

UBC iSchool (Library, Archival & Information Studies)

INSIGHTS

Vol 1 no. 1



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Update from the Director

It has been a transformational year at the iSchool. In the space of just over 12 months, our MLIS program received continued ALA accreditation status and we were ranked as the best school in Canada and fourth in the world for Library and Information Management. Both accomplishments are a credit to the iSchool community, including faculty, students and alumni.

We are seeing big changes in our student population as well – we have more students with varied disciplinary backgrounds, coming from anthropology, linguistics, computer science and psychology. The number of international students is also rising, with 36% of our students now coming from outside Canada. This change is reflective of trends in the information professions as a whole, as we experience demands for broader and more diverse skills and perspectives. Times are changing, and we continue to introduce new and updated courses and to support faculty and students as they tackle important emerging questions through research and independent study.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of our First Nations Curriculum Concentration, a specialization that prepares students to work with, and in support of, Indigenous communities in projects and careers focused on information and records. The FNCC itself has transformed over the years and is thriving. Guided by its Advisory Board and supported through community partnerships, it has become very popular among MLIS, MAS and Dual Degree students. We acknowledge the work that still remains, especially in attracting more Indigenous students to study at the iSchool, and we will continue to direct our efforts in that direction.

We continue to hire outstanding faculty, both Adjunct faculty from the local professional community, and full time research and teaching faculty. Four new full time faculty members have joined the school in the past two years, and we are in the process of hiring three more. The opportunities to further develop our curricula and research initiatives are very exciting, and we look forward to sharing the details of these latest appointments in our next newsletter. We hope you enjoy catching up on all the events at the school, and please share your stories with us as well!



Luanne Freund

In this issue

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The path to reconciliation

By Elizabeth Shaffer and Liz Otero

Although the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC) opened its doors on April 9, it was years in the making.

Between 1883 and 1996, the Government of Canada and church organizations operated the residential school system, part of a policy aimed at eliminating Indigenous cultures. An estimated 150,000 Indigenous children were removed from their families, homes, languages and lands.

When the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report was published in 2015, it documented a devastating history of abuse and neglect of Indigenous children. Non-Indigenous Canadians were confronted with a stark reality of our nation's history as experienced by Indigenous peoples. It provided not only a sobering look at Canada's history, but a meaningful context for the reality many Indigenous people face today, and for the relationship between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians.

UBC established the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre in 2016 to address this history, and serve as a place for former students and survivors of the Indian residential schools and their communities to access the records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Now that it has launched, it will also serve as a place for students and the public to explore the archival holdings and learn about the history and legacy of the schools through interactive technology, and for university and community members to meet in focused discussions about the uses of history and other collaborative projects.

The IRSHDC and the iSchool have established an open relationship that will continue to grow over the coming years. Thus far, iSchool faculty and graduates are members of the IRSHDC advisory committee, and iSchool students have taken experiential learning placements at the centre in a variety of areas including database design, metadata development, records research and cataloging. iSchool PhD student Elizabeth Shaffer is a Curator and Information Manager at the Centre, and iSchool graduates comprise the majority of the team developing the content, designing the information systems and digital infrastructure.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, a renowned Indigenous Canadian judge and advocate for children, was recently appointed as the inaugural Director of the Centre.

If you would like to hear more about the Centre or discuss opportunities to participate in its development, contact Elizabeth Shaffer at elizabeth.shaffer@ubc.ca, or visit the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre in the Library Garden between the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and Koerner Library.

Learn more about the Centre and the historic apology issued by UBC President Santa Ono.
irshdc.ubc.ca

The opioid crisis – a regional library's response

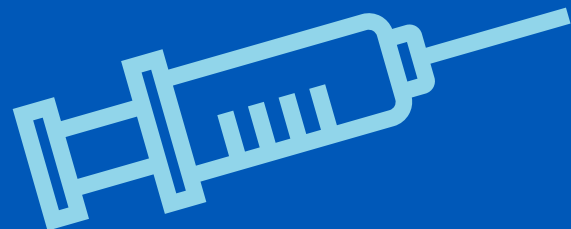
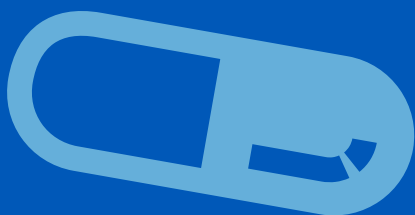
When **Mark Christensen** (MLIS '16) started as head librarian of a small town library in April 2016 he had no idea that his work would shift from programming and improving services to confronting drug related incidents in the library.

