A Message from the Chief Librarian and Chief Information Officer

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the University of Guelph, a milestone for which the University is appropriately proud. Anniversaries provide us with the opportunity to look back as well as ahead. The University’s history, while grounded in tradition, has become distinguished by innovative research and integrated learning. Today’s University of Guelph has a distinctive educational philosophy that is both learner-centered and research intensive and emphasizes a collaborative approach to learning. The McLaughlin Library has been immersed in collaborations that both foster and advance the institution’s commitment to changing lives, improving life.

Momentum is forward-focused. Early in this my third year at the University, there is a clear sense of momentum in many of the library’s areas of activity. Momentum seemed a fitting metaphor for this second edition of the McLaughlin Library Annual Report that reflects on a year of new directions and anticipated growth. The initial phase of several ambitious projects were completed this past year including the launch of a new user-focused library website, the completion and publication of an expansive and consultative Library Master Space Plan and early involvement in and development of a researcher-focused data management strategy for the campus.

The Library Master Space Plan has inspired us while at the same time provided practical and aesthetic guidance for planning enhancements and renovations. The fall term will see the realization of both with the opening of a new Starbucks Café just inside the library’s entrance. This project also provides us with an opportunity to realize our continued commitment to a greater sense of openness through the replacement of solid walls with new glass ones. With the completion of the Robert Whitelaw Room, (funded with the generous gift reported in last year’s annual report), we will have also taken our first step in the renovations of Archives and Special Collections. The second floor location of the Whitelaw Room represents an early effort to raise the visibility of these collections. Where typically such collections have been used primarily for research purposes, we are pleased to see an increased use of these materials in courses. With the application of advanced technologies such as data analysis and geo-mapping, we will be able to further illuminate the historical implications of these collections.

Last year also saw increased engagement with faculty in the area of research support. As a research-intensive institution, we have pursued opportunities to work with faculty both on campus in their labs and during their field research. We have provided guidance on the development of data management plans and the deposit of research data into local data repositories, which provide long-term preservation. Additionally we have worked with researchers in the field developing mobile applications for data collection that facilitate repository upload and local accessibility for analysis. Anticipating changes in the policies of the Tri Council funding agencies, beyond the local work on campus, we are engaged with the work of organizations like the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) on the integration of data repositories and related services into larger-scale services focused on national preservation and discovery.

Looking ahead to next year, while expecting growth in our work on research data, we also anticipate increased engagement in the area of digital scholarship. In this work we will leverage existing resources like the Data Resource Center, which provides training, tools and services in the use of statistical data and geographical information systems (GIS), along with elements of the Library Master Space Plan and our existing collaboration on a digital humanities post-doctoral fellowship with the College of Arts. I will look forward to providing an update in the next annual report.

Sincerely,
Rebecca A. Graham

A Space to Celebrate Learning

The Academic Town Square in the library provides a space for contemplation, learning and debate. By providing a physical place where issues from various disciplines can be explored and presented, the University of Guelph Library continues to re-affirm its historical origins and centrality within its scholarly community.

September 24

Carnival Open House
A fun way to raise students’ awareness of the many services and resources available at the library

October 15

Redelmeier Family Gift Announcement
In support of the U of G’s Rural History program
Currently, 93% of the study space on campus is found in the library. The Library Master Space Planning Project aimed to find creative ways to add more seating and study spaces, increase access to infrastructure, modernize the building, add collaborative and exhibit spaces and understand users needs.

The library’s 18-month process was highly consultative and included participation from students, faculty and staff. The planning phase of the project is now complete and a full report outlining all major library upgrades has been published on the library’s website. Enhancements to the McLaughlin Library, informed by the planning project, are already in place.

The first of two major projects included the conversion of the Forster Room to a full-service Starbucks Café with comfortable seating. The second was the building of a multipurpose room on the second floor which marks the beginning of the Archives Renovation and Expansion and was funded in large part from donations, primarily the Bob Whitelaw gift.

The Starbucks Café is the result of a partnership with Hospitality Services and opened early in the Fall semester. Key goals are to maximize the seating capacity and visibility of the space. The multipurpose room will accommodate in excess of 150 people for large-scale events and lectures. It will also be able to be divided into two spaces of either 75 individual seats or 60 tabled seats.

Our Newest Collection

In 2013, a new leisure reading collection, Gryph Reads, was introduced to the McLaughlin Library. The name was selected by the U of G community, and the collection includes a range of subjects and literary genres intended for recreational reading.

