Shifts in User Needs Influence LIS Education

BY CAROLINE HAYTHORNTHWAITE

I WAS INVITED by the BC Research Libraries Group to discuss how future trends in LIS education might transform the practice, profession, and discipline in academic settings. Trends in LIS education are shaped by the prevailing winds of change in society and information in general. To talk about academic libraries, we need to talk about changes in the embedding environments. I was joined in tackling this topic by Dr. Louise Spiteri, Director of the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University.

Some of the current challenges facing established librarians and libraries revolve around what it means to be a ‘librarian’, including others’ assumptions about what someone with an MLIS (or MAS) degree can do, and the assumptions professionals place on themselves that limit their horizons. One continuing challenge to identity is the uncoupling of information and service from traditional format and location: the book, the building, the reference desk. Another challenge comes from new communication and scholarly practices, where the authority of the book publisher or peer reviewer is replaced by blogs and wikis with authority determined after publication and by crowds rather than organizations.

In response to society’s turn to the digital, many professionals have added virtual services, e-resources, e-journals, and more. For academic, campus-based libraries, one of the primary challenges is to provide both physical and virtual resources. Making digital the only concern fails to notice transformations in physical environments. UBC’s I.K. Barber Learning Centre is a model of such a change, with its open learning space, where daily I see students working and learning together. Net generation readers, learners, and scholars look to the library for a different kind of support, a current challenge for us all.

I also outlined future challenges for LIS/AS professionals. With the rise of ‘big data’, I see a shift to the data side of data-information-knowledge continuum. But data alone is not sufficient; we need to know what to do with that data, and so we face the challenge of analytics, and presentation of data in readable formats, including new kinds of visualizations. This increasing need for data and information specialists who can shepherd data through from collection to visualization is an emerging role and new identity.

This highlights another shift, to the communication side of information and communication technology. This is related to the presentation of data, but also to understanding and embracing communication through blogs, wikis, twitter, videos, etc., and to helping others to manage and represent their information appropriately, ethically, and correctly through these means. I also see that when we say ‘information’ we want to know that for us this means the nexus of people, technology, and information because we know, in good Canadian tradition, that the medium is the message, and as effective professionals and communicators, we need to understand the audience who will be using and shaping information.

The presentation was recorded and will be available via the UBC library and SLAIS websites.

THE SCHOOL OF Library, Archival and Information Studies, The iSchool at The University of British Columbia, is proud to announce its Master of Archival Studies program won the inaugural Award for Academic Excellence in Records and Information Management Education by the ARMA International Educational Foundation. Program chair Dr. Luciana Duranti accepted the award on the School’s behalf at the ARMA Canada Conference, held June 3–6 in Nanaimo B.C.

Christine Ardern of the ARMA International Educational Foundation presented the award, commending the School by saying, “The MAS program of SLAIS and Professor Duranti have contributed significantly to the growth of education in RIM at an international level, and their graduates have had a voice at the highest levels in public and private organizations with regard to the administration and management of records, archives and information and have brought distinction to the profession.”
Research Space Expands at iSchool

STUDENTS ARRIVING AT SLAIS
This fall will be greeted by significant structural changes to the School’s space. The Roberta F. Greig Research Laboratory is a new 315-square-foot (29 square metres) research studio, located between rooms 460 and 461 in the Nass Room, and accessed by what was formerly the south doorway to the School. Space that once housed a cluster of lounge chairs is now an office measuring another 150 square feet (14 square metres). Generously funded in part by a bequest from Vancouver Island librarian Roberta Ferguson Greig, the facilities will serve as an area for faculty and students to conduct research activities using modern audio-visual and computer equipment.

Construction began earlier this summer, but the idea for the space has long been germinating among members of the SLAIS Facilities Committee and Director Caroline Haythornthwaite. Assistant Professors Eric Meyers and Heather O’Brien have been particularly keen on research facilities, pointing out the need for a dedicated space within SLAIS to conduct lab-based research, rather than borrowing high-demand research resources from other departments. From a broader perspective, the Roberta F. Greig Research Laboratory will serve as an important component in establishing the School’s strengthening research profile, as well as preparing students for the current job market. “When we talked to the stakeholders in [the] LIS community—people in position to hire graduates—many are looking at the capacity to perform research; there’s a focus on evidence-based practice. Part of building a research community involves students having the opportunity to do that research with us,” explains Dr. Meyers.

