

# INFORM

School of Information Management

*January to June 2012*

*Volume 41 issue 1*



## FEATURE ARTICLES

- Giving Back to SIM:  
A Challenge!
- 3D Printing at  
Dalhousie
- Stephanie Downs  
Memorial Award
- Alumni News
- In Memoriam:  
Dr. Haidar Moukdad

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



This edition of Inform is dedicated to Dr. Haidar Moukdad and Dr. Sunny Marche, two SIM colleagues who died in May and June. Dr. Moukdad was a full-time faculty member at SIM since 1999; Dr. Marche had two adjunct appointments with the School. Please read the tributes to [Dr. Moukdad](#) and [Dr. Marche](#).

It's been a noteworthy term since the last issue of Inform. Congratulations to the 41 MLIS students who graduated in May; kudos also to MIM students Steven Glenn, who received the Graduate Diploma in Information Management, and Musema Mossa, who received the Master of Information Management. We are looking forward to welcoming new students to both the MLIS and MIM programs in September.

In conjunction with the Centre for Advanced Management Education (CFAME), SIM held another very successful Open House designed to promote the MIM and other executive programs offered by the Faculty of Management. This Open House was noteworthy for its inclusion of local and virtual participants.

I am happy to report that SIM has successfully completed its Strategic Plan for 2012-2015. This planning exercise included input from faculty, staff, students, alumni, information professionals, and members of the SIM Advisory Board. As usual, the collaborative and collegial environment that characterizes SIM and its stakeholders helped make this exercise fun, invigorating, and exciting.

Planning continues for the 2012 American Library Association accreditation review process for the MLIS program. Our draft Program Presentation was submitted in mid-June, with the final report due in September. We look forward to welcoming the External Review Panel to SIM on October 15-16, 2012, and announcements will be made about public events to involve our major stakeholders.

I am very pleased to report that Dr. Fiona Black has been promoted to the rank of Professor, an honour that comes as no surprise to those of us who have been fortunate to work with Fiona. Read the many congratulatory [comments](#) on our blog.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fiona assumed the position of Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Management on July 1, 2012.

Research continues to be a vibrant component of life at SIM. The Social Media Lab, led by Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd, will be working on a new research initiative with the Infoscape Research Lab at Ryerson University. Dr. Gruzd will be working in collaboration with Dr. Greg Elmer (Ryerson University) and Ganaele Langlois (University of Ontario Institute of Technology) on a new five year \$363,000 SSHRC funded initiatives: "Social Media Campaigns: Tracking Digital Politics across Web 2.0". The project is designed to develop new theories, methods, and tools for the analysis of communication on and across social media. MLIS students Michael Groenendyk and Riel Gallant are involved in a very exciting project that examines 3D printing and scanning for the Dalhousie community. The pilot project, which was hugely successful, was launched in the Killam Learning Commons in May. Several MLIS students have presented in conferences since December, including at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association 2012 conference in Wolfville, and the GRAND 2012 conference in Montreal. The YA Hotline, one of the oldest YA journals in the world, celebrated its 35th anniversary by launching a fully-onsite format. Under Dr. Vivian Howard's leadership, twenty back issues (dating to 2005) have been archived at <http://ocs.library.dal.ca/ojs/index.php/YAHS>.

I wish all our friends and alumni a happy summer; I was pleased to see many of you at the alumni meeting at the Canadian Library Association 2012 Conference in Ottawa.

Louise Spiteri  
*Director of SIM*

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# GIVING BACK TO SIM: A CHALLENGE!

**Did you know that university funding for scholarships and students assistantships at SIM is on the decline?**

At last year's CLA conference held in Halifax, a number of us from the SIM class of 2007 got together to talk about the difference that funding made for a number of our classmates. We wondered what we could do to restore some of that support and decided to invite our fellow 2007 alumni to donate to SIM.

Since that time, the class of 2007 has raised around \$1,000 for the [Dalhousie-Horrocks National Leadership Fund](#). In the spirit of taking this idea further...

**...we hereby challenge all classes of SIM alumni to donate to the fund!**

**Which class will give the most? We think that 2007 can't be beat.**

## WHY THE DALHOUSIE-HORROCKS FUND?

While exploring the possibilities, we learned that the Dalhousie-Horrocks fund was very close to raising the amount needed to award an annual scholarship. We decided that supporting something in memory of Dr. Horrocks, combined with an amount of money that seems achievable to raise, made the fund a great fit for a fundraising challenge.

It is expected that the fund will annually provide a scholarship of a minimum of \$2,000 for a student who "demonstrate[s] leadership potential in information management, specifically in libraries." For information about the fund, visit [SIM's website](#).

## Check back in September to see which class reigns supreme!

Donating is easy - here's how:

1. Give online at: [giving.dal.ca/horrockscholarship](http://giving.dal.ca/horrockscholarship)

In order to ensure that your donation is tracked as part of this fundraising effort, please enter the following:

a) Under "Area of Support" select "Select a Designation by Faculty" - make sure the drop downs read "Management / School of Information Management/ Dalhousie Horrocks National Leadership Fund"

b) Under "Dedication" select "In Honour of"

c) in the "In name of box" enter **your class year**

or

2. Call 902-494-8801 or 1-800-565-9969 and make your gift over the phone - make sure to communicate the information above!

**All gifts are eligible for a tax receipt.**

Gifts made as a result of our efforts will be tracked so we can update you with our success. We suggest a donation of \$50 but, as the saying goes, every bit helps!

Questions, thoughts, ideas for future giving, contact any of the following:

Kim MacInnis: [kim.macinnis@gmail.com](mailto:kim.macinnis@gmail.com)

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Monique Woroniak: [mworoniak@gmail.com](mailto:mworoniak@gmail.com)



# SPRING CONVOCATION 2012

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the Class of 2012. It has been our privilege to work with you over the past two years. Thank you for all your contributions to the life of the school and best of luck with your future endeavours.



Jackie Phinney, Doyle Lahey and Ariel Kleber  
celebrate convocation

# CONVOCATION PRIZES

## Director's Award



Awarded to **Laura Dukowski** (pictured) and **Laura Landon** for the highest academic achievement.

## Leadership Award



Awarded to **Elinor Crosby** for significant service to the overall program of the school.

## Anne Galler Award



Awarded by the Special Libraries Association (Eastern Canada Chapter) to **Samantha Dutka** for demonstrating the greatest interest and achievement in the area of special libraries.

## Louis Vagianos Medal



Awarded to **Douglas Seaman** for his capacity for blending originality with practical thinking and the courage to seek solutions to professional problems outside the mainstream.

## APLA Award



Awarded to **Nathaniel Smith** who, in the opinion of faculty, shows the most professional promise.

## Nova Scotia Library Association Prize



Awarded to **Ariel Kleber** for her high GPA and demonstrated interest in public library work.



## J. Clement Harrison International Award



Awarded to **Kamau Osborne** for demonstrating a strong interest in and commitment to librarianship and information studies outside North America.

## SIMSA Outstanding Service Award



Awarded by SIMSA to **Elinor Crosby** for her outstanding contributions to student life.

## SIM Research Award



Awarded to **Sarah Gilbert** (left) & **Jennifer Grek Martin** for their significant success in research.

## Information Technology Award

Awarded to **Colleen Delany** for demonstrating the greatest understanding and range of capabilities with computer-based activities.

**Beta Phi Mu:** Beta Phi Mu is the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society. Candidates are nominated from the graduating classes of ALA accredited degree programs, and must have Grade Point Averages over 3.75. Nominations may not total more than 25% of the class.



