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Library Connection, v2n1, Fall 2014

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Developing UNI ScholarSpace

The library was recently awarded a $210,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to continue the development of the Learning Commons. The grant will fund two projects: 1) the development of ScholarSpace, an Interdisciplinary public programming space that will hold up to 75 people. The space can be used by anyone on campus to present the results of faculty or student research, celebrate scholarship, or present programming that engages audience members in scholarly dialogue; and 2) enhancements to the Digital Media Hub, including new equipment for checkout and new technologies for experimentation. ScholarSpace renovations should be complete by fall 2015.

The Carver grant complements another successful grant request submitted to the McElroy Trust for $75,000 to fund the development of a Makerspace in the Learning Commons. The space will have a 3D printer and scanner, and supplies for making prototypes and inspiring creativity. The Makerspace should also be up and running by fall 2015.

Anyone, Anywhere, Anytime UNI ScholarWorks

Rod Library is moving forward with the development of UNI’s new institutional repository, UNI ScholarWorks. The purpose of UNI ScholarWorks is to collect, preserve and make available to anyone, anywhere, anytime, the digital research and creative and scholarly output from the UNI-community.

In support of UNI ScholarWorks, the University Faculty Senate recently endorsed a resolution encouraging contribution to the UNI institutional repository and to initiate conversations about the open-access movement. By mid-semester spring 2015, UNI ScholarWorks will be ready to accept content. Examples of works that can be added include faculty journal articles, dissertations and theses, conference proceedings, concerts and performances, and photographs.

Visit http://guides.lib.uni.edu/scholarly-communication for more information on the progress of the project.
West Entrance and Book Bistro Café

Fall semester began a new era for the Rod Library. The west entrance opened August 27, creating a walk-through option for the campus community. The Book Bistro was quick to follow, opening for business September 15.

With these major changes, patrons cannot only enter/exit either side of the building, but also check out books at either entrance. Or grab a refreshment from the Bistro and stay awhile. The Book Bistro will increase its hours in January.

The library has seen an increase in gate count numbers, and Library Dean Chris Cox attributes the increase to these changes.

The library looks forward to continuing to create a welcoming, warm environment for all.

RodCon 2015

Save the Date for Rod Con 2015! This year’s event will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat., March 28. We’ll have artists, panel presentations and a costume contest. New this year: a special Kidzone full of crafts and activities for our younger patrons! If you know anyone who might be interested in having a table or presenting, direct them to www.library.uni.edu/rod-con. We look forward to seeing you at this super soiree!

New Curator of the UNI Museums

UNI Museums and Rod Library are pleased to announce the appointment of Nathan Arndt as the Curator of the UNI Museums. Arndt holds a master of arts in American history from the University of Rhode Island and a bachelor of arts in history from Buena Vista University. Arndt’s duties will include the development and assessment of the museums’ diverse collections.

According to Arndt, “There are many things that I am looking forward to. The main one is the chance to bring the collections to a wider audience. One of my primary goals will be promoting the use of collections within the classroom and for personal research projects. I am excited to work with and train professors in the use of collections in their classrooms and encourage their students to visit the museum to work with the collections. Giving access to the collections opens up a new way for students to experience material culture.”

Previously, Arndt was the Assistant Curator at the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University. He has also served as a Collections Intern at Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery at Bangor University, Wales. In addition to his curator experience, Arndt has worked with archives and exhibit development.