He soon discovered that his library was not immune from the global opioid epidemic – growing from only 4 drug related incidents per year in 2013 to nearly 52 in 2017. Mark reached out to the RCMP and community groups to see what the library could do to mitigate risks and was told “many times, that this was not my job, and to just call someone else to deal with it.” Then, in January 2017, two patrons overdosed in the washrooms in a span of just five days. Due to quick responses by staff and paramedics, both people survived.

Mark discovered that in his community, there was no one person or group responsible for the opioid response, nor was it anyone’s “job.” Each support team handles their area of responsibility, whether it is crime, housing, medical treatment, or other area. But Mark insists it is a problem that requires a unified response.

He, and the Vernon branch of the Okanagan Regional Library, have been implementing interventions to reduce the amount of incidents, abuse, threats, high risk behaviour, and drug related incidents in the library. The branch implemented new security response procedures, security manuals, upgrades to library security, and developed a simple incident tracking system. Staff de-briefed after incidents, discussed whether to ban the patron, and in some cases, implemented longer bans for specific patrons. They also received threat and de-escalation training for staff, and received outreach from RCMP, community police, legal aid, street nurses and the local homeless shelter.

Through these programs, as well as developing community action groups, the library has seen the number of injuries and incidents decline. Since the coordinated interventions were implemented, Mark reports that the drug-related incidents and high risk incidents in the library have declined, from a high of 8 per month to only 2. “If nothing else, our work with the community has, I believe, helped make our library safer and more pleasant for everyone.”



Perspectives on the path to the iSchool

Abigail Sebalj (dual MASLIS student) reflects on her path to libraries and archives.



How did you develop an interest in libraries/archives?

For many years I trained as a dancer and choreographer, later translating this interest into professional experiences in the non-profit arts sector. My work for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company's administration in New York led to a fellowship at the Walker Art Centre in Minneapolis, where I spent three years cataloging the museum's collection of the Cunningham Company's sets and costumes – one of the most comprehensive and historically significant modern-dance related collections in the United States. After clocking thousands of hours physically processing the collection with the museum staff, as well as getting to know many archivists and forms of archives while building up a body of research on the collection, I felt a strong sense of purpose to continue working within arts-related archival and preservation contexts.

When did you realize you wanted to attend UBC iSchool?

In order to make archival work a sustainable part of my livelihood, I realized that I needed a more advanced and formalized command of the practical and theoretical issues surrounding contemporary archives. While considering graduate study options, UBC repeatedly surfaced as an ideal place for me to undertake this work. Aside from being one of the few institutions in North America to offer a dedicated Master of Archival Studies degree, the iSchool's dual degree program also allows for the interconnection to the library and archival concentrations.

My first introduction to Vancouver/UBC was in February 2017 when I attended the Association of Canadian Archivists student chapter conference "Managing the Analogue." After being immersed in the student-run proceedings, thoughtfully organized and filled with insightful conversations, I had my "aha" moment that UBC was the place I was meant to be.

What do you plan on studying/researching at the iSchool?

Because arts-related archives are often inextricably linked to a larger cultural and community contexts, I also look forward to taking advantage of the course offerings related to cultural heritage and stewardship that are so strongly embedded in the iSchool's curriculum.

student news

- [Salma Alburneiz](#) was awarded the George N. Atiyeh Prize to attend the Middle East Librarians Conference in November 2017 in Washington, D.C.
- The iSchool welcomed 2017-2019 ARL / SAA Mosaic Program Fellow [Ashlynn Prasad](#), a dual MASLIS student interested in diaspora communities and archival records. Ashlynn began her program in September 2017 and as part of her fellowship, worked in UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections and University Archives.
- [Stacy Pauli](#) (MLIS '17) was awarded a Graduate Public Service Scholarship by the BA Rudolph Foundation, which supported her three-month internship in the American Spaces Program at the US State Department. Congratulations to Stacy, who is now working in Whatcom County, Washington.

