



## Looking Forward and Looking Back at SLAIS

**TERRY EASTWOOD, Interim Director**

**IN THIS, OUR** second edition of our semi-annual newsletter, I would like to look forward at some expectations we have for the School and then reflect after a fashion on the past.

Our first newsletter introduced Luanne Freund, Victoria Lemieux, and Heather O'Brien, who joined the faculty in 2007 and 2008. This year three more professors were hired, Lisa Nathan, Eric Meyers, and Aaron Loehrlein, whom we introduce to you elsewhere in these pages. Together these six constitute the largest influx of new faculty members in so short a time in the entire history of the School, and will undoubtedly put their stamp on it. Indeed, this past fall Luanne and Victoria (Vicki) co-chaired a Director's Task Force on Joint Initiatives to look into opportunities for greater interaction between archival studies and library and information studies in programs, curriculum, and research, as well as opportunities for faculty members to reshape a shared vision and culture for the School. The Task Force report is in draft form as I write, and its analysis and recommendations will be available in the early 2010, and will certainly spur change in our programs and research efforts.



**Terry Eastwood**

In this edition we also feature a number of our students who have recently won awards. Recent reviews of the School have consistently remarked on the high quality of our students, and these award winners provide testimony to that. We congratulate them all for their fine achievements. These awards show the Janus-like faces of the School: some reveal either

academic attainments or research achievement and others demonstrate students' potential to apply knowledge they have gained in their studies. Because UBC is a major research university, it expects both faculty and graduate students to be engaged in research activities. We look to a future in which the research dimension of life in the School grows in keeping with the University's mission. At the same time, we do not lose sight of our goal to educate students to meet the challenge of work in our information age.

As you may know, I am in my position for this year. A renewed search for a new director is under way, with the expectation that candidates will be interviewed in the early 2010 to find the sixth director since the School's inception in 1961 to take us into our sixth decade. Yes, we are approaching our 50th anniversary. Very soon, we will be forming a committee to plan events in 2011 to commemorate our first fifty years of educating information professionals. You will be hearing about these plans, and we hope that you will be able to take part in events that will recognize the achievements of students, alumni, faculty members, and staff over the years. ■

## Inside

- Co-op of the Year Student Awards . . . . .* 2
- Hiring a SLAIS Co-Op Student . . . . .* 3
- SLAIS Co-op in 2009 . . . . .* 3
- New Faculty Add to Research Areas . . . . .* 4
- SLAIS Faculty Honoured at ASIS&T . . . . .* 4
- Top External Awards for SLAIS Students . . . . .* 5
- Publications by SLAIS Students . . . . .* 5
- How You Can Support SLAIS in 2010 . . . . .* 6

## Fresh New Website Launched For SLAIS

**THE NEW YEAR** brought a fresh new look to the SLAIS website at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca). The new modern design makes it easier for both new and regular visitors to find the information they are seeking.

Prospective students have a new portal giving quick access to information on our graduate programs, admissions and application procedures, and the different ways students can fund their graduate studies at SLAIS.

Friends and alumni will appreciate the quick link via the Support SLAIS button right

on the home page - it takes you to a section that explains how to contribute time, experience and/or financially to make sure SLAIS stays vibrant and connected.

Changes to our research page give greater emphasis to the research work and projects of our award-winning faculty. It's now easier to learn more about the faculty and their work, too.

Finally, new and changing photos give you a new look on every visit, and feature our spectacular space in the Irving K. Barber Centre at the same time. See it at [www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca). ■

# SLAIS Students Win Co-op Awards



Eric Meyer photo



Martin Dee photo

**SLAIS Co-op Student of the Year Award winners Annaleen Van Dijk (left) and Leanna Jantzi. Annaleen worked with Library and Archives Canada in Gatineau, QC, and Leanna worked at Simon Fraser University's W.A.C. Bennett Library in Burnaby.**

**THIS PAST NOVEMBER**, two SLAIS students who completed co-op work terms in the Summer 2009 term, Leanna Jantzi and Anneleen van Dijk, were each chosen for the 2008/2009 Co-op Student of the Year Award.

Every year, two Co-op Student of the Year Awards for SLAIS students are awarded, made possible thanks to a generous donation from the University of Victoria McPherson Library and SLAIS. One is presented to an MLIS or dual degree student who completed a co-op with a library and information studies-related organization and the other to an MAS or dual degree student who completed a co-op in an archival studies-related organization.

