

# The Basement Blotter



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## Wertheimer: Balancing on a Chair

By Wendi Dotson

It was the rotating chair that attracted Dr. Andrew Wertheimer to a teaching position with the University of Hawaii's Library and Information Science in the Fall of 2003. The LIS Department Chair position rotates between faculty every two years. Wertheimer believes this helps the LIS faculty to be a true team as there is no competition to fill the top seat. "It's an amazing learning experience," and "I'm excited to lead the program over the next two years."

The schedule of the LIS Chair is quite demanding. "As a teacher I value building relationships with students, but as Chair I realize it is really important to meet with other administrators and faculty on campus." Not only does being Chair require Wertheimer to attend more administrative and campus activities, he must also take time to meet potential students, along with keeping up his regular teaching schedule.

This year poses an even larger task for the LIS Chair as the program is currently up for re-accreditation. Wertheimer points to a thick binder on his shelf, "that is just the instructions on how to prepare everything."

Wertheimer credits those around him with making the task easier. He feels "lucky" to have Dr. Martha Crosby as ICS Department Chair. Dr. Violet Harada has taken on the role of Assistant LIS Chair and is handling much of the accreditation issues, since she has previous experience with the process. Dr. Peter Jacso is also taking a leading role with the accreditation process. Dr. Luz Quiroga offers "creative new ways to deliver information." New faculty members Dr. Rich Gazan and Dr. Noriko Asato are helping and "adjusting well." Dr. Diane Nahl, the previous LIS Chair has developed a handbook for the position.

Accreditation is not merely a rubber stamp. "Two very good schools were recently given only conditional accreditation, so we take the process very seriously," explains Wertheimer. Faculty are not exclusively involved in the process, and students can do their part to help. "Student participation is very important" Wertheimer explains. The more students contribute to the program, the more successful the program becomes.

A goal of Wertheimer is to increase involvement of students outside of Manoa by improving communication. Wertheimer would also like to see the LIS program "keep doing the best we can, with quality programs" and "celebrating our Asia-Pacific connection." Wertheimer feels the program does a good job of attracting those who never want to stop learning, "this is the only field where everything you do ends up being useful."

So what can students do when they start to feel overwhelmed? "Besides taking Excedrin," jokes Wertheimer, "it's very important to have balance." Wertheimer considers it a good day when he can listen to some jazz and "keep my email inbox to below 200 messages." Wertheimer is also an amateur photographer, and his photographs can be seen on his personal website.

Students should "celebrate when a goal is reached" and "keep perspective." Wertheimer explains, "being in a service-oriented profession there is the tendency to feel guilt when you are not available all day, everyday." Wertheimer certainly feels that public service is one of the most important values for libraries today, but it is also necessary for librarians to "learn to respect their own time, as well as the time of others."

The LIS profession draws individuals from a wide range of interest, and Wertheimer is no exception. Wertheimer started his library studies in Indiana, where he combined his undergraduate interest in Asian Studies with his family's history dur-



*Dr. Violet Harada and Dr. Andrew Wertheimer as the current acting chairs.*

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## Life After Library School

By Margot Hanson

It is with a great sigh of relief that I can say I am now a capital-L Librarian. I have been gainfully employed as a Librarian II at UH-West O'ahu since August and what a wild ride it is! Actually, my job is pretty low-stress, which is a nice change from the fast-paced world of being a library student. Now, when I go home from work in the evening, I can read for *pleasure!* Ah, what luxury.

When I started library school, I intended to become an academic librarian, so this is the type of job I was looking for from the beginning. You could say I found my dream job. I do reference for people who come into the library, call on the phone, or email us. I also work on collection development, and just finished ordering a bunch of books. I've been visiting classes and leading information literacy sessions for the beginning of the semester rush to define research topics. We're a very small outfit here at UH-WO, so I do a bit of everything. Our student body is around 900 students, and our library is located within the Leeward Community College library, to give you an idea of our size.

But that will all be changing soon. The plans are in the works for UH-WO to move to a brand-new campus in Kapolei beginning Fall semester 2009. This has been a long-time goal, and there is a lot of anticipation around campus now that it is finally happening. The faculty, staff and student population is already expanding. We just admitted our first freshman class this semester, since UH-WO was upper division until last semester. Now we're a four-year institution, and we also added 15 new faculty positions this semester. Our new two-story library and technology center is going to be part of the first phase of construction, and I'm excited to be part of the new campus development.

It wasn't always gumdrops and lollipops, however. There was a time, a few months ago, when I was in job-seeking anxiety mode. Looking for employment is one of my most dreaded activities, but this time I was armed with an advanced degree, so it was a bit smoother. I somehow squeezed in the time to look at job ads and submit applications during my final, busy semester. I lived by the motto "apply early and often." I looked at any job ad that came my way, even if it was in Abu Dhabi or another far-flung locale. I looked at position descriptions to get an idea of the options, salaries, and expectations that are out there. Who am I to say that I wouldn't eventually decide to move to Abu Dhabi?

