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Editor’s Note

Even though I finished university many years ago, I have never stopped considering each fall a fresh start, a new beginning. My New Year’s resolutions get a quick review, I add new goals, and begin thinking about what the year will bring. So, too, will some 200 new students expected to attend FIS this year. With registrations rising annually, it’s an interesting time to reflect on the resolutions and changes here at the Faculty of Information Studies.

The biggest news is that the Faculty has acquired additional space at 90 Wellesley Street West, tentatively dubbed “FIS East” and the Bissell Building as “FIS West.” The much needed new area will be multi-functional, with office space, classrooms, and an Inforum presence. Watch the FIS website for developments!

Other changes have been implemented to keep up with technology and student demand. The Faculty has installed two new plasma screens to provide information to visitors, faculty, alumni, and students on upcoming events, news, and announcements at FIS. Our more public face, the FIS website, has been redesigned to reflect changes at the Faculty while offering users a fresh approach to accessing information. We have re-organized the site, condensed sections, utilized a more sophisticated black and red colour scheme, and added a new feature, “Upcoming Events at FIS,” to let you know in a snapshot what’s happening.

We hope you will enjoy this magazine with its new sections, including a thought-provoking commentary by FIS Senior Fellow, Wendy Newman, and a feature article on the integration of the Museum Studies Program, by Judy Donnelly.

I welcome all readers to give me your thoughts, whether a criticism, comment, or compliment. Please feel free to email me at kathleen.obrien@utoronto.ca or write me at 140 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G6. Thanks for your feedback, and have a safe and happy autumn.

Kathleen O’Brien

Contributors

Judy Donnelly
The feature story, “Museum Studies Exhibits Successful Year,” is written by Judy Donnelly ’87, a research librarian currently working in FIS administrative services. She was project manager for the recently-completed History of the Book in Canada project and has been on the Informed editorial board since 2005.

Wendy Newman
The commentary, “Advocacy and the Compleat FIS Graduate”, is written by Wendy Newman (BLS ’69, MLS ’85), Senior Fellow at FIS, who teaches a course on Advocacy in the MSt program. A recipient of the FIS Alumni Jubilee Award in 2004, she is a former President of the Canadian Library Association.

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If you have ever been to Room 728 and searched the wall collage trying to find your class photo from 1931, 1971, 1987, or 1989, you were out of luck. Over the years, a few photos have gone missing. To fill in these gaps, FIS is calling on all alumni from those years who may have a copy of their class photo. A special thank you goes out to Ken Setterington who generously loaned us his 1982 class photo to have reproduced. If you have one of these treasures from the other missing years, please let us know at alumni@fis.utoronto.ca or by calling Kathleen at 416.978.7184.
Thank you for helping us keep your memories alive.

Cover photo taken by Ron van der Wies in front of the ROM (L-R): Rachel Libman, who interned at the Koffler Centre and Gallery this summer; Lindsay Rose, MMS 2007, who is the Decorative Arts Specialist at Waddington’s Auctioneers & Appraisers; John Rubino, incoming MSt student; Amleet Mangat, MMS 2007, who works in Visitor Experience at the ROM; and Jung-Hee Ban, who interned this summer at Black Creek Pioneer Village.
As of this year, FIS is midway through its ambitious six-year Academic Plan (2004-2010). Of 14 major goals and priorities in the Plan, all are either complete or underway. It has been an intense period of profound transition. I am proud of the students, staff, faculty, and alumni/ae who have supported this renewal of the Faculty, and contributed so much to making it happen.

Changes continue apace. On June 15, 2007, FIS celebrated its first Museum Studies graduation, as members of the Class of 2007 received their Master’s of Museum Studies degrees. Earlier in the spring, at the Steam Whistle Brewing Gallery in Toronto’s famous Roundhouse, these students mounted an amazing “Bottoms Up!” exhibit, examining the interplay between alcohol and our socio-political history. It is thrilling to have Museum Studies as part of FIS. To read more on the program’s first year, please see pages 10 and 11.

Faculty expansion and renewal continues as a top priority. By the time you read this, there may be even more exciting announcements (check our website!). Other transitions are more emotionally mixed. We are sad that Paulette Rothbauer and Nadine Wathen, for independent personal reasons, are returning to the University of Western Ontario. While professorial flow into and out of a Faculty is a sign of intellectual health, Paulette and Nadine will both be sorely missed. We are taking their move as an opportunity to redouble our efforts to strengthen both physical and digitally-mediated collaboration among all (now) eight Canadian Library and Information Studies programs. We also anticipate more recruitment and expansion next year, en route to doubling the size of the Faculty and increasing our coverage of the broad range of information fields.

Expansion has space implications: we are bursting at the seams! We are actively exploring long-term possibilities that accommodate our plans and ambitions. Meanwhile we have obtained a floor of a newly-leased building on the St. Michael’s campus, so FIS now has two homes: “FIS East,” at 90 Wellesley St. West (former home of the Sisters of St. Joseph), and “FIS West,” at 140 St. George. While it will be challenging for the Faculty to be distributed across two locations, even for a few years, we are taking it as a chance to rethink the use of all our space, to make it more vigorous and integrating.

Three final comments. First, it has been wonderful to have Steve Hockema, Jens-Erik Mai, David Phillips, Siobhan Stevenson, and Nadine Wathen as new faculty members this past year. I especially want to thank Jens-Erik for his superlative service as Vice-Dean. He is energetic, humane, and far-sighted—a gift to us all. Second, our website has a new look. If you haven’t stopped by recently, be sure to check it out (http://www.fis.utoronto.ca). Third, hard as it is to believe, 2007-08 is the final year in my term as Dean. I am not thinking of moving; Jill and I are happy in Toronto, and plan to be at FIS and U of T for many years. Ultimately, however, I believe the best way for me to contribute is intellectual, through research and teaching. So FIS will be searching for a new Dean to lead an energized Faculty on its visionary long-term plan. But it is not yet time for good-byes! There are still many things I want to do. I am looking forward to a wonderful and productive year.

Brian Cantwell Smith
FISAA President’s Message

Fall is upon us, bringing with it a new FIS Alumni Association (FISAA) Executive with many plans in store for alumni during the upcoming year. Please allow me to introduce the 2007/2008 FISAA Executive. I have taken over the role of president from Karen Wierucki (MLS ’80), who served in that capacity for 2006-2007. Karen’s energy, high-spirited enthusiasm, and commitment to alumni were inspiring, and I hope to achieve that same level of dedication.

The Executive members are as follows:
Vice President (President-elect): Kim Silk (MLS ’88)
Treasurer: Helen Katz (MLS ’75)
Secretary: Cynthia Penniman (MLS ’79)
Directors: Susan Gratsaris (MIST ’01), Bob Henderson (MLS ’75), Yasmin Khan (MIST ’02), Ricardo Laskaris (MIST ’04), Mike Meth (MIST ’06), Wiebke Smythe (MIST ’97), Allison Stirling (MIST ’06)

FISAA is happy to see the return of one of last year’s student representatives, Minakshi Sharma, and would also like to give a warm welcome to our new student representative, Anita Streicher. We will continue to offer the programs and events you support. With that in mind, we would like to share with you just a few of the accomplishments you helped us achieve during 2006/2007:
• The Job Shadowing program grew tremendously – a record 89 information organizations across the country gave FIS students almost 300 opportunities to experience a multitude of jobs within the profession. Thank you to Helen Katz for overseeing and working so hard on this project.
• The second annual “Alternative Careers Panel” was successfully incorporated into the FIS Management of Corporate and Other Special Information Centres course. At this event, students and alumni interacted with a panel of information professionals who took their careers “down the path less traveled.” FISAA also supported the Connecting@FIS event organized by students in this course – a valuable opportunity for alumni to gain a sense of how today’s students can contribute to the profession.

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Creativity is a key ingredient to making things fresh and dynamic, and we have big plans to help encourage and nurture our imaginative and creative capacities. Our exciting agenda includes building an A/V room, complete with computers, scanners, high-tech design and editing programs, as well as perhaps a videogame console. Working alongside the Museum Studies Graduate Students’ Association through our Student Tech Fund, we hope to make these plans a reality this fall.

Other innovative initiatives include promoting unity and keeping the future in perspective. For example, a first step toward FISSC’s environmentally-conscious efforts resulted in us securing a battery recycling receptacle, one that we hope everyone will use, in the main lobby area of FIS. Already, we can see it filling up.

Finally, this year we will be moving forward with plans that will enhance and bring about bright changes in our students’ social, academic, and professional lives. Be on the lookout for many new FIS firsts this year!
Report from the Professional Learning Centre

It’s been a busy year at the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre (ATRC), which has been a part of FIS since 2005. For those of you not familiar with us, the ATRC is an international centre of expertise on the inclusive design of information systems and accessible information technology. It might surprise you to know that more than 35 researchers and developers with a large range of expertise are part of this initiative.

We tend to focus on emerging information technologies to ensure that accessibility is considered from the initial design stages. We are also an active participant in the development of standards, guidelines, and legislation in this domain. If you are interested in knowing more about the types of networks and projects we lead, please see page 14 to read about FLUID and the Ajax software development kit.

