

VOL. 2, NO. 2 FALL 2024

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA—COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



School of Information

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Featured Story: ALA Accreditation pg. 3
- Director Farewell and Welcome pg. 4
- Student Spotlight pg. 9
- Alumni Interview: Christian Nappo pg. 10
- New Faculty Introductions pg. 13

ALSO INSIDE:

- Why Are Professional Orgs Important? pg. 6
- SOLIS Information pg. 7
- FLA Conference Reflection pg. 8
- Student Internships pg. 16



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA



The University of South Florida School of Information (USF SI) newsletter brings together departmental stories, events, and news important to information professionals. Each volume contains two issues published in the Fall and Spring. The Fall 2024 issue is Vol. 2, No. 2 of the publication. Please contact si@usf.edu for questions, feedback, or more information.

WWW.USF.EDU/SI | 4202 E. FOWLER AVENUE, CIS 1040, TAMPA, FL 33620 | 813-974-3520

American Library Association Accredited

What Is ALA Accreditation? Accreditation is the process by which a college or university has a well-known and well-regarded professional organization review their programs and determine if they are of good and relevant educational quality. USF has been accredited through the American Library Association (ALA) since 1975 (due in large part to Dr. Alice G. Smith's efforts at the time), and during the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters, we went through our 8th round of accreditation review! There are several conditions of candidacy which impact an IS graduate program's eligibility for accreditation through the ALA.



ALA Accreditation is a voluntary review that a program may choose to undergo for two reasons:

- to ensure that post-secondary educational institutions and their academic units, schools, or programs meet appropriate standards of quality and integrity
- to improve the quality of education these institutions offer

During the review process, twelve members are chosen to make up the Committee on Accreditation (CoA) Review Panel to provide unbiased, yet profession savvy recommendations to the prospective program candidates. Those review panelists are:

- Ten members who are members of ALA
 - One is appointed in consultation with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations
 - Another is a Dean/Director/Chair (Program Head) appointed in consultation with the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).
- Two members of the CoA must be appointed from the public at large to represent the public interest and cannot be from the profession (this ensures an unbiased and wider scope of evaluation).

Depending on how much change needs to be made to a program before it can be approved, this process can take over a decade.

- Pre-candidacy status (3-6 years)
- Initial accreditation (2 years, ending in Self-Study, a comprehensive review of the program, and an accreditation decision by the CoA)
- Continued accreditation (normally scheduled 7 years after the last comprehensive review)

USF was required to submit multiple reports to the CoA Review Board, including a statistical report, a biennial narrative report, special reports, progress reports, a self-study (which was previously known as the program presentation), and have faculty, staff members, graduate assistants, alumni, and current students go before the board to determine the merits and limitations of the program to create new objectives to strive for during the next cycle of the Accreditation process.

Information on Accreditation pulled from the ALA's 2023 Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures Manual found [here](#).

Farewell to Dr. Randy Borum

“As of August 7th, I have transitioned out of my role as Director for USF’s School of Information (SI). It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve SI’s faculty and staff, and I’m grateful for their unwavering support and trust. They truly embody the essence of the School, and they make it an exceptional place to work. My heartfelt thanks to each one of them. I owe a special thanks to Dr. Jim Andrews who stepped in as Associate Director during my tenure. His guidance and support, shaped by 12 years as Director, have been invaluable to me and the School.

With the full backing of the faculty and the Dean, Dr. Natalie Taylor has been selected as SI’s next Director. Dr. Taylor is a tenured Associate Professor who, since 2019, has impressively overseen SI’s Master’s in Library and Information Science (LIS) program. She skillfully led the program through its most recent ALA accreditation review, showcasing her exceptional administrative and scholarly leadership. Dr. Taylor has also actively served the information profession, including notable roles with ALISE.

Dr. Taylor’s substantial scholarly contributions—including serving as Editor for the *The Library Quarterly*, publishing numerous books and articles, and securing research funding from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and the Institute of Museum and Library Services—reflect her commitment to research and scholarship. Natalie is deeply committed to Library and Information Science Education, and has profoundly impacted the School, College, and University. She’s a cherished mentor to her students, a remarkable leader for her program and faculty, and a passionate advocate for the transformative power of libraries.

Natalie is not only an outstanding professional but also a compassionate, collaborative, and supportive colleague. Her outstanding qualities and extensive experience make her the ideal candidate to lead the School. We appreciate her readiness to serve and look forward to supporting her vision for the future of SI.”

-Dr. Randy Borum



A Welcome from Dr. Natalie Taylor



“Welcome everyone to the 2024-2025 academic year!

I am very pleased to begin my term as the Director of the School of Information this August and look forward to touching base with alumni, current students, prospective students, and friends of the school this fall as I get adjusted to the new role.

For those of you who don't know me, I have served as a faculty member in the School of Information since 2016 and the Program Director for the Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS) program since 2019. I teach several courses in the MLIS program, including Collection Development, Youth Services and the Politics of Information. I serve as an Editor of the journal *Library Quarterly*, one of the oldest journals in the LIS field and my research focuses on information

access, information literacy, and the politics of information. I also participate in committees and other service roles in the information profession through the Florida Library Association (FLA), the American Library Association (ALA), and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). Most recently I attended the ALA annual conference in San Diego to present our program as part of our regular cycle of reaccreditation. In July, we learned that the program was granted reaccreditation for the next seven years, extending a designation the degree has enjoyed for over fifty years.

The School is indebted to the leadership of Dr. Randy Borum over the past three years. During a time of tremendous growth for the School and the University of South Florida more generally, Dr. Borum not only maintained the School's commitment to excellence in research and education, he also oversaw the expansion of the undergraduate program to more than 650 students currently enrolled. His mentorship to several new faculty members, the expansion of the School of Information to the Sarasota-Manatee campus, and the establishment of the first endowed chair professorship for the School were all highlights of his tenure.

My own goals for the School are in direct alignment with the path Dr. Borum (and before him, Dr. Andrews) set us on. I look forward to working with faculty on new grant opportunities, potential partnerships with the new College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing at USF, the expansion of health information offerings within our undergraduate and graduate programs, and growing our collaboration with USF's other campuses, particularly Sarasota, where Dr. Jim Andrews will preside as the new William W. & Judith A. Gaunt Professor in Library and Information Science.

The School is fortunate to have continued leadership in our undergraduate degree program with the program directorship of Dr. John Sullivan. Dr. Steve Gary will temporarily oversee the M.S. in Intelligence Studies and M.S. in Cyber Intelligence and Information Security while Dr. Borum takes a much deserved professional development sabbatical. Dr. Denise Shereff will take over as the Program Director for the Library and Information Science program, a natural fit given her excellent leadership of the assessment processes required by that program and its external accreditation.”

Why Are Professional Organizations Important?

Professional and student organizations offer some incredible opportunities to anyone at any stage of their career, but they are especially helpful to students who have not yet had the opportunities to network that people who are well-established in a certain line of work may have. Professional organizations are also a wonderful informational resource for trends and emerging topics within the world, with those organizations often detailing how changes in politics, economy, and public opinion may impact the work someone is doing. The American Library Association (ALA), the Public Library Association (PLA), Florida Library Association (FLA), and the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), just to name a few, are all important resources for staying up-to-date on what is happening within libraries and information technology, as well as finding like-minded people who are striving towards the same goals in library and information science! Here are just a few conferences that are happening from 2024 to 2025:

Public Library Association Annual Conference: April 3-5, 2024

Florida Library Association Annual Conference: May 15-17, 2024

Medical Library Association: May 18-21, 2024

American Library Association Annual Conference: June 27- July 2, 2024

American Association of Law Libraries: July 20-23, 2024

DEF CON 32: August 8-11, 2024

Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference: Oct. 14-17, 2024

The Association for Information Science and Technology Annual Meeting: Oct. 25-29, 2024

Dr. Walczak on 2023 ASIS&T Conference

“My co-presenter at this conference was my graduate assistant, which shows that student involved research is presentable at professional organizations like ASIS&T, which in turn helps the students to become recognized for their contributions to research. My graduate student will be starting a new job with USF in Fall 2024, less than a year after the conference. Many societies can help students find jobs in their respective fields of study through their placement programs and position advertising services. Additionally, these societies help to keep the student up-to-date on current and ongoing areas of interest to the discipline in which the society operates.”

