



### Activities at SFU Library



The year 2005 was an exciting one, as we continued to improve our print, online and special collections and to develop services to support President Michael Stevenson's plan for academic enhancement and improved services.

An exciting new direction for us in 2006 will be the incorporation of a Student Learning Commons into the WAC Bennett Library. The services provided by the Student Learning Commons will build on the successful Alumni Information Commons to provide a comprehensive range of academic learning support services including writing, learning skills, and theses support.

Special initiatives include the digitization initiative Multicultural Canada which will provide free online access to Canada's multicultural

historical resources for education, community and research; and the re-envisioning of the WAC Bennett Library building to support growth and services over the next fifteen years.

It is a commonplace that we are in a rapidly changing world, and thanks to your ongoing support, the SFU Library continues to grow and thrive in this exciting environment.

Lynn Copeland  
Dean of Library Services

### VP Waterhouse announces the Student Learning Commons

SFU will establish an academic learning centre in support of the ongoing curriculum project. The Student Learning Commons has a mandate to assist and support students in their academic pursuits and to provide learning support services across the three SFU campuses.

The SFU Student Learning Commons will consolidate some existing services and develop new services to support student learning and scholarship, particularly with regard to writing.

The SFU Student Learning Commons will open officially in September 2006 in the WAC Bennett Library and eventually in other SFU Library sites. With this facility, the Library will continue to grow beyond its books, computers and physical



space. Most exciting is the opportunity for librarians, computing technicians and learning skills educators to work together to provide enhanced services to students in a way that will deepen their learning experience and contribute to their academic success. The Library has been character-

ized as "the Hub of SFU Life" and with this initiative it will truly become so.

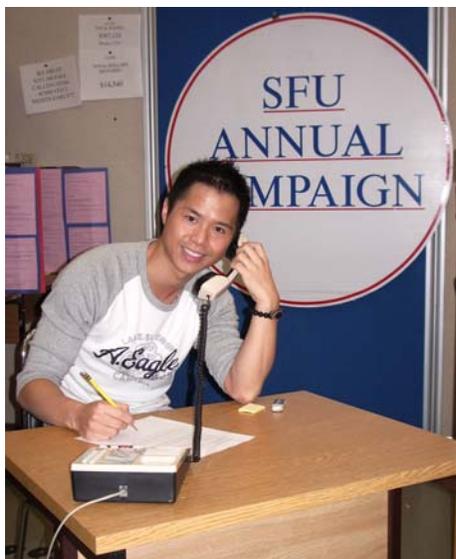
Dr. John Waterhouse  
Vice-President,  
Academic and Provost

## Fundraising for the Student Learning Commons

Calling our alumni to ask for financial support isn't always the easiest task. However, I found fundraising this fall for the new Student Learning Commons in the WAC Bennett Library to be a very rewarding and gratifying experience.

Many alumni have special ties to the university library because they remember it as the place on campus where they found peace and quiet to study, rest, conduct research, and to be with friends. When speaking to alumni during the fall calling campaign, I explained the services, resources and benefits of the new Student Learning Commons. As a current student, I was able to give them a student's perspective of how the Student Learning Commons will be of great relevance and benefit to all students at SFU.

In working towards my joint major in Business Administration and



Communication, I have had to write numerous research papers. Without library resources such as reference librarians, access to online databases, journals, books, workstations, printers, scanners, etc., I would not have been able to get this far in my education. The Student Learning Commons will enhance existing library resources to provide greater

general academic support in areas such as writing and learning skills to SFU students in one central location.

I found that alumni I spoke with, whether they were previous donors or not, took an instant liking to the idea of the Student Learning Commons and were happy to support it.

The Student Learning Commons at the SFU Library will provide students with a wider breadth of resources to enhance their studies at SFU. It will also provide SFU alumni with a unique opportunity to support the growth of SFU as one of the most student-focused learning institutions in the nation.

Thanks to all alumni who have supported the Student Learning Commons!

Tim Tsai, Student Caller

## The success of the 2005 Campus Community Campaign

The SFU community truly pulled together in the Spring of 2005 to raise \$270,000 for student support at SFU through the Campus Community Campaign. The staff of the SFU Library wanted to define a special project to benefit students in the library. Our goal was to create something beyond our usual services and resources, something that would fill a known need, and something that would demonstrate our appreciation of students' work and contributions to SFU's academic vitality and community spirit.

The project to do this? The creation of a comfortable student lounge area

within the Bennett Library. The highly used – and highly worn and uninspired – space east of the Library entrance is currently used as a lounge, meeting, and work space by our students and faculty members.

To that end, staff in the library and all over campus raised an unprecedented \$21,696 to rejuvenate the student lounge. These funds will enable us to start transforming the space into a warmer, more welcoming and relaxing lounge area - a space wired for technology, furnished for comfort, and decorated for inspiration. The generosity of the SFU community will create a lasting gift to our



hardworking students, both past and present.

Work will start in the spring of 2006, so please drop by the library to see the progress!

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Thank you for your continued support of the SFU Library. To make a gift or to enquire about the SFU Library, please contact Leanne Denis at 604-268-6827 or by email at [ldenis@sfu.ca](mailto:ldenis@sfu.ca)