Alumni Stories:
A Librarian by Any Other Name
Dear Alumni
and Friends,

It feels good to connect with you again as we have more good news to share. Last fall, we were busy with the re-accreditation of the Master of Library and Information Studies program, which we received in January 2010, and with the last details of our move to our new building. This fall, we are still busy but this time with welcoming a new faculty member, Carolyn Hank, as you will read in the next few pages, and with planning another review of our curriculum.

As the world of information is changing so rapidly and constantly, there is a need to rethink our program on a regular basis. The current program was designed almost ten years ago but with emerging technologies and new information behaviours, the role of an information professional is constantly evolving. The newsletter highlights the career paths of some of our graduates to illustrate the diversity of positions and options that you have with an MLIS degree. With these examples, it is clear that the MLIS is a passport to travel in many directions. It is simply fascinating to learn about these stories as the career paths described were not, strictly speaking, planned, and to see how, at the end of the day, success also means intuition. The graduates who share their stories followed their intuition and took risks in working in unknown or less-known territories. The boundaries of the information professions are pushed every day as new opportunities arise, but without willing individuals to take the risks, these boundaries would remain static.

The School was very pleased again this year to support a number of student initiatives and especially the McGill Librarians Without Borders chapter, which was very active in bringing books and reading to a community in Guatemala. Emerging technologies do not reach everyone on this planet, and in some parts of the world a library with simple shelves of books is still a very sophisticated information resource.

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.

France Bouthillier, PhD
Director

The annual Marathon Oasis de Montréal is a 42 km course that “runs” through the streets of Montreal. This year, on Sunday, September 5, 2010, members of the School participated. Ancy Joseph (above left), Graduate Program Secretary, and Irene Kitimbo (centre), PhD student, completed the 10 km in 52.02 minutes and 51.28 minutes respectively. Director France Bouthillier completed the half-marathon in 2 hours and 27 minutes.
NEW FACULTY

Carolyn Hank, a PhD candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been appointed Assistant Professor at the School. Prior to entering the doctoral program, she worked at OCLC Research in Dublin, Ohio. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Antioch College and a Master’s in Library and Information Science from Kent State University. She is a 2010 recipient of the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from Beta Phi Mu for her doctoral dissertation, “Scholars and their blogs: Characteristics, preferences and perceptions impacting digital preservation.” In her research and teaching, she brings expertise in digital curation, scholarly communication and digital publishing. Her recent research activities have been on blogging and preservation, as well as digital curation curriculum development. She has presented her research at conferences in the U.S., Canada and Europe. To highlight a few of her recent contributions, she was program chair of DigCCurr2009: Digital Curation Practice, Promise, and Prospects, and co-editor of the conference Proceedings. She is a contributing author to the recently published textbook, Applications of Social Research Methods to Questions in Information and Library Science.

NEW RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Professors Jamshid Beheshti and Andrew Large, with SIS Affiliate Member Charles Cole, BA’78, MLIS ’89, have received a three-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council award in the amount of $139,953 to study “Virtual environments as an intervention agent in the information-seeking process of elementary school students.”

The goal of the research is to use virtual environments (VEs) to assist students in their information-seeking process when completing assigned school tasks. The researchers will use Kuhlthau’s Information Searching Process (ISP) model as a framework for this study. ISP is a user-centred model, incorporating three realms of experience: cognitive (thoughts), affective (feelings), and physical (information-searching activities). The model consists of six stages through which students progress in their information-seeking activities. At each stage, the students’ realms of experience change, with uncertainty playing a crucial role in the state of these changes. Through intervention, however, the uncertainties may be reduced and directed towards a more creative and innovative thought. VE interventions may also reduce anxieties, frustration, and confusion, feelings that are experienced during the third stage of ISP. The researchers anticipate that the study will contribute to a better understanding of a formal intervention in ISP and to the use of virtual environments as an intervention agent.

Assistant Professor Elaine Ménard has received a three-year grant from Le Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC- Établissements de nouveaux professeurs-chercheurs 2010-2013) in the amount of $38,426 for her project entitled "Development of a taxonomy for the indexing of digital ordinary images in a multilingual retrieval context."

The objective of the project is to index digital images to enhance their retrieval in a monolingual and multilingual context. The results of this research and the use of bilingual taxonomy will be a stepping stone, especially for the design of browsing interfaces for large image collections and the conception of other taxonomies, classificatory tools, thesauri and other similar indexing tools for all image types and multimedia documents. The new taxonomy is intended to be a powerful tool for use by cataloguers or indexers who are describing works of art, architecture, material culture, archival materials, visual surrogates or bibliographic materials by providing helpful information for searchers. It will also act as a search assistant to enhance end-user access to online visual resources. Moreover, since images are an integral part of online catalogues, the future taxonomy will also present an interesting improvement for commercial providers who give their users the opportunity to see images of their products. Finally, since language barriers still prevent users from easily accessing information, including visual resources, the bilingual taxonomy constitutes a definite benefit for

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image searchers who are not very familiar with images indexed in English, which is still the dominant language of the Web.

Professor Catherine Guastavino, BSc’97, is a co-investigator on a new NSERC Collaborative Research and Development Grant—Project (CRDPJ) entitled “Physical characterization and perception of vibration transmission of road bike components” in collaboration with Professor Yves Champoux of l’Université de Sherbrooke (Principal Investigator) with Vroomen White Design Inc. This $335,692 grant is for three years. Professor Guastavino’s contribution will be to investigate how the notion of dynamic comfort is conveyed in various information sources (specialized journals, manufacturers’ websites, online forums, interviews) in different communities of practice, contrasting linguistic (French and English) and cultural (North America vs. Europe, different levels of expertise) factors; to validate, from the perspective of the user, a simulator to reproduce in laboratory settings the complex sensations one has when riding a bike; to develop new methodological tools to investigate dynamic comfort when riding a bike on virtually recreated roads (on the simulator) and real roads; to investigate the effects of vibrations on comfort and well-being using qualitative and quantitative methods, and to define dynamic comfort metrics.

