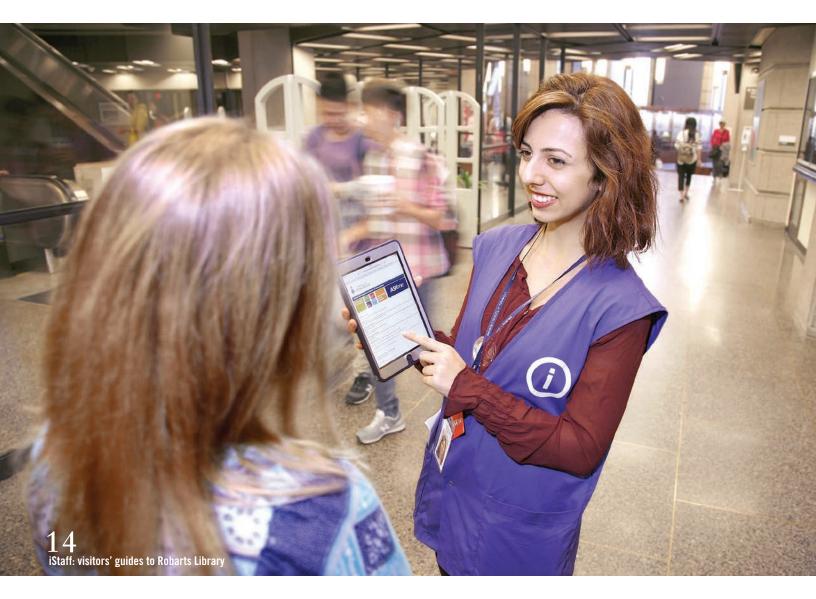




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Cover image: Robarts Common rendering (Diamond + Schmitt Architects). Above: iStaff employee Sharon Mizbani helps a Robarts Library user.

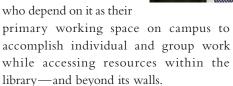
## TAKING NOTE

#### WELCOME TO THE FALL ISSUE of

Noteworthy. As you will see from our cover, what's foremost on my mind is the Robarts Common—now poised for construction to begin in early 2016.

An acclaimed example of Brutalist architecture and a listed heritage building since

1997, the John P. Robarts Library is the home of humanities and social sciences collections in our system of 44 libraries, and the destination of up to 18,000 visitors daily during peak times. A distinguishing feature of the St. George campus of the University of Toronto, a majority of its visitors are students who depend on it as their



When Robarts was initially planned in the mid-1960s, it was envisioned as a research facility with restricted access. By the time it was opened and in full use in 1973, it was the largest university library building in the world and continues today as a multi-purpose destination for students, faculty, researchers and the broader community.

The ensuing decades have seen a burgeoning of student enrolment, and for many years student demand for space in Robarts has far outstripped its capacity. I often see students roaming Robarts or the Gerstein Science Information Centre on a fruitless search for a seat, and oft-times they are forced to opt for a place on the floor or in a stairwell.

Under the leadership of my predecessor, Chief Librarian Carole Moore—and with crucial support from many donors, led by Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison, The Government of Ontario and the University—we began an ambitious initial phase of renovating and reconfiguring Robarts to make more study space and to update its facilities in response to the needs of today's students and scholars. By 2012 we had completed this phase, creating more than 1300 additional study spaces and paving the way for phase two: the Robarts

Common which will begin to take shape soon on the Huron Street side of the Robarts block.

This project would not have been possible without the further financial support of Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison. Read the article on page 8. Once complete, the Common will be a five-storey addition to Robarts

Library, adding over 1200 seats, and completing the triangular configuration on the city block which houses the John P. Robarts Research Library, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and the Faculty of Information. Diamond and Schmitt Architects, Inc., led by Gary McCluskie, has devised a spectacular design, which a heritage review found would be complementary to the primarily residential nature of the neighbourhood. Landscape design has been a central focus of our efforts to ensure we enhance the beauty of the streetscape—ultimately adding more trees than currently exist on the land surrounding Robarts.

