



MLIS: ALA Accreditation Process Update

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BY CAROLINE HAYTHORNTHWAITE

Since January, we have been making great strides in implementing a comprehensive learning outcomes assessment program at the iSchool that addresses the requirements for ALA accreditation of the MLIS program. This effort has been led by Associate Professor Luanne Freund, Assistant Professor Eric Meyers, and Director Haythornthwaite. Our first step was refinement of the school-level 'graduate competencies'. Many thanks to all alumni and community members who completed the survey and gave us feedback on these competencies. Overall, the majority of responses were positive, with suggestions of refinement for specific degrees. These responses will be incorporated into our development process for the coming year and ongoing in the future.

Behind the scenes we have implemented a range of new procedures for learning out-

comes assessment. Dr. Meyers' expertise in this area has been instrumental in defining, refining and setting up this program. He and the iSchool faculty have been working diligently on revising existing assessment practices and establishing new ones.

We are pleased to report that, following our November 21st meeting with ALA-CoA, our "Plan for Removal of Conditional Status" for the MLIS program was positively received by the committee, and they have officially accepted our Plan. That document outlined the major changes we have made over the last year to implement a comprehensive learning outcomes assessment for the MLIS program. We are pleased with this outcome and are continuing to put full effort toward removal of the conditional status.



Caroline Haythornthwaite

photo by Edward Chung

UBC iSchool at ASIS&T 2014 in Seattle

The iSchool@UBC had a very strong showing at the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) Conference and Annual Meeting. Seven faculty and nearly a dozen students attended the four day meeting, held November 1-4 in Seattle, Washington. Included in the conference proceedings were the 1 paper, 3 interactive panels, and 4 posters by iSchool students and faculty. In addition, faculty and students

organized and attended workshops and symposia, participated in the student design competition, and took on new leadership roles in Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

Two faculty and two doctoral students participated in the Special Interest Group on Information Needs, Seeking and Use (SIG-USE) pre-conference symposium.

[ASIS&T, CONT PAGE 5](#)



Krista Parham, Matthew Murray, Eka Grguric, Anna Ferri, Stephanie Fan

Areas of Research in SLAIS, The iSchool@UBC

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

HCI is necessarily an interdisciplinary field, engaging researchers who design, build, test, evaluate and examine the impact of new computer implementations for individual, group and community use across levels of skill, ability, and facility with technology. It addresses multiple contexts from work to learning and includes both fixed and mobile technologies and applications. (For more, see the HCI@UBC website: <http://hci.ubc.ca/about-hciubc/>).

Records and Information Management

Archival Science explores the theoretical and practical conditions that lead to, or work against, creation and preservation of persistent and trustwor-

thy records and archives. In doing so, it touches upon issues of representation, openness, transparency, privacy, security, accountability, internal control, compliance and risk and risk management.

Cultural Heritage

This area of research addresses fundamental questions about what in the cultural realm will be retained, by whom, in what manner, and with what access, i.e., whose history will be digitized, retained and made available. UBC's to cultural heritage for First Nations, aboriginal and indigenous peoples makes this an important site for promoting this interdisciplinary area of research. Elsewhere at UBC there are many synergistic initiatives, primarily around indigenous

knowledge. A separate submission is being made to Arts bringing together this area.

New Media

Social, behavioural, organizational and learning practices are all heavily affected by new media, from the rapid-fire electronic exchange of information and conversation begun with the Internet, to the emergence of virtual community and culture,

new practices for scholarly and open knowledge distribution, and the coming radical changes in economic, labour, and educational structures associated with technical infrastructures of information technologies, networks, and social media and the social structures of participatory culture, connected learning, online social networks, and virtual crowds.

For more information on Research areas at the iSchool please visit: <http://slais.ubc.ca/research/core-areas-of-research/>



Photo by Edward Chung

iSchool Faculty

Highlighting our GRA's – Maggie Castor

What research are you currently working on and who is your supervisor?

I currently work with Lisa on a variety of small projects all under the umbrella of developing the concept of Sustaining Information Practices. Broadly speaking, we are using practice theory along with critical theory as a way to think through implications for information policy design and the ethical roles and responsibilities of information professionals. As a

particular example, we've done a lot of thinking around what it means/looks like to develop information practices that consider and are accountable to multiple generations. Previously I was focused on thinking through these issues with a more environmental lens, but now I am working with these issues in the context of traumatic collections such as the archives being created through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

What skills from your SLAIS education are you currently using on this research?

