

A New Direction for the UNBC Library

By Paul Burry.

The close of the decade signaled the start of a new Strategic Planning process at the University of Northern British Columbia's Geoffrey R. Weller Library, under the direction of new University Librarian Gohar Ashoughian. The university-wide audience at the November 2nd day-long kick-off event was treated to the engaging and inspiring presentations of a distinguished panel of speakers, including new UNBC President George Iwama, UNBC Provost Mark Dale, SFU University Librarian & Dean of Library Services Lynn Copeland, UVic University Librarian Marnie Swanson, UBC University Librarian Ingrid Parent, and University of Guelph Chief Librarian & Chief Information Officer Michael Ridley.

The lively afternoon round-table discussions, which were expertly facilitated by Michael Ridley, left the library staff and other participants full of energy and excitement as the library sets off on a new course for a new decade!

Welcome Gohar!

UNBC sets off on its new course under the leadership of Gohar Ashoughian, who joins UNBC from the University of Regina, where she held the position of Associate University Librarian for Collection Services and Assessment from 2007-2009. In this position she provided leadership in strategic planning, collection development, technical services, and library services assessment. From 2008 she also served as Interim Head of Research Services, with responsibility for Library Research Services and Reference as well as Subject Liaison Services.

Originally from Armenia, Gohar earned her MLIS and Advanced Certificate in LIS from Louisiana State University. Since then she has held a number of leadership positions in the US and Canada. She was the Manager of Library Services, Learning Commons & Information Technology Services for the University of Guelph-Humber from 2002 to 2007, during which she was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Professor and Librarian Award. In 1999, Gohar became the founding Director of the Information Resources and Digital Library at the Technical University of British Columbia (now part of SFU), where she was responsible for the design and development of library services for the new university. Gohar has

also worked as Electronic Resources Specialist at the Ontario Colleges Bibliocentre, with responsibility to negotiate, license and acquire electronic resources for 25 Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts & Technology.



View of the Weller Library (background) on a crisp Prince George winter night.

More New Faces!

UNBC Library is also pleased to welcome a number of other new faces to the team:

- James MacDonald, originally from Quesnel, BC, comes to UNBC from Elk Point, Alberta, where he was Manager of Information Technology at the Northern Lights Public Library System. James is the new Web Services Librarian.
- Former term librarian Kealin McCabe joins UNBC in a permanent capacity as Research and Learning Services Librarian. Kealin is a recent graduate of the MLIS program at the University of Western Ontario.
- Gina Rawson, formerly Chief Librarian at Creston Public Library and Director of the Kootenay Library Federation, joins the UNBC team as Library Assistant – Serials.

Welcome to all our new team members!

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