

DIRECTORS REPORT TO SCHOOL COUNCIL
SUBMITTED BY SANDRA TOZE
May 2023

Overview

This year's report marks as significant moment in time. As we shift from a School to a Department, there are many opportunities emerging for our programs, for our students, and for our faculty and staff to grow and develop. But it is also bittersweet, the School, and School Council have been a key part of our community for over 50 years. I would like to take a moment to thank all in our community, our alumni, current and past faculty, and staff, as well as our students, for all the support and commitment that has been provided to our programs.

It has been privilege and an honour to be part of the SIM, and to hold the role of Director. I am excited for the next phase, but think it is important to also pause, and recognize all that we have achieved as a community. Our goal, as we continue with the transition within the Faculty of Management, is to ensure that the "small but mighty", and endlessly creative and innovative aspect of who we are not only continues, but is given more support and resources. We continue to have an ambitious agenda. We are moving forward with our plans to launch a PhD Information for September 2024. We are considering how best to transition our Master of Information Management degree, to ensure it is meeting its objective of reaching those who are leading in the information management field. Our Master of Information is at the beginning of the next phase of change and evolution, to continue to reflect this adapting field, and all the many opportunities. We are extending what we do at the undergraduate level, working to support the growth in our Managing Data and Information major in the Bachelor of Information Management degree, and grow our INFO courses to support a Minor in Digital Citizenship.

Continuing in our pattern of change and adaptation, this past year the faculty and staff in the School have been actively involved in creating our new governance structures as we shift from a School to a Department, and the programs move to the Faculty level. In addition, many within our SIM faculty have taken on significant administrative roles. Congratulations to faculty member M. Smit, who took on the role of Acting Dean, of the Faculty starting in January 2023. Congratulations to M. Smit on his other role, as Deputy Science Director, of the Ocean Frontier Institute. We also want to recognize the significant work of L. Spiteri as Chair of Senate. Thank you to C. Conrad who has taken on the role of Interim Director of the Master of Digital Innovation, a key shared program for our faculty.

The year had many highlights. We were excited to support our MI students, as they brought back Information Without Borders in person. We had a great turnout, and very positive feedback on the strong programming. This is significant achievement by our students, to create and host a full day long conference. We welcomed an international audience to our 2023 Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Lecture given by Rita Tjien Foooh, Director of the National Archives Suriname, on Perspectives from the global south (Suriname) on archival repatriation: challenges and opportunities. Through the Quantitative Science Studies Lab of P. Mongeon, the SIM community was invited to a series of lecture over the year. In addition, we were excited to continue our Series: Antiracism & Decolonization in Archives & Records Management Open Classrooms led by J.J. Ghaddar. Our celebration of research, the virtual Information Research Forum continued last year's success with 19 lightening talks scheduled.

HR Changes

This past year SIM welcomed Dr. Stacy Allison Cassin into a tenure stream position, and Dr. Jamila Ghaddar shifted from an LTA to a tenure stream position. We are excited by the new areas of teaching and research they bring to the Faculty. SIM also wishes to continue to celebrate Dr. Bertrum MacDonald, and Dr. Fiona Black who have been appointed as [Professors Emeriti](#).

The School wishes to thank Jennifer Grek Martin for your outstanding contributions to the School and our programs over the past nine years. Your impact on our students, and our programs has been significant. We wish you the best in your position with Earth Sciences, and will be keeping in close touch. We are excited for Carla Heggie, who has accepted a 3-year LTA with Computer Science, while she will continue to teach privacy for us.

SIM would like to thank Cabot Yu, who continued as our Professional In Residence for a second year, and Lindsay McNiff, who continues to both teach with us, and provide the Academic Support Series. SIM welcomed Donna Bourne Tyson as one of the Distinguished Fellows for FOM. We look forward to working more closely with her in this role over the next year.

Program Updates and Changes

MI Program

Through our Curriculum Committee we are both ensuring our current program is meeting key objectives, as well as moving forward with our systematic review of all aspects of the program. As highlighted in the Curriculum Committee report, we have sent three new courses to FGS for approval, and have moved forward changes to our certificates. We have successfully ensured that key readings and topics related to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Decolonization (EDIAD) are embedded across all courses, and that we have courses focussed specifically on these key areas.

As noted in my report last year, we are in the beginning phases of systematically reviewing all aspects of our MI program, with a view to putting forward Major Program changes in the 2024. Last year we initiated the project with a new set of competencies. This year we have been brainstorming changes which may include allowing students to choose pathways through our program (GLAM, Data/Information, General, Thesis) shifting from a practicum to an optional internships, and created an online option for those with prior education/professional experience. This will see us have fewer, and more targeted core classes, and considering options for 6 week, as well as 12-week electives. We will bring these plans to the program committee this fall.

MIM Program

In December, SIM faculty met to discuss plans for the MIM program. As noted in the MIM report, we discuss a range of options including moving the proposed major changes, unbundling the degree to the certificates and diploma, shifting to a new program (MBA or MPA Information) where we would provide ½ the content. We had been collecting more data this winter, and will move forward with a decision this Spring.

