Linking campus and community

As I sat down to write and reflect on the past year in our libraries, it became clear to me just how much the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library have become dynamic learning sites not only for our students and faculty but for a wide range of community members as well. What’s exciting about this development is that it creates a richer educational environment on campus while at the same time fostering collaboration with the larger community.

Academic libraries like ours at the University of Nevada, Reno, provide a variety of rich opportunities for the people who live and work in northern Nevada. We want folks to know more about the valuable work being done at the University and in its libraries on behalf of Nevada citizens. We welcome and appreciate public interest and participation in the Knowledge Center and DeLaMare activities and plan to broaden our outreach efforts in the coming year.

Featured in this issue of Knowledge Matters Year in Review are stories of student success and the exciting learning opportunities made possible because of the technology and staff expertise available in the Knowledge Center and DeLaMare.

We’re highlighting DeLaMare’s national recognition as a top 10 makerspace and including stories about the acclaim earned by our faculty and staff for their accomplishments. Our commitment to the history of our great state is summed up well in a number of stories, including Special Collections’ exhibits and events honoring Nevada’s sesquicentennial and the creation of the Reno Historical App.

We review the highlights of our Summer of Sustainability including the impressive, multi-floor exhibit, Reused + Recycled = Art. This exhibit featured artwork from local high school art students and teachers, University students and regional artists who embraced the sustainability theme and produced creative works that caught the imagination of many.

Of course, these stories represent only a fraction of the remarkable work being done every day in the Knowledge Center and DeLaMare Library. Please visit us anytime and see for yourselves.

Best wishes,

Kathy Ray, Dean
University Libraries and
Teaching & Learning Technologies

Mission

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.

Vision

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.
Summer of Sustainability:
Creating campus and community awareness

This summer the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center joined forces with the Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Research: Academy for the Environment to spark interest, awareness, conversation and action around sustainability through a series of events on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

The signature event at the Knowledge Center, Reused + Recycled = Art, was an official Artown exhibit that included pieces made from 80 percent reused or recycled materials. Art students from six local high schools, University art students and regional artists embraced the concept, and more than 200 submissions flooded in.

The exhibit showcased an international, award-winning traveling art show by Bonnie Monteleone, a plastic marine debris research scientist from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and featured speaker at the exhibit opening reception. Monteleone turns the plastics she collects from her ocean research voyages into modern artistic works. To see her presentation and get a taste of the exhibit’s art, go to http://summerofsustainabilitynv.wordpress.com/.

See SUSTAINABILITY on page 6

Reno and University history at your fingertips

The new Reno Historical App, a free digital app for smartphones that allows users to explore the people, places and moments that have shaped the city and University, has really taken off in the seven months since its release. Having exceeded the expectations of creators Donnie Curtis, head of Special Collections & University Archives, and local historian Alicia Barber, the value and popularity of the app led to it being honored as a legacy project for Nevada 150.

The app found its institutional home in Special Collections which received grant funding to provide technological infrastructure and management of the project. Other partners include the Nevada Historical Society, Nevada Humanities, Historic Reno Preservation Society, City of Reno and Regional Transportation Commission.

Through layered, map-based, multimedia presentations, as well as historical tours of the city and the University campus, users learn the history of Reno. The app continues to grow as more information is added. Learn more or download the app to an iPhone or Android device at renohistorical.org.
Endowment honors distinguished Nevada jurist

Little did John and Deri Bowen know when they met unexpectedly at the San Francisco Symphony as college students in the 1960s, they would end up building a rich and full life together. Their 48-year marriage has included raising two children while living and working many of those years in the Reno area, John’s birthplace and the longtime home of his parents, the late Washoe County District Judge Grant Bowen and his wife, True.

Grant Bowen served as one of the state’s most distinguished jurists for more than 30 years. A University of Nevada graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1930, he was a man with deep roots in Nevada who had an interest in education and the University. His mother was born in Carson City, his father was reared there and he, too, grew up in Carson City. When Judge Bowen died in 1992, his wife established and supported the Judge Grant Bowen Distinguished Library Endowment until her death in 2000, at which time friends and family made contributions to the endowment in her memory.

“My father was an English major who was always interested in books, and my mother was a teacher,” John Bowen said. “There are still people around she taught in the elementary schools in the Reno area in the 1940s. Learning and books were a natural for them, as was their interest in the University Libraries. They always emphasized learning with me while I was growing up.”