We have an exciting new initiative to report. Students at all levels of study participate in projects such as the Smart Campus in Your Pocket (SCYP), funded by Bell University Labs, which is developing a mobile assistant for students that delivers personalized information they require on campus. Projects like these provide the ATRC with an ideal opportunity for student engagement in interdisciplinary applied research and development.

For SCYP, information is customized to the student’s personal access needs, the context they are in, and their present location. Students participate in interdisciplinary project groups to design, develop, and evaluate services for SCYP and to critique information practices that implement location-and context-aware technologies like SCYP from a privacy, identity, security, and accessibility perspective.

For example, two innovative student projects include a “talking sign system” for all permanent signs on campus so that students who are blind can hear the labels of signs in their proximity through the mobile device. Another project provides information about the food served at all eating venues on campus and allows a student to query where their favourite food is being served nearby.

Students also engage in open source development projects such as those that create accessible browsers or content management systems. These projects help students synthesize and apply theoretical knowledge in a real world challenge.

All these projects keep things exciting at the ATRC. I invite you to learn more by visiting us at http://atrc.utoronto.ca.

PLC staff is looking forward to the 2007/2008 term and hope you will keep us busy with our continuing and new courses, and upcoming changes to the PLC certificates.

PLC Survey

In May, I asked FIS alumni and PLC students to complete our online survey and give us your thoughts and input on the current and future PLC program. Thanks to those of you who took the time to answer questions and write comments. The survey provided us with invaluable input to plan our courses and certificates and to improve the learning experience of our students.

We appreciated your kind words of praise and encouragement: “Keep up the good work,” “Your courses have all been fantastic,” and “You do it well.” It is very satisfying to receive this support and is a wonderful reward for our daily work. With your suggestions at hand, we will do our best!

Here are some details from the survey:

• We received an impressive number of survey responses – over 300. The largest group among the respondents (41%) identified themselves as library employees, followed by records managers (20%), with others being in information management, Web development, archives, software development, and business analysis.

• Certificate in Records Management Fundamentals, followed by certificates in Information Management and Records Management Practice, have been the most popular PLC certificates among the respondents. A significant number of respondents had completed our web-based certificates such as Mastering Web Searching, Legal Research on the Web, and Information Professional as Educator.

• Although a classroom course is still the preferred choice among our respondents (more than 45%), an online or web-based course is not far behind (nearly 35%). Interestingly, “more online courses” is the most frequent suggestion cited by those completing the survey.

• About 50% of our respondents said they would most likely take PLC courses in information organization, such as Taxonomies and Metadata Cataloguing. New technologies – understanding what they do, how they work and relate – was also in demand, with more than 47% rating this highly. Management Skills, Records Management, Information Sources and Resources, and Content Management were the categories that received more than a 40% response. Many others such as Advocacy, Information Architecture or Web Strategies, to name a few, were also highly rated.

PLC responds

It is my pleasure to report that the PLC has already started to act on these suggestions. This summer we offered two sessions of a brand new practical course on Social Networking Tools: Hands on Learning. Long before the first session, both sold out and the waiting list grew daily. More to come!

Sometime in 2007/2008, the PLC will offer at least two new online courses: the long-anticipated Records Management Practice, and Library Advocacy (working title). With this online version of our popular Records Management Practice certificate, the complete Records Management program from PLC will be available to distance learners across Canada.

Library Advocacy will be the first PLC course to be adapted from an existing and very successful FIS Master’s course. We are pleased that through the PLC, it will be accessible to a wider library community.

There is much more to come from the PLC this year. Over the next few months, look for updates and new courses in our Information Management program, as well as new, post-certificate Records Management courses that will focus on web content strategies and more. Our website www.plc.fis.utoronto.ca is always changing so please keep visiting us.

The PLC team is always there to assist you – contact Marcia and Cheryl with registration, scheduling, and administrative inquiries, and Eva for program and any other inquiries.

Best wishes to all!
Your fellow alum,
Eva Kupidura, MLS ’92
Coordinator, Professional Learning Centre

(L-R): Cheryl Pasternak, Eva Kupidura and Marcía Chen.
Conference Grant Reports

The Faculty of Information Studies Alumni Association (FISAA) had a wonderful response from students to our new Alumni Conference Grants. Five MISI students, Meredith Ferguson, Charles Levi, Juanita Rossiter, Chris Sanagan, and Lindsay Skay, received grants up to $500 to present a paper, poster session, or participate as a speaker or panelist at their chosen conference in Kingston, Ontario or Chicago, Illinois.

FIS students made a great impression at the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) in Kingston, Ontario from June 20-24, 2007, with about 15 attending, and five presenting. Most notably, FIS was able to put together its own session on the Student Experience in Archival Studies, which was well-received and generated some interesting discussion of future possibilities for ACA student chapters in governance, mentoring, and publishing. Following are four reports from students who attended.

Charles Levi

The conference was a truly eye-opening experience for me. It is rare to see so many archivists in one place and one time. All the names that I had become familiar with as an archival student suddenly had faces. These senior archivists, and others, proved to be sociable and approachable. The university archives session, held under the auspices of the University and College Archives Special Interest Session (UCASIS) of ACA, was a personal favorite because I was invited to give a paper on the use of university archives in the preparation of institutional histories. My aim was to be proactive but provocative, and I succeeded. My interpretation of the provisions of the Ontario Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act (FIPPA) and its role in official history sparked fiery debate, including a promise that my interpretation would be sure to land me in front of a judge! Based on this experience, I believe an ACA conference is an excellent place for students to gain a wider perspective on their profession and engage a larger network of archivists in Canada and internationally. I look forward to next year.

Juanita Rossiter

The ACA event in Kingston marked my first conference. With FIS often identified as a “Library School,” the archives students sometimes get lost in the shuffle, so I was pleasantly surprised to see so many classmates from FIS. Because five of us gave presentations, I felt our presence gave more recognition to the archives program at FIS. The session by Chris Sanagan, Adam Birrell, and me, entitled “The Archival Profession through the Eyes of Students,” provoked thoughtful discussion on how students and ACA student chapters can be better utilized. Sitting in on other conference sessions, I was both inspired and motivated to get more involved in the ACA and in organizations such as the Toronto Area Archivists Group. This annual conference also provides us with an opportunity to meet alumni from the FIS archives program. Under the direction of Professor Wendy Duff, we had a pub night that brought out many FIS alumni; it is our hope that this event will become a new tradition at the annual conference. I am grateful to have been able to attend this conference and would like to thank FISAA for this conference grant. I would also like to thank FIS for granting me the opportunity to participate in the internship at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in South Africa, which was the topic of my talk at the ACA conference.

Chris Sanagan

Attending my very first professional conference as a newly-minted graduate of the Masters of Information Studies program at FIS was an incredibly rewarding and personally satisfying experience. After two years of hitting the books, it was a terrific atmosphere in which to make personal introductions, and facilitated the forging of new friendships, many of which I hope to rekindle at next year’s conference. With two of my classmates, I presented a paper entitled, “You Never Forget Your First Time: One Student’s Introduction to Archives, Arrangement and the Big Bad World of Publishing,” based on our recent experiences as students in the archival studies program at FIS. As the next generation of employees, our student experiences will very much influence how we approach our work as professionals. How we view the profession, therefore, is integral to the evolution of the field. I spoke for 20 minutes and then participated in a very lively discussion with the audience. It was humbling to receive such positive feedback from our academic and professional peers. I believe that I speak for all of us when I say that we truly could not have asked for a better way to kick off our careers as archivists.

Lindsay M. Skay

I was fortunate enough to present my paper, “Power Play: Power and Ethics in Archives,” at the 2007 ACA conference. My paper debated whether archivists have power over documents, if the documents themselves contain power, or whether both have different kinds of power at different times. Five important issues were examined surrounding appraisal and the power of the archivist. The processes are more complicated than they might seem because the emotional power of documents to affect people cannot be fixed or predicted. As archivists, we are accountable to others for our decisions, our task being to build a view of the nation and of ourselves for all citizens while not yielding to outside influences. I believe the outside pressures applied to the process of archival appraisal influences us all, and those influences may be applied as political pressure to favor one group. As a result, I feel this creates functioning dilemmas for every archivist in every situation that must be addressed responsibly and ethically. At the end of the talk, I was excited that Mary Jo Pugh, editor of American Archivist, urged me to publish my work.
Faculty Books

**Queer Online: Media Technology and Sexuality**

*Professor David J. Phillips,* with Kate O’Riordan (eds.)

David J. Phillips is Associate Professor of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. He studies the political economy and social shaping of information and communication technologies, especially technologies of visibility, identification, and surveillance.

Publisher: Peter Lang: New York

**Book Summary from the Publisher:** This richly textured, multi-sited collection explores the micropolitics and cultural realities of sex, gender, and queer bodies/identities as they are mediated through new information and communications technologies. While scholarly and theoretically rigorous, its rich empirical detail makes *Queer Online* vital reading for activists and members of queer communities, in the academy and beyond. The collection draws together contemporary research into queer theory and practices, as they intersect with new media and communication technologies. Chapters include a study of changing leathersex identities as meeting spaces moved from bars to online chat rooms, an investigation of the dynamics of racial identity as social sites moved from text-based to visually-based media, and the tensions between community and audience identities inherent in commercial affinity portals.

