

THE COURIER



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LEAH STRUDWICK

SLA Toronto President



Leah is the Reference & Outreach Librarian for the Toronto Lawyers Association. Previously, she held positions as Legal Librarian with the City of Toronto, Reference Librarian at the Bronfman Business Library at York University, and Library Assistant in a corporate pharmaceutical library. Leah earned her Master of Information from the University of Toronto in 2015, after completing her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at the University of Alberta. She has been on the SLA Toronto Executive Board since 2016, and is thrilled to serve SLA Toronto as President in 2018.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – FEBRUARY 2018

Leah Strudwick – SLA Toronto President

Hello, SLA Toronto members, colleagues, and friends! Welcome to the February 2018 edition of *The Courier*. January was a tough year (ha!), but we made it, and now it feels like 2018 has begun in earnest.

A little over two weeks ago, I returned from a short trip to New Orleans, where I attended the [SLA Leadership Symposium](#). After a 3-year hiatus, the in-person complement to the online SLA Unit Leader training returned due to popular demand, and I was fortunate enough to be able to participate. The condensed program of meetings, self-assessment, and training exercises supplied me with a wealth of new knowledge about both myself and SLA, and gave me some frankly excellent ideas for programming and events (stay tuned for news about those).

My favorite parts, though, were the conversations I had with SLA Leaders from everywhere – about the Connect platform, succession planning, member engagement, and so much else. I came home more enthusiastic than ever about supporting and encouraging the SLA Toronto information professional community, and I can't wait to implement the things I learned. Non-Symposium New Orleans highlights I enjoyed included the [Museum of Death](#), dancing at the [Spotted Cat](#), and mouthwatering [charbroiled oysters](#). I look forward to going back at some point (ideally with more time and money to spend).

On January 24, a few SLA Toronto members availed themselves of the opportunity to spend some time with the Executive Board – sincere thanks to those of you who came to chat with us! We are always thrilled to hear from you, to answer your questions and incorporate your ideas. You can also weigh in by attending a Board Meeting, which happen on the third Wednesday of each month. Keep an eye out for information about the March meeting.

And on February 27, join us for [Blockchain Technology & Smart Contracts](#), an introduction to the digital ledger system that is changing the way financial transactions work, and discussion of how this change will affect the information industry. I will be there in an effort to level up my response to conversations about cryptocurrency from polite nod to actual comment. Wish me luck.

MEET THE ADVISORY BOARD

In this recurring series, we asked members of our [Advisory Board](#) to introduce themselves.

Lauren Orav – Social Media Manager

1) Introduce yourself! Who are you, what do you do, and what is your role with SLA Toronto?

I'm Lauren Orav, acting Web Services Librarian with the MAG Law Library and Reference Intern at OCADU Library. I've joined the Advisory Board as SLA Toronto's Social Media Manager.

2) How did you get started with SLA?

I attended some SLA Toronto events while a student at UofT's iSchool, and especially had a great time learning from other librarians at the summer socials. After graduating, I worked away from Toronto for a while, and now that I'm back in town, want to become more active in the library community.

3) What does "Special Libraries" mean to you?

Special Libraries are about supporting information needs in places most people don't expect to see a library or librarian. They can come in any shape and size. That's what makes them fun, and great places to try new things!

4) What is one thing you wish you could have told yourself when you started your schooling or career?

To keep a better record of things. During school, everything felt like a whirlwind. Now that I have more time to focus on building my career, I wish I'd kept a better record and taken pictures of the different events and projects I've taken part in over the years.

5) What is the absolute most interesting thing about you?

In another life, I made some very intense installation art. I'd like to make some more one day.

6) Any final words?

I look forward to seeing you all at SLA Toronto events!

WHAT IS THE ADVISORY BOARD?

The Advisory Board of SLA Toronto consists of appointed committee chairs and members, such as the Archivist, Social Media Manager, and Registrars. Advisory Board members report to a member of the Executive Board, and are essential to the smooth and successful functioning of SLA Toronto.

WHAT IS THE EXECUTIVE BOARD?

The Executive Board is comprised of the elected officers of SLA Toronto, including the President, Past President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and other Directors. This board votes on matters of the unit, and must have at least one meeting yearly (though, at SLA Toronto, we hold ten meetings per year at least). Elections are held in the fall for new officers, after a call for nominations for positions that are available.

MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

A new year means we welcome new people to our [Executive Board](#)! We asked returning and new Exec members to tell us a bit about themselves.

Jessica Hanley – First Five Years Director



1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

Hello! My name is Jessica Hanley and I am the First Five Years Director.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

Finding a job in your field can take a long time. Don't let this put you off! Find a mentor to help with your resume and interview skills, and stay perseverant. It took me, and many others I know, over a year to find jobs in fields we wanted to work in. Stick to it and stay positive!

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

I did competitive Irish Dancing and played the French Horn for over a decade. I was never one for conventional activities. I also ended my career as a Bio-Physical Lab Tech as I'm too clumsy with my hands and kept spilling chemicals. This worked out in the end as I love being an academic librarian much more!

Leah Strudwick – President



1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

I'm Leah Strudwick, SLA Toronto Chapter President for 2018.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

DON'T PANIC. I let my worry get the better of me in the months following graduation, and it was uncomfortable and counterproductive. When I let myself exhale and consider the larger picture, I was able to broaden my view of what might be professionally possible for me. Which is not to say you can just make a vision board and be done with the job search – you have to be rigorous and vigilant – but try to take a breath and unclench.

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

I got backstage at a New Kids on the Block show in 2008 and sat beside Danny Wood as he ate his post-show meal of enough sushi to feed a family of 4. Also, I can do the splits.

Kathryn Kingston – Membership Director

1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

Hi, my name is Kathryn Kingston and I will be your Membership Director for 2018.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

Don't be afraid to network. I always hated the thought of it when I was in school and I avoided it like the plague. It wasn't until I got working that I realized just how important it is and that it really isn't that bad. In fact, I have made quite a few new friends through my efforts. It's also important to realize that everyone is in the same boat, so no need to be nervous. Get out there and meet people!

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

I have thus far had the pleasure of traveling to 15 different countries in my lifetime and I continue working to expand that each year! I will be traveling to Dominican Republic and Ghana this year. :)

Mary Gu – President-Elect



1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

My name is Mary Gu and I'm the President-Elect for 2018.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

Communication skills are key in the workplace and, if you can financially sustain it, don't stay in shitty work environments that strip you of your agency and emotional health.

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

I've been training in krav maga for about 3.5 years now and it's one of the things I put a lot of time into in my non-work life. So if anyone wants to talk about self-defense, let me know!

Alex Herd – Secretary

1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

I'm Alex Herd, in my second year as Secretary, SLA Toronto Chapter.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

The master's degree is only the beginning; you'll need to look for ways to continue your education and professional development. Most importantly, be patient, especially with yourself. The information profession is a constantly evolving one, so it will take time to garner new skills.

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

I left a family camera at Hadrian's Wall when I was eight years old. I wish I could have it back. In undergrad, while serving as student manager of the men's basketball team, I was allowed to play in a summer tour of Spain. So, I've played against professional players, even though I never was one.

Cassandra Nakamura – Partner Relations Director

1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

Hi, I'm Cassandra and this will be my first year as Partner Relations Director for SLA Toronto.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

A degree in information will open a countless number of doors for you and in places you would have never thought of - so definitely keep an open mind, be opportunistic and make the most of it!

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

I speak four languages and when I was 13 won an all-inclusive trip to go spend a month in Japan with kids from across North and South America - one of the coolest experiences to date!

Christine DeLuca – Past President



1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

Hiya! I am Christine DeLuca, SLA Toronto's Past President.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

Network! Meet people! Get out and make friends with fellow professionals! Relationships matter just as much as all of the experience you put on your resume.

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

This year, I am really excited to become a mom! In the fall I traveled to small towns in Poland, Berlin, Prague, Vienna and Venice.

Allison Smith – Treasurer



1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

Hello! I'm Allison Smith, and I'm the new treasurer for SLA Toronto.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

Advice for new information professionals? Hmm... you know the phrase 'fake it until you make it'? Well, it turns out there will be a lot of that -- but have confidence! So many of the tasks and jobs awaiting you might seem a bit intimidating, but since you're probably a super competent, curious person who is eager to learn, everything is absolutely within reach. And remember that nearly everyone else, to some extent, is actually faking it until they make it, too.

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

Once, under oath, I had to explain Google Drive (and by extension cloud computing) to a judge as a part of my testimony in court.

