

Update from the UBC SLAIS Chapter of BCLA

By Amy Ashmore and Sara Hathaway

It was a productive fall semester for the BCLA/CLA Student Chapter at UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS). In September, the group welcomed some new faces as well as returning executive members. We hosted several speakers and events, and co-ordinated library tours across the UBC campus for SLAIS students.

Throughout the semester, our YAACS (Young Adult and Children's Services) representatives hosted three student book club meetings open to all SLAIS students interested in discussing children's/YA materials and improving their book-talking skills. These meetings were well received and well attended, and provided an excellent opportunity for resource sharing both for professional development and for personal interest.

Our ALPS (Academic Librarians in Public Service) representative helped to provide a unique learning opportunity for all SLAIS students through the "Getting Hired in Higher Education" speaker panel held on November 2nd. This year's speakers were Tania Alekson of Capilano University, Erin Fields of UBC, Yolanda Koscielski of SFU, and Carolyn Petrie of Langara. The varied experiences of the speakers meant that students gained insight into differing workplaces and responsibilities. Despite November being the busy time of the semester, over twenty students attended, bringing with them excellent questions for the panel. Several SLAIS students also attended the ALPS General Meeting in December

and benefited from networking with professional academic librarians.

In November, the group organized a series of library tours for SLAIS students around the UBC campus, visiting the UBC Asian Library, the Vancouver School of Theology Library, and UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections department. These tours provided an opportunity for students to experience both academic and specialized library settings, and the tours were very well attended.

The chapter also hosted a talk by Devon Greyson on November 8th. Devon spoke to a group of interested students about the recent changes to the long-form census in Canada and the impact of these changes on the public, researchers, and all information professionals. Devon addressed student questions and helped to foster discussion on this issue, and the feedback from students at this event was extremely positive.

In the upcoming semester, the BCLA/CLA student chapter hopes to continue our monthly book club meetings as well as organize a new series of library tours. We are always looking for speakers interested in sharing their expertise in the information field, and would love to host further speaker events in the upcoming months.

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