Back L-R: Doug Seaman, Melissa Anez, Ian Buchanan, Jennifer Grek Martin

Front L-R: Carolyn DeLorey, Laura Dukowski, Sarah Gilbert, Samantha Dutka

Not Pictured: Laura Landon, Jennifer Weldon, Amanda Wilk

# SIMSA SPRING UPDATE

Not eager to burden already busy SIM students with too much to do, SIMSA kept things fairly low-key during the second semester of the 2011-2012 academic year. Of course, that isn't to say we didn't have any fun. SIMSA co-chair, Ariel Kleber, hosted a board games night at her abode for all SIM students and their friends. Even the quietest MLIS students can get over-excited when the chips are down or points are on the line. Our end of year party was hosted at the Tap Room at the Lower Deck and our guests enjoyed good food and wonderful company. It was quite a night, especially for the night owls in the group.

The SIMSA Executive would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the unofficial and unsung student leaders of our community. Special thanks go to Kate for organizing sports activities for SIM students, Pub Club chairs Ruth and Kevin, and Emily and the other folks involved in the Dinner Co-op.

And speaking of student leaders, the outgoing SIMSA Executive would like to welcome the incoming SIMSA Executive. Congratulations and good luck to:

Co-Chairs: Alan Chorney & Amy Lorencz

Communications Officer: Nancy McPhee

Financial Officer: Riel Gallant

VP Academic: Tara Rumsey

VP Non-Academic: Amanda Fullerton

Professional Networking Chair: Hilary Stamper

IWB Conference Chair: Madeline Driscoll

*Submitted by*

Mark McHale

SIMSA Co-Chair 2011-2012

# ACA SPRING UPDATE

Since the beginning of the academic term of 2012, the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) Dalhousie Student Chapter has accomplished many tasks and connected several MLIS students to the archives community of Halifax. We first began to organize a tour of the Nova Scotia Archives, which several students expressed an interest in attending. The committee decided to merge the NS archives tour with the CBC tour, as both organizations are linked and closely located to each other. All students who attended the tour enjoyed themselves and were grateful to see inside the CBC radio building before it is dismantled.

Our next activity was a fundraiser with Dalhousie's Librarians Without Borders (LWB) Student Chapter. We held a used-book sale in the Student Union Building and raised over \$100. Although this amount is not equal to that raised in last year's book sale, we were nevertheless happy with the outcome, and to share our profits with LWB. Furthermore, through interaction with undergraduate students who purchased books, we were able to discuss the role of the ACA and the cultural importance archivists play in Canadian society.

Finally, through group and individual meetings, the ACA student chapter helped connect MLIS students to various archives located throughout Halifax, such as Shambhala, the Dalhousie University Archives, NSCAD Archives, and Saint Mary's University archives. Many students who participated in ACA organized events are currently working with the aforementioned institutions.

The following is a list of the new committee members for 2012-2013:

Co-Chair: Amy Lorencz  
Secretary: Alan Chorney  
Treasurer: Tara Rumsey

*Submitted by*  
Doyle Lahey  
ACA Chair 2011-2012

# SOCIAL MEDIA LAB

SocialMediaLab.ca

#Influence12: Symposium & Workshop on Measuring Influence on Social Media



## #Influence12: Symposium & Workshop on Measuring Influence on Social Media

September 28 -29, 2012  
Dalhousie University  
School of Information Management  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



SIM's Social Media Lab is organizing a two-day international *Symposium & Workshop on Measuring Influence on Social Media*.

The event is scheduled for **September 28-29, 2012** at Dalhousie University.

The goal of this workshop is to bring together experts in social media and online social networks from both the academic and business worlds, to share ideas on the best practices for how to study the impact of social media on our society, and specifically how to measure influence on social media. The workshop will provide researchers in this area an opportunity to present and debate their ideas, and provide graduate students with the opportunity to build academic and professional contacts, present their research, and learn about latest research in this area from a multidisciplinary perspective.

More information about the event and how to register is available at:

<http://SocialMediaLab.ca/influence12>

# IWB 2012

After months of planning, many meetings, and countless emails, we are very pleased to report that the 6th annual Information Without Borders Conference was a smashing success! Themed *Open Access and Closed Content: The Information Dichotomy*, the conference offered many opportunities to explore how information markets are in a dynamic state of redefinition.



Co-chairs Laura Dukowski & Kate MacDonald

Topics included the growing movements towards open access research repositories and open source technology, as well as related issues pertaining to copyright law, cloud computing, and how information managers are helping organizations to navigate these changes.



Keynote speaker Leslie Chan

Keynote speakers Jeff Shelstad, CEO of Flat World Knowledge Inc., and Leslie Chan, a senior lecturer at the University of Toronto and Director of Bioline International, proved inspiring and impactful. Their presentations introduced all attendees to the possibilities afforded by the open access movement in the higher education and international research contexts, creating buzz that reached beyond the auditorium and throughout the twitterverse. Both

presentations are posted on the IWB website, at [www.iwbconference.ca](http://www.iwbconference.ca), for those that missed them in February or would like to revisit the magic!

The 2012 Information Without Borders Conference Committee would like to express our deepest thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters, without whom such a successful event would not have been possible. A new committee is already planning next year's conference, and we encourage you all to check out the [IWB website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [twitter feed](#) to keep tabs on new developments. See you at IWB 2013!

*Submitted by*

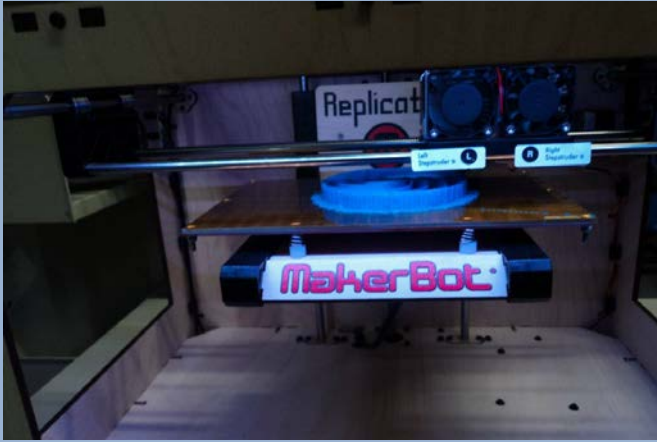
Laura Dukowski

IWB Co-Chair & Treasurer, 2011-2012

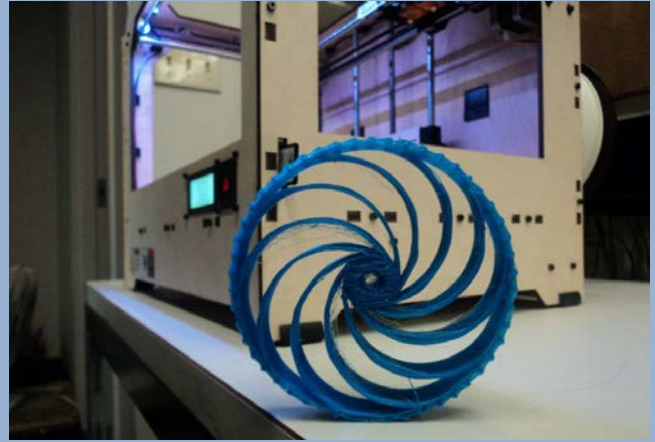


# 3D PRINTING AT DALHOUSIE

## Mike Groenendyk & Riel Gallant bring 3D printing to Dalhousie



MakerBot 3D Printer

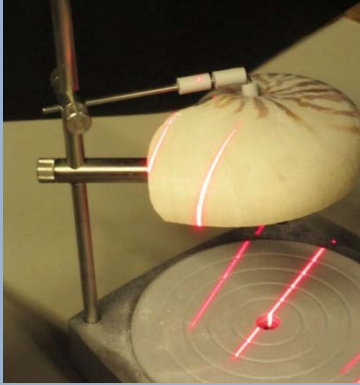


Finished 3D object

Riel and I have both had an incredibly busy year. Neither of us had experienced grad school before and though we were expecting to work hard, through our Fall 2012 semester at SIM we were really pushed to the limits of what we were capable.

