

Fall 2006

Connections Newsletter Fall 2006

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reach, focus, grow, connect, create, learn, **Connections**
University Libraries newsletter,

FALL 2006, VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

**...college students who
work in libraries...find their
own research skills and
academic performance
are strengthened.**



Undergraduate Gina Cassaro and her mentor, librarian Lateka Grays.

BENEFACTORS HELP UNDERGRADUATES HELP THEIR PEERS

Flora and Stuart Mason wanted to support a project that would make a difference in the lives of students by bolstering their academic achievement. They hoped to find such a project at the University Libraries.

At the same time, senior librarians Victoria Nozero and Diane VanderPol were developing a pilot program to address undergraduate student retention. This program is designed to recruit students and train them to serve as front-line research coaches to their peers. The librarians had excellent ideas, but lacked the funding to start the program.

It was a natural match. Flora Mason thought the Libraries provided an ideal setting for this type of program and wanted to be a part of it. As a former instructor in the English department, Mason is familiar with UNLV students and the challenges they face completing their degrees. As a member of the Libraries Advisory Board, she also understands that today's academic librarian is much more involved with teaching and collaborating on course design than librarians of 10 or 20 years ago.

Benefactors Help Undergraduates, continued on page 5...

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Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean, University Libraries

FROM THE DEAN

As I enter my second year as dean of the University Libraries, I am pleased to introduce a new publication, *Connections*, a newsletter designed to highlight our many activities and programs. *Connections* reflects the diverse yet complementary values of our libraries as it focuses on our many connections to faculty, students and staff across campus and the Southern Nevada community. Making connections is at the heart of the Libraries' mission; it is what we do every day in hundreds of ways. I want this newsletter to reflect our vision of bringing people and information together in innovative ways. This is the journey our staff travels every day with the faculty and students of this emerging metropolitan university.

The University Libraries epitomize the intersection of teaching, research, and community. It is a destination for the thousands of people who pass through our doors each day. It is a point of origin where individuals connect with our information experts to navigate the maze that is today's information environment, including both physical and digital collections. Thousands more individuals access us virtually each day, connecting to our electronic resources and using our online experts to guide and to instruct.

The University Libraries epitomize the intersection of teaching, research, and community. It is a destination for the thousands of people who pass through our doors each day.

In April 2004, the University Libraries celebrated the acquisition of its millionth volume. I am proud to report that in the past 18 months, the University Libraries acquired almost 500,000 more books and thousands of back files of journals - all in digital format. I hope you share my sense of pride as you read about the deep scholarly collections now available to support our talented research faculty and to encourage undergraduate and graduate research. The dedicated faculty and staff of the University Libraries are committed to build outstanding collections, provide excellent service, and enhance the teaching, research and community service mission of UNLV.

Connections serves an important and valued purpose. I now have the opportunity to better recognize, thank - and connect - with our advisory board, our supporters, and members of the UNLV community. Your continued investment in the University Libraries enables us to create a research library worthy of this great university, city, and state. In this issue, you will read about some exciting projects. We look forward to sharing more in future issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pati Ianni".

Patricia Iannuzzi
Dean, University Libraries

Connections

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For information, call (702) 895-2286
or visit us on the web at
<http://www.library.unlv.edu>.

*Connections is a publication of the
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Libraries*

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP: JUST ADD A LITTLE TLC

Last spring, four university librarians took part in a pilot project called the Curiosity Mini-Grant program. It proved to be an exciting demonstration of the contribution today's librarians make to course development and redesign.

The Curiosity Mini-Grant program awards incentive funds, using small grants from the University Teaching and Learning Center, to encourage faculty members to study issues of teaching and learning in their courses. The University Libraries offers matching funds when a classroom instructor partners with a library faculty member.

"The TLC mini-grant provided the opportunity to further develop collaborations between library staff and faculty throughout the university, collaboration that directly impacts — and enriches — students' experience in the classroom," says Deborah Boehm, Ph.D., assistant professor-in-residence, University College.

This program is part of a larger institutional Scholarship of Teaching and Learning initiative sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation. The TLC, located on the third floor of Lied Library, is dedicated to providing UNLV's teaching community with resources and support. For more information about the TLC and the Curiosity Mini-Grants, visit www.tlc.unlv.edu.