Professor Guastavino is also one of five co-investigators on an interdisciplinary collaboration with Dutch, French, Belgian and German researchers. This four-year, $2,400,000 (€1,500,000) grant for the Innovation Centre for Advanced Sensors and Sensor Systems, entitled “Human-Centered Soundscape Research,” is directed by Professor T. Andringa of the University of Groningen. The project aims at identifying and modelling cognitive processes for auditory information processing in complex sonic environments, with an emphasis on public outdoor spaces in large cities. Topics include categorization of sound sources, automated sound recognition, sound indexing, documenting and archiving sonic environments, effects of environmental sound exposure on well-being, design of cognitive sensor systems for acoustic monitoring, and sound quality evaluation and descriptors.

ABQLA AWARD FOR PROFESSOR PETER MCNALLY

Professor Peter McNally, BLS’65, MLS’66, MA’77, was the 2010 recipient of the Anne Galler Award presented by L’Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec / Quebec Library Association.

Each year the Quebec Library Association presents an award to a librarian for outstanding library service. This award recognizes an individual who has enriched librarianship in Quebec and has made a lasting contribution to the profession.
A Librarian by Any Other Name

In a profession that changes daily, we thought it would be interesting to ask some of our alumni “What have you done with your MLS/MLIS?” Below you will find, in their own words, a description of some of the diverse paths that graduates of the School of Information Studies have taken. (Thank you to Ahniwa Ferrari for providing the title of this piece.)

Johanne Boucher
MLIS’03
Manager, Information & Knowledge Management, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Ottawa, ON

I obtained my MLIS in 2003 at the age of 35, having gone back to school full-time two years earlier to improve my career prospects. Just a week after receiving the actual diploma, I headed over to Ottawa from my hometown of Montreal to start my first library job as Reference Librarian at the Bank of Canada. Over the three years I remained at the bank, I received a promotion to Senior Reference Librarian and took on an interim position as Collections Librarian.

I then obtained my first federal job as Senior Information & Knowledge Resource Librarian at Defence Research and Development Canada (the scientific research agency of the Department of National Defence). I moved from a female-only, traditional library environment (physical collection, reference, cataloguing, circulation, etc.) to an untraditional, predominantly male setting where I needed to collaborate daily with the agency’s information technology unit. My main duties included developing standards, procedures and tools for the development of research publications by the scientists leading a Canada-wide working group on the subject, as well as supporting librarians and encouraging collaboration throughout six main libraries across the country. I also represented Canada at Information Management Committee meetings of NATO in Paris, London and Bucharest. This was by far my most exciting professional endeavour. Most of my three years there were as Head of Information Management, in an interim capacity.

Just this March, I obtained a promotion to Manager, Information & Knowledge Management, at the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, also a federal government entity based in Ottawa. I now oversee its Records Management, Access to Information and Privacy units and, of course, the small library. I am particularly excited about a project to bring in an organization-wide document management system and revamp our records management unit, moving from a paper-based records system to an electronic one.

Every once in a while, as patience is not one of my virtues, I question my future as an employee of such a vast and imposing apparatus as the Government of Canada, where painstaking processes often need to be followed to instill any positive change. One thing I never question, however, is the positive impact my MLIS diploma has had on my career and life experiences.

Ryan Ban
MLIS’08
Knowledge Management Specialist, Ontario Pension Board, Toronto, ON

A few months before the end of my MLIS program, I was offered a position as a Records and Information Analyst (RIA) with the Municipality of York. I was involved in the role of Records Management but was also supporting a corporate-wide implementation of an Electronic Content Management (ECM) system. ECM projects are fundamentally about Records and Information Management, however the IT department is a partner that holds a large amount of sway in the way that projects are run and actions taken. After seven months in the RIA role, I moved to a position within IT where I supported not only the ECM, but a number of different systems and was the Business Intelligence Subject Matter Expert for my team.

Seven months after my jump to IT, an opportunity came up that combined Knowledge Management, Records Management and IT at the Ontario Pension Board. With an initial staff of nine, I was in

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charge of a large-scale digitization project working with microfiche, paper and electronic records. The ECM system at the Pension Board had only recently been implemented and I was very quickly involved in the implementation of a number of document workflow projects in order to ramp up the usage of the ECM.

In 2011, I will yet again be changing positions. I will become the organizational lead in the design and implementation of an organizational Knowledge Management system at the OPB. Current economic issues, major pension reform, and the President & CEO’s recognition of the value of institutional memory have all been instrumental in the creation of my new role.

It has definitely helped that the President & CEO understands what the MLIS degree is as well as the skills that someone who has one brings to the table. The MLIS degree carries a lot of credibility. Without it, I would not be in the position that I am now nor would I have been able to create the new role that I will embark on in 2011.

Ron Knowling
MLIS ’96
Manager, Nunavut Public Library Services, Baker Lake, NU

If the purpose of an MLIS degree is to get work as a librarian, I have probably failed completely in my career. Except for about eight months in an academic library, I have not worked as a librarian in the traditional sense. But I have held several information management positions and now work as a public library manager. Personally, the benefit I received from my MLIS was the knowledge and skills it provided on how information was organized. This made me a better researcher and writer. I also learnt a few database tricks which gave me my first entry-level professional positions. That was fine and it got me work, which was the general idea.