We both have a fairly long-held interest in 3D printing and scanning technology. Sometime around December of 2011 we began discussing the benefits that this technology could have for libraries, museums, archives and other related institutions. Over the winter break we developed a full-fledged project and planned to take it to a variety of libraries and museums in an attempt to get it funded. We decided to take our project to Dalhousie Libraries first, as it was on campus and closely associated with the School of Information Management. I had planned to pitch our project to Donna Bourne-Tyson, the University Librarian at Dalhousie, following a presentation she gave early January in the Kenneth Rowe building. Coincidentally she had a presentation slide dedicated to 3D printing in libraries, which I took as a good sign.

Donna agreed to meet with Riel and me and, at the end of this meeting, decided to fund a large part of our project. Marc Comeau, the head of Dalhousie Libraries IT, who was also very interested in 3D printing and scanning technology, joined the project as well, providing Riel and me with the workspace, the equipment and the support staff we need to get our project started.



3D Scanner

On top of our course work, Riel was also involved with DJIM and SIMSA, while I was the web technician for the Dalhousie student chapter of the SLA. Over the next three months neither of us got much sleep, as we committed almost all our free time outside of school and schoolwork to developing this project and getting it off the ground. With the assistance of SIM lecturer, Joyline Makani, we were fortunate to obtain additional funding from CBCL Limited and the Nova Scotia Museum, which helped us give our project a good start.



Mike (left) and Riel give a presentation on 3D printing & scanning

I'm proud to say that our 3D printing and scanning project has now had its official launch. While there were many challenges to overcome getting to this point, this has been a tremendous learning experience for Riel and me; we are now assisting in the further development of this project. Aside from assisting students in the use of the Killam Libraries' new 3D printing, we have also partnered with a number of local museums and art galleries and are about to begin a large scale 3D digitization project.

*Submitted by*

Mike Groenendyk, MLIS 2013

Resources & Articles:

[3D Printing Services at Dalhousie](#)

June 7: [Try 3D Printing in the Killam Library Learning Commons](#)

June 7: [A third dimension in printing - now at the Killam Library](#)

April 25: [3D Printing and Scanning Pilot Project Closer to Launch](#)

April 25: [3D Printing & Scanning Preview](#) (video)

April 13: [Scanning 3D Artifacts](#)

# SIM AA SPRING UPDATE

It's been a good year for the alumni. There was a great turn out at the alumni gathering at Joe's Food Emporium on May 24 in Wolfville, coinciding with the APLA 2012 conference. The conference gave our alumni a chance to shine, and there's no better example of that than this year's Poster Sessions, which took place May 23-24. There were 12 posters on display this year in the Fountain Commons at Acadia University, an outstanding number, and the sessions were well attended. Hats off to Lara Killian ('10), the Associated Alumni Program Convenor, and Tanja Harrison ('96), APLA 2012 Program Chair, for organizing the sessions this year.

There was also a strong turnout at the alumni gathering in Ottawa on June 1 at the Exchange Pub, coinciding with CLA 2012 (May 30-June 2). Alumni from across the country were brought together.

The Associated Alumni Executive is almost in place for the 2012-13 year. Members are:



Chair  
Jessica Babineau



Past Chair  
David Ryan



Vice-Chair  
Elinor Crosby



Secretary/Treasurer  
Angela Friesen

**THIS COULD  
BE YOU!**

Program Convenor  
TBD



Member at Large  
Elizabeth Millar

# SIM ASSOCIATED ALUMNI

We are still looking for a Program Convenor! Please consider filling this role for the upcoming year.

While it's been a fine year, we still miss Norman Horrocks, who passed away in 2010. Also felt was the absence of Shanna Balogh, who retired at the end of December, 2011. Shanna's great work in facilitating our annual awards receptions, providing key information about various committees, and providing assistance in so many other ways has been instrumental in the success of the Associated Alumni. She will be missed. To that end, the Associated Alumni would like to thank the other members of SIM who've been so important in making our association shine: JoAnn Watson, MLIS Program Coordinator; Jenn Mitton, Administrative Assistant; and Dr. Louise Spiteri, the Director of the School of Information Management. Thank you!

*Submitted by*

David Ryan

SIMAA Past Chair



# CLA CONFERENCE REPORTS

## Student-to-CLA Award: Melissa Scanlan

As the recipient of the Student-to-CLA award from Dalhousie University, I attended the Canadian Library Association National Conference and Tradeshow at the Ottawa Convention Centre from May 30-June 2, 2012 in our nation's capital.

Wednesday kicked off the event with pre-conference sessions addressing advocacy, copyright and library collaboration as well as tours of various libraries in the National Capital Region. In the morning I visited the Supreme Court of Canada building. It was an amazing experience to visit the highest court in Canada and to see where Supreme Court judges create and amend laws that influence our country. The second tour was of the Library and Archives Preservation Centre in Gatineau, Quebec. While visiting the archival vaults, we witnessed how the archive was organized and were able to view preserved historic paintings related to Canadian heritage.



Supreme Court of Canada Judges' seats

Thursday through Saturday, I attended a variety of interesting sessions such as *E book Licensing: Sharing Best Practices and Imagining Future Strategies*, *Rebuilding the Slave Lake Library: Surviving Tragedy and Lessons Learned*, and *Current Issues in LGBTQ Libraries and Librarianship*. There were also a variety of social events to attend such as the Opening Reception, a pub crawl, the vendor's social, and the All-delegates Social.

The conference was an excellent opportunity to put my networking skills to the test. By attending the conference, I also learned about current issues facing libraries. I encourage all of those who have never attended the CLA conference to become a 'first-timer' next year in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

*Submitted by*  
Melissa Scanlan, MLIS 2012



## Alberta Letts Memorial Award: Veronika Kollbrand

### Canadian Library Association Conference 2012: Advocacy in Canada's Capital

As the recipient of the Alberta Letts Travel Award, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the selection committee and the contributors that made my attendance at the CLA conference this year possible.



The atmosphere at the conference confirmed that libraries are bearing more of a defensive burden than ever. Indeed, a persistent theme throughout the event was the disparity in attitudes of librarians and government officials on the importance of authoritative information in education and the decision making process. In response to this problem and others, delegates were given the opportunity to participate in a unique Advocacy Afternoon on Parliament Hill, meeting with MPs to campaign for libraries on issues such as copyright legislation and the library book rate. The impact of these meetings was celebrated when a delegate's question about the Community Access Program was asked during Question Period the following day.



The overarching session themes of copyright, advocacy and the role of libraries affirmed that there will continue to be a major push to support the future of information services in Canada, with many passionate and dedicated individuals eager to contribute despite the challenges. I leave you with some satirical yet memorable advice from the question period following the panel discussion in the Open Sesame: Open Data, Data Liberation and New

Opportunities for Libraries session:

Q: "How do you deal with a government that flat out doesn't use data to make decisions?" A: "Scotch."

*Submitted by*

Veronika Kollbrand, MLIS 2013

# PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

Fifty-one MLIS students undertook 100-hour Practicum placements or extended work placements during the spring /fall 2012 terms. Three students relied upon pre-admission employment to fulfill their Practicum requirement.