Students collaborating on an assignment in Lied Library

Curiosity Mini-Grants Help Faculty Partner with Librarians

Jeanne Brown,

architecture studies head librarian

"An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Creative/Artistic Student Assignments in Contemporary Art History Courses" (John Paul Ricco, assistant professor, Art History)

"Integrating the World Wide Web into a Visual Research Assignment: Impact on Student Learning Outcomes and Experiences" (Janet White, assistant professor, School of Architecture)



Sidney (Watson) Lowe,

*government information librarian
(former engineering librarian)*

"Redesign of an Introductory Course in Entertainment Engineering" (Dan Cook, assistant professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering)



Eva Stowers,

medical librarian

"Scenario Based Decisions" (Wendy Woodall, assistant professor-in-residence, School of Dental Medicine)

"Comparison of Online Media vs. Face-to-Face for Informatics in Healthcare" (Margaret Louis, associate professor, School of Nursing)



Diane VanderPol

head instruction librarian

"Improving Research Skills through Collaborative Service Learning" (Deborah Boehm, assistant professor-in-residence, University College)

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LIBRARIES INCREASE E-COLLECTIONS

This year, the University Libraries greatly expanded their digital collections with back files of thousands of electronic journals and hundreds of thousands of e-texts. Anyone in the UNLV community can access these collections online — at the libraries or any place with an Internet connection. These collections significantly deepen library holdings and represent an investment in the research infrastructure for faculty. They are also being used to place research-based learning at the heart of undergraduate education.

“Many of the collections you have purchased — such as Early English Books Online and the American Periodical Series — I had grown dependent on in graduate school [at Stanford] but had little hope of getting access to here,” says David Holland, assistant professor, Department of History. “You have enriched the academic experience of my students, who will be required to use these resources this fall.”

Highlights of new collections include specialized indexes such as Index Islamicus, SPORT Discus, and Garden Landscape and Horticulture, as well as substantial historical collections of women’s and immigrants’ letters and diaries and important literature collections focusing on African writers and Asian American playwrights. Tens of thousands of e-texts have been acquired in the sciences, social sciences, medicine and technology alongside hundreds of thousands of early books from and about the Americas and Great Britain and more than 1,000 Early American newspapers.

Those engaged in business and financial research will be pleased to have access to several major full text databases such as Compustat for global securities and market data; Investext Plus for investment research; IMF International for financial statistics such as time series, interest and exchange rates; and several of the Valueline online resources for stocks, mutual funds and other investment data.

These collections would not be possible without the support of the university administration and the generosity of donors who for decades have been establishing subject endowments for the University Libraries to deepen and enrich collections. The Libraries are now deeply engaged in the work of processing these electronic collections so that they can be located from the catalog and website.

Images from Special Collections & Archives, George Mason University Libraries are available via the North American Theatre Online collection from Alexander Street Press.

HOW CAN I HELP THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES?



Alumni and friends demonstrate their support and belief in the value of the University Libraries through attendance at special events, gifts to specific programs, and undesignated gifts for the Libraries to use for new initiatives.

We invite you to join in our effort to increase yearly donations to support the University Libraries by making a charitable contribution. Gifts can be made through estate planning, the Libraries Dean's Associate program (\$1,000 or more unrestricted), *Honor with Books* program, and many other initiatives that support the University Libraries.

For more specific information on how your gift helps the University Libraries, please contact Zachary Smith, director of development, at (702) 895-2286 or zachary.smith@unlv.edu.

BENEFACTORS HELP UNDERGRADUATES

continued from page 1

The Masons' generosity enabled University Libraries to launch the Undergraduate Peer Research Coaches pilot program this fall, and the first student, Gina Cassaro, has already been selected. "What I've learned working in the Libraries has already made my classwork more manageable. It's also fun — what better way to learn than to teach someone else!" says Cassaro.

The program addresses retention issues by improving both the research skills and the interpersonal/communication skills of the Peer Research Coaches themselves and by providing role models to other students. Professional literature shows that college students who work in libraries, especially assisting in classrooms or at reference desks, find their own research skills and academic performance are strengthened. Therefore, participation in the program, which includes a librarian mentor, is expected to encourage the students to stay in school and finish their degrees.

University Libraries' program recruits at-risk, but motivated, first- or second-year students and trains them to serve as front-line research mentors to their peers. Applicants should demonstrate financial need and be either first-generation college students or from an underrepresented ethnic group. By focusing on bright, enthusiastic students at risk of not finishing their degrees, the program is expected to make a measurable impact on both the student mentors and their peers whom they will serve throughout the program.

