

Friends of UVic Libraries Newsletter appears twice annually, in Spring and Autumn.

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UVic Libraries Open House

The Libraries held an Open House on Wednesday, November 9 to celebrate the completion of the renovations to the first floor of the McPherson Library. Lower book shelves and more open areas have improved sightlines, making the Library more welcoming and user-friendly. More than 150 new study spaces have been added, including 40 new computer workstations.

Complete with a ribbon cutting ceremony, this special event was an opportunity for the Libraries to let the UVic community know what it has to offer.

There were displays and demonstrations to showcase the services and resources of the Libraries, special events, and a draw for some fabulous prizes. A staff appreciation event followed in the McPherson staff lounge (story on page 12).

Visitors were greeted with balloons and departed with a fortune cookie containing a message about the future of libraries.



Inside This Issue

Open Housep. 1
Introducing Elizabeth Grove-Whitep. 2
Recollections of a Vic College Student Library Assistantp. 3
At Home with a Friend: Judith Terryp. 4
Tea at Lantern Lanep. 4
Create your Own Legacy through a Gift in Your Willp. 5
The Multicultural Canada Projectp. 5
From the Membership Committeep. 6
Mearns Family Appreciation Dinnerp. 6
In Memoriam: Gwladys V. Downes ..p. 7
Coming Eventsp. 7
Talking to a Friend: Samuel Maceyp. 8
Introduction to the Reginald Roy Military History Collectionp. 9
Priestly Law Library Collection in Scottish Lawp. 10
Akitsiraq Law School Graduation ...p. 10
UVic Libraries Celebrates Its Staffp. 12



Top left: Dr. Catherine Mateer, Associate VP Academic, and Marnie Swanson, University Librarian, cut the ribbon to officially mark the opening of the renovated main floor of the McPherson Library. **Top right:** Lynne Woodruff, Information Services Librarian, Fine Arts, and Open House Organizing Committee Chair pictured together with Wendie McHenry, Assistant University Librarian and Librarian responsible for overseeing the renovation project. **Bottom left:** the “Staff Picks” shelf, which featured favourite books of Libraries staff members. **Bottom right:** One of the displays of new resources—staff members Kristin Hoffmann, Rebecca Raworth, June Smith and Lynne Serviss were on hand to assist.



Elizabeth Grove-White
Incoming Chair
Friends of UVic Libraries
Executive Committee

Introducing Elizabeth Grove-White

Elizabeth Grove-White

The Friends of UVic Libraries are delighted that Dr. Grove-White, Executive Director of the University of Victoria Co-operative Education Program, has agreed to take over from Terry Sherwood as Chair of the Executive Committee of Friends of UVic Libraries. An author as well as an inspiring teacher, below she describes her own acquaintance with the world of books.

My very first library was a decrepit Carnegie building in south County Dublin that doubled as a community hall. In retrospect, that library now seems dull and shabby, but at the age of six, my weekly visits there were visits to Paradise. The library was only open on Saturdays, and supervised by cranky volunteers who tut-tutted over my book choices before grudgingly letting me borrow. There was a distinct sense that children and libraries shouldn't mix, but the limited children's section in Cabinteely Library forced me at the age of six to extend my reading beyond Nancy Drew and the Famous Five.

Later, as a student at Trinity College Dublin, my favorite place on a beautiful campus was (and remains) the Library's Long Room where, as a part-time library assistant, I relished the freedom to wander through the stacks and browse through Trinity's extraordinary copyright holdings. My Ph.D thesis on Virginia Woolf's non-fiction introduced me to some of the great research libraries of the world, and later, when I moved to Toronto as a young mother, I discovered the pleasure of introducing my children to the Public Library system.

During my next career as a print and broadcast journalist in Toronto during the 1980's, I got to know the highly specialized libraries, and some remarkable librarians, at the *Globe and Mail* and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This was a period of very rapid change as news libraries switched from print to digital sources, and it was in the CBC's library in the old Jarvis Street building that I first used a dial-up database—the ERIC database which miraculously provided me with up-to-the-minute research material for a series I was preparing to mark the International Year of the Child.

My current position as the Executive Director of the University's Co-op Education Program hasn't prevented me from continuing with my own research interests, and last year I was fortunate enough to obtain a SSHRC grant to work with Special Collections Librarian, Chris Petter, editing an exemplary online edition of the Robert Graves diary, one of the most important manuscripts in our Special Collections.