**Centers for Learning: Writing Centers and Academic Libraries in Collaboration. Publications in Librarianship #58**

*Sheril Hook,* with James K. Elmborg (eds.)

Sheril Hook taught a special topics course last winter for FIS on Information Literacy. She is currently the coordinator of instructional services at the University of Toronto-Mississauga.

Publisher: Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)

Although *Centers for Learning* came out in 2005, their publication was recently recognized with the ACRL's Instruction Section's "Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year" Award for 2007. The prize includes $3,000 and a plaque, presented at the 2007 American Library Association Annual Conference earlier this year. This annual award recognizes an outstanding publication related to instruction in a library environment published in the preceding two years.

**Book Summary from the Publisher:** The book examines the potentials inherent in partnerships between libraries and writing centres. By focusing on shared concepts and practices, the editors suggest that such partnerships might respond more coherently to the needs of today's students. The book makes a compelling case not only for treating research and writing as a holistic process, but for leveraging the unique strengths of writing centres and information literacy programs to improve student mastery of the process. Building in part on the literature of the 1990s that explored the relationship between bibliographic instruction, composition pedagogy, and their respective programming models, the book reflects the maturing of theory and practice that has occurred in both domains in the context of more than a decade's change in higher education.

**The Royal Ontario Museum: A Prehistory, 1830-1914**

*Professor Lynne Teather*

Lynne Teather is Associate Professor in the Museum Studies Masters Program, University of Toronto, where she has been teaching since 1980. She holds the first doctoral degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester and was awarded the Ontario Museums Association Award of Merit.

Publisher: Canada University Press

**Book Summary:** This volume invites a reassessment of the ROM's formation history, and, after nearly 100 years of successful existence, a rethinking of its social promise. The book addresses the little known decades of museum activities in Toronto and Ontario that preceded the ROM's legislative start in 1912, going back to 1830, without which it, or sister organizations such as the Art Gallery of Ontario (1900), might not have succeeded. The ROM was part of a phase of the creation of civic cultural institutions for Toronto and other Canadian cities and towns, many now being re-invented via major building programs, a century later. With an in-depth study of the complex early museum stories going back to the 1830s, Professor Teather hopes to provide new insight into the role of museums and galleries in nineteenth century Canada, especially in Ontario and Toronto, and possibly a reconsideration of the place of culture and our institutions in our lives. Anyone with an interest in Canadian history will find these little known museum and gallery stories of individuals, groups, institutes and governments intriguing, even surprising.

**Stones, Bones and Stitches**

*Shelley Falconer,* with Shawna White

Shelley Falconer is Director, Exhibitions and Programs, and Senior Curator at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. As an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, she teaches Museums and New Media.

Publisher: Tundra Books

**Book Summary:** *Stones, Bones and Stitches* is based on an exhibition of Inuit art, and will officially launch on October 9, 2007. Written by the McMichael Canadian Art Collection's curators Shelley Falconer and Shawna White, this publication weaves together several important works of art from the collection with fascinating stories, legends, and facts. The evolving character of the North is explored through the lens of some of Canada’s most significant Inuit artists. Each work is viewed as the starting point from which to explore a multitude of stories. Included are eight different works, from sculpture and embroidery to prints, highlighted with introductions to the artists, materials, geography, legends and stories. Photographs and maps, together with interesting facts, give the reader insight into the artists’ lives, their communities and working conditions along with brief histories of the region. Together, the rich and varied works in this exhibition allow the reader to explore the culture, history, and legends of the Inuit.
Alumnus Celebrates Graduation — 65 Years Later

Like many other U of T graduates in the 1940s, Dr. Robert Blackburn responded to the call of duty during the Second World War and was not able to receive his Bachelor's degree in person. Sadly, he had to forego this rite of passage like hundreds of other U of T students who graduated between 1940 and 1946.

Sixty-five years later, his wife Verna urged him to join 32 other graduates and attend a special Convocation Hall Centennial Celebration at U of T on May 31, 2007. The ceremony was held to mark the 100th anniversary of the historic building, and to honour graduates like Dr. Blackburn, who earned his Bachelor of Library Science (BLS) degree in 1942.

Although the Centennial Celebration was a special event in itself, Dr. Blackburn wanted his Chancellor's Medal to be presented to him at FIS, which was hosting its Spring Reunion the same day, just an hour later. But he almost missed the presentation. After the convocation ceremony, someone had moved his personal belongings, which necessitated a frantic search and delayed his arrival at 140 St George Street.

Back at FIS, Assistant Dean Judy Dunn told the crowd that although Dr. Blackburn wanted to receive his medal at the reception, he unfortunately could not attend, since it seemed the convocation had run overtime. She explained the circumstances of the Second World War that had prevented him from receiving his degree in 1942, and went on to provide a brief history of his career, noting that as soon as exams were over, Dr. Blackburn had returned to his native Alberta to join the Air Force to train as a navigator. He quickly rose through the ranks to become an instructor, training other navigators.

After the war ended, Dr. Blackburn became Chief Librarian at Robarts from 1954 to 1981, and accepted honorary degrees from Waterloo, McGill and U of T over the course of his career. After his retirement, Dr. Blackburn returned to Robarts part-time for a few years to write *Evolution of the Heart: A History of the University of Toronto Library up to 1981* (Toronto, 1989).

Guests and classmates at the reception were disappointed that it appeared Dr. Blackburn would not receive his medal at FIS after all. Just at that moment, he walked in, arm-in-arm, with Mrs. Blackburn. The crowd erupted into applause and whooped with joy. Some had tears in their eyes as the couple slowly made their way into the room, puzzled at all the hoopla. Dr. Blackburn admits he was afraid that, once again, he had missed his ceremony. But Ms Dunn was able to present him with his 65th Anniversary Chancellor’s Medal, in front of a room full of proud fellow classmates and friends.

Notable Alumni

Deborah Henderson (’80) Elected DAMA Foundation President
Deborah Henderson was elected as President of the Data Management Association (DAMA) Foundation in July 2006. Henderson is an information governance architect with CapGemini at General Motors. She volunteers her time with DAMA, notably holding multiple roles as president of the DAMA Foundation and vice president of education for both DAMA International and the DAMA Foundation. The group raises funds through grants, donations, and other means, and supports the advancement of the data management profession through research and development. She migrated from library science into records management in the IT profession in 1988, then moved into the data modeling space, up through data architecture to her current position in as lead data architect in information governance.

Josephine Bryant (’70, ’74) Earns Outstanding PLS Award
Toronto Public Library City Librarian Josephine Bryant has been awarded the 2007 CAPL/Brodart Outstanding Public Library Services Award. No stranger to awards, Bryant's innovative leadership has won her accolades throughout the library profession, including the Arbour Award for outstanding voluntary service to the University of Toronto in 1999, and the 2002 FIS Alumni Jubilee Award that recognizes distinguished graduates whose contributions have been a credit to their alma mater. Bryant's career epitomizes public library values and serves as a model for upcoming professionals. She received her award at a reception on May 25 at the Canadian Library Association Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Comfort Life magazine Features John Wilkinson (’50, ’54)
Comfort Life magazine featured former librarian and U of T Professor, John Wilkinson, in its 2007-2008 issue. Wilkinson was cited for the contributions he has made to his new home at Windermere on the Mount, a retirement residence in London, Ontario. In the article, he says one of the first things he did after unpacking was to set up a library with donated books. He says that new residents often have more books than space, so donations were forthcoming. An Agatha Christie fan, Wilkinson had no reservations about donating his complete collection of 84 Christie titles for everyone to enjoy. Between reading and keeping the library organized, he says he has been busy taking trips to the theatre, the museum, the mall, and attending concerts at the chapel. To read the full article, visit issue #5 at www.comfortlife.ca.
Advocacy and the Compleat FIS Graduate

In my standard “Ten Things I Wish They Had Told Me Before I Began Working” rant, the need for new information professionals to be proficient, strategic advocates has a prominent place. In fact, today’s LIS graduates need to be good advocates as never before.

The sector in which they will exercise professional leadership – so essential to the well-being of society – not only suffers from the “taken for granted” syndrome, but the assumptions on which they are founded are often under fire in this age of commodified everything.

If public libraries did not exist, would this society create them? I’m afraid of the answer. Would a profession arise to defend free access, intellectual freedom, and the public interest in copyright reform? It’s just plain dangerous to leave leadership to chance.

The 8R’s study – a massive three-year look at human resources in the library sector – provides some solid Canadian research affirming the importance of advocacy skills for the next generation. The Future of Human Resources in Canadian Libraries found that across all types of institutions, as an entire generation of leaders retires, the need for a new generation of professionals proficient in leadership roles, including advocacy, rises to the top of the “most-needed-but-hardest-to-find” list.

Recently, Statistics Canada found the number of baby boomers reaching retirement age will accelerate rapidly in 2011. By 2016, they say, young people will no longer be numerous enough to replace retirees and the work force could start to shrink. The implications for Canada’s economy – and its libraries, archives, and museums – are profound. Already, there are 4.3 million citizens aged 65 or older, meaning that one in seven Canadians are now senior citizens.