The skills I use drawn from my education at SLAIS vary quite widely. Everything from thinking through information ethics and policy to copyright considerations to data management planning to applying citation standards.

How do you feel this work will benefit your future career?

My work with Lisa has kept me in collaborative and critical contexts, which reflects the characteristics I want out of a career. Additionally, Lisa has created a working relationship with me that encourages me to apply and pursue my particular interests as they relate the overarching theme of Sustaining Information Practices. Being able to take initiative in this way has helped me to learn a lot about my own working habits, strengths, weakness, etc. To some degree, the RA with Lisa reflects the kind of work environment I see myself continuing in, and, as a result, it does not really feel so much as if my career is "future" but rather it has begun/is starting to take shape.

Do you feel your current research aligns with the changing landscape in information management?

I would say our research aligns with the changing landscape in information management by engaging critical minded methodologies that strive to account for complex and pluralistic realities by being attuned to diverse, interacting, and co-constructed information technologies, conceptions of information, and epistemologies.

Would you recommend becoming a RA to others

If you can find someone who engages in an area of research you feel passionate about, most definitely.



Photo provided by Maggie Castor

Maggie Castor

"it does not really feel so much as if my career is "future" but rather it has begun/is starting to take shape."

iSchool Faculty Updates



Luanne Freund

Associate Professor Luanne Freund has taken on the position and responsibilities of Associate Director of the iSchool@UBC. She is working with Director Haythornthwaite on a range of activities relating to the school, including a leading role relating to the MLIS accreditation and school-wide learning outcomes assessment.



Eric Meyers

photo by Edward Chung

Dr. Eric Meyers has been appointed the new Chair of the MACL Program as of September 2015. Until that date, Professor Meyers and Professor Saltman will continue as co-chairs of the program. In making the announcement Professor Saltman says "Personally, I would like to add how pleased I am. I have worked closely with Professor Meyers as second chair and co-chair of the MACL Program over the past few years. He is a wonderful colleague and cares deeply for the MACL students and the Program."

NEW FACES

SLAIS WELCOMES



Jennifer Douglas

photo by Edward Chung

What is one interesting fact about yourself?

In addition to the archival research I'm working on, I also work on a voluntary basis with a community-based participatory research project that is exploring the experiences of bereaved parents of stillborn babies in order to help identify gaps in services and to inform the provision of bereavement support, health policy around bereavement care, and training programs. We have presented our findings at a number of medical conferences and it is interesting for me to see how another academic community operates. The work is tremendously difficult and tremendously fulfilling.

What is the last thing you read for enjoyment?

The last thing I read for enjoyment? I am very proud of myself for managing to keep up with my New Yorker subscription. This takes some dedication! I also just finished reading *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. I was a bit torn in my opinion of it: I loved parts of it, thought other parts were pretty mediocre, and though in the end I decided it was a decent read, I have to admit I think it was pretty overrated. I also read *Big Red Barn*, *Little Blue Truck* and *Goodnight Moon* 10-12 times each day!

"The best part of my job is when a class really gets going in discussion."

Dr. Jennifer Douglas joined the iSchool Faculty as a lecturer in September 2014.

Why did you decide to come to UBC?

I decided to come to UBC because as a graduate of the MAS program, I have a deep respect for the depth and breadth of the program here. In a program with as many courses as UBC offers, I can teach - in addition to the basic functions of archival management such as arrangement and description and public service - courses like *Advanced Arrangement and Description* and *Personal Archives* that dig a lot deeper into issues and innovations.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is when a class really gets going in discussion. For example, my *Personal Archives* class can really let loose sometimes and I love hearing different opinions and ideas, especially when they are controversial or particularly interrogative of archival foundations. I also love seeing MAS students gain confidence and a sense of professional mission and pride as they progress through the program.

Dodson Visiting Professor



Julie McLeod

Dr. Julie McLeod will be joining the School for the January - April 2015 academic term as the iSchool's Dodson visiting Professor. Dr. McLeod is a Professor in Records Management in the department of Mathematics and Information Science at Northumbria University in Newcastle. During her time at the School, Dr. McLeod will teach ARST 560/ LIBR 514F: Records and Information Governance.