And so it is with enormous pleasure and no little trepidation that I accepted the invitation to become Chair of the Friends of UVic Libraries: pleasure, because this invitation allows me to repay in some small measure a lifetime's debt to libraries; trepidation, because I follow in the footsteps of Terry Sherwood, one of the most able academics to have served our University and its libraries.

With his customary grace, Terry has agreed to help me in this coming year, together with a remarkable group of Library staff and volunteers who have been working together to plan our events and expand our membership. I look forward to meeting you and to enjoying more Friends' events during what promises to be an exciting period for our libraries, their staff, their users, and their friends.

The Committee **Members Behind** **the Friends of UVic** **Libraries**

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Recollections of a Vic College Student Library Assistant

Kathy (Riddle) Picha

Kathy went on to graduate in Honours English at UBC and became a teacher-librarian as well as a teacher of English and French. The librarian she recalls was Albert Spratt, his assistant, Mavis Cram.

In the early 1950's, when I entered college, Victoria College and Victoria Normal School enjoyed separate but equal existences in the "Old Normal School" building. (This building has experienced several incarnations, and is still used as part of Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus.) In contrast, the Ewing Building, which housed the college library, seemed to be exclusively college territory, and was almost brand new. The library itself looked very up-to-date — tile floors, formica counters, blond wood furniture, steel stacks and lots of windows. As was the situation in most libraries then and for the next few decades, we consulted the card catalogue to find materials. I remember the collection itself less well, although the Library of Congress organization seemed new and strange to a person who had been obliged to memorize the Dewey Decimal System in high school. One aspect of the collection does come to mind: the library had audio records (probably 33 1/3 rpm) which allowed students to listen to plays and radio dramas. I remember listening to *Death of a Salesman*, then taught in First Year. Also, purely for pleasure, I played and replayed Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*. ("Isn't that good news now, it's a change to sit down.") Perhaps related to the library's strength in recorded materials was "Tuesday Noon Record" — a gathering in the basement of Ewing each Tuesday lunch hour to listen to records. Whether these were just music recordings or music and spoken word, I am not sure.

When I was in First Year, I was hired for a few hours a week as one of the student library assistants. In order to get the job, I had to endure an interview at which Dr. Hickman, the Principal of the College, the Librarian, and a Saanich alderman or school trustee quizzed me — there may have been others present as well. (How important was this job, anyway?) The alderman/trustee gave me particular concern because I knew that he was a friend/acquaintance of some of my older relatives, and I did not want to let the family down. The work itself was easy, if tedious. Someone had to be at the desk to hand out books on short term loan, but since there were relatively few students there when I worked in the late afternoon, I usually spent my time shelving. The "real" librarian was seldom in evidence, but there was a very young (female) assistant librarian to give directions. The stacks often seemed empty, because I think students did not have access to them (although I am not at all sure of this). Certainly, in the winter months, venturing to the far end past black uncurtained windows could be downright spooky!



**Victoria College, Ewing Building, Lansdowne Campus, presently part of Camosun College.
Building exterior circa 1960 and College library interior circa 1954.**

Photos courtesy of UVic Archives, reference nos. 008-0623 and 009-1116.

At Home with a Friend: Judith Terry

The special event at Lantern Lane last August could not have had more appropriate hosts than Judith and Reg Terry, both former members of the Uvic English department. But the connections with Nelly McClung are much deeper than sharing the spirit of a house, for both Terrys are specialists in the nineteenth century. Like McClung, Judy is keenly interested in children's literature, the subject of her M.Phil. thesis from the University of London. She has taught, lectured, and given papers and workshops on the subject both here and elsewhere; and for many years was a regular reviewer of children's books for the *Victoria Times* and *Times-Colonist*.

Like McClung she is also a novelist: *Miss Abigail's Part or Version and Diversion*, a downstairs view of the world of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, was published to great acclaim in England, Canada, and the United States. Not surprisingly, she is a frequent contributor to the Jane Austen Society of North America and in 1975 was one of the organisers of the Jane Austen Bi-Centenary Commemoration. More recently Judy has turned to larger worlds of exploration: her edition of *Journal of a West India Proprietor* by Matthew Lewis appeared in the Oxford World's Classics series in 1999.

An active faculty member, she has taught also in the Faculty of Education and Women's Studies, served on many committees and for three years was Advisor to the Vice President Academic and Provost on Faculty Women's Issues. Recently she took over the arrangements for the annual Uvic plant sale. We very much appreciate her enthusiastic contribution to the Friends of Uvic Libraries as a member of the active Programme and Events Committee.



