

# INFORM

School of Information Management

*July to December 2011*

*Volume 40 issue 2*



## FEATURE ARTICLES

- Shanna Balogh retires after 28 years at SIM
- Book Release: Barbara DeLory
- A Summer at Yahoo! Research, Barcelona
- Alumni News
- History of the Gnome

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



We were very pleased to welcome a very good number of new students to the MLIS and MIM programs. The new students in both programs are of excellent calibre and are already proving to be enthusiastic, energetic, and highly motivated. We are looking forward to welcoming even more MIM students in January 2012.

At the Fall 2011 Convocation, SIM welcomed the first recipients of the MIM degree since the launch of the program in 2008. Congratulations are due also to Jennifer Grek-Martin, Sarah Gilbert, and Laura Landon, who received their MLIS degree. In conjunction with the Centre

for Advanced Management Education (CFAME), SIM was part of an Open House designed to promote the MIM and other executive programs offered by the Faculty of Management. The Open House, a new initiative for the Faculty, was very successful and generated a lot of interest in SIM and its programs.

It's a particularly busy planning time for SIM, since we are engaged in a strategic planning initiative for 2011-2013 to take into account the changing nature of the School, since we are now involved in two graduate programs and the Bachelor of Management program. In addition, SIM is preparing for the 2012 American Library Association accreditation review process for the MLIS program; the site visit will occur in October 2012.

There have been a number of research initiatives at SIM. Of note, the 2011 [Information & Social Networks Symposium](#), hosted by Dalhousie's Social Media Lab, and organized by Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd, was held on November 4, 2011. The theme was *Online Communities and Social Media: How companies and organizations can use social media to build communities of loyal clients and supporters*. Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd and Dr. Louise Spiteri were among the presenters at the Symposium. Dr. Fiona Black has been awarded an Insight Development Grant (IDG) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project, *Developing transnational approaches in print culture: New questions and methods*, involves an

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

international team led by Dr. Black, including Dr. Sydney Shep at Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) and Dr. David Finkelstein at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh (Scotland).

We have been fortunate to honour a number of individuals at SIM this past term. Many warm thanks are due to the SIM Associated Alumni for hosting their Awards reception in September. Special congratulations to the 2011 Alumna of the Year, Margaret Murphy, the Nova Scotia Legislative Librarian. The Excellence of SIM's faculty was acknowledged in this year's Faculty of Management Retreat; more details can be found in this newsletter. Of special note is Sandra Toze's receipt of a 2011 Faculty of Management Teaching Award; this is the second time that Sandra has won this award. SIM is truly fortunate to have an educator of Sandra's quality.

On a final note, it is with mixed feelings that I announce that Shanna Balogh, who has been with Dalhousie for 28 years, and has been the backbone of SIM for so very long, will be retiring at the end of December, 2011. Shanna's contributions to the School have been legion: I cannot imagine what the School will be like without her commitment, dedication, font of knowledge, and wry sense of humour and fun. We are going to miss you Shanna, and wish you well on what I'm sure will be a very active retirement.

Louise Spiteri  
*Director of SIM*

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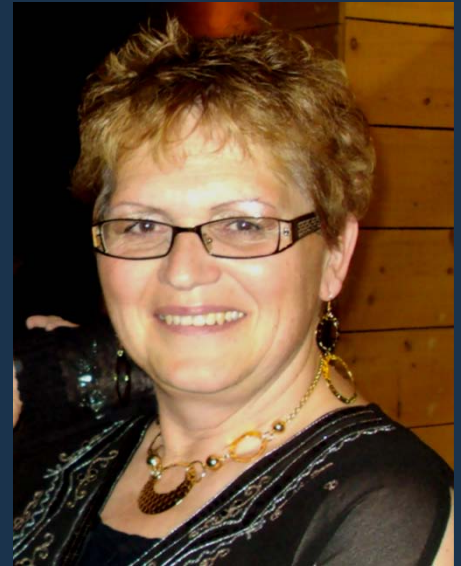
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# THE END OF AN ERA: HAPPY RETIREMENT, SHANNA!

It is with warm wishes, congratulations, and a touch of envy that we send Shanna on her way. As she worked through her list of "lasts" (last time editing *Inform*, last time walking to payroll, last SIM Planning Group meeting) she was heard gleefully exclaiming, "Fifteen more working days! Twelve more working days! *Three* more working days!"

We asked past and present colleagues to share their thoughts and memories of working with Shanna - as you can see below she is held in very high esteem and will be missed!



## LOUISE SPITERI (DIRECTOR, 2010-PRESENT)



It is with mixed feelings that I announce that Shanna Balogh, the Schools' Administrative Assistant, will be retiring on December 31, 2011. Shanna has been at Dalhousie University for 28 years; for most of that time she has worked in the School of Information Management. It is safe to say that Shanna is the bedrock of the School; we've seen a number of School directors during Shanna's tenure, but she's been the constant element that has been so critical in providing administrative support to the School. What Shanna doesn't know about the School is probably not worth knowing. We will miss Shanna's knowledge, her advice, expertise, and witty and kind humour. I am grateful to Shanna for all the assistance and counsel she has provided to me over the years, and particularly in my capacity of Director. We at SIM are also happy for Shanna and wish her well in her active retirement plans; knowing Shanna, I very much doubt she will have a dull moment.

## FIONA BLACK (DIRECTOR, 2003-2010)



When I entered the Director's office in January 2003, I had been at Dalhousie for a mere 18 months and was not tenured. I could have fallen flat on my face and ended up not only making a mess of things for the School, but also losing my job. This scenario, whilst relatively unusual for faculty in administrative roles, was taken completely in stride by Shanna who calmly and with much kindness taught me many of the institutional practices and functions I needed to know. Shanna's office at the



time (in "SLIS" on the 3rd floor of the Killam Library) had no windows. In spite of no daylight, hers was the cheeriest office in the entire building. She had covered (and I mean COVERED) the walls with pictures from wall calendars of places around the world—just one indication of her passion for travel and interest in languages. She had also hand painted some bright floor cloths to camouflage the dreary brown linoleum. Thus, one stepped into Shanna's office (to ask for some worrying budget update) and immediately walked into cheerfulness and calm. This is not to imply that Shanna could not trenchantly call a spade a steam shovel when it was required, and her pithy comments often had me laughing out loud. Shanna's gift with words shone particularly brightly when she wrote a hilarious poem in honour of Bertrum when we were celebrating his seven years as Director. The sixty people in the University Club's formal dining room were almost on the floor with hilarity by the time she got to the end. Laughter, as Victor Borge memorably stated, is the shortest distance between two people--I was privileged to have Shanna as a close colleague and to have working days that were sprinkled with mirth. Humour is a saving grace.



## LINDA DEHMEL (SECRETARY, 1998-2009)

Shanna and Bertrum hired me. Shanna said that I had to stay for at least two years; well I stayed for 12 years. Shanna was a great supervisor, always in good humour, no matter what. I am sure she will be missed by all. She has spent many years there and can tell you about many experiences that were funny and sad.

