

# INfORM

School of Information Management

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It has been my privilege to work with a dedicated team of staff, faculty, students, and alumni, to make SIM the engaging and collaborative environment that we are proud to call our academic home. Below are some of the highlights since January:

December 17, 2013 marked the departure of Jenn Mitton, SIM's Administrative Assistant. Jenn had been with SIM for four years; she started as our Communications and Records Officer, and eventually became our Administrative Assistant. 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 at Dalhousie's Office of the Vice President Academic and Provost.

We were very pleased to welcome Kim Humes as our new Administrative Assistant in March. Kim worked previously at Dalhousie's Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS). Kim's responsibilities at SIM include several

essential areas, including Finance, Human Resources, Student Admissions, Communications, and Marketing.

Jennifer Grek Martin will be joining SIM on a three-year limited term position, effective July 1, 2014. Jennifer will be teaching will be teaching courses in the Master of Information Management, and Bachelor of Management programs. (*see bio and photo on page 3*).

SIM was a sponsor of the *Toronto Startup Weekend* (March 28-30). The theme of this weekend was "Spend the Weekend Solving Issues Facing the World's Libraries". This was an innovative program to bring together library professionals, developers, designers, and entrepreneurs to create dynamic solutions to issues facing libraries today. One of the organizers of the event was SIM alumnus M. J. D'Elia.

MLIS student Alison Froese-Stoddard was the first recipient of the *Norman Horrocks Leadership Award*. The inaugural *Norman Horrocks Lecture* was given by Madeleine Lefebvre, Chief Librarian, Ryerson University. We were very pleased to have members of the Horrocks family attend the lecture and presentation. Norman is never far from our hearts, and I am sure he was with us in spirit that evening.

Congratulations are in order to the organizing committee, and particularly co-chairs Leah Pohlman and Samantha Fritz, for a very successful *Information Without Borders (IWB) 2014 Conference*. The day was filled with engaging, timely, and relevant presentations and discussions. The posters were of a very high quality, and certainly impressed the judges and audience. Dr. Ron Deibert, an international expert on surveillance and privacy, opened the conference with the keynote address *The Internet after Snowden*. Three SIM students, Marc Harper, Hilary Lynd, and Lee Wilson, presented papers at the IWB conference.

*Continued on page 3...*

*Director's Message continued...*

Master of Information Management student Liseanne Cadieux was one of the Faculty of Management student finalists in the *National Student Paper Competition* on Blueprint 2020.

Two new issues of the *YA Hotline* Newsletter have just been published. Issue 97 (Remix Culture) was written by MLIS students Alan Chorney, Megan Clark, Danielle Hubbard, Emily LeGrand, Sarah Nicholson, and Chantal de Medeiros. Issue 98 (Hallowe'en Horror) was written by MLIS students Elyse Coombs, Brenna Lozinsky, Tara Rumsey, Gabrielle Steffler, and Bailey Waite. The new issues are available at <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/YAHS/issue/archive>

As always, thanks to all our generous and gracious alumni who support SIM in so many ways. I hope the highlights above have whetted your appetite to continue reading about what we have been up to.

**Louise Spiteri**

*Director*

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### **SIM'S Newest Faculty Member: Jennifer Grek Martin**



The School of Information Management is pleased to welcome Jennifer Grek Martin, who will start a three-year limited-term appointment with us on July 1, 2014.

Ms. Grek Martin has a BA, International Relations, and a MSc, Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a MLIS from Dalhousie. Ms. Grek Martin's research interests include geospatial information, visualization and mental imagery, and multimedia representation of information and cognition. Ms. Grek Martin will be teaching courses in the MLIS, MIM, and Bachelor of Management programs.

In her own words:

*I am fascinated by mental imagery and visualization and how we receive, process, and represent information – particularly geospatial information. I am also curious about how we use online and digital information and how our use of these resources shapes us. In my graduate work, I focused on exploring the intersection between geography and visual representation. I completed a geography thesis that uses iconology to understand representations of Hungary in 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch atlases and an MLIS thesis that uses geography, among other fields, to understand how we mentally visualize landscapes in both text and film.*

*Outside the classroom, I have continued to explore my love for geography and visual representation while developing new skills in information management. I used a geospatial strategy to organize a collection of photographs for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and I devised a library database and categorization system for an archaeological firm in Ontario. For many years, I have also worked as a digital cartographer and illustrator. After moving to Halifax in 2007, I taught introductory geography and cartography classes at Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie University and found that teaching allows me to blend my love for learning with my desire to share what I learn with others.*

*I also enjoy gardening, all things Tolkien, and international folkdance.*

**Please join us in welcoming Ms. Grek Martin to the SIM team.**

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# Student News

## Congratulations Class of 2014!



The School of Information Management would like to congratulate all of our newest MLIS and MIM graduates! It was wonderful to see so many graduates at the reception and ceremony on May 27th and to have the opportunity to meet their friends and family. Convocation itself was a lovely celebration and an important recognition of our graduates' many achievements and hard work.

