BUILDING THE 21ST CENTURY

LIBRARY

Enhancing student success
Advancing research
Equalizing services
Building community
Developing our team

Annual Report, 2014-15

library.wlu.ca
For much of the 20th century, the role of academic libraries was relatively stable and secure, but in recent years, that role has been evolving, as digital technology has transformed research and scholarship.

In the 2014-15 academic year, we made important steps towards articulating our vision of a Learning and Culture commons at the Library while at the same time continuing to progress on our 2020 Strategic Plan for building the library of the 21st century at Laurier.

A major piece of news this year was the integration of WLU Press and the Robert Langen Art Gallery into the Library’s organizational structure. These additions to our family are designed in part to support the Library’s enhanced role as a hub of culture and the arts for Laurier and the surrounding community – supporting the holistic development of our students and bringing to the fore Laurier’s unique spirit of integrated and engaged learning.

Other highlights this year included the completion of a new entrance and sunken garden area at the front of the Waterloo campus Library and the launch of a bi-annual Community Author program, which in its inaugural edition celebrated recent books by 57 Laurier faculty, alumni, staff and student authors.

We have worked hard this year to enhance the student experience, advance research and scholarly communication, equalize library services across campuses, engage with our communities, and develop our team. We believe these efforts are starting to bear fruit, and are proud of the many milestones outlined in this and our previous two annual reports.

I am enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed to our success: librarians, staff, faculty members, students, donors and other members of our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gohar Ashoughian, University Librarian
“From their involvement in the initial development of the courses to their regular classroom visits and their ongoing support for students, our librarians ensure that Laurier students have a good understanding of our library resources and a solid grounding in research strategies.”

– Judy Eaton
Associate professor, Psychology

IT WAS ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR OUR COLLECTIONS, STUDENT SPACES, AND MORE. HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS.

**September:** Working with Physical Resources and architects Cannon Design, we put the finishing touches on a new Library entrance ramp that greatly enhances accessibility.

**Oct. 3:** Music in the Library kicks off another season with mellow sounds from the WLU Songwriters’ Club.

**Nov. 5:** Local Chilean-Canadian painter Maca Suazo’s Library Love: Mixed Media art exhibit opens in the Library exhibit space.

**Sept. 19:** The grand opening of our new main floor exhibit space, featuring a show by grad student Bharati Sethi, via a new collaboration with the GSA.

**Oct. 6:** Gordon Bertrand appointed as Laurier’s new Associate University Librarian.

**Community Author program launches**

**Nov. 25:** Our first bi-annual Community Author event celebrates 57 Laurier faculty, alumni, student and staff authors.
“The Library was a retreat, a place where I could clear my head and recharge on poetry, philosophy, fiction, and biographies, creating for myself the feeling of a slow day or a quiet corner in my otherwise fast-paced student life.”

– Alexis Castrogiovanni
B.Mus (2015)
June 4: WLU Press author Neal McLeod wins the 2014 Gabrielle Roy Prize (English section) for his edited collection Indigenous Poetics in Canada.

July: During his visit, Elliot Worsfold unearths a letter from Nils Willison, Laurier’s first-ever graduate, to then-Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, in 1958. The subject: Canada’s national anthem, and the phrase “home and native land,” which Willison worried excluded new Canadians: wouldn’t “home and favourite land” be more inclusive?

August: We finish up work on a new group study room, at Laurier’s Faculty of Social Work in Kitchener.
By the numbers

2013-14 MILESTONES

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LIBRARY FACTS AND FIGURES

Spaces
Locations: Waterloo, Kitchener, Brantford
Seating capacity (Waterloo campus): 1,000
Group study rooms: 8 open-access group study rooms
Individual study rooms: 14
Number of public-use computers (Waterloo campus): 90

Collection
Number of databases/electronic resources: 280
Number of printed volumes in Laurier collection: 1 million
Print journals: 500
Electronic journals currently received: 68,000
Ebooks: 312,000

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EXCEPTIONAL DONORS
Fall 2014–Summer 2015

Joan Kammerer
Alumna Joan Kammerer (Sociology, 1971), has donated to our Library for the past 21 straight years.

Joan retired from Western University in the fall of 2014, after spending a large part of her career working in the library in a variety of roles, including Head – Resource Support Services. Joan’s daughter Shannon, who graduated from Laurier in 2000 with a degree in English, is following in her mother’s footsteps as a librarian for the Huron County Library.

We are enormously grateful to Joan for her generous support.

GSA exhibits collaboration
The Graduate Students’ Association generously agreed to fund an annual exhibit of graduate student research in the Library, making an initial five-year commitment.

Once per year, a Laurier graduate student will present an exhibit that creatively depicts their research findings: in 2014-15, PhD student Bharati Sethi mounted a photo exhibition of her work on the challenges facing new Canadians.

We would like to thank the GSA for their partnership in this exciting project.

Undergrad research awards
The Library is delighted to announce a new series of four awards available to undergraduates, made possible by a generous anonymous donation.

The awards are given to recognize Laurier undergraduates who demonstrate exceptional use of any library’s resources as part of their regular coursework.

Two awards, first and second place, are available to any first or second year student, and another two to any students in their third or fourth year. First place awards are in the amount of $350, and each second place award is $150.

Library Fundraising Quick Facts:
Number of library donors in 2014-15: 113
Dollars raised for the Library: $21,914
Value of book donations: $91,355
Value of in-kind donations received for the Archives: $11,280