However, about five years after graduating, I was between contracts as a policy analyst/consultant flunkie when I saw an ad for a public library management position. My MLIS got me the job and I became aware that public libraries specifically offered two opportunities for an overeducated, under-achieving and aspiring polymath. The first was a broader mandate to serve the public than is generally found in special or academic libraries. Encompassing all areas of knowledge and all members of the community metaphorically gives the public librarian the largest canvas, the biggest brush and the most colours when they start to paint... er, build their collections and programming.

The second was that many public library managers seemed ill-prepared for their responsibilities. Most had started their careers as librarians and then been promoted up to management. While this was/is an accepted strategy to build organizations, it had created libraries run by managers without management training. This manifested as an inability to innovate and create new services as patron needs evolved. As much as this bespoke a lack of training and management skills, it also suggested a lack of leadership and professional vision.

With classifications skills and reference desk experience, any trained librarian has the fundamental skills for management – we understand “intellectual structures” and we can solve problems within those structures. Because our approach to our patrons is basically anarchic, we should also have the breadth of vision necessary to cope with change.

And most important, because we understand the importance of not just informing our patrons but empowering them to be critical and savvy information consumers, we have the skills to mentor our staff and build strong organizations.

I often wonder why, despite these skills, so many of our colleagues have so much difficulty with the responsibilities of management. Whatever the answer, public libraries will need engaged and creative managers over the next couple of decades as our bricks and mortar book warehouses transform into community centres where people discover and discuss ideas of common concern. As librarians and (for some of you) as managers, we will have to find ways to renew and foster the librarian-patron relationship which rests at the heart of our profession. Happily, though, we will have a big canvas and lots of paint to work with!
In 1973, my father Grif Hodge, BA ’58, BL S ’59, accepted a position to head school library services in Thompson, Manitoba, a mining town located approximately 720 kilometres north of Winnipeg. His reason for this choice was simply that neither he nor my mother had ever heard of Thompson and it would be an adventure. Their plan was to try it out for two years. Those initial two years turned into 29 before my parents finally made it back to Quebec upon my father’s retirement. During his time in Thompson he established a professional library for educators, a studio for educational films, provided leadership to the town’s public library and museum, and served for many years as a leader at the provincial level in the introduction of new technology in schools and libraries. His leadership was instrumental in the creation of Mysterynet, which provided free Internet service for northern Manitoba during the early years of the World Wide Web. In 2009, the Manitoba School Library Association named him an Honorary Life Member for his dedicated advocacy of rural and isolated school libraries.

In 2005, I faced a similar situation when I accepted the position of archivist with the Jewish Public Library (JPL) of Montreal. I certainly was not part of Montreal’s Jewish community and knew very little about its history. I thought that this would be an excellent way of gaining at least a year’s experience before moving to work in a government or university archives. What I learnt, as had my father, was that unexpected opportunities can provide amazing professional growth. By stepping out of my comfort zone, I got to question absolutely everything about my job and came up with improvements and new challenges for the archives. One year has turned into six and in that time I have created school outreach programs, established the JPL archives as a vital community repository, and facilitated the digital agenda to the benefit of the JPL. Both my father and I credit our McGill degrees with providing us with opportunities to open unforeseen doors to dream careers.

I obtained my MLIS in 1992. At that time Canada was slowly creeping out of a recession and jobs were scarce, but I was fortunate enough to land a job in Montreal at the newly established Musée Juste pour rire, the humour museum founded by the Just for Laughs Festival. My first day at work was a bit of a shock. I was given a desk, a phone, a pen and a pad of paper with these two words: “Good luck!” They had not been joking during the interview when they said that I was to build the library from scratch. That baptism of fire lasted 18 months.

By early 1994, the museum was nearly bankrupt and research and development staff members were fired en masse. Seizing the momentum, I decided to register myself as a consultant. Through word of mouth I was able to obtain a few contracts here and there (more easily than I had originally thought), one of which was to create an information centre at CIRANO, an inter-university centre of research on the analysis of organizations. One of the recommendations of my final report was to hire a librarian (hint, hint...) and, guess what: they followed my recommendation and offered me the job! Once again I was given a phone, a desk, pen and paper, plus a computer, and this time... a budget, which was a big improvement! I left CIRANO after a year and a half to go back to school.

With the help and the enduring encouragement of my mentor John Leide, I embarked upon a long and wonderful journey – a PhD in information studies. I graduated from the University of Toronto in 2000 and was immediately hired as a professor at Simmons College in Boston. I came back to Montreal the following year and began working at l’École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l’information, Université de Montréal, the school of which I am now director. Who could have known that a small leaflet in Hong Kong would propel me into this fascinating and challenging world.
Ahniwa Ferrari
MLIS'08
Online Resources Consultant, Library Development Program, Washington State Library, Olympia, WA

I didn’t run off to get my graduate degree blindly. Plenty do, you know, but not me. Before I made the 3,000-mile trip to Montreal to become a real live Master of the Universe Library and Information Studies, I spent six years working in the field. I worked in three public libraries and an academic library before I went back to school to become “a professional.” Of course, none of that experience prepared me for the work I got once I had received my degree.

Part of it is the profession. Libraries are changing right underneath our feet, from the technology to the buildings to the materials they collect. For me, it was more a matter of diversity. That is, there are a lot of people out there who may or may not be called librarians but who get the same degree I got and go on to work in the information field in some capacity. That’s what happened to me.

As soon as I graduated from McGill I headed back home to Olympia, Washington, and, after spending a straight week holding hands with my then-fiancée who was very patient with my attending school in a foreign city a billion miles away, I started work my first ever really professional job at the Washington State Library. My title was Online Resources Consultant.

I’m still figuring out what that means.