We would like to send a special congratulations to the 2014 convocation award winners:

**Atlantic Provinces Library Association Award:** Jannaya Jensen

**Director's Award:** Nicole Bloudoff & Jannaya Jensen

**Information Technology Prize:** Samantha Fritz

**J. Clement Harrison International Award:** Christine Wu

**Leadership Award:** Karen Vermeylen & Maggie Neilson

**Louis Vagianos Medal:** Madeline Driscoll

**NSLA Graduation Prize:** Leah Pohlman

**SIM Research Award:** Melissa Rothfus

**SIMSA Outstanding Service Award:** Mark Black

**Special Libraries Association (Eastern Canada Chapter) – Anne Galler Award:**  
Danika Kowpak

**Beta Phi Mu Candidates:** Nicole Bloudoff, Roger Gillis, Jannaya Jensen,  
Leah Pohlman, Melissa Rothfus, Karen Vermeylen, Christine Wu

**Great work, Class of 2014. We are very proud of all of you!**

# Student News *Continued...*

## SIMSA UPDATE

Submitted by: Karen Vermeylen, Maggie Neilson,  
Andrea Kampen and Ben Worth



Winter semester 2014 marked many firsts for SIMSA: we published the first issue of *SIMagination*, featuring creative writing, artwork, and photography by SIM students, had a successful fundraiser selling book bags, we launched our new website and SIMSA logo, and partnered with Dalhousie Libraries on the DalReads initiative for the first time. We also hosted some exciting and informative Brown Bag Lunches, and celebrated another successful year at our annual Year End Party at the Kings Wardroom.

We would like to congratulate all of the graduating students on their success and wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavours.

## SIMSA 2014-2015 Executive

*Co-Chairs:* Andrea Kampen and Ben Worth

*Digital Publications Officer:* Alieda Blandford

*Communications Officer:* Megan O'Brien

*Vice Chair, Non-Academic:* Maria Bartlett

*Vice Chair, Academic:* Valerie Collins

*Financial Officer:* Lee Wilson

*Information Without Borders (IWB) Conference Chair:* Hilary Lynd

See the website for Executive Bios: <http://simsa.dsu.dal.ca/>

The new SIMSA executive are excited for the opportunity to welcome the incoming students and to enhance the engagement of all SIM students. There are so many ways to become involved in the various student associations, and SIMSA will be the hub of all activities. In addition to social events, orientation and the Brown Bag Lunch series will continue facilitating the exploration of new and exciting ideas involving the Information management field by bringing together students and professionals in a relaxed and inviting environment. We are looking forward to a new year and all the adventure it brings.

# Student News *Continued...*

## **THE 2014 CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (CLA) CONFERENCE: Perspectives from Two MLIS Students**



*Left to right – CLA President Marie DeYoung, Andrea Kampen, and Alieda Blandford*

### **Alieda Blandford**

#### ***Recipient of the 2014 Alberta Letts Travel Award***

The theme of this year's national CLA Conference, "Building Bridges to the Future," emphasized the importance of colleagues and collaboration. As a student and a CLA "first-timer", I had a lot to learn about the way that libraries in Canada are approaching the challenges of the future.

I was particularly impressed by the talk, "Community Economic Development and the Role of the Library," given by Alyssa Green and Patti Wotherspoon. In the course of one hour, Ms. Green and Ms. Wotherspoon convinced me that public libraries can play a key role in promoting healthy local economies – and that providing business services can result in growth for public libraries.

Small businesses are responsible for the majority (78%) of new job creation in Canada. Local libraries can encourage economic growth and prosperity by providing services and programs that target aspiring entrepreneurs, new business owners, and their prospective employees. Some examples of business services in public libraries include workplace skills upgrades, job search workshops, business planning sessions, and market research services.

### **Andrea Kampen**

#### ***Recipient of the 2014 Student-to-CLA Award***

Thanks to the *Student-to-CLA* award, I had the opportunity to attend the *Canadian Library Association Conference* in Victoria, British Columbia from May 28 -31, 2014.

My interaction with the Canadian Library Association first came through the *Professional Mentorship Program* as a student member of the CLA. This mentorship was a positive experience, as I met and learned from professionals established in the field. I was interested in attending the CLA conference because of the chance to meet librarians and information managers from across the country who are brought together to discuss and learn from each other in a concentrated environment.