Judith Terry shares insights with Friends of Uvic Libraries into the life of Nellie McClung and her time living in the house on Lantern Lane, at the Friends special summer event, Tea at Lantern Lane which the Terrys hosted at their home in August. Joan Coldwell describes the afternoon in the story to the right.

Tea at Lantern Lane

Joan Coldwell

On a sunny August afternoon, a capacity group of Friends was warmly welcomed to the Gordon Head home of Judith and Reg Terry. This beautifully restored heritage house was the home of political activist and writer Nellie McClung from 1935 to her death in 1951. It was from here that she published her collected newspaper columns as *Leaves from Lantern Lane* (1936) and *More Leaves from Lantern Lane* (1937).

The ship's lantern, a cheerful beacon in what was then an unlighted rural area, gave the house its name; it still hangs above what is now known as the coach-house, after being originally a barn, then a garage, then accommodation for the McClungs' son Horace and his new wife. Nellie's name can still be seen where she impressed it into the concrete of a narrow path leading to the coach-house.

The Friends' event began with a lively introduction to McClung's work by Professor Misao Dean. She explained how Nellie's advice to working mothers eased her conscience when she started on her post-doctoral research (five McClung children did not keep Nellie from a busy career as prolific writer, suffragette and leader in the temperance movement). Humorous readings from *Sowing Seeds in Danny* (which went through 17 editions and sold 100,000 copies) were much enjoyed by the group.

After Judith had given a brief history of the house and its previous residents, guests were able to view old photographs and an almost complete collection of first editions of Nellie's work. We were invited to explore the entire house and especially to see the upstairs porch area where Nellie wrote, as well as to stroll in the beautifully maintained gardens. An old-fashioned afternoon tea of sandwiches, cookies and cake completed this most enjoyable event.

Create your Own Legacy through a Gift in Your Will

Norma Cameron
Manager, Planned Giving

Many people think that you have to be very wealthy to create a legacy. In fact, the majority of bequests come not from millionaires but from "ordinary people" wanting to help worthy recipients such as university students.

The University has many scholarships named after loved ones, set up through bequests. These gifts are held in our Foundation, and the income is paid out annually in the form of students awards. For example, a gift of \$20,000 can generate an award of approximately \$900 for a deserving student or program year after year, and creates a \$20,000 tax receipt for the estate. Such bequests need not be limited to student awards or programs. They can also be used, for example, to create an endowed fund to be used by the University's libraries to purchase books, journals and equipment.

If you are considering a bequest, or any other kind of planned gift, please feel free to contact me. I can share with you the steps to follow and provide information for you to review with your family and legal or financial advisors.

If you have already included a bequest in your will, I would welcome the chance to review the bequest wording to ensure the University can fulfill your wishes.

Last, and most important, we encourage you to share this information so that the University can acknowledge and thank you.

For more information, please call Norma Cameron at 721 8967, or if you prefer, email ncameron@uvic.ca.

The Multicultural Canada Project

Victor A. Neufeldt

The McPherson Library is planning to digitize letters from the Chinese Benevolent Society (subject to receiving the permission and cooperation of the Society) as part of a major cultural access and preservation initiative, being coordinated by Simon Fraser University. These letters, of great historical significance for the story of the early Chinese immigrants in Victoria, will be translated, then made available online in Chinese, English and French.

Archives and libraries have worked with individuals and ethnic communities in Canada to collect and preserve the historical records of their experiences. But these documents are seldom available beyond the walls of the institution or owner, and only a lucky few are able to visit these collections. Indexes to articles in English and French newspapers and other printed materials are common, but indexes to vernacular Canadian print materials - key resources for the community, students and scholars - are seldom available.

To help remedy this deficit, MULTICULUTURAL CANADA will digitize various materials and collections and make them available at <http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca>. The website will gather together online searchable multicultural Canadian newspapers, local histories, family papers, speeches, photographs, letters, and oral histories, which will be accessible through Chinese, English and French search engines. The result will be new learning opportunities, the preservation of a wealth of unique and fragile materials for historians and scholars, and the placement of the story of these groups as essential to the country's history rather than as an appendage to the dominant version.