SIM gratefully recognizes the time and effort involved in developing and supervising Practicum Placements. Our thanks to each host organization and supervisor.

## PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS:

- Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives
- Association of Nova Scotia Museums
- Cape Breton University, Beaton Institute
- Capitol District Health Authority Library Services
- CBC Vancouver, Media Library
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada (x 2)
- CKUA Radio, Music Library
- Dalhousie University Archives & Special Collections
- Dalhousie Libraries Projects
  - Evaluating the Nova Scotia Institute of Science Exchange Collection
  - Implementing a 3-D printer & related repository project (x 2)
- Dalhousie Libraries, GIS Centre
- Dartmouth Heritage Museum
- Department of Justice Canada, Library, Reference & Research Services
- Halifax Public Libraries:
  - Alderney Gate Public Library: Adult Services (1), Youth Services (1)
  - Bedford Public Library
  - Captain William Spry Public Library
  - Cole Harbour Public Library
  - Community Outreach Manager
  - Halifax North Memorial Public Library
  - Keshen Goodman Library
  - Woodlawn Public Library
- Mount Saint Vincent University Library
- New Brunswick Public Library Service, Chatham Public Library
- New Economics Institute Library Internship

- Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre
- Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, Records & Information Management Section
- Nova Scotia Judges' Library
- Nova Scotia Labour & Workforce Development
- Nova Scotia Legislative Library
- Nova Scotia Provincial Library
- NSCAD Library
- Oshawa Public Library, Northview Branch
- Parks Canada, Halifax Citadel
- Saint Mary's University Archives
- Salt Spring Island Public Library
- Shearwater Aviation Museum
- Stewart McKelvey
- University of Guelph Archival and Special Collections
- University of King's College, Registrar's Office
- University of New Brunswick, Harriett Irving Library
- Winnipeg Public Library (x 2)

## EXTENDED WORK PLACEMENTS:

- City of Calgary, Corporate Properties and Buildings
- Dalhousie Libraries
  - Killam Library, Reference and Research Services Internship (x 3)
  - Sexton Design & Technology Library Internship
- Public Safety

## EXTERNAL COMPETITIVE INTERNSHIPS:

- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Internship
- CSIS In-Program Internship

# STUDENT NEWS

**EMILY LEGRAND:** As a library intern (Practicum placement) at the New Economics Institute in Great Barrington, MA, USA, it is becoming ever clearer to me the central role that libraries will play in an economy that actually takes into consideration the needs of people and the environment. Libraries are places of information, inspiration and empowerment. They are trusted institutions. They have pioneered what is now being called "collaborative consumption" (aka sharing). A sharing-based economy draws upon people's unique strengths, builds community, frees up time and money, and lessens our impact on the natural world. Libraries demonstrate that it is possible to have community sharing systems that work, and have the logistical know-how to do it. Libraries can have a real impact on their communities if they can expand their mission to facilitating not only the sharing of books and media, but also skills, ideas, tools, toys and more. See the website [www.shareable.net](http://www.shareable.net) to learn more about the role of libraries, including an inspiring video of a tool library that is a part of the public library system in California.

**MADELINE DRISCOLL,** Amy Lorencz, Alan Chorney and Nancy McPhee have been doing some volunteer cataloguing at the Roberts Street Social Centre. Read more in this [Chronicle Herald article](#).

**CHANTAL DE MEDEIROS:** I was one of the judges for the [2012 Battle Decks](#) session at the CLA Conference in Ottawa. My fellow judges were:

- Stephen Abram, Vice-President, Gale Cengage
- Iona Henderson, Web Coordinator, Finance Canada
- Pam Ryan, Director, Library Services, Edmonton Public Library

The theme of this year's battle deck session was, *Innovate...Or Else*. Each participant was presented with that same topic; there were 7 unique slide decks of 12 slides each and each participant had 7 minutes to complete their presentation. This was completely improvisational, and the contestants never saw the slides beforehand. This was my first time judging a battle decks session. In fact, I've never gone to one before. I was asked a while back if I would like to participate, and of course I was delighted to!

The Judges scored each presentation on 5 criteria (below) and assigned a final score out of 25; scores were then combined to determine the winner.

- Content and Credibility (did it make any sense?)
- Poise and Gestures (were they comfortable?)
- Flow (minimal pauses and stammering)
- Audience response (was there any? Did they laugh a lot, clap, etc.)
- Getting through all the slides!

The participants were:

- Claire Banton, Reference Librarian, Government of Canada
- Megan Fitzgibbons (SIM alumna), Liaison Librarian, McGill University
- Beth Goslett, Supervising Librarian, Ottawa Public Library
- Robyn Stockand, Independent Practicer of Curiosity
- Christine Langlois, Trustee, Ottawa Public Library Board
- Melanie Sellar, Education Services & Reference Librarian, Marymount College and Co-Executive Director, Librarians Without Borders
- Madeleine Lefebvre, Chief Librarian, Ryerson University

Madeleine was chosen from the audience to participate and ended up winning the competition. She now holds the title of 2012 CLA Battle Decks Champion.

I found the experience extremely entertaining and fun. All of the contestants were great, and they all had something unique and witty to say. I found that the audience was great as well, and that the contestants always had them in stitches. I personally think this would be a fun thing to do with the MLIS students, either to make it an event, or incorporate it into the classroom. Doing something like Battle Decks would be a great way to have students work on their presentation skills, but in a fun and comfortable environment. This could also be a great ice-breaker. I think Dr. Bertrum MacDonald could have a lot of fun with this in his Information in Society class!



# ALUMNI RELATIONS



Congratulations to all of the graduates!

If you were unable to attend the convocation, please send me your mailing address and I would be pleased to mail you a Dalhousie Alumni pin.

Please save the date for the Faculty of Management Gala, taking place September 28<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

If you'd like to keep up to date on alumni news you can follow me on Twitter: @DalFomAlumni

Contact:

(e) [Marianne.Hagen@dal.ca](mailto:Marianne.Hagen@dal.ca)

(p) 902.494.7142

# FACULTY NEWS



## FIONA BLACK

Collegiality is one of the many pleasures of being a SIMmer and early this year the fruits of one particularly collegial endeavour, led by my colleague, Dr Anatoliy Gruzd, were published in the [Journal of the Medical Library Association](#). The contributions of Computer Science student, Thi Ngoc Yen Le and MLIS alumna Kathleen Amos, were vital to the project and are reflected in their co-authorship of this publication on health information in the blogosphere. Working with gifted students and alumni continues with a new project, [funded by the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Memorial Trust](#). MLIS alumna, Alison Black (no relation) is the lead for our qualitative study of human resource policies and practices in Atlantic Canadian public libraries, especially in light of succession planning. A highlight during the winter term was working with excellent MLIS students, whom I had the pleasure of teaching in our core Research Methods class. The students' chosen topics provided me with much scope for learning. The European Social Science History conference, hosted by Glasgow University, attracted 1,700 delegates including several who shared my interests [in digital humanities, business history and historical geography](#). I spent April in Edinburgh engaged in research at the [National Library of Scotland](#), with weekend and evening visits to numerous galleries and museums. I am currently immersed in planning a scholarly workshop on Transnationalism in Print Culture, along with colleagues in Scotland and New Zealand. This is part of my present SSHRC grant and the workshop will take place after the annual conference of the [Society for the History of Authorship Reading and Publishing in Dublin](#). In sum, I might ask what is the connection among health information, public library staffing, teaching research methods, digital humanities and print culture? The answer of course is the field of LIS, which continues to evolve and to challenge us all in intellectually enriching ways.