Gryph Reads’ shelves are located on the library’s main floor, and e-books are available through the collection’s website. Today, the collection features over 500 books, and 60% of all books have been checked out at least once. The most popular book is The Fault in Our Stars by John Green, with 13 checkouts.

The collection aims to encourage students, staff and faculty to increase their reading and engage with areas that may be outside their own disciplines.
Data Management

Government funding agencies are harmonizing their policies and guidelines in a move towards increasing access to research results. The Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) have partnered to draft a new Tri-Agency Open Access Policy which would require free public access to all federally funded, peer-reviewed journal publications within a year of publication. This upcoming policy change would incorporate data management plan requirements into the grant proposal process.

To help U of G researchers meet these requirements, the library created two data repositories to provide access to research material. We also offer data management tools and consultations. The Research Enterprise and Scholarly Communication team (RESC) offers data management consultation services, assisting researchers in developing data management strategies for research projects, identifying risks and recommending solutions, as well as promoting long-term plans for preservation of research outputs once the project has been completed.

The RESC team works in collaboration with the Office of Research to co-ordinate information and services related to grant and policy compliance. Workshops and seminars offered to graduate students and faculty provide information, tools and resources for the development of a data management plan at the start of a research project. Step-by-step guides available online provide all of the tools and resources necessary for researchers to work independently when instituting a data management strategy.

A Chapter Ends

This year U of G and the McLaughlin Library bid a fond farewell to Associate Chief Librarian Catherine Steeves who will return to her Alma Mater, Western University, as Vice Provost and Chief Librarian commencing Fall, 2014.

Catherine has served as Associate Chief Librarian for the University of Guelph Library since 2004 and also held the role of Deputy CIO. During her tenure, she co-led a transformational organizational change effort; negotiated the first faculty collective agreement; led strategic and budgetary planning processes; reinvigorated staff development and recruitment strategies; and managed information technology services and other operational teams. Catherine also participated in the esteemed ARL Leadership Fellows program – known as the Research Library Leadership Fellows (RLLF).

We wish Catherine all the best as she takes up her new role and thank her for her lasting contributions to the University of Guelph Library.

Open Access Colloquium

To celebrate Open Access Week and U of G’s open access authors, the University of Guelph Library hosted its first Open Access Week Colloquium on October 25, 2013. Open Access Week takes place around the globe to raise awareness about the importance of open access to the scholarly community.

The one-day event featured some of the most prominent Canadian experts on issues related to open access and intellectual property, including Dr. Leslie Chan, Director and Senior Lecturer, University of Toronto Scarborough, Dr. Chad Gaffield (above), President of SSHRC, and Dr. Michael Geist, Law Professor, University of Ottawa. Lightning talks were also given by U of G open access advocates. The event brought together more than 80 U of G faculty, researchers, administrators and open access advocates. U of G has over 400 open access authors and all participating authors were honoured during the event.
U of G Archival Material Featured in Japanese Exhibit
The University of Guelph Library’s Archival and Special Collections houses one of the most extensive Lucy Maud (L.M.) Montgomery collections in the world. This past March, archival materials from the collection were featured in an exhibit in Japan entitled “Montgomery and Hanako – behind the story of Anne of Green Gables.” The exhibit invited the public to explore L.M. Montgomery’s life (1874-1942) through a sample of the images Montgomery collected and created. The exhibit is part of a year-long, 15-city tour across Japan.

“This is the first Japanese exhibit to which U of G has contributed original artifacts. Hanako Muraoka translated Montgomery’s stories to give an intimate glimpse into her life as an author, mother and wife,” said Kathryn Harvey, Head of Archival and Special Collections at the University of Guelph Library. “The exhibit will be seen by over 400,000 people, and we are very pleased to have our materials prominently displayed so they can be treasured by a worldwide audience.”

Peer Helper Profile
Anita Acai Writing Services
Hometown: Guelph, Ontario
Year/Major: Fifth-year Biochemistry student

Anita Acai is a model student and has worked with the library’s Learning Commons as a Peer Helper since her first year at U of G. Throughout her academic career, she has been recognized with some very prestigious awards including:

2012 Lin Coburn Award
2013 3M National Student Fellowship
2014 Stephanie Daymond Writing Peer Award
2014 R.P. Gilmor Student Life Award
2014 Katherine Elliott Graduate Scholarship

What is the Peer Helper program?
The Peer Helper Program is about students helping other students. It is about working together to develop a culture of help and support.

Why did you join?
I joined in my first year to get involved with the University and the library. I’ve always had a passion for helping others. I also wanted to meet people, so I figured that this was the perfect way to acquire more skills and to develop tools that were going to help me throughout my career.

