INCOMING DEAN
SEAMUS ROSS

Spring Reunion Photos

Graduates: Where Are They Now?

New Scholarships Established

Why Are Fewer Women Entering Technology Fields?
CONTRIBUTORS

Editor:
Kathleen O’Brien

Editorial Board:
Judy Donnelly ’87
Judy Dunn
Kathleen O’Brien

Designer and Printing:
Maud Street Group

A special thank you to the following contributors:
Ashley Bedard
Julia Brewster
Tasha Caswell ’07
Christine Chan
Joe Cox ’84
Laura Jantek
Eva Kupidura ’92
Professor Kelly Lyons
Claire Lysnes ’04
Professor Jens-Erik Mai
Sara Tavakolian
Kathleen Scheaffer ’07
Peggy Sinclair ’78

Letters, comments, and address updates can be sent to:
Kathleen O’Brien
Editor, Informed
Faculty of Information, University of Toronto
140 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 3G6
Tel. 416.978.7184
E-mail: kathleen.obrien@utoronto.ca
Website: www.ischool.utoronto.ca

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DEAR EDITOR:

I'm writing because, while in the process of sending a Christmas card to my friend Primrose Bredl, I was daydreaming about Canada and thought, hmm, I'm going to Google her name. Two hits came up, one being a notice of her demise (Informed, 2005). I wanted to let you know that she is alive and well at age 94; she is, in fact, pretty sharp! She has a sense of humor and will enjoy the note of her demise. However, I know you want your files to be correct. I was wondering if you would send her a “recant of her passing” – worth a chuckle or hearty laugh for her. She took her profession as a librarian here in Port Angeles [Washington] very seriously and was very good at it. She still has many admirers. She has moved a few times in the past 20 years, and is now living at a residence in the mountains close to town.

Linda Button
(e-mail, December 17, 2007)

Editor’s response: Yes indeed, we accidentally included Ms. Bredl’s name in the listing of those who had passed away that year. We sincerely apologize for this unfortunate error. Returned mail prompted the University’s computer system to label her as “possibly” deceased, and unfortunately the editing process failed to catch this all-important cautionary word and it slipped through. We have contacted Ms. Bredl with our most red-faced apologies. As with any publication, mistakes can be made, so thank you for bringing this error to our attention so that we had the opportunity to correct it.

To All:
I was grieved to read in the September ‘07 issue of Informed about the passing of former FIS Dean, Katherine Packer. I worked with her and corresponded with her at an earlier time in my life and remember her with great fondness.

With best wishes and deepest sympathy,
Cecilia L. Peterson
BLS 1961
(letter, December 2007)

Dear Editor:

Congratulations! I have visited a while ago the last issue of Informed on the Internet and was most impressed with what I saw. Yesterday, my good colleague, Pamela Hardisty, passed the printed version on to me. It’s a wonderful experience to see the issue in this form. It is rich in contents; the articles and reports are most informative and well-written. It is a people’s periodical. It is youthful in tone and colourful, a pleasure to read. Thank you for including my announcement of the Miska website. Wishing you further success in the New Year.

With kindest regards,
John Miska
(email, January 2008)
STAFF at the Faculty of Information faced an important challenge this spring. Our beloved dean, **Brian Cantwell Smith**, was stepping down after five dedicated years in which he doubled the faculty in size, spearheaded a name change, and made us Canada’s first Information School. But more than being a visionary leader, Dean Cantwell Smith is a warm, open finesser of ideas, someone who never minimizes the nuances and importance of other peoples’ thoughts or character. He revels in the complications of life and his own engagement with it.

So how then, could we easily sum up his contributions, his accomplishments, his profound effect on our working lives, and indeed the lives of future members of this community?

Name a discussion area after him. Capture that spirit of engagement, of practice, meet face-to-face, and bunt ideas around. Anyone who knows Brian can attest that he loves to discuss ideas over his daily quad grande skinny latte.

To put these two passions together as a gift to Brian, the Faculty would like to create the "Brian Cantwell Smith Ideas Exchange" – a public space for students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors to grab an espresso, chat, express ideas, and on occasion, hear lectures.

As soon as we can raise enough money, we will build this communal space on the fourth floor in the Inforum. We hope to invite donors, friends, staff and colleagues to come back in a year’s time for an official dedication.

We will, however, be relying on donations to help us renovate the space, add functional furniture, and buy that ever important espresso machine. If you wish to help, please see the form below.

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**THE BRIAN CANTWELL SMITH IDEAS EXCHANGE DONATION FORM**

To help the Brian Cantwell Smith Ideas Exchange become a reality, please fill in this form and mail/fax to address/number below. Thank you in advance for your donation. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts $20 and higher.

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**Amount:** ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ other $________

**Name:** ____________________________________________

**Address:** __________________________________________

**Telephone:** ____________________________ **Email:** ____________________________

**By credit card – please fill in spaces below (Visa or MasterCard only)**

**Credit card #:** ____________________________ **Expire date:** ____________________________

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**By Mail – Complete this form and enclose a cheque made out to “University of Toronto”. Mail to “Dean Brian Cantwell Smith Ideas Exchange” / Faculty of Information, University of Toronto / 140 St. George Street, Toronto, ON M5S 3G6**

**By Phone – To donate by phone, please call Kathleen at (416) 978.7184**

**By Fax – Fax this form to 416.978.5762**
THE FACULTY has gone through several major transformations this year. First, we have successfully recruited a new dean who will begin on January 1, 2009. Seamus Ross comes to us from Glasgow, Scotland, to take over from Brian Cantwell Smith who stepped down as dean on June 30, 2008, after serving the Faculty for five years. In that time, he dramatically changed and expanded the iSchool. Brian will be on a well-deserved sabbatical until next summer when he returns to the Faculty as Professor, and Director of the Coach House Institute.

Second, you will have noticed that we changed our name to the Faculty of Information. This change follows the trend of other North American (and a few international) Information Schools. While this modification may not seem dramatic — merely dropping “studies” from the name — it does signal more fundamental changes for the Faculty.

We are broadening the scope of the Faculty and adding more areas of specialization while maintaining our strengths in Library and Information Science, Archives and Records Management, Museum Studies, and Information Systems.

The third transformation relates to our faculty roster. I am pleased to welcome seven new faculty members: Jennifer Carter, Alan Galey, Jenna Hartel, Heather MacNeil, and Matt Ratto, who joined us this summer, Aviv Shachak who joined us in October 2007, and Kelly Lyons who was recruited in January 2008. They will help us move the Faculty forward and increase the number of subject areas we cover.

This growth, however, requires more space. Thus, the fourth development is that the Faculty has acquired additional office facilities on the third floor of the New College residence at 45 Willcocks Avenue. We have dubbed this area “iSouth.” This expansion has almost doubled our space.

Lastly, please join me at the Bertha Bassam Lecture by David Weinberger on October 23, 2008. Dr. Weinberger is the author of the critically-acclaimed book, *Everything Is Miscellaneous: The Power of the New Digital Disorder*, which questions long-held assumptions about how information is catalogued and classified. I enjoyed this book, and it has changed my thinking about information, classification, and the skills required of graduates of this Faculty. I hope you will find his lecture intriguing, and that it will make you think about what the future holds for us.

Although Prof. Ross works in Scotland, he was born in the United States, where he earned his BA from Vassar College, and his MA from the University of Pennsylvania. He obtained his DPhil from the University of Oxford. Prof. Ross is a committed member of a number of national and international organizations, steering groups, and project committees, including the International Advisory Board for Preserving Access to our Digital Future (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill), and the Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences).

We will be organizing a welcome reception for Prof. Ross shortly after his arrival. Watch for details!
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Bob Henderson ’75 Wins Arbor Award**

Alumnus Robert (Bob) Henderson received the University of Toronto’s prestigious Arbor Award for 2007-08. He was recognized for his outstanding level of committed volunteerism to the Faculty of Information since 2001. As an Alumni Association Director for the Faculty, Mr. Henderson regularly advises on the strategic direction the Executive should take on many initiatives, providing thoughtful insight, practical ideas, and seasoned advice.

**“Ask an Alum” Program Quadruples**

Current and prospective students often have questions about their field of study, the career market, and “life after” their studies. In response, almost a dozen wonderful alumni have volunteered to be put in touch with Information students through the Alumni Association’s “Ask an Alum” program. Thank you to Hyun-Duck Chung ’07, Charles Dunham ’05, Julie Hannaford ’02, Michelle Hendley ’98, John Hermans ’97, Dave Hook ’00, Carole Linton MacFarquhar ’76, Jessica Posgate ’07, Kristine Carlson Wall ’78, Colin Wiginton ’91, and Matt Wong ’07.

**Chief Librarian Josephine Bryant ’70 ’74 Retires**

Congratulations to alumna Josephine Bryant who retired in June after an illustrious four-decade career, which included ten years as Chief Librarian for the Toronto Public Library (TPL). This highly respected librarian’s key achievement was overseeing the amalgamation of seven library systems into the TPL. Professor Lynne Howarth, who has known “Jo” for more than 25 years, paid tribute: “In addition to having huge vision, a tireless brain, and a vice-like grip, Jo has a big, big heart for the future generation of public librarians.” Ms. Bryant was instrumental in establishing the Faculty of Information’s Scholarship in Public Librarianship, which has been awarded to eight students since its inception.

**Professor Nancy Williamson Wins Alumni Jubilee Award**

The Faculty of Information has many distinguished graduates. Each year, the Alumni Association recognizes individual contributions to innovation or leadership in libraries or information management, professional organizations, publications/research, or the community at large, with an Alumni Jubilee Award. For 2008, Professor Nancy Williamson ’50 ’64 was recognized for her long service to the Faculty and the Information community. Recognized by former students for her positive influence, energy, and enthusiasm, she received the award at the Faculty’s Spring Reunion on May 29. In her acceptance speech, Prof. Williamson discussed how she built her career. “Whenever I was asked to do something, I just said yes. I believe that shaped the rest of my career,” she said. Prof. Williamson is a renowned expert on cataloguing and has been a key participant on numerous national and international cataloguing standards committees. Since 1993, she has been involved in restructuring the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), and is also an active member of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO).

