

UVic Libraries: Update

By Sue Henderson.

Welcome to Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian

Jonathan Bengtson, appointed University Librarian effective January 1, 2012, trained as a medievalist at Oxford and has been director of academic and special libraries in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. At the University of Toronto where he was Director of Library and Archives at the University of St. Michael's College and the Director of Library and Archives at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Bengtson engaged with the transformations to research, teaching and learning brought on by the digital revolution.



Jonathan Bengtson

UVic's reputation in the digital humanities, as well as its focus on strong community engagement and experiential learning, were compelling reasons for his interest in moving out West. While at UVic, he wants to engage Alumni through author readings, family events and community programs such as UVic Libraries' new *Joy of Collecting* speaker series. He believes that specialized collections – such as those contained in archival and special collections are what make libraries unique and is looking forward to expanding these collections for students, faculty and community researchers. He also wants to work with faculty to exploit the potential of digital tools for teaching, research and learning.

Distinguished Alumni Awards and author reading – Robert Wiersema

UVic's Distinguished Alumni Award is the most prestigious award presented by the UVic Alumni Association to alumni who have made exceptional achievements on a local, national or international scale. Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are selected by each faculty and division. For the first time, UVic Libraries joined eleven other university

divisions in nominating an award recipient. UVic Libraries nominated Robert Wiersema, BA'93. Wiersema is a best-selling author and event coordinator for Bolen Books, where he curates one of the foremost literary events series in the country. Wiersema gave an author reading in the McPherson Library as part of the Alumni Week 2012 celebrations.

Joy of Collecting program series

As part of UVic Libraries' lecture series on collectors and the joy of collecting, Ron Greene spoke on "The Accidental Collector" in February. A lifelong resident of Victoria, Greene spent his business career with Capital Iron, which was started by his father in 1934 and which he ran until 1997. His interests include local history, numismatic history, and heritage buildings.

Books That Talk Back

In March, UVic Libraries' Equity and Diversity Committee welcomes the community to explore the visible and invisible diversity in our community. This is the second occasion UVic Libraries have held a human library event in the McPherson Library. Our first Human Library event in 2010 saw twenty-two volunteer "human books" that came from a diversity of ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations and belief systems, engage in over one hundred conversations with students, staff, faculty and members of the community. Events like the Human Library highlight the library's role as a place of learning, openness and inclusivity. What better place than a library to hold a Human Library event, and contribute to a greater understanding, one conversation at a time?

IdeaFest

The University of Victoria held its first IdeaFest from March 5 - 9, 2012. The Office of the Vice-President Research (OVPR) coordinated and promoted the festival to celebrate UVic's research strengths and creative endeavors across every faculty. Over 30 events and activities that ranged from exhibits and lectures to open houses and debates across faculties celebrated research, scholarship and creativity at UVic.

UVic Libraries were involved in two of the events. Celebrate UVic Authors honoured UVic authors who published works in 2010. Co-sponsored by the

University of Victoria Bookstore, a reception and reading on March 8 took place in the University Club. Four UVic authors read from their work: John Borrows (law) read from *Drawing Out Law: A Spirit's Guide*; Carla Funk (writing) read from *Apologetic*; Robert Budd (history) read from *Voices of British Columbia*; and Peter Stephenson (anthropology) read from *Zombie Factory*.

UVic Libraries also hosted an informal, drop-in event, Reading in our 21st Century Library: Unexpected Encounters of the Digital and Pre-Digital Kind. It was an opportunity to meet and learn from researchers who are exploring the unique reading and research experiences offered by digital and pre-digital (print) materials.

Twitter Moot Court

The world's first moot court on Twitter occurred in February. Three judges and law students from the University of Victoria, University of B.C., University of Ottawa, Dalhousie University and York University participated in Twitter Moot, organized by West Coast Environmental Law. A pair of law students from York University's Osgoode Hall emerged victorious. University of Victoria law students Jenn Cameron and Matthew Nefstead won the people's choice award. Local media followed the story, photographing Jenn and Matthew sitting on top of the shelving in the Diana M. Priestly Law Library.

Susan Henderson is the Communications Officer at UVic Libraries.