

# MMLIS NEWSLETTER

Master of Management in Library and Information Science

Spring/Summer 2022

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Message from the Director
- 3 Student Lightning Talk Recap
- 4 Student Awards
- 5 Commencement
- 6 Faculty News, DEIA Update & Alumni News
- 7 Alumni Spotlight
- 8 Past Events
- 9 Upcoming Events

**USC Marshall**  
School of Business  
*Master of Management in  
Library and Information Science*



[mmlis.program@marshall.usc.edu](mailto:mmlis.program@marshall.usc.edu)

[librarysciencedegree.usc.edu](http://librarysciencedegree.usc.edu)

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings, MMLIS community!



First, a special congratulations to our forty-nine new MMLIS graduates. It was such a pleasure to welcome so many of you to campus for our first in-person commencement since 2019. Welcome to the profession! Several of you have already begun your professional journeys.

In this issue of the MMLIS Newsletter, we highlight news from across the program. We are pleased to share updates on recent alumni placements, faculty achievements, special events, an expanded Conversations with Leaders speaker series for 2022, and much more. A special thank-you to Sarah Hollins for her warm and insightful interview for our Alumni Spotlight.

I will leave you with a few important program updates. This semester marks the first in which we are not enrolling a summer cohort. Moving forward, we will enroll new students in the program during the fall and spring semesters only. This strategic shift is the result of conversations between program leadership and MMLIS faculty. The shift will enable us to sharpen our curricular focus, grow the program, and further enhance the student experience. In addition, beginning in the fall 2022 semester, MMLIS will provide students with the option of enrolling in the program part-time after they complete a required full-time enrollment in their first semester. We are very pleased to provide this opportunity for students who can benefit from the flexibility. We will also, of course, welcome our many current and future students who wish to complete the program on a full-time basis.

Warmly,

Christopher Stewart

## SPRING 2022 LIGHTNING TALK RECAP

This semester, three wonderful MMLIS students presented at the Spring 2022 USC Libraries Faculty-Guided Lightning Talks. Lightning Talk student representatives were:



**Jessica Castelo**

*“Academic Libraries and First-Generation Students”*



**Marianne Santos**

*“Communities and Public Libraries”*



**Karen Tinajero-Vazquez**

*“Graphic Novels and LIS”*

See highlights of these Lightning Talk presentations on our MMLIS social media channels.

These students were mentored by USC Science and Engineering Librarian, Alvaro Quezada, MMLIS '20. In his role at USC Libraries, Alvaro is responsible for information literacy instruction and research support.

“The best part of the experience was meeting with our mentor weekly,” said Karen Tinajero-Vazquez. “He was an exceptional mentor and the relationship will surely last beyond the duration of my program at USC. I gained a valuable connection and received great career advice. I also enjoyed the feedback and questions from the audience after my presentation, it was humbling to have everyone engaged and curious about my topic.”

## STUDENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We are delighted to share with you the awards and scholarships given this past spring semester. The Continuing Student Scholarships are based on the previous semester's performance. The Career Development Award and Entry Scholarship are based on the personal statement and incoming grade point average revealed through the application process for the respective cohorts.



### SPRING 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### USC MMLIS Entry Scholarship:

**Kalyani Jog (Cohort XXVII)**

#### USC MMLIS Career Development Award:

**Linda Huynh (Cohort XXVII)**

#### USC MMLIS Continuing Student Scholarships:

**Joanna Coelho (Cohort XXVI)**

**Breanna Jones (Cohort XXV)**

**Timothy Coady (Cohort XXIV)**

**Jane Kim (Cohort XXIII)**



**Paige Harris** was selected to present at the 2022 American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Conference in May! Her presentation topic is [Humanity on Display](#), a digital exhibition about human remains and the museums that display them. Paige was also the spring 2022 recipient of the MMLIS Access and Inclusion Award for Professional Development award.

**Jane Kim** was the fall 2022 recipient of the MMLIS Access and Inclusion Award for Professional Development, which offered an opportunity for professional development in archival studies, and will allow her to attend the Society of American Archivists Conference in August.

**Vanessa Villarreal** published an article in the Library Journal titled "2021 Librarian Favorites". You can read her article [2021 Librarian Favorites](#). She was also promoted from a Library Assistant to Youth and School Services Librarian at Vernon Area Public Library District in Lincolnshire, IL.

Congratulations to our students on their accomplishments!