These awards recognize outstanding achievement in all aspects of the SLAIS co-op student's performance, including academics, the workplace, and professional/community involvement. The award winners receive \$1000, and the award is noted on their transcripts. This year, the recipients also receive

a conference registration to the upcoming 2010 Public Library Association (PLA) national conference in Portland, Oregon.

Leanna completed a co-op work term as a Reference Assistant with Simon Fraser University's (SFU) WAC Bennett Library, Reference Division at the Burnaby campus. Anneleen completed a work term as a Student Archivist with Library and Archives Department, Government Records Branch in Gatineau, Quebec.

In her co-op work term, Leanna provided in-person and virtual reference as well as library instruction to undergraduate students, participated in a library task group, created online screencast tutorials now being used by SFU students and librarians, and researched and developed a literature review on liaison librarianship and an environmental scan on personalised library services. Janis McKenzie, Head of the Reference Division and Leanna's co-op supervisor, states, "Quite simply, Leanna moved forward initiatives

that could not have happened without her."

In terms of how this work term has informed and enhanced her personal and academic experiences and goals, Leanna states,

"Personally, this position strengthened my confidence in my ability to perform in this career; it confirmed that I can positively contribute to and find satisfaction in academic librarianship... Academically, I was able to translate what I learned in class into the work environment... Moreover, I am able to share what I have learned about the current practices of academic libraries with my fellow students and instructors."

Anneleen was responsible for carrying out six projects at LAC, including researching the functions and organizational structure of the Metrics Commission of Canada, re-containerising 19th-century patents of invention, researching software tools designed to manage unstructured data in shared drives, and helping to carry out a functional analysis of the federal government's

Economic Regional Development Agencies. Her supervisor, Andrew Horrall, Manager of the Democracy, Economic, Science, Society and Culture Section of the Government Records Branch, states, "Her work on this last project will directly inform the macro-appraisal of these records."

"I was able to meet with many professionals in the archival, library, and information fields through job shadowing, information sessions, tours of libraries and archives, etc., thus learning a great deal about the career opportunities that exist in these fields and also expanding my network of contacts," said Anneleen.

MLIS student Lindsay Tripp receives an Honourable Mention for her work this summer as a Public Services Coordinator with Whistler Public Library (WPL) where she provided reference services, organized adult programmes and assisted the library's director with collection management activities. She also receives a PLA conference registration.

# Hire a SLAIS Co-op Student This Summer

SLAIS STUDENTS WILL soon be applying for co-operative education (co-op) positions for the upcoming summer. For those unfamiliar with co-op, co-op 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 nearly 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 education and professional training 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 300 SLAIS students

have joined the program.

Arts Co-op admitted a record-breaking 85 SLAIS students into its graduate co-op option this past September, including students who began their programs in January 2010. Approximately 50 of these students are planning on completing their first co-op position in the Summer (May to August) 2010 term and will be applying for summer jobs between January and early May 2010. This means they are currently seeking summer employment, so employers can start posting opportunities immediately.

To hire a student for Summer or Fall 2010, or for more information, visit the Arts Co-op website at <http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca>, or contact SLAIS Co-op Coordinator Anna Jubilo at 604-822-4223 or [anna.jubilo@ubc.ca](mailto:anna.jubilo@ubc.ca). ■

## UBC ARTS CO-OP

t: 604-822-1529  
f: 604-822-4667  
[arts.co-op@ubc.ca](mailto:arts.co-op@ubc.ca)

Buchanan Building C-121  
1866 Main Mall  
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z1

<http://co-op.arts.ubc.ca>

SLAIS Co-op Coordinator *Anna Jubilo*  
[anna.jubilo@ubc.ca](mailto:anna.jubilo@ubc.ca) 223

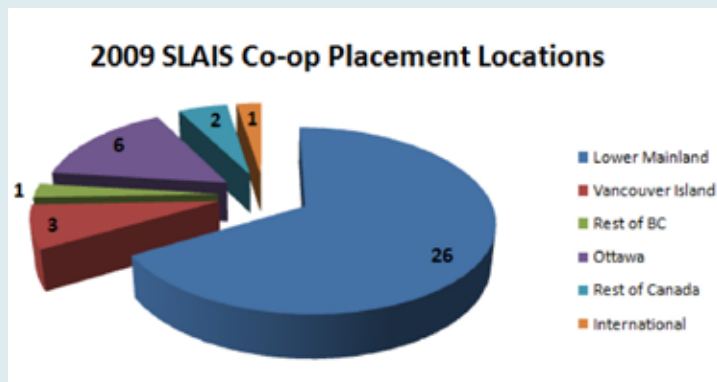
## SLAIS Co-op Positions - A Look Back at 2009 By the Numbers

