

Nexus

A RYERSON UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE LIBRARY

Watch this space!



Photo courtesy of Wylie Poon

Architects named to design STUDENT LEARNING CENTRE

The university recently announced the selection of [Snøhetta](#) of Oslo, Norway and New York City, in association with [Zeidler](#) Partnership Architects of Toronto as the co-architects for Ryerson's new Student Learning Centre (SLC). Both firms are internationally renowned for their work, and bring a wealth of experience and innovation to designing a space that will spark introspection, interaction and discovery. The Student Learning Centre will dramatically increase study space on campus, offer further opportunities for developing partnerships, and provide a visible connection between the university and the city.

The SLC will be approximately 160,000 square feet and is estimated at 10 floors above grade level, with a connection to the library building and a

retail opportunity on the ground level. Discussions are also underway with the city to provide an entrance to Dundas subway station through the SLC. The projected date of completion for the building is 2013.

With Ryerson students as the primary users of the SLC, their input has played a key role in articulating the function and purpose of the new space. In addition to the feedback gathered through formal mechanisms thus far, representatives from Snøhetta and Zeidler took to the streets to ask students what they would like to see in the new space. The results are available for viewing on [YouTube](#). Look for additional opportunities to contribute ideas to the project in the near future.

Do you prefer reading NEXUS online, or in print? Tell us what you think! Email NEXUS editor Cecile Farnum at cfarnum@ryerson.ca with your comments.



From The Chief Librarian MADELEINE LEFEBVRE

With the end of term in sight, this is a great opportunity to celebrate our successes in our annual spring issue of NEXUS. This issue highlights many exciting initiatives and caps off another eventful year in the library. Some of the notable projects you will learn more about include the establishment of a Student Advisory Committee, the growth of mobile library services, and the evolution of the Learning Commons concept. I hope you will enjoy reading about these initiatives, and others.

I also wanted to discuss the particular role digital resources play in our Strategic Plan, and in our future. Many of you have asked how the library is integrating digital resources into our overall planning, and I'm happy to share our strategy with you. The ubiquity of digital resources and technology continues to transform both library services and post-secondary education. With our digital odyssey well underway, Ryerson has a real opportunity to establish its reputation in this area.

The acquisition of the former Sam's site on Yonge Street provides us with the opportunity to build a 21st century Student Learning Centre that is purposed for the use of digital resources and is designed to consider the needs of our users, first and foremost. The acquisition of digital resources, including journals, indexes and e-books will continue to expand, while we maintain a balance of resources to reflect differing needs. With the current library building ideal for the storage of books, the SLC will not need to conform to the design constraints of a traditional library, which is a further complement to our digital future. For our faculty, the integration of our digital resources with online learning environments will help ensure successful collaborations in support of teaching, learning and Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity (SRC). And as we expand our digital reach, mobile computing will continue to impact how our users will access digital content. Developing the library in your pocket will establish Ryerson and its library and archives as a leader in emerging technologies, dynamic digital collections and user-driven discovery.

As always, we encourage feedback and would like to know what you think. Please talk to your [liaison librarian](#), or send us your [comments and suggestions](#).

Madeleine Lefebvre, Chief Librarian

Open House at the Ronald D. Besse Information and Learning Commons



Chief Librarian Madeleine Lefebvre and Vice-Provost, Students, Heather Lane-Vetere, cutting the cake at the Open House.

The library and its Learning Commons partners, including the Writing Centre, the Learning Success Centre, and Computing and Communications Services (CCS), hosted an Open House on January 27 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. This event was designed to highlight the many services available in the Learning Commons, with students eligible to win prizes and offer feedback to help shape the development of the Commons in the future. Look for future Open House events in the future.

Student Advisory Committee – Year One

In fall 2009, the library created a student advisory committee, the Ryerson University Library and Archives Student Advisory Committee (RULA-SAC). This committee, which meets three times in the fall and winter terms, is designed to facilitate direct communication between the library and the students it serves. The committee is comprised of students who are interested in enhancing library resources and services, providing constructive feedback, and developing ideas for creating a better student experience at the library.

