# School of Information Studies

**January 2013**

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Alumni and friends,

This newsletter contains a lot of news since we were unable to publish a 2011 newsletter due to the work disruption of McGill support staff in Fall 2011. Since our last newsletter in 2010, the School has welcomed two new faculty members, Charles-Antoine Julien and Karyn Moffatt, and we have celebrated the graduation of over 10 new PhDs in Information Studies and 150 new Master’s of Library and Information Studies, as you will see from these pages.

We’re continuing to highlight alumni profiles, and we will also be posting these on our website, separately from the newsletter. The career paths of our graduates, as you are very aware, are increasingly more diverse and ever changing. We invite you to let us know if you would like to be featured for a profile.

In line with the theme of diversity and change, we are very close to completing our curriculum review and making important changes to our MLIS program. The review is informed by the questions we have been asking ourselves and our alumni: in this changing world, what should information professionals know? What should they care about? And what is their distinctive contribution to the knowledge economy?

A recent survey reports that individuals held an average of 11 jobs from age 18 to age 44 (US Department of Labor, 2010), which is more than 5 times the number of job changes people went through in the previous century. Therefore, individuals must be well-prepared lifelong learners who can adapt to rapid environmental changes in both the workplace and the world.

If this is true for workers in general, it is absolutely critical for information professionals. We need to build the concept of change into our educational and research decisions, so that our graduates are positioned to both seize the opportunities that the future holds, and to make substantial contributions to that future.

I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and that you will continue to share with us your stories and news which give us the motivation to improve everything that we do.

Best wishes in 2013.

France Bouthillier, Director
Professor J. Andrew Large retired from the School of Information Studies, August 31, 2012. Since coming to McGill in 1989, Andy served as Director of the School until 1998, and Associate Dean, Faculty of Education from 2009-2012. Andy has played a central role over the past quarter-century in transforming the School’s teaching and research. During these years, the School accepted its first doctoral student in 1991, came under the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Education in 1996, established Canada’s first Chair in Information Studies in 1998 – the CN-Pratt-Grinstad Chair, with Andy as its first incumbent – developed the Graduate Certificate program in 2001, the MLIS specialized streams in 2005, and the PhD in Information Studies in 2009. In terms of ALA accreditation of the MLIS program, Andy led the School to its successful 1996 re-accreditation, with what the Committee on Accreditation judged to be a model self-study report that other schools could use as an example. He also participated in the successful re-accreditations of 2003 and 2010.

As a researcher, Andy has enjoyed the most significant international reputation ever held by anyone on the School’s faculty. He has published 18 books, 28 book chapters, and over 60 refereed articles, in addition to other articles, digital works and software. He is editor and co-founder of the Education for Information Journal, co-editor of CD-ROM Information Products, and sits on the editorial boards of four other journals. He has received approximately $2M in research funding, largely in the areas of information-seeking behaviour and human-computer interaction, looking recently at information-seeking processes of elementary school students. Major funding has come from agencies such as SSHRC, Heritage Canada, the National Library of Canada, CIDA, IBM, and the European Space Agency. His best known project, developed with Prof. Jamshid Beheshti, is the children’s web portal, History Trek (www.historytrek.ca), providing access to more than 2,300 web pages, which has attracted over 800,000 hits since its debut in September 2007.

Born and raised in England, Andy received his BSc from the London School of Economics and PhD in History from the University of Glasgow before receiving his Graduate Diploma in Librarianship at the University of London. After a short career as a librarian, he became a library and information studies educator at the University of Wales (Aberystwyth), before coming to McGill. His well-deserved reputation as an excellent lecturer centres upon master’s courses in areas like online searching, issues in information, introduction to information studies, and language and information. He also taught research design in information systems, in the School’s doctoral program. He has supervised four doctoral students to successful completion, with another three nearing completion, in addition to supervising many Master’s research projects.


Andy’s colleagues will miss his quiet, informed, and authoritative voice at meetings where he would regularly insert notes of reason and experience at critical moments of decision-making. We wish Andy and his wife, Val, a happy and fulfilling retirement. We also wish him much happy listening to fine jazz in Montreal and elsewhere.

Peter F. McNally
Professor
PROFESSOR PETER McNALLY was awarded the 2011 Marie Tremaine Medal (and accompanying Watters-Morley Prize) of the Bibliographical Society of Canada at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Fredericton in May 2011.

The Marie Tremaine Medal is awarded for outstanding service to Canadian bibliography and for distinguished publication in either English or French in that field. The members of the award committee cited Professor McNally’s career as a librarian and historian, spanning nearly 40 years and devoted to the study of Canadian bibliography, particularly the study of Canadian libraries.

PROFESSOR KIMIZ DALKIR has been appointed Executive Director, Student Affairs, in the Faculty of Education. She will provide academic guidance and direction to the Office of Student Affairs (re policies, regulations, decisions), and an attentive ear to students experiencing academic difficulties, and respond to appeals (re status, standing, grades and readmission), while ensuring liaison with the offices of the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) and the Dean of Students.

PROFESSORS JAMSHID BEHESHTI and ANDREW LARGE have published a new text entitled The Information Behavior of a New Generation: Children and Teens in the 21st Century. The edited text looks at the current information behavior of children and youth and the changes that have emerged over the last two decades.
Dr. Karyn Moffatt joined the School of Information Studies as an assistant professor in September 2011. Dr. Moffatt obtained her BASc in Computer Engineering from the University of British Columbia in 2001. She then completed her Master of Science in Computer Science at UBC in 2004, and remained there to earn her PhD in Computer Science, completing her thesis, Addressing age-related pen-based target acquisition difficulties, in 2010. Funded by both NSERC and CIHR-STIHR Health Care, Technology and Place (HCtP), Dr. Moffatt also completed post-doctoral work with Dr. Ronald Baecker at the University of Toronto Technologies for Aging Gracefully Lab, examining the design of technology to support social interaction, including technology to support intergenerational communication, to connect socially isolated individuals with their friends and family, and to help adults with aphasia and children with autism communicate more effectively. Dr. Moffatt focuses on an older population, a diverse demographic, allowing opportunities for exploring the ways human abilities and disabilities impact interactions with technology. She incorporates a variety of HCI methodologies, including user-centered and participatory approaches to design, and laboratory and field experiments for evaluation.