It was interesting to attend the conference of an organization that is in a state of flux. As the profession changes, so too must the organizations that support the professionals working within it. There are a lot of opportunities for growth within the CLA and it is important to challenge elements that are not working and actively communicate what the needs of the members are and how CLA can meet those needs.

*Continued on page 8..*

# Student News *Continued...*

## *CLA Conference Continued...*

The Vancouver Public Library also has a fee-based research division called *InfoAction*, which provides detailed market research, competitive intelligence, legal research, city directory scanning, and other services for local businesses. *InfoAction* has been profitable for years, and the income goes back into the public library.

The biggest lesson that I learned at the CLA National Conference was the importance of networking for real professional growth. The ability to connect with professionals in the field, and to discuss their experiences and career paths, as well as the issues, opportunities, history, and future of the profession, was an experience I had probably undervalued previously. Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet with MLIS students from all over the country. Their own interests and experiences gave me a new perspective on the direction of LIS education in Canada, and real confidence in the future of libraries.

In short, the conference lived up to its theme: I took home valuable lessons about the importance of colleagues and collaboration in order for libraries to “build bridges to the future.” - AB

## The Stephanie Downs Memorial Award

When Stephanie Downs returned to Canada from the UK to become a librarian, she chose to enter the MLIS program at Dalhousie for its sense of community, welcoming faculty and Maritime culture. Diagnosed with cervical cancer at the end of her last year at SIM, Stephanie graduated with her MLIS but lost her hard-fought battle to her illness on May 27th, 2007. Her friends and family established this award in her memory. Remembered for her enthusiasm, Stephanie was a “doer” and very active in school life, serving as 2005-2006 Co-Chair of SIMSA and SIM Team Captain for the 2005 Halifax “Run for the Cure”. She was also awarded the *Student-to-CLA* travel award to attend the 2005 CLA Conference in Calgary. ➡

The *Student-to-CLA* award also gave me the chance to attend sessions, social events and the CLA Annual General Meeting. One of my favorite sessions was “Marketing in Library Land”. Libraries are at their best when they are effectively promoting the services and spaces that are available to customers.

I also valued the opportunity to get to know my peers from MLIS programs across Canada. I am honoured to be entering the field with both innovative and experienced incoming professionals.—AK

## Valerie Collins: Recipient of the 2014 Stephanie Downs Memorial Award



Valerie Collins is a returning MLIS student from the United States. She was raised in Alaska, and studied at the *University of Alaska Fairbanks*, where she completed a double major in English and German. As part of her German degree, she studied abroad for a semester in Mannheim, Germany. This was her first extended experience abroad, and it was eye-opening, especially when she realized that the academic libraries in Mannheim were using an entirely different classification system than the *Library of Congress*. This discovery sparked her interest in cataloguing, and methods of classifying books and other media.

After returning from Germany and completing her degree in Alaska, she decided to combine her interest in academic librarianship into another international experience. She came to Dalhousie for her MLIS degree. Valerie serves in a number of capacities in the MLIS program. She is an executive member of both the *Special Libraries Association* (SLA) student chapter at Dalhousie and the *School of Information Management Student Association* (SIMSA). She also represents her peers as a member of the *MLIS Curriculum Committee*. Valerie will continue to deepen her understanding of academic libraries and some of the challenges they face in an increasingly digital environment by working as a reference intern at the Killam Library for the coming year. Valerie also looks forward to facilitating the international student experience in the School of Information Management (SIM) and in the Faculty of Management.

Congratulations Valerie!



# Student News *Continued...*

## **Canadian Library Association (CLA) Student Chapter**

Submitted by  
Jannaya Jensen

The Dalhousie student chapter of the Canadian Library Association had a busy and rewarding 2013 Summer and Fall! In an attempt to continually improve our *Professional Mentorship Program* (PMP), we performed evaluations of the 2012/2013 PMP during the spring and summer in preparation for the 2013/2014 year.

As soon as Fall arrived, we began the semester by voting in some new executive members and launching the eleventh year of our PMP. The 2013/2014 executive included: Lauren Murphy & Jannaya Jensen (Co-Chairs), Megan O'Brien & Jennie Thompson (Incoming year Representatives), Keriann Dowling (Treasurer), and Emma Stewart (Secretary).

We were very excited to match twenty-nine SIM students with library and information management professionals to engage in mentoring relationships! To facilitate these relationships, Dal CLA hosted a PMP launch party in October, posted monthly bulletins on SIMcast, and planned a trivia night and wrap-up party for Winter 2014. We anticipate an excellent 2014/2015 year, with Megan O'Brien and Jennie Thompson leading the committee as Co-Chairs, Heather Campbell as Treasurer, Heather Reid as Secretary, and the First Year Representatives to be determined in the Fall of 2014. Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our activities!

