

Fall 2015

Connections Newsletter Fall 2015

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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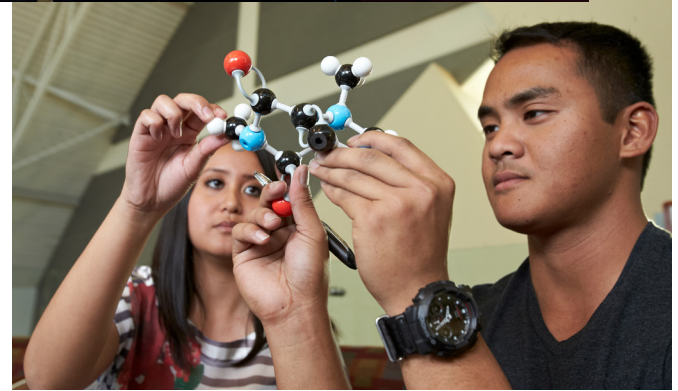
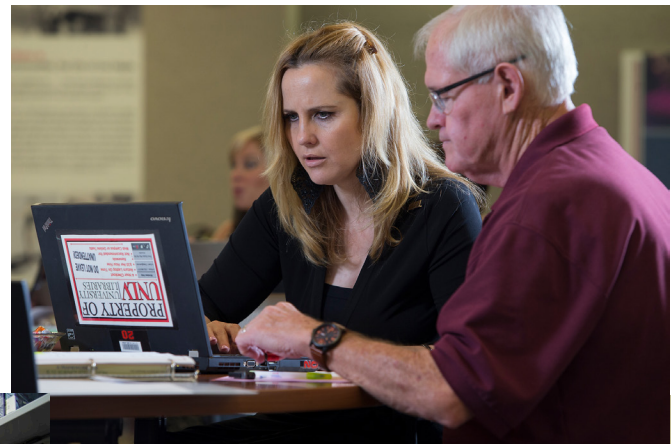
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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES CREATES THE LIFELONG LEARNERS EMPLOYERS NEED



UNLV University Libraries provides a wealth of resources to lifelong learners of all ages.

What do today's employers look for in recent graduates they plan to hire? The answer might surprise you.

A majority value information literacy skills more than creativity and even tech savvy, according to the Hart Research Associates report "Falling Short? College Learning and Career

Success."

Information literacy is the linchpin of informed, mission-critical decisions that can make or break a business. Information-literate workers possess the ability to identify a need for information, search for and locate that information, thoroughly evaluate its credibility

and applicability, and utilize it effectively and ethically. Yet fewer than three in 10 employers surveyed believe recent graduates have these crucial problem-solving skills.

The UNLV University Libraries is producing the

Continued on page 5



Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean, University Libraries

CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE DEAN

It is hard to believe the summer is over and we have already reached the beginning of another academic year. While I wonder where the time has gone, I am more excited than ever about all that is in store for the UNLV University Libraries and our community. As UNLV continues to pursue Top Tier status, so many new opportunities lie ahead, including a major resource for the community: a health sciences library.

The UNLV University Libraries remains hard at work to support our three-pronged mission to educate our campus constituents, support research, and engage the broader Southern Nevada community. Several library faculty members have been busy inspiring our budding scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in the K-12 space. Other library faculty have been working with undergraduate researchers to help them connect with library collections and learn to research along the way, awarding the best with the Libraries' Calvert Award for Undergraduate Research. Still others have been educating international graduate students visiting Las Vegas to learn from the best in the gaming industry. The University Libraries continues to build relationships with learners of all ages, keeping our community strong by teaching them the skills they

need to become leaders in any discipline.

Information literacy — the ability to think critically and make informed decisions — is at the core of the Libraries' educational mission. The national Project Information Literacy study demonstrates our continued success, finding that UNLV graduates believe we have equipped them with the information literacy skills they need to succeed as lifelong learners; moreover, their level of satisfaction is greater than that of their peers from other institutions.

UNLV grads are equipped to propel our community toward an even brighter future. They are more than our alumni, our neighbors, our children. They are the citizens of this region who will drive its economic engine. They are our future health care professionals, educators, engineers, and business entrepreneurs. Only time will tell what they create here in Southern Nevada, but one thing is certain: the University Libraries has been and will continue to be there for them every step of the way.

Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean, University Libraries

UNLV | UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES GIVES LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL STUDENTS A HANDS-ON GAMING EDUCATION

While the UNLV University Libraries' Center for Gaming Research (CGR) is the premier resource for gaming scholars and Southern Nevada's hospitality community, it also participates in interdisciplinary educational partnerships worldwide.

For instance, the CGR has collaborated with City University London's Cass Business School for the last five years on its "Strategic Marketing in Action: Las Vegas" elective program. The program brings classroom instruction and professional guidance together to create a comprehensive learning experience.

