

McGill CLA Student Chapter Annual Report 2007/2008

Co-Presidents: Kirsten Huhn and Nicole Tummon

Vice-President Elect: Janelle Ramsay

Secretary/Treasurer: Rosanne Lester (Secretary Sept.-Dec. 2007: Alexandra Carter)

Professional Liaison: Julie Jones

Communications Officer: Brett Williams

Co-Presidents' Summary

Student Group Fair

Nicole and Kirsten presented CLAMSC during the MLIS orientation on September 5th, speaking to the group of first year students about our plan for the 2007-2008 academic year, and inviting interested students to participate.

During a two-day student group information fair organized by the McGill Library and Information Studies Student Association on September 12th and 13th, Kirsten staffed a CLA table, handing out CLA membership information packages and talking to new students about the mission of the student group and plans for the upcoming year.

CLA Open Meeting, Elections and Executive Business

On September 17th, we held our first general meeting and held elections for the offices of Vice-President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Professional Liaison and Communications Officer. We had decided to split the position of Secretary/Treasurer in two as a result of last year's experience of the vice-president elect leaving the executive half-way through the term. We thought that the involvement another first year student in the executive would facilitate the transition. This turned out to be a good idea as Alexandra Carter, elected secretary, left the program in December. Rosanne agreed to take on the responsibilities, thus rejoining the two positions in January.

We also used this first meeting to outline the projects we had for the coming of year, ask students for feedback and suggestions of events they would like to see organized. Refreshments were served at this meeting.

President's Visit

On November 15th, CLA President Dr. Alvin Schrader came to GSLIS to speak with students about librarianship and the CLA. His presentation lasted approximately an hour,

over the lunch break. Attendance at this talk was excellent, with a large number of first and second year MLIS students as well as some faculty member present. A student membership to CLA, sponsored by the CLA main office was raffled off, with MLIS 1 student Alexandra Carter winning the membership. Following the talk, Alvin had lunch with Kirsten and Alexandra and attended the 5 à 7 held later that evening. Special thanks to Valerie Delrue for helping to coordinate this event with Alvin's busy schedule, as well as for sending information packages and CLA items to raffle off.

Content Management

This year the CLAMC migrated the website from the old URL to a new address that is hosted directly on McGill University's main site. The format of the new website was adjusted to match the approved McGill standards. As this task was conducted fairly late in the year, the site is not 100% complete at this time. The Communications Officer will continue to refine the site over the summer break to be finished in time for the new school year.

CLA has a locker in the hallway of GSLIS, which is used for storing materials such as information kits, ballots and supplies for meetings. Due to the overflow in the CLA locker, some of these items were also stored in Kirsten's locker. Unfortunately, during a series of locker break-ins in March, some of the CLA items that had been sent for raffles, were stolen from Kirsten's locker. A police report was made by campus security. On April Janelle and Kirsten got together to clean out the CLA locker and discuss the transition to the incoming executive.

Ottawa Library Tours

On April 15th, six McGill students traveled to Ottawa for tours of the library at the National Gallery, the Library of Parliament, and the main branch of the Ottawa Public Library. The library tours were organized by Kirsten in co-operation with Meghan Hansen, president-elect of the McGill Library and Information Studies Student Association. While these tours have traditionally taken place in September to coincide with the CLA Open House in Ottawa, we felt a different date would allow first year students to participate. Unfortunately, this date late in the winter term prohibited any second years from attending the tours and, as a result, attendance was again comparatively low. Janelle and Rosanne are already working with Meghan to find a better date and get a head start on organizing this trip for next year.

Executive Involvement

During the year Nicole, with some help from Rosanne, Janelle and Kirsten, planned two career discussion events for students:

“Hiring in Academic Libraries”

This event was held on November 7th 2007. Three speakers were invited and all of them graciously accepted the invitation to speak, expounding on topics ranging from job interview techniques to the importance of gaining a strong understanding of policies and practices of the institution one is applying to. The speakers were chosen for their diversity and success in the field of librarianship and they included: Christine Oliver (McGill, Head of Cataloguing Services), Danielle Dennie (Concordia, Subject Librarian for Chemistry and Biology), and Jill Boruff (McGill, Life Sciences Librarian).

“Summer Jobs for MLIS Students”

This event was held on March 4th 2008. The objective was to facilitate an informal ‘chat’ whereby second year MLIS students would have the opportunity to impart some wisdom and knowledge to the first year MLIS students regarding landing that all important summer job.

Turnout for both sessions was excellent. Special thanks go out to our invited panelists and to MLIS II students who spoke about their summer work experiences. Refreshments were served at both sessions.

Librarians Without Borders and the Multilingual Children’s Library (McGill Student Parent Network) have now become independent projects. The Librarians Without Borders group was largely inactive during the past academic year, so no CLAMSC executive member was involved as liaison. Kirsten liaised with the Multilingual Children’s Library project throughout the year.

Related Activites

Student Chapter Bakesales

CLA executive members volunteered to help with the bake sale being organized by the ACA and SLA student chapters.

Peer Mentorship

In April 2007, Kirsten emailed all students through the MLISSA listserv to solicit volunteers, and created a letter and list of mentors to be included in the orientation packages for incoming first year students compiled by the main office. Approximately 20 MLIS II students served as Peer Mentors for incoming MLIS I students in 2007, and many students mentioned being contacted for information. No exact numbers were kept for the program this year, though there was a general sense that it was appreciated.

CODE Fundraiser

Kirsten and Janelle volunteered at the 24th annual holiday fundraising event to benefit CODE. This event was organized by the Montreal chapters of CLA, SLA, and ABQLA. Kirsten and Janelle assisted with setup, decorating, and serving meals throughout the evening.

Career Fair

Janelle was co-planner with Tanis Keiner (chairperson) of the 2008 McGill School of Information Studies Career Fair. Over the course of three months, grants were applied for, hundreds of invitations were sent out, a brochure was prepared for the students informing them of participating organizations, posters were created to advertise around the School, refreshments provided, set up arranged (in the School of Information Studies), etc. Seventeen organizations and approximately one hundred students participated in the successful event. Plans are all ready in the works for next year.

Secretary-Treasurer's Summary

Minutes

Minutes were taken at all monthly executive meetings and posted to the CLAMSC website.

Budget

This year, CLAMSC spent \$399.41 on several events. The largest single expense came from the food tray at the President's Visit in November. The Montreal CLA chapter generously donated \$100.00 to help cover the costs of this visit. Otherwise, the rest of the money was mostly spent on gifts for the various speakers that we had in during the year. These gifts included water bottles from the McGill University bookstore, and \$10.00 Chapters Gift Cards. In addition, we also purchased gift cards for the tour guides from our Ottawa trip to the Library of Parliament, the library of the National Gallery of Canada, and the Ottawa Public Library. The remaining funds were spent on cookies and refreshments for students during our lunchtime talks.

Receipts for Fall 2007 were submitted to Head Office in January 2008. Receipts for Winter 2008 will be submitted later in the summer.

Professional Liaison's Summary

5 à 7

This event was a co-sponsored with the CLA Montreal chapter, which provided us with a financial contribution for snacks and drinks. The 5 à 7 took place on November 15th 2007, to coincide with Dr. Alvin Schrader's visit to McGill and Montreal. We once again held the event in the Thompson House ballroom, as it is free to use for graduate students. Julie was the main organizer of the 5 à 7, arranging for snacks and drinks and sending out personal invitations to CLA members and SIS faculty. Attendance was good and included first and second year students, as well as some members of the CLA Montreal chapter and faculty members.