

4.

SPACE AND STAFFING



4.1. Physical Space: Jackman Humanities Building Opening 27 November 2008

The Jackman Humanities Institute is located on the tenth floor of the Jackman Humanities Building at 170 St. George Street. Originally designed by the architect (and U of T alumnus) Ferdinand Marani, the building first opened in 1929, and was known as the Medical Arts Building. The University of Toronto purchased it in 2001–2002, and after extensive renovations, the newly renamed Jackman Humanities Building was opened on 27 November 2008. Five million dollars of the capital cost of this renovation work was included in the second (2007) gift of \$15 million from the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman. The building now houses the Jackman Humanities Institute, the Departments of English, Philosophy, and Religion, and the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies.

The Jackman Humanities Building was formally opened on 27 November 2008, in the third of three events that officially recognized and celebrated the generous new donation made by the Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman to the humanities at the University of Toronto.

Hosted by:

- John F. (Jack) Petch, Chair, Governing Council
- Dr. David Naylor, President, University of Toronto
- Professor Meric Gertler, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

Remarks:

- Professor Meric Gertler
- President David Naylor
- Professor Robert Gibbs, Director, JHI
- The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman
- John F. (Jack) Petch
- Chancellor David Peterson

The Jackman Humanities Building Opening was held at the JHI, and was attended by approximately 80 invited guests, including holders of Jackman Professorships and Fellowships, Chairs of Humanities departments, representatives from the architectural firm Kohn Schnier, and members of the Jackman family. A dedicatory plaque on the tenth floor of the building was unveiled at this occasion, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the building.



From left: Robert Gibbs, Director of the JHI; Jack Petch, Chair, Governing Council; The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman; Maruja Jackman; David Naylor, President of the University of Toronto; Meric Gertler, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science; The Honourable David Peterson, Chancellor of the University of Toronto

4.1.1. Physical Space: The Jackman Humanities Institute

In November 2008, the Institute moved from temporary space in a suite of rooms on the third floor to the whole of the tenth floor of 170 St. George. Elegantly renovated by the architectural firm Kohn Schnier, the new space takes full advantage of the stunning views of the city from all sides, creating a signature space for advanced humanities research. The renovated space includes fifteen offices for Fellows, an open area with six carrels for undergraduates, three administrative offices, a reception area, a large meeting room, a small meeting room, a kitchen, four washrooms, a lounge area, and an outdoor patio at the southeast corner. The JHI also includes a Digital Humanities workroom on the second floor of the building, and manages bookings for a conference space (capacity 100) and seminar room (capacity 15) on the first floor of the building.

The light, airy new space has proven to be very conducive to scholarly activity. The goal was to balance the seclusion of private offices with conversations in the inviting public spaces for small and larger groups. Formal weekly luncheons for JHI Fellows are held in the large meeting room, and a variety of smaller, informal activities, such as ancient language studies and reading groups, sprang up, organized by the JHI Fellows, and hosted in various spaces at the Institute. The large meeting room was also used by several of the Working Groups and for Program for the Arts events.



(Left) The visually striking main entrance hallway, with elevators to the right and the reception area to the left, features a randomized pattern of marble and slate that moves from black to white. This pattern also appears on the JHI letterhead and website.



(Right) The main meeting room features rolling tables and chairs that can be quickly rearranged for a variety of uses. It is equipped with a digital projector and screen, can be closed for privacy, and adjoins the kitchen.



(Left) Each of the offices for JHI Fellows is slightly different. They all feature windows or skylights and are arranged in an enclave at the south end of the building, with views looking east, south, and west. Professor Rosemary Sullivan, Faculty Research Fellow, occupied this office in the 2008-2009 year.

(Right) The patio on the southeast corner of the building features soaring views of Bloor and St. George streets. During the winter, it was used only by a red-tailed hawk, but the coming of spring has allowed JHI Fellows to enjoy the fresh air in a unique conversational area.