It’s reasonable to expect that professionals in all fields will advocate for the values that are fundamental to their mission. Notwithstanding some undoubted successes in our sectors, and the richness and depth of our alliances, the competition is stiffer than ever for both policy and financial support.

Advocacy isn’t PR (“this is what we do for you”) or marketing (“how should we change to meet your needs?”), though it is related to both. Advocacy seeks to create a common agenda with decision-makers, one that is understood, recognized, and acted upon by the right people, and more importantly, at the right time. For example, consider what libraries have to offer in advancing preschool learning and how archives help to build social cohesion.

They never whine, threaten, or misrepresent. They understand the concept of positioning. They live the difference between strategic and scattershot. Indeed, they know the power of story as well as the advocacy impact of data, and which to choose with any given audience.

Advocates know who their decision-makers are and what they value – they speak and write with respect for decision-makers’ accountability. In short, they have courage when it counts.

FIS is on the leading edge of developing leaders and spearheading the importance of advocacy. In fact, we are the first Library and Information Studies program in North America to offer an elective course on advocacy in a master’s program. Best of all, this course resulted from a proposal suggested by our students. It is FIS’s first distance course and, not one to hoard a good idea, we are sharing it with other LIS programs in Canada.

These informed, passionate, articulate students give me much confidence about the future.

A Great Year at Museum Studies

By Wendy Duff, Interim Director

This past year — the first at FIS for Museum Studies — marked an extremely successful exhibition and saw 18 fantastic internship placements. This fall, I think we may see even more exciting firsts and successes. Over the summer, we remodelled the Museum Studies space on the 5th floor to prepare for a busy term. We expect to have a first-year class of more than 30 students, a 50 per cent increase from enrolment last year.

We will start the term with a bus trip to three area museums in Hamilton and Kleinberg. Dubbed the “Mystery Museum Tour” (based on the Beatles’ Magical Mystery Tour theme), students will get to see interesting and sometimes quirky museums on the outskirts of Toronto and surrounding cities.

In other news, we are thrilled to welcome Cheryl Meszaros who joined the faculty on August 1, 2007, as a lecturer for the next two years. A specialist in interpretation, Dr. Meszaros will develop new courses and help deliver some of the required and electives courses. In the meantime, we will continue the search for full-time faculty to join us this year.

We are beginning to plan our speaker series, and hope to have David Campbell, who established the Vivian and David Campbell Family Foundation Summer Training Fellowships, and Joan Schwartz of Queen’s University, present talks next year. We will keep you posted on these and many other presentations.

On the conference front, I am serving on the organizing committee for the International Cultural Heritage Informatics Meetings in Toronto from October 24 to 26, 2007, at which FIS is sponsoring a reception. And Prof. Lynne Teather is serving on the Ontario Museum Association conference committee this year. Next year is our Ontario Council on Graduate Studies review with site visits in the winter. Stay tuned!
A high point of the year and a milestone in the history of the Faculty of Information Studies was the recent graduation of the first Museum Studies students to complete their degrees at FIS.

The museum program was transferred to FIS after two years of consultation and planning on the future of graduate programs at U of T. The move has provided a unique environment for collaborative efforts in the education of cultural heritage professionals, which is further enhanced by the breadth of IT courses and programs offered at the Faculty.
The integration of Museum Studies has been a rewarding and complex transition that required a strong commitment from students, teaching staff, and administrators. As Dean Brian Cantwell Smith observed in June, “Museum Studies has already become such an integral part of the vision of the Faculty going forward, it is hard to believe that just 12 months ago the merger had not taken place.”

Welcoming the new program into this shared community involved practical as well as pedagogical considerations. Existing space in the Bissell building was reconfigured to provide room for students, teaching, and materials. The Inforum’s collection has been expanded to include research tools and literature relating to the program, and administrative functions such as student services were integrated.

Professor Wendy Duff, who has served as Interim Director of the Museum Studies program since last year, praised those involved, particularly the students, who continue to “make [her] time enjoyable and worthwhile.” She also credited Museum Studies Professor Lynne Teather and adjunct faculty member Barbara Soren (who also served as program coordinator) for their critical roles during the transition and thanked the many alumni who provide internships, give lectures, and engage in the program in numerous ways.

The Faculty is in the process of hiring a new full-time lecturer to work alongside Professor Teather and the many adjunct faculty who continue their dedication to the program.

While still in the early stages, opportunities for collaborative projects among students are on the horizon, along with the possibility of new specialty programs involving various FIS constituencies.

In the meantime, enrollment in Museum Studies has jumped from 18 last year to approximately 30 who are expected to join the program this fall. Plans to expand those numbers in the next few years will ensure the success and ongoing development of Museum Studies at FIS.

Museum Studies Internships Go Global

Museum Studies continued its successful 12-week internship program, providing students with challenging placements that matched their curriculum requirements and interests. The internships are a prerequisite to the completion of the two-year program, occurring between year one and two.

This year’s students surprised their course supervisors. Typically, students choose to complete their internships in or near Toronto, with a few taking on positions in the United States. But this group of students secured placements on an unprecedented international level, in countries such as Ireland, England, and South Africa. The placements included the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York; the National Gallery of Art in Washington; the Centre of Memory at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg; and the Columbus’ Community Children’s Museum & the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Placements began the first or second week in May and ended in July. Although unpaid, students receive the generous support of the Vivian and David Campbell Family Foundation Summer Training Fellowship and the Rebanks Family Fellowship, and in some cases, a small stipend.

David Campbell established the fellowship in honour of his wife Vivian, a patron of the arts, so students could gain the practical knowledge they were missing. “They needed experience in the field and I felt an apprenticeship program would put frosting on the cake,” he said. “I wanted to put the students in the same environment in which they would work.”

The Province of Ontario matched the generous gift, making it possible for students to spend time in a museum of their choice with financial support that “takes the pressure off,” Mr. Campbell said. Museum Studies study, Jung-Hee Ban, was one of the Campbell Fellows who interned this summer at Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV) in north Toronto. Ms. Ban focused on integrating a children’s section into BCPV’s website, from the planning stages through to the creation, uploading, and maintenance of the site. She also developed a children’s activity program and translated a tourist guidebook into Korean and Chinese. The internship, she says, provided “a great opportunity to carry on several projects and to observe many activities in the institution.”

From a managerial perspective, Ms. Ban says she “learned a lot about coordinating tasks and people from different departments, the importance of effective communications and building relationships.” She also had the opportunity to try on a period costume typical for women in a crossroads community during the 1800s.

Museum Studies student, Meredith Leonard, was one of the interns on a Rebanks Family Fellowship this summer as the cultural coordinator at the Niagara Historical Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Established by Mrs. Wendy Rebanks on behalf of her family, the Fellowship focuses on small museums that are in need of more resources and staff. “I am pleased students are getting to know, and are lending their expertise to, small museums within Canada,” Mrs. Rebanks said.

As a member of the Museum’s small staff, Ms. Leonard had the opportunity to participate in all facets of museum operations, from collections management to marketing and public relations. “Interning with a small institution has given me invaluable hands-on experience with the many facets of museum work,” she said. The Historical Museum was founded in 1895 to interpret local history, and in 1907, housed that research in “Memorial Hall,” the first purpose-built museum building in the province of Ontario. Ms. Leonard was thrilled to be asked to design an exhibition to commemorate the Hall’s 100th anniversary this year. Her other duties included producing a weekly newsletter that promoted non-profit cultural events in the area, and helping plan a 2008 art exhibition to showcase works depicting Niagara.

Jung-Hee Ban at Black Creek Pioneer Village
Spring Reunion 2007 Draws a Crowd
Many alumni joined us for the annual FIS Spring Reunion on Thursday, May 31. Graduates from years ending in a “2” or a “7”, along with a smattering of other years, helped us honour special guests from the Classes of 1982, celebrating their 25th Anniversary, and 1957, celebrating their 50th. We were pleased to welcome all the way from Pennsylvania, Elizabeth Hasen Seliner ’57, who accepted her 50th Anniversary Pin. FISAA President Karen Wierzucki ’80 was honoured to hand out this year’s Alumni Jubilee Award to Janine Miller ’82, who was our keynote speaker. “Thrilled and honoured” to be this year’s recipient, Ms. Miller spoke about the creation of CanLII, the Canadian virtual law library she helped establish on the National Technology Committee of the Federation of Law Societies. By providing free access to Canadian primary legal materials through the Internet, Ms. Miller and the committee helped bridge a critical information gap. She continues as Project Manager for CanLII since retiring as Director of Law Libraries at the Law Society of Upper Canada. For more information on CanLII, please visit www.canlii.org. In a surprise door prize draw, recent graduate, Katherine Ho, won the top prize, a $500 certificate to take any course offered by the Faculty’s continuing education arm, the Professional Learning Centre.

FIS Alumni@CLA Pub Gathering
Almost 25 alumni experienced famed Newfoundland hospitality and stepped into Down East culture at the Faculty of Information Studies pub night in St. John’s. FIS alumni who were attending the CLA conference from May 25 to 26 gathered to reminisce, catch up, and toast their alma mater at an informal alumni get-together at O’Reilly’s Irish Pub on Friday, May 25. Sponsored by the FIS Alumni Association, the night featured live music and merriment.

