

The Associate Library

Summer 2015

A Newsletter for Friends of University Libraries



Photos by Nancy Marlatt

The National Park Service Center Library of UW Libraries, located in scenic Grand Teton National Park.



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



farewell

A Message From the Dean

After the last snow of winter melts, it is time to relocate resources to the library at the AMK Ranch. The library is a hidden jewel for researchers at the station and provides valuable access to UW Libraries' print and online collections. The remote location of the library is a reminder that regardless of where our students and faculty travel, UW Libraries is there.

Libraries are cultural centers that foster community dialogue, as was evident this spring with author Andrew Solomon's visit to campus. UW Libraries Development Board's annual author event is an opportunity to connect with the university and community members as well as to raise funds. Past notable authors have included David McCullough and Ann Patchett.

In celebration of 125 years of Wyoming statehood, the Wyoming State Historical Society and UW Libraries, are working with Wyoming's historical organizations to identify Wyoming's most significant artifacts. This project

is an example of how libraries contribute to our western heritage and it will help document valuable artifacts of Wyoming's history.

UW is undertaking initiatives in engineering and the sciences to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. UW Libraries is joining this effort through some innovative programs in our Learning Resource Center that supports pre-K-12 education as well as students and faculty in the College of Education. These engaging learning programs highlight the various efforts of UW Libraries to support strategic objectives of the university.

As Dean of UW Libraries, this will be my final column to write on behalf of UW Libraries as I will be moving on to a new professional challenge at Clemson University. During my thirteen years at UW it has been my pleasure to work with wonderful friends and donors who advocate for UW Libraries. Your support has made and continues to make a difference for our students and the university community. You have encouraged and guided me in connecting our libraries with alumni and friends, and for that I am grateful. Thank you for your friendship and know that Wyoming will forever remain in my heart.

Maggie Farrell

Maggie Farrell
Dean of Libraries
farrell@uwo.edu

The AMK Ranch:

Where a Librarian Must Be Able to Outrun a Bear
(not really)



Photo by Nancy Marlatt

The National Park Service Center Library is unique to University of Wyoming Libraries because it is located in scenic Grand Teton National Park.

The collection supports the educational and research needs of researchers working at the Center's field station at the AMK Ranch throughout the summer months.

With more than 1,500 volumes, the collection includes books, journals, and maps on a variety of topics including Grand Teton National Park and the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, especially as they relate to zoology, botany, and geology. Other available subjects in the collection range from photography to law, environmental engineering to medicine, and more.

Visitors to the station are educated about special precautions to avoid bear related incidents. The AMK Ranch's remote location

and seasonal nature means that the library collection is not readily available to patrons other than those who visit the research center.



Photo by Nancy Marlatt

TOP: The view outside the Berol Lodge and the UW National Parks Service Center Library, at the AMK Ranch.

ABOVE: The primary location to connect to WiFi, the library is frequented by guests and researchers of the AMK Ranch who need to connect to the Internet and conduct research.



Far From The Tree: A Talk About Diversity

By
Rosanne Latimer, Office Associate
Nancy Marlatt, Area of Public Relations Coordinator

Photos by Nancy Marlatt

UW Libraries Development Board hosted a visit from author Andrew Solomon on April 22 at the University of Wyoming. The annual author event is the primary fundraiser for UW Libraries, and funds are allocated by the board to support library services for students.

Andrew Solomon is both a writer and lecturer on psychology, politics, and the arts. Many of his books have won numerous awards including the National Book Award. He is an avid activist for LGBT rights and mental health. Solomon's newest book, *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity*, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction. It was chosen as one of *The New York Times* Ten Best Books of 2012 and has been a *New York Times* bestseller.

