SLAIS News: Children’s Lit Scholar to Visit

By Michelle Mallette.

The School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, the iSchool at UBC, is thrilled to announce that the first Dodson Visiting Professorship is going to international children’s literature scholar Helene Høyrup of the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark. She will be in the position for the second Winter Term, February to April 2013.

Dr. Høyrup is an expert in digital literacy and children’s literature. She’s particularly interested in the theoretical development of children’s literature scholarship, the interface between children’s literature, art and literature for adults, and children’s literature and its studies in different nations and regions. Additionally, Dr. Høyrup is an international Hans Christian Andersen scholar and a partner in several Scandinavian and European research projects on children’s literature and canonicity, and on theories of informal learning with digital media. During her term as a Visiting Professor at SLAIS, Dr. Høyrup will teach and mentor students studying children’s literature, teach two one-credit classes over the term, and offer guest lectures in other classes and at a university-wide colloquium on children’s literature.

The Dodson Visiting Professorship is named in honour of Suzanne and Earl Dodson, bringing a scholar to spend a term engaged in teaching and research at the iSchool and with the UBC community.

Passing of Former Director Basil Stuart-Stubbs

Retired SLAIS director Basil Stuart-Stubbs passed away in hospital May 29, 2012, following a lengthy illness. Professor Stuart-Stubbs served as Director of the School from 1981 to 1992. He began his career with UBC in 1956 as a librarian, named Coordinator of Collections in 1962, and appointed as University Librarian in 1964. He served in that position until 1981 when he became Director of the School of Librarianship, soon renamed the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Under his leadership, the School admitted its first class in the brand-new Master of Archival Studies program in September 1981, alongside the already well-established Master of Library Science program. He oversaw construction of the School’s first computer laboratory, which quickly expanded. That work caught the attention of the American Library Association, which sent Professor Stuart-Stubbs a letter in 1988 commending the School for increasing the use of computerized information services for LIS students in an era of economic restraint.

A gathering for family and friends is planned for later in the summer or early autumn.

SLAIS Hosts International Researchers

The iSchool is welcoming two international scholars as guests over the summer, Professor William Wong of Middlesex University’s Interactive Design Centre, and Nassim Jafarinaimi of Georgia Tech’s Digital Media program.

During his visit Professor Wong will continue a programme of research with Dr. Victoria Lemieux of SLAIS on visual analytics for financial systemic risk analysis, and give several talks on campus. Dr. Jafarinaimi will be meeting with faculty and students at the iSchool, discussing her research work into how the material and formal qualities of digital media shape individual and social experiences with the aim of understanding their ethical and political foundations/implications. Watch www.slais.ubc.ca for announcements of public talks featuring our guests.

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