

NOW I KNOW

Spring 2006



Individual Option Program



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

After 21 years of service to the University of Illinois at Springfield, Professor Janis Droegkamp is retiring at the conclusion of this semester. Jan came to Sangamon State University in 1985 as an Associate Professor of Experiential Learning. After years of service to the experiential learning and credit for prior learning programs, Jan joined the INO/LIS program as a full-time faculty in the early 90's. Originally from Wisconsin, Droegkamp received her B.A. from Carroll College and her M.A. from Marquette. She intended on pursuing a career as a school counselor but after fulfilling her practicum, she realized that was not exactly what she envisioned for herself. Thus, she began her service with



the Peace Corps. In the Peace Corps, her efforts were predominantly concentrated in Southern Africa and Thailand working to serve the population as an educator and, at one time, the country of Lesotho's only counselor. In 1982 she graduated with a self designed a PhD in International Education through the University of Massachusetts. Throughout the late 70's and early 80's, she continued working as a trainer and consultant in international education.

Throughout her years at UIS, Jan states that her love for working with students is what has kept her going on campus. Her list of

accomplishments on campus include the Spencer Service Award, Distinguished University Service Award for Teaching, and at this year's commencement ceremonies, Jan will serve as Grand Marshall.

In retirement, Jan plans to continue traveling throughout Southeast Asia and South Africa and researching issues concerning aging women. She also hopes to continue encouraging students to take advantages of overseas explorations as well. Jan states that she will miss the students and supportive staff on campus as well as playing an active role in facilitating change in students. Her services to both the INO/LIS programs and the

University will be greatly missed and enjoyment in her retirement is well deserved. Cont...pg2

"Getting paid to learn has been such a privilege"

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This is the first of what we hope will become a feature of the INO/LIS newsletter. Each semester a recent alumni will be featured.

Elizabeth Blair graduated from the INO program in 2003. She did her thesis project on Criminal Justice Instruction and put her degree to use as she is currently working as a detective for the Peoria Police Department. During her pursuit of

higher education, she focused on programs that offered classes online. She chose INO because masters level criminal justice classes were not available in a degree program through any university in her area. She includes that the

flexibility offered by the program fit her individual needs. To Elizabeth, working full time and supporting a family

offers their own challenges. Inasmuch the individual attention offered through INO was what she needed at the time.

She has earned professional recognition for her work on street gangs and won awards in the Peoria area such as "Young Law Enforcement Officer of the Year", and "Top 25 Women in Leadership".

"I believe in the program, professors, faculty and staff."

LIS STUDENT STUDIES ABROAD

In pursuing her LIS degree, Saesha Carlile traveled abroad to Chile to immerse herself in their culture. The focus of Saesha's LIS degree is international studies. In order to compliment her studies and develop a familiarity with her program that would not be available to her in books or lectures, Saesha combined her fascination with the Chilean

language and culture into her independent studies course. After spending her fall semester developing travel plans, writing proposals, seeking sponsorships, and pursuing appropriate authori-



zations, she spent her Spring 2005 semester studying the Chilean culture, exploring Chilean Art and History, and learning Spanish in real life environments. Regarding her experience Saesha states, "The

most important thing I took away from my time in Chile was not the knowledge I gained about Chile's history and art, but rather being able to observe and understand how Chileans felt about their history, their art and most importantly, their future."

This Issue:

Goodbye and Good Luck	1
Alumni Spotlight	1
LIS student's study abroad experience	1
Alumni and Class Notes	2
Faculty Notes	2

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Karen Davis (INO): Recently, Ms. Davis was appointed by the Blagojevich administration to serve as a board director on the Illinois Housing Development Authority. As a self supported authority, the IHDA works to ensure the supply of safe and affordable housing for buyers in the low to moderate income bracket. Davis is employed as a regional community development manager at Regions Bank.