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**WITH** the start of the school year, the Alumni Association executive has begun planning events and initiatives of interest to alumni. Here is a peak at what is in store for 2008/2009:

- **September**: We migrated our website to the University of Toronto’s new online community for alumni, and welcome you to join us in the “Alumni Circle” at http://alumni.utoronto.ca/s/731/index.aspx. Our Facebook and LinkedIn groups will continue to exist as places for you to reconnect and network with fellow alumni.
- **October 23**: The Bertha Bassam Lecture will be held this fall in conjunction with the 80th Anniversary of the Faculty! We are lucky to have as our distinguished speaker, digital media expert Dr. David Weinberger, author of Everything is Miscellaneous: The Power of the New Digital Disorder.
- **November**: We will continue to offer conference grants to Master’s students. For conference reports from students, please see the Alumni Circle website (http://alumni.utoronto.ca/s/731/index.aspx).
- **January**: The highly successful Job Shadowing Program will resume.
- **May**: The Student and Alumni Jubilee Awards for 2008-2009 will be awarded in the spring. Congratulations to 2007-2008 recipients, graduating MISt student, Christina Hwang ’08 and alumna, Nancy Williamson ’50 ’64. Remember to send us your nominations!

The Alumni Association executive looks forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. Until then, email alumni@ischool.utoronto.ca to receive our monthly e-newsletter, or to submit ideas for events and initiatives.

Claire Lysnes, MISt ’04
President, Alumni Association
Faculty of Information

**Your Alumni Association**

All alumni-sponsored events and initiatives are overseen by the Faculty of Information’s Alumni Association. You are welcome to make suggestions or drop a line to any team member:

**PRESIDENT**
Claire Lysnes, MISt ’04
cllysnes@gmail.com

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Karen Wierucki, MLS ’80
wierucki@ontla.ola.org

**VICE-PRESIDENT**
Kimberly Silk, MISt ’98
kim@brightsail.com

**TREASURER**
Helen Katz, MLS ’75
helen.katz@utoronto.ca

**SECRETARY**
Cynthia Penman, MLS ’79
cynthia.penman@CIBC.com

**DIRECTORS**
Bob Henderson, MLS ’75
bob.superrover@gmail.com
Yasmin Khan, MISt ’02
ykhan@justice.gc.ca
Mike Meth, MISt ’06
michael.meth@utoronto.ca

Wiebke Smythe, MLS ’97
wiebke.smythe@sympatico.ca

Alison Stirling, MISt ’06
a.stirling@opc.on.ca

Ricardo Laskaris, MISt ’04
r.laskaris@sympatico.ca

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**
TBA

**EX-OFFICIO**
Judy Dunn
Assistant Dean, Academic & Program, Faculty of Information
judy.dunn@utoronto.ca

Kathleen O’Brien
Communications and Development Officer, Faculty of Information
kathleen.obrien@utoronto.ca

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SPRING REUNION 2008

Katharine Greenfield ‘43

(L-R): Jutta Szep ‘83, Carol Bonair ‘98, Janice Lavery ‘83, Debbie Green ‘83, and Frances McManus ‘83

Arthur and Clarice (’73) Henschel

Judy Dunn and Frances McManus ‘83

Nancy Williamson ’50 ’64, and Claire Lysnes ’04

Prof. Brian Land presented with Chancellor’s Medal

Judy Dunn and Aleksandra Sudmalis ’53

Members from the Class of ’78 gather at the Verity Club in Toronto. (L-R, front): Brenda Halliday, Peggy Sinclair, Esta Pomotov, Jean Wheeler, Louise McTerns, Mandy Gansler, Anita (Potsch) Good, Cynthia Fisher, Julie (Strauss) Karsh, Wesley Powell, Barbara Forsyth, Mary Lou Lamont, Penry Lipman and Carol Collver (L-R, back): Jackie Ward, Joan Colquhoun McCormack, Peter Bishop and Lynne Hawarth

Class of 1978 (30 years ago)
Dr. Ian Wilson Delights as I.P. Sharp Lecturer

It is important to safeguard the integrity of archival records while at the same time encouraging the public to use them. This was the key message of Dr. Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, as the distinguished I.P. Sharp Lecturer for 2008. "Our role is to establish a community of dialogue that occurs over time," he told a packed audience at Innis Hall. On March 13, Dr. Wilson discussed making information and historical records interesting to a wide range of audiences. By bringing together people, the collections, the expertise and the professional cultures of libraries, archives and museums, he says, the rewarding result is the Canadian experience passing from generation to generation. "It is then a source of enduring knowledge," he said.

The National Archives, established in 1872, houses unique items like 65 versions of our national anthem, more than 24 million photographs, and some of the most valuable assets Canadians own such as Native treaties, Constitutional records, and personal writings of author Lucy Maud Montgomery. Sometimes, Dr. Wilson says, the Archives help not just preserve, but establish history. For example, one of the most contested issues right now in Canadian history is the question of where the first hockey tournament took place. There are two communities in Nova Scotia in court fighting over this. But archival research on LAC’s website revealed that in 1827, Sir John Franklin had written letters while in the high arctic, which indicated that his men had been skating on the ice and playing hockey. History established by the public record! He urged Canadians to "never forget what has served us for the last century and a half."

Information Community Gives Back

The iSchool banded together on February 13 to save a reading program for homeless mothers and their children at Robertson House, a Toronto youth hostel. Literature for Life (LFL), an NGO that teaches at-risk young mothers to read to their children, needed $1,500 to keep operating at the shelter. But with no private donations or provincial grants this year, it looked like the program would close. "We couldn't let this happen," said Professor Wendy Duff. She and a student club dedicated to children's and youth literature organized a fundraising event, and exceeded the target by almost $300. The student club also held a Dean’s Tea on April 2 that raised more than $400 for the Osu Children's Library Fund in Ghana.

Faculty Continues Popular Annual Events

The second annual Career Fair saw a variety of prospective employers set up booths on February 29. Event co-chairs, Julia Brewster and Meghan Ecclestone, say the event was an excellent opportunity for students looking for part-time, summer, or full-time positions to make contacts and learn more about the organizations.

To highlight the breadth and depth of research at the Faculty, the annual Research Day was held to great success on March 14. The event provides an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to present and discuss their current research endeavors, showcase work, and let the Faculty, University, and the public know about the excellent research produced at the school.

On April 8, the 5th annual Connecting@FIS special libraries exhibition was launched at the Faculty of Information, allowing students to gain valuable practical experience in a special library setting. Students from Vicki Whitmell's class, Management of Corporate and Other Special Libraries, displayed the results of 28 various practicum projects they undertook in the special libraries community.

Famous Canadian Authors Read at Faculty

Two Dean's Teas were graced by private readings from distinguished Canadian authors Alissa York and Camilla Gibb. Both best-selling writers boast a long list of awards and accolades. Ms. York, who was nominated for a 2007 Scotiabank Giller Prize, was featured at the November 28, 2007 tea. She read from her book Effigy, discussed her writings, answered audience questions, and signed copies of the work. On March 13, 2008, the Faculty was delighted when Ms. Gibb read from her third novel, Sweetness in the Belly, shortlisted for the 2005 Giller Prize. A Trillium Book Award winner (2006), she discussed her influences as well as her reasons for writing the

Lynne Howarth and Clare Beghtol Named Full Professors

Professors Lynne Howarth and Clare Beghtol have been promoted to the rank of Full Professor. These deserving professors have demonstrated "exemplary leadership, excellent scholarship, and superb teaching" at the Faculty over many years, says former Dean Brian Cantwell Smith. Prof. Howarth, who served as Dean from 1995-2003, has expertise in cataloguing, classification, knowledge organization, bibliographic standards development, information audits, and workflow analysis. Prof.

FACULTY NEWS
Beghtol’s research specializations includes classification theory, domain analysis, and hierarchical and faceted classification systems.

Staff Member Celebrates 25 Years at Faculty
Our highly respected, wellliked and budget-conscious Assistant Dean, Administration, celebrated 25 years at the Faculty of Information. On February 28, Susan Brown was honoured for her dedication and the significant service she has given to the institution. U of T President David Naylor presented her with a special University of Toronto Twenty-Five Year Service Pin and commemorative certificate.

New Staff Join Faculty
The Faculty of Information is pleased to introduce six new permanent staff members: Christine Grace Chan joined the Student Services office as Receptionist and Student Services Assistant at the beginning of this calendar year. James Hallam has been revitalizing the Faculty of Information website since he was hired as Web Coordinator in August 2007. Glen Menzies returned to the Faculty in July, in a new role as Facilities Coordinator. Carol Ng joined the Student Services office as the Student Services Assistant in September 2007. Meera Thirunavukarasu has worked in the Inforum for over a year and a half, and recently received permanent status as the Information Desk Assistant – Acquisitions and Serials. Lastly, Areti Vourinaris joined the staff on February 14, 2008, as the Assistant to the Dean’s Office.

Former Faculty Secretary Passes Away
Rhea “Ricky” Cameron, whom many of you will remember as a secretary in the Dean’s office and on the 6th floor, passed away peacefully at her home on January 9, 2008. Beloved twin sister to Pat McKendry, she was born in Montreal, and lived mostly in Toronto, with Cuba always in her heart. Before retiring in 2006, she was a member of the U of T Staff Association Status of Women Committee, and helped bring about many positive changes. Ricky is fondly remembered by her colleagues.

Former Adjunct Professor Passes Away
On December 23, 2007, Marion Elizabeth Brown Roberts died peacefully at Christie Gardens, at 97 years old. Marion, dearly beloved wife of the late Frank Roberts, graduated with a BA from McMaster University and an MA from Brown University in Rhode Island. She was formerly head librarian of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto, and taught rare books courses at the Faculty of Information.

Professor Elected to Prestigious Council
Professor Kelly Lyons has been elected as a “Member at Large” to the Council of the Association for Computing Machinery, an association of students, academics, and industry members interested in advancing computing as a science and profession. Prof. Lyons, who will hold the position until June 30, 2012, was the only Canadian academic who ran in the election.

Volunteers Come Up Roses
To raise money for U of T students, the University of Toronto Women’s Association sells roses at convocation. They rely on volunteers to help prepare the flowers, and this year, iSchool staff members Christine Chan, Judy Dunn, Laura Jantek, Kathleen O’Brien, and Areti Vourinaris, as well as students Willow Fuchs, Carolyn Lindsay, and Sufei Xu, came out for a few hours to assist. The Association uses funds from the flower sales to award scholarships to students at the University.

