



Annual Report for the 2012/2013 Academic Year

Prepared by Alan Chorney and Amy Lorencz, Co-Chairs  
With sections prepared by members of the SIMSA Executive and relevant external  
Executives

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## **The SIMSA Executive and Representatives, 2012-2013**

### **The SIMSA Executive**

*Co-Chairs* Alan Chorney  
Amy Lorencz

*Vice-Chair Academic* Tara Rumsey

*Vice-Chair Non-Academic* Amanda Fullerton

*Secretary* Nancy McPhee

*Treasurer* Riel Gallant

*Digital Publications Officer* Matt Clarke

*Digital Publications Assistant* Danielle Appleby

*First Year Representative* James Ross

*Second Year Representative* Danielle Hubbard

*IWB Conference Chair* Madeline Driscoll

### **External Committee Representatives**

*Admissions and Scholarships Committee* Tara Rumsey

*Appointments, Promotion and Tenure  
Committee* Arryn Seburn

*Curriculum and Continuing Education  
Committee* James Rothwell  
Darrell Yates

## **Introduction**

The 2012/2013 Academic Year was a particularly busy year for SIMSA. With the support of its membership, the Executive organized several quality lectures and entertainment events which enhanced the professional development and school experience of SIM students. A number of successful fundraising events were held, including: the production and sale of a cookbook and the design and sale of buttons. These fundraising initiatives helped raise money to support SIMSA's activities.

In an effort to show support for student-led initiatives, SIMSA provided financial and logistical support to endeavors such as the Information Without Borders Conference and the Dalhousie Journal of Information Management. SIMSA was also able to provide assistance and support during the septennial ALA reaccreditation assessment of the School of Information Management.

It is our hope that the various initiatives listed above will be enhanced in the following years as SIMSA continues to hone its mandate and relevance as it has done this year.

The 2012/2013 SIMSA Executive

## **SIMSA Executive**

As dictated by the Constitution, SIMSA held monthly General Meetings to inform students of both Executive and Committee-level activities and to receive feedback from the student body on a variety of issues. The SIMSA executive worked hard on creating transparency and consistency through our governance by creating adhoc committees for projects, events, and elections.

The first General Meeting of the Academic year took place in September 2012, where the new First and Second Year Representatives, and a new Digital Publications Assistant were elected. At this time students were also encouraged to take part in various other committees. The Annual General Meeting was in April 2013 and saw the election of the Executive representatives for 2013-2014. One of SIMSA's greatest successes this year was the increased interest in student governance by incoming students. All positions were contested at our AGM with two or more candidates running for each position.

SIMSA also represented the student body on a variety of councils as part of its mandate. Representatives attended meetings of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), the Faculty Council, and the School Council.

### External Representation

#### *Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students*

SIMSA was represented at monthly meetings of the DAGS Council. The DAGS Representative participated in voting on resolutions and communicated important information to the Association at large.

Amy Lorencz acted as the representative for SIMSA on DAGS council.

#### *Dalhousie Student Union Ratification*

The only major capacity in which SIMSA interacts with the DSU is via ratification. Amy Lorencz was in charge of the ratification with the DSU.

## *Faculty Council*

SIMSA was represented at monthly meetings of the Faculty Council. The SIMSA Representative participated in voting on key issues to be discussed at the Council level. Important items discussed at Faculty Council this year included: the Marine Affairs Program leaving the Faculty of Management; and the development of a policy to determine the minimum number of registered students required to run a course within the Faculty of Management.

The SIMSA representative to the Faculty Council was Alan Chorney

## Internal Representation

### *Co-Chair*

The Co-Chairs for the 2012/2013 Academic Year were Alan Chorney and Amy Lorencz

The Co-Chairs had biweekly meetings with the Director of SIM, Louise Spiteri. These meetings, as well as regular e-mail communications, were used to communicate general information regarding SIMSA-led activities to the Director, and for the Director to communicate any issues SIMSA should be aware of to the Co-Chairs.

Amy Lorencz was key in initiating and organizing the SIMSA cookbook fundraising endeavor. The cookbook, cleverly titled 641.5, was not only the years most successful fundraising efforts, but also served as a team building exercise; as well as to showcase the artistic talents of Danielle Hubbard who produced the artwork, and the indexing talents of Alan Chorney. The recipes were contributed by faculty and students. The cookbook was launched with a potluck that was so successful it served as an inspiration for the end-of-year potluck to celebrate the Faculty of Managements ALA reaccreditation.

Alan Chorney, along with Danielle Hubbard, were key in organizing the redesign of the SIMSA logo. The design process went through many phases with input from the entire SIMSA executive. The resulting logo has met with much praise, and was the starting point for the redesign of the SIMSA website by the Digital Publications Assistant.

### *Vice Chair Academic*

The Vice Chair Academic for the 2012/2013 Academic Year was Tara Rumsey.

The first major duty of the year for the Vice Chair Academic was to organize and run the Associations' Display during Orientation Week. While the event was generally a success, one issue did arise due to scheduling: Immediately following the Associations' Display a luncheon was held for incoming students in a conjoining room. The request to

include association representatives in the food count was denied. Separate food was provided by students for association participants; however, these separate eating arrangements were not ideal for networking. In the future, this problem could be solved by inviting association representatives to the luncheon, or making the luncheon a more distinct and separate event.