Some of the activities envisioned to occur in this “interactive information space” include website and software usability testing for systems design, video production, task-based information-seeking analysis, information visualization projects, as well as research, focus groups and interviews.

Future uses are likely to include integrating some of the research laboratory’s potentially powerful resources into the curriculum of relevant courses, such as Information Visualization, and Research Methods, or courses using video as a pedagogical tool. “[Right now], we don’t have the infrastructure to do high-tech assignments, but we’re moving that direction,” Dr. Meyers says.

As well as the new research space, an office has been contracted that will serve as space for research assistants working with faculty on projects.

Of course, the addition to the iSchool physical footprint will have an impact on the day-to-day activities of students and faculty. Most notably, there is now only one passageway in and out of the School, via the main entrance. Additionally, classrooms 460 and 461 can no longer be accessed from within the iSchool space; instead, access will be via the Nass Room using the entrance by the South staircase.

June saw the completion of construction on the lab. Furniture and equipment should arrive in time for students’ return in the fall, thanks to iSchool administrator Mary Grenier, who initiated talks to use space that was formerly part of the Nass Room.

The creation of the Roberta F. Greig Research Laboratory is just one more step toward establishing the School as a holistic and “synergistic” environment for conducting collaborative student and faculty research. Dr. Meyers sees the lab as a catalyst for a self-perpetuating cycle of research generation: “The increased research profile and the prominence of research activities will attract more master’s and doctoral students, meaning there will be great teaching assistants and more research opportunities for master’s students. Success breeds more success.”

Mary Grenier and Eric Meyers in the lab (top); During construction (bottom)

ABOUT ROBERTA F. GREIG
Born in Vancouver in 1924, Roberta Ferguson Greig graduated from Royal Jubilee Hospital with First Class Honours in Nursing. She joined the Victorian Order of Nurses, but those who knew her say her heart truly lay in the world of libraries. She eventually joined Vancouver Island Regional Library, and served as the head of the Parksville Branch for many years, until her retirement in 1991. She passed away in March 2009, and bequeathed a donation to SLAIS in her will.
CiFER Seeks Better Understanding of Records and Risks

THE WORLD OF financial markets may seem far removed from the walls of SLAIS, but in fact it is the very focus of the research carried out by Dr. Victoria Lemieux and the Centre for the Investigation of Financial Records (CiFER). The financial crisis of 2007–2009 was compounded by information management problems that could have been avoided with stronger recordkeeping strategies. “There is a tendency to think that because financial records are created and maintained by powerful institutions in society that they are better preserved than other records created by less powerful groups in society,” says Dr. Lemieux. “In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.”

An Assistant Professor at SLAIS, the iSchool at UBC, Dr. Lemieux is also Director of CiFER, which she established in 2008 as a multidisciplinary research group that performs advocacy to nurture a better understanding of how records’ potential weaknesses contribute to risk in financial contexts. Aiming to assist financial regulators and risk managers improve transparency in the market and, ultimately, build a more stable system, CiFER has a uniquely large breadth of scope in achieving that goal, reaching out to people of many different backgrounds to discuss issues concerned with the management of financial data. Besides financial industry practitioners, Dr. Lemieux’s research speaks to those individuals studying or working in records management, archival science, IT, law, economics, and sociology – a disparate crowd that CiFER attempts to gather at educational and networking events. “Often, these people work in silos. One of CIFER’s goals is to bring all of these people together to share their perspectives and to build a common language around financial informatics,” says Dr. Lemieux.

Her research team is also “wonderfully rich [and] interdisciplinary”: in addition to contributions by SLAIS students, CiFER has representation from UBC’s Sauder School of Business Management Information Systems program, UBC’s Human-Computer Interaction sub-specialization, and Cognitive Systems Engineering. “Problem-based research really requires theories and methods from a diverse range of disciplines.”