My colleagues and I are looking forward to the Robarts Common construction start in the coming months. We are deeply grateful to all our donors for helping us to make this possible, and we look forward to celebrating the opening in 2018 with them.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Noteworthy*. In its pages you will learn about our many outreach activities, our donor celebrations and our upcoming activities.

LARRY P. ALFORD chieflibrarian@utoronto.ca



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# Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Awards Grant to University of Toronto Digital Scholarship Initiative

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

has been awarded a grant of \$773,000 USD (\$1,034,000 CAD) from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop digital tools to support manuscript study. The funding will be used to support a partnership between U of T's Libraries and its Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS) to further develop the widely adopted and award-winning open source digital scholarship platform Omeka, facilitating its increased use in the digital manuscript studies field. The Mellon Foundation's grant will enable the building of infrastructure and capacity at the University of Toronto Libraries to support digital scholarship, foster further technical and intellectual collaboration between the U of T and other research institutions, and contribute to the community development and adoption of digital scholarship tools that are responsive to researchers' needs.

The thirty-month project will begin in October 2015, and is being led by co-principal investigators Sian Meikle, Director, Information Technology Services, University of Toronto Libraries and

Alexandra Gillespie, Associate Professor, English and Medieval Studies, University of Toronto. This grant application would not have been possible without the key contributions made by University of Toronto Libraries staff members Leslie Barnes and Bilal Khalid, and Alexandra Bolintineanu, who holds a post-doctoral position at the Centre for Medieval Studies.

The U of T Libraries and CMS will collaborate with Benjamin Albritton of Stanford University Libraries; Dot Porter of University of Pennsylvania Libraries (Penn); and Penn's Kislak Centre for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Donald Waters, Senior Program Officer for Scholarly Communications at the Mellon Foundation, said, "On full display in this grant is the collaborative spirit that scholars have shown in working with librarians and technologists to build, improve, and use the digital tools and resources needed to enrich the study of the medieval period."

"We are deeply grateful to the Mellon Foundation for making it possible for us to expand our capabilities to support digital scholarship in Medieval Studies," said Chief Librarian Larry Alford. "The University of Toronto Libraries has a 55-year history of building and using leading edge technology tools to support learning and research. We are excited to collaborate with faculty and major research libraries around the world on this innovative project."

University of Toronto President Meric Gertler remarked, "The Mellon Foundation's generous grant comes at a pivotal time in the evolution of digital humanities and will support our work of developing new technologies, opening new avenues of research and increasing access to rich research materials. The Mellon award will also enable the University of Toronto to continue a tradition of pioneering global and interdisciplinary partnerships, and our libraries' leadership in the innovative development and use of information technology to support research."

Image: Page from *Horae: Dutch Book of Hours*. Catholic Church. MS after 1400. From the collections of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.



## First in Canada: Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies

#### ON SEPTEMBER 23, THE CHENG YU

Tung East Asian Library opened the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies at the University of Toronto Libraries. The occasion was a proud moment for UTL as we now host the first centre of its kind in Canada, joining major research institutions in Europe, Asia, and the United States.

The Library celebrated the opening with its guests, Dr. Tseng Shu-hsien, Director General of the National Central Library of Taiwan; Ambassador Wu Rong-chuan, Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Toronto; Professor Sherry Chen, University Librarian, National Taiwan University Library; Ms. Yu Hsiao-

ming, Director of the Special Collections Division, National Central Library (Taiwan); and Ms. Vinitha Gengatharan, Director of International Strategy & Partnerships at U of T. Members of the Department of East Asian Studies also attended the event.

The Centre's mission is to promote international exchanges in Chinese studies, which aligns closely with the libraries' own strategic objectives to embrace our place in the global community, seek materials from all over the world, and partner with colleagues internationally to deliver outstanding research services.

Through the new Centre, the National Central Library will donate up to 500 volumes to our collection each year, in addition to specialized resources it has developed locally which would otherwise only be accessible to researchers who are able to travel to Taiwan. One example is a database of digitized historical newspapers published during the Japanese occupation.