I don’t work with the public like I did in the public libraries, and I don’t work with students like I did in the academic library. I’m a librarian who pretty much only works with other librarians all across the state. Some of the time I get to hit the road and visit libraries anywhere from Seattle to Spokane and everywhere in between, but most of the time I sit in my cubicle and I send a lot of emails. And though I may have had no idea that this was what being a librarian was going to mean for me, it’s still pretty cool. I manage projects, and some really interesting ones at that, and I’ve had the opportunity to work with and get to know literally hundreds of librarians in Washington State.

I miss working with the public sometimes, and with students, though the projects I manage help both groups in a myriad of ways. But even though I sit in a cubicle most days and my job title seems purposefully obscure, I wouldn’t trade it for the world. Every day I get to be proud of the work that I do, and proud to call myself a librarian … whatever it is that I am.

Adam McGrath
MLIS’98
Management System Lead, Husky Energy, St. John’s, NL

When I first investigated the MLIS program it was because I wanted to be involved with information management without being a computer guy. I was also looking for a career that allowed a personal life and in particular one which let me pursue my passion for music. I was to be a librarian by day and a wannabe rock star by night, my personal Bruce Wayne/Batman scenario. After graduation the plan came to fruition; I ran an information resource centre for a government agency during the day and played music most nights. I got the opportunity to start a new library — establishing a clientele, building a catalogue from scratch — and was effectively my own boss, a unique opportunity for a fresh graduate. While developing my new career I worked on the music, playing in a variety of bands, releasing albums, touring parts of the country and appearing in events such as the East Coast Music Awards and the Junos.

My work as a librarian also provided the opportunity to fund the opening of my business, a guitar shop in downtown St. John’s and to return to school to complete my MBA. After a number of years I was recruited by Husky Energy to run their Document Management Group. Oil and gas is the economic heart of Newfoundland and it is a fast-paced, exciting industry to work in. The work is dramatically different from the classic library work I had been doing but the principles are the same: the acquisition, organization and dissemination of information. The skills I learned during my MLIS are put to use daily. Recently I was promoted to a new role within Husky with responsibilities that are less concerned with information management but I still play a role in that discipline. I consider my MLIS the basis of every opportunity and accomplishment so far — my career, my music and my three children. This kind of education can take you far, even to an oil tanker 350 km off the coast or to a stage in front of a million TV viewers. I’m looking forward to wherever else it will take me.

Elizabeth Winiarz
BSc’75, MLS’78
Science Librarian, Claire T. Carney Library, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, MA

After studying biology at McGill for five years, I had to decide on a career path. I had observed “reference librarian Joyce” at the Botany Genetics Library and I wondered what it would take to become a librarian. She always appeared to enjoy her work and I was impressed that even my professors turned to her for assistance. She told me that with a science degree and a Master’s in Library Science I would never be without a job. That sounded great so I applied to library school and was promptly rejected because I did not have experience working in a library. Didn’t
all those hours working on projects and lab reports at the Redpath Library count?

Being blessed with good luck, I was hired by DuPont Canada’s Patent and Legal Library to write abstracts of patents and classify them. I learned about fibres, films, coatings and, of course, patents! I reapplied to library school and was accepted.

In two short years I was a librarian.

A new librarian’s first steps can be precarious. I worked for a short time at McGill’s School of Nursing demonstration community health centre in Beaconsfield called The Workshop. Funding was running out for this project, so I soon had to find a new job. I was hired to be head of the Patent and Legal Library at DuPont. This was a period of much change in Montreal and the company decided to move its headquarters and my library to Mississauga. Being a native of Montreal, I decided not to move. I did, however, organize the move of the library and provided some training for my replacement. Having been raised as a Girl Guide, I had a sense of loyalty and service and did not want to abandon “my company.”

Again, good luck intervened and I was immediately hired as Biology and Exercise Science Librarian at Concordia University where I worked for 13 years. This experience gave me excellent training in all the sciences and engineering and taught me the importance of colleagues and collaboration.

A sabbatical leave took me to Cambridge, MA, for three months to spend time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A few years later I was working at MIT, doing online literature searches, including patent databases and making good use of my science background. I eventually moved to the south coast of Massachusetts and now work as the Science Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The programs lean toward marine science and technology so I have learned about fisheries and oceanography.

A word of advice to new librarians: volunteer! SLA, the Special Libraries Association, was the first professional organization I joined. I have served as president of both the Eastern Canada and Boston chapters and have many lasting friendships from SLA. To learn more about marine science, I joined IAMSLIC (pronounced I am slick) – the International Association of

Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers. This small organization meets each year at a member’s lab. I have travelled from Tasmania to Iceland and Fiji to Rome as secretary and then president for this terrific organization.

Aside from the professional work and association contributions, my personal interest has been in tinkering with mechanical things. I enjoy healthy competition and since 2008 have owned a Formula Ford Swift DB-1 race car. Like a boat, this is a big hole down which to pour money, but it provides many hours of fun and excitement. My driver is known as “The Blue Stig” because he wears a blue driver’s suit. Blue Stig and my car compete in the Formula Ford class of SCCA (Sports Car Club of America), New England Region. This year we have won three times and come second three times. As owner/sponsor of the car, my home garage is known as “Liz’s Speed Shop.” I do much of the prep work on the car myself and the Blue Stig comes to spend a day when heavy-duty work is needed.

Many assume that librarians read a lot. I like to show that there is no such thing as the stereotypical librarian. My MLS has taken me all over the world and given me fine friends and colleagues. I am so glad I chose this path. Joyce the librarian was right. I have never been without a job. I am constantly challenged. Who knows what path the next generation of librarians and information professionals will follow. Hopefully they will glean as much happiness and satisfaction as I have found.