She describes her research as follows:

“My research explores the ways in which technology can be designed to help older and/or disabled individuals overcome everyday challenges and obstacles.

“For example, one current project seeks to support intergeneration communication. Older adults tend to dislike the lightweight feel of social media technologies, but younger generations can find it difficult to engage in longer, more personal interactions over synchronous media such as the phone. To address this gap, I’m developing a system to support the co-construction of family storybooks as a shared online activity. Prototypically, I envision asymmetrical use, with the grandchild taking charge of constructing and organizing the digital book and the grandparent providing the stories and content. The grandchild scans and organizes a set of family photos, and while doing so, selects photos that are unfamiliar or representative of an interesting event and attaches an audio message such as ‘Who’s in this photo?’ or ‘Tell me more about this day.’ This audio recording and photograph are then sent to the grandparent via a wireless picture frame. The grandparent ‘writes back’ using a wireless digital pen to transmit a handwritten story to the grandchild. Using handwritten stories not only reduces the technological demands on the grandparent, but also personalizes the digital keepsake.

“Though it is clear that some older adults want low-tech interfaces like the one described above, many others want to adopt computer technology but find it challenging to perform basic tasks such as selecting an icon with ease. Recovering from computer errors can be a challenging and frustrating experience, but this is often lost in laboratory evaluations of computer interaction. I am currently initiating an investigation of how often errors occur in typical computer tasks and of how users recover from them. Answering these questions would illuminate the tradeoffs between speed and accuracy, and could inspire new interaction techniques.

“In summary, the overarching goal of my work is to design new technologies that enable people to engage with information and each other. I focus on older adults because they represent a diverse demographic that enables me to explore the ways that human abilities and disabilities impact our interactions with technology.”
Dr. Charles-Antoine Julien joined the School of Information Studies as an assistant professor in January 2012. Dr. Julien holds a PhD in Information Studies from McGill, a Master of Applied Science and a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering from the École Polytechnique de Montréal. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Dr. Julien’s research is focused on how information organization affects the efficiency of humans using novel information retrieval tools. He is concerned with increasing our understanding of how information is organized in order to create, develop and test efficient human-information interaction tools that people enjoy using. Dr. Julien has designed and tested human-information interfaces, based on metadata and ontologies, to facilitate information exploration and searching. His current work addresses highly interactive and immersive information visualization tools for existing organized collections.

He explains, “Library and scientific collections are systematically organised using a hierarchy of broad to narrow subjects which is designed to facilitate browsing of the information. Current online tools do not provide adequate browsing of large subject hierarchies found in real-world collections. My research addresses this gap by studying the structure of organized collections and how users can interact with these structures using an online interface. The objective is to facilitate information browsing and searching in organized collections (e.g., library and scientific) by capitalizing on existing investments made in subject organization.

“For example, I’ve developed and tested innovative interfaces that allow users to browse library collections by visually interacting with its subjects and the relations between them within a 3D virtual reality tool. I am also developing ways to automatically modify subject hierarchies such that they become smaller and less complex in order to facilitate browsing by untrained users. These ongoing projects are creating exciting new research directions such as how the visual beauty of an information tool affects information retrieval performance, and new ways to display and interact with subject organization structures.

“This research addresses the issue that, as a means of retrieving information, libraries compete with the internet, and although subject organization is offered almost exclusively by libraries, this competitive edge is not adequately communicated by current online library catalogues. It also supports a faster progression from the merely functional tool, through one that is easy to use, towards a pleasurable information search tool preferred by today’s digital citizens.”
**Associate Professor Catherine Guastavino** is a co-investigator with Prof. Bryan Pijanowski of Purdue University on a five year (2011-2016) National Science Foundation grant of $499,556 for a project entitled "CNH-RCN: A Global Sustainable Soundscape Network." Dr. Guastavino has also been named a McGill University William Dawson Scholar. The William Dawson Scholar award recognizes a scholar developing into an outstanding and original researcher of world-class calibre who is poised to become a leader in his or her field and is held for five years (renewable).

**Assistant Professor Karyn Moffatt** was awarded a Young Network Investigator Award by the Graphics, Animation, and New Media Network of Centres of Excellence (GRAND-NCE) to support her work investigating the communication and information needs of families navigating hospice care, and was invited to join distinguished international guests at the 2012 Google Faculty Summit: New Interactions in the Digital World July 25-27, 2012 in Mountain View, California. She has also been awarded a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) 5-year Discovery Grant for the project "Socially-Informed Accessible Technology: Improving Access to Technology, Information, and People" which will research accessible technology for users with physical, cognitive and sensory disabilities, with a goal to develop new generation assistive devices and accessible technologies that are sensitive to the social environments within which they will be used, and that seek to leverage those relationships to improve assistance and support, and a Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQNT) 2-year New Researchers Start Up Program grant for the project "Advancing Accessible Computing by Considering Real World Use". This research will advance accessible computing for older adults through the study of real world computer use.

**Assistant Professor Carolyn Hank** is Principal Investigator on two grant-funded projects. She was awarded the 2012 Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Research Grant for the study, "Teaching in the Age of Facebook and other Social Media: LIS Faculty and Students ‘Friending’ and ‘Poking’ in the Social Sphere." She is joined on this project by her co-principal investigators, Dr. Cassidy Sugimoto of Indiana University Bloomington and Dr. Jeffrey Pomerantz of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Hank recently presented the planned course of study to the ALISE community during the 2012 annual conference, held in Dallas, TX in January. The other project, "The Biblioblogosphere: A Comparison of Communication and Preservation Perceptions and Practices between Blogging LIS Scholar-Practitioners and LIS Scholar-Researchers," was awarded a 2012 OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant Competition. She is joined in this initiative by Dr. Sugimoto, as co-principal investigator.