## **Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) Student Chapter**

Submitted by  
Rebecca  
Thompson

Being a new society is both exciting and a lot of hard work. We have been busy this year trying to establish ourselves in the SIM family of associations. We are in our second year as a Student Chapter, and our main focus has been to find funding so that, in the future, the society will be able to host events, tours, and workshops. So far, we have been lucky enough to present our proposal for funding to CALL and will be asking SIMSA for additional funds to support our passion for law librarianship in the future. Plans have been made to hold both a Copyright Workshop, and a tour of a law library in the coming year. Lauren Murphy took on the task of drafting a constitution and position descriptions to ensure accountability of our society now and in years to come. We have set the foundation for future success of our Chapter and we look forward to its growth.

## **Special Libraries Association (SLA) Student Chapter**

Submitted by  
Carlisle Kent

We would like to give a big "thank you" to all the outgoing members of our executive committee and to wish them the very best of luck as they start this new chapter of their professional lives!

We had some wonderful events take place in the Winter term. A tour of the *Anchor Archive Zine Library* resulted in the creation of a SIM-themed zine created by the students who attended. We also had the chance to arrange a behind the scenes peek at the Chronicle Herald library and held the always-successful Death by Chocolate Bake Sale in February. We would like to extend our thanks to all the fantastic volunteers who helped with these events.

Over the Summer our executive will be working with the other student groups in SIM to do preliminary planning for the coming academic year. We're looking forward to welcoming new members to our executive board in the fall, and to working with the other associations in SIM to provide the best possible student experience, as well as valuable professional knowledge and connections.

# Student News *Continued...*



## INFORMATION WITHOUT BORDERS (IWB)



The 8th annual *Information Without Borders* Conference was held at Dalhousie University on February 13, 2014. The conference committee was pleased to host more than 180 attendees from the public and private sectors for a day of engaging conversation surrounding the topics of privacy, security, and surveillance.

Alongside keynote speakers Dr. Ron Deibert and Dr. Jacquelyn Burkell, a panel discussion, and sessional speakers, student research was showcased through the poster competition, won by Andrea Kampen (1st) and Kallen Rutledge (2nd). New to the conference, Hilary Lynd, Marc Harper, and Lee Wilson impressed attendees and fellow presenters alike with their original research. Not only were the conference topics widely discussed on location but the vibrant conversation extended to twitter, using the hashtag #iwb2014. Through Twitter, community members who were unable to attend in person could do so virtually.

Committee members and attendees were once again reminded of the generosity of Atlantic Canadian craftspeople as their handmade donations, including hand crafted soaps, jewelry, and art, played an integral role in the fundraising efforts for the 2015 conference. Looking forward to 2015, the committee, chaired by Hilary Lynd and Jennie Thompson, seeks to engage with the community and foster further discussions that affect us as students, professionals, and citizens.

The 2014 *Information Without Borders* Conference committee would like to express their sincere thanks to its sponsors and supporters, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Submitted by Samantha Fritz

## LIBRARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS (LWB)

2013 was a great and promising year for the Dalhousie student chapter of *Librarians Without Borders*. In September, we welcomed four incoming students to the team, including the new internal communications officer, first year co-chair, treasurer, and activities officer. A new committee advisor also joined the team. It was a busy and exciting semester, as we discussed potential new projects and fundraising events.

Our search for a global level project brought us in contact with partners from places as diverse as Pakistan and South Africa. This allowed us the opportunity to gain insight into the specific needs of community and school libraries in other parts of the world.

A successful bake sale was held in October, to raise funds for the global projects. Many classmates generously offered their time to assist in baking the goods and manning the table during the sale.

We also focused on local level projects, such as our ongoing partnership with Sacred Heart School of Halifax. An internet literacy workshop for a fifth grade class was scheduled for January 2014, and two members of the team volunteered to be the instructors. Additionally, we searched for other organizations or projects in Halifax that could benefit from our assistance.

In many ways, 2013 was the year of beginnings. We were getting off the ground with new ideas, new projects and opportunities. We are looking forward to seeing what our partnerships will grow into!

Submitted by Jaq-lin Larder



# Faculty News



## Anatoliy Gruzd

Along with my Dalhousie colleagues at the Faculty of Computer Science, led by Dr. Evangelos Milios, Dr. Sophia Ananiadou at the *University of Manchester* (UK) and William Ulate Rodriguez at the *Missouri Botanical Garden* (US), I am participating in a new international project called “Mining Biodiversity”. This two-year project is part of the “Digging into Data Challenge”, an international competition designed to challenge the research community to investigate how new computational techniques can be applied to “big data”—the massive multi-source datasets made possible by modern technology— in humanities and social sci-

ence research. This year 14 teams representing Canada, the Netherlands, the UK, and US received a total of approximately \$5.1 million US. Each team represents collaborations among scholars, scientists, and information professionals from leading universities and libraries in Europe and North America.

