

# GREETINGS FROM SLIS DIRECTOR, DR. LUCY SANTOS GREEN

Read all about the exciting projects, programs, and student success initiatives happening at SLIS on page 3.

READ MORE



# DISCOVER THE DIGITAL THEORIES BEHIND DR. ANDRÉ BROCK'S MOST RECENT WORK

Read all about Dr. Brock's visit to the University of Iowa SLIS program as an Ida Beam Distinguished Professor on page 15.

READ MORE



# WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2025

The Fall 2023 cohort brings us new and exciting individuals from all walks of life. From former marketers to military veterans and inspiring library workers, our program is full of unique students with fresh and insightful perspectives.

This year's newsletter also features faculty grants, projects, and innovations that highlight and support the impact of GLAM institutions.

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  - School of Library and Information Science, University of Iowa

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Trevor Krug, 2022 SLIS Alumnus



SLIS Students and Alumni attending the 2023 ILA Conference





### **HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!**

Welcome to the 2023 edition of the SLIS Newsletter. As you read through its features you will see that it has been an exciting year of change and growth for SLIS. Since joining the school as Director this past January, I have been encouraged and inspired by the enthusiastic manner with which our faculty, students, and staff navigated these changes, always with a commitment to what is best for the SLIS learning environment.



There have been changes in the curriculum, including new degree partnerships and new courses for our Special Collections certificate; a new and powerful approach to the Capstone Portfolio; **new faculty publications and amazing grant activity**; a new approach to our advising system, our website, and social media channels; **new and generous endowments that expanded SLIS's ability to fund student study and student travel**; new students who have joined our program, and new GLAM graduates who are already making an incredible impact on our profession.

We are also presently going through our re-accreditation cycle with the American Library Association. This is an important process, and we are proud to have maintained our ALA accreditation in good standing since 1971. We look forward to celebrating our re-accreditation this coming Fall semester, so keep your eyes peeled for that announcement! Speaking of accreditation, did you know that your ALA-accredited master's degree is an international credential? ALA-accredited degrees are reciprocally credentialed by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (UK), and the Australian Library and Information Association. We are honored to house the only ALA-accredited degree program in the State of lowa, home of the Library Bill of Rights!

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In this newsletter I invite you to catch up with the research activity of faculty, the accomplishments of our graduates, and the incredible speakers and scholars who supported the first year of SLIS's learning series *Professional Growth through Personal Engagement*. We love celebrating our alumni and so if you have news you would like for us to share either on our social media channels or in the annual newsletter, please reach out using the <u>alumni contact form</u>. Finally, I would like to extend a special thank-you to Katie Hansen, SLIS Social Media and Communications Graduate Assistant, for project managing the SLIS Newsletter design; and to Anna Luria, the SLIS Director Graduate and Research Assistant, for overseeing the organization of our accreditation documentation. **Now, on to the news!** 

Dr. Lucy Santos Green





### **SLIS FACULTY**



### Dr. Lucy Santos Green - Director / Professor

Dr. Green specializes in school librarianship, technology integrated learning, organizational management, and school librarianship for marginalized populations, with a focus on first-generation immigrants and LGBTQIA+ families. Dr. Green is co-editor of *School Libraries Worldwide*, and president of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).



### Dr. Jennifer Burek Pierce - Associate Director / Professor

Dr. Burek Pierce teaches courses that support students developing careers in children's books, youth services, book history, and special collections and archives. Public-facing course projects, or ones that result in publications and visible work with community partners, have long shaped Dr. Burek Pierce's classes.



#### Dr. Micah Bateman - Assistant Professor

Dr. Bateman teaches Foundations of Computing and Information Organization, and is a co-author of *Mapping the Imaginary: Supporting Creative Writers through Programming, Prompts, and Research*. Dr. Bateman has also published poetry and creative prose in outlets such as *Boston Review*.



