

Library Matters @ McGill

www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter/

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FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

The red carpet was rolled out on October 4, 2007 at Redpath Hall, for the 40th annual McGill University Quarter Century Club gala. Every year, eligible staff members who have contributed to the McGill community for more than 25 years are inducted into McGill University's Quarter Century Club (QCC). This year, three staff joined the ranks—Phyllis Rudin, Brian Ramgattie, and Lynda Scott. Brian attended the celebration, joined by colleagues from within the Library and across the University. We congratulate Phyllis, Brian and Lynda on achieving this milestone and thank them for their dedicated service to the Library and the University.

Another staff member was honoured with a significant award last week. Every year, the Principal's Awards acknowledge and commend exceptional contributions of administrative and support staff within the University. One of this year's awards goes to Mary Lourenço of our Law Library. The award is made to someone whose service has been outstanding. The submission made by Mary's colleagues demonstrated that she amply met all the advertised criteria—service orientation and customer service, initiative, innovation, collegiality, productivity, workplace efficiency, service to the community, cost-effectiveness, evidence of performance that consistently exceeds expectations and an outstanding contribution. The official recognition of the award will be made during the convocation ceremony on Friday, November 9. Well done, Mary.

Many events occurred on campus last week to mark the official launch of the Campaign and Homecoming. We all shared in the celebrations with dinners, lunches, barbecues and a seminar. The Library has a target of \$24 million within the Campaign, and we shall all be working hard to achieve the goal. The Case for Support includes the following: *Strengthen Library Support for Learning and Research. McGill's 13 branch libraries and special collections are a gateway to a world of digital information, as well as a 24-hour hub of student life. More than 10,000 people daily come to the library to conduct research, study, access information and collaborate; thousands more access the library's online collections remotely. There is a critical need to meet the growing demand for learning spaces and to upgrade technology. Targeted support will enhance the library's collections, unveil its treasures through public exhibitions and digitize unique print holdings for broader access.*

Lending and Access Services in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library bids farewell next week to Joseph Hafner who has been doing sterling service in this role as well as his new role as Associate Director, Collection Services. Joseph will move permanently to his new role.

Staff in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library and Collection Services attended team building activities, "Communicating for team success," in September and October. The teams identified characteristics that would assist in improving communi-

The *Library Matters @ McGill* newsletter, brought to you by the *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editors, seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovations and information from McGill Library staff at all levels.

The newsletter is published monthly. The latest issue, as well as an archive of past issues, can be found at www.mcgill.ca/library-about/pubs/newsletter.

We welcome your contributions. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the issue month. Send your input to the *you-never-heard-it-from-us* editorial team:

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WHAT'S NEW

HOMECOMING

Parents at the Library!

A unique combination of special events took place at McGill University during the third weekend in October: the launch of the University's Capital Campaign, Homecoming 2007, and the first-ever Parents Weekend. The Library was directly involved in the festivities, opening its doors to hundreds of parents, alumni, friends and visitors over the course of the weekend.

Parents' Breakfast

On the morning of October 19, a corner of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library was transformed temporarily into the 'McLennan Library Café', populated by a crowd a little older than the usual occupants. Looking quite at home cradling cups of coffee beside the recently received journals, parents of McGill students learned about the vital role the Library plays supporting student life and learning at McGill. For most, it was their first visit to the Library and the University, having come from across North America and even further afield for a weekend of activities as part of the University's inaugural Parents Weekend.

Principal Heather Munroe-Blum and Senator Michael Meighen, Capital Campaign Co-Chair, greeted parents before Janine Schmidt and Acting Head of Rare Books, Richard Virr, presented a light-hearted overview on 'Parenting and puppetry'. Also in attendance was Gail Todgham BA'67, the daughter of the founders of the McGill Parents Association, the late Joan and Clifford Hatch. The breakfast concluded with an opportunity to tour the Rare Books and Special Collections Division, and view the exhibition 'Collectors and Friends', showcasing some of the rare and unique collections material donated to the McGill Library over the past century and a half.

The cozy ambience and the genuine



Scenes from the Parents' Breakfast on October 19 at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library

curiosity and appreciation shown by those attending contributed a tangible sense of warmth and camaraderie to the morning's activities.