CiFER will be allotting time to many projects in the near future, including development of visual analytics and risk assessment tools. Additionally, Dr. Lemieux is collaborating with SLAIS colleague Dr. Aaron Loehrlein in applying knowledge organization and classification theories to financial products. CiFER will also be involved in the UNESCO conference on Memory of the World in the Digital Age, hosted by UBC (see page 8).

Looking further into the future, Dr. Lemieux offers a prediction about how the management of financial data will change: “A greater need to create and manage records to support the kind of big data analytics that will be necessary to provide effective oversight of global financial systems.” And hopefully along with this, a lessening of the misperception that the study of financial records is dry. “If one accepts that records reflect social negotiations and technological mediation,” says Dr. Lemieux, “then financial records are endlessly fascinating.”

DiIG Hosts Inaugural Symposium on Reader Interaction with Digital Texts

THE DIGITAL INFORMATION Interaction Group (DiIG) of SLAIS, the iSchool at UBC, hosts its first symposium this fall. “The Art & Science of Reading Digital” focuses on the ways readers interact with digital texts. Dr. Richard Kopak will deliver the keynote address. As part of the symposium, an exhibit of artifacts entitled “Scrolling through Time: The Evolution of Reading Devices,” curated by Dual MAS/MLIS student Chelsea Shriver, will be presented. The symposium will be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, September 21 in the Lillooet Room of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

The symposium functions in part as a closing workshop for the UBC Hampton Fund project, “Digital Use Environments in Support of Academic Work,” jointly administered by DiIG and iSchool faculty members Dr. Kopak, Dr. Luanne Freund, and Dr. Heather O’Brien. This project pursued the idea of interactivity and reading, and whether or not the level of activity enables people to engage with and understand material at a higher level. “We wanted to hold the symposium as the capstone of that project, both to share our findings and to bring together a group of local researchers interested in similar issues,” explains Dr. Freund.

DiIG seeks to bring together researchers and students from a wide range of disciplines, from Education, Language and Literacy Education and Journalism to Computer Science and Engineering. Scholars from UBC and the surrounding area discuss the positive and negative effects of virtual environments on readers, and how working with text in the academic context will change to accommodate the digital shift. Organizers anticipate diverse representation from scholars engaged in the study of human interaction with digital information, especially from information science and the cognate disciplines. “Digital reading can be studied from all these perspectives and more; that’s what makes it so interesting,” says Dr. (continued next page)
MAS Program Unveils Curriculum Changes

IN APRIL OF this year, the UBC Senate approved a change to the School’s Master of Archival Studies program, reducing the number of required core courses from eight to four. ARST 510, 515, 516 and 520 are the courses that form the core MAS curriculum. The other courses that had formed part of the MAS core (ARST 500, 540, 573 and 587) are no longer required. Instead, students may take them as electives during Term 2 each year. The size of the MAS core now mirrors the four courses that comprise the MLIS core and is comparable to the length of other institutions’ core archival studies curricula.

This significant change in the requirements and scheduling of the MAS curriculum was enacted mainly to inject flexibility into the program and empower students to choose a more customized set of courses, reflecting the needs of the current job market. “We felt that the amount of knowledge that we need to convey to the students is growing exponentially and becoming increasingly interdisciplinary as the positions available for our graduates become more and more diverse in terms of both titles and requirements,” says MAS program chair Dr. Luciana Duranti. “[Students] will have the opportunity of studying in depth an area in which they are particularly interested or for which there is increasing demand, like records management.” The MAS faculty and the curriculum committee see the widening of elective options as an opportunity for students to select a specialty from one of three informal streams: traditional archival knowledge, records management, and digital preservation.

Opening up course options frees students to focus on a particular area of interest within archival studies and distinguish an area of personal expertise. Along with these reasons, increased popularity of the Dual MAS/MLIS program gives these students the better access to a satisfactory number of electives than before due to the length of the eight-course MAS core.

