SLAIS News: Judith Saltman Promoted

By Michelle Mallette

SLAIS is very pleased to announce that Associate Professor Judith Saltman has been promoted to the rank of Professor. In announcing the promotion, UBC President Stephen Toope specifically highlighted Professor Saltman’s “contributions to teaching, graduate supervision, research and service,” noting they assist UBC “in meeting its vision as a globally influential university.” He also congratulated her on “helping create an exceptional learning environment” for students.

The announcement follows on the heels of a number of awards and accolades for Professor Saltman. She was among six finalists for the International Institute for Children’s Literature, Osaka’s International Brothers Grimm Award for 2011, and was selected for a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award by the SLAIS Alumni Association. Additionally, Picturing Canada: A History of Canadian Children’s Illustrated Books and Publishing, published last year by Professor Saltman and co-author Gail Edwards, Chair of the History Department at Douglas College and adjunct faculty member at SLAIS, won the International Research Society for Children’s Literature Book Award, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) Canada Prize in the Humanities.

Foundation Scholarships: Jana Grazley and Tom Jackman in the MAS program, and Dan Gillean and Michael Grutchfield in the Dual MAS/MLIS program. The awards are in support of advanced study in the fields of information and records management.

Dan Gillean and MLIS student Todd ‘Zoey’ Peterson were successful in the 2011 Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s competition offered by the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council.

Current MLIS student Cynthia Ng, new MAS students Caralee Louko and Victoria Ostrenzki (both starting in September) and new MLIS student Eng Sengsavang (starting in January) are among 18 winners of scholarships from the Alice L. Haltom Educational Fund, in support of their studies in records and information management.

Finally, a record 3 MLIS students were selected as 2011 Spectrum Scholars. Judith Guzman-Montes, Mayu Ishida and Ebony Magnus are among the 55 scholarship winners from across North America chosen for 2011. The Spectrum Scholarship program is a project of the American Library Association, providing scholarships to minority students pursuing graduate degrees in library and information studies.

November graduation

Twenty-two SLAIS students will be conferred degrees at the November convocation ceremony at UBC. There are two ceremonies a year and the November cohort is the smaller of the two. This year, 16 will be conferred Master of Library and Information Studies degrees, 1 is being conferred a Master of Archival Studies, 4 are being conferred the Dual MAS/MLIS degrees, and 1 is being conferred the Master of Arts in Children’s Literature. Congregation will be held November 24 in the Chan Centre at UBC, and the day includes a celebration lunch at SLAIS for the graduates, family and friends.

Learning Opportunities at SLAIS

SLAIS is hosting a series of colloquia which are open to the professional community. Topics of discussion at these learning opportunities range from the future viability of public libraries to digital literacy. Most events are held in the noon hour in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre on the UBC campus, though
specific program details may vary. The schedule is posted at http://www.slais.ubc.ca/news/colloquia.htm, and all are welcome.

Michelle Mallette is Student Services Coordinator at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, the iSchool at The University of British Columbia.