The University Libraries Are Ready to Move

This summer, the University Libraries begins its historic move from Getchell Library into the spectacular Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. The new building officially opens August 11, when the faculty return for the Fall 2008 semester. Watch your mail for details of exciting opening celebration events to come!

The Next Big Challenge

Our first challenge was raising the money to build a “knowledge center” for the 21st century, then overseeing its construction, plus planning for every aspect of the building’s furnishings, fixtures, and equipment. Just one example of the complexities of the move: a committee has been at work for over a year on “way finding” (directional signage) to help users easily find their way around the new building.

Actual construction, which began in May 2006 with the largest concrete pour in Reno history, is now nearing completion exactly two years later. The University is set to take possession of the building from Q&D Construction in late May 2008.

Over the summer, the University Libraries staff faces the next big challenge — loading nearly half a million books into MARS, the Mathewson Automated Retrieval System, and moving some 100 employees and all their files and equipment into the building.

Summer Moving Plans

The overall moving schedule is now set — with shelving going in first, followed by office furnishings. Books and materials will move in the month of June, library and classroom furniture in July, and in mid-July, staff will begin moving into the building. Library staff will also start moving materials designated for MARS into the retrieval

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The Book Nook — Making Changes for the Better

Getchell Library’s Book Nook is set to undergo some changes for the better.

Since its inception in February 1986, the Book Nook has moved to various locations in the library until finally being tucked away in the back portion of the main library floor.

Its function has always been to sell used books that are donated by the community while also filtering any donations that might be worthy of the university library’s collection.

According to Clair Wojcik, Book Nook coordinator, an upcoming move to the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center will help to boost the Book Nook’s visibility in the university community. Beginning Aug. 12, the Book Nook will be located in a new area located just off of the main lobby of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center.

“A lot of people don’t know we exist,” Wojcik said. “We are going to be much more in the public’s eye.”

Carol Parkhurst, the director of planning and assessment for University Libraries, is excited about the move because of the increased visibility and attention that the Book Nook will garner from the public.

Parkhurst said that the Book Nook will not change any of its traditional functions with the location change. She also said that the Book Nook will discourage donations from the community.

Four Nevada Writers Honored at 20th Annual Hall of Fame

The Friends of the Library hosted a gala evening celebrating Nevada writers on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007 at ArrowCreek Country Club in southwest Reno. It was the 20th annual Nevada Writers Hall of Fame.

Four writers with Nevada connections were honored: Emma Sepulveda (Foundation Professor of Spanish at UNR) and Doug Unger (Interim Chair of the Department of English at UNLV) for Hall of Fame; Rich Moreno and Willy Vlautin for Silver Pen. Moreno is the former editor of Nevada Magazine and an English/Journalism professor at Western Illinois University; Vlautin received critical acclaim for his first novel, The Motel Life, set in Nevada. After our event, it was selected by critics at The Washington Post to its “A” list for best books of 2007.

UNR English professor and 2006 Hall of Fame honoree, Ann Ronald, served as mistress of ceremonies for the evening, which included cocktails, a book-signing, silent auction, and awards ceremony with readings by all four authors. (See some photo highlights from the event on the next page.)
A meeting of like minds

Above, Hall of Fame inductee Emma Sepulveda chats with Ann Ronald, 2006 Hall of Fame winner and emcee of this year's Nevada Writers Hall of Fame event. Below is Hall of Fame winner, Doug Unger and his wife, Carola Raab, with Gailmarie Pahmeier, chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee and a past recipient of the Silver Pen award herself. — All photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Former Nevada Magazine editor returns

At top, Friends' board member Joe Guild with Judy Winzeler, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities. Above, Silver Pen winner Rich Moreno with colleagues from Nevada Magazine. Below, Cheryll Glotfelty of the UNR English Department with Jim Hulse, 1997 recipient of the Hall of Fame award.

Conferring the Silver Pen — Ann Ronald presenting the Silver Pen award to Willy Vlautin, assisted by Kelly Bland, past president of the Friends. Interestingly, Bland and Vlautin went to the same Reno high school.
More About MARS

The Libraries decided to add this automated retrieval system to the Knowledge Center to open up more study space for students and more shelf space for heavily used materials. MARS will house about half a million volumes that receive lighter use (e.g., those checked out 7 or fewer times in the last 20 years).

However, there will still be plenty of open stacks to browse in the new building. About half the collection will still be readily accessible on the 3rd to 5th floors, including popular fiction and non-fiction, Nevada history, photography and art works, and other high-use materials.

If you can’t find what you’re looking for in the open stacks, simply go to a public computer and make a request in the online library catalog. A signal is then sent to the MARS operator to retrieve the item from the storage bin. Once MARS retrieves the bin (each of which contains 50-100 volumes), the operator selects the right item and sends it to the Circulation Desk, where it can be picked up. The entire process should take no longer then 5 to 10 minutes.

The Libraries Summer Plans

Maggie Ressel, Director of Public Services, noted that Getchell Library will be partially open to the public this summer. Most of the main floor is remaining open and, if you need to go to other parts of the building, such as Special Collections, you will be escorted.

What’s Happening to Getchell Library?

At press time, possible future occupants of Getchell Library were still being considered by the President’s Council. They include some academic programs, such as the Writing and Math Centers; Student Services programs, such as the Disability Resource Center; the School of the Arts, for music and dance practice rooms and gallery space; and Computer Science and Engineering, for computer lab space.
Historic Photos of Reno by Donnelyn Curtis


Curtis wrote the fact-filled photo captions and chapter introductions. Through her eyes, we rediscover Reno’s fascinating past through 200 rare photographs, all showcased with exceptional clarity and beauty.

