**OCULA President
Janice Mutz
Lakehead University**

As I start my year as OCULA president, I am grateful for the support and talent that surrounds me at this year's council table.

Thanks must go first to Cynthia Williamson for stepping in as past-president, as Caroline Stewart has other obligations that prevent her from fulfilling this role. In addition to Cynthia, we welcome Vice-President/President-Elect 2012 Lynne Prunskus from Nipissing University/Canadore College and councillor-at-large Sarah Forbes from University of Toronto (Scarborough) as. Returning council members include: Jennifer Horwath (secretary) from Mohawk College, Kathryn Klages (treasurer) from Seneca College as well as councillors-at-large, Jennifer Peters from Seneca, and Cory Laverty from Queens. Paula Cardozo from Nipissing/Canadore also joins us as our new student resident librarian.

There are also ex-officio members: Jonathan Bengtson from the University of Toronto is our returning Super Conference co-planner and new this year is Cyndi Smith from Georgian College in Barrie, Brian Cameron from Ryerson, (editor of *InsideOCULA* and website/blog), our deputy editor Martha Attridge Bufton from

Working the master plan: Sheldon Levy, OCULA spotlight speaker

*By
Brian Cameron,
Ryerson University*

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work…"

– Daniel Burnham, chief planner, Chicago.

In the past, Ryerson University turned its back on the city of Toronto and consequently the campus became almost invisible to people living and working in the downtown core. Ryerson's president Sheldon Levy is determined to reverse this error and ensure that the university community fully engages with the city in which it "lives".

Levy was the OCULA spotlight speaker at the 2011 OLA Super Conference. As he explained in his presentation, the university is implementing its award-winning master campus plan to achieve this goal and make everyone proud of the institution. The plan focuses on intensification, putting people first, and design excellence.

Levy pointed out that the university faces unique challenges and responsibilities that have a direct impact how successfully the plan can be carried out. In particular, Ryerson is the most urban university in Canada. Located in one of the busiest areas of downtown Toronto, some 28 million people walk past or through the campus annually. Plus, real estate in the neighbourhood is expensive so the price tag for new buildings is high.

Lightning Strikes @ OCULA

By Janice Mutz, Lakehead University

Once again Super Conference hosted a lively OCULA Lightening Strikes session where future librarians presented on a variety of topics and the audience voted for the winner.

Shelley Archibald (University of Toronto), Gary Collins (University of Western Ontario [UWO]), Danielle Cooper (University of Toronto), and Courtney Lundrigan (UWO) were the intrepid student presenters.

One lucky audience member won a flip video courtesy of the OCULA council but we all came away as winners having gained a fresh perspective on diverse topics.

Courtney was first up with a talk entitled "Getting to Know GIS: A Glimpse of the Academic Library to Come". She described her experiences at Ryerson University, where she had the chance

Lightning Strikes @ OCULA

to apply the geographic information system (GIS) skills she learned in a library school course to a real work situation. She discussed her learning curve with this skill, and concluded by showing us an example of a map she generated using these tools. It is clear that the demand for this type of geographic information will grow and that GIS will become more and more important in academic libraries.

Danielle Cooper

photo by Brian Cameron

Courtney Lundrigan

photo by Brian Cameron

Danielle Cooper spoke next and shared a thought-provoking look at the pros and cons of askON, the virtual chat service used by six Ontario universities. Danielle discussed "the good, the bad, and the ugly" from the perspective of am askON student volunteer. The challenges of such a service (e.g., learning numerous databases/interfaces/course topics from multiple institutions) as well as the benefits (e.g., such knowledge will stand a candidate in good stead at an interview), were outlined with good humour and Danielle concluded that, overall, her experience with askOn was positive.

Shelley Archibald's "Reading Between the Lines: Transliteracy and Academic

Libraries," introduced the concept of transliteracy, an idea that is just beginning to tweak the interest of library thinkers everywhere. This concept is

Shelley Archibald

photo by Brian Cameron

neither easily defined nor easy to place within an academic library environment so Shelley's presentation provided just the introduction everyone needed to further explore this complex topic.
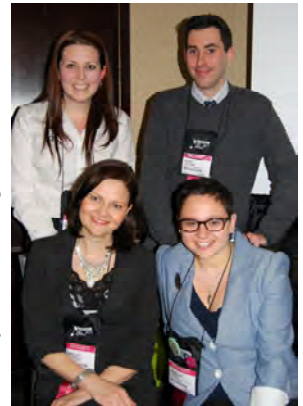
Finally, Gary Collins concluded the

session with the timely topic of space and academic libraries entitled "Out of Space: Challenges Associated with Changes to Academic Library Space in the Digital Era." Drawing on his experiences at University Guelph-Humber, Gary discussed the shift to increasingly digital collections and how this affects different user groups and their interaction with our spaces. This is also a timely topic for most academic libraries and one with many implications.