## COMMENCEMENT

### Congratulations to the MMLIS '22 Graduating Class!

We were lucky to have our first in-person MMLIS Commencement Celebration since 2019. Twenty-six graduates and four faculty were in attendance and three graduates, along with friends and family, viewed the live stream virtually. Catherine Quinlan, dean of the USC Libraries, and MMLIS Program Director, Christopher Stewart, spoke at the event, along with special guest, Patricia Wong, president of the American Library Association. We also congratulated our surprised award winners: Jane Kim for the Ken Haycock Award for Leadership, and Dieter Mackenbach and Timothy Olshefski for the Dean's Award for Academic Achievement. Congratulations to the MMLIS Class of 2022!





## Celebrating Our Graduates!



## FACULTY UPDATES



**Win Shih** (MMLIS Instructor for LIM 562) presented at the following meetings:

- Helping veteran students thrive on campus: Ideas, strategies, and best practices at the Libraries and

Veterans National Forum, September 13, 2021 (with Ed Tinoco, MMLIS Library Faculty)

- Simplify content access: Integrating LibKey and Primo at the ELUNA California User Group 2021 Conference, July 29, 2021 (with Amy Chatfield and Karin Saric, USC Libraries faculty)
- Decolonizing practices at indigenous collections, at USC Libraries' Lightning Talk, December 14, 2021 (with Lori Patel, MMLIS 2021)

Dr. Shih also serves on the following ALA committees:

- ALA Committee on Accreditation (a four-year term), which is responsible for the execution of the accreditation program of ALA
- ALA Accreditation Standards Review Subcommittee

### Appointments and Promotions

President Carol L. Folt, acting on the recommendation of the University Committee on Librarian Appointments, Promotions, and Continuing Appointments, has approved the promotions of **Suzi Noruschat, Alyssa Resnick, Andy Rutkowski, Eimmy Solis, Hannah Schilperoort** and **Christal Young** effective immediately. As a result, all of these librarians now hold the rank of Associate University Librarian with continuing appointment.

### DEIA+AR Teaching and Curriculum Recommendations Approved by MMLIS Faculty



As a follow-up to MMLIS's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Anti-Racism (DEIA+AR) statement, which was approved by the faculty in 2021, the faculty recently

approved DEIA+AR Teaching and Curriculum Recommendations. Drafted after input from MMLIS faculty, students and alumni, this document lists several specific strategies that can be adopted across MMLIS pedagogy, curriculum and programming around DEIA+AR goals. These recommendations, along with the initial Statement, will be available in the coming weeks at [librarysciencedegree.usc.edu](http://librarysciencedegree.usc.edu)

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Oksana Moshynska, MMLIS '21**, started working as a branches manager with the Saskatoon Public Library in Saskatchewan, Canada.

**Anita O'Keefe-Torres, MMLIS '19**, was selected to be a part of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative - Innovation Track. During the next 10-12 months their team will be learning a design-based innovation curriculum and applying that method to a challenge in the community where they work. Anita states: "Being a part of this program is particularly inspiring for me because it means that an employee from the public library will have a voice and a role. The MMLIS program helped prepare me for opportunities such as this and I am forever grateful!"

*Alumni News continued on page 8...*



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Sarah Hollins, MMLIS'22



#### Looking back on your time at USC, what are you most proud of and why?

I am most proud of applying for the program at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a brave pivot when the world around us all felt very scary and unsure. I

had to get letters of recommendation from people newly adjusting to lockdown and had to pull some strings and call in some favors to get my transcripts when all the offices were closed during those first weeks of lockdown. I really gambled on myself and am so thankful that I did! The knowledge, experience, and skills that I gained throughout my time in the program are obviously invaluable, but the connections and relationships I made with my professors and peers were the most meaningful and impactful aspects of the program for me.

#### Do you have any advice for others who may be interested in this program?

My advice would be to pace yourself as the program's accelerated nature can be a bit overwhelming to adjust to. Carving out time for breaks, hobbies, and walks or time outside can really help avoid burnout. I would also advise to start networking and chatting with librarians in different areas of the LIS field to see which areas may interest you. The librarians already working in those sectors can give you great insight into what the day-to-day of those jobs look like and if they would be a good fit for you. I would also recommend getting started on your own research projects, research assistant positions, and internships as soon as possible during the program. It can be difficult to have time for those later in the program and will definitely help your resume if you don't have a lot of experience in the LIS field.

#### How do you hope this program will help you advance or pivot in your career?

This program has already assisted me in pivoting from the childcare industry and entering the LIS field. I am also excited that this program, thanks to its emphasis on business and leadership, will help prepare me to pivot into other information related fields such as tech.

#### Tell us about something you have learned or discovered during your program that surprised you. How do you think you will apply it professionally?