**Assistant Professor Elaine Ménard** was awarded a three year (2011-2014) Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grant of $115,393 over three years for her project “Modeling of an Interface Dedicated to Digital Image Retrieval in a Bilingual Context”. The research program will develop an interface model for image retrieval in a bilingual (French and English) context, that is, when the query language differs from the indexing language. The overarching goal is to investigate the characteristics and functionalities necessary to support image retrieval in a bilingual context, and to integrate these characteristics and functionalities into a comprehensive yet flexible interface model. By taking into account the needs and expectations of real users, the main outcome of this research will be the establishment of a framework that will contribute to design efforts and help many groups of image searchers to browse and search for images, since an appropriately designed interface could be crucial to their success in finding the needed images.

**STAFF NEWS:**

In January 2012, Ancy Joseph, Administrative Coordinator, relocated with her family to Ottawa. Ancy, who had worked at the School since 2004, has just started at Carleton University as an administrative assistant in Financial Services. We wish her well.

Cathy Venetico is currently working as administrative coordinator at the School. Cathy was running her own business before she started here at McGill.
MLIS students continue to be active, both as members of student chapters of professional organizations, and as individuals presenting their research and studies at McGill and other conferences.

Amanda Oliver, MLIS’12, presented a poster, “All the World’s a Stage: The Representation of Performance in the Archive,” at the Canadian Association for Information Science/L’Association canadienne des sciences de l’information conference, in Waterloo, Ontario, May 31 - June 2, 2012, in addition to presenting “Performing Arts Collections and Metadata Schemes” as part of the Performing Arts Panel at the Collaboration, Convergence, and Communities: iSchool Student Conference, held at the iSchool, University of Toronto, March 2-4, 2012.

Also at the 2012 Conference, Emily Kozinski, MLIS’12, presented a poster, “Removing Records Documenting Acts of Violence and Atrocities from the Archive,” and was among those who received the Best Poster Runners-Up mention. Peter Steiner and Halley Silversides, both MLIS students, offered a workshop at the Conference entitled “Hack Your Books: Conservation and Library Science in Hackerspace.”

Wayne Pender, MLIS ’12, was awarded the Special Libraries Association (SLA) IT Division’s Jo Ann Clifton Student Award to deliver his paper “Metadata for Video: Too Much Content, Not Enough Information” at the July 2012 SLA conference in Chicago. This distinction included a travel and expenses scholarship and publication in b/ite, the IT Division Bulletin. Wayne also received an ACA Foundation travel scholarship to present his paper “Moving Image Records: The Appraisal and Use of Television Newscasts for Archival Purposes” at the Association of Canadian Archivists National Conference in Whitehorse, YT, in June 2012.

Adrienne Smith, MLIS’11, attended the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) 2011, as she was awarded the ASIS&T Northeast Student Chapter travel award for her essay submission. Adrienne received $1,000 to help defray the costs of attendance at the 2011 ASIS&T Annual Meeting on “Bridging the Gulf: Communication and Information in Society, Technology and Work” in October in New Orleans.

A record number of MLIS students presented at the 2012 annual Faculty of Education Graduate Students Society conference held in March. Among them were Jacob Siefiring, Ian Robertson, Mark Stewart and Dana Tessier (MLIS I), “Incidental information acquisition in the context of emergent awareness” (Paper); Corvella Eileen Wafford (MLIS I), “Access granted: The evolving role of archives and its implication for education” (Paper); Jesse David Dinneen (MLIS I), “Should LIS abandon the ‘definition of information’ problem?” (Paper); David Tkach (MLIS I), “The situatedness of the seeker: Toward a Heideggerian model of information seeking” (Paper); Rebecca Burbank, Emily McHugh and Amanda Oliver, MLIS’12, “Service learning in action” (Paper); Sarah Macintyre and Ciara O’Shea, MLIS’12, “The learning commons in your school library: Why you should create a user-centered learning space” (Poster).

Nina Thurlow, MLIS’12 (left), won an award for her poster presentation, “There are birds in the library: Examining adoption and use of Twitter by Canadian academic libraries.”

Along with presentations at conferences, MLIS student groups continue to organize annual conferences which bring keynote speakers and give students the opportunity to present their research papers. Among these are the Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter, which hosted keynote speaker Jim Burant, Senior Archivist for Art and Photography of Library and Archives Canada in 2011, and in 2012, Catherine Hobbs, Literary Archivist (English-language) of Library and Archives Canada.
CALL Conferences 2011 and 2012

This past May, recent graduate Katarina Daniels, MLIS’12, returned from her second Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL) conference. Having been awarded one of four complimentary student registrations in 2011 for the conference in Calgary, she could not pass up the opportunity to go back again this year to meet even more legal information professionals from across the country, while learning about exciting developments and opportunities in the field of law information through various presentations, panels and plenary sessions. Topics of interest over the past two years have included project management, alternative dispute resolution, copyright issues, records and information management, professional growth, cataloguing and RDA, collection development, statistics, and legal research training.

Another wonderful opportunity that presented itself at the 2012 conference was the chance to visit three major law firm libraries in Toronto: Heenan Blaikie, Fasken Martineau, and Goodmans. The librarians at each firm had had a role in designing their new library spaces – an incredible challenge! While all three libraries are located in the same building (and share wonderful views of downtown Toronto), they all look and feel very different, and run in their own unique ways. If your library is moving any time soon, the librarians at these libraries are an invaluable resource.

