

Library FRIENDS

FALL 2006

Stephen Toope, UBC's 12th President, is also a big library fan.



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE



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INTERVIEW: STEPHEN TOOPE - PART 1

The President's Priorities

Learning, outreach, research, service, sustainability: these are some of the values that are integral to the vision of Professor Stephen Toope, who began his term as UBC's 12th President and Vice-Chancellor on July 1, 2006.

President Toope brings an impressive set of academic and professional accomplishments to UBC. He studied at Harvard University, McGill University and Trinity College, Cambridge. An accomplished speaker in English and French, his range of previous posts include serving as the Dean of McGill's Faculty of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for European Studies.

Prior to becoming UBC's President, Toope served as the President of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, which promotes research and interaction between

researchers in the social sciences and humanities, and policymakers in government, business and the arts.

His scholarly interests include human rights, legal theory, and international and family law. He is also an avid reader and self-described library fan.

Friends newsletter spoke with President Toope shortly after his installation at the end of September. Part one of the edited remarks follow, and part two will be featured in the next issue.

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Stephen Toope

continued from page one



President Toope in the Ridington Room, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

Q *Now that you've had a bit of time to get settled, what do you see as your main priorities?*

A One of the things that really attracted to me to UBC was the work that had been done on the Trek 2010 plan. The vision that's set out in Trek 2010 – to really try to help students become global citizens, to really be committed to a sustainable and civil society – I like the service orientation, the community and social service aspect of what it is that we say the University is doing. And I think it's fundamental that there's a recognition that the research that we do is fundamentally important to the health of the society here in British Columbia and Canada and around the world. I like the idea of research that is clearly seen to be of service. That doesn't mean that it's not necessarily basic curiosity-driven research – it may very well be. And that, I think, is something that universities are extraordinarily well-placed to pursue. But even with that, the goal

of all of this obviously is to actually serve the society in which we're embedded and that supports us.

So my main priorities really emerge from Trek. And I'm totally comfortable with that. I guess if there was a nuance in it, it's that I would place very heavy emphasis on really helping students feel more engaged, especially regarding the undergraduate experience at UBC. It's a challenge for all major research universities to help students really feel connected and to connect their own education to the research endeavour. I think we're making some progress there, but there's still a lot to do.

Q *Any priorities concerning UBC Library and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre?*

A I am a big library fan (laughs) and I've spent a lot of time thinking about libraries and being in libraries and raising funds for libraries. So I'm really committed to making sure that UBC Library is one of the best

libraries in the country. And it is now, and I think that's a huge achievement over the last number of years.

I think the priorities are to make sure that we are paying adequate attention, which I'm convinced we are, to the changing way that people interact with libraries. Just the sense in which service in libraries is now really a fundamental component – helping people navigate their way through the reams of information available in printed form, electronic form, all of that. That aspect of what it is to have a great library is now something that we have to really focus upon. And I think that the Barber Centre is very much about that – it's about making sure that we are really helping students, faculty and the broader public navigate through very difficult waters when it comes to processing the kind of information that's now available to us.

For me, that's a priority – to make sure that we're really thinking those things through, that we're funding service within the Library properly. Collections are of course still important, but collections work in different ways than they used to. They're much more diverse now. Some disciplines, most of the materials may be online. Other disciplines, that's not true at all. So we have to adjust our collections policies to be attentive to these different disciplinary trajectories as to how information is now provided. I think that that's something that we're all going to have to think about over the next while. And by the way, I'm confident the Library is thinking about those things – I'm not suggesting it isn't.

Q *How do you see UBC Library and the Learning Centre fitting into the vision of Trek 2010?*

A The obvious point of connection is with the teaching endeavour. Increasingly, what we're looking for are professionals within libraries who

can actually, in a sense, mentor students through informal instruction, formal instruction, as to how it is that they just deal with this plethora of material in front of them. So there's a fundamental connection with the whole teaching and learning environment of the University.