Dr. David G. Schwartz, director of the CGR, traveled to London in March to meet the 35 international MBA candidates participating in this year's program. Over the course of two weekends abroad, he educated them on Las Vegas' history, contemporary business issues, and industry financials.

In April, the students came to Las Vegas to learn from the city's top industry executives firsthand. The MBA candidates spent five days meeting with Schwartz and VPs, GMs, and others at a number of resorts to learn about casino marketing, strategic improvement processes, and business operations.

"This is about a semester's worth of material in five days," Schwartz said, "but it would be very easy to go through an entire academic program and not get these kinds of insights, just because many typically do not have access to these specific decision-makers. The students

are able to come here and talk to the people forming strategy, which is critical since they are studying to be able to make better decisions."

To learn more about the University Libraries' Center for Gaming Research, visit gaming.unlv.edu.



Dr. David Schwartz, director of the University Libraries' Center for Gaming Research, instructs students worldwide.

CALVERT AWARDS: CELEBRATING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



2015 Calvert Award winners Bella Victoria Smith (second from left), Lee M. Hanover (third from left), Manuela Bowles (third from right), and Katie Cannata (second from right) celebrate their achievement with Dean Patricia Iannuzzi (right) and Head of Educational Initiatives Melissa Bowles-Terry (left).

One of the hallmarks of an education at a Top Tier research university is the opportunity for undergraduates to engage in the rigor of research. According to the Council on Undergraduate Research, the benefits of scholarly activity at this level include increased student retention, the creation of an information-literate workforce, and the development of a culture of innovation — all of which are central to UNLV’s mission and vision.

The University Libraries plays a large role in ensuring UNLV achieves these goals. The Libraries helps students develop the research skills of inquiry and discovery, critical thinking,

and information literacy that are needed for life ... and even rewards some students for the successful demonstration of these acquired skills through the Lance and Elena Calvert Award for Undergraduate Research.

Generously endowed by library donors Lance and Elena Calvert, this annual competition recognizes student researchers demonstrating sophistication in the use of library collections and services as well as deep reflection about the research process. Award winners receive up to \$1,000 in prize money as well as publication through Digital Scholarship@UNLV (digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/award).

“When you look at this caliber of work from self-selecting, highly motivated students here at UNLV, it is obvious our university is incredibly successful at creating the environment in which the researchers of tomorrow thrive,” said Melissa Bowles-Terry, head of educational initiatives at the University Libraries.

In addition to honoring excellence in research, the Calvert Awards foster vital relationships throughout the campus community. Any UNLV faculty member can serve as an applicant’s mentor/sponsor, and judges volunteer from across the

Continued on page 12

LIFELONG LEARNERS

Continued from page 1



PROJECT Information Literacy

UNLV PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL INFORMATION LITERACY STUDY

UNLV was recently selected to participate in the national Project Information Literacy (PIL) study on recent graduates’ engagement in lifelong learning after the degree. Alison Head, executive director of PIL, stated that she selected UNLV because it is located in America’s No. 1 smart city, providing job opportunities and an information-rich environment that promotes lifelong learning.

The study indicates that UNLV’s recent alumni believe the university “(taught) them to learn how to learn ... (and) think analytically” and gave them the confidence to “learn anything on their own,” so they actively search for the information they need to be successful.

The most unique finding PIL discovered with respect to UNLV, however, is the degree to which UNLV grads feel they had gained critical thinking skills. “UNLV scored 7 percent higher in this area — higher than any other public university in our study sample,” Head stated. “Whatever instruction and support UNLV students are receiving from the University Libraries and elsewhere on campus, they have graduated truly believing they have gained some key critical thinking skills during college that they can adapt and use throughout their lives.”

The complete results of the study will be available in October/November of this year. For more information, please visit the PIL site at projectinfolit.org.

lifelong learners employers need through the activities, programs, research, and partnerships it engages in. The Libraries works one on one with students, guiding them toward the effective use of resources and the creation of innovative research. It partners with faculty and departments to develop courses and assignments that integrate research and inquiry-based learning. It creates self-directed learning experiences outside of the classroom, such as exhibits, to generate “Aha!” moments. It works with co-curricular campus organizations to help students develop learning and life skills. It hosts events to raise awareness and share key information with the Las Vegas community. It even shapes its physical environments to support all types of learners.

“The University Libraries stands at the epicenter of UNLV’s efforts to ensure Southern Nevada has the skilled human resources it needs to become a national leader,” said Libraries Dean Patricia Iannuzzi. “We have the largest collection of information literacy experts in the world employed right here, and we are revolutionizing the way lifelong learning is incorporated into UNLV’s curriculum.”

