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## ***New University Librarian appointed***

McMaster welcomed a new University Librarian on July 1. Jeffrey Trzeciak joined McMaster from Wayne State University where he was associate dean of the library system.

“This appointment is a coup for the University,” says provost Ken Norrie. “Jeffrey not only brings a wealth of experience from an internationally respected research university, but he also brings a commitment to teaching and learning and an understanding of how to integrate libraries into the fabric of a university that will help McMaster maximize its library resources.”

Trzeciak had been at Wayne State since 1998 and held a number of senior positions. He is a graduate of Indiana University, the University of Dayton, and is currently working on his PhD in instructional technology. He was instrumental in the development of digital library services at Wayne State. He also led a number of community-based library projects including a collaboration with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Michigan Opera Theatre.

He says McMaster’s reputation as an innovative institution is one of the qualities that attracted him to the job especially at a time when higher education and academic libraries are experiencing a period of unprecedented change. “I think the challenges we’re facing are incredibly exciting. McMaster has already established itself as an institution that values creativity. I’m looking forward to working collaboratively with library



*University Librarian Jeffrey Trzeciak*

staff, faculty, students and others to seize the opportunities this rich history provides and to plan and execute innovative new approaches that meet the challenges of the future.”

Trzeciak replaces Graham Hill who retired last summer. ■

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## ***Mills Learning Commons: Transforming Spaces & Services to Meet Changing Needs***

The way students use libraries has changed dramatically in recent years. The library is no longer simply a place for reading and quiet reflection. The new generation of students now requires state-of-the-art computing equipment, robust networks, vast collections of software, and assistance when and where they need it. They

want study environments conducive to group work. And they want longer hours (24/7 if possible).

In response to these demands, in late 2003 the Library embarked on a major new initiative to create a “Learning Commons” on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of Mills Library. The facility was envisioned as a vibrant, user-centred learning space integrating scholarly resources, information technology, software expertise, instruction and study space. The Commons would facilitate a variety of student learning opportunities to support the full range of the discovery process—from the identification and collection of information to the creation of the final essay, spreadsheet or presentation.

The proposal to fund physical construction was approved by the University’s Board of Governors in June 2005. The project, set to be completed over a two-year time-frame, was valued at \$1.8 million.

In Fall 2005, long before actual construction began, the Library and its

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campus partners unveiled a rich buffet of new services:

- an IT Help Desk was established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This desk, staffed by student consultants and Library IT staff, was created to provide expert assistance with password problems, laptop configuration and the use of the wireless network.
- the Centre for Student Development began running **Writing Clinic** sessions from a temporary space within the Library.
- a new office for **Library Services for Students with Disabilities** was established through joint funding with the Centre for Student Development.
- Library staff began offering **virtual reference** assistance using chat software.

The real excitement began when exams ended in April 2006. Once the students left, the Library closed the doors of the McLay Reading Room in Mills. The old tables and chairs were relocated to other areas—and the construction crew took over.

### **What will our students see when they return in September?**

McMaster students will be thrilled by the new physical spaces and services when they come back to campus in the fall. The old tired study tables and chairs in McLay will be replaced with new ergonomically-correct furnishings. Approximately 70 computers, fully-loaded with Microsoft Office and other more specialized software, will be installed. The students will be able to connect their laptops to powered tables or relax in lounge seating up against the windows. And when they need technical assistance, they'll be able to visit the help desk located near the centre of the room.

The Quick Access Area, generously funded by Brenda and Alan Wong, will provide a focal point for the entrance to McLay. (For more information see following article).

From the students' perspective, one of the most exciting aspects of the project may be the opportunity to extend the opening hours for the

McLay Room. Once construction is complete, the Library will be able to lock off McLay from the rest of the building and allow direct access through the tower entrance on the east side of the building.

The new facility will significantly enhance the services being delivered to the growing population of students with disabilities. The Commons will provide access to specialized software (JAWS, Kurzweil, Dragon Naturally Speaking). The office of the Coordinator, Library Services for Students with Disabilities will be located just inside the doors to the Commons. A ramp will be added at the tower entrance to support after-hours access by students in wheelchairs or scooters.



*McLay Reading Room*

### **Laptops for Loan!**

Thanks to a generous donation from the students themselves, approximately 36 laptops will be available for loan from our circulation desks. The laptops will allow students to work where they wish—including stack areas and lounge spaces.

### **Just the Beginning**

During the course of the next year, our students will see a host of new spaces opening up under the Commons umbrella. The entire Reference area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will be transformed with new furnishings and additional workstations. The Mezzanine on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be repurposed for five collaborative study rooms and a newspaper reading area.