The “Mining Biodiversity” project will develop a 21st Century “Social Digital Library” to facilitate the study and discussion of legacy scientific documents on biodiversity housed at the *Biodiversity Heritage Library* (BHL). The BHL is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries that cooperate to digitize the legacy literature of biodiversity held in their collections and to make that literature available for open access and responsible use as a part of a global “biodiversity commons.” One of the aims of the project is to turn heritage or legacy science documents into “social” digital objects that can be easily shared among researchers and the public via social media. The expectation is that this will help to raise the public awareness of how our planet’s biodiversity has changed over time. By creating an easy-to-use mechanism to share and discuss biodiversity digital artifacts this project will also create the opportunity for future research on how these artifacts are being used, and their impact on biodiversity awareness among the public. The project will integrate novel text mining methods, visualisation, crowdsourcing, and social media into the BHL. The project is funded by SSHRC and NSERC in Canada, IMLS (The Institute of Museum and Library Services- US), and JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee- UK).

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## Vivian Howard



Curriculum mapping is a strategy to determine where, when, and how learning outcomes are taught and assessed within a program. For the past year, I have been coordinating a curriculum mapping initiative for graduate and undergraduate programs within the Faculty of Management using Daedalus software, developed in Dalhousie's own Faculty of Computer Science. Throughout this project, we have worked closely with Dr. Christian Blouin, the developer of Daedalus. The goal of our mapping initiative is to help us identify which learning outcomes are strong and well-integrated (i.e. addressed by several courses in logical progression and sequence) and where gaps or weaknesses in the curriculum may lie.

Three MLIS students, Jennifer Givens (MLIS 2013), Linda Cormier, and Mingyue (Connie) Chen have worked on this project as curriculum map editors. They began by mapping core BComm and BMgmt classes, working initially from current course descriptions, assignments, and marking rubrics to identify learning outcomes. They then verified the learning outcomes with course instructors before finalizing the data on Daedalus. They have worked closely to ensure use of controlled vocabulary to ensure consistency in the map itself. The two undergraduate programs are now fully mapped and can be viewed at <http://management.academics.cs.dal.ca>. The completed maps are being reviewed by program administrators. The editors are now mapping core courses in the MLIS and MIM programs with the goal of having these maps ready for discussion by the relevant program curriculum committees in Fall 2014. For a discussion of the relationship of curriculum mapping to accreditation, please see the recent article I co-authored with Dr. Lorn Sheehan in the *Centre for Learning and Teaching's Focus newsletter*.

# Faculty News *Continued*



## **Jackie MacDonald**

As a full time health service manager working in Nova Scotia's publicly funded health system, I am seeing firsthand how the Fall 2013 provincial election will bring significant change to our provincial health landscape. Nine District Health Authorities will merge to become one "superboard". Our new government focus on quality, patient safety, replacing the traditional medical model with attention to population health (the social determinants that factor in our health, health promotion and disease prevention) and greater accountability.

Although librarians in my department have been embedded since 2004, continuous study of information needs of the people we serve, our own research and other library and information sciences research and best practices have changed the services we provide. By 2014, position analysis of 5 FTE in the department, less than 1 FTE position is engaged in the same "library" work we did in ten years ago (document delivery, acquisitions, information searching). Other roles include organization-wide e-learning development, information gathering in the form of jurisdictional reviews and surveys, program and service evaluation, health policy support including advocacy, research review, writing skills coaching, and forms management.

In an effort to achieve greater accountability, and in recognition of the difficulty in obtaining valid measures of our service value, by the end of this summer our department will be fully integrated into the Quality, Risk and Patient Safety portfolio. We are looking forward to a relabeling as "Health Informatics Unit" and for the staff dedicated to serving the Dalhousie Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Yarmouth site, "Watson Caie Amirault Learning Centre".

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## **Mike Smit**

While I had amazing teaching and research experiences, the highlight of 2014 so far has been the birth of my daughter, Jocelyn Grace Smit, on May 9th. She is growing fast and will be a wonderful addition to the MLIS Class of 2040 (I presume).

In the winter semester, I enjoyed seeing original research produced by the Research Methods class, and I learned a lot from an improved-but-not-yet-right offering of the Data Management class. I'm enjoying applying those lessons to a revised syllabus for 2015! This fall sees the return of the MLIS course on the usability of information, and I am looking forward to this seminar-style class.

I and two outstanding research assistants are tackling an ambitious summer research agenda that includes better understanding civic engagement in Canadian youth and examining how research communities form and interact. I am also pursuing collaborations with interesting local organizations that I hope will offer interesting research opportunities!