Getting to know SLAIS Adjuncts

We posed a series of questions to some of our adjunct faculty members. Please read on to find out more about them and why they chose the iSchool.

Allison Taylor McBride

I graduated from UBC SLAIS in 1980 and first taught in 1987. Most of the courses I've taught have been in the area of children's services and children's literature. The two most recent courses are the ones I've developed for SLAIS (and my two favourites): 522G First Nations Literature for Children and Young Adults, and the online offering LIBR 529: Services for Families and Early Literacy in the Preschool Years.

Changes you have seen in the profession over the last 5 years?

The options and variety of courses / careers and professional responsibilities keeps expanding.

What sparked your interest in teaching future information specialists?

My love of teaching comes out of my love of our profession. I don't think there's anything more important than inspiring a love of children's literature and in serving families through the public library.

What do you think the School excels at?

I think Judi Saltman, and Sheila Egoff before her, have created the most exceptional professional program for public librarians, especially in youth services and with the

addition of the MACL program expanded the program to children's and YA authors, educators and researchers.

What are you currently watching/reading?

I'm reading two children's YA books for my bookclub meeting next week: "Counting by 7s" by Holly Sloan and "When you reach me" by Rebecca Stead.



Allison Taylor McBride

Photo provided by Allison Taylor McBride

Alyssa Green

I graduated from SLAIS in April 2011, I am currently the Manager of InfoAction, VPL's fee-based research service. I taught my first SLAIS course, Marketing in Information Organizations, in the 2014 Summer Term.

Changes you have seen in the profession?

There have been many exciting changes in the information industry over the last few years. Some of the trends that I have been keenly monitoring are the shift towards evidence-based decision making in information organizations and the increased emphasis on community outreach and engagement in both public and academic libraries.

What sparked your interest in teaching future information specialists?

I love having the chance to interact with students- they are the future of my profession. They have great ideas and insight and I look forward to working with future generations of library leaders.

What do you think the School excels at?

The iSchool has done an excellent job of providing a balance of curriculum that both addresses current trends in information organization while also instilling the values of the profession in students. The broad range of course options and experiential learning opportunities allow students have both the practical and theoretical knowledge necessary to succeed in their chosen profession.

What are you currently watching/reading?

I'm listening to Serial, a podcast from the creators of This American Life. I can happily curl up on the couch and relax while listening to the compelling story unfold.



Alyssa Green

Photo provided by Alyssa Green

Lois Evans

My Masters of Information Studies is from the University of Toronto (2003). The first course I taught was IT Security, Information Assurance and Risk Management (ARST 575J/LIBR 514K) in January 2013. This term, I'm teaching Management of Current Records (ARST 516).

Changes you have seen in the profession over the last five years?

The biggest change in the records management profession has been the uptake in digital records—the move to paperless workflows is either largely complete or the focus at most organizations and we're still figuring out how to manage these systems!

What sparked your interest in teaching?

I sort of fell into teaching—I still think of myself as a substitute teacher. I was asked to fill in for Dr. Lemieux when she was became Acting Chair of the Media and Graphics Interdisciplinary Centre (MAGIC) lab, and this year, I covered a second course while she is on sabbatical. The first year was the easiest because I didn't know how much I didn't know! Since then, I've been taking courses at the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology and learning about teaching theory and practice.

What are you currently reading/watching?

I'm reading *The Confabulist* by Steven



Lois Evans

Photo provided by Lois Evans

Galloway, a fictional account of Houdini's life told by an unreliable narrator. I'm interested in Vancouver and Los Angeles history, long motorcycle journeys, and mountain climbing. One of my favourites is *Riding with Rilke: Journeys through Silence* by Ted Bishop, a University of Calgary professor who rides back and forth to the Harry Ransom Centre (University of Texas) Archives and motorcycles—the ultimate read!

Students Acknowledged for Hard Work

Think out of the Box Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2014 Think out of the Box Award Winners! **Kathryn Chandler** and **Eng Sengsavang**. This one-time award sponsored by former SLAIS Professor Giovanni Michetti, awards 2 MAS/Dual continuing students who have demonstrated strong critical thinking and an 'out of the box' perspective in their course work.

Vivian Schmidt Memorial Award for Excellence in Law Librarianship

The Vivian Schmidt Memorial Award for Excellence in Law Librarianship was made possible by a kind and generous donation from a member of the library community. This award in honour of Vivian Schmidt is to be given to a student who is committed to excellence in areas that Vivian held in high regard including law librarianship, social justice issues, and human rights. Congratulations to **Luke McLeod** winner of the Vivian Schmidt Memorial Award for Excellence in Law Librarianship.



