NEWSLETTER
OF THE
CARLETON
UNIVERSITY
MACODRUM
LIBRARY
FALL 2017

REMEMBERING THE
LEGACY OF JACOB SISKIND
The Siskind Room opens to support our students

Take a look through the improvements that have been made to the recently opened Jacob Siskind Room.
And just like that, summer is gone and a new academic term is upon us.

In this issue of M, we’re featuring donors, students, and staff who allow us to keep making changes to our space here at Carleton.

And as part of our continued focus on CU75 celebrations, we are taking a look at the hard work that has gone into compiling stories of our past for the Carleton at 75, Reflections + Photos, 1945–2017 photobook that was launched for CU75 celebrations.

It is a great reminder of all the work that has gone on Carleton over our first 75 years and a good time for us to focus on the ways we can continue to support the Carleton community as we move forward.

We also take a look at some of the ways we are helping make sure we do our part to making the Library a friendly and fun space for learning. We profile Jackie Celis, one of the student staff members here who make this a welcoming space, who was also the recipient of the Melody Mastad award this year. Our student employees play an important role in providing service to our community from the minute we open to the minute we close. Jackie is a great example of the difference they make.

And finally, we’ll give you a look inside the newly renovated Siskind Room. The changes to the room make it easier for students to both access the extensive collection donated by Jacob Siskind and also collaborate to create new pieces themselves.

We hope you enjoy the fall issue of M.

Wayne Jones
University Librarian
How do you convey 75 years of memories in 75 photographs? You start with 60,000 images, and talk to a lot of people. Then, after sifting through photos and soliciting personal stories for months, you package the words and pictures together in a keepsake book that distills the evolution of a dynamic community into 75 iconic images.

Carleton at 75, subtitled Reflections + Photos, 1945-2017, is a gorgeous and engaging hardcover that fills a unique niche in the university’s 75th anniversary celebrations. Rather than create an official institutional history of Carleton, the people behind the project — members of the 75th Anniversary Academic Events Planning Subcommittee (AEPSC) — decided on this elegant and intimate format.

Each two-page spread is comprised of one large image, an anchor word or phrase (such as “Winter” or “Our Blues Brother”), and a written reflection that was
either contributed by someone from the Carleton community or gleaned from the University’s archives. This approach was conceived by Patti Harper, Head, Research Support Services. “I wanted to use pictures and personal reflections to show our progress from a small college into a vibrant and diverse University,” says Harper. “We wanted to be inclusive and representative of what Carleton really is. And we wanted to produce a book because, in our disposable society, digital images are easy to lose track of.”

After she had narrowed down the selection to 150 photos, her AEPSC colleagues helped her settle on the final 75, which stretch from the early days of the University in the 1940s to the contemporary campus. “Each photo is a snapshot in time,” she continues. “Each image means something different to just about every viewer, and the reflections that accompany them convey some of those memories and nostalgia.”

Some stories, on the other hand, warrant a more granular approach. Which is why Sherri Sunstrum, a cartographic specialist at the MacOdrum Library, has also tapped into Carleton’s rich trove of archival images to produce an interactive I wanted to use pictures and personal reflections to show our progress from a small college into a vibrant and diverse university
online story map called *Visualizing 75 Years at Carleton University*. The story map uses a series of maps to allow people to navigate through an image-rich timeline detailing the evolution of Carleton. It brings together not only key pieces of the university’s historical narrative, such as the construction of new buildings and Carleton’s connection to Canada’s war vets, but also smaller, lesser known (and less laudatory) stories, like the time a group of students who wanted a Christmas tree cut down a rare fir across the canal at the Dominion Arboretum. *Visualizing 75 Years* is still developing as Sunstrum continues to gather information about the University’s past. It could be on display on large screens at other anniversary events.

“Putting this together was a great experience,” says Sunstrum. “It tells the story of Carleton in a unique way.”

*Carleton at 75, Reflections + Photos, 1945-2017,* is a gorgeous and engaging hardcover that fills a unique niche in the University’s 75th anniversary celebrations.

Each image means something different to just about every viewer, and the reflections that accompany them convey some of those memories and nostalgia.