Candy Schwartz
BA’71, MLIS’74
Professor and Coordinator of Doctoral Studies, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston, MA

In 1971, with a McGill undergraduate degree in linguistics, I was selling souvenirs. Leafing through the McGill literature, trying to figure out what to do with my life, I discovered that there was such a thing as a master’s degree in library science. Who knew? I had no library experience, but I had been an avid reader and library user since childhood, so I figured it was a great fit. I knew I had made the right choice as soon as I took my first cataloguing class. I was a teaching assistant for several faculty members, and that got me to thinking about becoming an LIS professor. Several mentors suggested that I work for a couple of years first, and happily, Concordia had a cataloguing job just as I was graduating. I started working there in 1974.

In 1977, off I went to Syracuse University to do a PhD, leaving my husband in Montreal. It was tough, but I was only in residence for two years. Just as I went on the market, a position opened up at Simmons College in Boston, one of the few U.S. cities in which we would consider living. They were looking for someone in cataloguing and indexing, and there I was. Green cards in hand, we headed south, and I started teaching.

Thirty years later we are still here, and I am now a tenured full professor and running our doctoral programs. That McGill MLIS turned out to be my entrée to a world in which I have become a published author, co-editor of one of the highly ranked research journals in the field (Library & Information Science Research), teacher abroad (Hong Kong and Thailand), ASIS&T past president, resident of Second Life (currently dormant), and active member of many popular social networks. I have never “planned” my career; the right things just seem to have happened at the right time but, planned or not, it has been a great journey and it’s not over yet.
The 2009-2010 school year saw many successes for the McGill chapter of Librarians Without Borders (LWB). Highlights from the year included a talk by Mary Walsh about the CODE foundation initiatives in Ethiopia (http://www.codecan.org), a talk by Marjorie Gagnon about the Lubuto Library Project in Zambia (http://www.lubuto.org), and a film screening of the documentary Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World. However, the primary project for the year was a partnership with the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, a non-profit school in Xela, Guatemala. The initiative grew out of the school’s desire to build a library and their need for expertise on best practices in school librarianship.

We were inspired by Asturias Academy’s approach to education (built on the teachings of the educator and theorist Paulo Freire), which encourages all students to think of themselves as learners, teachers and world-transformers. Public libraries in Guatemala are inaccessible to much of the population, so we were enthusiastic about the partnership between Asturias and their community.

When we arrived in April 2010 the future library space was still under construction. However, we were able to consult with Asturias staff and students to create a handbook of guidelines and best practices that would cater to the needs of the school. These included recommendations for a library mandate, collection development policy, cataloguing practices, circulation operations, floor plans, shelving and programming.

In an effort to better understand the future library users, we spent time getting to know the students and staff at the school, as well as learning more about the rich cultural environment in Xela. We had chances to interact with students while playing games at recess, helping with English classes and visiting the Asturias Academy reading club. We were also fortunate to be invited on several occasions to the homes of Asturias students to learn more about textiles, history and agriculture – all central to Guatemalan and Mayan cultures. Before leaving, the group was invited to share a meal with school staff and their families to celebrate the connections that had been made between the two organizations.

The group continues to get updates from Asturias Academy about the progress of the library construction. There are plans to visit again in 2011.

Further information:
Updates about the trip and a copy of the library recommendations can be found on our blog: http://lwbguatemala2010.wordpress.com.
More information about Asturias Academy can be found on their website: http://www.asturiasacademy.org/welcome.
The 3rd annual Web 2.You Conference was held in February 2010. Michael Porter and Jenica Rogers were the keynote and opening speakers respectively. Michael Porter is the Communications Manager at WebJunction.org in Seattle, Washington, and has also worked at OCLC Western, ON, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation U.S. Library Program and the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN. Jenica Rogers is Director of Libraries at the State University of New York at Potsdam. In addition, speakers such as Graham Lavender, MLIS’09, Liaison Librarian, Howard Ross Library of Management, McGill Libraries, Michael Lenczner, a Montreal-based entrepreneur and consultant who works on public-interest technology projects, Patrick Lozeau, currently working with inLibro, a Montreal-based support company for open source software in libraries, and Michele Ann Jenkins, MLIS’05, consultant, made the day a lively one for all attendees.
**McGILL ACA COLLOQUIUM**

Association of Canadian Archivists McGill Student Chapter

The ACA Colloquium took place in March 2010 with the theme of “Archives of the Future: Exploring Current Trends and Issues Facing the Archival Community.” Plenary Speaker Sean Berrigan, Senior Advisor to the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, addressed the topic with a talk on “Paradigms Found: Memory Institutions Meet the 21st Century.” Both MLIS I and II students presented on such varied topics as “Archives, Museums, and Christian Boltanski’s Fragmented Interpretations of the Past” (Marsha Taichman, MLIS I), “Best Practices in Preservation and Digitization of 78 rpm Discs and Cylinder Recordings” (Aaron Rosenblum, MLIS’10), “Visual Literacy and the Photographic Record” (Mary Haberle, MLIS’10), “New Approaches to Teaching and Outreach in Academic Archives and Special Collections” (Mark Melchior, MLIS’10), and “War Archives and Collective Memory: the Challenges of the Next Generation of Archivists” (François Dansereau, MLIS I). A panel with Shannon Hodge, MLIS’04, Archivist, Jewish Publish Library Archives, Iain Blair, Archivist, Gay Archives of Quebec and Jackie Hayami-Stevens, Japanese-Canadian Cultural Centre, discussed “Righting the Errors of Yesterday.”

**SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES**

Please join us in congratulating our recent scholarship and prize recipients. These awards are made possible through the generosity of alumni and friends of the School. The total amount awarded in the 2009-2010 academic year was $49,590. In addition, $35,000 was disbursed to Master’s and Doctoral students in the form of Principal’s and Provost’s Fellowships.