The event was followed by a forum on special collections in the digital age, with presentations ranging from the evolution of approaches to special collections digitization to Taiwan's experience in digitizing its cultural heritage. Perspectives were shared on the enduring importance of special collections, with a keynote speech from Anne Dondertman, Associate Chief Librarian for Special Collections and Director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

Above: Dr. Tseng Shu-hsien, Director General of the National Central Library of Taiwan, exchanges gifts with Chief Librarian Larry Alford.





## Science Literacy Week

#### IN SEPTEMBER, THE UNIVERSITY

of Toronto Libraries celebrated all things science, as a participant in the second annual Science Literacy Week. Originated in 2014 by University of Toronto alumnus Jesse Hildebrand (BSc '14) on the U of T St. George campus, this year the concept took on a life of its own, with over 300 Science Literacy Week events hosted by over 100 libraries and museums from coast to coast—all sharing the aim of deepening participants' understanding of scientific thought.

Librarians from 13 U of T libraries put together a selection of events based on this year's theme, Exploration and Innovation. Visitors' imaginations were sparked by engaging book displays on topics ranging from medieval science to stem cell discov-

ery, and lively lectures by U of T professors, including Professor Marc Laflamme's discussion of animal fossil history and Dr. Amaury Triaud's presentation on exploring life on other planets. Other highlights were interactive demonstrations on 3D printing and DNA extraction, and screenings of the latest blockbuster films on dinosaurs and space. At the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library early scientific works from Euclid to Einstein were featured, giving visitors the chance to leaf through rare works by scientific greats, including Galileo and Newton.

The success of the Libraries' events owes much to our librarians' strong partnerships with the rest of the university community. At the Gerstein Science Information Centre, U of T's Dr. Penney Gilbert and graduate students from all walks of scientific study shared their innovative ideas on improving health at 'Cross Collaborations,' a research speed networking event in partnership with U of T's Science and Engineering Engagement program. Taking their scientific exploration outside, the University of Toronto Scarborough Library collaborated with other departments on several initiatives, including an informative interpretive ravine walk and an event for the highly anticipated blood moon eclipse that drew an enthralled crowd of more than 500 stargazers.

The library is already working with Hildebrand on plans for 2016's Science Literacy Week at U of T. For more information about Science Literacy Week, visit http://scienceliteracy.ca.

Above left to right: 3D printer demonstration at the Dentistry Library. Visitors take in the display at the Fisher Library.

## Cross Collaboration: Speed Networking for Researchers

#### THE VISION OF SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK IS TO

communicate about science and create opportunities for collaboration. Building upon this central tenet, the Cross Collaboration: Speed Networking for Researchers event brought together researchers from a variety of disciplines to discuss their research in short speed-networking style sessions.

Inspiration for research can come from a mixture of disciplines. This event enabled researchers to discuss their ideas, discover other research conducted across U of T, and meet potential collaborators. The 2015 Science Literacy Week theme, *Exploration & Innovation*, wove throughout this event. It was held on September 24 at the Gerstein Science Information Centre, and featured lightning talks by Penney Gilbert, Assistant Professor from the Institute of Biomaterials & Biomedical Engineering as well as the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research and Carey Toane, Entrepreneurship Librarian from the University of Toronto Libraries. Gilbert touched on the importance of collaborating outside of her field as well as on the international stage. Toane discussed how her role can help researchers at different stages of entrepreneurship development.

U of T Libraries look forward to hosting more of these events to support networking and collaboration among researchers at the University of Toronto.



Above: Researchers discuss their work in a speed networking session. Top right: Dr. P.J. Carefoote.



## In His Words

On May 29, Dr. P.J. Carefoote, a librarian in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, delivered a Stress Free Degree Lecture at the University of Toronto's Spring Reunion. What follows is his reflection on his talk—and its relevance to recent and harrowing events, rooted in censorship.