Clearly as well, and especially in the social sciences and humanities, but not only there, the Library is the fundamental resource for research. And therefore it's absolutely essential to the mission of the University as a teaching and research institution.

I also think – and this is where the Learning Centre ideas are interesting – it has the potential of connecting more into the community and providing both access to materials and services that are important for people from outside the immediate University community to have access to. And that's both for British

Columbia and to some extent for Canada, through interlibrary loan, etc. But even possibly, and this is something that I know is being thought through a little bit – what's the international role for the Library and for the Learning Centre? There may be one in terms again of mentoring as to how libraries are changing, helping other universities – possibly in the developing world – think their way through some of these issues, providing access to resources in reciprocal arrangements. We're seeing that increasingly happening in a lot of university libraries, and it's happening here. And that's I think very important.

So the short answer is the Library is central to really all of the Trek mission.

What about the Library's and Learning Centre's contributions to research and innovation?

If you don't have access, facilitated access, to good library resources – printed resources, electronic resources, database resources – then you cannot do research that is cutting-edge or that prompts innovation. It's just very difficult to do. I've had the great privilege of working a lot in the developing world, and having connections in Africa and in Asia. I've seen what it is to try and be an academic working in your discipline without access to resources. And it's sad, frankly. Because you just don't know what's going on. And it's through no fault of your own, and has no reflection whatsoever on your own abilities or capacity. But it's very hard to contribute internationally if you don't have access to the latest resources and materials. So I think it's fundamental that we keep the Library system strong. ■

BMB'S GLEAMING NEW ABODE

Readers can marvel at this space-age view of the new Biomedical Branch (BMB) Library, located on the second floor of the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre at Oak and 12th Avenue in Vancouver. After several years of planning, the new BMB site opened at the end of August. Its proud inhabitants include Reference Librarian Dean Giustini, Library Assistants Carol Linney, Darko Separovic, Kim Leong and Yuko Takemoto, and a team of students from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Stay tuned for an update on the new BMB Library in the next issue of Friends. In the meantime, you can check out the BMB Library blog at <http://weblogs.elearning.ubc.ca/bmb>.



PROFILE: VANESSA KAM

The fine art of settling in

It's been an eventful year for Vanessa Kam. She's relocated to a new country, taken on a job with added responsibilities – and grappled with the finer points of the local lingo.



PHOTO: MARTIN DEE

"I'm a strong advocate of information literacy" –

*Vanessa Kam,
Fine Arts Librarian,
UBC Library.*

"I'm training myself to speak like a Canadian," quips Kam, who became the Fine Arts Librarian at UBC Library in October 2005.

Indeed, after spending most of her life in the U.S., Kam is getting used to our vernacular. Now she says washroom instead of bathroom, and she's become acquainted with a vocabulary that includes home-grown gems such as toonies and tuques.

So far, Kam – who came to Vancouver with her husband Tonel, an artist and critic – has enjoyed the challenges, big and small. "I'd always been interested in living in another country, because I feel that I would learn quite a bit from the experience about myself, about my values, as you do when you travel in general," she says.

Since coming on board, Kam – who supervises the Fine Arts division – has been busy with various tasks. For example, she's keen to strengthen ties between Fine Arts and the UBC groups it serves, including the Department of Art History, Visual Art and Theory, the School of Architecture, and the School of Community and Regional Planning.

And, of course, Kam is eager to expand the Fine Arts collection, which features more than 200,000 items (including more than 250 journal subscriptions).

As a result, she's focusing on adding titles in areas such as photography, new media and architecture. Recently, this latter topic received a big boost, thanks to a donation of about 500 books from Andrew Gruff, Professor Emeritus at UBC's School of Architecture.

"It's a wonderful boon to the collection, because Andrew's interests are in contemporary Vancouver architecture, but also world architecture," Kam says. Now, she's hoping that other seminal Vancouver architects will consider donating their books and archival materials to UBC Library.

