



Dr. John Archer Library to host open house

One of the foundations of any university is its library. If a university's mission is to foster the search for knowledge and the creation of new knowledge, the library is one of the places where that search takes place.

The library at the University of Regina was built in the 1960s, one of the first buildings constructed on what was then the "new" campus. Over the years the building has housed books, journals and study areas, along with a variety of other tenants, including departmental offices. There's even the legend of the philosophy professor who lived in his office on the sixth floor until he unwisely burned some incense one Friday evening when a security officer was making his rounds. But it's only recently that the building, now called the Dr. John Archer Library, has been transformed to serve its primary purpose — as the U of R's main library.

It's been a complex and sometimes

messy job. Since late 2003 the entire building has been renovated at a cost of about \$4.5 million. As with any renovation project, there have been disruptions and inconveniences along the way. For University librarian Bill Howard, the most surprising aspect of the entire project is that the merger of the education and fine arts collections with the main collection went off without a hitch.

"The move was planned down to the last inch of shelf space," Howard says. "Every book was moved from the Education and Fine Arts Library to the main library. There was little extra space, so each book had to fit where it was projected to fit, and it did," he adds. The move kept a team of 20 students busy for four months, removing and re-shelving more than 19 kilometers of books and journals.

While the renovations were largely completed before the beginning of the fall 2004

semester, the library will mark the end of the project next Tuesday, October 19 with an open house, in conjunction with Library Week. After a short program featuring comments by writer and U of R professor Gail Bowen and University president David Barnard, library staff will conduct tours of the renovated building. Among the highlights, visitors will see a brighter, more open Information Commons area that has doubled in size. There are now twice as many computers where students and staff can access the library's holdings. (When the building first opened this area by the main entrance was dominated by rows of cabinets filled with paper catalogue cards. Electronic searches have replaced the traditional paper-based quest for information.) The main floor also includes circulation, reference and computer help desks, and a separate reading room for holdings from the library's archives and special col-

lections. Reflecting the increased emphasis on group assignments in education, the library provides seminar rooms that students can book to plan and complete their team projects.

For Howard, many of the benefits from the renovation project are less visible to most visitors. For instance, except for the service points, all library staff are now located on the sixth floor, instead of being scattered throughout the building. Offices and workstations are organized according to the library work flow, allowing for more efficient work processes. Upgraded environmental, fire suppression and security systems were also part of the project.

The open house will take place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Information Commons at the Dr. John Archer Library, October 19.

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Oct. 14-Dec 2

First Year Services Student Success Seminars
Various student seminars such as library orientation, midterm exams, resume and portfolio building
Info: 585-5376
www.uregina.ca/fys

Fri., Oct. 15 - 1:30 p.m.

Art for Late Lunch
"Racing the Cultural Interface"
Speaker: Camille Turner
Rm., 050, Riddell Centre
Info: 585-5554

Fri., Oct. 15 - 1:30 p.m.

Computer Science seminar
"How much porn is on the Web?"
Speaker: Andre Trudel
Rm., 420, Classroom Bldg.
Info: 585-4633

Fri., Oct. 15 - 3:30 p.m.

Orlene Murad Academic Discussion Series
"The Politics of (Reading) War: Military SF and the Afterlife of the Kipling Controversy"
Speaker: Susan Johnston
Rm., 348, Administration-Humanities Bldg.
Info: 585-4311

Fri., Oct. 15 - 7:30 p.m.

Canadian Plains Research Center book launch
"I Could Not Speak My Heart: Education and Social Justice for Gay and Lesbian Youth"
Language Institute Auditorium
Info: http://cat.cas.uregina.ca/couldnotspeak

Sat., Oct. 16 - 2 p.m.

Fall 2004 Convocation
Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts
Info: 585-4584

Tues., Oct. 19 - 10 a.m.

Dr. John Archer Library Open House
Mark the merger of the Education/Fine Arts Library into the Archer Library. Come and see the completed renovations.
Dr. John Archer Library
Info: 585-5323

Wed., Oct. 20 - 4 p.m.

Playwrights Reading Series
A reading from his most recent writing for the stage.
Speaker: Joey Tremblay
Shu-box Theatre
Info: 585-5562

Thurs., Oct. 21 - 7:30 p.m.