*Pictured left:*

Shanna & Linda at Linda's retirement

## BERTRUM MACDONALD (DIRECTOR, 1995-2002)



What about Shanna will I miss as she leaves to pursue an early retirement career? Well, lots, actually. When I became the Director of the School, I quickly gained an appreciation of her straightforward style. If something could not be done, the answer was no, and that was it. No beating around the bush. On the other hand, if a way could be found to achieve a goal, especially when the "rules" seemed to throw up a hurdle, Shanna would discover that crack in the rules and push forward. Universities, like most complex organizations, invent, reinvent, and/or reinterpret operational rules at a speed seemingly beyond the capacity of any one person to understand or imagine! Shanna's skill at navigating this maze was important for effective management of the School, particularly when financial constraints required creative

allocation of resources. For that skill alone, I was grateful. Her interest in the well-being of the School underpinned all of her work, and for that commitment we can be thankful. Shanna's sense of humour often carried the day even when very serious issues would confront us. Rounding out these capabilities, she leaves the School having established many friendships with faculty, staff, and hundreds of students. Best wishes for your new career Shanna.

## MARY DYKSTRA LYNCH (DIRECTOR, 1986-1994)

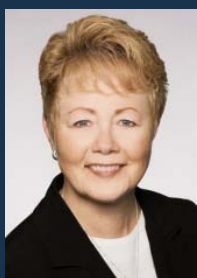


Shanna came to work at the School while Norman Horrocks was Director, and I recall many of the feats and wonders she performed during those years, including getting Canada Post to rescue Norman's *Visa* card from the corner mailbox where he had dropped it in the slot instead of a letter!

When I became Director in 1986, Shanna was promoted to the job of Administrative Assistant, which put her in charge of the secretarial staff and a host of other duties too numerous and varied to mention. We reconfigured the offices in the School (then in the Killam Library) at that time, so that Shanna could have an office of her own, along with the faculty. She was a whiz at numbers, an incredibly useful skill during those eight years of budget cuts so deep that "zero growth" was considered a plus. She could juggle class schedules, streamline registration procedures, sort out the files so things could actually be found, handle admissions forms and correspondence, organize speakers and receptions, and generally keep faculty on track with as much efficiency and tact and skill as she could put up bookshelves (easier to have our own hammer and screwdriver than wait for the maintenance crew) and fix the photocopier. In a word, Shanna was indispensable.

I owe Shanna a huge debt of gratitude for the often crucial role she played during those years, and wish her the very best in her retirement. Thank you, Shanna!

## SHANNON KELLY (NSGEU LOCAL 77 SECRETARY)



As a Local Steward, and a Local Representative for Job Evaluation Appeal, Shanna has performed volunteer services for the NSGEU for more than a decade. Her service to her fellow NSGEU local members has been unwavering.

Shanna has displayed her positive attitude with everyone while pulling together with fellow members to make the university a better place in which to work. When wearing her various hats (steward, contract support

committee, or job evaluation appeal representative) Shanna has always made a special effort to address issues of fairness. When addressing a job evaluation appeal, no member could have a better fighter in their corner. She is the proverbial 'pit bull' when trying to garner additional points.

Shanna is diligent in making sure that the responsibilities under her control are addressed. She has been vigilant in watching for potentially challenging situations, and in reporting them to the local representatives, putting everyone on guard to prevent contract violations.

If attitude makes the difference between getting tasks done and making them fun, Shanna is an example of great attitude. She inspires those around her with her dedication and caring.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

So, Shanna, all the best as you begin your retirement. We hope you'll be in touch from time to time; we expect to hear about your adventures so we can live vicariously through your travels. Happy hiking, reading, sleeping in, and whatever else retirement entails!





# FALL CONVOCATION 2011



L-R: Fiona Black, Sarah Horrocks, Louise Spiteri, William Bembridge, Charles Bloom, Sandra Toze, Bertrum MacDonald

This Fall marked another SIM first - our first Master in Information Management students walked across the stage to receive their degrees and become our first graduates. Launching a new degree is always a major initiative, but this degree was also the first of its kind in Canada. We wanted to highlight this occasion by giving space to a couple of our graduates, to allow them to reflect on their experiences.



**CHARLES BLOOM:** I first heard of the Master of Information Management (MIM) program via the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) Government of Canada (GC) Information Management (IM) [listserv](#), an email distribution list with thousands of subscribers across the GC. I remember reading the message describing the MIM and thinking to myself “this is exactly the kind of program I have been looking for!”

When I read the MIM overview my takeaway was that the program sought to combine elements from IM, such as information retention policies for electronic information, and the evolving technology of IT (e.g., Social Media) in an effort to bridge the gaps that exist between these areas and improve upon their operation and integration in public and private sector organizations. My experiences throughout the nine courses confirmed this impression and proved to be invaluable in learning skills, methods, and working with new technologies that provide greater opportunities for integrating corporate and legislative policies with internal and external stakeholder systems.

One course that stood out for me was Research Methods (MGMT5007). What I learned in that class was that despite my belief that I was already an incredible researcher who knew how to navigate search engines and websites alike, I was really only gathering information. MGMT 5007 gave me the fundamental skills needed to prepare a research plan, seek appropriate approvals, and of course conduct a wide array of research activities from literature reviews to in-person subject matter expert interviews. These skills proved invaluable when completing my capstone research project, allowing me to prepare a substantial report that I hope to expand on and eventually publish to a peer-reviewed Information Systems journal.

Overall, my experience with the MIM has provided me with the background I sought to help harmonize IM and IT policies, procedures, guidelines, and business practices. I truly believe that with the pressure of contracting economies around the world and a voracious appetite for data there will continue to be a critical need to seek new ideas for how to store, organize, retrieve, and destroy information, particularly that in digital form, for many years to come. I’m now well equipped to provide that assistance in Canada and anywhere around the world.



**SARAH HORROCKS:** I began the MIM program with the first cohort in the fall of 2008. I honestly didn't know what to expect, especially after being away from an academic schedule for a long period. What followed were three intense years of online study broken up by several enjoyable face-to-face intensive sessions with a group of students who moved from being classmates to colleagues, collaborators, and true friends.

The MIM program requires intelligence, attention to detail and personal organizational skills. This program is designed for mid-career professionals, so it is expected that you will have career obligations and likely family obligations as well. Flexibility is key, and the variety of

course delivery methods often helps students tailor the program to their individual availability. Throughout my three years in the program I read articles and wrote assignments everywhere from the football field to the rink, at the beach and even during a bagpipe lesson!

The skills I learned from the MIM program were immediately applicable to my work environment. I was able to undertake several projects outside the scope of my regular workload to the benefit of my employers.

I am a very proud graduate of the MIM program and of Dalhousie and look forward to furthering my career as an Information Management professional.

*Please see the [MIM website](#) or contact us if you are interested in hearing more about our MIM degree. We are currently accepting applications the 2012/2013 academic year.*

*Submitted by*  
Sandra Toze  
MIM Marketing Manager





# FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AWARDS

The annual Faculty of Management (FoM) retreat was held on November 10, 2011. The retreat included an award ceremony, where outstanding contributions by faculty and staff were celebrated. This year SIM was well represented with five award recipients; in fact, it's safe to say that SIM owned the awards podium.



Administrative Professional of the Year:  
JoAnn Watson



Academic Leadership in the Faculty of  
Management: Vivian Howard



Exceptional Interdisciplinary Endeavour in  
Scholarly Research: Bertrum MacDonald



Faculty of Management Teaching Award:  
Sandra Toze



# FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AWARDS



Rookie of the Year: Anatoliy Gruzd

SIM is indeed lucky to have such dedicated professionals, who are very worthy of recognition.