Kam has other goals moving forward. "I'm a strong advocate of information literacy, and a lot of that involves active teaching. So I'm trying to find more opportunities to do more of that."

She's also looking forward to having a new full-time reference librarian join her team, hopefully by January 2007.

Certainly, there will be plenty to keep the Fine Arts crew busy, and Kam's experience should come in handy.

She was born in Panama, lived briefly in Japan, and grew up in Hawaii. She received her Bachelor of Arts (specializing in Arts Administration) from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and her Master of Arts in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin, where she also served as a Rockefeller Foundation Research Fellow. She received her Master of Library and Information Science from the same institution.

In 2000, Kam, who speaks English and Spanish, was a Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship at Yale University. She then moved to Stanford University Libraries, where she served as an Exhibits and Publications Manager and Associate Art Librarian. ■

New seasons, new people – and fond memories



Catherine Quinlan
University Librarian

With the fall session well underway at UBC, fresh faces adorn the pathways, hallways, offices and classrooms on campus.

Thousands of first-time students are settling into life at UBC. And they are welcomed and supported by a new President – Stephen Toope.


Professor Toope began his duties as UBC's 12th President and Vice-Chancellor at the beginning of July, taking over the role from Martha Piper.

Running a university is a huge undertaking, but President Toope's vast experience and passion for learning and outreach will undoubtedly serve him well.

This issue of Friends kicks off with the first instalment of a two-part interview with the new President. As you'll see, he offers some insights about his role at UBC, and speaks about how the Library and Learning Centre support the University's mandate and Trek 2010, UBC's strategic plan. We look forward to working with President Toope and are excited about how his vision will help inform our endeavours.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank Martha Piper for her impressive contributions to UBC and the Library during her nine-year tenure. Martha's enthusiasm for an array of Library initiatives – from the development of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre to the annual Authors' Reception, which she introduced for the final time last March – has been inspiring.

Elsewhere in Friends, there's a profile of Vanessa Kam, who joined UBC Library as the Fine Arts Librarian about a year ago. Since then, Vanessa, who has lived most of her life in the U.S., has been busy settling into her new role at the Library and her new home in Vancouver. Needless to say, she's enjoyed the experience, and we're happy to introduce you to a (relatively) new member of the Library.

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of Friends. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me or Editor Glenn Drexhage – details are on the back page. 

LEARNING CENTRE UPDATE

PURSUING PARTNERSHIPS



Lisa Codd, AABC President, is excited about the partnership with the Learning Centre.

Outreach has always been an essential part of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre's mandate.

Indeed, in the words of Dr. Barber, the facility is meant to serve as a "21st-century Learning Centre for British Columbians and, indeed, the world."

To that end, the Learning Centre has been busy with a pair of recent partnerships that underline the organization's commitment to access and information for users at UBC and beyond.

In June, the Learning Centre and the Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC) announced an agreement that supports the preservation of B.C.'s rich heritage. The Learning Centre is providing \$125,000 in funding to the AABC over the next five years, which will allow the association to help its members provide access to B.C.'s documentary heritage

(the AABC has about 300 members; one-third of those are institutions and the remainder are individuals).

For example, AABC President Lisa Codd says some of the funding will help offset the cost of maintaining the AABC's website – particularly its British Columbia Archival Union List – which features descriptions of archival collections throughout the province. Codd notes that this database, which features the holdings of more than 80 institutions, receives more than 2,000 visitors per day.

The inspiration for the partnership grew out of consultations that were held throughout B.C. by Irving Barber and Catherine Quinlan, University Librarian and Managing Director of the Learning Centre.

"They kept hearing from people in small communities that they needed more access to ways to preserve their records," Codd says.

The resulting venture will provide a range of opportunities for the

AABC. "The Learning Centre has resources, but it's not interested in duplicating them. It's interested in finding groups that are like-minded and increasing their capacity. And so that's exciting for us," Codd says.

Meanwhile, in May, the telecommunications company TELUS launched a portal that features the Learning Centre.

