



in brief

The Calvin T. Ryan Library Newsletter

Vol. 28, Number 1

Spring 2010

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In Brief is a publication of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska Kearney. It is designed to keep friends of the library informed about library changes and events. Its production is overseen by the Library Publications Committee. Members are:

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Expanding the library as a virtual place

By Ron Wirtz and Jon Ritterbush

Visitors to Calvin T. Ryan Library quickly find that it is one of the major centers of student activity on the UNK campus. What is not seen are the hundreds of other students using the library's electronic resources from on-campus dormitory rooms, apartments across town, and locations as far away as Japan, China, South and Central America, New Guinea, Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the University continues to offer more online courses and innovative degree programs, the library has endeavored to expand and improve the quality and breadth of the online services and resources needed to support these programs. Thus, the library as a "place" is expanding into the world of cyberspace. This virtual library may be composed of bits and bytes rather than bricks and beams, but is no less important to meeting the research needs of students and educators.

To date, more than 49,000 full-text journals, 6,500 e-books, and 21,000 electronic government documents are available online anytime

to UNK students. In order to support new online degree programs and research initiatives, the library hopes to acquire two new digital collections to provide online access to primary source materials from the 17th and 18th centuries and to hundreds of quality video documentaries. Unlike subscription databases, these digital collections must be purchased, and require significant one-time investment. That is not an easy task to achieve in today's economic climate.

Donors can make their mark on the 21st century at UNK by helping to bring these valuable digital collections to students and other users. Donations can also help create a physical environment which facilitates academic success. Contributions can enhance the library's ability to continue to evolve as a physical and virtual space that will serve UNK students today and in the future.

For more information please contact Kristin Howard of the University of Nebraska Foundation at (308) 698-5270 or by email: khoward@nufoundation.org.

Creating a learning commons

by Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

A “student-centered” academic library is an “academic student union” supported by collaborative efforts of the library, academic student support services and technology. The goal is to draw students in to study, collaborate, use technology, socialize, and find help with all manner of academic questions and issues – seamless accessibility for all students.

In the past few years the UNK library has made incremental improvements to the building and services, both in house and online. In many ways, those efforts were beginning steps toward, what is called in the academic library world, a “Learning Commons.” In fall 2009, the Writing Center moved from one area of the library into a bigger space. By fall 2010, the Academic Success Tutoring Program will be housed in the library, providing students with library, writing and tutoring support in one location.

As we look to the future, determining where others are in this picture can serve as a marker of success, and an indication for how far we have still to go. In the academic world, that means looking to “peer” institutions – those like us in mission, enrollment, programs, and so on.

Here are responses from the library deans at UNK’s peer institutions to the question: “Are you considering moving in the direction of a Learning Commons on your campus – library and other student support services co-located and working together?”

Minnesota State University Moorhead: “Have plans to implement a Learning Commons when the library is re-designed in 2012.”

University of Central Missouri: “..idea is in our recently develop[ed] new strategic plan.”

Murray State University: “...planning for a new library building to include facilities...helps for building partnerships across campus and beyond...a comfortable atmosphere conducive to creating community.” (Words of the campus president.)

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point: “... moving in this direction... have created various study spaces in

the library. Tutoring Center is in the library.”

University of Northern Colorado: “Have a large ...technology piece.... Writing Center and Student Tutoring are in the Library.”

Western Illinois University: “...Technology pieces in place...moving in this direction with tutoring for writing, science, math.”

University of Central Arkansas: Dean has “... been advocating for this since he arrived.” New president and other campus leaders are in favor. Have put in a coffee shop.

Sam Houston State University and the University of Northern Iowa have not been discussing the concept. Northern Michigan University did not respond to the question.

Although the idea isn’t new among seven of our ten peer institutions, we are moving ahead of all other public institutions of higher education in Nebraska. As such, we are in a unique position to learn from our peers, and lead the state in development of a vibrant, student-centered 21st century learning space.



Above: An example of a learning commons study space.

To Support Calvin T. Ryan Library

Financial

Private financial support is vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts can assist in bringing valuable collections of information to the library on paper and electronically, as well as creating a physical environment which complements learning by UNK students and other library users. Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Thank you for your support.

Collections

Books and other resources that are no longer needed may be just what we can use to enhance a library collection.