## Professor Jackie Biger - Associate Professor of Instruction / Teacher Librarian Program Coordinator

Professor Biger is the coordinator for the Teacher Librarian certification program and has extensive experience in both public and school librarianship. Professor Biger is a co-facilitator of the state-wide Teacher Librarian Leadership Team and the SLIS Iowa Library Association Liaison. Her work focuses on curriculum writing and standards development in School Libraries.



### John Culshaw - Jack B. King University Librarian

Mr. Culshaw was appointed in 2013 and is responsible for leading the University of Iowa Libraries, the largest library system in Iowa, in providing services, collections, and spaces to the University community and beyond. Before coming to Iowa, Mr. Culshaw spent nearly 22 years at the University of Colorado Boulder, most recently serving as Senior Associate Dean of Libraries.



## Professor Sara Langworthy - Associate Professor, Director of Studio Facilities, University of Iowa Center for the Book

Professor Langworthy teaches both letterpress and book binding at the University of Iowa Center for the Book. Professor Langworthy's work is represented by Joshua Heller Rare Book, and is in a number of collections including The Library of Congress, The Walker Art Center, and Yale University.



## Professor Julie Leonard - Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, University of Iowa Center for the Book

Professor Leonard teaches within the UI Center for the Book, leading classes about bookbinding, book design, and artist book history and practice. Professor Leonard's current artistic work combines poetic forms with handmade papers to create artist books and wall pieces.



### Professor Kara Logsden - Lecturer, Undergraduate to Graduate Coordinator

When developing the courses she teaches, Professor Logsden draws on nearly 30 years of experience working in libraries, including over two decades on the leadership team at Iowa City Public Library. Professor Logsden works with area libraries, museums, and information centers to plan SLIS practicum experiences.



# Professor Colleen Theisen - Lecturer, Archives and Special Collections Certificate Coordinator

Professor Theisen's professional career as a special collections curator and manager, social media creator, and K-12 educator, inform her administrative role in SLIS as she guides and advises the Graduate Certificate in Special Collections Librarianship. Professor Theisen is currently researching changes in communications and social media work for special collections and archives.



Dr. Iulian Vamanu - Associate Professor

Dr. Vamanu's courses enable students to learn how to base their practice on recent scientific discoveries, theoretical reflections, and a deep understanding of the communities they will serve. Dr. Vamanu is currently working on a grantfunded project to better understand the impact of public libraries on the resilience of their communities in the Midwest, especially in times of crisis.

## **SLIS Adjunct Faculty Fall 2023**



**Dr. Stephanie Blalock**Digital Humanities
Librarian, Whitman

Archive, Associate
Editor



Dr. Angela Fritz

Archivist



**Katie DeVries** 

Social Sciences Librarian, SLIS UI Libraries Liaison



Lisa McDonough

Teacher Librarian



## **Faculty Grants**





Dr. Iulian Vamanu and Professor Kara Logdsen are working on a \$494,444 Institute\_of Museum and Library Services grant (#LG-254845-OLS-23), Libraries as Resilience Hubs: Assessing Social Impacts and Learning from Best Practices, in conjunction with University of Iowa faculty from the School of Planning and Public Affairs, Sociology, Business, and Social Work and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning.

This research project will assess public library impact on community resilience across the United States, and the ability of libraries to withstand and recover from adversity. The assessment will also explore how public libraries impact local economic and social outcomes, their ability to address community stressors, and identify the factors that drive libraries to implement resilience-boosting programs. These results will advance current knowledge about how libraries function as community resilience hubs.





Dr. Lucy Santos Green, Dr. April Dawkins, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and Valerie Byrd-Fort, University of South Carolina, are working on a \$248,700 Institute of Museum and Library Services grant (#RE-254844-OLS-23), READCON: A Curriculum for Library Readiness, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment During Challenging Conditions.

Through this project, the research team is developing an innovative, scalable, and adaptable open-source curriculum to equip public, academic, and school library workers with skills to build strong civic networks, bringing together and empowering different community constituencies, interests, and populations. READCON will also build culturally responsive professional soft skills not typically addressed in LIS curriculum, within the context of challenging conditions. Based on the <u>Get Ready, Stay Ready: Community Action Toolkit</u>, READCON will be adaptable for library workers across all settings.