Solomon met with a group of UW students from a diverse range of study areas, including writing, social work, counseling, mental health, and disability studies. Nearly 35 students enjoyed brunch with Solomon and asked questions about his writing, research, and interests. Many students were interested in Solomon's, *The Noonday Demon*, which examines depression in personal, cultural, and scientific terms. UW sophomore Jessica Kramer, studying political science with a minor in disability studies, said, "What struck me was Andrew's idea of people with disabilities needing to come out. I have been thinking of this a lot now that I'm applying for jobs. When to come out is something I'm still struggling with. I'm so glad I got to hear Andrew's opinions. It helped me

understand why being different is so important.”

More than 200 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended Solomon’s afternoon talk. The event began with a video highlighting interviews with individuals from Solomon’s book *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity*. Several in the crowd were moved to tears by Solomon’s profound talk.

The day concluded with UW Libraries Development Board’s evening fundraiser dinner. Solomon addressed a group of 160 friends and donors of UW Libraries who were impressed with Solomon’s talk about depression. His warm, friendly, easy style of speaking led audience members to remark that UW Libraries had brought a well-regarded and outstanding author to UW. The generosity of several library board members allowed for some students to attend the evening event. UW Ag Business graduate (2014) Matthew Johnson said Solomon’s “words fueled more praise and purposeful conversation until the night ended.”

The afternoon talk was made possible by the McMurry-Spieles Endowment for Library Excellence. Many thanks to those who turned out to support this event. Your support provides enhancements to the services and resources of UW Libraries, which is crucial to the success of all UW students. As the



LEFT: Crowd at the public talk with Solomon.

TOP: Solomon signing books.

BELOW: Table decorations at dinner. Flowers created by Brandi Wright.



saying goes, “No one ever graduated from a library, but no one ever graduated without one.”



UW Lab School students using Scratch to program on a Raspberry Pi computer they built.

Photo by Shannon Smith

STEM CURRICULUM

Raising the Bar on pre-K–12 Library Resources

By Shannon Smith
LRC Library Specialist

In an effort to build on statewide initiatives to incorporate more active-learning and engagement into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) teaching the Learning Resource Center (LRC) is growing its collection of STEM curriculum materials. These materials include robots, computer programming sets, circuit sets, and games that promote STEM teaching and learning. Many

of these cutting edge items have been launched using Kickstarter and are in their infancy in terms of additional supporting materials. The LRC is committed to circulating new STEM curriculum materials and investigating the best use and practices of these technologies in preschool through high school classrooms.

As part of our commitment to digital literacy and STEM learning, staff at the LRC teach weekly technology-based electives at the UW Lab School. These electives are

student-driven and participation is optional. Over the past two years, the LRC has worked with 6th-9th grade students as they learn to navigate STEM tools from Scratch programming to Makey Makey kits. Most recently, students have been excited to explore new application-based robots. Integrating STEM technology in the middle school classroom allows the LRC staff members to test new curriculum materials that also circulate to UW pre-service teachers and faculty members.

This year the LRC offered a Tech Lab that focused on Raspberry Pi computers, which are as small as a credit-card. The lab began with five unassembled computers, ten students, and one partner-teacher at the UW Lab School, Teresa Strube. The collaboration with

Strube was instrumental in making the elective course a success. With some formative assessment at the beginning of the elective, the plans were re-structured to give students the ability to understand the overall components of any computer: input/output, storage, and processing. Students worked through a process of tearing apart older computer equipment: a laptop, PDA, wireless router, and cell phone. The goal was to allow students a no-risk way to learn how computers are constructed and to begin to identify the different computer components. Strube stated that the “discrepant learning achieved with the students investigating electronics was great!”

The students also learned to solder using delicate electronic parts. Safety skills were taught to the

Continued on next page...



Photo by Shannon Smith

A selection of robots available as part of the STEM curriculum materials at the LRC.

