Therapy Dogs Relieve Stress for Students

During the Fall 2013 semester, a program was implemented that brings stress buster dogs - like therapy dogs - into the Library for the purpose of giving students a break from the pressure of studying for looming exams. The Library asked Volunteer Services if therapy dogs working on campus that were already cleared could be made available for students in the Library. These certified dogs are part of SPOT (Special Pets Offering Therapy) Teams that visit patients. Each team consists of a dog and its owner.

Studies have shown that contact with animals relieves anxiety, lowers blood pressure, combats depression, etc. A schedule of finals and major unit tests was provided to the Library by the different Colleges with the goal of providing SPOT Teams for one hour the day before exams. The positive response from the students to seeing and interacting with the SPOT Teams has deemed the program a success. Students were encouraged to fill out a comment slip after their visits and every remark was complimentary of the program and expressed the wish that it continue. Dogs will again be in the Library during the Spring 2014 semester and the semesters following as long as the students want them and there are SPOT Teams available.

- Nancy Sessoms
The UAMS Library is now publishing a series of short videos on technology topics called The Red Room. The Red Room weekly series is posted on the UAMS Library’s YouTube channel http://www.youtube.com/user/UAMSlibrary and highlights cool technology, useful library services, fun library events and UAMS campus-wide events.

The series takes its name from the professional-grade, sound engineered, red curtains that sound-proof the room. The room itself was created during the Library’s recent technology-driven renovations. Beyond the red curtains, the room is equipped with three-point film lighting, high end studio microphones, a multi-track mixing board, digital audio recorders, a professional level digital camcorder, lecture capture software, and trained library staff at your service.

“The series is available to everyone, but geared especially toward UAMS students,” said Tim Muren, Library technology assistant. “We hope our students, as well as staff and faculty, will watch, subscribe via YouTube, and send us questions and comments.” The Red Room crew is now looking for guests to appear in videos, and invites students and staff with any level of technology knowledge to join in the fun.

The room is available for use by UAMS students, staff, and faculty for projects. For inquiries on making a Red Room appearance, announcement, or to make an appointment to use the Red Room for your project, contact Tim Muren at tbmuren@uams.edu. Check out the latest Red Room and subscribe to the UAMS Library YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/user/UAMSlibrary.

- Valerie Howard, Tim Muren, John Parham

Members of the UAMS Library staff participated along with other UAMS students and staff in National Wear Red Day, Friday, February 7. The American Heart Association has set aside the first Friday in February for National Wear Red Day as part of their Go Red for Women campaign to raise awareness about heart disease being the number one killer of women. Students and staff were encouraged to wear red and were given “red dress” pins to wear.

For more information about the Go Red for Women campaign and National Wear Red Day go to https://www.goredforwomen.org.

- Joanna Delavan
UAMS Library Now a Pick-up/Drop-off Site for CALS

UAMS students and staff can now pick up and drop off items from the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) at the circulation desk of the UAMS Library. CALS cardholders can choose the UAMS Library as a pick up location for materials when requesting items on the CALS website http://www.cals.org/. Use the CALS website to find your item, then choose the UAMS Library (or any of the 15 CALS branches in the area) as the location where you will pick up the requested item.

“This is a great opportunity to give our employees and students better access to the resources of the Central Arkansas Library System without leaving campus,” said Mary Ryan, director of the UAMS Library.

Pulaski County residents may apply for a free CALS library card by completing an application on the CALS website or by visiting one of the CALS branches. Employees and students living outside of Pulaski County may also apply for a CALS card by visiting any of the CALS branches and showing proof of working in or being enrolled in a school located in Pulaski County.

-Libby Ingram

UAMS Library Staff Member Rescues Friend and Co-Worker from Choking

Schemeka Lacey is an aspiring nurse. She is also a life-saving hero. She used her knowledge of the Heimlich maneuver from her training as a medical assistant to come to the rescue of co-worker Cindy White.

In November 2013, Schemeka trained Cindy in the Advanced Bindery Library Exchange system, which allows the library to electronically exchange information needed to bind UAMS theses and dissertations. To celebrate successfully sending in a large batch of theses for binding, they decided to have lunch at a nearby Wendy’s.

Shortly after sitting down to eat, Cindy swallowed a small bite of her food and quickly realized she was in trouble. “I just could not speak or breathe. I tried to tell Schemeka but I couldn’t,” says Cindy. Schemeka noticed that Cindy had stopped speaking. When she asked Cindy if she was okay and got no response, she realized that something was wrong. “I needed to do something quick to help Cindy, so instantly my training from Medical Assistant School kicked in. I remembered the Heimlich Maneuver!” says Schemeka. She rushed around the table to Cindy and performed the maneuver dislodging the food and allowing Cindy to breathe again.