The Libraries are grateful that Flora and Stuart Mason had the vision to recognize the potential in this project. Their support of the Peer Research Coaches program provides an extra chance for motivated students to achieve their goal of a college degree.

For more information on the Peer Research Coaches program, contact Victoria Nozero, head, research and information, victoria.nozero@unlv.edu, or Diane VanderPol, head, instruction, diane.vanderpol@unlv.edu.



Gina Cassaro and Victoria Nozero, Librarian

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KATHY MORLAN — ONCE A TEACHER, ALWAYS A LEARNER

Mention University Libraries and Kathy Morlan's face lights up. She is most excited about the learning that the helpful staff, terrific collections, and appealing environment make possible. She has seen the difference this learning makes in the lives of UNLV students – because she was once one of those students.

Morlan is the epitome of a lifelong learner. As a child in rural Maine, she reveled in discovering new things in school and on her family's farm. Her sense of adventure took her to California, where she made one of her greatest discoveries — her future husband, Jerry Morlan. A shared enthusiasm for learning brought them together and their commitment to common goals and to each other kept them together.

Kathy and Jerry Morlan encouraged each other's thirst for education. When Jerry became burned out as a successful industrial photographer, Kathy encouraged him to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher. Who cared if it meant selling the house and moving away from the beach - it was a new adventure to share! Their adventure brought them to Las Vegas in 1978. Jerry taught industrial arts in the Clark County School District and loved every minute of it. A few years later, it was Kathy's turn to quit her job and finish her Bachelor of Arts degree at UNLV so she could teach.



Kathy Morlan in the Curriculum Materials Library.

Morlan recalls how Jerry was always full of ideas to benefit his students, even if it meant ruffling a few feathers. With his passion for teaching and his perspective from industry, he realized that students needed more than woodworking to get a job after high school. In the mid-1980s, he garnered local community and business support and retrofitted a woodshop into the first technology lab in Clark County schools. In the process, he generated enough attention that they even heard about Jerry Morlan in Carson City. It didn't take long for everyone, even former detractors, to see the benefit of teaching students how to work with technology.

As a student, Morlan appreciated using UNLV's former library, the Dickinson Library, but her interest in the Libraries soared after she discovered the treasures in Special Collections. She recognized, with the help of her friend

Flo Mlynarczyk, a longtime Libraries supporter, that the letters and articles chronicling Jerry's efforts to start the technology labs were an important part of Las Vegas history. After he passed away, she donated the Jerry Morlan Papers to Special Collections. She became a member of the Dean's Associates in 2003 to support the Libraries. Her teaching experience naturally attracted her to the Curriculum Materials Library, where she helped with various projects.

Following her retirement from teaching, Morlan decided to give another lasting gift — one that would help the Libraries and directly benefit students for decades to come. Morlan says, "I wanted to give a substantial gift right now to support library programs for undergraduates. But, since I need to support myself, it couldn't happen that way."

However, as she planned her future, she saw a distinct possibility. She revised her will to include a generous bequest to establish the Jerry and Kathleen Morlan Endowed Fund for University Libraries. This endowed fund will support the University Libraries' programs, particularly those benefiting education and mentor programs for undergraduate students. The University Libraries is truly grateful to Kathy and Jerry Morlan, whose foresight and generosity will provide educational opportunities to innumerable future students.

The University Libraries wish to thank the following individuals, corporations and foundations for their generous support from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006. Every gift is important and valued. It is our wish to recognize all donors correctly. Please notify the UNLV Foundation of any discrepancies by calling (702) 895-3641.

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WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARIES

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www.library.unlv.edu/dd/

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Library Award for Undergraduate Research

University Libraries partners with UNLV's Division of Research and Graduate Studies for the annual Library Award for Undergraduate Research. These awards recognize excellence in undergraduate research projects that incorporate the use of University Libraries' collections and demonstrate sophisticated information literacy skills on the part of undergraduate researchers. For information on the 2006 winners of this award, please visit <http://www.library.unlv.edu/award/winners.html>.

Honor with Books

Giving to the University Libraries in honor of friends or relatives is a thoughtful way to provide a lasting memorial tribute, celebrate a special occasion, or acknowledge an accomplishment. For each \$100 gift through *Honor with Books*, a bookplate bearing the name of the person being honored or remembered is placed in a book. For more information, contact Zachary Smith, director of development, at (702) 895-2286 or zachary.smith@unlv.edu.



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