Bonnie Tulloch, winner of the Ronald Jobe Scholarship, and Ronald Jobe on October 18, 2014

NEW AWARDS

Master of Arts in Children's Literature Theses Roundup!

January to November 2014 saw many Master of Arts in Children's Literature students successfully defend their theses. Congratulations to:

Nafiza Azad, whose thesis title is "The Road of the Lost: Book One of the Croi Chronicles."

Janet Eastwood, whose thesis title is "Better and Happier and Freer than Before: Agency and Subverting Genre in Diana Wynne Jones's *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Castle in the Air*, and *House of Many Ways*."

Karen Ehrenholz, whose thesis title is "Remembering and Reuniting Fragments: An Autobiographical and Theoretical Exploration of Children's Stories Offering Healing and Hope to a Young Child."

Aline Frederico, whose thesis title is "Playfulness in E-picturebooks: How the Element of Play Manifests in Transmediated and Born-Digital Picturebook Apps."

Midori Fujita, whose thesis title is "Many Faces of Albus Dumbledore in the Setting of Fan Writing: The Transformation of Readers into 'Reader-Writers' and the Implications of their

Presence in the Age of Online Fan-dom."

Megan Harrison, whose thesis title is "Representations of Trauma and Culture in the Guatemalan Refugee Experience in Juvenile Fiction."

Yashaswi Kesanakurthy, whose thesis title is "Material Girls: Examining the Effects of Subject/Object Relationships on the Protagonists of Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* and Hiromi Goto's *Half World*."

Roberta Loo, whose thesis title is "'Katniss' Fluid Identities: Gender Performance and Media Influence in The Hunger Games Trilogy."

Natalie Schembri, whose thesis title is "'I'll Tell You What: I'll Just Steer': An Examination of Metafictional Narrative Strategies in a Selection of Picturebooks by Mo Willems."

Einar Wong, whose thesis title is: "The Magic of Hogwarts: A Critical Examination of Teachers in Harry Potter."

Lingyun Zhao, whose thesis title is "The Publishing of Youth-Literature in China."

Thank you to all of the iSchool students committee members!

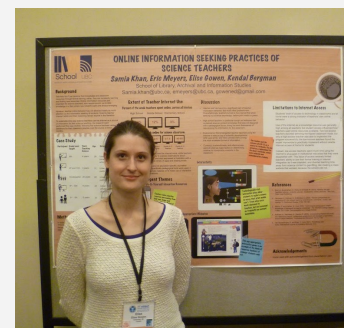
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UBC iSchool at ASIS&T 2014 in Seattle

Assistant Professor **Heather O'Brien** is co-chair of the awards committee, and Assistant Professor **Eric Meyers** was presented with the Interdisciplinary Travel Award. Doctoral candidates **Colleen Addison** and **Devon Greyson** also took part in this half-day event. In the Student Design Competition, **Team Disaster Box**, featuring MLIS student **Krista Parham**, with Kenyon Crowley, and Zachary Frazier took First Prize. Post-doc **Rafa Absar**, Assistant Professor **Heather L. O'Brien**, and alumni **Eric T. Webster** presented a paper entitled: *Exploring Social Context in Mobile Information Behavior*

Ten students and three faculty presented four posters at the President's Reception on Monday evening. They included: *Critical Making with a Raspberry Pi - Towards a Conceptualization of Librarians as Makers*. **Krista Evangeline Parham**, **Anna Ferri**, **Stephanie Fan**, **Matthew Murray**, **Rebecca Anne Lahr**, **Ekatarina Grguric**, **Monica Swamiraj** and **Eric Meyers** *Documenting and Studying the Use of Assigned Search Tasks: RepAST*. **Luanne Freund**, and Barbara M. Wildemuth (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) *Online Information Seeking and Knowledge Sharing Practices of Science*

Teachers. **Samia Khan** (UBC Faculty of Education), **Eric Meyers**, **Elise Gowen** and **Kendal Bergman** *An Appointment with Dr. Google: Online Searching for Health Information in Times of Stress*. **Colleen Victoria Addison** and **Luanne Freund** iSchool MLIS students took on new leadership roles in the organization, including elected office in several Special Interest Groups (SIGs): **Matthew Murray**: Elected as Webmaster for the Digital Libraries SIG **Eka Grguric**: Elected as Chair-Elect for the Digital Libraries SIG **Anna Ferri**: Elected as Secretary for the Education SIG