FIS Dean, Brian Canwell Smith, and Assistant Dean, Judy Dunn, were there to greet alumni and join them for a toast. Brian and Judy avoided getting up to stepdance, but did field questions about our exciting plans for 2007-2008.

Convocation Luncheon Fills Rooms to Capacity
Another class of students joined the ranks of valued FIS alumni on Friday, June 15. Immediately following Spring Convocation, the 120 graduates were invited to celebrate their accomplishments at a special FIS Convocation Luncheon at the Faculty. This year’s graduating class, which included, for the first time, Museum Studies students, welcomed family members and friends, who filled both Room 728 and the student lounge to capacity. Sponsored by FIS Alumni Association (FISA), guests enjoyed refreshments while saying their farewells and promising to keep in touch. A highlight of the luncheon was the awards ceremony honouring more than 20 students who made significant contributions to the FIS community. Congratulations to the prize recipients, and to all 2007 FIS graduates. Here is the listing of all 2007 prize winners:

- Carolyn Harris
  - AMAL Toronto Chapter Award
- Elsa Sue
  - Gertrude M. Boyle Memorial Award in Cataloguing
- Louis Choquette and Lisa Anne Simmons
  - William L. Gratt Memorial Prize
- Kathleen Schwab
  - FIS Alumni Association Jubilee Award
- Jill Ruby and Sandra Stephenson
  - OLA Anniversary Prize
- Jerzy Schreiber
  - OLSA Prize in Public Library Management
- Erin Murphy
  - Jane Prescott Memorial Award
- Michael Todd Sloan
  - RAW Book and Manuscripts Award
- Shannon McMillen
  - Kathleen Reeves Memorial Award

Giller Prize Winner Vincent Lam Reads at FIS
Balancing his dual passions for writing and medicine was the theme of Dr. Vincent Lam’s speech to a capacity-packed room at FIS on March 7, 2007. This event was a highlight of the “FIS Reads Fiction” books club series, organized by the FIS Life & Times Committee. Dr. Lam received one of Canada’s most prestigious literary awards: the Scotiabank Giller Prize, in 2006. Incredibly, it was his first book of short stories, Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures, written about his experiences in medical school, which won him the honour. The busy father of a young son, Dr. Lam discussed how his experience as a physician contributes to his writing, and how being an author makes him a better doctor. He joked that the only thing he lacks in life is more time to sleep. A graduate of the University of Toronto, he now works as an emergency physician at Toronto East General Hospital. Audience members said it was a great honour to hear and meet a man of so many great accomplishments.

Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory - Perspectives
The Faculty of Information Studies welcomed Mr. Shadreck Chirikureza, Senior Programme Officer of the Nelson Mandela Foundation Centre of Memory on March 21, 2007. Mr. Chirikureza provided a brief history of the Centre, discussed recent changes, announced exciting plans, and followed up with an informative question and answer session.

The Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory Project was founded to tell the stories of a continuing walk to freedom, based on Mr. Mandela’s legacy. As part of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Centre of Memory is committed to the documentation and dissemination of information about ongoing struggles for justice, and positive contributions to those struggles — in particular those to which Mr. Mandela and his comrades have dedicated their lives. In conjunction with the Foundation, an internship program was established, allowing students to travel to South Africa and work for the Centre. Mr. Chirikureza explained the type of work and opportunities that FIS student interns Jill Ruby and Juanita Rossiter had while at the Centre last summer, and mentioned the projects that current interns might take on (e.g., preparing an exhibit of Mandela artifacts).

This summer, two other FIS students, Caroline Graham and Stephanie Nencsok, were lucky enough to find out first-hand! In an update email sent recently, Ms. Nencsok says: “They treat us with the same respect as other professionals on staff... always looking for new learning opportunities for us.” She worked with Nelson Mandela’s gifts — an object-based collection, charity auctions, policy development and, along with Ms. Graham, the new website. In addition, Ms. Graham focused on the Foundations IT Audit as well as research projects.

FIS Hosts Inaugural Annual Job Fair to Resounding Success
Last fall, Registrar Adriana Rossiti had an idea: match students looking for jobs with employers looking for workers. This was the impetus for the first FIS-hosted Student Job Fair on March 16, 2007. Organized by the FIS Student Council, the Job Fair provided a forum in which FIS students, who can offer employers innovative ideas, enthusiasm, and the latest research methodologies, could meet representatives from organizations searching for qualified library, archival, and information specialists. More than 100 FIS students had the opportunity to chat with staff from government agencies, commissions, and academic and public libraries seeking talented individuals to fill their full-time, part-time, and summer job vacancies. Some even conducted on-the-spot interviews. In turn, the students brought polished resumes to network and engage with professionals from all over Ontario. Thanks to the dedication and skills of the Professional Development Committee Co-chairs, Nancy Duncan and Lawrence Stewart, who led a handful of enthusiastic student volunteers, the event was a resounding success. Annette Dunn, 2006/2007 President of FIS Student Council, says employers were impressed at students’ preparedness, level of professionalism, and enthusiasm. Many additional thanks to all the organizations that participated. We look forward to repeating the event next year.

FIS Research Day
Doctoral student Danielle Allard, co-chair of FIS Research Day, reports that this year’s event, showcasing the research of FIS PhD, MSL, and MLIS students, faculty, and staff, was well-attended and informative for both presenters and participants. Held on March 30, 2007, the day featured presentations, posters, and panels on a wide variety of interesting subjects such as Biometrics and Digital Identity; Book History; Wireless Internet Sharing in Urban Neighbourhoods; Information Retrieval Models and Taxonomies; Childcare Policy Analysis; Knowledge Management and Decision Making; Retaining Centres for Immigrant Librarians; and Archives Evaluation. According to Ms. Allard, “because Information Studies is such a diverse field, Research Day was a really wonderful way for us to observe the work of our colleagues, and engage in conversations with each other about our interests. It was a huge success.”
Each year students in the “Management of Corporate and Other Special Information Centres” course undertake projects allowing them to gain valuable and practical experience in a special library. Topics can range from user studies, the development of training programs, the development and updating of websites and promotional materials, and collection development, to cataloging initiatives and database creation. This year, more than 30 students enrolled in the course demonstrated their multi-faceted projects to alumni, friends, and the broader community. “This is a great opportunity to get to know the students and their work and get an understanding of the skills and experience that students bring to the special library community,” said course instructor, Vicki Whitmell ‘84. The exhibition was supported by the FIS Alumni Association, the FIS Students Council, and the Faculty.

**Alumni News**

**Jubilee Awards**

The Faculty of Information Studies has many talented students and distinguished graduates — individuals who make immense contributions to the community. Each year, the FIS Alumni Association honours one such student and one alumna with a Jubilee Award.

The Student Jubilee Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated an active interest in life at the Faculty, taking part in student life, in student and faculty council and committees, professional organizations, and publishing, while still achieving academic excellence. This year’s Student Jubilee went to graduating student, Kathleen Schaffer, who received a $500 cash prize and plaque. An exceptional individual, Ms. Schaffer was an integral part of FIS, and volunteered countless hours. She co-chaired the Faculty’s Research Day conference, as well as Connecting@FIS. She was also an elected member of FIS Student Council, sat on the Life & Times Committee, was appointed to the FIS Space Task Group (an advisory committee to the Dean), was involved in FIS Orientation Week, played on the FIS intramural dodgeball team, and was an active member of the Queen@FIS group. While this would be more than enough extra-curricular activities for most students, Ms. Schaffer also volunteered for U of T’s Sexual Education & Peer Counselling Centre. On top of all that, she still earned high grades.

The Alumni Jubilee Award recognizes individual contributions to innovation or leadership in libraries or information management, professional organizations, publications/research, or the community at large. Our winner this year, Janine Miller ‘82, is no stranger to awards. After receiving several as a student, in 2001 she was the first ever recipient of the Denis Marshall Memorial Award for Excellence in Library Administration. Two years later, she was elected President of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, a position she held until 2005. Ms. Miller began her career in 1982 as a partner in a library consulting firm, where she stayed for 14 years. In 1986, she began her eleven-year span as Director of Law Libraries at the Law Society of Upper Canada, where Ms. Miller oversaw the Great Library. But it was her role as Project Manager for CanLII that earned her the Alumni Jubilee award. In 1998, under the Federation of Law Societies, Ms. Miller and the committee began to develop a free virtual law library, called CanLII. The energy and dedication she has devoted to the realization of CanLII will benefit the legal profession, the public, and the library community for years to come.

**Student News**

**Biggest Incoming Class Gatherings for first ever Meet ’n Greet**

Nearly 180 students joined us for a Fun ‘n Informative Meet ’n Greet. On Thursday, June 21, 2007, 160 incoming students met our faculty members, staff, and current FIS students to learn about course planning, registration, fee payments, and have all their questions answered. Students packed two rooms, filling them to capacity while listening to talks, and then toured our facilities. The night before, incoming students outside the Toronto area were invited to join us virtually for an online Meet ’n Greet. Almost 20 students from Canada, England, and the United States posed questions to Jens-Erik Mai and Judy Dunn during this chat session. We look forward to hosting similar information sessions again next year.

