

# INFORM

School of Information Management

*July to December 2013*

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It has been very productive and busy six months at SIM since the last edition of Inform. Below are just some of the highlights of our activities:

Assistant Professor Dr. Mike Smit joined SIM on July 1, 2013. Dr. Smit has a PhD from the University of Alberta, and Master and Bachelor of Computer Science from Dalhousie University. Dr. Smit's research examines the intersection of software engineering, software systems, and people. Dr. Smit has been a Post-doctoral Fellow at York University (Toronto), serves as the Program Director/Manager/Faculty with [Shad Valley](#) at Dalhousie University, and has held a Research Fellowship at IBM Centers for Advanced Studies in Toronto.

Professor Sandra Toze started a five-year limited-term position on July 1, 2013. Professor Toze has a Master of Library Science from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University. Professor Toze is a PhD candidate at Dalhousie University. Professor Toze has been a lecturer at the School since 2003, and has served as the marketing manager of the Master of Information Management program since 2010. Professor Toze's research examines how humans find and integrate information to effectively accomplish knowledge based work tasks, and to help design tools and practices to facilitate and enhance this process. Professor Toze's PhD research looks at a particular type of collaboration, namely how student groups find and integrate information to accomplish complex assignments

MLIS alumnus, and part-time SIM instructor James Boxall, the Director the GISciences Centre within the Dalhousie University Libraries, was elected a Governor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) at the November 13th meeting of the RCGS College of Fellows.

December 17, 2013 marks the departure of Jenn Mitton, SIM's Administrative Assistant. Jenn has been with SIM for four years; she started as our Communications and Records Officer, and eventually became our Administrative Assistant. Jenn has played an important role in SIM in many ways, including managing functions relating to finance, applications, human resources, the website, and our social media resources. On behalf of all my colleagues at SIM, I would like to thank Jenn for her many contributions to the School, and to congratulate her on her new position in another Dalhousie unit.

A number of SIM students were honoured in the fall 2013 Convocation. Melissa Rothfus received her Master of Library and Information Studies degree, and six students received their Master of Information Management degree: Louise Bernier, Jules Bocarro, Joyce Choueiri, Carolyn Finney, Richard Gallo, and Robert Jech.

MLIS student Alison Froese-Stoddard, has been selected as the first recipient of the Dalhousie-

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Horrocks National Leadership Fund. The inaugural Norman Horrocks lecture will be given on January 15, 2014, by Madeleine Lefebvre, chief librarian at Ryerson University, and a long-time friend and colleague of Norman.

I wish all of you a happy holiday season and encourage you to explore fully this edition of Inform. Please feel free to visit our new School websites: the [SIM](#) site, the [MLIS](#) site, and the [MIM](#) site.

Louise Spiteri  
*Director of SIM*

# STUDENT NEWS

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN ARCHIVISTS (ACA) STUDENT CHAPTER:

The student chapter of the Association of Canadian Archivists is small yet mighty. Working together to promote issues and opportunities surrounding archives are Alison Froese-Stoddard (Secretary), Ray MacLeod (Treasurer), Karen Vermeulen (Co-Chair), Alyssa Dawson (Co-Chair), Dominique Taylor and Andrea Kampen. The Chapter invited the greater SIM community to participate in a tour of the Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections, led by the faculty advisor Creighton Barrett. We are looking forward to the winter term, when we have exciting tours and discussion opportunities planned. We're working on igniting interest and discussion surrounding the archives profession by connecting with the University of Toronto ACA Chapter to potentially participate in their archives symposium. We would take the ideas to the Dalhousie environment. We also have further tours planned at Shambhla, Nova Scotia Archives and Pier 21. The tours are a way to immerse students in a practical archives experience and facilitate new ways of looking at the archives profession. As students it is fundamental that we begin to consider the issues that we will encounter in our careers and learn from the experience of the professionals in our field. The mentoring program offered by the ACA allows for one-on-one interactions between students and professionals.

**SIMSA:** The fall 2013 semester kicked off with a jam packed orientation: BBQs, lunch at the Grawood, and a vigorous game of soccer baseball were held to welcome the incoming students. Throughout the semester, Nicole Bludoff, SIMSA's VP Academic has hosted a series of Brown Bag Lunches that invite students into conversations with professionals surrounding current issues and opportunities in the field. Thanks, Nicole!

