Connecting Information, Technology, People

CAROLINE HAYTHORNTHWAITE, Director

AS THE NEW Director of SLAIS I have been enjoying getting to know the strengths and range of interests of our faculty and students, and making use of the splendid facilities of the I. K. Barber Learning Centre. I would like to highlight the nature of SLAIS and our combined interest – under the degree headings of Library and Information Studies (LIS), Archival Studies (AS), and children's literature – in the role of information in contemporary society and in particular information in digital form.

While the connecting theme for SLAIS can be encapsulated in a joint interest in information, technology and people, the way these play out in research interests and developments in the various fields can be surprising to those less familiar with the research side of our work. Interests of SLAIS faculty cover a range that includes combined attention to theory, design, and practice in the following areas:

• Management and preservation of records, particularly digital records, and the management of risk as it relates to records in personal, government, financial, and legal contexts

• Creation and use of cultural materials,

Caroline Haythornthwaite

including new literacies for adults and youth in the digital environment such as new media, computer, and information literacy, as well as capture and preservation of cultural heritage through audio and video recording, digitization and digital library management

• Development of information systems for capture, retrieval, analysis, and presentation of digital information resources, and of the tools that help people work with such resources

• Evaluation and analysis of human

interaction with information and information systems, from the individual level of the human-computer interaction, to group processes in the development of online communities

To keep on top of trends and practices in these areas requires an inter- and multi-disciplinary approach, drawing on research from fields of management, law, computer science, psychology and sociology to name but a few. Of particular interest to any school in the LIS/AS area is the creation of core knowledge that defines the discipline. This we find in theories of knowledge organization, documentary analysis, archival preservation, information retrieval, trust in information and records, scholarly communication, information use, information policy and ethics.

Within SLAIS, we are taking advantage of opportunities for harmony and synergy between our programs to enhance student experience, while attending to the education standards of the American Library Association, and the Association of Canadian Archivists and the Society of American Archivists for each degree. We also are keeping apace with development in the iSchools movement with its expanding influence on the attention to keeping SLAIS and UBC at the forefront of Library & Information Studies and Archival Studies. ▪

Inside

www.slais.ubc.ca

Join SLAIS in Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary

SLAIS IS PROUD to mark its 50th anniversary as an important part of The University of British Columbia, and invites alumni and friends of SLAIS to help us celebrate. See full article P. 2.

The anniversary celebration weekend has been scheduled for April 29-30, 2011, so mark your calendars and plan to join us in celebrating this important milestone. The SLAIS Alumni Association is presenting 10 Distinguished Alumni Awards at the April 30 Gala Dinner, and we are expecting a strong turnout of alumni, faculty and former faculty members.

Include time for a visit to SLAIS for the Open House, where you can meet current students and faculty, and find out more about what we are thinking about at SLAIS - research, courses, and programs will all be topics of conversation.

Starting Feb. 10, you can buy tickets online for the anniversary dinner and dance - only 300 seats are available for this event so don't delay. Details and a secure link via UBC can be found at www.slais.ubc.ca/about/SLAIS-50.htm. To stay in the loop on updates for the Anniversary event plans, follow @slais50 on twitter! ▪

Since 1961: SLAIS Celebrates a Half-Century

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Alumni Events

Open House: Visit SLAIS on Saturday, April 30, 12 noon - 3 p.m. See our spectacular location and facilities in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, meet faculty and students and learn about research and scholarship activities.

Gala Dinner and Dance: Saturday April 30, 6 p.m. to midnight. Join fellow alumni, past and current faculty and friends of SLAIS for the evening on Saturday, April 30. See the SLAIS anniversary site (see URL above) for tickets. Activities include a fundraising silent auction and presentation of Alumni Service & Leadership Awards.
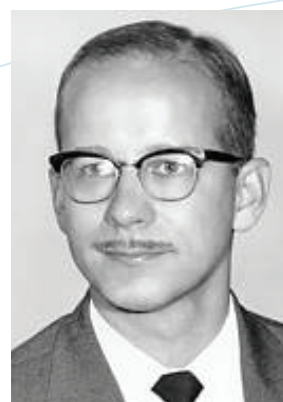
SLAIS Virtual Memory Wall: No matter where in the world you are, you can join the celebration via slaismemorywall.wordpress.com/.

University Events

Reception: Friday April 29, 5-6:30 p.m.: University of British Columbia officials will honour our anniversary with a reception for UBC faculty, archivists and librarians, and other guests. UBC President Stephen Toope will be among the guest speakers, and guests will be invited to tour the SLAIS facilities to learn about our research and programs.

Follow Us on Twitter

Find us at www.twitter.com/slais50 and follow our updates on the celebration. See you there!