**FIS Graduates Involved in Exciting New Projects at CBC**

Two 2007 FIS graduates, Lisa Daavin and Mike MacSween, are thrilled to have found positions with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto. Leone Earls, Operations Manager of Libraries & Archives for the CBC, says that in the past few years they have realized the important role that librarians and information professionals can play in the advancement of digital, archival, and media work. In fact, the number of librarians now working in CBC Toronto tops 100 with several being recruited from FIS. Mike will be working in the TV newsroom as part of the corporation’s desktop television initiative. News will be shot, stored, archived and made retrievable in digital format. Lisa will be working in the Visual Resources Library where she will be cataloguing news programs and tapes, as well as providing visual research for both news and current affairs shows. Eventually, says Earls, as the CBC fully embraces server technology and Desktop TV, tape as a permanent storage medium will disappear. Lisa and Mike made terrific contributions to the Interim Library this past year and we congratulate them on their new positions.

**FIS Student First Toronto NCSU Library Fellow**

The Faculty of Information Studies is proud of recent MIST graduate, Hyun-Duk Chung, who is the first Toronto graduate ever admitted to the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries Fellows Program. Located in Raleigh, North Carolina, NCSU operates the distinguished Libraries Fellows Program to develop future leaders for academic libraries. Hyun-Duk’s outstanding work with digital projects helped her secure the fellowship: in the course of her graduate program, she contributed to a digital library of North Korean photographs at the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, University of Toronto, and an inventory of materials of historical value for a potential digital repository at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. During her two-year term as a member of the NCSU library faculty, Hyun-Duk is building on her reference and instructional experience in her home department of Research and Information Services, and working on her assignment in digital publishing.

**FIS Doctoral Student Krista Boa Wins Adel S. Sedra Distinguished Graduate Award**

FIS doctoral student Krista Boa won the prestigious Adel S. Sedra Distinguished Graduate Award, which was presented to her at the 2007 Awards of Excellence ceremony on May 9, in the Great Hall of Hart House. The Award provides up to $25,000 for doctoral candidates recognizing academic achievement, extra-curricular leadership, and involvement in the life of the University. In her acceptance speech, Ms. Boa said she was deeply honoured to have the award presented by the actual sponsor, Professor Adel Sedra. A talented, bilingual student, Ms. Boa will use the award to continue her studies on how technology-based identification systems, such as machine-readable travel documents and national ID cards, are framed in public debate and the implications for public policy decision-making.

Ms. Boa has been busy since receiving her award. In June, she attended a week long Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar, and presented her work on “Conceptualization of Identity in Canadian Identification Systems” with FIS Professor Andrew Clamett at the National ID Card Systems International Research Workshop at Queens’ University. To make room in her busy schedule, Ms. Boa stepped down as the Doctoral Student Association President after two terms, but accepted a seat on the University’s Honorary Degree Committee this fall as the graduate student representative. She is looking forward to presenting a paper in mid-October as part of a panel on identity and surveillance at the 4S conference in Montreal.
FIS Chooses Student for CLA Conference Award

First-year FIS student, Krista Jorgensen, was chosen for the “Student to CLA” program this past spring. She was “truly honored” to represent FIS at the CLA/APLA/NLLA National Conference & Trade Show, held in beautiful, historic St. John’s, Newfoundland from May 23 to 26, 2007. In the MIST program’s Library and Information Sciences stream, Ms. Jorgensen had her registration, meals, and accommodation covered by CLA, and her transportation paid for by FIS and FISSC. She said she thrived to have met a wide range of library and information professionals at the conference. After graduation, she hopes to make a difference in a small public library system by helping to change the traditional perception of library spaces and increase community involvement in library programming.

The Faculty was also very pleased that a conference registration fee was donated anonymously to a second-year student. This was awarded to Marilyn Carr-Harris, also a MIST student in the Library and Information Science stream.

FIS NeWS continued

Faculty News

Highly Coveted SSHRC Grant Awarded to Prof. Nadia Caidi

Access to public (i.e., government-held) information is one of today’s most pressing political issues in a post-9/11 world, especially for information managers, librarians, and archivists. FIS Professor Nadia Caidi has been awarded a prestigious SSHRC grant to research and understand the various threats to citizens’ rights to access public information since the terrorist attacks of 2001. The grant of $65,000, will be used over a period of three years (2007-2010) to fund Prof. Caidi’s project: “The Public’s Right to Know Post 9/11: A Comparative Analysis.” The study will analyze the legislation and mechanisms that deal with the provision and dissemination of public information in various countries (Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, South Africa, and Israel), along with the responses to, or consequences of, those changes in the law for two information institutions, libraries, and the news media. The aim is to assess how these countries have responded to 9/11 through their national security legislation, and how these policies align with historical developments toward access to information. A book proposal on these themes has already been accepted by Blackwell Publishing for its ICA/Blackwell Series on “Communication in the Public Interest” (scheduled to appear in 2009).

One of Prof. Caidi’s first year PhD students, Diane Dechle, also received a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship for her work on “Identity Matters: Immigrants’ Encounters with Canadian Documentation Practices.”

Faculty Transitions

The Faculty is saddened to announce the departures of Professors Nadine Wathen and Paulette Rothbauer, who have re-joined their alma mater, the University of Western Ontario. With a background in Psychology and Library and Information Sciences, Prof. Wathen helped develop the curriculum for the new Joint Program in Health Informatics at U of T, which is a partnership with the Faculty of Medicine. “FIS will very much miss her energy, optimism, commitment to health information practice, and participation in our joint program with the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME),” remarked Dean Brian Cantwell Smith in a recent announcement. Prof. Rothbauer has also been a wonderful colleague and member of the Faculty since completing her doctoral degree in 2004. An excellent researcher and children’s literature professor, she has contributed greatly to the lives of students and to the entire Faculty. “FIS will miss her commitments, her passions, and the values she has stood for while a faculty member at FIS,” said the Dean. On behalf of the whole FIS community, please join us in expressing thanks to both Professors Wathen and Rothbauer for their contributions to the Faculty of Information Studies.

U of T Receives $2.5 Million for Interface Design

In April, a U of T-led project that will help universities provide more consistent and accessible web services to all users internationally, including those with special needs, was chosen by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (based in the U.S.) for $2.5 million in support. The collaborative project, called FLUID, is led by Jutta Treviranus, director of the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre (ATRC), housed at FIS. Her group will help develop and distribute modular, re-useable, swapable interface components for web applications and build the software architecture to support their implementation. FLUID will also raise awareness in academic web culture about the importance of good interface design. The project’s core partners are the University of California at Berkeley, University of Cambridge, University of British Columbia, and York University (in addition to many other participating universities worldwide). Corporate partners include IBM, Sun Microsystems, and Yahoo; participating community source software projects include Sakai, uPortal, Moodle, and Kuali Student. The overall project budget for this phase of FLUID is well over $6 million dollars with more than $3.5 million to be spent at the University of Toronto. Please visit fluidproj.og or atrc.utoronto.ca for more information.

Prestigious IBM Award for Inclusive Design Research Given to ATRC

FIS Professor Stephen Hochens and Adaptive Technology Resource Centre (ATRC) Director, Jutta Treviranus, were awarded highly competitive IBM Corporation Faculty Awards for 2007. The ATRC within FIS is an internationally recognized centre of expertise on inclusive design of information technology. With IBM’s support, these researchers are developing an “Ajax software development kit” that will produce accessible software. The gift, which totals more than $81,000, recognizes ATRC’s importance to the industry, quality of the program, and these researchers’ achievements. Research and development at the ATRC focuses on influencing the early design stages of emerging technologies to ensure that the technologies and practices support human diversity. IBM shares interest in advancing technology as it strives to lead in the invention, development and manufacture of the industry’s most advanced information technologies, including computer systems, software, storage systems and microelectronics. The IBM Faculty Awards are awarded annually, and are reviewed each year for possible renewal.
Catching up with… Kyle Rae ’87

The Faculty of Information Studies is proud that our alumni make such valuable contributions to the profession, their workplaces, and to the community. Masters and doctoral degrees in hand, our graduates work in libraries, museums, IT companies, archives, government agencies, and law firms, among other organizations. But for one alumnus, the need to make changes in Canada’s largest city has become a life-long commitment to the greater good.

Class of 1987 alum Kyle Rae is City Councillor for Ward 27 Toronto Centre — Rosedale. First elected to Council in 1991, he has been re-elected or acclaimed (2000) in subsequent elections.

Recently, Councillor Rae attended the 20-year anniversary celebration of his class’s graduation from FIS, where he enjoyed meeting with fellow classmates and speaking with his constituents, including FISAA President Karen Wierucki ’80. He was often asked by fellow alumni what made him stray so far from his Library Science degree. “Equality and gay liberation were more compelling and urgent; however, if you visit my office and my filing room, you’ll find that I haven’t drifted very far!” he says.

As a politician, Councillor Rae has had the opportunity to help protect established neighbourhoods in the City of Toronto by securing more affordable housing and assisting in the creation of new parks and open spaces. He has also vigorously supported the City’s cultural institutions including the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art and the National Ballet School.