A TOTAL OF 39 SLAIS students were successful at securing co-op positions in 2009. Of these, 12 were students who had completed at least two terms of study in the MAS program, and the other 27 were students who had completed at least two terms of study in the MLIS program. Students in the dual degree program may apply for any co-op position for which they have fulfilled the appropriate program prerequisites. If they have completed at least two terms of MAS studies and two terms of MLIS studies, they can apply for co-op positions that require either set of prerequisites.

The majority (33) of these placements were four months in length. Six placements were for eight-month positions, or two academic terms away from SLAIS studies. Students may take up to three credits of classes while doing a work term, so long as it does not interfere with their co-op placement. To allow for this, SLAIS endeavours to offer a selection of courses, including web-delivered, in the summer, when most placements are available.

In 2009, 22 work placements were arranged to begin in May, the first month of the summer term. Another eight were available to start in January and nine began in September.

The average wage paid for SLAIS co-op students was \$19.83/hour. Based on the average 35-hour workweek (note: some placements require



longer workdays), that works out to approximately \$3050 per month. In nearly all cases, students are responsible for any travel and accommodation costs associated with accepting the position. Still, a co-op position serves to provide tremendous hands-on experience and superb resume material, the opportunity to clarify career goals and connect with working professionals in the field, and a means to help fund one's program of study at SLAIS. ■

## New Faculty Add to SLAIS Research Areas

### SLAIS RECENTLY WELCOMED

three new faculty members who bring a variety of backgrounds, skills and interest. Aaron Loehrlein, Eric Meyers and Lisa Nathan were selected to join SLAIS through its 2009 faculty search.

#### Aaron Loehrlein

Aaron is completing a joint Ph.D. in Information Science and Cognitive Science at Indiana University Bloomington, where he also completed his MLS. After living in the Midwest for most of his life, he is happy to be returning to the Pacific coast, where he spent his formative years. He says he “especially enjoys the sea air around UBC” and “he can stand the rain.”

His research investigates how classification systems, ISO standards, and other knowledge organizing (KO) systems are created and used. He is especially interested in how people’s internal conceptual structures affect their understanding of the conceptual structures that are represented in KO systems. Aaron has also conducted research into the effects of knowledge and expertise on a person’s ability to recognize nuance in conceptual representations. Aaron encourages students to get to know people from different walks of life, since this understanding enables students to



**Aaron Loehrlein**

approach problems from different points of view.

#### Eric Meyers

Eric Meyers joins the SLAIS faculty from the Information School at the University of Washington, where he is completing his doctorate in Information Science. He holds Masters Degrees in Information Science and Education from the University of Michigan and Stanford University respectively. A former K-12 educator, school librarian and technologist, he consults on information services, youth programming, learning spaces, and technology-enriched curricula.

Eric’s research interests lie at the intersection of information science, the learning sciences, and new media studies. His work examines the information practices of children in formal contexts – school classrooms and libraries – as well as the everyday



**Eric Meyers**

places children seek, evaluate and use information of all kinds, from the bedroom to the shopping mall, face-to-face and online. His most recent project examined how middle school children use the web to research health and wellness topics for classroom assignments. He also has an active research program exploring virtual worlds designed for young children, such as Club Penguin, EcoBuddies, and Webkinz.

Eric says he is excited by his move to Vancouver, not only for the outstanding colleagues and facilities at UBC, but for the ready access to water and mountains. Having grown up in Michigan, Eric enjoys mountain biking, sailing and paddle sports, as well his “real passion”, hiking and backpacking.

#### Lisa Nathan

Lisa Nathan joined the faculty at SLAIS in July, 2009. Lisa moved



**Lisa Nathan**

to Vancouver from Seattle, Washington where she finished her PhD. at the University of Washington’s Information School. She holds a BA with Honours in Elementary Education from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL, and her MLIS from Simmons College in Boston.