Some projected digitization projects include the *Chinese Times* (Vancouver), Chinese-Canadian oral histories in Alberta and B.C., letters from the Chinese Benevolent Society of Victoria, papers of Lee Hung Fong (Wing Tung Yuan Firm), the diary of a Chinese intelligence officer 1941-42 relating to the effects of Pearl Harbour on that community, Chinese, Ukrainian and other newspapers published in Canada, Ukrainian-Canadian publications, audio-tape interviews with Canadian immigrants (in Chinese, Italian and French), historical photos, and Indo-Canadian oral history collections.

Participating in this project are the UVic Libraries, the Simon Fraser University Library, the Vancouver Public Library, the University of Calgary, the Sien Lock Society of Calgary, the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

For further information, contact Lynn Copeland, University Librarian, Simon Fraser University, 604-291-3265 or copeland@sfu.ca; or in Victoria, Jane Buzza, Libraries and Humanities Development Officer, University of Victoria, 721-8192 or jbuzza@uvic.ca.

Make Friends!

Encourage your friends to become a Friend of UVic Libraries. They will enjoy invitations to special events and receive the newsletter by mail!

Membership forms are online at:

<http://gateway.uvic.ca/lib/admin/friends/default.html>

From the Membership Committee

Gayle Garlock
Deirdre Roberts

The Membership Committee continues to seek ways to expand the membership of the Friends, currently at 84 members.

In a new initiative to expand our membership by reaching out to other organizations with similar interests, the library hosted a lecture and reception for the Oak Bay Probus group. Probus is an association of retired and semi-retired people who join together in clubs, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities for them to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

Over twenty members came to hear Professor Larry McCann deliver the talk *Canadian, eh? Celebrating Oak Bay's Heritage*. His account of the development of Oak Bay was illustrated with fascinating photographs and maps. The group enjoyed the lecture, refreshments, and an introduction to Special Collections; shortly thereafter we acquired three new Friends.

The Committee is now preparing for a series of mailings to a variety of different groups. An account of Friends' activities and the many benefits involved in being a Friend should further expand our membership.



Deirdre Roberts and Marnie Swanson at the Friends booth at the Libraries Open House

Mearns Family Appreciation Dinner

Jane Buzza

The family members of William C. Mearns were honoured for their generous donation to the UVic Libraries with an appreciation dinner held Monday, September 12, 2005. Our special guest was Mrs. Loula Mearns, matriarch of the family, who had been unable to attend the formal UVic Libraries announcement for the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning on March 7, 2005.

The September appreciation dinner was held in the McPherson Library's staff lounge, atop the four storey building, with one of the most spectacular on-campus views of Washington State's North Cascades and Mount Baker. With the view secured, the room was then transformed into an elegant dining venue resplendent with black velvet curtains, and burgundy and gold accents to highlight the table settings, chairs, and flowers. All was set off with sparkling illumination throughout the room and mellow background music as orchestrated by William Blair, Music and Media Librarian.

The University Librarian, Marnie Swanson, welcomed the guests and delivered a progress report on The William C. Mearns Centre for Learning. She noted that Warner James Architects were selected as the architects for the Centre. This firm, under Bob Siddall, was the architect for the original McPherson Library in 1964, and, under David Warner, completed the addition to its present size in 1973.

President Turpin also welcomed Mrs. Mearns, family and friends and thanked them for their continued support to the UVic Libraries and the University Community.

For a little fun and with an eye to the future, a ceremonial sod turning was staged (pictured below) to mark the beginning of this exciting new project. The actual ground-breaking on the land to the east of the McPherson building is slated to begin in August 2006.



Pictured from left to right: Chancellor Ron Loupoy, Debra Grey, Lindsay Mearns, Hunter Brown, Loula Mearns, Craig Mearns, Marily Mearns, and President David Turpin.

In Memoriam: Gwladys V. Downes

Ann Saddlemyer

It is with sadness that we note the passing of another loyal Friend, Dr. Gwladys Downes, on 17 September 2005. A Professor of French at this institution since the early 1950s, with occasional forays into English, she served tirelessly on numerous Senate, faculty and departmental committees, and as Chair of the University Art Committee was instrumental in building up the Maltwood collection. A native Victorian, Professor Downes received her early education in Oak Bay, where her father was Principal of the High School, and was from an early age introduced to the cultural life of the community where her mother was well known in theatrical circles. After a year at Victoria College she completed her B.A. at the University of British Columbia, earning teaching diplomas there and from the Sorbonne in Paris before continuing with an M.A. After teaching high school for several years in Duncan, where she is still fondly remembered by former students, she taught French at U.B.C. and the University of Toronto. The war years took her to Ottawa where she worked in Intelligence for the National Research Council, after which she took her Doctorate at the Sorbonne. Extensive travel in Europe was followed by her return to Victoria College and she remained faithful to this university until her retirement. In 1994 the University of Victoria awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters.