The decision-making process of implementing this change was quite a swift one, with archival program professors and the curriculum committee having observed these factors over several years. “The urgency of addressing the issues became so obvious that we really did not go through much of a decision-making process, explains Dr. Duranti. “The archival program professors were in agreement on what needed to be done from the beginning.” She also says that it was fairly easy to choose which courses to keep as requirements. “We needed to convey to the students a common body of theory, and it is well understood within the archival profession that such body of theory includes the nature of records, records aggregations, and the functions of records management, appraisal and acquisition, and arrangement and description.”

As these topics build upon each other, the program’s professors face an admitted challenge in teaching these subjects simultaneously rather than consecutively. Dr. Duranti assures an approach to doing so is in progress. While student feedback is yet to be seen, Dr. Duranti says response from faculty has been positive thus far.

DiiG Hosts Fall Symposium cont’d from Page 3

Freund, while Dr. Kopak highlights the “community building” potential of such a cross-disciplinary “meeting of minds.”

The symposium will explore the devices that people are using to look at the rising tide of online content. “The iPad was critical to this idea of increased consumption,” contends Dr. Kopak. “Portable, touchscreen devices have the more tangible quality of bringing people into the information; people were missing that sense of intimacy.” The symposium will examine the opportunities these devices offer, including emerging applications that take advantage of their capabilities, such as annotation apps. Chelsea Shriver’s exhibit of reading devices will provide historical perspective and “highlight the important relationship between reading as a conceptual activity and as a physical activity,” says Dr. Freund.

DiiG intends this event to be a steppingstone towards a better understanding of how people’s relationship with digital text is changing, and how we can leverage reading technologies to make better use of increasing volumes of information. DiiG members, many involved with the research network and commercialization group GRAND, hope that their multi-disciplinary research will transform into user-centred solutions through partnerships with the technology industry to develop tools that enhance digital reading experiences. “This is just a stopping point on the journey,” says Dr. Kopak.

The call for participation and paper submissions is open until July 31. Researchers interested in giving a talk may submit abstracts of up to 500 words to luanne.freund@ubc.ca. Students may submit relevant, original papers of up to 6000 words. Three papers will be selected for presentation at the symposium, and an award will be given to the best student paper. There is no cost to attend the symposium, but as space is limited, those interested may register their seat by emailing digitalreading@diiubc.ca.

ARMA International Education Foundation honours the MAS program at SLAIS (see p. 1)
SLAIS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Eric Meyers has been awarded a grant from the Faculty of Arts Instructional Support and Information Technology (ISIT) to develop video-based learning resources for instructional use in iSchool classes. This summer is finding Dr. Meyers, two research assistants and several Arts ISIT staff scripting and shooting four to six videos for use in Fall 2012 classes, and up to 10 more to be produced later in the academic year. Video topics will include “how-to” tutorials on making video assignments, and “best practice” guides for common library services such as reference interviews and book talks. As part of the project, Dr. Meyers and his team will also test the Collaborative Lecture Annotation System (CLAS). Developed by Arts ISIT, the tool seeks to improve the quality of students’ reflection on their work, and facilitate shared annotation and feedback on different kinds of video.

Records in the Cloud
SLAIS faculty member Dr. Luciana Duranti has been awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant, as principal investigator for a project on keeping records in the “cloud.” Co-investigators are Dr. Victoria Lemieux (also from the iSchool), Dr. Anthony Sheppard of UBC Law, Dr. Ronald Centenelli of UBC Sauder School of Business, Dr. Barbara Endicott-Popovsky (University of Washington), Dr. Richard Marciano (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Dr. Erik Borglund (Mid-Sweden University).

Dr. Sheppard and Dr. Duranti were also awarded an Insight Grant for “The Law of Evidence in the Digital Environment,” and, together with Dr. Lemieux, Dr. Centenelli, Dr. Lisa Nathan and Dr. Giovanni Michetti of SLAIS, Dr. Mary Lynn Young (UBC Faculty of Arts) and Dr. Peter Klein (UBC Journalism), for an international Peter Wall Exploratory Workshop entitled “Trust and Conflicting Rights in the Digital Environment.” The workshop will be held September 24-25.