Lisa’s primary research and teaching interests are in the areas of information policy, information ethics, and design methods for information systems. Lisa’s research is motivated by a deep concern for the long-term influence of information systems on the human condition. Her research projects have dealt with a range of concerns from environmental sustainability and information tool use in ecovillages in the United States to information systems and reconciliation in Rwanda. Her advice for students at SLAIS is to reach out, engage with, and learn from their colleagues across the programs (MACL, MAS, MLIS, DUAL, PhD.). Before entering academia Lisa was a charter sailboat captain and master scuba diver in the US Virgin Islands. She looks forward to exploring the waters off of Vancouver, although she admits to being a bit intimidated by the colder temperatures. ■

## Faculty Honoured at ASIS&T

**TWO SLAIS FACULTY** members – and one SLAIS student – were presented with awards at the 2009 annual conference of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T).

SLAIS Professor and former Director Edie Rasmussen was presented with the 2009 Watson Davis Award, which recognizes one society member “who has shown continuous dedicated service to the membership through active participation in and support of ASIS&T programs, chapters, SIGs, committees, and publications.”

Assistant Professor Luanne Freund won the ASIS&T ProQuest Doctoral Dissertation Award for 2009. The award recognizes outstanding recent doctoral candidates whose research contributes significantly to an understanding of some aspect of information science. In naming Luanne as the winner, the award committee stated her research, Exploiting

Task-Document Relations in Support of Information Retrieval in the Workplace, “is a dissertation showcasing important research objectives, executed in a rigorous manner, and outstandingly presented.”

In addition to these awards, MLIS student Katie O’Leary won the Pratt Severn Best Student Paper Award (see Page 5). ■

# SLAIS Students Earn Top External Awards

**SEVERAL FACULTY, ALUMNI** and students at SLAIS have received a remarkable number of both significant and prestigious external awards and achievements over the past six months.

## A SLAIS Sweep at ASIS&T

Three awards were presented at the 2009 annual conference of the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). Faculty members Edie Rasmussen and Luanne Freund each won awards (see page 4). A third award was presented to SLAIS MLIS student Katie O'Leary.

Katie won the Pratt Severn Best Student Paper Award for her paper entitled "Information Seeking in the Context of a Hobby: A Case Study of a Young Adult with Asperger's Syndrome." Katie developed the paper in her work in Heather O'Brien's LIBR 559A: Understanding Information Users in Diverse Environments. It is "a wonderful original article" that charts "new territory," said one review.

In addition, earlier in the year Katie O'Leary was selected as one of only 17 students to win an Erasmus Mundus scholar-

ship to support her for master's level research in International Performance in Europe. She took a leave of absence from her studies at SLAIS to engage in the research and studies, and returned to her MLIS studies in January.

## Two Awards for Harrison W. Inefuku

Dual MAS/MLIS student Harrison W. Inefuku has won two major awards. Most recently he was selected for the Association of Research Libraries Career Enhancement Program. As a 2010 ARL CEP Fellow, Harrison will be placed at a host institution for a 6-8 week work experience in the summer. The ARL CEP program provides practical experience to MLIS graduate students from underrepresented groups and helps create a diverse research library community. Harrison is the second SLAIS student in a row to win this award; MAS/MLIS student Adrienne Lai won last year and spent this summer at the North Carolina State University library.

Earlier in the year, Harrison won one of only two Mosaic Scholarships from The Society of American Archivists (SAA).

Established in 2008, The Mosaic Award is given to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival science.

## Jenny Borland Wins ARMA Award

Another Dual MAS/MLIS student, Jennifer Borland, was selected for one of only three ARMA International Educational Foundation Scholarships for 2009. The award was established to encourage the development of the international records and information management community, and SLAIS students have consistently been among the annual winners. Jenny received the award October 16 at the ARMA International Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

## Tania Alekson Wins Summit Award

MLIS graduate Tania Alekson was awarded the 2009 Roger K. Summit Scholarship for North America just before completing her degree. The award is named in honor of Dialog founder Roger K. Summit, a pioneer in developing the technology behind online information retrieval. Only one winner is named for all of North America

-- and winners are chosen based on their proficiency in using Dialog, academic achievement, and interest in the field of electronic information services. This is the second year in a row that a SLAIS student has won this prestigious award -- recent Dual MAS/MLIS graduate Suher Zaher-Mazawi was the winner for 2008.