We are especially interested in items with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: <http://tinyurl.com/librarydonations>.

For more information please contact:

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<http://nufoundation.org/Page.aspx?pid=329>

Archives Librarian John Lillis retiring in April

by Jon Ritterbush

Librarian John Lillis will retire on April 2, 2010, following 24 years of service at UNK. In addition to his duties in reference service and library instruction, John has ably served as Archives Librarian since 1988.

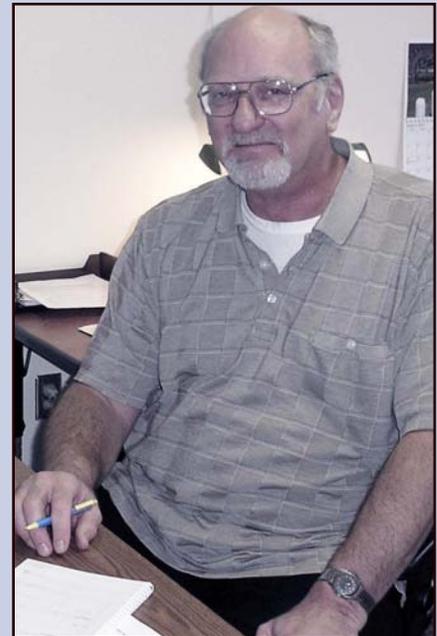
During his tenure, he initiated several projects including the digitization of the *Blue & Gold* yearbooks and the indexing of the *Antelope* student newspaper dating back to 1910.

John completed a second Master's degree at UNK in 1994 (History), and was later promoted to the rank of

Associate Professor with tenure.

Beyond his service at Calvin T. Ryan Library, John has taught several classes in the history department and served on numerous library and university groups including the Faculty Senate. In 2006, he was selected to a UNK faculty group that visited Shandong University, a sister institution in Weihai, China.

John is looking forward to doing "a lot of fishing, reading, and traveling" and taking additional college courses during his retirement.



Above: John Lillis to retire after 24 years at UNK.

Personnel Notes:

- Joel Hartung was hired as the Technical Services Assistant in August 2009. He is a 2008 graduate of the University of Nebraska Omaha (BS in Journalism).

- Jon Ritterbush, Electronic Resources Librarian, has recently had two articles published in scholarly journals:

Lee, Marta, Jon Ritterbush, and Robert Sivigny. "Reference at the Commons: A Case Study." *Reference Services Review* 38, no. 1 (2010): 81-89.

Ritterbush, Jon. "The Impact of New Student Housing on Library Usage: A Case Study." *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* 35, no. 4 (2009): 360-366.

Library Gifts

The library has recently received 223 book donations from several faculty and staff including: Sam Umland, Jim Rohrer, Valerie Vierk, Diana Kholos Wysocki, Donna Alden, and Colin and Janet Stoeger Wilke.

The Curriculum/Non-Book Department received 59 complimentary juvenile literature books from Houghton Mifflin.

Scholarship winner announced

by Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean

The first winner of the annual Florence M. Wagner Scholarship is Amanda Nielsen, a senior from Ogallala.

The scholarship has been established by Ms. Wagner's daughter, Carolyn Ann Wagner Snyder, in honor of her mother. Both were graduates of Kearney State College/University of Nebraska Kearney (KSC/UNK).

During her undergraduate years at KSC, Ms. Snyder worked in the library and went on to obtain a graduate degree in Library Science from the University of Denver. She had a long career in academic library administration in Nebraska, Indiana and Illinois.

The Scholarship provides \$500 to a Nebraska high school graduate who is a student worker in the Calvin T. Ryan Library. The student must have at least a sophomore class rank and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better.

Museum
Of
Nebraska
Art

on display @ the **Calvin T.
Ryan Library**



Alice Cleaver,
Still Life With Vases
oil on canvas, n.d.
Museum of Nebraska Art Collection



Jeanne Herron Richards
Parade
intaglio, graphite (21/25), 1952
Gift of Lawrence L. Reger
Museum of Nebraska Art Collection



Vada Kinman Oldfield,
Still Life With Plate
oil on canvas, 1930
Gift of Col. Barney Oldfiend
Museum of Nebraska Art Collection

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