The Vice Chair Academic was also responsible for organizing the Brown Bag Lunch series. Apart from the final event that was still successful, but sparsely attended, each talk was very well attended and feedback was positive. The focus for speaker recruitment was student and post-graduation employment--providing speakers that could give practical advice to support employment efforts. The year kicked off with a session geared towards first-year and part-time students. Second-year students who received summer internships within and outside of the province were invited to speak to the crowd about the work that they did and the way they approached application documents and interviews. Other sessions throughout the year included a session on the SIM thesis option; a session on getting hired; and a session on issues that arise in the public library setting that fall outside of the MLIS curriculum.

The final responsibility of the Vice Chair Academic was to record the SIM public lectures. Each lecture was successfully recorded, apart from a single lecture that was missed due to a student filling in for the Vice Chair in combination with a poor interface design of the recording device. In the future, budget permitting, a new, more modern recording device would be ideal, as the current device is difficult to operate and lacks important features such as a USB port. Apart from minor device hiccups, the only other issue with the lecture series was that some lectures were scheduled during class times. One in particular was scheduled during a large class of fifty students. Though scheduling conflicts cannot necessarily all be avoided, particularly when speakers are traveling from a distance, every effort should be made to ensure that lectures are not scheduled when a majority of students are in class. That being said, the SIM public lecture series was very successful, with many members of the student body getting a chance to introduce and thank the guest speakers.

### *Vice Chair Non-Academic*

The Vice Chair Non-Academic for the 2012/2013 Academic Year was Amanda Fullerton.

The main responsibility of the Vice Chair Non-Academic was planning SIM's orientation week with the program coordinator, JoAnn Watson. Amanda and Joann met regularly over the summer to plan an orientation week that would make new students feel welcome in Halifax, at Dalhousie, and in SIM. With the help of many student volunteers, the week went off without a hitch and we were fortunate to have good weather, which was especially important at the SIMSA Luncheon which took place outdoors on the lawn outside the Killam Library.

In early December we celebrated the holidays with a party at Locas Billiards where many rousing games of pool and darts took place. In the new year, members of the SIMSA executive planned, designed, printed, and collated a cookbook and as a social event and fundraiser, we hosted a launch and potluck lunch in the common room. We sold out of cookbooks and had to print more which were sold at IWB and other events.

In early April, SIMSA hosted our end-of-year party at the Victory Arms Pub and aptly changed the name of the event to the Victory Party. There was a fabulous turnout and we were joined not only by faculty but by a faculty candidate as well. Amanda has recently met with the new VP Non-Academic Mark Black, both with JoAnn and independently to ensure a smooth transition for the arrival of next years' SIM students.

### *Digital Publications*

For the 2012/2013 Academic Year, the Digital Publications Officer was Matt Clarke and the Digital Publications Assistant was Danielle Appleby.

This year, with great enthusiasm, Danielle Appleby undertook the huge task of redesigning the SIMSA website. Striving for an aesthetically pleasing, accurate and up-to-date website Danielle is planning on promoting the new website to incoming students as a place to stay informed about various student activities, organizations, and information.

### *Financial Officer*

SIMSA had strong year financially by organizing smaller cost-effective fundraising initiatives, collectively bringing in nearly \$1000.. We have also switched banks, from CIBC to Bank of Montreal, which will offer us more options and less banking fees. Our core funding was lower than anticipated this year due to the low number of incoming first year students. We have passed our audits with DAGS with flying colours and leave the incoming executive in a financially stable position and with a strong example of fiscal responsibility.

### *First and Second Year Representation*

The First Year Representative and Second Year Representative for the 2009/2010 Academic year were James Ross and Danielle Hubbard, respectively.

The First and Second Year Representatives communicated relevant information regarding SIMSA-led activities to their classmates throughout the year. The Representatives solicited information and opinions from their colleagues to gauge interest in various SIMSA activities. The 1st and 2nd Year Representatives coordinated the purchasing of class photographs.

In addition, the 1st Year Class Representative will coordinate the Planning Committee for the 2nd Year Convocation Reception Ceremony.

As 2nd Year Class Representative, Danielle Hubbard took a leading role in three major undertakings: producing the SIMSA cookbook, designing the new SIMSA logo, and acting as Chief Returning Officer for the 2013 SIMSA elections.

Danielle worked cooperatively with Amy Lorencz to gather and compile recipes for the cook book as well as illustrating the cook book. Danielle also worked together with Amy and Amanda Fullerton to print, fold, staple and market the cookbooks.

Danielle also played a key role in designing the new SIMSA logo with Alan Chorney. She created the initial sketches from which the final digital version of the logo was based.

When SIMSA's annual elections were held in March 2013, Danielle acted as Chief Returning Officer. In this role, she circulate emails gathering nominations for positions on SIMSA's executive council, created the ballots, and tabulated the votes following the election.

All of the endeavors in which the 1st and 2nd year representatives participated in ran smoothly.

## **Closing Remarks**

The SIMSA Executive would like to extend sincere thanks to the volunteers who served on the Association's various committees. Without such dedicated individuals, none of the events and activities included in this year's calendar would have been possible.

The Executive would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the various external Executives with which SIMSA has worked over the past year. The endeavors organized throughout the 2012/2013 Academic year by the CLA Student Chapter, the SLA Student Chapter, the ACA Student Chapter, the Dalhousie Journal of Interdisciplinary Management, and the Information Without Borders Conference 2010 were of great benefit to the students of SIM.

Finally, to the student body, we wish you the best of luck and continued success for the future and many thanks for your continued support.