'Classes without Quizzes'

The following day, the Library hosted one of the University's Homecoming 'Classes Without Quizzes' sessions, *From Mesopotamia to Megabytes*. Parents and alumni attending experienced first-hand the

'working library', as students at adjacent tables tapped away on keyboards, mostly oblivious to the proceedings. (Some students seemed to find the presentation more interesting than their own work and chose to listen instead). Presenters Janine Schmidt and Richard Virr chartered the development of libraries through the ages and the evolution of the modern book, and looked at the dynamic, shifting role of the modern library and librarian. The presentation was wonderfully well-received, and after a couple of questions attendees headed up to Rare Books, off to visit other branch libraries, on to the next event, or home for a well-deserved rest! □

"Success is relative: It is what we can make of the mess we have made of things."

- The Family Reunion (1939) pt. 2, sc. 3,
Thomas Stearns Eliot

MEMOIR: WORLD DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY ANNE MCMAHON (MACDONALD CAMPUS LIBRARY)



Canada, in boat 4, takes an early lead in a Mixed 500m race

It was an incredible experience to be part of Team Canada at the World Dragon Boat Championships held at the Sydney International Regatta Center, Penrith, Australia on September 19 – 23, 2007. I competed in the Grand Dragon category (50+) on both the mixed team and the women's team.

Preparation for this competition involved a lot of work and much traveling as the team is based at the Outer Harbour Dragon Boat Club in Toronto, Ontario. All potential members were required to attend several training camps in eastern Canada to test and compete for places on the crew rosters. Team members have diverse backgrounds in water sports in addition to their personal backgrounds. There were medical doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, librarians, executive directors and retirees in our group of over 70 people.

We arrived in Sydney on September 16 at 7a.m. after the long flight from Montreal via Vancouver and Honolulu. We picked up our rental car at the airport and drove to our accommodations in Emu Plains. Luckily one of the people in our little group had lived in Singapore for three years and quickly readjusted to driving on the Australian side of the road (with only a few scratches on the hubcaps courtesy of the curbs). Our entire group stayed in a caravan park close to the Regatta Center. Although not very glamorous the Nepean River Holiday Village had the advantage of being 6km from the site and we quickly grew to love the friendly feel of the place. Most mornings we could be found on the front porches sharing coffee and conversation with our

team mates.

We didn't have much chance to rest and relax from the trip. Our coaches, Stephen Kwok and Stan Machacek, had scheduled our first practice session on that Sunday from 2p.m. to 4p.m. In some ways it was good to get back on the water again so that we could start focusing on the races ahead. Monday through Wednesday were spent on the water fine tuning race strategies and ascertaining that we were all up for the challenges ahead.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the town of Parramatta about 30 minutes outside of Sydney in Bicentennial Park beside the Parramatta River. Sixteen countries sent teams to the competition and were present in their team uniforms at the ceremony. Canada had one of the largest groups present with over 350 athletes. We had crews in all racing categories—Junior (under 18), Premier (over 18), Senior (over 40) and Grand Dragons (over 50). It was amazing to see so many people from so many countries in one place.

The races started bright and early on Thursday morning with the 1000m races for the Open categories and the Premier women. Our Grand Dragons were amazing and pulled away from their competitors (Australia, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and the United States) to win all of their 3 races and the first gold for our group. The Grand Dragon Mixed crew raced their 2000m race and was edged out by Germany to win silver.

Friday was the three 500m races for the Grand Dragon Mixed crew and the 2000m race for the Grand Dragon Open crew—two more gold medals. Saturday was three 200m races each for the Open,

Mixed and Women's crews. Two more golds for the Mixed and Open crews and a very hard fought silver medal for the women's crew. The final day of a long week of racing was three 500m races each for the Open and Women's crews. The Open boat won gold and the Women were third behind the United States—combined total of 4.29.87 for Canada to the US total of 4.29.32.

Even though we had been practicing on the race course and in the start box nothing can really prepare you for how you feel on race day. It was an amazing feeling to be sitting in the boat on the start line for a race in which you are representing your country. When we were called to the podium to receive our gold medal it didn't really seem real. I have seen medal presentations before on television and have seen the reactions from the athletes but wasn't really prepared for how I



Anne McMahon with an Aussie mate

would feel. When the Canadian flag was raised in the center position and our national anthem was played, the tears were rolling down my cheeks—it was incredible, a once in a lifetime feeling. I was so proud to be a Canadian and so proud to be part of such an incredible group of people.

We spent two weeks after the competition touring the Sydney area including a four day trip to Cairns, Queensland. The countryside was spectacular and the people we met were wonderful. There is so much more to see—hopefully sometime soon.