#### I RETURNED TO THE VERY SAME HALL IN SIDNEY

Smith where I had my first history class as an undergraduate in the fall of 1980. Unlike then, I was now standing at the front of the room, delivering one of the University's 'Stress Free Degree' lectures on the history of literary censorship. These lectures form part of the University's 'Spring Reunion Days', and this year they covered a wide variety of topics from yoga to deciphering the news to rethinking retirement.

In the wake of the Charlie Hebdo assassinations in Paris in January of this year, as well as the controversy surrounding the passage of Bill C-51 by Parliament in June, the subject of literary censorship had once again become most timely. Using wonderful examples from the Fisher Library's collections, including heavily censored copies of Judah ben Samuel's *Sefer ha-hasidim* from 1537 and Erasmus's *Adages* from 1541, I reviewed the efforts of censors to control the written word from the fifteenth century down to the present, and demonstrated that, in the end, theirs is an exercise in futility, whatever other moral or legal considerations may enter into the argument.

The audience, which was composed of alumni, was most receptive and asked excellent questions about protected speech, the relationship of literature to hate crimes, and the current role of government in the control of the media. The general feeling was that literary censorship is a fundamentally paternalistic practice and is antithetical to the democratic process. The lecture, together with my summation, using a quotation from George Bernard Shaw, was very well received. "Censorship ends in logical completeness", Shaw wrote, "when nobody is allowed to read any books—except the books that nobody reads".

## **ROBARTSCOMMON**



# Robarts Common Construction to Commence

HE JOHN P. ROBARTS RESEARCH Library is poised for a landmark expansion, thanks to the generosity of donors, led by Drs. Russell and Katherine Morrison.

An iconic feature on the main campus of U of T, Robarts is an essential destination for students, and a key access point to a wealth of resources for academic success and scholarship. A hub for students since it was opened in 1973, with the growth in enrolment in

the ensuing decades, Robarts' capacity has become stretched to its limits.

Ten years ago, the University began plans to revitalize Robarts to address the need for more study space, while responding to students' preferences for lots of natural light, comfortable seating and infrastructure for laptops and other devices. In May of 2011, with the opening of the renovated porticos, the first phase of the revitalization was nearly

Above: Russell and Katherine Morrison in 2010 inside the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Facing page and page 10: Robarts Common interior renderings (Diamond + Schmitt Architects)

complete, adding 1,379 seats to Robarts Library's previous capacity.

Speaking at the porticos' opening celebration in 2011, Russell Morrison said, "There is a synergy between a chair and a student, a student and a light, a light and books, as well as other students in the room. Those synergies make the whole thing productive. If you think the productivity of a student is improved by ten percent, the return on the investment is unbelievable."

The Morrisons were leading donors to the first phase and extended their support to the second phase—The Robarts Common. A new five-storey structure on the Huron Street side of the Robarts block, the Common will be devoted to student study and collaboration space, completing the original vision for the building, adding more than 1,200 seats and upping the total capacity of Robarts to more than 6,170 seats. Construction will begin in early 2016, and it is expected that the new facility will be opened in 2018. Once in use, on weekdays in the academic year it will be open around the clock.

"Katherine and I are thrilled to support this vital expansion of Robarts Library. We view the renewal of Robarts as an opportunity to strengthen the foundations of education, advance groundbreaking ideas, and dramatically improve the quality of student life," Dr. Morrison said.

The support of the Morrisons for the Robarts revitalization has inspired hundreds of other donors to contribute, including alumni, staff and friends of the University of Toronto Libraries. As Chief Librarian Larry Alford observed, "This project is coming to fruition because of the tremendous philanthropic support of our donors, led by Russell and Katherine Morrison. They understand that having 24-hour access to study space ensures that U of T students can be as productive and connected as possible. The Robarts Common will significantly contribute to students' academic success—by providing space to learn, to investigate new ideas and avenues of research, and to engage with each other in pursuit of knowledge."

## **BOUNDLESSGRATITUDE**



## Donors to the Robarts Common

The University of Toronto Libraries are very grateful for the generosity of our donors.