FLORIDA
LIBRARIES

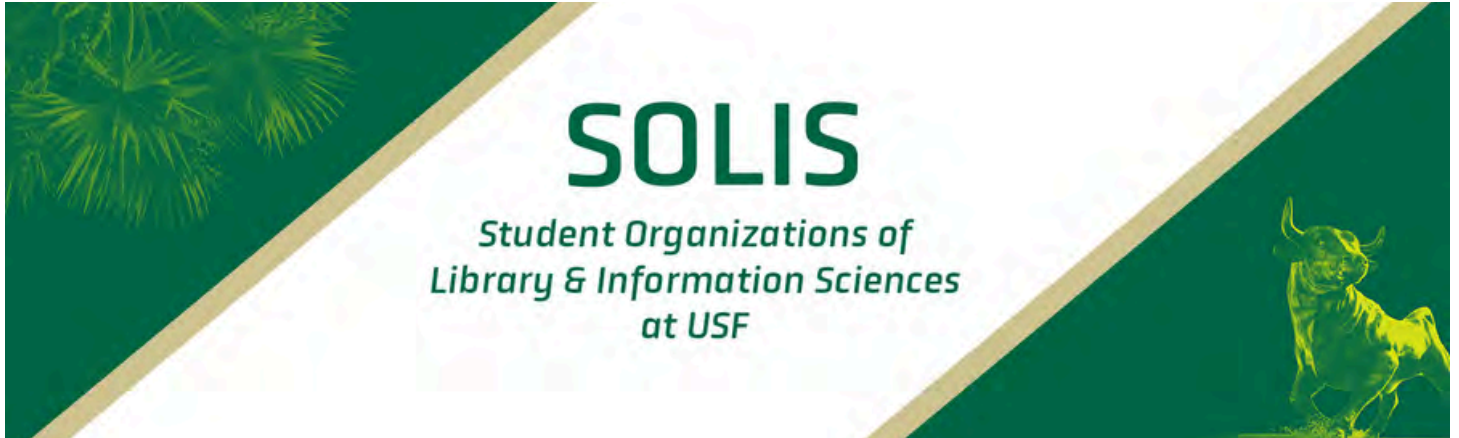


Fundamental *to*
FREEDOM



2024 FLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 15-17, HILTON DOUBLETREE UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

Student Organizations of Library and Information Science (SOLIS)



As highlighted above, there are many fantastic professional organizations that can support your academic and career journey! These opportunities aren't just for students, though. Whether you're seeking valuable networking connections, aiming to take on leadership roles, or looking to build your resume or CV for post-graduation job applications, joining a professional organization can help both students and professionals achieve their goals. The Student Organizations of Library and Information Science (SOLIS), "are the USF Student Chapter of the ALA and the Special Libraries Association (SLA). Their mission is to provide a community for all students interested in libraries and the services they provide to communities. This includes all types of libraries (university/academic libraries, public libraries, K-12 school libraries, etc.). In particular, they aim to be a community for students in USF's Master's of Library and Information Science program. However, all students (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, etc.) are welcome and they encourage anyone with an interest in libraries to join, regardless of their academic major. They aim to facilitate and encourage participation in the American Library Association, increase awareness and use of the resources the ALA offers, provide a local forum for the focus and exchange of ideas and information related to the profession of librarianship, provide networking opportunities, develop skills and relationships to enable students to have a creative impact on the profession, and increase awareness of national and international issues in library and information studies."

SOLIS and their members confirmed two new officers in Spring 2024 who will be serving in executive roles for the 2024-2025 school year. Caitlin McMullen and Madeleine Wiggins were elected into the roles of President and Vice President/Treasurer respectively. Caitlin will be taking over from Kayla Davis, who served two terms in the role and was the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Student Award from USF. We welcome them into their new roles and are excited to see how they plan to support and grow student learning in the iSchool!

Information on SOLIS taken from their Canvas landing page, please reach out to cas-solis@usf.edu for more information.