More information and photos can be found on the team's website at <http://gm.paddles-up.ca>.

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CONFERENCE IN FOCUS: ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

BY ROSA ORLANDINI (WALTER HITSCHFELD GIC)

Rosa Orlandini attended the annual conference of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) from May 9 to May 13, 2007. (www.ssc.uwo.ca/assoc/acml/McGill/index.html) She shared her thoughts on the conference with Library Matters.

Most of the conference was held at McGill University, with the exception of the last day which was held jointly with the Canadian Association of Public Data (CAPDU) at Université de Montréal. As the organiser of the ACMLA conference I had many responsibilities: room bookings, banquet, registration, field trip, accommodation, and keeping our delegates happy. But all the hard work paid off! I was able to attend most of the sessions at the conference.

So what happens when 50-plus map librarians, curators, and government folk get together? It is very intense but fun!

Future of Topographic Mapping Today

The first session at the conference was about the Future of Topographic Mapping in Canada.

In June 2006, ACMLA met with representatives from Natural Resources Canada who indicated that the federal government was going to close the Canada Map Office (CMO) and stop printing topographic maps. The ACMLA folk and other stakeholders were not happy. The ACMLA Map Users' Advisory Committee (MUAC) launched the "Maps for Canadians" campaign, complete with a website. Thousands of Canadians wrote letters to Gary Lund, Minister of Natural Resources (MNR), and in October 2006 the Minister reversed the decision to close the CMO. In addition, MUAC prepared a policy brief for the MNR, "Putting Canada Back on the Map: The need for updated maps of Canada".

The conference included a presentation from representatives of the MNR on how they are going to approach the revitalized topographic mapping program. Conference delegates were able to ask pertinent questions during this time.

Geospatial Metadata

Coming soon to geospatial data

providers and map libraries throughout Canada and the United States will be the North American Profile of the ISO 19115 standard for geospatial metadata. It is generally agreed that geospatial data doesn't conform well to AACR2, MARC21, or Dublin Core, so an ISO metadata standard has been developed in the past few years. There were presentations on the profile and how it can be used, and also a pre-conference workshop on three different geospatial metadata catalogues.

Digitization Projects

There were several presentations on the methods of planning digitization projects.

Cathy Moulder, McMaster University, talked about how McMaster outsourced the digitization of 400 large scale maps of World War I trenches in France and Belgium.

Larry Laliberté, University of Manitoba, talked about the Historical Maps of Manitoba project, which was made possible through the cooperation of the University and Manitoba Archives.

Colleen Beard, Brock University, discussed the University's in-house scanning project of historical air photos of the Niagara region.

Library and Archives Canada (Annual Activity Report – Maps)

Many changes have taken place at the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in the past year. We were privileged to have a report from David Brown from LAC. He spoke about the appraisals, acquisitions, and cataloguing efforts in the past year, as well as user services and changes in management and administration.

Other Sessions

Other sessions included presentations from geospatial data providers, geospatial information literacy, and delivery methods for maps and data. Jean-François Palomino from the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) discussed developments at the BANQ, such as a new website of historical maps that was launched this October. An exhibit at the Grande Bibliothèque about early

maps of the Americas is also planned for winter 2008.

Finally, there was a session from Stefano Biondo, Laval University, on how to set up a library user committee.

And we had some fun!

The Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) hosted a wine and cheese event at the Grande Bibliothèque on May 9, and we had a banquet at Thomson house ballroom the next day. Saturday was field trip day, which included a great tour of the maps of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division, taking in old atlases, antique maps, and a rare tourist map of Montreal. This was followed by a tour of the Geographic Information Centre. We had a comfortable lunch at Atwater market, and in the afternoon took a bus tour of Montreal conducted by L'Autre Montréal.

Many thanks!

Since the conference was held at McGill University, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to several people: Anastassia Khouri warmly welcomed our delegates and was our opening speaker for the conference; Ann-Marie Holland for her early Saturday morning tour; Many thanks to our volunteers from the School of Information Studies; Finally I would like to thank Janine Schmidt and McGill University Library for hosting the event on campus, and providing food and refreshments during our opening session.

For more about the conference and the complete report from LAC, consult ACMLA Bulletin, No. 128. Winter 2007. You can contact the staff at the GIC to borrow one of our personal copies.