- [Wanda Power](#) (MLIS) was awarded a Canadian Association of Public Data Users (CAPDU) award to attend the IASSIST 2018 meeting in Montreal.

The iSchool and Arts Co-op program awards an annual co-op student of the year award to recognize outstanding achievement by iSchool co-op students.

Master of Archival Studies winners

- 2016 – [Lara Maestro](#) (UBC Okanagan Library, Special Collections)
- 2017 – [Jennette Chalcraft](#) (Environment and Climate Change Canada)

Master of Library and Information Studies winners

- 2016 – [Simon Robbins](#) (McBride and District Public Library)
- 2017 – [Kristina McGuirk](#) (BGC Engineering)



Dr. Julia Bullard, Ph.D. is a new Assistant Professor (and alumna) who joined the iSchool in 2017. Ms. Bullard completed a masters degree at McMaster University (MA in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory), an MLIS at the iSchool, and a Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research areas include information and knowledge organization, information ethics, computer-supported cooperative work, and social computer. Her ongoing research will focus on the design of organizing systems such as metadata schemes and controlled vocabularies and how these systems might align with the values and activates of their communities.



Dr. Richard Arias-Hernandez, Ph.D., is a new Instructor who has been at the school as a lecturer since 2013, teaching in the MLIS, MAS and Bachelor of Media Studies programs. Prior to that, he was a postdoctoral fellow in visual analytics and interactive science at the School of Interactive Arts and Technology at Simon Fraser University. He holds a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies and a M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering. His current research is on the evaluation of online teaching and technical skills for iSchool students (MLIS/MAS), evaluation of community-based experiential learning for undergraduate students in UBC's Bachelor of Media Studies, postcolonial/ decolonial perspectives for digital libraries and archives, and linked data for digital libraries and archives.



Dr. Lisa Nathan, Ph.D., received tenure in July 2017, and was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Nathan joined the iSchool in 2009 after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Her dissertation was focused on ecovillages, sustainability and information practices, and she has continued her research in this area through a SSHRC-funded research project. For the past seven years Dr. Nathan has served as the Coordinator for the school's First Nations Curriculum Concentration. In 2018, Dr. Nathan published a co-edited volume with Routledge Press, *Digital Technology and Sustainability: Engaging the Paradox*.



Sarah Dupont is the new Indigenous adjunct faculty member, helping coordinate the First Nations Curriculum Concentration with Dr. Nathan. She is currently working at UBC's *X̱wi7x̱wa* Library as the Aboriginal Engagement Librarian and manages the library's Indigitization program.



Mary Grenier retired in December after 14 years at the iSchool. We thank her for her many contributions to the school over the years, and wish her success and happiness in her next adventure.



Chris Fernandez is our new Educational Services Coordinator – responsible for placing students in experiential learning placements and coordinating the admissions process. He hopes to be a captain of a starship one day.



Alynne Pols, who has been serving as our Graduate Program Assistant for the past three years, is moving with her partner to Calgary in July. We wish her all the best! *"It has been a pleasure to work with the iSchool students, faculty and staff. I will miss you all very much!"*



