

# Annual Report, 2019-2020

LAUC-SD Mentoring Committee, 2019-2020

## Committee Members

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tori Maches            | 2018-2020, Chair                  |
| Cristela Garcia-Spitz  | 2018-2020                         |
| Timothy Chu            | 2018-2020, Internship Coordinator |
| Sarah Buck-Kachaluba   | 2018-2020                         |
| Bredny Rodriguez       | 2019-2021, Incoming Chair         |
| Sue McGuinness         | 2019-2021                         |
| Penny Coppernoll-Blach | 2019-2021                         |
| Shi Deng               | 2019-2021                         |

## Activities

This year, the Mentoring Committee held seven meetings, one intern presentation in December, and Librarian Career Chats in August through early September. We discussed events to include undergraduate students, and worked with the Career Center to plan an event for undergraduate students interested in librarianship.

Given the unforeseen circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we changed our plans considerably to adapt to changing workloads and methods, while continuing to fulfill the Committee's mission safely. This included postponing or cancelling scheduled events, pausing internships, and pivoting to virtual events where feasible, notably by offering virtual Librarian Career Chats in late summer instead of a traditional Shadow Day experience in the spring. We look forward to hosting more virtual events in the coming year, and continuing to adapt the committee's work to the current circumstances.

## LAUC-SD Graduate Internship Program

The LAUC-SD Graduate Internship Program continues to attract students each year. Timothy Chu has replaced Stefan Elnabli as Internship Coordinator, and will continue as Internship Coordinator for 2020-2021.

## Internship Stats

- Interns hosted: 1
- Number of new applicants: 6
- Number accepted: 0
  - Three applicants either did not meet the requirements of the internship program (e.g. not currently an LIS student), or a supervisor was not available. The remaining applicants applied after the library closed in March, and we were unable to host them.
  - Due to the pandemic, the Committee decided to pause internships until the Library's phased reopening plan was complete, and we had a better understanding of both supervisor availability, and our ability to provide meaningful remote internship opportunities.
- Total cost (cubicle nameplate, parking, etc.): \$50
- Total cost (presentation): \$72.35

## Fudan Internship

The pause in the Fudan internship program continued for the 2019-2020 program year. Due to the pandemic, the program is unlikely to resume in the near future.

## Intern Presentation

The Mentoring Committee pairs interns with supervisors matching their skills and interests. Over the course of their internship, each intern works on a library project, and then presents this work at the end of the internship to share their work and build professional skills.

In December 2019, Annabel Gutierrez completed her internship, and presented her work on two projects: the Chilean Franja Political Advertisement Videos with Sarah Buck Kachaluba, and the Robert Cancel Zambian Storytellers Collection image reconciliation project with Laura Schwartz.

## Events

### Librarian Shadow Day (cancelled due to COVID-19)

Librarian Shadow Day was originally planned for April 28, 2020. To prepare for the event, we submitted an events form to AST, made plans with the University Librarian to speak at the opening/welcome portion of the event, and sent out a sign-up form for librarians interested in participating in the event.

Shortly after we sent out the librarian sign-up form, the library was closed due to COVID-19, and events were cancelled through May. After it became clear that we would be out of the library for much longer than that, the Committee decided to plan a virtual event so that students who

would have attended Shadow Day would still have the opportunity to receive career advice and learn about academic library work.

## Librarian Career Chats

Once the Committee realized that Shadow Day 2020 would need to be cancelled, we decided to pivot part of Shadow Day to a virtual event to ensure that the 2019-2020 year would still include an event for LIS students.

We based our virtual event on the Mentor-Mentee One-on-One Time portion of Shadow Day, where LIS students are matched with a librarian for a career discussion based on the student's interests and the librarian's expertise. The result was Librarian Career Chats, which transferred the One-on-One Time format to a 30-45 minute Zoom conversation. This was small enough in scope to be achievable, but still represented a meaningful resource.

We sent announcements and the student registration form to SJSU and USC's student listservs, and received 49 registrations within four days, a record number of responses. We intended to leave registration open until August 6th, but decided to close it early due to the high volume of responses. We capped participation at 36.

The career chats will take place through early September, based on student and librarian availability.

## Career Center collaboration: "Adventures in librarianship: The diverse, challenging, and rewarding careers of librarians" (cancelled due to COVID-19)

The Mentoring Committee had planned a new event for the 2019-2020 year in collaboration with the Career Center. This was the result of our discussions with the Career Center last year, and was our first event intended for undergraduate students.

The event was intended to be a panel discussion in an informal, "fireside chat" format, where students could hear from a panel of librarians, and ask them questions about their professional trajectories and experiences. Sue McGuinness, Laura Schwartz, Nina Mamikunian, and Abby Pennington volunteered to be on the panel, representing a variety of experiences, perspectives, and areas of expertise. The discussion was scheduled for April 9, 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was cancelled. However, we are working with the Career Center to plan a virtual event during the 2020-2021 academic year.

## Mentoring Program

The Committee did not receive any applications for the program this year, but is exploring ideas for 2020-2021 and beyond, including purchasing gift cards to be used for mentor-mentee coffees, instead of reimbursing mentors for coffee afterward.

## Leadership

Bredny Rodriguez will be the Mentoring Committee chair for 2020-2021. Timothy Chu will continue as Internship Coordinator in an ex officio membership capacity.