Dear Friend of the University Libraries,

As I look back on the past year, I have been struck by the impressive accomplishments and successes of our dedicated librarians, administrative faculty and staff. They are the heart and soul of the libraries and I’m very proud to call them my colleagues. I’m also very proud of our students, both those who work for us and those who make use of our services. UNR students as a whole are a pretty impressive group: hardworking, independent, optimistic, and committed to their education. In this 2015 winter issue of Knowledge Matters, we are delighted to share stories of our student employees, past and present. Their determination to accomplish their dreams is truly inspiring.

Student stories and feedback have also prompted changes. We’ve added new computer workstations, reconfigured study areas to offer more collaborative workspaces and extended our hours to meet the needs of a growing student body.

We hope you will be gratified by the success of our students and the very real contributions your dollars provide.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and the DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library. Our very best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2016!

Kathy Ray  
Dean, University Libraries and Teaching & Learning Technologies

The University Libraries embrace intellectual inquiry and innovation, nurture the production of new knowledge, and foster excellence in learning, teaching, and research through scholarly resources, creative learning spaces, cutting-edge technology, and world-class service.

The University Libraries aspire to be partners in the scholarly and creative achievements of students, faculty and staff; leaders in the academic library community; and contributors in the University’s efforts to become nationally known for academic excellence and positive community impacts.

The University Libraries

MISSION

VISION

NICOLE ALLEN
@One student employee.
Nicole Allen, is a proud member of the inaugural 2011 Smallwood Multimedia Boot Camp.
Participating in the Smallwood Boot Camp was a great opportunity to get out of her comfort zone, boost her confidence, and significantly learn more about multimedia. Allen made such a great impression with her drive and stellar work during the Boot Camp, she was offered a Friends of the Library scholarship and employment in @One. While pursuing a degree in French, Allen indicated she loves working in @One. Her responsibilities include assisting other students solve multimedia issues, printing posters, and training new student workers at the beginning of each semester.

Allen credits her supervisors, Harry Thomas and Erin Read, with providing her with the tools and mentorship necessary to be successful.

Allen candidly stated, “If I hadn’t had this job, there would have been a strong chance of me dropping out of school. I feel like I’m part of something here, the people I work with have become my friends. The job is motivation to do well.”

HANNAH HUNTLEY
2013 Smallwood Multimedia Boot Camp graduate and current Smallwood fellow, Hannah Huntley, works in the multimedia checkout area of @One within the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. As a dual women’s studies/art major, Smallwood piqued Huntley’s interest in graphic design and increased the attractiveness of attending the University of Nevada, Reno campus after graduating from high school.

As the Smallwood Fellow, she receives a scholarship for two years toward her tuition and other education-related expenses. Between the Smallwood funds and the state of Nevada’s Millennium Scholarship, Huntley receives almost enough money to cover the entire cost of her tuition and books which, she says, “takes a huge weight off me and my family.”

Working in @One provides Huntley with opportunities she might not otherwise have. “Having a stable job on my resume will help me transition to a professional environment after graduation,” Huntley says. The job allows her to learn new skills on a daily basis, while also providing her connections outside the University that may be of use to her in the future. She’s able to continue honing her graphic design skills and stay up-to-date on the latest and greatest in technology. Every day brings something new to learn and she enjoys seeing her own progress as she gains more experience.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

HANNAH HUNTLEY

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**NEW TECHNOLOGY TOOLS**

**Search Tool for Special Collections and University Archives**

Through a collaborative effort of the University Libraries Metadata and Cataloging, Special Collections, and Library Technology departments, a new finding aid database for Manuscripts and University Archives Collections has been launched.

Although a very basic search feature was available for these materials previously, this new database has increased the breadth and depth of search options including 100% of the items within these collections. While using this finding aid, database users at UNR and far beyond will be able to perform deep and broad multi-faceted searches of all historical Nevada manuscript collections and University-related archive collections held by UNR. Materials are now categorized and cross-referenced not only with keywords but also by periods of time, people/groupings, location names and more.

To check out the database, go to www.KnowledgeCenter.unr.edu, navigate to the Special Collections page and click on the large button indicating Manuscript Collection guide.

**Dynamic Media Lab Upgrade**

The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center is a busy place, and the use of technology in the library is a particular draw for both students and faculty. There is a high level of demand not only for computer access, but also specialized software, so up-to-date hardware is critical.

In October of this year, the 18 Apple computers in the @One’s Dynamic Media Lab were upgraded to the newest Mac Pros. These new Macs are a major improvement in their capability to efficiently process videos which means less of the user’s time is spent twiddling their thumbs waiting for the task to be completed. These systems will also speed up large data migrations (moving big video files) to a fraction of the time it used to take on the old Macs.