John and Deri have continued the tradition of supporting both the University and University Libraries. They named one of the Knowledge Center’s group study rooms in honor

See BOWEN on page 6

1860s Melodrama a big hit

There’s nothing quite like an old-fashioned melodrama to get the crowd fully engaged, and the staged reading of East Lynne at the Knowledge Center was no exception. Held in honor of Nevada’s sesquicentennial, East Lynne, one of the most popular melodramas of the 19th century, included an all-star cast of University faculty, staff and friends. It was a tearjerker and hanky twister that had the audience booing, hissing, cheering and weeping for the noble hero, the mustache-twirling villain and the tragic, sentimental heroine.

Presented by University Libraries and the Departments of English and Theatre & Dance, East Lynne was selected because it was so wildly popular in its time. It was produced somewhere in the English-speaking world nearly every week from about 1861 to 1930, including Virginia City and Reno.

Jacquelyn Sundstrand, manuscripts and archives librarian in Special Collections, speaks her mind as Cornelia in East Lynne. Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas.
High school students thrive in hands-on multimedia training

For two weeks in June, a select group of northern Nevada high school seniors had the unique opportunity to learn how to tell a story through digital media technology at the Smallwood Multimedia Boot Camp in the Knowledge Center’s @One Digital Media Technology Department.

Funded by the Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation since 2010, the camp immerses students in a wide range of media tools and training provided by the faculty and staff from @One, other University departments and community professionals.

“Students acquire skills that will serve them in any working environment. Learning to understand the message and how to create meaning in the message using digital multimedia tools has become as important for today’s generation as understanding how to use Microsoft Word,” Mark Gandolfo, director of the boot camp and @One Digital Media Technology, said.

“This is an opportunity to help students understand their own potential and the possibilities that exist for them,” Gandolfo said. “We introduce them to the University and to concepts they’ve never considered such as ‘How do you tell a story nonverbally?’

Students learn about 3D graphics, animation, audio, film and video production, and other interactive media such as websites. The Knowledge Center provides the equipment and training tools. Visit the Smallwood Boot Camp Facebook page to see the student videos.

Interesting in Nevada history?

Want to know what Reno was like in 1910? Maybe you’re interested in learning about the Mapes Hotel or the relationship between Nevada fossils and the 1893 World’s Fair? Don’t miss any of the Special Collections historical blog posts, all of which are designed to keep you intrigued. Sign up at http://specoll.blogs.unr.edu/.

To sign up for the email edition of Knowledge Matters, please contact Millie Mitchell at 775-682-5682 or mimitchell@unr.edu.
**SUSTAINABILITY From page 3**

Other events included:
- A cleanup of the Truckee River and Rock Park in Sparks in partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.
- A bus tour in partnership with the City of Reno to highlight key sustainability work on campus and in Reno for officials from the University, the City, Governor’s Office of Energy, Regional Transportation Commission and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful.
- Two showings of the movie *Bag It*, a provocative, award-winning documentary that reveals where bags and other plastics end up and their cost to the environment, marine life and human health.
- A presentation by plastics activist Beth Terry, author of *Plastic Free: How I Kicked the Plastic Habit and How You Can Too*, a practical guide with tips about ways to reduce plastic in our daily lives.

**BOWEN From page 4**

of both of John’s parents.

The family’s connection to Nevada higher education and libraries runs even deeper. John received his Ph.D. in physics at the University and retired after 35 years as an associate research scientist in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences at Desert Research Institute. Deri, a Mills College graduate in history, retired as the librarian from Diedrichsen Elementary School in Sparks.

Both are busy in retirement with their longtime involvement in track and field officiating for high school and college students, and they relish spending time with their grandchildren.

To learn more about supporting the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center or the DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library, please contact Director of Development Millie Mitchell at (775) 682-5682.
2014 Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

Poet Shaun T. Griffin and Ronald M. James, a folklorist and historian, were inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame at the 2014 awards ceremony on Nov. 13 presented by Friends of the University Libraries. Local historian Alicia Barber received the Silver Pen Award which recognizes emerging writers who are in mid-career.

Griffin’s soulful poetry and community engagement as co-founder and director of Community Chest, a rural social justice agency serving northwestern Nevada, make him a well-loved Nevada literary figure. His editing of Joanne de Longchamps poems and translations of Emma Sepulveda’s poems, both Nevada Writers Hall of Fame members, has contributed to his literary legacy.

James is the author or co-author of a dozen books. His articles on folklore, history, architectural history and archaeology have appeared in popular and academic journals in six countries. Besides writing, James administered the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office for nearly 30 years and served many years on the National Historic Landmarks Committee.

Barber’s first book, Reno’s Big Gamble, chronicles the city’s reputation and development from the Comstock Lode era. Having edited and contributed to other works, she taught courses for 10 years at the University ranging from Nevada history to museum studies and directed the Oral History Program for four years. She is the co-founder and editor of the website and mobile app Reno Historical.