Corinne Titus—FLA Fundamental to Freedom Attendee

MLIS candidate and Youth Services Librarian, Corinne Titus, attended the FLA annual conference from May 15-17 in their capacity as a Graduate Assistant for the University of South Florida. During the conference, Corinne sat in on a number of the breakout sessions, ranging from “Combatting Summer Learning Loss with Fun and Inexpensive Outreach Programs,” which detailed the Jacksonville Public Library system’s creative solution to tackling a large outreach program during the summer months, to “Cooks and Books: A Delicious Community Partnership,” where attendees learned about the partnership the Marion County Library System fostered between local authors and local restaurant owners to create a patron experience that is one-of-a-kind!

Over the course of the conference, Corinne had the opportunity to network with current coworkers, learn about the policies and processes from other library systems, and engage with some of the most pressing issues facing Florida librarians. Of particular note were the breakout sessions involving mental health and burnout from those in the library profession, as that is something we are seeing unprecedented levels of within the last few years. In “The Psychological Contract and the Library Worker: When Mental Health, Workplace Violence, and Intellectual Freedom Collide,” Dr. Amy Helfritz spoke on the toll that increased anger towards library professionals and feelings of increased responsibility to care for disadvantaged patrons within the last few years has had on workers sense of compassion fatigue, and anxiety around work. She challenged library administration to build a culture of self-reflection in employees by asking them to perform 5 steps to improve mental health.

1. Reflect on a time you felt uncomfortable at work.
2. Identify that feeling (ex. anger, frustration, fear).
3. Uncover why you reacted with that emotion.
4. Decide what you needed to remain calm in that moment (ex. take a long walk, scream into a pillow).
5. Come up with a way you could do that at work.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Alex Goforth—Nominated by Dr. “Scuba” Steve Gary



“Alex Goforth successfully completed an internship with Bayside Solutions Inc. (BSI). During his internship at BSI, he received first-hand experience on private sector of cybersecurity by completing various training modules and gaining valuable hands-on experiences. He focused on partner training with industry leaders, gaining expertise in sales techniques and security fundamentals. He familiarized himself with BSI's proprietary solutions, while also exploring partner solutions ranging from endpoint protection to Internet of Things (IoT) management. He engaged in marketing events and made connections with professionals and clients improving his client-facing skills and business acumen. He also contributed to critical projects like BSI's data science initiative aimed at predictive analysis for client behavior. His efforts at BSI reflect highly on himself, BSI, the School of Information, and USF.”

Melissa Hood—Nominated by Dr. Christina Eldredge



“Melissa was a graduate assistant for the undergraduate health informatics concentration for 2 years. During her time as a GA, she created modules for an EHR simulation course which she helped pilot with me last year in the concentration. This course was recently approved as a permanent elective in the BSIS Health Informatics concentration and the new Health Informatics minor. In spring semester of 2024, she completed a practicum at the Sarasota Memorial HealthCare Systems' Medical Library, where she developed a research guide on the topic of [AI in Medicine](#). This is posted to the SMHCS's Medical Library website where it will remain. She was accepted to the [Medical Library Association Research Training Institute Program](#) for 2023-2024 and in 2023 she was awarded the [Network of the National Library of Medicine's Student Development Award](#).”

Flint Rowell—Nominated by Kiersten Cox



“I nominated Flint Rowell because he is an exemplary student not only in his graded work in my class but in his contributions and support of his classmates and me in my class. He is insightful and committed to not only his own learning but that of his classmates as well. On top of that he has full-time employment in the IT field and I think he is former military as well. He is currently applying to graduate schools for computer science.”

Flint graduated Spring 2024 and plans to continue his education within the Information Sciences.

