

**2004/2005 ANNUAL REPORT  
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY  
School of Library and Information Sciences  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
Robert M. Ballard, Interim Dean  
May 24, 2005**

**SUMMARY**

**Highlights of 2004/05**

The School of Library and Information Sciences graduated a total of 102 students in academic year 2004/05. Sixty-eight students were awarded the Master of Library Science degree and thirty-four the Master of Information Science degree. At the May 7, 2005 graduation, 15 graduates were inducted into Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information sciences honor society. Even with the graduation of 50 students in December, our enrollment did not suffer appreciably. A total of 243 students were enrolled in January of 2005. We began the academic year with an August 27<sup>th</sup> dinner for the retired Dean, Dr. Benjamin F. Speller. Other fall activities included efforts at reestablishing the SLIS Advisory Board and revitalization of the SLIS alumni association. We concluded the academic year with the Fourteenth Annual North Carolina Serials Conference at the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center on April 14-15, 2005. "Serials Services in the Eye of the Information Storm" was the theme for this year's conference.

Major Accomplishments for the Year were as Follows.

1. Continued strengthening of SLIS academic standards.
2. The approval of six new courses.
3. The enhancement of the distance education MLS degree.
4. Offering more courses both online and on campus.
5. Acquisition of new faculty and staff.

**Continuous Planning, Development and Improvement**

The grade point average and Graduate Records Examination Scores of School of Library and Information Sciences students at entry remain the highest in the University. We continue to strengthen academic standards within the unit. The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) operates within the framework of the University's planning and assessment system. The School's mission, goals, and objectives are consistent with the University's mission and goals. Within the School of Library and Information

Science, the Interim Dean endeavors to make the discussion of curriculum and other issues an on-going process.

### Program Improvements

In academic year 2004-05, SLIS continued to offer more courses on campus and through distance education than in previous years. SLIS had six (6) full-time faculty members in the academic year 2004-05. To quote one senior administrator, the School of Library and Information Sciences “did more with less”. SLIS offered three courses online during the summer of 2003 and by contrast, we offered six in the summer of 2005. During the past academic year, the University Academic Planning Council approved six (6) new courses for the School of Library and Information Sciences. Four of these will provide the basic core courses for our undergraduate Information Science degree. As upper level courses, they may also be cross listed as electives for graduate credit. One of these classes is currently being offered online. These course offerings will be expanded in the fall of 2005 with one course in this group being offered on campus for the first time ever. At least seven (7) courses will be offered online in the fall of 2005.

At the November 2003 meeting of the Academic Planning Council, a 2+2 undergraduate degree was approved with Wake Technical Community College. Students would begin their academic careers at Wake Tech and transfer to North Carolina Central University for their last two years of college. As originally planned, these students would major in Information Science with all of their subject area studies being entirely online. The Interim Dean has continued conversations with officials from Wake Tech. By mutual agreement in May of 2005, we will begin to implement our degree program with Wake Tech in the academic year 2005-06. The first ever courses have already been placed on our schedules.

### The Online MLS

This program continues to grow exponentially. At least 29 students from eight states and Germany and Japan are enrolled as Distance Education MLS students. The most significant change for our online MLS degree is that beginning with the fall 2005 term, students will be able to take all of their required courses through the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University. We will continue to accept classes from East Carolina University where we have a long standing cooperative arrangement. SLIS has developed a cadre of teachers for our Distance Education program that includes professors in the Washington, D.C. area, Chicago, Illinois, and the University of Georgia at Athens as well as NCCU faculty.

## Personnel Changes for 2004-05

In April, Ms Tysha Jacobs was appointed to the newly established position of Director of Graduate Studies. Ms. Jacobs has earned the BBA from the North Carolina Central University School of Business and the MIS from the School of Library and Information Sciences. She was previously employed by the Registrar's Office at North Carolina Central University. She brings with her, knowledge of the Banner Information System currently being implemented by the University and the North Carolina University System.

New Faculty Appointments are as follows:

Ismail Abdullahi earned the PhD in Library Science from the University of Pittsburg. He also has degrees from North Carolina Central University and the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark. Dr. Abdullahi's primary areas of teaching responsibility will be Foundations of Librarianship and Information Science and Global Library and Information Systems. Dr Abdullahi brings to the faculty extensive national and international professional experiences. He is very active with the American Library Association.

Kalyani Ankem has earned the master's degree in Library Science and the Ph.D. in Information Studies from the University of Alabama, College of Communication and Information Studies. Dr. Ankem's primary area of teaching responsibility will be Research Methods and Social Sciences Resources and Services. Dr. Ankem has published extensively and will bring a solid research background to the faculty.

## Alumni Employment

The School of Library and Information Sciences continued to monitor the career patterns and employment of its alumni as we have in past years. SLIS has one of the most culturally and racially diverse student bodies in the United States. With the closing of the library school at Clark-Atlanta University, we are now the only accredited historically black library school in the United States. During the 2004-05 academic year, the number of inquires and advertisements for new hires increased substantially. These include telephone calls from Miami, Florida, Chicago, Illinois, and other cities as well as recruitment visits. We are obviously now the resource for employers seeking to identify minority librarians. All of our students and graduates benefit from this interest however. There also appears to be indicators that improvements in the economy may have improved employment possibilities for our information science graduates. This is an area that has to be closely monitored.

## Technical Support

We have updated our laboratory computers and ordered ten new computers for our library. We continue to try and provide lap top computers for every member of the teaching faculty. In the provision of online courses, teaching via the Internet, and instruction in the use of information systems online, the School of Library and Information Sciences is the unquestioned campus leader.

## The Future: The Long Range Plan

In the SLIS long range plan as submitted for inclusion in the University Long Range plan,

We included only those items which we knew could be accomplished. They are listed below.

1. Establishment of an undergraduate Information Science degree.
2. Continued development of our online MLS degree.
3. Establishment of a joint MLS/MPA master's degree.
4. Establishment of a Distance Education MLS degree in Atlanta, Georgia.
5. Establishment of a PhD in Information Science.

Only the last two items would require external resources and support. The request for authorization to plan for the establishment of a PhD in Information Science has been approved by the NCCU Board of Trustees. The next step is submission to the UNC Board of Governors for authorization to establish. Even with the addition of two new faculty members and the Director of Graduate Studies, our staffing levels remain below what it was at its peak over a decade ago when we had a smaller student body. The problems that this creates are those directly associated with recruitment. The practical effect is voice mail and e-mail which is sometimes not responded to. We have been forced to prioritize our responses. Distance Education students can be counseled and advised only over the telephone or via e-mail. Yet in spite of these difficulties, we have done reasonably well. We have developed a very efficient operation. The School of Library and Information Sciences is poised for a great future. Dr. Irene Owens has recently been appointed Dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences. She will come to us from the University of Texas. Dr. Owens is well qualified to lead the school in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It has been my pleasure to serve as Interim Dean during the past two years. I thank all who have assisted me during this time, but especially my Executive Assistant and sometimes one person office staff, Ms. Betsy Webb.