SIM students voted in the newest members of the SIMSA executive at September's General Meeting. Please welcome our new executives:

- Andrea Kampen: 1st Year Representative
- Laura Corscadden: 2nd Year Representative
- Alieda Blandford: Digital Publications Assistant

At the conclusion of the fall semester, SIMSA hosted the annual holiday party at the King's Wardroom. This event had an ugly holiday sweater contest, karaoke, a Yankee swap and many holiday-themed treats. SIMSA also raffled off two holiday baskets of items donated by the students of SIM.

The upcoming winter semester fundraisers and events are already in the works. SIMSA is going to be compiling a book of student creative writing and works of art for unveiling at the victory party, and a few of our executive members have some cool designs in mind for tee-shirts and tote bags. Also, April's AGM will not be far on the horizon. If you would like to nominate yourself or a classmate for one of the executive positions, you might want to start reviewing the position descriptions found on the [SIMSA website](#).

SIMSA would like to wish everyone the happiest and warmest holiday wishes. We will see you again in the New Year.

**SPECIAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (SLA) STUDENT GROUP:** Welcome to all the new students from your Dalhousie SLA group. We're looking forward to an exciting year.

We're pleased to announce our 2013-2014 SLA Executive Officers:

- Co-chairs: Karen Vermeylen and Carlisle Kent
- Internal Relations Coordinators: Patrick Hanratty and Tamara Proulx
- External Relations Coordinators: Pia Dewar and Kaitlin Haley
- Treasurers: Danika Kowpak and Carlisle Kent
- Website Administrators: Nicole Bloudoff and Valerie Collins
- Secretary: Ray MacLeod

We'd also like to send a big "thank you" to all our members and volunteers.

This semester the SLA shared some Halloween fun with Dalhousie students in the form of our "SLA Spooktacular Surprises," a brand new fundraising event. We also arranged a "behind the scenes" tour of the Maritime Command Museum's library and archive, where we had the opportunity to see some of the highlights of their collection, learn about the museum's history, chat with the director about their current projects and even hear a few ghost stories!

We're looking forward to an exciting winter semester, including some more library tours and special events, as well as our famous "Death by Chocolate" bake sale in February. On behalf of the ACA, congratulations to the 2013 grads.

## STUDENT NEWS

**MARC HARPER:** As we approach the end of 2013, I am particularly excited about the successful planning that has gone into the upcoming student led Information Without Borders (IWB) Conference.

February 13, 2014, will mark the eighth edition of this conference, which is titled to reflect the topic: *Privacy, Security, and Surveillance: Developments and Challenges in the Information Age*. Each year, students from Dalhousie University's School of Information Management take on the exciting task of upholding the IWB Conference's tradition of excellence. This year is no different, as the 2013 conference was attended by a variety of information management professionals within the HRM and featured Stephen Abram as the keynote speaker.

As Fundraising Chair and Finance Officer of this year's conference, I have come to understand how much work goes into such an endeavour. A wide variety of details such as flights, hotel rooms, and catering must be meticulously observed and must all stay within budget.

After several months of planning, the IWB committee is thrilled to announce that Dr. Ronald Deibert will be this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Deibert is Director of the Canada Centre for Global Security Studies and the Citizen Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto.

As the IWB committee builds on the success of 2013 and enters the final push into 2014, more

information about the School of Information Management's IWB Conference can be found at: [iwbconference.ca](http://iwbconference.ca)

The IWB Conference can also be followed on Twitter at: @iwb\_conference

**MENGJIA ZHANG:** Since September 2013, I have been doing a reading course project with Dr. Jacqueline MacDonald. The purpose of this reading course is to design a research data management centre for the University of Bristol's Data to Knowledge (D2K) research team by using Microsoft SharePoint 2010. Prior to this project, I had taken the course Records Management (INFO6370) taught by Dr. Louise Spiteri, during which, my three classmates and I developed a classification system and retention schedule for the University of King's College Student Union. However, due to time constraints, we did not have a chance to explore an approach to manage the organization's electronic records.