The site, found at <http://health.mytelus.com>, provides Canadian-specific and up-to-date content on health and wellness. It includes a Learning Centre sitelet that offers reliable and informative stories on health. For example, recent articles focused on arthritis and the rising HIV/AIDS infection rate among Canadian women, and some pieces have also appeared on the myTELUS home page.

Stories are accompanied by online resources that help British Columbians find more information about specific topics to improve their health literacy.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Budget change a boost for donors

Are you thinking of making a donation of securities to UBC Library? Then you'll be encouraged by recent developments that translate to better tax savings.

In the **May 2006 federal budget**, the government announced the complete elimination of capital gains tax for direct gifts of publicly traded securities – such as shares, bonds, mutual funds and stock options – that are made to Canadian charities.

This can make a big difference regarding the donor's tax position. If, for example, a donor chooses to sell the securities first and donate the proceeds rather than give the shares directly, then 50 per cent of the realized capital gain would still be taxable. Compare this to a direct gift of securities where none of the capital gains would be subject to tax.

"This is a great opportunity for donors who are thinking of making a gift and hold some of their assets in appreciated securities," says Elizabeth Ko, Director of Gift & Estate Planning at UBC. "In fact, by gifting securities directly and being fully exempt




The federal budget change is an "encouraging development" – Shakeela Begum, Director of Development, UBC Library.

from any capital gains tax, the actual cost of making a gift is much less than giving an equivalent amount of cash. Not only do donors have a choice in what and how they wish to donate; now there is an even greater tax advantage too."

"This is an encouraging development for donors considering planned-giving strategies for the charity of their choice," adds Shakeela Begum, UBC Library's Director of Development.

Donors are encouraged to speak to their professional tax advisor before making a gift of publicly traded securities.

For more information, please contact Shakeela Begum at 604-822-8926 or shakeela.begum@ubc.ca, or Elizabeth Ko at 604-822-8906 or elizabeth.ko@ubc.ca. 

LEARNING @ THE LIBRARY

UBC Library has a great opportunity for you to double the impact of your donation by contributing to the Learning @ the Library Fund. The Library will provide matching funds for the first \$200,000 donated to this fund, which will help buy urgently needed equipment to benefit all of the Library's users.

For example, more powerful laptops are required for the laptop

lending program. New scanners, computers, monitors and other items are needed to replace aging technology and equipment. Other examples of improvements include enhancing student spaces in the Woodward and Koerner libraries, special cabinets for non-standard collections – such as maps and music scores – and self-service checkout machines.

Technology keeps changing, equipment ages and the number of Library users continues to increase. The Learning @ the Library Fund will provide crucial support to address all of these issues.

For more information about the Learning @ the Library Fund, please contact Shakeela Begum, UBC Library's Director of Development, at 604-822-8926 or shakeela.begum@ubc.ca.


COMMUNITY ACCESS

From Aspen to International Relations

With more than 20 branches and divisions, UBC Library offers a huge range of titles for community borrowers to explore. No matter what your interest – from physics

to physics, from musical scores to metallurgy – you'll be able to find books, e-books and other materials that will provide hours of learning and enjoyment.

This instalment of Community Access features a handful of titles recently acquired by different libraries within UBC's system. This is also an opportunity to introduce you to some of the heads at UBC Library and find out what's on their reading radars.

Please note that certain conditions apply to Community Borrower cards. For full details, please visit www.library.ubc.ca/home/community.html. 

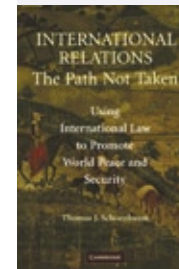
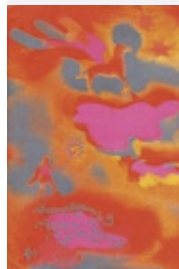
Aspen:
the Magazine in a Box (1965-1970)

Music makers:
The Lives of Harry Freedman & Mary Morrison

Books24x7

School-Family Partnerships for Children's Success

International Relations:
The Path Not Taken



This singular periodical consists of smartly designed containers housing a multitude of musings on culture. Guest editors/designers include Andy Warhol and George Maciunas; issues feature recordings, musical scores, drawings, Super-8 film, and contributions from Cage, de Kooning, Barthes, Sontag and others.