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Thank you!

## **CELEBRATION**







## UTL Staff Shine at the STAR Awards

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Libraries' reputation as one of the top academic library systems in the world depends on the extraordinary work of its staff. On a daily basis, they demonstrate initiative, creativity and commitment to excellence. To acknowledge their tremendous work, a staff recognition program was introduced this year.

The recipients of the inaugural Staff Team Appreciation & Recognition (STAR) awards were honoured at a reception on September 16. Two awards recognizing Innovation and Ongoing Excellence were presented to the winning teams by Chief Librarian Larry Alford.

The award for Innovation went to the UTL website redesign team, which included Steve Baroti, Gordon Belray, Christopher Crebolder, Lisa Gayhart, Bilal Khalid, Marc Lalonde, Judith Logan, Kathleen Sinnott, Graham Stewart, Andy Wagner, and Chul Hee Yoon. The team spent over a year talking to U of T students, staff, and faculty about their research and information needs. The result is a mobile-friendly and accessi-

Top left to right: The STAR award. Stephanie Orfano from the Scholarly Communications and Copyright Office, nominated in the Ongoing Excellence category for the Syllabus Service & Zero to Low Cost Courses initiative. Visitors attend the 2014 Doors Open event at the Fisher Library.

ble website that makes discovering library collections easier for a wide variety of library users.

The Ongoing Excellence award was won by the team responsible for making the annual Doors Open event at the Fisher Library a great and growing success. The team members are: Harold Averill, Pearce (P.J.) Carefoote, Terence Correia, Michael Dalton, Anne Dondertman, Debbie Douglas, Barbara Edwards, David Fernández, Marnee Gamble, Linda Joy, Tys Klumpenhouwer, Alexandra Kordoski, Ho Lee, Ariel Leutheusser, Loryl

MacDonald, Joel Merzetti, Michael Page, Natalya Rattan, Tom Reid, Elizabeth Ridolfo, Eric Schildroth, John Shoesmith, Phillip Souza, Karen Suurtamm, Jennifer Toews, John Toyonaga, Deborah Whiteman, Lauren Williams, and Christopher Young. This year's event saw a record-breaking 3,162 members of the public come through the Fisher Library's doors in a single day.

In presenting the awards, Chief Librarian Larry Alford acknowledged all the nominees and recognized the entire staff of the libraries for their work.

## Larry Alford New ARL President

#### U OF T'S CHIEF LIBRARIAN,

Larry Alford, began a one-year term as president of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) on October 7, 2015, during the Association's Fall 2015 meeting in Washington, DC.

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 124 research libraries in the US and Canada. Its mission is to influence the changing environment of scholarly communication and public policies affecting research

libraries and the diverse communities they serve. ARL pursues this mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, facilitating the emergence of new roles for research libraries, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations. ARL is on the web at http://www.arl.org/.

## COMMUNITY



# Something for Everyone at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

#### **AVIATION EXHIBITION TAKES OFF**

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library hosted the exhibition, Aviators and the Academy: Early Aeronautics in Canada from May 23 to September 4, 2015. The exhibition complemented two other recent exhibitions commemorating the First World War held at the Rare Book Library, 'We Will Do Our Share': The University of Toronto and the Great War and Fierce Imaginings: The First World War in Text and Image.

Curators Edward Soye and Jonathan Scotland took a different approach to this exhibition, focusing on early aviation and, in particular, on the 1919 Victory Year celebrations. They highlighted largely untapped historical sources found in the U of T Libraries' rich archival and rare book collec-

Clockwise from top: Display from the aviation exhibition. Aviation exhibition curators Jonathan Scotland and Edward Soye. Professor Veronika Ambros (front) with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to Canada, Pavel Hrnčíř, Larry Alford, and Ksenya Kiebuzinski (back).

tions—books, archival documents, photographs, art, and artefacts. Using these materials, they showed how Canadian First World War pilots, engineers, mechanics, and designers—many with ties to the University of Toronto—fueled a postwar aviation boom in Toronto and ushered in a new wave of industry, transport, and exploration.