Bachelor of Management

Thank you to all the SIM faculty and sessionals that support our teaching, and our Major in Managing Data and Information within the B Mgmt program. We are opening more of our classes to these students, and have now taken responsibility for the Capstone class.

Full Proposal for a PhD in Information

S. Toze is working with our ADA Research D. Wranik to move both PhD proposals forward, with a goal of admitting students for September 2024.

Undergraduate Minor

As highlighted in the Undergraduate report, SIM now has two successful INFO courses open to undergraduates across Dalhousie. We look forward to continuing to develop a minor (18 credits)

Some Awards and Highlights since the Directors Report last May include:

- SIM is excited to be part of Transforming Climate Action: Addressing the Missing Ocean, a Dalhousie-led research program, which will receive \$154 million from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund grant program. Researchers from Dalhousie, Université du Québec à Rimouski, Université Laval and Memorial University of Newfoundland will unit as part of this innovative research program to investigate the ocean's role in climate change. This grant will activate a total investment of nearly \$400 million to support the research program. In addition to M. Smit who is Deputy Science Director, B. MacDonald, S. Toze, and P. Mongeon are part of Cluster 3.2.
- We are happy to celebrate with Charlie Hook (MI '23) who has been accepted to the PhD Program at the University of Leicester
- Congratulations to alumni and Faculty member Alison Brown who is one of the 2023 Dalhousie 'Open Thinkers'
- Congratulations also to Randolph White (MLIS '20) was chosen as one of CBC's 2023 Black Changemakers for Nova Scotia.
- Maddie Hare was chosen as 2022 Recipient of the Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund
- Mansi Nishit Trivedi was Awarded the 2022 Stephanie Downs Memorial Award
- Dr. Stacy Allison-Cassin's project Linked data tools and Indigenous terminologies was recognized with Dalhousie's 2022 Belong Research Fellowship. It is part of a larger Respectful Indigenous Terminologies Platform Project that aims to create a permanent and sustainable online platform that will be a dynamic, multilingual source for terminology and vocabulary sets that can be applied to Indigenous peoples, places, heritage, tradition, knowledge, and cultures. The Belong Fellowship project focuses on the assessment of existing linked data tools for viability for use in the larger project.
- SIM has received the following new Scholarships which can be awarded soon: Audrey Hiscock Scholarship; Marie DeYoung Bursary,
- SIM was able to support our first Promise Scholar this past year, with funds matched from INDSPIRE
- Please see FOM's [2022 Research in Review](#) for details of some of the key publications of SIM faculty.

Antiracism & Decolonization in Archives & Records Management Open Classrooms for 2022/2023

FALL 2022

- Wednesday, October 26 @ 11:30am CDST / 1:30pm ADST: "Race, Capital & Empire: Placing Hilary Jenkinson into History," a presentation by Riley Linebaugh (PhD), Research Associate, Leibniz Institute for European History.
- Wednesday, November 16 @ 11:30am CDST / 1:30pm ADST: "Displaced Archives, Repatriation & the Vienna Convention: Global South Perspectives," a panel with Dr. Ellen Namhila (Pro-Vice

Chancellor, University of Namibia), Dr. Nathan Mnjama (Professor, Department of Library & Information Studies, University of Botswana), and Dr. James Lowry (Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Library & Information Studies, Queen's College, CUNY).

- Wednesday, December 7 @ 11:30am CDST / 1:30pm ADST: "Multiple Provenance, Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Archival Protocols," a conversation with Dr. Vanessa (Assistant Professor of Sociology and Indigenous Studies, McMaster University) and Krystal Payne (University of Winnipeg, Kishaadigeh Collaborative Research Centre). Co-hosted with Dr. Amber Dean, Professor of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University.

WINTER 2023

- Wednesday March 15 @ 1pm ADST (Halifax, NS) / 11am CDST (Winnipeg, MB): "Community connections: plural provenance theory & the role of archives and records in Indigenous community-led research," a lecture by Jesse Boiteau, Head of Archives, National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation. Co-hosted with Dr. Greg Bak, Associate Professor, Archival Studies M.A. Program, History Dept., University of Manitoba.
- Wednesday March 22 @ 1pm ADST (Halifax, NS) / 11am CDST (Winnipeg, MB): "When there is no archives: decolonial archiving and oral records in Mau Mau history," a lecture with Rose Miyonga, PhD Candidate, University of Warwick. Co-hosted with Cameron Welsh, student in the Master of Archival Studies program, School of Information, University of British Columbia.
- Wednesday March 29 @ 1pm ADST (Halifax, NS) / 11am CDST (Winnipeg, MB): "Digitality, crowdsourcing and the photographic record: archival losses and alternatives in Kenya in the shadow of repatriation," a roundtable with Chao Tayiana (co-founder of Digital Heritage, Museum of British Colonialism and Open Restitution Africa); Maureen Mumbua (Digitisation Coordinator, Book Bunk) and Max Pinckers (Artist and Guest Lecturer, School of Arts KASK & Conservatorium) in conversation with Rose Miyonga (PhD Candidate, History Dept., University of Warwick).

