FIS Celebrates its 75th Anniversary

By Richard Bowring

February 1928, the Minister of Education, in order to meet the demand for a more extensive training for librarians, announced his intention of establishing a course of instruction extending throughout the academic year. In pursuance of that intention the Library School was organized...The first session will open September 25th, 1928.”

– SCHOOL CALENDAR 1928-29

And so, this year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Library School, now the Faculty of Information Studies. The motto for our anniversary year – Information Education Transformation – states in 3 words our focus and intent from the creation of the school through to its future successes. Since the creation of the School in 1928 we have changed quite a bit – moving locations three times, changing name several times, and evolving just as society’s need for information management has evolved.

On Saturday, February 8th the Faculty kicked off its 75th Anniversary year with a gala celebration. And, what an afternoon it was! The seventh floor was transformed into a spectacular reception space, complete with striking floral arrangements and balloon columns; guests were entertained by a jazz duo while they perused the range of items in the silent auction (books, restaurant gift certificates, UofT prize packs, ALA Conference passes, original artwork by Eric Sangwine, MLS ’77, and more).

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From left: FIS Student Council President Ariel Lebowitz (’03), FIS Alumni Association President Wiebke Smythe (’97), Former Dean Brian Land (’53 and ’56) and Current Dean Lynne Howarth (’78 and ’90) cut the cake.

FIS Student Council members selling merchandise. From left: Claire Lysnes, Amy Beaith and Danielle Allard.

The jazz duo entertains the guests.
As with any anniversary celebration, there was an official cake cutting, at which Dean Lynne Howarth invited former Director and Dean Brian Land, Alumni Association President Wiebke Smythe and Student Council President Ariel Lebowitz to say a few words. It was fitting that their speeches addressed the past, present and future of the school and the excellence of its graduates.

From its creation in 1928, when tuition was $25, to its present incarnation, the school/faculty has always realized the importance of student support. To honour this commitment, Dean Howarth announced the creation of a 75th Anniversary Ontario Graduate Scholarship. Through your support, our goal is to raise $50,000. Those funds will be matched by the University on a one-to-one basis, and then further matched by the Ontario government to create an annual $15,000 student scholarship (meaning your donation is, in effect, matched on a five-to-one basis!). The Dean also reminded all of our goal to establish a Scholarship in Public Librarianship. To help establish these scholarships, and support future librarians and information managers, please contact Richard Bowring, 416-978-3934, bowring@fis.utoronto.ca

Later, Dean Howarth announced the opening of the FIS virtual time capsule. Unlike the traditional time capsule, a virtual one exists in electronic digital form, a digital memory, if you will. We will be scanning in documents and pictures, along with adding electronic files. So, if you would like to add something to the time capsule that you feel typifies your experiences with the school/faculty, please contact the editor or submit them directly to: www.fis.utoronto.ca/people/fisaa/75Events.htm.

All in all, the afternoon was a great success, with alumni reconnecting with old friends and classmates while making new acquaintances with current students. A special thanks goes to our supporters – the silent auction donors, staff and volunteers who made the day run smoothly, and especially TD Meloche Monnex, who is assisting with our full year of celebrations.

We look forward to seeing everyone at some of the other celebrations we have planned for the rest of the year: Spring Reunion May 7th, Dean Howarth’s Farewell Reception June 6th, ALA Conference Reception June 19th, the new Dean’s Welcome Reception in the fall, the Bertha Bassam Lecture late October, and the closing of the Virtual Time Capsule in December.
Join Us for Spring Reunion 2003!

IT MAY SEEM SEVERAL MONTHS away but we have already started planning our Spring Reunion festivities. The highlights will once again be the alumni dinner and guest speaker, as well as the presentation of the Alumni and Student Jubilee Awards. As in previous years, the event will take place at the Faculty Club on Thursday, May 7 at 5:00 pm. We are pleased to welcome Professor Cecilia Morgan as our guest speaker.

As a social and cultural historian of education in Canada, Professor Morgan’s research interests are in the areas of gender, colonialism, and imperialism; the writing of Canadian history at a popular level in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Ontario; and the links between gender, middle-class formation, and national identities. With her co-author, Dr. Colin Coates (University of Edinburgh), they just published a study entitled *Heroines and History: Representations of Madeleine de Verchères and Laura Secord* (University of Toronto Press, 2002). This book examines the gendered formation of historical memory in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Quebec and Ontario. It compares and contrasts the images of Madeleine de Verchères and Laura Secord as female symbols of Canadian loyalty and patriotism.

Currently, Professor Morgan is working on a number of related projects, including a study of commemoration and memory in 19th- and 20th-century Ontario, entitled *Colonialism and Commemoration*, and a book on Canadian travelers’ tours of Europe and Britain, 1860s-1930s. The predominant themes in this project are the links between gender, national identities, imperialism, and the significance of historical tourism in developing nationalist and imperialist discourses. Another research project, which she has just begun, examines the travels of 19th-century First Nations peoples - performers, lecturers, missionaries, and political petitioners – from Upper Canada (Ontario) to Britain and the United States. Her publications include work on the gendered nature of colonial religious and political discourses in Ontario, 1790s-1850s; women and legal education in Ontario; and gender and the state in British North America.

