University of Alaska Southeast William A. Egan Library

Thomas Duke and Jennifer Brown to team-teach ED626, by Elise Tomlinson

This Fall, Outreach Services Librarian Jennifer Brown will be team teaching two distance-delivered sections of ED626 (Classroom Research in Education) with Special Education faculty member Thomas Duke. I had a chance to sit down with them and discuss how their collaboration came about.

ET: Thomas, how did the two of you come up with the idea to team-teach a class?

TD: I invited Jennifer to develop and co-teach distance-delivered learning activities that would help teachers conduct a review of the literature on literacy issues in remote, rural, and Alaska Native communities. Jennifer and I co-taught three sessions using audio-conference, augmented with internet-delivered learning materials.

After we taught these lessons, Jennifer invited me to co-author a scholarly paper describing our collaborative experiences. I suggested that we conduct a phenomenological self-study and submit it for publication. We are putting the finishing touches on our initial self-study and hope to submit it for publication in the Fall semester of 2004.

When Jennifer expressed her desire to do more teaching and engage in qualitative research, I invited her to team-teach graduate-level classroom research courses in the UAS Center for Teacher Education in Fall 2004 and Spring 2005. We plan to conduct additional self-studies and contribute to the empirical discourse surrounding interdisciplinary collaboration between education faculty and library faculty.

ET: Jennifer, what has been the best part about collaborating with a faculty member from a different department?

JB: I am learning a great deal about different approaches to teaching. It is a challenge to negotiate our learning objectives. However, I take pride in the fact that I am influencing the way research is approached at the Center for Teacher Education.

I am enjoying the phenomenological approach we are taking to collaborative self-study research, and I am looking forward to a future of (what I hope will be) highly Influential collaborations with Thomas in the fields of information literacy, phenomenological research, and distance education.

ET: Thomas, What are your thoughts on interdisciplinary collaboration?

TD: I strongly support interdisciplinary collaboration. It has been my experience that interdisciplinary collaboration encourages educators to examine multiple perspectives and multiple paradigms; this often results in a richer, more complex learning experience for students and enhances, deepens, and transforms the qualitative research process.

ET: Jennifer, how will the class be taught?

JB: This is an exciting collaboration because in ED626 Classroom Research, information-seeking skills will be integrated throughout the semester, rather than the usual discrete one class session. I will be able to work with students over the semester in the development of their information literacy competencies. Thomas and I will strive to help students become "teachers-as-researchers" and to produce quality results from their studies.

Upgrades purchased for library reading machine

This Summer, the library was able to upgrade the equipment and Open Book software for people who are blind or vision impaired or who have reading disabilities. Open Book lets users scan a printed page and have an internal synthesized voice read the printed material back to them. The station will receive a new computer with a 19" monitor, an open-book scanner and headphones.

New flat screen monitors

The library has received ten new flat-screen monitors for the public workstations. The new monitors provide more working space for students and members of the public who use them regularly.

New collections added to JSTOR

Egan Library's JSTOR holdings have been enhanced with the addition of titles in the Arts and Sciences II and the Language and Literature collections. JSTOR is unique in its electronic holdings in that it provides entire runs of publications, from the first date of publication up to a 'moving wall' of 2-5 years from the present.

The following descriptions are from the JSTOR website at: http://www.jstor.org/about/collection.list.html
(Detailed title lists are also available at the above URL).

Arts & Sciences II
The Arts & Sciences II Collection is home to **122 titles**. This collection adds depth to many disciplines introduced in Arts & Sciences I, such as economics, history, and Asian studies. Arts & Sciences II also offers core journals in several new disciplines, such as archaeology, classics, and African, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Slavic studies."

Language & Literature
The **57 titles** in the Language & Literature Collection span the literary cultures of many different countries, and contain articles in several languages, including Arabic, Italian, and German. Developed with the help of the Modern Language Association, this collection includes *PMLA* and a range of core journals in the diverse fields of literary criticism that have emerged in the last 30 years. This collection includes 13 journals from the Arts & Sciences I collection and 33 journals from the Arts & Sciences III Collection."

New e-books available through netLibrary & BNA

The library was able to buy enough titles in the netLibrary Reference Center e-book collection to activate that collection for the entire Alaska Alliance, a consortium of Alaskan libraries making group purchases. Library Director Carol Hedlin selected current titles in natural sciences, history, psychology, health sciences and literature, among others, to support of distance programs such as the BLA and allied health.

A number of Blackwell North America e-book titles in support of business, education, and health programs were also purchased. Year-end print volumes included filling gaps in literature reference series that are not entirely covered in the online database, Literature Resource Center, especially for poetry and short story criticism.

The Learning Express Library

From the Learning Express Library's website:
"Learning Express Library provides a completely interactive online learning platform of practice tests and tutorial course series designed to help…students and adult learners succeed on the academic or licensing tests they must pass."

Access the LEL through the Egan Library's website @ http://www.uas.alaska.edu/library/data_by_title.html#l

Checkout a wireless laptop for in-library use!

Starting this Fall term, the library will have a total 6 wireless laptops available for students, faculty and staff to check out for use in the library. You will need to show a current UAS identification card and sign a user agreement the first time you check out a laptop. For subsequent checkouts, you will need to leave your UAS ID, a driver's license, or an official state ID at the Circulation Desk.

Checkout periods will be 2 hours, due to battery limitations. They are intended for research but all computing applications that are available in the computing labs are also installed on the laptops.

Lynn Shepherd, Assistant Director at the Egan Library announced:

"We feel that laptops will allow students greater flexibility for doing research and homework. The library staff tries to maintain a casual, friendly, and quiet environment. Students also love the fact that they can bring their (covered) coffee with them."

REMINDER: Helpful library resources

- **Alaskan Newspaper archives – Newsbank**

- **Bibliographic management software – RefWorks**

- **Ask a Librarian – Statewide virtual reference assistance (chat) through SLED @ http://www.sled.alaska.edu**

- **Learn about new resources through individual instruction from your librarian liaison**

- **Additional information is available on the Library's *Faculty Resources* Page @ uas.alaska.edu/library/faculty/index.htm**