Rather than create an official institutional history of Carleton, the people behind the project – members of the 75th Anniversary Academic Events Planning Subcommittee – decided on this simple format. /M

Patti Harper played a key role in finding pictures that would tell Carleton University’s story.
The community gathered to remember the contributions of Jacob Siskind as part of the room opening.

**Jacob Siskind**

*The Person*

Jacob Kohos Siskind was born in Montreal on June 9th, 1929. He took an early interest in music, studying piano from a young age from teachers Rose Goldfliess, Alfred Libarate, Helmut Blume and Bernie Moskowitz. At the Conservatoire de musique du Québec à Montréal, Siskind studied with Yvon Hubert. There, his studies included the violin and organ. Siskind taught piano early in his career and coached young performers.

While at McGill University, Siskind studied mathematics, physics and music. At seventeen, he began writing music criticism for the McGill Daily. Soon, he broadened his studies to include psychology and English. Siskind began freelancing for the Montreal Star and writing fiction under pseudonyms for U.S. pulp magazines. These early efforts launched what would become a successful career in journalism.

As an author, Siskind’s voice was candid, poignant, and inclusive in both his professional and personal writing. Throughout his life, he assembled a vast collection of musical recordings. In his retirement, Siskind remained in Ottawa tending his garden, maintaining personal and professional correspondence, and working with local music organizations. (The Encyclopedia of Music in Canada)

**THE SISKIND ROOM OPENING:**

GIVE GREATER ACCESS TO A GREAT COLLECTION
On Thursday, June 8, the Library hosted the official launch of the Siskind Room. The evening featured musical tributes to Jacob Siskind and his legacy as well as speakers from the community who have been an integral part of making this happen.

The performances included Bryan Cheng, cello (CBC “30 hot Canadian classical musicians under age 30” list, 2015) and Anita Pari, 3rd-year Carleton BMus student (piano/cello/composition) (CBC “30 hot Canadian classical musicians under age 30” list, 2014).

Speakers at the event included Wayne Jones, University Librarian; Dr. Elaine Keillor, C.M., Distinguished Research Professor Emerita; Peter MacDonald, General Manager, Ottawa Chamber Music Society/Chamberfest; Dr. James K. Wright, Professor & Supervisor of Performance Studies; and, Dr. Roseann O’Reilly Runte, President and Vice-Chancellor.

The event recognized the longtime contributions from Jacob Siskind and officially opened the updated room to the public. First and foremost, the renovations will enable the Library to offer students a more immersive learning experience and a way to more easily access the extensive collection that the Jacob Siskind Music Resource Centre has made available.

Siskind’s music collection is amazing in its comprehensiveness, comprising approximately...
20,000 LPs, 8,000 CDs, and 3,000 78-rpm records. These recordings include contemporary pieces written by modern-day composers, and diverse versions of classic and contemporary pieces to contrast and compare. It is with this curated collection of resources that Jacob Siskind was able to develop his understanding and awareness of the field of classical music and continue educating himself and his audience.

The centre highlights Siskind’s collection of recordings alongside the newly acquired CBC Jazz Collection comprising over 20,000 CDs, giving Carleton one of Canada’s most comprehensive Canadian jazz collections. Another important aspect of the Music Resource Centre is Jacob Siskind’s collection of the papers and personal items of Montreal music critic Thomas Archer.

Among Siskind’s personal collection are interviews and correspondence with leading figures in music such as Montreal mezzo-soprano Sarah Fischer, Jewish-Ukrainian pianist Emil Gilels, Czech soprano Ruzena Herlinger, pianist and conductor Victor Borge, and widow of composer Alban Berg, Helene Berg.

Siskind’s correspondence, sheet music, collection of concert programs and, above all, his collection of musical recordings will be valuable for classical music and journalism students, faculty and researchers at Carleton and in the broader community. His connections with the world of music in both Canada and abroad are a unique resource for those interested in Music, Criticism, Art History, Canadian Studies, and Journalism.
Our student employees play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the MacOdrum Library. The Library employs between 70 and 100 students in any given year in all Library departments. Undoubtedly, some of the services we provide simply would not be possible without them.

It is often the student employees who act as the public face of the Library. They are the ones students interact with, ask questions to, and see working in the stacks all hours of the day.

Since 2012, we have awarded the Melody Mastad Award of Excellence in Student Assistantship to one outstanding student. Jackie Celis, a Stacks Student Assistant, was named the 2017 winner and was recognized at a ceremony in April.

