10,710 Students Attended Class in the New Active Learning Center

Suddenly, the Active Learning Center (ALC) came alive for the 2013 fall semester as group based, and team-based learning in particular, are becoming important elements in health sciences education throughout the country. The new ALC has provided colleges with a facility developed to serve that need. Seventy classes were taught in the ALC with 10,710 students attending.

Both the College of Pharmacy and Medicine have large classes and use team-based or group modalities that work well in this special room. Most of the classes were College of Medicine first and second year classes using the team-based learning (TBL) model. The 170 medical students in each class plus the instructor and facilitators utilized the team/group based layout with a podium located in the center of the learning activity, small tables for groups of six students, and large monitors ringing the room. College of Pharmacy also had several group-based classes this fall.

The ALC is available for the curricular events of any of the UAMS colleges that require a large space for student group work and the sharing of information via the large monitors. The ALC may be reserved through the Office of Academic Services via http://oas.uams.edu/schedule-a-room/.

- Jan Hart
Library Renovation Update

During the past year, a tremendous amount of renovation has occurred within the Library to increase study space for students and to make the Library better for all who use it. Below is a summary of the renovations occurring throughout the year, and others that are in process or being planned.

Renovations/Improvements Completed:

1st floor
- Constructed the Active Learning Center (192 seats)
- Enclosed SE corner to create a better study area and reference alcove (added to 24/7 space)
- Renovated and converted four offices into quiet study areas (24 seats; added to 24/7 space)

2nd floor
- Removed stacks to enlarge study area on north end
- Removed stacks to add an Interprofessional Education office (will be converted to a study room in three years)
- Renovated three group study rooms and added large monitors
- Recarpeted study area

3rd floor
- Removed stacks at south end and built quiet study room (50 seats, variety of seating)
- Removed stacks on north end to create another new study area (20 seats)
- Rearranged space in the northwest corner to create a better study area
- Renovated four group study rooms and 2 AV group rooms and added large monitors
- Recarpeted north end

5th floor
- Recarpeted all of 5th floor Learning Resource Center (LRC)
- Removed gates and large desk in entrance to LRC to provide more student space

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Newsletter Editor
Joanna Delavan
jdelavan@uams.edu

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Library Renovation Update

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Miscellaneous
- Replaced 100 35-year-old chairs with new chairs on 2nd and 3rd floors, and redistributed old chairs and other unused furniture to other campus units
- Upgraded security camera system, which is now connected to the UAMS Police system
- Weeded and reorganized print journal and book collection (140,000 volumes) for better access
  - Book collection on second floor, print journal collection on the third floor
- The number of new seats added is 225, a 50% increase over the previous number
- Recarpeted stairs on 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors

In Process or in the Planning Stage:
- Add artwork throughout the Library – in process
- Renovate Library elevator to improve efficiency and reduce noise – approved for Summer 2013
- Enclose walkway on 5th floor with glass to reduce noise – cost estimate requested
- Build wall on 5th to separate office from study area – cost estimate requested
- Renovate front entrance and put carpet over brick to reduce noise – in planning stage

Thank you for your patience during all of these changes. If you have suggestions about other changes that can be made to improve the Library’s appearance or functionality, please contact Mary Ryan, UAMS Library Director at 501-686-6730 or ryanmaryl@uams.edu.

New Large Monitors in Library Group Study Rooms

To help students collaborate on projects and general studying, the Library recently purchased 40” monitors that were installed in the group rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Each monitor is equipped with an HDMI and VGA cable to ensure that most laptops will connect. We ask that students help us keep the equipment nice and in good working order so all students will benefit from this new technology. If you have any questions or comments about the monitors, please contact Heather Smith at hlsmith@uams.edu or 501-686-8116.

- Mary Ryan

- Heather Smith
After 35 Years, Connie Wilson Hangs Up Her Keyboard

Connie Wilson retired in December after 35 years as a dedicated medical librarian. Connie had been with UAMS in Arkansas for over 30 years, and her family has a strong connection to UAMS. Her father, Dr. James L. Dennis, was chancellor of UAMS and he pushed for the creation of the AHEC Libraries. He also collaborated with Rose Hogan, the UAMS Library’s Director, to create space for the UAMS Library in the “new” Education II Building. Prior to that the UAMS Library was in the basement of Shorey.