## ANATOLIY GRUZD

This Spring I was excited to receive a Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF) grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust (NSRIT) in the amount of \$150,000. This new infrastructure grant will allow me to grow social media research at the School. The grant will be used to renovate newly allocated space for the Social Media Lab within the Faculty of Management and to purchase new equipment to support

the lab's future projects. Equipment will include new tablets, computers and a large multi-touch video wall that will allow students and researchers in the lab to visualize large data sets on a single screen, discover patterns in online data, as well as create new mobile apps that can help people to easily navigate through the vast amount of social data that is being created on the web. And more importantly, it will allow the lab to forge stronger connections with software developers and social analytic companies in Canada and abroad. Renovation will start in July and the new lab is expected to be completed by September 2012.

"The CFI has made possible the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that is necessary for high level science to take place. Without it researchers cannot do their work and without research we cannot advance the knowledge that improves our lives, our society and our health." - Martha Crago, Vice President Research, Dalhousie University



## VIVIAN HOWARD

For the past several months, I've been working with a group of students to move the YA Hotline to digital format. The YA Hotline, one of the oldest YA journals in the world, is now available online FREE OF CHARGE at:

<http://yahotline.management.dal.ca>.

Twenty back issues (dating to 2005) have been archived and we have recently published our first original digital issue, number 94, Always Wired In: Teens and Technology.

Since 1977, the YA Hotline has been researched, written and produced by Dalhousie School of Information Management students enrolled in INFO 6250: Services and Resources for Young Adults. The newsletter contains a large amount of information and resources for both young adults and young adult librarians including book reviews, resource lists, bibliographies, feature articles, interviews and more. Each issue explores a different theme of interest to teens and practitioners in school and public libraries. In keeping with the Hotline's history as student-produced, this new initiative arose as a student project in Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd's Digital Libraries class in the fall of 2011. MLIS students Melissa Scanlan, Ashley Enman, and Jasmine MacDonald worked with Geoff Brown of the Killam Library to move the YA Hotline into a digital format.

Print copies of the YA Hotline will still be sent to paid subscribers, but no new paid subscriptions are being accepted. We hope that making the YA Hotline freely available online will attract a whole new audience of readers and YA librarians to this excellent resource.



## KEITH LAWSON

I am interested in the ways knowledge has become personalized as a result of changes in reading, researching, and writing practices enabled by information and communications technologies. However, some types of work resist these changes. While attending this year's Congress (2012) of the Humanities & Social Sciences in Waterloo, I heard a public lecture by Jane Urquhart on the importance of libraries and archives for her work as a fiction writer. She described how her work has always involved using libraries and archives to make a physical connection to information and to people through books they owned or through personal and private papers. These documents may not have an obvious public interest, such as the personal drawings made by Walter Allward of his Vimy memorial which were part of Urquhart's inspiration for *The Stone Carvers*. Marginalia and the character of handwriting are important clues for her imagination. Urquhart said that a writer of fiction needs to keep "one's feet sort of on the ground," and libraries and archives have always given her a way to do that.



## BERTRUM MACDONALD

During the winter term I enjoyed teaching two quite different courses. The Information, People, and Society course in the Master of Information Management program explores "hot" current issues such as information risks, intellectual property, privacy and surveillance, and social dimensions of information management. The MLIS History of the Book takes an historical perspective about information from ancient cultures to the present. Erin MacPherson, a student in the MIM course, presented a poster about her study of copyright at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association conference in Wolfville, in May.

The Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) research team continues to pursue a very active agenda ([www.eiui.ca](http://www.eiui.ca)). With a Partnership Development Grant of

\$198,795 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, we will undertake research over the next three years with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations. The EIUI member, Interdisciplinary PhD student, Suzuette Soomai, received the Graduate Prize for best paper awarded by the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, and a prestigious Bombardier Doctoral Fellowship of \$35,000 per year for three years. In May, another EIUI member, Dr. Elizabeth De Santo of the Marine Affairs Program, presented a poster at the Global Conference on Oceans, Climate and Security; Making the Connections in Boston. *Understanding the Net Neutrality Debate: Listening to Stakeholders*, a project by Master of Electronic Commerce student, Alexander Ly, supervised by Prof. Sandra Toze and me, was published in *First Monday*.

I serve also as President of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society; Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia; member of an ALA accreditation External Review Panel; member of the Board of Governors and Senate of Crandall University in Moncton, New Brunswick; and member of the executive of the international Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing. In my “free” time, I continue to sing with the award-winning chamber choir, The Halifax Camerata Singers.



## JACKIE MACDONALD

Winter 2012 Highlights included the experience of co-supervising a reading course with Dr. Louise Spiteri where Jackie Phinney (2012) successfully tackled a health policy language problem for OP3, [Nova Scotia's health policy](#) working group. Her results were presented as a poster at APLA 2012.

A question via the CANMEDLIB listserv asking Canadian health sciences librarians about the [knowledge and skills they wanted to see in new grads](#) resulted in a flood of responses, graciously edited by Sarah Visintini (Class of 2013)

A series of great speakers in the INFO6750 class (in addition to great students!) included:

- Dalhousie's Health Sciences Librarian Patrick Ellis (1988), who introduced the [Canadian Virtual Health Library](#).



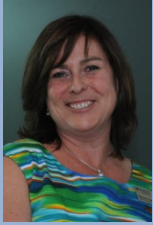
- Robin Parker (2010) gave an inspirational overview of evidence-based practice and her role in [Capital District Health Authority's Research Methods Unit](#).
- Pat Lee, DoctorsNS (1996) presented results of two 2011 research projects, a quantitative/qualitative study of NS MDs' information needs and a qualitative interview study that explored services offered to MDs by eight UK organizations.
- Michelle Helliwell (2003), whose work was recognized by Accreditation Canada in May 2012 as a leading Canadian practice.
- In explaining the difference between privacy, confidentiality and data protection, Carla Heggie (Information Access & Privacy Manager, NS Labour & Advanced Education) demonstrated the ease with which privacy can be breached and the impossibility of mending it.
- Yongtao Lin (2004), Librarian at the Tom Baker Cancer Knowledge Centre, Calgary, described how to systematically search for grey literature.
- Tracy Daley (2011) explained information referral and her role with Nova Scotia's 211 service.
- Kirstin Nucklaus, Senior Policy Analyst from Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness outlined aboriginal health policy and some of the more critical health issues associated with aboriginal health.



## LOUISE SPITERI

It's been a busy six months, between teaching, working on the School's strategic plan, and on the MLIS accreditation report, as I discuss in the Director's report. I was excited to teach records management again this winter, especially since the class contained students from both the MLIS and MIM program; I certainly learned a lot from this experience and look forward to this combination in future offerings of this course. I've been working on joint research projects with colleagues from the Schools of Public Administration and Business Administration: We are developing a joint case study about Halifax's "concertgate." I am very much enjoying sharing the perspectives from the different fields of management. I am working also with a colleague from Wayne State to study impact of social catalogues on readers' advisory; I've been looking at social catalogues for several years now and am excited to be working with a colleague who has expertise in the area of reading. My colleague Sandra Toze and I are involved in two exciting multi-disciplinary projects organized by the Centre for Advanced Management Education (CFAME); our focus will be on providing information management training sessions to professionals in Halifax and Cuba. I'll discuss these two projects in more

detail as they continue to develop. My summer projects include also home renovations and birthday celebrations with my family in Toronto.



## SANDRA TOZE

Congratulations to our recent MLIS and MIM graduates and best wishes for your future.