Gary Collins

photo by Brian Cameron

At the OCULA annual general meeting (AGM), the winner was announced: Courtney Lundrigan received the most votes and was awarded $200 and a one-year OLA membership. Courtney thinks that the experience was very useful. (See Courtney's report on page 5).

photo by Martha Attridge Bufton

President's Message

Carleton University, and Eva Dodsworth from University of Waterloo is the contributing editor (access). This year's group represents a variety of geographical and academic environments; this can only enhance our organization.

Super Conference is still fresh in my mind and, in spite of the "snowmageddon" threat, it went off without a hitch. Thanks are in order to our fantastic Super Conference planners Trish Weigel-Green and Jonathan Bengtson. Special kudos to Trish who was eight-and-a-half months pregnant and still kept smiling while coping with all the logistics.

For me, there were so many sessions at this year's conference during which a light bulb went off, I saw an idea that I want to try, or I found out about research on a topic I find inscrutable. So, let me take this opportunity to thank all the presenters who put in the hours, slaved over PowerPoint presentations, and shared their

research, experiences, thoughts and views; we all benefited. Finally, the OCULA annual general meeting ran smoothly and (we hope) quickly, and ended with the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement award to Faye Abrams of OCUL; definitely a well-deserved award!

The call has already gone out for the 2012 Super Conference and I encourage OCULA members to submit session proposals and suggest topics and/or speakers for consideration.

So, what are we working on now? The call has also gone out for a host institution for the New Librarian Resident Award; this is the third and final year of the award and council is working to make sure it continues. We have received positive feedback from both the participating institutions and the successful candidates. We hope to have an update for you by the fall.

Spring has apparently arrived—although, as I write this in the throes of an early April snowstorm in northern Ontario, that seems implausible. This means that the OCULA spring dinner is not far off. University of Toronto (Mississauga) staff are hosting this year's event which will take place on Wednesday, May 11.

Watch the OCULA website/listserv for more details. Plans are also coming together for a fall event, and we hope it will encourage our members to venture a bit farther afield ... stay tuned!

In closing, let me say that it is an honour to be serving as OCULA 2011 president. I hope to meet more of you throughout the year at our various events but, in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact me at jmutz@ lakeheadu.ca with any questions or concerns you may have.

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Coming in the next issue:

An article about the Access Copyright tariff by Sam Trosow, University of Western Ontario

Useful copyright links:

CAUT guidelines for the use of copyrighted material: http://www.caut.ca/uploads/Copyright_guidelines.pdf

Canadian Copyright Issues (from OLA): http://accessola.com/ola/bins/content_page.asp?cid=1-99-3377

OCULA spotlight speaker

Levy argues that urban intensification (i.e., a high density of buildings, population, etc.) must be integral to any of the university's master plans in order to meet these challenges: the low-rise campus must give way to the vertical. However, he thinks that such a move needn't diminish the place of people and the current plan gives priority to pedestrians and public transportation.

In addition to urban density, the university's planning team is also committed to design excellence which means that some projects may be delayed if sufficient funding is not in place.

"Universities are forever," he said. "Waiting three or four years to build something excellent is worth it."

The university has been able to move forward with its building plans in part because of its collaboration with businesses. "Everything is a partnership," Levy noted.

For example, the university sold the air rights above its parking garage at the corner of Gould and Victoria Streets and ensured that 12 of the 24 AMC movie theatres at 10 Dundas Street East were built for use as university lecture halls. These rooms are now filled with students from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Likewise, the Ted Rogers School of Management (located at 1 Dundas Street West) would have been far too expensive for Ryerson to construct alone. However, in partnership with the Best Buy and Canadian Tire corporations, the university was able to complete the project.

In-progress projects include construction of the Ryerson Gallery and Research Centre. The centre is the home of the Black Star Historical Black & White Photography Collection, the largest cultural gift ever made to a Canadian university.

The university is also partnering with Loblaws to renovate Maple Leaf Gardens and provide more on-campus recreation space. Ryerson applied to have Maple Leaf Gardens designated a national park in order to qualify for federal grant money. This innovative fundraising tactic was successful and the university acquired the building in 2009. As a result, Ryerson has moved from being ranked as the Canadian university with the least square footage of recreation space to the institution with the most.