While the 2012 kicked off the start of CALL’s 50th anniversary, the big celebrations will come at the 2013 conference in Montreal, so be sure to become a CALL member to enjoy reduced rates for this wonderful conference! The theme has already been announced, and is something all law librarians can relate to – the multi-faceted career of a law librarian. Katarina looks forward to volunteering at the upcoming conference, and hopes to see many SIS students and graduates in attendance!
CONVOCATIONS 2011 and 2012

LEFT - top to bottom
- 2012 Graduates Aimee Belmore & Daniela Ansovini
- 2012 Graduate Rafa Absar & family
- 2012 Graduate Sarah Gibbs with Prof. Kimiz Dalkir

RIGHT - top to bottom
- 2012 Graduates Katarina Daniels & Marcela Isbuster
- Prof. Elaine Ménard with 2012 graduates Veronique Lecat & Emilie Dupras Langlois

BOTTOM
- 2011 graduates on the stairs of the School building
New Student Association: Adding to the student associations already active in the School and spearheaded by PhD students, SIS students have been granted a chapter of ASIS&T (American Society for Information Science and Technology). The mandate of the student chapter is to provide an organization through which student members of ASIS&T may share their special concerns, find academic support, participate in information science programs for students and other members of the community, build professional networks and make contributions to the profession. The group is active in the School, organizing workshops to support research activities for both Master’s and PhD students. Professor France Bouthillier is the Chapter’s advisor. Nouf Khashman, MLIS’06, is the Chair for 2012-2013, with Jonathan Dorey, MLIS’10, as Chair-elect. Jonathan was given a New Leaders Award by ASIS&T, one of eight chosen in a national competition.

Nouf Khashman also received an Honorable Mention in the ALISE/Jean Tague Sutcliffe Doctoral Student Research Poster Competition at the 2012 ALISE Conference in Dallas in January.

Amandine Pras, PhD’12, received the Student Paper Award at the 131st Convention of the Audio Engineering Society in New York City in October 2011 for her paper reporting on an experiment she conducted at New York University Steinhardt during a research residency in fall 2010.

Guillaume Boutard presented a paper at the 2012 ICOnference in Toronto in March 2012 on “Digital sound processing preservation: Impact on digital archives” (Guillaume Boutard, Catherine Guastavino and James M. Turner, Université de Montréal).

Rhiannon Gainor was awarded a Fonds de recherche Société et culture 2012 grant for her doctoral research developing metrics for competitive intelligence.

School of Information Studies doctoral students Jonathan Dorey, MLIS’10, and Isabelle Lamoureux, MLIS’05, presented the poster “Thinking outside the archival box: Information literacy to the rescue!” at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education’s 32nd Annual Conference held June 19-22, 2012, in Montreal. View the poster abstract at www.mcgill.ca/stlhe2012sapes/program/poster-sessions.

At the Canadian Association for Information Science/L’Association canadienne des sciences de l’information conference, in Waterloo, Ontario, May 31 - June 2, 2012, several PhD students made both poster and paper presentations, including Nouf Khashman: “The Facebook Revolution: An Analysis of Public Pages During the Arab Political Unrest” (Poster); Nasser Saleh and Professor Andrew Large: “Collaborative Information Behaviour of Engineering Students” (Paper). Nasser Saleh and Nouf Khashman, and Ahmad Kamal (University of Western Ontario) held a panel session on “From #tahrir to #occupywallstreet: How Can Information Science Make Sense of Social Media and Protests?” and Isabelle Lamoureux participated in a research roundtable on “Resistance to Information Literacy! Towards a Model of Information Literacy for Undergraduate Students: An Exploratory Study.”

The Faculty of Education annually awards the Tim Casgrain Fellowship to an outstanding graduate student in the Faculty of Education whose area of study focuses on efforts to improve literacy in Canada, with a preference for new areas of literacy such as economic, financial, technological and cultural literacy. PhD students in the School were recipients of this fellowship in both 2011 (Robert Ferguson) and 2012 (Julie Mayrand).

David Weigl, PhD candidate, with his wife Christine, and their new son Lewis.
In 2011 and 2012, a record number of PhD students graduated from the School.

**Rafa Absar, MSc’06, PhD’12** (left), with supervisor Catherine Guastavino: Enhancing navigation using auditory feedback: A case study of hierarchical information visualization system.

**Michelle Atkin, MLIS’03, PhD’11**, with supervisor Andrew Large: Information ethics: An applied study of United States foreign intelligence surveillance under President George W. Bush.

**Charles-Antoine Julien, PhD’11** (middle), with co-supervisors John Leide and Catherine Guastavino: SE-3D: A controlled comparative usability study of a virtual reality semantic hierarchy explorer.

**Lorie Kloda, BA’98, MLIS’01, PhD’12**, (left) with supervisor Joan Bartlett: Clinical questions asked and pursued by rehabilitation therapists: an exploratory study of information needs.

**David Tang, MLIS’02, PhD’12**, (left) with co-supervisor Pierre Pluye: Towards optimal management of health information users’ feedback: The case of the Canadian Pharmacists Association. (Co-supervisor France Bouthillier not shown.)

**Amandine Pras, PhD’12**, (left) with supervisor Catherine Guastavino: How to draw out the best musical performance: best practices for studio recording in the digital era.

**Jillian Tomm, BMus’97, MLIS’02, PhD’13** with supervisor Peter McNally: The imprint of the scholar: an analysis of the printed books of McGill University’s Raymond Klibansky Collection.

**Yang Lin, MLIS’04, PhD’11** (left): Chinese business managers’ perceptions in KM-related decision making: Environmental, informational, individual, and decision-specific perspectives. (Supervisor Kimiz Dalkir not shown.)

**Evelyne Mondou, MLIS’05, PhD’11** (right): Analysis of the vocabulary used by a community of practice over time: A case study of scientific knowledge transfer. (Supervisor Kimiz Dalkir not shown.)

**François-Xavier Paré, PhD’11** (not shown): Personal information management among office support staff in a university environment. An exploratory study. (Supervisor Jamshid Beheshti.)

**François-Xavier Paré, PhD’11** (not shown): Personal information management among office support staff in a university environment. An exploratory study. (Supervisor Jamshid Beheshti.)
I earned my MLIS in 1997 just before starting as a librarian for the Queens Borough Public Library system in Queens, New York City. My first branch was Jackson Heights, an extremely busy place where I performed my duties as reference librarian, inter-library loan librarian and “other duties as assigned,” which were many. Fortunately, Dr. McNally and Professor Graziano’s reference courses, still fresh in my mind, helped me navigate through the Dewey System as well as within the American culture. My future wife and I followed similar trails: we met in library school, graduated together, were hired by QBPL at the same time, moved to New York City three days after our wedding and started at the library on July 5 (although in different branches).

