and married a fellow student, Ronald C. Aggertt ’74, B.S. agriculture. Deb worked at the Ashland Public Library District, in Ashland, Illinois, in various capacities from children’s librarian to director from 1984-2005. She graduated from Dominican University with an M.L.I.S. degree in August 2005. Deb was one of the students from a joint venture between the Alliance Library System and Dominican University to train librarians. In November 2005, Deb went to work at the Illinois State library as the statewide virtual reference coordinator for Ask Away. Debbie is currently the ILLINET/OCLC network coordinator.

## Alumni news

We welcome updates from alumni for *Milner Matters* publication. Please fill out this form and return it to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900, or e-mail to [ttucker@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ttucker@IllinoisState.edu).

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NAME (MAIDEN NAME IF APPLICABLE)

CLASS YEAR

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

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MAILING ADDRESS

---

PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER

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NEWS/COMMENTS

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Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni.



MILNER LIBRARY  
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## 2008 spring events

Please join us for any or all events sponsored by Milner Library. For additional information visit our Web site at [www.library.ilstu.edu](http://www.library.ilstu.edu) or contact Toni Tucker at (309) 438-7402 or [ttucker@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ttucker@IllinoisState.edu).

### March 18

Jean Baker "Let's Talk Sense to the American People: Adlai Stevenson's Presidential Campaigns"  
2:30 p.m.  
Old Main, Bone Student Center

### March 27

"A Chat with Stacy Cordey" author of *Alice Roosevelt Longworth, From White House to Washington Power Broker*  
2 p.m.  
Main Floor, Milner Library

### April 1

Edible Book Festival  
11 a.m.—1p.m.  
Main Floor, Milner Library

### April 8

"A Chat with Marc Aronson on Race"  
2 p.m.  
Main Floor, Milner Library

### April 10

Friends of Milner Library spring speaker featuring Cheryl Elzy  
Digital Citizen's Project  
7 p.m.  
Circus Room, Bone Student Center

### April 22

*A Look at Librarians Through Film* documentary  
Fundraiser for the Eunice H. Speer Scholarship Fund  
7 p.m.  
Normal Theatre, Uptown Normal

### May 1

Bryant Jackson Lectureship featuring Ann Seidl, one of the creators of *A Look at Librarians Through Film*  
2 p.m.  
Old Main, Bone Student Center

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