And finally, the Shad Valley Dalhousie summer program kicks off in late June; 50 outstanding high school students from across Canada will spend a month on campus experiencing the best academic content we can put together. As a co-Director of this program, I have the opportunity to interact with outstanding people across the University to highlight some of our most interesting facilities, programs, and research, all while interacting with bright young minds and seeing them experience rapid personal growth and transformation. This is a rare privilege that I really enjoy.





# Faculty News *Continued*



## **Sandra Toze**

Research is much on my mind these days. It was my pleasure to work with my students in INFO 6682 *Information Seeking Behaviour* on their projects over the last term. They examined everything from Information Seeking within the Lyme Disease Community to YouTube Product Review Videos and Consumer Information Seeking and the Dissemination of Misinformation on Social Media. It was interesting to see the range of topics, and their excitement and interest research projects over the term. The final reports and projects were fascinating to read. Congratulations to all.

I am also happy to be in the process of submitting my own Interdisciplinary PhD thesis (*Examining Group Process through an Information Lens: How Student Groups Work with Information to Accomplish Tasks*) in preparation for my defence this summer, and at the same time beginning new research. In April I was notified that our Partnership Development Grant proposal “Transforming Government Work for the Digital Era” was funded by SSHRC. The primary investigator is Evert Lindquist, Director of the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria, and the partnership includes researchers from the Institute on Governance in Ottawa, and the Strategic Innovation Lab (Ontario College of Arts and Design University). The aim of the partnership is to enhance the understanding, preparation and innovation of the digital economy in Canadian governance through structured investigation, envisioning possible futures, and leading positive practice. I will be focusing on the information management aspects of the shift to digital, as well as helping to steer the project. I look forward to sharing the results of this research as we move forward.

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## **Louise Spiteri**

My latest publication, *OPACs, Users, and Readers’ Advisory: Exploring the Implications of User-Generated Content for Readers’ Advisory in Canadian Public Libraries* is available [here](#). This article, co-published with Jen Pecoskie and Laurel Tarulli, examines the contribution of social discovery platforms and user-generated content on readers’ advisory services in Canadian public libraries. We presented our results at the annual conference of the *Canadian Association for Information Science* in Saint Catherine’s, Ontario.

I served on a panel that examined the education needs of library and information management professionals during the annual conference of the *Canadian Library Association* (CLA) in Victoria, BC. Other panel members included Marie DeYoung, University Librarian at Saint Mary’s University, and CLA president, Greg Buss, Chief Librarian, Richmond Public Library, and Lita Barrie, Director of Digital Technology at Hamilton Public Library. I am examining the North American use of alternative classifications to the Dewey Decimal Classification, e.g., the BISACS categories and the Customer Centered Classification (C3) system in public libraries, and their impact on access and retrieval. I’m interested also in exploring web-based cataloguing and collection management software e.g., Shared Shelf, Libramatic, and Biblios.net, and their impact on the metadata records of participating libraries.

On a more personal note, the beautiful mother cat (Calpurnia) and kitten (Atticus) whom I adopted last September have adapted very well to their new home and, needless to say, have me completely wrapped around their paws.

# Alumni News

## **Terri Tomchyshyn (Class of 1981) Receives 2014 CLA ALAN MACDONALD MENTORSHIP AWARD**

From CLA: Terri has helped Master of Library Science students gain valuable skills and aptitudes through the co-op program she implemented within the Government of Canada. Always happy to lend an ear she provided guidance and reinforcement so mentees could move swiftly along the learning curve and mature their library/information skills. Terri was instrumental in initiating the *New Librarians Interest Group* and was a key player in starting the *Student to CLA* program. **For more information about the Alan MacDonald Award visit** <http://www.cla.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/CLAAatWork/AwardsScholarshipsGrants/CLAAAlanMacDonaldMentorshipAward/default.htm>

## **JOB NEWS**

- ⇒ **Kenneth Allan** (Class of 2006) has accepted a new position as Library Consultant for Public Library Services Branch, Municipal Affairs, Government of Alberta.
- ⇒ **Owen Hewitt** (Class of 2010) has celebrated his 1 year anniversary as an intermediate project manager with Desert Sailor Consulting, Inc. in Ottawa.
- ⇒ **Julia Khodos** (Class of 2011) is now the Adult Services Librarian at Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library.
- ⇒ **Catherine McGoveran** (Class of 2013) now works as Government Information Librarian at the University of Ottawa.
- ⇒ **Mengjia Zhang** (Class of 2014) was recently hired as an Academic Library Intern at the University of Alberta. This internship is designed as a mentoring and networking opportunity for recent graduates interested in exploring a career in academic libraries.