The older Macs, however, still have useful life and have been relocated to a newly reconfigured study area on the second floor of the Knowledge Center. While not optimal for high-end multimedia editing and animation software, these computers are still suitable for routine tasks and will continue to see heavy use in their new home.

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**Reaching Students**

**Edible Books**

On September 28, the Knowledge Center held its second annual Edible Book Festival to celebrate Banned Books Week. Staff from throughout the library recreated their favorite banned books in food form. Staff and students then had an opportunity to vote for the best treat in several categories, including “punniest” and most literary. Once voting was complete, students and staff who had voted could return with their treat ticket to take a bite of their favorite banned book.

This event also featured button making and multiple displays on banned books. The event was a huge success provoking thought and discussion regarding intellectual freedom and freedom of speech.

**Microsoft DigiGirlz Day**

On July 30, over 100 high school girls spent the day at DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library with the Microsoft DigiGirlz program, a two-day camp that introduces girls to opportunities in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields. The program gives them a chance to get some hands-on experience with coding, 3D printing, laser cutting, and more. Because only 1 in 1000 girls go into STEM fields, events like this are more important than ever to provide young women with the opportunities and confidence to explore all of their options.

Chrsyse Klenke, Earth Science and Maps Librarian, taught a workshop on 3D Modeling and Design introducing the students to TinkerCAD, an introductory 3D modeling software. A big thank you to the team at DeLaMare for supporting such a great event.
EXPLORING GROUP STUDY

Improving ways to better connect

The University of Nevada, Reno Libraries are always improving and seeking ways to better connect and serve the academic needs of our campus community. To this end, our Libraries staff wanted to know what kind of spaces students actually need to do their academic work. The libraries brought in Ihaala S-R’s senior anthropologist, Nancy Fried Foster, to help explore this question. Ultimately, by better understanding the nature of group work, more informed decisions can be made in regards to designing facilities and services.

“For more than a decade, college and university librarians have poured resources into accommodating group work in the belief that students are receiving more and more group assignments, especially in STEM fields. Judging by headcounts and casual observation, group spaces have proven successful. Students use study rooms and group tables and ask for even more such space, and many libraries are quick to oblige.”

“One of the most important findings of [this study] is that while collaborative study space is needed, it is not used in exactly the way the librarians imagined.”

Additionally, the research discovered that:

- Group work is assigned across the curriculum, not only in certain courses or programs, and may take many forms.
- Students work in groups across campus and in off-campus locations, where they find that a combination of convenience and conditions makes their work possible.
- On campus, the main library attracts a noticeably large number of students to sit or work together, straining available facilities and equipment.

Our research is already paying off for UNR’s students with the addition of the third floor collaboration space in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. See the following story for more information.

New Collaboration Space

In support of the "Exploring Group Study at the University of Nevada, Reno" findings, a new collaboration space has been created on the third floor. This prime spot previously held lower-use government documents which have now been relocated to the fifth floor to allow for the new configuration.

Tables, chairs and lounge furniture, in addition to whiteboards and soundproofing, create a conducive group workspace. Feedback boxes were also provided to gather information and suggestions from users for improving the area further. What became immediately clear was that the space was very popular and heavily used by students. Based on further feedback, this collaboration area will continue to evolve and improve with a more permanent remodel under consideration.

TAKE 5 WITH COUNSELING SERVICES

Take 5

Both the DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library and the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center are pleased to have partnered with UNR’s Counseling Services to present the Take 5 program to students.

“Take 5” creates a platform to better facilitate and coordinate a variety of proactive stress management and wellness enhancement activities for students, in addition to reducing the stigma and increasing awareness of psychological services.

The program, led by Marcia Cooper, LCSW, offers everything from yoga sessions and meditation exercises to “Paws for Love” Animal Assisted Therapy. “Paws for Love” was previously only offered in the Knowledge Center on the day before finals but the Take 5 program has been able to provide therapy dogs on a bi-weekly basis which the students love. Additionally, through Interactive Stress Reduction Activities, students are able to connect with a clinician using non-threatening interactive mediums such as puzzles, Legos, coloring pages and kinetic sand.

This partnership further supports the knowledge that the University Libraries are the hub of student success.
**STUDENT IMPACT**

Brian Sergott  
*The Birth of a Filmmaker*

"When I started getting more involved at the Knowledge Center it really became a reason and a way for me to take my passion to the next step. I recognized it and took advantage of it. I think more people really should take advantage of what this campus has to offer. Without the University and everything I’ve done here, I don’t think I would be where I am today at USC, at the number one film school in the nation."

Now at USC, studying cinematography and working as a freelance Steadicam operator, Sergott is grateful for his time at the University. Gandolfo taught him how to use the @One’s Steadicam, which spurred Sergott to buy his own. The Steadicam consists of three pieces: a vest worn by the user, which is attached to an arm holding the camera, and a monitor for viewing what’s being filmed. The Steadicam allows the operator to move through a film set smoothly without any camera shake.