This year we will be honouring those graduates from the following classes: 1933, 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 1998. While everyone is more than welcome to attend, it would be wonderful to see those graduates from the above years at the event. The cost is $45 per person. If you would like further information please contact us:

**Online:** [www.fis.utoronto.ca/people/fisaa/SpringReunionInfo.htm](http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/people/fisaa/SpringReunionInfo.htm)

**Email:** mehta@fis.utoronto.ca

**Telephone:** 416-978-3034

For directions to the Faculty Club please visit [www.utoronto.ca/facultyclub](http://www.utoronto.ca/facultyclub) or call 416-978-6325.

YES! I will be attending Spring Reunion 2003 on Thursday, May 7, 2003 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks Street. Enclosed with this form is a cheque for $45 per person made payable to the Faculty of Information Studies.

**Given Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Street Address:**

**City:**  
**Province:**

**Postal Code:**  
**Phone #:**

**Email:**

**If you are bringing a guest, please provide us with his/her name:**

To ensure that a place is reserved for you, please send this form and payment to us by May 1, 2003. Our address is: Faculty of Information Studies, 140 St. George Street, Room 211, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3G6 (Attention: FIS Alumni Reunion 2003)
Faculty Update

TED TJADEN, who is a law librarian at the Bora Laskin Law Library and who teaches FIS 2133 - Legal Literature and Librarianship, has been busy with a number of publications and activities:

Monographs:
• Legal Research and Writing (Toronto: Irwin Law, 2001)
• The Law of Independent Legal Advice (Toronto: Carswell, 2000)

Articles:

Book Reviews:

Seminars:
• January 30, 2003: Presented session (with Shikha Sharma):
  “Legal Research for Non-Law Librarians”, Ontario Library Association SuperConference (Toronto, Ontario)
• Co-taught and prepared 7-week online course on “Legal Research on the Internet” for the Faculty of Information Studies, Continuing Education Department (March/April, 2002)

Awards:
• Co-recipient, Alan W. Mewett Award for Teaching Excellence (Faculty of Law, 2002)
Eric Sangwine (MLS ’77) has an intense love of art. He has an M.A. in history from Simon Fraser University where he was nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship. Upon completion of his studies at SFU, he attended the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Toronto and then worked in automated library service for several years. Eric enrolled at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto in 1986, and in his graduating year, he was awarded the David L. Stevenson Scholarship in Drawing and Painting. Currently, he is an artist cum librarian living in Oshawa.

Eric’s paintings depict medieval library curses. He first became familiar with these curses while attending Simon Fraser University. They date from a time when books were so rare that they were worth their weight in gold. Not surprisingly, theft was a major concern. As one way of deterring thieves, medieval bibliophiles wrote cautionary verses in their books.

During our gala celebration, Eric displayed his paintings and even offered one – entitled “The Three Devils” – for our silent auction. Needless to say, his work was well received by all of the guests and “The Three Devils” was quickly sold. Here is a picture of the painting with a brief description by the artist himself.

“This curse dates from the 14th century. We don’t know the name of the person who wrote it. Obviously, however, the scribe was concerned with the rough handling of books, not just theft. Carried to extremes, this love of books resulted in pronouncements like the one made by a monk in the 10th century. He insisted that hands be scrupulously clean before touching his books, and that they be cradled in the reader’s tunic! In designing my devils, I was inspired by the grotesque creatures which decorate medieval prayer books.”

Thank you to TD Meloche Monnex for supporting the Faculty of Information Studies throughout this special anniversary year.
Maud Godfrey (BLS ’40) passed away on October 21, 2002. She was, for many years, a reference librarian in the Hamilton Public Library and then moved to Nova Scotia where she worked at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library until she retired.

Mary E. P. Henderson (BLS ’44) of Cornwall, Quebec passed away at the age of 81.

Margaret Elizabeth Hughes (Diploma in Librarianship ’34, BLS ’38) passed away on January 20, 2003 after a lengthy illness. She had several positions as Librarian in Ontario, the last being Assistant Director of the Etobicoke Public Library System. During World War II she served as a WRNS officer on both coasts setting up branch libraries for naval personnel. Survived by her sister Edith and her husband Robert of Thornhill, sister-in-law Lorna of Aurora and predeceased by her brother Norman.

Ada Esther (Wagner) Jacobsen (Diploma in Librarianship ’36, BLS ’39, MLS ’59) passed away peacefully at the age of 98 on November 28, 1999 at the Montgomery Lodge in Belleville, Ontario.

