SLAIS News: Students Win Top Awards

By Michelle Mallette.

Students at the School of Library, Archival & Information Studies (SLAIS) at UBC have earned national and international fame of late, winning an impressive number of awards.

MLIS student Katie O’Leary has won the Pratt Severn Best Student Paper Award from the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) for her paper entitled “Information Seeking in the Context of a Hobby: A Case Study of a Young Adult with Asperger’s Syndrome.” Katie developed the paper in her work in Heather O’Brien’s LIBR 559A: Understanding Information Users in Diverse Environments.

MAS/MLIS student Jennifer Borland has won a 2009 ARMA International Educational Foundation Graduate Scholarship. First presented in 2007, the award is given to strengthen records and information management. Only two or three winners are chosen each year, and SLAIS has been represented every year since the award was established.

MAS/MLIS student Harrison W. Inefuku attended the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in August to accept the society’s Mosaic Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to an applicant pursuing a graduate degree in archival studies who demonstrates excellent potential for scholastic and personal achievement and who manifests a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it.

May 2009 MAS/MLIS graduate Shane McCord won one of five highly competitive internships with the National Gallery of Canada. Established through the support of the TD Bank Financial Group, the internship program allows the National Gallery to offer a paid 12-week study, training and work experience opportunity to five new professionals Shane was named one of two interns for the Art Librarianship and Archives Practice program.

Terry Eastwood returns to SLAIS

Professor Edie Rasmussen has stepped down as Director of SLAIS after serving in that position for six years. Professor Terence “Terry” Eastwood has agreed to serve as Interim Director of SLAIS from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Well known within the archival community in Canada and throughout the world, Professor Eastwood not only chaired the Master of Archival Studies Program from 1981 to 2000 but served as Acting Director of SLAIS on two prior occasions. Though he took early retirement in June 2007, Prof. Eastwood has stayed active at SLAIS by teaching on a part-time basis over the last two years. SLAIS begins its search for a new Director this fall.

Carol Tenopir presents Johnson Lecture

SLAIS will be hosting the Stephen and Marion Johnson Memorial Lecture in Library and Information Studies November 12th, 2009. This year’s guest lecturer is Carol Tenopir, Chancellor's Professor, School of Information Sciences; Director of Research and Director of the Centre for Information and Communication Studies, College of Communication and Information, University of Tennessee. She will present her lecture, “Variations in Reading Behaviours: What Makes a Difference?” from 4-5 p.m. in the Dodson Room (3rd floor) at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, followed by a reception in her honour. To attend, please RSVP to slaistk@interchange.ubc.ca.

SLAIS welcomes new faculty

SLAIS is pleased to welcome its two newest faculty members. Lisa Nathan and Eric Meyers joined SLAIS July 1, 2009 as assistant professors. Both are completing their PhDs from the University of Washington. Lisa is completing her doctoral dissertation on "Adaptation and Information Technology: An Ethnography of Values, Choice, and Tension in Two Ecovillages." Eric’s doctoral dissertation is on “The Nature and Impact of Group Information Problem Solving.”

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