My reading course has provided me with a valuable opportunity to create a general naming convention, file plan, and retention policy for a research team's electronic records, and to test how well SharePoint 2010, including its records centre and in place records management features would fulfill the needs of the research team. As part of my reading course, a systematic search of the research literature on the role of SharePoint in managing research records was conducted. During my search process, I became interested in research data management. As a result, I determined to select research data management as the topic of the essay assignment for the course Information in Society (INFO 5500). When I conducted an interview with Dr. Joyline Makani for my assignment, I learned that the Dalhousie Libraries just began exploring how our librarians can contribute to the university's research data management.

I am excited to see how my previous and current coursework has inspired me to generate new ideas as well as to make an exhaustive study on certain topics.



# INTRODUCING MIKE SMIT

SIM WARMLY WELCOMES DR. MIKE SMIT ON BOARD AS OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER.

**SIM:** *Tell us about your career path so far.*

**MIKE:** I “grew up” right here at Dalhousie, completing a Bachelors and a Master’s degree in the Faculty of Computer Science. I left to complete a PhD at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, then spent two years as a post-doctoral fellow at York University in Toronto. Along the way, I’ve been able to work with some outstanding researchers, supervisors, and organizations on some fascinating problems. I am also the Co-director of Dalhousie’s Shad Valley program, an intensive residential high school summer program for exceptional students focusing on technology, science, engineering, entrepreneurship, and leadership, where I’ve worked each July since 2001 in various capacities.



**SIM:** *What interests you as a researcher?*

**MIKE:** I have always been interested in the ways that people, information, and technology interact. This is particularly interesting for emerging technologies - how do we as a society adapt to new technology? How do the roles of information producer, consumer, or curator change as a result? How do we make new technology useful and powerful, and information accessible and usable, without creating a digital divide between the haves and have-nots of technology? Right now my three focus areas are open information and society; the role of information systems in large, geographically distributed research communities; and next-generation cloud computing and Big Data systems.

**SIM:** *What will you be teaching at SIM?*

**MIKE:** Some very exciting courses! I’ve been working hard to re-invent our Databases course, focusing on data management as a problem and introducing a wide variety of solutions ranging from the traditional to the brand-new. Our incoming and returning MLIS students will all take that course so it should be an interesting experience. I’m also teaching our SIM Research Methods courses, which offer students the opportunity and the means to harness their creativity and curiosity to learn more about themselves, their profession, and the world of research.

# INTRODUCING MIKE SMIT

**SIM:** *What's your favourite thing about living in Halifax (again)?*

**MIKE:** The people. There are many highlights - the sun rising over the ocean and other examples of natural beauty, the top-calibre university, the cheaper car insurance - but a decade away has helped me appreciate even more the friendly, welcoming, and interesting people.

**SIM:** *Tell us one interesting fact about yourself.*

**MIKE:** I grew up on a small family dairy farm right here in Nova Scotia, so in addition to my PhD in Computer Science, I know about animal health and welfare, crop management, heavy equipment operation, and of course what our UK friends call “mucking out”.

**SIM:** *How can we get in touch?*

**MIKE:** [mike.smit@dal.ca](mailto:mike.smit@dal.ca), or find me in 4024 in SIM.



# SOCIAL MEDIA LAB

## DATA, DATA EVERYWHERE...NOR ANY FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS



Recently four members of the Social Media Lab (Nathan LaPierre, Lama Khoshaim, Philip Mai and myself) participated in a colloquium called “[Compromised Data: New Paradigms in Social Media Theory & Methods](#)” in Toronto. The Colloquium attracted both qualitative and quantitative researchers from across Canada.

As the title suggests the colloquium focused on the theories and methods that are used (or can be used) to analyze social media as well as tackled questions around the politics of big data. One of the more interesting discussions at the event was the challenges

of getting access to quality social media data. This issue is of great concern to many social scientists because, ironically, while we live in a world steeped in data, many social science researchers often find themselves data poor in a data rich world. This is because more and more data sets are held in private hands. As a result, there is a growing concern among some academic researchers that only corporations and well-funded researchers have access to this treasure trove of behavioral data. Such concern has been previously raised by researchers in relation to access to Facebook data and well covered by Nature.com (see “[Facebook ‘likes’ the scientific method](#)”). As you may remember, this is when Facebook was pressured by the research community to institute a supervised protocol to allow independent researchers to access the social media data underlying their own in-house studies.