This past term I was excited to teach two courses for the first time. In *Advanced Knowledge Management*, the capstone course for the Knowledge Management major in the Bachelor of Management program, students looked at the Faculty of Management, suggesting how we can improve our knowledge management processes. Students in *Information Seeking Behaviour* also completed mini-research projects, looking at key issues related to information seeking of specific groups, the effects of new technologies, and issues related to particular processes including satisficing, verification and query modification. I was impressed by the range and depth of the finished reports.

I participated in an expert panel on information behaviour hosted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and have just returned from the Association of Professional Executives of the Public Service of Canada (APEX) annual symposium also in Ottawa. It is refreshing to hear how key departments are recognizing the opportunity for positive change in the face of budget constraints. I heard great things about our graduates currently working in Ottawa. SIM graduates have a reputation for being intelligent, adaptable and capable, and for immediately making an impact in their departments.

I am looking forward to presenting a session on Balancing Collaboration Privacy and Security at the Maritime Privacy and Access Workshop. The number of our graduates who are working in this community is increasing, and it is great to connect with them at this conference.

# STEPHANIE DOWNS AWARD



We are very pleased to announce that Jane Willwerth has been selected as the 2012 recipient of the Stephanie Downs Memorial Award.

As the recipient of the Memorial Award, Jane will have the opportunity to make contributions to the lives of international students within the Faculty of Management by:

- Participating on the planning committee for the international student orientation
- Acting as one of the facilitators during the international student orientation
- Through consultation, providing content and updating the Faculty's international student website

Candidates for the Stephanie Downs Memorial Award are selected for their demonstrated commitment to leadership, student life at SIM and to international librarianship.

After high school, Jane spent five months running after-school programming at the Prisoner Assistance Nepal Children's Home in Kathmandu, Nepal. In the Home's library, Jane saw for the first time how a small library could make a big difference.

Jane attended Carleton University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Human Rights and Political Science. This provided her with a solid grounding in international development with a special focus on African politics and gender. While at Carleton, Jane completed a practicum placement at Amnesty International Canada, where she worked under the organization's Information Coordinator. Again, she found how library and information management skills play a critical role in the human rights and international development fields.

Now at Dalhousie, Jane seeks to marry her values to a set of in-demand skills that can help address legitimate international development problems. She is currently co-chair of the Dalhousie chapter of Librarians Without Borders (LWB), an organization that seeks to eliminate the information inequality that currently exists between

different regions of the world. It is with LWB that Jane sees her skills and outlook converge, as she applies what she has learned in class to real-world development scenarios. The convergence continues as Jane completes a summer internship at the United Nations Multimedia Library, located at UN Headquarters in New York City.

**If you would like to make a donation to the Stephanie Downs Memorial Fund please visit the [website](#) or contact the Dalhousie Office of External Relations (1-800-565-9969).**

# DJIM SPRING UPDATE

It has been a busy 2012 for the Dalhousie Journal of Interdisciplinary Management (DJIM). We successfully published the first issue of Volume 8 in April, featuring articles from students in numerous schools in the Faculty of Management. We would like to thank all of our volunteers who donated their time in the peer-review and copyediting process. We appreciate all the work that both students and faculty volunteers put into this issue, as well as our upcoming issue.

Our upcoming issue, Issue #2 of Volume 8, will be published in September. In addition to Issue #1, this past semester the DJIM Executive wrote and published our first Annual Report, which is available on our [homepage](#). We also worked on an overhaul of our policies, which will be available online soon. We have a busy summer ahead of us, with plans to develop a stronger web presence, including a DJIM blog and more social media engagement. To keep up with DJIM, follow us on Twitter @DalhousieDJIM or like our page on Facebook at [facebook.com/DalhousieDJIM](https://facebook.com/DalhousieDJIM).

*Submitted by*

Laura Thorne

External Communications Officer 2011-2012



# ALUMNI NEWS

**2010-2012**



DOUG SEAMAN (2012) has accepted a position as an Implementation Specialist, Small Business Solutions, at ADP (Automatic Data Processing) Canada.

AMANDA WILK (2012) is working on contract as a Public Service Librarian for Haliburton County Public Library.

SARAH GILBERT (2011) will begin her PhD studies at UBC in the fall.

ERIN O'HALLORAN (2011) was invited to make a presentation to [The Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages](#), a committee currently studying the use of the Internet, new media and social media and the respect for Canadians' language rights. Erin will be presenting via video conference a paper on use of social media by government organizations and institutions in bilingual jurisdictions, written for her Legal Literature course at SIM.

KAMAU OSBORNE (2011) has completed his training at the National Library & Information System authority (NALIS), as of December 2011, is the Information Services Librarian at The Environmental Commission of Trinidad and Tobago. The library serves as a reference resource centre where persons may request information about environmental law and science and review judgements of the Commission.

ROBERT MARTEL (2011) was promoted in May to the position of "Library Chair"--the Administrative and Academic Head of the Atlantic School of Theology Library.

SHANNON MASON (2011) has been appointed Public Services Librarian at the Lakeland Library Region, based out of North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Shannon is facilitating programming in the rural branches of the region; one of her communities has a population of 30.

CONRAD NG (2011) won the *Best Poster Award at the [iConference '12 in Toronto](#)* in February. Conrad was presenting a poster titled, "[From Data to Knowledge: Discovery of Medical Laboratory Demand Patterns Through Visualization Techniques](#)," The poster depicts the result of a student-led study that was conducted in the Fall of 2011 while working as a research assistant at the Social Media Lab and in collaboration with Capital District Health Authority (CDHA).

HILLARY WEBB (2011) accepted a term position as the Visual Resources Librarian at NSCAD University, managing the non-print collections and heading special projects. Some of these projects include hiring and supervising a summer Archives Assistant through Young Canada Works funding, weeding and rehousing their 16mm film collection, and developing a series of bi-weekly film screenings. In May, Hillary attended the APLA conference in Wolfville, presenting a session on online visual resources called "Panning for digital image gold", and moderating a session by MLIS students Nancy McPhee and Amy Lorencz about the Khyber Archives. In addition, as of May 30th, 2012, Hillary will be taking on the role of vice-president of the Halifax Library Association.

JESSICA BABINEAU (2010) has accepted a position as an Information Specialist with Toronto Rehab of the University Health Network in Toronto, Ontario. Jessica is now a member of the Library and Information Services department, supporting research and practice in the fields of geriatric rehabilitation, neuro rehabilitation and complex continuing care.

NANCY EDGAR (2010) was officially appointed the Children's Librarian at the Fredericton Public Library on February 13th, 2012. (She had been in the position in an acting capacity since October 2010).

LARA KILLIAN (2010): As Evidence Synthesis Research Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Cochrane Resource Centre, this year Lara has taken over the Centre's website management and all communications output, from the active blog to quarterly newsletter production. Recently Lara represented the Centre in Winnipeg MB at the annual Canadian Cochrane Symposium, giving an oral session and presenting a poster, and in Wolfville NS at APLA, presenting an oral session and poster along with Robin Parker (2010).

GILLIAN NOWLAN (2010) is the inaugural recipient of the CLA Emerging Leader Award, established in 2012 to recognize a member of the Canadian Library Association with less than 5 years' experience in the library field who demonstrates leadership or active participation in association work. Read more on [SIMcast](#).

MICHAEL STEELEWORTHY (2010) has taken on a term contract as Government Information Librarian at the Wilfrid Laurier University Library, in Waterloo, Ontario. He is responsible for collecting and managing government publications and data, and incorporating them into reference services and the Library's teaching and learning programme. Stay in touch with him at [msteeleworthy@wlu.ca](mailto:msteeleworthy@wlu.ca).

## 2000-2009

ASHLEY MCKNIGHT (2009) will be spending the next 2 years as the high school librarian at the American International School in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Most recently Ashley worked for 3 years as the elementary librarian at the American International School of Kuwait.