Photo credit to Tim Richard ([tim.richard@dal.ca](mailto:tim.richard@dal.ca))

# BOOK RELEASE: BARBARA DELORY



Having been interested in public art for many years, upon retirement I began to concentrate on what is now the book, *Three Centuries of Public Art: Historic Halifax Regional Municipality*. Despite doubts, observing many pieces of sculpture and memorials along with library and archival information gave me a start on something. But yet it was not quite a book. Then I looked at each piece critically, trying to value it in my own eyes so I could write about each piece fairly. Some pieces were more moving than others, like the Cross of Sacrifice ascending to the sky, the Mother's loss in Grand Parade cenotaph, or the chain of the Anchor set to immerse in sea water at high tide. Some pieces still cause me to worry, for instance, two of the

Goddesses in the Public Gardens whose hands have dropped off due to old age. Other pieces urge us to revisit our Halifax's history, politics, literature, or become aware of our new Canadians and their contribution.

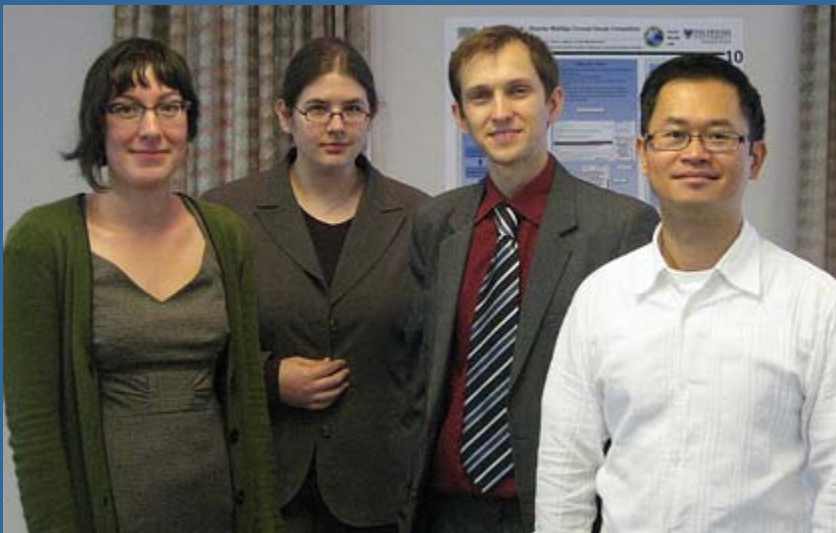
Putting this information together with illustrated maps, photographs, and advice from many subject authorities this start evolved into a book form. Along the way, a busy publisher was added, who strongly suggested the broadening of the project. Broadening? More work ensued. Finally in 2011 *Three Centuries of Public Art: Historic Halifax Regional Municipality* came into fruition. I tell those who enquire, "If you listen each piece of public art will speak to you as they have to me."

Submitted by  
Barbara DeLory (1985)

# ELSEVIER WEBAPP COMPETITION

## SocialMediaLab.ca

On October 18th, the Social Media Lab at the Dalhousie School of Information Management hosted the first Elsevier WebApp Concept Design Competition. Dalhousie students were challenged to develop and present an original idea for a web application for Elsevier's new SciVerse search and discovery platform, designed to help more than 15 million researchers, medical professionals, librarians and students to navigate scientific content, improve scientific search and discovery, visualize sophisticated data in more insightful and attractive ways, and stimulate collaboration.



Jennifer Yurchak, Melissa Anez, Anatoliy Gruzdt & Philip Mai

The event was organized by Dr. Anatoliy Gruzdt, Dalhousie Social Media Lab, Vishal Gupta, Director Developer Network, Elsevier, Inc., Philip Mai, Dalhousie Social Media Lab Research Manager, and MLIS students Melissa Anez and Jennifer Yurchak. Elsevier offered \$3000 in prizes and further support for development of the winning entries.

Over 50 students from four different programs submitted entries on themes ranging from the integration of social media in academic research, presenting information through geography, creating bibliographies, and visualizing search results in novel ways. The winners were announced on November 1st:

First Place: BlobCube by Raheleh Makki, Ozge Yeloglu, and Axel Soto from the Faculty of Computer Science.

# ELSEVIER WEBAPP COMPETITION



Second Place: Snippets by Laura Dukowski, Terry LeBlanc, and Craig MacEachern from the School of Information Management

Third Place: MiSTeRy Visualizer by Farhan Jamal Khan and Ishan Patel from the Faculty of Computer Science

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Craig, Laura & Terry

Development is underway for these winning entries, and plans are in place to develop other entries into full-fledged SciVerse Apps. For more information, and to view posters and detailed descriptions of contest entries, please visit [SocialMediaLab.ca](http://SocialMediaLab.ca).

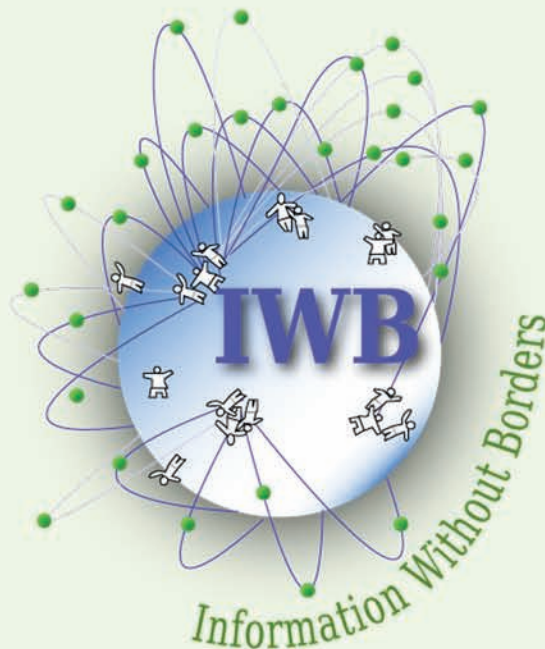
Submitted by  
Melissa Anez (MLIS 2012)



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[www.iwbconference.ca](http://www.iwbconference.ca)

# 211 NOVA SCOTIA

## Tracy Daley speaks about her job at 211 Nova Scotia

In October, I accepted a position as Research Intern with 211 Information & Referral Services Association (211 Nova Scotia). My role is to assist with collection of information from service providers in government departments, agencies, and non-profit organizations from across the province. We are using this information to build a database of services that will be publically accessible on the web. This database will also serve as the primary source of information for Information and Referral (I & R) Specialists. These individuals are specifically trained to assist people that call 211 Nova Scotia and request help finding services. I & R Specialists will assess the needs of the caller, consult the database, and supply information on available options. Just a few examples of human services that callers might be referred to are food banks, income assistance, self-help groups, and job training programs. The 2-1-1 service will be freely available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at an easy-to-remember phone number: 2-1-1.

Every hour of every day, someone in Nova Scotia needs help finding human services for themselves or for a friend or family member. Many people struggle with finding services that can help them because the current information sources can be difficult to navigate. When people do not know where to turn for help, they sometimes become frustrated and give up. I strongly believe that the 211 service will help Nova Scotians access needed services and I am proud to be involved in the start-up process.