At the end, many of us who attended the colloquium had more questions than answers, but I think that is good. It shows how our multidisciplinary community of internet researchers is beginning to seriously think about data quality, access and replicability of social media studies. I take this as a sure sign that the field is maturing. And as Albert Einstein noted, “To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.”

*Written by Anatoliy Gruzd with contributions from Lama Khoshaim and Philip Mai*

## 2013 SOCIAL MEDIA & SOCIETY CONFERENCE AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY PROMOTES INTERDISCIPLINARY EXCHANGE



Nearly 200 researchers and professionals attended Canada's second major interdisciplinary symposium looking at the effects of social media on society.

Sponsored by GRAND and Dalhousie University, and organized by Dalhousie's Social Media Lab, the [2013 International Conference on Social Media and Society](#) (Sept 14-15, 2013) was a successful follow-up to the lab's 2012 conference [Measuring Influence on Social Media](#).

The 2013 symposium offered an impressive two-day program comprised of over 60 presentations and panel discussions covering wide-ranging social media topics. The speaker line-up included over 90 researchers and practitioners across several fields and disciplines from over 60 institutions in 15 different countries.

Among the highlights included a talk by keynote speaker Dr. Sharad Goel, Senior Researcher at Microsoft Research and expert in the emerging field of computational social science, who spoke about his leading-edge research on virality.

The international symposia are the first in Canada to focus on the best practices for studying the impact and implications of social media on society. Both conferences have helped form a new interdisciplinary network of experts and professionals interested in the area.

"As an organizer, it is great to see that there is a community forming around this conference," said Dr. Anatoliy Gruzdt, Director of the Social Media Lab. "People are already talking about attending next year's conference."

"With themes including identity, online communities, academia, marketing, and politics, this conference had something for everyone," wrote Ottawa presenter Stefanie Duguay about the 2013 symposium on her [blog](#). "This was a good reflection of the diversity of areas in society affected by

# SOCIAL MEDIA LAB

new information and communications technologies (ICTs). It also captured the interdisciplinary work of the academics studying this field.”

Networking opportunities were also a big draw for attendees. Academic and business professionals exchanged on some of the latest research in the area of social media. Participants further connected through the conference Twitter hashtag #SMSociety13 - networking activity which itself was a natural topic of discussion during the conference. A tour of the Social Media Lab, a newly opened state-of-the-art research lab dedicated to social media, was also a highpoint for many participants.

*Written by Spencer Rose for [GRAND NCE](#), re-posted with permission.*

# ALUMNI NEWS

Follow SIMAA on Twitter for all the latest news @SIM\_Alumni

## 2010-2013

CHANTAL DE MEDEIROS (2013) is working as a Research Analyst for the Office of Institutional Analysis and Research at Dalhousie University.

LISA GAUTHIER (2013) is the Document Coordinator for the Office of Advancement at the University of Alberta.

NICOLE TANNER (2011) is now the Alumni & Communications Administrator at the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association.

## 2000-2009

DENISE COREY (2006) has accepted the position of Chief Librarian for the Cumberland Public Libraries as of Oct. 28 2013.