Learn more about the work the Libraries is doing to create information-literate professionals and the result of its efforts in the sidebar to the left and on page 7.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES ADVANCES NEVADA'S K-12 STEM INITIATIVES



STEM Librarian Sue Wainscott's outreach efforts have included participating in UNLV's Rebel STEM Academy, which targets high school juniors in the Clark County School District.

business IT, health services, and defense into Nevada will only increase the demand for STEM professionals.

“Without concerted action to prepare more Nevadans for jobs in STEM-intensive fields, skills shortages could limit growth in the state’s most promising target industries, and Nevadans could miss out on employment that offers superior paths to opportunity and advancement,” states a UNLV Brookings Mountain West report titled “Cracking the Code on STEM: A People Strategy for Nevada’s Economy.”

In addition to the undergraduate and graduate programs that produce the STEM professionals Nevada needs for economic growth, UNLV engages in several K-12 outreach efforts to increase student interest in the STEM fields. The Libraries participates in these efforts, playing the critical role of developing Clark County School District (CCSD) students’ information literacy skills.

America is experiencing an educational crisis. An Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development study of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in 34 countries revealed that U.S. students rank 27th in math and 20th in science. The National Math and Science Initiative predicts that the U.S. will need 3 million STEM-skilled workers by 2018 but will fall far short of meeting this demand.

Nevada suffers from a shortage of STEM-educated workers more acutely than other states, having relied too heavily for too long on consumption-based businesses. Governor Sandoval’s plan to bring new industries such as clean energy,

Nancy Fawley, former head of the University Libraries’ Library Liaison Program, and Samantha Godbey, the Libraries’ education librarian, have both participated in Nevada State GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). GEAR UP provides seventh- and eighth-graders with more than six years’ worth of exposure to STEM studies as well as to academic libraries and campus life.

Fawley, Godbey, and other library faculty developed STEM-centric GEAR UP activities to help create a cumulative educational experience for students. One such activity, an ethnographic tour, encouraged students to observe patrons in the Libraries and report on them as if they were scientists conducting a study. Another explored the concept of ownership, which educated students on copyright and plagiarism issues. An additional activity asked students to design what they would consider to be their perfect library.

“We are laying the groundwork for future pursuits in the STEM fields,” Godbey said. “These activities give them the spark, and the hope is that in their later years, the students will pursue these fields, at which point we can work more intensively with them.”

University Libraries’ STEM

librarian Sue Wainscott has focused part of her STEM outreach efforts on the Rebel STEM Academy, designed to engage high school juniors excelling in the STEM fields and raise their awareness about UNLV. Wainscott shared guides and videos highlighting the Libraries’ STEM resources, and students participated in activities such as interactive information searches on STEM-related degrees and career opportunities.

The Libraries’ STEM outreach has also extended to CCSD teachers. Curriculum Materials Library Head Amanda Melilli

and Godbey have seized various opportunities to meet with K-12 STEM educators in the community, gauging their needs and collaborating with them to develop new ways to provide STEM-enriched curricula to CCSD students.

The Libraries is committed to producing the lifelong learners Nevada — and the country — needs to thrive. To learn more about these and its other STEM-related efforts, please visit guides.library.unlv.edu/STEM.



Education Librarian Samantha Godbey (left) and former head of the University Libraries’ Library Liaison Program Nancy Fawley have worked with Nevada State GEAR UP’s seventh- and eighth-grade students to pique their interest in STEM subjects early.

INFORMATION LITERACY GRADUATE FELLOWS

Thanks to a generous endowment from the Libraries’ Advisory Board, each summer several Information Literacy Graduate Fellows collaborate with library faculty mentors on projects that directly inform library practice and promote lifelong learning among UNLV’s undergraduate population.

A previous fellow evaluated undergraduates’ research questions, finding common themes that can be included in future lesson plans and learning objects. Another developed a rubric to analyze annotated bibliographies, pinpointing where freshman struggled with the work so those areas could be addressed. A third conducted a qualitative analysis of undergraduate transcripts, informing library instruction within the UNLV College of Education.

Naturally, all Information Literacy Graduate Fellows hone their own information literacy skills through the opportunity, growing academically and professionally. Two of last year’s fellows co-authored manuscripts with their faculty mentors here, while another worked on data that will be presented by library faculty at an international conference this October.

“Working with the Information Literacy Graduate Fellows has been an invaluable experience for both me and, from what I heard from them, the fellows,” said Erin Rinto, University Libraries’ undergraduate learning librarian. “They indicated that viewing the research process from the Libraries’ lens of information literacy instruction was extremely helpful to their own practice as teachers and that they plan to use the materials we developed together in their classrooms.”

HONOR OTHERS THROUGH BOOTH NAMING



Left: Dean Patricia Iannuzzi (right) and her husband, William E. Brown, chose the entertainment-themed booth for their gift. Right: Booth-naming opportunities stretch across the southwest wall of Lied Library's first floor.