FlipKey flipped for the Knowledge Center

Flipkey.com, the vacation rental website for TripAdvisor, chose the University of Nevada, Reno as one of the 50 “Top Campuses Worth Traveling For,” and the Knowledge Center was listed as the defining factor that prompted the selection. A college or university from each of the nation’s 50 states was selected based upon one attraction or feature that made the school a must-see for prospective students and their parents.

AN ACADEMIC LOOK AT BURNING MAN

Each fall, Burning Inquiry, a Knowledge Center program, presents a lecture featuring the Burning Man research of University faculty members. Burning Man Art: Transforming Reno into an Arts Destination was the topic of this year’s presentation by Paul Baker Prindle, director of University Galleries in the Department of Art.

The annual lecture also includes exhibits of Burning Man photographs, 65 of which have been donated to the Knowledge Center from four professional photographers over the last two years. In addition, the collection of Burning Man research materials at the Knowledge Center continues to grow.
Exciting new collection from Western Shoshone Tribe

Special Collections has received an extensive collection of records, the first from a Western Shoshone tribal organization, and a grant from the National Historical Records & Publications Commission of more than $77,000 to organize, preserve and make the records available to the public. The department was one of only 15 organizations nationwide to receive an NHRPC grant for a project that has national significance.

The 120 linear-foot collection includes records from the Western Shoshone Defense Project as well as Western Shoshone ranchers and activists Carrie Dann and her sister Mary Dann, now deceased. The Dann sisters were involved in a legal battle with the U.S. government for nearly 50 years to maintain ownership and control over ancestral lands in northeastern Nevada. Their case was eventually argued before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Danns’ struggle with the federal government over grazing rights, water rights and rights of the Western Shoshones began before the Western Shoshone Defense Project, a non-profit organization, was formed. The collection includes documents from the mid-1960s to 2010.

“With the addition of this collection, we will expand the information and sources related to the Paiute, Shoshone and Washoe, the three Great Basin tribes in our area. We have collections from anthropologists and ethnographers who worked with Paiute and Washoe tribal members and materials from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, but this is a significant contribution entrusted to us from the Western Shoshone,” said Jacquelyn Sundstrand, manuscripts and archives librarian.
Hidden Cave gets worldwide exposure

*Hidden Cave* continues to generate public attention. The stunning video documentary of a unique Nevada archaeological site near Fallon was produced by @One Digital Media Technology. It was standing room only at the documentary’s Truckee Meadows premier late last year at the Knowledge Center, it was featured on *The Archaeology Channel* video newsletter earlier this year, and an appreciative crowd enjoyed a recent screening at the University’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Directed by Mark Gandolfo and produced by Winter Carrera in ultra-high definition, the video brought the cave and the Nevada landscape to life for the first time as world-renowned researchers and Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe members shared their stories about the historical significance of the cave and its meaning to the native people. Narrator, David Hurst Thomas, Department of Anthropology curator at the American Museum of Natural History, worked at the cave in the late 1960s to 1970s. *Hidden Cave* can be viewed on YouTube.

New JFK memorial plaque

During graduation weekend this spring, the class of 1964 celebrated their golden reunion. A highlight was the dedication of a new plaque in memory of President John F. Kennedy at the Knowledge Center.

At the time of the president’s assassination in November 1963, the event had a deep impact on seniors about to graduate the next spring. They raised funds to buy a plaque, placed it in the old Getchell Library on campus and dedicated it in honor of the slain president. However, the plaque went missing in 2008 during the move from Getchell to the new Knowledge Center.

Student body officer Larry Struve, who wanted to honor his classmates’ original intent, spearheaded a drive to purchase a replacement plaque that now hangs in the Knowledge Center’s Hilton Rotunda on the fourth floor.

Student’s loyalty to the libraries helped his job hunt

Jeremiah Reyes was the only one who solved the engineering problem candidates were given during a rigorous interview process last spring for a job at Genentech in the Bay Area, and he was the only applicant who wore a pin from the library where he had been a student assistant. Reyes was also the only candidate who carried a folder with a logo from the university that was about to graduate him with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering with a biomedical emphasis.

His skills and ability certainly carried the day when he was hired as a bioprocess engineer, but his interviewers were impressed that his University Libraries pin and University of Nevada, Reno folder showed his loyalty and pride in his school. They were also impressed he had such well-rounded experience from his work in Special Collections as compared to candidates from other universities who tended to be more specialized.

