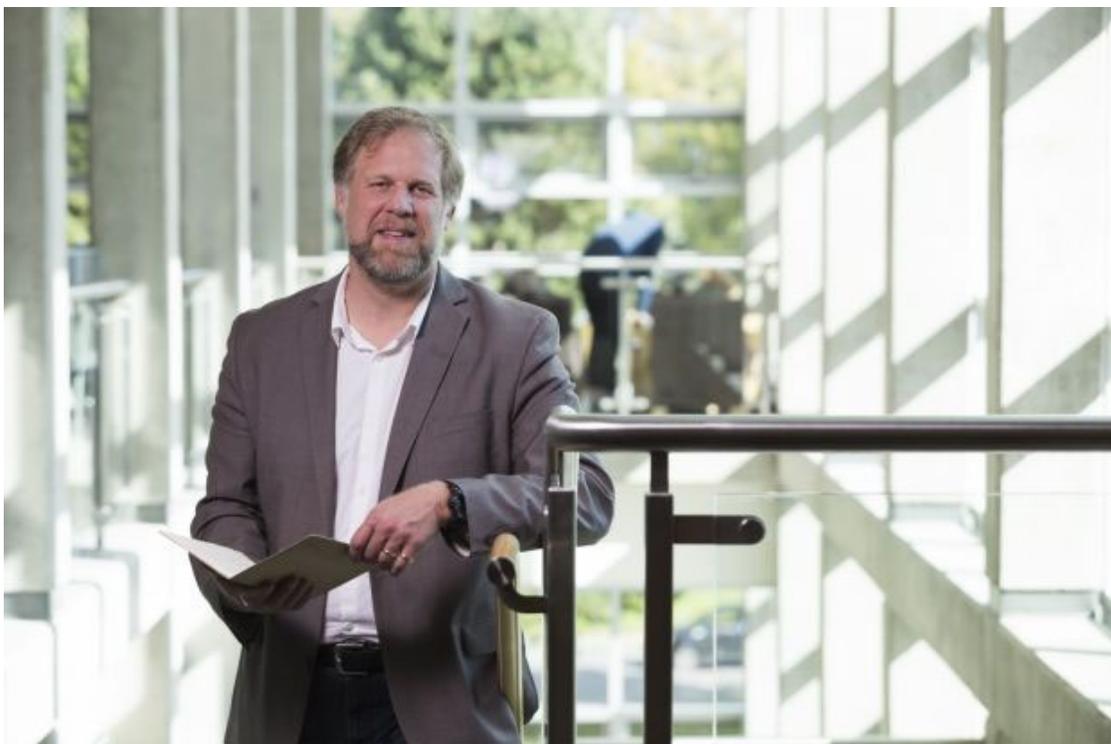# THE AMPERSAND

## MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN BENGTSON, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Welcome to the October edition of *The Ampersand*. September was a busy time, with many of our librarians, archivists, and staff involved in a range of orientation activities. From our tent at Thunderfest to promoting our Personal Librarian Program for new undergraduates, to leading many tours, and hosting a wide array of events related to Science Literacy Week such as a lecture, an exhibit, hands-on demos, and a graduate student mixer, we have much to be proud of at UVic. The Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library is extremely busy now that the semester is in full swing, and over at Law we are delighted to be exploring how the library will support the new Indigenous Law program. We have a lot of planning going on at the moment to support the implementation of the new UVic Strategic Framework through our own operational and strategic goals in the Libraries. You can read our new brochure called *The Libraries as Partner* in this newsletter.

Our role within the university is a complex one, necessitating our engagement in the full life cycle of teaching, research, and learning, in ways that traditionally libraries have not been involved to the degree they are now. I'm happy to report that we currently partner on over $3 million of grant-funded research projects, as researchers continue to reach out to the Libraries for our expertise around metadata creation, digital preservation, and research data management.

Enjoy the magnificent fall colours on campus!

