



*Austin Public Library/School of Information*

## **Fall 2009 Mentor Program**

*fostering relationships among graduate students  
and professional librarians*

*Fall applications due 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 11, 2009  
Notification of matches on Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

*Program begins with an orientation luncheon meeting for all mentors and students  
\*\*Monday, September 21, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., UTA 5.522\*\*  
(If you arrive late, or have to leave early, no problem!)*

*Program concludes with a reception during the last week of classes  
and ends on the last class day, Friday, December 4, 2009*

### **Purpose:**

The Austin Public Library/School of Information Mentor Program is a formal and collaborative relationship between the Austin Public Library and the School of Information. The Mentor Program provides individual students with the opportunity to learn more about librarianship and careers for information professionals through one-to-one relationships with librarians on the Austin PL staff. Mentors and students share expertise, insights, and networks. Participants are not limited to students on a public library career path; those interested in other information specialties and career paths may also apply.

### **How it works:**

Volunteer mentors from the Austin Public Library are matched with interested and eligible School of Information students. The Mentor Program Steering Committee attempts to match each student with a mentor working in the student's areas of interest. The mentor and student spend a minimum of six hours together during the semester. Activities may include introducing the student to specific library operations, discussing professional and career issues during lunch or coffee, job shadowing, or joining the librarian in appropriate committee, departmental and other meetings. Group activities may include orientations to work units or areas of work responsibilities (i.e., collection development, library instruction, reference services, technical services, digital library services), "behind the scenes" tours of libraries, and coaching and advice on recruitment and job searching.

### **Timeframe:**

The program starts with an orientation luncheon meeting (Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>) for all mentors and students; requires a minimum one-semester commitment; and officially ends the last class day of the semester with an informal reception during the last week of classes. Matches may be extended informally by mutual consent of the student and the mentor.

**Selection process:**

Eight to ten students will be matched with appropriate mentors by the Steering Committee composed of Austin Public Library librarians: Toni Lambert (Assistant Director for Public Services), Blair Parsons (Reference Librarian), and Sally Miculek (Children's Services Coordinator); and School of Information representative: Ron Pollock (iSchool Director of Career Services).

**Why you should be interested:**

The Mentor Program provides an opportunity for students to explore issues and challenges of the profession with practicing librarians and to discover how librarians solve these challenges in a working environment. This "insider's view" can be a valuable experience in library and information science education. Mentor librarians and students benefit by expanding contacts within the growing information community.

**Initial criteria:**

Students: Completion of one semester of graduate LIS coursework

Librarians: One year of professional experience on the Libraries staff and with supervisor's approval

**Evaluation and log of activities:**

Both mentors and students maintain activity logs during the semester and complete brief evaluations at the end of the program. Evaluation comments and activity logs are considered by the Steering Committee in refining and developing the program.

**Information and application forms:**

- MENTORS: Blair Parsons, Reference Librarian, [blair.parsons@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:blair.parsons@ci.austin.tx.us), 974-7532
- STUDENTS: Ronald D. Pollock, Director of Career Services, School of Information, [rpollock@ischool.utexas.edu](mailto:rpollock@ischool.utexas.edu), 471-2623