



Greetings from the Director

BY LUANNE FREUND
Acting Director

UBC has undergone a transformation in recent years. New buildings, walkways and public spaces have opened up across campus, including a new student centre dubbed the "Nest", a beautiful alumni centre and a renovated and expanded bookstore. There is more to come with the new aquatic centre almost complete and the bulldozers clearing the site for the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, to be built in the garden area outside Koerner Library. Beyond the physical changes, UBC has a new President, Professor Santa Ono, who brings a fresh perspective and a lively and engaging personality to the position. If you haven't visited UBC recently, it is a good time to come out and enjoy a walk around campus.



At the iSchool, we are looking towards a year full of opportunities and renewal as well. This month we held our first Celebration of Excellence event, which brought together alumni, faculty, current students and award donors to celebrate student achievements in the new Alumni Centre. That was an exciting start to the year! In November we will host the External Review Panel from the ALA Committee on Accreditation during their two-day visit to the school. Faculty and staff spent much of the summer carrying out a thorough self-study of the MLIS program in preparation for the visit, and we look forward to the opportunity to meet with

members of the review panel and showcase our program and the school. I would like to thank all members of the community who are assisting with the accreditation process and visit.

The biggest opportunity ahead of us this year relates to the status of the iSchool within the University. We are in the midst of discussions to establish a new and expanded school together with the School of Journalism and the Bachelor of Media Studies program. The integrated school is proposed in response to the dramatic changes in the means and methods of creating, disseminating, using, and preserving all forms of information and media, especially digital media and data, that bring us closer to fields such as journalism and media studies. The integrated unit will continue to offer programs in library, archival and information studies (MLIS, MAS, Dual) and children's literature (MACL), which will be supplemented by a broader range of courses and programs. It will have a substantially larger faculty and the number of students is expected to double, making for a more diverse and dynamic learning environment.

A consultation phase will get underway soon and we will be seeking input on the proposed new school from all members of the iSchool community. Please stay tuned – we value your input as we plan for this important step forward.

TD Visiting Professor in Children's Literature



The iSchool is happy to have Julie Flett for the 2016-2017 Winter Term 1 (Sept.—Dec.) as our inaugural TD Visiting Professor



in Children's Literature. Julie Flett is an award-winning author, illustrator and artist currently living in Vancouver, BC. She is Cree-Métis. Julie studied fine arts at Concordia University in Montreal and Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver. She received the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize and was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Children's Literature for her book *Owls See Clearly at Night (Lii Yiiboo Nayaapiiwak lii Swer): A Michif Alphabet (L'alphabet di Michif)*, and most recently Julie's book *Wild Berries/Pakwa che Menisu* was chosen as the First Nation Communities. Julie will be teaching LIBR 522P: First Nations Literature and Other Materials for Children and Young Adults.

INSIDE

New Hire Announcements	2
Tenure Announcements	3
iTech Flex Initiative	4
Experiential Learning in Bella Bella	5
Student News	7
iSchool Alumni Panel	8

New Hire Announcements

The iSchool was pleased to announce earlier this year a number of new additions to its faculty, as well changes in the roles of current faculty members Heather O'Brien and Eric Meyers. Please continue reading for more information about the dynamic accomplished people who have joined the iSchool community this year.

New Assistant Professor: Dr. Jennifer Douglas, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Douglas earned her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto and has been doing outstanding work at the UBC iSchool as a lecturer and term Assistant Professor since 2014. Her research areas include personal archives; writers' archives; archival arrangement and description; history and evolution of archival theory; online communities and archives; and archival representation. Her current research explores the role of recordkeeping in grieving. Her dissertation, entitled *Archiving Authors: Rethinking the Analysis and Representation of Personal Archives*, won the iSchools Dissertation Award in 2014, and that same year, she was awarded the W. Kaye Lamb prize for the *Archivaria* journal article that most advances archival thinking in Canada. She is the current General Editor of *Archivaria*, The Journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists.



New Assistant Professor: Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, Ph.D.

Dr. Muhammad Abdul-Mageed will take up our position in Information and Media Studies. Dr. Abdul-Mageed completed a dual Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics and Information Science at Indiana University in 2015. Between 2010 and 2012, he was a Visiting Scholar in the Center for Computational Learning Systems, Columbia University. He is currently a fellow of the Center of Computer-Mediated Communication in IU and serves as a member of the standing reviewing committee for Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics. His interests lie at the intersection of social media, natural language processing, and machine learning. He is an expert on Arabic sentiment analysis and is especially interested in learning from people and data over social media and creating more 'social' machines. "I'm excited about joining the talented SLAIS colleagues," says Dr. Abdul-Mageed, "to shape the future of the iSchool, UBC, and the world!"



Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Hicks, Ph.D.

Dr. Deborah Hicks earned her Ph.D. at the University of Alberta and joined the iSchool Faculty as a lecturer in September 2016. Her research areas include professional identity; professional practices of librarians and information professionals; management and leadership; online identity.

"Starting out my career with the iSchool has been a wonderful opportunity. The faculty and students have not only been very welcoming, but they've helped to deepen my thinking and understanding about the information professions. I look forward to working closely with everyone over the coming year!"



The iSchool will be hiring two new tenure track faculty positions to begin July 1, 2017. Candidates must be able to teach and conduct research in one of the two primary subject areas below, based on the needs of the iSchool.

- **Information Science and Digital Technologies**
- **Public Knowledge, Information and Society**

More information on these positions can be found on our website at slais.ubc.ca

TENURE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Heather O'Brien joined the School in 2008 from Dalhousie University with a PhD focused on human information interaction and user engagement. While at the iSchool, she has developed and successfully taught numerous courses, including MLIS core courses and the innovative, cross-listed Graduating Project course. She has demonstrated leadership in many ways, notably through the establishment of the iSchool Research Day event and Chair of the Curriculum Committee. Dr. O'Brien's research in the area of user engagement with technology is internationally recognized and her user engagement measurement scale is widely used. Her recently published book *Why Engagement Matters*, co-edited by Paul Cairns explores user engagement in digital media. In 2016, she was awarded her second four-year SSHRC Insight Grant, "Antecedents and Learning Outcomes of Exploratory Search Engagement." This project leverages her long-term work in the area of user engagement with exploratory search.



Dr. Eric Meyers joined the School in 2009 from the University of Washington iSchool. His research interests lie at the intersection of information science, the learning sciences, and new media studies. His publications span these areas and he is well known internationally for his research on collaborative information seeking and use among children and youth, virtual worlds, and new media literacies. Dr. Meyers has strengthened the School's course offerings related to information literacy, instruction and new media through course development and innovation in the use of learning technologies, and, since 2015, he has been Chair of the multidisciplinary Master of Arts in Children's Literature program. His current research, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) focuses on how early adolescents make decisions to use or reject information in the context of their daily lives. He is also actively engaged in community-based research, working to strengthen technology literacy among children through Raspberry Pi workshops offered in collaboration with local school and public libraries.

Retirement Party for Susie and Judi

After a combined 60+ years of outstanding service to SLAIS, Professors Susie Stephenson and Judi Saltman retired this past June, 2016. Many attended a retirement celebration held in the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre. Thank you to everyone who came out for the celebration and thank you to Susie and Judi for the legacy you have left at the School.



Update: UBC iSchool iTech Flex Initiative

Renovations to both the Terrace and Kitimat labs were completed at the end of September 2016. We have taken steps to redesign student workspaces and teaching spaces to better support collaboration and the hands-on use of technology for learning and research purposes. The School has also constructed a digital media collaboration pod designed in the Kitimat Lab. The collaboration pod is equipped with a multi-plexed LED monitor enabling up to 4 students to independently display their screens on the monitor. Both renovation projects are operational.

Funding is currently in place to create additional learning and research “stations,” as part of the Tech Sandbox that will support the new MLIS Pathways. There are plans for the creation of a data science unit (information visualization, and tools to support manipulation of large data sets), and a digital media unit (digitization and graphics applications). Each station will enable advanced software to support design, development, and research activities in each of these specialized areas.



The Terrace Lab has been redesigned with round tables and multiple display screens to allow for a more flexible learning environment and group work.



The Kitimat Lab collaboration pod is equipped with a multi-plexed LED monitor enabling up to to 4 students to independently display their screens on the monitor.

First Nations Curriculum Concentration Continues to Grow

The FNCC at the iSchool is unique in Canada and is one of the few such specializations in North America. Since 1998, the iSchool has offered the FNCC, which allows students to develop an understanding of Indigenous cultures and ongoing Indigenous initiatives, and to focus on information needs and services related to Indigenous peoples.