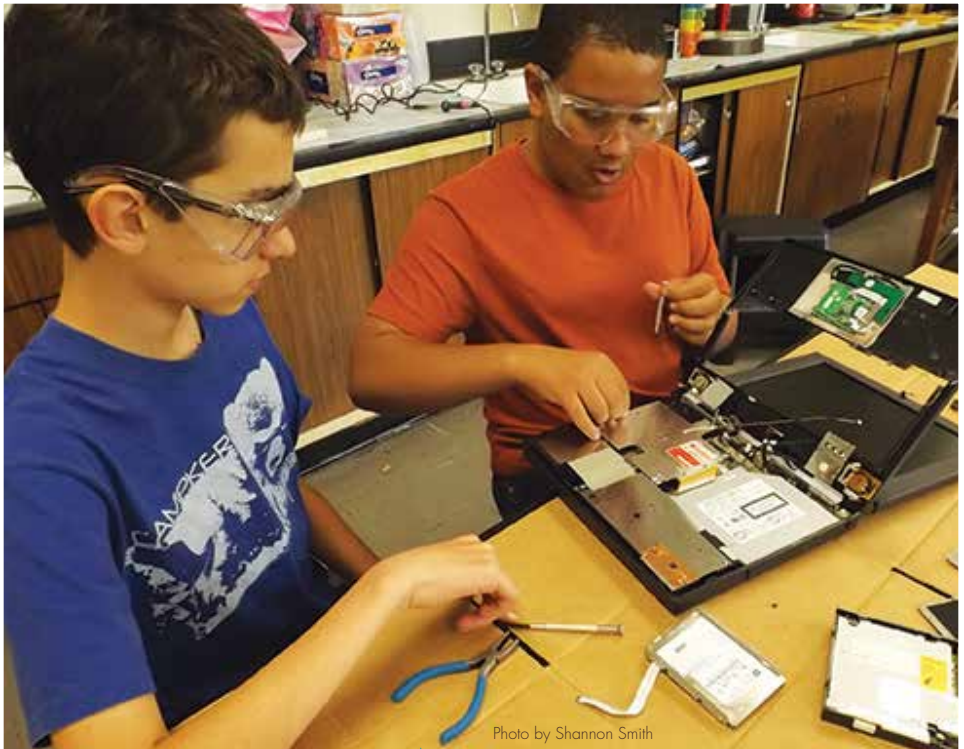


Photo by Shannon Smith

...Continued from page 7.

students, including use of goggles, grounding techniques, and general lab safety.

In the end, five Raspberry Pi computers were successfully assembled and their operating systems were installed by the students. The Raspberry Pi computers were used to explore programs like Scratch, Python, and Minecraft. These new student-built computers will now circulate as part of the LRC's main collection.

TOP: Students look inside a laptop computer.

BELOW: Identified parts of a Raspberry Pi Computer, which is no larger than a credit card.

RIGHT: A student learning how to solder.

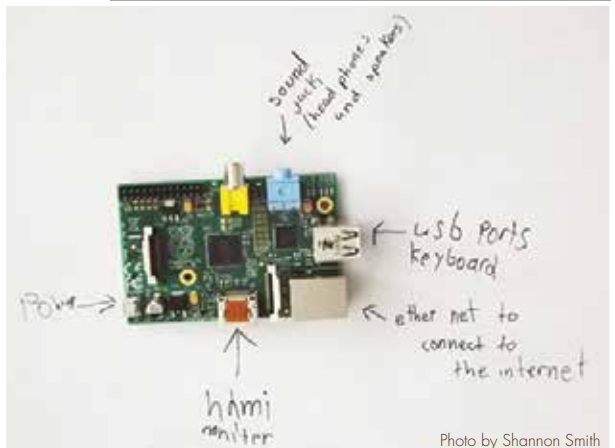


Photo by Shannon Smith

In the fall of 2014 the LRC offered a technology petting zoo for teachers at the UW Lab School. The technology petting zoo provided no-risk exploration time for teachers with the STEM curriculum materials, and the outcome was overwhelmingly positive. Teachers saw applications for the curriculum materials in classrooms as young as kindergarten, as well as ways to incorporate technologies in subjects like music and math. As one teacher noted, “I would have never been able to come up with this on my own. It broadened my horizons while connecting [technology] with what I do.”