Being a Steadicam operator provides Sergott with opportunities he might not otherwise have. He’s done music video work for LA-based hip-hop artist Jay Rock, political campaign work for former presidential candidate Scott Walker, and made the wrap-up video for Night in the Country, a summer country music event held in Yerington. Recently, he went to Georgia to take a week-long master series workshop with the inventor of the Steadicam—doing this officially certified Sergott as a Steadicam operator, opening up even more doors to him.

Sergott’s connections to the University came full circle this past summer when he returned to teach at the Smallwood Multimedia Boot Camp, a program for rising high school seniors interested in multimedia technologies. He was glad to come back and work with the high school students, inspiring them and showing them a career as a filmmaker isn’t out of reach and can actually be very lucrative.

Sergott eventually wants to specialize in being a Steadicam operator on TV shows or feature films in Hollywood. That goal is a big part of why he has purchased his own rig and why he understands the importance of upgrading his equipment periodically—having his own equipment gives him a sense of freedom and the ability to work his way up through the camera departments on film and television sets.

In summing up his experience thus far, Sergott says it all starts with what he learned at the Knowledge Center. “Working [there] provided me with such an advantage over my peers. It gave me real world experience. It let me know how to be professional, how to work professionally, really how to have confidence when I present myself, stepping into this field of work.”
STUDENT IMPACT

Tati Mesfin
Student Biologist to Professional Librarian

If you had told Tati Mesfin as a freshman biology major at UNR that she would be a librarian after graduation, she would have thought you were crazy. However, after working as a student in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center for four years, she found her calling. Now in her second semester pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science degree, she is also working for University Libraries as a Core Writing Liaison Librarian.

Mesfin gave the librarians she worked with during her time as an undergraduate a significant amount of credit for steering her toward librarianship. “The librarians I worked with were the greatest people and loved what they did,” Mesfin states. After volunteering at other types of libraries, she says everything kept pointing her back to the Knowledge Center. Mesfin appreciates the work environment in addition to the ethics and principles of academic libraries, giving students a sense of independence and resourcefulness.

As Mesfin has always enjoyed teaching, her role instructing students and faculty in how to find information is a wonderful fit. Being successful as a librarian, she indicates, requires assessing the changes in how people think about information and how people seek that information. Mesfin says libraries and librarians, “must keep up with that evolution of change.” There is no doubt that Mesfin will.

GATHERINGS

Western Shoshone Exhibit Reception

On Saturday, September 26, members of the Western Shoshone tribe and Friends of the Library gathered at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center to celebrate the opening of the Western Shoshone Defense Project collection and exhibit. The Libraries were especially honored to have Carrie Dana attend. Carrie and her sister led the fight for the rights of native people. The exhibit, which is on display through March 2016, features important documents, photos, and other memorabilia related to the legal and cultural issues faced by the Dana sisters, their relatives, and other Shoshone tribe members over land and grazing rights.

Above: Carrie Dana (right) with a UNR student

Middle, bottom: Lois Snedden, Kay Fowler and Don Fowler speaking with Dana Kathy Ray. (l to r) Inez and Raymond Yowell, Kathleen Holley and Barbara Bailey

Maya Miller Exhibit Reception

On Sunday, October 11, a small group of family and friends came together to celebrate the new Maya Miller collection. This online offering, spearheaded by Maya’s daughter Kit, allows for the discovery of Miller’s amazing contributions to Nevada and the world.

Above: (l to r) Tisa Nappa, Jim Conkey, Nancy Conkey and Jan Gilbert

Above: (l to r) Eden Strickel, Monica Haughton and Kit Miller

Pauline Page

MINING TO MOVIES

As an undergraduate mining engineering major, Royce Feuer was also making movies. In fact, as soon as one project wrapped, he was obsessed with what his next video would be. That also meant he spent a lot of time in a one working on the post-production aspect of his “hobby,” frequently interacting with the staff. Feuer says, “I learned that videos are powerful and that you could use [this medium] to change the world by grabbing attention and entertaining people.”

During the summer of 2012, while working on a mining internship in Winnemucca, Feuer had an epiphany. He realized that although mining was a guaranteed hefty paycheck, filmmaking was his passion and following his passion would make him happy.

In 2013, to work toward his goal of transitioning to filmmaking, Feuer became a student worker in the @One. Since then, he has completed Mark Gandolfo’s Introduction and Advanced Videography courses, assisted with the Smallwood Multimedia Boot Camp and is currently wrapping up an independent study in videography. Feuer says, “I would not have been able to make the jump [to filmmaking] without the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center equipment, software and staff.” Feuer has completed his degree program in Mining Engineering and is now planning to apply to film school as a graduate student.

Above: (l to r) Edan Strickel, Monica Haughton and Kit Miller