Gwladys V. Downes
M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt
April 22, 1915 to
September 17, 2005

But Dr. Downes was known for much more than her academic service. One of Canada's distinguished senior poets, she published four volumes in addition to contributions to many literary magazines; the most recent book was *House of Cedars* (1999) which features her portrait by Jack Shadbolt, one of the many Canadian artists she numbered among her friends. Her work was read on the CBC and has been included in many anthologies. She received numerous awards, including a senior Canada Council fellowship for research on the symbolist poets who strongly influenced her own writing. Respected also as one of the finest (and earliest) translators of French-Canadian poetry, her sensitivity and skill did much to bridge the gap between the two cultures. In 1998, along with P.K. Page and Phyllis Webb, she was honoured by the League of Canadian Poets.

Always interested in modern art, she was friend to many artists and in earlier years regularly reviewed art exhibitions. More recently she worked as archivist for the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and regularly attended openings around the city. An elegant essayist, her reviews of art and books were always full of insight and sensitive response to the craft; just a few weeks before she died she had completed a review essay on a recent volume of poetry. A voracious reader, her interests ranged from the scientific, the mysteries of faith, legend and myth, the Tarot and I Ching to historical biography, and she could always be counted on to recommend, in addition, the latest bloodcurdling murder thriller. Always keenly interested and supportive, she was a loyal member of the Friends; one of the last events she attended was the Nellie McClung tea at Lantern Lane.

We shall miss her greatly.

Coming Events

Watch for invitations to these and other events,
planned for Friends of UVic Libraries in the New Year:



The Art of the Garden
The Centennial of Oak Bay and Saanich
The History and Operation of abebooks.com
Maltwood Gallery Exhibition of Silver



Talking to a Friend: Samuel Macey

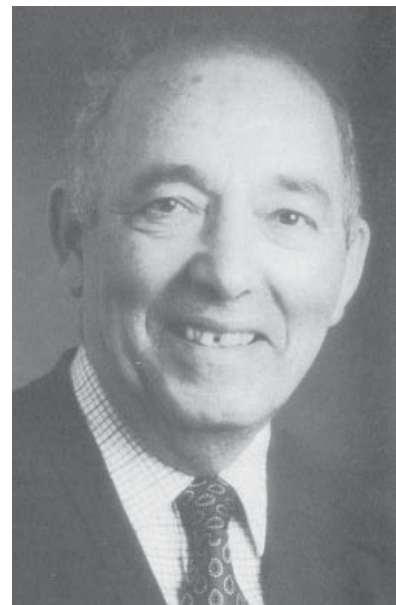
Ann Saddlemyer

When Samuel L. Macey arrived in Victoria in 1960, all the clocks in the city did not immediately chime out, but they might have. For Sam was born in London within the sound of Bow Bells; perhaps that is why, when he took his first “retirement” from running a successful wholesale business in Jersey, he became a member of the British Horological Institute. His fascination with the history of Time, its relationship to how and why we live, how our current activities are determined by our past, even how literature reflects that interdependence, has dictated his own interests up to the present day. It has also fired his enthusiasm for learning, the drive towards understanding for its own sake. From his multiple careers as clerk on the London Stock Exchange, officer in the British Navy, business proprietor in London and on the Channel Islands, to his academic career at the University of Victoria, Sam has been intrigued by the insight that everything is related to time and accurate measurement: ships depend upon the chronometer, barometer and sextant, management studies investigate the relationship between work done and time spent, history records and frequently revises cycles of events, while literary studies survey periods, and the works themselves (especially the drama) capture the tastes and attitudes of the age in which they are written.

Serious study began when at the age of 35 he retired as a businessman and Sam’s wisely perceptive wife June insisted that he would never be content unless he continued to “do something”. He began by spending a year studying industrial engineering at the Institute of Work Study, Organization and Methods. But the broader education he aspired to was not easily available in England where university belonged to the young. Sam knew nothing about Canada apart from *Farmer’s Glory*, a nostalgic memoir by the Wiltshire farmer turned broadcaster, A.G. Street, which had been prescribed reading in grammar school, but that was enough for him to embark for the promised land — though not with agricultural ambitions. After sailing to Montreal, he packed June and the first of their two daughters into a car and drove across the country to Vancouver. When UBC failed to inspire, they decided they might as well continue westward, and so to Victoria, where they had heard of a two-year college renowned for its teaching.