Something that I discovered during the program that surprised me was how much I enjoyed statistics and accounting once I got the hang of them! I was typically someone who struggled in math throughout my school-aged years, so it was a really wonderful surprise for the concepts to click and for me to be able to utilize these in the LIS field. I will definitely apply it professionally in my work as an archivist and librarian and also feel prepared to apply them in possible future research positions and tech-based positions that require data analysis and management.

### Alumni News continued...

**Jessika Martinez, MMLIS '21**, started working for Long Beach Public Library in Long Beach, CA as a General Librarian.

**Marcus Lee Doggett, MMLIS '19**, was promoted to Branch Manager of the Park Place Branch Library in Norfolk, Virginia.

**PK Phillips, MMLIS '20**, started working for the Hawaii Public Library System as a Youth Services Librarian.

**David (Dieter) Mackenbach Jr., MMLIS '21**, has accepted a position as Special Collections and Archives Processing Specialist at Cal Poly Pomona. He has also received the James V. Mink Scholarship from the Society of California Archivists.



## PAST EVENTS

The MMLIS program participated in several virtual and in-person events. Thank you to those who participated or attended. We are looking forward to more events this summer term.

### Special Live Session Series



The MMLIS program continued its special live lecture series this spring with MMLIS faculty to share a public lecture for those interested in the library and information science field. Melissa Miller hosted “LIS Internships: Authentic

Connections”, speaking about the benefits of leveraging internships, and Caroline Muglia hosted “‘Inside Out’ Collection Development”, a lecture on acquiring, managing and prioritizing library resources. Both sessions saw excellent engagement from participants.



### iSchool Grad Fair

In collaboration with iSchools across the nation, the MMLIS program participated in the 21st Century Careers in Information Science event on May 25, 2022. Prospective students attended a career panel lecture showcasing different ways to use an information science degree and then broke off into breakout rooms to learn more about individual schools and programs.

### Festival of Books

The MMLIS program attended the Festival of Books on the USC campus in April. Thank you to the MMLIS staff, students and alumni who helped us manage our booth and spread the word about the program!



### Public Library Association

The MMLIS program hosted a booth at the Public Library Association conference from March 23-25, 2022. This was the program’s first time at the PLA conference, and the first in-person conference attendance in over two years! Many great conversations were had, and it was great to meet with individuals face-to-face.

[ala.org/pla/](https://ala.org/pla/)



### California Library Association

From June 2-4, 2022, the MMLIS program hosted a booth and sponsored an area where individuals could receive free professional headshots at the California Library Association conference. While the conference was in Sacramento, many employers and prospective students were from the Southern California area.

[cla-net.org/page/CLA2022](https://cla-net.org/page/CLA2022)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### American Library Association Conference

The [2022 American Library Association \(ALA\) Conference](#) is the biggest library event of the year! Taking place June 23-28 in Washington, D.C., the MMLIS program will have a booth so come volunteer or just stop by to say hi!

### Special Libraries Association Conference

[Register now](#) for the premier learning and networking event for librarians in business, legal, medical, military, government, academic and other “specialized” information environments! SLA 2022 Annual Conference: Source Forward is happening July 31-August 2 with both in-person and virtual attendance options.

### Society of American Archivists Conference

The [86th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists](#) (SAA) will be held in Boston from August 25 to 27 for community engagement, learning and growth opportunities, and networking for the archives profession. This year, SAA will offer a hybrid conference to facilitate greater accessibility for the archival community.

### INFOcon

MMLIS faculty will be presenting at INFOcon, which will be held virtually September 14 and 15. INFOcon is a multi-day virtual annual graduate school fair showcasing opportunities in the information professions intended for prospective students interested in learning about career paths in the information science field. More information to come!

### JCLC Conference

The [Joint Council of Librarians of Color \(JCLC\)](#) is hosting their fourth conference October 5 to 9. JCLC brings together a diverse group of librarians and LIS supporters committed to addressing the common needs of American Library Association ethnic affiliates including the American Indian Library Association (AILA), the Asian/Pacific American

Librarians Association (APALA), the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking.

### Conversations with Leaders (CWL)

#### Fall Line-up

September 12:

Rose Dawson - Executive Director, Alexandria Library

October 10: Antonia “Tonia” Arahova - President, International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and President, General Council for Libraries in Greece

November 7: Romelia Salinas - Associate Dean of Library & Learning Resources, Mt. San Antonio College | President-Elect, National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA)

November 21: Thom Barthelmess - Youth Services Manager, Whatcom County Library System

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