

*f*riends of UVic Libraries

It is often said that the library lies at the heart of the university. Certainly, in our culture of research and scholarship, the library maintains its central role in our intellectual life and is key to our core mission. We are very fortunate that through ongoing support from benefactors like the Mearns family and Thomas McPherson and from the government of British Columbia, we can keep pace with growth and changes in library and information services. The William C. Mearns Centre for Learning adds to the traditional roles of collections and information services by bringing in learning partners and educational support services such as Learning Systems, Learning Skills, Peer Helping and the Writing Centre and by providing space for study and for quiet contemplation as well as social space – the BibioCafé.

David H. Turpin, PhD, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor

Newsletter

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f friends



On the cover: Kim Ferris and Rena Mann take a break in the new Mearns Centre for Learning.

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Message from the University Librarian

The main library expansion, after approximately ten years in the planning and 18 months under construction, could not have had a more rewarding completion than to see the study seats fill up the moment the yellow barrier tape came down. The new space was made available to the public at the beginning of March. The BiblioCafé welcomed its first customers on March 25 and since then has been continually busy.

The library staff and students are to be commended for their patience in working around the various disruptions and discomforts caused by the construction, not the least of which was the high noise level of concrete cutting. All of that now seems far in the past when we see how quickly the welcoming new spaces have filled with students appreciatively and respectfully pursuing their academic work.

I hope that you will have an opportunity to visit us soon to enjoy the space we now offer our community.

Marnie Swanson

From the desk of the Friends' Chair

If Ann Saddlemeyer needs no introduction to Friends of UVic Libraries, she certainly needs no farewells as she relinquishes her job of newsletter editor. Aided and abetted by Victor Neufeldt, Ann has been editor, reporter and copy-editor for this newsletter since its first edition in Summer/Fall 2003.

Chinese philosopher Chuang-Tzu has it that great wisdom is generous. If so, Ann is wise indeed. She is one of the founding executive members and guiding spirits of the Friends of UVic Libraries. For over forty years, she has left her mark on our libraries, particularly in Special Collections, and her lasting and generous commitment means she won't be shedding her Friend of UVic Libraries title anytime soon.

In her place, we welcome a new member to the Editorial Committee: Phil Robbie. Phil is known to several generations of book-lovers in Victoria and British Columbia as owner/manager of Griffin Books for over thirty years, and for his association with the Victoria International Festival of Writers and the Author Breakfast Series.

He has studied at UVic, and like Ann, believes the library is the heart of any university. As newsletter co-editor with Victor Neufeldt, he is looking forward to showcasing the inner workings of the libraries to its Friends, formal and informal.

Elizabeth Grove-White

Join us and experience the rewards of being a Friend

- Subscription to the Friends Newsletter, published twice annually
- Invitations to special library events, such as lectures and readings
- Invitations to library tours and workshops
- A community borrower's card

The Friends of UVic Libraries are dedicated to advancing the Libraries' participation in relationships between the university and the community. Through their financial support and personal efforts, the Friends help enrich library resources, and extend the cultural and intellectual resources available to the community.

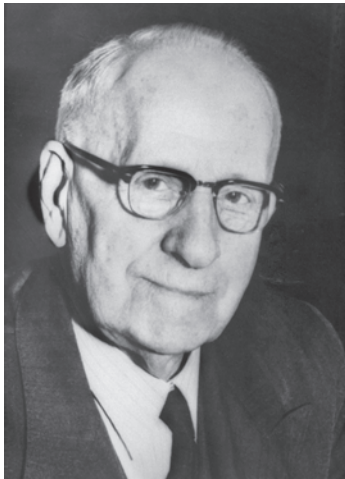
Building through generosity

In addition to the government and the university, generous individuals contribute financially to creation of university libraries. It is a pleasure for the Friends of the UVic Libraries to recognize those who have donated generously to the building of the UVic library system on the Gordon Head campus.

It all began, of course, with Thomas Shanks McPherson, the Victoria entrepreneur who believed that "the single most important factor in the progress of the city" was the growth of the university. To ensure the survival of post secondary education in Victoria, he bequeathed to Victoria College, UVic's predecessor, a legacy fund of \$250,000 for the construction of what is now the McPherson Library and \$2.5 million to the "University Building Fund for Victoria College." In addition, he left his 50% share of the Central Building downtown to the soon-to-be-established University of Victoria. His legacy also included donating to the city the McPherson Theatre (then the Pantages Theatre) and the land for Centennial Square. Planning for the new Gordon Head campus was underway by 1960, but, unfortunately, McPherson died in 1962, the year before construction of the McPherson Library began.