Elise Gowen

[colloquiamatters]

iSchool Fall Colloquia Series

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On September 24th, 2014 the iSchool at UBC kicked off their Fall Colloquia series with a talk by special guest **Dr. Jennifer Preece**, Professor and Dean of the iSchool at the University of Maryland. The talk, *Citizen Science: Information, Technology and People* was delivered to a full house in the Dodson Room of Irving K Barber Learning Centre. Those in attendance enjoyed a wine and cheese reception afterwards at the iSchool. Dr. Preece's inspiring talk can viewed at the following link: <http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/citizen-science-information-technology-and-people/?login>.

In addition to Dr. Preece the iSchool welcomed:

Dr. Keren Dali, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, University of Western Ontario
The Whole Life: Why Teach and Study Reading in LIS Programs?

Dr. Vivian Howard, Associate Professor, School of Information Management and Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University
Reading Practices in a Digital world: Two Case Studies: <http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/vivian-howard-reading-practices-in-a-digital-world-two-case-studies/>

Dr. Barbara Wildemuth, Associate Dean and Professor, School of Information & Library Science

A Conversation on Mixed Methods Research, With a Focus on Why and How: <http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca/barbara-wildemuth-a-conversation-on-mixed-methods-research-with-a-focus-on-why-and-how/>

Stay tuned in the winter term for the Master of Arts in Children's Literature Colloquia, the iSchool Research Day, and the Dodson Visiting Professor lecture.



Jenny Preece

[in memoriam]

Sam Rothstein, 1921 – 2014

Dr. Sam Rothstein, the original Director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (then the School of Librarianship), passed away this year.

In the biography that Dr. Rothstein — Sam — wrote that in 1954 upon receipt of his PhD in Librarianship from the University of California he became the first Canadian to hold a Ph.D. in Librarianship. In honour of Dr. Rothstein, in 1989, the

"what a lovely human being Sam was — charming, generous, and innovative."

Dr. Caroline Haythornthwaite

School established an entering scholarship for those with promise of success in librarianship. For the 50th anniversary of SLAIS in 2011, the School established the Sam Rothstein Award for a graduating student who exhibits the innovative spirit that Sam had when opening the School in 1961. He will be missed.



Sam Rothstein

To read more on Sam Rothstein you can view his [fonds](#) at the UBC library

Visit our website: www.slais.ubc.ca

SLAIS Matters is published by the School of Library, Archival & Information Studies at the University of British Columbia

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Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

KEEPING IN TOUCH

AT SLAIS, we want to stay in touch with our alumni, friends and past faculty, as well as the UBC Community and the information professions.

SLAIS Matters is intended to keep you informed of our activities and research as we continue to prepare and educate professionals and researchers, contribute to the knowledge of our professions, and advocate for fairness and equity in the archival, library and information fields.

If you have news, events or activities you'd like promoted to SLAIS friends and alumni, email submissions to Melissa Nightingale, the SLAIS Acting Student Services Coordinator, at ischool.ssc@ubc.ca

iSchool Student Association-LASSA

The LASSA student association continues to do a great job in organizing, sponsoring and promoting activities for the students at the iSchool. Upon joining the School all students become members of LASSA.

The 2014-2015 LASSA Executive is made of the following group of dedicated students:

MLIS Co-President:

Kelsy Ockert

MAS Co-President:

Sarah Giesbrecht

Treasurer:

Michael Wynne

Secretary:

Nicole Askin

Events Coordinator:

Roxanne Kalenborn

Webmaster:

Matthew Murray

MLIS Member at Large:

Michael Wynne &

Christopher Stephenson

MLIS First Year Representative:

Nichole DeMichelis

MAS Member at Large:

Cathryn Crocker

MAS First Year Representative:

Maggie Hunter

DUAL Member at Large:

Adena Brons

MACL Member at Large:

Rachel Balko

PhD Representative:

Alamir Novin

AMS Representative:

Abeer Siddiqui

GSS Representative:

Mitchell Meler

Inti Dewey &

Maria Paraschos

Faculty of Arts Representative:

Tracy Leung

