



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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**MEDIA RELEASE | JANUARY 17, 2008**

## Students Living in University Libraries Across Canada for Next 10 Days

January 17, 2008 – Two undergraduate students with a dream of spreading literacy will camp in Koerner Library for the next 10 days to raise support, awareness – and funds. And they'll be joined by like-minded students across the country.

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**Place:** Walter C. Koerner Library, 1958 Main Mall

**Date/Time:** January 18 - 28

**Parking:** Rose Garden Parkade, 6278 North West Marine Drive  
[www.maps.ubc.ca](http://www.maps.ubc.ca)

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As part of Live-in for Literacy 2008, DREAM (Discover the Reality of Educating All Minds), a university club, is pitching a tent inside the lobby of Koerner Library. Other participating libraries are Queen's University in Kingston, Memorial University in St. John's and Laurentian University in Sudbury.

Two students will live in each library from 10am PST Friday, January 18, until 10am PST Monday, January 28. The aim is to raise \$20,000 nationally to construct five school libraries in Nepal through Room to Read ([www.roomtoread.org](http://www.roomtoread.org)), an international charity. In the past two years the event has raised \$17,000 to build a computer lab in Cambodia and three school libraries in Nepal.

This is the first time western Canada has been involved in the event which has been held at Queen's University for the past three years. In a show of support, UBC Library has already pledged \$1,000 to kick-start donations.

“All libraries, large and small, are connected in their role to support literacy,” says Leonora Crema, UBC Library's Head of Borrower Services. “We felt compelled by DREAM's vision and the chance to make a difference in communities that haven't yet had the transforming effect of libraries”



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“As a history student I truly believe that literacy is crucial to breaking the cycle of poverty that exists anywhere, but especially Nepal,” says Anita Bernardo, UBC undergraduate student and one of the campers at Koerner Library. “Literacy is necessary in today’s world to succeed as individuals and as societies, and if I can help Nepalese schoolchildren by living in a library that I love, then I’m happy to do so.”

The students must remain in the library 24 hours a day, with only five minutes of every hour permitted for bathroom or other necessary breaks.

“It’s not easy missing classes and living in a library for 10 days,” says John MacDonald, DREAM Co-Chair and camper in last year’s event at Queen’s. “But it’s a lot easier than the lives of the children we’re helping. They don’t have a library to read in, let alone live in – so with the help of Room to Read and all of Canada, we’re building them five.”

Further information is also available at [www.liveinforliteracy.com](http://www.liveinforliteracy.com).

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