William C. Mearns, a native Victorian who knew McPherson and who attended Victoria College, shared McPherson's belief in the importance of a university to the community. He was instrumental in assembling the land that is the University's Gordon Head campus. The Victoria Chamber of Commerce appointed him as a member of a committee of community leaders established to pursue his vision. Backed by the support of a

campus planner from California, the Chamber of Commerce championed a fund raising initiative, which raised an unprecedented \$5 million to purchase the property Mearns had identified. In 1991 the University awarded him an honorary degree in recognition of a lifetime of service and achievement. In 2005 his children Craig, Lindsay and Marily and his widow



Thomas Shanks McPherson

Loula made a \$5 million gift to UVic in his name to honour his dedication to the institution. The donation is one of the most significant gifts in UVic's history, and the \$5 million matching donation from the provincial government, plus \$5 million from other donors made possible the completion of the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning.

Bessie Brooks Winspear was the wife of philanthropist Francis Winspear. Their son Bill requested in his pledge of \$1 million to the library campaign in 1999 that the university honour his mother posthumously through naming a space in the library. Another son, Claude, also contributed to this legacy in his mother's name through a \$250,000 bequest from the Winspear Foundation. Their donations to the Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Commons will enhance the use of the music and audio collections at UVic, a fitting tribute to the Winspear family's long-standing passion for music, opera and theatre.

Dr. Che Woo Lui, Chairman of the K. Wah Group of construction companies and hotels in Hong Kong, is a distinguished philanthropist who donated \$1,007,500 to the library expansion project in 2001. He was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1982 and was



William C. Mearns

awarded an honorary degree by the University of Victoria in 2001. The Dr. C.W. Lui Learning Commons, located on the first floor of the Mearns Centre and still under development, is an accessible, collaborative space where students, faculty and staff can pursue and share ideas.

Dr. Allan Yap, in addition to his business activities, is a member of the B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation Circle of Care and is a lifetime member of the SUCCESS organization, which helps new immigrants adjust to life in Canada. He was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Victoria in 2001. His wife, Elsa W.Y. Kwong Yap, has worked extensively with the B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation. The couple are honorary patrons of the Asia Partners Fund at UVic and donated \$1 million to the library expansion project in 2000. The Allan Yap and Mrs. Elsa Yapp Classroom, located on the first floor of the Mearns Centre, is a fully equipped teaching space with 28 computer work stations.

Russell Isaac, a Victoria College graduate, has been a steady supporter of various campus projects, and has made a significant donation to the library expansion project. The Russell Isaac Room, located in the Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Commons, is equipped for viewing course-related materials assigned by instructors.

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A Seamless Union: Mearns and McPherson



The Mearns Centre for Learning or the McPherson Library one might well ask, which is it? The answer, of course, is that it is both. The legacy of one of UVic's earliest benefactors is not about to disappear.

That the Mearns Centre "encompasses" the McPherson Library is probably as accurate a description of the relationship between the two as any because the creation of the Mearns Centre involves more than just adding the extension to the existing building. It also involves major renovations and relocation of some services in a seamless union of old and new.

This redevelopment represents a major shift from the traditional university library to a multi-faceted facility that

Building through generosity

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Howard Li, a Vancouver-based philanthropist, donated to the library expansion campaign in 1999, in honour of his parents. The Mr. Shu-Fong Li and Mrs. Wan-Yuet-Yung Li Seminar Room is a wireless room designed primarily for classes using materials from Archives and Special Collections on the lower level of the Mearns Centre.

Dr. Leo Li, a businessman and philanthropist in Hong Kong, has been active in charitable welfare and the promotion of cultural exchange. He made a major donation to the library expansion campaign in 1999 and received an honorary degree from UVic in the same year. The Dr. Leo Tung Hai Lee Room, to be situated between Archives and Special Collections and the McPherson Gallery, when the latter has been relocated on the lower level of the Mearns Centre, will house a reception area to be used by the gallery and the libraries for exhibit openings and special events.



The BiblioCafé: a fresh approach

Food and books in the same place? Oh horrors! Yes, as part of the new Mearns Centre for Learning, a section of the McPherson Library has been renovated into a café. We all know that there is nothing more delightful than sitting in a comfortable chair with our favourite drink and something to nibble on while enjoying a good read.

On the other hand, the library is traditionally a place for serious study, not a place to enjoy oneself. Librarians, though, came to realize a while ago that people did indeed take their library books home and sit with a drink while studying. And the books still came back in good

shape. So why not go the whole distance and combine the strengths of the library with the comforts of home?

The chairs are still not quite as comfortable as those at home, but when you've been studying for a little too long, it's only a short trip downstairs to the BiblioCafé for a refreshment refill and a bite to eat. It's a delightful, inviting space for a quick break.

Be sure to drop in for a peek when you come to see all the changes that have taken place in the library. Food and books are together again - how very civilized!

accommodates a wider range of learning methodologies, enriched technology-supported information accessibility and a more interactive user-staff relationship.

Archives and Special Collections and the Music and Audio Library have moved into the new building, and the latter has undergone a significant transformation into the Music and Media Commons. With future renovations, the space formerly occupied by Archives and Special Collections will eventually house the new McPherson Gallery, the Dr. Leo Tung Hai Lee Room and additional shelving. The space formerly occupied by the Music and Audio Library will now house Learning Systems, graduate study carrels, open study area and offices.

On the main floor, the Learning Commons is in the process of being developed within existing vacated space, with the Music and Media Commons located just down the hall. Another key addition is the BiblioCafé, which seats 145 and provides a social dimension within the Centre for Learning. When the McPherson Gallery moves to the lower level, the space vacated is slated to become a classroom.



Comfortable seating and impressive views have resulted in a very popular study space.

The second floor of the extension provides new shelf space and new offices, which have been relocated from other parts of the building. Except for the staircase galleria seating, the third floor of the new extension remains undeveloped.

Because our focus is user centered, says Wendie McHenry, Assistant University Librarian, the emphasis in designing the

new building and the redevelopment was on creating learning spaces to meet evolving student and faculty expectations. As a result there are now 13 more of the highly popular group study rooms, multimedia facilities, classrooms, increased laptop lending capacity and seating capacity has been increased by about 40%.

Thus the Mearns Centre and the McPherson Library combine to provide a state-of-the-art educational facility built to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of a growing student enrollment and a community focused on life-long learning.



The galleria stairwell offers a relaxing place for study and collaboration.



Breaking new ground:

The Learning Commons and the Media Commons



The addition of the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning to the UVic campus has created an opportunity to dramatically enhance the McPherson Library. The C.W. Lui Learning Commons and the Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Commons are among the exciting extensions to the services provided by the library.

The concept of a Learning Commons and a Media Commons is fairly new to the library environment. Many of the services that will be provided by each commons are already available in various faculties around campus. However, for the first time, they will now be available in one place and to students from all faculties.

The C.W. Lui Learning Commons will provide a space for collaborative work between students, assistants, staff and faculty. Initially the Learning Commons will include Library Reference Service, Information Commons assistants, Library Data Service, the Writing Centre, Learning Skills, Peer Counseling, math tutors and the UVic Computer Help Desk. Future involvement of the Chemistry and Physics departments will create a "First Year Science Drop-In" centre. Further down the road it is hoped that services for distance students will also be added. Classroom space, which is included, will provide opportunity for workshops, hosted by individual faculties, focused on the services available through the Learning Commons.



The Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Centre is more than just an expansion of the current music and video library. The Media Centre provides students with the resources they need to produce comprehensive and professional quality presentations. These resources will no longer be

limited to just fine arts students. The ability to research, capture, create, edit, playback, listen and share is available to everyone and in one location. Digital cameras and other audio/visual equipment are available for loan. Eight new iMac computer workstations will have all the software necessary for students to let their creativity blossom. Still photography

Library instruction workshops and other classes are held in the Learning Commons classroom. When not in use for classes, 28 computer stations are available for working on individual assignments.



and video editing, music creation and notation, multimedia presentation, graphic and website design and even simple word processing are there for everyone to use. And, of course, the staff will be able to provide help for those in need.

“For everyone” is the underlying concept of both the Learning and the Media Commons. Until now many of the services that are available in the Mearns Centre were not available to everyone on campus. Whether it’s a student in business or in engineering, in science or humanities, all will have access to the support, services and technology that are offered in these wonderful new spaces. Drop by and have a look around. You’ll be pleasantly surprised and maybe just a bit inspired.



The Russell Isaac Room is fully equipped for viewing course related materials (above)

Bessie Brooks Winspear Media Commons service desk (left)

Archives & Special Collections: a brighter outlook

Despite noise, vibration, dust and the lack of natural light during construction, Archives and Special Collections suffered no interruption of services, much to the credit of the staff. Understandably, they are delighted with the pleasant view and with the sense of light and airiness in their new quarters. But these are not the only benefits resulting from their move.

The rare materials are now housed in a highly secured vault that has temperature and humidity controls up to North American heritage standards, and there will be considerably more storage space when the old quarters are converted to storage shelving. Also, the new quarters are equipped with a waterless fire suppression system. All in all, the collection is now much more secure.

In addition to the light and view, the staff have better offices and larger, more efficient and more functional work space that is segregated from the reading room, which means less distraction and more privacy for both staff and researchers. The reading room is larger, lighter and

much more congenial to work in. The new separate wireless classroom means that instructors can bring classes into Special Collections to carry out projects without disturbing the readers, thus providing faculty with more opportunity to use the collections and the archives for teaching purposes. And the separate classroom also provides much greater opportunity for students to use the resources of the collections and archival holdings. When not in use by instructors, the classroom can be used by students as additional study space. Also, the display facilities are much improved and much more secure, making it possible now to display valuable items.