Aviators and the Academy: Early Aeronautics in Canada was the culmination of the Soye's and Scotland's passion for history and years

of research in UTL's archival and rare book collections. Both are U of T undergraduate alumni. Soye first visited the University of Toronto Archives ten years ago, as a third-year history student wanting to learn more about the German Fokker DVII warplane given to the University in 1919. Scotland's initial experiences with the Rare Book Library date back to 2007 when he was working on

his Master's degree. He is now a PhD candidate at Western University and continues to use UTL resources for his dissertation on Canadian society and the Great War. Soye flies vintage planes in his spare time, works in the finance sector, and recently earned a Certified Financial Analyst designation.

#### CZECH BOOK DESIGN EXHIBITION DAZZLES

On September 29, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library hosted the opening for its fall exhibition Maximum Imaginativeness: Modern Czech Book Design, 1900-1950. Curated by Ksenya Kiebuzinski, the exhibition focuses on the development of book design in Czechoslovakia, mainly in Prague, and explores developments in experimental literature, graphic arts, typefaces, covers, binding, and illustration. The decades of the 1920s, 1930s, and early 1940s were a period of intense creativity and great inventiveness, during which many artistic movements flourished, ranging from symbolism to the mysticism of Josef Váchal, from the cuboexpressionism of the Čapek brothers to the unique Poetism of members of the literary association Devětsil, as well as from bibliophile craftsmanship to surrealism. The material on display is mostly drawn from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library which holds some of the finest examples of Czech book design and illustration, and has one of the largest collections of Czech modernist and avant-garde imprints in North America.

In her remarks at the opening, Associate Professor Veronika Ambros, of the



### COMMUNITY

Clockwise from bottom: Elisa Tersigni and Lauren Williams, representing Massey College Press at the Fisher Small and Fine Press Fair. Mrs. Dorene Seltzer with Jonathan Hill. Images of Our City photo exhibition.

Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures at U of T, spoke about the value of the collection to her and her students' research. She mentioned that when she arrived in Toronto from Czechoslovakia by way of Berlin, her mentor Lubomír Doležel, professor emeritus, promised her 'a great library.' Her initial skepticism was soon dispelled when she discovered within the University of Toronto Libraries' Czech treasures not only 'the books themselves, but through their signatures, dedications, and names of various donors' a plethora of unexpected connections and avenues of inquiry. She stressed how the Czech Republic, a 'far away country,' still offers us a wealth of unique art and literary culture.

The exhibition closes December 18.

## SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL JOHN SELTZER AND MARK SELTZER MEMORIAL LECTURE

Jonathan Hill, a prominent antiquarian bookseller based in New York, inaugurated the 2015–2016 lecture series for the Friends of the Fisher Library on October 6. In his talk, *How did I get in this Racket? (A Bookseller's Progress)*, Hill shared stories of his





first visit to the University of Toronto where he sparked a long-term connection with Richard Landon and Stillman Drake through their common passion for books and Galileo.

The audience at this well attended lecture gained insight into the changing facets of the world of antiquarian books over the past four decades, including Hill's views on the current practices of collectors associated with high-tech corporations in North America.

Since the early days of his career in the seventies, Hill has been the source of wonderful books for the Fisher Library, including the recent acquisition of its first Japanese rare book. The firm Jonathan A. Hill, Bookseller specializes in science, medicine, natural history, bibliography, the history of book collecting and early printed books, and has published over 200 catalogues.

To hear a recording of Jonathan Hill's lecture, visit http://go.utlib.ca/hill. This annual lecture is generously endowed by Mrs. R. Dorene Seltzer.

#### **SMALL AND FINE PRESS FAIR RETURNS**

The Fisher Library again played host to some of this country's finest book and print makers when it opened its doors on September 12 for its second Small and Fine Press Fair. The rainy weather didn't dampen



the spirits of those who ventured to the library to admire and purchase items from the sixteen bookmakers who had their wares on display.