If you would like to discuss the service and/or you are aware of information that you think would be relevant for the database, please contact me at [tdaley@211ns.ca](mailto:tdaley@211ns.ca).

*Submitted by*

Tracy Daley, BSc, MLIS (2011)

# SIM AA FALL UPDATE

## MARGARET MURPHY WINS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

The Dalhousie School of Information Management (SIM) Associated Alumni (AA) was delighted to present Margaret Murphy (MLIS '76) with the 2011 Outstanding Alumni Award on September 22 at SIM. The reception was attended by well over 50 people. It was a great opportunity for Alumni to reunite and celebrate Ms. Murphy's career.

During her 26 years as the Nova Scotia Legislative Librarian, Ms. Murphy has revolutionized the Legislative Library, ushering in automation, digitization, preservation and greater access to the public. She has been recognized by the Nova Scotia Legislature more than once for her many efforts. Prior to her long tenure at the Nova Scotia Legislative Library, Ms. Murphy worked for six years as Librarian at the Nova Scotia Department of Attorney General (now the Department of Justice), as well as a stint as the Head of Cataloguing at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Law Library.



"I am surprised and very honoured to be nominated this year for the Outstanding Alumni Award," said Ms. Murphy. "To have my career assessed so generously by the people who nominated me and by the School of Information Management Associated Alumni is extremely gratifying and something that will always mean a lot to me. To be included in the ranks of those people who have received this Award in other years is also very humbling."

# SIM ASSOCIATED ALUMNI

## WE'RE MAKING CHANGES!

The SIM AA Executive has been planning some major changes to the association's website, to concur with web upgrades at Dalhousie University. When these changes are completed, the website will be much more interactive. The goal is for all alumni to feel much more involved with the association. Stay tuned!

## APLA POSTER SESSION

Lara Killian, the AA's Program Convenor, is sending out calls for participation in the APLA 2012 poster session. Students and faculty, as well as alumni, are encouraged to participate. The theme at APLA 2012 (to be held May 22-25 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia), is "Hidden Treasures." For more information, please contact Lara at [lara.killian@dal.ca](mailto:lara.killian@dal.ca).

*Submitted by*  
David Ryan  
Chair, SIM AA



# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

## University Librarian retires

After two terms as University Librarian, Bill Maes has decided to retire from his post. Bill was appointed in 1998 to lead our libraries into the digital future and the changes he introduced over the years have been truly transformative. From an era where complaints about cutbacks in our journal collections sadly were an annual ritual, Bill helped take us in recent years to a place almost unimaginable at the time of his appointment. Online collections, desktop delivery, national library consortia, the Learning Commons, new library systems and a new vision of the role of the University Library in academic life are just some of the legacies of Bill Maes' vision and leadership. These qualities also propelled him into national leadership positions within the broader Canadian library community.

Ever alive to the possibilities of new technology in academic life, Bill vigorously pressed the Dalhousie community to take advantage of new approaches that once seemed speculative and that today we take for granted. Bill never was content to think about the library's role simply within the confines of the Killam, Kellogg and Sexton library buildings. Literally, he took the library into the offices and homes of Dalhousie students, faculty and staff and opened our collections to the broader community across the province. As Bill looks back, he can rest secure in the knowledge that he truly has made a difference to Dalhousie University.

*Used with permission. Originally posted to Dal Notice by President Tom Traves (January 14, 2011).*

# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

## Dal welcomes new University Librarian



The Dalhousie Libraries are pleased to welcome Donna Bourne-Tyson as our new University Librarian, effective November 1, 2011. Donna comes to Dal from Mount Saint Vincent University, where she was University Librarian since 2005.

Donna has led successful initiatives in the areas of open access, institutional data preservation, learning communities, user-driven e-book acquisitions, the re-imagining of library spaces, and information literacy. She

has been recognized for creating a collaborative, inclusive work environment and a culture of service innovation.

Donna has served in leadership roles with professional associations, including terms as president of three provincial or divisional library associations. She has presented frequently at various national and regional events and conferences. Donna is a founding member of Libraries Nova Scotia, a partnership of all public and academic libraries in the province. She is an alumna of Dalhousie's Master of Library and Information Studies program. [View Donna's profile.](#)

Welcome to Dal, Donna—we're look forward to working with you!

Originally posted to [The LibVine blog](#) on November 1, 2011.

*Submitted by*  
Tina Usmiani  
Killam Library



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# DONOR LIST

The learning experience for MLIS students continues to be enriched by the generosity of many alumni and friends. Funds designated for scholarships, prizes and bursaries are of great importance for incoming and graduating students. The Annual Fund monies for the MLIS program provide funding for student assistantships and for conference travel for selected students. Computing hardware and software, specific to the needs of our students, is also supported by these funds. All of these are critical aspects of our students' experiences in the program and in the life of the School.

Each donation is very much appreciated. SIM also wishes to acknowledge those gifts received from alumni and friends who wish to remain anonymous.

The following donors contributed between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.

## Alan MacDonald Memorial Award

Calgary Learning Centre  
Charles Cameron  
Hazel Fry  
Peter Glenister & Gloria Hardy  
Susan M Kerslake  
Tom Rosenal  
Apollonia Steele

## Barbara A M Patton Graduate Scholarship

Catherine A Quinlan

## Clement Harrison Memorial Award

Mary Burey  
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Ann MacGregor-Strum  
Nancy MacKenzie  
Ruthmary G MacPherson  
Jill C. Mahony-Plummer  
Lynda Marsh  
Arlene Merves  
Claire E Morash  
Muriel Morton  
Cyndi Murphy  
Mary Norton  
Trina O'Brien Leggott  
Jane E Palin (King)  
Michelle Paon  
Amanda Peters  
Susan P. Pickett  
Timothy Prince  
Private Giving Foundation  
Productions E A C  
Marilyn Read-Stark, MLS 1972  
Judith Reade  
Soo Reid  
Peter Resch  
Tim Ruggles  
Leanne S Sachs  
Andrew Savege  
Janet Seally  
Joan A Simpson

# DONOR LIST

## Information Management cont'd

Margaret J Singleton  
Charlotte Snyder  
Mary Y Snyder  
Annie St. Jacques  
Patricia Stevenson  
J Elizabeth Sutherland  
Jennifer Svarckopf  
Barbara Teatero  
Ms Mary-Isabel Terry  
Barbara Thibodeau

## Information Management cont'd

G Vaisey  
Mary Virtue  
Ian M Wallace  
Lawrence D Wardroper  
J Guy Weerasinghe  
Joan M Wheeler  
Phyllis B Wood  
R Glenn Wooden  
Diane Woollard

## Stephanie Downs Memorial Award

Megan & Yusuke Fitzgibbons  
Heather O'Brien



# ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICER



On September 1, 2011 Marianne Hagen assumed a new role for the Faculty of Management as the Alumni Relations Officer. The primary goal of the position is to foster a culture of mutual benefit among alumni, students, and the Faculty of Management.

Previously Marianne has been pivotal to the success in the MBA programs since 2002, and has played an integral role in launching the new Corporate Residency MBA program.

According to Marianne, "Encouraging alumni to engage with the faculty and with their colleagues helps us on many fronts; placement opportunities for our students, time given to the faculty as in class speakers or student mentors; connections and insight into key sectors of the economy; talent and advice for our centres and programs; and potential financial support".

