

Getting into the Spirit: BCLA/SLA Pub Night welcomes students and spring

By Tania Alekson.

Friday is always a good excuse for a pub night, but on March 20th, 2009 there was a more than the upcoming weekend to celebrate as information professionals and SLAIS students got together at the Morrissey pub in downtown Vancouver. Conceived as a cap to the SLAIS Career Expo 2009 at UBC, the convivial spring event was jointly and graciously hosted by BCLA and SLA-Western Canadian Chapter and sponsored by FP Infomart and ProQuest. SLA-WCC Vancouver Director Anne O'Shea (VPL), and planning committee members Christina de Castell (VPL's InfoAction), Laura Matheson (BC Securities Commission), Carolyn Petrie (BC Securities Commission) and Carolyn Soltau (Pacific News Group) did a marvelous job making the event warm, relaxing and fun.

Established and fledgling info pros gathered together for a few thirst-quenching pints, some delicious appetizers, and an engaging round of get-to-know-you bingo. Who's a flamenco dancer? Who went to the Beijing Olympics? You had to be there to find out!



SLAIS Career Expo organizers Jenny Borland and Erin Ablar get instructions on the ins and outs of mixer bingo from pub night planner/host Christina de Castell.



Pub Night participants get into the spirit.

A Meeting of Minds

The relaxed atmosphere was a perfect way for the 40-plus attendees to wind down from a busy work and/or professional development day. Student pub-nighters enjoyed the informal opportunity to ask those few more questions they may not have had the time or temerity to get out during the panels and one-on-ones at Career Expo. The event also gave seasoned information veterans a chance to get to know some of their potential future colleagues. Reconnections were made as the chance for students to catch up with former classmates that have recently graduated was particularly welcome.

Door Prizes Galore!

Thanks to generous donations from FP Infomart, ProQuest, Gale Cengage Learning and BCLA, door prizes were carried away by many delighted participants. After meeting so many friendly faces, winning prizes and imbibing so much good will, it was easy to feel optimistic about the future. The event provided a suitable and fabulous finale to a day full of promise.

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