New Health Informatics Program
Together with the Department of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation at U of T, Information is a collaborating partner in the new Health Informatics program at the University of Toronto. The Master of Health Informatics (MHI) is a professional, graduate-level program that provides students with expertise in the clinical, information, and communication technologies required to lead organizational and health system change.
To learn more, visit www.hpm.e.utoronto.ca/programs/mhi.htm

Professor Eric Yu Wins Prestigious Award
Congratulations to Professor Eric Yu who received the Most Influential Paper After Ten Years award for his paper, “Towards Modelling and Reasoning Support for Early-Phase Requirements Engineering,” from the RE’97 IEEE International Conference on Requirements Engineering held in Annapolis, Maryland, in September 1997.
Incoming Students Get the Low Down
More than 180 incoming students joined us for a fun and informative evening at the Faculty to learn more about what we do, what to expect when studying here, and how to register. On June 19, incoming students met faculty members, staff, and current students, to hear about courses, and tour the facilities. For the 50 or so students who could not join us on site, a virtual session was held online the night before, facilitated by Assistant Dean, Judy Dunn, and Vice-Dean, Jens-Erik Mai.

Museum Studies Exhibit Goes Virtual
Graduating Museum Studies students were thrilled (and exhausted) after launching their annual exhibition project, Mischief & Malice: Crime in the Museum, on April 2 at Toronto’s unique Gladstone Hotel. For the first time, the exhibit was done virtually, allowing public access to the students’ research on high profile incidents of theft and forgery within museums and other cultural heritage institutions. The event also featured a keynote address by renowned Canadian archaeologist, Dr. Adam Sellen. The next day, graduate students held a symposium showcasing student panels and presentations. To experience the virtual exhibition, visit http://www.mischiefandmalice.org/.

Information Student Chosen for Berlin Internship
Library education in Germany is under increasing pressure to introduce a Master’s level program for information professionals. In this spirit, the Humboldt University Library in Berlin (Universitätsbibliothek at Humboldt-Universität) initiated a student exchange by offering a four-week internship in June to Information student Monica Rettig. The Library thought she would gain valuable experience working in an academic setting. In September, the University of Toronto Libraries and the Faculty of Information will welcome a German student to spend a month in Toronto. This exchange is funded by the Goethe-Institut Toronto, which is studying "The Internationalization of Library Education" as Europe moves towards a more North American model of Master’s-level library degrees.

Doctoral Students Share Ethel W. Auster Scholarship
The Ethel W. Auster Scholarship for Doctoral Research was established in 2005 to honour this esteemed and well-loved professor who taught at the Information Faculty for 23 years. The award, created by the late Prof. Auster’s husband Henry, and son David and his wife Janis, is a fitting commemoration of the significance and merit Prof. Auster placed on doctoral studies. Three PhD students, Rhonda McEwen, Keren Dalí, and Danielle Allard, will share the $5,100 scholarship/bursary. The award will help these students study and prepare for their doctoral dissertations.

Three Students Win Gordon Cressy Award
The Faculty is thrilled that three of our students, Jennifer Bawden, Nicholas Gamble, and Christina Hwang, won the 2008 Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award at a special ceremony on April 8, 2008. The Cressy Awards recognize students for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their faculty, or to the university as a whole. Committed to making a difference, Ms. Hwang was president of the Faculty of Information Student Council, and Mr. Gamble and Ms. Bawden were president and vice-president, respectively, of the Museum Studies Graduate Students’ Association.

Student Leader Chosen as Jubilee Winner
Christina Hwang was also honoured as the recipient of this year’s Alumni Association’s Jubilee Award, which was presented at the June 13 convocation reception. She happily accepted a $500 cheque and plaque. Christina is an inspiring individual who illustrated her dedication to the Information community through her many contributions as president of the student council this past year. Prior to taking on this position, she was the Council’s web chair. In this role, Christina revamped the student website, and amazed both faculty and students with her engaging Flash presentation. Besides being a top student, Christina somehow found time to create informative videos for the 2007 Job Fair for the student website, taught the Photoshop and Dreamweaver workshops in the Inforum, and wrote regular columns in alumni publications.

Student Helping Buenos Aires NGO
Thanks to the generosity of Manulife Financial, MIST student Mark Swartz completed a 12-week internship with Poder Ciudadano, a well-established with NGO in Buenos Aires, this summer. His major project was conducting background research for the creation of an online repository of documents for civil society organizations across Argentina. This open source virtual library, called the Bibliocivica, is scheduled to launch in November.

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Michele Collins Awarded IODE Fellowship

Student Michele Collins was selected to receive this year’s Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) Fellowship in Library and Information Sciences. The award, from the Lucy Morrison Memorial Fund for Education by the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE, is given in recognition of academic excellence to a first year MISiSt student.

Doctoral Students Successfully Defend Thesis


Two MISiSt Students Chosen as Diversity Scholars

Two Faculty of Information students have been chosen as Diversity Scholars to participate in the “Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce” program by the Association of Research Libraries. Minakshi Sharma and Lin Li attended a Leadership Institute at the ALA mid-winter meeting in Philadelphia in January, and received a $7,500 and $10,000 stipend respectively, over a two-year period.

Report from Master of Information Studies Student Council (MISSC) by Julia Brewster, President

FRESH from the April elections, MISSC is working hard to prepare for the upcoming year. Here’s a brief preview of events to come!

The Social Committee has a big job on their hands as they prepare a week full of activities for the incoming students’ iSchool Orientation. Events will include a welcome barbecue, pub night at the Bedford Academy, a potluck, and tours of the campus and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Professional Development committee is building on the success of its now well-established annual Job Fair by adding great professional development activities to this year’s calendar. Confirmed events include a presentation by Ulla de Stricker on preparing the best possible résumé.

The 3rd annual Job Fair will be held on February 27, 2009.

The Student Tech Fund committee is drafting bylaws to direct the spending of this year’s funds. These bylaws will be passed early in the school year, allowing MISSC to purchase new technology. Currently, a media room is being added to the basement of the iSchool, which will house several multimedia stations for students’ use.

The website is also under construction to make it your one-stop site for all things iSchool. New content is being added to increase the site’s usefulness, and existing content is being revised to reflect the Faculty’s new name. In the meantime, visit us at: http://missc.ischool.utoronto.ca/

We are looking forward to another successful year!

MEGHAN Ecclestone has a pleasant, outgoing, and professional disposition; however, when it comes to setting goals for herself, her motto is “Go big or go home.”

While studying at the Faculty, training for the Toronto Half Marathon and working part-time, she has somehow managed to earn outstanding grades, demonstrate superlative service as the Student Council’s ”Professional Development Co-Chair,” and organize the launch of a scholarly student publication. Her contributions, participation, and dedication have not gone unnoticed by her colleagues or employers.

Meghan’s passion for libraries and information science was sparked by a part-time position as information desk assistant at McMaster University’s Mills Memorial Library. This “excellent first experience in library work,” encouraged her to learn more. Last fall, she entered the MISiSt program at the Faculty of Information.

Just 12 months later, she has earned the respect of the Information community through her initiatives and enthusiasm. An example that benefited many students and employers was the Job Fair, an event that introduces students to potential employers from across the country, and which she co-chaired with fellow student, Julia Brewster. The event was a huge success. Faculty, staff, and students were not alone in recognizing Meghan’s energy and organizational skills: her participation helped her earn a summer internship at the Library of Parliament in Ottawa, in the Parliamentary Information and Research Services branch. There, she found herself drawing on coursework in reference services, resources, information retrieval, and information management.

Meghan looks forward to her second and final year of the MISiSt program this fall, while the Faculty can expect to reap the benefits of her newest initiatives: she is organizing a student perceptions survey, with Bruce Harpham, to gauge the effectiveness of professional development events at the iSchool, and is launching a journal, Faculty of Information Quarterly, with student Bill Mann and others.

A strong proponent of knowledge transfer, Meghan urges students to get involved in extra-academic activities. “Engaging in the Faculty of Information and the information community at-large yields huge benefits.”

by Kathleen Scheaffer '07

STUDENT PROFILE: GOING THE DISTANCE
Potential and current students often wonder what they can do with their training after graduation. What kind of job can I get with an Information degree? What are the prospects of finding a job in my field? We caught up with four Faculty of Information graduates from a variety of programs to see how they have fared.

Library Science

Charlie Dunham ‘05 might suggest that, along with your MIST degree, you should have a valid driver’s license, in case you find yourself captaining a mobile library as he did when he became a bookmobile librarian.

Growing up in Washington, DC, Charlie exhibited librarian traits at an early age, being endlessly entertained by the local public library and sorting his own books by genre and size. He earned a degree in anthropology and became an adjunct reference librarian in Beloit, Wisconsin. Enjoying that immensely, he chose to study at U of T and completed his MLS in 2005. Charlie returned to the U.S. and, while on contract at the Corvallis Library in Linn County, Oregon, he learned about the bookmobile and volunteered.

Area rural communities had no library service, and were charged a large fee to use city libraries. The Linn Library League had a vision of creating a tax-paid library district to unite the county’s city libraries, and initiated the bookmobile in 2004 to expose rural communities to library service and to garner support for the library tax.

After volunteering for two months, Charlie was hired as the bookmobile librarian. The large RV provided an intimate space lined with oak shelves, and carried books, audio books, magazines, movies, and play stations, along with a laptop running Follet circulation software and a barcode scanner. Charlie was librarian, driver, and was responsible for fueling and maintenance. “It was a comedy of errors,” he says. Once, while driving at top speed, his door flew open and refused to shut. For a week he held it closed while steering, before finally bolting it shut.

As sole librarian Charlie assisted patrons, ordered books, catalogued, kept statistics, made policy decisions, and wrote reports and grant proposals. He utilized his IT skills to create a program that approximates an OPAC, so patrons could browse the collection by category. “I got my hands ‘dirty’ in a lot of different aspects of librarianship that I might not have done otherwise,” he notes.

Public outreach was critical. Charlie promoted the bookmobile and library campaign through partnerships with schools, book talks, and by involving the bookmobile in community events. In two years, he added seven stops to the route, attracting 1,200 new patrons.

While at the iSchool, Charlie and classmate Lorraine Salt successfully petitioned for a course in library advocacy. He credits that course with giving him the tools he needed for the outreach work that was so crucial to his job.

Most rewardingly, Charlie developed close friendships with patrons, which he feels may not have happened to the same degree in a larger library. Most visitors were young families, grateful because, as Charlie says, “Children’s books are like candy. They go through so many.”

