

WISE+ Grant Winds Down; Partnerships Continue

This summer, as the WISE+ grant comes to close this summer, the professional association partnership initiative is still going strong. With generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as of summer 2009 WISE schools will have partnered with fifteen unique LIS organizations to develop and offer specialized courses suitable for graduate and continuing professional education since 2006. As of spring 2009, 75 WISE students and 47 professional association members have participated in these courses, in addition to 192 students from the host institutions. Four of these courses have been added to normalized program schedules; they will continue to benefit students long after the WISE+ grant concludes. In summer 2009, five new WISE+ courses and two repeat offerings will be available for students of the WISE Consortium and professional organization members.

WISE co-founders Linda Smith and Bruce Kingma are pleased with the contribution the WISE+ Initiative has made to the LIS field. Smith notes "WISE+ has been successful in extending the WISE course sharing model in two ways. WISE+ courses meet the needs of both degree-seeking students and practitioners seeking continuing professional development; and WISE+ course partnerships include professional associations in addition to higher education institutions. The experience gained through development and delivery of WISE+ courses will provide a foundation for ongoing collaborations between LIS schools and a variety of LIS professional associations."

Kingma expands upon the benefit of strengthened partnerships among LIS graduate programs and professional organizations, commenting on the increased diversity of available specialized LIS courses resulting from the initiative, "LIS graduate students will benefit from new online courses in Theological Librarianship, Latin American Library Resources, and International Librarianship, among other courses for specialized populations.

WISE+ participants are impressed by the ability of faculty to meet the needs of graduate students as well as practicing professionals with a single course. WISE+ encourages networking and sharing of experience among a faculty subject specialist, experienced practitioners, and future members of the profession. The result is a dynamic virtual classroom where professionals are energized to innovate in their chosen field, and students are introduced to specialties in a welcoming and informative environment.

A summary of the initiative, including partnership models, best practices for cooperative education, and a complete overview of the courses developed by WISE+ will be available on the WISE website (www.wiseeducation.org) at the completion of the grant. WISE will continue to seek collaborative opportunities for member schools and partner associations, leveraging the power of the online network to better educate the LIS field. For a details on the summer 2009 WISE+ courses, please see "Featured Classes" on www.wiseeducation.org

WISE Spring 2009 Meeting

Representatives from WISE schools and the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation have been invited to a meeting hosted by WISE this April in Chicago, Illinois. The agenda will include a planning session for revision of the WISE Quality Metrics for Online Education and a discussion of the WISE Pedagogy Workshop, including how WISE should recognize completion of this training. The group will also discuss the future of WISE, including governance, and recruitment and marketing strategies which will ensure the continued sustainability of the consortium moving forward. Attendees from WISE schools in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom will lend a global perspective to the conversation.

WISE MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Long Island University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- San José State University
- Simmons College
- Syracuse University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Maryland
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Victoria University of Wellington

**Funding for WISE
provided by the
Institute of Museum and
Library Services**



New Content Management System

This January, WISE moved to a new administrative content management system which provides us with greater website flexibility. Please visit www.wiseeducation.org and check out the top navigation drop downs for new links and resources. Site feedback and content requests are welcome – please send them to support@wiseeducation.org.

WISE Pedagogy Update

On Tuesday January 20, 2009, WISE Pedagogy held a half-day face-to-face workshop at the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) conference in Denver, Colorado. Anne McKinney and Linda Smith led the planning for this workshop, during which the recipients of the 2008 WISE Excellence in Online Education Awards were recognized. The third annual workshop, Community in Online Learning: Preparing WISE Scholars, drew a diverse crowd of nearly 50 faculty members and doctoral students from LIS programs around the world. Overall, the workshop created brilliant discussion and enthusiastic interest in online pedagogy.

When we began planning the ALISE workshop last summer, we were unaware that the time slot would overlap the historic U.S. presidential inauguration of Barack Obama. Fortunately, we were able to adjust our scheduling to allow for a break, during which time we broadcasted coverage via CNN's live online feed. Our workshop room filled to standing-room only as other conference-goers came in to watch the coverage with us. We did not merely make time for a news event, but shared in a cultural memory.

WISE online pedagogical training has enjoyed continued success, with 137 participants taking part in Moodle workshops from summer 2007 through fall 2008. In January 2009, WISE launched a free, on-demand online training workshop designed for faculty and doctoral students in library and information science with little or no experience teaching online who wish to develop their skills in teaching online courses. A component of this workshop includes a series of ongoing forums addressing topics in online pedagogy; these forums are open to both participants new to distance learning and more experienced instructors who are interested in continuing their education in the field. Check out the WISE on-demand [pedagogy workshop](#) for more details.

Updates and additions to the WISE pedagogy website, www.wisepedagogy.org, are ongoing. The site features resources from both the online and face-to-face workshops, best practices compiled from the recipients of the WISE Awards for Excellence in Online Education, and links to other online education associations and consortia websites. Also included on the website are direct links to the WISE discussion forums and a new [WISE Pedagogy blog](#).



The ALISE 2009 Pedagogy Workshop breaks to watch the Presidential inauguration

WISE Recognizes Outstanding Faculty

WISE is proud to announce the recipients of the 2008 WISE Excellence in Online Education Awards.

2008 Excellence in Online Education Award Recipients:

Linda Braun – Simmons College
Ellen Detlefsen – University of Pittsburgh
Shirley Giggey – University of British Columbia
Meredith Farkas – San Jose State University
Bernadette Callery – University of Pittsburgh
Terry Bennett – University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Mary Kay Biagini – University of Pittsburgh

Faculty selected for the award received nominations from one or more WISE students at an institution other than the instructor's home institution, based on their instructional style in one or more WISE courses taught between Spring 2008 and Fall 2008.

"The Excellence in Online Teaching Awards are unique because they are the first awards where students from one program vote on a teaching award for faculty at a different university," says Syracuse University Associate Provost Bruce Kingma, who co-founded the consortium. "Cross-institutional initiatives like this show the growth of WISE as a consortium and provide a forum for the faculty winners to share success stories across all of the member institutions."



Website: www.wiseeducation.org
E-mail: support@wiseeducation.org

As of Spring 2009, over 650 students have participated in over 400 WISE courses and over 250 instructors have participated in WISE pedagogical development opportunities.