The rest, as they say, is history — though Sam soon decided that literature offered “a more honest” picture because he felt that the historian is too frequently hampered by a point of view. Discovering that he learned most about the great cycles from survey courses, he remembers especially studying with Roger Bishop in English, Gwladys Downes in French, and Gordon Tracy and Fritz Kriegel in German. German literature and philosophy captured him first, and when he briefly returned to complete his B.A. at UBC (where he only required three more courses to finish), it was with first class honours in German literature and an English major. Those early studies in Time and Work focussed his attention: deciding that he needed yet more education, he had already started reading for his Ph.D. exams before that first degree was completed. However, UBC once again did not offer sufficient challenge, and not wanting to go east, he chose the University of Washington. He and June startled their landlord by renting a house in Seattle for two years and a quarter — precisely the time required for his legendary fast track to a doctorate. Still excited by learning for the sake of learning, it was only in his second year that he realized his future belonged in English studies, not German. By 1966, with a thesis on theatrical satires as a reflection of changing tastes in drama completed, he was ready to teach. And where else but Victoria with its newly-established University?

And so began a further career, teaching his favourite English 200 survey, works of the 18th century, and among others, a course on the influence of technology on literature. In a few years he had become a fellow of the Institute of Management Services, and by 1975 had been seconded to the Faculty of Graduate Studies where he eventually became Dean. Much as he loved teaching, this office helped Sam continue to learn, for his favourite part of the job was reading all the theses! Remembering his own early efforts to find a welcoming place to study, he became a member, finally Chairman of the Board



Samuel Macey
Professor Emeritus, English and
Former Dean, Graduate Studies

of Governors, of British Columbia's Open Learning Institute. Nor did he hesitate to give back in other ways: his publications include many articles on English and German literature and, increasingly, significant works on the relationship between Time and cultural studies. (He was elected President of the International Society for the Study of Time in 1989.) After chairing a number of conventions he recognized the need for a publishing arm for our own scholars, and so established the English Literary Studies Monograph Series. As founding editor he saw sixty issues through the press; appropriately in 1994 number 61 was entitled *Time, Literature and the Arts: Essays in Honour of Samuel L. Macey*, edited by his English Department colleague Thomas Cleary with contributors from across North America.

When asked what was his favourite among his own books (five of them major contributions to Time Studies), Sam unhesitatingly cites *The Dynamics of Progress: Time, Method and Measure* (1989) in which he deals with the process of standardization as it has affected not only time and all forms of measurement, but language, production methods, and modern technology. But when asked what he feels is his most special achievement during his academic career, we get an entirely different answer. Few recall how the first addition to the McPherson Library came about — it was due in great part to Samuel Macey's dedication to the process and place of learning, his belief that for people in the arts the library is their laboratory, and his experience with those very subjects Time and Measurement. Many of us will remember that by 1970 the McPherson Library was desperately short of space; there was literally no place for new books to be shelved. After eight years on Campus Planning, Sam was acutely familiar not only with the problem but recognized how to solve it: aware that the fiscal year would end in only three months and \$3 million in unspent capital grants was destined to return to the government, he persuaded the Board of Governors to establish a committee to prepare a "requirement study" for an addition to the Library. Working against time, the committee of three (Sam as Chair, along with University Librarian Dean Halliwell and Art Saunders of Campus Planning) submitted its study and estimation of costs in time. Rapidly accepted by the Board, the new addition became a reality.

It is sobering to read the envisaged scope of that project, now more than thirty years later finally being realized:

"The University's plans for the provision of adequate library facilities extend, at present, only through 1981... Since it is likely that the University, and certainly that its Library, will continue to grow beyond the size presently projected, provision should be made in the design of this second stage for subsequent addition.... Provision should be made for further horizontal expansion to the rear of the building in a subsequent stage."