Dissertations Defended
Two faculty members have successfully defended their doctoral dissertations. Assistant Professor Aaron Loehrlein was awarded his Ph.D. from Indiana University Bloomington after submitting his dissertation, “Priming Effects Associated with the Hierarchical Levels of Classification Systems.” Lecturer Rafa Absar was conferred her degree at McGill University. Her dissertation is entitled “Enhancing Navigation using Auditory Feedback: A Case Study of a Hierarchical Information Visualization System.”

Ann Curry Named Emerita
SLAIS, the iSchool at UBC, is pleased to announce Dr. Ann Curry has been named a UBC Professor Emerita. Dr. Curry was a faculty member at SLAIS from 1990 to 2007, and is also an alumna of the School, earning her MLS from UBC in 1980, and her Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield. She is currently a Professor in the Faculty of Extension Graduate Program in Communication and Technology at the University of Alberta.

Paper Presented at ChLA

Professor Saltman has also been awarded a Faculty of Arts HSS Research Grant for a project on the history of Canadian libraries’ engagement with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Long-Term Preservation
Giovanni Michetti has been invited by the Vatican Library to deliver a speech in July at the European Week of Astronomy and Space Science (EWASS) 2012, for a special session on long-term preservation of cultural resources. Dr. Michetti has also been appointed as the coordinator of the Italian Standard Organization’s team that will draft the national standard on the professional archivist’s profile, based on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

FNCC Advisory Board
A new advisory committee has been set up in support of the First Nations Curriculum Concentration, coordinated by SLAIS Assistant Professor Lisa Nathan.

The committee members are: Melissa Adams, Sandie Bradley, Alissa Cherry, Sarah Dupont, Nancy Hannum, Gene Joseph, Dr. Linc Kesler, Kim Lawson, Sandy Littletree, Dr. Cheryl Metoyer, Ann Stevenson and Jason Woolman.

Inaugural Dodson Professor
Helene Høyrup, Ph.D., of the Royal School of Library and Information Science (RLIS) in Denmark, joins the iSchool as the inaugural Dodson Visiting Professor. She will be here from February to April 2013. Dr. Høyrup is Associate Professor in children’s literature and digital literacy at RLIS in Copenhagen. Look for a feature on Dr. Høyrup in the Winter issue of SLAIsmatters.
Students Win National Fellowships, Awards

STUDENTS AT SLAIS, the iSchool at UBC, continue to earn national and international awards and accolades at all stages of their programs of study. Graduating Dual MAS/MLIS student Kevin Read is one of only four candidates selected for the prestigious 2012 National Library of Medicine Associate Fellowship program in Washington D.C. He will take up the fellowship in September, spending a year with NLM exploring the role of research and development in providing biomedical information services to the health professions, and examining current issues and trends affecting the library and information fields. Kevin will be conferred his degrees in November 2012.

Two students also earned Canada Graduate Scholarships for master’s students from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Isabel Taylor is a returning student in the MAS program, and Erin Peters, coming from the University of Alberta, is entering her first term of studies in the MLIS program. Fewer than 60 of these competitive scholarships were awarded to UBC master’s students.

Entering Dual MAS/MLIS student Grant Hurley has won the Dafoe Scholarship from the Canadian Library Association. In announcing the 2012 awards, CLA scholarships jury member Karen Darby noted competition was intense, but that the two final winners “stood out as having the potential to make outstanding contributions to the field.”

Fulbright Scholar Wins Medal

Jill Palzkill Woelfer, a Fulbright Canada Scholar who chose to spend her 2011–2012 research year at the iSchool, has been selected for the prestigious Graduate School Medal at the University of Washington, where she is working on her Ph.D. Only one student is selected each year for this award. Jill’s research examines homeless young people’s use and access to technology and the restrictions imposed by agencies in their lives.