Some people, unfamiliar with public libraries, asked how much it was to buy or rent books. Whether helping a man who couldn’t read to choose a movie, or “connecting on a nerd level” with an avid science fiction fan, Charlie and his bookmobile were invaluable to these communities, and he enjoyed being truly appreciated.

"Children’s books are like candy. They go through so many."

Unfortunately, the bookmobile lost its funding, and service halted in May. However, the Linn Library League hopes to have the bookmobile back by 2011. Although Charlie will have moved on, his experience should certainly serve him well in future roles. Perhaps he and the bookmobile will cross paths again. And maybe the door will finally stay shut.

by Ashley Bedard

Archives

Chris Sanagan ‘07 spends his days surrounded by Ontario history. His focus on Archives and Record Management at the Faculty of Information led him to a position at the Archives of Ontario in Toronto, where he holds the province’s stories in his hands every day. With an undergraduate degree in history and political science, Chris was drawn to the professional focus of the program, the ability to tap into engaging events and people from the past, the chance to apply his love for history, and to preserve historical documents. The "Specialized Archives” course provided real examples of archives, and showed him the many career options available to archivists. While at school, he volunteered at the Hockey Hall of Fame archives, which provided practical experience and personal enjoyment for the self-proclaimed “hockey nut.”

Chris’ second year practicum was at the Archives of Ontario, the second largest archival institution in Canada. To his credit, he was offered a contract position upon graduation, which led to a full-time position. In Chris’ words, the Archives of Ontario exist to preserve the province’s documentary history and social memory. Its collections include government records, private collections, genealogical records, records of Aboriginal peoples, and vital statistics. Chris works in all these areas and participates in conferences and outreach with schools, community groups, and genealogical societies.

Chris says he comes across something “unbelievable” every day. He points to the records of Elizabeth Simcoe, wife of Upper Canada’s first Lieutenant-Governor, John Graves Simcoe, as a highlight. An avid diarist and painter, Elizabeth Simcoe documented events and scenes which provide a vivid depiction of early Ontario.
Chris looks forward to the Archives’ move to a new purpose-built facility at York University in 2009, which will provide a large common space for public research, and ideal conditions for storing important and fragile documents.

As for future opportunities in the field, Chris can become a senior archivist or collection coordinator. In the meantime, he says a career as an archivist is more viable than ever, noting that all large businesses and organizations have their own archives and need data management experts. And for those who love history, cultural archives provide glimpses into the evolution of our society. These are attractive prospects for students.

Chris credits the Information Faculty for providing him with the training necessary to obtain a job as an archivist and to succeed in his role. “I have my hands in a number of key archival processes including the arrangement and description of private records, the acquisition and appraisal of government records, conservation and preservation, customer service and outreach—all central facets of the archival program at the Faculty.”

by Ashley Bedard

Information Systems

Sunir Shah ’08 didn’t follow a traditional program of study at the iSchool, and his path has continued to be a winding one.

A self-proclaimed “start-up junkie,” Sunir had used wikis since their early days. In 1997 he created MeatballWiki – a wiki about wikis – to provide a forum in which other wiki creators could collaborate. Sunir was interested in how people communicate, and wanted a career focused more on people than technology.

With an undergraduate degree in computer science from Carlton University, he sought a graduate program that would combine his interests. He found the perfect combination in the collaborative program in Information Technology offered with the Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI) at the iSchool.

Sunir’s research project at the Faculty was a wiki for a distributed learning course at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. After graduation, he continued to work on the project—BibWiki—with KMDI and the iSchool. The University awarded the project an Instructional Technology Courseware Development Fund grant to develop it further for classroom use. BibWiki is an online, open, shared, annotated bibliography through which students can learn what others are saying about the scholarly papers in the bibliography. As the site explains, it exists to “collect and annotate resources of interest to the human-computer interaction, social-computing, participatory design, and information systems design communities. Essentially people who are concerned about computers in a human context.” The site is expanding beyond the design field, with the next version coming out in the fall.

For the past year, Sunir has worked with the innovative Web 2.0 company FreshBooks. He describes it as a company that provides online invoicing for people who detest invoicing.

Listed on the FreshBooks website as “Chief Handshaker,” Sunir is the first marketing person hired by the five-year old company. His strategic marketing plan is primarily based in social media and on word-of-mouth. It seems to be working: because of their forward-thinking approach to business, Backbone Magazine and KPMG recently chose FreshBooks as one of the PICK 20 top Web 2.0 leaders in Canada.

Sunir recommends the collaborative program with KMDI for students who have a vision, and says the program will give them the tools and network to do interesting and inspirational work. In particular, the training in user studies and ethnomethodology prepared him for his current career.

It will certainly be interesting to follow Sunir along his winding career path to see what the “start-up junkie” starts up next.

by Ashley Bedard

Museum Studies

In his youth, Colin Wiginton ‘91 always enjoyed museums. He loved that people could experience and learn from artworks, artefacts, and exhibits in their own way. It is no wonder that he turned his early passion for museums into his life’s work.

Colin initially pursued an undergraduate degree in art history and theatre at Queen’s University, and volunteered at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on campus. This experience, coupled with the desire for a creative career, eventually led him to the MMSt program.

After graduating, Colin worked at other university art museums, including those at York and McMaster, before becoming the educator and curator at the MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie, ON. There he curated a number of exhibitions and managed educational programs, including MacLaren VanGo which reached thousands of children throughout Simcoe County. In public programming, Colin had found his niche.

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in Toronto, Canada’s largest metropolitan museum, was his next stop. There, he oversees the development of an increasingly diverse range of programs as Manager, Education Programs.

As the Transformation AGO project nears completion, he finds his role especially rewarding, as it allows him to work with great people and connect with a variety of museum audiences. A favourite project involves professional artists working with community members to create art that reflects their own experience, interests, and concerns.

Called ArtsAccess, the four-year community arts initiative engages the public in a variety of arts-based projects facilitated through an innovative partnership among four galleries in four Ontario cities. It has resulted in unique creations, Colin notes, including photography and quilts, painted pots, public sculptures, and outdoor murals (see http://www.ago.net/education/artsaccess/). A related project Colin has overseen is Collection X, an interactive online collection of images, audio, and, video that people can interact with, contribute to, and organize into their own online exhibits (http://www.collectionx.museum). The advantage, he states, is that these programs allow the public to learn from museums in a non-traditional way by making them active participants in the shaping of their own experiences.

Colin’s advice to Museum Studies students is to gain as much hands-on experience as possible, using the strong foundation the program provides. Internships and volunteer positions are good hands-on experience as possible, using the strong foundation the program provides. Internships and volunteer positions are good networking opportunities, he stresses, adding that smaller museums tend to provide a more diverse workplace experience.

The MMSt program at the iSchool gave Colin the opportunity to think big, use his imagination, and push new ideas. Now a veteran in the field, he contributes to the development of a more participatory museum culture, turning his interests and passions into interactive and educational activities that benefit the whole community.

by Sara Tavakolian
THE Faculty of Information was extremely proud of the 128 students who graduated on June 13. After convocation ceremonies, students walked to 140 St. George to celebrate with staff, faculty, friends, and family. Besides lots of laughter, hugs, and best wishes being exchanged at the reception, individual students were honoured for academic excellence and for extra-curricular and volunteer activities. Congratulations to the prize winners:

ARMA Toronto Chapter Award  
**Samer Abdulhadi**

Douglas Armstrong Memorial Award  
**Elton D’Costa**  
**Thomas Smyth**

Gertrude M. Boyle Memorial Award in Cataloguing  
**Jeremy Wilson**

Alumni Association Jubilee Award  
**Christina Hwang**

William L. Graff Memorial Prize  
**Mercedes Lee**

Hbc Foundation Prize  
**Allison Black**  
**Charles Levi**

Library Services Centre Award of Excellence in Cataloguing  
**Louise Gilmour**

MMSt Graduation Prize  
**Charleen Davidson**

OLA Anniversary Prize  
**Urszula Jambor**

OLBA Prize in Public Library Management  
**Alessya Quattrociocchi**

Jane Prescott Memorial Award  
**Louise Donnelly**

Rare Books and Manuscripts Award  
**Eshe Mercer-James**

Kathleen Reeves Memorial Award  
**Erin Murphy**

Sheridan Park Association Award  
**Erin Murphy**

TAAG Award  
**Charles Levi**

THLA Annual Prize in Health Sciences Librarianship  
**Martina Keller**

Beta Phi Mu Nominees  
**Samer Abdulhadi**  
**Susan Barker**  
**John Bolan**  
**Steven Chabot**  
**Elton D’Costa**  
**Willow Fuchs**  
**Sarah Green**  
**Katherine Hammer**  
**Emmeline Hobbs**  
**Urszula Jambor**  
**Charles Levi**  
**Leanne Notenboom**  
**Erin Murphy**  
**Julie Anne Richardson**  
**Simon Rogers**
WHEN I completed a Bachelor of Science in Computing and Information Science in 1985, roughly 40 per cent of graduates in my undergraduate computing science class were women. In recent years, the percentage has dropped to approximately 15 percent. Three questions immediately come to mind: Why this dramatic drop? Why does it matter that fewer women are studying computer science? And what can we do to encourage more women to enter careers in computing and technology?

There have been several suggestions put forward as possible reasons for declining numbers of women studying computer science. Many of these arguments have also been used to explain why enrolment in computing and related fields is dropping in general (for both men and women). Certainly, computer scientists are not often depicted favourably in the media. The "nerdy," socially-awkward image is sure to turn people away from the profession.

In addition, many people mistakenly believe that a career in computer science means working only with machines and not with people. There are also fewer women, and thus, fewer female role models in the field. Alas, some may feel that this makes it difficult for young women to imagine themselves in these positions, or it may cause them to feel that the environment is unfriendly to women.

Recent press about technology jobs moving out of North America has scared many young people away from computing and technology studies. In fact, there is a job shortage in these areas in Canada and the number of available positions is projected to increase in the future.

So, why do we care? Computers and technology will continue to bring unimaginable changes to society and the world. To ensure that change is managed properly and responsibly, we must also ensure that the gender balance of the scientists making and influencing these transitions reflects the gender balance of the population. This notion was inspired by the late Anita Borg, renowned computer scientist and pioneer in women in computing initiatives, who said:

“Around the world, women are not full partners in driving the creation of new technology that will define their lives. This is not good for women and not good for the world….Women need to assume their rightful place at the table creating the technology of the future.”

