

SLAIS News: Accreditation underway

By Dan Slessor.

ALA Accreditation

October was an exciting time at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), the iSchool at The University of British Columbia. The school is currently in the process of having its American Library Association (ALA) accreditation renewed for the MLIS and Dual programs. The process, which occurs every seven years, involves the submission of an accreditation report and a site visit from the Accreditation Committee's External Review Panel.

SLAIS welcomed the accreditation committee on October 21st - 22nd and their visit included meetings with SLAIS faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners. The External Review Panel consists of:

Lynne McKechnie (University of Western Ontario), **William Buchanan** (Clarion University of Pennsylvania), **Kenneth-Roy Bonin** (Carleton University), **Barbara J. Ford** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), **Joseph A. Busch** (Taxonomy Strategies), and **Ross Gordon** (ECollab Services at Environment Canada). The observer for the Canadian Libraries Association is **Cheryl Stenström** (San Jose State University).

The Program Presentation for the Committee on Accreditation can be found at:
<http://www.slais.ubc.ca/about/accreditation.htm>

Faculty Announcements

Bruce Kingma joins the school for the September – December academic term as the iSchool's Dodson Visiting Professor. Dr. Kingma is a Professor in the School of Information Studies and Professor of Entrepreneurship in the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. During his term at SLAIS, Dr. Kingma will teach, interact, and mentor students. He will be teaching ARST 575M/LIBR 579M: Innovation and Disruptive Entrepreneurship.

SLAIS also welcomes **Richard Arias-Hernandez** as a Lecturer. Dr. Arias-Hernandez joins UBC from Simon Fraser University, where he spent the past 5 years as a postdoctoral fellow at the SCIENCE lab, School of Interactive Arts and Technology. His research interests include ethnographic studies of information technology (IT) design, human-information

interaction in visual analytics, and socio-cultural studies of IT and computer-supported collaborative work. This term, he is teaching ARST/LIBR 554: Database Design and LIBR 581: Digital Libraries.

New Faces in the SLAIS Office

The SLAIS office continues to evolve with new faces filling updated roles. **Dan Slessor** (SLAIS '11) is the school's new Student Services Coordinator, having taken over from **Heather Shand** and **Michelle Mallette**. **Connie Wintels** has assumed a permanent role with the school as the Administrative Assistant and **Melissa Nightingale**, who previously worked with UBC's Midwifery Program, joins the school as the Program Assistant. Finally, **Debra Locke** has taken on a new role as the SLAIS Information Assistant. This is one of two new roles for Debra, who is on maternity leave as of October 18th! Stay tuned for details regarding Debra's maternity leave replacement.

Contact information for the office staff can be found at: <http://www.slais.ubc.ca/people/faculty/staff.htm>

Fall Colloquia Series

The fall colloquia series got off to a great start with wonderful presentations from Canadian poet **JonArno Lawson**, **Dr. Rob Capra** from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and **Dr. Bruce Kingma**. In celebration of National School Library Day, the iSchool co-sponsored (with the School of Education) "BC's New Education Plan: School Libraries at the Centre of Learning" on October 22nd.

Upcoming colloquia include:

- November 20th: **Vivian Howard**, (Dalhousie University), "Connecting Authors and Readers: Researching and Documenting Atlantic Canadian Books for Youth."
- December 4th: **Alissa Cherry** (Union of BC Indian Chiefs), "Redeveloping the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Resource Centre: New Collections, Classification and Collaboration."

Find out more about colloquia events at
<http://www.slais.ubc.ca/news/colloquia.htm>.

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