For further information, please see the Learning Commons web site at <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/mills/learnincommons>> or contact Vivian

Lewis, Associate University Librarian, Services at 905.525.9140, x23883 or at [lewisvm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lewisvm@mcmaster.ca). ■

*Vivian Lewis*

## **Leadership Gift Benefits McMaster Students**

A generous gift from Alan ('71) and Brenda ('72) Wong will fund the creation of a "Quick Access" area in the Mills Learning Commons. The Learning Commons will greatly expand the Library's provision of information literacy and knowledge management skills by providing additional services and study spaces for McMaster's students. The Quick Access area will provide several standing-height computer stations for "express" searches in an attractive pod configuration, a laptop zone with bistro seating for approximately 6 laptop users, a printing and scanning station, and 2 LCD panels (one in the Quick Access Area, and one in the lobby of Mills) which will be state-of-the-art digital displays to provide important library information to students.

The Wongs' gift builds on their previous donation directed to information literacy, which funded the purchase of 3 mobile teaching units and the construction of the Wong Electronic Classroom in Mills. The mobile teaching units allow librarians to teach information literacy to large classes anywhere on campus; the Wong E-Classroom is a facility for in-house information literacy sessions for up to 30 students at a time.

"As McMaster alumni, Brenda and I feel very strongly that the Library is a very important part of a university education." writes Alan Wong. "We also share your enthusiasm that the new Learning Commons will provide an outstanding student-centred facility for all those who make use of it. For these reasons and our love and fond memories of McMaster University, we hope our gift will benefit all

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## ***Library Map Collection Helps Create a Canadian Historica Minute***

In February 2005 the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection in Mills Library was contacted by a member of the Art Department at *Windup Filmworks*, a production company located in Toronto. The company was engaged in the set design for 6 new “Historica Minutes” to be filmed later that same month. These Minutes, formerly known as “Heritage” Minutes, are now produced by the Historica Foundation whose Creative Director and Writer is Patrick Watson.

One of the Minutes slated for production recounts the role played by Canadian soldiers in the World War I battle of Vimy Ridge. In preparation

for designing the props needed for this piece, the team at *Windup* searched the Internet for information on World War I trench maps. They were quite excited to discover McMaster’s web pages listing our extensive collection of over 400 World War I era maps



*Vimy Sector, France, 1917*

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home.htm>. *Windup* needed to make a replica trench map for use in a scene that recreated a planning meeting between generals in a French chateau. They were delighted to find that our

collection actually contained several of the Vimy sector.

A few days later a member of the Art Department arrived at the Library and spent the entire day digitally photographing a wide variety of maps selected by McMaster Map Collection staff as representative of the type that might be used in planning such an operation.

The Vimy Minute was launched on May 8, 2005 to coincide with the opening of the new Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. In February of this year the Minutes were aired 6,750 times. There are 74 “Minutes” in total and each costs approximately \$250,000 to produce. If you have not yet seen the Minute, it can be viewed at <http://www.historica.ca/minutes/minute.do?id=14742>. ■

*Gord Beck*

*(Leadership Gift — cont'd from p.2)*  
library users.”

We are very grateful to the Wongs for their great commitment to McMaster and its students. ■

*Anne Plessl*

## ***Promoting Canadian Authors: 100 Years of McClelland & Stewart***

McMaster University Library is renowned for its holdings in publishers’ archives. They include archives of the Book Society of Canada, Macmillan Canada, Clarke Irwin, Copp Clark, Peter Martin Associates, Guernica Editions, the Canadian files of Dodd, Mead, Colin Smythe Ltd., Seripress, Curvd H&Z, and Gerard Brender à Brandis. The largest of these publishers’ archives are those of McClelland & Stewart Ltd., Canada’s premier English publisher, which is celebrating its centenary in 2006. The company’s contribution to Canadian society has been enormous



*McClelland & Stewart Exhibition*

Urquhart, who collectively have brought prominence to Canadian culture on the world stage. The story of McClelland & Stewart parallels the

infancy, growth, and establishment of Canadian literature.