Humanities Research Institute
"Tide Marks: Legacies of Apartheid"
Speaker: Sarah Abbots
Rm., 110, Classroom Bldg.
Info: 585-4304

Thurs., Oct. 21 - 7:30 p.m.

Dr. John Steinecker Memorial Lecture
Ms. Brooks will trace her life's journey as a writer, and read from her work-in-progress.
Speaker: Martha Brooks
Education Auditorium
Info: 585-4117

Fri., Oct. 22 - 3:30 p.m.

Philosophy and Classics colloquia
"Ascetic Ecstasy: The Beauty and The Thrill of It!"
Speaker: Annabel Robinson
Rm., 348, Administration-Humanities Bldg.
Info: 585-4332

Mon., Oct. 25 - 8 p.m.

46th Annual Basterfield Lecture
"The Mars Exploration Rover Mission"
Education Auditorium
Info: 337-2541/585-4632

For a complete Calendar of Events at the University of Regina visit our Web site at www.uregina.ca



Learning about riparian health

Recently a group of 95 U of R engineering students had a first-hand look at Riparian systems in action. No, we're not talking about some alien life form hiding out in Saskatchewan's famous crop circles. The word riparian comes from the Latin word for bank, and refers to the green ribbons of vegetation we see along the banks of water bodies such as rivers, creeks, lakes, springs and wetlands. With the help of a variety of specialists, the engineering students experienced nature's classroom in action, examining the health of riparian areas in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

Dena McMartin in the Faculty of Engineering collaborated with range scientist Tom Harrison and his staff at the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to host the field trip, with funding from a program that encourages public education related to riparian health. Over three days, participating students visited riparian sites at Dallas Valley Ranch and Fairy Hill Marsh, where an extensive engineering and fisheries habitat project is about to begin. Because of their experiences, McMartin expects the students will never look at the landscape the same way again.

"They discovered that the riparian ecosystem is not as healthy as it looks at first, especially at this time of year, when water flows are in decline,"

McMartin says.

The participating students are majoring in three different areas of engineering: environmental systems, industrial systems and petroleum systems. Besides giving them hand-on experience in identifying and recognizing environmental issues, and assessing an area's environmental health, McMartin says the field trip also helped students gain appreciation of how careful management of water, soils and vegetation can avoid the need for costly technologies downstream to repair environmental degradation. She also hopes the students gain appreciation for the knowledge that other professionals possess. During the three days the students learned from range scientists and biologists with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, a wildlife biologist with Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and a specialist from Environment Canada. McMartin has already heard students saying, "We need more knowledge in biology and microbiology, and more field trips."

Second-year environmental systems engineering student Chad Bialobzyski is a believer. "When you go out and look at the effects of various activities on riparian areas, and see the solutions, it gives you eyes a more realistic view, and not just your brain," Bialobzyski says. "I hope there will be more field trips, because they clarify

why I'm studying for exams, and give me a glimpse of the future career I'm working toward."

For Adam Blair, a second-year industrial systems engineering student, examining a wetland first-hand was a wholly new experience. He, too, hopes it won't be his last.

"Right now we're studying water treatment," Blair says, "and what stood out for me was seeing how engineers can help improve situations where water quality is threatened. Rather than learning about wetlands in the classroom, I get a much better view by observing them first-hand."

Despite the complexity of scheduling three days for students in three different engineering programs, McMartin expects the field trips will continue next year.

"These students are being equipped with knowledge about non-traditional engineering fields related to environmental management issues," McMartin observes. "They're learning that practicing engineering involves working with other professionals, three levels of government, landowners, and possibly other interests. This gives them a professional advantage in solving environmental problems and designing systems that are environmentally relevant and thoughtful."



Daniel Boudreau (L) and Rob Millar, two members of the U of R men's cross country team, compete at the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Cougar Trot held Oct. 9 around Wascona Park. The event, hosted by the U of R, featured runners as young as nine in races from two to 10 kilometres. In honour of Thanksgiving frozen turkeys were awarded to winners in each category. The meet was a good test for U of R runners who are preparing for the CIS National Championships, November 13, in Guelph, Ont.

We want to hear from you! Tell us what you think of the U of R Update page E-mail your comments to communications@uregina.ca