WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF KNOWLEDGE MATTERS IN 2015

As we wrap-up the first month of the new year, the staff and faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno’s Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library would like to extend our best wishes to all of you for continued good health and happiness in 2015.

LIQUID GALAXY A BIG HIT WITH THE GOVERNOR

Tod Colegrove, head of DeLaMare Library, introduced Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval last fall to the library’s Liquid Galaxy, a cluster of computers running Google Earth. Made possible by the generous donation of Elizabeth Ray, M.Ed. ’78, DeLaMare’s installation of Liquid Galaxy gives people the unique experience of being anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds. You’ll see the vast depth and breadth of nature including mountains, valleys and even the ocean floor, along with buildings and other creations of mankind. It’s a remarkable experience.

Check out the photos at DeLaMare, a place where engaging activities abound. Many of the photos, including this one, are by Data Works Manager Nick Crowl who works at both libraries.

A LOOK BACK AT SOME REMARKABLE LIBRARY STORIES

2014 at the University Libraries can be characterized as a year of reaching out even more broadly to students and faculty and a wide range of people living in the Truckee Meadows. We expanded our vision and made a statement about the need for sustainability in this community through our Reused + Recycled = Art exhibit and the Summer of Sustainability, a partnership with the University’s Academy for the Environment. We recognized the achievements of students working at the libraries. We honored the Nevada sesquicentennial in numerous ways, and we were proud about recognition the libraries received from places like Make Magazine which honored DeLaMare as one of the most interesting makerspaces in the country.

Be sure to read Knowledge Matters 2014 Year in Review >>

DELMARE’S PORTABLE 3D SCANNERS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND

Scanning Nevada’s ichthyosaur fossils by a University geological sciences professor and student in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History is one of an increasing number of fascinating ways DeLaMare Library’s two hand-held 3D scanners are getting a workout. Using the library’s Artec 3D light scanners and other sophisticated equipment, the
University and Smithsonian team will create 3D models of the fossils from the Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park in Berlin, Nev., and the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas. 3D models have been made at DeLaMare of items ranging from healthcare devices to model trains to an iguana (see photo at right). The options are unlimited.

2014 NEVADA WRITERS HALL OF FAME AWARD WINNERS ON KNPB

KPB News Director Brent Boynton (on far right) interviews Nevada Writers Hall of Fame 2014 inductees Shaun Griffin, Ron James and Silver Pen Award winner Alecia Barber in this thoughtful 30-minute interview of their personal insights into the writer’s life.

Enjoy photos from the ceremony >>

LIBRARIES HELP STUDENTS LEARN DIGITAL STORYTELLING

A senior-level course on intercultural communications last year got 59 University students from all disciplines engaged in service learning and, for the first time, digital story creation using photographs, video, music and their own voices to create first-person accounts of their service learning projects.

Communications Studies Assistant Professor Sarah Blithe (second row, third from left) said this new technique of integrating visual communication components for a final project showed in a very personal, cutting-edge way the depth of what the students learned. "It taught them critical skills for today's job market." That thought was supported by 83 percent of the students who reported they were learning useful digital skills that would serve them well in their course work and future employment.

Students created short videos about their experiences with community organizations that work with groups such as aging residents, Native Americans and underserved populations. The videos were so popular that many partners used them on their websites. Three of the students were offered jobs with the organizations to help with digital media and marketing. Examples of the videos include Erin Collins' digital story, Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada and Zach Barbara's story, English as a Second Language.

Students learned digital media skills in the Knowledge Center's Dynamic Media Lab with the support of @One Digital Media Technology Department staff members, including Winter Carrera (second row, fourth from left), and librarian Ann Medaille (second row, fifth from left). A research article by Blithe, Carrera and Medaille, Stories of Service-Learning: Guidelines for Increasing Student Engagement with Digital Storytelling, will appear this spring in the Journal of Library Innovation.

MORE HIGH TECH TOOLS AVAILABLE IN @ONE'S NEW 4K SUITE

Three new Ultra HD work stations have been created in the Knowledge Center's @One, the University's premier site for technology services for students, faculty and staff. The group
edit, color correct station accommodates group multimedia collaboration. Preliminary work can be done in the Dynamic Media Lab and continued at this station. There is also a graphic design station with a large tablet for freehand drawing and using paintbrush tools. Both stations are Apple systems. The PC-based work station has Camatasia Studio which supports the creation of tutorials, demos, courses and online videos. The equipment also allows @One Digital Media staff members to test new cutting-edge technology.

WHO KNEW COMMENCEMENT SET-UP COULD BE SO COOL?

Planning for spring commencement begins early at the University. With that in mind, you may want to check out the time lapse video Shawn Sariti, digital multimedia specialist, made of last spring’s commencement set-up on the Quad. Each year, the Knowledge Center's @One Digital Media Technology Department livestreams spring commencement to an audience across the globe.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Photography, History and the Power of Observation, a panel discussion with photographers Peter Goin, Jack Hursh and Steve Davis. Moderator and panelist Stephanie Gibson, a writer and arts administrator. Thursday, Feb. 12, Wells Fargo Auditorium, Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, 7 p.m.

Pyramid Lake exhibit opening event with Bernard Mergen, professor emeritus of American Studies at George Washington University, distinguished alumnus of the University of Nevada, Reno and author of At Pyramid Lake. Wednesday, March 25, Wells Fargo Auditorium, Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, 7 p.m.