# Faculty • Research



Professor Jackie Biger participated in an interdisciplinary crossdepartmental training focused on online design through the Department of Distance Education here at UI. Over eight weeks, Biger explored online teaching pedagogy, assessment, pacing, and instructional design. She reflected on and adapted teaching practices for designated outcomes and student learning objectives, using her courses SLIS: 6020 Literacy and Learning and SLIS:6530 Library Practicum as frameworks. As library courses move to a mix of asynchronous and synchronous teaching, best practices in online instructional design are an important part of the high-quality educational program we want every SLIS student to experience.



Dr. Jennifer Burek Pierce has collaborated on several written works with both SLIS faculty and alumni. She and SLIS faculty member Jackie Biger coauthored the chapter "Instagram Your Readings: Outreach, Community, and Connections" in an upcoming textbook designated for Courses. Young Adult Library Services: Challenges & Opportunities. Edited by Anthony Bernier and Shari Lee, the textbook will be published by Rowman & Littlefield. Their specific chapter discusses how older readers can benefit from picture books and how librarians and teachers connect with audiences through social media.

Dr. Burek Pierce's other large project has been the development of an Open Educational Resource textbook, *Librarians Learning Together*, for the SLIS course "Libraries, Culture, and Society." The textbook was cowritten with SLIS alum Nancy Henke (2023), a University of Northern Colorado Textbook Affordability Librarian.



Professor Colleen Theisen is currently working with a research team at the University of Michigan's Special Collections Research Center to collect data on the different types of social media platforms that Special Collections and Archives workers use for outreach. The project is an extension of the team's 2013 article, "Making Connections: A Survey of Special Collections' Social Media Outreach." The team also examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on staff burnout; and changes in staffing within Special Collections and Archives, with findings published in The American Archivist. In addition to her work with the **Special Collections and Archives** team, Professor Theisen presented a poster at ALISE 2023 jointly authored with Dr. Jennifer Burek Pierce: "YouTube Expectations in a Canvas World." The poster focused on how students' earlier experiences with the prolific educational videos available online condition their expectations of online media in their degree work.





### **2023 SLIS Graduate Assistants**



Katie Hansen Social Media Manager

Hansen works alongside SLIS
Director, Dr. Lucy Santos Green,
and Program Administrator,
Katie McCullough, as the SLIS
social media manager, creating
both digital and printed content.
She is interested in pursuing
opportunities around traumainformed librarianship.

Book Recommendation: The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ. Klune

**Graduating Spring 2025** 



Caitlin Mathies Research Assistant

Mathies works alongside SLIS Professor, Dr. Micah Bateman, assisting with his research and grant management. She is looking forward to working in archives and digital humanities at a college or university.

Book Recommendation: Legendborn by Tracy Deonn

**Graduating Spring 2024** 



Anna Luria Research Assistant

Luria works alongside SLIS Director, Dr. Lucy Santos Green, assisting with departmental tasks and research. She is interested in a future career centered on law librarianship.

Book Recommendation: Bunny by Mona Awad

**Graduating Spring 2025** 



Bailey VandeKamp Research Assistant

VandeKamp works alongside SLIS Professor Dr. Micah Bateman, on his current federal grant on Activating Archives in Remote Communities. They are excited to launch a career in public librarianship upon graduation.

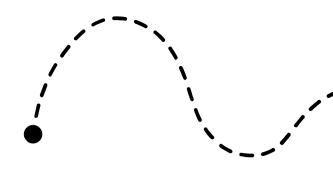
Book Recommendation: The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi by Shannon Chakraborty

**Graduating Spring 2024** 

Graduate Assistantships
Available for 2024 SLIS
Students!