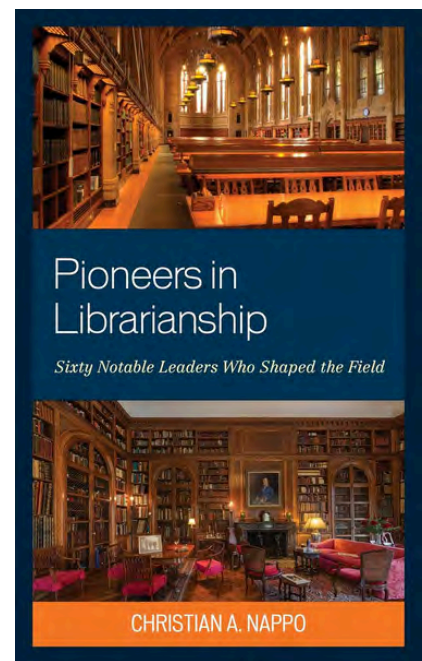
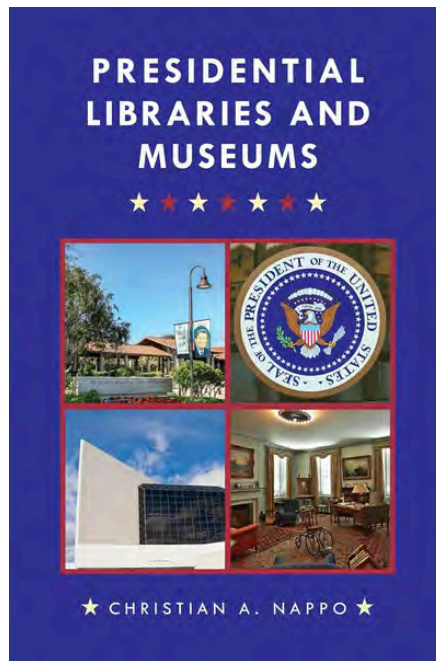
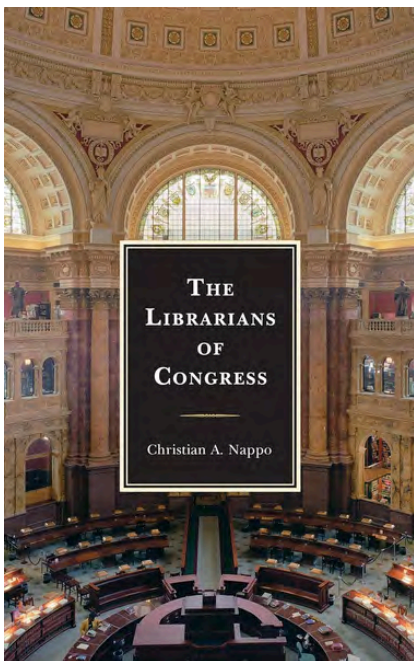
Author & USF Alumna: Christian Nappo



Holding four different Master's degrees, some for Criminal Justice, some (of course) in Library and Information Science, Christian Nappo uses his breadth of knowledge to collect and record the forgotten histories of some of the United States most specialized librarians. His first full work, *The Librarians of Congress*, was published in 2016 and was lauded as a, "a saga of politics and personalities as rich as any epic," by James V. Carmichael, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

From there, Nappo published *Presidential Libraries and Museums* in 2018, a ready reference guide to the 25 (now 26) different *Presidential Libraries and Museums*. This reference covers everything from the collections and permanent exhibits that are housed within them, to the number of visitors they receive and their opening hours. Relying upon his avid interest in history and librarianship, Christian creates an incredible reference material for those interested in the memorialization of past presidents.

His most recent work, *The National Librarians of Medicine and Their Predecessors*, was published in July of this year and does for the National Medical Librarians what he uncovered for the Congressional Librarians of his first book. Learn more by visiting his website <http://chrisnappo.weebly.com/>



Tell me about your experience getting your MLIS degree from USF!

Well, I started back around 2009, and I graduated in 2011. My experiences were really great! I was an online student, but I also was required to come to campus, and I lived in Cape Coral at the time. My courses were on the weekends and I would have to drive to campus those days for our in-person sessions. Those would be the times I would be able to meet with professors, listen to lectures, and have access to cooperative learning opportunities with other students! So thought that was really helpful and great!

What were some of your favorite memories throughout the program?

I would say visiting the actual campus and touring the physical library, especially with the research papers we were working on! I'm not sure how that looks now, but during my time in the program we were still in between online and in-person, and it was recommended that we actually spend some hours in the library on assignments and with physical and digital books.

How have the skills you acquired during your degree helped you in your current career path?