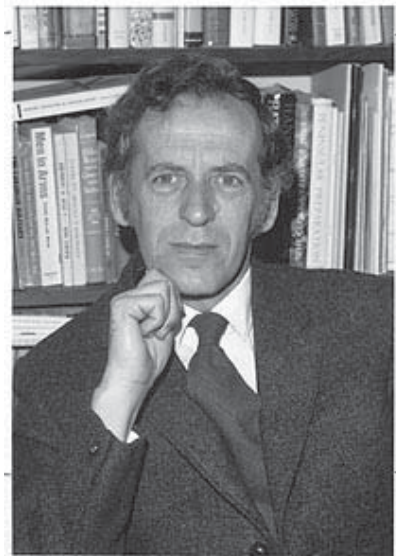
Thanks to the Mearns family and a dedicated team in the Development Office, that 1971 dream of a further expansion of "the laboratory for the arts" will at last be fulfilled.

And of Samuel L. Macey himself? Once again, as always supported by his wife June, he studies "for the sake of learning alone". We are fortunate indeed that he also continues to be a Friend.

Introduction to the Reginald Roy Military History Collection

To mark the Year of the Veteran, Friends of UVic Libraries hosted a Remembrance Day event on November 10. Dr. David Zimmerman, Professor of Military History, introduced guests to the largest collection of Canadian military records west of the Rockies, named in honour of Dr. Reginald Roy. The collection includes regimental archives, military maps, photographs, manuals, war posters and much more, including more than 400 oral history recordings.

Besides veterans and Friends of UVic Libraries, Reginald Roy was in attendance at this fascinating lecture and tour of Special Collections to mark this historic anniversary. The recent and ongoing digitization and oral history projects were a highlight of this event.



Reginald H. Roy in 1974, when he was Professor of History and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Photo courtesy of UVic Archives, Ref # 1510730104

News from the Diana M. Priestly Law Library

We are pleased to present our first stories in the Friends of UVic Libraries Newsletter about activities in the Law Library.

Priestly Law Library Collection in Scottish Law

Neil Campbell, Associate University Librarian, Law
Diana M. Priestly Law Library

The September 20th announcement of the *Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Fund for Scottish Studies* brought to the forefront a highly valued and related collection held in the Priestly Law Library. The mandate of the Priestly Law Library is to collect English language Common Law throughout the world which is historically based upon English Law. However, there are two notable exceptions to this collection policy: Quebec and Scotland, both of which have civil law systems originally based upon European Roman Law.

The Law Library collects current and historical collections of Scottish case reports and statutes, as well as texts on Scottish legal history and significant law journals from Scotland. Historical case collections include verbatim accounts of the trials of Mary Queen of Scots, Lord Lovat, and the Appin Murder Trial which formed the basis of Stevenson's novel *Kidnapped*.

The Law Library is also an institutional member of the Stair Society which was founded in 1934 to encourage the study and to advance the knowledge of the history of Scots Law. We receive all the publications of the Stair society as institutional members. A complete listing of these publications can be found at <http://www.stairsociety.org/pubs.htm>.

In 2004, the Law Librarian, Neil Campbell, visited and developed professional connections with the librarians at the Signet Library in Edinburgh. This library serves the Society of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet, which is the oldest legal society in the world, and has significant historical collections of Scottish literature and history in addition to law. The Signet Library is located next to the Scottish Parliament and St. Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile. For further details visit the Priestly Law Library.

Akitsiraq Law School Graduation

Serena Ableson, Assistant Law Librarian, Akitsiraq Law Librarian
Diana M. Priestly Law Library

On June 21, 2005, Canada's National Aboriginal Day, the Governor General of Canada, dignitaries from the University of Victoria, faculty from the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and from other Canadian law schools, family, friends, and elders from the community gathered in southern Baffin Island to honor the graduating class of the Akitsiraq Law School.

The ceremony was a community celebration and tribute to this unique group of pioneer law students and for those advocates and leaders that envisioned a law school in Nunavut in the first place. It was, in the words of the Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, a moment of "quantum change, and a huge step toward righting the awful imbalance of Inuit involvement in the legal system of Nunavut. Right from the start, though, everyone knew that this was more, that it was also a powerful generator of Northern leadership."¹ On this graduation day, the number of Inuit trained lawyers jumped from 1 to 12 (previously there was only one Inuk lawyer in the territory – the premier Paul Okalik, who is not practicing law). The Akitsiraq students are now working in their articling positions and will write their bar admissions exam next year.

Footnote

¹ Canada, Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, "Speech on the Occasion of the Akitsiraq Law School Convocation Ceremony" (21 June 2005), online:

<http://www.gg.ca/media/doc.asp?lang=e&DocID=4478>

There have been previous initiatives to educate Inuit students in Law, but students faced isolation from their families, language barriers, and loss of cultural ties to their communities, leaving many without the necessary support to finish their degrees. The Akitsiraq Law School Society was formed, and they formed partnerships with UVic Law and the Nunavut Arctic College. One of the core principles of the program was that course delivery would be “face to face” – practitioners, judges, and faculty from UVic and from other Canadian law schools traveled to Iqaluit to teach the students.