Almost 300 people attended and very few left with empty hands. It's the second time the Fisher has held a press fair—the first was in 2013 to coincide with the exhibition, A Death Greatly Exaggerated: Canada's Thriving Small and Fine Press, which highlighted the Fisher Library's large and comprehensive collection of modern fine press holdings. The success of the 2013 fair, and the enthusiasm of the participating book artists, prompted this repeat event, with plans to hold it every two years.

## Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library Events

#### IMAGES OF OUR CITY PHOTO EXHIBITION

The Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library held an opening ceremony in June for a photo exhibition, *Images of Our City: Landmarks and Coastlines of Central.* Organized jointly by the Library and its partners Old Hong Kong Photos, HKGN Hong Kong Global Network, and the

## COMMUNITY



Canada-Hong Kong Crosscurrents Project, the event was well attended by more than 100 guests. The exhibit and opening forum were sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto.

The opening ceremony was officiated by The Honorable Dr. Vivienne Poy, former Chancellor of the University of Toronto; Larry Alford, Chief Librarian of UTL; Gloria Lo, Director of the HKETO in Toronto; Joseph Kuang, Chairman of the Hong Kong Global Network; and Stanley So, representative of Old Hong Kong Photos.

A forum was held following the opening ceremony and Professor Tong Lam of U of T's History Department and Joseph Kuang spoke on topics such as nostalgia in photography, the history of Hong Kong, as well as their personal connections to the photos. The forum was followed by a well-received gourmet food tasting session. The exhibit ran from June 24 to July 10.

#### DR. DAVID CHUENYAN LAI SPEAKS

The Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library hosted a guest lecture in July, presented by Dr. David Chuenyan Lai, a prolific researcher whose major interests are the urban development of Chinatowns and

Top: Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library Director Jack Leung with Dr. David Lai. Right: iStaff member Sharon Mizbani.

## **O**Staff at the Ready

#### SHARON MIZBANI BEAMS AS SHE

remembers her early experience as an undergraduate student, trying to use U of T's library. "I would roam and try to figure it out. It takes a lot longer without help." Mizbani graduated in May and is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at U of T. And she is a member of a small team of student employees in a pilot program in Robarts Library known as iStaff, which helps students get the most from their library experience.

Launched this fall by Robarts' Reference & Research Services and Access & Information departments, iStaff is a group of Student Library Assistants who roam Robarts Library to assist users with building navigation, book retrieval, and basic troubleshooting. The position was created to help new Robarts users progress from novice to expert more quickly.

iStaff wear distinctive vests to encourage users to ask for help, and they are equipped with iPads which enable them to use the library catalogue and website while roaming the building, as they assist patrons—and even communicate on-the-spot with colleagues in remote areas of the building using text messaging.

As Jesse Carliner, a reference librarian in Robarts and one of the members of the iStaff implementation team describes it, the program evokes best practices



of top retailers and the team members were recruited because they are "power users" of the library. Mizbani and her colleagues support the reference and access departments through the entire user experience, from finding materials on-line in the catalogue, to visiting the stacks shelves to retrieve items, and navigating check-out.

Along the way, they dispense essential advice to library patrons, such as how to get around in a huge, triangular and sometimes confusing building, or how to make their library experience hassle-free.

Mizbani recounts how she guided a first-time Robarts user who is beginning his studies at U of T's John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. In just 30 minutes, they looked up materials in the catalogue, visited the stacks and used the automated check-out in Robarts. As she puts it, "The aim is to reduce stress and anxiety for students."

the history of Chinese migration to Canada.

A member of the Order of Canada and recipient of more than 40 awards for his scholarship and community service, Lai is Professor Emeritus of Geography, Adjunct Professor of Pacific and Asian Studies Department, and Research Affiliate of the Centre on Aging at the University of Victoria.