How can we attract more young women to study and embark on careers in computing and technology? Many groups are organizing outreach programs through which women technologists share their passion for their work with young people, and help debunk some of the myths that exist about computer scientists. Some university programs are changing, and putting greater emphasis on the impact of computers and technology on people and the collaborative nature of computing careers. Mentoring programs bring young girls together with women and, when deployed in the workplace, can also help support and retain women in computer-related professions.

Computing and technology is an exciting area of study where people bring different perspectives and backgrounds together to create things that can change the world. We need to continue to find ways to encourage young women to choose studies in this important field. The Faculty of Information, with its wide range of learning opportunities and breadth of expertise, is ideally placed to attract women, and people from diverse backgrounds, to careers in information technology.

1http://www.cra.org/info/taulbee/women.html
2http://anitaborg.org/about/history/
The annual Job Shadowing Program, sponsored by the Faculty of Information Alumni Association, takes students into libraries, archives, and information systems-related workplaces for a half-day or full day to observe the life of an information professional at work. This year, 85 host institutions across the country offered students almost 200 shadowing opportunities.

Recognition for the program’s continuing success goes to alumna Helen Katz ’75, who, since taking over the program a few years ago, has more than doubled the number of participants. “I felt motivated to help students gain valuable insight into professional practice. And for me, it’s been rewarding to deal with the many multi-faceted and interesting organizations that participate.”

To register, students formerly signed up using a binder kept at the School, the policy being “first come, first serve.” To better meet the needs of students and hosts, the Alumni Association hired a developer to transfer the program online. Recent graduate, Jeff Orchard ’08, worked over the summer to make host registration, student registration, and choosing job shadowing opportunities much easier, faster, and more convenient for everyone.

This fall, companies will once again be invited to volunteer a full- or half-day to show one or more students the ropes. By opening their doors, organizations allow students to observe their workplace, show them how the day’s workflow is organized, teach them employees’ responsibilities, and give them a good sense of life on the job.

In return, host companies learn from the students, who keep abreast of emerging trends in the field, and meet up-and-coming professionals and future colleagues.

In January, students will review available job shadowing opportunities and make their selection by the February break. They then contact their hosts and arrange a mutually convenient time to visit, often during reading week. Hosts from cities outside Toronto may find that their student may want to visit in the summer.

If you have any questions, or are interested in hosting one or more students, please email jobshadowing@ischool.utoronto.ca.
by Eva Kupidura, PLC Coordinator

It’s been a busy and successful year at the Professional Learning Centre (PLC) and we anticipate the 2008/2009 term will be just as exciting.

We gratefully acknowledge the support, advice and contributions of our advisory board, whose members represent different sectors of the field of information.

We will continue our hugely successful one-day workshop, “Social Networking Tools: Hands on Learning,” this year focusing on wikis and collaboration. First introduced a year ago, the course is taught by Connie Crosby ’94 in both Toronto and Ottawa.

For the fall 2008 term, the PLC is pleased to introduce the following new courses:

"How to Advocate for Libraries and Library Issues," is an online course taught by Kathleen DeLong and Pam Ryan of the University of Alberta Libraries.

"Records Management Practice," is the long-anticipated online version of our popular RM certificate.

"Email Management: A Practical Guide and Best Practices to Succeed," helps address the challenges of organizing electronic mail.

"Financial Management for Information Services," is a certificate course that covers methods and techniques of financial management in practical and stress-free ways.

"Health Information Resources," is our completely revised and updated offering of this course.

"Introduction to Prospect Research in Nonprofit Organizations," will show how to hone your information skills to support major gift fundraising in the nonprofit sector, and how to make a career move into prospect research.

Whether you are new to the PLC or are returning for another course, we hope that our 2008/2009 offerings will help you update your knowledge and skills, develop new areas of expertise, move ahead with your career, or just satisfy your interests and curiosity. Enjoy your learning experience at the PLC!

Information Services Unit Established at iSchool
by Joe Cox ’84, Interim Director – Information Services

What do you get when you bring together helpful people, useful material and electronic resources, excellent IT services, and vibrant learning, and teaching spaces? Information Services at the iSchool. On July 1, 2008, the Information Services unit was created with the amalgamation of Inforum and IT Services. While those units had always worked well and closely together, the integration of the two was not seamless.

The new unit, tentatively called Information Services (please send other name suggestions to joe.cox@utoronto.ca), reflects philosophical and practical considerations in addressing ongoing changes in the academic mission of the Faculty. It also encompasses the revolutionary transformations in information practices as a result of the pervasiveness of digital media in society and in our individual lives.

The goals of the new unit are simple:

• provide, and ensure access to, the best digital and material resources to support Faculty programs; and
• create places and spaces for thinking, listening, experimenting, designing, creating, problem solving, discussing, and debating.

The reality will be a little harder to achieve. In the fall, a task force will be appointed to advise on the mandate, direction, priorities, structure, and leadership of Information Services. At that time, we will be soliciting input and hope that you will provide us with your advice and wisdom. In the meantime, the team is getting on with the work at hand!

Currently, the Information Services team consists of Tasha Caswell ’07, Joe Cox ’84, Leigh Cunningham, Ab Gehani ’07, James Hallam, Nakul Hoelz, Danny Lee, Tony Lemmens ’93, Steve Marks, Marte Misiek ’77, Nadia Moro, Alexandra Ross, Bert Shire, Nalini Singh ’98, Brian Stearns, Elisa Sze ’07, Meera Thirunavukarasu, and Edward White ’05. In the next few months we will be welcoming some new members to round out a creative, dynamic, and hard-working unit.
Throughout the year, many of the iSchool’s alumni donate generously to the Annual Fund that supports a wide range of student activities, alumni events, and academic programs. The donations fund student conference grants, Spring Reunion, scholarships, internships, and other important extra-curricular programs that enhance the student and alumni experience. We are quite grateful for the support of our donors – these gifts truly make a difference.

University of Toronto Women’s Association Adele Csima Scholarship

When graduates support students through a donation, the gift has an impact for many generations to come. The spirit of giving is especially evident when donations come from outside the Faculty.

Dr. Adele Csima was a professor at the the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, and past President of the University of Toronto Women’s Association (UTWA) from 2003 to 2006. Regretfully, she passed away last summer.

Her family was surprised and pleased when UTWA decided to establish a scholarship in her name at the Faculty of Information this past spring.

The $20,000 donation was matched by U of T to create a $40,000 award. The “University of Toronto Women’s Association Adele Csima Scholarship” will be given to a full-time Master’s or PhD student in Information or Museum Studies who has completed his or her first year at the Faculty, and who has contributed to student life through committee or volunteer work. It is a fitting award to honour a woman who contributed so much to the university, her community, and her family. The recipient will be proud to be associated with her name.

Last summer, 300 people gathered to remember Prof. Csima’s life. The variety of faces in attendance was a reflection of the multifaceted woman she was: instructor and mentor to students, cherished colleague, friend to many and, most importantly to her, matriarch of her large family.

Prof. Csima was born in Budapest, Hungary into a working class family. Her free-spirited nature was apparent early on and she left her home in 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution. Enroute, she and her husband had the frightening experience of finding themselves in a concentration camp, not knowing what would become of them. Fortunately, they were able to come to Canada, living in Vancouver and, briefly, Fort William (Thunder Bay), before settling in Toronto by 1957.

After completing her education in Toronto, Prof. Csima began work at U of T in 1959. She became an associate professor at what was then the Department of Preventative Medicine and Biostatistics, specializing in biostatistics. She was cross-appointed to the Faculty of Dentistry.

Prof. Csima was among the first to make use of the university’s data centre, using computers as far back as 1964. She taught the Community Health Appraisal Methods course for many years, and was a “motherly” instructor who always took time to mentor her students. Danny Lopez, Business Officer at the Dalla Lana School, fondly recalls: “She was a very sociable presence on campus, adored by colleagues and administrators.” Prof. Csima remained active at U of T after her retirement in 1997. Just last spring, she helped UTWA sell flowers at convocation.

In addition to her very active social life she held positions on numerous committees, including her role as UTWA president. She was also devoted to Toronto’s Hungarian community. Her son, Peter Fischoff, recalls she was generous to a fault, taking people into her home to stay, and focusing her charitable contributions toward organizations helping women and children.

In her personal life, Prof. Csima was not what one might think of when imagining a statistician. Her son observes she was “the quintessential free spirit, happily breaking rules and testing limits at every turn.” With four children and fifteen grandchildren, fun was valued over rules. She took each of her grandchildren to Hungary, traveling with them in pairs every summer. A true matriarch, everyone congregated at her Etobicoke house for parties and bridge tournaments. At Christmas she was known to go out into the neighbourhood dressed as Rudolf the reindeer.

Now for years to come, the Faculty will honour her generous and free spirit through the scholarship named in her memory.

by Ashley Bedard

First Patricia Fleming Fellowship to be Awarded

In 2005, when Professor Patricia Fleming retired from the Faculty of Information, staff members, friends, and her former students and colleagues, raised funds to establish the "Patricia Fleming Visiting Fellowship in Bibliography and Book History,” a $25,000 endowment.

The Fellowship will be awarded in 2008 to a scholar outside the University of Toronto who works in the field of bibliographic studies. The recipient will conduct research for up to one month at Toronto libraries and/or archives. Every second year, the fellowship will be awarded to a scholar whose research focuses on Canadiana. The Fellowship is intended to further our knowledge of bibliography/book history and to honour the contribution Prof. Fleming has made to the field. A brief report or informal talk related to the research may be presented as part of the Fellowship. The recipient will receive a $1,000 stipend, derived from annual income.

The Fellowship is still accepting donations. If interested, please contact kathleen.obrien@utoronto.ca or call Kathleen at 416.978.7184.
Mary Grace McConnell Graduate Scholarship

Success in life often means breaking rules. Between the 1940s and 60s, women weren’t encouraged to get a university degree. **Mary Grace McConnell (nee Sheridan) ’64** got three. Women were supposed to get married by their early twenties, or be an “old maid.” Mary waited to find true love at 45. Seniors with no living relatives should move into a retirement home. Mary tried it, but at the age of 86, decided it wasn’t for her, and bought a condo.

These are the traits that attracted many people to Mary, who died peacefully at home on March 20, 2007, at age 87 years. She lost the love of her life, husband George Arthur (“Art”) McConnell, 28 years before, but treasured the 14 wonderful years they had together in Belleville, where she worked as chief librarian at Loyalist College from 1967 to 1978.

