



## News and Updates

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### ▲ New Faculty



CSU is very pleased to welcome Kaitlyn Filip, PhD, JD, as a new LIS faculty member in fall 2025. Dr. Filip's research interests include digital records management, data transparency and ethics, court transparency, legal rights and justice, genre fiction, and cultural studies.

Welcome Dr. Filip! 📷 KF

Four new adjunct LIS faculty joined CIMST in 2025:

- Annette Bochenek, PhD
- Diane Gill, PhD
- Samuel Limneos, PhD
- Faith Rice, PhD

Thank you for your commitment to enriching LIS course offerings and our learning community!

### ▲ Hello Brightspace and Outlook!

We experienced significant technology updates this year!

In summer 2025, CSU transitioned from the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) to Brightspace. In doing so, LIS faculty and students learned about this new digital hub. In addition, CSU moved from Google for email and file storage to a Unified Microsoft 365 Experience in 2025.

### ▲ ZINES @ your library!

On June 11th, Ziba Pérez, YA Librarian III at the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), offered a presentation to explore zines! LIS students participated in Q&A and found the session informative and inspirational. Learn more about Ziba's work here and/or explore details of the Chicago Zine Fest here. We appreciate your creativity and community engagement - and your openness to share your expertise with us!

### ▲ LIS Program Review

In accordance with Illinois Board of Higher Education Guidelines, the LIS program completed a program review in April. Framed as a critical and constructive process involving the LIS faculty, this exercise provided an opportunity to reflect on student learning outcomes and actions to foster program improvement.

Some highlights of the review included:

- The importance of maintaining [ALA Accreditation](#);
- Ongoing growth - LIS is currently the largest graduate program at CSU;
- Appreciation for the academic and professional commitments of faculty, staff, students, and alumni;
- The need for additional faculty and staff to align with growth;
- Possibilities to explore new professional areas and collaborations;
- Challenges related to recent political changes and volatility of federal funding.

### ▲ CSU Strategic Plan

During 2024-25, diverse stakeholders from across the University engaged in a strategic planning process resulting in the [2025-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

The Plan outlines the University's vision, mission, values, and goals and objectives.

*CSU's vision is to be recognized for innovations in teaching and research, community development and civic engagement. We will promote excellence, ethical leadership, entrepreneurship, and social and environmental justice. We will embrace, engage, educate, propel and elevate our students and community to transform lives locally and globally (p. 3).*

The six top-level goals center around:

1. Enhancing Academic Excellence, Student Engagement, and Faculty and Staff Professional Development
2. Student Enrollment, Retention and Graduation
3. University Culture, Climate and Accountability
4. Strengthened Infrastructure
5. Cost Efficiencies and Diverse Revenue Streams

6. Community Service, Urban Leadership and Economic Engagement

Read more in [the full document](#)!

### ▲ ALA Accreditation Planning

Planning is underway for the LIS program's next comprehensive review. The site visit will take place in spring 2027. Currently, LIS faculty are leading a collaborative preparation process to develop our Self-Study Plan with sources of evidence, which will lead to writing the five chapters corresponding to the ALA Standards (Systematic Planning, Program-Level Learning Outcomes and Curriculum, Faculty, Students, and Infrastructure). We appreciate everyone's commitment to this critical process!

### ▲ Professional News

2025 was full of challenges for books and libraries!

- On March 14, President Trump issued Executive Order 14238, which directed the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), an independent agency charged to advance, support, and empower America's libraries and museums. Grants to libraries were severely disrupted. After a lengthy court battle, [all IMLS grants were reinstated](#).
- On May 8th, the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, an esteemed leader (and former [CPL](#) librarian and deputy commissioner) was abruptly fired. You can review Dr. Hayden's reflections [here](#). In July, Dr. Hayden began a new role as senior fellow with the Mellon Foundation.

*As centuries of dictators have known,  
an illiterate crowd is the easiest to rule;  
since the craft of reading cannot be  
untaught once it has been acquired,  
the second-best recourse is to limit its scope.*

- Alberto Manguel

## Alumni/Student Notes



MSLIS students gather for the commencement ceremony at the CSU Jones Convocation Center, May, 2025. 📷 RAM

▲ On April 11th, 2025, CSU LIS alumni participated in a panel to share insights about job seeking and early career considerations. Kudos to Travis Givens, Sara Horn, Deon King, Denise Nunes, and Frank Young and organizers from the CSU ALA Student Chapter. We greatly appreciate your insights and dedication to nurturing the next generation!

▲ MSLIS student Camille Rose was awarded an American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Scholarship. Congratulations, Camile! 🎉

▲ Erikka Coletta, completed her LIS endorsement at CSU and currently serves as a school librarian at Maple Elementary School in Loves Park. She was recently named the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) Teacher of the Year! Congratulations, Erikka! 🎉

▲ On July 30th, Becky Reece, MSLIS '23, presented *The Story of Manga: Tracing the Evolution of Manga from Hokusai to Today* at the Cleve Carney Museum of Art. Subsequently, she led a presentation for CSU LIS students on her work to develop Comics in College.

▲ MSLIS student Colleen Bradbury was invited to serve on the Illinois University Library & Professional Librarian Access and Transparency Task Force, with the charge to "examine the current state of libraries and professional librarianship on Illinois public university campuses and present a recommendation to the General Assembly to ensure that public academic libraries and the educational services provided by professional librarian faculty remains a viable and healthy benefit to Illinois students."

▲ MSLIS student Tom Stagg was appointed to the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC).