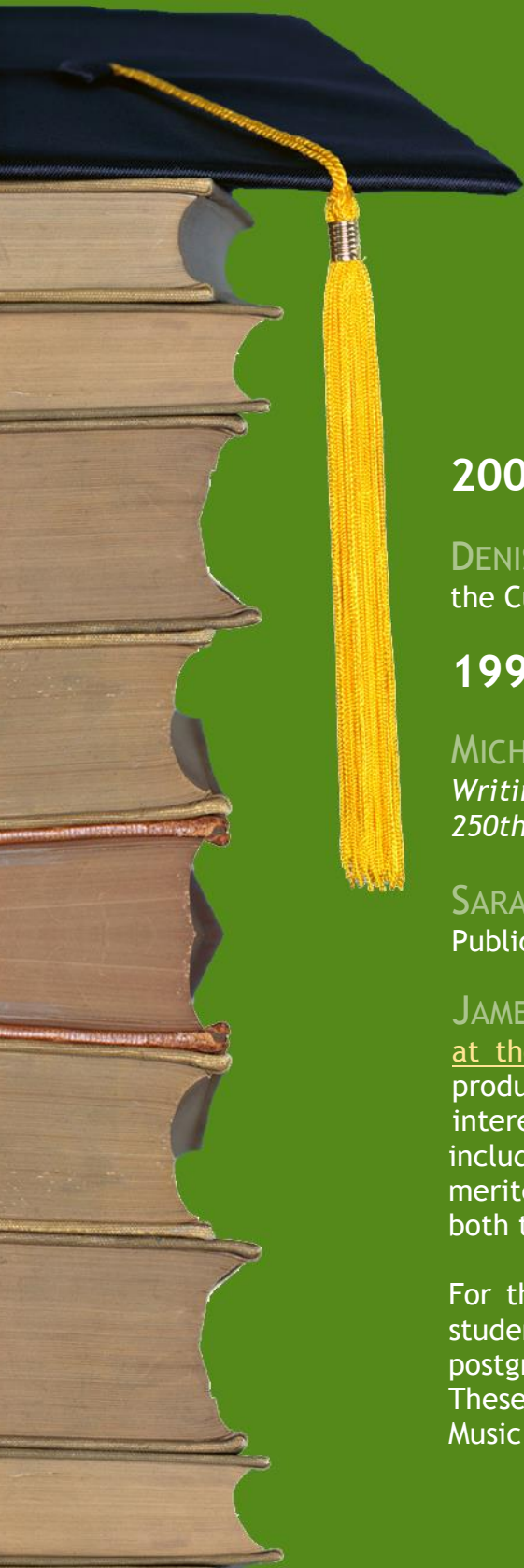
## 1990-1999

MICHELLE PAON (1998) had a poem, "Freshwater Dog", published in *Writing the Common: Being an Anthology of Poetry Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Halifax Common*.

SARA GILLIS (1994) is the Community-Led Service Manager with Halifax Public Libraries.

JAMES (JAMIE) MITCHELL (1991) curated a two-month long [exhibition at the National Library of Scotland](#) which focused on miniature book production in Scotland from the 19th century to the present day. Media interest was extensive with print coverage in over ten UK papers, including *The Guardian*, and papers in mainland Europe and Asia. It merited a feature on BBC television and there was radio coverage on both the BBC and National Public Radio in the United States.

For the third year running, James is also mentoring two postgraduate students from the University of Edinburgh who are working towards postgraduate degrees in 'Material Cultures and the History of the Book'. These students spend 20 days working with James in the Rare Books and Music Division of the National Library of Scotland over two terms.



# 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, 2012 and March 31, 2013.

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AMSI

## CLEMENT HARRISON

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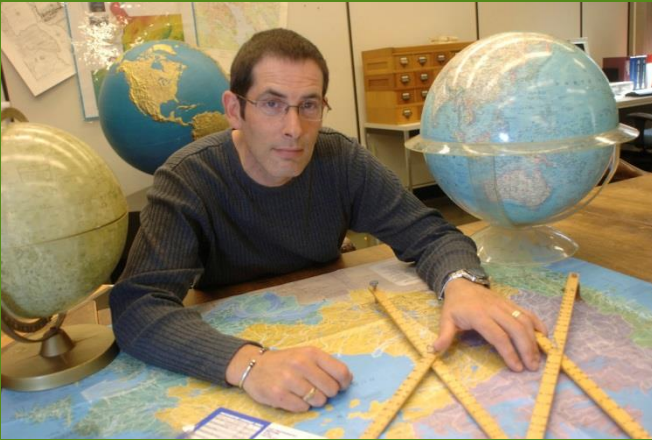
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# FEATURE: ALUMNUS JAMES BOXALL



James Boxall, the Director the GISciences Centre within the Dalhousie University Libraries, was elected a Governor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society at the November 13th meeting of the RCGS College of Fellows. That occasion saw the Fellows Dinner and Medal Awards ceremony attended by His Excellency, Dr. David Johnston, Governor General of Canada and Patron of the RCGS, and the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, and Laureen Harper. His Excellency spoke passionately about the need for

education to be at the cornerstone of our understanding of the tremendous geography of Canada, and Mrs. Harper spoke about the role geography plays in our lives as Canadians. The Prime Minister and Mrs. Harper were inducted into the College of Fellows at the Gala as well. Of note as well was the attendance of Dr. Roger Tomlinson, the creator of GIS 50 years ago, who received a standing ovation for his contribution to the science of GIS and the ability of Canada to lead the world in geography through GIS.