In addition to attending committee meetings, members of RULA-SAC provide a student perspective on library resources and services, participate in the development of surveys and other assessment tools, and represent the library at various events. Members of RULA-SAC played an important role at the Learning Commons Open House, and during the Ask Me – Tell Me! initiative to gather student feedback. The library also sponsored two members of the committee to attend the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference in February, 2010.

The first year of RULA-SAC was highly successful, and led to initiatives such as the creation of a silent study floor on the library's 10th floor. Thank you to the enthusiastic and engaged students who helped to make RULA-SAC great!

RULA-SAC member Liz Chiang (left) and librarian Cecile Farnum (right) at the Learning Commons Open House.



Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities

RULA is committed to accessible customer service. Please check out our new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) policy.

www.library.ryerson.ca/info/aoda.html



Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!



The Library in Your Pocket

The library was heavily involved in the [Ryerson mobile](#) initiative to expand mobile services at Ryerson. A number of library services, including catalogue searching, room bookings and searching for laptop and desktop computer availability can be accomplished using your mobile device.

The library ran its [Mobile Device Survey](#) in November 2009 as a followup to the [November 2008 survey](#) to enable the library to make informed decisions about the provision of library services via mobile devices and to see how the mobile landscape is evolving. Knowing what types of mobile devices are in use, what mobile devices are being used for, what services people might want on their next device and what mobile library services our users were interested in seeing the library develop will provide useful data for future mobile applications.

Videos and more videos...

Special Collections is quickly establishing itself as a repository for Canadian broadcast history, and students are working diligently at digitizing our video heritage. With the recent donation of the Paddy Sampson fonds, a collection of the CBC producer's televised works and unaired projects, Special Collections has now broken the 1,000 videos mark!



Special Collections Photo Contest

Special Collections ran its second annual Holiday Photo Contest, with this year's theme of holiday parties. The winning entry was featured in [Ryerson Today](#). To view the contest submissions, please visit the [Special Collections Flickr site](#). Thank you to everyone who participated!

Silent Study Floor

In order to accommodate the need for silent study space, the library has recently initiated a pilot project to designate the 10th floor as a Silent Study Floor, with the following rules now in place:

- No talking or whispering
- No group study
- No use of cell phones – turn cell phones off
- Minimal and quiet keyboarding
- Mute all audio – no headphones
- No eating



Poster design courtesy of Chris Hernandez, University Advancement

Your Feedback Matters

The library is participating in several online assessment initiatives, including LibQUAL and the MINES Survey.

[LibQUAL+](#) is a survey method developed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) used by many Canadian universities to measure library users' perceptions of service quality, compare institutional data with information from peer institutions, and identify best practices in academic libraries. The library participated in LibQUAL for the second time in March, 2010. Results from the previous survey in 2007 are available [online](#).

In addition to LibQUAL, the library will be participating in the [MINES Survey](#) from February, 2010 until February, 2011. This online survey collects demographic information about users of electronic resources, as well as information about the purpose of their research. Users will be asked to complete a short survey during one in every 250 requests to access an e-resource through our Get It! Ryerson link.

Your feedback is important, particularly as we plan for the new Student Learning Centre – so tell us what you think!

A Message from our Co-op Student – Jessie Farewell

For the past seven months, I've had the pleasure of working with the Ryerson University Library and Archives as a University of Western Ontario co-op student. My projects during this time have led me into areas in which I might never have embarked if left to my own devices, areas such as surveys and statistics and the expansive and ever-challenging world of business resources. This placement has also allowed me to attend several professional development events, such as last semester's Reader's Advisory workshop and the OLA 2010 Super Conference. Indisputably, one of my largest responsibilities has been in reference work, both in person and through online virtual services. This has been one of my most enjoyed duties while at the library. The diversity of students and their research has kept me feeling consistently engaged and challenged. As I'm sure many of us on the Learning Commons team do, I take great pride in knowing that I've been able to make a student's learning experience more enjoyable and successful. Above all, I've always felt supported and encouraged by my fellow colleagues and supervisors. While I am saddened to leave the library, the city of Toronto and the friends I've made here, I look forward to completing my Master's in Library and Information Science degree and moving onto the next endeavour. I take with me some great examples of leadership, team work and innovation.