Quantitative Science Studies (QSS) Lab Lectures

Organized by Dr. Philippe Mongeon

- Scientometric perspectives on the analysis of academic mobility: a reflection on current and potential developments (R. Costas)
- Conversations using Science on Reddit and StackExchange: Going beyond counts (T. Bowman)
- Topic Models with Meaningful Topics (D. Rosati)
- Mapping the Health Science Librarianship Research Field in 2012 – 2022 (V. Li)
- Investigating interference in the environmental sciences and studies in Canada (MJ Robertson)
- Who re-uses data? A bibliometric analysis of data citations and the relationship (G. Krause)
- A bibliometric analysis of Diamond Open Access journals and their coverage in Web of Science, Scopus, and OpenAlex (M. Simard)

SIM Strategic Goals

In this report I am providing a final Reflection on our SIM Strategic Goals. Moving forward we will shift to align more directly with the FOM Strategic Priorities moving forward.

1. Grow Programs and Advance Information Management

1.1 Achieve Enrolment Targets in All programs

- While enrollment in our MI was done slightly this year, we are anticipating a strong cohort for next year.

- MIM numbers remain under expectations. As noted a decision will be made regarding next steps this spring.
- SIM continues to exceed its target of having of 3-4 Interdisciplinary PhD students supervised through SIM Faculty.
- We are excited by the BMgmt students enrolling in our Major and Certificate.
- Over 200 students taught this past year in our two INFO undergraduate courses.

1.2 Explore Options for new IM credit offerings

- SIM is working to develop a university-wide Minor in Digital Citizenship at the undergraduate level.

1.3 Create and Deliver Non-Credit Revenue Generating Programs

- Given the shift to online teaching, SIM is working with others in FOM to investigate options to offer modules from courses for professional development, and to consider how we can bridge non-traditional students into our degree
- SIM along with FoM is exploring options for Micro-credentialing.

1.4 Advance Information Management Education

- SIM is moving forward our full proposal for a PhD Program in Information
- SIM working with FOM is exploring how we can use our online course material to offer professional development courses and/or certificates
- SIM as noted, has had good uptake to our Major and Certificate in the Bachelor of Management Program.
- SIM has co-responsibility for two objectives in Pillar One (Teaching and Learning) in the Dalhousie Digital Strategy – work in this is continuing.

1.5 Increase Scholarship Funding

- SIM awarded it's first Promise Scholar
- SIM is working with the Advancement team to increase our scholarship funding
 - Significant gift related to SIM 50, campaign is being finalized to raise more funds
- New Gary Gibson Excellence in Librarianship Prize will be launched soon.
- Marie DeYoung Bursary is now available
- Audrey Hiscock Scholarship for incoming students from NFLD.

2. Strengthen Research Impact

2.1 Increase Research Capacity

- Increase in numbers of SIM Faculty supervising PhD students
- Increased numbers of MI students choosing the Thesis option
- Recent MI graduates applying to the IDPhD program at Dal, and PhD programs elsewhere – two MI graduates have been accepted to PhD programs so far.
- Increase in Post Doc's and visiting Graduate students

2.2 Increase Scholarly Output and Impact

- As highlighted in the FOM Research report - SIM Faculty are continuing to publish their research across a broad range of scholarly journals to ensure our research is broadly disseminated
- SIM Faculty continue to work with a range of information and data management associations

- There has been an increase in the number of MI students choosing the Thesis Option, and who presented their work-in-progress at our SIM Research Day
- With this year SIM's Research Day we continued the trend of having a MIM student, as well as a SIM Alumni presentation, in addition to our MI students.

3. Engage with Community

3.1 Broaden Work Experience Opportunities for Students

- As per the Practicum report, SIM is working to expand opportunities for students
- We have been actively promoting our students' skills within Dalhousie, which has resulted in a number of new research assistantships

3.2 Increase our Community Engagement

- SIM continues to work with our library, archives, and museum communities locally and nationally
- SIM is working with ARMA to connect with regional branches
- SIM is working on a MITAC's grant with Literacy Nova Scotia

4. Increase Diversity and Inclusion

4.1 Increase the Diversity of Prospective Students

- First Promise Scholar
- SIMSA created an EDIA student position
- Will make our EDIAD content and commitments more visible in our Program materials.

4.2 Increase Diversity of Faculty and Staff

- EDI is embedded in all our hiring processes and is a hiring priority
- Two new Tenure track positions hired, who have EDIAD research and teaching foci

4.3 Embed Diversity and Inclusion Across the Curricula

- Update of all course content to better integrate EDIA
- SIM continues to work with Library and Information Programs across Canada to create competencies related to Traditional Knowledge
- Anti-racism and Diversity course – moving from a Special Topics to a permanent elective
- New Knowledge Justice course to run September 2023
- Anti-racism Lecture Series continued for the 2nd year