“Every term I tell my geography class that Dalhousie is a unique model of how geography can be done properly, as an integrative science that brings together the human and physical systems to seek solutions to the most complex problems of our interactions with our planet and each other. It also does this most impressively through the use of geographic technologies like GIS and remotes sensing. And now with the explosion of applications over the web and mobile devices, the nature of how we visualize the issues we face and solutions we can use comes to life and makes the richness and power of cartography come alive.”

“What makes Dalhousie such a leader in Canada is that we developed a model that has a philosophical and historic basis that can be traced back to the roots of the discipline of geography. Nearly 2200 years ago, the first person to use the term geography, and who first measured the actual spherical size of the planet, our distance to the moon and sun, and gave us the concepts of latitude and longitude did so as the Librarian of the Great Library of Alexandria. Eratosthenes became known as the founder of geography, and he did so within the context of being the Librarian. The principle of understanding our Earth and promoting learning through geography has its basis in the same core values of the library. This is why Dalhousie received several awards for the GISciences Centre in the University Libraries - we have kept that history and those principles alive, and we promote them every day through the interaction of geography, GIS, data and the library as the hub and access point for the information to ‘do geography’.”

“Being a Governor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society is an honour, and now I am tasked with moving the agenda forward with regard to enhancing geographic education at all levels and in the public domain. The first step was taken this past August with the development of the

# FEATURE: ALUMNUS JAMES BOXALL

Declaration for Advancing Geographic Education for Canadians, which has now been endorsed by several associations and sponsors, including the RCGS and the Canadian Association of Geographers. I am also co-chair of the Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table, which is developing a comprehensive strategy to enhance the geomatics sector in Canada and increase both our economic position in that industry as well as increase our contributions to Canadian society, the environment and the protection of our country and peoples. That Round Table is also seeking ways to enhance education and research, and the benefits of these efforts will certainly have a positive impact on Dalhousie and our students.”

*James was also featured in an interview by the [Chronicle Herald](#).*

# FACULTY NEWS

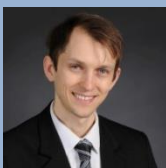
## CREIGHTON BARRETT

This past summer, I was appointed Digital Archivist at the Dalhousie University Archives. The role is a new faculty position for the Dalhousie Libraries. I have continued working on the Archives' access and discovery systems and am now working on increasing our capacity for acquiring and preserving born-digital archival materials. We recently launched our new [online finding aid database](#) and are beginning to explore methods of providing online access to our collections through the finding aids. It has been an exciting few months! I will be taking a few months of family leave in the winter 2014 term so I won't be teaching INFO 6800 Archives this year. Patti Bannister (Manager at Nova Scotia Archives) will be teaching the course. Patti is fantastic, and students will have a wonderful opportunity to learn about archives from an experienced professional archivist. I recently received a small Research Grant from the Council of Atlantic University Libraries to support my research on Helen Creighton's collection of archival sound recordings. That project will start in the summer of 2014 when I return from my leave.



## FIONA BLACK

It is not often that Hollywood and my research coincide in any meaningful way. An exception relates to the recently concluded Marine Piracy project here at Dalhousie, for which I was one of the team leads focusing on the Information Management side both of piracy and of the project. Throughout the project, I learned much about impoverished coastal villages, crime lords and child pirates—all of which feature, remarkably realistically, in *Captain Phillips* starring Tom Hanks. My major research remains in the realm book history and digital humanities and I chuckled ruefully when presenting at this year's conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing in Philadelphia. The theme of the conference was Geographies of the Book and this is my field. I was speaking with doctoral students as they demonstrated their applications of geographic information systems to address book history questions. One of the students looked up, gasped, and said "Oh help, you're Fiona Black; now I'm speechless." I was taken aback—my goal is always to be collegial and supportive with fellow scholars, not intellectually terrifying! Happily, I do not seem to terrify our wonderful MLIS and MIM students and I am learning much through supervisions and mentoring for theses, reading courses and term papers. For example, a MIM student is investigating the complexity of Dalhousie's current initiative to enable better institutional intelligence (called business intelligence, or BI, in some sectors). We need SIM students and their skills throughout the University in my view!