Although the two have been coworkers and friends for over ten years, this event has changed their lives and friendship. “Since this event, our friendship has been sealed with a special bond that can’t be broken,” says Schemeka. Remaining calm during a medical emergency like this one is especially meaningful to her as she aspires to be a nurse and has just successfully completed her A2 EVOLVE nursing entrance examination. She hopes to be accepted to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in the summer of 2014. Cindy says “I have a lot more admiration for Schemeka. She is a definite lifesaver and I know that being a nurse is where she needs to be.”

-Valerie Howard
Black History Month and Black Healthcare Professionals in Arkansas

The current exhibit in the UAMS History Display outside the entrance to the College of Medicine celebrates the Emancipation Proclamation and accomplishments of black health care professionals in Arkansas. The exhibit was designed by April Hughes of the Historical Research Center. February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of important people and events in the history of the African Americans.

The Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery in the United States was signed in 1863. In 1926, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be Negro History week. That week was chosen to recognize the contributions of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both of whom had birthdays the first week of February. In 1970 the first Black History Month took place at Kent State University, and was officially recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

A few people highlighted in the display are:

Edith Irby Jones, M.D. (1927) was the first African American to graduate from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She was also the first woman to be elected President of the National Medical Association, a medical association created because the American Medical Association would not allow black physicians to become members. While in medical school, she was not allowed to use the same lodging, dining, or bathroom facilities as white students. In 1988 the American Society of Medicine named her Internist of the Year.

Samuel Kountz, M.D. (1930-1981) was a pioneer in kidney transplantation research and surgery. Born in Lexa, Arkansas in 1930, Kountz attended the University of Arkansas Medical Center’s School of Medicine in Little Rock, later renamed as the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Kountz earned his M.D. in 1958 and studied the emerging field of organ transplantation from Roy Cohen beginning in 1961. Kountz transplanted a kidney from a person who was not an identical twin of the person receiving the kidney, something that had never been done before. In 1976 he performed a kidney transplant on NBC’s Today show, an event that compelled twenty thousand people to offer to donate kidneys. Dr. Kountz was elected President of the Society of University Surgeons in 1974.

Joycelyn Elders M.D. (1933) was born in Schaal, Arkansas and attended Philander Smith College in Little Rock at the age of 15, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1952. Dr. Elders obtained her medical degree from UAMS in 1960, and later advanced to full Professor in the UAMS Department of Pediatrics in 1976. She was appointed as the Director of the Arkansas Department of Health in 1987, and served as the first African-American U.S. Surgeon General in 1993.

Visit the exhibit on the Emancipation Proclamation and Black Health Care Professionals in Arkansas until May 1, 2014, and see our website for more information about the Historical Research Center at http://library.uams.edu/library-services/historical-research-center/.

-Jon Goodell and April Hughes
Librarian Susan Steelman Completes Term as SCC/MLA President

UAMS Library Head of Education and Reference Services, Susan Steelman closes a successful year as the 2012-2013 South Central Chapter (SCC) of the Medical Library Association President. Steelman was elected President by members of the professional organization for duties spanning three years as President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past-President.

As President, Steelman lead the organization of more than 300 members spanning across five states including: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

As a member of the SCC for the past 20 years, Steelman feels a special kinship with fellow members. “I was somewhat nervous about taking the gavel from [immediate past-president] Jon Crossno starting my year as President,” said Steelman of her acceptance ceremony at the 2012 Annual Meeting, “A long-time friend reminded me that there was nothing to worry about because it’s family. For those of us who have been in the chapter for many years, it truly is like an extended family. We have shared personal triumphs, professional woes and vice versa.”

As president, Steelman presided over the meetings of the Executive Board & Chapter Advisory Council, and acted as liaison to the Medical Library Association. She convened the spring council meeting held in Dallas in April and presided over the annual SCC/MLA meeting held in Fort Worth in October. She also represented the chapter at the annual MLA meeting in Boston and had the pleasure of hosting the Chapter’s Armadillo Ball. Beyond these duties, Steelman was also responsible for Co-Chairing the Program Committee for the Annual meeting, serving as a member of the Finance Committee, and writing for the Presidential column in each issue of the South Central Connection newsletter.

During her term, two unique events stand out for Steelman. The first was the retirement of long-standing Parliamentarian, Marty Thompson, as he retired from Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center. Steelman was tasked with making a special appointment for his replacement and then finding a way to honor him for his twenty-nine years of service in SCC/MLA. “In the end, we were all very pleased with the hand carved and engraved kaleidoscope and the presentation of a resolution and poster signed by the membership. Most of all Marty truly appreciated our efforts,” said Steelman.

The second outstanding event of Steelman’s term was the honor of accepting the MLA Majors Chapter of the Year Project Award on behalf of the chapter at the MLA Annual Meeting in Boston in May 2013. The Chapter was recognized for their Writing Workshop project which helps librarians develop manuscripts for publication. This was the second year in a row that SCC won the honor. One of the biggest jobs Steelman faced as president was presiding over the association’s annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas on October 26-30, 2013. Her main responsibility was to meet and greet members, and assist the Local Arrangements team and Program Committee any way necessary. She was also responsible for leading the board meeting and the Business Meeting. As President, she also attended every social function, general session and as many papers, posters and presentations as possible.