It was an interesting role for a science major to work with history and artifacts, Reyes said during his last days at the Knowledge Center. “Everything we do here is part of our history, and it’s really important. This was my first real job, and I have loved working here. Everyone treated me with the highest respect.”
DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library was named this summer as one of the 10 most interesting makerspaces in America by Make Magazine. It is one of two libraries throughout the country and the only University library to make the list. A makerspace is an area that appeals to the spirit of invention by providing tools and resources for people to discover, create, design, model, engineer and learn. Make Magazine touted DeLaMare’s commitment to technology and unique tools such as 3D scanning and printing. According to the magazine, “there’s something for everyone at the University’s science and engineering library.”

DelMare librarians Tara Radniecki, Tod Colegrove and Chrissy Klenke, student employee Chai Swadowski, and Dean Kathy Ray. Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas.

DelMare gains reputation for hacking events

DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library is making a name for itself in the world of “good” hacking. For the last two years DeLaMare has been the site for the 24-hour Reno Hackathon and NASA Space Apps Hackathon, which was held in only 93 locations around the globe. A hackathon is an event in which a large number of people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming to build new web and mobile services.

It takes as much stamina to get through a 24-hour hackathon as it does a marathon, but it gives software developers and programmers the opportunity to collaborate face-to-face. Nearly 70 percent of the 125 people who participated in this year’s concurrent events were students.

The Reno Hackathon was hosted by Microsoft and sponsored by PC-Doctor, Inc. and EDAWN.

DelMare student assistant receives prestigious award

Chai Swadowski, a DeLaMare Library student employee who received a degree in International Affairs and French last spring, was selected as a Henry Albert Senior Public Service Prize winner which honors students who have offered notable public service to benefit the University or community. Each year the Associated Students of the University of Nevada select four graduating seniors whose collegiate record shows good scholarship, good character and worthy service.

The history of the award dates back years to a random University senior who helped a young Midwestern couple unpack after an exhausting trip to Reno to attend the University’s summer school session. Despite their inability to learn the name of the helpful student, the couple began a scholarship to recognize students who demonstrate exemplary public service throughout their college careers.

Librarian Erich Purpur introduces Carson City High School engineering students to Google Liquid Galaxy when the students toured DeLaMare library. Photo by Nick Crowl.
Reno’s divorce history to be preserved in Special Collections

Getting “Renovated” was Walter Winchell’s euphemism for getting a divorce in Reno during the city’s heyday as the “divorce capital of the world.” It was known for its high profile celebrity divorces, but people of all backgrounds from across the globe got divorces in Reno during its nearly 60 years in the divorce trade.

Project organizers of an extensive multimedia online exhibit about Reno’s 20th century divorce trade from Special Collections are seeking stories from anyone with firsthand knowledge about getting a “quickie” divorce in Reno from roughly 1910 to 1970. A recent news story about the project generated online and print news stories across the country and in places as far away as Dublin, Ireland.

“Reno changed the national attitude about divorce,” said Donnelyn Curtis, head of Special Collections and project co-curator. “We’re finding a feeling of liberation from the letters of women we have in our collections.”

Nevada’s divorce laws provided a unique cornerstone for Reno’s cultural and economic development, helping to shape the city’s identity in ways such as housing patterns, commerce, society and entertainment.

“We hope firsthand accounts about heading to Nevada for the “Reno cure” will lead to a better understanding about it,” Mella Harmon, historian and project co-curator, said. Alicia Barber, the new Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Silver Pen Award winner, is the project consultant.

Upon completion in July 2015, the online exhibit will be the most thorough and multi-faceted portrayal of Reno’s divorce industry in any format. It is supported by a $79,500 grant from the federal institute of Museum and Library Services which was awarded by the Nevada State Library and Archives.

Contact Mella Harmon at mellah@unr.edu or 775-682-5640 to share your story.

THE ONLY MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT IN NEVADA

A mid-15th century manuscript written in northern France, which was most likely made at the Cathedral of St. Julian, has the distinction of being both the only medieval manuscript and the oldest manuscript in the state, and it belongs to Special Collections.

Lisa Fagin Davis has been studying ancient manuscripts for 25 years and writes a blog called Manuscript Road Trip. She visited the University earlier this year to study the manuscript and to speak to a group of library faculty and friends about its significance. “What you have here is a real treasure,” Fagin Davis said.

The codex was given to the University by Gareth Hughes in 1964 and, according to Fagin Davis, is a Book of Hours, Breviary and Ferial Psalter in one binding, comprising several hundred leaves.
Darlene Merrill, Wooster High School
Made of plastic bags, newspaper, wrapping paper, noodles, white chalk, poster board
Photo by Kyle Weerheim