It was not long before Administration asked me to apply for an assistant branch library manager position, which I refused: I felt I was not ready and I liked my weekends! But after the third request I finally applied. I thought I just couldn’t say no any longer.

In 1999 I helped manage a branch in Ridgewood, Queens, and had to go through a few class notes from Dr. Bouthiller on how to assess, lead, etc! I still remember the two management classes I took with Dr. Bouthiller; I had thought that I wouldn’t need those skills. I stand corrected. About a year later I had my first branch in South Ozone Park, followed by Laurelton in 2001.

When I decided to apply for a position at Long Island University (Brooklyn), I was not aware that one former McGill student was already working there. Andrea Slonosky, MLIS’97, was a Media Librarian, and after I was appointed Reference Librarian (Library Faculty), we discussed McGill Power – we and a number of émigrés from McGill all living in the Tri-State area and working in public, special and academic libraries.

In 2006 I earned my second Master’s, an MA in Media Arts from LIU Brooklyn. My thesis was on propaganda and non-fiction. In 2007 I was appointed Head of Reference (overseeing reference and instruction).


I saw a position opening in a medical library, applied and was hired in March 2011. I am now Medical Librarian at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. Based on the curriculum, I assist students and faculty with their research, perform inter-library loan requests (Docline) and help the library director manage serials. We have three or four contingents of podiatry students from Université du Québec à Trois Rivières (the only chiropody/podiatry school in Canada) coming for a 15-week stay at NYCPM and it is my pleasure to welcome them and be of assistance when needed.

I have had the opportunity to serve in a number of positions throughout my librarian career but I learned that there is one constant, whatever the circumstances: you serve a population, and whether you call your patrons “taxpayers,” “students,” “faculty” or “physicians,” your work is guided by the needs of the community, the curriculum, in short, of your constituency.
I manage askON, a nonprofit virtual reference service collaborative of college and public libraries across Ontario. Ontarians and students at Ontario colleges ask us questions or get research help about anything. My days are filled with working with my Steering Committee and various task forces to discuss and develop various service enhancements, scheduling libraries on the service, managing a group of 50 interns who also work on the service, optimizing access and traffic, developing our training program, keeping abreast of best practices in VR and info literacy, and helping our askON family leverage their opportunities and reach to the communities of Ontario.

In addition to reference services and info literacy, my interests lie in emerging technologies, digital services and online community management. I also run Toronto Roller Derby as VP and skate for two teams, capturing one of them (I discovered the sport in Montreal while I was doing my MLIS).

I feel very happy to be where I am in my life right now and it is very much attributed to my time in Montreal at McGill’s School of Information Studies. My specialization in Librarianship taught me about the world of public and academic libraries, as well as what it takes to be an effective manager and leader in the library world. My extracurricular work with PGSS, the Multilingual Children’s Library, organizing the first Web2You workshop, and staffing a VR desk in Second Life opened up many opportunities for me.

I’m a proud alumna of McGill’s School of Information Studies!

Queens Borough Public Library was not my first library job, but was my first position as a librarian. Right after graduating in 1997 I moved to New York City with two job offers from Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Borough Public Library (QBPL). My decision to work for QBPL was primarily based on the community and the fact that I found lodging in Queens, Rego Park to be precise. Looking back, the School provided interesting classes on public librarianship; these classes as well as the opportunity to work as an Intern at the Fraser-Hickson Library in Montreal during my second year helped me obtain my first full-time job at Queens.

My first branch was Flushing, or rather the “swing space,” before moving into the state-of-the-art library which exists today. The Flushing branch is truly a magnificent building and an excellent library in the sense of collection, service and location. I served under a veteran manager of the system and she put my management talents and skills to the test. At McGill I took mainly technical classes but I also benefited from Dr. Bouthillier’s management courses. I took it upon myself to manage volunteers and hourly rates. Soon I was promoted to Assistant Branch Library Manager in East Flushing and, after the birth of my daughter, I resumed my duties in other branches.

It was then that I decided to move to a much more challenging position. Given the vast number of immigrants in Queens (among whom I count myself), QBPL had to find a way to serve a very diverse population. The New Americans Program (NAP) is one of the most successful projects of its kind in the country. I applied and was hired for the position of Assistant Coordinator to NAP under the Library’s Programs and Services Department. The work was varied, never boring and always rewarding. I was awarded a “Library Luminary” award for meritorious performance for improving customer service for multilingual and multicultural populations in Queens. In 2006, I was invited to an Advanced Certificate Program in Public Library Administration offered by the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, where I updated and expanded my understanding of management principles and issues as well as improved my leadership skills. Once I completed the program, I was promoted to Community Library Manager in Glen Oaks.

Reminiscent of Flushing in a way, the City and QBPL are building another super-branch which will be ready next year and where I will be the manager. In the meantime I am currently managing the small transition branch across from the new building’s construction site. A manager’s day is never boring, especially under the current economic situation that requires more creativity with fewer resources. Classes at GSLIS prepared me to look out for opportunities and to overcome obstacles. Day after day, year after 21 year, different skills are required to tackle different situations, but the most important thing is to constantly improve myself, building upon the solid education I earned at McGill.
Andrew Fenus, MLS’74, and his wife, Dr. Gail Beck, MED’78, have made a long-term gift to the Osler Library of McGill that will support the Library’s exhibition program. Mr. Fenus had worked at the National Library of Canada during the summers and after graduation. He subsequently earned a Master of Public Administration at Queen’s University, and worked on a federal public service task force and in the House of Commons for a former Speaker of the House. Since 1988 he has acted as a federal and provincial quasi-judicial adjudicator and held an Order in Council appointment to the Ontario Rent Review Hearings Board (6 years), the Copyright Board of Canada (10 years), and currently the Assessment Review Board of Ontario (since 2007). Mr. Fenus says that “though I worked as a librarian for only a short period of my professional life, I can satisfactorily say that the MLS opened many opportunities for me. The MLS has indeed given me the capacity and solid ground to be a jack of all trades.”