Deb Larsen: (INO). 2004 graduate Deb Larsen, is scheduled to present a session entitled, "Restructuring the UPSIT to Measure Olfactory Ability in Pre-Clinical Alzheimer's Therapy, in Geneva, Switzerland, April 2006. Her presentation will be based on the work of her INO Master's Thesis, "The Development of an Olfaction Test to Predict the Onset of Alz-

heimer's Disease." Ms. Larsen recently returned from a national meeting in Baltimore where she presented her current work related to auditory processing in the cortex of the brain.

INO graduate Susie Woods and current student Mary Ratliff took part in this year's presentation of *The Vagina Monologues*. Along with many other classmates, Woods and Ratliff helped raise funds for Springfield's Sojourn Shelter and Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault.

**"I have recommended UIS to so many people...(UIS) is providing not only a wonderful education, but also a service to those who...cannot complete their education through a more traditional approach."
-Janine from Florida (LIS)**

FACULTY NOTES

Congratulations to Dr. Annette Van Dyke who recently received a promotion to full professor!

In addition to being granted a promotion, Professor Van Dyke has also been awarded a sabbatical for Fall semester 2006. She will be studying iconography of ancient goddess sites in Western Europe and plans to visit sites in Italy, Crete, Malta, and Sicily. She hopes to compare her findings with her previous study of Native American rock art icons in the Southwest.

Professor Van Dyke also has arranged a panel, "Land, Loss, Language, and Identity" with two UIS members, Dr. Jim Ottery, English, and Delores Robinson, MA English at the Native American Literature Symposium in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan April 6-8, 2006. Besides chairing the panel, Annette will present: "The Politics and Poetics in Two Writers of the Diaspora."

Assistant Professor Rosina Neginsky organized the art exhibit of the works of Franco-Russian painter, Alexandra Pregel, at the University of Illinois at Springfield Arts Gallery. She also prepared the catalogue for that exhibit. The exhibit opened on January 17 and continued through Feb. 23. A Gallery Talk by Neginsky and Julia Gauchman took place on Thursday, January 26. A reception followed. The exposition web site can be found at <http://uisacad.uis.edu/%7Ernegi1/Pregel/Cover1.htm>. The catalogue can be obtained at the gallery.

Professor Neginsky will also review her most recent book on April 19th during the third installment of "Taste of UIS". This event will be held at Maldander's in downtown Springfield. More information can be accessed at via the alumni web site at <http://www.uiaa.org/spfld>.

CLASS NOTES

Cynthia Byrd (INO, 2002) is currently serving full-time on the School of Business faculty of Robert Morris College. Since July of 2002, she has also been self employed as president and owner of Image Potential Training and Consulting. Personally, in the last few years she has welcomed two grandchildren Ethan (3 years) and Claire (8 months).

Robin Demott (INO, 2003)-Shortly after graduation, Robin earned recognition as Communicator of the Year at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. A delayed but whole-hearted congratulations goes out to her!

Monica McFarland (INO, 2005)-Monica was recently promoted to evaluation specialist at the West Virginia Prevention Resource Center/Marshall University Research Corporation. Congratulations Monica!

GOODBYE CONT...

A big thanks goes to Leah Brock and Amanda Winters for serving the INO and LIS programs as graduate assistants. Their presence on our staff has been invaluable. As the INO GA Leah has been with us for one year and acted as our program minute taker/secretary, has worked on recruitment and admissions, has written our newsletter and has acted as a liaison for public relations. We wish her the best as she pursues her degree in Human Development Counseling with the hopes of working as a school counselor in a public school setting. Amanda has been the LIS GA for 2 years. She has been a teaching assistant in our program's online courses, worked with the LIS Advisory committee, maintained the INO and LIS websites, served on personnel committees, done a new orientation session for incoming LIS students and been available for online related tasks. Regarding serving as a GA, Leah shares that "as a graduate student, I have learned a great deal about life outside of my major. I hope to use what I have learned while the INO GA in my professional future, and realize how lucky I was to have this opportunity!"

Do you have something you would like to see in our next newsletter? If so, please contact Leah Brock at inoga@uis.edu.