The librarians gathered were particularly interested hearing about the new student learning centre which will be built on the site of the former Sam the Record Man store at the corner of Yonge Street and Gould Street. Architecture firms Snøhetta and Zeidler have jointly designed a building which, according to Levy, will "change Yonge Street." Specific details and images of this centre are available online at http://www.ryerson.ca/news/media/spotlight/slc/

Levy has complete confidence that the implementation of the university's master plan will ensure that the Ryerson campus will become an integral part of Toronto's downtown. "No one will ever not know where Ryerson is again."

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Photo by Martha Attridge Bufton

Janice Mutz, Sheldon Levy, Madeleine Lefebvre, and Caroline Stewart

To the Lightning Strikes and beyond: promoting GIS at OLA's 2011 Super Conference

*By Courtney Lundrigan,
University of Western Ontario*

Last summer, I went on the library school adventure of a lifetime: I took a course in the use of geographic information systems (GIS) in academic libraries. After a semester of frustrations and mapping victories, I realized that my views on academic librarianship had changed and that I had a topic to present at the OCULA Lightening Strikes at OLA's annual conference.

Having missed last year's Super Conference, I was determined to participate in this year's OCULA Lightening Strikes session. Each year, students who are in enrolled in either a master's program in library/information studies or a library technician program in Ontario and have an interest in academic libraries can submit a proposal to present at this session and compete for the OCULA student award. Up to six applicants are chosen to present and the winner of the award is chosen by a vote of all audience members attending the session and announced at the OCULA annual general meeting.

I knew that I wanted to talk about GIS use in academic libraries because it is on the rise but I found it hard to narrow down everything I wanted to share into a ten-minute presentation. In addition, I assumed that most of the audience would know nothing about GIS and therefore might not be interested in the topic so my main

challenge would be how to keep everyone "electrified".

In the end, my proposal was to take an approach with which I hoped that my audience could identify: how to learn GIS with no previous experience. After all, I had found that GIS was not as scary to learn as I thought it would be—I had lots of help and could chose form a wide variety of web-based mapping tools—and the technology has certainly changed the face of mapping in academic research and everyday life. If I could learn how to use it, anyone could.

Having been selected to present along with three other students, I was quite nervous on February 3, the day of the Lightning Strikes session. Usually I enjoy public speaking, so this experience was a bit strange but I managed to convince myself that this presentation was no different than any of those that I had given in my academic career or even in the library classroom. I was relieved to see many familiar faces in the audience—library school peers, a former co-worker from Newfoundland, current colleagues from my Ryerson University Library family, and even my GIS professor—and this tremendous support from my professional network helped me relax.

Ten minutes came and went quickly. My presentation was well-received and I knew I had accomplished my goal of raising awareness about the use of GIS in academic libraries.

At the OCULA annual general meeting which followed our session, I was honoured to be chosen as the winner and to receive a $200 prize as well as a one-year OCULA membership. However, the real reward I received that day was the professional relationships I created. I was introduced to so many wonderful academic librarians at the conference and it was great to meet my future colleagues and learn about their jobs. The valuable advice and encouragement that they gave me has certainly eased my mind about finding a job after graduation and joining the academic library community.

Plus, I will definitely think twice before I dismiss that next job posting for a GIS librarian. I look forward to collaborating with my former GIS professor, Eva Dodsworth, in the coming months to promote GIS in academic libraries. While it is unlikely that I will be the next great GIS librarian, I feel confident that I have the tools and support to promote GIS to my colleagues.

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*Courtney Lundrigan
and Caroline Stewart*

Photo by Martha Attridge Bufton

2011 OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Faye Abrams

By Nathalie Soini, Queen's University

Faye Abrams is this year's OCULA Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Faye is the project officer for OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries).

Mike Ridley, CIO and chief librarian at the University of Guelph, believes that Faye has been able to achieve "the stature, influence and respect" of her colleagues and to "transform libraries and universities at a provincial and even a national level." Through her work at the University of Waterloo Library with IBIS and UWinfo, and her implementation of CISTI Source for the Tri-Universities Group (TUG), Faye has demonstrated an innovative approach to technology and moving the world of "academic libraries into new territory."

Anne Fullerton, Faye's former colleague at the University of Waterloo, emphasises her commitment to the profession. "Faye always has time to chat about professional issues and she listened well before sharing her opinions. I think that's why she ate lunch in the staff lounge—to engage in issues."

In 1999, Faye left the University of Waterloo to become the OCUL project officer. As Mike Ridley stated in his nomination letter, in this role she "coordinated the work of collections librarians from around the province to facilitate common negotiating strategies and consortial purchasing resulting in stronger digital collections for all faculty and students in Ontario"

Faye's list of OCUL related accomplishments is amazingly long and very impressive and OCULA is not the first organization to recognize Faye's dedication. She also received the 2007 OCUFA Academic Librarianship award.

