The Library and Student Retention: Traditional and Non-Traditional Approaches
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"The ratio of library professional staff to students predicts a statistically significant positive relationship with both retention and graduation rates" (Emmons & Wilkinson)

"Findings show retained students log-in to authenticated resources and borrow from the library at higher rates than withdrawn students." (Haddow)

"...Relationships between library expenditure data per student, for materials and staff, and retention rates. Put simply, the more institutions spend on these inputs the better their retention rates." (Bell)

"First-time, first-year undergraduate students who use the library have a higher GPA for their first semester and higher retention from fall to spring than non-library users" (Soria, et al.)
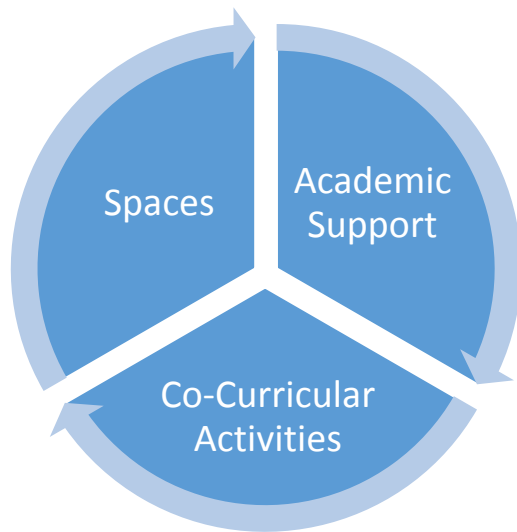
"Correlations showed that library expenses per full-time equivalent (FTE) and instruction expenses per FTE had the highest overall relationship with graduation and retention rates." (Crawford)

"Non-attendance at library orientation is an early indicator of dropping out." (Oakleaf)

"Studies have examined the association between library use, student learning, and student engagement; for example, Laird and Kuh found that participation in information and library-related activities (...using the library website to find academic resources, asking librarians for help, etc.) were positively and moderately correlated with student engagement in other areas." (Soria, et al.)

Despite decades of research on retention, authors generally agree that there are "no magic formulas" for retaining students. Many [things] are significant in student decisions to leave an institution, **but the most important ones are related to student interactions with other people**: faculty, advisors, other students, or possibly librarians.
In short, **"many students don't develop a [personal] connection with their institution. And when they don't, they leave."** (Oakleaf)

So, what are we doing at the Pace Library?

Spaces — Academic Support — Co-Curricular Activities

Academic Support

- In-person and online Library Orientation tours for UNV101 classes
- English Core Curriculum and subject-specific Information Literacy sessions
- Online research tutorials in nursing, English composition, physician's assistant program, iPace degree completion program, and preventing plagiarism
- Stand-alone workshops including "Cite it Right" and "Fake News vs. Real News"
- Librarians in Blackboard
- Library support for student athletes in the Tutoring Center
- Roaming Reference in the residence halls and student center
- Direct outreach to transfer students and at-risk students
- Referral partnerships between librarians and Academic Advisors
- "Personal Librarian" for College Immersion program run by OSS
- Virtual Reference: Live Chat, text reference, e-mail
- Usage-driven acquisitions of e-books and journals (clicks and ILL statistics)
- Pilot of Textbook loans

Co-Curricular Activities

- Library Student Advisory Committee
- "After Hours" events in collaboration with Student Development and Campus Activities, including a Murder Mystery party and *Inside Out* themed party
- "Escape the Room" held in conjunction with Resident Hall Association
- "Silent Dance Party" scheduled for Week of Welcome, Fall 2017
- Monthly Game Nights – going on eight years!
- The Human Library event
- Read Alouds (LGBTQA Poetry, World Peace Day, This I Believe, Medal of Honor)
- Movie screenings and discussions using the Library's subscription to Kanopy
- Faculty book talks and lectures
- 'Zine Making Workshop
- Card Catalog Art Contest and Display
- Library Haiku Contest
- Stress Relief events including Therapy Dogs, puzzles, coloring, meditation sessions with campus chaplain
- Toast the End of the Semester…with Toast!

Spaces

- Library Displays facilitated by student clubs, members of the faculty, other departments
- Online reservations of Study Rooms
- Extended and 24-Hour Access for Finals and Midterms
- Weeding collections to make more space for student use
- Laptop Collaboration Theaters
- More flexible and movable furniture
- Loans of laptops, calculators, headsets, and more
- Charging lockers

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