I would say they made me a better researcher, a better historian, a better teacher. I teach in a high school right now over a variety of subjects and it's definitely helpful to have a solid foundation in research. They'll also help me even more in the future as I'm writing more books since that's the plan! (Can you tell me about what you'll be working on next?) I'd bet on some more famous librarians or presidential history, since those are the two things I am really interested in right now!

I've heard you are interested in pursuing a doctorate. What advice would you give students who are interested in continuing their education beyond just a Bachelor's or a Master's?

Actually, I have 4 Master's, the MLIS, a Master of History, a Master of Criminal Justice, and a Master of Education. Today there's a lot of possibilities through online learning, so I would tell students that their options are not limited! You can go online, or you can go to a physical campus nowadays. Also, it's easier to be accepted into a graduate program, since a lot of colleges are dropping the requirements for the GRE and others. They're making it more flexible for working adults especially with families and instead of a dissertation they're putting in a capstone option, which can be easier than going back and forth over original research and peer reviewing. There are many new options that people have access too! Especially in the library, if you want to be in an academic library or the director of a library, a Doctorate of Education is a great route.

What changes do you hope to see in librarianship in the next decade?

Changes? I think one thing I have noticed is this merging of information sciences to become informatics and it's taking over the old-school reference areas. So, I'd hope that they don't forget about those old-school areas that were the foundation of library science and the original roots.



Your new book, *The National Medical Librarians and Their Predecessors*, as well as many of your previous works, have a strong focus on history within librarianship. Where did your interest in this area of libraries start?

Well, my background is in history! My Master's is in history, as well as my Bachelor's is in liberal studies with a concentration in history. I was thinking about a way to mix the two together, and how to expand upon the various biographies of the librarians who were involved on these grand projects, which is where I came up with the idea for the 60 librarians book. Then finally I was looking around for other federal libraries in Washington when I found an old book on the national medical libraries which had 26 different library directors (at the time, now it's 27). No one had ever taken all 26 of them and put them into a ready reference book for medical students, or people training to be medical librarians could use!



Which classes during your MLIS candidacy have helped you most in your current trajectory?

I would say the referencing class, the cataloging class, law librarianship, and health librarianship course. During the law librarianship class we learned all about the legal research and how that all is created and cataloged, and then the health librarianship class was about all the information available on MedLine and all the information that was available through various search engines and databases.

Have you been a part of any professional organizations, either during your time at USF, or now that have shaped your interests or career?

I would say, right now, the American Association of Law Libraries and the Medical Library Association. They give you information like periodicals in the mail, or through different daily highlights of trends within those industries so you'll know what is going on. You can use them to stay current on what is emerging and what everyone is talking about.



What experiences outside of school have helped form your success?

I would say my general interest in history my whole life has really helped me out and helped get me interested in the library in the first place! Being in the library as a student searching for research I was doing was what made me curious about being a Librarian so that I'd get the degree.

What advice would you give students who are preparing to enter a career in information science?

I think I would go back to what I said earlier about the separation between the two aspects of information science now that almost every library program is online some of them only emphasize the information side, or the library side. So be very aware of what you are wanting to do with your career before you apply for that school so you can focus on what you want. USF does a really great job of making sure that the student is in charge of what they want to do and be.



Introducing

New SI Faculty—Fall 2024

Alicia K. Long

Joined the USF iSchool in August 2024 as a Visiting Instructor with a focus on socio-cultural perspectives in the information professions and in higher education



Ms. Alicia K. Long (she-her/ella) is the new Visiting Assistant Instructor at the University of South Florida, School of Information, where she had previously worked as Adjunct Instructor. Ms. Long is currently a PhD Candidate in Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri and has a MLIS from USF SI. She has previous experience as a librarian and a teacher.

Ms. Long was an American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholar and ALA Emerging Leader, a recipient of REFORMA Librarian of the Year Award, a Cambio Center Fellow at the University of Missouri, and she has been active in national and state professional associations.

Ms. Long's research involves the impact of socio-cultural perspectives in the information professions and in higher education. This includes topics such as critical pedagogy, library services to diverse populations, cultural competence, and multicultural and diverse literature. Recent publications include articles on library programming for children with disabilities and studies on the Webtoon reading platform, and her dissertation consists of a critical-constructivist grounded theory study on Latine students' sense of belonging in LIS education.