## ANATOLIY GRUZD

For my INFORM update, I want to focus on one of my recent studies co-authored with Dr. Caroline Haythornthwaite (UBC) and published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research this fall. In this study entitled "[Enabling Community Through Social Media](#)", Dr. Haythornthwaite and I used social network analysis to examine the #HCSMCA (Health Care Social Media Canada) community of people on Twitter who are interested in exploring social innovation in

health care in Canada.

The primary aim of this research is to discover and understand the different kinds of communities that can be created and sustained online, and the different motivations that support participation in these online collectives. In the case of #HCSMCA, we are interested in understanding the group's operation, identifying key constituents, and how information and other resources flow in the network. Knowing this information will allow group moderators and others to identify prominent actors and more importantly to discover peripheral participants. These peripheral participants represent an untapped resource that can be mobilized to create new social capital for the group. The paper is freely accessible [online](#).



## VIVIAN HOWARD

While many other universities offer undergraduate minors or majors in Aboriginal/Indigenous/Native Studies, Dalhousie offers a program in Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Social Work, but otherwise has no degrees or minors related to Aboriginal or Indigenous peoples. However, the recent report "Joining the Conversation: An Inventory and Report of Indigenous Peoples Research Engagement at Dalhousie University" (January 2012) notes strong community interest in an Aboriginal Studies program and the existence of a community of experts across the institution, as well as a core of undergraduate classes in at least three faculties, available to support programs such as a minor or major in Aboriginal Studies. In the spring of 2013, Patricia Doyle Bedwell, Director of the Transition Year Program, and I submitted a successful application to Dalhousie's Academic Innovation Fund and secured funding to hire Lisa Robinson as curriculum developer to create a proposal for an interdisciplinary undergraduate Minor in Aboriginal/Indigenous Studies here at Dalhousie. In early November, Lisa attended the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) forum for Aboriginal Scholars and also visited Trent University, site of the oldest Indigenous Studies Program in Canada. In late November, I was privileged to spend a week at UBC, where I met with Dr. Daniel Justice, Director of the First Nations Studies Program, and Dr. Linc Kesler, Director of the First Nations House of Learning and Advisor to the UBC President on Aboriginal Affairs. I also was inspired by the [Xwi7xwa Library](#), the only Aboriginal branch of university library system in the country. For more information on UBC's FNSP, see the [Aboriginal Portal](#) and the [Indigenous Foundations website](#).



## PAUL MCKENNA

Over the last six months I've been excited to have been involved in a major review sponsored by Public Safety Canada dealing with the 'Economics of Policing in Canada' and, particularly, the Education & Learning facet of this national reform undertaking. I will be heading to Toronto in early December to advance the dialogue and planning on this initiative. I was also gratified to have been invited as a Guest Speaker to a gathering of the Federal/Provincial executives in charge of civilian overseers of policing which took place in Ottawa and sponsored by the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP.

In the publishing realm, I've been pleased to develop a paper on 'Tiered Policing' as part of a Discussion Paper series sponsored by the Canadian Police College and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police dealing with a range of current topics relating to law enforcement. Finally, I am eager to pursue a new publishing project under the auspices of Oxford University Press Canada dealing with policing issues.



## MIKE SMIT

In these past months, I have experienced all the joys of being new!

I've spent time with my SIM colleagues in various settings, met colleagues in other Schools, connected with familiar faces in Computer Science, applied for many research grants, prepared for courses, and in general attended many, many more events than would otherwise be practical as I sought to learn as much as I could about my new home!