Co-op Students of the Year

The UBC Arts Co-op Program has chosen two SLAIS students as Co-op Students of the Year. Each year, two prizes of $1000 are awarded, one to an MAS student and one to an MLIS student, for excelling in their co-op work in the preceding year. The 2011 recipients are Dan Gillean (Dual MAS/MLIS) for his Summer 2011 term at Records Management Operations for the Ministry of Labour, Citizens’ Services and Open Government, and Naomi Schemm (now MLIS graduate) for her Winter and Summer 2011 terms with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Helen Brown (Dual MAS/MLIS) received an honourable mention for her Summer 2011 term at Library and Archives Canada.

Funding for Conferences

This past spring was a busy season for SLAIS students travelling to conferences on awards. Sarah Fallik (MLIS) was one of 40 students chosen from American Library Association student chapters to assist during the ALA Annual Conference held June 21–26 in Anaheim. Nicole Brazeau (MLIS) was awarded the 2012 Ken Haycock Student Conference Award by the British Columbia Library Association, in support of her attendance to the BCLA Conference May 10–12. Four other students received financial support from the iSchool at UBC to support their travel to national conferences. Jessica Flank (Dual MAS/MLIS) and Joy Rowe (MAS) have each received the SLAIS ACA Travel Award. Both attended the Association of Canadian Archivists annual conference in Whitehorse from June 7–9. Anna Babluck (MLIS) won the Student to CLA Award in addition to SLAIS funding to help cover her travel to the annual Canadian Library Association conference (held May 30–June 2 in Ottawa). And Lara LeMoal (MACL) attended the Children’s Literature Society Conference May 24–27 in San Francisco.

Students Contribute to IFLA

SLAIS MLIS students Alice MacGougan, Samantha Mills and Ehlam Zaminpaima provided student perspectives as part of the 2012 IFLA Presidential Meeting on Indigenous Knowledge, held April 12–14 at UBC. As the volunteer Student Perspectives team, they presented a short talk to help conclude the conference, offering their perceptions of the issues surrounding the preservation and revitalization of indigenous knowledge. Additionally, Samantha created newsletters summarizing the two main days of the meeting. The conference newsletters’ content was republished on the IFLA main site, in IFLA President and UBC Librarian Ingrid Parent’s column.

Dissertation, Theses Defended

Alumni News & Updates

OKANAGAN & INTERIOR

ALUMNI A group of librarians from the interior region of BC would like to gather contact information of librarians living in BC’s Okanagan and Interior. No such list exists and it would be helpful in facilitating social events outside of the lower mainland. Contact tjanyk@okanagan.bc.ca

ADAM COWLING (MAS/MLIS 2009) is now Records Manager with UNESCO. He married Oyuna Tumurbaatar in March 2012. They are living in Paris.

HEATHER DALY (MAS/MLIS 2005) is the 2011 recipient of the Canadian Association for School Libraries / Margaret B. Scott Award of Merit, which recognizes outstanding contribution to school librarianship at the national level. She is the Library and Information Coordinator for School District #43 (Coquitlam).

FRANCESCA DE FREITAS (MLIS 2009) is a part-time Children’s Librarian at Vancouver Public Library. Her son, Eoin, was born in June 2012.

MARGARET FRIESEN (BLS 1970, MLIS 1997) received the BCLA Honourary Life Membership Award, May 2012, in recognition of her “substantial and long standing contributions to the Association and to library service in British Columbia.”

SARAH GALLAGHER (MLIS 2012) is half-time Research and Client Services Librarian at the Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and half-time with the Yukon Archives. She and her husband have also opened a tattoo shop in Whitehorse.

KRISTIN HODGINS (MLIS 2010) is now Managing Librarian at the Ministry of Justice, Victoria BC.

MARK HUFF (MLIS 2010), begins Life and Executive Coaching on David Allen’s Getting Things Done productivity system this fall, after two years as Records Manager with Brookfield Residential.

J. PENNY HUFFMAN (MLIS 2012) was awarded an Institute of Museums and Library Services fellowship. She will complete consulting work for performing arts special collections in Washington DC, San Francisco, and Minneapolis.

