

## Welcome from the Dean of Library Services

*"We are a social species and hunger for places to come together for conversation and learning, activities that have intrinsic value for us."*

Scott Bennett, "The Choice for Learning"  
Journal of Academic Librarianship, 32 vol 3-13, Ja 2006



Lynn Copeland

At heart, this is what motivates much of our rethinking of the library's study space on all three campuses. We are excited by the success of the Alumni Information Commons and the Learning Commons offices in the WAC Bennett Library and look forward to continuing to reconfigure the building to meet SFU's student and faculty learning and research needs.

Lynn Copeland  
Dean of Library Services

## Student Central

In our last update we announced that SFU would create a Student Learning Commons (SLC) to provide a one-stop shop for academic assistance. Thanks to support from donors and the university administration the SLC opened its doors in Fall 2006. The SLC has already provided more than 1,000 students with writing and learning consultations and workshops.

Jason Chan is one of the many students who uses SLC services. A second year political science student, Jason transferred to SFU from Douglas College and stumbled across the SLC when he was exploring the library. It was a timely discovery as the SLC ended up playing an important role in his successful transition from college to university. "In college, the class sizes are smaller and there is more handholding," says Jason. "In university, it is expected that you already know about the different types of citations and research techniques."



Peer tutoring is an important part of SLC services.

Jason made an appointment with a writing peer to familiarize himself with the most common citation formats and their applications. "The staff and peers are so friendly and knowledgeable," says Jason. "I'm amazed that all this support and expertise is available to students for free." The SLC currently offers workshops, English conversation groups and consultations with writing and learning specialists.

"As well as providing writing, learning, library and technology programs and services, our vision is to transform the second and third floors of Bennett Library to create a comprehensive learning commons space," says Elaine Fairey, Director, SLC. "We want to allow students to move seamlessly from workstations to group study rooms to common areas depending on their personal preference and the task at hand."

Your support will be integral to helping us make this vision a reality. More information on this project is available by contacting the Library Advancement Office at [lib-advancement@sfu.ca](mailto:lib-advancement@sfu.ca) or 604.268.7665.

## May we suggest ...

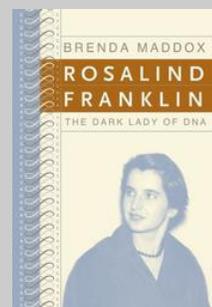
Leslie Rimmer has worked at SFU Library for four and a half years as the liaison librarian for Biological Sciences, Kinesiology, and Molecular Biology & Biochemistry. This issue, she brings library friends a recommendation for a non-fiction and a fiction book.



Leslie Rimmer

### Rosalind Franklin: the dark lady of DNA / Brenda Maddox

This book tells the story of the little known role chemist Rosalind Franklin played in the discovery of DNA. It combines the science of the discovery with her tragic personal life.



### Cannery Row / John Steinbeck

This book, about the cannery district of Monterey, California, is filled with wonderful characters. One character in particular, Doc, is based on the real life marine ecologist, Ed Ricketts, a close friend of Steinbeck's. His research helped shape today's study of marine biology.

These books are available at SFU Library. SFU alumni have borrowing privileges and community members can obtain an external borrower card.

## A Place to Honour Scholarship

As convocation is the grand finale of the undergraduate program, thesis defense is the pinnacle of the graduate student experience.

“The thesis defense is an important event in a graduate student’s career, and is also an occasion to which we invite guests from outside the university,” says Dr. Jonathan Driver, Dean of Graduate Studies. “The defense should take place in a setting that is properly equipped to promote dialogue and communication, and that reflects the importance of the occasion to people who attend.”



An artist's rendering of the thesis defense room

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable space on campus for thesis defenses. Currently there are more than 4,000 graduate students in six faculties and 45 different programs, and graduate student numbers are slated to grow to 25% of SFU’s total enrolment.

The Library has stepped forward and will build a thesis defense room on the second floor of Bennett Library. “The thesis defense room will enhance the defense experience for the candidate, the examiners, and the audience by providing a high-quality venue,” says Lynn Copeland, Dean of Library Services. “It will be a multi-purpose room that is used for Student Learning Commons and Library instruction when not required for a thesis defense.”

Partial funding for this project has been obtained through regular SFU channels. We will also be fundraising to ensure the room incorporates the latest in technology and is furnished in a manner fitting to the occasion of thesis defense.

## The Heart of SFU Surrey



Michael Stevenson, SFU President, David Rishel, Past President, FVREB, and Ken Mackenzie, Executive Officer, FVREB

On March 13, 2007, Dr. Michael Stevenson officially dedicated the library at SFU Surrey as the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library. The naming ceremony was attended by approximately 100 realtors, university guests and prominent

community members who were awed by the library’s big windows, bold colours and comfortable study areas. “It is a proud day for the real estate community,” said Brian Horn of Re/Max Treeland Realty. Dr. Stevenson thanked the Real Estate Board for its advocacy and financial support, which was critical in establishing a SFU campus south of the Fraser River.

The Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library is a unique facility that offers library, gaming and equipment services, as well as 12,000 books, 90 print journals, 1,000 DVDs and videos, 400 games, and numerous CDs and CD-Roms. “From the moment we opened the doors, the library has been busy,” said Natalie Gick, Campus Librarian. “I’m very pleased with how students and faculty are using the collections, technology and space.” The library features modern design elements and different areas for different types of learning including silent study, team rooms, and pods.

An endowment has been established to provide long-term support for acquisitions and special projects. Contributions to the endowment will help provide a reliable stream of income for the library to grow and to serve future generations of students and faculty. For more information, please contact Natalie Gick at [natalie\\_gick@sfu.ca](mailto:natalie_gick@sfu.ca) or 778.782.7417.

## Leave your legacy at SFU

SFU is pleased to welcome Doug Puffer to the university as the Director of Planned Giving. Doug has more than 20 years experience in fundraising and is an accomplished gift planning expert.



Doug Puffer, Director of Planned Giving

“As we plan for the future it is difficult to foresee the specific needs for SFU, but it is my belief that philanthropy will make the difference between maintenance of a great university and the evolution of an extraordinary one,” says Doug.

A legacy gift to the Library can take many forms including a gift of securities or real estate, a bequest, or a life insurance policy with SFU Library as the beneficiary. To learn more about how to support SFU Library through a planned gift please contact Doug at [dpuffer@sfu.ca](mailto:dpuffer@sfu.ca) or 604.268.7308.

## Signed, sealed and delivered to your inbox

Would you like to receive the library newsletter and notices of special events by email instead of via post? Send an email to [lib-advancement@sfu.ca](mailto:lib-advancement@sfu.ca) and we will add you to our electronic distribution list.

## Contact

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