From left to right, starting top left: The original north wing under construction; Director Basil Stuart-Stubbs; Room 854 at the School of Librarianship; SLAIS Faculty members Lois Bewley, Ronald Hagler, Anne Piternick, first Director Sam Rothstein; Faculty member Rick Kopak in SLAIS' first computer lab; Faculty member Sheila Egoff and then research assistant Judith Saltman (now SLAIS associate professor).

# of Ground-Breaking Work at UBC and Beyond

Asa Quon photo (top left); All others from SLAIS files

Left to right, from top left: Construction of the north wing; Emeriti faculty Sam Rothstein (left) and Ronald Hagler; Sketch of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre; Faculty at Terry Eastwood's retirement; Barber Centre in snow; SLAIS' first PhD., Dr. Fiorella Foscarini (centre); Ann Curry in her emptied office as SLAIS packs for the 2003 move to TEF III.

CAROLINE HAYTHORNTHWAITE
Internet research; Social informatics; Distributed knowledge; Peer production; Online learning/e-Learning

LUCIANA DURANTI
Digital records forensics; Contemporary records; Applying traditional concepts to contemporary records; Theory versus practice

LUANNE FREUND
Interactive information retrieval; Web-based information seeking; Organizational information behaviour; Task-based approaches, Digital genres

RICHARD KOPAK
Digital libraries; Link typing; Hypertext; Human-computer interaction; Information design; Information architecture; Distributed information-seeking

VICTORIA LEMIEUX
Financial records and information systems; Information failures; Records and information risk management; Data loss, Visual analytics

AARON LOEHRLEIN
Knowledge organization; Information-seeking behaviour; Information architecture; Cognitive categorization

ERIC MEYERS
Youth services; Youth information interaction; Collaborative information seeking and retrieval, New media; Virtual worlds
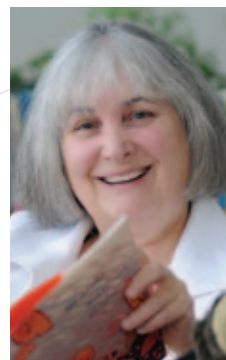
LISA NATHAN
Environmental sustainability and information systems; Human computer interaction; Information policy; Multi-lifespan information systems

HEATHER O'BRIEN
User experience with information technology; Information seeking, retrieval and use; Evaluating users' experiences within information-rich environments

EDIE RASMUSSEN
Information retrieval in text, multmedia and web environments; Digital libraries, Data mining; Bibliometrics

JUDITH SALTMAN
Canadian children's literature; International children's literature; Canadian children's illustrated books; Canadian publishing for children

MARY SUE STEPHENSON
Knowledge organization; Information architecture; Cognitive categorization; Information-seeking behaviour

SLAIS Adjunct Faculty Profile: Guy Robertson

Guy Robertson
SLAIS Adjunct Faculty

AFTER COMPLETING HIS MLS at the UBC School of Librarianship in 1981, Guy Robertson worked as a librarian and archivist at various Vancouver firms, from BC Sugar to Thurber Engineering. In 1983 he established a consulting practice offering library technical services, information security, and disaster planning. His clientele grew to include banks and credit unions, insurers, hospitals and medical laboratories, manufacturers, and non-profit organizations. Guy also worked with clients in the information sector: public and academic libraries, corporate archives, records storage vendors, rare book dealers and auctioneers, and computer resellers.

Despite a dislike of airports, he works on projects across North America and the U.K. Currently he is involved in developing policies and procedures to protect financial institutions from fraud, money laundering and illicit information gathering.

In 1990, Guy developed a course on information organizations for a community college. Since then he has taught bibliography, rare book librarianship, special libraries, information security, and records management at a number of post-secondary institutions, including SLAIS, where he regularly teaches Management of Information Organizations, as well as a short course on risk management.

In 2009, the Canadian Library Association published *Unofficial Wisdom*, a collection of his articles on librarianship.

Hire a SLAIS Co-op Student This Summer

SLAIS STUDENTS ARE now applying for co-operative education (co-op) positions for the upcoming summer. For those unfamiliar with co-op, the program integrates periods of paid, relevant work experience with periods of academic study. It is intended to provide students with the opportunity to explore their career interests, make connections, and enhance their degrees with hands-on experience by allowing them to integrate paid, full-time four- or eight-month positions with their SLAIS program of study. Employers benefit from highly motivated, enthusiastic graduate students studying the most recent techniques in the library, information management, and archival fields.

For five decades, SLAIS has been a leader in educating information professionals in Canada, equipping them with the knowledge and understanding necessary to obtain and manage information in an increasingly complex world.

SLAIS offers students graduate-level instruction and hands-on practice in library and archival theory and best professional practices to complement their undergraduate education in a variety of disciplines including the humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences. This combination of academic and professional education, as well as research, prepares SLAIS graduates to perform effectively as leaders in the information professions.

Co-op has been offered at SLAIS through UBC's Arts Co-op program since its inception as the first graduate co-op option in the Faculty of Arts in 2003. Since then, approximately 370 SLAIS students have joined the program.