Brought up in Oshawa, Mary decided to study at Victoria College in 1938. But that same year, she had to leave in order to care for her sister and ailing mother. Five years later she was able to pursue her dream, and graduated from the University of Toronto with a Diploma in Librarianship.

She started her library career in Orillia, and moved to Toronto in 1963. Twenty-one years after getting her diploma she went back to U of T to obtain her Bachelor of Arts. One year later, she added a Bachelor of Library Science to her resume. Interestingly, she was 43 years old at the time, and wasn’t required to get more training or obtain new credentials; it was just something she just wanted to do, which colleagues say was very characteristic of her.

Her friend of nearly 40 years, **Janet Twiddy**, a computer programmer and math professor at Loyalist, says Mary was “intelligent, eloquent, determined, knew what she wanted and wasn’t afraid to go after it.” Those traits served her well as Mary established integrated audiovisual services in the Loyalist library, built up the archives, and introduced many new innovations.

Despite losing her parents, Harold and Jessie, and her two siblings, Allen and Jean, Mary had many close relationships and numerous friends. It is a testament to her popularity and generosity that, although she had no surviving family, more than 80 people attended her memorial service.

An avid traveller and reader, Mary also volunteered in Belleville, was active in the University Women’s Club, Historical Society, and Glenmore Historic Site. At these places, and at work, Mary – always attentive to detail – was known for being perfectly ‘put together’ with matching accessories, such as purse, earrings, scarf, and shoes.

“She was always dressed to the nines,” says Janet. “But this elegant, diminutive, beautifully dressed woman was just as happy to shop at Giant Tiger (discount store)!”

Because librarianship was close to her heart, Mary made bequests to several libraries and to the Faculty of Information. The "Mary Grace McConnell Graduate Scholarship" will go to an incoming full- or part-time Masters student who has a demonstrated interest in public librarianship. Her generous donation of more than $50,000 will have a huge impact: a fitting way to commemorate such a vibrant and dedicated person.

by Kathleen O’Brien

Hbc Foundation Award Revived

When University programs and employees change, student awards can also be impacted. Such was the case with the $90,000 Hbc Foundation Award, recently revived after a few years’ hiatus.

With a strong commitment to both archives and education, the Hudson’s Bay Company set up this award in 1999 to honour top Archives students and offer a summer internship. The Company decided to expand eligibility for the internship to any part-time or full-time student with demonstrated financial need, who had completed half their courses by the end of April in the year of application, from any stream in the Master’s program, including Museum Studies, Information Systems, Knowledge Management, etc.

To celebrate the award’s revival, Hbc presented two Hbc Foundation Prizes of $1,000 each at the convocation reception on June 13. Recipients also received a legendary Hudson’s Bay blanket. Each prize recognized a student in the Archives stream who had demonstrated “leadership” and “commitment to volunteerism.” Starting in 2009, recipients of the award will be eligible for a $7,500 summer internship at Hbc, to be taken between the first and second year of their Master’s program, in either Records Management, Heritage, or Community Investment.

Top Archives student, Charles Levi, is presented with the Hbc Foundation Prize by James Ingram, Hbc Vice-President.

Not pictured: Allison Black, another prize winner.
Since last year we’ve seen a dramatic increase in the number of lecturers and full-time professors at the Faculty of Information. These new faculty members are helping us expand into new and emerging areas of information practice. Below is a list of all professors and lecturers. We’ve highlighted those who have joined us this past year.

Clare Beghtol ’81, Professor, Knowledge Representation and Organization

Nadia Caidi, Associate Professor, Information Policy

Jennifer Carter, Assistant Professor, Museums - Memory, Historiography, and Representation

Prof. Carter has engaged students and audiences through parallel practices as a curator, lecturer, museum educator, researcher, and writer in the fields of architecture, museums, exhibitions, and the arts. While completing her MA in Art History at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her PhD in the History and Theory of Architecture at the School of Architecture, McGill University, she concurrently held positions in cultural institutions in North America, including the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto) and the Betty Rymer Gallery (Chicago). Through her research project “Representation by Design: Architectures of Display,” she is examining the history and theory of the architecture of exhibitions and the implication of an evolving mode of practice on the larger museological fields of collecting, representation, and display. Jennifer will be teaching “Museology and Theory”, “Architecture and Museums”, as well as “History of Museums in Canada”.

Joan Cherry, Professor, Information and Human Computer Interaction and Usability

Chun Wei Choo ’93, Professor, Knowledge Management and Information Management

Andrew Clement ’86, Professor, Information and Security

Barbara Craig, Associate Professor, Archives and Records Management

Jurus Dilevko, Associate Professor, Library and Information Science

Wendy Duff, Associate Professor, Archival Access and Digital Curation

Alan Galey, Assistant Professor, Critical Information Studies

Prof. Galey, recently a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow in English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta, completed his postdoctoral project, “Visualizing Editions: Interface Research and Design for Electronic Texts in the Humanities” in which he sought to develop interface design principles, implemented in an open-source code library, that reflect the diverse ways humanists engage with texts. This work combines Prof. Galey’s primary research activities in literary studies, textual studies, and humanities computing, and builds on his research on Shakespeare and theories of the archive. He holds a BA and MA in English from the University of Victoria, and a PhD in English from the University of Western Ontario. In the coming school year, he’ll be teaching two graduate seminars, “Introduction to Digital Humanities,” and in the Book History and Print Culture collaborative program, “Book History and Print Culture.”

Twyla Gibson, Assistant Professor, Media, Culture, and Technology

Since 2004, Prof. Gibson has been a lecturer and a Senior Fellow at the McLuhan Program at U of T, where she earned her PhD and MA in Philosophy of Education, and a joint-specialist BA in Philosophy and Religious Studies. She strengthens the Faculty in the area of culture and technology, and is teaching “Comparative Orality and Literacy” in conjunction with the McLuhan Program. Her course work is based on her research in ancient Greek philosophy (in particular, Plato) and her interests in media theory. She also has interests in philosophy of religion, communication and media studies, orality and literacy studies, and bioethics.

Jenna Hartel, Assistant Professor, Information Seeking and Use

Prof. Hartel has a PhD in Information Studies from the Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. Her dissertation was a scientific ethnography of information phenomena in the hobby of gourmet cooking. For 2004-2005, she was on a Fulbright Fellowship as a visiting researcher at the Department of Information Studies at the University of Tampere, Finland, where she collaborated with the Research Group on Information Seeking. Her areas of research focus on the content, structure, and use of leisure information on personal and social levels, and explore the nature of information in the pleasures of everyday life. Prof. Hartel will be teaching courses in the fields of information resources, information seeking and behaviour.

Stephen Hockema, Assistant Professor, Information Security and Inclusive Design

Lynne C. Howarth ’78, Professor, Knowledge Management and Information Management

Kelly Lyons, Associate Professor, Information Systems

Joining us from IBM, where she was Program Director of the IBM Toronto Lab Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS), Prof. Lyons’ expertise is in the areas of services science, social computing, and data management. Cross-appointed with the Department of Computer Science at the U of T, she will add to the iSchool’s existing strengths in...
information systems and services. With a PhD from Queen’s University in Computing and Information Science, Prof. Lyons is teaching a new course, "An Introduction to Service Science." She is a member of the University of Toronto’s Knowledge Media Design Institute, and the Board of Management of the Centre for Communication and Information Technology (CCIT), a division of OCE, Inc. She is also an IBM Faculty Fellow, a Member-At-Large of the ACM Council, and an adjunct professor at Dalhousie University and York University. Prof. Lyons is very interested in promoting Women in Technology initiatives (see her article on p. 15).

Heather MacNeil, Associate Professor, Archival Access and Intellectual Control

Prof. MacNeil taught at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia (UBC). She is interested in the history of record-keeping practices and protection of personal privacy, and recently completed a SSHRC research grant to study "Archival Description and the Apparatus of Authenticity." Prof. MacNeil has worked at the National Archives of Canada, Canadian Council of Archives, and University of Toronto Archives. She obtained her PhD and Masters in Archival Studies from UBC, and has authored several publications, including Trusting Records: Legal Historical and Diplomatic Perspectives. In the first term, she will teach "Archival Concepts and Issues," and in the second term, "Arrangement and Description" and "History of Record Keeping."

Jens-Erik Mai, Acting Dean, and Associate Professor, Information and Knowledge Organization and Access

Michael McCaffrey ’93, Lecturer, Government Documents

Mr. McCaffrey teaches in the core library area of information resources and services. He specializes in courses on Canadian government information, the documents and publications of international organizations, United States government information, reference administration, and data librarianship. Mr. McCaffrey ran the Canadian Institute of International Affairs Library before becoming International Documents Librarian and Head of the Government Documents and Map Department at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. He is heavily involved in the international documents community and is founder and owner of the INTL-DOC LISTSERV. His main areas of professional interest are the League of Nations and historical international statistics. Mr. McCaffrey is currently researching the use of International Government Organization publications as sources of statistics in the inter-war period and is writing a guide to Canadian government publications.

Cheryl Meszaros, Lecturer, Museum Studies

Dr. Meszaros is teaching "Interpretation and Meaning-making in Cultural Institutions" as well as the full term "Exhibition" course. She specializes in museum interpretation, hermeneutic theory and educational practices. Dr. Meszaros spent time as the recipient of a J. Paul Getty Museum Scholar Grant in Los Angeles, CA. For the past decade, she was Head of Public Programs at the Vancouver Art Gallery, as well as a lecturer and Adjunct Professor of Art Education at the University of British Columbia. She was Head of Public Programs and Education at the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK (1986-1994), and lectured in art history at the University of Saskatchewan. Besides teaching, she is also curating a large exhibition on haunting that will open at the Art Gallery of Alberta in 2011. This fall, she will teach "Exhibitions, Public Programs and Interpretation," a new course called "Praxis I," and "Exhibitions, Interpretation, Communication."

Wendy Newman, Senior Fellow, Library Advocacy and Issues

David Phillips, Associate Professor, Identity and Surveillance

Matt Ratto, Assistant Professor, Knowledge Practices and Information Technology

Prof. Ratto is a founding member of the Virtual Knowledge Studio for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Amsterdam, and joins the Faculty from the HUMlab at the University of Umeå, Sweden. He brings a science studies perspective to critical studies of digital media. Recent publications include "Ethics of Seamless Infrastructures: Resources and Future Directions" and "A Practice-Based Model of Access for Science: Linux Kernel Development and Shared Digital Resources." Prof. Ratto is currently working on a book entitled "Critical Making" that examines how designers, scholars, and technologists use material practices of "making" to conceptualize and express knowledge about the world.

