

Graduate Fellowship in Digital Humanities

The Scholars' Lab is proud to host a prestigious University of Virginia Library Graduate Fellowship program in Digital Humanities, now entering its fifth year.

This fellowship is designed to support advanced graduate students doing significant and innovative work in digital humanities by making resources and expertise available in all areas of DH research — from content creation and data management to advice on intellectual property issues.

Funding for the Fellowship program was established by the Jeffrey C. Walker Library Fund for Technology in the Humanities, the Matthew & Nancy Walker Library Fund, and a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

More information about the Graduate Fellowship program can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/SLabFellows>.

Introducing Our 2011/2012 Graduate Fellows



Gabriel Hankins, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English. Gabriel's project will explore global modernisms by "modeling the network of textual relationships between global modernist writers and the social and institutional networks of the League of Nations project."



Randi Lewis, Ph.D. candidate in the Corcoran Department of History. Randi will use GIS technology to create digital maps showing "the changing patterns of Salem trade and the global reach of Salem's maritime economy" during the Early Republic.



Edward Triplett, Ph.D. candidate in the McIntire Department of Art and Architecture. Edward will create a database of geo-referenced fortress-monasteries and churches created or occupied by military orders in medieval Spain to begin the process of exploring "how the military orders created a fortified border between Christianity and Islam while displaying varying degrees of cultural permeability across this same border."

The Scholars' Lab hosted a luncheon on September 1, where we formally introduced our new Fellows, and they presented short introductions to their projects. We hope you'll join us in Spring 2012 when Edward, Randi, and Gabriel will be giving their final presentations on their fellowship work.

More information about our Fellows can be found on the community page at the Scholars' Lab web site at <http://tinyurl.com/SLabCommunity>.

Scholars' Lab
4th Floor, Alderman Library
University of Virginia

<http://scholarslab.org/>
<http://lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/>

More Work With Graduate Students

The Praxis Program is a 2011–12 pilot project of the Scholars' Lab at the University of Virginia Library.

It's a radical re-imagining of the annual teaching and training we offer in the SLab, and is meant to complement our work with our Graduate Fellows in Digital Humanities, a program now entering its fifth year at UVa Library.

The Praxis Program will fund six University of Virginia graduate students from a variety of disciplines to

apprentice with us for an academic year as we design and build *Prism*, a new tool for "crowd-sourced" textual analysis, visualization, and humanities interpretation.

But *Prism* is not the goal.

Recognizing that up-to-date methodological training is often absent or catch-as-catch-can for humanities graduate students, we are using the pilot year of the Praxis Program to experiment with an action-oriented curriculum *live and in public*. We hope to attract part-

ners in labs and centers at other institutions as well as local supporters, and to situate our contribution in a larger conversation about the changing demands of the humanities in a digital age.

The Praxis Program will better equip knowledge workers for emerging faculty positions and alternative academic careers at a moment in which new questions can be asked and new systems built. We'll share our evolving curriculum and our

staff and students alike will be blogging about their experience.



The Praxis Program
at the Scholars' Lab

We invite you to watch us

this year, as we see what it takes to produce thoughtful DH scholars who are comfortable designing effective user experiences, writing and working with open source code, engaging broad audiences, managing teams and budgets, and theorizing their work within the rich tradition of humanities computing.

For more information about the Praxis program please visit the praxis.scholarslab.org website.

Introducing Our 2011/2012 Praxis Fellows

We're pleased to announce our first cohort of Praxis Fellows for the 2011/2012 academic year.

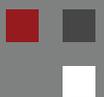
Alex Gil, Department of English
Brooke Lestock, Department of English
Lindsay O'Connor, Department of English
Sarah Storti, Department of English
Annie Swafford, Department of English
Ed Triplett, McIntire Department of Art and Architecture

The Praxis Fellows will be making regular contributions to the Scholars' Lab blog under the *Praxis Program* category.