Marianne hopes that everyone will stay in touch and wants you to know that she is not looking for money, but mostly to stay connected with the University for current and future events you may be interested in. You can contact her by email at [Marianne.Hagen@dal.ca](mailto:Marianne.Hagen@dal.ca).

# FACULTY UPDATES

## Fiona Black

It has been terrific to return to teaching following my year's busy yet refreshing sabbatical leave and I am immersed in Research Methods courses. In the fall term I taught that subject to our mid-career managers in the MIM program. It has been fascinating to witness again how these students develop their research proposals in line with their organization's needs. The structure of the MIM program means that the proposals developed in this course will be put into action during the students' Capstone course. The MIM students have taught me a great deal about managing information in, for example, health policy, fisheries research, and tactical (military) situational awareness.

My research life has had two principal threads since July - the interdisciplinary Marine Piracy project, and my current SSHRC-funded project relating to Transnational Print Culture in the 19th century. My very gifted research assistants in these projects have taken leading roles in moving both projects forward, and one of them co-authored a paper with me that we presented at a [workshop of literary scholars](#) in Toronto.

The old adage that one never knows what is around the next corner was certainly true for me this fall, as I was seconded to work on a variety of university-wide projects for the Vice-President Academic and Provost. This is a delightful opportunity and I continue to learn new things each day.

This fall, several MLIS students explored various library, archival and museum options in Edinburgh for spring 2012. As ever, we remain so grateful to alumnus Jamie Mitchell for his support of students wishing to work for a short while at the [National Library of Scotland](#).

## Anatoliy Gruzd

This fall, together with *Philip Mai*, *Melissa Goertzen* and *Kathleen Staves* at the Social Media Lab, I organized the Second Annual Symposium on Information and Social Networks at Dalhousie University. The theme for this year's symposium was *Online Communities and Social Media: How companies and organizations can use social media to build communities of loyal clients and supporters*. The event was



very much in demand, attracting attendees from various units on campus as well as other institutions and organizations such as NSCC, ACOA, University of New Brunswick, Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations and companies such as Radia6, commandN.tv, and Satlantic.

The event had 2 distinct sessions. The first session was about Social Media Research in Academia and featured three speakers from academia. The Second session was about Social Media Use in Business, Academia and Non-profits, and featured 4 speakers from local businesses and organizations. In between the two sessions, we had a key note address by Dr. Caroline Haythornthwaite, Director and Professor, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia, whose presentation was on *Peer Production: Networks, Crowds and Communities organizing*.

Through this event, we raised awareness of the many original research initiatives being conducted at Dalhousie University and at other organizations. Our students and the wider Halifax community had an opportunity to learn more about different practical insights on the use of social media. Based on the comments of the attendees and presenters, the event was a smashing success and everyone is already looking forward to next year event.

## Vivian Howard

On July 1, I began my new role as Associate Dean Academic for the Faculty of Management. Over the past six months, I've worked on a variety of different projects, but the one that has taken priority is the issue of rapidly increasing enrolments of international students, particularly in our undergraduate programs. The Faculty of Management currently has the largest increase in international student enrolments at Dalhousie, and we want to respond to this change by providing support to both students and faculty. In the fall term, I worked with Dalhousie's Centre for Learning and Teaching to organize a series of teaching workshops. The underlying theme of these workshops was to explore strategies that improve teaching effectiveness overall, because techniques that assist international students actually



assist all students. We also held a welcome orientation session for new international students early in the fall term, which included a short survey asking students if they wanted us to organize follow-up workshops for them, too. The response was very positive, so I have planned a series of three lunch and learn workshops for international students in the winter term focusing on topics identified by students as high interest: academic writing, job hunting strategies and study skills. We will also hold a pizza social event for international students to celebrate the end of the winter term. Overall, I hope that some of these initiatives help international students transition to Canadian academic culture and create a positive learning environment for students, faculty and staff.

## Keith Lawson

Student connections to information flows: Finding and having access to current high-quality information is crucial for managers, but are management students establishing connections to the streams of information that are available to them now and will be valuable to them in the future?

I am trying to find out from my upper-level Bachelor of Management students if they have made connections to information channels or experts that could keep them up-to-date with information relevant to their main areas of interest. Have they learned or developed strategies to keep in touch with relevant news and ideas? Have they used social networking technologies, for example Twitter, to follow ideas or experts? Have they learned or are they learning to use these tools for intellectual and professional purposes as well as social and personal ones? Students, like the rest of us, are dealing with unprecedented floods of information, and they are trying to manage their connections to sources useful for their goals and interests. Can we help them do better, or can we learn from their strategies?

## Bertrum MacDonald

Working with the first cohort of students in the Master of Information Management (MIM) in their capstone course during the summer term was a privilege. These students completed unique research projects related to their place of employment and were the first in Canada to graduate with the MIM in October. Participating as a member of the executive and presenting the paper, "The Reach of Scientific

Networks: The Smithsonian Institution and Diffusion of Scientific Information in Nineteenth Century Canada,” at the annual, international conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC in July rounded out summer activities. In September, Suzuette Soomai (Interdisciplinary PhD student), Peter Wells, and I presented the paper “Measuring Awareness, Use, and Influence of Marine Environmental Information: Results of Two Case Studies from Coastal Nova Scotia and the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy” at the Bay of Fundy Science Workshop in Saint John, New Brunswick. The Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) research team (consisting of faculty and recent MLIS graduates) also presented the poster “Awareness, Use, and Influence of Coastal and Marine Environmental Information: Case Studies of Governmental and Intergovernmental Organizations” at the same meeting (details at [www.eiui.ca](http://www.eiui.ca)). As President of the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association, I chaired the Association’s exciting biennial conference in Ottawa, hosted by the Canada Science and Technology Museum. At this conference, I presented the paper, “‘For the Increase and Diffusion of Knowledge’: Distribution of Scientific Information in Nineteenth Century Canada by the Smithsonian Institution” (details at [www.cstha-ahstc.ca](http://www.cstha-ahstc.ca)). While in Ottawa I had the pleasure of meeting MLIS graduates individually and a gathering organized by Kimberley Senf (MLIS, 2011), and met with senior government officials and prospective students regarding the MIM program. During the fall, as I began a term as President of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society four very interesting monthly lectures were given (details at [www.rnshs.ca](http://www.rnshs.ca)). Upon being appointed by the provincial government, in the fall I also began a term as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

## Paul McKenna

During the last few months I’ve been working to advance the preparation of a Special Issue of *Canadian Public Administration*, the official journal for the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. As co-editor of this issue, I am coordinating several submissions from across the country from a range of academics and practitioners interested in policing, public safety and security. We expect this Special Issue to appear in September 2012. I’m pleased to have collaborated with Rick Hanson, Chief of Police, Calgary Police Service on an article appearing in the December 2011 issue of; *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*. This article entitled: “Respectful leadership: the emergence of upward nobility as a way of life in policing” (Vol. 5,

Issue 4, pp. 287-299).

This article seeks to summarize a major career and leadership development undertaken within that organization. I continue to update my blog which deals with topics of interest to my policing and public safety practice.