Arts Co-op admitted 70 SLAIS students into its graduate co-op option this past September, including students who began their programs in January 2011.

Of these, approximately half plan to complete their first co-op position in the Summer 2011 (May to August) term and will be applying for summer jobs between January and early May 2011. This means they are currently seeking summer employment, so employers can start posting opportunities immediately.

To hire a student for Summer or Fall 2011, or for more information, visit the Arts Co-op website at http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca, or contact the UBC Arts Co-op Director and SLAIS Co-op Coordinator Julie Walchli at 604-827-5194 or by email at julie.walchli@ubc.ca. ▪

Sarah Rathjen & Meghan Radomske Named Co-op Students of 2010

EACH YEAR, THE Arts Co-op Program recognizes two SLAIS Co-op students for outstanding achievement in all aspects of student performance, including academics, the workplace, and professional or community involvement. This year's winners are Meghan Radomske (MLIS) and Sarah Rathjen (MAS) .

Meghan Radomske spent the summer working as the the Writing & Book Camp Coordinator at the Vancouver Public Library, a position which has strengthened her desire to work as a children's and young adult librarian in the future. Her supervisor praises the high quality of Meghan's work and commends her for exceeding everyone's goals and expectations. She continues to develop herself professionally through involvement with the British Columbia Library Association's Young Adult and Children's Services (YAACS) section, Vancouver Children's Literature Roundtable, and Friends of the North Vancouver District Public Library.

Sarah's work term was with the Royal British Columbia Museum. As an Archives Technician, she collaborated in a four-person team on a project to process archival material related to the history of the town site and pulp and paper mill at Ocean Falls, the first project of its kind. Her responsibilities included assisting with the arrangement of records into series, physically re-housing the material into stable containers and enclosures, undertaking preventative conservation, and creating file lists for new containers.

Sarah's supervisor, Claire Gilbert, drew attention to Sarah's involvement in "an item level inventory of over 19,400 engineering plans and drawings in an electronic spreadsheet." Through these tasks Sarah gained a deeper understanding of Archival concepts and had the opportunity to contribute to discussions and apply her archival knowledge to the Ocean Falls project.

Award winners Meghan Radomske (left) and Sarah Rathjen

Claire writes that Sarah embodies "the qualities of a true leader, able to make decisive decisions while encouraging others to succeed." Her flexibility and ability to learn from constructive criticism did not go unnoticed. These qualities not only made Sarah an asset to projects she worked on, but also enabled her to improve the very skills she wanted to work on during this co-op term.

Both Meghan and Sarah receive a cash award and a notation on their UBC transcripts.

Two MLIS students received an Honourable Mention. QinQin Zhang was honoured for her work term at the UBC Infant Studies Centre and Jocelyn Hallman for her work term in the Environment Canada library in Vancouver. ▪

SLAIS by the Numbers – Who Our Students Are

SLAIS HAS GRADUATED, in all programs, 2,964 individual students since 1961, including the Class of November 2010. Collectively they hold 3,085 degrees from SLAIS (many hold more than one!).

Since its inception in 1961, with the first graduating class for the one-year baccalaureate in 1962, SLAIS has conferred:

635 Bachelors of Library Science

1155 Masters of Library Science

831 Masters of Library & Information Studies

275 Masters of Archival Studies

44 Masters of Arts in Children's Literature

70 Dual MAS/MLIS (2 degrees awarded)

5 Doctors of Philosophy

3085 Degrees Awarded

Diversity in the Student Body @ SLAIS

The average age of SLAIS students, all programs, based on Winter 2010 statistics, was 31.1 years. Average age by program:
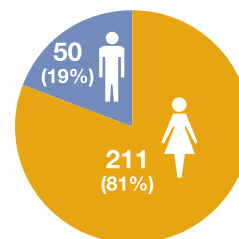
MACL: 35.1 years

MAS: 28.5 years

MASLIS: 28.5 years

MLIS: 31.3 years

PhD: 44.2 years

The SLAIS student body is highly diverse. Nearly a third of the 265 students registered at SLAIS this winter hold citizenships other than Canadian, including 12 permanent residents of Canada. Of the 87, the majority (67) are American, six are from China, three are from Korea and two are from Ghana. The others hail from Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Singapore and the UK.

50 (19%)

211 (81%)

When it comes to gender, the above statistics apply to all of SLAIS, but the numbers vary by program. Women dominate in the PhD (82%) and MACL (94%) programs, while men represent 34% of the MAS cohort.

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.

This newsletter is published twice a year. The summer edition is available both in print and online in PDF format, linked from the SLAIS website. The winter edition is online only, available as a PDF from our website, or by subscribing to the e-version that is delivered to your inbox.

If you'd like to receive this newsletter as an electronic PDF instead of the print issue, or if you'd like to be added to our mailing list for a print copy, please send an email indicating your preference to: **slaistk@interchange.ubc.ca.**