For further information, go to:

- www.autremontreal.com/
- www.acmla.org
- <http://manitoba.ca/>
- www.brocku.ca/maplibrary/airphoto-to/1921/1921_index.htm
- www.banq.qc.ca/cartes

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU: MORE STAFF PROFILES!

JOSEPH HAFNER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, COLLECTION SERVICES

Where were you born?

Indianapolis, Indiana where I lived until moving to Montreal.

What part of town do you live in?

Centre Ville -- De la Montagne & St-Jacques-- where I've lived since January 2007. Before that I lived in Côte-des-Neiges.

How long have you worked at the library?

Since October 1, 2004 at McGill, but I've worked in libraries since 1981—including Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library the Main Research Library, technical services and several branches, as well at the Butler University Library and my high school library.

Do you have any pets?

A Miniature Schnauzer, Jack. He turned 1 on October 6. Jack likes to play at the dog park near home.

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

For grocery shopping the Marché Atwater is my favorite place. I enjoy going to concerts in Old Montreal at the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel.

What is your favorite dessert?

My mom's homemade Pecan Pie and most kinds of Crème brûlée.

What are you reading and/or listening to?

Reading "The Spark" by John Bacon and "Montreal Resto à Go-Go" by Sarah Musgrave.

Listening to Blandine Rannou playing "Suites Anglaises" by J.S. Bach on harpsichord, "Company" the new cast recording from 2007, and Melissa Etheridge's new album, "The Awakening."

On TV I'm watching-- "Rumeurs" in French, "Ugly Betty" and "The Office."

What are your other interests?

I like to garden and have a spot in a community garden across from my condo-- Jardin communautaire Georges-Vanier.

I've played in a community orchestra here in Montreal for the past 3 years-- L'Ensemble Sinfonia de Montréal. We play four concerts a year. We practice at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal in the Plateau and we usually perform at Concordia's West Island campus at Oscar Peterson Hall.

What is one thing that people do not know about you?

I played percussion in a band in Montego Bay, Jamaica in the mid 90s. This past summer I went to La Ronde and rode all of the

roller coasters to see which was my favorite—I liked Goliath the best.

ADAM GACEK (ISLAMIC STUDIES LIBRARY)

Where were you born?

A small town in southern Poland

What part of town do you live in?

Pointe Claire

How long have you worked at the library?

20 years

Do you have any pets?

Yes, a dog called Oreo

What are you reading and/or listening to?

"Judaism for dummies"

What is/are your favorite quote(s)?

"An aspect of manliness is to see ink stains on man's clothes and lips" (attributed to an eighth century Arab author)

What is one thing that people do not know about you?

I make super potato pancakes (so they say), and if I could change my profession I'd like to be a ginger seller!

STEVE MILLIER (ISLAMIC STUDIES LIBRARY)

Where were you born?

Granby, Quebec

What part of town do you live in?

NDG

How long have you worked at the library?

21 years

Do you have any pets?

1 cat

What is your favorite place in Montreal?

Mount Royal

What is your favorite dessert?

Anything with chocolate

What are you reading and/or listening to?

Reading: 1599: A Year in the Life of Shakespeare by James Shapiro.

Listening to: Goldberg Variations by Pierre Hantai.

What are your other interests?

Reading, travelling

What is your pet peeve?

None, really

What is your favorite quote?

No good deed goes unpunished.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cation. After identifying negative aspects, participants were asked to choose behaviours that would have the biggest impact on improving happiness, productivity and effectiveness in the workplace. Some very useful suggestions emerged that we shall all take seriously and seek to implement. We thank everyone for their participation. There will be a report back to the staff who attended the sessions but some of the suggestions which emerged included the following:

- notification of staff of changes before implementation, including the provision of instructions, in writing, particularly for those most affected, with further explanations if required
- regular meetings with agenda provided in advance and minutes subsequently
- recognition that everyone has good ideas
- constructive expression of ideas
- provision of feedback in private
- empathy not sympathy with customer issues
- openness
- need for FUN.

We all agree with the latter and look forward to suggestions for FUN in our workplace.

Janine Schmidt, Trenholme Director of Libraries,



VLADIMIR: That passed the time.

ESTRAGON: It would have passed in any case.

VLADIMIR: Yes, but not so rapidly.