– Vanessa Kam, Head, Fine Arts

By Walter Pitman
This celebration of the lives of two icons of Canadian concert music – composer Harry Freedman and his wife, soprano Mary Morrison – provides fascinating reading. Freedman and Morrison made tremendous contributions to the music and culture of Canada during their careers as champions of contemporary music.

– Kirsten Walsh, Head, Music Library

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– Kevin Lindstrom, Acting Head, Science & Engineering

By E.N. Patrikakou, R.P. Weissberg, S. Redding, H.J. Walberg (Editors)

This approachable volume focuses on fostering school-family partnerships. Leaders in the field examine the role of parental involvement in a child's achievements at school, and in social and emotional development. There's food for thought on every page for parents of school-aged children.

– Christopher Ball, Head, Education Library

By Thomas J. Schoenbaum
This book appeals to both general readers and experts. Because of the interconnectedness of state interests, it proposes using international law and institutions such as the United Nations to address issues of world peace and security. It also considers current issues, such as the war in Iraq and global terrorism.

– Sandra Wilkins, Head, Law Library

THE BIG PICTURE

The 21st-century library

Does life in the digital age mean death for academic libraries?

Brad Wheeler doesn't think so. "I think the library has never faced a greater set of opportunities than right now," says the 42-year-old Chief Information Officer at Indiana University and Dean of Information Technology at Indiana University Bloomington.

At the UBC e-Strategy Town Hall held earlier this year, Wheeler provided some fascinating insights about the role of technology in academic settings, and he offered more library-specific details in a subsequent interview. Here are some edited highlights of that conversation:

On the prospects for libraries: "The first opportunity is to get out there and get close to the disciplines. Find the leaders, the grant getters, the people who are working in the scholarly community, and look at what their needs are for the entire scholarly production process – whether it's managing data and experiments and meeting notes and all of those kinds of things as part of the research production process, or it's managing the outcomes of scholarly communications within their disciplines."

On digitization: "The key point of digitization's quite simple. Are scholarly communities best served by digitized resources, or are they not best served? And in many scholarly communities, for a large preponderance of what they do, digitized resources serve them better. And that is not a blanket statement against those disciplines where physical resources, physical assets, are the key to their scholarly activity."

On open access initiatives: "I find some flaw with the logic that we fund the research, we review the research, we certify it and then we give it to someone else and then we pay to get to buy it back. It seems to me to be an industry that is ripe for rationalization."



Indiana University's Brad Wheeler thinks libraries face huge opportunities.

On institutional repositories: "I think institutional repositories (IR) hold great promise, but it's going to be a long trip to get there because you're talking about a fundamental transformation of the knowledge creation and dissemination process...So I think the best way to engage that is discipline by discipline. I think engaging IR as some kind of a university-wide effort...is probably not scoping something to succeed readily."

On the future of academic libraries: "Without proactive change, I believe libraries could risk becoming commoditized down to a highly knowledgeable purchasing department that procures subscriptions from other sources and a group that maintains some particular collections and provides consulting and advice."

"I think the opposite and the more likely case is that leaders from the library community will rise up, they will seize the opportunity, and they will take this to move the library even closer to the core of the academic mission and the enterprise around discovery, research, teaching and learning, economic development even – I think that is the golden ring that dangles before and within reach of libraries today"

"Librarians themselves have to be willing to be led by those capable leaders. Librarians who wish to punish the leaders who are refitting the library to the realities of today are doing themselves and their successors an enormous disservice." ■

FRIENDS

is published by UBC Library

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DESIGN:

KÜBE Communication
Design Inc.

PRINTING:

Benwell Atkins

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