& IN THE COMMUNITY
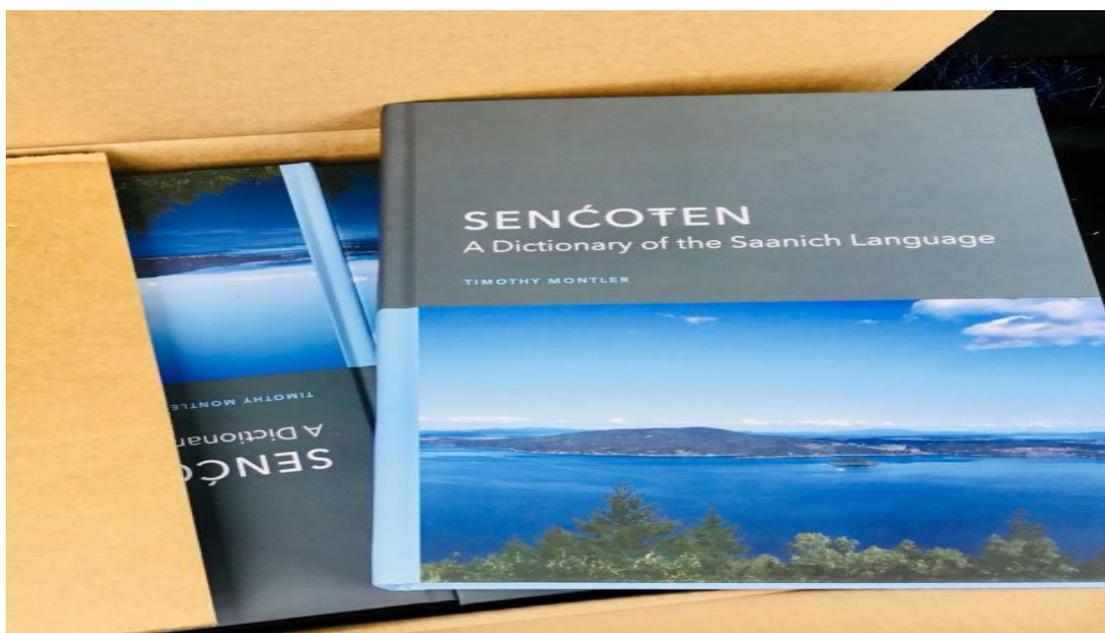
THE SENĆOŦEN DICTIONARY: A REMARKABLE NEW ACQUISITION
Pia Russell, Learning & Research Librarian for Education, Children's Literature, Gender Studies, and Indigenous Studies

ÍY SȻÁĆEL (Greetings). Pia ŦE NE SNÁ (My name is Pia). Speaking SENĆOŦEN is how I begin the many library research workshops I provide to my Education, Gender Studies, and Indigenous Studies students at the start of each term. Learning SENĆOŦEN—the language of the W̱SÁNEĆ (Saanich) people—is one small way I am trying to decolonize myself. If I lived in Italy, I would learn Italian, so why not become familiar with a language spoken for millennia in the place I now call home. It is a nice idea, but far from an easy one.

Part of the Salishan language family, SENĆOŦEN is a Northern Straits dialect along with Songhees, T'Sou-ke, and Lummi. Due to Indigenous language suppression, particularly in the 20th century, there are currently only a handful of first language SENĆOŦEN speakers. However, the extensive language revitalization efforts by W̱SÁNEĆ teachers and Elders, most notably the late Dave Elliot Sr., are ensuring that younger generations know their language.

This past September, SENĆOŦEN language revitalization efforts achieved a remarkable milestone with the publication of the first SENĆOŦEN dictionary.[1] Along with linguistics professor Timothy

Montler, W̱SÁNEĆ Elders utilized oral histories, audio recordings, and transcriptions to compile a comprehensive dictionary with over 3,000 words and detailed etymologies. The significance of this incredible PUȻ (book) cannot be overstated. Its creation is a testament to the survival of a people and their language who thrive in spite of great injustices. In my nearly 20 years as a librarian, this is by far my favourite acquisition. Along with copies for UVic Libraries, I have purchased my own so I may continue to learn SENĆOŦEN one word at a time.

I hope you will enjoy the acquisition of the W̱SÁNEĆ community's first dictionary as much as I do. Please visit the library—NUI.LEN̄ SW̱ SIÁM (come in respected one!)—and learn a little SENĆOŦEN.

HÍ SW̱ KE (Thank you)

You are welcome to consult or borrow this dictionary any time. We have several copies and the call number is PM2263 M665 (McPherson second floor stacks, McPherson Reference Collection, Special Collections, and Law; 497 M65 in the Curriculum Collection). For more information on SENĆOŦEN:

- The W̱SÁNEĆ School Board's 'History of the SENĆOŦEN Language' web page
- ·First Voices' SENĆOŦEN Language Portal
- Prof. Tim Montler's online SENĆOŦEN word list, complete with a pronunciation guide

[1]Montler, T. (2018). SENĆOŦEN: A dictionary of the Saanich language. Seattle: University of Washington Press.

