

Library Matters @ McGill

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

FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



Prof. Paul Yachnin; Prof. Wes Folkert; Prof. Michael Bristol; Janine Schmidt; Prof. Leanore Lieblein; and Janet Blachford, Incoming President, Friends of the Library, at the Shakespeare Lecture, *King Lear is a member of my family or (What I've learned from my students)*, by Prof. Bristol, held March 23

Use is really booming in the libraries as students complete final assignments and prepare for their examinations. Many of our staff are also students and we wish everyone every success in their studies. Eating and drinking sometimes becomes a problem at this time of year. Our extended opening hours, including 24 hours in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, exacerbate the issue. While we do not wish to make life difficult for our students, drawing attention to unacceptable behaviour with a friendly reminder will help keep the issue under control. I would ask each of you to help us ensure our environment, both in staff and public areas, provides positive interpersonal experiences and clean and tidy facilities.

Communication remains a major issue for us – communicating details of new information resources to our users and communicating new developments to both our staff and users. Each of us plays a role and we can always improve. The Senior Management Group has been working on completing budget expenditure for the 2005/6 year and starting to plan for the next year. We have also been revising the proposed organization structure and preparing job descriptions for the planned Associate Direc-

tor positions. As soon as this work is complete, it will be made available for wider comment.

Other areas being examined by the Senior Management Group are a uniform loans policy for the Library. I thank the various committees who have been working on this. Input has been received at the meetings and the final version is almost complete and will be distributed. Ask your manager or representative on one of the lending or circulation committees for further details. Great work has been done and our users will really benefit from standardization across the system. We are also making a serious effort to dispose of those book trucks which are in poor condition, difficult to manoeuvre and challenging to use. A team of staff has been examining new book trucks and I thank them for their work. We are completing a “stocktake” of what is currently available and will shortly be ordering the replacements.

Another successful Friends of the Library function was held. There was standing room only at the annual Shakespeare Lecture as Friends and others heard Michael Bristol draw comparisons between family relationships in *King Lear* and current family life.

I hope everyone had a relaxing, refreshing and peaceful Easter holiday.

Janine Schmidt,
Trenholme Director of Libraries

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E AND E - TO EXCHANGE AND ENCOURAGE

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:

Louisa Piatti, louisa.piatti@mcgill.ca; **Cecilia Tellis**, cecilia.tellis@mcgill.ca; **Rebecca Nicholson**, rebecca.nicholson@mcgill.ca

WHAT'S NEW

Life Sciences student shelver takes gold in Melbourne

One of Life Sciences Library's former student stack assistants, **Jeane Lassen**, was a gold medal winner in the 2006 Commonwealth Games. She competed in women's weight lifting breaking a Commonwealth Games record as well. The six member Canadian women's weight lifting team all won medals! Here is an article on the event: www.canada.com/topics/sports/story.html?id=2bc4e2ab-86af-4c48-aab4-13a43eaa70f5&k=35468&p=2.

Sandra Emery, Circ supervisor at Life Sciences, says, "She was one of our best shelvers too! Congratulations to Jeane on such a spectacular accomplishment. No doubt heaving those large medical tomes has paid off."

Civil Engineering Technical Reports now available online

Marika Asimakopulos and **Elizabeth Gibb** (Liaison Librarians, Schu-



lich) are pleased to announce

the launch of the second phase of the McGill Engineering Technical Reports Digitization Project which involved adding the reports of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics. This second phase was financed by the Richard M. Tomlinson Digital Access Award, and funding from the Faculty of Engineering and the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics. Many thanks to former Dean **John Gruzleski** and Chair **Dennis Mitchell** for their support.

The Project continues to provide access to the technical reports of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (launched in December 2000). Now, with the second phase, access is provided to the reports of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics, including reports from the Structural Mechanics, Soil Mechanics and Geo-environmental series, from the 1960s to the present. (Please note that

several reports have yet to be added.)

As Professor **Ghyslaine McClure** has said, "... research reports are potentially an important vector of dissemination of research in our Department and Faculty. Digitization of this information would make it more widely available and would therefore reflect McGill's research activities more realistically."

