

May 2017

I loved this experience because I think it's an incredible step forward to incorporating technology into our curriculum and creating a fundamental understanding of some of the symptoms our patients may be experiencing. We're all, for the most part, healthy and capable 20 somethings with no sense of what it means to have macular degeneration or any other type of serious degenerative illness. I don't think this experience necessarily gives us the perfect foundation but what could? It's a great first step.

—UNECOM Student,
Class of 2020

UNE Library Services Report to the Board of Trustees

Part I: Unit Key Issues

Gaining Empathy Through Virtual Reality Project

Description

- UNE Library Services with the COM Division of Geriatric Medicine received a National Network of Libraries of Medicine New England Region (NN/LM NER) Technology Grant to implement the Embodied Labs “We Are Alfred” virtual reality (VR) experience project. Librarians Beth Dyer and Barbara Swartzlander collaborated with COM Professor Marilyn Gugliucci to implement the project.

- At the Ketchum Library, all first year medical students were required to participate in a virtual reality experience in which they became an older adult named Alfred who suffers from macular degeneration and hearing loss. The students completed pre and post assessments

to demonstrate what they learned and how their perspective on aging had changed through the experience. Results show that this is an effective new learning modality.



A medical student wears the VR goggles; screen shows obstructed vision.



Kids line up at the Brain Fair to try the VR experience.

- The team has applied for a new grant to extend the project to students at the Portland Campus, starting with the PA program in collaboration with Rhonda Feldman, Program Director. UNE is one of only four schools in the world currently using the program, and will be the first PA program to use it.

- The Portland Press Herald recently featured the program on the front page. The experience was popular at the UNE Brain Fair in April, and will be shown at the UNE Gala in June. For more information and a link to the article see the UNE press release*.

* <http://www.une.edu/news/2017/gaining-empathy-through-virtual-reality-une-college-osteopathic-medicine-featured-front-page>

Part I: Unit Key Issues, cont.

Challenges

- UNE is an early adopter of this program and helping to beta test the software, which has been in development throughout the grant project.
- The virtual reality hardware is not yet fully geared to institutional use.

Timeline

- Class of 2020 medical students: November 2016–April 2017
- Class of 2018 PA students: May 2017
- Class of 2021 medical students and Class of 2019 PA students: August 2017–April 2018

Strategic Initiative Supported

1: UNE will establish educational programs that bridge traditional academic boundaries to create transformative experiences for students.

Part II: Unit Updates

Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil

The UNE Art Gallery on the Portland Campus is currently exhibiting **Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints: Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil**, through May 25, 2017. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) on the Road, and co-sponsored by Professor Paul Burlin of the UNE Department of History and Professor Steven Byrd of the UNE Department of Sociology, this exhibition explores how the ancient cultures of Africa blended with indigenous and colonial Portuguese traditions to form the vibrant and complex cultural mosaic of modern Brazil. This exhibition illuminates the resilience and vitality of modern-day descendants of Africa by highlighting three cultural aspects: the land and its people; expressions of faith; and poetry, celebration and song. The exhibition features colorful immersive environments as well as hands-on interactive music and video components.



From UNE Australia to UNE Maine!

We had a special guest at UNE Libraries in late March and early April from...UNE Library! Mel Abbott from the *other* University of New England in Armidale, Australia came for a three week internship as part of her graduate studies in library science. As far as we know, she is the first ambassador from UNE Australia to travel halfway around the world to connect with us, and we hope it sets an example for further exchange with our shared namesake. She interviewed staff, attended meetings, and traveled to many other libraries in and around Portland. She'll be writing up her observations as part of her fieldwork assignment and we can't wait to learn from them. To follow Mel's journey from Armidale to Maine, check out her blog*.

* <https://notquitealibrarianblog.wordpress.com>



Left to right: UNE Librarians Bobby Gray and Cadence Atchinson, with Mel Abbott.