Also, I'm excited to have the opportunity to teach INFO 6610 (Information Policy) at SIM in the Winter Term 2012 and look forward to delivering this course to MLIS students. Finally, on the personal front, I'm delighted to share the news that I'm now a grandfather to young Franklin.

## Louise Spiteri

I spent much of my summer living out of a suitcase, as I attended five conferences in the span of under two months. In my travels, I was lucky enough to visit Fredericton, Toronto (twice), Saint John's, and London. I combined my London conference with a holiday, and spent some quality time with a cousin whom I had not seen in several years. I've been immersed in accreditation and strategic planning initiatives, which I have found to be both rewarding and challenging; I am lucky to have such collaborative colleagues at SIM and on our Advisory Board. In Winter 2012, I'll be teaching both MLIS and MIM students in our cross-listed Records Management course. This will be the first time that students from our two graduate programs will be together in one course and I am looking forward to the experience. I am enjoying working with a Faculty of Management research project that includes team members from the four schools; we are developing case studies pertaining to the allocation of public funds to concerts in Halifax. It's exciting to work with my fellow Faculty colleagues in this capacity, especially when I have the opportunity to show the relevance of information management to all aspects of the project. On a purely fun note, I've been having a great deal of fun using my new bread maker; I see many days in the gym in my future. I invite you to follow my academic musings on my blog.

## Sandra Toze

No matter how old I get, I am always excited by the Fall and the beginning of a new school year. This year was no exception, as we met the MLIS class of 2014 for the first time. As I taught INFO 5530, a core course, I came to know our new students

over the past months. The students, after finishing their Job Shadow assignment, were full of new ideas after seeing reference in action. Thanks to our partners in the professional community who make it possible to provide the students with this invaluable opportunity for experiential learning. In particular I would like to offer thanks to Doug Vaisey and his team at St. Mary's who hosted a significant number of SIM students.

In the Government Information class had some lively debates about access to information on complex issues such as the Alberta Oil Sands, and on the Occupy movement. We were excited to explore the many open data and open government initiatives launched recently. The relationship among government, information and citizens is being transformed, but we think they need lots of help from information professionals.

Along with Paul McKenna, I was happy to take on a role as advisor to Erin O'Halloran, SIM 2011, as she launches her Information consulting business, Cloud Scout. Erin Skyped in to a recent INFO 5530 class and gave an exciting talk on her experiences so far. We wish her continued success.

As Marketing Manager of our MIM degree, a highlight of the fall was the celebration of our first Master of Information Management (MIM) graduates. Their excitement and enthusiasm for the program over the past three years has been inspirational, and we look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments in the field.

On the research front, my data is all collected, and I am now well into the analysis and writing phase of my PhD, which brings a new set of rewards and challenges. I look forward to the completion of my work, but I am also excited about the possibilities for new research from my data. Examining, modeling and facilitating information flow in knowledge based groups is a research area that can keep me busy for quite some time.



# A SUMMER AT YAHOO! RESEARCH

## Yahoo! Research: Barcelona, Spain



**July 2011**

Madeleine Peet, Lori McCay-Peet & Dan Peet, Park Güell, Barcelona, Spain

When I began the Interdisciplinary PhD program at Dalhousie University in 2009 on the heels of my MLIS from SIM, I had no idea what opportunities it would open up both professionally and personally.

Most recently, I spent the summer at Yahoo! Research in Barcelona, Spain as an intern in the User Engagement Group led by Mounia Llamas. Using online surveys, we explored the impact of saliency of webpage content on a variety of self-report measures relating to user engagement and emotions. It was interesting and

challenging research for an information scientist in a computer science environment. While at first I felt like a fish out of water, the experience pushed me to understand and experiment with different approaches to research.

I also had the opportunity to meet researchers from around the world including Bangladesh, India, Australia, Italy and Germany. However, one of the first interns I met at Yahoo! was a fellow Dalhousie University PhD student. He assured me it was impossible to feel homesick in Barcelona because there was too much to see and do. He turned out to be right, though this was mostly because my family spent a good part of the summer in Barcelona with me. Our daughter was thrilled with Gaudi's Park Güell and the endless number of gelato shops. We all enjoyed the late evening meals and strolls through our favourite parts of this amazing city.

My experience in Barcelona, through the work, the people, and the city itself, has made a lasting impression on me. I am looking forward to the next adventures my PhD will bring.

*Submitted by*  
Lori McCay-Peet (2008)

# DJIM: Vol 7, No 2

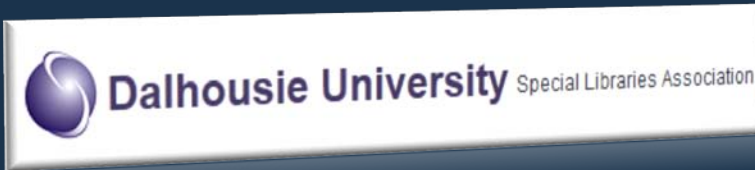
Dalhousie Journal of Interdisciplinary Management (DJIM) has had a great year! We had so many submissions that we published two issues in 2011. This past October, after receiving many applicants, we are happy to welcome six new members to our executive.

We are also proud to announce that our new executive now has members from the School of Public Administration, as well as SIM. We're already hard at work planning the next issue. Entries are due January 13th, 2012. We also still have spots for peer-reviewers and copyeditors so if you're interested, please email [djim@dal.ca](mailto:djim@dal.ca) for more details!

*Submitted by*  
Laura Thorne (MLIS 2013)



# SLA STUDENT CHAPTER



two new Internal Relations Coordinators, a Secretary and a second Website Administrator, but also passed amendments to the constitution to better suit the Dalhousie Chapter's needs.

As part of the SLA's goal to connect SIM students to the special libraries in the community, we organized two tours this fall to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic Library and the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design Library, which were both a huge hit.

Joining forces with the Information Without Borders Conference 2012 committee this November, we co-organized a used book sale and a bake sale to raise funds. The book sale was an amazing success, as SIM professors and students alike donated books for the fundraiser, which were quickly bought by an eager crowd at the Student Union Building. The SLA also donated \$200 to IWB to help fund the conference, which we all look forward to next semester.

We are happy to announce that we are organizing two more tours for next semester, and a number of different fundraisers are in the works.

*Submitted by*  
Sarah Visintini (MLIS 2013)



# ALUMNI NEWS



## 2010-2011

ANDREA CRABBE (2011) has begun a library internship at the National Gallery ([see article](#)). Under the supervision of the Head of Cataloguing, in collaboration with the Archivist, Andrea is assuming principal responsibility for the project to establish a complete record of the exhibition history of the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography. The work flow includes researching each exhibition, inventorying all associated textual materials, creating catalogue records, identifying and handling archival and preservation copies, and updating the desiderata list.

TRACY DALEY (2011) has accepted a position as Research Intern with 211 Information & Referral Services Association ([see article](#)).

ERIN O'HALLORAN (2011) began her new position as principal & information specialist with her company, [CloudScout Information Services](#), in August. The mission of this start-up is to provide clients with access to opportunities through accurate and up-to-date information. Erin says her many supporters, including professional advisors and business mentors, have made this venture possible.

AMY PATERSON (2011) is working as a Public Services Librarian at the University of Alberta.