Prof. Ratto also led the establishment of The Critical Making Lab, opened at iSouth in late August. Research will explore whether and in what ways digital technologies of social computing and rapid prototyping hold out the possibility for a dramatic re-imagining and reworking of material culture. A course in Critical Making will be offered in the winter semester.

Aviv Shachak, Assistant Professor, Health Informatics

Prof. Shachak comes to us from Israel where he earned a Master’s degree in Horticulture from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After four years teaching high school, he earned a PhD in Information Science at Bar-Ilan University. He then became a post-doctoral fellow at Galil Center for Medical Informatics, Telemedicine and Personalized Medicine, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Currently cross-appointed to Information and the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME), Dr. Shachak is playing a lead role in developing the new Master of Health Informatics degree, being offered collaboratively between HPME and Information. His research interests span socio-technical issues and human-computer interaction with biomedical information systems, especially the diffusion and implementation of information systems in health care and biomedicine, human factors in health informatics, and patient-provider relationship in the digital environment. Prof. Shachak will teach a course on Health Informatics I and II, which are introductory (or core) courses. This past summer, he also taught a reading course, "Selected Topics in Health Informatics."

Brian Cantwell Smith, Professor of Information, Philosophy and Computer Science, and Canada Research Chair, University of Toronto

Siobhan Stevenson, Assistant Professor, Critical Information Studies and Library and Information Science

Lynne Teather, Associate Professor, Museum Studies

Jutta Treviranus, Senior Research Associate, Accessibility

Eric Yu, Associate Professor, Information Systems
The Faculty of Information would like to pay tribute to the following graduates who passed away between July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008. We send our most heartfelt condolences to their family members.

James C. Arnot (BLS ’67)

Effie Constance Astbury (Smith) (MLS ’56)
Peacefully at Griffith McConnell Residence, at the age of 91. Effie received a BA and BLS from McGill, and MLS from University of Toronto. She worked at the McGill University Library for ten years, and then the McGill Graduate School of Library Science for thirty years as lecturer and full professor. She was Director of the School from 1972 to 1976, and was honored with the title Professor Emerita. She was also active in the Quebec and Canadian Library Associations until she retired in 1976. A scholar, noted for her wisdom, generosity, and good nature, Effie will be missed by all her family, friends and associates.

(Excerpted from Montreal Gazette, May 29-31, 2008)

Joan Mary Attwood (BLS ’52)

Margaret Armstrong Beckman (BLS ’49, MLS ’69)
After a long illness, peacefully, at Beechwood Manor Retirement Home in Waterloo, at 84. Beloved wife of the late Arthur Beckman, Margaret joined the University of Guelph as Systems Librarian in 1966, becoming Chief Librarian in 1971, the only woman heading an academic library in Ontario at that time. She retired as Executive Director, Information Technology, in 1987 after spearheading the implementation of automated library systems in Ontario’s academic libraries. Margaret was also the first woman and first Canadian to receive an honorary professorship from University of Essen, and the first Canadian to receive the American Association of College and Research Libraries’ Academic Librarian of the Year Award.

(Excerpted from Winnipeg Free Press, September 15, 2007)

Eileen M. Bradley (BA, BLS ’39)
Peacefully on January 3, 2008, at Central Park Lodge at 91. Eileen will be sadly missed by her many nieces, nephews and eight great-nieces and nephews. She enjoyed 40 years as a librarian, first at the University of Toronto in the library of the Faculty of Dentistry, then in the Medical Science Library until her retirement in 1982.

(Excerpted from the Globe and Mail, March 1, 2008, and accessOLA.com)

Marion Brown (BLS ’50)

Professor Bohdan Budurowycz (BLS ’55)

Margaret A. Canning (BLS ’65, MLS ’73)
"Marg" will be sorely missed by all family members, including her husband Robert Reid, and her oldest and dearest friend, Jean Orpwood (’63, ’73). Her love of books fostered her outstanding career as a librarian. Her quiet and unassuming nature belied a wonderful sense of humour and a very generous spirit.

Teca Patricia Coles (BLS ’40)

Catherine Joan Gauer (BLS ’61)
After a lengthy illness, peacefully at the Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg. Joan will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by relatives. Family meant the world to Joan. Born in Winnipeg, she completed a BA (United College,) a BEd (U. of Manitoba), and a BLS at U of T. For five years, she taught physical education in Winnipeg. She later worked for the Vancouver Public Library, and at Manitoba Provincial Library for eight years. Joan then resumed her career as a teacher-librarian at Grant Park High School and Andrew Mynarski VC School for a total of 16 years. She worked faithfully for the Children’s Hospital Book Mart, enjoyed curling, golf, and needlework, and had hoped to spend many more happy times at Falcon Lake Centre.

(Excerpted from the Globe and Mail, January 5, 2008)

Mary Hellen Fitzpatrick (nee Dunn) (BLS ’57, MLS ’78)
Suddenly at home. Predeceased by beloved husband Michael Stanton. Much loved mother of five children and grandmother to six grandchildren, Helen will be missed by her large extended family and her many lifelong friends from the Holy Rosary and St. Bonaventure Parish Communities in Toronto, as well as her good friends and neighbours on Lake Chemong.

(Excerpted from Toronto Star)

Mary Elma Healey (MLS ’78)

Jane Henrietta Hornell (BA, BLS ’45)
Peacefully, at Leisure World, Scarborough, at 86. Jane will be fondly remembered by her children, and life-long friends Sister Eileen Foran and Sister Mary Cornelius Foran of the Sisters of St. Joseph, London, Ontario and Jeff, Rose and Paulette Daigle. Jane was a graduate of St. Joseph’s College in Toronto and received her BA in Library Science at the University of Toronto. Jane was also a member of the Third Order of St. Francis of the St. Francis & St. Clare Fraternity.

(Excerpted from the Globe and Mail, April 14, 2008)

Ruth Louise Kennedy (BLS ’50)
Mary E.A. Krause (BLS ’43)

Joan Leonardo (BLS ’65)

Lily Helen Luoma (Dip. Lib. ’45)

Donna M. MacDonald (BLS ’60)

John Edwin Martin (BLS ’66)

Michael James McCahill (BLS ’59, MLS ’72)

Suddenly at home, age 82. Mike was from long-time Victoria families on both sides, and attended Victoria College in Craigdarroch Castle. He served in the army, then earned a BA (UBC), BLS (University of Toronto), and Advanced Computers (U of T). Mike worked at the Greater Victoria Public Library, at UVic, and Sir George Williams University in Montreal but spent most of his career at Robarts Library at U of T where he played a major role in establishing the computer cataloguing system. He was well-respected in his field. Mike returned to his beloved Victoria in 1986 and enjoyed over 20 years involved in politics, volunteering, attending opera and ballet, collecting books and music, lunching with loved ones, and travelling.

(Excerpted from the Victoria Times-Colonist, June 28-29, 2008)

Barbara Mona Michell (BA, BLS ’37)

Passed away at the E.J. McQuigge Lodge Nursing Home. From Belleville, Ontario, Barbara was 92. Loving wife of John Mitchell, and dear mother of three. Devoted grandmother of five, and great grandmother of one.

Joyce Leah Robertson (BLS ’50)

Nancy St. Clair Ryley Denovan (BLS ’59)

Nancy and her dear husband, David McClintock Denovan, died November 20, 2007 on Salt Spring Island, BC. She and David were dearly loved and will be sadly missed. Nancy grew up in Montreal, did undergraduate studies at McGill and post-graduate work in library science at University of Toronto. Her subsequent career as a CBC television producer, director, and writer was highlighted by her documentary series on Canadian artists, musicians and naturalists, including award-winning films about Emily Carr and Lawren Harris. Later in life, Nancy and David left Toronto to establish their own connection with nature. The proximity to the wilderness and her own garden sanctuary on Salt Spring gave her great joy.

(Excerpted from Globe and Mail, February 19, 2008).

Jeannette Elaine Pakulak (BLS ’65)

Alice Sass-Kortsak (BLS ’62)

Alice died peacefully at home. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Dr. Andrew Sass-Kortsak, she was born in Budapest, Hungary, and immigrated to Toronto with Andrew in 1949. She channelled her deep knowledge and love of Italian language, art, and literature into a career as a librarian in fine arts book selection at the University of Toronto. She and her husband opened their home and hearts to many Hungarian refugees in 1956 and were gracious hosts to many good friends and colleagues. She loved the beauty of nature and art, and was unfailingly elegant.

(Excerpted from Globe and Mail, June 25, 2008)

John Herbert Mercer (BLS ’63, MLS ’69)

Passed away at age 76 in Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, Nova Scotia. Born in Fredericton, NB, John worked as a radio announcer before obtaining a BA (Dalhousie) and a BEd (U of T) with a BLS and a MLS. He then taught high school in Nova Scotia, worked at libraries in Halifax, and for 29 years at the Vaughan Memorial Library, Acadia University, Wolfville, retiring in 1996. An active member of St. Andrew’s United Church, Wolfville, John taught Sunday school for more than 25 years. John was active in the Atlantic Public Library Association until his retirement.

