

# STUDENTS OF CAU SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES FACT SHEET

1. The CAU School of Library and Information Studies is the only ALA (American Library Association) accredited program in the state of Georgia.
2. The CAU School was established in 1941 primarily to educate African-American librarians for a segregated national library system. To this very day, graduates of the CAU library program have established school libraries and continue to teach information literacy skills to all Americans of all ages in public and academic libraries.
3. The CAU School of Library and Information Studies had experienced a 70% growth in enrollment during FY 2002 and expected additional increase prior to the unfortunate and uninformed decision by the CAU Board of Directors to close the program in May 2005.
4. The CAU School of Library and Information Studies is capable of supporting itself. Today, there are many grant and investment opportunities available to fund digital librarianship, minority librarianship, and program infrastructure development needed to improve instruction and the technological capacity of the library school program. These efforts can supplement funds received from current sources, including alumni support.
5. The CAU School of Library and Information Studies must be given an opportunity to transform and further develop its program to maintain the production of quality librarians. Alumni, along with national and international supporters are poised and ready to provide pledges of a minimum of \$1 million to ensure the growth of the historic library school in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

6. The CAU School of Library and Information Studies has a unique opportunity to build its program and produce librarians to fill the coming librarian shortage predicted to occur within the next ten years as many librarians reach retirement age.
7. To close the CAU School of Library and Information Studies is to contribute to the decline of literacy rates and reading in the African-American communities, in particular, and the entire American society, in general.
8. The mission of the CAU School of Library and Information Studies is to continue educating library and information professionals who are culturally diverse and able to serve successfully in libraries and information centers throughout the world.
9. In this global society, librarians play an increasingly important role in the promotion of information literacy in higher education and general society; we can not afford to lose another library school.
10. We, the students and alumni of the CAU/AU historic School of Library and Information respectfully request that the Clark Atlanta University Board of Directors reevaluate their decision to close the library school in light of these and other findings regarding the increasing need for librarians, the financial stability of the library school and the strong fundraising capabilities of the library in conjunction with its Alumni and international supporters.

*Thank you,*

Colin Dube,  
Representative of the current class of SLIS students  
September 9, 2004

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent  
about things that matter."*

--Martin Luther King, Jr.