**NICOLE RADZIKOWSKI** (2011) has begun her position as Assistant Librarian at Cape Breton Regional Library. Currently working at CBRL's Sydney branch, Nicole supervises the branch's circulation department. She also provides OverDrive/eBook and audiobook training and technical support for the 13 branches in the region as well as maintains the library's website and government documents collection.

**NICOLE TANNER** (2011) has accepted a contract position as Content Coordinator for the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control.

**SIOBHAN HANRATTY** (2010) has accepted the position of Data/GIS Librarian with University of New Brunswick Libraries.

**LARA KILLIAN** (2010) was invited in July to co-host and help produce a bi-weekly video podcast about technology and social media, commandN (command.tv). In August Lara started as a research associate for the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre, and in November she accepted an offer of full time employment with the Centre as Evidence Synthesis Research Coordinator.

**MELANIE PARLETTE** (2010) accepted a position as the Engineering and IT Liaison for Conestoga College. They are currently in the process of moving this collection to a new campus and library.

**ALISON YOUNG** (2010) is working as an Information Specialist for Bennett Jones LLP and is a member of the Calgary Law Library Group.

## 2000-2009

**JANET AYLES** (2009) started a new position as IT Services Manager with the Peace Library System (PLS). The PLS headquarters, located in Grande Prairie, Alberta, works with forty-three public libraries in north-western Alberta to ensure universal access to library services. As the IT Services Manager, Janet is responsible for the operation and administration of the ILS; she also provides training and troubleshooting assistance for their member libraries.

**PATRICIA KNOCKWOOD** (2009) has been working with New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) since graduation and this past May (2011), became the Aboriginal Services Librarian for NBPLS; a newly created position.

**SARAH ZIOLKOWSKA** (2009) has a new job in Los Angeles, California as the School Librarian of Park Century School.

**LORI MCCAY-PEET** (2008) spent the past summer at Yahoo! Research in Barcelona, Spain (see article).

**LAURA EMERY** (2007) is Chief Librarian/CEO of Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL). ECRL serves the counties of Guysborough, Inverness, and Richmond with 7 branches, a mobile rural service, books by mail and home delivery. Laura is also serving as vice-president of the Nova Scotia Library association.

**DENISE COREY** (2006) is serving as president of the Nova Scotia Library association. She is working with fellow alumni Laura Emery (2007) and Faye MacDougall (1988).

**RUTH CORDES** (2003) has been working from home for the Canadian Electronic Library since 2007. She began by finding new reports for the Canadian Public Policy and Canadian Health Research Collections, making good use of the experience she gained while working on Bertrum MacDonald's grey literature research projects. Since then she has been managing those collections, calculating royalties on electronic books, creating promotional newsletters, and doing administrative work on the books collections.... She has been ably assisted by Amanda Stevens (MLIS 2008) and Colleen Delany (MLIS/MPA 2012), who have been finding most of the new reports. Ruth enjoyed meeting former classmates at the CLA trade fair last spring, and getting their feedback on the collections. Her work for CEL originated from a contact made when she was the advertising editor of the APLA Bulletin - you never know where volunteer work may lead you!

**JULIE LAVIGNE** (2003) is the new Copyright Officer for the University of Ottawa, after spending a few years as Law Librarian at the University. In this new role, which she began in May 2011, she is developing procedures, policies and guidelines for the use of intellectual property, in addition to creating a permissions clearance centre, and works closely with faculty, librarians, and legal counsel for the university.

**ERRIN MORRISON** (2003) is wrapping up work as Executive Director of the BC Library Association by the end of 2011 in anticipation of baby number three, who is due to join older brothers Jack and Wesley in mid-March. Her next challenge will be an online retail venture - [www.pinkyandcompany.com](http://www.pinkyandcompany.com) - which she is in the process of making functional, presentable, and promotable in time for an official launch in the New Year.

REX TURGANO (2003) was recently re-appointed in a new position as a User Experience / Usability Coordinator in Student Communications Services at the University of British Columbia.

GREG BAK (2000) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor with the University of Manitoba's Master's program in Archival Studies. His most recent article, forthcoming from Archival Science, is titled "Continuous classification: capturing dynamic relationships among digital information resources."

## 1990-1999

RUTH BLADES (1999) earned the designation of Professional Project Manager (PMP) in June of 2009. She applies her project management, research and analysis skills on consulting projects with Halifax Global Inc., a management consulting firm based in Halifax that focuses on strategic planning for clients throughout Canada and beyond.

CAROLYN CARPAN (1998) will begin a new position in January 2012 as Assistant Director for Research Services at the Central University Libraries, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

MICHELLE PAON (1998) is the Chair of the Anniversary Committee and the Vice-President of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, a learned society which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2012.

MARY CLAIRE VANDENBURG (1998) is a librarian at the W.D. Jordan Special Collections Library at Queen's University Library in Kingston, Ontario, where she serves as liaison to the departments of English Language and Literature, Classics and Psychology. Mary Claire is currently investigating Robertson Davies' interest in the occult and its contribution to Southern Ontario Gothic for her MA in English Literature at Queen's.

SUE HUNTER (1993) is now Head of Information Services and Resources, Birnbaum Library, Pace University in New York, N.Y. and can be reached at [shunter@pace.edu](mailto:shunter@pace.edu).

MARK BARTLETT (1992) recently delivered a talk about membership libraries and the history of The New York Society Library at the Rowfant Club, Cleveland Ohio. He continues as Head Librarian of NYSL, whose next public exhibition is "Edith Wharton's New York City: A Backward Glance," opening in March 2012.



KIM [JOHNSON] BREWER (1991) is the Data Management Officer for Marine Atlantic Inc., North Sydney, Nova Scotia.

DONNA BOURNE-TYSON (1990) has been appointed University Librarian for Dalhousie (see article).

## 1980-1989

PATRICK ELLIS (1988), Health Sciences Librarian, Dalhousie University continues to work on the development of a Canadian Virtual Health Library. Initiated by the Canadian Health Libraries Association, the goal of the Canadian Virtual Health Library is to provide equitable access to the best information for all Canadian health professionals.

The project is currently funded by a three year grant from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, for which Patrick is the Principal Investigator. The founding board has been established, consultants hired and teams enlisted, website is underway, free content identified, subscription content work is underway. More info: <http://cvhl.ca/>.

FAYE MACDOUGALL (1988) is serving as past-president of the Nova Scotia Library association.

TRACEY JONES-GRANT (1986) was this year's winner of the NSLA [2011 Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership](#).

LAURA SYMS (1986) is working as Business and Data Services Librarian at Cape Breton University and has recently been awarded the CAUL-CBUA Collaborative Research & Innovation Grant for research on factors Influencing undergraduate Social Science faculty members' decision to use quantitative data in the classroom. Laura and her research partner Dr. Margaret Dechman will explore why faculty members choose to use quantitative data in research and instruction, with the aim of informing the development of a data literacy strategy that is easily transferable to other disciplines and post secondary institutions.

JOYCE THOMPSON (1986) has accepted a position as the Digital Services Librarian at the Patrick Power Library, Saint Mary's University. Joyce served in her previous position as Library Director at Atlantic School of Theology for eight years.

IAN COLFORD (1985) has written a novel, "The Crimes of Hector Tomas," which will be published in 2012 by Calgary based [Freehand Books](#). The novel traces the lives of several characters during a period of political turbulence in an unnamed South American country.