In his lecture at the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library, Lai connected the history of the Hongmen Society, also known as the Chinese Freemasons, to Chinese migrations and Chinese Canadian society. In presenting the Hongmen's origin, organization, and contributions to the anti-Manchu revolution in China and to Chinese settlement in Canada, Lai noted the society was often mistaken as a criminal group. His research restores Hongmen's importance as an ethnic society and contributor to Chinese culture.

## YOUR SUPPORT

#### **Exhibitions**

#### African Contributions to History

1 September – 31 December, 2015

Robarts Library, 2nd Floor Exhibition Area, North and South Sides



#### Maximum Imaginativeness: Modern Czech Book Design, 1900-1950

28 September – 18 December, 2015 Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library holds some of the finest examples of modern Czech book design and illustration. This exhibition will feature a display of books and journals published from the turn of the nineteenth century to the late 1940s, with examples ranging from the book beautiful (bibliophile) movement whose aesthetic principles were advanced by graphic artists to

works by avant-garde artists and writers centered around the literary association Devětsil. Book design in twentieth-century Czechoslovakia is a focus of the exhibition.

This exhibition is curated by Ksenya Kiebuzinski, Head, Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre.

#### 'So long lives this': A Celebration of Shakespeare's Life and Works

25 January - 28 May, 2016

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

The year 2016 marks four hundred years since the death of William Shakespeare. To honour this milestone, the Fisher Library will be opening the year with a new exhibition that will explore how Shakespeare's works shaped ideas of the world beyond England, how his plays imagined self and other through language, geography and mythology and how, in turn, the production of atlases, dictionaries, and histories influenced Shakespeare's world-making art. Highlights will include a selection of Shakespeare's printed plays and poems, from the First Folio of 1623 through to recent craft productions, including the sumptuous *Play of Pericles* (2009–2010) from British Columbia's Barbarian Press. In addition, the exhibition will feature early source material such as Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1587) and Plutarch's *Lives* (1579) along with a range of Renaissance genres and forms, from maps to bibles to works of poetry, anatomy and heraldry. Later editions of Shakespeare and experiments with his works will also be prominently featured in the exhibition and accompanying catalogue.

Lead Curator, Scott Schofield, Huron University College at Western University, will collaborate with Peter Blayney, Alan Galey and Marjorie Rubright (all from the University of Toronto) on the exhibition.

#### Canada's Oldest Profession: Regulating Sex Work in Canada

27 February – June 1, 2016

Robarts Library, 1st Floor Exhibition Area

This exhibition will highlight key legal moments in the regulation of sex work in Canada and explore the broader effects of this legislation on sex workers and the ways that regulation of sex work is used to control sexuality more generally. It will feature items from Robarts Library's government publications collec-



Canada, and a map of historic sex trade related locations in Southern Ontario and Toronto developed through archival research and leading edge GIS techniques. This exhibition is curated by Dr. Laurie Bertram (Department of History) and PhD Candidate Megan Ross (Faculty of Law & Sexual Diversity Studies).

Above right: "Edna Floyd, keeper of a house of ill-fame," 1904. Collection of the Winnipeg Police Archives.

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## **ENGAGEMENT**

## UTL Dragon Boat Team Makes a Splash

On July 1, the inaugural UTL Dragon Boat team, Library of Conquest, paddled in the Rusty Dragons Canada Day Regatta at Toronto's Centre Island. Managed by Jack Leong and coached by Ann Forbes Arndt, the team trained and practised for six weeks. On race day, the team competed through to its group's final, placing second.

The weather cooperated and the team was joined by family members for a fun day of socializing and maze exploring in between races.



#### NEW FACES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



The 'Friends' organization was founded in 1984 to bring together those who are committed to strengthening the Library's outstanding collections and dedicated to encouraging a greater awareness of the Library's resources. We encourage you to join the Friends and support the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Benefits include invitations to lectures and special events, and the Friends' newsletter, *The Halcyon*. Evening lectures are designed to appeal to the interests of the Friends and to highlight the special collections of the Library. Catalogues of exhibitions displayed in the Fisher Library are available upon request.

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: http://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/donations/friends or call 416-978-3600.

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