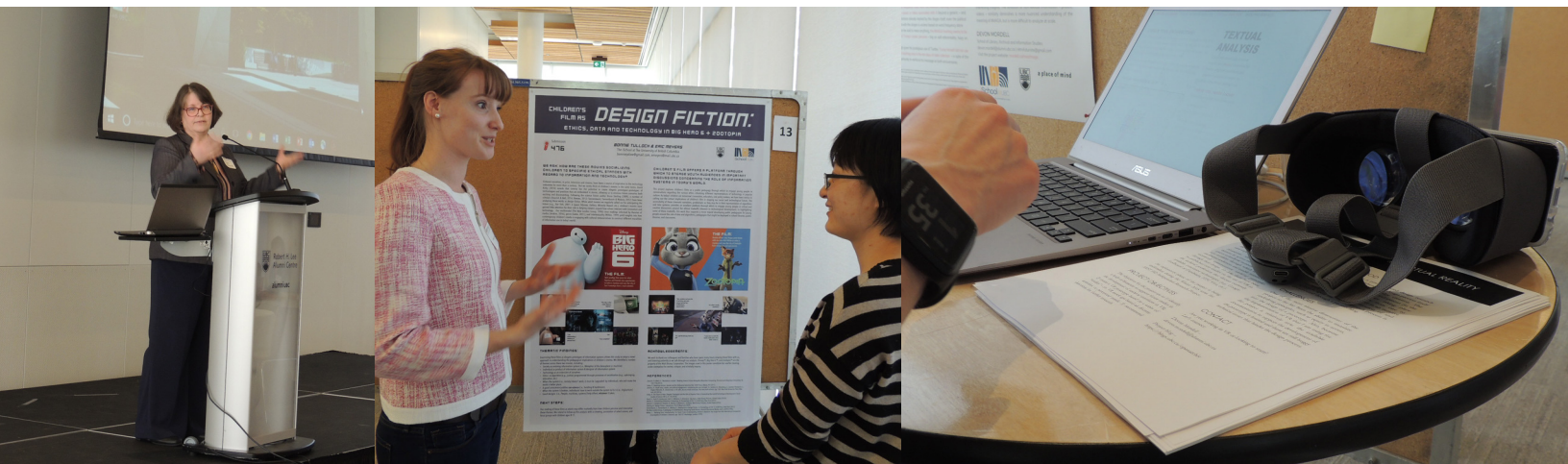
Violet Redekop is our new Administration Manager, who is also a Pilates instructor in her spare time. Violet oversees human resources, facilities and finances and strategic initiatives at the iSchool.



Jessica Woolman has joined us for a year as our Communications and Marketing Manager, and is helping to raise awareness of the school and its initiatives. She is an iSchool alum (MLIS '09) and enjoys hiking and *Star Wars*.



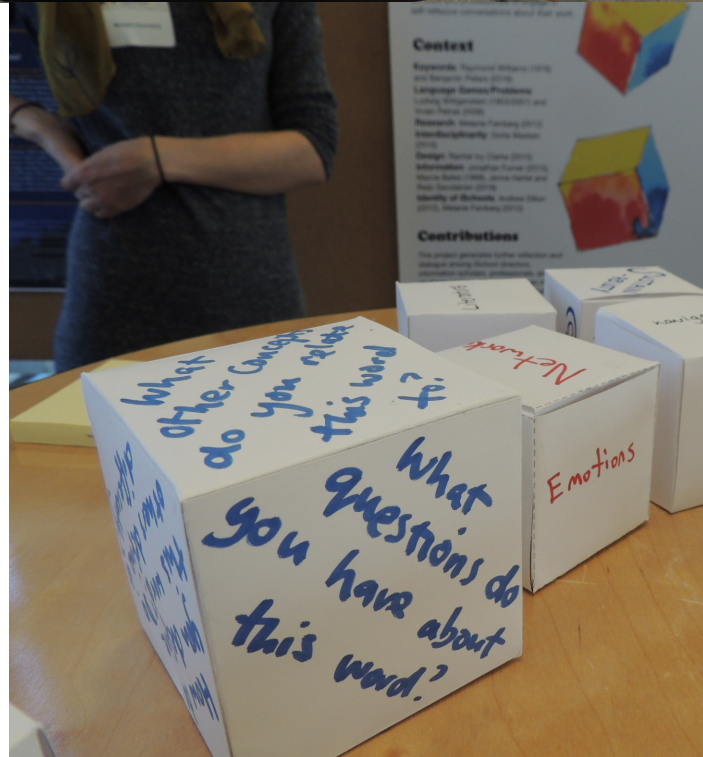
The ACA@UBC (Association of Canadian Archivist's student chapter) held their tenth annual symposium in February, "Unresolved: Balancing Access and Privacy in the Digital Age."



