In addition to ongoing committee representation, MUSSA would like to report on the following updates:

1. **End-of-Term Party**
   We organized a Fin-de-Semester Soiree on December 9th with MMSt Faculty at Victory Café – it was a grand success with 30+ attendees.

2. **Annual Class Trip**
   Almost 50 students and 5 faculty members went on the annual class trip to Ottawa on January 14-17, 2015. Attached is a report about the class trip by our Social Chair and lead student organizer for the trip, Alex Somerville. For further information about the activities of the class trip, please see this first person account by a MMSt student:
   [http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/content/museum-studies-student-road-trip-nations-capital](http://www.ischool.utoronto.ca/content/museum-studies-student-road-trip-nations-capital)

3. **Student Survey**
   We are currently working on the MUSSA Annual Student Survey for 2014/15 that gauges the MMSt and CRO experience at the iSchool. We hope to send it out to the student body by March.
MMSt Ottawa Study Trip 2015
Debrief

Introduction
This debrief describes and evaluates the success of the MMSt Ottawa Study Trip in 2015. The information is based on anecdotal evidence collected by Alex Somerville, MUSSA Social Chair, and the results of a feedback survey conducted by MUSSA.

Background
The MMSt Ottawa Study Trip took place from January 14, when students and faculty left Toronto for Ottawa, to January 17, when students and faculty returned to Toronto from Ottawa. The study trip was organized in part by Dr. Cara Krmpotich and Alex Somerville. The study trip included two consecutive days of educational sessions, one day each at the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of History. Educational sessions were planned by MMSt alumnae at each museum, Megan Richardson (NGC) and Claire Champ (CMH). The trip included an alumni networking evening planned by Robin Kester, the Faculty of Information’s Senior Development Officer.
Planning began in September, and included booking a group of hotel rooms for trip participants at the Residence Inn in Ottawa, scheduling transport during the trip with Denny’s Bus Lines, registering student participants, and communicating with other organizers. There were 45 student participants.

Anecdotal Feedback
Anecdotal evidence supports a claim that the trip was a positive experience for students, and informative. Students commented positively on the quality of educational sessions, especially at the National Gallery of Canada, and on the guest experience at the Residence Inn.

Survey Results
(results can be seen upon request)
After the trip, a survey was conducted by MUSSA to solicit formalized feedback from students who participated and who did not participate in the trip in order to improve such study trips in the future. 10 students who did not participate responded, and 32 of the 45 students who did participate responded to the survey.

Trip Non-participants
The survey results indicate that, among students who chose not to participate in the trip, one of the reasons for not participating was a lack of interest in Ottawa as a destination. Ottawa, as a domestic destination, may lack glamorous appeal, especially when compared to the 2014 trip to Washington. Every non-participant who indicated they had spent a lot of time in Ottawa also indicated that they did not find Ottawa to be an interesting destination. This finding should also be

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considered in relief of the fact that there were also students who chose to participate in the trip who had spent a lot of time in Ottawa.
One encouraging result among the responses of non-participants is the low reporting of prohibitive costs as a factor in deciding not to participate. Students are much more likely to find that they cannot afford the time than the money.

Trip Participants
The first two questions participants were asked to answer were about their anticipation of certain aspects of the trip and those aspects that made the trip seem worthwhile.
Among students who did participate in the trip, there was a high reporting of an anticipation of visiting Ottawa. Other widely reported expectations include visiting the national museums and getting to know classmates. Getting to know faculty was the least frequently indicated aspect of the trip that participants were looking forward to.
Spending time with friends, getting to know classmates, and attending educational sessions were more frequently indicated as aspects of the trip that made it worthwhile than as aspects that students had been looking forward to. This can be interpreted to support a claim that these aspects of the trip exceeded participant’s expectations.
Participants indicated that they would have made some changes to the trip. Over half of participant respondents indicated that they would have left Toronto earlier in the day to avoid traffic, and indicated that they would have asked for more ‘behind the scenes’ experiences at the NGC and CMH. Among write in responses, there is theme of having more discretionary time, and some dissatisfaction with the pub night event.
Student were asked to identify the educational sessions they thought were ‘the best’; most of the sessions earned this designation from between 25% and 40% of respondents. The outlier was the session on designing the Artissimo unit at the NGC, considered to be among the best by 29/35 (69%) students.
Among indications of what would have made the trip even better, there were recurring comments that more (free) time and more ‘behind the scenes’ opportunities would have made the trip even better.

Conclusions and Recommendations
These data support a conclusion that many participants felt the Ottawa study trip exceeded their expectations and offered a quality learning opportunity. The data also support a recommendation that planning more time and options for structuring that time (or not), are options for making the trip an even more positive experience.

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