### 2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

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<td>Barbara Grau Smythe Award</td>
<td>Bella Bendov</td>
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<td>Bernard Anderson Ower Award</td>
<td>Kathryn Neeley, Aaron Rosenblum, Margaret Smithglass</td>
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<td>Centenary Prize</td>
<td>Sanghun Cho</td>
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<td>Elizabeth G. Hall Scholarship</td>
<td>Sarah North</td>
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<td>Ethelwyn M. Crossley Scholarship</td>
<td>Megan McMeekin</td>
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<td>Dr. G.R. Lomer Scholarships</td>
<td>Caitlin Bakker, Morgan Eaton, Alain El Hofi, Nathalie Reid, Christine Silkotch</td>
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<td>H.W. Wilson Foundation Scholarship</td>
<td>Dolores Del Valle</td>
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<td>Janet Agnew Scholarship</td>
<td>Sarah Paulson, Margaret Smithglass</td>
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<td>Jean Brown Scholarship</td>
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<td>Miriam H. Tees Scholarship</td>
<td>Abdu Nuru Kajura, Gina Gönczi</td>
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<td>Vivi Martin Fellowship</td>
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<td>Provost’s Fellowships</td>
<td>Svetlana Aksenova, Guillaume Boutard, Irene Kitimbo, Mariya Maistrovskaya, Qing Zou</td>
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<td>Principal’s Fellowships</td>
<td>Dongwook Kim, Theresa LeBane, Robyn Maler, Adrienne Smith</td>
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### 2009-2010 PRIZES

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<th>Prize</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Troide Prize for Excellence in Information Studies</td>
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<td>Anne Galler Award (Eastern Canada Chapter Special Libraries Association Prize)</td>
<td>Adrienne Smith</td>
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<td>Margaret Downey Prize</td>
<td>Adrienne Smith</td>
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<td>Virginia Murray Prize for Cataloguing</td>
<td>Adam Baron</td>
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<td>Archival Studies Prize in Memory of Dorothy Carruthers</td>
<td>François Dansereau</td>
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Vincent Lariviére, PhD ’10, seen here (centre) at his defense with his co-supervisors, Professor Jamshid Beheshti (right) and Professor Yves Gingras of the Department of History at the Université du Québec à Montréal. His thesis topic was “A bibliometric analysis of Quebec’s PhD students’ contributions to the advancement of knowledge.”

Irene Kitimbo, MLIS’06, a PhD student under the supervision of Professor Kimiz Dalkir, has been active in establishing an American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) student chapter at the School. The ASIS&T board of directors has unanimously voted to approve a student chapter at McGill. With this charter, McGill will become the third Canadian university with an ASIS&T student chapter, after the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia. Student chapter officials are: Irene Kitimbo (President), Nouf Kashman (President-Elect), Qing Zou (Webmaster), Dhary Abuhimed (Treasurer), Jonathan Dohey (Secretary) and Dr. France Bouthillier (Chapter sponsor).

Rhiannon Gainor, an incoming fall 2010 PhD student under the supervision of Professor France Bouthillier, was awarded a J.W. McConnell Memorial Fellowship through the Faculty of Education. These awards were established by the J.W. McConnell Foundation to support graduate studies and research at McGill, and so to strengthen, in quality and in numbers, the academic staff of Canadian universities and schools.

David Tang, MLIS’02, PhD candidate, was awarded a three-year FQRSC grant. David’s research concerns the use of health professionals’ feedback in improving online health information resources. In collaboration with the Canadian Pharmacists’ Association, he is performing content analysis on clinicians’ feedback comments, developing a system to facilitate the use of comments, and exploring the organizational factors (e.g., needs, resources) related to implementing the system. His work is co-supervised by Dr. France Bouthillier and Dr. Pierre Pluye, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine.

Yusuke Fitzgibbons, a PhD candidate under the supervision of Professor Joan Bartlett, was awarded the 2010-2011 Tim Casgrain Fellowship by the Faculty of Education. This fellowship is competitively awarded on the basis of academic merit 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.

Adam Baron, MLIS II, was selected as the SIS student representative to the Canadian Library Association (CLA) conference in Edmonton at the beginning of June. The conference gives the selected student an opportunity to network with information professionals and to hear about exciting initiatives from across the country. In his role as SIS’s Student to CLA, Adam worked closely with students from other Canadian library schools, local volunteers and the association. This unique experience provided additional insights that will be useful for Adam as 2010-2011 President of the CLA McGill Student Chapter.

STUDENT TO CLA
New traditions are always in the making in a School on the move! Our new home at 3661 Peel is adjacent to another renovated facility, Purvis Coach House, now part of the Faculty of Education buildings. We held our annual Convocation celebration on June 4, 2010, in the beautiful space available there, formerly the Centre for Developing-Area Studies Library.
Above: Left to right, graduates Radha-Prema McAllister, Marie-Michelle Hamel, Maria Savova Petrova and Robin Kelley, with lecturer Gordon Burr (second from right)

Above: Graduate Aude McDermott (left) with Ancy Joseph, Graduate Program Secretary

Above: Graduates Valli-Laurente Fraser-Celin (left) and Carolyn Doi
The School hosted a wine and cheese on October 1, 2010, as part of Homecoming Weekend. We had the pleasure of seeing many old friends and showing them around our new home.