The LRC has held similar technology petting zoos for employees at UW Libraries, the UW Early Care and Education Center, and for College of Education students. Because the STEM collection is popular and expanding, dedicated hands-on activities are a valuable way to encourage creative uses of the curriculum materials, and they're a chance for our partners to try out the technology. In addition, the LRC piloted an after-school club for UW pre-service teachers to sit down with STEM curriculum materials alongside faculty in the College of Education to learn applications for classroom teaching.



Photo by Shannon Smith

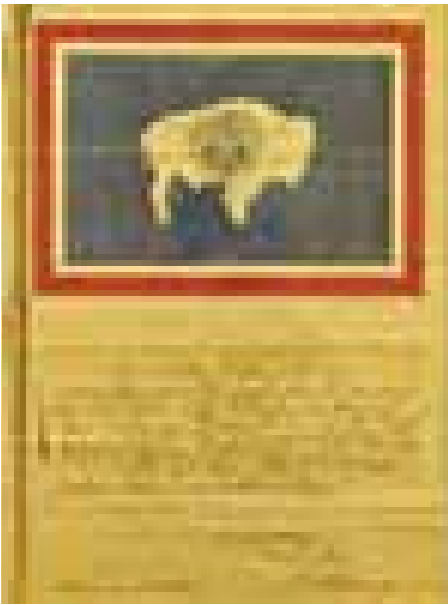
As our STEM curriculum collection and instructional program grows at the LRC, UW Libraries will continue to share our work with teachers and librarians throughout the state and nationally. The LRC is working with various partners to assess student understanding and the impact of STEM technologies in the classroom. To join the journey with STEM curriculum at UW, follow the LRC's blog for more information.

**Join the STEM
Journey:**



Follow the LRC Blog

<http://uwlibblogs.uwyo.edu/learning/>



Wyoming's Most Significant Artifacts:

*The Campaign to Promote
Wyoming's Story*

Courtesy Photo

Stephen Boss
Associate Librarian/Head of Library
Information Technology

University of Wyoming Libraries and the Wyoming State Historical Society have undertaken a joint project that focuses on historical artifacts from the collections of Wyoming's cultural heritage organizations. Other states such as Colorado, Oklahoma, and Virginia have participated in the Top Ten Artifacts Program, but Wyoming's take on this program is different. We are calling the program Wyoming's Most Significant Artifacts, and it highlights the importance of historic and cultural heritage organizations in the collection of historical artifacts that tell the story of Wyoming. The program also engages the general public in building

awareness of collections held in trust by Wyoming's cultural heritage organizations.

Artifacts to be included in the program are nominated by various organizations around the state. Representatives of Wyoming's public archives, historical societies, libraries, and museums are allowed to nominate one item from their collection or repository that they think is significant to Wyoming's history. Nominated items are then voted on by a panel of select judges before moving on to a public vote.

Nominating organizations are asked to include information about their organization, describe the artifact in detail, and list the artifact's significance to and relationship with Wyoming's history. In addition, a photograph of the artifact is required for

all nominations. Artifacts are specifically defined as an artistic or historic item which could include documents, books, photographs, recordings, artwork, and 3-dimensional items.

UW Libraries worked with the Wyoming State Library and the Wyoming State Historical Society to develop a website that facilitates this program and accommodates the nomination and voting processes.

A database that collects information submitted for each nomination was developed internally. Collected data was then used to create a virtual online catalog highlighting information about each artifact, an image, and the significance of each item. This assists the judges in reviewing nominations.

Currently, a panel of professionals who have historical knowledge of and expertise within Wyoming's cultural institutions will review nominations to identify 25 artifacts as finalists. The public will be invited to vote on the finalists to select ten of Wyoming's Most Significant Artifacts. Online public voting will begin in June, and the winners will be announced in October 2015.