**Kudos to all CSU LIS alumni and students on their achievements  
and ongoing dedication to scholarship and community engagement!**

*We are each other's harvest;  
we are each other's business;  
we are each other's magnitude and bond.  
- Gwendolyn Brooks*

## Faculty Highlights

▲ Dr. Kimberly Black and Dr. Moussa Ayyash serve as co-PIs on a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to focus on curriculum development in Artificial Intelligence (AI). They are leading the AI @ CSU, “a campus and community wide AI literacy initiative to strengthen curricular and co-curricular integration of artificial intelligence throughout all fields of study at CSU as well as to inform and provide a platform for discussion about AI and its integration in society.” The AI Initiative is hosting a series of free webinars for all interested in exploring these areas.



Drs. Black and Ayyash led an engaging session to introduce their project at the CSU Faculty Institute Day. 📷 RAM

▲ Dr. Black co-presented, “Strategic Foresight in Civic Engagement for Racial Justice: Exploratory Qualitative Perspectives of Public Library Staff in the American South,” at the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Annual Conference (Kansas City, MO, October 6-8).

▲ Dr. Black co-presented “Racial Justice in Library Practitioner Discourse: Implications for AI” at the the 88th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T 2025, Arlington, VA, November 17, 2025).

▲ Dr. Filip co-led a workshop at University of Colorado Boulder on “Exploring Justice-Driven Career Pathways for PhDs.” This was an American Council of Learned Societies funded workshop in partnership with the Visual Evidence Lab on October 16, 2025.

▲ In summer 2025, Dr. Gabriel Gomez won his third Fulbright award, his second as a Fulbright Specialist. His award with the Department of Mass Communication at Aligarh Muslim University in India is in process. Congratulations, Dr. Gomez!

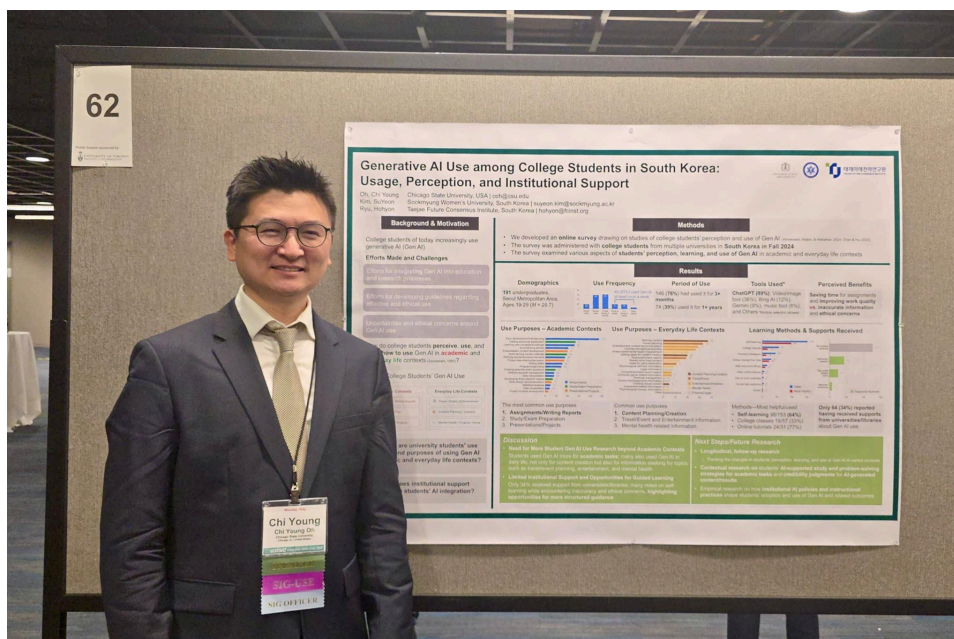
▲ Dr. Gomez was an invited speaker on the “# We Will Not Be Erased Panel,” at the Engel & Völkers Pride Summit on July 1st. He offered a Discussion on the Legacy Project’s Educational Work in the Current Political Climate.

▲ Excerpts of Dr. Gomez’s video work was presented at the *Black on Screen: Chronicles of Black Queer Worldbuilding*, by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York, on September 17, 2025.

▲ Dr. Rae-Anne Montague authored “Growing Synergy: Librarians as Culturally Responsive Leaders,” in The Illinois School Library Program Standards: Linking for Learning, 5th edition, AISLE, 2025.

▲ In April, Dr. Montague served as a facilitator for the inaugural Illinois Library Association (ILA) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Retreat in Normal, IL - and subsequently co-presented a poster to share information about it at the ILA Annual Conference (October 16 in Rosemont). Read more about this landmark event in the December edition of the [\*ILA Reporter\*](#).

▲ Dr. Chi Young Oh presented a co-authored poster, titled "Generative AI Use among College Students in South Korea: Usage, Perception, and Institutional Support" at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T 2025, Arlington, VA, November 17, 2025).



Dr. Oh with his poster at the ASIS&T 2025 conference in Arlington, VA. 🌞 COH

## Keep in Touch

We share information on [our website](#). We also have a [LinkedIn Group](#) and an [Instagram](#) account - [lis\\_csu](mailto:lis_csu) to facilitate exchange of ideas and information. Join us! Alumni and others are encouraged to share updates and/or request to be added to our mailing list ([lis@csu.edu](mailto:lis@csu.edu)).

Will you be at the ALA Annual Conference 2026 in Chicago? If so, plan to stop by the CSU LIS information table in the Exhibit Hall.

**Support CSU** - Are you interested in supporting CSU students, programs, and/or initiatives? Learn more/make a donation via the Chicago State Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) that serves as the chief fundraising partner for CSU - <https://www.csu.edu/foundation>. You may designate the *Library and Information Science Program (CIMST Department)* in the comments section. Help CSU continue to build legacies!

Do you have news to share or a comment/suggestion? Please contact [lis@csu.edu](mailto:lis@csu.edu).



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