The concentration is available to students in the MLIS, MAS, and DUAL programs. The concentration was developed in collaboration with Indigenous information professionals including iSchool graduates in prestigious positions at Indigenous law firms and resource centres, faculty at UBC's First Nations House of Learning, faculty in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program, and the UBC's Indigenous library, *X̱wi7x̱wa* Library. A comprehensive review and consultation process for the FNCC was initiated in the 2010-2011 academic year.

During the review period, the FNCC has grown dramatically, from only five graduates in 2012-2013 to over 25 students currently enrolled!

Outside the Classroom: Community-based, Experiential Learning in Bella Bella



BY Amy Perrault, Lucinda Murray and Catherine Bellamy

On July 3rd we travelled to Bella Bella where we spent the week meeting with and learning from members of Heiltsuk First Nation. We arrived with hopes of contributing to the ongoing organization of the Heiltsuk Cultural Education Centre's (HCEC) collections with an eye towards use of the material in Heiltsuk language programs and other community-driven initiatives.

Our trip was funded by UBC's Remote Community Based Learning Fund and the iSchool. Kim Lawson, Heiltsuk community member and Reference Librarian at UBC's Xwi7xwa Library, was our mentor. Dr. Lisa Nathan, coordinator of the school's First Nations Curriculum Concentration, was our faculty collaborator. We also worked with UBC First Nations and Endangered Languages Chair, Dr. Mark Turin and his students, two of whom are also Heiltsuk community members.



During the first few days of our visit so many people were generous with their time: the staff at HCEC, William Housty (Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Management Department Board Chair), Jess Housty (curator of the Thistalalh Memorial Library), as well as the principal and teachers who work in language and cultural programs at the Bella Bella Community School. We had the opportunity to view firsthand the vast array of curriculum resources and lesson plans created by Heiltsuk elders and teachers over the years. As the week progressed we became more familiar with the challenges faced by HCEC, such as striving for long-term stewardship of its invaluable holdings while making its collection readily accessible to the community with extremely limited resources and staffing.

Throughout the week we were particularly fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from Jennifer Carpenter, a Heiltsuk community member, scholar and Director of the HCEC. Through her decades of experience, Jennifer has a trove of stories connected to projects initiated by Heiltsuk community members, supported through a range of grants and other funding sources. One project we hope future students may be able to contribute to is a timeline of the numerous projects that have been initiated by or partnered through the HCEC as a way to share these with teachers in the community as well as to provide bridges to new research and engagement opportunities. The Centre has

created and compiled an extensive collection of analogue and digital resources and materials, and we envision future work could focus largely on community grounded information organization systems that can support the needs of teachers, community members and the goals of HCEC.

For us, this experience was not simply an opportunity to connect what we have learned in SLAIS within the complexities of a 'real-world' setting. We were provided a supportive and welcoming space to think about what we might be able to contribute as new professionals and how the information field might shift commonly accepted practices to better support projects of a similar nature moving forward. Reflecting on our time spent in Bella Bella we are very thankful for the opportunity to make new friends, to contribute our skills where appropriate, and to learn from the good work undertaken by Heiltsuk community members.



Just a few of our amazing students!

Congratulations!



Bonnie Tulloch, Ph.D. student was awarded the 2016 Killam Doctoral Scholarship. The Killam Doctoral Scholarships are provided each year from the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Fund for Advanced Studies and are awarded to the top doctoral candidates

in the annual Tri-Agency/Affiliated Fellowships competition. These scholarships provide up to \$30,000 per year plus a \$2,000 research travel allowance over a two-year term.

Our 2016 Ronald Jobe Award Winners **Kristy Woodcock** and **Marlo Humiski** were presented with their awards at the Vancouver Children's Literature



Roundtable breakfast by Professor Emeritus Ronald Jobe.

Student recognized for their work on Co-op Placement

Congratulations to Luke McLeod, MLIS, who was recognized for his work as an Information Specialist at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) Patent Branch. Luke was awarded for his contribution to the identification and implementation of the Library Discovery Tool, which allows patent examiners to quickly retrieve literature necessary for patent reviews.



Congratulations!

2015 Co-op Students of the Year!



iSchool (SLAIS) Master of Archival Studies (MAS) Co-op Student of the Year Winner:

Paige Hohmann, for her work term with [UBC Okanagan Library, Okanagan Special Collections.](#)

iSchool (SLAIS) Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) Co-op Student of the Year Winner:

Cecilia Rose, for her work term with [UBC Student Academic System Initiative.](#)



Join us for the SLAIS The iSchool @ UBC 2017 Research Day!