Wyoming's Cultural Heritage organizations are scattered throughout the state, and it can be difficult to travel to these collections. By developing an online



Nominated artifact: Beaded vest made by members of the Lakota tribe.



Nominated artifact: A pair of branding irons from the OW Ranch.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Nominated artifact: Original painting of the Wyoming State flag by artist Verna Keays of Buffalo, WY.

catalog of historical materials, UW Libraries and its partners can bring these artifacts to the attention of the general public, encourage people to visit these artifacts, and engage in research to help further Wyoming's story.

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FRIENDS of UW LIBRARIES

Volunteers Raise Funds to Support Student Success

By
Rosanne Latimer, Office Associate

UW Libraries Development Board meets twice a year to support UW Libraries. The board's mission is to provide support by raising funds and awareness for the Libraries' information resources, student services, and faculty research. Members are dedicated to the tasks of enhancing the libraries' technological capabilities, as well as expanding and preserving library collections.

This year the board welcomed several new members, and the April 2015 meeting was infused with new suggestions, purpose, and dedication. Board members come from all over the region, they are graduates of UW, retired professors, and community members, all who feel strongly about supporting libraries. New members joining the board are: Shannon Dutcher, Anne Levig, Jeane Stratton, and Lee Milner.

When the board first convened in 2004, it focused on the libraries' renovation and addition project, which added 92,000 square feet to W. R. Coe Library. The

board has also been instrumental in advocating for legislative funding to support research collections for UW. Through the board's assistance, Governors Freudenthal and Mead, along with the Wyoming State Legislature, supported appropriations that expanded collections to bring UW to a competitive level with other research libraries in the provision of information resources for students and faculty. In addition, UW Libraries provides statewide access to many databases and full text articles through the WYLD system supporting statewide literacy, economic development, health, and education needs. The board's work in securing support for collection funding has been invaluable in making a significant impact for UW and the state.

UW's proposed 100 Endowed Chairs initiative is an opportunity for UW Libraries Development Board to assist with securing funds to support existing librarian positions and create new positions. Efforts from the board enhance UW Libraries' ability to meet faculty and students' research and learning needs.

The next board meeting will be held October 16, 2015, in connection with UW Homecoming. For more information about the board or to learn how you can join, contact Rosanne Latimer at rlatimer@uwyo.edu for details.

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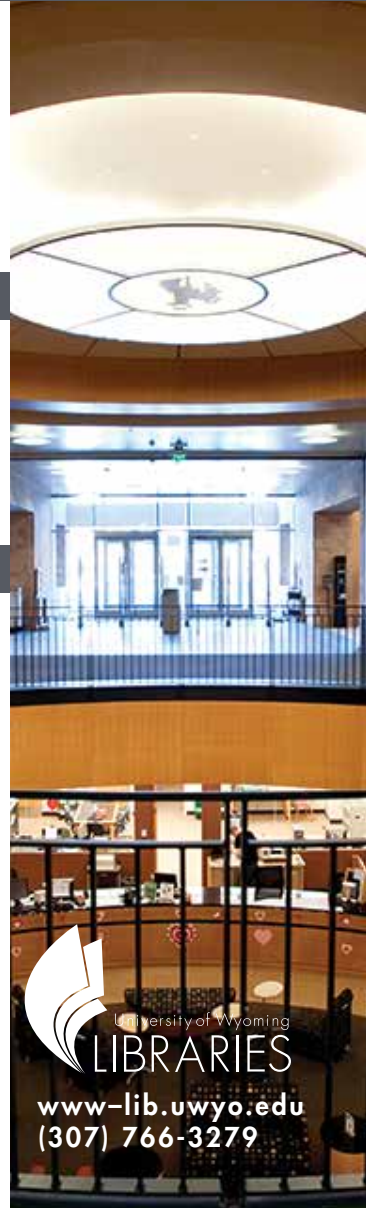
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