BARBARA DELORY (1985) retired in 1995 from Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources as a reference librarian. This library was accessible to government workers and yet included the public and those in industries associated with the various collections. Upon retirement Barbara completed a book, *Three Centuries of Public Art: Historic Halifax Regional Municipality* (see article).

## 1971-1979

LORRAINE DICKS (1977) and CHARLES CAMERON (1978) have recently moved to Corner Brook, NL. Lorraine retired from her nursing career a few years ago and Charles retired on July 31, 2011, after 33 years with the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board (Newfoundland and Labrador), the last ten as Director of Regional Services at the Board's Provincial Headquarters.

MARGARET MURPHY (1976) was this year's recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award (see article).



# support the DALHOUSIE-HORROCKS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FUND

[VISIT OUR DONATION PAGE](#)

“Friday, October 14 marked the one-year anniversary of Norman’s passing. It’s hard to believe that it’s been over a year since Norman was with us. I still keep looking for him in the halls, and especially in my inbox: No more newspaper clippings on cats, soccer, or chocolate. To honour Norman’s memory, I invite you to consider making a donation to the Horrocks Leadership Fund, established to help ensure the future of the MLIS program at SIM. The School, and the MLIS profession, were very important to Norman, and I can think of no more fitting tribute to honour his memory.”

Louise Spiteri, SIM Director

## ABOUT THE FUND

The Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund honours Dr. Norman Horrocks’ outstanding leadership in the field of library science. The fund will support a scholarship and an associated lecture series with the creation of an endowment at Dalhousie University.

The scholarship will be used to support graduate students entering the Master of Library and Information Studies program of the School of Information Management who demonstrate leadership potential in information management, specifically in libraries.

An associated lecture series will help promote librarianship and publicly acknowledge individuals whose active leadership in relevant professional associations has made a difference locally and internationally. A lecture will be given annually by a recognized leader in the field.

# HISTORY OF THE GNOME

*Thanks everyone, for your spirit of fun and your submitted gnome stories! Below is the History of the Gnome which was compiled from your submissions.*



Seamus the Gnome first made his appearance at SIM (then SLIS) in the 1997/98 school year. Seamus and his two unnamed gnome friends ruled the roost for a number of years.

Their origin lies with the release of the movie "The Full Monty" in 1997. Rosemary Loeffler (class of 1998) explains:

"There was a scene in the film with an older man (very proper English) at a job interview. A panel of three or four were conducting the interview. Behind them was a wall with windows that started at the ceiling and were about two feet high. A group of the man's "friends" had stolen the gnomes out of his garden and were standing on blocks outside the window and holding up the gnomes to dance. The poor man being interviewed could see this and lost his composure but the interviewers had no idea what was going on."

One of the classrooms in the Killam had curtained windows making it the perfect setting to recreate the scene from The Full Monty. Rosemary and her classmate, Mary Thornton, found a few garden gnomes and set their plan in motion. With the help of some others in the school they danced their gnomes outside the windows during one of Bertrum MacDonald's classes, waiting to see how long it would take him to notice the interlopers. These early shenanigans endeared the gnomes to the students, after which the gnomes took up permanent residence at SLIS.



# HISTORY OF THE GNOME

Not all was rosy for the gnomes, however. One of Seamus's friends disappeared outright (some alumni have suggested that perhaps the gnome took up residence in Bertrum's garden), and the other met an unfortunate end; Kate Thompson (class of 2005) explains:



"I was usually one of the first ones to arrive each morning. One day in the Winter of my first year I walked into the Common Room to discover the poor gnome hanging from a water pipe. The foul deed must have been committed the evening before, but the perp's identity remains a mystery."

It turns out that the gnome pictured here and our friend Seamus are one and the same. Shortly after the gnome was discovered "strung up", Tim Loge (2005) and some others staged the gnome's death, painted him green and said that the gnome's "cousin" had come to take his place. If you look closely, you can see patches of red through the now-chipped green paint.

Seamus alone made the move from the Killam to the Rowe building and has been hanging out in the SIM Common Room since. Perhaps a distant relative of the Travelocity Gnome, Seamus has had his share of traveling adventures during those years.

Playing a central role in the orientation activities of 2005, Seamus was photographed by Katharine McCoubrey (class of 2006) at various landmarks in Halifax to lead the incoming class on a scavenger hunt around the city.





# HISTORY OF THE GNOME

Paige McGeorge and Kandise Brown (class of 2008) included the gnome on their travels to London:



And Ashley Machum and Greg Hutton (class of 2009) ensured Seamus had a good view of the Starship Enterprise in Vulcan, Alberta.



# HISTORY OF THE GNOME

Ashley even dressed up as Seamus for Halloween one year.



Classes will come and go at SIM but it seems Seamus is here to stay. Please continue to contribute to the Gnome saga as the years go by!



# LIBRARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

Librarians Without Borders (LWB) strives to promote information access worldwide by supporting libraries both abroad and at home. We enact our mission by collaborating with partner communities to identify their needs and then mobilize our volunteers, the core being student librarians, for in-the-field development through a service-learning model. We have student committees at the majority of LIS programs across Canada, including Dalhousie; the student committees are led by an Executive Team of professionals.

LWB chooses projects that meet real community needs, can be executed in collaboration with that community, and enhance the learning of the participating students by joining classroom theory with real-world experience. In 2011-12 we are offering the opportunity to collaborate with two partners: Asturias Academy in Guatemala and Libraries Across Africa in Ghana.

## ASTURIAS ACADEMY IN GUATEMALA



We believe in the mission of the Asturias Academy (AA): To provide innovative schooling to marginalized communities. AA and LWB have worked together since 2009, culminating in last year's team of 24 students from Dalhousie and three other Canadian schools. Together, they supported the Library through collection-development (in Spanish and K'iche'), and a 10-day service trip to the site in Quetzaltenango,

Guatemala. It was an intense experience that delivered tangible benefits to the Library and provided opportunities for students to apply their LIS expertise to real world challenges.

This year, we are offering LWB students the opportunity to support AA by participating in collection development, by helping to design a system for transitioning the collection from non-circulating to lending, and by creating information literacy materials to support library use and the curriculum. This work will culminate with a service trip in Spring 2012.



# LIBRARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

## LIBRARIES ACROSS AFRICA

Like LWB, the mission of Libraries Across Africa (LAA) is to empower individuals through access to information. Founded by a team of architects, computer engineers and anthropologists, they seek to achieve this mission by building and deploying a network of physical libraries with significant digital components across Africa.

Since May, LWB has been cultivating a partnership with LAA and we're excited to offer an opportunity for student members to participate in this collaborative effort during the Winter 2012 semester.

We are lending our LIS expertise to assist in shaping the nature of the library and defining the role of the librarian(s) for LAA's pilot facility in Ghana, which will also serve as a model for subsequent libraries across the continent. Students will have the opportunity to investigate a range of topics: cultivating reading cultures, literacy in mother-tongue languages, printing-on-demand for collection development, e-readers as technology leapfrogging, and many others.



For more information or to donate, visit our website: [www.lwb-online.org](http://www.lwb-online.org). For questions about participation, contact [melanie.sellar@lwb-online.org](mailto:melanie.sellar@lwb-online.org).

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# INfORM

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Look for the next  
issue of *Inform* in  
July 2012.

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