1970s

Jo-Anne Allison, BA’76, MLS’78, wrote to tell us how much she appreciated Professor McNally’s tribute to Professor Mary Hall in the last newsletter. She says, “I will always remember and value Professor Hall’s attention to detail, her interest in her students and her professionalism. I must say that Professor McNally was also pivotal to my success as a librarian and archivist – and for much of the same reasons as Professor Hall.” She adds, “Over the years, I have worked with many librarians who graduated from various schools and in my view McGill is one of the best. McGill prepared me for the field by encouraging me to think like a professional and not a technician. It isn’t about the tools – it’s how to use them! After 32 years I still enjoy the field and my blood still surges when I get a juicy reference question. So, a long overdue thank you.” Ms. Allison is the Archivist for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince George, BC. In the past, among others, she has held positions as Reference Librarian at the Geoffrey R. Weller Library, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) in Prince George, Assistant Archivist at the UNBC Northern BC Archives, and Head of Reference Services at the College of New Caledonia, Prince George.

1980s

Leila Wallenius, MLIS’88, has become the new University Librarian at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. Previously she was the head of acquisition and bibliographic processing at the University of Windsor.

Lucie Rebelo, BA’85, MLIS’87, has been working as Acting Head, Law Library, at l’Université du Québec à Montréal since February 2010.

Marilyn Berger, BA’52, MLIS’83, has retired from her position as Head Librarian of the McGill Blackader-
Lauterman Library of Art and Architecture as of May 31, 2010. She loved her work as an art and architecture librarian and enjoyed a long and rewarding career. She thanked the School for the education, training and opportunity the profession of librarianship gave her. She writes that as a librarian she benefited so much from the association with the faculty and students, be it through supervising MLIS students in the practicum, participating in the student mentoring program, or assisting with the Alumni Thankathon, which gave her the opportunity to re-connect with former librarians. She said that she will always be willing to help out in any way possible and the School is very dear to her heart.

Tanya Abramovitch, BA’98, MLIS’01, was appointed City Manager by the City Council of Côte Saint-Luc in August 2010. The City Manager is the senior civil servant of the municipal government and works closely with the Mayor and City Council to establish the objectives of the city and to manage its daily operations. Tanya began working in Côte Saint-Luc in 2001 as a reference librarian. She was appointed Director of Library Services in May 2006.

Edward Bilodeau, BSc’92, MLIS’06, formerly the School’s Professional Associate, has taken a position as of July 2010 as Web Services Librarian in the McGill Libraries.

Michael Bilodeau, MLIS’10, is working in a temporary position as IT Services Coordinator at the School of Information Studies, McGill University.

Amy Buckland, MLIS’08, is now E-Scholarship, E-Publishing & Digitization Coordinator in Library Technology Services at McGill.

Carolyn Doi, MLIS’10, was hired at McGill in the Marvin Duchow Music Library as a Liaison Librarian in July 2010.

Valli-Laurente Fraser-Celin, MLIS’10, is working at the Southern African Wildlife College as a librarian in their Resource Centre. The College is situated near Hoedspruit in the Limpopo Province of South Africa within the boundaries of the Kruger National Park. Valli is performing many different duties at the College, including reference, circulation and cataloguing. She will also be working in the local community helping with different projects for two primary schools. In her free time, she goes on game drives and has seen elephant, wildebeest, baboon and hippo. You can read about her adventures on her blog: http://whereisvalli.wordpress.com.

Kirsten Freadrich, MLIS’10, spent her summer in Sweden. She has since returned to accept the Associate Archivist position with the City of Red Deer Archive in Alberta. In the spring of 2011 she plans on returning to Sweden to reunite with her boyfriend, enrol in the Swedish Foreign Academic Program and continue her career in Stockholm.

Gina Gönczi, MLIS’10, has moved back to Budapest, Hungary, and is working as the content manager for Semmelweis University’s English-language website.

Kristina Goodwin, BA’08, MLIS’10, was hired as an information analyst at Canada Health Infoway (http://www.infoway-inforoute.ca). The position is a 12-month contract with the possibility of renewal.

Mary Haberle, MLIS’10, is happily splitting her time between part-time positions in two non-profit archives. Mary is the Digitization Specialist at Franklin Furnace Archive, where she is digitizing the visual and textual documentation of avant-garde performance art events that took place in New York City during the 1990s. As the Digitization Project Assistant at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, she is responsible for creating EAD-encoded finding aids and supporting the off-site digitization of the organization’s founding textual records, which date from 1914.

Amanda Halfpenny, MLIS’10, is the Acting Library Director at the Tracadie-Sheila Public Library in New Brunswick. In her words, “I’m really enjoying my job as a library director at my public library. It is very challenging but I also find it very rewarding. New Brunswick is a big change after Montreal. This summer I’ve enjoyed being so close to the ocean to go to the beach. I’ve also made a few new friends which make finding fun activities to do a lot easier.”

Chelsea Haynes, MLIS’10, has launched her career with the position of Records and Information Management Analyst for CSC (Computer Science Corporation) at their headquarters just outside of Washington, D.C.
Tao Jin, MLIS’02, PhD’08, Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University, is the recipient of a 2009 SLA Research Grant. His research project, “Understanding the Value of Corporate Libraries in Competitive Intelligence Practices,” will use a multi-method approach that combines quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to survey both competitive intelligence (CI) practitioners and information professionals and conduct four case studies at four different organizations. Dr. Jin will explore how and to what extent CI practitioners use their corporate libraries, how CI practitioners value their corporate libraries and the information professionals with whom they work, and how information professionals view their role in the CI process.

Svetlana Kochkina, MLIS’10, started working as a Liaison Librarian at Nahum Gelber Law Library at McGill in July 2010. It is a one-year term position with the possibility of renewal.

Vincent Larivière, PhD’10, has been awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The value is $38,000 per annum plus a research allowance of up to $5,000. Vincent’s project consists of an historical analysis of the relationship between scientific disciplines. This research will be conducted under the direction of Katy Börner, Victor H. Yngve Professor of Information Science at the School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and in collaboration with Professor Yves Gingras, Canada Research Chair in History and Sociology of Science, Université du Québec à Montréal. Vincent was previously awarded the 2009 Eugene Garfield Dissertation Scholarship from the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics.

