

# Information Science Student Association (ISSA)

## Fall 2024 Report

Claire Hubble, ISSA President

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## **1—Recruited and Appointed Officers**

In April 2024, near the end of a school year without ISSA, Dr. Gao reached out to three students (PhD Xufei Liu, undergraduate Jose Rincon, and me, MLIS Claire Hubble) to revive the association. While Xufei and I responded almost immediately, Jose did not continue communications with the group, so we continued without him.

## **2—Officer Meetings (Summer 2024)**

### *Titles*

Xufei and Claire decided to expand the board, bringing on Keeley Flanigan, Emma Bergholz, and Ana Hernandez. Specific officer positions and titles were established in June 2024 as follows:

- Claire Hubble, President
- Xufei Liu, Officer of Programming
- Keeley Flanigan, Officer of Social Media
- Emma Bergholz, Officer of Outreach
- Ana Hernandez, Officer of Distance Learning

In July 2024, we began discussing events to host in the Fall semester, including publishing a newsletter and figuring out specific field trips to go on. We met three times throughout the summer, July 5, July 31 and August 21.

As of December 14, 2024, the ISSA Board has an open position: Officer of Distance Learning. Ana Hernandez was looking for a bit more time in her schedule to ensure a strong finish in her MLIS program. We are so happy she could serve as an officer for one semester, and we are looking forward to her attendance at meetings as a member. A special election will occur at our January meeting to elect a fifth officer.

### ***Newsletter***

In August 2024, we published the first issue of *For the Record*, an ISSA-based newsletter. Different sections were written by different officers who will write in those sections every issue we publish. The goal was to publish at least once a month, and we have completed that goal up until now.

The sections include:

- News from the SOIS, by Claire (overview of the latest SOIS Faculty Council Meeting)

- Resource highlight, by Keeley (overview of a helpful item—book, website, database)
- Student Spotlight, by Emma (introduction to an ISSA member)
- Organization Spotlight, by Xufei (overview of a helpful professional association)

The first issue also included a section introducing the officers with a very short bio and photo for each. Ana’s section is a bit of a floater section because of the rotation of editors we elected to go through with:

August 5 – Claire
September 16 – Ana
October 17 – Keeley
November – Xufei
December – Emma
January – Claire
February – Ana
March – Keeley
April – Xufei
May – Emma

Editors are required to fill the first and third pages of the newsletter, with the regular sections taking up pages 2 and 4.

In November 2024, the board of the Society of American Archivists Dominican University Chapter (SAADUC) elected to, instead of beginning their own newsletter, add in a few pages to our ISSA newsletter. This is just one way the clubs have worked together this school year. For the fourth issue (ed. Xufei) and moving forward, SAADUC will have one-two pages of information within our newsletter.

***Communications***

Although the newsletter is an excellent way to communicate a lot of info at once to the masses, we elected to use a few other means of communication this semester, including Discord and EngageDU.

Our Discord server was created by active ISSA member, Jackie Martinez. Originally, she created the Discord for general DU MLIS activities, so when she brought it to our attention, she created an individual ISSA subcategory for us to communicate in. Within that subcategory, we have specific topics for each discussion board, including Member Intros, Member Chat, Events, Meetings/Plans, and Newsletter. Most of the discussion that occurs on Discord, though, happens within the General Chat.

Instagram has been restarted with a new handle: @dominican\_issa. Keeley has done a fabulous job posting about events, opportunities for students, and meeting information. We hope to increase our follower count throughout the next semester.

Finally, ISSA is on EngageDU though we are not a DU registered student organization (RSO). Because the RSOs are so focused on the undergraduate experience, we have elected to function as a student organization within the SOIS. What this means on EngageDU is that we do not have to wait for our events to be approved by the RSO department/we control it completely.

EngageDU holds lots of important docs and items for us, including:

- Events, especially those with RSVPs
- Newsletter issues are published here
- Active roster kept updated here
  - o We need to figure out how to remove members who have graduated
- Member meeting minutes
- Bylaws and other organizing documents.

### **3—Membership**

Monthly member meetings began in September and have all occurred within the first week of the month. The ISSA Officers decided to rotate days of the week of the member meetings in order to allow most students to attend at least one meeting. All meeting minutes are posted to EngageDU (usually within 48 hours), so those who could not attend are still updated. The meeting dates are as follows:

1. Monday, September 9, 2024
  - a. 5 officers in attendance, Keeley and Xufei on Zoom
  - b. 9 members present, 1 in person
2. Wednesday, October 2, 2024
  - a. 5 officers in attendance, Emma on the GRA desk so popped in during her part and for the end of the meeting
  - b. 8 members (3 new members) present, 2 in person
3. Thursday, November 7, 2024
  - a. 5 officers in attendance, Xufei on Zoom
  - b. 6 members present, 4 in person
4. Tuesday, December 3, 2024
  - a. 4 officers in attendance, all in person, missing Ana
  - b. 6 members present, 1 in person

Minutes for each member meeting were posted on EngageDU within 72 hours.

#### **4—Committees**

Two committees were created during our October member meeting. We received committee updates throughout the rest of the meetings in the semester. We received updates about committees during our November meeting. We created a third committee during the December member meeting with an aim at addressing sustainability issues within our profession.

