

The Natural Evolution of the Library

By Glenn Drexhage.



Students at the Canaccord Learning Commons.
Photo by Martin Dee

Students from UBC's Sauder School of Business have flocked to the new Canaccord Learning Commons (CLC) since it opened in February. The CLC, which is Canada's first dedicated learning commons within a business school, was made possible through a \$1.5-million donation from Vancouver's Canaccord Financial Inc. It's an excellent example of UBC Library's desire to enhance student learning by providing top-notch services and space for learning and research.

Highlights include bookable study rooms with white boards and LCD screens, quiet and collaborative study areas, breakout rooms for tutoring and workshops that feature LCD screens and laptop hook-ups, a reading lounge that boasts magazine and book displays, print and PC workstations (some with dual monitors for finance students), reference and technology support, and a pending digital media studio. A Speaker Series has featured Josh Klein (co-author of *Hacking Work*) and former Premier Gordon Campbell, and more events are planned.

Outreach and teamwork are key themes guiding the new facility, which aims to prepare its students for the Working 2.0 world. "People come here to interact – with technology, with librarians and with each other," says Jan Wallace, Head of the David Lam Library, which makes up part of the Commons. "It's all meant to make the resources we have more accessible to the students. It's really the natural evolution of the Library."

The CLC is the product of a partnership between the Lam Library, the Hari B. Varshney Business Career

Centre, the MBA office, and Sauder's Learning and Technology Services unit. For more information, please visit <http://learningcommons.sauder.ubc.ca>.

It's also the latest example of enhanced student space within the UBC Library system. Last fall, Woodward Library unveiled its handsome lower level, a collaborative space that features increased natural light, more seating and bookable group-study rooms.

A new Law Library is on the agenda, as is a refurbished entrance to the Walter C. Koerner Library. We'll make sure to keep you up to date as we keep working to improve the student experience at UBC.

Awards update

UBC Library has also been busy giving and receiving awards. Dimas Yusuf, a second-year UBC medical student, is this year's recipient of UBC Library's Innovative Dissemination of Research Award. This award honours UBC faculty, staff and students who expand the boundaries of research through the creative use of new tools and technologies.

Yusuf's submission, entitled *Transcription Factor Encyclopedia* (TFe), is a wiki-based software system that houses more than 800 articles about TF genes. This special class of genes is critical to learning about the use embryonic stem cells for the treatment of human disease.

Yusuf was formally recognized at UBC's Celebrate Research Week Awards reception on March 10.

Meanwhile, UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) and the SLAIS Alumni Association recently announced the recipients of the SLAIS 50th Anniversary Alumni Service and Leadership Awards. Two of the award winners hail from UBC Library – University Librarian Ingrid Parent, and Dean Giustini of the Biomedical Branch Library.

The awards will be presented at the SLAIS 50th Anniversary celebration on April 30, 2011. Tickets for the event are now available for purchase online. For details on the anniversary activities and events, including a link to the registration tool for the dinner and dance, visit

<http://www.slais.ubc.ca/about/SLAIS-50.htm>.

Congratulations Dimas, Ingrid and Dean!

Glenn Drexhage is the Communications Officer at UBC Library.