## **My Experience as an IDPhD Student**

**By Lori McCay-Peet**



I am pleased to report that I successfully defended my PhD dissertation at Dalhousie University in December 2013 and graduated in May 2014 after several challenging and rewarding years filled with hard work together with a lot of support and encouragement from my committee, colleagues, friends, and family. While on paper I was in the Interdisciplinary Studies PhD program in the faculties of Management and Computer Science, I considered SIM “home.” I graduated with my MLIS from SIM in 2008 and continued to receive a great deal of support throughout my PhD from SIM in many forms including opportunities for teaching, guest lecturing, and public talks. These opportunities helped me a great deal as I honed my thoughts around my PhD research, developed my teaching skills, and worked toward a Certificate in University Teaching and Learning.

I was also fortunate to have opportunities that extended beyond SIM and Dalhousie University during my time as a PhD student, including travel to international conferences in North America and Europe, an internship at Yahoo! Research in Barcelona, and involvement throughout my PhD in GRAND, Canada’s Digital Media Network Centres of Excellence [<http://grand-nce.ca>]. These experiences helped me connect to researchers from around the world and led me to my current position as a postdoctoral fellow at Western University (London, Ontario) with Dr. Anabel Quan-Haase. My PhD research, under the supervision of Dr. Bertrum MacDonald and Dr. Elaine Toms, centred on what individual differences and characteristics of the environment may facilitate serendipity, user perceptions of digital information environments and their features, and interactive information seeking and use. I am excited to continue this line of research during my postdoctoral research and look forward to finding new research directions in the process.

# Alumni News *Continued...*

## HOW ARCHIVES TOOK OVER MY LIFE

(adapted from a speech given at the Mount Allison University reunion, May 2014)

*By: Murray Baillie, Class of '69*

I took courses in history at Mount Allison University. Now, I am history. We are history. Within our minds are unique memories known only to us. What are we doing to preserve them? Will the Class of 2069 be able to gain an impression of life at Mount A. in our time?

I grew up in Tatamagouche Mountain, a rural farming and lumbering community in Nova Scotia. No one threw anything out. For example, after the deaths of my parents, we found a large quantity of *Presbyterian Records* from the early twentieth century. I knew that Mount A. had an archivist and I was a graduate of the University so I thought it was appropriate to make an appointment to see him and ask questions. Thus began my relationship with David Mawhinney. Since I had taken care of my family's heritage by donating to the North Shore Archives in Tatamagouche, I began to look at what I could give to Mount A. Between 1968 and 1984, I developed slides from camera film and I took these slides to David and gave explanations, where needed. After all these years, the pictures were very clear, likely because they were stored for most of the time in an unheated room in my parent's home from about 1984 to 2012.

I kept all the essays that I wrote at Mount A. I also kept my textbooks and the calendars for 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968. The title page of each book was photocopied and put in a folder for each course. After retirement, I wrote an autobiography of my first twenty years. I decided that I did not want it available to the public now. For that reason, my biography and some other files are restricted and are not available for reading for twenty-five years except with my permission.

It is a continuous struggle in our society to prevent valuable archival material from being destroyed. A recent description of a close call is in the Winter 2014 issue of *The Record* which you may have read. The love letters of Alice Bluck and Byron Crane Borden were over 130 years old and were in the possession of their granddaughter, Joan Harrison. As *The Record* said, "Harrison didn't think the letters would be of much interest to anyone." Jane Tisdale of the Owens Art Gallery tracked them down. As a result, Harrison gave more than 20 letters, plus photographs and a piece of embroidery to Mount A.

Mount A. and other organizations give tax receipts for donations to the Archives. Each gift is evaluated by an outside authority so that the CRA is more likely to accept the statements. We can give money, but a gift of documents or photographs has a unique value; money can't replace one of a kind material. One problem of, at least, the last hundred years, has been the acid content of paper. That contributes to the deterioration of publications. That includes most of the material in the Mount A. Archives and the rare books in the Bell Library.

At this point, I can say with absolute certainty that Mount A. needs a newly designed, climate controlled and spacious archives wherever this might be on campus and when feasible financially.

# Dalhousie Library News



## The Seed Library Launched

On Monday, March 17, the MacRae Library on Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus celebrated the official launch of *Seeding Ideas*, a seed library. This seed library is the first of its kind in an academic library in the Atlantic region.

More than fifty people—including students, community members, faculty, and staff—attended the launch. More than thirty borrowers have already registered and over 1,500 seeds have been circulated to the community (that's just over 100 packages of seed), including seeds in the categories of ornamental, edible, and herbs.

For people from all corners of Nova Scotia who are keen to get involved, there is still time to register and choose your seeds. Contact [seed.library@dal.ca](mailto:seed.library@dal.ca), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter @seeding\\_ideas](#)

## Douglas Gibson Reading

Douglas Gibson is an editor, publisher, writer, and raconteur. His work as an editor and publisher in Canadian literature is unsurpassed, having edited and published many of Canada's best-known and accomplished authors.

