Another successful year for "Getting Hired in Higher Education"

By Tara Stieglitz and Jeannine Stickle.

"Getting Hired in Higher Education" is an annual panel discussion held for students at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) at the University of British Columbia. It gives students an opportunity to meet with new academic librarians and have questions related to getting hired and working academic libraries answered. This year's event was held on Monday November 2nd at UBC with three academic librarians participating as panelists: Shawnna Parlongo (University of British Columbia), Todd Rowlatt (Vancouver Community College), and Rebecca Dowson (Simon Fraser University). The panel was co-sponsored by ALPS and the British Columbia Library Association/Canadian Library Association Student Committee at SLAIS. The discussion was well attended by students from SLAIS and judging by the questions asked it was well appreciated.

Panelists discussed their paths to employment and offered advice to students on finding work after graduation. Advice included gaining as much work and volunteer experience as possible, including instructional experience, while still in school. Students should take every opportunity for networking and professional development. Keeping up with trends in librarianship in order to help students stand out in the hiring process was also recommended. Panelists also discussed the importance of flexibility in subject areas and the reality that graduates will often need to work in auxiliary positions and on contracts before finding a permanent position. Thanks to Shawnna, Todd and Rebecca for making this year's panel another successful and informative event for the students at SLAIS.

Tara Stieglitz is the student representative for ALPS and Jeannine Stickle is the SLAIS student representative for the CLA. They are both current students at the University of British Columbia's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies.