

Welcome from the Dean of Library Services



Lynn Copeland

It is always a pleasure to welcome you to another issue of the SFU Library newsletter.

Looking back over the last nine years, the library and SFU students and faculty have been enriched immeasurably by gifts both small and large. Our endowment funds provide over \$100,000 each year towards special library projects such as the the Media Resource Centre, which opened last September.

This year Dr. Yosef Wosk has been most generous in supporting the Student Learning Commons at the Surrey and Vancouver campuses. In this issue, you will read about some of the wonderful services provided through SLC staff in collaboration with SFU reference librarians.

Lynn Copeland
University Librarian & Dean of Library Services

Learn, Collaborate, and Grow at SFU Vancouver

Dr. Yosef Wosk, philanthropist and Director of Interdisciplinary Programs at SFU, has made a \$75,000 gift to help build a student learning commons space in Belzberg Library at Harbour Centre.

Student learning commons are one-stop shops for academic support. Based in the library on each of SFU's three campuses, they provide in-person and online workshops, drop-in tutorials, and individualized assistance to ensure that students achieve success in their academic and professional careers. (See next page for more on how the Library and Student Learning Commons are working together.)

Dr. Wosk wanted to make a gift that would help learners keep up with the rigorous demands of academic life. "Students need to have sharp written and verbal communications skills, a high level of computer literacy and the ability to efficiently research topics using a wide range of print and electronic sources," says Wosk. "SFU's student learning commons help students acquire these skills."

At present, SLC staff from Burnaby and Surrey offer a limited number of workshops in various classrooms at SFU Vancouver, but peer mentoring and drop-in consultations are not available. "A permanent SLC space will allow staff to identify the unique needs of SFU Vancouver students, train peers, and offer tailored workshops, services, and resources," says Karen Marotz, Head of Belzberg Library. "We are very excited about this opportunity and grateful to Dr. Wosk for his generosity."

The new space is expected to open in Spring 2008.



Yosef Wosk

Mark your calendar

All events are free and open to the public. Please join us.

Readings in Special Collections

Eden Robinson –
October 19

Anita Badami –
April 1

Room 7100, WAC
Bennett Library,
12:30 pm–1:30 pm.



Eden Robinson

Share the Enthusiasm - November 14

Paul Whitney, City Librarian, Vancouver Public Library, will speak on his book collecting of '70s British/Irish authors and more. Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 West Hastings Street, 7:30 pm. Reservations required: 778.782.4658 or library@sfu.ca.

Annual Yosef Wosk – Friends of Special Collections – Alcuin Society Lecture - November 16 *Reidfest: A Celebration of Robert R. Reid*

Robert Reid has had a life long fascination with and participation in fine printing. In 1949 he designed and printed *Fraser Mines Vindicated* and went on to publish and design many more beautifully printed books, as well as mentor young designers. Keynote speakers include Takao Tanabe, Charlie Mayrs, Rollin Milroy, and Peter McNally. SFU Vancouver, 515 West Hastings Street, 7:30 pm. Reservations required: 778.782.4658 or library@sfu.ca



Alcuin Wayzgoose – November 17

A gathering of letter press printers and book artists along with demonstrations on aspects of the book including how paste papers are made. Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia Street, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Taming the Beast!



Workshop attendees

Amanda Goldrick-Jones loves grammar. As the Writing Services Coordinator for the Student Learning Commons (SLC), she offers workshops and creates resource materials to cover a wide range of academic writing issues. She also trains writing peers and consults with students who come to her with their writing woes.

Several months ago she got the idea to team up with librarians to offer students a comprehensive workshop that looks at paper writing as a whole rather than focusing solely on the writing part of the process. "I have taught numerous writing workshops over the years and I always end up fielding questions about research," says Goldrick-Jones. "The writing and research components of writing a paper are so interconnected that it is impossible to talk about one without talking about the other."

SLC and Library staff worked together to develop the *Tame that Wild Research Paper Beast* workshop for undergraduate students. The workshop discusses how to narrow topics, hone library research skills, create an effective thesis statement, organize information, write effective introductions and conclusions, and review drafts for flow, language, and correct citation style.

"At the beginning of the class we surveyed students and found that most participants were Computing Science or Engineering students," says Librarian Colleen Alstad. "While Amanda discussed writing strategies, I located research sources specific to these disciplines so that the hands-on searching activities were tailored specifically to participants."

Alstad and Goldrick-Jones agree that combining the expertise of SLC staff and librarians enriches the learning environment for students. The Library and SLC have joint workshops planned for the Fall 2007 semester and will continue to look for new opportunities to collaborate in other areas to help students succeed.

Donor Spotlight

This issue we feature long-time friend and SFU Library supporter Hugh Lindsay.

SFU donor since: 1986

On giving to the Library: The Library has always been important to me and I am glad to support it through the Annual campaign. In 2001, I was in a position to make a larger one-time gift and, with advice and help from the Advancement Office, I made a planned gift of life insurance. My contribution, together with some matching funds, bought an insurance policy on our lives that will provide a substantial benefit to the Library that will continue long after we are gone - at a relatively modest cost to me.

The best part: I enjoy talking to the student callers on the phone each year when I make my annual gift. I have also appreciated being the face and voice of the Friends of the Library to the SFU Alumni Board. It has been very gratifying to thank and update the board on the Library's activities and purchases with funds from the Library Alumni Endowment Fund over the past year.

Favourite authors: I am fascinated by novels from the late 19th and early 20th centuries by such authors as Emile Zola, Upton Sinclair, Leo Tolstoy, and Willa Cather. I read a lot but I tend to buy very few books: it's what's between the covers and not the book itself that interests me.

Final thoughts: Being involved with SFU Library has been an extremely rewarding experience for me. My hope is that more people will become involved with the library for their own enrichment and to help strengthen the library.



Hugh Lindsay

Biblio-file

A round-up of book picks for your reading pleasure.

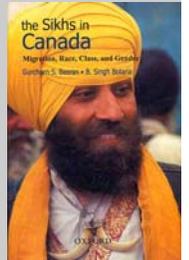


Moninder Bubber, Shastri-Indo Canadian Institute and Women's Studies liaison librarian recommends:

Sikhs in Canada: migration, race, class, and gender

by Gurcharn S. Basran and B. Singh Bolaria

Written by two sociologists, this book gives a historical and socio-economic analysis of Sikhs as they migrated from India to Canada since the late 1800s.

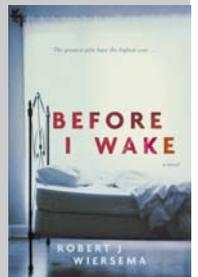


Communications & Advancement Officer Alyssa Polinsky recommends:

Before I Wake

by Robert J. Wiersema

Three-year old Sherry Barrett is in a coma after a hit-and-run accident when suddenly miracles begin to happen all around her. First-time author and Victoria bookseller Wiersema crafts a compelling tale of tragedy and redemption.



These books are available at SFU Library. SFU alumni have borrowing privileges and community members can obtain an external borrower card. Visit us in person or on line at www.lib.sfu.ca

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