In celebration of the company’s longevity and achievement, Library and Archives Canada has mounted an exhibition on the company’s history, featuring a selection of archival documents, books, and other artifacts taken from its own holdings and those from the Jack McClelland family, M&S, and the M&S archives at McMaster University Library. Several themes are highlighted: the Beginnings of the Company; Canadian Values and Foreign Domination in Literature; Jack McClelland: Literary Impresario; The Flowering of Canadian Literature; The New Canadian Library Series and Other Notable Series; Editing in the Grand Tradition: Douglas M. Gibson and Ellen Seligman; and Promoting Excellence: Literature on the International Stage.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 13 June 2006 until 14 March 2007. ■

*Carl Spadoni*



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## *A Farewell Message from Charlotte A. Stewart*

At the end of June I took early retirement from the University after more than thirty years with McMaster University Libraries. I have been extremely fortunate to have spent the majority of my professional career with McMaster's library, and during a time of enormous advances in the profession of librarianship. I feel proud and privileged to have had many wonderful opportunities. Among these have been working with and learning from knowledgeable and talented colleagues, with the library's exciting rare book and archival collections, and with several of Canada's leading researchers, authors, and organizations.

An area of responsibility that has given me much pleasure over the years has been the opportunity to work with so many generous donors and supporters of the libraries. I have learned a great deal from the many interesting individuals who care about the library's services and collections and provide whatever resources they can to support the teaching, learning and research of the students and faculty. Whether corresponding by mail or email, speaking on the telephone, or meetings at donor appreciation events and visits, I have considered it a great honour and privilege to get to know many of you.

Through the pages of this newsletter I have had the opportunity to communicate with the Library's supporters—to celebrate your generosity, to announce new collections and grants, to inform you about new or enhanced services, to grow as a community. I am sure that through these pages in the future you will celebrate McMaster University Library's many accomplishments and successes under the skilled leadership of the new University Librarian, Jeffrey Trzeciak. I look forward to joining you as a friend and supporter of the Library. ■

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## *Recent Notable Acquisitions*

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

- ❖ A series of photographs of Bertrand Russell, including one of Russell with Indira Gandhi and Shri T. T. Krishnarmarchari, 11–13 July 1964, taken at Claridge's Hotel in London.
- ❖ *The Secret of the Caves*, no. 7 of the Hardy Boy series in dust jacket, 1929, authored by Franklin W. Dixon (i.e. Leslie McFarlane). ■

## *Recent Notable Gifts*

The Library has received the following gifts from:

- ❖ Gunter Barth, *The Magazine Antiques*, 1990–2004.
- ❖ from Rabbi Bernard Baskin, a collection of 40 antiquarian books from 1556 to 1956, including Ioannis Picardi's *De prisca celtopaedia libri cinque* (1556) and *Lettres cabalistiques, correspondance philosophique, historique, et critique* (4 vols., 1737 and 1738).
- ❖ from Gerard Brender à Brandis, the 2nd accrual of his archives, consisting of drawings and sketches, water colour paintings, and engravings, 1964–1998.
- ❖ James B. Byrne, books on computer software.
- ❖ Ronald F. Childs, books on chemistry.
- ❖ Pearl Cohen, a collection of journals on Judaism.
- ❖ Simon Haykin, books on electrical engineering.
- ❖ from Nora Hickey, a run of the *Stelco Daily Billet*, an ephemeral broadsheet issued during the strike of the United Steelworkers of America, local 1005, in 1946.
- ❖ Stefanie Szlek Miller, Polish books and journals on the Communist and post-Communist periods in Poland.
- ❖ Linda Moffat, books on topics in business.

- ❖ Morris Norman, a copy of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1937, in Hebrew.
- ❖ from Professor J. B. Neilands, a series of seven placards with black-and-white photographs, used as testimony at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Stockholm concerning the Vietnam war, 2–10 May 1967.

- ❖ George F. Round, books on thermodynamics and fluid mechanics.
- ❖ Ian Spenser, books and journals on various topics.

We are grateful to all donors for their generosity to the Library. ■

## *Publications*

The following recent publications made use of our collections:

Brooke, Stephen. "The Body and Socialism: Dora Russell in the 1920s," *Past & Present*, 189, no. 1 (2005): 147–77.

Nienaber, Georgianne. *Gorilla Dreams: The Legacy of Dian Fossey*. New York: iUniverse inc., 2006.

Keymer, Thomas and Sabor, Peter. *Pamela in the Marketplace: Print Culture in Eighteenth-Century Britain and Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Walravens, Hartmut, ed. *Friedrich Perzyński (1877–1962?): Kunst-historiker, Ostasienreisender, Schriftsteller, Leben - Werk - Briefe*. Melle: Wagener Edition, 2005. ■

## *Calendar*

Exhibit in Archives and Research Collections, Mills Library, August–October, 2006: "Early Italian Books from the Aldo Caselli Collection." ■

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