Recognized as one of Canada’s principal gay rights advocates, Councillor Rae has often found himself at the forefront of equality battles in Canada, supporting same-sex partner benefits, the rights of survivors to receive pension benefits under the Canada Pension Plan, and more recently, the right to marry. He and his partner, Mark, were one of the first gay couples in Canada to legally formalize their relationship following the Ontario Court of Appeal decision.

One of his biggest accomplishments began 27 years ago after police arrested more than 250 men in several Toronto bathhouses. As a public reaction to the raids, Councillor Rae helped organize the first Pride Parade that same year, and was surprised when more than 800 people showed up. What began as a public response has become one of Toronto’s major annual events that attracts more than a million people to the City.

Anyone wishing to contact Councillor Rae can email him at councillor_rae@toronto.ca, or call him at 416.392.7903.

In Memoriam

The Faculty would like to pay tribute and send our most heartfelt condolences to family members of the following FIS graduates who passed away between July 1, 2006 and 2007.

If you know of any FIS alumni that have passed away in the last year, but are not listed here, please let us know at 416.978.7184 or alumni@fis.utoronto.ca, and we will include them in the next issue of Informed.

Ms. Mary Ash (BLS ’65)
September 13, 2006

Mrs. Janet Bartley (BLS ’39)
Mrs. Bartley, age 90 years, passed away peacefully in Thunder Bay on March 8, 2007. Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, she graduated from Acadia University (BA) and the University of Toronto (MA ’38, BLS ’39), and worked as a librarian at U of T until relocating to Atikokan with her husband in 1940. She fondly remembered her days living at Skunk Hallow on the shores of Steep Rock Lake. Mrs. Bartley moved to Port Arthur where she continued her career as a librarian at the public library. Memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Alzheimer Society, or to the charity of your choice.

Miss Joan Clarkson (BLS ’54)
Miss Clarkson died peacefully at home on March 13, 2007, in her 78th year. She graduated from Trinity College and attained her second degree in Library Science in 1939 at the University of Toronto. She had a long and fulfilling career as a librarian at U of T. Miss Clarkson will be sorely missed by the Toronto Maple Leafs as she was their greatest fan.

Ms. Jessie R. Cox (MLS ’80)
September 8, 2006

Mr. Donald B. Gammon (BLS ’52)
May 15, 2007

Mrs. Marjory B. George (Dip. Lib. ’36, BLS ’39)
December 11, 2006

Adam Penn Gilders (PhD English ’02)
Mr. Gilders passed away March 3, 2007, of a brain tumour at the age of 36. Adam was a student at FIS but dropped out in his first term (fall of 2005) because of his illness. He was an instructor at the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto, and an accomplished writer in Toronto. His stories appeared in The Walrus, The Paris Review, and J&L Illustrated. Dear only son of Carla (Penn) and Clayton Gilders and stepson of Chris Bartle, Mr. Gilders can be remembered through a donation to the Adam Penn Gilders Writers Scholarship Trust Fund.

Mr. John F. Hatton (BLS ’54)
December 10, 2006

Mrs. Barbara J. Hinton (BLS ’51)
August 19, 2006

Mrs. Eileen M. L. Hodgson (Dip. Lib. ’36)
November 17, 2006
In Memoriam

Mrs. E. Gwennyth Housby (BLS ’59)
August 28, 2006

Miss Margaret P. J. Kinsella (BLS ’66)
February 12, 2007

Mrs. Edith L. Liu (BLS ’66, MLS ’73)
September 9, 2006

Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Burns Martin (BLS ’53)
Ms. Burns Martin died on December 5, 2006 at her Halifax home at the age of 77. Born in Toronto, she obtained a B.A. from Trinity College at U of T; and a library degree from U of T in 1953. She was a cataloguer at the Harvard College Library, and spent nearly 37 years as a librarian with the Halifax City Regional Library. She was a charter member of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and was principal researcher, photographer and writer of two books on Nova Scotia’s historic buildings, Founded Upon a Rock and South Shore, Vol. 2 of Seasoned Timbers. A woman of many interests, she was active in the Brownie and Girl Guide movement and a member of many cultural groups including the Jane Austen Society, and Opera Nova Scotia. An avid world traveller, she also enjoyed cycling around Halifax. Her remarkable memory and keen sense of humour will be greatly missed. (excerpted from notice in The Halifax Chronicle Herald, December 2006)

Mrs. E. Mary McMahon (BLS ’48)
February 3, 2007

Professor Peter C. Moes (BLS ’54)
June 18, 2007

Mrs. Margaret "Maggie" Murray (BLS ’37)
After a brief illness and 96 productive years, Margaret "Maggie" (Baird) Murray died on July 9, 2007. Born in Outremont, Quebec, she lived most of her adult life in her beloved downtown Toronto. After working as a teacher she obtained a library science degree at U of T in 1937 and subsequently worked at the Toronto Public Library, the Ontario Addiction Research Foundation, TransCanada Airlines, and the Ontario School of Hygiene. She finished a distinguished career as chief librarian for the U of T Law School. A warm and loyal friend with a passionate belief in the value of literacy and education as the keys to success and fulfillment, she loved attending concerts, plays, music and dance events, was an active volunteer, and a prodigious and talented knitter. Memorial donations may be made to the Osborne & Lillian H. Smith Trust Fund, 239 College Street, Toronto, ON, M5T 1R5. (excerpted from notice in The Globe and Mail, July 20, 2007)

Mr. Donald J. Nethery (BLS ’70)
July 24, 2006

Mrs. Katherine Packer (B.A. ’41)
Retired professor and former FIS Dean, Prof. Packer passed away in the fall of 2006. After joining the U of T School of Library Science in 1967, she became Dean in 1979 and served in this role until her retirement in 1984. Prof. Packer was a cataloguer at the U of T Library and Chief Librarian at the Ontario College of Education before returning to U of T as an Assistant Professor. During her term as Dean of the Faculty, she was the prime mover in developing an Information Science program. She realized that the impact of new technology on information should be a special focus of library science, and steered the Faculty toward information technology as well as setting up collaborations with other campus departments. It was under her leadership that, in 1982, the Faculty changed its name to the Faculty of Library and Information Science. Prof. Packer then overhauled the MLS curriculum, increasing information science options, emphasizing areas of research strength, and introducing more flexibility in course selection. She is remembered by faculty and students for her determination and dedication to library and information science, and for shaping FIS into the professional school that it is today. (excerpted from obituary in The Globe and Mail, November 3, 2006.)

Mrs. Marion E. Seary (BLS ’62)
February 2007

Mrs. Patricia M. Stafford (BLS ’50)
October 20, 2006

Mrs. Ruth K. Stedman (BLS ’42)
July 9, 2006

Mrs. Shirley J. Veness (BLS ’69)
November 21, 2006

Ms. Joyce Watson (BLS ’67)
May 15, 2007

Miss Eva Webb (BLS ’44)
July 13, 2006

Miss Alma Webster (BLS ’47, MLS ’69)
Miss Webster, whose advocacy had a profound impact on the profession of librarianship, was a strong voice for the deaf and hearing-impaired. She passed away at age 86 on March 6, 2007. Having severe hearing loss herself, Miss Webster had to read twice as much as her colleagues to keep up her studies, but excelled in school, earning a BLS in 1947 and MLS from the U of T in 1969. She co-founded the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and, in 1990, with court reporter Sandra German, helped promote CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation), a system is now used universally in which a stenographer’s words are instantly projected onto a screen for the hard of hearing. After the Second World War, she became one of the Edmonton public board’s first full-time librarians, and was promoted to library supervisor, helping transform the libraries of other schools. As head librarian of the Edmonton Public School Board, she presided over the “golden years” of school libraries in the 1970s. (excerpt reprinted from The Edmonton Journal, Tuesday, April 17, 2007)

Ms. Jean I. Williams (BLS ’52)
October 13, 2006

Dr. Sydney F. Wise (BLS ’50)
March 8, 2007
Since the last Class Notes, graduates have experienced many personal and professional changes and victories, having secured new jobs, written books, and taken up new hobbies. Many 2007 MIST, Doctoral, and MMST graduates are now working at their first full-time jobs!

Over 2006-2007, alumni found themselves employed in a variety of fields, making immense contributions to libraries, archives, museums, IT companies, government agencies, academia, law firms, and other organizations around the world.

1962
John Miska
Since graduation, I’ve been a librarian but have also added author, translator of literary works, and bibliographer to my list of passions. Past readers of Informed will recall my earlier submissions regarding Canadian Studies on Hungarians (1987), and Ethnic and Native Canadian Literature (1990), two major bibliographies I have compiled. I invite classmates to visit the ‘Memoirs’ section of my new website (www.johnmiska.com), available in both Hungarian and English, if you would like to read about my time at FIS.