For Fall 2024, Ms. Long will be teaching the following courses:

LIS 5566 - Multicultural Literature for Children and YA
LIS 5937 - Cultural Competence for Information Professionals
Two sections of LIS 4934 - BSIS Capstone.



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Arts & Sciences

Kenroy Wedderburn

Joined the USF iSchool in August 2024 as an Assistant Professor of Instruction



Dr. Kenroy Wedderburn joins the USF iSchool with several years of experience in the information technology (I.T.) industry, having worked as a programmer, systems analyst, and I.T. Director. In addition to his I.T. experience, Dr. Wedderburn has worked in the finance industry and held senior management positions.

Dr. Wedderburn holds a Doctorate in Business Administration with a specialization in Information Technology Management, a Master's in Business Administration, and an undergraduate degree with dual majors in Business Administration and Computer Science. By August 2024, he will have also completed a Master of Science in Data Science. His research interests include areas in information technology, data, and finance. Among his publications is a book he co-authored on compulsive buying (Smith, T. A., & Wedderburn, K. C. (2021). *Compulsive Buying: Consumer Traits, Self-Regulation, and Marketing Ethics*. Rowman & Littlefield).

Dr. Wedderburn has been a full-time professor for eight years and an adjunct for several years prior to joining the USF's iSchool. Dr. Wedderburn demonstrates a love for teaching and is deeply committed to the success of his students—both academically and beyond. As indicated in his teaching philosophy, he believes it is his responsibility to employ multiple approaches, including direct feedback from his students, to ensure their learning success.

For Fall 2024, Dr. Wedderburn will be teaching the following courses:

CIS 3360 - Principles of Information Security

CIS 4365 - Computer Security Policies and Disaster Preparation

LIS 3261 - Intro to Information Science

Thomas Moore-Pizon

Joined the USF iSchool in August 2024 as an Assistant Instructor with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Data Science



Mr. Moore-Pizon is a lifelong learner. He earned his master's degrees from the University of South Florida in Computer Science, Library & Information Science, and Cybersecurity Intelligence & Information Security. He also holds graduate certificates in Distance Education, Web Design, Multimedia Design, Instructional Design, College Teaching, Cyber Intelligence, and Strategic Intelligence.

Mr. Moore-Pizon joins the USF iSchool with over 20 years of experience helping students advance their education and careers. His areas of interest include Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Distributed Learning, Data Mining, Data Modeling, Information Science, and Information Technology. Mr. Moore-Pizon has active professional certifications from CompTIA, including Security+, Server+, Network+, ITF+, Project+, and A+, as well as ISC2's Certified in Cybersecurity. He is also an FAA Remote Pilot.

Mr. Moore-Pizon's recent conference presentations include:

-Walczak, Steven & Moore-Pizon, Thomas. (2023). Detection of Musical Borrowing Using Data Science. Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology. 60. 702-706. 10.1002/pr2.843. 27-31 October, London, UK.

-Moore-Pizon, Thomas, DePaula, Nic, & Hagen, Loni. Vol. 37 (2024). Government health communication during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A BERT Topic Modeling approach. Proceedings of FLAIRS-37
<https://journals.flvc.org/FLAIRS/article/view/135390/139974>. May 19-21, Sandestin Beach, FL.

Mr. Moore-Pizon lives in Tampa with his wife, who is also a USF graduate, and their three cats. When he is not teaching or studying, he enjoys playing online computer games.

For Fall 2024, Mr. Moore-Pizon will be teaching the following courses:

CIS 3367 - Architecting Operating Systems Security
CIS 4361 - Information Security Management for IT
LIS 4482 - Networks and Communication (two sections)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Intern—Brooke Foery

About The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a private, non-profit organization in the United States that focuses on addressing issues related to missing and exploited children. It was established in 1984 by the United States Congress through the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

The NCMEC serves as a central resource for information on missing and exploited children, providing support to families, law enforcement agencies, and other professionals involved in cases of missing children. It operates a hotline for reporting missing children and suspected instances of child sexual exploitation, and it works closely with law enforcement agencies across the country to assist in locating missing children and combating child exploitation.