& ACROSS THE LIBRARIES

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMONS

"Throughout my 4 years of engineering at UVic, my courses have provided me with many opportunities to solve theoretical problems. With such a focus on theoretical problems my education somewhat lacked practical experience. The Digital Scholarship Commons (DSC) provided the tools which allowed me to enrich my degree by completing physical prototypes. This semester I completed my capstone design project for The Center for Aerospace Research. Our project was to design and construct a prototype to test the performance increase of distributed propulsion. The staff in the DSC were

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On September 28, UVic faculty, staff and students were encouraged to wear orange shirts to show respect for residential school survivors and their families. We partnered in the work of reconciliation by attending events, listening, learning and taking part in discussions that promote mutual understanding and respect. The design for the UVic orange shirt was contributed by artist Carey Newman (Coast Salish/Kwagiulth). Newman is the Audain Professor of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific
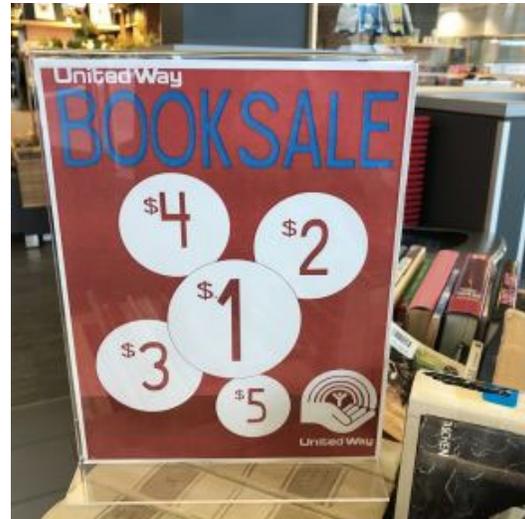
extremely helpful in giving feedback on how I might optimize my parts for 3D printing, and after many iterations we got the perfect print. I believe that the DSC provides an indispensable resource at UViC. It provides the opportunity for students to push themselves and apply their academic knowledge with the enjoyment of seeing something be built." - Keegan

Northwest with the Department of Visual Arts.

WELCOME: LIBRARY INTERNS

- *Karine St-Onge*, Digital Ethics Intern (Young Canada Works), will be helping to research and develop a set of principles that can guide the library as we prepare to help the university to curate research objects that are generated through partnerships with Indigenous communities.
- *Hannah Monkman*, Special Collections & University Archives Intern (Young Canada Works Building Careers in Heritage), will be undertaking various projects including archival arrangement and description, finding aid updating, assistance with exhibits and other outreach activities.
- *Sarah Miller*, Law Librarianship Intern (Young Canada Works), will assist with law library research help, selection and creation of learning and research resources for the Juris Doctor (JD)/Juris Indigenarum Doctor (JID) program, continued development of open access legal research, curriculum support, and instructional resources for Law.

UNITED WAY BOOK DRIVE

Don't miss your favourite UVic Libraries' fundraiser for United Way. Donations of good quality used books are being accepted at the library Main Loan Desk until December 1. Show your Local Love! Show your Library Love!

Curious what happens after you donate?
We created a Facebook video last year to show Ryan's herculean efforts to get donated books over to the UVic Bookstore where they sell for under $5. Proceeds support the United Way of Greater Victoria. Thank you for giving generously!

MAKING HISTORY TANGIBLE

Have you ever wanted to go back in time? UVic Libraries recently purchased an extremely rare 15th century medieval manuscript of historical miscellany in Latin and Middle English produced in Germany. "What a great opportunity for our undergrad and grad students to study such text up close," says University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson. This acquisition would not have been possible without the generous endowments established to support UVic Libraries, such as the Jim and Doreen Rainer Library Endowment Fund, the Gwladys Downes Endowment, and the John & Irene Dorn Memorial Endowment Fund, along with the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, and The Medieval Manuscript Fund supported by Brian Pollick and Heather Lindstedt. Read Investing in Achievement.

TREASURES AND TEA: HOW TO TALK ABOUT TYPE
Robin Mitchell Cranfield (Graphic Designer, Art Director, Illustrator)

Saturday, October 20
4:00 p.m.
Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library, room 129

TREASURES AND TEA: GOTHIC BEGINNINGS AND MONSTROUS LEGACIES:
Panelists: David Eso, Robert Miles, and Caroline Winter (Dept. of English)
Moderator: Lindsey Seatter (Dept. of English)

EXHIBIT: GOTHIC BEGINNINGS AND MONSTROUS LEGACIES, CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF MARY SHELLEY'S *FRANKENSTEIN*
Curated by: Lindsey Seatter and

In this talk, presented in collaboration with the Alcuin Society, award-winning graphic designer Robin Mitchell Cranfield will introduce the culture of typography. As we go through our day, we read hundreds, even thousands, of typeset words. Typography critically reveals layers of meaning in our designed environment, from advertisements to book covers to our social media platforms. The public is increasingly familiar with a handful of iconic and infamous fonts by name, but is often unable, or sometimes apprehensive, to articulate how they feel about them. This talk is designed to move beyond well-known fonts like Helvetica and Comic Sans, to develop a common language that we can all use to talk about type and to consider typography from a larger cultural perspective.