### 2023-2024 LISSO Officers

LISSO is the Library and Information Science Student Group, an official American Library Association (ALA) chapter. These student leaders promote scholarly achievement, connections between students, faculty, and staff, and serve as a communication conduit for both online and in-person cohorts. LISSO's primary goal is to create a space that is fun and filled with experiences and conversations that challenge students' perspectives on librarianship. Additionally, the LISSO officers continually work to cultivate a caring and open environment for students, faculty, and visiting academics to foster new professional relationships and expand their personal network.

This year, the LISSO executive board has been focusing on the creation of more SLIS events for students to engage with one another outside of their dedicated class time. Events LISSO has hosted so far include a read-in, bagel brunch, digital study accountability sessions, and a professional librarian panel! LISSO has also implemented monthly all-member meetings which serve as consistent form of communication for students to share their feedback and questions on various program happenings.



Alli Slowiak LISSO President



Anna Luria LISSO Secretary



Caitlin Matheis LISSO Treasurer



Lexi Brennan Distance Learning Representative



M Clark Social Chair

### **CONGRATULATIONS SPRING 2023 GRADUATES!**

**Shelley Anderson Noelle Bates** Jennifer Beall Nicholas Beattie Hannah Beebe Mykle Clark

**Taylor Cline** Emma Barton-Norris Margaret Dambro Kendra Evers Kellee Forkenbrock Nancy Henke Natalie Holmes Katie Jackson

McKenna Jacquemet Hannah Purtymun Hannah Jensen Leanne Lenhart John McKerley Brenda Mennen Zoe Murphyl **Avery Porter** 

William Max Rad Diane Ray Jacob Roosa **Emily Schartz** Sam Schelp Lisa Tuzel

Matrice Young Hannah Sprague Alexa Starry Abbie Steuhm Joseph Stouffer

### **ALUMNI SUCCESSES AND UPDATES**

**Brand New Position** 



In the most recent issue of *American Libraries*, SLIS alum, Nancy Henke was spotlighted for her new role as the Textbook Affordability Librarian at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC).

On the <u>university's website</u>, Henke shares how her undergraduate experience, 13-years of university teaching, and passion for affordable open educational resources (AOER) led her to this position with UNC.

"As UNC's Textbook Affordability Librarian, I develop, sustain, and advocate for initiatives that promote free-to-student educational resources," said Henke. "This may mean working with faculty to adopt, adapt, or create OER for their courses, or exploring options for integrating library-licensed materials into a course, such as e-books available through library subscription databases."



Julie McLoone

Julie McLoone, a 2009 SLIS alum, was featured in the October issue of *Fine Books and Collections*, highlighting her position as a <u>Curator</u> at the University of Michigan Library's Special Collections Research Center.

"As a jack-of-all trades curator, I work with donors and book dealers to develop our collections, and I also share those collections with students and the community through instruction sessions and exhibitions," said McLoone.

In addition to her MLIS from SLIS, McIoone holds a BA in <u>English</u> and <u>Cultural Anthropology</u> from Indiana University, and an MA in <u>Anthropology</u> from the University of Iowa.

During her time at the University of Iowa, she completed her certificate in book studies, which she says helped her learn more about the book making process. "Books and archives enrich our understanding of people and communities far distant from us, whether in time, distance, or life experiences," said McLoone.





### **SLIS Impact on Alumni**



**Rachel Haughton-Miller** 

During her time at SLIS, Rachel Miller-Haughton completed the Special Collections certification with Professor Colleen Theisen. During her studies, Rachel learned all about research, writing, and how to be an engaging educator:

"Professor Theisen was so great. She was impactful in the professional and personal things. She showed me a lot about mentorship, and the kindness and willingness to help and connect and continue to follow people's careers," said Miller-Haughton. "That's so valuable to students and early career librarians."

After graduating in 2022, Miller-Haughton secured the role of Preservation Outreach and Engagement Librarian at the <u>University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign</u>, where she works to promote preservation across the campus.