Jean Charbonneau, MLIS’89, has published his first novel Comme un intrus (see www.quebec-amerique.com/livre-details.php?id=1234). Jean is currently working as a librarian in the penal system of the State of Maryland.

Christine Jacobs, MLS’83, was awarded L’Association des bibliothécaires du Québec Library Association 2012 Anne Galler Award for Outstanding Library Service. Ms. Jacobs has been a faculty member at John Abbott College for many years and is currently Chair of the Department of Information & Library Technologies there.

Lois MacDonald, MLIS ’92, writes to report, “I am still working; this is not so much news except that when I graduated in 1992 I was already 52 years old. I have never had full-time employment but I worked part-time at the University of Winnipeg, did many contracts in Winnipeg and have worked at the University of Manitoba on and off for the last eight years where I am right now.”

Paolo Melillo, MLIS’94, is currently a branch manager with the Orange County Library System in Orlando, Florida.

Martin Poirier, MLIS’98, received the 2011 Librarian of the Year award in February 2012 from the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec for the planning and management of the renovation project of the Bibliothèque Roger-Maltais de l’Université Sherbrooke. This library is the main library of the University, serving five faculties. Mr. Poirier has been the director of the Bibliothèque Roger-Maltais (Sciences humaines) and the Bibliothèque de musique of the Université de Sherbrooke since 2006. He has a number of publications including a collection of poetry, Les matins carnivores, published in 2002, for which he was named a finalist in the Grand prix du livre de la ville de Sherbrooke (création littéraire) and the Prix Gaston-Gouin de l’Association des auteurs des Cantons de l’Est.

Elizabeth Wallace, MLIS’95, is working as the Collections Librarian in the Science & Technology Library at the University of Alberta. She previously spent 14 years as a Science and Engineering Librarian at Syracuse University, New York.

Rafa Absar, MSc’06, PhD’12, has been hired as a lecturer at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Liese Achtzehner, MLIS’11, is Media Librarian with CBC Saskatchewan in Regina.

Michelle Louise Atkin, MLIS’03, PhD’11, published her first book in early 2012, Balancing Liberty and Security: An Ethical Study of U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (Scarecrow Press), which is based on her PhD dissertation. A librarian at Algoma University, she won an Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) award for a conference paper, “Examining the Limits of Free Expression through Canadian Case Law: Reflections on the Canadian Library Association’s Code of Ethics and its Supporting Statement on Intellectual Freedom,” at the annual ALISE conference in Dallas. ALISE is the professional association for library science education across North America. Dr. Atkin’s paper was one of three selected by a jury for publication in the annual “Best Conference Papers” issue of the Journal of Education for Library and Information Science. Dr. Atkin will receive a plaque at this year’s meeting in Seattle to mark her achievement.

Andrea Black, MLIS’12, is a Research Specialist at the law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP in Montreal.

Marie-Eve Barrette, MLIS’12, is a Research Agent at the Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM) Foundation.

Sara Beaudry, MLIS’10, is a librarian at the Library of Parliament in Ottawa where she provides substantive and timely research and information services to individual Senators and members of the House of Commons.

Aimée Belmore, MLIS’12, is working as an information management officer in the Parliamentary Publications branch of the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Leanne Bowler, BA’80, MLS’82, MED’00, PhD’07, received the ALISE/Pratt-Severn
Faculty Innovation Award at the 2012 ALISE Conference in Dallas in January 2012. Leanne is an assistant professor at the School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, where she is responsible for the specialization in children and youth. She teaches courses about new media literacy, technology for young people, children’s literature and media, and early literacy and language development.

Amy Buckland, MLIS ‘08, was given the 2011 Librarian Excellence Award by McGill University Libraries. The annual award was created to officially honour the extraordinary service, important efforts and achievements of staff members. Each year, the McGill Library presents an award of $1,000 to a librarian whose work has had a positive impact on the Library and its users, recognizing a McGill librarian who has demonstrated excellence in academic librarianship and has shown efforts to improve library services through innovative practice, initiative and resourcefulness.

Pamela Carson, MLIS ‘11, is currently Web Services Librarian at Concordia University in Montreal. She worked as a student librarian there during her studies where she coded the graphic interface of the library’s mobile web site.

Anne-Frédérique Champoux, MLIS ‘11, is working at Université Laval as the arts and architecture liaison librarian and notes that she met her future supervisor at the School’s Career Fair.

Sanghun Cho, MLIS ‘11, is currently working for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as Knowledge Management Officer.

Leah Cohen, BA ‘83, MLIS ‘01, is the Acquisitions Librarian – English Monographs, at the Legal Deposit Unit, and Jacob M. Lowy Collection Librarian at Library and Archives Canada.

Kate Cushon, MLIS ‘10, is the Liaison Librarian, Business Administration, Economics, English, Public Policy, and Social Work at the Dr. John Archer Library of the University of Regina in Saskatchewan.

Marie-Chantal L’Ecuyer-Coelho, MLIS ‘08, is the Bibliothécaire responsable du traitement documentaire des collections iconographiques, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Direction du traitement documentaire des collections patrimoniales.

Eric Erickson, MLIS ‘09, is working at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a knowledge management analyst on their KM pilot initiative. This is the development of a KM program with communities of practice, a key document system with underlying taxonomy, and an expertise locator system behind a common KM portal. The pilot is beginning with the VA HR community across the four VA agencies: Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, National Cemeteries Administration and the VA Central Office. Eric is currently overseeing the development of the content management system and taxonomy with contractors. He is working at the VA Central Office in Washington, D.C. and started in January 2011 after spending 18 months as electronic services librarian at the Pentagon.