Space is limited.
Please RSVP

Monday, October 29
2:00 p.m.
Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library, room 210

In the summer of 1816, on the banks of Lake Geneva, a young Mary Shelley wrote a ghost story about the re-animation of a corpse as a means of entertaining her literary friends. Today, 200 years since its publication, Shelley's *Frankenstein* has become a touchstone text with prolific and lasting impacts in the fields of literature, science, art, and philosophy. Drawing on materials from the University of Victoria Libraries' Special Collections and featuring speakers from the Department of English, this panel will explore the literary influences and cultural inheritances of Frankenstein by exploring its gothic beginnings and monstrous legacies.

FrankenWeek is a series of interdisciplinary events celebrating the history, text, themes, and performance of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. For more information.

Space is limited.
Please RSVP

Caroline Winter (Dept. of English)

October 29-November 30
Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library, room A005

This exhibition celebrates the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* by highlighting rare books and materials that illuminate the text's literary influences and cultural inheritances. The exhibit features items from UVic Libraries' Special Collections, including fantastical Gothic novels, some of Shelley's illustrated publications, and a diverse sampling of visual, literary, and theatrical adaptations —including materials from Canadian playwrights Alden Nowlan and Walter Learning.

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP
A world of discovery awaits you. Sign up for our monthly newsletter to read about free lectures, exhibit openings, new developments and fundraising efforts.

& IN THE NEWS

SHAHIRA KHAIR

As Data Curation Librarian, Shahira Khair develops services and expertise to better manage and support faculty and graduate students with their research data management needs. Read *A Day in the Life* of Shahira Khair in the Ring story.

BRIAN POLLICK

UVic Libraries donor and PhD student Brian Pollick was featured on CBC radio's *Sunday Edition,* speaking about the challenges and advantages of being an older PhD student. Listen to the interview. Read the CBC story.
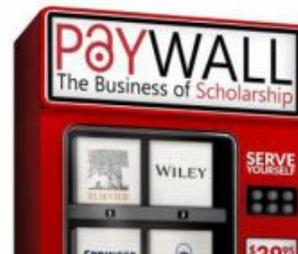
& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Congrats to student winners Paige Gelfer and Emma Gillespie for the David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Student Library Scholarship; and Kailey Fukushima and Jodi Litvin for the William Petrie Graduate Student Library Scholarship. Read their award-winning essays.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Our 2018-2023 UVic Libraries' Strategic Directions process identified trends and developments that affect the university, the campus, the library and the community. Three guiding principles will guide UVic Libraries and align us with UVic's Strategic Framework: **Open. Engaged. Enduring**. Read *The Library as Partner* brochure.

FREE MOVIE SCREENING: PAYWALL

Wednesday, October 24
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Panel discussion to follow, ending at 4:30 p.m.
Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library
Digital Scholarship Commons (third floor)

Celebrate Open Access Week with *Paywall: The Business of Scholarship*, a documentary that focuses on the need for open access to research and science. Refreshments are provided. Admission is free. Please register.

& THE LAST WORD
DIGITAL INITIATIVES FUND

Paige Whitehead (left) with a UVic co-op student

University students today face new challenges. Technology is changing at a rapid pace, and ever higher levels of digital literacy are necessary to navigate the world in which we live. The University of Victoria Libraries have taken steps over the past decade to accommodate the new demands of our community in the digital era.

Your generosity allows us to invest in digital projects that can be accessed by students and researchers from around the world; and to create digital images of rare books and archival collections. With your help, we are able to preserve irreplaceable materials and create better access for everyone interested in using our resources.

Last year, we opened the **Digital Scholarship Commons** at the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library. This innovative facility provides students with access to cutting-edge software, hardware, and expert instruction in support of digital scholarship. The Digital Scholarship Commons is a place where students come together from across disciplines to collaborate, share knowledge, develop new skills, and access technology and software to help them achieve their academic goals.

Paige Whitehead, a fourth year UVic student, is majoring in environmental studies and microbiology. After connecting with researchers, testing out many materials, and attending workshops offered by the Digital Scholarship Commons on 3D design and printing, Paige developed her first prototype for a biodegradable, bioluminescent glow stick that not only dissolves harmlessly wherever it is discarded, but actually improves the soil.

In her home departments of Microbiology and Environmental Studies, Paige would not have had access to a 3D printer or the technological training. The Digital Scholarship Commons opened a new avenue for her and helped fuel her creative process. "The library is a neutral space," says Paige. "All students feel welcome and comfortable here."

Your donation makes success possible. Please consider supporting the *Digital Initiatives Fund.*

uvic.ca/library