From 19th-century mining, railroads and rodeos to prizefights, gambling, parades, and casinos, Reno shines through the decades in glorious black-and-white photography, displayed in a large format. Featured photographs were carefully selected from the University Libraries’ Special Collections, University Archives and from the Library of Congress.

“Reno is constantly updating its identity, and should not lose sight of its past in making decisions about the future. New residents will have a better appreciation of the city’s character if they know something about what was here before they arrived,” Curtis says.

KC Video Also Features Historic Photos

Although it will be the most up-to-date building on campus, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center will also pay a wonderful tribute to Reno’s past. In a nine-screen array on the stairs leading from @One to the Second Floor, historic photos of Reno from the Libraries’ Special Collections will be displayed in a unique way.

Shawn Sariti, a designer in IT’s Teaching & Learning Technologies, has been working on this project for the past few months. He has “cleaned-up” 148 pictures and is currently building a 25-30 minute video from them.

The photos include the first Reno arch, laying the cornerstone of the First Methodist Church at First and West Streets and many other fascinating shots from the Reno of the 1860s to 1980s. This high-definition video will continually run on the display, creating a unique visual backdrop for visitors.
Photographer Ned Westover Leaves His Collection to UNR

After a long and eventful life, Ned Westover died in Otis, Oregon on Nov. 27, 2007, at the age of 90. In his will, the accomplished photographer and UNR alumnus left his complete collection of photographs, slides, and equipment to the University Libraries Special Collections Department.

Over the years, Ned had already given over 800 large-format photos to Special Collections that he had printed and framed himself. Many of these framed photographs can be seen today in library study rooms, offices, and staff areas.

Because of these gifts, many people in the library and elsewhere on campus have felt the presence of Ned Westover, who graduated from UNR in the class of 1938. He was an engineering student and a photographer for The Sagebrush. and Artemisia.

After graduation, Ned became a real estate project developer in California and Oregon. During his long and fruitful retirement, he photographed many people and places around the world. Some of his best photos were taken in India.

An article about Ned and Dr. James Herz appeared in the Silver & Blue in 2003: [http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue/archive/2003/fall/fall44.html](http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue/archive/2003/fall/fall44.html).

Generous Donors — In a 2008 visit to campus, Ned Westover (center) posed with Bob Blesse, former head of Special Collections, and Dr. James Herz ('37), another generous UNR donor.

Will James Books Donated to Special Collections

The Will James Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the works and memory of western author and artist Will James. James, who lived in Washoe Valley, Nevada, while writing his famous novel, Smoky the Cowhorse, was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 1991.

In January 2008, the Society graciously donated 23 new editions of James’ books to the University Libraries. The titles include children’s books, autobiographical writings, novels, and nonfiction about cowboy culture. The donated books are part of the Mountain Press Publishing Company's Tumbleweed Series and are underwritten by the Will James Art Company of Billings, Montana, for distribution to schools and public libraries. The books will be housed in Special Collections. Gail Stanton (Serials) and Betty Glass worked with Barbara Warwick, Secretary of the Will James Society, to coordinate the donation.

Included in the donation was a DVD edition of local filmmaker Gwendolyn Clancy’s documentary, “The Man They Call Will James: His Art, His Life.” The film, which won the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s “Western Heritage Wrangler Award,” focuses on James’ life in northern Nevada, where his writing career began.


— Betty Glass, Special Collections Librarian

Western Books Donated — Gail Stanton and Betty Glass helped coordinate this donation of Will James novels, nonfiction, and children's books, plus a DVD about his life, that are now available in Special Collections. — Photo by Donnie Curtis
A New Path to Knowledge

A beautiful curving path leads to the first-floor Tower Entrance of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, as well as to the outdoor sculpture garden, Nevada Writers Hall of Fame, Reception and Art Gallery, and Auditorium. Other photos show the rich cherry wood used throughout the building, a striking view of the amazing 3-story atrium, and newly planted outdoor patio areas where students can sit and talk and study.

Photos by Ted Cook, Theresa Danna-Douglas, and Tyler Keck of TLT
Russ & Peggy Boynton
make good chemistry

Reprinted from *Nevada Silver & Blue* (Fall 2007)

Russ and Peggy Boynton were brought up to believe that you should give back whenever you can. Russ ’70 M.S. (chemistry) and his wife Peggy ’60 (chemistry) have been gracious benefactors of the University Libraries for more than 35 years. Russ received his B.S. in 1958 from UC Berkeley, and in 1960 Peggy received her B.S. from the University of Nevada, Reno, each majoring in chemistry. The couple married in 1960 and moved to Orinda, Calif. where Russ began work with Chevron. He took a leave of absence in 1966 to pursue his master’s degree in chemistry from Nevada.

While Russ was at the University, the chemistry library was very small. “I had to travel back to the San Francisco Bay Area to do basic research,” he says. “After graduation, we wanted to make sure that no student of chemistry would ever have to travel to do basic library research.”

“We may not be able to build a library and stock it with books all at once, but by donating every year, a collection can be built,” said Peggy. “Unless you are very wealthy, you cannot give millions. Give what you can afford, and your gifts will mount up.”

The University Libraries are grateful to the Boyntons for making philanthropy a part of their family budget and an enduring legacy on the Nevada campus. To learn more about supporting the University’s libraries, please contact Director of Development Millie Mitchell at (775) 682-5682 or email mimitchell@unr.edu.