As a result, Archives and Special Collections is now a more accessible and attractive work place, with a more prominent physical presence in the library.



The new Archives and Special Collections facility on the lower level provides convenient access to and protection of the libraries' treasures.

Priestly Law Library

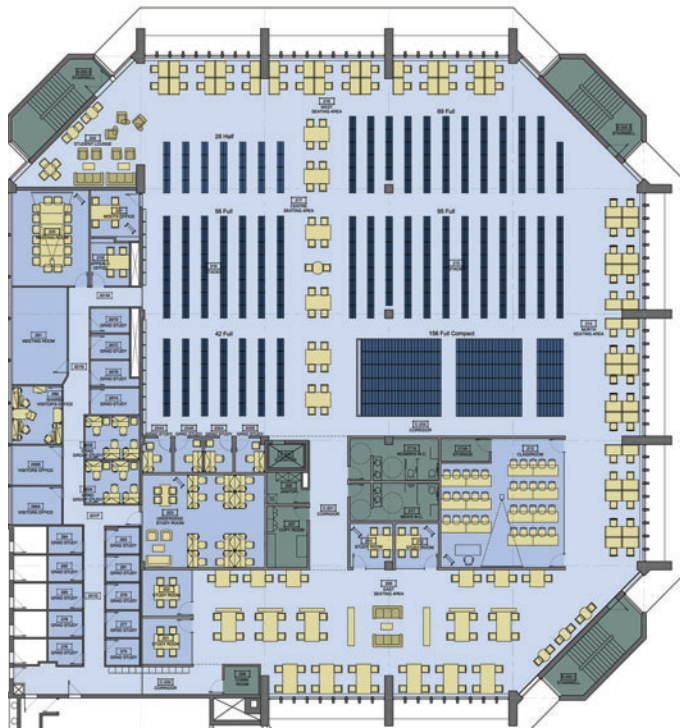
Repurposing contributes to the 'UVic Law Difference'

by Neil Campbell, Law Librarian

The Diana M. Priestly Law Library was established in 1974 at the same time as the Faculty of Law and formally opened its doors to the first law class in 1975. Until 1980, the law library was physically located on the 2nd floor of McPherson Library, and moved to the Begbie (now Fraser Building) in 1980. In 1987, the Board of Governors renamed it the "Diana M. Priestly Law Library" in honour of the first law librarian at the University of Victoria.

During the past 28 years, since moving into the Fraser Building, the law library has served its purpose well and was a functional and pleasant space with a growing collection. There have been a number of minor capital projects carried out in collaboration with the Faculty of Law over this period. However, developments in legal education and information technology called for a major "repurposing" of library space to better meet the present and future needs of faculty, students, the public and practicing lawyers. Crucial factors in the need for repurposing of law library space were a move to more student-centred learning at the University of Victoria, the importance of the co-op and clinical programmes, the growing emphasis in legal education on collaborative learning, advancements in computer technology and digital information and the creation of a new graduate degree programme in law.

It was also important that the law library continue to play a role in maintaining the "UVic Law Difference", which has made the law school one of the leading law schools in Canada as well as being recognized internationally, by ensuring that its spaces are open, inclusive and accommodating of diversity. A particular objective of the library is to reflect the faculty's commitment to indigenous law students.



Proposed upper floor of the Priestly Law Library by architects Chow Low Hammond

In the Fall of 2006, the law library received \$4 million dollars from the Law Foundation of British Columbia and the University of Victoria to carry out the planned "repurposing". Law library staff started working with the project architects Chow Low Hammond of Victoria in June, 2007. The major design principles that have informed the concept drawings so far are: to provide more group study rooms, to improve classroom and study space, to create a dedicated quiet study area, to replace worn out furniture, to promote the use of natural light and to create a visual connection to the scenic views around the Fraser Building. The conceptual plans have gone through a number of changes after consultation with students, faculty and staff, and after visits to other law libraries in North America. The conceptual plans were approved in early April.

This major renovation will commence in the summer 2008 and will be staged over several years. As the law library

collection will not physically move during construction, the library staff will need to be temporarily relocated during the first six to eight months of the project. Although this will cause some disruption to patrons, law library staff will work with Facilities Management and the Faculty of Law to maintain access to the collection and to keep library services open during the life of the project. A website and communication plan will be established to keep the law school and university community informed of the progress of the project.

In addition to the renovation plan, the Priestly Law Library will undertake a comprehensive review of its staffing, services and collection to "refresh" the collection and renew its mission in support of teaching, research and scholarship at the Faculty of Law and at the University of Victoria generally.



Proposed reference desk (above left) and second floor reading room (above)