Learning Commons at UNK
Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library

The Learning Commons is “official” at UNK! The Ribbon Cutting on November 4, 2011 included comments from Chancellor Doug Kristensen, Senior Vice Chancellor Charlie Bicak, student Peer Leader Sam Schneider, Dean of the Division of Student Affairs Joe Oravecz, and Dean of the Library Janet Wilke. Those attending included present and past members of the UNK community, including numerous students who work in the Learning Commons.

Over the past two years, the Library and the Division of Student Affairs offices at the University of Nebraska – Kearney pursued the opportunity to establish coordinated student centered support in the University Library. In Fall 2010, Academic Peer Tutoring joined the Writing Center on the Library’s second floor. Although a temporary space, the usage numbers increased, partly due to longer service hours in a more visible location. During Spring 2011, one-third of the second floor, previously holding study tables and carrels, was refurbished with new carpet, three glass-walled study rooms, wiring, paint and a reception desk for tutoring services. Newly open in Fall 2011, the area is popular and heavily used.

Visitors to the library in September 2011 were 24% above those in September 2010 and Learning Commons usage increased by 74%. The physical space, however, is just one component of the Commons. A reorganized Division of Student Affairs, with several newly hired key staff, is working closely with library faculty and staff to develop coordinated student academic support. The best will be yet to come.
Enrollment growth raises costs
Jon Ritterbush, Electronic Resources Librarian

It is well known that subscription fees to library resources increase by five to six percent each year. A less known reality is the connection between enrollment and resource costs.

During Fall 2011, UNK experienced significant growth in its enrollment! One measure of enrollment, the full-time equivalency or FTE count, is used by many vendors to determine pricing for library subscriptions. As UNK’s FTE climbed from 5,479 in Fall 2010 to 5,702 in Fall 2011, so prices for some e-resources have also increased. A collection of NetLibrary e-books costs $323 more to purchase. Even assuming zero inflation, a subscription to LexisNexis Academic would cost $420 more in 2012 based solely on the increase in FTE – the price of success!

Private financial support is vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts assist in bringing valuable collections of information to the library, as well as creating a physical environment which compliments learning for all library users.

Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. For more information, please contact the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Kearney office at P.O. Box 2678, 214 W. 39th St., Kearney, NE 68848; or call 308-698-5270; or give online at http://bit.ly/UNKLibraryFund.

Scholarship recipient
Shaun Friedrichsen, a 2010 graduate of Fairbury High School, is this year’s recipient of the Florence M. Wagner Scholarship. Shaun is a sophomore double majoring in Spanish and English. This scholarship provides $500 to a Nebraska high school graduate who is a student worker in the Calvin T. Ryan Library.

Personnel notes

• Susan Mueller attended the Innovative User’s Group Meeting in San Francisco.
• Greg Anderson attended the Nebraska Library Commission’s Special Collections Digital Workshop in Lincoln.
• Janet Wilke, Jennifer Harvey, Dee Goedert, Rochelle Krueger, Susan Mueller, and Ron Wirtz attended the College and University Section Spring Meeting in Lincoln.
• Janet Wilke attended the Meridian Library System Annual meeting in Gibbon, NE.
• Susan Mueller and Tina Walker attended the American Library Association's annual convention, held in New Orleans.
• Ron Wirtz, Taffnee Faimon and Keri Pearson co-presented a presentation on the UNK Learning Commons at the National College Learning Center Association's 26th Annual Conference in Indianapolis, and at the Nebraska Library Association annual conference in Lincoln.
• Tina Walker attended the Library & Information Technology Association's National Forum in St. Louis, and is serving on the LITA National Forum 2012 Committee.
• Janet Wilke, Jennifer Harvey, Dee Goedert, Rochelle Krueger, Jon Ritterbush, Tina Walker, and Ron Wirtz attended the Nebraska Library Association's annual conference, held in Lincoln. Tina Walker also served on a Nebraska Library Commission panel for “Cultivating Nebraska Librarians.”
New Materials for Archives and Curriculum

The UNK Archives has recently received the remaining papers of Shirley Buettner from her daughter, Teresa Ingram. Ms. Buettner was an award winning poet, whose work reflected her rural and family life. She earned degrees from Kearney State College and was an adjunct professor of English from 1984 until 1991. The materials complement other holdings of Ms. Buettner’s papers including manuscripts, rough drafts, correspondence, personal journals and three of her published anthologies.

The Archives has also received a signed copy of *George Washington Frank’s Stone House On the Nebraska Prairie* by Virginia Llego Lund (former curator of the Frank House) from Glennis Nagel, Director of Media Relations at UNK. UNK Facilities also donated a 1938 Map of Kearney State Teachers College.

The Archives is always interested in considering institution-related materials for inclusion in its collections. Please contact Greg Anderson, Archives Librarian, at 308-865-8593 or andersong@unk.edu.

The Curriculum Department has also received new materials including 12 items from Super Duper Publications, 59 review books from Houghton Mifflin, and nine books from Bigwater Publishing.

Gifts strengthen collections

Your unused books and other resources may be just what we need to enhance our library collection. We are especially interested in items with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: [http://bit.ly/UNKLibraryGifts](http://bit.ly/UNKLibraryGifts).

New Government Documents/ Special Projects Librarian

Rochelle Krueger accepted a position as Assistant Professor, Government Documents/ Special Projects Librarian effective July 1, 2011. Ms. Krueger was previously Interim Government Documents Librarian. She also worked for sixteen years as the Curriculum Library Associate. She holds the B.S. from Kearney State College and the M.L.I.S. from Drexel University.

In the works

Michael Sutherland, Web Services Librarian

As we embrace an attitude of ‘perpetual beta’, the only certainty at Calvin T. Ryan Library is continual evolution and constant change. The library has not only seen changes in personnel and physical spaces recently, but also in the services we provide as we strive to be user-centered and focus on the needs of students, faculty, staff and visitors. As a result, we have several noteworthy projects currently in the works at the library. For example, the library has renewed the subscriptions of several local Nebraska newspapers and relocated the collection from the lower level to the main floor near comfortable seating. If you would like to purchase a local newspaper subscription from your hometown for the library, please contact Jon Ritterbush, Electronic Resources Librarian (308-865-8585, ritterbushjr@unk.edu).

Also in the works...

- A smaller, selective reference collection is moving from the lower level to the second level near the book stacks
- Circulation staff are shifting books in the stacks and condensing current periodicals
- New computers are being added in several locations around the building, including six Macs (the only Macs at Calvin T. Ryan) in the curriculum area on the lower level
- Government Documents microfiche and microfilm have been relocated behind the Government Document stacks

Dee Goedert receives SAFE

Dee Goedert was honored with the Staff Award for Excellence (SAFE) at the Fall 2011 Opening Convocation. This award is in recognition of outstanding service to UNK. Ms. Goedert has been the Head of Access Services since 1991.
Robert Weaver (b. 1935)

“Robert Weaver is known for his highly expressionistic portraits including those of Bob Devaney, Ernst Lied, and Norman Geske. His oils and lithographs capture the true personality of the subject; even though some appear quite ugly, each is truly meaningful.”

Visit the MONA website on Robert Weaver: http://monet.unk.edu/today.weaver.shtml

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