My hobby project this semester has been tracking the ongoing saga of the healthcare.gov website in the US. Their unfortunate experience spans many of my past research areas - privacy, cloud computing, capacity planning, project management, testing, databases - so I watched with a mixture of disappointment and fascination as that story unfolded. I shared some early lessons with second-year Masters students from across the Faculty of Management in the Management without Borders class.

My passion project has been a rewrite of INFO 6540, the required MLIS databases course. I am very excited for the new focus of the class (on framing the problem as data management and exploring a variety of solutions), and for the opportunity to include hands-on experience with data in the cloud thanks to a grant from Amazon.



## LOUISE SPITERI

I've been working with my colleagues Laurel Tarulli (part-time SIM instructor and long-time research collaborator) and Jen Pecoskie (Wayne State University) to examine the contribution of social discovery platforms and user-generated content on Readers' Advisory (RA) services in Canadian public libraries. We presented our preliminary results at the International Society for Knowledge Organization in London, UK, and plan to present the full results in conferences in 2014. We wish to continue our research by measuring how RA library staff mine user-generated data from catalogues. I served on a panel on user-generated metadata at the annual meeting of the Association for Information Science and Technology in Montreal in November. The panel celebrated the 60th anniversary of the publication of Ian Fleming's *Casino Royale* by examining user-contributed metadata created for related products such as books, films, and music in a variety of social sites. The panel was so well received that we intend to publish a paper on our combined case studies. I had a wonderful holiday in Bath, England in July; I have always been an avid Jane Austen fan, so to tread the same ground as the fictional Anne Elliot and Catherine Morland was a thrill. After the loss in September of Alun, the beautiful Maine Coon I adopted nine

# FACULTY NEWS

years ago when he was four years old, I have adopted Calpurnia, and her son Atticus. Calpurnia was rescued from the streets by the Halifax Cat Rescue Society, where she promptly gave birth to a litter of kittens, all of whom were named after characters from To Kill a Mockingbird, although I prefer to think of Calpurnia as named after the wife of Julius Caesar, given my love of Ancient Roman history.

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# IN MEMORIAM

## RITA RACHAEL WEST (1946-2013)

Our dear friend and colleague, Rita Rachela West, (Class of '82) passed away from complications of kidney disease, in Clayton, Ontario on September 27, 2013.

Rita arrived at the library school in September 1980 via Judique, Cape Breton where she lived 'back on the land' with her husband and young son, Nicholas. She grew up in Montreal, attended McGill and Bryn Mawr Universities where she distinguished herself as a scholar of Classical Literature. Upon moving to Cape Breton she was a Library Assistant on the county bookmobile and got involved with the high school library and the community. She was "well-informed and with a wide breadth of knowledge, she never made you feel that you didn't know something, but rather that you hadn't learned it yet. In her unassuming way she taught us about a whole world we had never glimpsed, and it made life better" (Rankin, Joyce. [Book of memories website](#), September 29, 2013).

At Dalhousie, although I was not in many of her classes, as I was a year ahead, we still bonded, as Cape Bretoners do. Rita had that way about her - making everyone feel as if they were her best friend - she was the world's greatest listener and advisor on all things life presented.

Upon graduation she accepted a cataloguing position at the National Library of Canada, now Library and Archives Canada. She was a brilliant cataloguer and moved on to become a supervisor during her tenure leaving a reputation as a facilitator and problem solver.

Work was not all that kept Rita busy. She brought up Nicholas, now with a family of his own - one year old Richard; living in Toronto and working in the finance industry. Rita was a columnist with the CLA Feliciter; an award-winning author of a CBC short story contest, an editor and columnist with the Glebe Report, a local community newspaper; as well as a master gardener, choir member, artist, and pundit. A visit to her house for tea resulted in numerous comments and insights on everything from literature, your personal crises, how-to advice, or the current state of the world. Her feedback was always profound, conveyed with humour and thoughtful consideration.

Rita became a de facto member of the Class of '81 and was invited to all of our gatherings, which have been numerous. She will be terribly missed by her long-term partner Grant, her family, numerous friends and all of us Dalhousie Grads that were so fortunate to have her in our lives. She was cherished.

*Submitted by Doris Rankin, Class of 1981*

# INFORM

School of Information Management

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