



Annual Report
Mellon Librarian Recruitment Grant 2005-2006

This was the third year of a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation designed to educate and recruit undergraduates to the library profession, specifically those from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. Mount Holyoke participated in the grant the grant with Oberlin, Occidental, Swarthmore, and Wellesley Colleges, and the Atlanta University Center. A full description of the national program is available at http://www.oberlin.edu/library/mellon/. The local website for the Mount Holyoke program is available at http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~rreznikz/index.html.

Broad-based Programming

The topic for our broad-based programming in Fall 2005 was "Google and Libraries," a program designed to explore the tense and changing relationships between traditional libraries and the commercial information provider. The program was presented at five, one-hour information sessions between September 30 and October 5 to a total of 21 people.

One component of the program, "EPIC 2014" was shown to LITS staff in a similar in-house program on Google and Libraries.

Spring Internships

For the third year, the Career Development Center has been instrumental in helping to publicize the Spring 2006 component of the grant: paid internships in LITS. We received 20 applications for four spots.

Table with 2 columns: Count and Ethnicity. Rows include: 8 Caucasian, 4 Asian/Pacific Islander, 2 Hispanic, 1 Indian, 1 Black/multi-racial, 4 Declined to answer, 20 total.

We selected interns based on their answers to questions of relevancy and diversity that libraries are facing today, as well as their reported interest in librarianship. Our Spring interns were:

- Angelique Rivera, 2006 (Hispanic)
• Glynnis Gilbert, 2007 (Black/Multi-racial)
• Sarah Geisler, 2007 (Hispanic)
• Lillian Sie, 2008 (Asian—Chinese American)

The interns followed a tight curriculum throughout the term, which included:

- A fourteen-week mini-course in librarianship; several members of LITS staff led sessions on topics such as collection development (Kathleen Norton), cataloging (D. Ellen Bonner), reference (Janet Ewing), and preservation (Jennifer Gunter King).
• Shadowing; to reflect the course content interns signed up to shadow LITS staff during their daily activities in collection development (Kathleen Norton), circulation and ILL (Karen Mehl and Anne Drury), cataloging (D. Ellen Bonner), and reference (Valerie Wallace and Sarah Oelker).
• Three in-state field trips to libraries; we visited Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies, and the Western New England College Law Library.

- Class visits to Simmons GSLIS at MHC; two interns sat in on a Reference class and two sat in on a History of the Book class.
- Long-term research projects presented to LITS staff; Angelique and Lillian prepared a study on “Multiculturalism in MHC Libraries” (mentor: Owen Ellard), while Glynnis and Sarah prepared a study on “An Assessment of the Accessibility of LITS” (mentor: Deb Morrissey); both projects were well-received and are available for review from the local Mellon website (<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~rreznikz/meet.html>).

In addition, we were very grateful to have Assistant Dean for Student Administrative Services at Simmons GSLIS, Em Claire Knowles, speak to the interns about diversity in librarianship, and to have Judy Allen, former director of the Career Development Center, speak to the interns about career exploration. The interns enjoyed dinner and informal conversation about libraries, the profession, and their experiences in LITS with Pat Albanese, CIO and Director of LITS.

Career Panel

In April, Mellon hosted a campus-wide career panel on librarianship, “Making Information Meaningful.” Guest speakers included Anna Brandenburg, Reference Librarian at Springfield City Library; Ellen Carey, Public Services Librarian at Greenfield Community College; and Karen Dorval, Health Services Librarian at Baystate Health. The session has 25 attendees.

Summer Internships

Two Spring interns are participating in summer internships through the Mellon program. We are very pleased to have placed Glynnis Gilbert at the University of South Florida where she is working in Special Collections and Sarah Geisler at Mount Holyoke College where she is working in Archives. Also, Jennifer Smith is interning through Mellon at Mount Holyoke College in Archives and Special Collections.

Future Directions

Several of the original schools are reapplying to the Mellon Foundation to extend the grant for another three years; however this represents the final year of participation for Mount Holyoke College. While quite successful with the Mellon program—a 2005 alumna is currently enrolled in the LIS program at University of South Carolina, another declined admittance to Simmons GSLIS for Fall 2006 but expects to reapply in the near future, and our two 2006 summer interns are demonstrating a strong interest in pursuing an MLIS—Mount Holyoke may be teaming up with the University of Massachusetts Amherst for future recruitment and diversity initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Reznik-Zellen
August 2006

Addendum:

Staffing

When Ellen Carey, our coordinator for the grant’s first two years, finished her MLS and began a full-time professional position, we looked for someone to help us in the third and final year of the grant. With help from the Simmons College GSLIS program, we hired Rebecca Reznik-Zellen who was completing her MLS degree. Working only 10 hours a week, Rebecca managed to recruit, hire, mentor the interns, coordinate the curriculum, run the programming, handle all the administrative details in a most professional and resourceful manner. She was truly an asset to our Mellon program.