1965
Mary Lou Dickinson
I grew up in northern Quebec and did my B.A. at McGill before moving to Toronto, completing a BLS in 1965 and MLS in 1976. As well as studying, doing alternative work in the library field, and spending many years as a crisis counsellor for assaulted women, I have pursued a passion for writing. In May 2007, my first book, One Day It Happens, a collection of short stories, was published and is available in bookstores or through the publisher’s website www.yorku.ca/inanna. My fiction has also been published in the University of Windsor Review, Descant, Waves, Grain, Northern Journey, Impulse, and Write, and broadcast on CBC Radio. A short piece was included in the anthology, We Who Can Fly: Poems, Essays and Memories in Honour of Adele Wiseman. Please join me Tuesday, September 25 at 7 p.m., when I will be reading at the Locke branch of the Toronto Public Libraries. Hope to see you there!

1972
Ashley Thomson

1974
Vicki Milnes
I have worked at the Service Canada Library (formerly Labour Canada; Human Resources Development Canada) in Ottawa for over 30 years in technical services and am preparing to retire in October. My duties include selection using publishers’ catalogues and library catalogues, compiling statistics, quality control of circulation patron records, compiling bibliographies with abstracts, and updating links to electronic publications in the library catalogue. When someone asked whether I had a certain book in my office, I said, ‘Not likely! I have changed into a virtual librarian!’

1975
Eric Sangwine
I am currently the program librarian at the Northview Branch, Oshawa Public Libraries, and am also an artist and historian. My illustrations for medieval library curses were displayed at FIS during the anniversary celebrations a few years ago. You may be interested in learning that the current issue (#51) of the American magazine Renaissance (sold at Chapters stores in Canada) contains a feature article about my art. Ten of my paintings are reproduced in colour with explanatory notes. I really enjoyed presenting a program about medieval library curses in Oshawa on March 7, 2007. Apparently, old sayings, like old librarians (i.e., me), never fade. They just keep on trekking! Feel free to e-mail me at svcre@yahoo.ca.

1981
Martin R. Dowding
This note is to let my many co-graduates and friends from FIS know that since July 2006, I have been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies, at Wilfrid Laurier University, in Waterloo, Ontario. I teach courses on the history of communication and communication policy. I came to Laurier after teaching for five years at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) at the University of British Columbia.

1990
Margaret Fulford
Margaret was named University College Librarian, University of Toronto, and began her new role on August 1, 2007. In her former position at U of T’s Faculty of Dentistry, she was responsible for the overall management and administration of the Dental Library. She led the library in the efficient and innovative use of new technologies and was recognized for her creativity and initiative. Margaret was also actively involved in a variety of committees within the Faculty of Dentistry as well as in the library system.

2007
Hammad Alam, MSt
Wow, every time I look at it feels great to see that degree framed above my reading table. Since graduation I have been working as a team lead maintaining a global enterprise network. Now I’m going to visit my home city of Karachi. I hope you all enjoyed your summer.

Fadi Al-Buhairan, MIST
I’ve decided to continue my education and have been accepted into the PhD program in Information Systems and Technology at the Claremont Graduate University in California, where my wife and I moved at the end of August. I am specializing in “e-health/health informatics” and have also been awarded a fellowship position at the University’s Kay e-health Research Center. Keep in touch!

Vic Chung, MSt
I graduated in March 2007 and since February 2007, have been working with Business Objects SA in Vancouver as a dedicated instructor. My role involves maintaining premium support accounts and providing engineering support to strategic customers. I currently manage support accounts for Southwest Airlines, AON Corporation, Comair, Bank of New York, and Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

Kathryn Copeland, MSt
I am working at the Fish Creek branch of the Calgary Public Library as a Branch Librarian - Youth Services.
Class Notes continued

Jessie Cunningham, MIS
I have accepted a position with the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion’s Strategic Planning and Policy Branch as a policy analyst/librarian. The library portion of my job includes (but is not limited to) providing research and document delivery support as well as collection development, interlibrary loans, and cataloguing.

Sonja El-Gohary, MIS
I am currently working as a researcher for www.classifile.com. The founder is in the process of creating a new database that will provide access to supplementary resources for children, parents, and teachers in the United Kingdom. My job is to find age-appropriate websites that correspond with the national curriculum in each of the key stages. The founder of the website feels that this will provide equal opportunity to all children and parents regardless of their computer literacy. I am enjoying this job, and sadly, learning a great deal about subjects a 10-year-old should know.

Marcel Faulkner, MIS
I’m now working as a contract librarian at the Saltfleet Library, part of the Hamilton Public Library system. Unfortunately, the job was slated to end in early August. Now that I have a little free time again, I’m playing in an ice hockey league for the first time since 1973. It is stupendously fun and, although I’m not that great a player, my goal is to make the NHL by the time I’m 60.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, MIS
My job as a Librarian/Market Research Information Specialist Intern with the MaRS Venture Group is a one-year contract that will see me working out of the new MaRS building at College and University streets in Toronto. I am providing secondary research services to MaRS staff and clients, in particular the Innovations Group at U of T, which is the commercialization/technology transfer arm of the university. The Group is sponsoring my position through the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion’s Training, Colleges and Universities, on a nine-month contract to March 2008. The Ministry is conducting evidence-based research into the future human capital needs of Ontario, so I will take the lead role in developing, implementing, and maintaining a knowledge management strategy for the duration of the project. Some of my responsibilities include developing and implementing policy, procedures, tools, and staff training to effectively manage the information assets of the project, including processes for information storage, retrieval, and dissemination.

Alex Gates, MMIS
I accepted a job offer as the first Director/Curator of the North Berrien Historical Society in Coloma, Michigan, and started in June. I am close to Chicago so it’s a great location for a first job. The position offers a number of challenges and great opportunities for growth: I’m tackling all sorts of museum issues from collections management and curating exhibits, to making brochures and managing volunteers. Feel free to visit if you’re in Michigan’s Great Southwest!

Kelly Holmes, MIS
I’m working part-time as a Children’s Librarian for the Downsview branch of the Toronto Public Library. I’m also living in the Beaches and reading Harry Potter with a view of Lake Ontario from my door!

Amy Kaufman, MIS
I’m now a Public Services Librarian at the Faculty of Law at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. As part of my job I will be teaching a new course, “Legal Research and Writing,” to all first-year law students. I’d love to hear what my friends from FIS are up to! E-mail me at kaufman@queensu.ca.

Yasmin Morais, MIS
I have been offered a two-year residency at Georgetown University’s Law Library in Washington, D.C., which began on July 2. I am very excited about the position as I am interested in law librarianship and specifically international law. All the very best to FIS staff and my classmates.

Geoffrey Little, MIS
Since June I’ve been working as Communications Coordinator and Adjunct Reference Librarian at Yale University Library in New Haven, Connecticut. I’m responsible for the library’s communications and outreach initiatives, publications, and exhibits within the Sterling Memorial Library. Yale’s stunningly beautiful central research library. Despite some initial misgivings about moving to the United States, and a steep learning curve, I can’t think of a better place to be. Not only am I engaged in library activities involving students, faculty, staff, and members of the New Haven community, but I also get to work with Yale’s exceptional collections, resources, and incredibly talented professional staff. I miss my friends and family back in Toronto (I also missed my Convocation), but this experience is an incredible — and often challenging — opportunity to be involved in the administration of a major international research library.

Jessica Postgate, MIS
After an increasingly discouraging job hunt, I landed a dream contract: Digitization Project Facilitator at the Grey Highlands Public Library, in South Grey County, Ontario. The library has three branches, in Flesherton, Kimberley and Markdale. The aim of the project is to digitize two local newspapers and create a website dedicated to local hero, Agnes Macphail. Aside from working with wonderful people — public librarians! — I am living in one of the most spectacular corners of Ontario and enjoying every day at the job and in the countryside. My work draws on almost every course I took at FIS, but I am finding that some of my best resources are my colleagues from school. That’s where the treasure is.

Jill Ruby, MIS
I am the new Knowledge Management Policy Analyst at the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, on a nine-month contract to March 2008. The Ministry is conducting evidence-based research into the future human capital needs of Ontario, so I will take the lead role in developing, implementing, and maintaining a knowledge management strategy for the duration of the project. Some of my responsibilities include developing and implementing policy, procedures, tools, and staff training to effectively manage the information assets of the project, including processes for information storage, retrieval, and dissemination.

Norah Xiao, MIS
Currently I am a Librarian at the Science and Engineering Library at the University of Southern California. Within the team, I provide all types of information services to the USC science and engineering community, such as reference and research, collection development, information literacy training, etc. My subject-specialized areas are chemistry (physical sciences), aerospace engineering, and mechanical engineering. I also work on leveraging new technologies to connect our users to our library services and resources, which is very fun and challenging! I can be reached at norah_xiao@yahoo.com.
We gratefully acknowledge the alumni, friends, faculty, staff, foundations, and corporations listed below that have generously donated to the Faculty of Information Studies, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous. You have a special relationship with us and we appreciate your devotion to advancing education, to supporting our students, and to strengthening the practices and communities of Information and Museums Studies.

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The Presidents’ Circle is the Leadership Annual Giving Society for the University of Toronto. The new giving level of $1,827 is historically relevant as it reflects the year 1827, in which the University of Toronto was granted its Royal Charter.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the proper recognition of a gift are invited to join the King’s College Circle Heritage Society. For more information, please contact Kathleen O’Brien at 416.978.7184 or alumni@fis.utoronto.ca.
Looking back at
Spring Reunion
2007