We'll be accepting applicants for the 2012/2013 Praxis Program in late Spring, and would like to encourage applicants from a wide array of schools and departments.

 If you have topics you'd like to read about in future newsletters, please email rgrizzle@virginia.edu with your suggestions.

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Welcoming New Scholars' Lab Staff!



Eric Johnson joined the Scholars' Lab faculty this July as Head of Outreach & Consulting. In his new role, Eric directs day-to-day public services in the Library's vibrant Scholars' Lab and helps to coordinate our intellectual programming as well as our transformative program for Graduate Fellows

in the Digital Humanities.

Eric comes to us from The Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello) where he served as New Media Specialist, guiding Monticello's connection to its user community and the development of organizational media policies and services. In his earlier position as Web Services Librarian, he participated in a number of digital initiatives, including the Jefferson Encyclopedia and the Thomas Jefferson Libraries project. He holds degrees in history from the College of William & Mary and George Mason University, as well as an MS in Library and Information Science from Florida State University, and has two decades of experience in public service in the library and cultural heritage sector.



In March, the Scholars' Lab welcomed Dr. Eric Rochester as the new Senior Developer on our R&D team.

Eric is an accomplished computational linguist and digital humanities scholar and developer. His past work includes appointments with the Oxford University Press and Georgia's Linguistic Atlas projects, as well as consultancies and programming positions at a number of technology firms. Eric's doctorate is in English from the University of Georgia, where he concentrated on medieval literature and wrote a dissertation entitled *Schwa: A Dictionary Pronunciation Database System*. *Schwa* examines the production of lexicographical pronunciations, both from a technical and a theoretical perspective, and establishes a set of best practices, well-grounded in the history and present state of dictionary pronunciation. To test his research and theorizing, Eric implemented a lexicographical pronunciation system — and he'll be bringing that brand of thoughtful, iterative scholarly software development to his new role in the SLab.



Jeremy Boggs joined the Scholars' Lab this June as our Humanities Design Architect. In his new role he'll be advising faculty and grad students on design and user experience aspects of their digital projects in both the humanities and

humanistic social sciences and contributing to ongoing work in Scholars' Lab R&D, with special attention to "Neatline," a set of tools we're developing with funding from the Library of Congress and in collaboration with the Center for History and New Media (CHNM).

Jeremy comes to us from the wonderful CHNM at George Mason University, where he served as Associate Director of Research and as development manager for Omeka, an open-source web publishing system for cultural heritage collections. Jeremy was also one of the originators of THATCamp, the popular technology and humanities "unconference."



In May, we welcomed our new Web Applications Specialist, David McClure, to the Scholars' Lab R&D team.

David graduated from Yale University with a degree in Humanities in 2009 (where he wrote one thesis-length study of Whitman under the supervision of Harold Bloom, and another on Hemingway and Freud), and has been working as an independent web developer in San Francisco, New York, and Madison, Wisconsin for the last few years. David is the creator of Public Poetics, an elegant PHP interface for collaborative, web-based commentary on poetry. He characterizes this project as a design experiment in addressing "a problem of content 'over-accumulation' that tends to plague many existing systems of textual annotation and commenting." Not only does David have a strong aesthetic sense and background in web application development, he also has experience in computer graphics, having worked with graphics libraries while developing software for the Cognitive Science department at Yale.

Around the SLab

We've added Kurzweil Educational Systems software to all the workstations in the Lab this year. Kurzweil software assists learners with ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning disabilities, as well as ESL students, by providing tools that support reading, research, and test taking. For more information about this software, you can visit the Kurzweil Educational Systems website.