A storyteller in his own right, Douglas Gibson's essays have appeared in many Canadian publications. His experiences have also been published in *Douglas Gibson Unedited* and *Stories About Storytellers*. He has been nominated for a National Magazine Award for Humour, as well as being named Editor of the Year at Book Expo in 2005.

This March, he gave a presentation at the Killam Library. The video of that presentation is available to watch [here](#). Fans of Canadian literature will not want to miss it.

## Makerspace Workshops

Imagine creating a simple machine that will water your plants. Or hacking your coffee maker so that it will make coffee before you get out of bed. Artists, designers, hobbyists, and tinkerers are learning new and easy techniques to bring such projects to life.

The Dalhousie Libraries, in partnership with the [Halifax Makerspace](#), have been offering a series of workshops to get people started in the basics of electronics and the Arduino platform. Arduinos are a piece of technology that you can fit in the palm of your hand, connecting your project to electronics, giving it "life."

Workshops have covered the basics, multiple LEDs, shift registers, buttons, servos, temperature sensors, spinning motors, and LCDs. Participants are given a kit with all the materials they need. For more information, contact

[libsys@dal.ca](mailto:libsys@dal.ca)



**Art Show at the MacRae Library:** From February 27th-March 5th, the MacRae Library hosted an exhibit featuring fine art and craft made by students, staff, faculty, and alumni of the Agricultural Campus (see photo above). The exhibit is a celebration of the creative abilities of all those who study, learn, and thrive at the Agricultural Campus, and is designed to show the community how this inspiration takes form.



# Dalhousie Library News

## Continued...

### University Archives Receives \$100,000 for the Borgese Collection

The Archives have received a substantial \$100,000 gift, which will go toward digitizing the Elisabeth Mann Borgese collection.

Thanks to Mr. Nikolaus Gelpke, the generous donor and former student of Elisabeth Mann Borgese. Thanks and congratulations to Mike Moosberger, University Archivist, for all of his hard work on securing this donation.

Mr. Gelpke is the incoming president of the *International Ocean Institute* (IOI) and publisher of the German-language periodical *mare, The Magazine of the Sea*. His donation towards the digitization of this collection will help the Dalhousie Archives to share his esteemed teacher's extensive collection of research and personal papers with a wider audience.

Elisabeth Mann Borgese is an important international figure who spent nearly twenty-five years working at Dalhousie. In the 1960s, Elisabeth and Arvid Pardo (then Maltese Ambassador to the United Nations), put forward the revolutionary concept that the oceans are "a common heritage of mankind" as part of the negotiations for the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS). Although it was not enforced as a principle of International Law for the oceans as a whole, it was codified for the mineral resources of the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction. In 1972, Elisabeth continued her work in oceans by establishing the *International Ocean Institute* (IOI). During her time at Dalhousie, she taught undergraduate and graduate students and continued to work with the IOI. She received five honorary doctorate degrees and the Order of Canada. She passed away in 2002.

In all, the boxes of papers in the collection measure 55.5 metres when laid end-to-end. Additionally, there are fifty-one audio cassettes, forty-seven reel-to-reel audio tapes, three VHS cassettes, and two 16 mm motion picture films. Each item will be digitized and uploaded into the Dalhousie University Archives' online finding aid, so users will be able to access the digital object with just a click of their mouse.

"With Nikolaus Gelpke's donation, we have budgeted for a year to get as much of the Borgese collection digitized as possible. The digitization of the Borgese collection will contribute to scholarship around the world, and the Dalhousie Libraries are proud to be contributing to that. We owe a sincere and deep thanks to Nikolaus Gelpke for making this project financially possible," said Michael.



Left-to-right: Nikolaus Gelpke, Michael Moosberger, Michael Butler (IOI)

**3D printing services** are now available at the Sexton Design & Technology Library, the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library, and the MacRae Library. Dalhousie Libraries has partnered with C@P sites throughout Nova Scotia, to provide training to staff. More about these printers can be read [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who participated in **Food for Fines** at the Dalhousie Libraries between February 17–March 9.



Across our five Dalhousie Libraries, we collected 786 food items and \$373 in cash donations. A total of \$1,296.96 in fines were waived in exchange for donated food. Across Novanet a total of 2,076 food items were collected and cash donations totalled \$727.15! Food items were divided between the DSU Food Bank, Feed Nova Scotia and the Colchester Food Bank.



**Have you signed up for DalReads?** The official book selection for 2014 is *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan.

For more info, visit the DalReads [Blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@dalreads) pages.

# 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, 2013 and March 31, 2014.**

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