Thanks to **David McKnight** of the Digital Collections Program for his support and encouragement, and his staff, **Eli Brown**, **Elizabeth Thomson**, and **Maria Gosselin**. Eli trained our undergrad civil engineering student employee **Noor Alif** who scanned the documents, populated the database, and linked the PDFs with the appropriate records.

The McGill Engineering Technical Reports Digitization Project is found at www.mcgill.ca/dcp/projects/schulich/. Select either the civil or mechanical collection, before you search.

McGill Librarians in the literature

Lori Kloda (Liaison Librarian, Life Sciences) has an evidence summary in the inaugural issue of *Evidence based library and information practice* (ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/EBLIP/), entitled, "Undergraduate students do not understand some library jargon typically used in library instruction."

Chris Lyons' (Assistant History of Medicine Librarian) and **David Crawford's** (Librarian Emeritus) article, "What ever happened to William Osler's library?" appears in the January 2006 issue of *Journal of the Canadian Health Libraries Association* (pubs.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/jchla/jchla1-06.html).

McGill Science Undergraduate Research Journal

Speaking of inaugural issues... The first issue of the *McGill science undergraduate research journal* was published April 3, 2006. This new journal high-



lights the research contributions of the undergraduate community at McGill. Have a look at their "freshman" publication: www.msurj.mcgill.ca/.

Farewell to David McKnight

David McKnight has decided to move on to the University of Pennsylvania. David has worked in several areas, but his major contributions at McGill have been made as Digital Collections Librarian and as Head of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division. He spearheaded McGill's foray into digitization and the projects undertaken, particularly with the assistance of Tomlinson funds, have ranged across many areas



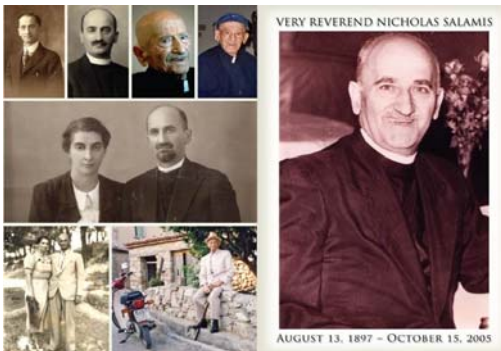
– the Napoleon collection, war posters, the Minq Qing Chinese collection, the Norbert Schoenauer collection, cookery books, nursing and water quality jour-

nals, to name but a few. He has been involved in the e-theses and e-scholarship initiatives. The projects will remain a permanent legacy to the work of David and his team. His work has been described as revolutionizing access to some of our most valued research collections. He was also heavily involved in the Library's exhibitions program and he has worked with the Friends of the Library, where he provided his ideas, his knowledge, his time and his energy. His work with *Fontanus*, the Library's journal, was exemplary and he has published, presented and represented McGill on many an occasion.

A year ago, David took on the role of Principal Librarian in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, with oversight of the Reference and Information Services and Collections and again provided sterling service and leadership. David leaves behind an enormous gap which we shall have difficulty filling and he will be missed enormously by colleagues right across the University.

IN MEMORIAM

Very Reverend Nicholas Salamis, father of Marika Asimakopulos (Schulich), passed away in October of last year at the age of 108. Marika sent a memorial card, which included the lovely photos below, to those who expressed their sympathy for her loss.



*"Politeness is
the art of choosing
among one's
real thoughts."*

- Abel Stevens

A PAT ON THE BACK

From Prof. Laura Beraha to Tatiana Bedjanian (Liaison Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences)

Dear Tania:

A belated note to thank you so much for the excellent Endnote tutorials you designed for our Department this month. On behalf of all of us at Russian and Slavic Studies, speaking as Graduate Program Director, as supervisor of several undergraduate Honours Theses projects, and as your grateful student in the computer classroom, I must tell you how very much your efforts are appreciated.