ALISON BLACK (2007) has been hired as an "Information Desk Floater" with the Halifax Public Libraries; she will be filling in at different Information Desks around the region.

SMITTY MILLER (2005) was profiled in Dystart & Jones blog:  
<http://dysartjones.com/2012/04/now-thats-a-mobile-library/>

VIRGINIA POW (2005) has accepted an indeterminate secondment as Map Librarian at the University of Alberta

ELIZABETH MILLAR (2004) has been at Mount Allison University since October 2004, most recently as Public Services, Rare Books, and Special Collections Librarian, and was granted tenure last fall. She is nearly finished the coursework for a Graduate Certificate in Special Collections from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

SARAH WICKETT (2004) has been granted Continuing Appointment and promotion to Associate Librarian at Queen's University.

HEATHER BERRINGER (2003) is beginning a new position as Deputy Chief Librarian at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna, B.C. She was previously Director of Canadian Sales for YBP Library Services.

ERRIN MORRISON (2003), husband Grant and big brothers Jack and Wesley are pleased to announce the arrival of Frances Ione Morrison on March 12, 2012.

## 1990-1999

DAVID McDONALD (1999) accepted a job as Manager of Library Services at the College of the North Atlantic in Qatar. See [article](#) for complete story.

MICHELLE PAON (1998) submitted the following photo:



SIM alumni and faculty members can be found leading regional associations as well as local societies. A recent event in Halifax provided a chance meeting of three presidents. From left to right: Lou Duggan (MLIS '00) is the new President of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, Michelle Paon (MLIS '98) is the new President of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, and Dr. Bertrum MacDonald (SIM faculty member) is the President of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society. The photo was taken following the May 16, 2012 historical society lecture, at which Lou Duggan delivered a presentation on the reading habits of Alexander Graham Bell.

TANJA HARRISON (1996) has accepted the position of University Librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University.

JENNIFER RICHARD (1994) is this year's recipient of the APLA Merit Award; take a look at the [press release](#).

TIM KLASSEN (1992) After closing down the Science Library at The University of Illinois at Chicago, Tim has taken the position of Head Science and Technology Library at University of Alberta.



TONI SAMEK (1991) received a 3M National Teaching Fellowship; she is the first in the field of library and information studies to do so. Take a look at some articles about the award: [Macleans.ca \(1\)](#), [Macleans.ca \(2\)](#), [Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education](#).

## 1980-1989

MURRAY BAILLIE (1986) was presented with a certificate for giving 75 donations of blood to Canadian Blood Services; Murray began donating blood in 1966.

IAN COLFORD (1985) will have his first novel, *The Crimes of Hector Tomas*, published by Freehand Books in October this year.

NANCY BLACK (1981) has been appointed as Executive Director, Library Services for Nipissing University/Canadore College effective September 1 (read [press release](#)).

BARBARA CAMPBELL (1980) was presented with the 2012 Dennis Marshall Award for Excellence in Law Librarianship at the annual Canadian Association of Law Libraries/Association canadienne des bibliothèques de droit (CALL/ACBD) conference. This award is an honour bestowed upon a current member of CALL/ACBD who has provided outstanding service to the Association and enhanced the profession of law librarianship. Barbara recently retired from the Nova Scotia Barristers Society where she was Director of Library and Information Services.

## 1971-1979

SHARON LONGARD (1978) retired from Dalhousie's Killam Library on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Sharon has been part of Dalhousie Universities Libraries since 1978 and has filled many roles, most recently Head of Reference Services. Read more on the [LibVine](#).

JOAN DAWSON (1971) has recently completed another book, *Nova Scotia's Historic Rivers: The Waterways That Shaped the Province*, due to appear this fall. It's a follow-up or companion volume to *Nova Scotia's Lost Highways* (Nimbus, 2009).

PETER GLENISTER (1971) began his retirement on July 1 from Mount Saint Vincent University as Bibliographic Services Librarian after 44 years of employment there, 41 since graduating from SIM (then SLS). Peter intends to remain as active as possible within the local library community and right now has no specific plans for filling his time other than assisting as a volunteer in the constituency office of the Halifax M.P., Megan Leslie.



# AN EX-PAT IN DOHA

David McDonald (1999) relates his experiences as the Manager of Library Services for College of the North Atlantic in Qatar.

Pictures courtesy of Jacqueline Brown



December 2011. Gulp! I've been offered a job for a year and a half in Doha, Qatar. What do I do?

First thing to do is tell my current boss, the Legislative Librarian, that I've been offered this incredible experience, contingent on her reference, and beg for a leave of absence. Fortunately everyone at the Nova Scotia Legislature was incredibly supportive and I had no problem getting a leave of absence.

I received a formal letter of offer the week before Christmas. This letter was contingent upon my passing a criminal records check, AIDS test, and chest X-Ray. It's

not easy getting all of this done on the Christmas break, but I managed.

In January 2012 I received my final offer and they accepted me to be in Qatar, ready to work, on the 5th of February. So much to do; so little time.

My bike and I arrived in Qatar on February 3 and we were greeted by my new boss, the Vice President of Academics for College of the North Atlantic - Qatar. I was really doing this. I was going to be the new Manager of Library Services for College of the North Atlantic - Qatar.

Upon arrival I was taken to a local hotel for the next couple of nights. What a nice way to settle the nerves. The next day I saw my new apartment. There was nothing in the apartment except furniture so I had a lot of shopping to do. I hate shopping!

Fortunately the College provided a driver for me so that I could shop to my inglorious content. The College also provided a nice relocation allowance that would pay for pretty much everything that I needed to buy. It was a bit of shock though to come here and find a barren apartment. I assumed that I would at least have pots and pans and dishes. When I lived in Northern



Manitoba they provided everything. Lesson 1: Never assume anything.

After a couple of days of shopping I was taken to my new office at the College so that I could meet my staff and see the library. As the Manager of Library Services I am responsible for a thriving Learning Commons, and burgeoning archive, and of course the traditional library. Everyone at the library was glad to see me as they had been without a manager for over 8 months. They needed leadership badly.

I've never worked in a College Library before; it is quite different from a Special

Library. One of the first things I did was interview all of my staff. I had 17 staff working for me, so I figured that I could interview 2 a day and be finished in about 2 weeks.

I realize that in some libraries it would not be possible or even prudent for a new manager to interview all of his/her staff. But I was very glad that I took this time as I learned a lot about the culture of the library; the culture of the college; problems that needed to be addressed; workflows in the library; the culture of Qatar; etc. If you have an opportunity to do this, I highly recommend it.

I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about what I have done, haven't done, and intend to do in the library since moving to Qatar. The day-to-day functions are pretty much the same as anywhere else, with a few exceptions.

1. I have to be continually aware of the conservative Qatari culture.
  - Qatari women cover themselves by wearing shaylahs over their hair and abayas. Some women wear niqabs (the face covering) as well
  - Censorship is taken to a new level in Qatar. I have to be very careful that the books, particularly the fiction, we purchase are not anti-Islamic or advocate non-Islamic values. As an example, I had to pull Persepolis 2 from the shelf due to complaints
  - The library must ensure that it does not create an environment that encourages men and women to conduct inappropriate behaviour. There was one study room in particular that was hidden away where men and women used to go. I had to replace the walls with clear glass
  - The library holds some "art" reference books that are of particular interest to some of the young gentlemen. They have great fun finding an alluring photograph and displaying it in the reference collection stands. Some of my staff don't like the fact that we have these "art" books, but I take the same stance as my predecessor. If these books made it through the censors, then they can stay in the College library.
2. Since there is no public library in Doha yet, our College library carries current DVDs and fiction or travel books that are of interest to both students and faculty.
3. There is a separate study area for women. The original plan for the library had a separate study area for men too, but the librarian nixed that idea as he thought that the separate study area for men would not be used for too much studying. I

have to say that I agree with his decision and it provided us with a staff room.

