

Fall 12-2019

## Library Connection, v7n1, Fall 2019

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## A SECRET TO STUDENT SUCCESS

A regular face found around Rod Library is Glynis Worthington. Worthington is not only a faculty member at the Institute for Youth Leaders but also a graduate student at UNI. She is very passionate about her field of study, allied health, recreation, and community services. The ambition and motivation she has for earning her doctoral degree are inspiring. When asked about her educational journey, she said, "Collaborating with librarians and broadening my search using Google Scholar has benefited me in gaining useful information for my studies." She praises the personal touch the librarians offer every student. Their kindness and willingness to go beyond expectations when helping students delighted her. Worthington loves to study at Rod Library. She finds the secret to success is surrounding herself with space meant for focusing and completing quality work. She stressed the importance of not studying at a place with distractions because one cannot be productive in an unfocused environment. Her advice to every UNI student is: expect nothing, pace yourself, find value in what you are doing, and NEVER forget your library.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A UNI STUDENT



*"The amount of excitement the program generates for learning is incredibly inspiring; it's like watching a catalyst in action."*

Instruction and Liaison Librarian Chris Neuhaus has taken a long-standing relationship between a few Iowa schools and UNI to a new level. This past fall, Neuhaus and Rod Library partnered with UNI Admissions, the UNI History Club, and others to offer a day in the life of a UNI student to visiting secondary students. Rod Library frequently hosts students from secondary schools to provide instruction on conducting research using the library's unique primary sources.

Students learn tips and tricks of searching Google and other library resources that are valuable life-long learning skills. In addition to their research instruction and experience, visiting students last fall had an opportunity to hear a brief presentation about UNI and enjoy lunch at one of the beautiful dining centers on campus. Associate Director for Freshmen Recruitment and Access Jesus Lizarraga-Estrada played a significant role in arranging for these additional activities. Lizarraga-Estrada explains, "We have staff at UNI who truly care about helping students no matter if they are enrolled at UNI or not. Working with collaborations like these highlight how great UNI is, and what we can do for students' futures." This past semester the participation of students from the UNI History Club further enhanced some of the visits. Rod Library invited Katherine Keeling, Jake Potter Lynch, and other students from the club to provide one-on-one teaching and mentoring to visiting students, giving future history teachers experience beyond the classroom. Neuhaus said, "The amount of excitement the program generates for learning is incredibly inspiring; it's like watching a catalyst in action." Rod Library continues to build bridges with the community, create opportunities for learning beyond the classroom, and offer resources that only libraries can provide.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: LAUREN SMITH



*"I've gained a better understanding of how libraries work and how I will organize my classroom library."*

Lauren Smith has worked as a Rod Library student assistant during her four years at UNI. She spends her time working in the Resource Management Unit. She is on the fast track to graduate in May 2020, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education. Some of Smith's job duties as a student assistant include accepting and processing gifts to the library. Other responsibilities include keeping track of lost and missing materials, creating displays, and checking on the availability of recent textbooks on reserve each semester. While working at Rod Library, Smith has gained many essential skills that she plans to integrate into her student

teaching in the spring. She explained, "In a professional setting, it will be important to know how to reference and rely on scholarly works and reliable sources. Because of Rod Library, I have had the experience of searching for such resources. Exploring the stacks also prepared me for instances when I needed to find materials in other libraries. I've gained a better understanding of how libraries work and how I will organize my future classroom library." Smith has made an impact at Rod Library. Her supervisor, Jeanne Little, shared, "Lauren is one of those students whom you want the best for their future, but wish they would never have to graduate. She is such a key part of our unit that I will miss her valuable work contributions and because she is such a pleasure to know."

## NEW FALL 2019



**THROUGH THE GENEROCITY OF THE SCHOOL OIF MUSIC, THE LIBRARY NOW HAS A BABY GRAND PIANO, LIOCATED IN THE LEARNING COMMONS**



**UNI MUSEUM EXHIBIT, LIVING ARCTIC: SUSTAINABILITY AND TRADITION ON TOP OF THE WORLD**

## PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE



*"...great atmosphere for students to work and gain experience for their futures."*

Implementing improved practices in preservation is essential for Rod Library to continue supporting research, teaching, and content creation in the humanities. Thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, Special Collections and University Archives learned new ways to improve preservation and conservation practices to keep collections safe for many more years to come. Faculty and staff from across several Iowa institutions attended the grant-funded consultant led workshop to expand their knowledge about best practices in preservation, including

creating enclosures for fragile materials and how to flatten documents. In conjunction with the grant, a generous donor provided funds for the creation of a new student assistant position dedicated to preservation initiatives. The student assistant, Raegan Christianson, is implementing the new preservation practices and is focusing making custom boxes for fragile scrapbooks. Christianson's experience has been a positive one. She said, "It is a very positive environment and a great atmosphere for students to work and gain experience for their futures."



## HISTORY BEYOND THE SURFACE: UNI CULTURELAB

The CultureLab is an exciting new addition to the UNI Museum. The lab includes XRF (X-ray Fluorescence) technology, digital microscopes, 3D scanners, conservation equipment, humidification equipment, and an oversized monitor. Access to this type of hands-on lab in an educational setting provides an enhanced opportunity for learning about the natural world. The CultureLab is one of the first of its kind in the State of Iowa, offering UNI students, faculty, and the broader community a unique chance to discover history beyond the surface. The opportunity to add the CultureLab to the museum was made possible by a grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust for the “Scientific Study, Conservation, and Interpretation” of the Mastodon tusk. The CultureLab allowed for an in-depth exploration of the tusk’s history and composition using non-destructive technology. Additionally, throughout the project, UNI students used equipment in the lab to perform hands-on research on the tusk. Rod Library is grateful for the continued support of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in providing funding for projects such as the CultureLab, which are making an impact at UNI and beyond.



UNI's hosted Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science is now available digitally for the first time worldwide. Rod Library partnered with Craig Johnson, the director of the Iowa Academy of Science, to complete this significant digitization project through the University of Northern Iowa's institutional repository, UNI ScholarWorks. The Iowa Academy of Science Board allowed UNI ScholarWorks to share articles from 1887 to 2012 via open access. There are over 7,000 articles that have been globally downloaded more than 55,000 times since becoming available. This project is preserving history, research, and information not only for the benefit of Iowans but the world.