Each new cohort of graduate students has benefitted from your presentations at our yearly meeting to mark the beginning of term; the group about to graduate this year is noticeably more research-savvy than their predecessors. Last fall, you updated us on the barrage of new services and search engines, fielded our many questions on "what have they done to MLA?" and the like. Magdalena Mot, who is writing her MA thesis under my supervision, has often commented on how much she owes to your help both in tracking down esoteric texts and navigating through the bewildering explosion of newer publications coming from the former USSR. I know I regularly count on your expertise when sending my honours students to you to compile their bibliographies for translation and research projects; to say nothing of the many requests you so often receive from me for adding to our hard copy and electronic holdings, or hunting down obscure (too often ill-formulated!) references. You've become a vital part of our Department, not only as an outstanding librarian and library liaison, but as an innovative language instructor, a valued participant in our extra-curricular lectures and events, and as a true colleague sharing your enthusiasm for life in philology and research.

The Endnote tutorials are just the most recent example of your exceptional dedication to our Department's needs. You proposed the meetings on your own initiative; what is more you

coordinated the tangled schedules of a small and thus overburdened staff, holding duplicate sessions to accommodate all interested. The presentations were tailored specifically to the demands of Russian and Slavic Studies, taking into account such otherwise neglected areas as transliterating from the Cyrillic. Having suffered through several electronic classroom tutorials elsewhere at McGill, I found it a genuine pleasure to follow your well organized and finely focused lesson; the handouts too will provide a welcome follow-up. From discussions with students and colleagues after your tutorials, I know that they appealed to all levels of expertise: from the complete neophyte such as myself, to the long-term user looking to refine her skills.

For these and so many other helpful moments in our collaboration, for your dedication and cheerful advice, Tania, thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Laura Beraha
Associate Professor, Russian and
Slavic Studies

CLIENT SERVICE TIPS

by Joseph Hafner

 **Don't rely on the old standby,
"I don't know how..."**

It's not just those words stick in a person's craw; they don't matter. You have heard of the problem, right now, and the student really doesn't care whether you've heard of it before or know the cause. Stick to words that show personal concern and upbeat prospects. This guideline has a flip side too: don't minimize people's problems by telling them that somebody else had the same or a worse situation. It isn't helpful. It makes your organization look bad. Everyone wants to think that he/she is your whole universe, that all of your training and experience are directed at making things right in a specific case.

NOT JUST *FUR* FUN—MUSIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

by Andrew Senior, Specialized Cataloguing Editor and Acquisitions Assistant (Marvin Duchow)

On February 27 and March 1, the Marvin Duchow Music Library welcomed around 60 grade 3 pupils, staff and volunteers from Allancroft Elementary School who were visiting the Schulich School of Music. Brian McMillan and Andrew Senior each led two tours—with help from Katie Lai of the Gertrude Whitley Performance Library—introducing the youngsters to the many facets of the Music Library.

The tours began with a brief overview of the Library's layout and the multitude of book, score and audiovisual formats available to the user. Popular with the children were the examples of scores drawn from our collection, from our tallest score (a three-foot oversize orchestral score by Grisey) to our smallest (a four-inch 1533 Lutheran Gesangbuch facsimile).

Our visitors wondered at both the drawings of jousting knights contained in the exquisite facsimile of the Roman de Fauvel (1310) and colour reproductions of the heart-shaped Chansonnier Cordiforme. They also tried their hand at interpreting graphic scores by R. Murray Schafer as well as the infamous *Fur Music*—a 1970 tactile/graphic composition by Nelson Howe which uses strips of differently arranged synthetic fur instead of conventional notation. Throughout the



Brian McMillan showing an oversize score to visiting pupils

tour, questions flew thick and fast from the students, keeping the tour guides very much on their toes! Also in order is a big thank you to our young "Volunteer Librarians" who helped demonstrate the scores and sign out audio visual material.

Moving to the upper two floors the pupils were particularly enamoured of the group listening stations and the Performance Library's sliding compact shelving. Crowding the children around a small score and then having them pretend to play

instruments quickly proved why individual orchestral parts were invented! After the library visits the pupils listened to rehearsals by the McGill Symphony Orchestra of works by Mozart and Beethoven, with the conductor conducting from Music Library scores and the players reading from Performance Library parts.