**Trevor Krug** 

Trevor graduated in the Spring of 2022, with a focus on public librarianship. In 2023, he was promoted to Teen Services Librarian at the <u>Waverly Public Library</u> (WPL), where he works alongside 2019 SLIS grad and WPL children's librarian, Emily McClimon.

"It seems that no matter where I go in the library world, another SLIS graduate is there," said Trevor. "The connection SLIS graduates share is that of people-first librarianship — our work is relational through and through. Because of this sentiment the network of SLIS librarians is exceedingly friendly, empathetic, and obliging beyond one's wildest expectations!"

In his new role, Trevor uses his passion for music to add some fun-filled melodies to children's storytime, creating memorable events for the kids and teens he serves.



## **New Beginings for SLIS Alumni**



Congratulations to SLIS alumni **Hannah Hacker** (2018) and **David Snyder** (2019) on their recent engagement! Their engagement pictures captured their love of libraries and stories, featuring many iconic settings around the University of Iowa libraries.

Photo credit: SLIS alumni **Lindsay Moen** (2014) and **Jenna Silver** (2018).



After graduating from the SLIS program in the spring of 2023,

Natalie Holmes accepted a position with the University of Minnesota Duluth as a Cataloging Librarian. In her new position, she works with various special collections, government publications, and metadata ensuring everything finds its proper place in the university's collection.

### **Brand New Position**

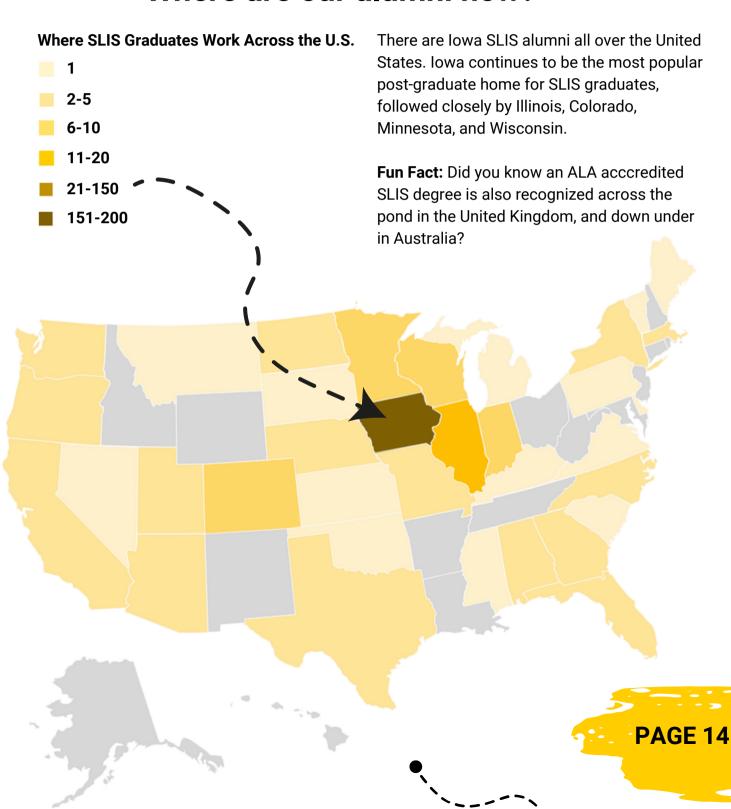


Emma Barton-Norris, a 2023 SLIS alumnae, is the new Processing Archivist at the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.