4. There are prayer rooms in the library for men and women complete with a place for ablutions (cleansing the hands, arms, and feet before prayer).
5. Work days are Sunday - Thursday

If you're interested in learning more about the library and its operations, please drop me a line.



All ex-pat workers in Qatar must become residents of Qatar. Before I received my telephone/internet connection, driver's license, liquor license, I had to be Qatarized by getting my Qatar ID. Fortunately the College took care of most of the details. They made the appointment for me to get my AIDS test, chest X-Ray, blood typed, and finger printed. Oh and I'm pretty sure they took a retinal scan when I first entered the country. The only thing they didn't ask me was my shoe size. It took about 2 weeks to get my ID, internet and liquor permit.

Muslims cannot drink in Qatar, so liquor consumption is strictly watched. In order to go into a bar, you must show either your passport or Qatar ID. A liquor permit

is relatively easy to get. You just go to the QDC (Qatar Distribution Company, which is owned by the Emir) pay 1000 QAR (about \$300) deposit and then you can buy liquor. I think you're only allowed to buy 20% of your income in liquor. Like that's ever going to happen. The important thing is that I can buy liquor. Oh QDC also sells pork. So if I get a hankering for pork sausage, bacon, or ham, I know it's there. Pork is not cheap, but it's there.



The cost of living in Qatar is pretty much the same as Canada. Most of the produce and milk comes from Saudi Arabia. Beef generally comes from Australia and New Zealand. The only things that I buy here that are native to Qatar are eggs and cucumbers. The cucumbers here are scrumptious. I can buy most of the things that I used to buy in Halifax here too. For some things, though, like unsweetened peanut butter, I have to go to the more expensive grocery store, but it's worth it.

Restaurants here are incredibly cheap. In my neighbourhood there are numerous restaurants where I can eat a top notch meal for \$10-15.



One thing that I was worried about before moving to Doha was: will my social life deteriorate? I mean, I was far from a social butterfly in Halifax, but I really didn't want to spend all of my time in my apartment staring at four walls. Fortunately, there is no shortage of things to do here.

When I first arrived, the Tour of Qatar was on so a friend and I went down to the Corniche to watch world class cyclists race; there were hardly any spectators. At the end of the race I could walk up and touch the bikes. It was amazing. The next week the Qatar Ladies Tennis Open was on and I went down to watch world class tennis for free. Just a couple of weeks ago world class track and field was here as well.

On the arts side, there is a world class philharmonic orchestra filled with musicians handpicked by the Emir. There is a beautiful Museum of Islamic Art. Currently there are celebrations going on commemorating 40 years of Japanese-Qatari relations. As a result, I saw Kobo drumming and some great Japanese films. These events are dirt cheap. Just last week I saw the Celtic Tenors for \$100. The cost included a first class meal and all the wine you could drink. I mean come on!





I joined the Doha Bay Running Club and I try to go out for at least a 20 K run every Friday morning with them as the traffic, which is normally nuts, is very calm then. After the run we all meet at the local coffee shop. On Saturday morning I used to take my bike out for a 100 K ride again with folks from the Running Club, but it's getting too hot in the desert now. Our last ride was just before Mother's Day and the temperature in the desert was 104 degrees. Now on Saturdays we're all going swimming. One of my fears about moving here was that I would lose my activity. That certainly hasn't happened. Oh, and Judy, I'm giving weekly dance lessons in my apartment building. Right now they want to learn country line dancing so I've started them with slap-leather and the tush-push. We'll graduate to swing soon.

I hope I haven't bored you to tears with my little expose about life in Doha. If you do get offered a job in the Middle East and you decide to take it, I have a few words of advice. There are likely going to be tons of people like you out there. Find a group that shares your interests and join them. I've also joined the Qatar Natural History Group which has amazing lectures once a month. The Middle East is what you make of it. Don't sit in your apartment or villa. Get out there.

If you would like more information please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd love to hear from you.

Cheers,  
David McDonald  
Class of '99

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Oh another great thing about the Middle East is that if you like to travel, you are so close to other places in the world that you may not get to otherwise. For example I just returned from Jordan and this summer I'm participating in CyclingforLibraries, which is a 600 K bicycle tour in the Baltic States. It's deemed an unconference. How cool is that?

# CLA SPRING UPDATE

The CLA Student Chapter at Dalhousie kept busy during the winter semester of 2012. Following the success of our trivia night fundraisers in first semester, we hosted another one at the Grad House in February. These events were financial successes and generated enthusiastic praise from participants, so expect to see more of them next year.

Continuing with one of last year's successes, the CLA Student group hosted another Broken-hearted Bake Sale on February 15th. Despite the lovelorn theme, the treats brought smiles to faces and coins to the coffers to help fund travel grants for students to attend the CLA Conference in Ottawa.

The Peer Mentor Program wrapped up this year with a closing reception and book auction. Special thanks go to Darrell Yates, who volunteered his time to be our auctioneer, and to all those who attended.

This year's outgoing CLA Executive (Mark McHale, Andie Bulman, Kristy McGill, and Elinor Crosby) would like to thank the SIM community and all of our outside partners for their help and participation in our events. We would also like to enthusiastically greet the incoming executive. The Dalhousie CLA Student Chapter will be in great hands during the 2012-2013 school year with our new executive:

Hilary Stamper - co-chair  
Veronika Kollbrand - co-chair  
Chantal de Medeiros - Treasurer  
Lisa Gauthier -Secretary

Congratulations to the 2012 SIM graduates, the 2013 incoming class, and we hope everyone enjoys their summer!

*Submitted by*  
Mark McHale  
CLA Co-Chair 2011-2012

# SLA SPRING UPDATE

The semester got off to a good start for the SLA after the winter holidays, as members attended the Information Without Borders Conference February 9th and took in the various talks and posters.

Several days later the SLA's "Death By Chocolate" Valentine's Day Bake Sale was held and much appreciated by treat lovers in the Kenneth C. Rowe.



While plans and tours had to be put on hold because of the transit strike and the potential faculty strike, the Dalhousie Chapter did manage to use that time to secure funding and some sponsorship from the SLA to put towards a future fundraising event. We look forward to getting those plans back in gear in the fall, however, as we welcome the next class of MLIS students and elect a number of them to our now-open first year positions!

*Submitted by*  
Sarah Visintini  
SLA Co-Chair 2011-2012

# IN MEMORIAM: DR. HAIDAR MOUKDAD

It is with deep regret that we announce that our colleague, Dr. Haidar Moukdad, died on May 31, 2012. Haidar had been with the School of Information Management since 1999, where he taught information technology courses in the Master of Library and Information Studies program, and supervised a number of reading courses and theses.

Haidar was known in particular for his strong support of our international students, for whom he acted as mentor. Haidar had an avid interest in the field of information retrieval (IR) in general and the linguistic aspects of IR, including Arabic IR and cross-language information retrieval (CLIR), in particular. Haidar conducted research in how Web search engines handle documents in different languages, how government information is selected and published on the Web, and how mental models are developed by Web users.



A private service has been held for Haidar in accordance with his family's wishes. We express our sincere condolences to Haidar's family and friends.

Donations in Haidar's memory may be made to [SIM Memorial Scholarships](#) or to a charity of your choice.



# INFORM

School of Information Management

Look for the next  
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