The UNLV University Libraries has added a new way for library supporters to honor their loved ones: by naming a study booth. And these booths are special! Images from the University Libraries' Special Collections are laminated into tabletops, each one highlighting a different facet of Southern Nevada culture and history.

Themes such as Howard Hughes, historic Las Vegas, showgirls, menus, and entertainment capture the imagination and offer the opportunity to honor family and friends in unique ways.

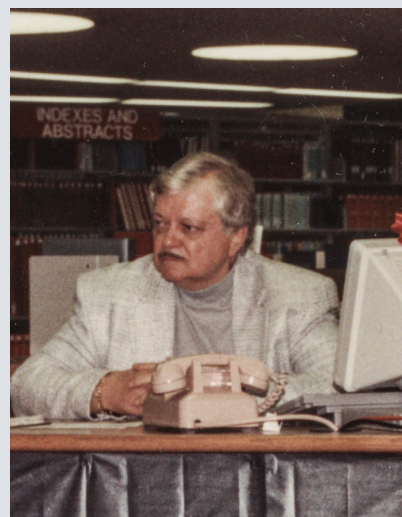
Located on the first floor of Lied Library, the study booths are a popular place for students to gather and work together in the library. Many of the booths

have been named already, but a few are still available for anyone interested in making a special gift.

To learn more about naming a booth or any other space within the University Libraries, please contact Director of Development Tamara Josserand at tamara.josserand@unlv.edu or (702) 895-2239.

HONORING ELMER CURLEY, 1929-2014

Earlier this spring, a group of University Libraries' staff made a gift to the Libraries to dedicate a study booth in the memory of their late colleague and friend Elmer Curley. One of the Libraries' first faculty members, Curley joined the organization in 1967 as the head of the Reference Department. He worked at the Libraries for 32 years, bringing both his professional expertise and love of lifelong learning — particularly with respect to the fine arts — to the campus community. He was also a dedicated Dean's Associate, regularly giving to the Libraries and the university as it grew. On May 21, 2015, Curley's friends gathered at the booth named in his honor, aptly themed with images highlighting the history of UNLV, the place he dearly loved and supported.



EVENTS SCRAPBOOK: "THE FRENCH CONNECTION"

On May 17, 2015, the UNLV University Libraries welcomed legendary creative director and choreographer Jerry Jackson as well as several dancers from two of Las Vegas' first French revues for a panel discussion in honor of the opening of the latest University Libraries exhibit. "The French Connection: 'Lido de Paris' and 'Folies Bergère' in Las Vegas" will be on display in the Lied Library from May through October. "The French Connection" showcases materials from the University Libraries' extensive entertainment collections to explore the origins of two revues that helped to set the stage for an entire entertainment tradition in Las Vegas. Learn more at digital.library.unlv.edu/collections/showgirls.



Top, moving clockwise: Dancers Jillian Hrushowy (left), Dawnie Sachs (second from left), and Tenna Howard (center) pose with Dean Patricia Iannuzzi (second from right) and famed creative director and choreographer Jerry Jackson (right) before the panel event; Karla Irwin, Special Collections librarian and exhibit curator, shows off an original Folies Bergère costume; attendees look at unique materials from Special Collections' entertainment collection; Su Kim Chung (left), head of Special Collections Public Service, moderates the panel.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES 2015 HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

The UNLV University Libraries wishes to thank the following individuals, corporations, and foundations for their generous support in 2015. Every gift is important and valued.

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CALVERT AWARDS

Continued from page 4

campus. “The Calvert Awards provide a great opportunity for the Libraries to create an interdisciplinary space for faculty across the curriculum to connect,” Bowles-Terry said.

The four 2015 Lance and Elena Calvert Undergraduate Research Award winners were publicly recognized at a reception on May 7. They are:

- **Manuela Bowles**

(Emerging Scholar Division) for “Margaret Atwood and the Implications of the Word ‘Love’” (digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/award/23).

- **Katie Cannata** (Senior Division) for her honors thesis, “Jihad in the Global Village: Al-Qaeda’s Digital Radicalization and Recruitment Campaign” (digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/award/22).

- **Lee M. Hanover** (Senior

Division) for “New York Oneida: Land Claims, Federal Policies, State Intervention, and Casino Development” (digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/award/24).

- **Bella Victoria Smith** (Senior Division) for “‘Man? Where’s a Man? Don’t Let Him Go!’: Molina’s Trans/gender Web in Interpretation and Performance” (digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/award/21).

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JOIN THE LIBRARIES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Business by the Book Workshop
Wednesday, August 12
6-8 p.m.

Business by the Book Workshop
Wednesday, October 14
6-8 p.m.

Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage
Project Launch
TBA