Sarah Morrison – Technology & Communications Director



1) Who are you and what's your role this year?

I'm Sarah Morrison, nice to meet you! I'm the Technology & Communications Director, Courier Editor, Webmaster, and general tech wrangler.

2) What do you wish you could tell every new information professional?

Be kind to yourself. Things are going to happen that you don't expect, you'll end up changing your job or career, and you will doubt yourself. It's all ok! You're doing your best, and your best is amazing. Don't say anything to yourself that you wouldn't say to your very closest and bestest friend.

3) What is the single most interesting thing about you?

When I was 5, I met [Polkaroo](#). Runners up are that I saw [Mr. Dressup](#) perform live, I studied [Phoenician](#) and [ancient Egyptian](#), and my uncle digs up dinosaur bones and [has a dinosaur named after him](#) (not about me but super cool).

Applying Logic Models for Comprehensive Assessment Webinar – March 27, 2018

Have you ever had to try and figure out how to collect data for assessment after a project has launched? Have you ever collected data for assessment and realized that it doesn't really answer your questions? Have you ever wondered what else you might use your assessment data for in your work?

Creating a comprehensive assessment plan can be an overwhelming task. Whether you are new to this type of work or a seasoned professional looking to improve your process – this webinar discusses several models that will help you build comprehensive and flexible assessment plans. [Visit here](#) to register for the event, and [click here](#) to register for the webinar software. **You need to do both of these things to participate in the webinar.** A recording will be available to attendees post-webinar.

Our goals for attendees:

- Understand the thought processes behind developing a comprehensive assessment plan.
- Understand how logic models contribute to systematically developing an assessment plan.
- How to use logic models and assessment methods to build in flexibility and future potential into your assessment plan.

About the Speakers

Mary Gu is the Information Services Librarian with CPA Canada, the national level non-profit supporting the Canadian accountancy profession. Mary started learning about assessment and measurement during her undergraduate in psychology and has applied her knowledge to a variety of projects in the library world.

Hannah Loshak is the Information Manager with the Centre for Effective Practice. Hannah applies her knowledge of creating comprehensive assessment plans to help develop health care tools and clinical guidelines in projects with multiple stakeholders.

Blockchain Technology & Smart Contracts – Feb. 27, 2018

2017 was Blockchain's coming out party by becoming a mainstream topic of conversation, but do librarians and other information professionals need to know about it? This session will introduce Blockchain technology and its implications on smart contracts. [During this session](#) you will have the opportunity to learn about how applications using these technologies will change the way we purchase and share content, track records, exchange metadata, and establish provenance in creative works – all of which has profound implications on our industry.

About the Speaker

Stephen Sawyer (MLIS) is a Design Researcher for Narrativ, an innovation lab created by Access Copyright. After spending 10 years working as an Information Specialist, he spent 2017 researching, speaking about, and helping build apps using Blockchain technology. Stephen is passionate about creating digital solutions for artistic creators while improving experiences for content consumers.

Upcoming Events

Want to know about our upcoming events?

- Check our website – toronto.sla.org
- Like our [Facebook page](#)
- Follow us on Twitter [@slatoronto](#)
- Join the Toronto group on SLA Connect

INTRODUCING: PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Calling all SLA Toronto members! Have you moved? Started a new job or career? Had a major life event happen? We want to know! **People on the Move** in the Courier is a feature to highlight all the exciting things that have happened to our members.

If you have a submission, please email Sarah Morrison at sarah@sarahamorrison.net. If you're submitting information about someone else, please verify that you have their permission to do so. We hope to hear from you soon!

ABOUT US

SLA Toronto was founded in 1940 and represents the interests of information professionals in Toronto and most of the province of Ontario, west of Kingston.

The Toronto Chapter is a dynamic and active organization with over 400 members and is part of [SLA](#), an international organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.

We provide an opportunity for information professionals in our area to learn and network at [events](#) as well as engage on [social media](#) sites.

The chapter is volunteer led by an [Executive Board](#), consisting of a President, Past-President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Technology & Communications Director, Membership Director, First Five Years Director, Programming Director, and a Partner Relations Director. The chapter is also guided and supported by an [Advisory Board](#).

WANT TO WRITE FOR THE COURIER?

We want to hear from you! Email the editor, Sarah Morrison, at sarah@sarahamorrison.net with your idea.