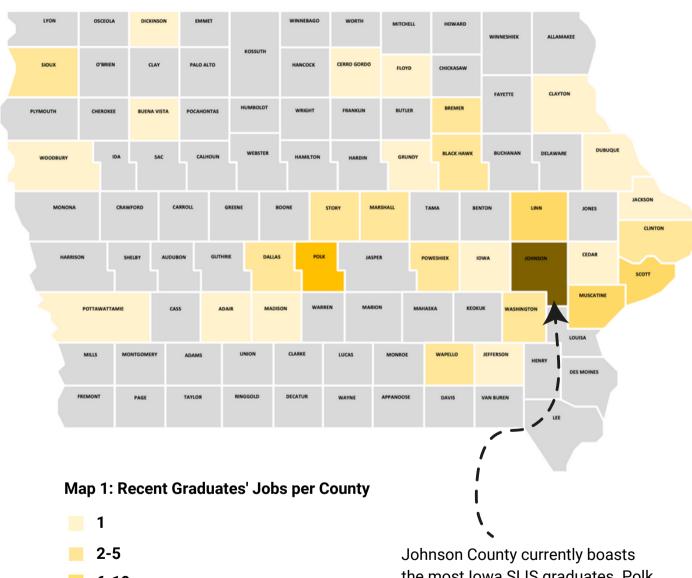


### Where are our alumni now?





### Where SLIS Graduates Work in Iowa



6-10

11-20

21-50

**51-100** 

Johnson County currently boasts the most Iowa SLIS graduates. Polk is close behind, followed by Linn, Muscatine, and Scott Counties.







### Remembering Endya Johnson









Mrs. Endya Claryce Johnson, SLIS Alum 2023 1978-2023

Endya Claryce Johnson, 45 of Waterloo, passed away October 25th, 2023 in her family home. She was born July 12, 1978, in Des Moines, Iowa, daughter of Ezra and Guestene Sillas. She married James Corey Johnson in 2004. They were happily married for 19 years.

Mrs. Johnson graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's Degree in Asian Studies in 2000, from the University of Northern Iowa with a Masters of Arts Degree in TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) in 2005. She completed her second Masters of Arts Degree from the University of Iowa in Library Science in 2023. Her professional career spans from Des Moines to Taiwan to Waterloo. Mrs. Johnson worked in Taiwan after graduating from college teaching English. Upon her return to the United States, she worked for St. Paul Church in Des Moines, Hawkeye Community College TESOL program, IJAG, all in Waterloo, Iowa. Her love for creative education and reading led her to the Waterloo Public Library where she worked and created programming for 16 years, in Waterloo, Iowa.

Mrs. Johnson's community involvement perfectly reflected her love of her community and her passion with youth development. She served as a board member on the School Board for four years. She also served on the Youth Art Team, Waterloo Community Theater Playhouse, Salvation Army and Waterloo Public Schools. She also volunteered with the Christmas in Walnut, Service the City, Read Across America Volunteer, Waterloo Food Truck Festival and Waterloo Wind Running Club.

She is survived by three daughters, Janea R. Johnson, Aerz O. Johnson, Remi J. L. Johnson and her spouse James Corye Johnson; Guestene Sillas (mother), Tynnetta Sillas (sister), Sydney Sillas (niece), DeVontez Voigts (nephew) all of Iowa; Brianna Smith of Colorado (niece) and all of family, friends and communities of Waterloo and Des Moines Iowa whose lives she so profoundly touched. She is preceded in death by her father, Ezra Sillas and brother Arez Sillas.



## 2023 ALISE Conference in Milwaukee, WI









This year's Association of Library and Information Science Educators (ALISE) conference was jam-packed with speakers - including a number of our own faculty! Throughout the conference topics of book-banning and censorship were addressed and insights shared on how to work through these and other timely issues. It was exciting (and nerve-wracking) to display my poster and research on media production and information distribution through the platform YouTube.

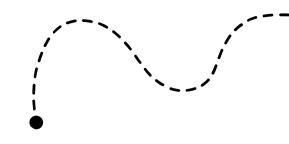
This experience, coupled with the countless interactions I shared with fellow LIS educators, made my first ALISE conference experience one I'll never forget, especially seeing Dr. Lucy Santos Green address the conference attendees as the new 2023-2024 president of ALISE.



When asked what her vision is for her year-long presidency, Santos Green said, "I bring to this vision an enthusiastic and tireless passion for the interwoven roles of research and pedagogy, a foundational belief in the crucial role global exchanges of practice bring to LIS, and my personal pledge to you, fellow ALISE member, that I will efficiently, expediently, and collaboratively push forward the work we have promised, as an organization, we will do."