There are those who advise that one should not accept the first job offer that comes along. I do not adhere to that viewpoint. I'm quite partial to health insurance and an income, and the first job offer I got also happened to be the one I wanted, so I didn't wait to see what else would come along. I did have a bit of discomfort when it came time to talk about salary, however. The position description hadn't included this tidbit of information, so I politely inquired when the job offer came. I happened to be on a road tour of Public Libraries of the West Coast at the time, and the head of the search committee had been trying to track me down for about a week. She finally got in touch with me while I was visiting the Seattle Public Library, and that's when I got to put into place the tips I learned from Manoa Public Library's copy of *The Smart Woman's Guide to Interviewing and Salary Negotiation* by Julie Adair King. And when I got back to Hawaii, I signed the reams of paperwork, and now I have the 2007 LIS calendar hanging proudly above my desk.

I'm writing to assure you that there is hope. There are jobs out there, and you can get them. Start practicing your bragging skills so you're ready for the interviews.

Please refer to the May '07 *Basement Blotter* article by Annie Thomas for more detailed information about applying to HSPLS.

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ing the Shoah (the Holocaust) to create his own research focus. Wertheimer is a historical expert on Japanese internment camps and their libraries. It was this research that led to his current position at the University of Hawaii. Coming from the background and training of a historian, Wertheimer believes “this historical view allows one to look forward in a larger context.” His newest research focuses on the impact of publishing changes on collection management.

Sometimes it is hard to imagine our professors being students themselves, but Wertheimer assures students that he too “would at times be frustrated with my classes.” In fact, this led to his desire to teach. Halfway through his MLIS studies, he decided to focus on becoming a LIS professor, “I saw the need to balance emerging technology with traditional library values.” The values Wertheimer sees as crucial to the future of libraries are “public service, social equality, and intellectual freedom.” Social justice is a passion of Wertheimer’s and he is also the faculty advisor to the UH chapter of Amnesty International.

Reading the CV’s of professors is often humbling, and Wertheimer’s is no exception. When asked how he has accomplished so much, it is Wertheimer that turns humble, “I always feel like I should be doing more.” As students we often have the same thought and it is comforting to know professors feel no different.

Wertheimer faculty page: <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~wertheim/>

Wertheimer personal page: <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~wertheim/Personal.html>

## New Student Profiles

The Basement Blotter and the entire LIS program are excited to have so many new faces in our community. The Blotter wishes to extend a warm welcome to all the new students and to learn a bit more about each of one of you. The profiles assembled here are examples of how dynamic, diverse (in backgrounds, personalities, and interests), and talented all of you are. Thank you for coming out and introducing yourselves. We are very excited to have you in the program and look forward to getting to know you all better. Stay tune for more student profiles in the next Blotter!

**Name:** Jennifer Crowther

**Where are you from?** I grew up in West Virginia but moved here from DC.

**What is your dream job?** My dream job is to be the educational liaison/coordinator for a museum. My students inspired me to do this. (I taught high school for 5 years before I started this program).

**Do you have a favorite library?** My favorite library would have to be the Winchester Public Library in Winchester, VA. It's just durn cool. When I'm not in the library, I'm game for pretty much anything from triathlons to movie watching.



**Name:** Simi Singh

**Where are you from?** Los Angeles, CA

**What inspired you to become a librarian?** I love books and wanted to do something service-oriented.

**What is your dream job?** I'm not sure what my dream job is. I'd love to do something international. I spent a year abroad in Spain as an undergrad, and I speak Spanish, Italian and some French and Hindi. Maybe a job at a UN Library would be ideal.

**What do you like to do when not in the library?** Reading (of course), writing, painting, hanging out at the beach, watching movies, and hiking.



**Name:** LeJenna Wilton

**Where are you from?** Hilo, Hawaii

**What inspired you to become a librarian?** I really love enforcing order on chaos. Ooh, and occasionally, I really love overcomplicating a system so that some schmuck can't figure it out and I can feel victorious. But it's been at least three days since I last felt that way. My therapist says I'm doing really well. At this rate, they expect I'll be off of the electroshock by Christmas!

**What is your dream job?** At the moment, I envision a dream job where I am paid to sleep in late, take leisurely strolls on the beach, read books casually in the afternoon, and be fed exceptional dinners every night by a five star chef. If anyone sees this job advertisement come up, I beg you to please email me right away.

**Do you have a favorite library?** I really like my home library- it's got all of the books that I love! It's in the mail and on its way to me right now- hooray!