Visitors to the Library and Archives

In January, the library welcomed librarian Karen Bordanaro from the James A. Gibson Library at Brock University to present to library staff and the Learning Commons partners, including the Learning Success Centre and English Language Support. Karen is well-known in the academic library community for her work supporting students and faculty with English as an Additional Language. Her engaging presentation offered many useful tips to help staff at our service desks during their interactions with patrons whose first language of academic study is not English.



Visiting Professor of Distinction Peter C. Newman (right) dropped by the Archives to pose for a photo with Egerton Ryerson and Archives staff Rosalynn Mackenzie (left) and Cathy McMaster (centre).

281 papers to date and 16,146 full-text downloads to date.

[Digital Commons @ Ryerson](#)



Library Stars



Lucina Fraser with student award-winner Idil Omar at the Viola Desmond Day ceremony.

Congratulations to librarian **Lucina Fraser**, who was selected as the recipient of the Reverend Addie Aylestock Award, one of four awards handed out on March 4, 2010 as part of the 2010 Viola Desmond Day Award Celebration. A committee of students, staff and faculty selected Ms. Fraser based on the commitment and dedication shown in her work within the library through planning, committees, conference presentations and published works, as well as her professional demeanor when working with students and colleagues.

Olympic Watch

In celebration of the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Vancouver, the library created an innovative mash-up that integrated automatic updates of medal standings with Google maps, statistical data and historical images of the Olympics from library collections. [Olympic Watch](#) used RSS feeds to provide instant updates of medal counts as they were reported on the official Olympic website and was viewable in the library during the Olympics. Users were able to view the geographic location of the country, as well as statistical data and selected images. Please note that Mozilla Firefox is required to view Olympic Watch.

To learn more about Olympic Watch, please contact Graham McCarthy, innovative technologies librarian or Dan Jakubek, map and GIS librarian.



Want to keep up-to-date on what new books in your subject area have recently arrived in the Library? Check out the [NEW TO THE COLLECTION](#) application on the Library website!

Staff News

Librarian **Dana Thomas** has been seconded to the the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) as the scholars portal evaluation and assessment librarian from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. Her primary responsibility will be to develop a framework and a technology solution for ongoing compilation and management of collection metrics for OCUL-acquired products available via *Scholars Portal* and commercial vendors. **Laine Gabel** has been hired to fill Dana's position during her secondment. Laine worked previously at the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) Dorothy H. Hoover Library.

Sukhwinder Sidhu has joined us as our new library systems analyst. She worked previously for the University of Waterloo where she was a senior developer at the Canadian Cryospheric Information Network.

Sonya Panangaden has been hired as an alternate formats technician, and will be helping out with the day-to-day operations of alternate format production, including contacting students, professors and publishers, supervising work study students and assisting with scanning and editing.

Shanthikumar Wijayasundaram has joined the Circulation staff as a circulation assistant. **Eric Lam** has assumed the shelver position vacated by Shanthikumar.

Presentations

Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference 2010

Chief Librarian **Madeleine Lefebvre**, and **Bob Jackson**, head of library projects and facilities, presented "Sam the Sequel: Playing Well with Others".

Librarian **Cecile Farnum**, with colleagues, co-presented "Communications and Marketing Librarians: A Behind the Scenes Look".

Librarians **Dana Thomas**, **Lucina Fraser** and **Val Lem** presented "Evaluating Electronic Collections: Using Data to Maximize Value".

Librarians **Sue Giles** and **Dan Jakubek** presented: "Census 2006 – Finding What You Want!"

Archivist **Owen Jenkins** provided a tour of the Archives to alumni working at Ryerson as part of 'Get to Know Ryerson', an event organized by Alumni Relations in March.

Library Hours

Monday to Friday – 8 a.m. to midnight
Saturday and Sunday – 10 a.m. to midnight

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