ADRIENNE LAI (MAS/MLIS 2009) is one of three recipients of the 2012 ProQuest Innovation in College Librarianship Award. The award is for North Carolina State University’s Mobile Scavenger Hunt, which utilizes mobile technology in library orientation.

MAHRIA LEBOW (MLIS 2011) is Regional Technology Coordinator with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region at the University of Washington’s Health Sciences Library.

JAN MORRISON (MLIS 2003) is currently a PhD Candidate in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University, and hopes to defend next year.

SHANNON OZIRNY (MACL 2008, MLIS, 2010) won the 3rd annual Kate McClelland and Kathy Krasniewicz Memorial Scholarship from Random House Children’s Books. The award is for a librarian who shows great promise in their field and devotion to the community.

CARLY PANSULLA (MLIS 2011) is now a Librarian for the Carlyle Fraser Library at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, GA.

TREVOR SMITH (MLIS 2012) is Information Scientist at Qudos in Vancouver. He also earned his D.A.D. in January with the arrival of Amelia Joelle Signe Smith.


JILL TEASLEY (MAS 2007) is a digital archivist with the City of Vancouver Archives. Prior to this, she worked on the rollout of the City of Vancouver’s electronic records and document management system and the development of corporate records and information management policy.

STEPHEN R. WARREN (MLS 1974) has been chosen for the 2012 Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Book Publishers of B.C. The award recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the book industry in B.C.

Alumni Association News

BY DAWN IBEY, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

THE SLAIS ALUMNI EXECUTIVE has been busy, both on the events front and behind the scenes. We held our first AGM in October, where we welcomed new and returning executive members. The 2011/2012 executive members are: Dawn Ibev (president), Jennifer Borland (vice-president), Jill Teasley (past president), Daniela Esparo (recording secretary), Chris Middlemaass (treasurer), Melanie Hardbatte, Leanne Jantzi, Kathryn Shoemaker and Amanda Leinberger (members-at-large). The executive would like to thank all its former members for their contributions and commitment to the association.

Once out of the gate, the new executive got moving. We hosted or assisted in a number of events and have launched our new blog at http://blogs.ubc.ca/siaisalumni. Check it regularly for alumni news and event information, including pub nights, the fall AGM and a membership drive. You can also get information sent directly to your inbox by signing up for the alumni email list (send a request to michelle.mallette@ubc.ca). Stay connected.
THIS SPRING, SLAIS mourned the passing of its former director, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, who died in hospital May 29, 2012. His wife, Brenda Peterson, a librarian with UBC Library and herself an alumna of the School, and other members of his family were at his side. He was 82 years old.

Professor Stuart-Stubbs served as Director of the School from 1981 to 1992. His career with UBC began in 1956, when he joined the UBC Library as a librarian. He was named Coordinator of Collections in 1962, and appointed as University Librarian in 1964, serving in that position until 1981 when he accepted the position of Director of the School of Librarianship, soon renamed the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Under his leadership, the School admitted its first class in the brand-new Master of Archival Studies program in September 1981, alongside the already well-established Master of Library Science program. He oversaw construction of the School’s first computer laboratory, which quickly expanded. That work caught the attention of the American Library Association, which sent Professor Stuart-Stubbs a letter in 1988 commending the School for increasing the use of computerized information services for LIS students in an era of economic restraint. As University Librarian, Professor Stuart-Stubbs was a key player in the creation of the University of British Columbia Press in 1971, and in 1977 he oversaw the creation of an inter-library lending network for provincial universities and colleges on behalf of the B.C. Ministry of Education.

During his career, he contributed as an author, editor and conference presenter on the topics of library history and education, publishing, copyright, and resource sharing. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was recognized with several awards over the years, including the Canada Medal in 1967, the Outstanding Academic Librarian Award from the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries in 1987, and the Order of Canada in 2005. He was presented with the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award in 2004, for tremendous contributions to the British Columbia publishing industry, and was named a Professor Emeritus of UBC following his retirement from the University.