Jorge Espinosa, MLIS ‘11, is working as communications administrator at the McGill Social Equity and Diversity Education Office.

Ahniwa Ferrari, MLIS ‘08, is working as electronic services librarian at Saint Martin’s University, in Lacey, Washington.

Ping Fu, MLIS ‘03, is Head of Library Technology Services/Systems and associate professor (tenure track) at the Central Washington University Library in Ellensburg, WA. Her responsibilities include managing library systems and overseeing the four departments: Systems, Cataloging, Serials/e-resources and Collection Development.

Sarah Gibbs, MLIS ‘12, is an ERP Documentation Librarian at Suncor Energy Inc. in Calgary, Alberta.

Amanda Halfpenny, MLIS ‘10 and Graham Lavender MLIS ‘09, were married in fall 2012. Amanda says, “We will always have extremely fond memories of McGill’s School of Information Studies, not only as the university where we completed our MLIS but also as the place where we met and where our romantic relationship blossomed.” Amanda is running two school libraries in Toronto and Graham is a librarian at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Sabrina Hepworth, MLIS ‘12, is a librarian for Centennial Regional High School in Montreal.

Rachel Jaffe, MLIS ‘10, is a metadata/cataloging librarian at SUNY Binghamton, N.Y., specializing in metadata for digital collections. This is a tenure-track faculty position within an academic library.

Lidia Kruk, MLIS ‘12, holds two part-time teaching positions: one at John Abbott College’s Information and Library Technology department and a second at Concordia University’s School of Extended Learning (Information Literacy), a one-credit lab component of a three-credit course, “Skills for Success in University Study.” After working for many years in libraries, she says she is happy to be able to teach.

Rosemary Le Faive, BEng ‘09, MLIS ‘12, is a content management specialist at the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, where she is building a multilingual digital library, managing a small physical library, and doing some knowledge management. She is also a reference assistant at the Jewish Public Library.
The three-credit Practicum, an optional course in the Master’s program, gives students the opportunity to participate in supervised field practice, applying their theoretical knowledge base and learning and practicing professional skills. The number of students choosing this optional course has been increasing, as have the variety and number of practicum sites, and in Winter 2012, there were 35 students enrolled. A capstone project in the practicum is a visual presentation of the work the student has done; this can be a poster or a virtual presentation; practicum site supervisors, SIS faculty and other students attend the presentations.

Robyn Maler, MLIS’11, currently has two positions, one as a consumer health librarian and one as a medical librarian. In the realm of consumer health, she is the librarian at the Centre de documentation pour les personnes atteintes de cancer at the Centre intégré de cancérologie de Laval. She is also a medical librarian at the MUHC.

Emily McHugh, MLIS’12, is working in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at McGill, as graduate admissions and fellowships coordinator.

Sarah Macintyre, MLIS’12, has taken a position of librarian at the Riverside School Board on the South Shore.

Aude McDermott, BSc’04, MLIS’10, is the library manager of the Atwater Library and Computer Centre in Montreal.

Alexis McKenzie, MLIS’12, is working at the Engineering Library at the University of Saskatchewan. It is a term position that ends in May 2013.

Amber McNair, MLIS’11, is the Youth Services Librarian at the Huntsville Public Library in Huntsville, Ontario.

Melissa Morrone, MLIS’02, received a commendation from the New York State Legislature: J896-2011: Commending Melissa Morrone upon the occasion of her being honored on March 24, 2011, in conjunction with Women’s History Month in the State of New York. To read the full commendation, see http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/J896-2011.

Josée J. Nadeau, BA’10, MLIS’12, is the health science information specialist at the Bibliothèque Paul-Émile-Boulet, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. She’s also a blogger for the pharma blog Pharmalyze.

Nazaruddin Musa (Nazaruddin), MLIS’10, was named second best librarian of Indonesia 2012, following a competitive process juried by members of the National Library of Indonesia and Indonesia University. He received the award in October in Jakarta.

The three-credit Practicum, an optional course in the Master’s program, gives students the opportunity to participate in supervised field practice, applying their theoretical knowledge base and learning and practicing professional skills. The number of students choosing this optional course has been increasing, as have the variety and number of practicum sites, and in Winter 2012, there were 35 students enrolled. A capstone project in the practicum is a visual presentation of the work the student has done; this can be a poster or a virtual presentation; practicum site supervisors, SIS faculty and other students attend the presentations.

Ciara O’Shea, MLIS’12, completed a short Public Librarian Internship at the Township of Russell Public Library/Bibliothèque Publique du canton de Russell in September. A major part of the internship was assisting their strategic planning initiative.

Nicholas Richbell, MLIS’11, is an archive analyst at Canadian Pacific Railway.

Trecia Schell, MLIS ’09, is the community services librarian at Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library.

Christine Silkotch, MLIS’11, is the School of Management librarian at Yale University. She is working in the Social Science Library and will be responsible for consultation, outreach and collection development for the Yale SOM.

Marsha Taichman, MLIS’11, is the visual resources and public services librarian in the Fine Arts Library at Cornell University.

Daniela Zavala Mora, MLIS’12, is working as academic librarian for the Faculty of Agriculture at Université Laval in Quebec City.
in memoriam

Erratum: We apologize for an error in our 2010 newsletter. Nora Ballantyne Bernelle should have been identified as Bernice Nora (Faughnan) Ballantyne, BA'55, BLS'56.

Marika (Salamis) Asimakopulos, BA’60, MLS’83, died August 12, 2011, in Montreal.

Vivian Cummins, BA'66, MLS’73, died April 11, 2011, of complications from multiple myeloma at age 66. She spent her work life creating and maintaining educational resource centres, including the guidance library at Concordia University, Montreal, a reference library for primary schools principals at the Teacher Resource Centre in Jos, Nigeria, and most recently the resource centre at the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs of Carleton University in Ottawa.

Catherine Kollar, BLS’61, MLS’67, died October 18, 2011, in Montreal. For many years she was a librarian at McGill, where she was head of the Government Documents Department.