- 1) Stories of Resilience Committee
  - a. Introduced during the September meeting. Officers voted during the November member meeting to temporarily suspend due to Keeley not needing outside help at the current stage of the project.
- 2) Future Librarians and Archivists for Palestine Committee
  - a. Introduced during the September meeting, voted for official creation during the October meeting. Beginning as a committee to investigate Israel's relationship to Ex-Libris and Ex-Libris parent company Clarivate, this committee worked through October and November to establish a wider range of goals related to fight against the ongoing genocide in Palestine.
    1. Committee meetings occurred throughout November and December and will continue into the next semester. Minutes of these meetings can be found on EngageDU.
- 3) Sustainability Committee
  - a. Introduced during the November meeting, this committee has not been officially created or voted on yet.

#### **5—Events**

##### *Field Trips*

##### Newberry Library

Our first in-person field trip was arranged in association with SAADUC. We went to the Newberry Library on October 19 at noon to see the library and learn more about the Indigenous Chicago exhibit that was open.

- 17 people from SOIS/ISSA attended, including two faculty members (Don Hamerly and Ceclia Salvatore), PhD students, and 1 undergraduate student
- We met with Dominican alum Analú María López, who showed us highlights from the permanent collection

- Mostly included Indigenous highlights (and we walked through the exhibit together) but also featured a few very old items such as an original Shakespeare publication.

### Svalbard Global Seed Vault

The seed vault tour was our first virtual tour of the year, aimed at including those online-only students specifically. This event occurred on Sunday, November 17 at 2:00pm. Ana and Xufei walked through the virtual tour.

- Although 15 people originally RSVP'd, 7 people showed including Ana and Xufei, the presenters
- Walked through virtual tour of Svalbard Seed Tour, answered questions as they came through the chat
- Whole presentation lasted around 35 minutes
- 2 members who could not get onto Zoom at the time of the event reached out and asked for recorded versions
  - Unfortunately, we did not record this tour.
  - The link to the virtual tour was shared with these folks and with all members.

### *Social Events*

#### Fat Duck Halloween Meet-Up

Our first purely social event was on Halloween, 2024. This was a joint event with SAADUC, and 10 people total came, including four ISSA officers. We held a raffle for folks who showed up with a prize that included an SOIS t-shirt, car coaster, card holder, heating pad/ice packet and sanitizer. The raffle prize winner was drawn at our November member meeting and was won by member Lauren Todd.

#### Holiday Meet-Up

This event was similar to our Fat Duck meet-up, however we did not have a raffle element. This social event was another team up with SAADUC and we encouraged folks to wear Christmas sweaters. 14 people came, including 3 officers and 3 partners of ISSA members.

### *Learning/PD Events*

Claire hosted ePortfolio Co-Working Sessions (accountability groups for working on personal ePortfolios) throughout October and November. They were scheduled on Mondays, 4:30-7:30pm and offered in person with a Zoom room available.

- October 7, Innovation Lab
  - 3 attendees, graduating in Spring 2025
- October 14, Springer Suites

- 1 attendee, Spring 2025
- October 21, Innovation Lab
  - 4 attendees, multiple graduation dates
- November 4, Classroom 108
  - 1 attendee, Spring 2025
- November 11, Classroom 108
  - 2 attendees, multiple graduation dates
- November 18, Classroom 108
  - 2 attendees, Spring 2025 graduation date
- November 25, Classroom 108
  - 3 attendees, Spring 2025 graduation date

## **6—What's Next**

After being suspended for an academic year, I think the ISSA officers have done a great job getting the club started and moving again. Monthly meetings, a newsletter, and the events we have produced have been tough to balance with regular coursework as well, but all officers have done a wonderful job balancing our school and club work.

ISSA continues to be in a sort of limbo area within Dominican University as an institution. We have graduate students to cater to with not a whole lot of outside resources from the University. The SOIS has been incredibly supportive of all our initiatives, and we could not be more excited and thankful.

For Winter 2025, ISSA is hosting a book drive and textbook exchange. Because the event runs through the new year and semester, more information on if this event was successful or not will be in the Spring President's Report.

According to this report, it looks like ISSA could focus more on Learning/Professional Development events and activities. To this point, we are hoping to attend the iSchool conference in March and host different workshops in the Spring. Some workshop suggestions have been about getting published, writing a CV, and activism within library science. We think requesting help from SOIS professors or ALA representatives might be helpful in this endeavor.

Finally, because we are an ALA student chapter, another goal of ours for Spring 2025 is to focus on ALA membership and getting students involved in professional organizations. We think this could be aided by ALA reps visiting us or attending conferences as well, but membership is the first step.

There are 421 SOIS students and 50 of them are signed up as ISSA members on EngageDU. Of those 50, we have a consistent 5-10 students show up to every meeting and event. Comparing that 5-10 to the entire 421 group of students is a bit disheartening even though many factors influence which students can participate and for how long. Despite the seemingly low turnout for meetings and events, we connected with other students, talked about issues troubling our fields, and worked together to come up with solutions. Because we started the club back up, created new organization docs, and held regularly scheduled meetings and events, I think we can call this first semester back a success.