Congratulations Faye!

Photo by Martha Attridge Bufton

Faye Abrams and Michael Ridley

Reflections of a technician turned librarian

*By Paula Cardozo,
Nipissing University/Canadore College*

While I am proud to be OCULA's 2011 new librarian resident, I'm not new to working in an academic library. Prior to undertaking my master of library and information science (MLIS) at the University of Western Ontario, I worked for three years as a library technician at the Education Centre Library (ECL) serving Canadore College and Nipissing University. Last October I had completed my MLIS and returned to the ECL as the student success librarian.

A big decision
Although I have loved libraries my whole life, I never considered working in one until I noticed a job posting for a technician at the ECL. I loved my new job and began to believe, for the first time in my life, that I had found a career. Nevertheless, the decision to go to library school was not an easy one. In fact, I thought about going to library school longer than I was actually in the master's program! There were a number of factors that complicated the decision. To pursue my MLIS I would have to leave a steady job I enjoyed, coworkers I would miss terribly, and a community that had been my home for a decade. The prospect of no income for a year with no guarantee of one when I finished was also not particularly encouraging. Plus, I was dragging my husband along for the ride.

Asking the right questions
Anyone who has provided reference services knows the importance of asking someone else the right questions. However, there are times when we also have to ask ourselves the right questions too. In the case of deciding whether or not to pursue an MLIS, I asked myself, "Why do I want to be a librarian?" Although the answer seems simple, it took me a while to realize that I wanted to continue to work in academic libraries but I also wanted new challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities.

What has changed?
One of the most noticeable differences between my old position as a technician and my new one as a librarian is that I now spend more time in meetings and teleconferences. While the meetings are interesting and forward the goals of the library, I have less time to tackle a heavier and more complex workload. I admit that I am struggling with the nagging feeling that I am never doing as much as I should be. When I expressed this sentiment to my mentors, I was told that this is completely normal and that I will be feeling this way for the next 20 or 30 years! On a positive note, I enjoy being more autonomous, particularly when it comes to prioritizing my own responsibilities, and I have learned that academic libraries and the institutions they serve are not as simple as I had once assumed.

It's complicated...
I am finding it interesting to be a librarian at the institution where I worked as a library technician. On one hand, I have not had to adjust to a new library system, institution, or coworkers. On the other hand, I am making the transition from technician to librarian in full view of people who know me very well and sometimes I feel an increased pressure to prove myself. I also worry about the paraprofessional professional divide. Do my experiences as a library technician enable me relate better to my paraprofessional coworkers? Or have I placed myself on the other side of an "us vs. them" situation? Most importantly, how do I explain the difference between my old position and my new one without devaluing paraprofessional work? There are no easy answers to these questions.

No regrets
Sometimes I wish that I had found librarianship sooner in my life. I wonder where I would be career-wise if I had entered library school straight from my undergraduate degree. Upon further consideration, however, I am glad that my path has not been a smooth one. The road I have taken has prepared me for my current position and I am convinced that being a library technician has been a tremendous advantage for me. When I went to library school, I already had a solid foundation upon which to build the rest of my career. My para professional experiences enriched my studies and continue to enrich my professional practice.

Starting a dialogue
While I was able to find a fair amount of information on the benefits of recruiting paraprofessionals to librarianship, I have not found it easy to locate information about what happens after library school. Jennifer Peters, my fellow OCULA council member, is one librarian who has been talking and writing about making the transition. We have discussed collaborating in the future and are interested in hearing from other librarians with paraprofessional backgrounds.

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A big thank you to our OCULA program coordinators:
Jonathan Bengtson (University of Toronto) and
Trish Green (Conestoga College)

People News

Queen's University
(Submitted by Ellen Symons)

Anne Smithers is the new collections assessment librarian in Collection Development and E-Resources Management (CDERM). Anne joined Queen's Library in August 1995, following 11 years at the University of Alberta Library. As the head of technical and document services at the Bracken Health Sciences Library (BHSL), Anne has been responsible for the effective organization, administration and operation of the acquisitions, collections, serials, and cataloguing functions and interlibrary loan and document delivery services in BHSL. She has been a valued contributor to numerous Queen's Library teams and working groups and has been very active in provincial and national health sciences libraries communities, including a role as one of the e-resources negotiators for the Consortium of Ontario Academic Health Libraries (COAHL). In addition to her regular collections-related roles, Anne has filled in for some of the responsibilities of the Queen's Library's coordinator of collection development on two occasions, both times representing Queen's on the Ontario Council of University Libraries Information Resources Group and coordinating Queen's activities relating to this consortium. In her new position, Anne will retain a role in BHSL. Working closely with the coordinator of collection development and the head of the library, she will coordinate and participate in health sciences collection development.