Libraries have a unique role to play in the delivery of information and educational opportunities for people in the north or in isolated communities. In January 2002, I was hired as the Akitsiraq Law Librarian – to coordinate the delivery of library instruction and resources to the northern campus. The relatively small number of Akitsiraq students meant that there was a high student-librarian service ratio, allowing me to spend more time working with the students on their projects via telephone, email, and during site visits to Iqaluit. These trips to the north also provided an opportunity to teach the Akitsiraq students how to utilize online and print legal research materials. I also developed a “law course reserve” in the classroom so students didn’t have to run out to the Nunavut Courthouse Library in -45°C weather! And I coordinated communication and access to curriculum resources for Akitsiraq faculty through a faculty website. Students also visited the UVic campus in January 2005, and many students stayed on to complete a semester of studies here at UVic Law.



Akitsiraq law students at the UVic Law Students graduation dinner, Victoria, spring 2005. (left to right): Siobhan Arnatsiaq-Murphy, Susan Enuaraq, Lillian Aglukark, Madeleine Redfern, and Henry Coman.

As the librarian for this program, I wore many different “hats” in terms of responsibilities and work duties, and I was constantly challenged to think “outside the box” and to come up with innovative solutions to library service issues. The experience has been challenging at times but has constantly been professionally and personally rewarding. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Akitsiraq students who are friends, legal pioneers, and leaders for today and tomorrow.

For more information about the Akitsiraq Law School program, visit:

“High hopes for Nunavut law grads” *CBC News North* (21 June 2005), online:

<http://north.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=nunavut-lawyer-21062005>

Note: webpage includes link to audio broadcast of interview with 3 Akitsiraq students, June 21 2005.

University of Victoria, “Prominent speaker profile: Madam Justice Beverley Browne and the northern law program” *Law News* (Spring 2003), 4-5, online: <http://www.law.uvic.ca/Alumni/0301.pdf>

University of Victoria Communications, News Release, “Inuit law grads celebrate Arctic convocation” (21 June 2005), online: <http://communications.uvic.ca/releases/release.php?display=release&id=655>

UVic Libraries Celebrates Its Staff

As part of the UVic Libraries Open House on November 9, a Staff event was held in the McPherson staff lounge to celebrate past accomplishments and to acknowledge current and retired colleagues. The lounge was filled with employees and a number of retirees, all of who enjoyed historic and current photo displays put together for each unit. In her address, University Librarian Marnie Swanson reflected on Staff accomplishments: "Your achievements are too numerous to recount in this brief time. You have not only kept pace with constant change but have surpassed expectations of what we can accomplish together. Looking at these photos of our past makes one realize how much has changed and how much we have been through together. To those who have recently joined our work force I hope that you will become part of this rich history."

One of the original card catalogue cabinets will remain on display opposite the Reference Desk on the main floor. A plaque acknowledging the Libraries' history and honouring all UVic Libraries employees was unveiled at the celebration and will be mounted above the cabinet.



Left: The card catalogue in the 1960s, in the original McPherson building. In the foreground, Librarian Howard Gerwing. Coincidentally, the commemorative cabinet sits approximately in the same location as the cabinet in the far corner in the photograph (Archives Ref #021-1013).

*The plaque above the commemorative cabinet reads:
This cabinet is representative of the card catalogue which closed in 2005. It is a link to the past and a visual reminder of a long tradition of Library service to the University of Victoria Community.*

Between 1964 - 2005 the collections of the University of Victoria Libraries grew to over two million items.



Circulation staff July 1966:
Front row: Vicki Barnsley, Kathleen Tidy, Anne Harold, Eleanor Hamilton, Priscilla Scott; Middle row: Betty Routley, Carolyn Bailey, Linda Teather, Audrey Salters; Back row: Michael Pidgeon, Marilyn Berry, David Sharp, Jean Hanley, Ed Collis



Left four photos: Retirees return to the McPherson Library to join the celebration of the main floor grand opening, and closing of the card catalogue. Some of those who visited on the day are: Winifred Fisher, Barbara Fosdick, Jannette Jones, Cecily Meek, Hugh Irving, Elaine Reed, and Priscilla Scott.