4.2. Virtual Space: Jackman Humanities Institute Website Redesign

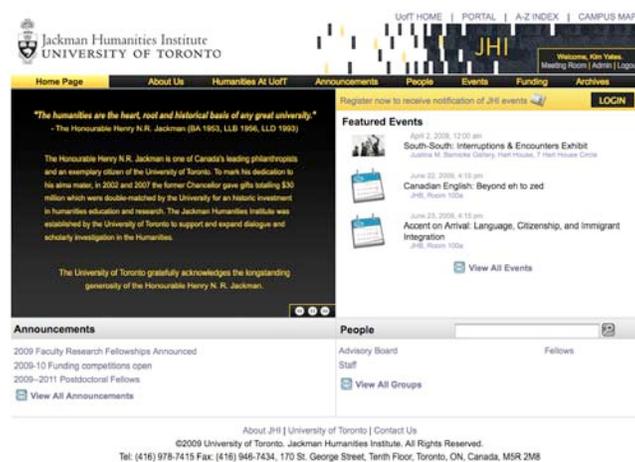
The JHI website at www.humanities.utoronto.ca was redesigned and launched in April 2009, with additional components scheduled for release throughout the summer. Its goal is to foster connections across the university in order to provide humanities scholars with better access to events and to facilitate more shared research. What began as a largely informational site soon metamorphosed into a leading humanities interactive virtual space. In early stages of design, two new key goals emerged: 1) to facilitate ongoing interaction for the various groups that the JHI was financially supporting in physical space; and 2) to simplify and coordinate administration of the JHI. Further developments will include archiving of events hosted by the JHI, as well as reports and administrative records, and in a later stage hosting of digital humanities research.

The website is custom-developed to meet the needs of the wide range of activities hosted by the JHI, and to allow JHI staff members to manage content, users, events, and funding competitions. The new site was carefully designed to reflect characteristics of the JHI's physical space, with the goal being the continued development of a unified image for the Institute. The development of the systems architecture and visual look of the new website was supervised by the University of Toronto Library Digital Library and Web Services office. Consultations with faculty members of several humanities departments helped to guide the process. The software was designed by Mike Edmonds, and the visual look of the site was designed by Gordon Belray. To ensure compatibility with a range of possible future requirements, the application and database were designed using a flexible object oriented framework and strong relational model. The choice of an open-source hosting environment ensures long-term stability and performance, while avoiding the expensive licensing fees associated with competing products.

The new website fulfills the second part of our mandate: “to create new networks, both physical and *virtual*, for interaction among humanities scholars, regardless of their discipline... [and] a portal to the Humanities at the University of Toronto.”

Features

- Users manage their own profiles, interests, and communications preferences
- Events can be tagged with appropriate interest categories; events may also be posted by approved users in other departments
- Email reminders can be sent to users for matching events and funding competitions
- Private ‘salon’ spaces allow members of Working Groups and planning committees for Program in the Arts events to share information including research
- Funding competition module securely manages online applications including evaluations
- Room booking requests may be made and approved through the website
- Groups of users may be selected for email communication
- Links to every Humanities unit at the University of Toronto



4.3. Staffing at the Jackman Humanities Institute



Associate Director: Kim Yates (80%), Ph.D., M.I.St.

Kim joined us on 1 July 2008. She is responsible for the programs of the JHI, including managing the Circle of Fellows; researching, design, and implementation of new programs; and developing the new website. She prepares the reports of the JHI, designs publicity for JHI events, and oversees internal communications at the JHI. Kim brought a wide range of experience at the University of Toronto, including six years as Assistant to the Director at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, three years teaching with the Department of English, a Master's of Information Studies and a doctorate in English literature with specialization in late medieval drama.



Office Administrator: Monica Toffoli (83%: September – June)

Monica rejoined the Jackman Humanities Institute on 1 November 2008; she had also worked with us in our planning phase from 2006 to May 2008. She is responsible for space, furnishings, equipment, and catering. In addition she assists the Director, manages the website and supports all of the JHI's competitions. Monica is our primary point of public contact, receiving all who come to the tenth floor.



Financial Officer: Cheryl Pasternak (40%)

Cheryl came to the JHI in October 2008. She is responsible for budgeting, financial reporting, day-to-day account management, including communications with other financial officers in the university. Cheryl comes to us with ten years' experience in bookkeeping and financial management in both the University of Toronto and the private sector.