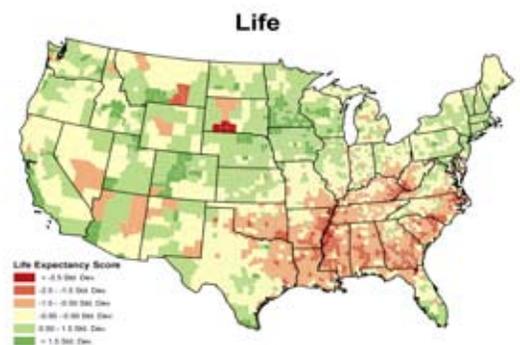
We hope you'll stop by and see the beautiful (and very large!) new oil painting that is gracing our front wall. "Pendant" blends some of the key themes of our work in Digital Research & Scholarship -- technology and attention to space and place -- and is a gift of the estate of talented UVa studio art graduate, Pierre Richard.

Pursuit of Mappiness

It all started with a blog post on August 8th on the Scholars' Lab blog. Kelly Johnston's *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Mappiness*, to be specific, where he examined the final phrase of Jefferson's most famous sentence by mapping life expectancy at birth, institutionalized population, and the ratio of arts, entertainment, and recreation establishments to the total population for every county in the United States.

The result? Three beautiful maps that give us new ways to examine geospatial data, and new questions to ask about that data.

The next day, The New York Times Arts blog picked up on the story and posted a story about Kelly's maps on the SLab blog. Two days later, the Oprah Blog picked up the story from the Times, arguing that a truer measure of happiness would have been a map of "the country's ice-cream parlors, ice-cream trucks, and restaurants serving the frozen dairy delicacy."



Reserving SLab spaces: If you'd like to use the ThinkTank or the SLab Classroom, all you need to do is reserve the space using the Library's BookIt! reservation system.

The ThinkTank seats 4-6 and is ideal for group study or small meetings. The Classroom seats 18 and is available for occasional teaching and presentation needs of the University community.

For more information about our reservation policies, please visit our Reservations page.

SLab Social Media

Did you know the SLab is using social media?

Follow us on twitter! We're @scholarslab. To follow individual SLab staffers and grad fellows, check our Community page.



Like us on Facebook! Find out about all our events, get updates from the lab, and follow the RSS feed for the Scholars' Lab blog over on our Facebook page.

Events Schedule Fall 2011

Our Fall 2011 schedule is still taking shape! Please keep an eye on our events page at <http://tinyurl.com/SLabEvents>.



September 1:
Digital Therapy Luncheon: Introducing Our 2011/2012 Grad Fellows
Noon
Scholars' Lab



September 28:
Scholars' Lab Speaker Series: Tim Powell
Time: TBD
Scholars' Lab



September 28:
Introduction to SPSS
2:00 p.m.
Curry Library Innovation Commons



October 6:
Introduction to SAS
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



October 11:
GIS Workshop: Making Your First Map w/ ArcGIS
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



October 12:
Eye Candy: Exploring Interesting Visual Displays of Data
2:00 p.m.
Curry Library Innovation Commons



Week of October 17:
Scholars' Lab's 5th Birthday Celebration
Time TBD
Scholars' Lab



October 18:
Visualization of Tabular Data with Fusion Tables
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



October 18:
Digital Humanities Speaker Series: Lev Manovich
Time TBD
Location TBD



October 19:
Introduction to R
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



Week of October 24:
Open Access Week Activities
Time and Location TBD



October 25:
Making Maps Online with GeoCommons
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



October 26:
Introduction to Nvivo
2:00 p.m.
Curry Library Innovation Commons



October 29:
Family Weekend GIS Workshop
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



November 1:
Georeferencing Paper Maps
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



November 8:
Creating/Editing Data in ArcGIS
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



November 9:
Elements of Creating Solid Graphs for Quantitative Data
2:00 p.m.
Curry Library Innovation Commons



November 10:
Scholars' Lab Speaker Series: Joe Gilbert
Elements of User Experience Design
2:00 p.m.
Scholar's Lab



November 15:
Secrets of the Global Positioning System Revealed
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



November 16:
World GIS Day Celebration
Time TBD
Scholars' Lab



November 22
Geocoding and X/Y Data
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom



November 29
Mapping The World One Street At A Time With Open Street Map
2:00 p.m.
Alderman Electronic Classroom

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