Each year, SLAIS the iSchool hosts a Research Day, where students and faculty across all programs within the School showcase their research in the form of posters, talks and demonstrations.

On **Friday March 10, 2017** SLAIS

marks the 7th annual Research Day held at the School. Planning is currently underway to develop a program and theme for this year's events, which promise to highlight the amazing work done by students and faculty across a broad range of research areas.

To see last year's program, winners, and updates for the 2016 Research Day by visiting the SLAIS the iSchool website:

<http://slais.ubc.ca/research/research-day/>

The iSchool at ASIS&T – The Association of Information Science & Technology

The iSchool was well represented by faculty, students and alumni at the recent ASIS&T conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, who presented numerous papers, panels, posters and workshops in addition to winning a record number of awards:

Social Informatics Best Student Paper Award: Sara Gilbert and Drew Paulin, iSchool Doctoral students - *Tweet to learn: Expertise and centrality in conference Twitter network.*

Best Information Behaviour Paper Award: Dr. Devon Greyson, iSchool alum - *Evolution of Information Practices over Time*

Best Information Behaviour Poster Award: Saguna Shankar, Dr. Heather O'Brien, Elissa How, Wendy, Liu, Millicent Mabi and Cecilia Rose, iSchool faculty and students - *The Role of Information in the Settlement Experiences of Refugee Students*

Elfreda Chatman Research Proposal Award: Dr. Heather O'Brien (and colleagues) - *The Information Worlds of Student Refugees in Canada*

Dr. Lisa Nathan won the **ASIS&T Thomson Reuters Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award**. The citation described Dr. Nathan as a "radical, passionate and inspiring teacher who challenges her students to take risks, address the challenges facing our society, and take ownership of their own learning."

iSchool Celebration of Excellence

On October 1, 2016 the iSchool held its first Celebration of Excellence at the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre. The School awarded a total of 35 awards to over 40 students. It is through the continued commitment of our donors and the incredible students at the iSchool that we are able to put on such an event.

Thank you to family, friends, alumni, donors, faculty, and community members who attended the event and contributed to the evenings success! "Thank you to all the SLAIS staff and others who made tonight's student awards a huge success. Another excellent milestone and a wonderful celebration of the students' and SLAIS' work and accomplishments." said Adam Farrell, adjunct faculty member and alumnus of the Dual MAS/MLIS program.



New in 2016 – Introducing the Alumni Panel

The iSchool at UBC and the SLAIS Alumni Association announced a new partnership this year with the goal of engaging our global alumni community. This new partnership is more open and flexible which offers a range of opportunities for participation. Every iSchool graduate gains free membership in this group, and will be added to the alumni mailing list to receive newsletters and updates on Alumni and iSchool events.

To supplement the Alumni group, we want you to get involved! You can:

- Connect online to fellow Alumni through the newly established iSchool Alumni Network on Linked-in
- Participate in local iSchool events at UBC with students, faculty and fellow Alumni - come one, come all!
- Step up and join the new iSchool Alumni Panel – a group of 10-12 Alumni who meet virtually and are committed to serving as advocates and leaders, advising the School, engaging with current students and other alumni, and building up the alumni network. This group is still in formation: interested alumni should send an email to ischool.ssc@ubc.ca today for more information..
- Send us input on this initiative (ischool.ssc@ubc.ca) We want to know: What should be the goals of the re-envisioned Alumni Group? What benefits would you hope to get from participating in the new Alumni Group? How would you like to be involved?

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We want to highlight your accomplishments and give current and prospective students an idea of the variety of career paths our alumni have taken. To simplify the process of featuring you please visit the iSchool website and complete the alumni profile submission form.

<http://slais.ubc.ca/alumni/alumni-profile-submission/>

Thanks!



SCHOOL OF LIBRARY, ARCHIVAL & INFORMATION STUDIES

The iSchool would like to say a very special thank you to Kathie Shoemaker for the amazing work that she has done volunteering her time and talent to iSchool celebrations, and alumni events. An alumna of the School and active member of the alumni association for many years Kathie devotes time and resources to each event to ensure they always have that little something extra.

Kathie, your own decorations say it best, thank you, thank you, thank you!