— Waiting for Godot (1955) act 1
Samuel Beckett



READING MATTERS

BY APRIL COLOSIMO (SCHULICH LIBRARY)

Everything is miscellaneous: the power of the new digital disorder

by David Weinberger

New York: Times Books, 2007

David Weinberger has online presence. A quick Google search will take you to his website and bio. He has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Toronto and is a prolific writer about technology, knowledge management, and the subject of the web. He is an avid blogger and, as I write this, he Twittered three hours ago from Boston with comments on the weather. The search also revealed that 731 LibraryThing users have books by David Weinberger. There is a short entry on him in Wikipedia, and another for this book. *Everything is miscellaneous* also has an official site, of course, where you

can find reviews “as they come in.”

If everything is miscellaneous, we have a knack for putting things in their rightful place. However, the confines of physical space no longer apply to a digital environment. As explained in chapter 1, *The New Order of Order*, anything digital can be assigned multiple places. We get stuck on alphabetizing (chapter 2) and classifying (chapter 3), but according to the author, “order hides more than it reveals” (p.88).

The power of the new digital disorder is exposed through discussions on nesting, tagging, ArXiv, Wikipedia, eBay, and Amazon. In a world where everything is metadata, users can arrange content in their own way, irrespective of how it is ordered. Chapter 7 on social knowing talks about how we put much of ourselves

into connecting the digital miscellany, “knowledge—its content and its organization—is becoming a social act” (p.133).

The author takes a philosophical and historical look at our obsession with order from Aristotle and Linnaeus to Dewey and Ranganathan. The different orders of miscellany, or mess, are neatly explained in chapter 9, *Messiness as a Virtue*. We are encouraged to embrace the complexity around us. Here links are formed between the level of innovation and the messiness of interactions within an organization.

I would recommend this book to all. It is an enjoyable read and quite topical, with the current buzz around social networking and Web 2.0. We need to recognize the limitations of print and the opportunities that present themselves in the digital (dis)order. □

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November 2, 2007

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MS-24, McLennan Library Building, Street Level
Information session for all librarians on new library tenure guidelines

Janine Schmidt, Trenholme Director of Libraries.
Please discuss attendance with your supervisor.

November 19, 2007

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Leacock 232

CRL collections: how to get the best value from CRL, reviewing programs and how they work

Bernie Reilly, President, CRL. All staff are welcome. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor.

CRL (<http://www.crl.edu/>) is a consortium of North American universities, colleges, and independent research libraries of which McGill is a member. CRL promotes scholarly inquiry and the diffusion of knowledge by providing a framework for the cooperative development, delivery and preservation of scholarly resources. Bernard F. Reilly, Jr. is the President of the Center for Research Libraries. As Chief Executive Officer, he plans and directs the Center's activities, programs and services. From 1997-2001, he was Director of the Department of Research and Access at the Chicago Historical Society. Prior to 1997, he was Chief Curator of the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress.

To be followed by: 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

General overview of Campaign McGill and its goals

Honora Shaughnessy, Executive Director, McGill Alumni Association. All staff are welcome.

Please discuss attendance with your supervisor.

To be followed by: 3.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Library Facilities update

Diane Koen, Associate Director, Planning and Resources, McGill Library. All staff are welcome. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor.

November 22, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Leacock 232

Virtual research environments.

Mark Leggott, University Librarian, University of Prince Edward Island. All staff are welcome. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor. *Mark Leggott has been University Librarian at the University of P.E.I. since 2006. He was formerly University Librarian at the University of Winnipeg and also worked at the Media Forge at St Francis Xavier University. He is a regular blogger, a devotee of open source software and a developer of innovative information solutions.*

November 22, 2007

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

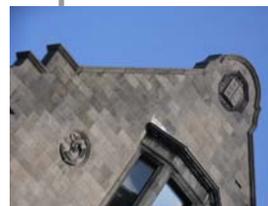
MS-23, McLennan Library Building

Fostering academic integrity in students' work

Darlene Canning (Schulich Library) and Maryvon Côté (Nahum Gelber Law Library). *The session will examine the way in which McGill administrators, instructors, librarians, and student support services can best collaborate to address this complex issue and deter students from submitting work that is not their own. To register, please contact Mary-Jo Rahal before November 16, 2007 by email at [tjs@mcgill.ca](mailto:tls@mcgill.ca) or phone at 398-6648. Please discuss attendance with your supervisor.* □

AND FINALLY...

From our September issue: *Where is this?*



Redpath Library Building

From our June issue: *Who is this?*



Did you recognize Jodie Hebert from Humanities and Social Sciences Library on the left? Jodie is pictured here with Sandra Bayley during Expo 67.