Stephanie Lemieux, BA’03, MLIS’05, is Director of Search & Content at Yellow Pages Group in Montreal. With her team, she is responsible for ensuring a relevant and intuitive search experience on www.yellowpages.ca, using search engine tuning, taxonomy optimization, SEO and content management. Prior to taking this position, Stephanie was the Taxonomy Practice Lead at Earley & Associates in Montreal working with clients to improve their information organization through taxonomy and metadata best practices.

Chia-Ying (Lisa) Lin, BCom’00, MLIS’10, is working at the McGill Career Planning Service (CaPS) as Career Resource Consultant (Librarian) helping students and job seekers locate career-related information, both online and in print.

Mark Melchior, MLIS’10, has recently started a position as one of several reference and instruction librarians at Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, Massachusetts. The job consists of assisting students and faculty in locating, using and evaluating information resources, instructing students in the use of the online catalog, databases and the Internet, and teaching classes in the use of library resources as part of the library’s information literacy program.

Andrea Miller-Nesbitt, MLIS’10, recently started a new job as the computer science, electrical and computer science engineering, and software engineering liaison librarian at McGill’s Schulich Library of Science and Engineering.

Émilie Paquin, MLIS’10, is now the Chef de service de la bibliothèque et des activités culturelles of the Lachute Public Library, Bibliothèque Jean-Marc-Belzile.

Philipp Raecke Baro, MLIS’10, is working at McGill’s Security Services as a business analyst. This is a one-year contract position. He and his wife Melanie had their second child, a boy, on August 29, 2010.

Sévrine Roy, MLIS’10, is working as a media librarian for the news sector of the media library at Radio-Canada. She was hired a month before graduating. She says that working in the media world, particularly the news world, is very challenging, diverse and exciting.

Maria Savova Petrova, MLIS’10, is Collection Development and Special Projects Librarian within the Collection Services of McGill Library. Maria is also working on collaborative projects with Library Technology Services. She was involved in the implementation of the discovery tool WorldCat Local and the downloadable e-resources service OverDrive. Currently she is working on the implementation of the new loaning program of Sony Readers and the Expanded Course Reserves.

Trecia Schell, MLIS’09, is on the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Library Association. She is the Community Services Librarian at the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (www.parl.ns.ca).
Nora Ballantyne Bernice, BA’45, BLS’46, passed away at her home in Westmount, Quebec on July 27, 2009.

Margaret Elise Chodat, MLIS’92, passed away on September 11, 2010, in her 53rd year.

Marilyn Cohen, MLS’77, passed away on October 12, 2009. Marilyn began work initially within McGill Libraries in 1977. She was promoted to Associate Librarian in 1983 and subsequently was named Acting Head of the Undergraduate Library in 1986 and Undergraduate Services Librarian in 1987. In 1990, Marilyn took up the position of Head of the Education Library, one of the 13 libraries within the McGill library system, a position which she held until her death. There she worked closely with faculty and students and was always focused on enhancing the collections and services of the Education Library and Curriculum Resources Centre. She is mourned by her husband Arnold, her mother Lottie, her son Yisrael, daughter-in-law Avigail and her grand-daughter Shira Chana, as well as by her sister Lorraine Mehi. Marilyn was buried in Jerusalem.

Isobel (Sutherland) Colvin, BLS’41, passed away in Ottawa on February 20, 2010, just short of her 94th birthday. She worked as a National Research Council librarian, where she met her future husband, and also as a librarian at the Geological Survey of Canada. She was an avid volunteer for the Ottawa Board of Education Step-by-Step program for children.


Jacqueline (Dery) Dealy, MLS’82, passed away at home in her 73rd year on April 5, 2010. Jacqueline trained as a nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital before continuing her studies at McGill later in life. She served as reference librarian for many years at Concordia University before retirement.

Herbert Frankenberg, BLS’61, passed away after a brief illness, on Sunday, October 25, 2009, in his 81st year.

Ian A. Hodson, BLS’52, passed away in Kingston, Ontario, on January 20, 2010.

Brenda Hurst, MLS’79, MBA’87, passed away on September 27, 2010, in Toronto. Ms. Hurst earned four university degrees and enjoyed a distinguished career as a librarian at McGill University and the NRC-CISTI in Ottawa.

Ioana (Teodorescu) Partovi, MLIS’85, passed away at age 52, on January 27, 2010, at the San Diego Hospice in California. Following graduation, she joined Bell-Northern Research where she met fellow McGill grad Naser Partovi, BEng’80, MEng’81. They were married in 1990 in the McGill Chapel. They moved to Ottawa so Ioana could work on the Strategic Planning team of Northern Telecom. Later, in California, Ioana co-chaired the La Jolla Music Society Summer Fest for two years and was President of the Performing Arts Circle at The Bishop’s School where her daughters went to high school. Always concerned with education, Ioana believed it was the key to a fulfilling and successful life and donated time and resources to ensure others received the same gifts she had, including serving on the board of advisors at the University of California at San Diego Library.

Robert Morris “Bert” Hamilton, BA’34, BLS’35, passed away on June 8, 2010, at the age of 98.

Erratum: Bruce R. Crisp, MLS’79, sent in a correction to our spelling of Donna Dinberg’s name in our In Memoriam section in the Winter 2010 newsletter. In passing along the correct spelling he noted, “Donna was an excellent librarian and a wonderful person.”
REQUEST/COMMENT FORM

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

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Email

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

Please check the appropriate box if you would like information on our:

☐ PhD Program    ☐ Graduate Diploma    ☐ Graduate Certificate

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Montreal, QC, Canada
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