Besides learning while having fun, these children left with a clear idea of the close relationship between the Schulich School of Music, the Music Library and the Performance Library. In the spirit of Leonard Bernstein's pioneering outreach activities this kind of collaborative event so ably demonstrates the multi-age appeal of music at McGill University and its importance within the Montreal community.

CONFERENCE TIDBIT

Juanita Jara de Súmar, Liaison Librarian (HSSL)

Juanita attended the **Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM)**, a very important annual meeting for all librarians in charge of Hispanic and Latin American library collections. It was attended by more than 200 participants, mainly from the United States, but also from Latin America and Europe. This year there were three special geographic panels: the Canadian Panel, a Caribbean panel and a Latin America and Europe panel.

The Seminar consisted of 18 panels and 25 sessions of the various interested groups. There were three simultaneous meetings at all times, except for the opening ceremony and Keynote Speech. Topics ranged from specific regional experiences and individual practices and collections to debates about the feasibility of digitizing certain materials and the proposed new interface for the largest database for Latin America, *HAPI online*.

Juanita was invited to participate in the panel *Latin America and Canadian University libraries*. The topics presented centered on the influence of the Spanish language speakers in the development of the curricula and library col-

lections in Saskatchewan; and, the needs and demands of the growing Latin American students in Manitoba. Juanita presented a preliminary comparative analysis of the language structure of the Latin American collections in the fields of History and Literature at McGill and Université de Montréal. All the papers were well received and she was encouraged to go on with the next phase of her analysis.

An important part of this Seminar is the participation of the vendors of Latin American library materials. There were 34 bookstores and exporters from South America, Mexico and Spain exhibiting at this event. In most cases the companies were represented by their owners. Juanita took the opportunity to talk with booksellers from different countries and request information about their commercial practices, the publishers they represented, their method and conditions of delivery, and talked to various participants to find out about their experiences with those booksellers. McGill Library is currently searching for reliable providers for Latin American library materials in all areas, not just literature, so Juanita hopes that the booksellers met and the information brought from this conference will help our Acquisitions staff to find the right providers for material from Latin America.

THE HERMITAGE RULES

And you thought that libraries have some tough rules, Things have not changed that much since 18th century Russia.

The Hermitage was built by the order of Catherine the Great so she could store her art collection. This great museum collection has grown immensely since Catherine's day.

From a postcard bought at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts: Catherine II's Rules of Behaviour for Guests to her Hermitages; About 1770-1780; Saint Petersburg, State Hermitage Museum

Rules

For the Behaviour of all those entering these doors

1. *All ranks shall be left outside the doors, similarly hats, and particularly swords.*
2. *Orders of precedence and haughtiness, and anything of such like which might result from them, shall be left at the doors*
3. *Be Merry but neither spoil nor break anything, nor indeed gnaw anything.*
4. *Be seated, stand or walk as it best pleases you regardless of others.*
5. *Speak with moderation and not too loudly, so that others present have not an earache or headache.*
6. *Argue without anger or passion.*
7. *Do not sigh or yawn, neither bore nor fatigue others*
8. *Agree to partake of any innocent entertainment suggested by others.*
9. *Eat well of good things, but drink with moderation so that each should be able always to find his legs on leaving these doors.*
10. *All disputes must stay behind closed doors; and what goes in one ear should go out of the other before departing through these doors.*

If any shall infringe the above, on the evidence of two witnesses, for any crime each guilty party shall drink a glass of cold water. Ladies not excepted, and read a page from the Telemachida out loud.

Who infringes three points on one evening shall be sentenced to learn three lines from the Telemachida by heart.

*If any shall infringe the tenth point,
He shall no longer be permitted entry*

Or from the Heritage website: The Hermitage has some interesting facts behind it, starting with its name: in Russian it is pronounced phonetically like 'Ermitazh,' with a silent 'H'. Catherine II started collecting the art to put in it and she basically had it all built for her. The Small Hermitage was her own private place to entertain her guests. She felt relaxed here and wanted the environment to be safe and comfortable both for her guests and herself. For this reason she posted a list of rules.