Although her term as president has been completed, Steelman will continue to serve as Immediate Past President (IPP) for one year. The IPP has three main official responsibilities including updating the chapter’s Procedure Manual and Chairing the Finance Committee. As IPP Steelman will also chair the Nominating Committee and lead it in creating a slate for this year’s elections. In addition she will provide encouragement, council, and advice as needed to the current President.

- Valerie Howard
UAMS Library Staff participate in UNT Master’s Program

On January 2, 2014, 48 students from across Arkansas and western Tennessee met at UAMS to begin their two-year journey into the master’s program as part of the ELMS (Educating Librarians in the Middle South) Cohort program with the University of North Texas (UNT) College of Information, Department of Library and Information Sciences. Five of the students are from the UAMS Library: Joanna Delavan, Natasha Hatchett, Libby Ingram, Tim Muren, and LeTisha Stacey. The students were divided into groups for a final project, and the five students from UAMS formed a group and chose the name MedNerds for their group’s name.

Students in the program will earn an MLS or MILS degree from UNT as part of a 36 credit-hour program combining online courses and two intensive in-person web institutes. The first web institute was held January 2-6, 2014 and the second one will be in June 2014. The remainder of the classes will be completed online. The web institute in January included an orientation, technology training, and instruction in the first two core courses. There was also time to socialize with cohort classmates and faculty during the 13-hour days of the institute, including a dinner at Cantina Laredo. Three faculty members from UNT led the web institute: Dr. Yvonne Chandler, Director of the ELMS Cohort program, Dr. Jodi Philbrick, and Dr. Ana Cleveland.

Thirty students received scholarships for $12,000 funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Each student who receives a scholarship will be matched with a UNT University Libraries librarian who will act as a mentor for the student. Professional association student membership dues will also be paid for the American Library Association for the two years of the program.

- Joanna Delavan

New E-Books in the UAMS Library Collection

Here is a sample of some of the ebooks purchased recently. Search the ebooks portal for more titles.


University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library
Librarians Present at Regional Medical Library Meeting

UAMS librarians Mary Ryan, Susan Steelman, Jessie Casella, Valerie Howard, Jon Goodell, and Arkansas Children’s Hospital Librarian Louise Montgomery, participated in the 40th annual South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association (SCC/MLA) meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, October 26-30, 2013. Susan Steelman, Head of Education and Reference, completed her term as 2012-2013 SCC/MLA President (see full article on page 5 of this issue.) This meeting is the primary professional development conference for medical librarians in our region of the country. Approximately 250 librarians from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas attended to hear nationally-renowned speakers, participate in continuing education courses, attend papers and poster presentations while networking and sharing experiences through many conference events.

Mary, Susan, and Jessie gave a presentation entitled “Library Initiatives to Improve NIH Public Access Policy Compliance.” Jessie and Jon gave presentations entitled “Selection Criteria for Mobile Apps and Resources” and “Standing Desks for Improving Librarians’ Health: A Review of the Literature and Strategies for Success.” Valerie gave a presentation entitled “Tame Your Library Stats with Data Visualization Tools.” Jon gave a presentation about the $35 credit card size Linux-based Raspberry Pi computer, and collaborated with Oklahoma Librarians Jason Bengtson and Mark Hopkins to give presentations entitled “Semantic MEDLINE: A Novel Approach for Hypothesis Generation and Creativity Enhancement” and “Can Semantic MEDLINE Improve Upon the Homemade Semantic Web?” Jon won the “Why Join SCC/MLA Video Contest” and received $500 toward meeting expenses (Video at sccmla.org).

One of the fun activities was a Halloween party. Mary Ryan dressed as a cowgirl, and Susan, Jessie, and Jon dressed as Starfleet officers. Valerie Howard dressed as Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, winning the Halloween costume contest with a $75 Amazon.com gift card. Next year’s meeting will be in Denver, Colorado, and the 2015 meeting will be hosted by the UAMS Library in Little Rock, Arkansas.

-Jon Goodell

New RefWorks Feature

RefWorks has a New Feature! Announcements can now be posted by the UAMS Library RefWorks administrator as well as by RefWorks. We expect to use this to alert users to temporary problems with RefWorks and perhaps announce upcoming classes being offered at UAMS.

Announcements show on the right sidebar above Resources. Place your cursor over the Announcements header to see the topics. Tap or click to read more. They will be removed regularly and will not be archived.

-Rena Sheffer

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library  http://library.uams.edu
UAMS Library By the Numbers

Each year the UAMS library strives to provide great service to the thousands of UAMS students, staff and faculty. The following charts illustrate just a few of the services the Library offered last year.

-Joanna Delavan