## Shane McCord Wins Art Internship

Shane McCord, who was conferred his dual MAS / MLIS degree in May, won one of five highly competitive internships with the National Gallery of Canada. The internship program allows the National Gallery to offer a paid 12-week study, training and work experience opportunity to five new professionals specializing in Art Museum Education, Museum Collections Management, and Art Librarianship and Archive Practice. Shane was named one of two interns for the Art Librarianship and Archives Practice program. After completing the internship, Shane accepted a short contract position with the National Gallery. ■

[www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca)

## Publications

### By Our Students

**DUAL MAS/MLIS STUDENT** Jason Kuffler had his paper, "Archiving Rock 'n' Roll: David Lemieux and the Grateful Dead Archives" published in the Fall 2009 issue of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections' ARSC Journal, Vol. 40 issue 2. The article is a revised version of a paper Jason wrote for ARST 550 Management of Audio-Visual and Non-Textual Archives. Following his December completion of his studies at SLAIS, a revised version of the same ar-

ticle was published in the January 2010 Bulletin of the Association of Canadian Archivists.

### Manuela Boscenco Wins Student Article Contest

Dual MAS/MLIS student Manuela Boscenco won the Canadian Library Association 2009 student article contest with her entry, "Strictly Business: Providing Access to Digital Images." The article was published in CLA's journal

Feliciter, Vol. 55, No. 4 (2009). In announcing her as the winner, the committee review stated: "The controversy surrounding digital rights management, copyright fair-use provisions, and licensing of electronic resources provides a dramatic backdrop for this energetic paper. The Advisory Committee considered her entry a thoughtful, refreshing and relevant analysis of a timely topic, written from an original perspective." ■

# Consider How You Can Support SLAIS

Alumni and friends of SLAIS are invited to support SLAIS in a number of ways, all of which help to ensure SLAIS continues to attract the best students, offers a diverse range of programs and courses, contributes to the knowledge of the profession through well-developed studies and research projects, and engages actively with its alumni, students and friends.

## Support SLAIS with Your Money

You can provide financial gifts to support students by making a donation to SLAIS Scholarships. These funds are used to attract and support entering students at both the master's and doctoral level. These awards are presented to the students with the strongest entering grades, who show promise and potential as leaders and innovators in the disciplines.

You can also support students by donating money for innovative collaboration, capital projects and other initiatives, through the SLAIS Teaching & Learning Enhancement Fund. Money from this fund has been used to purchase capital items such as scanners and workstations as well as hire students for projects such as the 2009 Digital Internship Project, in collaboration with the UBC Learning Centre.

Donations may be made as a one-time gift,



Martin Dee Photo

**Students such as Cynthia McLellan (left) and Shamin Malmas, both in the Dual MAS/MLIS program, benefit from your support of SLAIS.**

ongoing monthly contributions, or as part of your estate planning. Tax deductible receipts are provided. To enquire about donating to either of these funds, contact SLAIS Administrator Mary Grenier at grenier@interchange.ubc.ca.

## Support SLAIS with Your Time

Supporters of SLAIS can also provide students with valuable experiential learning opportunities by hosting students for practicum and internship placements, proposing professional experience projects, or offering paid co-op work placements. Your organization benefits as well from hosting enthused and well-prepared students who are eager to learn, apply their new skills and share their perspectives and new knowledge. To learn more about hosting students, contact SLAIS Student Services Coordinator Michelle Mallette at michelle.mallette@ubc.ca. You can see Pages 2-3 of this issue for more information on the co-operative learning "Co-op" program, or contact SLAIS Co-op Coordinator Anna Jubilo at 604-822-4223 or by email at anna.jubilo@ubc.ca.

## Support SLAIS with Your Expertise and Knowledge

You are also welcome to propose courses or apply to teach as adjunct faculty. This is an excellent way to share your knowledge and skills with enthusiastic and engaged students who are eager to benefit from your experience. To learn more about these opportunities, visit the SLAIS website adjunct faculty information page at

## 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 have news, events or activities you'd like promoted to SLAIS friends and alumni, email submissions to Michelle Mallette, the SLAIS student services coordinator, at [michelle.mallette@ubc.ca](mailto:michelle.mallette@ubc.ca).

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](mailto:slaistk@interchange.ubc.ca). ■

## SLAIS

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**EDITOR** Michelle Mallette

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**OFFICE** School of Library, Archival & Information Studies  
470 – 1961 East Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

[www.slais.ubc.ca](http://www.slais.ubc.ca)