Sherry Lynn Koshman, MLS’89, died May 1, 2011. After her MLS, Dr. Koshman went on to complete her PhD at the University of Pittsburgh. She worked in industry as an information retrieval and software testing consultant for several years, returning to the University of Pittsburgh in 2003, first as a visiting lecturer and subsequently as an assistant professor at the School of Information Science there.

Eliane Lefebvre, BLS’40, died December 24, 2009. Her distinguished career included posts in various business libraries such as Sun Life Insurance and Hydro-Québec. She also established several school libraries in the Montreal area. From 1958 to 1961 she taught the School Libraries course at l’École de bibliothéconomie de l’Université de Montréal. Her final position before retiring was at the Town of Mount Royal Public Library. She was very active in the Quebec Library Association, receiving in 1996, along with her sister Louise, the Outstanding Service Award of the Association des bibliothécaires du Québec Library Association (ABQLA).

Douglas Lochhead, BA’43, BLS’51, died March 15, 2011, in Sackville, N.B. He was the founding librarian at University of Toronto’s Massey College in the 1960s, working closely with Robertson Davies to establish two special collections: Canadian literature in English and 19th-century bibliography. He was a scholar-librarian who published more than 30 poetry collections from 1959 to 2009. In 1980, he was nominated for a Governor General’s Award for his volume of poems, High Marsh Road. He taught courses in bibliography, paleography (the study of ancient writing), Canadian poetry and the history of books and libraries and worked at the University of Victoria, Cornell University, Dalhousie University, York University and the University of Toronto before becoming Director of Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University in Sackville in 1975. Douglas subsequently became writer in residence at Mount Allison in 1987 and retired in 1990, writing 16 more volumes of poetry before his death. He was the poet laureate of Sackville.

Pat (Wicks) Lotz, BLS’59, died February 13, 2011, in Halifax.


Eileen May McFadden, BLS’54, died August 24, 2011, in Brandon, Manitoba. From 1951 to 1956, she worked in the library at the University of Toronto and from 1956 to 1959 in the library at the University of Manitoba. In 1959, she was appointed Director of Library Services at Brandon College/Brandon University, a position she held until 1977. In 1978, she was appointed University Archivist at Brandon University and she held that position until her retirement in 1997.

John Malcolm Millons, MLIS’90, died February 12, 2011, in Ottawa. He was a founding member of the Ottawa Book Collectors in 1986. During a 33-year career with Canada’s federal government, John represented Canada internationally as a member of the Canadian delegation to such international conferences as ILO, UNESCO, IBE, CEPES, Commonwealth, as well as being involved in bilateral international negotiations. He was a member of Prime Minister Pearson’s task force to design the Canada Pension Plan, a member of Labour Minister McEachern’s Task Force to update and design the Federal Labour Standards Code, and federal representative for various federal-provincial negotiations.

Haidar Moukdad, MLIS’95, PhD’02, died on May 31, 2012, in Halifax, N.S. Dr. Moukdad had been a professor with the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University since 1989, where he taught information technology courses in the Master of Library and Information Studies program, and supervised a number of reading courses and theses.

Risha (Fraiberg) Rosner, BA’58, BLS’59, died on March 31, 2010, in Great Neck, NY.

Josée Roy, MLIS’20, passed away November 12, 2011, in Montreal.

Basil Stuart-Stubbbs, BLS’54, died May 29, 2012, in Vancouver. Originally from Moncton, N.B. and later Vancouver where he earned an undergraduate degree at UBC, Basil worked at the McGill University Library following his BLS. He returned to UBC and worked in positions specializing in collections and rare books. In 1964, at the age of 36, he was appointed University Librarian. His 37 years in that post coincided with the computer revolution and the rapid growth of the library staff and collections dispersed over many new branch libraries on the expanding Point Grey campus. In 1981, he moved to a faculty position when he was appointed professor and director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, a position from which he retired in 1992.

Basil took particular interest in the production and distribution of Canadian books, and was associated with several initiatives beneficial to authors and their readers, and Canadian publishing. He chaired the UBC Publications Centre which created UBC Press, collaborating with Bill Duthie and Harald Bohne to establish Canadian Books in Print, was first President of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, organized the first conference on regional publishing in Western Canada which led to the establishment of the Association of BC Book Publishers. He was a founding member and second President of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction, a founding member of the Alcuin Society, a founding Board member of the SFU Centre for Canadian Publishing, participating in the establishment of the scholarly journal Canadian Literature, and advocated for the establishment of the Public Lending Right for Canadian authors. A particular highlight was a journey through Europe in the mid-1960s to acquire precious manuscripts and books, using funds from the $3-million donation for UBC collections provided by industrialist H.R. MacMillan.

Basil received many distinctions, including the Order of Canada (2005), election to the Royal Society of Canada (1984), the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Book Publishers of BC, the first Miles Blackwell Medal for Outstanding Academic Librarian from the Canadian Library Association, the Helen Gordon Stewart Award from the BC Library Association, Honorary Life Memberships from the BC Library Association and American Library Association, the Canada Medal in 1957, and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.
As we mentioned in the last newsletter (2010), and as you were informed by letter, we have moved to publishing the School’s newsletter online, on our website. You can find it under the Alumni tab at www.mcgill.ca/sis/alumni. This is in an effort to be environmentally friendly and to save on ever-increasing printing and mailing costs. At your request, however, we can offer you the option of receiving a mailed copy in a colour photocopy format. You can let us know your preference by emailing Susann Allnutt, Administrative Assistant at the School, at susann.allnutt@mcgill.ca or by sending us a note at 3661 Peel St., Montreal, QC, H3A 1X1.

We are always interested in learning about your career and other news, by either email or regular mail.

Please stay in touch – we look forward to hearing from you!

Do we have your current contact information?
(please complete and let us know whether these are your home or business coordinates)

Name

Year of Graduation

Address

Telephone Fax

Email

Don’t be a stranger! Tell us about your life (career moves, publications, family)