- Professor Colleen Theisen





## 2023 ILA Conference in Dubuque, IA



The 2023 lowa Library Association Meeting was held in October in Dubuque, lowa. It was wonderful to see so many SLIS friends at the conference. We enjoyed visiting with our alumni, who work in libraries across lowa, as well as the many current SLIS students who traveled to Dubuque. The Opening General Session speaker was Rebekkah Smith Aldrich who is the Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Libraries System in upstate New York. She is the co-founder of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and author of "Sustainable Thinking: Ensuring Your Library's Future in an Uncertain World" and "Resilience." We enjoyed learning about how public and academic libraries can be a part of the Sustainable Library Certification Program. Beginning in 2024, school libraries may also join the program.

We also enjoyed a great selection of concurrent sessions and were proud of the **SLIS graduates who were presenters**. There was also a fun reception for SLIS graduates with an opportunity to meet our new Director, Dr. Lucy Santos Green. The view at the reception was amazing and we enjoyed the colors of fall on the bluffs and spectacular views of the Mississippi River. ILA is a wonderful opportunity to visit with our library friends and we look forward to the conference October 9-11, 2024, in West Des Moines.

### - Professor Kara Logsden







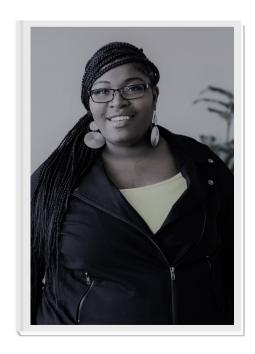




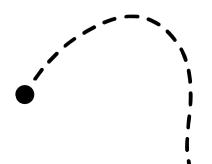
## **Professional Growth Through Personal Engagement**



During the Fall 2023 semester, SLIS hosted several events as part of its professional development series, *Professional Growth Through Personal Engagement*. The professional development series kicked off on September 7th with the <a href="Iowa Library Association">Iowa Library Association</a> Vice President Julie Finch, who is the patron experiences manager. Julie spoke with students about the importance of professional organizations, especially in states that have large rural areas, like Iowa. She also discussed recent legislative changes in Iowa regarding censorship, book removals, and how ILA helps Iowans address these issues.



The final event in the fall professional development series was a lecture on November 6th by LaTasha DeLoach, LMSW who is the <u>Senior Center Coordinator</u> for lowa City. LaTasha discussed the ways in which libraries operate as more than just information centers and often act as places of shelter, protection, and even childcare. Her lecture addressed how different identities need different services from the library, and how we as librarians can incorporate social work practices into our careers.







## **SLIS Welcomes Dr. André Brock to Campus**



In partnership with the <u>Obermann Center</u> and the <u>Iowa City Public Library</u>, the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science hosted <u>Dr. André Brock</u>, as the <u>Ida Cordelia Beam</u> Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Dr. Brock is an Associate Professor at the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech. An interdisciplinary scholar, he holds an MA in English and Rhetoric from Carnegie Mellon University and a PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His scholarship includes published articles on racial representations in videogames, Black women and weblogs, whiteness, blackness, and digital technoculture, as well as groundbreaking research on Black Twitter. His article "From the Blackhand Side: Twitter as a Cultural Conversation," challenged social science and communication research to confront the ways in which the field preserved "a color-blind perspective on online endeavors by normalizing Whiteness and othering everyone else" and sparked a conversation that continues, as Twitter, in particular, continues to evolve.



During his visit, Dr. Brock met with faculty and students and delivered two university presentations. The first presentation was held at the lowa City Public Library as a free event open to the public. There, Dr. Brock shared his research on Black Online Culture, Blackfishing, followed by a catered welcoming reception.



In the second presentation, "A Mode of Black Life: Afro-Optimism and the Black Digital," held at the UI Memorial Union, Dr. Brock pointed out that "we're always promising each other the idea of tomorrow... The Black goodbye is an act of resistance."

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School of Library and Information Science