I asked Connie to share some of her favorite memories from her career.

I have so many of them. I remember my first day at the AHEC Library in Fayetteville. I had gotten pneumonia from a cousin over the XMAS holidays and I started my first day at Washington Regional Hospital in a room behind the PBX operators cubicle coughing and with a fever. My “office” was very tiny, my desk was a typewriter stand, but I did have a file cabinet in there. We didn’t have any resources so I had to trek over to the VA Library next door and that is where I met and became friends with Mary Fran Prottman. After several moves within the hospital, we finally moved to a spacious spot at the AHEC complex on Joyce Street. After I left, the AHEC Library was repositioned at the old Washington Regional Medical Center building, in the same location where we started in 1977 - with a much bigger space though!

I would call the UAMS Library for some really tough questions and that is how I got to know Sally Kasalko and Rose Hogan, who developed the Medical Library arrangement between the AHECs and UAMS. Rose Hogan and my dad collaborated together to create space for the UAMS Library within the Education II Building and Rose developed the plan whereby each AHEC (Fort Smith, Texarkana and Fayetteville) would have a full library. The UAMS Library was always so supportive of the AHEC Libraries and has hosted the AHEC Librarian meetings since then. Dena Plaisted left the state for MD Anderson and eventually worked with Mary Ryan at the NN/LM office in Houston. That is about the time I met Susan Steelman who was at the DHEC and then later became Coordinator of Outreach at the UAMS Library. We invited Susan to speak to our residents which she graciously accepted.

After being at the AHEC Northwest for 27 years, I accepted a position as a Reference Librarian here at UAMS in 2004. Susan was still the outreach librarian and I met several other of my colleagues. Jan Hart, head of our division, was very supportive and encouraging.

Today, Jan Hart is Associate Director, Susan is Head of Education and Reference Services and I have 35 years experience of being a Reference librarian and loved every minute of it. I will always remember my colleagues and the good times that we had over the years.

- Susan Steelman and Connie Wilson
UAMS Library Welcomes A New Librarian

The UAMS Library welcomes Jessie Casella as our newest Health Sciences Reference Librarian who will specialize in building our connections with clinical areas. In addition to being a team member of our Research and Clinical Search Services (RCSS) and conducting literature searches, Jessie will also be teaching classes as we take our training into the hospital to meet the need of faculty and staff who can’t get to the Library.

Jessie comes to UAMS from southeastern Vermont. Prior to coming to UAMS, Jessie worked in both a medical library at a small community hospital and a public library. Her hobbies include hiking, gardening, origami and various crafts she learned through programming as a public librarian. She also enjoys spending time with her cat, Mischief. You can contact Jessie via email or phone: JCasella@uams.edu / 501-686-8517.

- Susan Steelman

UAMS Librarians Shine at Regional MLA Conference

The October meeting of the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Lubbock, Texas provided an opportunity for UAMS Librarians to shine.

Two papers were presented by UAMS Librarians. Mary Ryan, Susan Steelman, and Jan Hart presented “Re-Positioning the Library for the Future: Repurposing, Relationships & Renovations”. Mark Hopkins from University of Oklahoma and Jon Goodell from UAMS, presented “Emerging Biomedical Informatics Tools and Trends: Perspectives from the Spring 2012 Woods Hole Course”.

A poster presented by Susan Steelman, Mary Ryan, Jan Hart, and Daphne Hyatt “Rave Renovations: The Domino Effect of Raising an Active Learning Center”, won Honorable Mention for Best Poster.

This was Jessie Casella’s first SCC/MLA meeting and she attended the Fund Raising Committee meeting as an incoming member. Jessie also attended the New Member’s Reception.

It was also during this meeting that Susan Steelman, Head of Education & Reference Services, took the reins as President of SCC/MLA. Her term as President will run October 2012 – October 2013 and she will preside over next year’s annual meeting in Fort Worth, TX.

- Susan Steelman
Former Silent Room Converted to 24x7 Computer Area

With the addition of the Active Learning Center on the first floor of the Library, many changes have been made to repurpose areas to fit the needs of our users. One such change has been made to the former silent room on the east side of the first floor. Ten networked computers have been placed in the study carrels for patrons to use. This area is still part of the 24-hour area so these computers are accessible around the clock.