Carol Preston (MLS ’75) passed away on September 3, 2002 after a nine-year battle with cancer. Carol moved from her home in Winnipeg to Toronto in 1973 to study for her MLS after several years of working at the Winnipeg Public Library. Carol’s lifelong interest in literature and Canadian history coupled with her MLS degree won her the position of librarian at Hudson’s Bay House. The library was a major resource for the Hudson’s Bay Company’s publication, The Beaver, and Carol soon found herself working closely with the editor doing layout, research and editing in addition to her duties as librarian. By the winter 1982 issue, Carol had become the assistant editor. Over the next fifteen years, Carol worked first as the managing editor and finally as the associate editor. Her passion for the characters of Canadian history, her commitment to reporting their stories accurately and her sense of humour helped make The Beaver one of the most popular historical magazines in Canada. After leaving The Beaver in 1997, Carol continued her interest in editing and research on a freelance basis.

Elizabeth Roe (MLS ’97) passed away suddenly on October 23, 2002 in Toronto at the age of 38. She was daughter of Air Chief Marshall Sir Rex and the late Lady Helen Roe, sister of Peter and Margaret and long time companion of David Evans.

Velta Vitols (BLS ’56) of Markham, Ontario passed away in June 2001.

Mary Wells (MLS ’77) passed away on February 07, 2003.

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Join your fellow alumni in creating a scholarship to benefit future alumni. All donations towards the 75th Anniversary Ontario Graduate Scholarship will be matched by the University and the Ontario government to five times their value!

What was your education worth? Did it help you forge ahead in your career, connect you with the right people, and give you a head start on a fulfilling job? Without your help, future students will not have those benefits. All it takes is a modest pledge, paid over several years, to give a future librarian or information broker the same start you had.

Please send donations and questions to Richard Bowring, care of the Faculty, and know that you are helping create the future for knowledge and information managers.
At the “Alumni Teas”, we realized that our alumni/ae have vast histories and stories to tell. FIS graduates have led lives of international travel, patriotic support, technological revolution, and much more. During this time, the Faculty’s 75th Anniversary year, we thought it would be nice to let you know what happened to your fellow graduates.

Ruth Russell, a triple graduate of the University of Toronto, a double graduate of the Faculty of Information Studies (BLS ’60 and MLS ’74), and a Teacher Librarian for 32 years, has seen a lot of the changes since she first graduated in 1956. Having started as a French and Spanish teacher, Ruth soon realized that her passion for language was more specifically a love of books and research. So, she returned to UofT and earned her Bachelor of Library Science degree. Snatched up by the David and Mary Thomson Collegiate School as a Teacher Librarian, Ruth found her place. Very soon, the book grew from one room to two rooms – one reading and one reference room. Then Ruth was given the daunting, but also enthralling task of designing the new resource centre – a 6,800 square foot “modern” library complete with study carrels and seminar rooms. In what seemed like a blink, that project was completed and another came along. And another. And another. There have been numerous changes over the years – the library is now a resource centre with computer catalogues, CDROM subscriptions and databases, and, indeed much more; but the one thing that remained constant was Ruth’s ability and enjoyment in getting to know the students whose lives she touched, helping with research, finding that elusive fact, widening the horizons of the students, and enjoying every day as it came.

In Ruth’s time off, she continued to pursue her passions – on a part-time basis she completed her Master of Library Science degree, and spent time travelling and at her cottage. One summer in the early 1980’s she was invited to Liberia to catalogue missionary books. While there, and despite a political coup, Ruth embraced her love of travel, visiting Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This spirit of adventure continued the following year with a trip to the Evangelical School for the Deaf in Puerto Rico, where Ruth transformed a collection of books stored in cupboards into a functioning, catalogued library and taught the teachers how to continue the process. The following summer found Ruth doing library work at the Black Forest Academy in Germany, after which, she mad a “side” trip to Israel, India, Bangalore and Rajasthan followed the next summer. And in the 1990’s Germany, Ecuador, Peru, and Costa Rica, where her Spanish training got some use.

In 1993 Ruth retired from Thomson Collegiate, happy to have stayed, seen the changes and become familiar with computerized library systems. She is now taking that knowledge and understanding on the road as a volunteer Teacher Librarian. She spent a year as Librarian at the Black Forest Academy in Germany and several years at The International Christian School of Budapest where she enjoyed working with students from grades 1 to 12. Ruth is now in her eighth year (spent part-time) in Budapest and has recently completed a three-year cataloguing project at the training centre for “Operation Mobilization”.

Although she never thought that becoming a librarian in 1960 would lead to such travel, Ruth recognizes that it has become her stepping stone to world-wide opportunities for service in which she continues to thoroughly enjoy taking at year at a time and seeing “where God leads her”.

Ruth Russell can be reached at 103401.61@compuserve.com
The students, faculty and staff extend a very appreciative “thank you” to all of the generous alumni, friends and corporate contributors who have supported the Faculty’s programs, initiatives and awards. This list reflects pledges to FIS from September 1, 2002 to February 1, 2003.

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