University of Western Ontario
(Submitted by Kristin Hoffmann)

Western Libraries is pleased to welcome **Debbie Meert-Williston** as the head of research and instructional services at the Allyn & Betty Taylor Library.

Debbie has a bachelor of science in anthropology (minor in archaeology) from the University of Calgary and received her master of library and information science (MLIS) from the University of Alberta in 2005. She was previously a liaison librarian at McGill University Library and worked at both the Life Sciences Library and Macdonald Campus Library branches. Debbie is happy to return to her "home town" of London, after being away for nearly 20 years, and is enjoying becoming reacquainted with the city and the University of Western Ontario campus.

People News

Ryerson University
(Submitted by Cecile Farnum)

Ryerson University Library staff **Graham McCarthy** and **Steven Marsden** have received the 2011 Ontario Library and Information Technology Association (OLITA) Award for Technical Innovation. Graham, Ryerson's innovative technologies librarian, and Steven, a junior systems programmer, have developed a new ISBN/QR barcode scanning application which is now available on iOS and Android.

Stephen Marsden, Madeleine Lefebvre, and Graham McCarthy

This application reads QR and ISBN barcodes so that patrons can quickly check the availability of a library book. When an ISBN is scanned, the application initiates a search in the Ryerson University Library and Archives (RULA) catalogue and the results are displayed on a screen or, if the data contains a URL, the correct website is launched. Watch the following video for more information. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmKS1jJz7JI

Ryerson librarians **Dana Thomas** (left), **Ophelia Cheung** (centre) and **Susan Patrick** (right) with their recently-published book, *New Approaches to E-Reserve: Linking, Sharing and Streaming*, published by Woodhead Publishing in 2010.

York University
(Submitted by Christina Pringi)

York's learning commons honours Lorna Marsden

On February 28, 2011, the Salon of York University's new learning commons was named in honour of Dr. Lorna Marsden. Lorna is a champion of the university's libraries and has been instrumental in obtaining a large donation for the renovations.

Located in Scott Library, the learning commons blends quiet and collaborative study spaces, learning supports and new technology. The design features the following three areas and was developed in consultation with students, who provided feedback on both the purpose and aesthetics of the space.

• The Hub brings together research librarians, writing instructors, learning skills tutors and career advisors in a holistic, collaborative approach to academic support.

• The Collaboratory is a relaxed area with soft seating, booths, tables and mobile white-boards for group or individual study, containing the technology that students need to work on their projects.

• The Salon is a comfortable, quiet book-lined space for individual study featuring major works of Canadian art by David Partridge and Claude Tousignant.

Around the Province

Confederation College
(Submitted Sharron Forshaw)

Confederation College's Paterson Library Commons hosts a party!

As we began the month of February, winter was starting to take its toll on our faculty and students. There were still several weeks until spring break, and we were all tired. Our library staff was completing a long six months of work developing our virtual libguides, and we had just reached our goal of having a libguide for every program at the college—quite an accomplishment for a small staff, we thought, and one worth celebrating. However, we wondered how we would roll out this new research tool to ensure the greatest awareness in our college community.

We decided a mid-winter party was in order, so we combined our 'Libguide Launch' with Valentine's Day and held our event on February 14. To cover all bases, we advertised throughout the college, and the library consultants sent out personal invitations to all faculty in their programs. Then we decorated, baked, and bought food in keeping with our Valentine's Day theme, including a heart-shaped 'Love your Library' cake. It turned out to be a great idea, and good timing too, as everyone seemed in need of a break. We were surprised by the response—a full-house with standing room only!

Library staff gave a demonstration of the new libguides, followed by a question period. During the informal "meet and greet" time that followed, all library consultants had laptops and were available to give one-on-one instruction sessions to faculty and students in their specific programs. The response and interest level, particularly among faculty, was fantastic. Comments and the post-party emails received were very positive, and library staff are still hearing compliments on both the libguides and the party.

In fact, we are so encouraged now that maybe next year we'll try for another mid-winter event!

Demonstration at Libguide launch

Laraine Tapak, director of learning resources at Confederation College

Views from Super Conference 2011

InsideOCULA

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InsideOCULA describes the decisions and activities of OCULA leadership, explains OCULA programs and provides news of Ontario's college and university library systems.

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2011 OCULA Council