1. *All ranks shall be left behind at the doors, as well as swords and hats.*
2. *Parochialism and ambitions shall also be left behind at the doors.*
3. *One shall be joyful but shall not try to damage, break or gnaw at anything.*
4. *One shall sit or stand as one pleases.*
5. *One shall speak with moderation and quietly so that others do not get a headache.*
6. *One shall not argue angrily or passionately.*
7. *One shall not sigh or yawn.*
8. *One shall not interfere with any entertainment suggested by others.*
9. *One shall eat with pleasure, but drink with moderation so that each can leave the room unassisted.*
10. *One shall not wash dirty linen in public and shall mind one's own business until one leaves.*

Hermitage website at it.stlawu.edu/~rkreuzer/pete15/pete15.htm.

The Montreal Museum's exhibit of Catherine II of Russia continues until May 07th 2006.

www.mmfa.qc.ca/forfaits/catherine/expo_en.html

The aforementioned *Telemachida* is described in Google as "a contemporary Russian poem considered tedious and long winded". It dealt with the adventures of Telemachus, son of Odysseus.

SIDEWALKS: 1 PEDESTRIANS: 0

by Louisa Piatti

If, like your intrepid editorial staffer, you have had a serious encounter with the snow and ice of the past Montreal winter and want to find a way to get the kinks out and stand up tall now that spring is hopefully not too far away why not consider **Taoist Tai Chi**.

Are you tired of slippery slopes, worried about falling, sense of balance not what it used to be? Maybe this is your answer... I am told by my knowledgeable colleague, **Adèle Toutant**, that I too could execute the moves named "Grasp Bird's Tail and Golden Cockerel stands". She goes on to say "I think the most important feature of a class such as the one given as part of the Staff Fitness program is the exercise, the stress-managing benefits, and the gentle stretching."



McGill Staff Fitness Tai Chi class

Taoist Tai Chi, as described on its international website taoist.org/english/, "is a gentle art of health and well-being for people of all ages and health conditions. Taoist Tai Chi was introduced to western society by Master Moy Lin-shin in 1970 and is designed fundamentally to promote and restore health. The slow, graceful movements of Taoist Tai Chi increase strength and flexibility and improve balance and circulation. The Taoist style of Tai Chi emphasizes greater stretching and turning in each of the movements in order to gain these and other benefits more effectively."

So as I ponder whether I could gain some well being, and follow up on Adèle's comment to me, "Probably, the best way for you to find out is to join the class yourself!" here is the information you need. A new session will begin on May 1, with registration beginning the week of April 18. For more information check out the Staff Fitness web site at www.mcgill.ca/vpadmin/fitness/.

Will your editorial staffer join a class? Stay tuned to find out.

PHOTO GALLERY

Spring scenes taken in the St. Lawrence Parks region on a rainy March Sunday,
by Kathleen Vandernoot, Administrative Coordinator (Nahum Gelber Law)



Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.

- W. Earl Hall

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ Tuesday, April 18 – *Registration for the Spring/Summer Staff Fitness program begins*, see www.athletics.mcgill.ca/campusrec_living_course.ch2?discipline_id=8 for more info
- ❖ Wednesday, April 19, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – *Using RSS to know more and do less*, McLennan Library, Room M3-37A
- ❖ Thursday, April 20, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – *Using RSS to know more and do less*, McLennan Library, Room M3-37A
- ❖ April 24 to April 30 – *TV Turnoff Week*, Pick up a book!
- ❖ Monday, May 1, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – *Using RSS to know more and do less*, McLennan Library, Room M3-37A
- ❖ Monday, May 1, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – *Fitting library design to today's needs*, Hamilton Wilson, Wilson Architects, and Janine Schmidt, Trenholme Director of Libraries, Leacock Building, Room 26
- ❖ Wednesday, May 10, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – *Drop in to the Director's Office*

For more McGill events, consult the
Community Calendar:
www.mcgill.ca/calendar/