To completely meet the needs of our users, we have added programs that were not formerly loaded on the computers located in the 24-hour area. Such programs include SAS and many LRC instructional programs (including the Tank questions). All computers continue to be outfitted with Microsoft Office and are connected to a pay-for-print printing system that is also located in the new computer room.

As with all of the Library’s public stations, all work will be lost upon logoff as the computer is set to delete all activity. Please save any materials to the “Save Your Work Here” folder or to a USB jump/flash drive.

Library LRC Closed on Saturdays

Due to changes in testing schedules and the way students use the Library to study, the staff in the Library Learning Resource Center (LRC) has noticed a definite decline in traffic on Saturdays for the past couple of years. After careful monitoring and consideration, the Library has decided to close the 5th floor LRC on Saturdays ONLY. The main part of the Library will remain open regular hours, 9AM– 6PM on Saturday. The LRC will maintain the usual Library hours of operation Sunday through Friday.

The New LRC schedule is as follows:
Sunday: 2PM – 10PM
Monday – Thursday: 7:30AM – 10PM
Friday: 7:30AM – 6PM
Saturday: Closed

This change will allow us to use our Saturday staff member during the work week and take full advantage of his video editing skills for projects such as oral histories, a virtual Library tour, etc. The LRC staff will continually monitor the situation and will adjust the schedule if the need arises. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Heather Smith at hsmith@uams.edu or 501-686-8116.

- Heather Smith
The digital collections website of the Historical Research Center in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library has a new appearance and new features. The new URL is http://hrcdigitalcoll.uams.edu/cdm.

A major change is the addition of a main landing page which provides descriptions and a sample image for each individual digital collection. Users will also find general information pertaining to all the digital collections, browsing and keyword search options, and suggested search topics on this page. Links to individual landing pages for each digital collection provide further information about the collection's scope and content as well as thumbnail images of recent additions. Users may also enable an RSS function to be notified whenever new items are added to that particular collection.

The Historical Research Center is also proud to announce the addition of a new digital collection containing 14,984 page images and searchable text from journals published by the Arkansas Medical Society from 1870 to 1922. Consulted frequently for biographical research, these titles are also a significant source of information regarding medical knowledge, education, practice, and social attitudes toward the treatment and prevention of disease in Arkansas. Fifty-four volumes were digitized in-house by Library staff using equipment purchased with a federally funded 2011 Digital Preservation Award (National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health Contract No. HHSN-276-2011-00007-C with the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library). With the completion of this project, the HRC staff plans to begin digitizing other frequently consulted historical materials including yearbooks, matriculation records, and physician directories.

Check out the new website and let us know what you think. Your feedback helps the HRC staff prioritize digitization and preservation efforts. We may also be able to provide or recommend additional materials related to your topic of interest. Send questions, comments, or suggestions to Suzanne Easley, Archivist, at easleymyra@uams.edu or 501-686-6882.

- Suzanne Easley

Journal Cancellations

Due to the $75,000 deficit carryover from FY11, the Library needs to cut more ongoing expenses from its base budget. Journals with relatively low use over the past 2 years have been identified and cancelled for 2013. Some of these journals were on last year’s cancellation list and removed at the request of faculty, but continued low use necessitates cancellations this year. Keep in mind that we will continue to provide journal articles not owned by the Library through our Interlibrary Loan department.


- Daphne Hyatt
New Access for Active Learning Center Classes

The “back door” of the ALC on the 1st floor of the Library will be opened 30 minutes prior to scheduled classes and remain accessible throughout the class. Restrooms are available in the north lobby and vending machines and food locations are close by. We hope this will make getting into and exiting the ALC area easier for students as well as reduce the noise level in the library when classes are over.

New e-Book Search Tool

A new eBooks search tool is now available on the same library page as the eJournal locator - http://bd4uz2kj6y.search.serialssolutions.com. You can also find it by clicking on the eJournal link on the left-hand side of the Library webpage. Electronic books may be searched as title, subject, keyword or by publisher package (ex. AccessMedicine). The current eBooks page http://library.uams.edu/resources/ebooks.aspx will be removed from the website soon.

UAMS Library Website Adds Subject Portals

The Library home page now offers subject-focused portals. These portals, located under the red banner at the top of the page, offer selected resources in Basic Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health. More portals will be added as they are developed. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.