Sharing research with the community

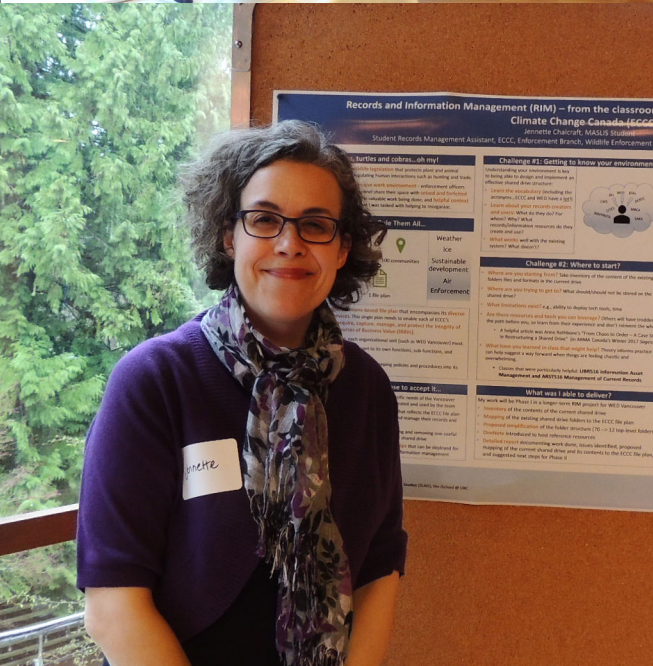
The iSchool hosted its eighth annual Research Day on March 9, which allows students and faculty across all of the programs to showcase their research in the form of posters, talks and demonstrations. This year's event featured a keynote on inclusion and diversity, and speakers and posters on topics ranging from emotion detection in social media to records management in the age of bitcoin. There were also several collaborative talks and posters, where students and faculty presented research together, or with departments outside of the school.

Doctoral students presenting a poster on their iWords project also presented a workshop at the international iConference in Sheffield, UK in March (picture at right).





Left to right: Dr. Bonnie Mak discusses scholarly communications in March; Dr. Sandy Littletree speaks to Indigenous knowledge management issues at an iSchool colloquium event in January. The iSchool hosted six colloquia this past year.



Experiential Learning Day

The iSchool hosted its second annual Experiential Learning Day on April 11, which featured student presentations and posters highlighting their experiences on co-op and professional experience placements. Kim Kiloh, Director of UBC's Centre for Student Involvement & Careers, led an interactive workshop on design thinking to help students in mapping their future career options.

New positions

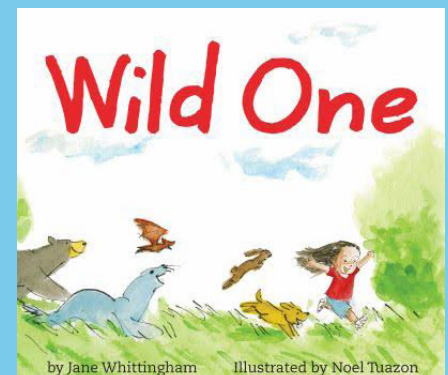
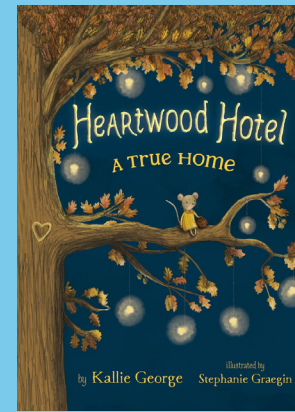
- **Yolanda Bustos** (MAS '11) is now a Museum Archivist and Records Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles
- **Libby Coyner** (dual MASLIS '09) is now an archivist at Elon University in North Carolina.
- **Elizabeth Denham** (MAS '84) has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer for the Information Commissioners Office in the United Kingdom.
- **Adam Farrell** (dual MASLIS '07) has been appointed Manager of Technology and Technical Services at the New Westminster Public Library.
- **Kim Feltham** (MAS '04) has started a new position at COWI North America, an engineering firm in North Vancouver.
- **Sheena Gardner** (MLIS '14, FNCC student) was appointed chair of library services at Grand Prairie Regional College.
- **Jennifer Garrett** (MLIS '14) was appointed as Head of Digital Research Education & Training at North Carolina State University Libraries.
- **Bronwyn Guiton** (MLIS '12) is now a senior librarian at the BC Ministry of Justice.
- **Helen Halbert** (MLIS '14, FNCC student) now works as a librarian at the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.
- **Victoria James** (MLIS '17, FNCC student) has been appointed as a general librarian at Queens Library in New York.
- **Lucy Kiester** (MLIS '16) is now working as a reference librarian at McGill University.
- **Anita Kora** (MAS '17, FNCC student) now works as a Librarian-Archivist at Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in Ottawa.
- **Laura Mason** (MAS '14) is now working as A/Project Lead (GDocs) at the Government of Canada.
- **Elizabeth McManus** (MAS '12) is now working as an archivist at the Musqueam Indian Band in Vancouver.
- **David McAtackney** (MLIS '16, FNCC student) is now working as a Research Analyst at the First Nations Health Authority.
- **Cassidy Owen** (MLIS '16) is now a librarian at the Talkeetna Public Library in Alaska.
- **Krista Parham** (MLIS '16) is now working as an Associate User Researcher at Electronic Arts (EA) in Vancouver.
- **Sophia Roberge** (dual MASLIS '17) now works as an archivist at the VIVO Media Arts Centre in Vancouver.
- **Stephanie Savage** (MLIS '15) is now a Scholarly Communications and Copyright Services Librarian at UBC.
- **Naomi Schemm** (MLIS '11) now works as a business reference and instruction librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- **Sandra Singh** (MLIS '97) has been appointed as the City of Vancouver's new general manager of arts, culture, and community services effective April 2018.
- **Eng Sengsavang** (MAS '14) is now working as an archivist at UNESCO in Paris.
- **Carrie Stevenson** (MAS '00) is now the project manager for Enterprise Content Management at UNICEF in New York.
- **Lisa Uyeda** (MAS '14) is now the Collections Manager at the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby.
- **Tracey Vantighem** (MLIS '13) is now a Content Strategist at Yellow Pencil in Vancouver.
- **Eirian Vining** (dual MASLIS '17) is working as a Digital Projects Librarian at UBC Library.
- **Suher Zaher-Mazawi** (dual MASLIS '09) has been appointed as a director at large of the Association of Canadian Archivists.