The organization also provides education and prevention programs aimed at raising awareness about child safety and preventing child abduction and exploitation. Additionally, NCMEC engages in advocacy efforts to promote policies and legislation that support the protection of children from abduction and exploitation.

Overall, the NCMEC plays a crucial role in addressing the complex and challenging issues surrounding missing and exploited children in the United States.

Internship Opportunities:

Start by visiting the official website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at www.missingkids.org or www.NCMEC.org. The website is a central hub for information about the organization's mission, programs, and employment opportunities. Navigate to the "Careers" section of the NCMEC website. Here, you can find information about available internship opportunities and full-time positions.

Fully remote internships within NCMEC are infrequent due to the sensitive nature of the internal databases and information. Such opportunities typically do not grant access to these databases or data, necessitating a heavy reliance on individual research and open-source intelligence.

Many internships operate in a hybrid capacity; necessitating in-office attendance a couple of times a week and the ability to work independently from home. The in-office locations are Alexandria, Virginia; Lake Park, Florida; Austin, Texas; and Rochester, New York.

Hybrid internship opportunities underscore the importance of reliable internet access and a commitment to consistently meeting the 20-hour-per-week internship requirement. Additionally, specific teams emphasize long-term internships, extending beyond a single semester, contingent upon the project's scope and the particular team's needs.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC)—Simonne Jackson

About Florida Virtual Campus (NCMEC):

The services offered by FLVC are an integral part of Florida's education community. FLVC provides critical educational support services utilized by all public postsecondary institutions within the Florida College System (FCS), the State University System (SUS), and K-12 school districts.

Key among those services is the centralized, automated library system used by Florida's 40 public colleges and universities, support services for statewide higher education distance learning, automated tools for college planning and online transfer options for students. FLVC's centralized, shared-services model continues to return significant dividends for the state of Florida in the form of greater efficiency, value generation, cost-savings, and optimization of college/university staff, capital and time.

The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) was created in 2012 by the Florida Legislature, through the consolidation of four statewide organizations: the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA), the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support (FCAAS), and the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC).

In July 2020, the Complete Florida Plus Program was decommissioned, and the Florida Virtual Campus was moved to a new host organization, the Northwest Regional Data Center at Florida State University. With this new alliance, FLVC will continue to grow, innovate and create leading-edge educational tools and resources to help Florida's students, teachers, counselors and administrators succeed.

Internship Opportunities: <https://www.flvs.net/about-us/who-we-are/careers/internships>

Student Testimonial: "My internship consisted of running Nessus scans, meeting with other members in the IT department (DoIT), reviewing policies, reviewing quarantine emails, researching cyber intelligence feeds, maintaining firewall preventions, and giving feedback on any projects or meetings I attend.

I was supposed to shadow Tim at some point since I was interested in his day-to-day as a cybersecurity engineer. It just worked out that I needed to do an internship and was able to help with certain tasks/ projects. I've always been interested in cybersecurity, hence my master's in Cybersecurity Intelligence and Information Security.

I already work for Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC), I asked our Security Engineer if I could intern with him for 8 weeks and he said yes. My aunt gave me the advice to ask your job about interning if possible. I would also recommend starting the search early instead of waiting until the last minute and utilize Handshake or other hiring pools for internships. I will note that Handshake tends to be at least a semester or so out in terms of opportunities. Ask friends or family if they have leads, you'd be surprised at what your personal network may have access to. Basically, use any and all tools you have!"

Newsletter Contributors

VOL. 2, NO. 2 FALL 2024



Kirsten Park
Academic Services Administrator
USF School of Information



Corinne Titus
MLIS Candidate
Marketing & Communications Graduate Assistant
USF School of Information



Alexandra Sosa Mora
MSIS Candidate
Marketing & Communications Graduate Assistant
USF School of Information



Adrianna La Kam
MLIS Candidate
Marketing & Communications Graduate Assistant
USF School of Information



Please contact si@usf.edu for questions, feedback, or more information.

WWW.USF.EDU/SI | 4202 E. FOWLER AVENUE, CIS 1040, TAMPA, FL 33620 | 813-974-3520