**What do you like to do when not in the library?** I really enjoy combing want ads for that dream job I mentioned.

**What is your favorite library-related quote?** "The World is Quiet Here" ~Lemony Snickett.



# Baseball Hall of Fame

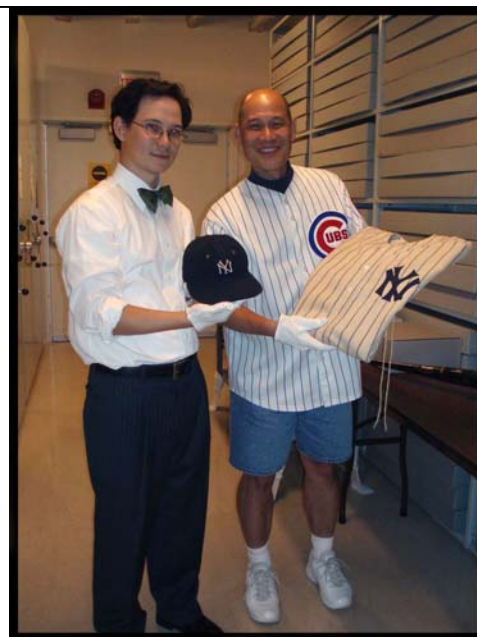
By Eric Leong

I spent my summer in Cooperstown, New York as a research intern at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. This position is part of the Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program, which begins in June and runs to August. I worked primarily as a reference librarian, but the program also has positions in the Collections, Recorded Media Archives, Photo Archives, and Technical Services Departments. To find out more about the internship program, here is a link to the website: <http://education.baseballhalloffame.org/intern/index.html>.

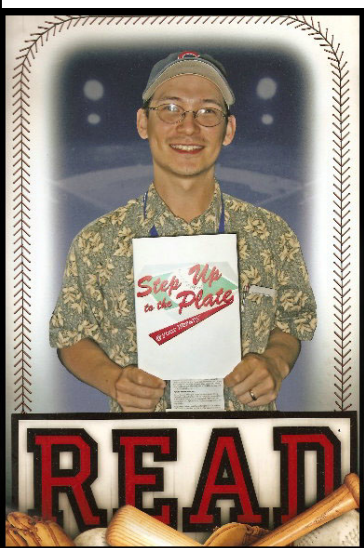
The library at the Baseball Hall of Fame, named the A. Bartlett Giamatti Research Center, houses roughly 2.6 million documents, 500,000 photographs, and nearly 12,000 hours of moving images and audio. As one of four (1 professional, 3 interns) reference librarians, my primary task was to answer any inquiry related to baseball and provide direction to researchers. These requests came in by telephone, mail, on-site visit, and email. Requests about a family member are most frequently asked. The most common story being a great-grandfather played in the major leagues at some point and struck out Babe Ruth.

To see if family folklore is fact or fiction, we employed several resources, ranging from websites to a massive clipping file. Two of the most frequently used websites for reference work included Baseball-Reference.com, < <http://www.baseball-reference.com> >, and Retrosheet, < <http://www.retrosheet.org/> >. Both sites are full of endless statistics and a registry of every player to throw a pitch or go to bat in Major League Baseball. Other indispensable resources available in the library's collection are *The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball* by Jonathan Fraser Light, minor league player contract cards from 1900 to present, and a clipping file that includes a folder for every major league player along with files by subject and geography.

My most interesting request came from a serials librarian at the United States Supreme Court Law Library. He and a colleague were debating an absurd pitching statistic, and I was asked to settle the dispute. I provided the answer and, in appreciation, the librarian offered me a tour of the Supreme Court Law Library the next time I visit Washington, D.C. Along with other librarians, patrons ranged from grade school students to university professors, from war historians to John Phillips Sousa biographers. The directions of research on baseball seemed limitless.



Eric Leong holding Lou Gehrig's hat and Babe Ruth's jersey with his dad.



Eric Leong's READ poster.

for baseball and my profession of librarianship. It also served as a welcome reminder of the endless destinations within the library and information field. And finally, GO CUBS!

A bonus about the internship was it put me a lot closer to Washington, D.C., and I was able to attend the ALA Annual Conference. This was my first ALA Conference; my first experience was being surrounded by hundreds of librarians at the premier showing of "The Hollywood Librarian." The scale of the conference was amazing, and I was initially extremely overwhelmed by the whole event. But, by Sunday afternoon, I had taken in some excellent sessions on public librarianship, collected all the free books and posters I could carry, visited the Library of Congress to find it closed, shared a table with the presidents of the Public Library Association and American Library Association, and had my very own READ poster photographed. The READ poster, by the way, fit in perfectly since it was promoting the "Step Up to the Plate @ Your Library" program, to which the Baseball Hall of Fame is a partner. Unfortunately, I did not have time to visit the Supreme Court Law Library.

Overall, my summer internship was a great way to gain reference experience in a special library. The opportunity brought together my passion

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