Life events

- **Chris Bull** (MLIS '74) has retired and is now living in the Northern Mariana Islands.
- **Roan Janyk** (MLIS '10) welcomed a son in December 2016, Ari Alexandre Labreque, who is already a regular at the Okanagan Regional Library branch.
- **Peter Johnson** (MAS '99) died in January 2018. Peter served as an archivist for the City of Surrey until his retirement.
- **Jessica Woolman** (MLIS '09) and **Jason Woolman** (MAS '09) welcomed a daughter in March 2016, Tobin Norah Heikkila Woolman.

Awards and accolades

- **Elissa Checov** (MLIS '97) was one of ten recipients of the 2016 American Library Association's "I Love My Librarian" award.
- **Kallie George** (MACL '07) was shortlisted for the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize for her book *Heartwood Hotel Book 1: A True Home*.
- **Harry Hobbs** (BLS '71) has published his second novel, *A Circle of Roots*, which centers on life in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- **Harrison Inefuku** (dual MASLIS '11) received the Library Publishing Coalition Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Library Publishing with Charlotte Roh for their chapter "Agents of Diversity and Social Justice: Librarians and Scholarly Communications" in *Open Access and the Future of Scholarly Communications: Policy and Infrastructure* (2016).
- **Shirley Lew** (MLIS '99) and **Baharak Yousefi** (MLIS '07) are the winners of the 2018 ACRL Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Award for Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship for their book *Feminists Among Us: Resistance and Advocacy in Library Leadership*.
- **Cassidy Owen** (MLS '16) was awarded the Albright-Wirth Grant in December to attend the American Library Association annual conference in 2017.
- **Kit Pearson** (MLIS '75) and **Jason Woolman** (MAS '09) were recognized at the iSchool annual Awards gala in September as winners of the Distinguished Alumni Awards.
- **Zoe Peterson's** (MLIS '13) book, *Next Year, For Sure*, was longlisted for Scotiabank Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and named a *Globe and Mail* Best Book of 2017.
- **Bill Richardson** (MLIS '79) was shortlisted for the Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature prize for his book *The Alphabet Thief*, illustrated by Roxanna Bikadoroff.
- **Jane Whittingham** (MLIS '14) recently published her first picture book, *Wild One*, about an energetic girl's active day. The book was selected a 2017 Ontario Library Association Best Bet.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you want to learn more about iSchool research projects? Want to hear from more students? Curious about other iSchool alumni? Let us know!

We're always looking to improve our communications with the iSchool community. Alumni can submit news using our [online form](#); feedback can be submitted via email to ischool.comms@ubc.ca.



Faculty, students and alumni at the iSchool annual Awards Gala in the fall.

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