(Excerpted from The Halifax Herald Limited)
Judith St. John (BLS ‘34)
At aged 93, tenacious head of the Osborne Children’s Collection at Toronto Public Library, one of the most outstanding collections of English children’s books in the world. “Miss St. John,” as she was always known, graduated from library school in 1934, and worked in the Toronto library system. In 1952, Miss St. John was a children’s librarian, and prepared a detailed catalogue of a large donated collection of early children’s books. The catalogue was published to acclaim in 1958. When she became head of the Osborne, she oversaw its continuing growth and its authoritative influence. In 1975 she completed a second substantial volume of the catalogue. She had a deep affection for England, visiting it for research with a Canada Council fellowship in 1960. She also wrote a lightly fictionalized memoir of a year in her childhood, Where the Saints Have Trod (1974).
(Excerpted from Times Online – UK)

Zenovia Szanc-Smarsh (MLS ‘92)
At aged 61, of Reston, Va., formerly of Toronto, Canada, and Cohoes N.Y., at the Capital Hospice in Arlington, Va., embraced by her loving family. Born in Dillingen, Germany, Zenovia was the beloved wife of John T. Smash of Reston. She received her BA and MA in Russian Language from SUNY Albany and MLS from the University of Toronto. Zenovia was a teacher and librarian and a former communicant of Sts. Peter & Paul’s Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cohoes. A resident of Canada for 28 years, she lived in Reston for the past three years.
(Excerpted from Albany Times Union)

Linda Jean Tomason (MLS ’77)

Margaret Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Wasserfall (BA, BLS ’68)
At Grey Gables, Markdale, formerly of Toronto, at 85. Beloved wife of William Wasserfall, and a loving grandmother of 10, she served in the RCAF during WWII, and graduated from Victoria College, U of T, receiving her BA in Library Science and Education. Betty was employed by the York Board of Education as Head Librarian at Bayview Secondary School, and was active in Friends of the Library, Markdale, Toronto Historical Society, Paperweight Collectors Association Ontario, Genealogical Association Ontario and the Ontario Bird Banding Association.
1943

Katherine Mary (McKay) Kelland

After graduation Katherine Mary McKay became a children’s librarian in her hometown, at the Vancouver Public Library. She then worked as a librarian at the Museum of Man in Ottawa prior to its move to the Museum of Civilization. She is now a confirmed Easterner, retired, and living with her husband in Ottawa. Her U of T experience is always recalled fondly.

1973

Jerry R. Miner

Near retirement, Jerry is on a one-year assignment from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as GlobalHort’s first webmaster in charge of communications. He had the “real treat” of catching up with classmates at last year’s CLA conference. Reflecting on 30-plus years, he states, “It’s been a wonderful career. I feel my adventure is just beginning. Librarians are lucky to be in a profession where they can retire and have so much knowledge, interests and linkages to draw on for the rest of their lives.” For more on Jerry, visit: http://www.globalhort.org/news-events/news/#news-14.

1975

Mary Beaty

Once a librarian at the Toronto Public Library, and Kingston Public Library, Mary is the author of George Johnson’s War (2008), happily returned to Toronto after 30 years of adventure. She spent ten years in New York as resource manager and recruiter for nycares.org, which mobilizes volunteers for disasters, and delivers group-based literacy, hunger, multicultural, and environmental programs to a quarter of a million clients. She is now a Humanist Chaplain, Marriage Officiant, and United Nations Representative for the American Humanist Association (Washington, DC), and webmaster for the UN Council of Ethics Based Organizations. As a chaplain, she has married more than 200 New York couples and looks forward to more unions as a Certified Marriage Commissioner in Ontario. She is proud of her children, Taran and Maev Beaty, and her grandchildren Aidan and Piper.

1978

Jennifer Brownlow

I love my job on Vancouver Island at the new Vancouver Island University, formerly Malaspina University-College. I’ve worked there since 1992 as Reference Coordinator and Education Librarian. The main campus is in Nanaimo with other campuses in Duncan, Parksville, and Powell River. If anyone would like to visit the library, I would love to show you around.

Robert Oldham

A reference librarian at Hamilton Public Library, Robert has recently published W.W.II, Napoleon IV: 1943, the third novel in his alternative history series, aimed at teens and adults. He sends a warm “hello”, in particular to the 1976-78 classes.

Contact him at r.oldham@sympatico.ca.

Kristine Carlsen Wall

I was Student Union VP and still remember having Brian Land as my government documents professor. After a career as an academic librarian, I now work at University of Lethbridge, Department of Advancement, with a focus on prospect research and donor relations. Since May, I have held the new position of Advancement Business Officer. My area of expertise will be the business processes of the university’s advancement, and how we interact with internal and external stakeholders and business partners.

1980

Stephen Abram

Stephen Abram is International President of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) for 2008, and past-president of CASLIS Toronto, SLA Toronto, OLA (2002), and CLA (2005). He wrote the bestseller, Out Front with Stephen Abram (ed. Judith Siess, Jonathan Lorig), and contributed to several other books while writing regular columns and articles. He is currently VP Innovation at SirsiDynix and Chief Strategist of the SirsiDynix Institute. Stephen sits on the advisory council of three LIS schools and teaches for the Professional Learning Centre here at the Faculty.

Robert E. Renaud

I am in my fourth year as VP and Chief Information Officer at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, and was Library Director from 2001 to 2004. I completed the Institute for Educational Management at the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University last year. I am active in EDUCAUSE, having served as a member of the program committee for the Enterprise 2008 conference, Chicago, IL, and chaired the program committee for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference last year in Baltimore, MD. I will be presenting at the EDUCAUSE Conference this October.

1991

Kerie Nickel

Laura Soto-Barra and Kerie Nickel, both graduates of the 1991 class, ran into each other on April 26, 2008, at the recent All-Canada Alumni Reunion in Washington, DC. Currently, Laura is the Senior Librarian for National Public Radio in Washington; Kerie is Reference and Instruction Librarian at St. Mary’s College, MD.

1995

Prof. Stephanie Walker

Last August, I reported that I was offered and accepted the job of Associate Librarian for Information Services at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York; however, since February 1, I have been the Acting Chief Librarian & Executive Director of Academic Information Technologies at Brooklyn College.

Weijing Yuan

Weijing Yuan has been appointed Digital Collections Librarian at University of Toronto Libraries (UTL). She was the Information Resources Librarian at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Library for eight years. At UTL, she works with collection development, collaborates with IT Services, identifies electronic resources for consideration, and provides leadership and expertise in acquiring and integrating digital resources into the Libraries’ collections.
2003
Nic a Abush
After finishing up at FIS, I moved to Melbourne, Australia, where I volunteered at Melbourne University and worked in the rare books area. I am currently the librarian at Holmes Institute, an English language college with campuses across Australia.

2007
Fadi Al-Buhairan
While starting the second year of my PhD in Information Systems and Technology at Claremont Graduate University in California has me excited, my true joy stems from the additions to my family. With great pleasure, joy, happiness, and thankfulness, I inform you of the arrival of our twin boys: Saleh Fadi Al-Buhairan and Sari Al-Buhairan.

Lubna Daraz
I still remember my days as a graduate student and am proud to be a part of the Faculty of Information community. Currently, I am in my second year of a PhD program at McMaster, preparing for the comprehensive examination. I have been very successful in obtaining doctoral funding, including three fellowships from CIHR, ORRAN, and the Institute for Work and Health. I also received the “Frederick Banting and Charles Best CGS Doctoral Award” for three years, an award formed by CIHR, SSHRC and NSERC.

Barbara Fras
When I first came back to Singapore I was freelancing; however, since December 2007, I have been working full-time at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM). The work here is both interesting and frenetic. The sister museum of ACM, Peranakan Museum, opened in Singapore in April 2008, so I had lots to do!

Gavin Nettlefold
Following graduation, I worked at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs in information management and privacy. After 13 months I took a similar job with Toronto Public Library, which involves responding to privacy breaches and to freedom of information requests, and proactively assessing the library’s privacy readiness. I’m also implementing a full records management plan for all branches and all employees. I’ll develop a system to organize paper and electronic records, and will design an archive for the library to manage its own internal records of archival value.

Jon Studiman
After a period of unscheduled vacations involving a lot of cooking, reading, and swimming, I was recently hired by the City of Toronto as Senior Records and Information Analyst, Taxonomy. Currently, my focus is on developing and implementing a thesaurus to combine public vocabulary with technical terms used by City staff. The job is an interesting combination of research and analysis as well as outreach and education. Anyone interested in talking about controlled vocabularies or riding bikes should get in touch: jstudiman@gmail.com.

2008
Amanda Burrows
I work in the Communication and Development departments at the Oakville Galleries. I help develop sponsor packages, plan special events, analyze data from marketing surveys, and provide administrative support. I plan to stay in Toronto for a year before moving abroad. A big “hello” to fellow Museum Studies grads!

Marilyn Carr-Harris
I have moved to Victoria and am settling into my permanent job at the Legislative Assembly. Things are going really well, although I must admit that I’m still getting lost in the corridors of the buildings.

Luanne Freund
Luanne’s doctoral dissertation, “Exploiting task-document relations in support of information retrieval in the workplace,” was accepted this spring. She is now an Assistant Professor at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at UBC, and teaches courses in information sources and services.

Nick Gamble
I’m pleased to tell you that I have joined Archives & Museum Informatics, (http://www.archimuse.com), as Conference Manager and am now a permanent resident of Toronto. When not busy planning and managing the Museums and the Web conferences, I enjoy spending time with my girlfriend, family, and friends, exploring the Beaches, and playing guitar.

Sarah McBain
I work as an Information Management Analyst for the Ministry of the Attorney General, Knowledge Management department. The Ontario Public Service has directed all ministries, divisions, and branches to make information more accessible, accurate, and usable. We are currently reviewing our Ministry, branch by branch, to create new record organization strategies based on the business functions of each branch. It is exciting work! I am also updating and creating materials for our knowledge transfer program.

Jeff Orchard
Jeff Orchard graduated with a MIST degree and also completed the Collaborative Program in KMDI. He is currently digitizing the Alumni Association’s Job Shadowing Program and eliciting requirements for the redesigned website of the Professional Learning Centre. His interests include experience design, information and media design, analysis of and interaction with systems, and information architecture.
WE gratefully acknowledge the alumni, friends, faculty, staff, foundations, and corporations listed below that have generously donated to the Faculty of Information, 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 Museum Studies.

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The President’s Circle is the Leadership Annual Giving Society for the University of Toronto. The giving level of $1,826 is historically relevant as it reflects the year, 1827, in which the University of Toronto was granted its Royal Charter.

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Alison Hitchens ’96, Ellen Symons ’82 and Claire Lyones ’04 at OLA Superconference Reception in January

Edwin Kamakali ’08 (right) and family at Convocation Reception 2008

Laura Jantek, Judy Dunn and Eva Kupidura ’92 help pick up garbage on the U of T campus during “Clean Up Toronto”

Museum Studies “Mischief and Malice” Exhibition team

Joe Cox ’84, Judy Dunn and Dean Brian Cantwell Smith at Halloween-themed Dean’s Tea

Dean Brian Cantwell Smith and partner, Prof. Gillian Einstein

Illic’s Kelly McIsaac ’94 and James Ingram with Charles Levi (middle)

Talk by Professor Joseph Janes, University of Washington, at the Faculty