In your role as a Peer Helper, what have you learned about working with other students?
I have learned that it is very important to relate to students. They accept suggestions from peers who are struggling with similar feelings and problems. As peers, we have the same student status and are on the same level. The one-on-one-support is very important, as well as the companionship and the empathetic listening. A big part of being a good Peer Helper is learning how to guide and facilitate as opposed to simply telling others what to do.

What do you appreciate the most about working at Writing Services?
I’m very fond of the team, especially Kim and Jodie, the supervisors. The peers all come from different programs and majors, but these differences are what make Writing Services such a great place to work. We are all very supportive of each other and there is always something new to learn.

What are you most looking forward to about life after U of G?
I’m really excited to start working at the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) in Toronto as a Research Intern. I’m hoping to acquire a new perspective on higher education by working with various colleges and universities, and continue to develop my educational research skills.

What do you think is your greatest accomplishment in the past year?
My final year at Guelph has allowed me to reflect on what I am truly passionate about and interested in, and that is education. I recently graduated, and will be starting a Master of Science in Health Science Education at McMaster University in the fall.
Learning Commons Programming Highlights

- **Brain Food: The Ultimate Power Lunch Series**
  Eight sessions focused on helping graduate students with their writing, research and data analysis.

- **Midterm Madness**
  An opportunity for undergraduate students to learn strategies for studying effectively and efficiently.

- **Dissertation Boot Camp**
  An intensive one-week program to help graduate students improve their writing.

- **Essay Writing Madness**
  Designed to assist undergraduate students with developing effective research and writing knowledge and habits.

- **Writing Tune-Up**
  An opportunity for all U of G students to improve their grammar, punctuation and style.

- **Communicating Clearly**
  An intensive six-week certificate program for international graduate students

- **Writers Workshop**
  Two days of workshops for writers at all levels.

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**Celebrating Success**

**Staff Awards & Recognition**

- **OLA Mentoring Committee Special Recognition Award**
  Jim Brett, User Services Librarian

- **OLA’s Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award**
  M.J. D’Elia, Acting Head of the Learning & Curriculum Support Team

- **OCUL Outstanding Contribution Award**
  Jennifer Marvin, GIS Librarian & DRC Coordinator

- **Student Life Awards**
  - R.P. Gilmor Student Award to Anita Acai, Writing Services
  - Roberta Mason Award to Rishi Dubey, SLG Program

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**Peer Helper Program Awards**

- **Lin Coburn Award to Naythrah Thevathasan, SLG Program**
- **Award of Academic Achievement for a Continuing Peer Helper to Lisa Gordon, Learning Services**
- **Katherine Elliott Graduate Scholarship to Anita Acai, Writing Services**
- **Supervisors’ Award of Merit and L&CS Community Spirit Award to Shannon Rushe, Learning Services**

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**Learning Commons Awards**

- **Dale Lackeyram Learning Peer of the Year Award to Ilana Goldsmith and Jeffrey Witmer**
- **Brendan Munn SLG Leader of the Year to Naythrah Thavathasan and Stipe Jelovcic**
- **Mary Wilson Award to Rachael Vriezen**
- **Engineering Peer Helper Award to Michael Mohan**
- **Stephanie Daymond Award to Anita Acai**
- **Student Athlete Mentor to K.J. Lukas**

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**U of G Parents Give to the Library**

Dr. Robert and Julie Nevin (pictured below) are proud parents of two graduating Gryphons, Melissa and Catherine Nevin. Melissa studied Human Kinetics and played for U of G’s varsity volleyball team. Melissa made time to take advantage of the Supported Learning Groups (SLGs) offered at the library. SLGs are peer-led sessions that provide course-specific support in courses known to be particularly challenging. Catherine, a Bio-Medical science major, attended SLG sessions as well. She gained the skills and confidence to take on some peer instruction and speaking opportunities, such as coordinating the Bio-Medical Leadership Conference. Catherine has also been the recipient of the Gary Partlow Prize for Leadership and Academic Excellence.

According to the Nevins, “being able to learn from experienced upper-year students enabled our daughters to pick up tips on how to study and best prepare for some of their foundational science courses. By taking advantage of the resources offered through the Learning Commons, they were set up for success and saw an increase in their grades.”

For more than six years during their daughters’ time at U of G, the Nevins generously supported a number of U of G programs at the library. Support for these vital services comes primarily from parents like the Nevins, whose gifts help keep these transformative learning opportunities cost-free and readily available to students.

Visit the UofG Alumni website to learn more about how you can get involved as a U of G parent and how to make your gift today!