“I have worked with Jackie for almost two years now, and not only is she the kindest woman I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, she is hard working, creative, dedicated, and reliable.”

“Something I have always admired about Jackie is how well she is able to balance her busy academic, work and family life, and still manage to constantly be happy and greet everybody she sees with a big smile. Whenever I have a conversation with Jackie, regardless of my mood, I always leave a little bit happier.”

“She shows great customer service and is always willing to help, with enthusiasm, care and a positive attitude.”

nominations submitted for her that Jackie has a huge impact on both those who visit the Library and those who work here.

The following students were nominated this year:

- Sarah Gorman, Access Services/Technical Services
- Jackie Celis, Access Services
- Sebastian Perry, Access Services
- Meaghan Easter, Access Services
- Brandon Ciesielski, Access Services
- Lucas Bridges, Access Services
- Elena Tokmakova, Access Services
- Petra Hohenstein, Access Services
- Daniel Tura, Access Services
They are a collection of things that many Canadians can pull from their mind at a moment’s notice. Some remember only a few but remember those ones very well. Others can recite most of them to you if you are brave enough to ask. Whether you fall on one side or the other though, there is little doubt that you know what a Heritage Minute is. But there is less of a chance that you have visited the site of all of them. Mostly because it has never been done. But

Rebecca Bartlett from Research Support Services and her partner Jim Ellwood, who is a Carleton grad, are taking on a coast-to-coast adventure to visit a site for each of the 87 Heritage Minute locations. Their website where they are documenting their travels says it best:

“A silly idea that spiraled out of control. This turned into some brainstorming, which turned into a list, which turned into – well now we’re here.”
Setting Up the Trip

“Once we decided to see if visiting a Canadian location for every Heritage Minute was even possible, we spent hours of our time doing research,” say Rebecca. “We also put all the locations on an interactive online map, so my training in GIS (geographic information systems) and Jim’s coding skills came in very handy.”

To date they have been to 32 stops across the country and hope to knock off more before the end of 2017. The goal is to finish all of them off by the end of 2018 barring the addition of any additional minutes in the coming years.

You can follow along with their Heritage Minute adventure and see which ones they have already knocked off their list at www.minutesroadtrip.ca.

Heritage Minute Favourites

Like anyone who has grown up watching Heritage Minutes, both Rebecca and Jim have their favourites.

Her favourite is one of the newest additions to the collection: the Minute about Nova Scotia civil rights icon Viola Desmond.

His favourite is the Minute about Sam Steele, a Yukon Mountie who served during the Klondike Gold Rush.

While they have different opinions on the best Minute, they are unified in their opinion on their least favourite: the Minute that profiles Joe Shuster and his creation of Superman.
EVENTS

Please consider attending our upcoming events!
For more information visit carleton.ca/events

UPCOMING LIBRARY EXHIBITS:

“She Wants an Output” looks back at the history of the punk music scene in Ottawa with a focus on women who have been involved in it. Curated by Michael Davidge (CUAG).

“Art of the Americas” In celebration of Canada’s 150, paintings from artists from 30 countries inaugurated at the PAN AM GAMES Toronto 2015. Curated by Terra Art.

“Open Hearts – Closed Doors” Story of the arrival, on Canadian soil between 1947 and 1949, of 1,123 Jewish Children orphaned by the Holocaust. Curated by Batia Winer on behalf of CHES @ the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies @ Carleton University.

“FPA Research Month” celebrating research in Carleton’s Faculty of Public Affairs.

“Showcase of Favorite books from Staff’s personal libraries” Curated by Carleton Library staff.

“Passchendaele: Books, letters, diaries, maps honouring those who fought” Curated by Carleton Faculty and Carleton Library staff.

On September 13, the Library hosted Getting Graphic with Ryan North as part of Carleton’s Throwback celebrations. Ryan North, a Carleton grad, read from Romeo and/or Juliet, based on the Shakespeare play but with a “choose-your-own-adventure” narrative. We also had the Sock ‘n’ Buskin theatre group perform some improv and ended the evening with four fans of graphic novels — Kristof Avramsson, Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisan, Benjamin Woo, and Ryan North, defending their favourite one, with the audience choosing the winner.